

Public Document Pack

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



**Belfast
City Council**

18th February, 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, 21st February, 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

2. Restricted Items

- (a) 2024-25 Quarter 3 Finance Report (Pages 1 - 24)
- (b) Housing Led Regeneration Update
- (c) NICS Collaboration Test and Learn Initiative (Pages 25 - 78)
- (d) Wider University and Lower Ormeau Intervention (Pages 79 - 82)
- (e) Support for businesses affected by August riots - update (Pages 83 - 86)
- (f) Smart Belfast: City Innovation programme update (Pages 87 - 92)

- (g) Newington Football Club (To Follow)
 - (h) Minutes of Party Group Leaders Consultative Forum (Pages 93 - 98)
 - (i) Fleadh Cheoil update (To Follow)
 - (j) Requests for Funding (Pages 99 - 112)
3. **Matters referred back from Council/Motions**
- (a) Report - Response received from Belfast Health Trust re NOM - Removal of Knockbreda Out of Hours Doctors Services (Pages 113 - 118)
 - (b) Response received from Minister for Infrastructure re Hill Street, Belfast - Pedestrianisation (Pages 119 - 124)
4. **Belfast Agenda/Strategic Issues**
- (a) Planning Information (Pages 125 - 138)
 - (b) LGSC Network of Diversity Ambassadors and The Rainbow Project, HereNI and Cara-Friend Centenary event. (Pages 139 - 148)
 - (c) Summer Schemes – Additional Needs (Pages 149 - 156)
 - (d) Draft response to Department for Communities Fuel Poverty Strategy (Pages 157 - 176)
 - (e) Public Health Agency Draft Corporate Plan 2025-2030 (Pages 177 - 180)
 - (f) Events to mark the 80th Anniversary of Victory in Europe Day (To Follow)
5. **Physical Programme and Asset Management**
- (a) Physical Programme Update (Pages 181 - 186)
 - (b) Assets Management (Pages 187 - 228)
6. **Finance, Procurement and Performance**
- (a) Contracts Update (Pages 229 - 242)
7. **Equality and Good Relations**
- (a) Minutes of Shared City Partnership Meeting on 10th February 2025 (Pages 243 - 270)
8. **Operational Issues**
- (a) Requests for use of the City Hall and the provision of Hospitality (Pages 271 - 278)
 - (b) Request for the Use of City Hall Grounds - OrangeFest - 12 July 2025 (Pages 279 - 280)

- (c) Minutes of the Meeting of the City Hall/City Hall Grounds Installations Working Group (Pages 281 - 282)
- (d) Minutes of the Meeting of the Social Policy Working Group (To Follow)

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of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

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Subject:	Response received from Belfast Health and Social Care Trust re Notice of Motion – Removal of Knockbreda Out of Hours Doctors Services
Date:	21st February, 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 <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"/>
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Never		<input type="checkbox"/>											

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To note the correspondence received from Belfast Health and Social Care Trust.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to note the correspondence as set out in the report and agree to the closure of the motion.
3.0	Main report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	The Committee will recall that, at the Council meeting held on 2nd December, 2024, it was agreed to write to the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust re Notice of Motion in relation to the Removal of Knockbreda Out of Hours Doctors Services.
3.2	The Committee is advised that a response has been received from Ms Maureen Edwards, Interim Chief Executive, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust.
3.3	In her response she advises that this motion was in opposition to the Trust's proposal regarding its reconfiguration of General Practice Out Of Hours from two sites to one, with the introduction of a multi-disciplinary team.
3.4	The proposal was issued for consultation on 3rd October 2024 and closed on 2nd January 2025. The Trust will now take time to review the Council's response, along with all the other responses and feedback received to inform its decision making on the way forward in accordance with its statutory responsibilities.
3.5	The Trust will produce an outcome report detailing the feedback received and its decision on the proposal in due course. The Trust will ensure that this is shared with the Council on endorsement by Trust Board.
3.6	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u>
	None associated with this report.
3.7	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>
	None associated with this report.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached

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Belfast Health and Social Care Trust

caring supporting improving together

For the attention of Belfast City Council,
Legal and Civic Services Department

Date: Friday 10 January 2025

Dear Belfast City Council colleagues

I refer to your correspondence received on 11 December 2024 regarding the motion adopted by the Standards and Business Committee in October, and Council's further adoption of this position in December. This motion was in opposition to the Trust's proposal regarding its reconfiguration of General Practice Out Of Hours from two sites to one, with the introduction of a multi-disciplinary team.

The proposal was issued for consultation on 3 October 2024 and closed on 2 January 2025. The Trust will now take time to review the Council's response, along with all the other responses and feedback received to inform its decision making on the way forward in accordance with its statutory responsibilities.

The Trust will produce an outcome report detailing the feedback received and its decision on the proposal in due course. The Trust will ensure that this is shared with the Council on endorsement by Trust Board.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Maureen Edwards'.

Maureen Edwards

Interim Chief Executive

Belfast HSC Trust

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Subject:	Response received from Minister for Infrastructure re Hill Street, Belfast - Pedestrianisation
Date:	21st February, 2025
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Democratic Services and Governance Manager

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To note the correspondence received from the Minister for Infrastructure.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to note the correspondence as set out in the report and agree to the closure of the motion.
3.0	Main report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	The Committee will recall that, at the Council meeting held on 1st October, 2024, it was agreed to write to the Minister for Infrastructure to ask that he revisits the decision to put work on the pedestrianisation of Hill Street on hold.
3.2	The Committee is advised that a response has been received from Ms Liz Kimmins, Minister for Infrastructure.
3.3	In her response she apologises for the delay in responding to the Council, unfortunately significant staffing constraints within Eastern Division is having an impact on response times.
3.4	An informal consultation on the proposal to pedestrianise Hill Street has been carried out for which the Department got nine replies. While most were in favour of the pedestrianisation scheme, the majority wanted to retain full vehicle access. However, this would not be in keeping with the objective of a pedestrianised area which is to remove traffic during certain periods for the general benefit of pedestrians.
3.5	Therefore, this requires further engagement with individual businesses to explain this position and to attempt to negotiate a scheme which works for everyone.
3.6	Unfortunately, due to the extensive time that this type of engagement requires, and the current significant pressures on staff as well as their involvement with high priority work such as the Belfast Grand Central Station, the Sydenham Bypass resurfacing scheme and the McKinstry Road/ Derriaghy Road/ The Cutts improvement scheme, it was necessary to put work on the Hill Street proposal on hold at present.

<p>3.7</p> <p>3.8</p> <p>3.9</p> <p>3.10</p>	<p>Officials are keeping the position under review and would hope to follow up the informal consultation feedback in the coming months as staffing resource permits.</p> <p>Committee is asked to note the response and agree to close the Notice of Motion.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Appendices – Documents Attached</p>
	<p>Appendix 1 – Response from Minister for Infrastructure</p>

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From the office of the Minister for Infrastructure
LIZ KIMMINS MLA

Sara Steele
Democratic Services Section
Belfast City Council
Belfast

Private Office, 3rd Floor,
James House, Gasworks Site,
2 - 4 Cromac Avenue,
Belfast, BT7 2JA
Telephone: (028) 9054 0540
Email: Private.office@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

steelesara@belfastcity.gov.uk

Your reference:
Our reference: COR- 1768-2024
13 February 2024

Dear Sara,

HILL STREET, BELFAST - PEDESTRAINISATION

Thank you for your letter, dated 15 October 2024, in which you ask that the Minister revisits the decision to put work on the pedestrianisation of Hill Street on hold.

I apologise for the delay in responding to you, unfortunately significant staffing constraints within Eastern Division is having an impact on response times.

An informal consultation on the proposal to pedestrianise Hill Street has been carried out for which the Department got nine replies. While most were in favour of the pedestrianisation scheme, the majority wanted to retain full vehicle access. However, this would not be in keeping with the objective of a pedestrianised area which is to remove traffic during certain periods for the general benefit of pedestrians.

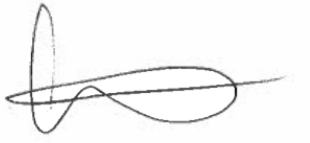
Therefore, this requires further engagement with individual businesses to explain this position and to attempt to negotiate a scheme which works for everyone.

Unfortunately, due to the extensive time that this type of engagement requires, and the current significant pressures on staff as well as their involvement with high priority work such as the Belfast Grand Central Station, the Sydenham Bypass resurfacing scheme and the McKinstry Road/ Derriaghy Road/ The Cutts improvement scheme, it was necessary to put work on the Hill Street proposal on hold at present.

Officials are keeping the position under review and would hope to follow up the informal consultation feedback in the coming months as staffing resource permits.

I trust this information is helpful and fully explains our position on this matter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized loop on the left and a horizontal line extending to the right.

Emma Stockman
Private Secretary to the Minister



Subject:	Planning Information
Date:	21 February 2025
Reporting Officer(s):	Kate Bentley, Director of Planning and Building Control
Contact Officer(s):	Ed Baker, Planning Manager (Development Management)

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To provide an update on Major planning applications and applications that have been determined by the Planning Committee.

2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The report is for notation.
3.0	Main Report
	<u>Background</u>
3.1	The Committee received an update on Planning Performance at its meeting on the 27 th August 2024. At that meeting and previously, the Committee sought a regular update on Major applications and applications that have been determined by the Planning Committee, especially those where a Decision Notice has yet to be issued.
3.2	All Major applications must be determined by the Planning Committee. The Key Performance Indicator (given in weeks) is calculated from when an application is considered to be valid to when the Decision Notice (“Green Form”) is issued. This means that any delays either pre- or post- committee will impact on the KPI. The target for determining a Major application is 30 weeks.
	<u>Major applications</u>
3.3	Appendix 1 sets out the Major applications that are currently with the Council to determine. Details are given on the location, proposal, the validation date and target date for determination (using the 30 week target set out in the Key Performance Indicator) as well as a status update.
	<u>Applications determined by Committee</u>
3.4	Appendix 2 sets out the applications that have been determined by Committee since February 2022 which are yet to issue. For completeness information is also given on those applications determined by Committee which have had their Decision Notice issued. Details are given on the time taken (in weeks) to bring the applications before Committee and where decisions are yet to be issued, information is given relating to the main reason for the delay.
	<u>Conclusion</u>
3.5	This report will be brought to each Planning Committee and to each Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for information on an ongoing basis
	Financial & Resource Implications
3.6	There are no financial or resource implications associated with this report.
	Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment
3.7	There are no equality or good relations / rural needs implications associated with this report.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 – Major planning applications at February 2025
	Appendix 2 – Applications determined by Committee at February 2025

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Live Major Applications not previously considered by Committee @ 05.02.25

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
4	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	LA04/2024/0285/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

7	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
8	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
9	LA04/2024/0570/F	Major	Stormont Hotel, 587 Upper Newtownards Road BT4 3LP and adjacent properties at Castleview Road (nos. 2, 4, 6, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28 & 30), Summerhill Parade (nos. 18, 20 & 22), and Summerhill Park (nos. 37 & 39).	Change of use of from hotel, conference centre and offices (sui generis) to a 97-bed care home (Use Class C3(b)) and 1,559sqm diagnostic medical facility (Use Class D1(a)), associated access, car parking, landscaping and open space.	04-Apr-24	31-Oct-24	UNDER CONSIDERATION
10	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 Castleview Road, associated car parking, servicing, amenity space and landscaping.	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	LA04/2024/0910/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
13	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
14	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 to provide visitor facilities 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

15	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
16	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
17	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	Variation of condition No. 20 of planning permission LA04/2022/0129/F to amend trigger point for implementation of approved foul and surface water drainage programme, from prior to commencement to prior to occupation.	17-Nov-24	15-Jun-25	UNDER CONSIDERATION
18	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
Page 331	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
20	LA04/2025/0012/F	Major	Lands at the Waterworks Park, located off the Cavehill Road; and lands at Alexandra Park, located between Castleton Gardens and Deacon Street; extending along Castleton Gardens and Camberwell Terrace to the road junction approximately 30 metres to the north west of 347 Antrim Road, Belfast, BT15 2HF	<p>Refurbishment and safety works to the Waterworks upper and lower reservoirs, and Alexandra Park lake reservoir, to be complemented with wider environmental, landscape and connectivity improvements.</p> <p>The proposed reservoir works comprise of a new overflow structure with reinforcement and protection of the return embankment parallel to the bywash channel at Waterworks Upper reservoir; repairs to the upstream face of Waterworks Lower reservoir with the addition of wetland planting to reduce the overall capacity of the reservoir; and removal of an existing parapet wall and embankment reinforcement at the Alexandra Park Lake reservoir.</p> <p>Improvements at Waterworks Park comprise the demolition of the existing Waterworks Bothy and replacement with a new building to include public toilets, Changing Places, multi-purpose community room and kitchenette; extension to existing Cavehill Road gatehouse building; entrance improvements; new events space including multipurpose decking; resurfacing of footways; new pedestrian lighting along key routes; a dog park; replacement platforms and viewing area; new 3-on-3 basketball court; replacement surface to existing small sided 3G pitch; and upgrades to existing Queen Mary's playground.</p> <p>Improvements at Alexandra Park include the resurfacing of footways; new pedestrian lighting along key routes; new reinforced grass event space; new lake viewing area; new public toilets and changing places; entrance improvements; 2no existing bridges replaced; new pedestrian entrance; reimagined peace wall; new multi-sport synthetic surface with cover; and upgrades to existing play parks.</p> <p>Streetscape improvements along Camberwell Terrace and Castleton Gardens include resurfacing of footways with new kerbs; resurfaced carriageways and new tactile paving at pedestrian crossings; and all associated works.</p>	20-Dec-24	18-Jul-25	UNDER CONSIDERATION

21	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
22	LA04/2024/2145/F	Major	Lands at North Foreshore / Giant's Park Dargan Road, Belfast, BT3 9LZ	Creation of a new Adventure Park comprising a community / visitor hub building including café, creche, flexible exhibition / community space, ancillary office space and maintenance yard. Development includes community gardens, bmx track, crazy golf, dog park, walking/running/cycle paths, outdoor amphitheatre, bio diversity zones, and recreational facilities. Associated landscaping and infrastructure (drainage, lighting, car / coach parking, WC block etc).	15-Jan-25	13-Aug-25	UNDER CONSIDERATION
23	LA04/2024/2077/F	Major	Adelaide Business Centre 2-6 Apollo Road, Belfast, BT12 6HP	Proposed change of use from office space to Bowling Alley, Restaurant, Indoor Golf, Children's Soft Play, VR Zone & Amusements, Smoking Area, Car Parking and Associated Site Works.	29-Jan-25	27-Aug-25	UNDER CONSIDERATION

Planning Applications Discussed at Committee Between 01 Apr 2019 and 05 Feb 2025

Decision Description	Totals
	29
Consent Granted	
Consent Refused	
Permission Granted	
Permission Refused	
Total	29

Application No.	Location	Proposal	Category	Date Valid	Delegated Committee	Committee Date	Weeks between Valid date and Comm date	Weeks Since Committee	Weeks between Comm Date and Issued Date 2	Decision	Issue date	Todays 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	155	No Issue Date	Permission Granted		05/02/2025	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 Belfast.	Proposed Social Housing Development Comprising of 12 no. 3p/2b semi-detached dwelling houses with incurtilage parking and associated site works. (amended description and site location plan)	LOC	04-Nov-22	C	29/06/2023	33	83	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		05/02/2025	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	83	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		05/02/2025	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	68	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		05/02/2025	Awaiting Section 76 Agreement

Page 333

Agenda Item 5

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	64	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued	05/02/2025	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 (of planning approval LA04/2020/0804/F) 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	60	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued	05/02/2025	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	55	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued	05/02/2025	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	55	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued	05/02/2025	Awaiting Section 76 Agreement

LA04/2022/0097/F	22-30 Hopefield Avenue Belfast BT15 5AP	Proposed three and a half storey residential development comprising of 18no. units (3no. wheelchair apartments and 15no. Category 1 - Social Housing) and associated access, bin storage, boundary treatments, bike stands, car parking and site and landscaping works (Amended Drawings)	LOC	04-Apr-22	C	13/02/2024	97	51	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		05/02/2025	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	46	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		05/02/2025	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	46	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		05/02/2025	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	46	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		05/02/2025	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	33	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		05/02/2025	Awaiting Section 76 Agreement
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	16	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		05/02/2025	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	16	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		05/02/2025	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	12	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		05/02/2025	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	12	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		05/02/2025	Awaiting Section 76 Agreement
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	8	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		05/02/2025	Awaiting Section 76 Agreement
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	8	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		05/02/2025	Deferred for Site Visit

LA04/2024/1138/F	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 additional Short Term use outside of term time. Proposed 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. (Amended Description)	MAJ	16-Oct-24	C	10/12/2024	7	8	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		05/02/2025	Awaiting Section 76 Agreement
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	8	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		05/02/2025	Awaiting Section 76 Agreement
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	8	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		05/02/2025	Awaiting Section 76 Agreement
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	8	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued		05/02/2025	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	8	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued	05/02/2025	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	8	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued	05/02/2025	Awaiting Section 76 Agreement
LA04/2024/0714/F	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.	MAJ	14-Jun-24	C	21/01/2025	31	2	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued	05/02/2025	Awaiting Section 76 Agreement
LA04/2024/0754/F	Lands immediately north and south of existing film studios, north of Dargan Road (within wider Belfast City Council lands known at North Foreshore/Giants	Retrospective application for the construction of a landscaped earth mound, new fencing, the reconfiguration of internal access arrangements to provide a new turning head, and associated site works. (Amended description and plans)	LOC	26-Apr-24	C	21/01/2025	38	2	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued	05/02/2025	To be issued
LA04/2024/0966/F	28 Dunvegan Street, Belfast, BT6 8GE	Retrospective: Change of use from 3-bedroom residential dwelling (C1) to short-term let (Sui Generis). Amended Plans & Description	LOC	14-Jun-24	C	21/01/2025	31	2	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued	05/02/2025	To be issued
LA04/2024/1623/F	49 Woodcot Avenue, Belfast, BT5 5JB	Change of use from 4 bed dwelling (C1) to 4 bed House of Multiple Occupancy (Sui Generis)	LOC	26-Sep-24	C	21/01/2025	16	2	No Issue Date	Decision To Be Issued	05/02/2025	Deferred for Site Visit

Page 38



Subject:	LGSC Network of Diversity Ambassadors and The Rainbow Project, HereNI and Cara-Friend Centenary event.
Date:	21 February 2025
Reporting Officer:	Christine Sheridan, Director of Human Resources
Contact Officer:	Catherine Christy, Corporate Human Resources Manager (Development)

Restricted Reports													
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>												
<p>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</p> <p>Insert number <input style="width: 40px; 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"/>											

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on the Local Government Staff Commission (LGSC) Diversity Ambassador network and sponsorship of/attendance at the Rainbow Project, HereNI and Cara-Friend Centenary event.

2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to note the content of this report.
3.0	Main report
	<p data-bbox="272 365 427 387">Key Issues</p> <p data-bbox="169 416 1477 595">3.1 Our Equality and Diversity Action Plan outlines how we will promote equality and diversity in our ambitions to create a city in which people love to live, learn, invest, work and visit. It also contributes to our compliance with Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. Actions are categorised under the following corporate plan priorities:</p> <ul data-bbox="323 618 770 797" style="list-style-type: none"> • Growing an inclusive economy • Living here • Cross cutting • Organisational priorities <p data-bbox="169 869 1477 1256">3.2 The Local Government Equality and Diversity Group prioritises and influences equality, good relations, diversity and inclusion initiatives across local government in Northern Ireland. Sharon McNicholl, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Services is the current chair of the Group which attempts to bring together best practice across the sector and in so doing, seeks to integrate the priorities of the Group with the ongoing work of individual Councils. The Group identified a key implementation initiative: establishing a network of Diversity Ambassadors to actively advance the equality and diversity agenda within Councils.</p> <p data-bbox="169 1328 1477 1659">3.3 The Diversity Ambassadors will work within their Council and community to support delivery of the regional Equality Diversity and Inclusion Strategy and Action Plan and help to drive behavioural and cultural change across the local government sector. The role of the Diversity Ambassador is important because they will work at all levels helping to create a fair, accepting, inclusive culture which in turn will help to reduce the occurrence of discrimination allowing everyone to feel welcome, cared for, safe and valued. Please see Diversity Ambassador Role Specification attached at Appendix 1.</p> <p data-bbox="169 1731 1477 1910">3.4 In May 2023 all councils were asked to confirm the names of elected members or senior officers in diversity and inclusion champion or ambassador roles so that they could be invited to a programme of events for Diversity Ambassadors. The current list of BCC Diversity Ambassadors is as follows:</p>

Elected member ambassadors.

Cllr Aine McCabe - Gender
Cllr Micky Murray - LGBTQIA+
Cllr Anthony Flynn - LGBTQIA+
Cllr Seamus De Faoite - LGBTQIA+
Cllr Ruth Brooks - Disability

In addition, a number of elected members in the Disability Working Group also asked that they be invited to the programme of events.

Officer ambassadors.

Kate Bentley - LGBTQIA+
John Tully - Race
Christine Sheridan -all areas
Nora Largey - all areas
Catherine Christy - all areas
Michael Johnston - Disability

3.5 From October 2023 to November 2024, a series of best practice events and information sessions took place, consisting of five sessions, offering Diversity Ambassadors opportunities to exchange insights and engage with subject experts. These sessions were facilitated by the Commission and supported by Equality and Diversity Group members Bronagh Hinds (DemocraShe) and Bernie Kelly (Vice Chair of the Local Government Staff Commission). A number of Belfast City Council diversity projects and initiatives were showcased across the events.

3.6 Looking ahead, the initiative aims to formalise a Diversity Ambassador Network to sustain collaboration, learning, and the sharing of best practices across Councils. In December 2024 the LGSC sought expressions of interest from elected member ambassadors and officer ambassadors across all 11 councils to co-chair the network going forward. Catherine Christy, Corporate HR Manager – Development, in Belfast City Council and Cllr Noeleen Hays, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council, have been invited to co-chair the network in 2025/26. See Network Terms of Reference attached for further information.

3.7	<p>The Rainbow Project, HereNI and CaraFriend Centenary event</p> <p>An event is being held in Titanic Belfast on 8 March 2025, to celebrate a combined century of support and advocacy from three of Northern Ireland’s LGBTQIA+ organisations: The Rainbow Project, HereNI, and CaraFriend. Adding to the significance of this occasion, the prestigious Tolerantia Awards will also form part of this celebration. This renowned event honours individuals and organisations that have made substantial contributions to the promotion of tolerance and human rights across Europe. The Rainbow Project is a member of the Tolerantia Alliance and last hosted these awards in Belfast which were sponsored by the Council, back in in 2016.</p>
3.8	<p>As part of its agreed LGBTQIA+ diversity action plan commitment, the Council will be one of the named sponsors of the event, which includes a table for 10. Our LGBTQIA+, elected member and senior officer ambassadors have been invited to attend as well as members of the staff LGBTQIA+ network ‘Proud’, who commit a considerable amount of personal time and effort on top of their day jobs to support and manage the network.</p>
Financial & Resource Implications	
3.9	<p>Financial</p> <p>There are no financial implications to this report as associated costs are included the agreed LGBTQIA+ diversity action plan.</p>
3.10	<p>Human Resources</p> <p>There are no human resources implications to this report.</p>
Equality, Good Relations and Rural Needs Implications	
3.11	<p>The delivery of the Councils equality, diversity and inclusion projects and initiatives will have a positive impact on our workforce and internal operations as well as communities across our city.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	<p>Appendix One – Diversity Ambassador Role Specification</p> <p>Appendix Two - Diversity Ambassador Network – Terms of Reference</p>



Equality & Diversity in Local Councils

Diversity Ambassador Role Specification (Elected Member and Officer)

May 2023

Purpose of the Diversity Ambassador Role

The Diversity Ambassadors will work within their Council and community to support delivery of the regional Equality Diversity and Inclusion Strategy and Action Plan and help to drive behavioural and cultural change across the local government sector.

The role of the Diversity Ambassador is important because they will work at all levels helping to create a fair, accepting, inclusive culture which in turn will help to reduce the chances and any occurrence of discrimination allowing everyone to feel welcome, cared for, safe and valued.

Diversity Ambassadors Role Description

The Diversity Ambassador will:

1. Champion equality, diversity and inclusion across the Council.
2. Challenge other elected members and senior staff to promote the values of equality diversity and inclusion.
3. Act as a focus in the Council for:
 - engaging with stakeholders
 - sharing best practice on equality diversity and inclusion
 - driving positive actions
 - developing networks
 - participating in the promotion and development of equality, diversity and inclusion events held by the Council
4. Attend development events organised for Diversity Ambassadors to:
 - help mentor new Diversity Ambassadors
 - share good practice
 - develop case studies of good practice as appropriate.
5. Understand and effectively represent priorities for the local government sector in terms of equality diversity and inclusion.

6. Participate in task and finish groups that may be required to address any emerging equality, diversity and inclusion issues.

Training and Support Provided to Diversity Ambassadors

Diversity Ambassadors will receive regular training and support from the Equality Diversity and Inclusion Group Secretariat and will include:

- A guided review of the Equality Diversity and Inclusion Strategy and Action Plan
- Information on equality reports such as the Equality Baseline and Impact Study
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Training and updates
- Cultural awareness and a positive attitude towards the provision of equitable services



Equality & Diversity in Local Councils

Diversity Ambassador Network – Terms of Reference

Context

Local Government has an important role in promoting equality of opportunity, diversity, and inclusion. The regional Equality and Diversity Group has responsibility for the development of the overall strategic direction for equality and diversity initiatives in local government. A key feature of the work of the Equality and Diversity Group is the establishment of the Diversity Ambassadors' Network.

Vision for Local Government

To create a fully inclusive and diverse local government service where the workforce reflects the community it serves, where as a sector diversity and inclusion are recognised, supported, and celebrated, and where staff are comfortable to be authentically themselves in the workplace.

Objectives and Delivery

The objective of the Network will be to support Elected Member and Officer Diversity Ambassadors. Diversity Ambassadors will be supported to champion diversity and inclusion in their councils to create positive impacts on this agenda in services and local communities, specifically to:

- Continue to build capacity for Diversity Ambassadors
- Promote and encourage EDI agendas in individual councils including at Elected Member level, linking to the EDI Strategy and Action Plan 2024 – 2027
- To assist councils to improve cross departmental working within councils, (across Good Relations, Human Resources and Equality)
- To assist collaborative working across all 11 councils

The delivery of these objectives will be done by creating a forum for Diversity Ambassadors to gather and share best practice, engage with the work of others on this agenda, develop skills to support and influence innovative practices, and embrace the opportunity to work in collaboration with existing and new partners in the delivery of this programme of work.

Operational Arrangements

The Network will meet at least three times a year and will work in the following ways:

- Members of the Network are encouraged to suggest items for the agenda and to suggest expert speakers and key stakeholders to contribute to the Network
- Non-members may be invited to join the Network, permanently or temporarily, to aid discussions on topics
- Decisions will be made by consensus, but if that is not possible the Co- Chairs will make the final decision
- Diversity Ambassadors are expected to attend, and apologies should be given in advance where possible
- Hybrid Meetings will be offered with at least 1 meeting per year, in person only.

Membership

The Network will consist of the nominated council and NILGA Elected Member and Officer Diversity Ambassadors.

Chairing of the Network Meetings

The Network will be Co-Chaired by an Elected Member and Officer Diversity Ambassador. The Co-Chairs will ensure that the proper running of meetings in a timely, fair transparent and inclusive manner and will have the final say on the finalisation of minutes. Items on the agenda should be alternated between the Co-Chairs.

Location of meetings are to be rotated around each council area.

Accountability

The Co-Chairs be expected to report regularly to the regional Equality and Diversity Group on the work of the Network either verbally or through reports.

Secretariat

The Local Government Staff Commission will serve as the secretariat for the Network until 31 March 2026. From that point onward, the hosting council of each meeting will assume the secretariat role for the respective meeting.

Network Values

Members of the Network will:

- Treat all other Members with respect
- Act in a courteous and ethical manner at all times,
- Improve communication on and within Network
- Not disclose any matter that the Network is satisfied should remain confidential.

Review

The Network will review the relevance and value of the terms of reference and its work on a regular basis.

Co-Chair Role

- Both should be treated as equal in the role, Officer and Elected Member
- Co-Chairs should remain in place for at least 1 year
- Schedule of meetings to be approved at least 1 year in advance
- Meetings which are being held every 4 months should be hosted by a different council. Practical issues for the host council include ensuring ICT and accessibility are appropriate and hospitality is agreed with Co-Chair
- Pre-meetings should take place 2 weeks in advance of the meeting to agree the agenda items and liaise with secretariat
- The Co-Chair should make space for diverse viewpoints to be heard and support challenging discussions
- The Co-Chair should agree and track actions, communicating outcomes either prior to or the following meeting dependant on their urgency
- The Elected Member Co-Chair is encouraged to contact other Elected Member to encourage participation.



Subject:	Summer Schemes – Additional Needs
Date:	21 February 2025
Reporting Officer:	Jim Girvan, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Cormac Mc Cann, Lead Officer Community Provision

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.	
Insert number <input type="checkbox"/>	
<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 After Council Decision Sometime in the future Never	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update Members on a proposal for funding which was agreed at the People and Communities Committee meeting held on 4th February 2025 relating to summer schemes for children with additional needs

2.0	Recommendation
2.1	<p>The Committee is requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider a request from People and Communities committee to agree to provide an amount of £20,000 funding for summer schemes for children with additional needs. • If the funding is approved, an amount of £5,000 to be allocated to north, south, east and west Belfast.
3.0	Main Report
	Background
3.1	Strategic Policy and Resources committee of 22 March 2024 agreed to provide City and Neighbourhood Services Department with an additional amount of £80,000 to deliver a pilot project to support summer schemes for children with additional needs. Following successful delivery of the pilot in 2024 an amount of £80,000 is allocated within the Departmental estimates to deliver the programme in 2025.
3.2	At the 4 February 2025 People and Communities committee, members agreed an allocation model of £20,000 per area, north, south, east and west, and eligibility criteria. Members further agreed that a report be presented to Strategic Policy and Resources Committee seeking an additional amount of £20,000 to extend the impact of the scheme.
	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u>
3.3	An allocation of £80,000 is included within the 2025/2026 Departmental estimates for delivery of funding to summer schemes for children with additional needs. Agreeing this report will provide an additional £20,000 to City and Neighbourhood Services budgets to extend delivery.
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u>
3.4	This report proposes extending funding schemes which are designed to support improved outcomes for under-represented groups, specifically children with additional needs.
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 - Summer Scheme Guidance Notes

Guidance Notes for Applicants

1.0 Introduction to Summer Scheme for Children with disabilities and/or additional needs.

- 1.1 Purpose of the fund
- 1.2 Project criteria
- 1.3 Grant Award Amounts
- 1.4 Who can apply?
- 1.5 What can be funded.
- 1.6 What cannot be funded.

2.0 General Information

- 2.1. Key dates
- 2.2. Filling in the form and how we assess your application.
 - 2.2.1. Your Organisation
 - 2.2.2. Your Project
 - 2.2.2.1. Declarations and confirmations
 - 2.2.3. Criteria for our decision making
 - 2.2.4. Project Expenditure
 - 2.2.5. Procurement

3. What happens next

- 3.1. Letter of Offer
- 3.2. Paying the funds
- 3.3. Monitoring and reporting
- 3.4. Marketing and promotion

1.1 Purpose of the grant

The purpose of this grant is to support local community, voluntary organisations and Special education schools to run a summer scheme for children and young people between 5 and 17 years of age with disabilities and/or additional needs who have restricted/limited access to any other summer scheme, programmes, or services during the summer months due to support needs.

This grant supports work that removes barriers to access (conditions or obstacles that prevent children with disabilities and/or additional needs from using or accessing services and resources as effectively as children without disabilities) and the programme should meet the needs of children with disabilities and/or additional needs, demonstrate how participants will benefit, provide suitable programming, and increase the overall number of additional needs summer scheme places available across Belfast.

1.2 Project Criteria

Funded activity must occur between 30 June 2025 and 29th August 2025 and should have a minimum length of 5 days. Any activity outside these timescales will not be eligible for funding.

The programme must be age appropriate and take the range of abilities, needs and interests of the children and young people into consideration.

The children and young people who participate in the summer scheme with disabilities and/or additional needs should benefit as detailed below.

1. Participate in activities to improve health and well-being	Suggestions include: Physical activity/exercise Mental health Healthy diet/nutrition Sensory activity
2. Learn new skills	Provide opportunities for children to experience new topics/activities. Provide taster sessions or activities that will be new to the children and young people.
3. Participate in assorted physical activities (indoor or outdoor environments)	to suit age, need, ability and stage of development.
4. Provide educational and learning opportunities	activities to stimulate, interest, nurture, and support child development

5. Access to Social activities	engage socially and take part in activities
6. Communication - listening, speaking, and understanding	supporting children's communication needs

1.3 Number of applications and grant Award Amounts

Each organisation can only make one application to the Summer Scheme Grant for Children with disabilities and/or additional needs and the small grants summer scheme programme. The organisation cannot submit more than one application for the same programme.

The Summer Scheme Grant for Children with disabilities and/or additional needs 2025-26 can provide funding from a minimum of £1,000 up to a maximum grant of £20,000

Please note that applying for a grant is a competitive process and awards are subject to the availability of funds and may be subject to change. Grant funding is limited. Even if an application scores highly, we cannot guarantee funding.

1.4 Who can apply?

Formally constituted local community, voluntary and statutory organisations whose primary purpose is to support children or adults who have disabilities and/or additional needs. This should be stated in the organisations governing document.

The organisation applying for the grant must be based within and deliver the Summer Scheme within the City of Belfast boundary.

Your organisation must also be able to provide the following at the submission of the application:

- a fully completed application form submitted to xxxxxxxx
- Governing document - a copy of your constitution or memorandum and articles of association or school (EA) Governance document. If it is a constitution, it must be signed and dated as adopted by the Chairperson at the time or the current chairperson to confirm its your organisation's constitution.
- Bank statements - copies of your organisation's most recent **3 months** bank statements. The bank statements must show your organisation's name as the name of the account.

- Annual accounts – copy of your organisation’s most recent, current, signed annual accounts. This document must be signed by the Chairperson or Treasurer to confirm it is your organisation’s accounts. The accounts must be no more than 18 months old.
- Policy confirmations - To be eligible for funding, your organisation must also have the following policies in place, Child protection and Equality and Disability policy.

1.5 What can be funded

The grant will provide funding for costs to support your organisation’s delivery of the Summer Scheme for Children with disabilities and/or additional needs to include:

- Transport costs to include bus hire or if your organisation owns its own minibus, we will not pay commercial hire rates for its use in the project. We will pay a maximum mileage rate based on local government rate which includes insurance, maintenance, and fuel use. Petrol receipts must be supported by detailed mileage claims.
- Admission/entrance fees up to that are no more than £20 per person per session unless agreed in advance and forms part of the Letter of Offer.
- Tutors / entertainers.
- Materials and small play equipment.
- Room hire.
- Small scale hospitality i.e. snacks or light refreshments.
- Staff costs (for example, additional hours, casual/agency staff, and so on) that must be for administrative/staff costs and/or running costs directly incurred in the planning and delivery of the proposed activity.
- Internal costs - costs for use of own facilities or internal charges within an organisation (notional costs) will only be eligible if they are normally used for commercial activity. If you are also in receipt of a grant that contributes to the running of your building, and you have now also been awarded funding towards these costs through the small grants you must notify your BCC Project Officer. You will also be asked to provide confirmation of this when you complete project monitoring.
- Volunteer expenses – Volunteers can be reimbursed for expense incurred during their volunteering for the summer scheme project. These costs should be genuine and necessary for the role. Adequate records should be kept of the expenses e.g. receipts, travel tickets and can include travel to and from the organisation and meals while volunteering to a limit of £10 per day.
- Cash payments - a limit of £20 per cash transaction. Any items of project expenditure more than £20 should be paid for by organisation cheque, BACs, debit, or credit card.

Costs must be proportionate to the overall cost of your project and essential for delivering it. If we do not think that the amount you have asked for is good value for money, we may also

offer you less than the amount you applied for. To make sure you provide value for money, we can cap any project costs we are funding. If you are successful, these costs will be shown in the letter of offer, for example, facilitators, residentials, catering, and so on.

1.6 What cannot be funded.

The following projects and costs are not eligible for funding: -

- have no significant benefit to the Belfast City Council area.
- provide no potential benefit to the public, either in the short or long term.
- could be carried out on a commercial basis.
- duplicate what already exists.
- are charity or fundraising events or activities.
- are of a party-political nature.
- promote a particular religion.
- are against Belfast City Council policy. For example, we do not allow balloon or Chinese lantern releases as they are against our environmental policy.
- Where alternative funding is available, appropriate and accessible from another statutory funding body
- Overheads/core costs allocated or apportioned at rates more than those used for any similar work you carry out and other than administrative/staff costs and/or running costs directly and necessarily incurred in the delivery of the proposed activity
- Building/capital costs (including equipment exceeding £1,000).
- Costs which are not clearly linked to the project.
- Costs that are associated with filling in this application form.
- Costs that are poor value for money, or that are bought from outside of Belfast City Council procurement guidelines.
- Costs that are already covered by other funding or income sources.
- Costs related to private or unfunded pensions.
- Reclaimable VAT
- Flags and bunting.
- Alcohol, gratuities, gifts, donations, competition entry, prizes, and trophies
- Equipment costs unless they have an ongoing use throughout the project and are essential and necessary to complete the project.
- Loan Repayments, Bank interest charges, referral fees and foreign currency transaction charges.
- On-going Licence Fees
- Costs towards utility or fuel support for beneficiaries.

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2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. note the draft Fuel Poverty Strategy being consulted upon – CLICK LINK ii. consider the draft Council response attached at Appendix 1; iii. agree that the draft Council response is submitted to the Department for Communities
3.0	Main report
3.1	The Department for Communities recently launched a consultation on a draft Fuel Poverty Strategy for Northern Ireland which sets out a proposed framework for addressing fuel poverty and its impacts.
3.2	DfC defines fuel poverty as the inability of a household to heat and power their home adequately. It is affected by the cost of energy, the energy efficiency of the home and energy needs of those living in it, and household income. When people cannot heat their homes adequately it can lead to poor mental and physical health.
3.3	<p>This strategy proposes a vision of a Warm, Healthy Home for Everyone, supported by 4 principles. It contains a number of proposed actions that will help us achieve the following objectives to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Make homes more energy efficient 2. Collaborate and build capacity 3. Protect consumers
3.4	The draft Strategy also proposes a new approach to measuring and reporting on fuel poverty and proposals for the Department’s new Fuel Poverty Energy Efficiency scheme.
3.5	As part of the recent refresh of the Belfast Agenda (City’s Community Plan), a key and immediate area of concern emerging from key stakeholder groups, community and voluntary sector representatives, citizens, communities of interest and elected Members, was the growing fuel poverty crisis facing the city and communities. There was a strong call to action for community planning partners to work with NICS Departments to move quickly to bring forward immediate and integrated measures to support vulnerable people alongside helping inform the development on long-term and sustainable approach and underpinning strategies, policies and programmes.
3.6	There is little doubt that the scale and complexity of challenges with a dangerous combination of higher energy prices, reduced incomes, and leaky, energy inefficient housing could create the perfect storm and push many households further into fuel poverty. These increases come at a time when many household budgets are already stretched thin.
Page 158	

3.7	Living in fuel poverty can severely affect a person's life in a wide range of ways, on physical and mental health, household finances, the economy and ultimately on people's quality of life.
3.8	Members will be aware of the significant investment made by the Council over recent years in helping to alleviate the impact of fuel poverty and the cost-of-living crisis. The Council would highlight the collaboration which has taken place with DfC, and the role of Council working closely with community partners to get significant funding and support to those impacted by fuel poverty across the city. There is no doubt of the effectiveness and impact of central and local government working together with communities in responding together in times of emergency.
3.9	While we understand and embrace the fact that its causes are complex and its consequences are multiple, there is an opportunity through community planning to create the environment and bring the key stakeholders together to develop achievable actions. Whilst immediate and practical interventions and support can be brought forward to help mitigate the effects of fuel poverty; we would commend that a broader and integrated programme and longer-term strategy and associated resources are required to seek to eradicate fuel poverty within Belfast and wider region.
	Financial & Resource Implications
3.10	There are no financial or human resource implications arising directly from this report.
	Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment
3.11	There are no equality/ good relations or rural needs implications arising directly from this report.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1: Draft Council response to DfC Fuel Poverty Strategy

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1.0 Introduction

Belfast City Council (“the Council”), welcomes the opportunity to respond to the DfC consultation on a draft Fuel Poverty Strategy for Northern Ireland. The emerging draft strategy presents an opportunity to reset this critical agenda, to refresh it and to introduce a new urgent focus to continue to bear down on a problem which too many low-income households continue to suffer from. Fuel poverty is the biggest single factor contributing to the cost-of-living crisis in Belfast which impacts on health and wellbeing.

The response is set out in two parts; the first is an overview of the key strategic and cross-cutting issues which the Council would recommend be considered when finalising the Strategy. The second part sets out detailed comments in respect of the specific questions posed.

(i) A time of challenge but also opportunity

The Council believes that the draft Fuel Poverty Strategy is presented at a time of both significant challenges faced by many households but also opportunity for all partners to come together to develop new integrated and sustainable approaches to supporting those most vulnerable in our society.

There is little doubt that the scale and complexity of challenges with a dangerous combination of higher energy prices, reduced incomes, and leaky, energy inefficient housing could create the perfect storm and push many households further into fuel poverty. These increases come at a time when many household budgets are already stretched thin.

As part of the recent refresh of the Belfast Agenda (City’s Community Plan), a key and immediate area of concern emerging from key stakeholder groups, community and voluntary sector representatives, citizens, communities of interest and elected Members, was the growing fuel poverty crisis facing the city and communities. There was a strong call to action for community planning partners to work with NICS Departments to move quickly to bring forward immediate and integrated measures to support vulnerable people alongside helping inform the development on long-term and sustainable approach and underpinning strategies, policies and programmes.

Living in fuel poverty can severely affect a person’s life in a wide range of ways, on physical and mental health, household finances, the economy and ultimately on people’s quality of life. While we understand and embrace the fact that its causes are complex and its consequences are multiple, there is an opportunity through community planning to create the environment and bring the key stakeholders together to develop achievable actions. Whilst immediate and practical interventions and support can be brought forward to help mitigate the effects of fuel poverty; we would commend that a broader and integrated programme and longer-term policy levers are required to seek to eradicate fuel poverty within Belfast and wider region.

The Council would highlight the collaboration which has taken place over recent years with the Department, and the role of Council working closely with community partners to get significant funding and support to those impacted by fuel poverty across the city. There is no doubt of the effectiveness and impact of central and local government working together to deliver the level of public services are citizens deserve or in responding together in times of emergency.

Belfast City Council response DfC Fuel Poverty Strategy

The long-term solution for NI lies not only in improving the energy efficiency of all homes, but also simultaneously addressing the climate crisis by providing low carbon energy solutions for all homes. Integrating low carbon and renewable technologies (which are now cheaper than fossil fuels) removes the issue of insecurity of supply and also eliminates the price volatility of gas and oil. Integration of renewables, battery storage technology and smart digital meters to the housing sector is the key to meeting the legislated net zero carbon target and should feature prominently in any fuel poverty strategy.

The Fuel Poverty Strategy comes at a time when the global climate crisis is ushering in a transformative change in technology, accelerating the move to a low carbon clean energy future unique once in a generation opportunity to create low carbon communities.

ii. Working together to deliver

By challenging the traditional ways of working and breaking through silos, the draft fuel poverty strategy provides an ideal platform to roll out a 'whole system approach', strengthening the relationship between regional and local government and creating an environment which facilitates the joint provision of sustainable support. The Council is therefore fully committed to working alongside colleagues in the NI Executive and the Voluntary and Community sector, to co-design and support the delivery of specific programmes of work required to achieve the ambitions set out in the draft strategy.

The Council believe that to deliver on the ambitions and priorities contained in the draft strategy it is essential that both tiers of government work together in partnership to develop the policy and delivery frameworks by which to address the major challenges being faced by our citizens. There is a real opportunity to maximise the synergies and linkages between regional and local outcomes and together design impactful programmes and initiatives which will help address many of the entrenched societal and economic issues impacting upon local communities across Northern Ireland.

iii. Protecting consumers

Given our commitment to inclusive growth, Belfast City Council is keen to ensure that future energy strategy ensures strong consumer engagement and protection, while also empowering and enabling communities through the development of local community energy systems and networks. We support approaches that engage and involve people in energy supply, as this has positive impacts for good urban behaviour, e.g. more efficient energy behaviour and reduced consumption.

iv. Regulatory impact assessment

The introduction of any new regulatory duties in NI will need to be subject to a thorough regulatory impact assessment and the financial assessment to deliver that regulatory duty would need defined and provided for within NIA budgets. Any new duty potentially impacting on local government would need to be consulted on and budget defined so as to have no financial impact to ratepayers.

Detailed response to questions set out in consultation.

Vision and Principles

1. Do you agree with the proposed vision and guiding principles? If not, please suggest alternatives and why

- Agree with Vision and Principles and welcome the long-term sustainable solutions approach with a Just Transition embedded within the strategy. The Council particularly welcomes the principle of working in collaboration as local government has initiated several work streams and allocated to significant resources to alleviate fuel poverty through the cost-of-living programmes and addressing the climate crisis. Councils also have statutory responsibilities associated with housing management, building control, planning and environmental health in the past have utilised these skills and resources to worked collaboratively with central government to resolve the issue. The Council would highlight the work being undertaken by the inter-sectoral 'Belfast Retrofit Hub' who refer to the critical need for collaboration across sectors as well as clear referral networks, particularly with regard to any plans for one stop shop/s.
- We would suggest that consideration is given to how the longer-term solutions take account of the important role of the benefits system which is a key element in ensuring that households have access to financial support to heat their homes.

2. Do you agree with the timeframe and review period? If not, why not?

- We support the proposed 10-year period of the strategy, acknowledging the timeframes and policy certainty required by householders as well as the lead in time required by industry to invest in skills development, labour development and supply chain. We also support the 5-year review build into the process. The commitment by DfC to review of the Fitness standard by 2030 is welcome, however, the review of the Fitness standard must be a priority for the Department as it not only has an impact on fuel poverty measures, but also home accident prevention and protection of vulnerable occupants.
- Belfast City Council would encourage the introduction of a new standard at the earliest opportunity due to the age of the existing standards which substantially lag behind the standards currently enjoyed in other jurisdictions.
- We would also highlight the pace of growth in next technologies emerging in relation to clean energy production and management and many of the smart digital solutions could be adopted to relieve fuel hardship in the short-term.

Make homes more energy efficient.

Q3 What would a readily understandable and measurable definition of "thermal comfort" look like?

- **Social housing** - the limitations of EPCs are well known but remain the leading primary metric along with SAP ratings. We concur with NIHE targets of attaining SAP rating Band C by 2030.

Belfast City Council response DfC Fuel Poverty Strategy

- Thermal comfort describes the human satisfactory perception of the thermal environment. It refers to a number of conditions in which the majority of people feel comfortable.
- Thermal comfort describes the warmth, ventilation, and humidity of a room in which at least 80% of occupants would describe as comfortable.
- In terms of measurability, with regards to the Fitness Standard in privately rented properties, the current method is by using temperature/humidity datalogging equipment to interpret whether the dwelling meets the minimum required by Private Tenancies Northern Ireland Order 2006 Officer's Guidance Document which states; "In deciding whether a house is or is not unfit, the authority should consider whether the house currently has for heating a main "living" room, provision for fixed heating, capable of efficiently maintaining the room generally at a temperature of 18 deg C or more than the outside temperature is -1 deg C, and for the other main habitable rooms, provision for heating capable of maintaining an equivalent temperature of 16 deg C or more."
- Thermal comfort depends on wider factors than just looking at temperature in isolation; an approach considering a suite of factors should include:
 - Temperature: as defined by WHO standards
 - Relative Humidity: for example, between 30% and 60% to prevent condensation and discomfort caused by high humidity.
 - Ventilation: There is a gentle air movement of for example 1.5m/s to prevent drafts and discomfort caused by stagnant air.
 - Thermal satisfaction: The overall thermal comfort experience is rated as satisfactory by at least 80% of occupants.
 - The conservation and retention of thermal energy within properties as identified by the standards of Technical Booklet F1 (Conservation of fuel and Power) of the Building Regulations (NI) in an effort to increase the conservation of fuel and power.
 - The provision and maintenance of adequate ventilation of domestic dwellings as identified by the performance criteria within Appendix A, Technical Booklet K (Ventilation) of the Building Regulations (NI) in order to limit moisture, mould, and the accumulation of pollutants.
- A readily understandable and measurable definition of thermal comfort in the home can be based on a combination of the above factors. To make these definitions more accessible to homeowners, however, consider the following:
 - Encourage homeowner use of a simple thermometer to measure indoor temperature.
 - Encourage homeowner use of hygrometer to measure relative humidity.
 - Encourage homeowner use of a portable fan or blower to improve air movement.
 - A smart thermostat or a thermostat with a built-in sensor to monitor and adjust temperature and humidity levels.
- By promoting use of such measures, homeowners are better equipped to create a comfortable indoor environment that meets their thermal comfort needs.

Q4 For MEES in PRS to effectively alleviate fuel poverty, what information or data do you think would be useful and what barriers would we need to overcome?

To effectively alleviate fuel poverty through minimum energy efficiency standards in the private rented sector, DfC will need specific information and data, as well as an understanding of the barriers that might hinder data collection and analysis. The following information would be useful to provide a sound evidence base for the strategy:

- Up to date private rental tenancy data: establishing MEES for this sector will encourage and direct investment however, it is critical that sufficient lead-in time is allowed and that financial support is provided to support the transition. Failure to do this could result in landlords divesting of low EPC stock which could

Belfast City Council response DfC Fuel Poverty Strategy

increase pressure on already limited private rental stock. This could lead to increases in homelessness. It could also result in landlords evading registration leading to a greater disconnect with the sector. We would encourage lessons to be learned from Scotland's experience both in terms the funding and support required as well as potential negative impacts and how they might be avoided.

- Current Energy Efficiency Ratings: Data on the energy performance of rental properties, typically derived from Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs), indicating their current efficiency levels and potential for improvement.
- Demographic Data: Information about the tenants, including income levels, family size, and specific vulnerabilities (e.g., elderly, disabled, children) to identify those at greater risk of fuel poverty.
- Fuel Poverty Statistics: Data on the proportion of households that experience fuel poverty, including metrics such as household income, energy costs, and heating needs.
- Property Characteristics: Detailed information on housing type, age, heating systems, insulation levels, and any previous upgrades to understand factors affecting energy efficiency.
- Energy Consumption Patterns: Data on energy usage trends to understand how energy consumption relates to the energy efficiency of properties.
- Landlord Compliance and Awareness: Information on landlord awareness of energy efficiency standards as well as their data relating to existing EPC ratings.

Page 165
Barriers to obtaining this data are likely to include:

- Data Privacy and Accessibility: Concerns over data privacy may limit access to personal information regarding tenants, particularly regarding income and demographic characteristics. Incomplete or Inaccurate Data: Many properties lack up-to-date EPCs or relevant efficiency data, leading to incomplete datasets. Additionally, inaccuracies in self-reported data from landlords can complicate assessments.
- Reluctance of Landlords: Landlords may be hesitant to share information about their properties due to concerns over potential regulations or financial obligations associated with data disclosure.
- Funding Constraints : Limited financial resources may restrict DfC's ability to conduct comprehensive research and data collection initiatives.
- Legislative and Regulatory Challenges: Complicated legislation surrounding housing, energy efficiency, and tenants' rights may slow the process of gathering and analysing necessary data. Building Regulation considerations and Planning restrictions associated with listed buildings and conservation areas should also be considered where appropriate.
- Stakeholder Coordination: Effective data collection often requires coordination among various stakeholders (e.g., councils, housing associations, NIHE, energy providers), which can be challenging to achieve.

To establish effective minimum energy efficiency standards in the private rented sector aimed at alleviating fuel poverty, DfC must prioritise gathering comprehensive and accurate data on housing and energy use. Addressing the barriers to obtaining this information will be crucial for formulating policies and initiatives that truly benefit vulnerable populations while driving meaningful improvements in energy efficiency across NI housing stock.

Q5 Should MEES also be applied to other tenures? Please give reasons for your answer.

Yes, MEES should be applied to all tenures. Many owner-occupied households face fuel poverty also and sometimes this can be missed with working parents facing poverty in other areas. Support for “working poor” owner occupier households should be considered.

if supported and resourced adequately, this could be beneficial. This would have to be supported through an adequate funding programme, one stop shop programme and critically, the financial value attributed to homes would have to factor in its energy performance. A report by Right Move highlighted that house prices can be linked to EPC rating but this requires commitment, engagement and training by RICS. Additional resources would be required to ensure roll out of the programme, support and enforcement. (<https://www.rightmove.co.uk/news/articles/property-news/green-premium-epc-ratings/>)

The introduction of minimum energy efficiency standards (MEES) for tenures beyond the private rented sector, such as owner-occupied homes or social housing, can have benefits, for example:

- Environmental Impact: Expanding energy efficiency standards can significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions, contributing to climate change mitigation efforts.
- Energy Cost Savings: Improved energy efficiency can lead to lower energy bills for residents, making housing more affordable over the long term.
- Public Health: Increased energy efficiency can improve indoor air quality and thermal comfort, leading to better health outcomes for occupants, especially in vulnerable populations.
- Economic Stimulus: Implementing energy efficiency upgrades can stimulate economic activity through job creation in the construction, energy, and related sectors.
- long-term Resilience: Enhancing energy efficiency can make housing more resilient to energy price fluctuations, benefiting both occupants and the economy.

However, there are further considerations which must be taken into account when formulating policy in relation to extension of MEES beyond the private rented sector. For example,

- Cost and Financial Implications: Homeowners may face significant upfront costs associated with upgrades, which could be a barrier, particularly in lower-income households.
- Equity and Access: Ensuring that all households, especially low-income or vulnerable ones, have access to resources and support for achieving energy efficiency improvements is crucial.
- Market Readiness: The construction and renovation sectors need to be equipped to handle increased demands for energy-efficient upgrades, which may require training and resources.
- Regulatory Framework: Implementing these standards would require careful consideration of the regulatory framework, including enforcement mechanisms and potential penalties for non-compliance.

Belfast City Council response DfC Fuel Poverty Strategy

- Behavioural Change: In addition to regulatory measures, promoting education and awareness around energy efficiency can encourage voluntary adoption beyond just meeting minimum standards.

While there may be compelling reasons to extend energy efficiency standards beyond the private rented sector, careful planning and consideration of the economic, social, and administrative implications are essential for successful implementation. Engaging stakeholders, including homeowners, local governments, and energy providers, can foster collaborative solutions that address the challenges and opportunities associated with improved energy efficiency across various housing tenures. It is suggested that owner occupied, social and private rented sector housing should be of the same thermal standards where possible.

Q6 Do you agree that introducing updated fitness standards will contribute to making homes more energy efficient? Please provide reasons for your answer.

Yes, introducing fitness standards will make a valuable contribution by setting metrics and timeframes to guide industry and investment.

The introduction of new government housing fitness standards could potentially contribute to making houses more energy efficient, depending on the specifics of those standards. The current fitness standard for human habitation has not been significantly updated since 1981. If the revised standards focus on aspects such as insulation, heating systems, thermal comfort, energy-efficient appliances, and the use of renewable energy sources, they can lead to homes that consume less energy.

Examples of new housing standards, that could improve energy efficiency include:

- Insulation and building materials: Requirements for enhanced insulation and the use of energy-efficient building materials can significantly reduce heating demands.
- Energy-Efficient appliances and systems: Standards that mandate the use of energy-efficient appliances, heating systems, and water heaters can reduce energy consumption in households.
- Renewable Energy Integration: If the standards encourage or require the installation of solar panels or other renewable energy systems, this can lead to self-sufficient homes that rely less on traditional energy sources.
- Smart Home Technology: Incorporating requirements for smart home technology can help residents monitor and reduce their energy usage, including taking advantage of tariff bands at times when energy costs are lower, leading to overall efficiency gains.
- Sustainability Practices: Standards that promote sustainable building practices, such as the use of recycled materials or water conservation measures, can also contribute to energy efficiency indirectly.
- Ventilation Rates for rapid, background and mechanical extract ventilation or energy efficient passive ventilation systems should be considered in accordance with Technical Booklet K (Ventilation) of the Building Regulations (NI)2012
- Occupier education will always help but we cannot be seen to be solely “blaming” the occupier for conditions relating to condensation and mould growth. All other variables must be considered, and landlords given the tools they need to help tenants – this can be educational but financial help will be required for landlords if it is to be successful.

Belfast City Council response DfC Fuel Poverty Strategy

- An updated Fitness standard will help but it will need to take into consideration the range of types of properties, especially those built before 1945 or from non-traditional construction methods. Retro fitting will be key for older properties which may come at some cost. Grant aid should be made available to landlords or else they will pass the cost of improvements to the tenants.
- Any improvements need to be reasonable, practical and applicable. Clarity will be required on implementation and enforcement responsibilities across Environmental Health and Building Control departments. Clear instruction and guidance for officers must be provided by Depts for Communities/Finance.
- Any additional resources necessary to implement and enforce any proposed legislation must be considered and a full regulatory impact assessment should be undertaken by DfC to assess the financial and resources requirements that will be required by local authorities.

Overall, if new standards are well-designed and enforced, they are likely to encourage the construction of homes that are more energy-efficient, ultimately leading in the long term to lower energy consumption and a positive impact on fuel poverty.

Q7 Do you agree that all government domestic energy schemes should take account of the Fuel Poverty Strategy principles?

- Yes, we support alignment with the Fuel Poverty Strategy principles. We would highlight the importance of aligning any schemes with the communication needs of the target audience i.e. reflecting the digital literacy levels of vulnerable groups and providing equally suitable and accessible and resourced alternatives. We would highlight the need to focus on long-term sustainable solutions. Short term funded schemes or popular schemes with large uptake that result in waiting lists result in large numbers of eligible households not taking up schemes resulting in more households being less energy efficient for longer than needed. Any scheme should include a minimum guarantee for the house that falls under the fuel poverty strategy.

Q8 Do you agree that DfC should take a more flexible approach that considers current data when setting and reviewing income thresholds and eligibility criteria? Please give reasons for your answer.

- Yes, we support use of a more flexible approach that allows for variations in disposable income, household composition, income types. We also believe that income and eligibility criteria should be reviewed regularly given the current global economic uncertainty and high inflation etc households income and fuel bills situations can change quickly.
- Also, households with certain income can have different situations resulting in more or less energy use etc. family size, dependants etc should be considered. Yes individual households can have additional financial commitments and a set income criterion does not take account of this. Evidence suggests that its is the 'working poor' who are most in need. Disposable income may be one way to counter this.

Q9. Do you agree that an income threshold should increase in line with minimum wage levels/inflation or another index such as RPI to mitigate increases in the cost of living?

Please give reasons for your answer

Belfast City Council response DfC Fuel Poverty Strategy

- Yes, income threshold should reflect changes to wider economic factors such as inflation, minimum wage. We would commend that the income threshold should be based on income **after** housing costs. Overall income can appear high but when family size, housing costs, other energy spend are taken into consideration the % of income required to heat a home can be a lot higher than the current % used to calculate fuel poverty based on income.

Q10. Should the Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) rating of a house be considered as part of eligibility criteria (i.e. the least energy efficient homes are considered first)? Please give reasons for your answer.

- Yes, this could help to focus on housing in greatest need of financial support to reduce fuel poverty and could help to increase the longevity of otherwise vulnerable properties. We would caveat this by acknowledging that a sizeable number of homes do not have any EPC certificate and many are out of date. We would also highlight the well documented limitations and would direct DfC to the National Retrofit Hub's document – The Future of Energy Performance Certificates: A Roadmap for Change (<https://nationalretrofit.org.uk/knowledge-hub/epc-reform/>)
- The EPC rating of a home should be considered along with other indicators such as income, expendable income, savings, family size, employment status etc on a sliding scale or matrix type model. Those in a larger, lower EPC rating home may be on higher income with one or two people living in the property so can afford to adequately heat the home whereas some may be in a higher rated EPC home with multiple dependants and very low income so are more at risk of fuel poverty.

Q11. Do you agree that the new scheme should continue with the Whole House retrofit approach? Please give reasons for your answer.

- Page 169
- Yes. A whole house approach is a sensible approach, prioritising basic energy efficiency measures e.g insulation, air tightness etc is recommended as first step . It ensures that improvements are integrated and work together rather than addressing individual problems in isolation.
 - Belfast City Council convenes the Belfast Retrofit Delivery Hub and based on extensive discussions with members that are experts in this field advocate that a fabric first, whole house approach is essential.
 - We feel this aligns with the long-term, sustainable solutions principle. Schemes that only target the low cost easy to treat “low hanging fruit” of the overall issue will ultimately require further additional support at other times. Retrofit schemes in Scotland and Southern Ireland have shown whole house approach, whilst more costly per house, are preferred by tenants as work will be done once for a set period rather than multiple interruptions.

Q12. If the Whole House approach is used, do you agree that all recommended measures must be installed unless there are exceptional reasons not to? Please give reasons for your answer.

- We support this approach in principle but acknowledge that flexibility will be required e.g. in the case of innovative or nonstandard construction types.
- A whole house retrofit is beneficial as by improving multiple aspects of a home energy consumption is reduced, the retrofit can ensure a more comfortable living environment improving health and wellbeing. A well -executed retrofit can reduce ongoing energy costs especially in older poorly insulated homes.

**Belfast City Council response
DfC Fuel Poverty Strategy**

- However, a whole house approach can require significant up-front investment and challenges like funding, expertise, and long-term maintenance need to be addressed to make it accessible and sustainable for low-income households. Therefore, it is important that such initiatives are backed by supportive policies, subsidies or financing options to ensure accessibility for those in fuel poverty.

Q13. Do you agree that the new scheme should prioritise low carbon heating solutions where possible?

- Yes, we support prioritisation of low carbon heating sources and would advocate support and prioritisation of area based heating programmes such as low carbon district heating in the first instance, taking account of planned programmes such as that currently being scoped by Belfast City Council. Failure to do this could undermine roll out of large scale, cost and carbon effective options. We acknowledge the challenges around short term solutions to situations where current fossil fuel boilers fail and pragmatic, immediate action is required, and we would advocate consideration of a hybrid gas/ASHP approach.

Q14. Do you agree that the new scheme should offer renewable technologies such as solar panels and battery storage to offset the running costs of low carbon heating solutions in low-income households? Please provide reasons for your answer.

- Yes, we support the inclusion of renewable energy technologies as a secondary phase once the fabric first approach has effectively minimised the amount of energy required. This will help to reduce pressure on the already straining grid, protect from fuel price volatility, help to decarbonise electricity, increase fuel security and help to reduce fuel poverty (but only if any energy generated is made available to householders at an agreed lower than market rate).
- NI is unique in that it is the only region within the UK which is 90% dependant on imported fossil fuels for energy demand. A shocking 60% of homes in NI still remain on oil for space heating. This exposure to price volatility in the global oil market, means NI householders are more directly impact by soaring oil prices which leads to higher incidence of fuel poverty than the rest of the UK. There is therefore a unique and unprecedented opportunity to use this fuel poverty strategy to address this issue.
- By supporting the rapid decarbonising the housing sector, we can displace the 60% oil dependency with a combination of energy efficiency measures including the installation of renewable technologies and battery storage.

Q15. Do you agree that rural properties should be prioritised for energy efficiency support? Please give reasons for your answer.

- No, we feel that all properties should be assessed on relative need and prioritised accordingly.

Q16. Do you agree with a sliding scale approach to funding for home energy schemes? Please provide reasons for your answer.

- Yes, we would support the proposed sliding scale or multiple indicators matrix approach, as each household even within similar income brackets can have multiple reasons why they can be more or less affected by fuel poverty. The sliding scale approach prioritises those in greatest need and ensures they receive most support.
- We understand that work had bene undertaken previously to develop proposals around a possible approach for a NI specific grant and loan scheme for energy efficiency was worked through several years back to support the plans for a new Energywise Scheme. The recommendations detailed a sliding approach for

Page 170

Belfast City Council response DfC Fuel Poverty Strategy

support. This report should be re-examined as a considerable amount of research and consultation went into it. Although many organisations contributed to it, and there was widespread support for the scheme, the proposed scheme did not go ahead and was replaced by a boiler scrappage scheme. A similar scenario cannot be allowed to happen.

Q17. Do you agree that loans are the fairest financing option for landlords who are required to improve their assets? If not, what would you suggest as alternative funding options?

- **Private rental sector** - In the first instance we would strongly advocate a grants based approach for private sector landlords in line with that provided in England (Home Energy Upgrade Scheme), Scotland and Wales. This might be supplemented by a low income loan scheme.
- **Social housing** – we strongly advocate the establishment of an equivalent of the Social Housing Decarbonisation Scheme and various supplementary funding programme and support schemes already in place in GB.

Q18. Do you agree that we should consider increasing levies from electricity bills to fund energy efficiency schemes for low-income households? Please give reasons for you answer.

- Whilst we are concerned at the already high energy bills faced by citizens, we also acknowledge that the funding required for large scale domestic decarbonisation must be raised. We would support the move to increase levies on electricity bills but would welcome clear communications on how funds raised would be reinvested and targeted at homes at greatest risk of fuel poverty.
- Whilst we acknowledge the need to secure funding, we would not support any increase in levies within a detailed analysis of potential impact on vulnerable households. Many households already finding it difficult to cover energy costs, any additional levy passed on to consumers could potentially push households at risk of poverty into poverty.

Q19. Should we explore introducing levies on gas to increase funding for such energy efficiency measures? Please provide reasons for your answer.

- As above, we recognise the need for income generation however we would not support the introduction of levies with detailed impact analysis undertaken. We would advocate a balanced approach similar to that in GB whereby significant contributions come from energy companies.

Q20. What are your thoughts on exploring any revenue-raising opportunities for energy efficiency schemes from unregulated heating sources such as home heating oil?

- We support the concept of applying levies to energy supplies that reflect the carbon intensity of the fuel but appreciate the challenges of implementing this with unregulated industry, however, this support would be dependent on establishment in advance of this, a programme providing financial and practical support for households to move to a lower carbon alternative with wrap around support throughout the process.

Collaborate and build capacity.

Q21. Do you agree that we should and build referral pathways between Government, local Government, health professionals and the Voluntary and Community Sector? If yes, how can we best achieve this?

Belfast City Council response DfC Fuel Poverty Strategy

- Yes, we support the proposal to build and consolidate referral pathways and utilise networks of Local Government, Statutory and VCSE organisations working to tackle poverty. Based on feedback from the sectors working to address poverty, Belfast City Council have plans to establish an Anti-Poverty Network in Belfast. The purpose of this will be to share information and referral pathways, raise awareness of events & support available, feed into regional initiatives or strategies & inform the delivery of future service delivery and grant funding programmes.
 - Yes. Providing information is an important first step. The Belfast City Council cost of living guide offers information on available support and tips on reducing costs. Fuel poverty should be looked at as part of the wider issue of poverty and the first steps should include ensuring that people can access a real living wage, sufficient benefits, advice on how to maximize income and reduce costs. Support is also needed for budget planning – advice providers report that cases are more complex than ever and these skills are needed by those accessing support.
 - However, over the past 3 years, BCC has provided a Hardship Programme which has been delivered with key voluntary and community sector partners to particular cohorts which have identified as most vulnerable across the city in the current financial climate. At the outset, funding for the Programme was provided through DfC and BCC allocated additional funds to ensure the widest reach. In 24/25, DfC did not provide a contribution towards the Programme and given the need highlighted through our monitoring of the 23/24 Programme, BCC allocated £1M to the Programme.
- Page 172
- We would stress that while local government is happy to play a part in informing the discussion and using its resources to assist; the root causes can only be addressed by systemic change and the responsibility for provision of help to those in poverty lies within central government departments.
- We would also highlight the lessons learned around this approach to fuel poverty from the fuel poverty project in Whiterock and Westrock ([Northern Exposure: Achieving Warmth in Whiterock and Westrock | Fuel Poverty Coalition Northern Ireland](#)). Any one stop shop must be adequately resourced and be technically competent. A roundtable event focusing on retrofit and one stop shops (Belfast Retrofit Hub), identified a clear need from householders to receive detailed, itemised and prioritised analysis of the measures that could help to make their homes more energy efficient. Support is required by householders to identify trusted contractors, to secure a selection of competent, good value quotes, project commissioning, management and quality assurance. The provision of this service by one stop shops in the ROI is advocated by SEAI to overcome reluctance to engage in retrofit.

Q22. Do you agree with a taskforce/working group to develop enabling frameworks for EnergyCommunities?

- Yes, we welcome moves to support and enable community engagement in localised renewable energy generation. This approach will also enable input from those with lived experience of fuel poverty to ensure any scheme is fit for purpose as seen from those that will be affected most by the scheme.
- Belfast City Council has considerable experience working with established energy communities in the ROI and the UK through the GenComm and Cityzen projects and are willing to share this experience and access to networks to facilitate the establishment of such communities.

Q23. Do you agree that government should assess the most relevant recommendations of the NICE6 guidelines and consider their implementation? Please provide reasons for your answer.

- Yes, we welcome assessment and implementation of the recommendations.
- The devastating impact of the cold on poor health and associated increasing costs to the NHS in winter months is well documented in NI. Improving education, understanding and awareness of the negative impact of a cold home among the health, social care and voluntary sectors is key in trying to address it. Often

Belfast City Council response DfC Fuel Poverty Strategy

those suffering from fuel poverty will trust professionals working in these sectors and are likely to act on advice from them. Evidence from the Warm Home Prescription programmes in the UK show that the fuel poverty related referrals from the health sector are those which have the biggest impact on addressing issue.

- We would also highlight the [Belfast Warm and Well Programme](#) which has been brought forward under the auspices of community planning and is a partnership between the National Energy Action, Health Partners and Council to support vulnerable people in cold homes.

Q24. Do you agree that we should work with organisations that provide emergency support, to seek a consistent approach across Northern Ireland and the inclusion of a referral to a long-term solution? If so, what would be the best way to achieve this?

- Yes, we support promotion of emergency support, increased public profile of it along with a consistent approach across NI.
- Belfast City Council have administered a Hardship Programme for the last 3 years working with those organisations providing emergency support to individuals and families living in poverty. Previous years were funded fully or in part by DfC although was not funded for this current 24/25 year. Given increasing demand and feedback from delivery partners & key stakeholders in relation to needs & impact on families, Council agreed to fund the programme again in 2024/25. The best way to provide this support would be to work with organisations and communities locally to identify those most at need of support, to deliver immediate financial relief packages to those households along with further wraparound services to identify reasons for being in and routes out of poverty i.e. counselling, childcare support, training & employment support.

A model similar to the that adopted for Social Supermarkets and/or Labour Market Partnerships could be considered to provide a more joined up and co-ordinated support system and improve outcomes for people in poverty – providing access to long-term wrap around support.

Q25. Do you agree with the proposal to prioritise Discretionary Support to provide emergency financial support if there is a future energy or cost of living crisis, until we have better data to target large scale payments? If not, can you provide a reason?

- Yes, we support the prioritisation of financial support based on the level of need and would again highlight the importance of focusing on disposable income. We would also highlight the adverse impacts on the cost-of-living crisis on a wide range of cohorts including in-work poverty, children and young people and young families. Important that any financial support model brought forward responds to this.

Q26. Do you agree with the proposal to gain a better understanding of the impact of changes to Winter Fuel Payments and introduce additional support where appropriate? If not, why and do you have alternative suggestions?

- Yes, we support the move to analyse the impact of changes to the payment system and would support subsequent recommendations to address fuel poverty consequences. Feedback from our Hardship Programme delivery partners have noted an increase in older people seeking support with energy bills since the ceasing of the Winter Fuel Payments. This is why this cohort has been prioritised in the delivery of the £1.1m Hardship Programme

Protect consumers

Q27. Do you agree that we should improve our understanding of the impacts of energy decisions on different consumer groups? If so, what would be the best way of understanding these impacts?

Belfast City Council response DfC Fuel Poverty Strategy

- Yes, we welcome opportunities to model and analyse the potential implications of energy-based policy decisions.
- We would refer to the analysis of the Ofgem study in GB into the abolition of standing charges on low- income households would indicate that there could be significant positive impact on low- income households. It is likely that a similar study in NI would have similar conclusions. Given that the NI Energy Strategy will usher in transformative change in this market it is recommended that we have a better understanding of how these changes will impact low income households.
- Government should also be encouraged to research opportunities and barriers for the introduction of social tariff for energy. This is a minimum level of cost for those on low income . A social tariff for internet access for low income households is currently available throughout the UK, in some cases it has reduced the bill by 75%, which is a significant saving. If it can be done for internet provision, it surely should be prioritised for heating and electricity.

Q28. Do you have suggestions for how we could improve understanding and awareness of existing tools to enable consumers to manage their energy costs?

- Need to explore how local community networks and partners could be used to share information and raise awareness of existing tools.
- Clearly communicating to consumers that the option of switching suppliers is the key reducing costs is paramount. This could be a key function of the One Stop Shop. Also, increasingly energy suppliers go door to door to prompt customers to change suppliers, this seems to be the most effective way to get customers to switch. Apart from encouraging customers to participate in oil buying clubs there is little that can be done to help customers who depend on oil for space heating.

Q29. How can we support vulnerable people to ensure they are on the most affordable tariff?

- Provision of an impartial, trusted, well publicised and easy to access service to householders to ensure that they are on the best tariff, handholding through any transition if required. In person support should be available with services not completely digitally based as these could exclude groups such as new communities, older people, the significant proportion of people with limited literacy.

Q30. Do you agree that we should explore potential affordability support for populations where energy efficiency measures may not be the right solution? If so, which population groups? Please provide reasons for your answer.

- Yes, we believe that such support would those most in need and help alleviate the widening inequalities.

Q31. Is further research required to identify gaps in non-price protection for different energy users in Northern Ireland? If yes, what should we focus on?

- Yes, we would welcome further analysis of prevalence, barriers and opportunities around non-price protection.

Q32. What are your views on whether government should adopt a common quality assurance standard or framework across all energy efficiency and low carbon heat grant schemes?

- We support the use of common quality assurance standards or framework to encourage uptake of low carbon technologies and to build customer trust. Recent news reports relating to poor installation of retrofit measures in GB risk undermining consumer confidence in NI, The introduction of quality standards and consumer protection could help to address this.

Q33. Do you agree that government should take a common approach to consumer protection across all supported energy efficiency schemes? Please provide reasons for your answer

Belfast City Council response DfC Fuel Poverty Strategy

- Yes, a common approach to any energy efficiency scheme would be positive as well as a quality standard to ensure any energy efficiency schemes are held to correct standards. Previous energy efficiency schemes without quality standards have proven inconsistent in terms of quality, with work having to be re-done within the supposed lifetime of the product. We support the concept of simple, clear and consistent approach for consumer protection across all supported energy efficiency schemes to encourage uptake and engagement.

Governance and accountability

Q34. Do you have suggestions about how government could change our use of language to improve buy-in and engagement on fuel poverty?

- We agree that language is critical. 'Warm Homes' is a term that we are increasingly using at Belfast City Council when dealing with the general public– people often don't understand what we mean by low carbon retrofit. We would also commend that we avoid the use of the term poverty – provide information on increasing income and reducing costs in the context of information and support. Use plain English.

Q35. Do you agree that government should take a basket of indicators approach to measuring and understanding fuel poverty?

- Yes, we support the use of a basket of indicators and welcome the proposed use of annual indicators. We recognise shortfalls in the information provided by EPCs, not least, the lack of information around their currency and welcome any measures that can address this in tracking energy efficiency and fuel poverty.

Q36. Are the indicators suggested the correct ones? Please provide reasons for your answer.

- We support the indicators proposed.

Q37. If you agree with the introduction of an indicator based on energy confidence, agency or awareness, do you have suggestions about what kind of indicator might be most valuable?

- The indicator around public awareness/energy confidence will be challenging to measure as some people will want high level information whilst others planning to take a proactive approach may require a fully costed and prioritised home energy report. Any questions posed may need to offer a selection of options.

Q38. Do you agree with our proposal that carbon emissions are not used as a fuel poverty indicator? Please provide reasons for your answer.

- We agree that carbon savings, whilst a valuable metric, are not a reliable indicator of fuel poverty and we welcome the consistent collection of carbon reduction data across any related home energy schemes.

Q39. What is the best way to continue to engage with people experiencing fuel poverty?

- Consult with those suffering fuel poverty directly in the first instance. When not possible consult with community organisations and those organisations already working to support those suffering poverty who are working on the ground and in communities and are acutely aware of the issues faced. More localised knowledge is required as a "one fit for all" regional support scheme at times misses localised issues facing different communities and households. Using LG, VCSE orgs and charities etc as an avenue to administer this support at a local level could be more effective.

**Belfast City Council response
DfC Fuel Poverty Strategy**

- We would also recommend that engage with established organisations including National Energy Action, the Consumer Council and organisations that support vulnerable groups such as older people, those living with disabilities (including conventional and digital literacy), new communities.

Q40. Do you agree with the proposal for a Fuel Poverty Advisory Group, if not, can you suggest an alternative proposal?

- Yes, we welcome the establishment of a Fuel Poverty Advisory Group.

Q41. If you have any further comments or suggestions not already captured, please provide these in the box below.

- No additional comments.

- ii. consider and agree the proposed short draft response, as set out at para 3.5 below
- iii. agree that the draft Council response be submitted to the PHA by the 28th February 2025 deadline albeit remaining subject to Full Council ratification.

3.0 Main report

3.1 The Public Health Agency recently launched a consultation on its draft Corporate Plan for the period 2025-2030. The draft Plan sets out the strategic direction for the PHA for the next five years in terms of what they will do and how they will work as an organisation. A copy of the draft Plan is available via [CLICK HERE](#).

3.2 The PHA endeavours to translate the Health and Social Care values into its culture by “putting individuals and communities at the heart of everything we do, acting with **openness and honesty** and treating people with dignity, respect and **compassion; working together** in partnership to improve the quality of life of those we serve, listening to and involving individuals and communities; valuing, developing and empowering our staff and striving for **excellence** and innovation; being evidence led and outcomes focused”.

3.3 The Plan sets out a framework for delivery which is based on the following thematic areas of focus:

The image shows four horizontal bars, each with a title and a brief description:

- Protecting health**
Protecting the population from serious health threats, such as infectious disease outbreaks or major incidents
- Starting well**
Laying the foundations for a healthy life from pre-birth, infancy, early years, childhood to adolescent years
- Living well**
Ensuring that people have the opportunity to live and work in a healthy way
- Ageing well**
Supporting people to age healthily throughout their lives

3.4 There is a strong emphasis on addressing health inequalities and developing targeted and place-based approaches where needed for those more vulnerable in our society.

Belfast City Council Response

3.5 It is recommended that the Council respond to confirm its support for the draft Plan and particularly welcoming the focus on supporting those most vulnerable in our city and recognising the need for and benefit of place-based approaches. In responding we would also highlight the joint work already underway between the Council, the PHA and other city and community partners through the Belfast Agenda and shared priorities such as complex lives. We would suggest that Belfast welcomes the opportunity to continue to work closely with colleagues within PHA to continue to bring forward the prototype delivery models and test and learn demonstrator programmes which can be scaled up across the region.

	Financial & Resource Implications
3.6	There are no financial or human resource implications arising directly from this report.
	Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment
3.7	There are no equality/ good relations or rural needs implications arising directly from this report.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None

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Subject:	Physical Programme Update
Date:	21 February 2025
Reporting Officer:	Sinead Grimes, Director of Property & Projects
Contact Officer:	Shauna Murtagh, Portfolio 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: 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 					
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>	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px;"> <tr><td style="height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="height: 20px;"></td></tr> </table>				

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues
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1.1	The Council's Physical Programme currently includes over 200 capital projects with investment of £150m+ via a range of internal and external funding streams, together with projects which the Council delivers on behalf of external agencies. The Council's Capital Programme forms part of the Physical Programme and is a rolling programme of investment which either improves existing Council facilities or provides new facilities. This report presents a request for an approval under the Capital Programme.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital Programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ IT Programme – Palo Alto Firewall – Note that a satisfactory tender return has been received and that the Director of Finance has confirmed that this project is within the affordability limits of the Council and agree that a maximum of up to £67,000 be allocated. ○ Fleet Replacement Programme 2025/26 – Lord Mayor's official car – Note the further information provided on the replacement of the Lord Mayor's official car as part of the Fleet Programme for 2025/26.
3.0	<p>Main report</p> <p><u>Key Issues</u></p>
3.1	<p><u>Physical Programme</u></p> <p>Members will be aware that the Council runs a substantial Physical Programme. This includes the rolling Capital Programme – a multimillion regeneration programme of investment across the city which improves existing Council assets or provides new council facilities. The Council also delivers externally focused funding streams such as Belfast Investment Fund (BIF), Local Investment Fund (LIF), Social Outcomes Fund (SOF) and Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund (NRF), as well as numerous physical programmes and standalone projects that we deliver for central government. Our funding partners include National Lottery Heritage Fund, SEUPB PeacePLUS, the Executive Office, DfC, DfI including the Living with Water Programme, DAERA, Ulster Garden Villages, Levelling Up Fund (LUF), UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and others. When appropriate, the Property & Projects Department is happy to arrange site visits to any projects that have been completed.</p>
	<u>Capital Programme - Proposed Movements</u>
3.2	Members are aware of the scale of the Council's Physical Programme via a range of internal and external funding streams. Members have agreed that all capital projects must go through a three-stage process where decisions on which capital projects progress are taken by the Committee. This provides assurance as to the level of financial control and will allow Members

to properly consider the opportunity costs of approving one capital project over another capital project. Members are asked to note the following activity on the Capital Programme:

Project	Overview	Stage movement
IT Programme – Palo Alto Firewall	Procurement of replacement firewall hardware	Stage 3 – Committed: With a maximum budget allocation of up to £67,000

3.3 **IT Programme – Palo Alto Firewall**

This project is part of the overall IT Programme and will replace and licence new firewall hardware. In October 2024 this project was moved to *Stage 3 – Committed* and held at *Tier 0 – Scheme at Risk* pending further development of the project and a satisfactory tender return. An update was to be brought back to Committee along with the final budget allocation and confirmation that this is within the affordability limits of the Council. **Members are asked to note that a satisfactory tender return has been received and that the Director of Finance has confirmed that this project is within the affordability limits of the Council and agree that a maximum of up to £67,000 be allocated.**

3.4 **Capital Programme - Fleet Programme 2025/26 - replacement of the Lord Mayor’s car**

Members will recall that in January an update was presented on the Fleet Programme for 2025/26 including the replacement of the Lord Mayor’s official car. Members noted the agreed Fleet Programme for 2025/26, but agreed to defer consideration of the replacement of the Lord Mayor’s official car until further information had been provided to the Committee on the specification and the cost. As reported, the current lease of the Lord Mayor’s official car is due to end in October. Due to delivery lead times it is anticipated to take a minimum of six months to acquire the new replacement lease/hire vehicle once ordered.

3.5 The Fleet Unit have engaged with the Lord Mayor’s Unit on the model of the replacement vehicle to ensure that the requirements, duties and obligations of the Office of the Lord Mayor are considered along with mileage requirements and capability. In keeping with the Council’s previous decision the replacement car will be fully electric. The models which meet the operational loading space and resilience requirements are summarised in the table below. Further detail including other options is also attached at Appendix 1.

3.6 **Summary of specifications and costs:**

Current vehicle:	Occupant seats	Electric range (miles)	Annual cost	Total cost
Current vehicle - Audi ETron (procured in 2020)	5	204	£8,439	£33,756

Replacement models:	Occupant seats	Electric range (miles)	Annual cost estimate of lease	Total cost estimate of lease (4 years)
BMW i5 Saloon 442kW M60 xDrive 84kWh	5	383	£11,063	£44,252
BMW i7 Saloon 485kW M70 xDrive 105.7kWh	5	365	£16,257	£65,028
Mercedes Benz EQS Saloon 450 + 265kW Business Class 118kWh	5	430	£13,815	£55,260
Audi ETron GT Saloon 435kWh S Launch Edition	5	423	£16,795	£67,180

The current annual lease cost of the Lord Mayor's official vehicle is £8,439 (from 2020) and a total of £33,756 over the four year contract period. To replace the current vehicle with the same model, the total cost is estimated at £67,180 over four years which would constitute a significant increase compared to the previous procurement exercise. Taking account of the required seating and load space needs, long journey timely returns and lease/hire cost it is recommended that the BMW i5 4 door saloon best meets all round operational requirements and overall value for money over a four year contract period. The cost estimate for this preferred option over four years is approximately £44,250. **Members are asked to note the further information provided on the replacement of the Lord Mayor's official car as part of the Fleet Programme for 2025/26.**








3.7	<p>Financial & Resource Implications</p> <p><i>Financial Implications –</i></p> <p>IT Programme – Palo Alto Firewall - a maximum of £67,000 is now allocated to this project. The Director of Finance has confirmed that this is within the affordability limits of the Council.</p> <p>Fleet Replacement Programme 2025/26 – this is an existing rolling allocation of £2.2m on the Capital Programme relating to the Council's fleet including the replacement of the Lord Mayor's official car, estimated at £44,250.</p> <p><i>Resource Implications –</i> Officer time to deliver.</p>
3.8	<p>Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment</p> <p>All capital projects are screened as part of the stage approval process</p>
4.0	<p>Appendices – Documents Attached</p>
	<p>Appendix 1 – LM replacement vehicle comparison of models</p>

Overview - All electric vehicle information

NB images are for illustrative purpose and not accurate scale.

MODEL & SPEC

Car model

	ELECTRIC						
	Saloon				Hatchback		Estate
	BMW i5 Series	BMW i7 Series	MERCEDES-BENZ EQS	AUDI E-TRON	HYUNDAI IONIQ 5 N	TESLA MODEL S*	KIA EV6 ELECTRIC ESTATE
							
Trim	442kW M60xDrive 84kWh	485kW M70xDrive 105.7kWh	EQS 450+265Kw 118kWh Auto	435kW 150kWh S 4dr Auto	478kW Premium 88kWh 5dr Auto	Long Range AWD 5dr Auto (*Another 2 Tesla models are available, at a higher cost (MRP £222,000))	239kW gt LINE 84kWh 5DR AWD Auto
Release Date	2023	2023	2024	2024	2023	2023	2024
CO2 Emissions Combined	0g/km	0g/km	0g/km	0g/km	0g/km	0g/km	0g/km
Insurance Group	49E	50E	50E	50E	49E	N	40E
Transmission	Automatic	Automatic	Automatic	Automatic	Automatic	Automatic	Automatic
Fuel	ELECTRIC	ELECTRIC	ELECTRIC	Electric	Electric	Electric	Electric
Gears	1 SPEED	1 SPEED	1 SPEED	2 SPEED	1 SPEED	1 SPEED	1 SPEED
Drive	Four wheel drive	Four wheel drive	Four wheel drive	Four Wheel Drive	Front wheel drive	Four Wheel Drive	Four Wheel Drive
Body Type	4 Door Saloon	4 Door Saloon	4 Door Saloon	4 Door Saloon	Hatchback	Hatchback	Estate
Length (mm)	5060	5391	5223	5004	4715	5021	4695
Width (mm)	1900	1950	1926	1935	1940	1987	1890
Height (mm)	1505	1544	1512	1402	1625	1431	1550
Luggage Capacity (Seats Up)	490	500	620	340	480	744	490
Number of Seats	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
CHARGE							
Electric maximum range (NEDC)	383miles	365miles	430miles	423miles	278miles	472miles	443miles
COSTS							
Annual Lease quotations. <i>NB the quotes for the all electric vehicles are unofficial quotes</i>	£11,063.00	£16,257.00	£13,815.20	£16,795.00	£7,693.84	£19,854.40	£6,711.12
Total lease costs for four years	£44,252.00	£65,028.00	£55,260.80	£67,180.00	£30,775.36	£79,417.60	£26,844.48
DELIVERY							
Delivery lead in times			Approx 6 months - based on earlier engagement and negotiations.				

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Subject:	Asset Management i) Off-Street Car Parks – Title Regularisation ii) Ballygomartin Road Site - proposed lease of land to Black Mountain Shared Space iii) Exchange Street - Acquisition of lands at Exchange Street
Date:	21 February 2025
Reporting Officer:	Sinead Grimes, Director of Property & Projects
Contact Officer:	Pamela Davison, Estates 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: 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"/>											

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to seek approval from the Committee on asset related disposal, acquisition and estates matters.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <p>i) Off-Street Car Parks – Title Regularisation</p> <p>Note the position and the legal steps now required by Council in order to perfect and regularise title to portions of the off-street car park lands acquired from DRD on 1st April 2015 by virtue of the Scheme for the Transfer of Designated Off-Street Car Park Assets and Liabilities (the Transfer Scheme).</p>
2.2	<p>ii) Ballygomartin Road Site – proposed lease of land to Black Mountain Shared Space</p> <p>Approve the lease of land to Black Mountain Shared Space for the development of BMSS Phase 2.</p>
2.3	<p>iii) Exchange Street - Acquisition of lands at Exchange Street</p> <p>Approve the acquisition of lands at Exchange Street by way of vesting.</p>
3.0	Main Report
3.1	i) Off-Street Car Parks – Title Regularisation
3.2	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>As part of Local Government Reform, ownership of off-street car parks transferred from the Department for Regional Development, now DfI (the Department) to Belfast City Council (the Council) by virtue of the Scheme for the Transfer of Designated Off-Street Car Park Assets and Liabilities dated 1st April 2015 (the Transfer Scheme – attached at Appendix 1) pursuant to Section 122 and Schedule 8 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014.</p> <p>The Department committed to provide Certificates of Title in respect of the off-street car park lands to enable the Council to register same at Registry of Deeds and Land Registry and allow the formal transfer to take effect, however, this has only been possible if the Department holds title documents.</p> <p>There are several areas of off-street car park lands for which the Department does not hold title documents and where the lands are unregistered and unadopted, but the Department can produce a Conveyance of Possessory Interest for these lands. This will provide the</p>

Council with a qualified class of title only, which cannot be reclassified to an absolute title for a minimum of 12 years, however, given that these lands transferred to and vested in the Council by virtue of the above recited legislation on 1st April 2015, the required time frame of 12 years ownership before making such an application to Land Registry, will occur on 1st April 2027, at which time the Council will apply for an absolute title.

There are also several areas of off-street car park lands for which the Department does not hold title documents and where the lands are **unregistered and adopted** and the Department cannot guarantee title and therefore will not be able to provide a Certificate of Title, nor will any Conveyances of Possessory Interest be possible in these cases. The Department is progressing the statutory abandonment process in relation to these adopted lands, regardless that a formal transfer has been unable to take place. Having exhausted all other avenues with the Department to regularise title, the Council is left with no alternative other than to vest those areas of land that lack paper title and are unregistered and adopted in order to obtain a title in fee simple, free from and discharged from all third-party claims or legal interests. The Council will then, as a result of vesting, benefit from an absolute class of title in relation to these lands.

A view may also be taken to vest those lands for which a Conveyance of Possessory Interest is being provided if Land Registry prove difficult in giving the Council the absolute class of title referred to above following 1st April 2027, or for which a Conveyance of Possessory Interest is being provided but the Council require an absolute class of title earlier than 1st April 2027, (for any reason), and the Council therefore need to vest these lands because the Land Registry reclassification timeframe of 12 years has not yet been reached. It may be necessary to undertake a vesting procedure of lands in respect of which Council has obtained Certificate(s) of Title in the event that the quality of title documents supporting the Certificate is deemed to be insufficient to enable registration to occur.

The Council will vest the lands as required in accordance with powers granted to Council under Section 97 of the Local Government Act (NI) 1972.

3.3 **Financial and Resource Implications**

Council's Estates Management Unit will work with Legal Services to make the necessary application(s) to Land Registry following 1st April 2027 to reclassify the qualified title to an absolute class of title, and further to make the necessary vesting application(s) to the relevant Department and place any notice/advertisement that is required as part of the vesting procedure. Compensation may become payable if any person comes forward and can demonstrate a legal right/entitlement to the lands being vested. Should any objections or

disputes arise, it may be necessary for Council to make an application(s) to the Lands Tribunal to resolve matters.

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

None associated with this report.

3.5 **ii) Ballygomartin Road Site – proposed lease of land to Black Mountain Shared Space**

3.6 **Key Issues**

BCC owns the land at 300 Ballygomartin Road shown shaded yellow on the Site Map attached at Appendix 2. The land outlined in red on the Site Map is leased to Black Mountain Shared Space (BMSS) for a term of 25 years from 24 June 2024 and has been developed for the BMSS Phase 1 – Peace IV shared community facility.

It is proposed to lease the c1,700 sq m of land shown hatched in blue on the Site Map to BMSS to accommodate the development of 8 office units and known as the BMSS Phase 2 project. The lease will be on similar terms and co-terminus with the BMSS Phase 1 lease. LPS has assessed the rental value of the BMSS Phase 2 land at £5,000 per annum.

Members are asked to approve the lease of land at the Ballygomartin Road site shown hatched in blue on the Site Map attached at Appendix 2, to BMSS for a term to expire on 23 June 2049 at an initial rent of a £5,000 per annum to accommodate the BMSS Phase 2 development.

3.7 **Financial and Resource Implications**

BCC will receive rent of £5,000 per annum. Legal Services shall act on the instructions of the Estates Management Unit.

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

None associated with this report.

3.9 **iii) Exchange Street - Acquisition of lands at Exchange Street**

3.10 **Key Issues**

Belfast City Council (the Council) would acquire lands at Exchange Street shown outlined in red on the Site Map attached at Appendix 3, for the purposes of merging its existing lands at Exchange Street car park and the Corporation Street site, shown shaded yellow on the Site Map attached in Appendix 3, to assemble one large site.

Exchange Street is adopted by the Department for Infrastructure (the Department) and currently provides thirteen on-street parking spaces, however, it is not a through road. It serves no purpose to the road network other than to allow access to Council owned lands.

While the Department adopts the surface of Exchange Street, it does not hold title documents to the bed and soil and therefore cannot transfer same to Council. The Department do not accept that the bed and soil of roads transferred to it by virtue of the Transfer of Functions legislation 1973, and the Department does not consider it meets the requirements of adverse possession in respect of unregistered adopted lands in order to transfer a possessory interest. As such, the Department cannot guarantee title to the lands by way of either a Certificate of Title or Conveyance of Possessory Interest.

Having exhausted all other avenues to formally transfer the lands from the Department to the Council, the Council, with agreement from the Department, now intend to vest the lands at Exchange Street in order to obtain a title in fee simple, free from and discharged from all third-party claims or legal interests. As a result of vesting, the Council will benefit from an absolute class of title in relation to these lands.

The Council would vest Exchange Street in accordance with powers granted to it under Section 97 of the Local Government Act (NI) 1972.

In order to mitigate the risk that public rights would survive vesting, Council would make an abandonment application to the Department under Article 68 of the Roads Order to run concurrently with the vesting process.

Following abandonment, the Department would cease to operate the lands for on-street parking. Council would incorporate the additional parking spaces into Exchange Street car park and commence charging at the passing rate.

3.11

Financial and Resource Implications

Council's Estates Management Unit will work with Legal Services to lodge an application with the Department to initiate the abandonment process and will bear the associated costs. Further, to make the vesting order application and place any notice/advertisement that is required as part of the vesting procedure. Compensation may become payable to any person who comes forward and can demonstrate a legal right/entitlement to the lands being vested. Should any objections or disputes arise, it may be necessary for Council to make an application(s) to the Lands Tribunal to resolve matters.

3.12	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
4.0	<p>Appendices - Documents Attached</p>
	<p>Appendix 1 – DRD Transfer Scheme containing maps of the off-street car parks which may require regularisation of title.</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Ballygomartin Road – Site Map showing BMSS Phase 2 lands hatched in blue.</p> <p>Appendix 3 – Exchange Street - Site Map showing lands subject to vesting outlined in red.</p>

1 April 2015

DEPARTMENT FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

SCHEME FOR THE TRANSFER OF DESIGNATED OFF-STREET CAR PARK ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

FROM Department for Regional Development TO Belfast City Council

**OFF-STREET CAR PARK ASSETS AND LIABILITIES
TRANSFER SCHEME**

The Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014

**The Department for Regional Development to Belfast City Council (Transfer of
Designated Off-Street Car Parks, Assets and Liabilities) Scheme 2015**

Citation and interpretation

1.
 - a) This Scheme may be cited as the Department for Regional Development to Belfast City Council (Transfer of Designated Off-Street Car Parks, Assets and Liabilities) Scheme 2015.
 - b) In this scheme –

“transferor” means the Department for Regional Development;
“transferee” means Belfast City Council;
“transfer date” means the date specified in Article 2.

Transfer date

2. This Scheme has effect on 1 April 2015.

Designated off-street car parks, assets and liabilities.

3. In relation to this scheme, the designated off-street car parks' assets are: -
 - a) Specified respectively in Schedule 1 and delineated on boundary maps attached;
 - b) If not so specified, determined by agreement between the transferor and transferee or in default of agreement by the transferor;
 - c) The transferor and transferee shall execute and do and/or procure the execution and doing of all such further deeds, documents and acts as may be necessary to carry the provisions of this Scheme into full force and effect;
 - d) The transferor shall grant the transferee all necessary rights over any lands retained by the transferor as may be required in order to maintain all and any equipment or fixtures (such as lighting columns/signage) that continue to be used in connection with the designated assets. Such access will be at reasonable times, require reasonable prior notice to the transferor and with responsibility on the transferee to make good any damage caused as a result of the exercise of such rights;

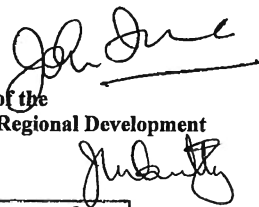
- e) The Transferor agrees to transfer all pay and display machine equipment, barriers, signs, bins, street lighting deemed serving car parks alone, to include all such equipment in the licensed car parks and any other associated assets of less than £3,000 in value per item, required by the Transferee to carry out its functions as a parking authority; and
- f) All outstanding debt accrued and arising from Off-Street Penalty Charge Notices as at 31 March 2015.

Responsibility for Public Liability Claims

- 4. In relation to this scheme, the designated off-street car parks' liabilities are :-
 - a) Any public claim made prior to 1 April 2015 for which the cause of action relates to an asset owned by the transferor in the period prior to 1 April 2015, will remain the responsibility of the transferor to resolve and will not transfer to the transferee on 1 April 2015.
 - b) Any public liability claim made after 1 April 2015 for which the cause of action occurred before 1 April 2015 and relates to an asset owned by the transferor prior to 1 April 2015, will remain the responsibility of the transferor to resolve and will not transfer to the transferee on 1 April 2015.
 - c) Any public liability claim made after the 1 April 2015 for which the cause occurred on or after the 1 April 2015 will be the responsibility of the transferee. The transferor will make available to the transferee all relevant maintenance records to assist the transferee's investigation of any such claim.

Sealed with the official seal of the Department for Regional Development on the day of 31 / 3 / 2015

Signature
A senior officer of the
Department for Regional Development



Both Civil Servants of Clarence Court
10-18 Adelaide Street, Belfast

SCHEDULE 1

A Scheme for the transfer of designated off-street car parks, assets and liabilities.

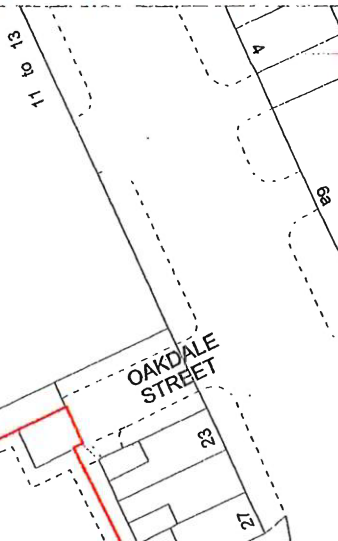
Off-Street Car Parks

Off Street Parking Order NI 2000 Schedule Ref No.	Name	Town	No. Spaces	Leased/ Owned	Title Held	Licence / Lease Details	Restrictive Covenants / Wayleaves
72	Ashdale Street	Belfast	90	owned	Freehold - Registered AN8564 (DOE)		
73	Bankmore Street	Belfast	46	leased	Licence with NIHE (01/04/13 - 30/03/14 - hasn't been renewed)		
75	Charlotte Street	Belfast	90	owned	No original Title Documents. Copy Title covers the whole car park.	Agreement 934 - Licence to CBS for Advertising Hoarding expires 03/02/15. £283.33 per month.	
76	Corporation Square	Belfast	193	owned	Freehold - Part Registered AN46573 (DRD) and AN87416 (DSD); AN 23162: Part Unregistered. Title Docs Fee Farm Grant 12/2/20 Edward Coey and others to Irwin and Sellers, and Conveyance 1/8/72 Irish Agricultural Wholesale Society Ltd to Belfast Corporation		NIE Wayleave Agreement for 2No Electric Vehicle Charge Posts
77	Cromac Street	Belfast	104	leased	Licence with NIHE - Unregistered. Title Docs Lease 1/9/64 Ernest Wilson Ltd to Hamill; and Assignment 28/9/73 Hamill to Belfast Corporation (No 88) , Agreement 30/7/74 Berry to DOE (No62). Fee Farm Grant 1/1/1867 Wallace to Donald (No62). Conveyance 12/2/1867 McDonald to Dunlop, Conveyance 14/1/74 Acheson to DOE (No62), Conveyance 1/2/50 Colvin to Acheson; Lease 13/6/50 Acheson to Murray; Lease 3/11/1829 Wallace to Ellidge (No 62) We have Title Docs for part of the car park.		NIE Wayleave Agreement for 2No Electric Vehicle Charge Posts
79	Dunbar Street	Belfast	34	owned	Freehold - Part Registered 32157 (DRD) Part Unregistered. Title Docs Lease 14/8/38 Finlay to John McKibben Ltd; and Conveyance 16/10/78 John McKibben Ltd to DOE (No9), and Lease 3/2/1892 Butler to McConnell Ltd; and Assignment 15/1/73 Robertson and Peacock to Belfast Corporation (No15-19); Fee Farm Grant 9/10/1851 Mayor of Belfast to McClure and an; and Conveyance Enid and Harold Cosby to DOE (No11-13); Conveyance 30/10/68 Westcott Property to Harold Smith and ; and Conveyance 15/3/72 Harold Smith and to Belfast Corporation (No5-7), Conveyance 3/1/69 William Finlay and Sons to Wylie and Hazlett; and Conveyance 12/9/73 Wylie and Hazlett to Lord Mayor of Belfast (No 11-13)		
80	Dundela Crescent	Belfast	26	owned	Freehold - Part Registered AN14527 (DRD) and Part Unregistered Lease 9/7/55 Annie Reid to Annie Galbraith; and Assignment dated 11/11/88 Anna Doherty to DOE		
81	Exchange Street	Belfast	48	owned	Freehold - Unregistered. Title Docs Conveyance Maud Smith and Hugh Sayers to DOE(NI)		
84	Gramplan Avenue	Belfast	42	owned	Freehold - Part Registered 39139 (BIH Housing). Title Docs Lease 18/1/18 Carson to Shannon; and Assignment Scott to Belfast Corporation (No19), and Lease 6/12/66 Flora Brown to Wilson; and Assignment Denis Kearney to DOE (No27), and Lease 19/3/1897 Sir Daniel Dixon, Robert Harvey and Ellen Hunter; and Assignment Edward Duff to DOE (No 21)		
86	Hope Street North	Belfast	41	owned	Freehold - Registered AN6484 (DRD)	Agreement 937 - Licence to CBS for Advertising Hoarding expires 12/03/15. £1600 per annum.	

Off Street Parking Order NI 2000 Schedule Ref No.	Name	Town	No. Spaces	Leased/ Owned	Title Held	Licence / Lease Details	Restrictive Covenants / Wayleaves
88	Kent Street	Belfast	68	leased	Held under Licence from DSD		
90	Little Donegall Street	Belfast	109	owned	Unregistered - Title Docs lost		NIE Wayleave Agreement for 2No Electric Vehicle Charge Posts
91	Little Victoria Street	Belfast	88	owned	Freehold - Registered AN6484 (DRD)	Agreement 896 - Licence to Clear Channel for Advertising Hoarding expires 31/05/15. £1,600 per annum. Agreement 178 - Licence to Chest Heart & Stroke for Right of Way. Expires 31/03/18. £500 per annum.	NIE Wayleave Agreement for 2No Electric Vehicle Charge Posts
93	Marlborough Avenue	Belfast	36	owned	Freehold - Registered AN30715 (DOE) and AN36370 (DOE)		
98	Northumberland Street	Belfast	88	owned	Freehold - Unregistered. Title Docs- Fee Farm Grant 19/3/80 NIHE to DOE		
98	Ravenscroft Avenue	Belfast	55	owned	Freehold - Unregistered. Title Docs - Agreement 9/1/53 Ulster Transport Authority to James Hutton; and Vesting Order 10/8/82		
99	Sandown Road	Belfast	54	owned	Freehold - Unregistered. Title Docs - Lease 19/4/29 Bell to Wilson Weir; and Lease Wilson Weir to Belfast Corporation; and Lease Samuel Bell to Belfast Corporation; and Lease Hugh Skillen to William Bennett and other; and Assignment Samuel Bell to Mc Farland Bros Ltd Title does not appear to cover all of the car park.		
100	Smithfield Market	Belfast	109	leased	Part of car park registered to DOE AN13148. Rest of car park held under licence from Belfast City Council dated 10/10/2004		
101	Station Street	Belfast	114	leased	Car Park owned by DSD, held for regeneration purposes. Licence with DSD dated 29/03/13. Open ended with DSD to give 6 months notice to terminate.		
103	Wandsworth Road	Belfast	24	owned	Freehold - Part Registered 37460 (DRD)		
104	Westminster Avenue East	Belfast	11	owned	Freehold- Part Unregistered (no Title). Part Registered AN123619(DRD)		
105	Westminster Avenue West	Belfast	10	owned	Freehold - Registered AN123619 (DRD)		
106	Westminster Avenue North	Belfast	70	owned	Freehold - Part Unregistered (no Title). Part Registered AN123619(DRD)		
107	Whilla Street	Belfast	50	owned	Freehold - Registered AN11093 (DRD)		
108	York Street (No1) 60 York Street	Belfast	53	owned	Freehold - Registered 31621 (DOE); and AN11093 (DRD)	Agreement 945 - 99 year lease to Phoenix Gas from 01/05/98. 5p per annum (if demanded).	
140	Parkgate Avenue	Belfast	40	owned	Freehold - Unregistered. Title Docs Assignment 23/11/90 S&R Electric to DOE; Lease S&R Electric to Khalruddin and ; and Indenture Khalruddin and to DOE		
148	Shaws Bridge	Belfast	57	owned	Freehold - Unregistered. Title Docs Conveyance 31/7/73 Wilson and others to Lord Mayor of Belfast		
169	Glenburn Road	Dunmurry	123	owned	Held under 900 year Indenture dated 25th June 1979 from Lilliput (Dunmurry) Limited		NIE Wayleave Agreement for 2No Electric Vehicle Charge Posts

ASHDALE STREET

SCHEDULE REF: 7-2



Page 198

Scale 1:500

BANKMORE STREET

SCHEDULE REF. 73



Govt Office

18

B

Car Park

Car Park
Bankmore Street

Page 199



Scale 1:500

C. ARLOTTE STREET

SCHEDULE REF. 75



ALFRED STREET

JOYS

11a

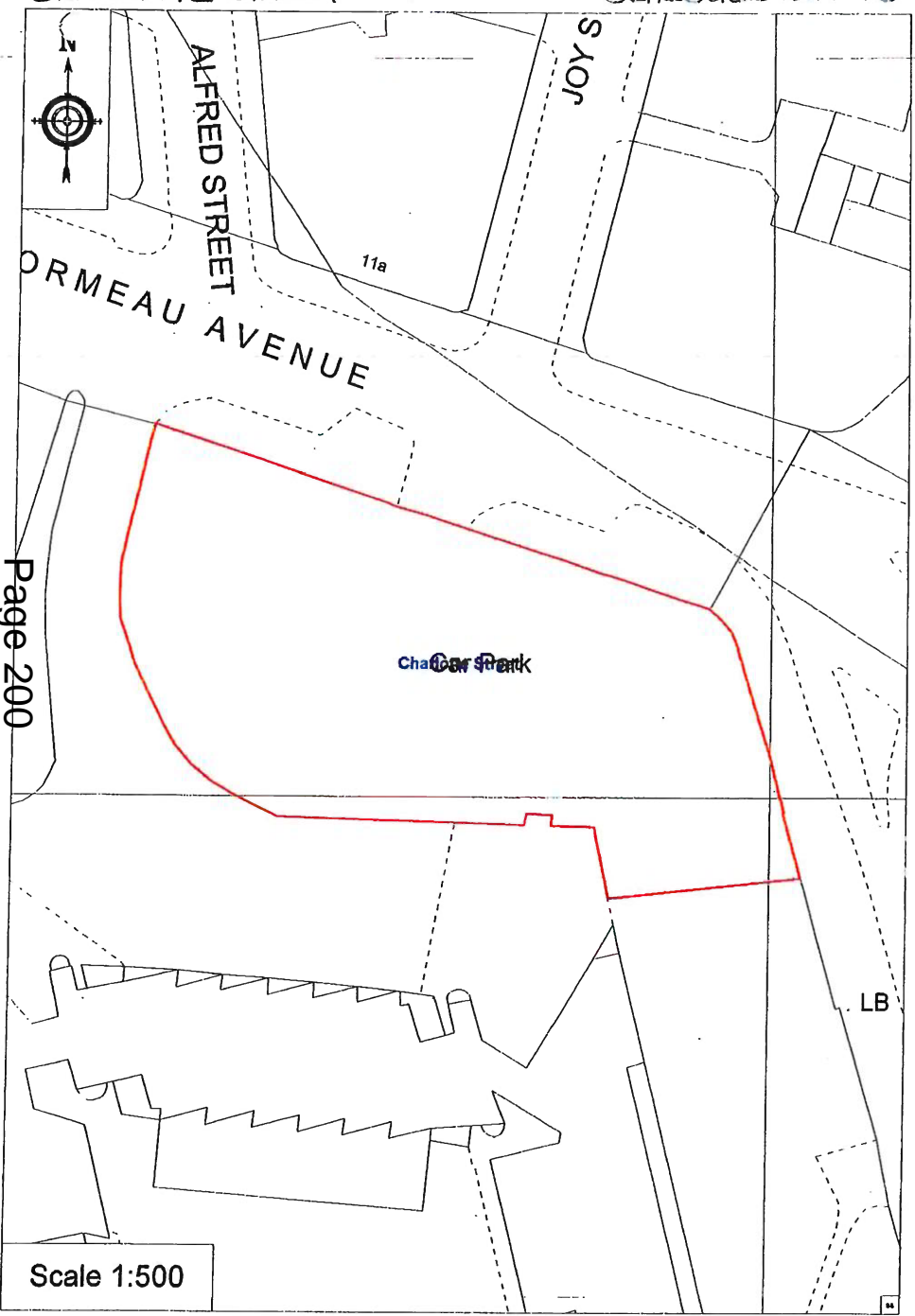
ORMEAU AVENUE

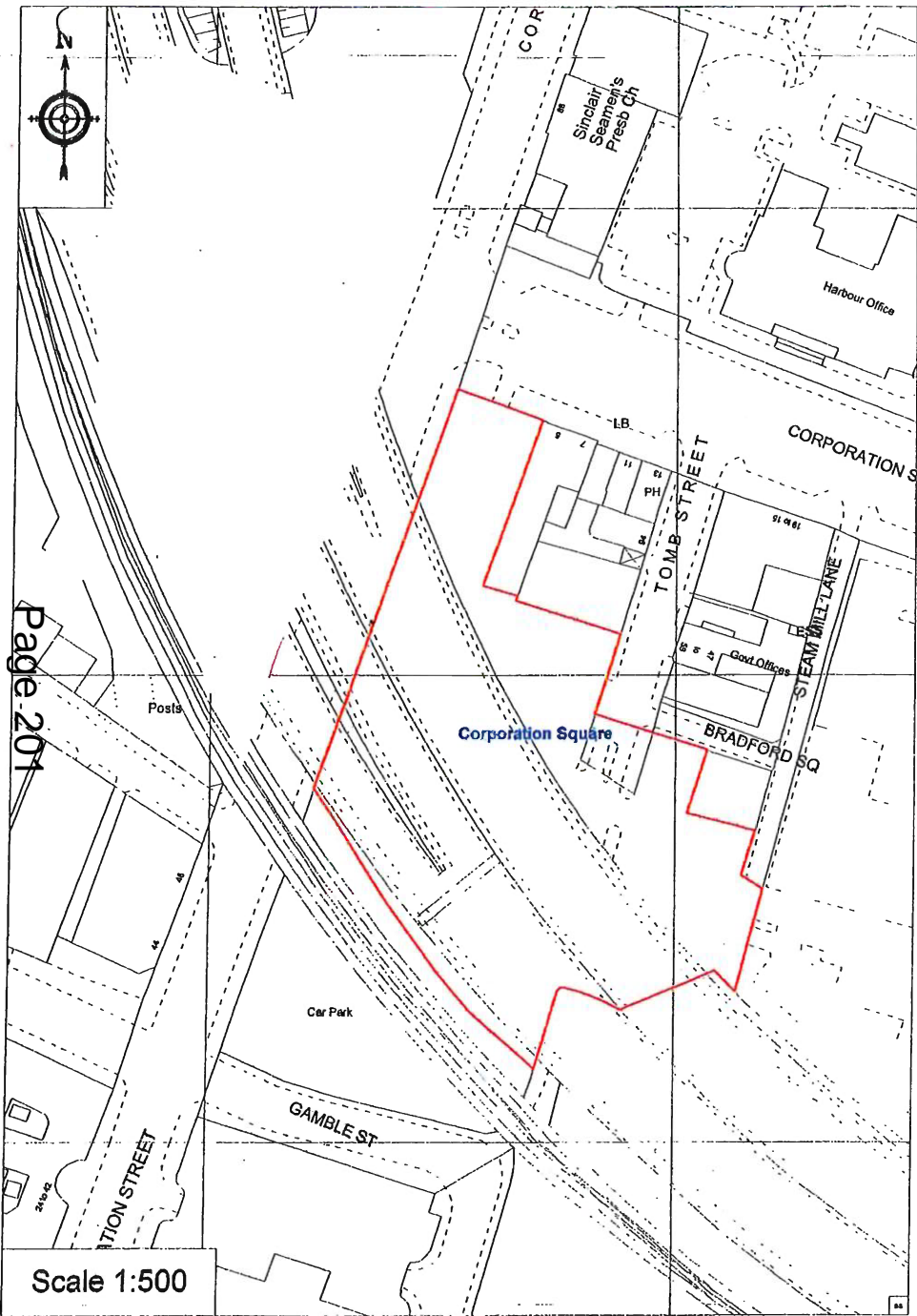
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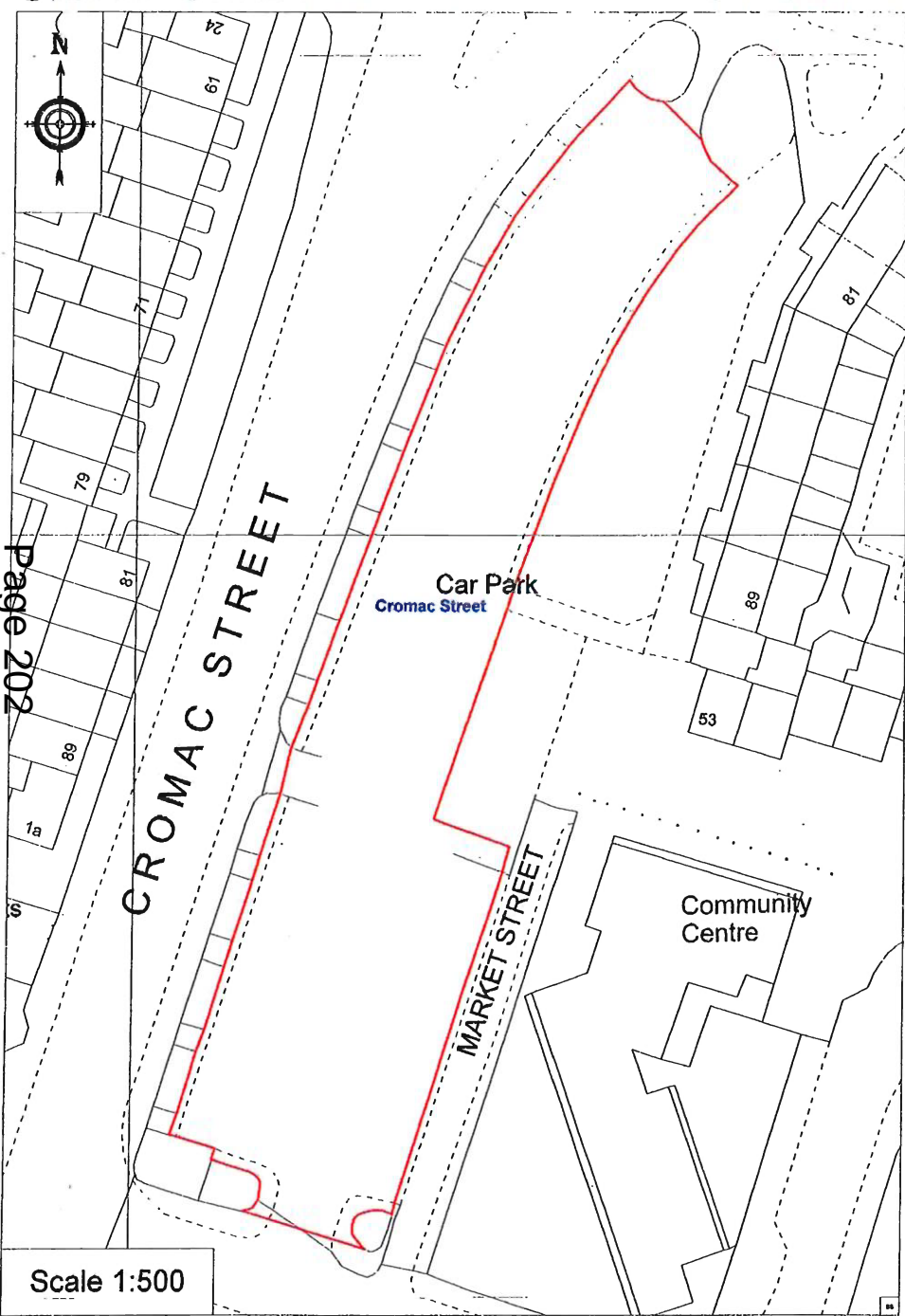
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Page 202

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Exchange S

Posts

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DUNBAR LINK

Dunbar Street

Page 203

Depot

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ESS

Cleansing Depot

22 to 30

16 to 20

DUNBAR STREET

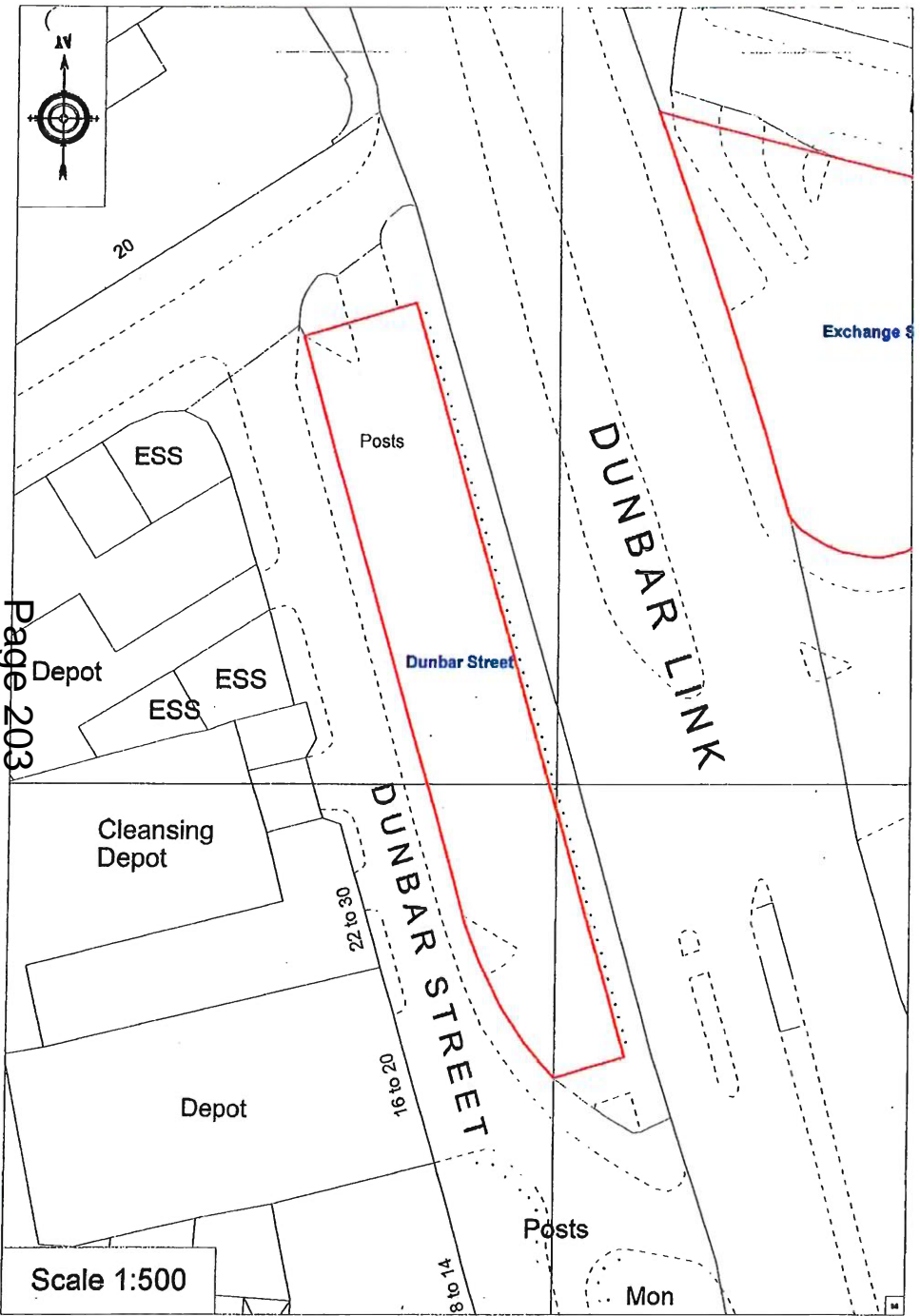
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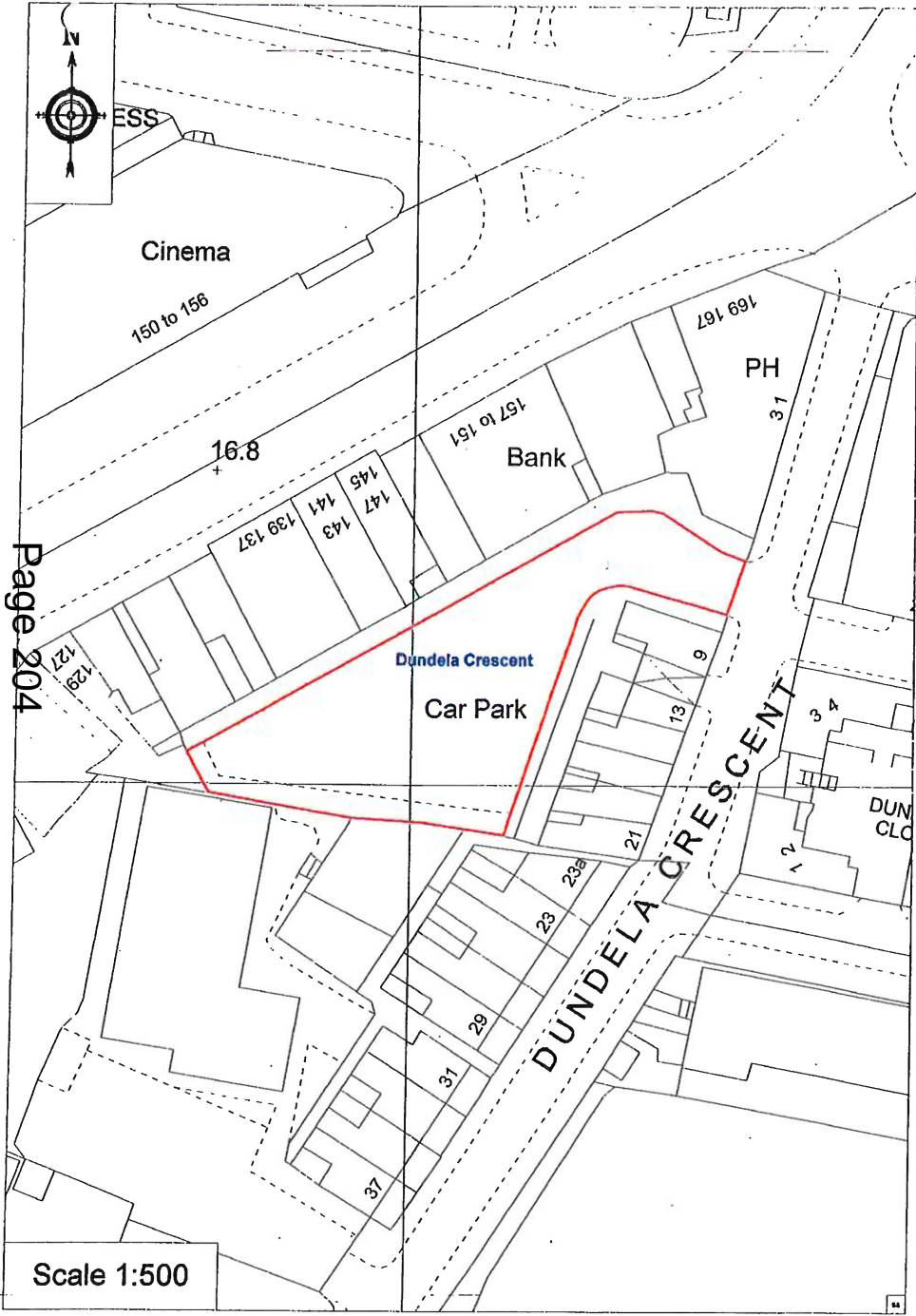
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Posts

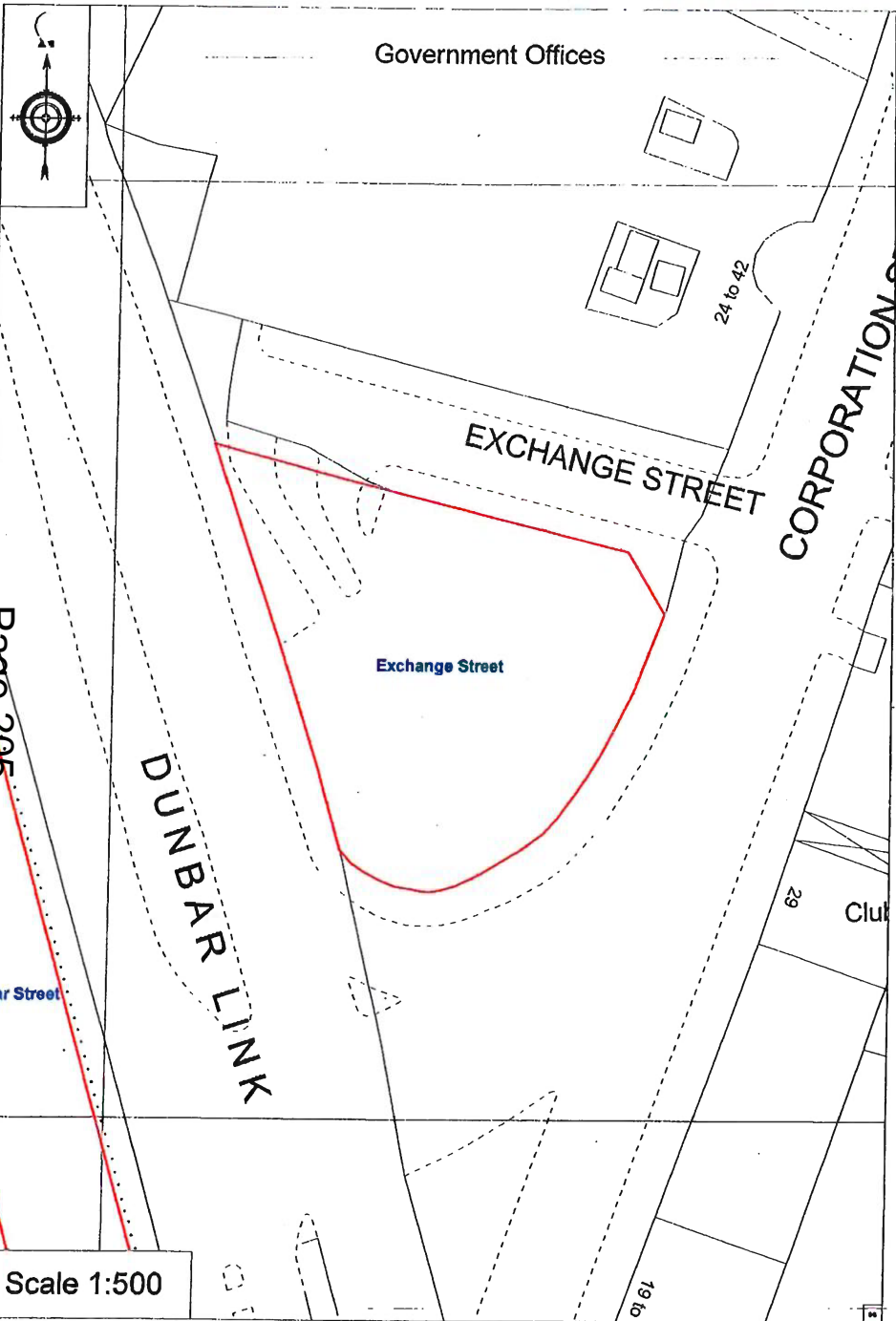
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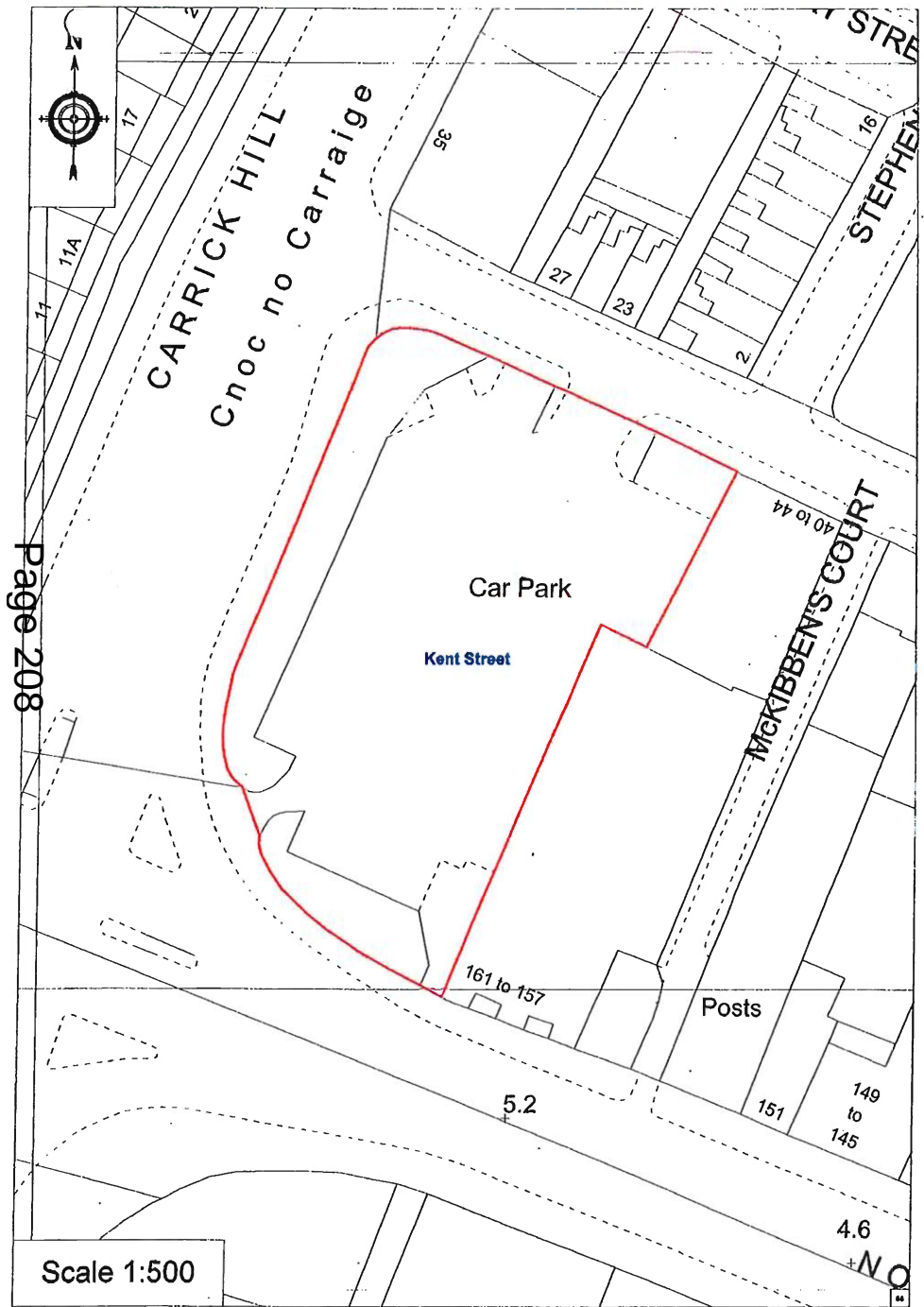
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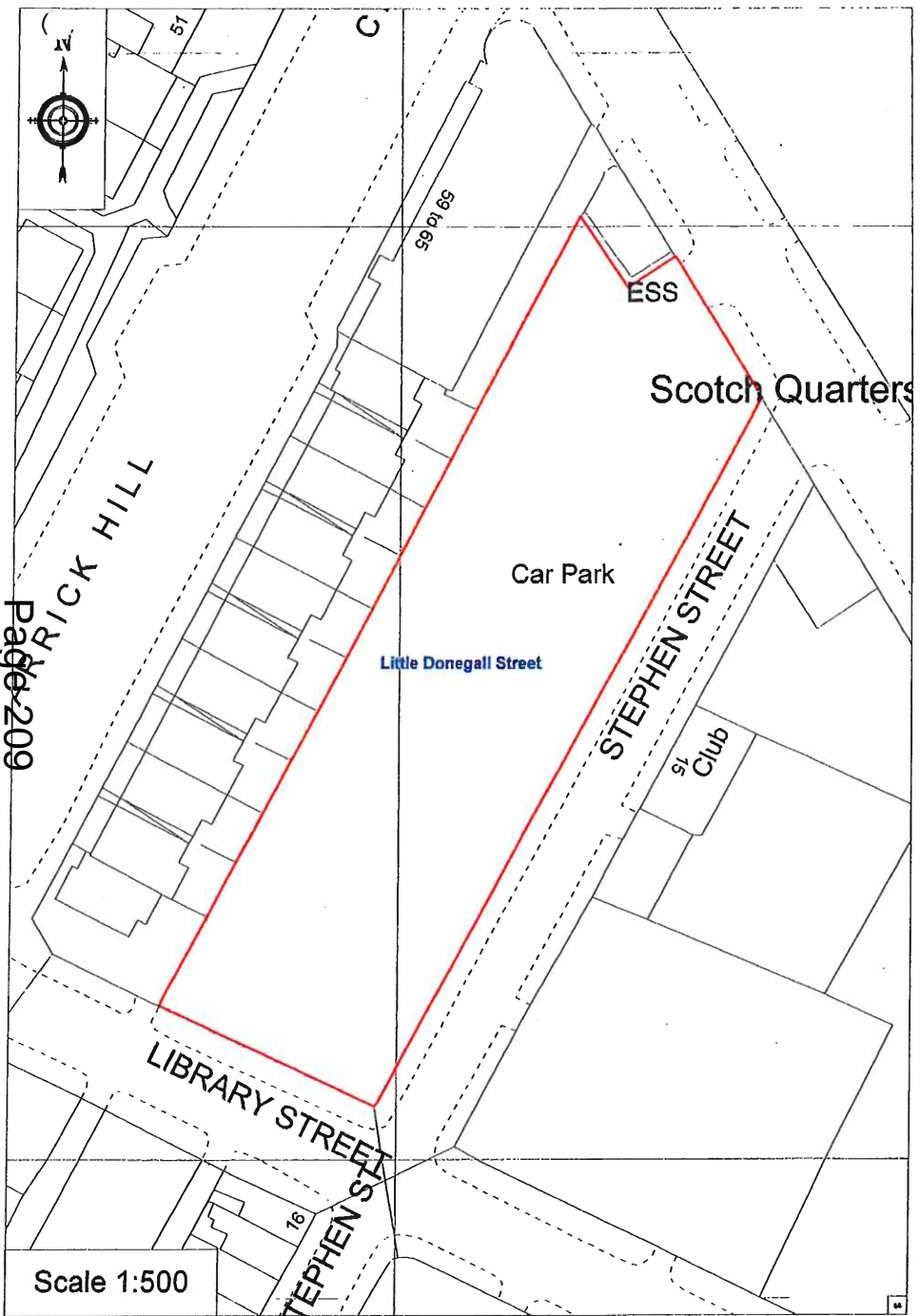
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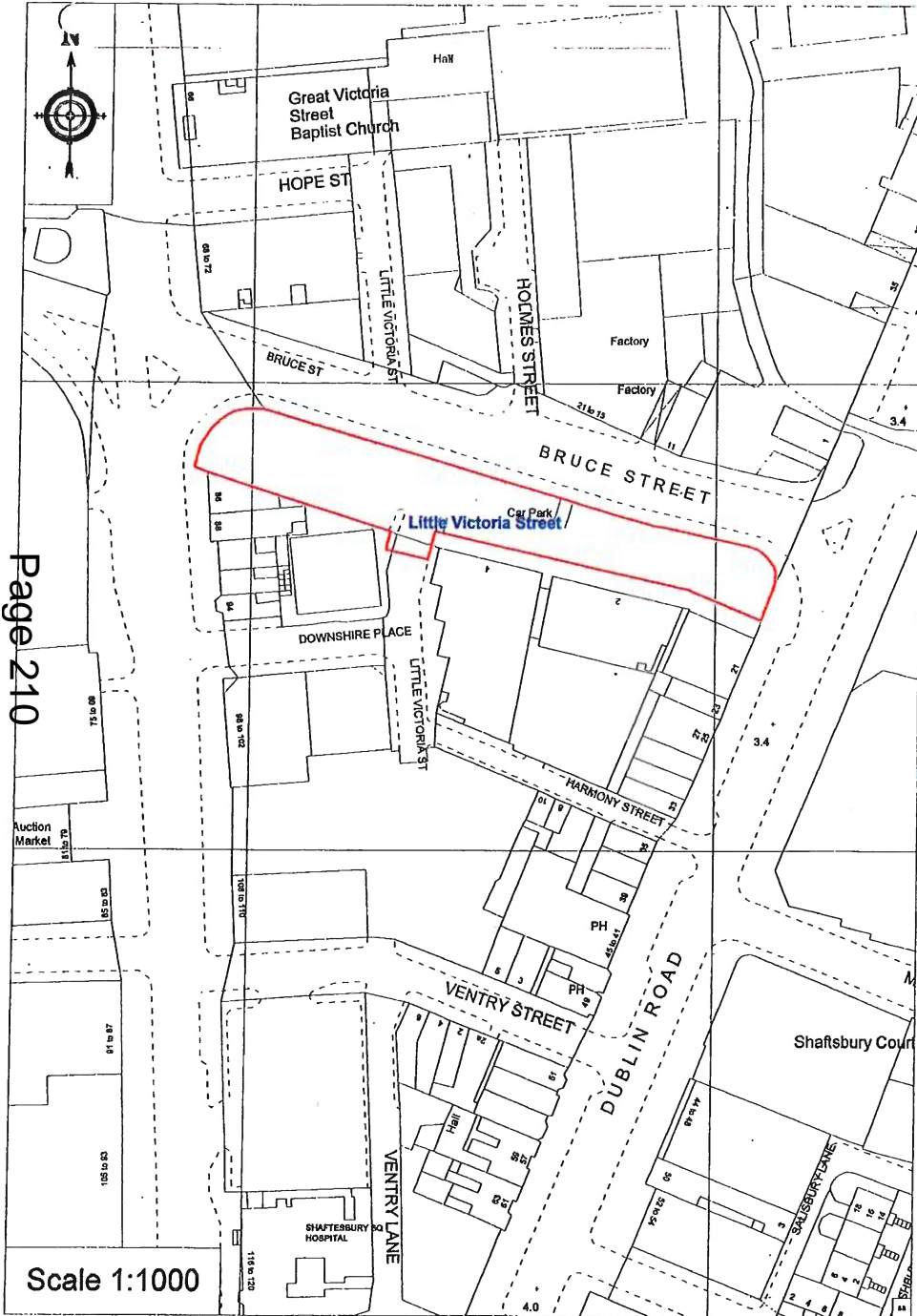


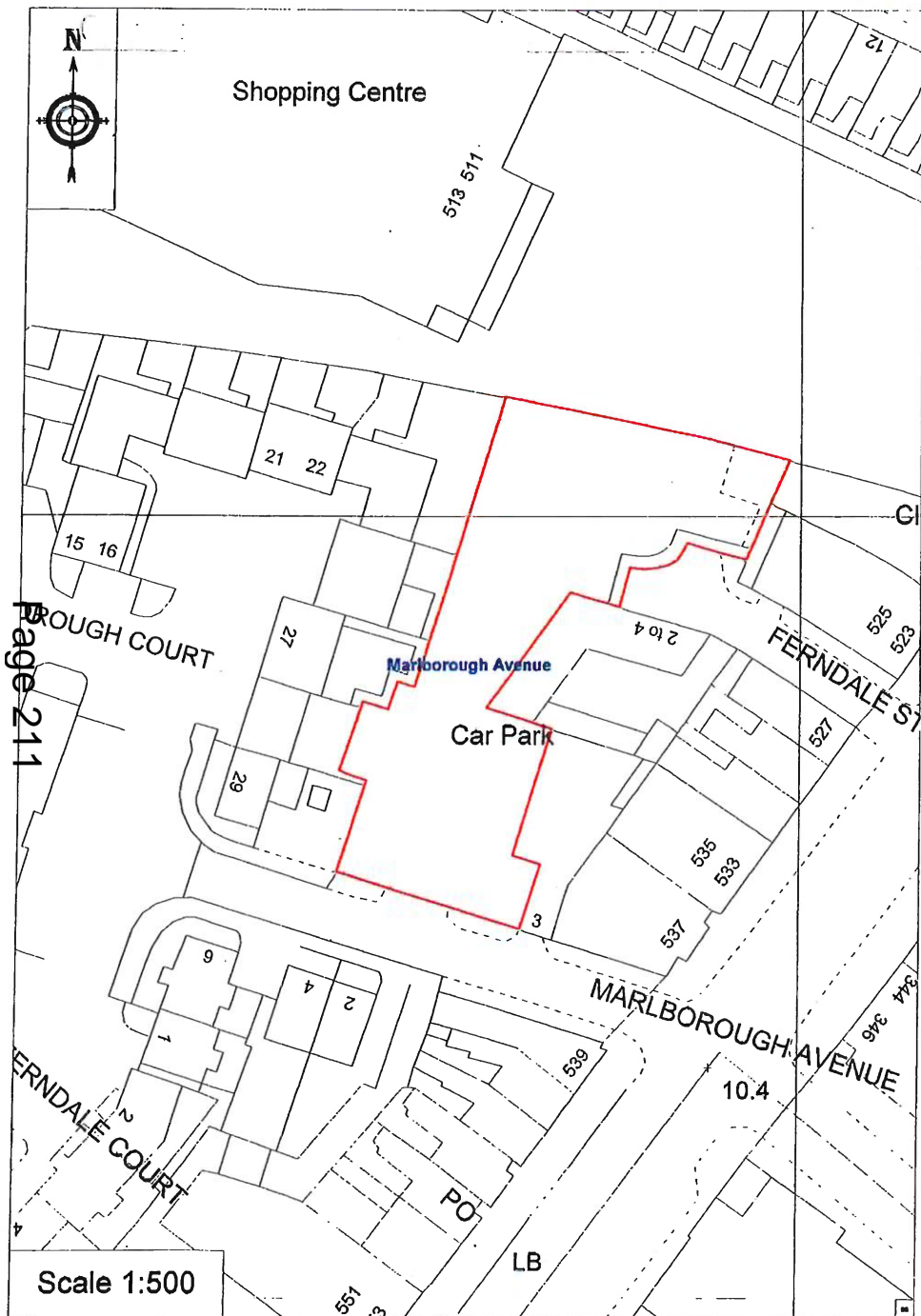






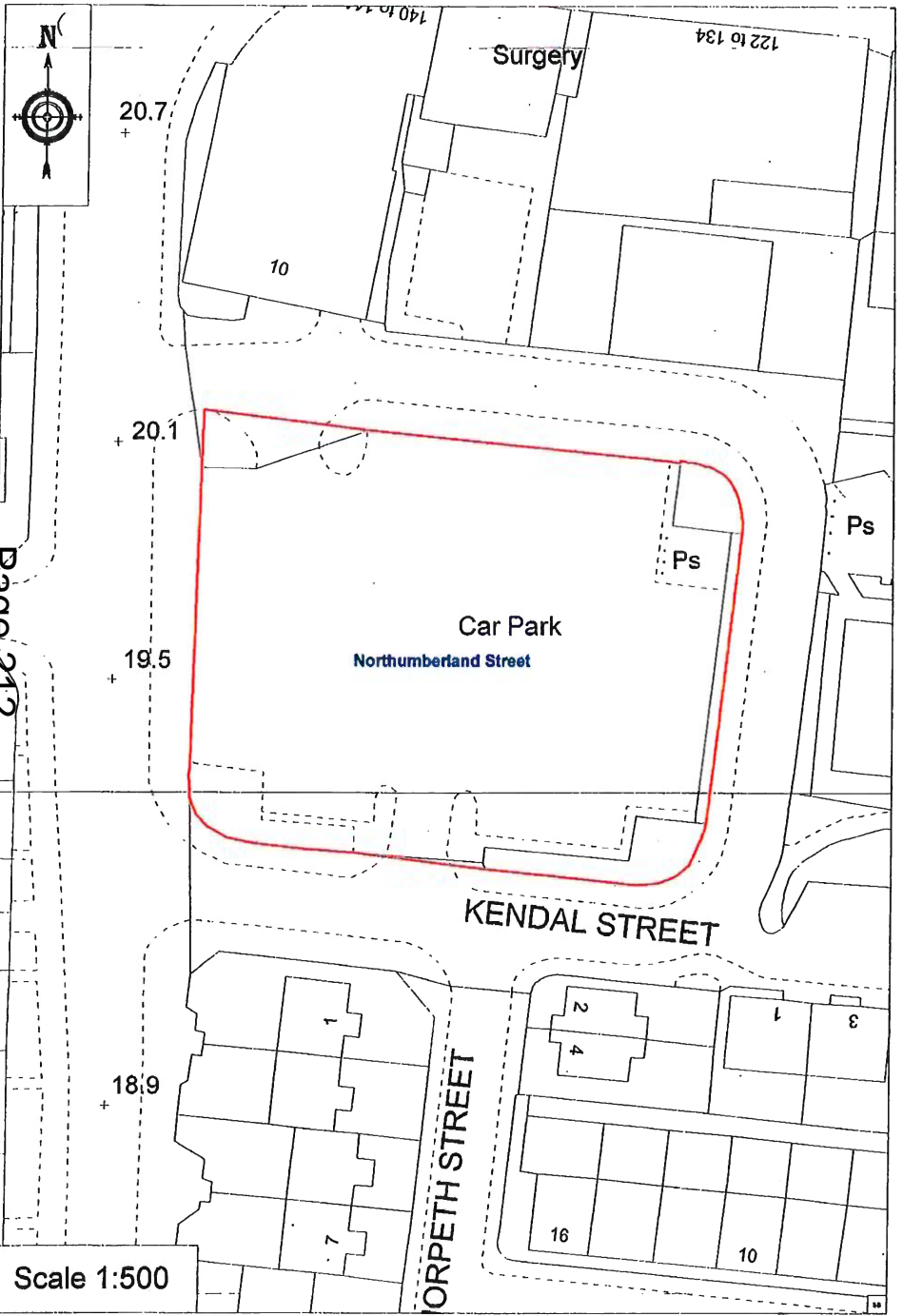
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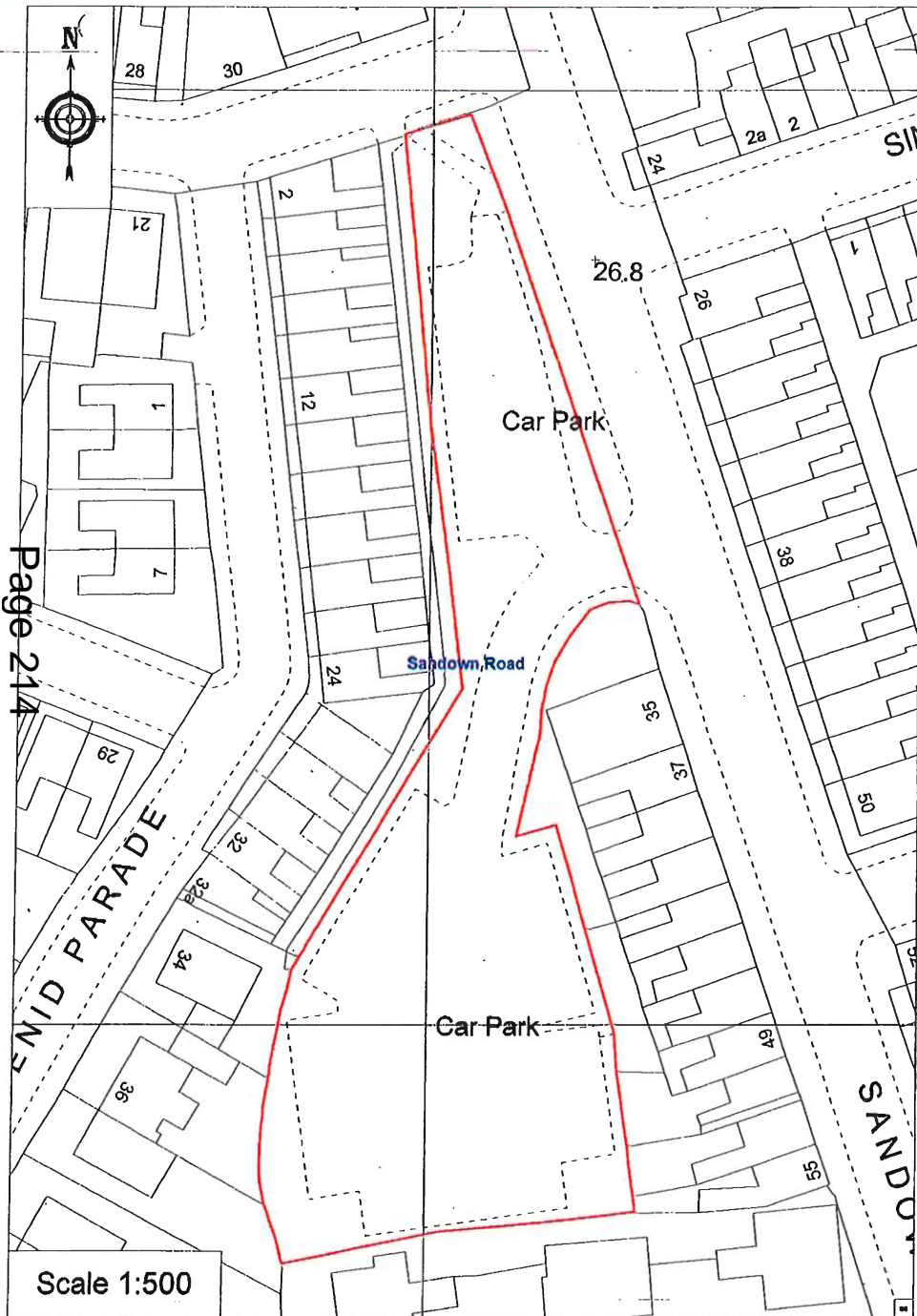




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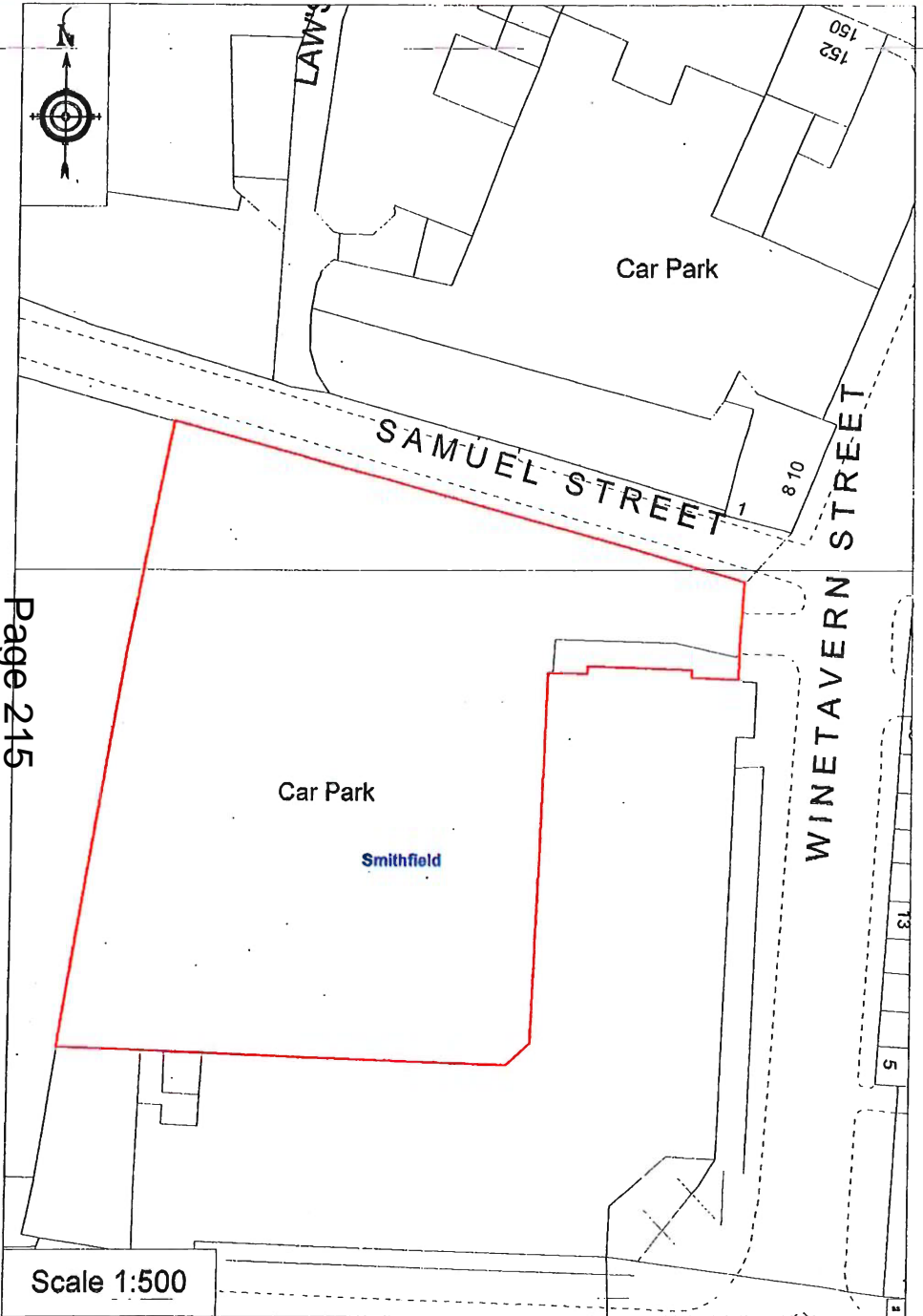
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P

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STATION STREET

Station Street
Car Park

Posts

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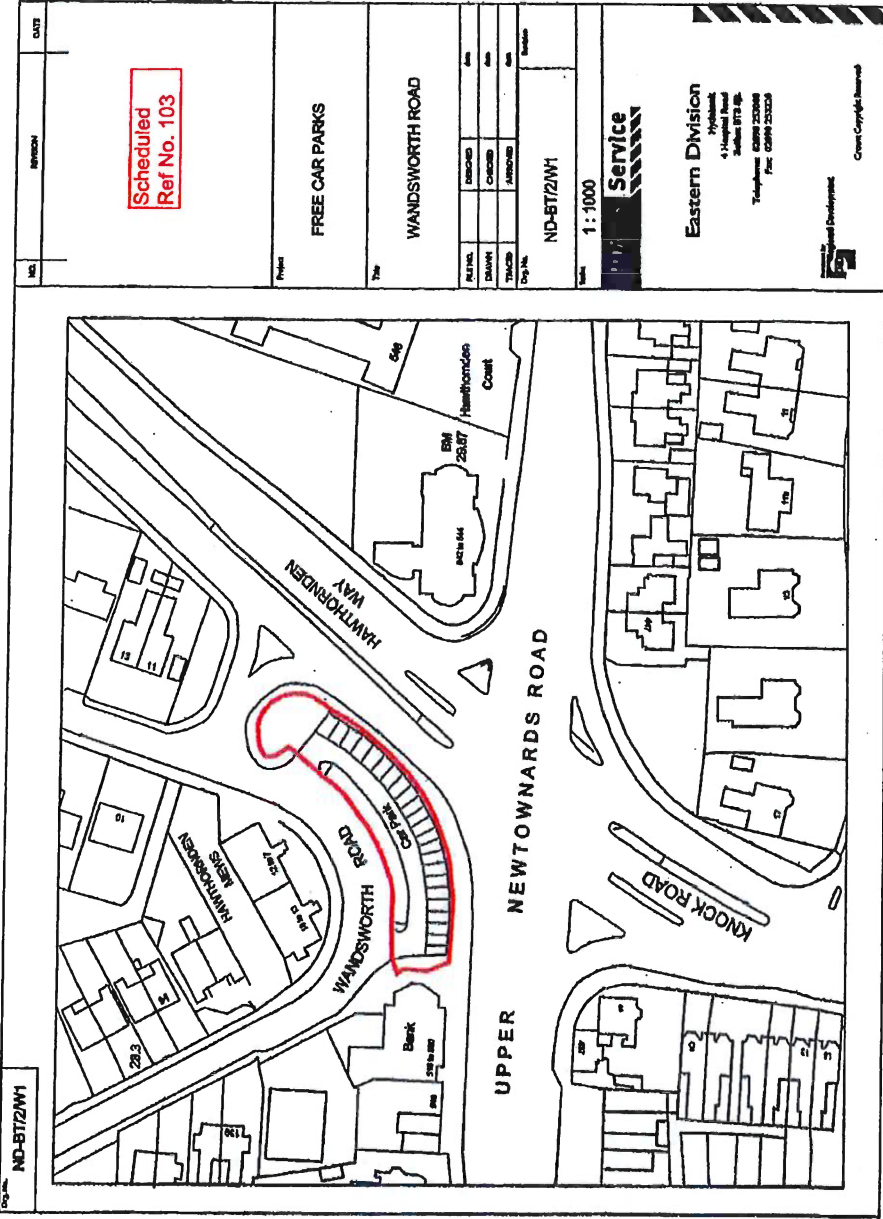
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Page 216

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Scheduled
Ref No. 103

ND-BT/2/W/1



Health Centre

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Westminster Avenue (West)

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Westminster Avenue (East)

WESTMINSTER AVENUE

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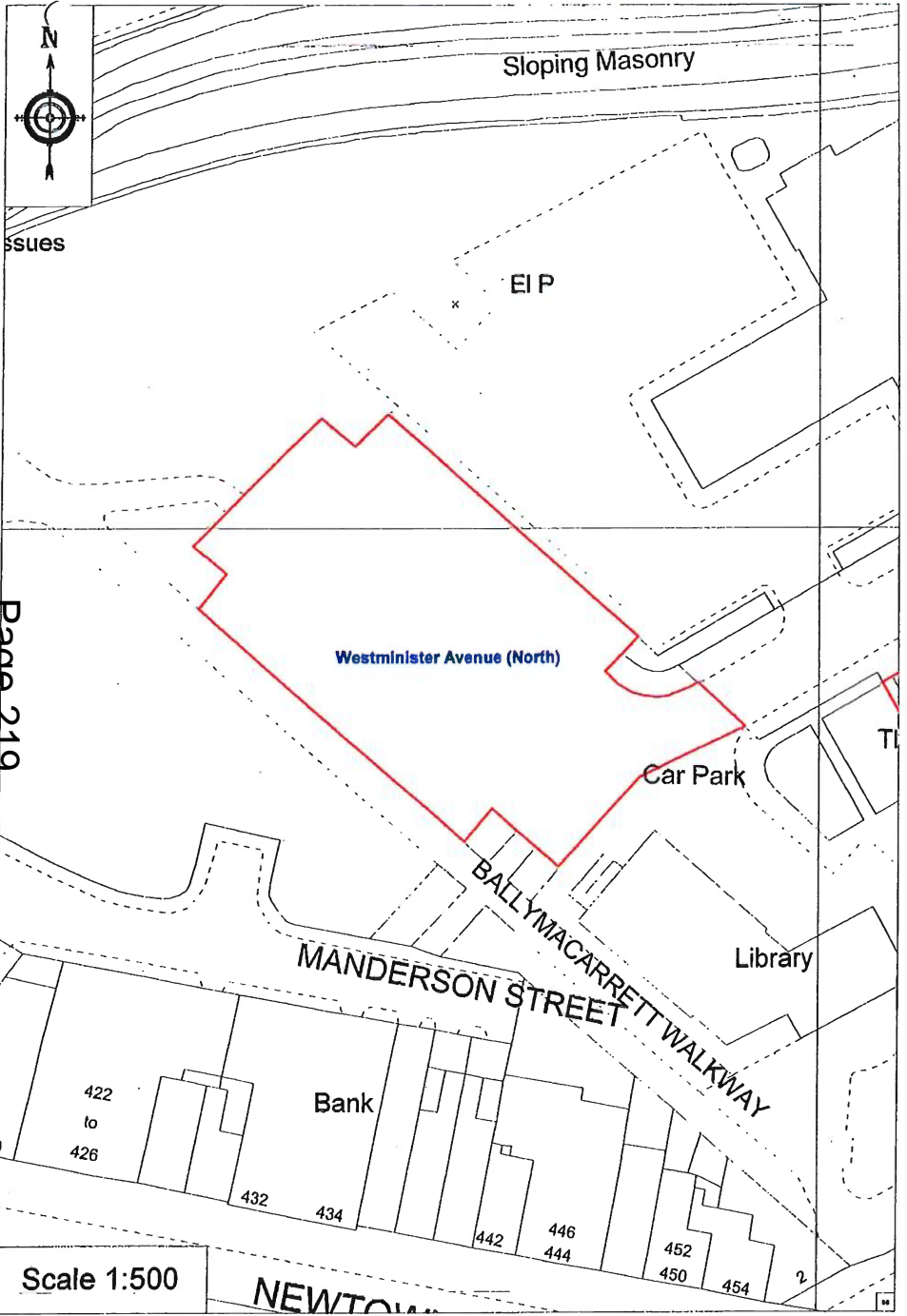
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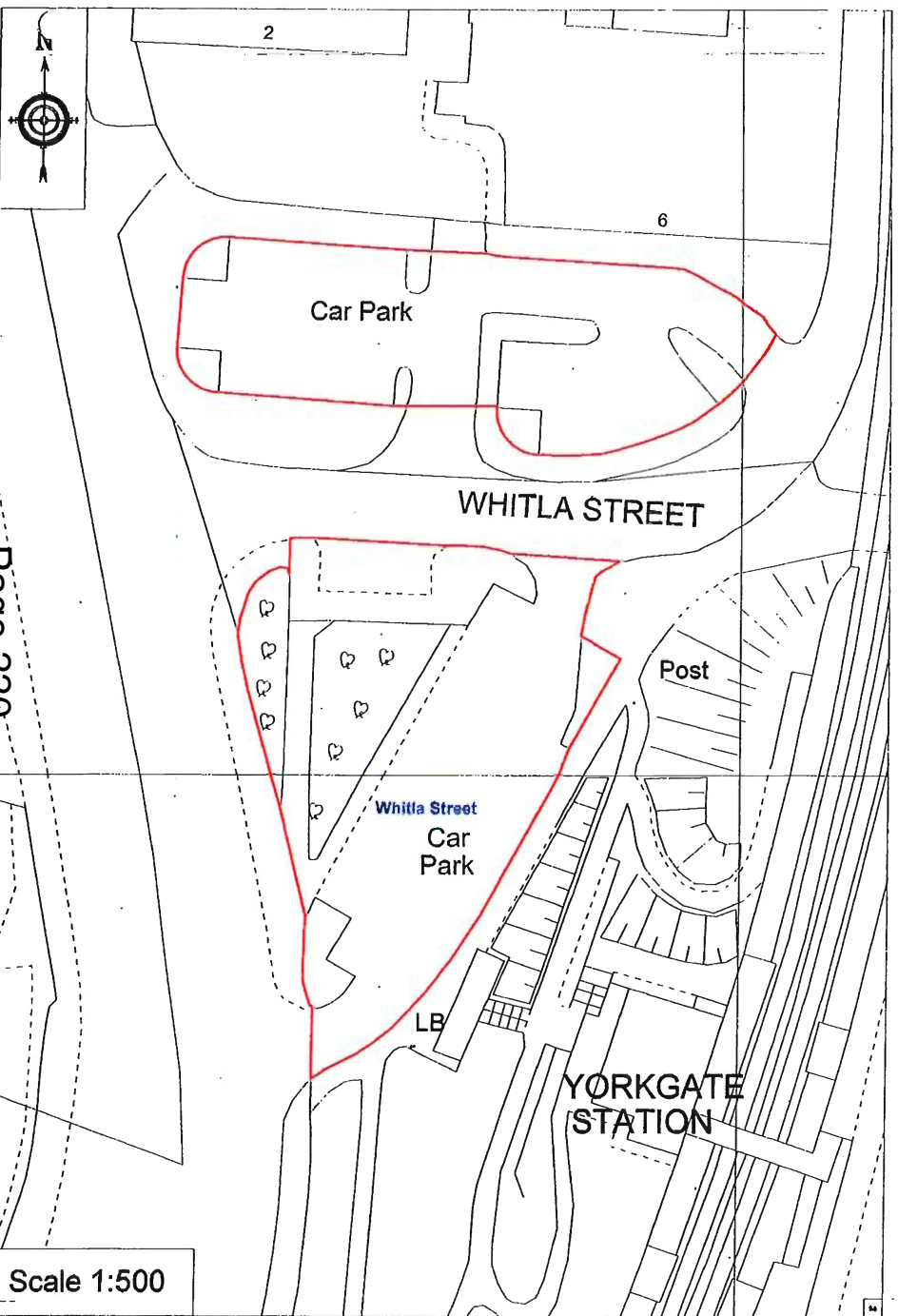
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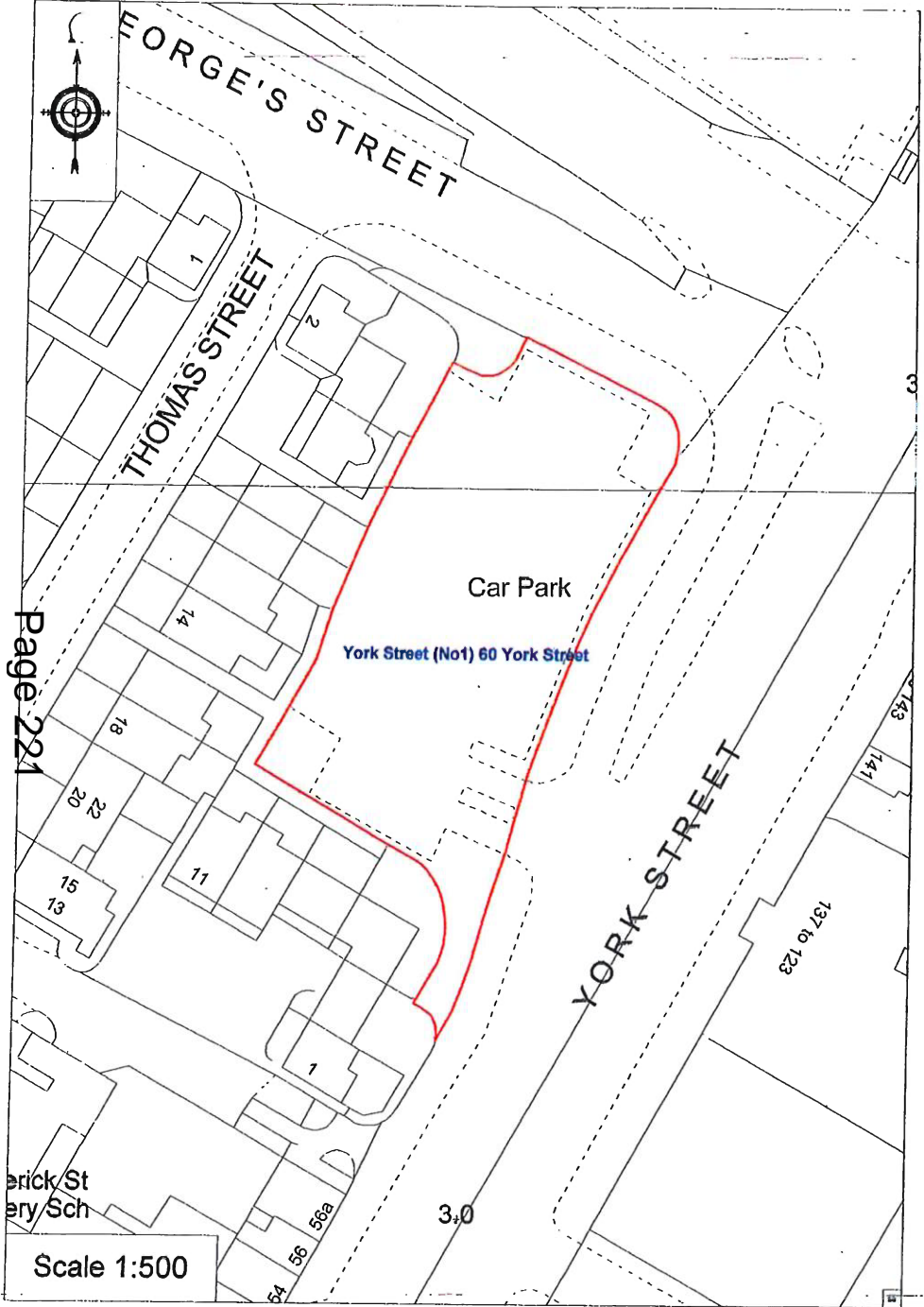
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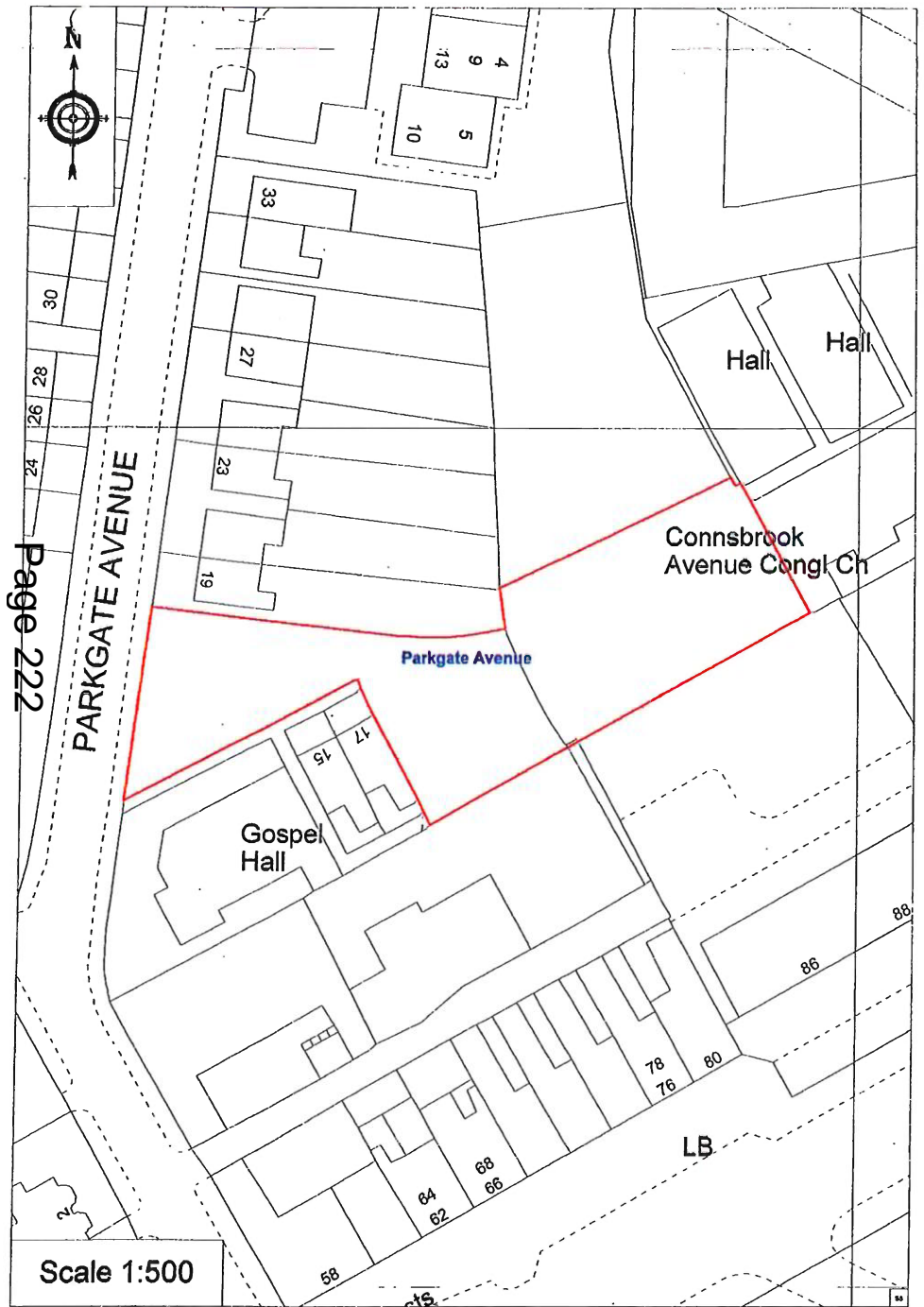


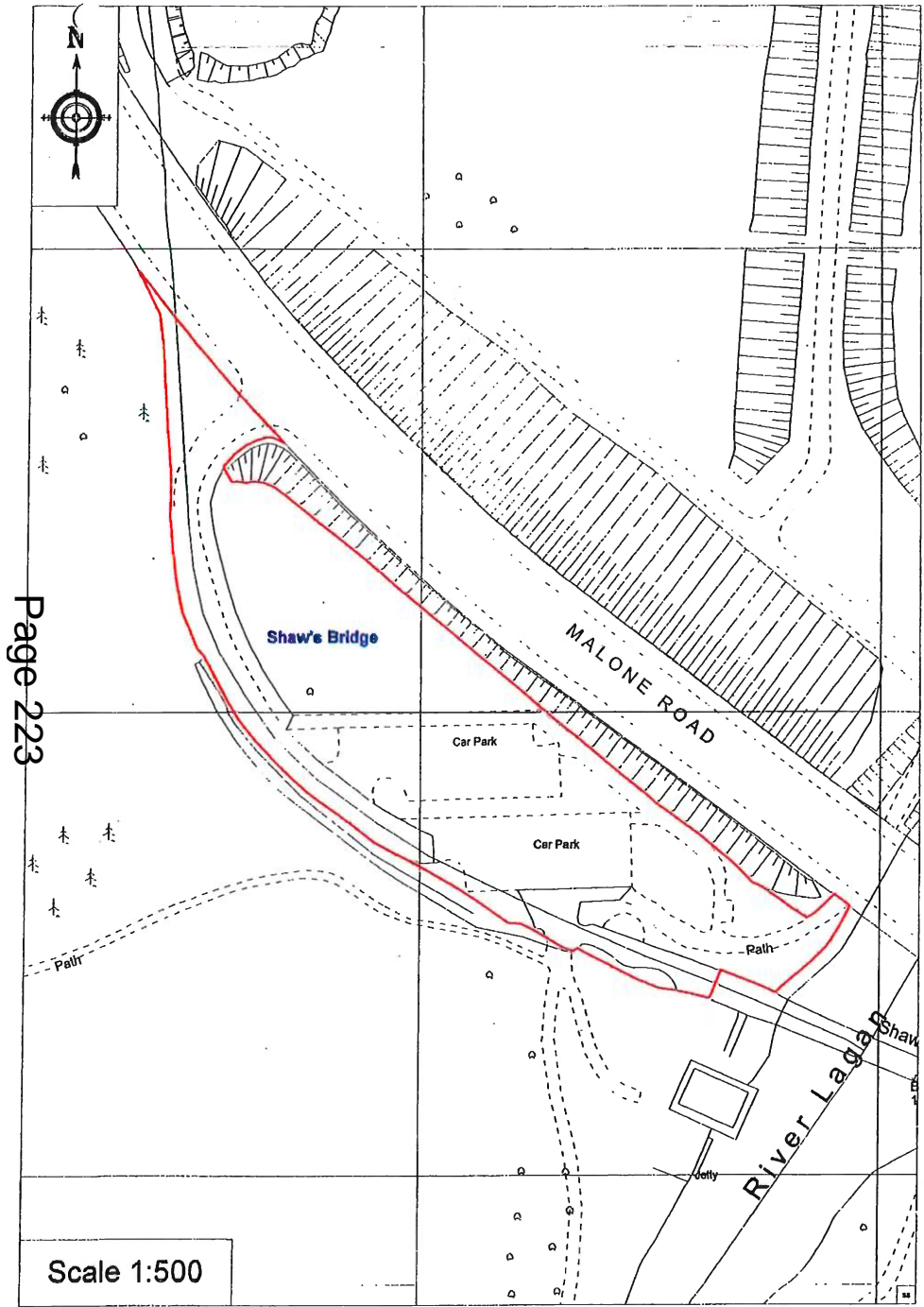


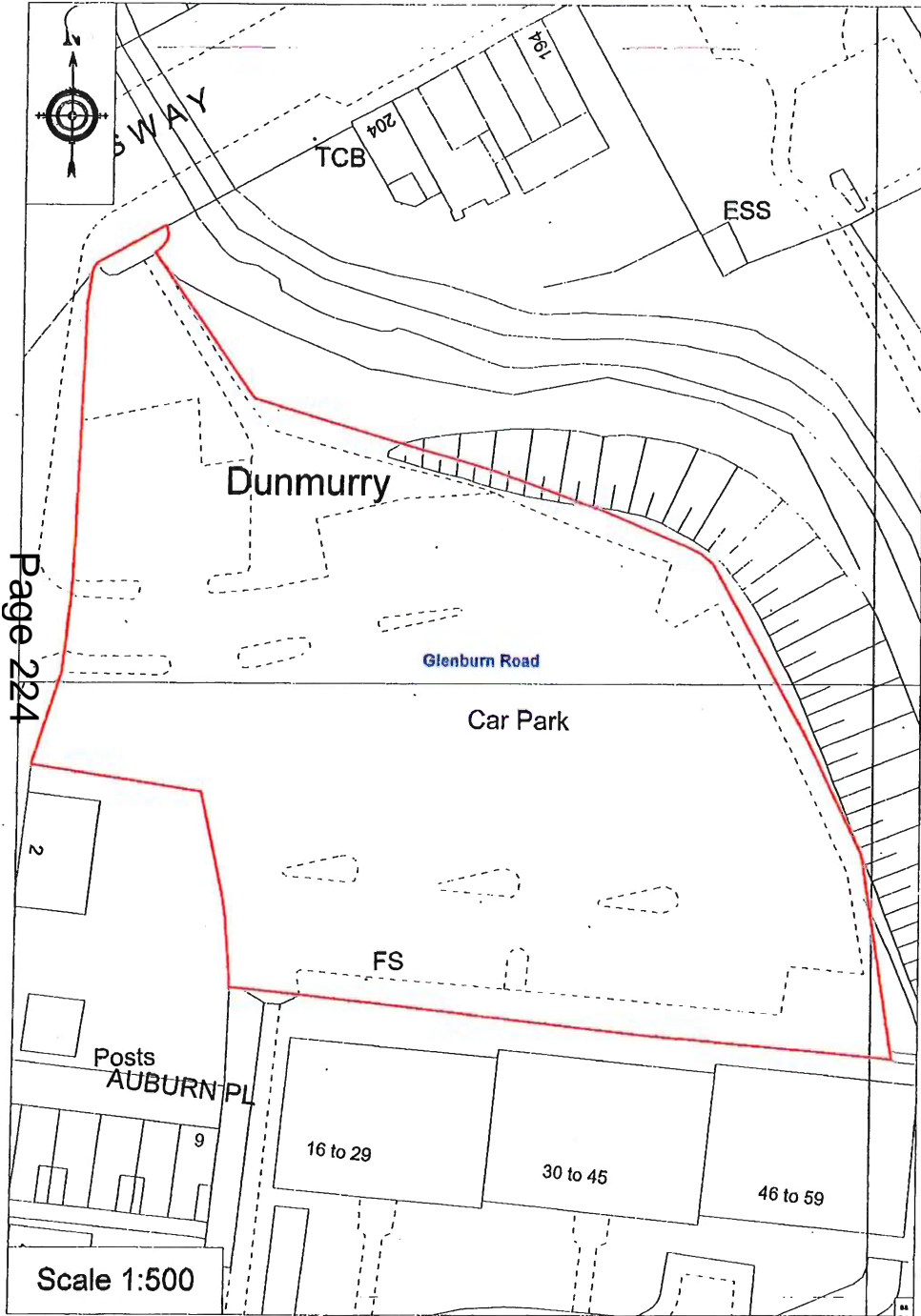


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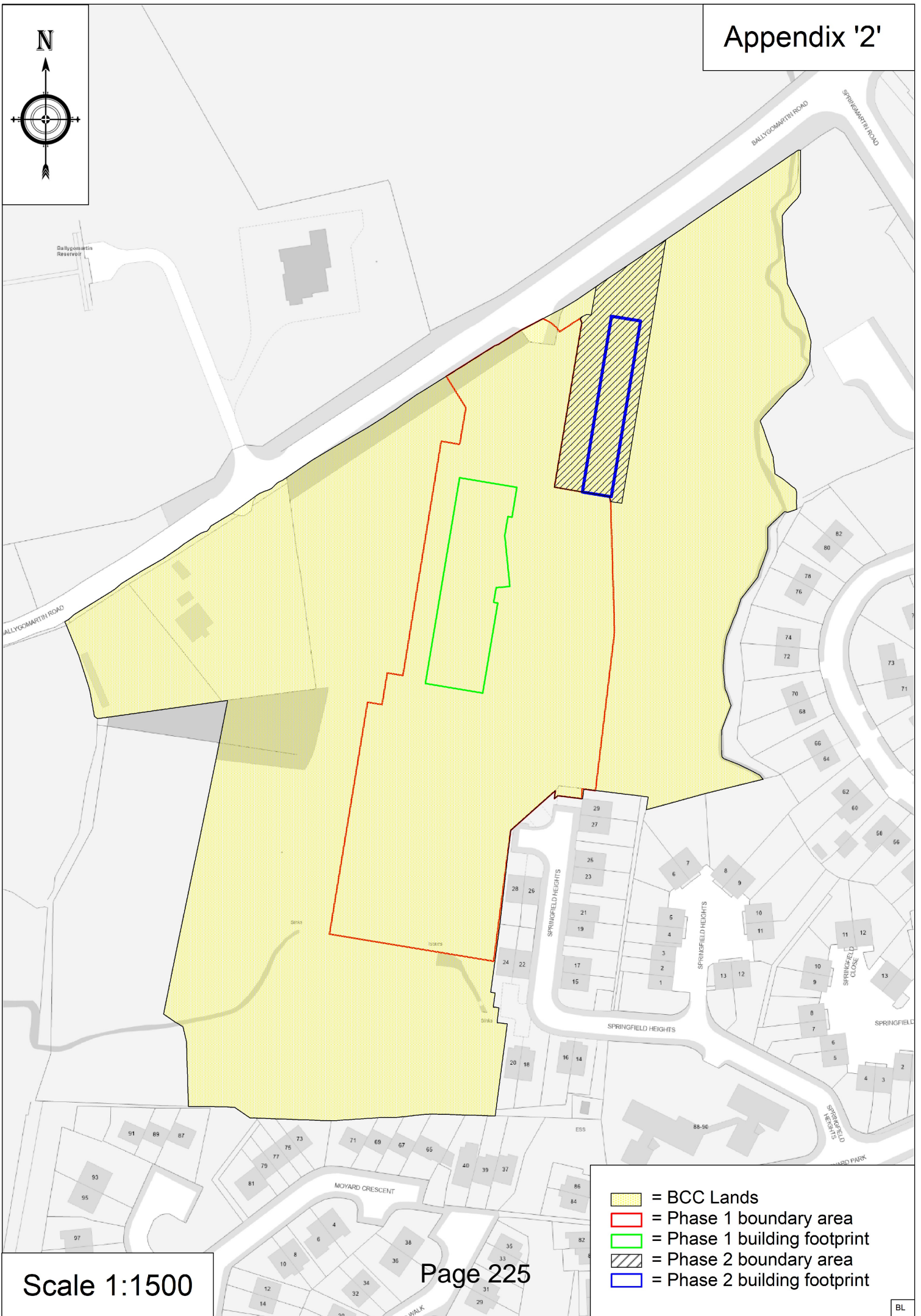




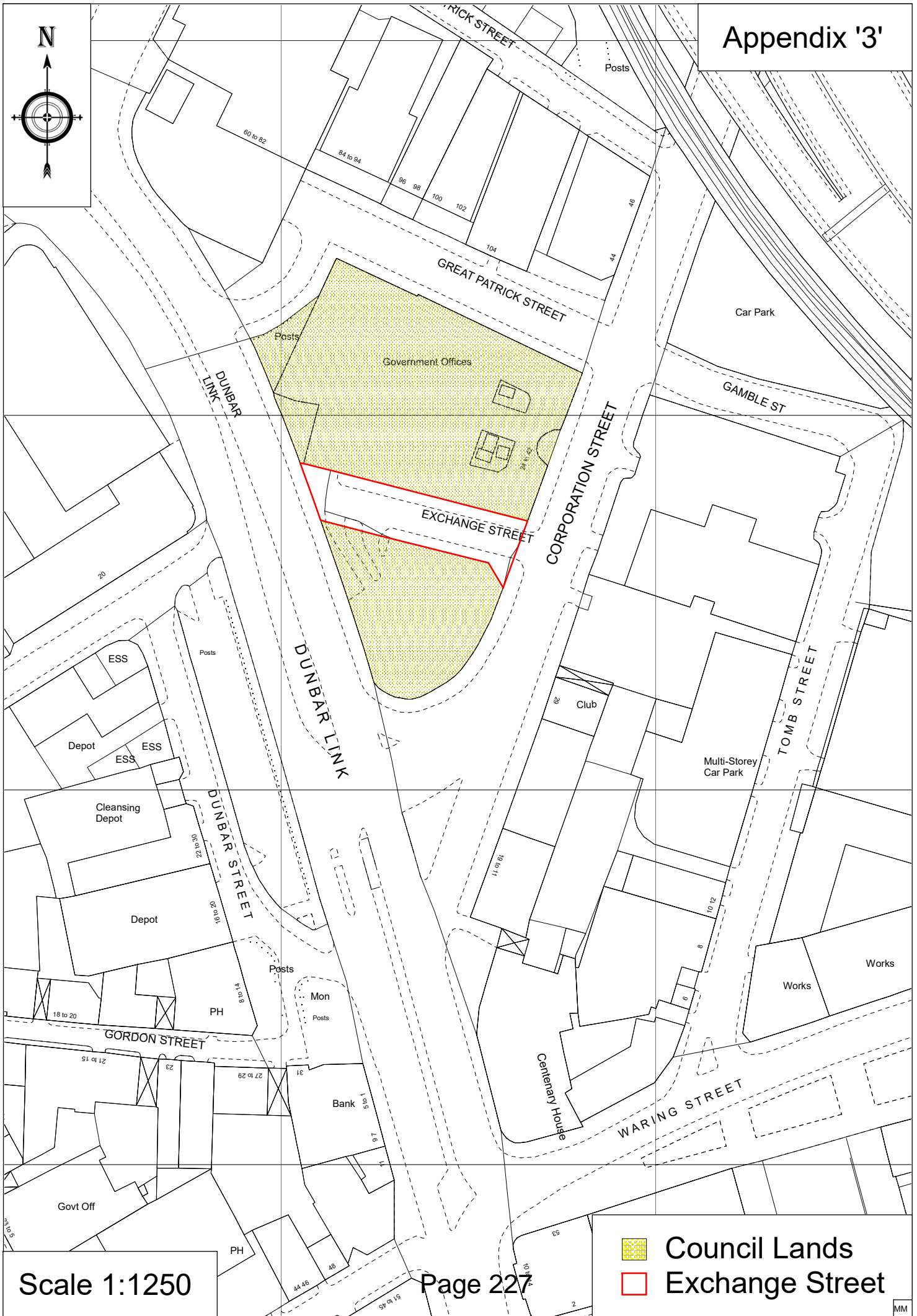


Page 224

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-  Council Lands
-  Exchange Street

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Table 1: Competitive Tenders

Title of Tender	Proposed Contract Duration	Est. Max Contract Value	SRO	Short description of goods / services
To provide automatic patching of non-Windows software	Up to 3 years	£43,533	P Gribben	Software to help reduce the risk of a serious cyber security attack or a significant data breach.
Renewal of Server and Cloud Enrolment (SCE) agreement with Microsoft for the use of SQL Database products	Up to 3 years	£90,000	P Gribben	Licensing agreement to allow the use of Microsoft SQL Database products (and any future releases) as well as entitling the Council to raise support calls if needed
Hire of 2 x RCV 18ton vehicles	Up to 1 year	£105,560	D Sales	Continue hire of 2x 18t RCV's to pilot trail to gain access to narrow streets in Belfast.
Supply of procurement cards	Up to 5 years	£1,123,500	T Wallace	Used for expenditure that cannot be procured through finance system ordering processes i.e. online or low value purchases. Use of cards generates 1% cashback (approx. £3k p.a.)
Appointment of a public analyst	Up to 4 years	£294,000	S Toland	The Food Safety (NI) Order 1991 (Article 27 (1)) requires the Council to appoint suitably qualified persons as Public Analysts within the district of the Council, for the purpose of examining and analysing food samples to determine compliance with food safety, compositional and labelling requirements. Joint procurement exercise being overseen by Antrim and Newtownabbey Council on behalf of all 11 local councils

Table 2: Single Tender Actions

Title	Duration	Est. Max Contract Value	SRO	Description	Supplier	STA Reason
Housing Benefit system (iWorld) for NIHE	Up to 2 years	£759,329	S McNicholl	The EDRM and Housing Benefits systems are used by NI Housing Executive and are proprietary as the system has been developed to meet NI legislative requirements. (DM & iWorld). This STA is to cover the continued use of this system. This is fully funded by NIHE.	NEC Software Solutions UK Ltd	3. Technical reasons
Broadcast system for committee rooms	Up to 5 years	£120,000	S McNicoll	Provision of end-to-end services and support (hardware, software and connectivity) to allow both committee and council meetings to be broadcast over the internet to members of the public. This solution integrates directly with the Modern.gov committee management software. The upgraded broadcasting setup will integrate with the current meeting room audio-visual equipment and any future room setup. Public-I Group is only supplier available who are fully integrated with modern.gov for public broadcasting	Public-I Group	7. Technical characteristics
Support and maintenance of PTX software and associated transform package	Up to 4 years	£142,000	S McNicholl	PTX has recently been configured for compatibility with the new E5 Finance system. This STA is to cover the continued use of this system. Changes in supplier would result in new system configuration, significant additional costs and lead to a break in payments services	Bottomline Technologies	7. Technical characteristics
MTU air conditioning repair, maintenance & minor works	Up to 3 months	£15,000	S Grimes	STA required to ensure continuity of services whilst a re-tender exercise is complete. Resourcing issues within the Property	BL Refrigeration and Air	11. Other

Appendix 1

				<p>Maintenance Unit which has led to the delay in the tender being renewed within the normal timeframe.</p> <p>Note - Contract expired 14/06/2024; retrospective spend for 9 months at £45,000; remaining contract duration up to 3 months at £15,000 – see Table 4.</p>	Conditioning Ltd	
MTC for fire & intruder repair, maintenance & minor works	Up to 3 months	£18,000	S Grimes	<p>STA required to ensure continuity of services whilst a re-tender exercise is complete. Resourcing issues within the Property Maintenance Unit which has led to the delay in the tender being renewed within the normal timeframe.</p> <p>Note - Contract expired 31/01/2024; retrospective spend for 13 months at £77k; remaining contract duration up 3 months at £18k – see Table 4</p>	Radiocontact Ltd	11. Other
MTC High level lighting repair, maintenance & minor works	Up to 3 months	£32,000	S Grimes	<p>STA required to ensure continuity of services whilst a re-tender exercise is complete. Resourcing issues within the Property Maintenance Unit which has led to the delay in the tender being renewed within the normal timeframe.</p> <p>Note - Contract expired 12/09/2024; retrospective spend for 6 months at £63k; remaining contract duration up 3 months at £32k – see Table 4.</p>	Braham Electrical Ltd	11. Other
MTC Roller Shutter 24/7 callout services and repairs	Up to 2 months	£8,000	S Grimes	<p>STA required to ensure continuity of services whilst a re-tender exercise is complete. Resourcing issues within the Property Maintenance Unit which has led to the delay in the tender being renewed within the normal timeframe.</p> <p>Note - Contract expired 31/12/2023; retrospective spend for 13 months at £52k; remaining contract duration up 2 month at £8k – see Table 4.</p>	DW Industrial Doors	11. Other

Table 3: Modification to Contract

Title of Contract	Current Contract Duration	Modification (Period & Est. Value)	SRO	Description	Supplier
MTC installation of new soft floor covering for repairs, maintenance & minor works	Up to 3 years	Additional 3 months and £15,000	S Grimes	Extension required to ensure continuity of service until the new tender is in place.	JJ Hennebry & Sons Ltd
MTC for swimming pools filtration systems repair, maintenance & minor works	Up to 3 years	Additional 5 months and £80,000	S Grimes	Extension required to ensure continuity of service and meet legislative maintenance requirements until the new tender is in place.	WJM Building Services Ltd
<p>Page 29 of 32</p> <p>1856 provision of a facilities management service at the Mary Peters Track</p>	Up to 6.5 years	Additional 1 year and £160,049	S Leonard	<p>Contract extension of 1 year is required to allow sufficient time for Council to complete stakeholder engagement, as requested by PGL. And allow time to explore alternative management options for the site following the stakeholder engagement.</p> <p>The original contract expiry date was 30/09/2023.</p> <p>6 months extension and £65,000 approved by SP&R in Aug 23.</p> <p>6 months extension and £110,073.50 approved by SP&R in Mar 24.</p> <p>6 months extension and £80,024.50 approved by SP&R in Aug 24.</p>	Athletics NI
Supply and delivery of paint and sundries	Up to 4 years	Additional 4 months and £6,000	S Grimes	Extension required to ensure continuity of supplies until the new tender is in place.	PPG Architechural Coatings UK Ltd

Table 4: Retrospective Single Tender Actions

Title of Contract	Duration	Est. Max Contract Value	SRO	Description	Supplier	STA Reason
MTU air conditioning repair, maintenance & minor works	Up to 9 months	£45,000	S Grimes	STA required to ensure continuity of services whilst a re-tender exercise is complete. Resourcing issues within the Property Maintenance Unit which has led to the delay in the tender being renewed within the normal timeframe. Note - Contract expired 14/06/2024; retrospective spend for 9 months at £45,000; remaining contract duration up to 3 months at £15,000 – see Table 2.	BL Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Ltd	11. Other
MTC for fire & intruder repair, maintenance & minor works	Up to 13 months	£77,000	S Grimes	STA required to ensure continuity of services whilst a re-tender exercise is complete. Resourcing issues within the Property Maintenance Unit which has led to the delay in the tender being renewed within the normal timeframe. Note - Contract expired 31/01/2024; retrospective spend for 13 months at £77k; remaining contract duration up 3 months at £18k – see Table 4	Radiocontact	11. Other
MTC high level lighting repair, maintenance & minor works	Up to 6 months	£63,000	S Grimes	STA required to ensure continuity of services whilst a re-tender exercise is complete. Resourcing issues within the Property Maintenance Unit which has led to the delay in the tender being renewed within the normal timeframe. Note - Contract expired 12/09/2024; retrospective spend for 6 months at £63k; remaining contract duration up 3 months at £32k – see Table 4.	Braham Ltd	11. Other
MTC roller shutter 24/7 callout services and repairs	Up to 13 months	£52,000	S Grimes	STA required to ensure continuity of services whilst a re-tender exercise is complete. Resourcing issues within the Property Maintenance Unit which has led to the delay in the tender being renewed within the normal timeframe.	DW Industrial Doors	11. Other

Appendix 1

				Note - Contract expired 31/12/2023; retrospective spend for 13 months at £52k; remaining contract duration up 2 months at £8k – see Table 4.		
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STA/ Direct Award Reasons

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



Subject:	Contracts Update
Date:	21st February 2025
Reporting Officer:	Sharon McNicholl, Deputy Chief Executive / Director of Corporate Services
Contact Officer:	Noleen Bohill, Head of Commercial and Procurement Services

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 									
<p>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;">After Committee Decision</td> <td style="width: 20%;"><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"/>
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Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

	<p>The purpose of this report is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek approval from members for tenders, contract modifications to contract term and Single Tender Actions (STA) over £30,000 <p>And to ask members to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note retrospective Single Tender Actions (STAs) • Note the governance update detailing process changes required related to the new Procurement Act 2023
2.0	Recommendations
	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve the public advertisement of tenders as per Standing Order 37a detailed in Appendix 1 (Table 1) • Approve the award of STAs in line with Standing Order 55 exceptions as detailed in Appendix 1 (Table 2) • Approve the modification of the contract as per Standing Order 37a detailed in Appendix 1 (Table 3) • Note the award of retrospective STAs in line with Standing Order 55 exceptions as detailed in Appendix 1 (Table 4) • Note the process changes detailed in Section 6.0 Procurement Governance – STAs
3.0	Competitive Tenders
	<p>Section 2.5 of the Scheme of Delegation states Chief Officers have delegated authority to authorise a contract for the procurement of goods, services or works over the statutory limit of £30,000 following a tender exercise where the council has approved the invitation to tender.</p> <p>Standing Order 60(a) states any contract that exceeds the statutory amount (currently £30,000) shall be made under the Corporate Seal. Under Standing Order 51(b) the Corporate Seal can only be affixed when there is a resolution of the Council.</p> <p>Standing Order 54 states that every contract shall comply with the relevant requirements of national and European legislation.</p> <p>The Committee is asked to approve the public advertisement of tenders as per Standing Order 37a detailed in Appendix 1 (Table 1).</p>
4.0	Single Tender Actions (STAs) Page 236

The Council's current Single Tender Action (STA) process, which has been in place since 2020, provides assurance that the Council continues to comply with its obligations under the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 'PCRs' and internal governance arrangements including required controls and approvals. It mirrors the PCRs setting out the exceptional and specific circumstances when a STA can be used (see STA/ Direct Award Reasons Table in Appendix 1).

To support Officers understanding and to build capability CPS also offer STA Process training on a regular basis.

In line with Standing Order 55 the Committee is asked to approve the award of the following STAs:

- Contract for up to £759,329, for up to 2 years, awarded to NEC Software Solutions UK Ltd, for Housing Benefit system (iWorld) for NIHE. The EDRM and Housing Benefits systems are used by NI Housing Executive and are proprietary as the system has been developed to meet NI legislative requirements. (DM & iWorld). This STA is to cover the continued use of this system. This is fully funded by NIHE.
- Contract for up to £120,000, for up to 5 years, awarded to Public-I Group, provision of broadcast services for Committee meetings, replacing some end-of-life equipment. Connor, Lavery rooms and Council Chamber. Public-I Group is only supplier available who are fully integrated with modern.gov for public broadcasting
- Contract for up to £140,000, for up to 4 years, awarded to Bottomline Technologies LTD for support and maintenance of PTX software and associated transform package. PTX has recently been configured for compatibility with the new E5 Finance system. This STA is to cover the continued use of this system. Changes in supplier would result in new system configuration, significant additional costs and lead to a break in payments services.
- Contract for up to £15,000, up to 3 months, awarded to BL Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Ltd, for MTU air conditioning for repair, maintenance & minor works. STA required to ensure continuity of services whilst a re-tender exercise is complete. Resourcing issues within the Property Maintenance Unit which has led to the delay in the tender being renewed within the normal timeframe.
Note - Contract expired 14/06/2024; retrospective spend for 9 months at £45,000; remaining contract duration up to 3 months at £15,000.
- Contract for up to £18,000, up to 3 months, awarded to Radiocontact Ltd, for MTC for fire & intruder repair, maintenance & minor works. STA required to ensure continuity of services whilst a re-tender exercise is complete. Resourcing issues within the

Property Maintenance Unit which has led to the delay in the tender being renewed within the normal timeframe.

Note - Contract expired 31/01/2024; retrospective spend for 13 months at £77k; remaining contract duration up 3 months at £18k.

- Contract for up to £32,000, up to 3 months, awarded to Braham Electrical Ltd, for MTC high level lighting repair, maintenance & minor works. STA required to ensure continuity of services whilst a re-tender exercise is complete. Resourcing issues within the Property Maintenance Unit which has led to the delay in the tender being renewed within the normal timeframe.

Note - Contract expired 12/09/2024; retrospective spend for 6 months at £63k; remaining contract duration up 3 months at £32k.

- Contract for up to £8,000, up to 2 months, awarded to DW Industrial Doors, for MTC roller shutter 24/7 callout services and repairs. STA required to ensure continuity of services whilst a re-tender exercise is complete. Resourcing issues within the Property Maintenance Unit which has led to the delay in the tender being renewed within the normal timeframe.

Note - Contract expired 31/12/2023; retrospective spend for 13 months at £52k; remaining contract duration up 2 months at £8k.

Further details on these STAs are set out in Appendix 1 (**Table 2**).

In line with Standing Order 55 the Committee is asked to note the award of the following retrospective STAs:

- Contract for up to £45,000, up to 9 months, awarded to BL Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Ltd, for MTU air conditioning for repair, maintenance & minor works. STA required to ensure continuity of services whilst a re-tender exercise is complete. Resourcing issues within the Property Maintenance Unit which has led to the delay in the tender being renewed within the normal timeframe.

Note - Contract expired 14/06/2024; retrospective spend for 9 months at £45,000; remaining contract duration up to 3 months at £15,000.

- Contract for up to £77,000, up to 13 months, awarded to Radiocontact Ltd, for MTC for fire & intruder repair, maintenance & minor works. STA required to ensure continuity of services whilst a re-tender exercise is complete. Resourcing issues within the Property Maintenance Unit which has led to the delay in the tender being renewed within the normal timeframe.

Note - Contract expired 31/01/2024; retrospective spend for 13 months at £77k; remaining contract duration up 3 months at £18k.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract for up to £63,000, up to 6 months, awarded to Braham Electrical Ltd, for MTC high level lighting repair, maintenance & minor works. STA required to ensure continuity of services whilst a re-tender exercise is complete. Resourcing issues within the Property Maintenance Unit which has led to the delay in the tender being renewed within the normal timeframe. Note - Contract expired 12/09/2024; retrospective spend for 6 months at £63k; remaining contract duration up 3 months at £32k. Contract for up to £52,000, up to 13 months, awarded to DW Industrial Doors, for MTC roller shutter 24/7 callout services and repairs. STA required to ensure continuity of services whilst a re-tender exercise is complete. Resourcing issues within the Property Maintenance Unit which has led to the delay in the tender being renewed within the normal timeframe. Note - Contract expired 31/12/2023; retrospective spend for 13 months at £52k; remaining contract duration up 2 months at £8k. <p>Further details on these Retrospective STAs are set out in Appendix 1 (Table 4).</p>
5.0	Modification to Contract
	<p>The Committee is asked to approve the following modification of the contract as per Standing Order 37a:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to an additional 3 months and £15,000, awarded to JJ Hennebry & Sons Ltd for MTC installation of new soft floor covering for repairs, maintenance & minor works. Extension required to ensure continuity of service until the new tender is in place. Up to an additional 5 months and £80,000, awarded to WJM Building Services Ltd for MTC for Swimming Pools filtration systems repair, maintenance & minor works. Extension required to ensure continuity of service and meet legislative maintenance requirements until the new tender is in place. Up to additional 1 year and £160,049, awarded to Athletics NI for the Provision of a facilities management service at the Mary Peters Track (T1856). Contract extension of 1 year is required to allow sufficient time for Council to complete stakeholder engagement, as requested by PGL. And allow time to explore alternative management options for the site following the stakeholder engagement. The original contract expiry date was 30/09/2023. 6 months extension and £65,000 approved by SP&R in Aug 23. 6 months extension and £110,073.50 approved by SP&R in Mar 24. 6 months extension and £80,024.50 approved by SP&R in Aug 24.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to an additional 4 months and £6,000, awarded to PPG Architechural Coatings UK Ltd for the supply and delivery of paint and sundries. Extension required to ensure continuity of supplies until the new tender is in place. <p>Further details on these contract modifications are set out in Appendix 1 (Table 3).</p>
6.0	Procurement Governance – STAs
	<p>Procurement Act 2023 – STA (direct award) notice requirements</p> <p>The Procurement Act 2023 is planned to go-live Monday 24th February 2025. As previously highlighted, the new Act contains various requirements demonstrating a commitment to transparency in public procurement.</p> <p>Under the new Procurement Act 2023, when directly awarding contracts above the UK threshold (currently £214,904 incl VAT for supplies & services), the Council is now required to publish a Transparency Notice.</p> <p>It is important that members understand this as a key step in the process, Commercial and Procurement Services may need to publish the notice ahead of seeking award approval at the monthly SP&R committee meeting.</p> <p>This ensures compliance with the legislation and helps prevent unnecessary delays.</p> <p>However, it is important to note that publishing the Transparency Notice does not commit the Council to awarding the contract; it simply provides the required public notification of our intent to proceed with a direct award.</p> <p>The final decision on the award of contract will still be subject to the standard approval process.</p>
7.0	Financial & Resource Implications
	The financial resources for these contracts are within approved corporate or departmental budgets
8.0	Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment
	None
9.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	<p>Appendix 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Table 1 - Competitive Tenders Table 2 - Single Tender Actions Table 3 - Modification to Contract

- | | |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Table 4 - Retrospective Single Tender Actions |
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Subject:	Minutes of Shared City Partnership Meeting on 10 th February 2025
Date:	21 st February 2025
Reporting Officer:	Jim Girvan, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Godfrey McCartney, Good Relations 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: 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 	
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 style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="checkbox"/> <input style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="checkbox"/> <input style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="checkbox"/> <input style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="checkbox"/>

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To report to committee on the key issues discussed at the Shared City Partnership meeting held on 10 th February 2025.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	That the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee approve the minutes and recommendations from the Shared City Partnership Meeting held on 10 th February 2025 including:
2.2	<p><u>Presentation from the Red Cross - PeacePlus Right Support: Right Time Project</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation deferred until a further SCP Meeting.
2.3	<p><u>Update on Community Recovery Fund</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Partnership noted an update regarding the amendments to the Community Recovery Action Plan as agreed by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee S & R on 27th January 2025.
2.4	<p><u>PEACE IV – Secretariat Update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Partnership noted the contents of the report and recommends to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it notes the contents of the report.
2.5	<p><u>PEACEPLUS Belfast City Council Local Community Action Plan – Update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Partnership noted the contents of the report and agreed to delegate authority to the PEACE Programme Manager and Lead Officer to approve administrative changes to projects, as part of the change control process the PEACEPLUS Programme risk register as detailed in Appendix III and recommends that the Strategic Policy and Strategic Policy and Resources Committee note the contents of the report and agree recommendations above.
2.6	<p><u>Update from Partnership Members</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was no update from SCP Members.

2.7	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Good Relations Manager welcomed Melanie Holmes-Watson as the new recently appointed Good Relations Officer • Members agreed to undertake a walking tour of the Forth Meadow Greenway on Thursday, 27th March, at 13.30, Officers will progress this.
3.0	<p>Main Report</p>
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The Shared City Partnership is a Working Group of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee which consists of Elected members and representatives from various sectors across the city. The minutes from the Partnership are brought before the Committee for approval on a monthly basis.</p>
3.2	<p>The key issues on the agenda at the 10th February 2025 meeting were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partnership Papers of 13th January 2025 • Presentation from Red Cross • Community Recovery Plan Update • Peace IV Secretariat Update • PEACEPLUS – Theme 1.1 – Belfast City Council Local Action Plan Update • Update from SCP Members • AOB – Welcome New GR Officer and Forth Meadow Greenway Walk
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; Community Recovery Action Plan and in Appendix 3; PEACEPLUS Programme Risk Register.</p>
3.4	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>All financial implications are covered through existing budgets, and the Good Relations Action Plan is included in the current estimates process.</p>
3.5	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>The recommendations of the Partnership are to promote the work of the Council in promoting good relations and will enhance equality and good relations impacts for the City of Belfast.</p>
4.0	<p>Appendices - Documents Attached</p>
	<p>Appendix 1 – Minutes of the Shared City Partnership 10th February 2025</p>

	Appendix 2 – Community Recovery Plan
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	Appendix 3 – Peaceplus Risk Register
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SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP

Monday 10th February, 2025

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

Members present: Councillor I. McLaughlin (Deputy Chairperson); and
Alderman Copeland and Councillor Abernethy.

External Members: Mr. L. Euler, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust;
Mr. M. Briggs, Community and Voluntary Sector;
Mr. L. Gunn, Northern Ireland Housing Executive;
Ms. T. Mimna, The Executive Office;
Mr. W. Naeem, Interfaith Forum; and

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

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of the Chairperson (Councillor Duffy) and Independent Members Mr. J. Donnelly, Ms. Irwin and Ms. A.M. White.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 13th January 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 27th January.

Presentation - British Red Cross

It was noted that the scheduled presentation from representatives of the British Red Cross would be delivered at a later date.

Declarations of Interest

In respect of the item 'PEACEPLUS - BCC Local Action Plan Update', declarations of interest were reported by Independent Members Mr. M. Briggs and Mr. W. Naeem, in that they worked for organisations which were submitting bids to deliver projects under the Action Plan. The Members retired from the meeting whilst the matter was under discussion.

Update on Community Recovery Fund

The Partnership considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

1.1 Following a meeting of the Strategy Policy and Resources (SP&R) committee on the 22nd November 2024, members requested Officers to consider the Area Based Facet of the Community Recovery Fund (CRF) Action Plan, which the Deputy Prime Minister is making available to support communities impacted by the public disorder that took place between July and August 2024, including Belfast. In England this will be issued under section 31 of the Local Government Finance Act 2003, and in Northern Ireland funds will be released to the Department of Finance, to support those communities most affected.

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 To update members of the Shared City Partnership on amendments to the Community Recovery Action Plan agreed at S P & R on 27th January 2025.

3.0 Main Report

3.11 The CRF is allocative and offers a flat rate of £600,000 to Belfast City Council, to be committed and commenced before the end of the Financial Year 2024-25.

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

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

3.2 The Fund has deliberately sought to provide local areas with flexibility to design a package that responds to their circumstances. Previous reports have detailed examples of projects which are designed to support Community and Voluntary Activity.

3.3 Officers considered members feedback in relation to the original area-based approach and a number of amendments to the Community Recovery Action Plan have been agreed which will assist bolstering support directly to Communities within Belfast City. The Changes can be summarised as follows: -

1. CRF002 – Integration and Inclusion has been realigned to £35,000.

2. CRF003 - Community Centre Programme (Reaching Out) has been realigned to £30,000.
3. CRF008 – Community Resource Integration and Inclusion has been increased from £180,000 to £330,000.

This will still leave sufficient budget to develop and target cultural competence and capacity within communities, as there will be opportunity to couple this with Council's Good Relations Action Plan 25/26. However, it also means more investment can be provided directly into Communities in Belfast to improve Integration and Orientation.

3.4 CRF008 will be divided into two parts: -

1. Targeted Intervention £160,000 – Proposals will be sought and developed for 4 areas in Belfast which have been directly impacted by Racist Attacks, Officers will work with Community Organisations in the following 4 locations, and ensure Community Led proposals to increase Integration and Inclusion of the Migrant population are developed and progressed: -

- a. Sandy Row/Donegal Road
- b. Woodvale
- c. Connswater
- d. Greater Falls

2. The remaining £170,000 under this theme; Council will support Projects led by Constituted Community Organisations in Belfast City up to a value of £20,000, through an open call, that support a proactive approach to integration and inclusion of the Migrant population in Belfast City.

3.5 Council will invite projects that specifically address some or all the following:

- Proposals that are innovative and do not duplicate the work of other services.
- Proposals that engage host communities and people from the migrant community.
- Proposals that foster contact and connections with host communities to improve the welcome that people from the migrant community.
- Proposals that encourage and support groups to involve migrant population to get involved in the life of their communities through participation in local activities, networks, sports and organisations.

- Proposals that are delivered in areas where, to date, there has been limited infrastructure / funding for interventions supporting the inclusion of people from the migrant community.
- Proposals that provide orientation and advocacy support

It should be noted that this fund does not support one - off events / festivals, and the said criteria applies to both parts of CRF008

3.6 The outcomes from the above programme should provide the following: -

- Community Projects which provide Increased Integration, Inclusion and Orientation for the Migrant Community in Belfast
- A reduction in Anti-Muslim hate.
- Increased Community Leadership and Competence

3.7 Further to the above it is anticipated that the direct outcomes and data attained from the said projects will inform the core work of Council's Good Relations Action Plan and Strategy.

3.8 The Action Plan attached has been submitted and agreed in principle with the department. Officers have been in discussions with the relevant department in Westminster and providing programmes are committed Council will have the ability to deliver into the Financial Year 25/26. That said, members should note that the Good Relations Manager will have to agree the said changes with the Department of Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government.

3.9 Following members comments in November at SP&R Officers reviewed the fund criteria above and amended the four main themes of the action plan for delivery as follows: -

- Theme 1 Good Relations Inclusion and Integration
- Theme 2 Wider University and Lower Ormeau
- Theme 3 Community Integration and Inclusion
- Theme 4 Resource Recoupment

Full Detail of the Community Recovery Action Plan can be seen in Appendix 1

3.10 Financial and Resource Implications

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

3.11 Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment

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

The Good Relations Manager outlined the principal aspects of the report and the Partnership noted the amendments which had made to the Community Recovery Action Plan by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 27th January.

Peace IV - Secretariat Update

The PEACE Programme Manager reported that officers continued to liaise with SEUPB regarding the verification and reimbursement of Period 36 claims. She explained that the expenditure total stood £12.9m, with claims of approximately £11.5m reimbursed to date. In addition, it was reported that responses to queries relating to Period 30/34 claims had submitted to the SEUPB for final verification.

Noted.

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 are requested to note the contents of the report and agree

- to delegate authority to the PEACE Programme Manager and Lead Officer to approve administrative changes to projects, as part of the change control process**
- the PEACEPLUS Programme risk register as detailed in Appendix II**

and also recommend that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee note the contents of the report and agree recommendations above.

3.0 Main report

3.1 SEUPB Approval / Letter of Offer (LoO)

The Letter of Offer has now been accepted by Council and returned to SEUPB. Acceptance of the LoO enables mobilisation of project to progress to contract award.

Members should note that reimbursement of funding will be received into the Council's Euro Bank Account, which should assist in mitigating exchange rate fluctuations.

3.2 Mobilisation

Mobilisation of projects within the Thriving and Peaceful Communities and Celebrating Culture and Diversity themes is progressing and key actions outlined below.

The final stages of procurement, including the standstill period, has progressed for the following projects, with formal contract awards to progress in the next 2-3 week.

- TPC3 - Youth Empowerment (Lots 1-3),
- TPC1 – Community Empowerment
- TPC4 – Sport for Peace
- CCD5 – Multiculturalism to Interculturalism (Lots 3 & 4)
- TPC5 – Employability (Language Up)

Members are requested to note the contract award timeframe, as outlined in Appendix I attached. Members will be advised of the appointed delivery partners once the contract awards have been formalised.

3.3 Tender assessment and clarifications are progressing for the Arts across the Genres, Health & Wellbeing, Interfaith and Belief, Community Connections, and the Ex Politically Motivated Prisoners projects. Evaluation of the LGBTQIA+ tender submissions has also commenced.

A re-tender for Lot 4 Young Adults of the TPC3 Youth Empowerment project opened on 31 January 2025.

Two feedback sessions on the CCD5 Multiculturalism to Interculturalism Lot 1 and 2 tender call has taken place. Further feedback via 1-1 meetings is also progressing. The feedback will assist with a project rescope, if required.

3.4 Community Regeneration and Transformation

A workshop to develop and agree a timeline for the capital works and alignment with the animation activity took place on 28 January 2025.

As previously reported, SEUPB is to appoint a representative from Construction and Procurement Delivery (CPD), which is critical to the mobilisation of the construction works.

A request has been submitted to SEUPB to confirm the representative, to enable the timeline to be finalised.

Members should note that delays with the issue of the LoO and appointment of the CPD representative, may impact the construction timeframe, and as such an extension request to the LoO may be required.

3.5 Change Control Process

Planning for the implementation of projects is progressing, with a change control process developed to assist in managing necessary changes to projects to ensure the delivery of targets and results.

All change requests will require a robust rationale and, subject to the level of change, will be reported and approved through the governance structure, including the SCP and/or SEUPB in line with programme regulations.

The Programme Board has considered and approved the change control process and recommends that the SCP delegate authority to the PEACE Programme Manager and Lead Officer to agree administrative changes to projects, such as the staffing. This approach should help streamline the change control approval process.

Members should note that change control process may need to be applied to the rescope relating to CCD5 as referenced in 3.3 above.

3.6 Risk Management

A risk management approach has been developed, with advice from Audit, Governance & Risk Services. Members are requested to note that risks are attributed to five risk categories as outlined in the Programme Risk Register in Appendix II.

Risks will be monitored monthly through the PEACEPLUS team, with the Programme Risk Register reported quarterly to the Programme Board and SCP.

The Programme Board has considered and agreed the Risk Register, and has recommended that the SCP consider and agree the Programme Risk Register.

3.7 Staff Recruitment

The three PEACEPLUS Support Officers, Una Tohill, Dominic Montague and Alistair Menary are now in post and will be working closely with the Project Managers to progress implementation, the next steps for the CRT projects as well as the establishment of the next Governance tier, the Thematic Steering Groups. One post for the Data / Claims Support remains to be recruited.

3.8 PEACEPLUS 1.4 Project - Waterworks / Alexandra Park

As members are aware the Council is also delivering the PEACEPLUS Reconnected Belfast project, which is regenerating the Waterworks and Alexandra Park.

Members may be interested in attending Design Information Sessions which are taking place on:

Thursday 27th February at 4-8pm BCC Cleansing Building, Alexandra Park

Saturday 1 March 10am-12noon – Gate Lodge Building, Waterworks

Saturday 1 March 12:30 – 2:30pm - BCC Cleansing Building, Alexandra Park

3.9 Financial and Resource Implications

All expenditure associated with the PEACEPLUS LCAP will be eligible from 1 January 2024 and will be claimed retrospectively from SEUPB.

3.10 Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment

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

The PEACE Programme Manager reminded Members that, at its meeting on 13th January, disappointment had been expressed 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. It was reported that, subsequent to the meeting, two supplier feedback sessions had taken place, as well as one-to-one sessions. The Members were advised that a re-tendering exercise regarding ‘Lot 2’ was progressing, with a view to its completion by the end of February, with some minor amendments having been added to the text.

Further feedback was being progressed for 'Lot 1' and it was anticipated that a retendering exercise would be undertaken, subject to feedback.

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

Update from Partnership Members

There were no updates in this regard.

Any Other Business

The Partnership agreed that its proposed walking tour along the Forth Meadow Greenway would take place on Thursday, 27th March, commencing at 13.30.

Chairperson

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Appendix 2 DRAFT COMMUNITY RECOVERY FUND – ACTION PLAN 24-25

Background

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Theme 1 Good Relations Inclusion and Integration
- Theme 2 Wider University and Lower Ormeau
- Theme 3 Anti Racism and Hate Crime Community Initiatives
- Theme 4 Resource Recoupment

THEME	Ref	Project Title	Project Outline	Alignment to CRF Priority	Project Outcomes	Project Budget
Good Relations	CRF001	Restore the Physical Environment	To work with Open Spaces and Street Scene Department and the Department for Infrastructure to restore the physical environment back to its original form pre–August Riots. Increase on Street Engagement through the Safety Neighbourhood Officer Team	Immediate action to safeguard life or property. To reduce the risk of further disorder in the future.	Public Property and Space returned to pre riot condition	£20,000
	CRF002	Integration and Inclusion	Commission projects to support key stakeholders such as teachers, youth practitioners and community leaders to work with young people and adults to prevent the threats from new and evolving harmful ideologies, that sow division, and spread hate and intolerance. Projects may include the development of Programmes which Develop: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop Capacity and Cultural Competence within host communities and organisations. • Integration and Orientation • Trauma Services in School and/or the wider Community • The development of a toolkit resource Make Provision to develop the capacity of the Migrant Forum.	To prevent suffering or severe inconvenience. To reduce the risk of further disorder in the future. To rebuild social trust and promote cohesion between communities.	A reduction in Anti-Muslim hate. An increase in integration, orientation, and inclusion.	£35,000
	CRF003	Community Centre Programme (Reaching Out)	This programme is designed to enable Council Owned Community Centres and 8 Independently Managed Community Centres to create programmes within their	To reduce the risk of further disorder in the future.	Opportunity for Engagement Centres of Sanctuary	£30,000

		<p>area to connect with Asylum seekers, Refugees and BAME community. The Programmes will be designed to: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create Centres of Welcome and Sanctuary • Foster local connections • Provide Opportunities for engagement. • Signpost to other Services both Internal and External 	To rebuild social trust and promote cohesion between communities.	Increased Community Connections	
CRF004	Challenging the Narrative	<p>Every year, people move to Northern Ireland to live, work and study, and others leave Northern Ireland to live in other countries.</p> <p>Migration is normal and has been increasing on a Global Scale. Northern Ireland is benefitting from migration, on several different levels.</p> <p>This programme is to develop a resource that clearly presents the facts in relation to migration, and the process of immigration. This will include, but is not exhaustive: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Facts - Who can come here and how, Migration in numbers, Migration, our economy, and services. • The Immigration System Explained • Integration and Community Supports • Accommodation Support • Misinformation - They're Taking our Jobs, what they Receive, They're Here Illegally, Migrants Bring Crime, Migrants are given Preferential Access to Social 	<p>To reduce the risk of further disorder in the future.</p> <p>To rebuild social trust and promote cohesion between communities.</p>	Factual Resource	£35,000

			Housing, what do Migrants Contribute to the Economy			
CRF005	Supporting Education – Expansion of Schools of Sanctuary and Drop-in Support Programme	<p>The Schools of Sanctuary programme is an award scheme currently available in the Urban Villages areas of Belfast.</p> <p>The programme is aimed at helping schools to further the concept that schools are welcoming places where every child feels safe and accepted regardless of what they believe, where they are from or what they look like; places where cultural diversity is valued and celebrated.</p> <p>The Intercultural Education Service and Urban Villages have worked closely with Belfast City of Sanctuary to develop a customised Schools of Sanctuary resource pack - 2nd edition for schools.</p> <p>Selected schools follow 7 steps online, along with school clusters, which help them to follow the Schools of Sanctuary programme in bite-sized, manageable chunks. This provides advice and support to enhance the experience for children, parents, staff, and those in the wider community. This proposal will see the Schools of Sanctuary Programme expanded to 8 other schools across Belfast, which are not in the Urban Village areas. The schools will be identified by the Education Authority based on the enrolment statistics.</p>	<p>To reduce the risk of further disorder in the future.</p> <p>To rebuild social trust and promote cohesion between communities.</p>	<p>Development of 8 Schools to become Schools of Sanctuary across Belfast NSEW</p> <p>Expansion of Drop in Support</p> <p>Opportunity for Engagement</p> <p>Increased Community Connections</p>	£20,000	

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

			<p>Through this programme Council wants to support projects that will have a clear and identifiable impact on supporting and building integration and inclusion of the migrant population within the wider university and lower Ormeau area of Belfast.</p> <p>The most recent Good Relations Audit seeks to build on the work undertaken by the Council on supporting the participation and inclusion of minority ethnic residents over the last number of years. In making recommendations on how to progress this work further the Audit highlights the following as being key components: -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop initiatives to address anti-Muslim hate. 2. Develop a programme focusing on minority ethnic leadership. 3. Examine and explore the response of Council's and communities in Britain, Ireland and further afield regarding managing diversity and tackling systemic racism. 			
Community -Integration and Inclusion	CRF008	Community Resource	<p>CRF008 will be divided into two parts: -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Targeted Intervention £160,000 – Proposals will be sought and developed for 4 areas in Belfast which have been directly impacted by Racist Attacks, Officers will work with Community Organisations in the following 4 locations, and ensure Community Led proposals to increase Integration and 	<p>To reduce the risk of further disorder in the future.</p> <p>To rebuild social trust and promote cohesion between communities.</p>	<p>A Number of Community Projects which will provide outcomes as follows: -</p> <p>A reduction in Anti-Muslim hate.</p> <p>Increase integration, orientation, and inclusion.</p>	£330,000

Inclusion of the Migrant population are developed and progressed: -

- a. Sandy Row/Donegal Road
- b. Woodvale
- c. Connswater
- d. Greater Falls

2. The remaining £170,000 under this theme; Council will support Projects led by Constituted Community Organisations in Belfast City up to a value of £20,000, through an open call, that support a proactive approach to integration and inclusion of the Migrant population in Belfast City.

Council will invite projects that specifically address some or all the following, this criteria will apply to both parts of this proposal:

- Proposals that are innovative and do not duplicate the work of other services.
- Proposals that engage host communities and people from the migrant community.
- Proposals that foster contact and connections with host communities to improve the welcome that people from the migrant community.
- Proposals that encourage and support groups to involve migrant population to get involved in the life of their communities through participation in local activities, networks, sports and organisations.

Increased Community Leadership and Competence

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposals that are delivered in areas where, to date, there has been limited infrastructure / funding for interventions supporting the inclusion of people from the migrant community. Proposals that provide orientation and advocacy support <p>It should be noted that this fund does not support one -off events / festivals.</p>			
CRF009	Hate Crime Hardship Programme	<p>From research undertaken via PCSP Council envision this programme will be able to assist through the provision of the following which have been the most communicated by victims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Security equipment to act as a deterrent to further crimes and better protect victims in their homes. Perpetrators do 'think twice' more often when there is more of a likelihood of them getting caught. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Security cameras Ring Doorbells Emergency door stops. Alarms Temporary cover for clothing, personal care/hygiene products: Having to leave a property in an emergency will lead to victims needing to replace some everyday products they would have had more readily available. <p>We are not limiting what could potentially be covered by the programme to the list</p>	<p>To reduce the risk of further disorder in the future.</p> <p>To rebuild social trust and promote cohesion between communities.</p>	<p>Increase in the number of people who feel safe.</p> <p>Decrease in number of people affected by Hate Crime</p>	£20,000

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

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Appendix III - PEACEPLUS Programme Risk Register

	Risk	What we have <u>already done</u> or have in place (i.e. controls) to mitigate this	Current RAG	What we're <u>going to do next</u> to manage this to the target level (i.e. actions)	Responsible officer	Target RAG	Target date
1	<p>Financial Risk If proper arrangements are not in place for managing the programme finances, the council may incur unexpected financial pressures/ losses.</p> <p>(Applicable to all projects)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Qualified and experienced staff responsible for managing budgets, claims, reviewing eligibility of expenditure • Written financial processes in place • Relevant staff trained in Council processes including E5 • Programme Rules reviewed • Access to the Joint Electronic Management System is restricted to relevant staff • Relationships with SEUPB staff in place • LoO € currency risk escalated to Head of Finance • Issues: • New Financial Controller approach by SEUPB yet to confirmed • Expenditure incurred from Jan 24 not yet able to be claimed from SEUPB 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continual staff training to ensure requirements are met • Ongoing review of processes to ensure fit for purpose • Any updated programme rules incorporated in internal financial processes • Regular check ins with appropriate SEUPB staff • Follow due process in terms of claims submissions and sign off • Agreement required on process for review of documentation provided by P&P • Expenditure monitoring of £ vs € budgets & income • Ongoing liaison with business manager & director of finance to manage exchange rate fluctuation risks 	Lead Officer		ongoing
2	<p>Procurement and contract management If we do not ensure that there are appropriate procurement and contract management arrangements in place, there is a risk of financial loss due to reduced funding/ financial penalties.</p> <p>(Applicable to all projects)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team in place to procure and manage contracts incl. project managers, support officers • Dedicated Category Officer support from CPS • Procurement process in place linking BCC policy to PEACEPLUS requirements • Timeline in place for procurement and contract delivery • Pre-Market Engagement Sessions prior to issue of Tender Calls • Reporting and escalation process in place to manage issues 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monthly / quarterly meetings to be set up for large delivery partner contracts • Quarterly reports for submission from contractors • Procurement and Supporting documentation to be saved in Shared Folders to ensure audit trail is available to verify claims • For any upcoming procurements – potential changes to UK procurement law, to be considered in conjunction with CPS • Capital procurement / CPD, compliance and CPD involvement 	Peace Programme Manager		ongoing

	Risk	What we have <u>already done</u> or have in place (i.e. controls) to mitigate this	Current RAG	What we're <u>going to do</u> next to manage this to the target level (i.e. actions)	Responsible officer	Target RAG	Target date
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change Control / Contract modification process in place for use if required Seeking advice and guidance from SEUPB, as required 					
3	Compliance with Letter of Offer, conditions of funding and monitoring and evaluation If we do not ensure that we are compliant with the Letter of Offer, conditions of funding, and monitoring and evaluation requirements, there is a risk of financial loss due to reduced funding/ financial penalties.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Robust process for checking eligibility of expenditure prior to the submission of claims Monitoring and Evaluation framework drafted M&E system drafted Attendance at PEACEPLUS training events Review of Programme Rules Letter of Offer received and conditions reviewed LoO Conditions tracker established 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Response to conditions once LoO is signed and returned & JeMS access provided Finalisation of M&E framework Finalisation of M&E system incl. testing to be completed Train delivery partners on M&E system Continue to attend available training provided by PEACEPLUS Ensure audit trail of M&E data available to submit in claims to SEUPB for their verification Ongoing monitoring of implementation conditions and reporting to Programme Board and Shared City Partnership 	Lead Officer		ongoing
4	Recruitment / staffing If we do not recruit and retain suitably skilled and experienced staff, there is a risk that the programme is not delivered in line with the agreed timescales and in compliance with the T&Cs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Successful recruitment of staff to date Induction process and plans in place Staff training in place Monthly 1-2-1s with more regular check ins where required Roles and responsibilities of each team member outlined Monthly Team meetings Regular work planning meetings to direct team Processes in place as a 'desk instruction' to allow cross team working 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuity planning Further development of processes Ongoing support for staff Ongoing training for staff Cross skilling of staff across team functions Ensure staff feel valued 	Peace Programme Manager		ongoing
5	Delivery of the programme If we fail to implement appropriate programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Robust co-design process followed to ascertain participant targets 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing review of project achievement of results (participant numbers) 	Peace Programme Manager		ongoing

	Risk	What we have <u>already done</u> or have in place (i.e. controls) to mitigate this	Current RAG	What we're <u>going to do</u> next to manage this to the target level (i.e. actions)	Responsible officer	Target RAG	Target date
	<p>management arrangements, there is an increased risk of delays which could lead to financial penalties.</p> <p>(Applicable to all projects)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All delivery partners asked to provide details of participant attrition rates / plans for recruitment and retention BCC officers with experience in relevant areas sit on tender evaluation panels 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued collaboration between BCC departments and staff to avail of expertise within the organisation and the relationships built with the community Extension to project timeline to be requested – evidence of need to be developed Monitoring of progress in relation to landowners, planning permission / statutory approvals etc Capital Project Governance to include representatives from PEACEPLUS 			

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Subject:	Requests for use of the City Hall and the provision of Hospitality
Date:	21 February 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 No

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

Insert number

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

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

- After Committee Decision
- After Council Decision
- Sometime in the future
- Never

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in? Yes No

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	This paper, together with the attached appendix, contains the recommended approach in respect of each of the requests by external organisations for access to the City Hall function

	rooms received up to 10 February 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.

	<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 10 February 2025.</p>

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FEBRUARY 2025 CITY HALL FUNCTION APPLICATIONS

NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED
Choice Housing Ireland	8 April 2025	Celebration of Achievement for courses & volunteering completed as part of investment in the community and leadership programme. Numbers attending: 50	C & D	None	
Belfast Buildings Trust	2 May 2025	Grand Final of the Northern Ireland Schools Debating Competition that encourages debate and civic engagement in young people attracting 80 teams during the competition. Numbers attending: 140	D	None	
Relatives for Justice	19 May 2025	Launch of a new "Remembering Quilt" - a series of quilts handcrafted by families affected by the conflict to remember those who lost their lives, representing their stories, memories, and the legacy they leave behind. Numbers attending – 150	C	None	
Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB)	20 May 2025	25-year anniversary of PEACE programmes – lunch and speeches to reflect and sharing insights of the past 25 years and lessons learned. Numbers attending – 50 - 100.	C	None	Tea and Coffee Reception as significant anniversary
Now Group	4 June 2025	Now Graduation Ceremony - annual celebration of the work of trainees supported by the Now Group and completion of the training programme. Numbers attending – 300 - 400	D	None	
Belfast Trust Carer Support Service	9 June 2025	Launch of Belfast Trust Carers Strategy and Celebration of Carers Week 2025 – celebrate and raise awareness of the contribution unpaid carers give to the Trust and how trust will support them. Numbers attending: 100	C	Room hire £450	

FEBRUARY 2025 CITY HALL FUNCTION APPLICATIONS

Queen's University Belfast Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences	7 August 2025	International Summer School Gala Dinner to mark the end of a three-week International Summer School hosted QUB- drinks reception and dinner and certificate presentation. Numbers attending: 60 - 120	A, B and C	Under review to be determined by City Solicitor under delegated authority	
Contact Centre Network NI	6 November 2025	CCNNI Awards 2025 Drinks Reception, Awards, Dinner and entertainment for customer service industry. Numbers attending: 250 – 300	B & D	Under review to be determined by City Solicitor under delegated authority	
Samaritans	18 November 2025	10th Anniversary of Free Call service and achievements of volunteers – reception and speeches from volunteers and those people helped by Samaritans. Numbers attending: 150	C	None	Tea and Coffee Reception as significant anniversary
Queen's University Belfast Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences	13 December 2025	Northeastern University Farewell Dinner 150 US students who have participated in the N.U.in Programme linked Sister City partnership with Boston. Numbers attending: 150	A & B	Under review to be determined by City Solicitor under delegated authority	
The Scout Association, Northern Ireland Scout Council	9 January 2026	Chief Scout's Award and Queen's Scout Award Presentation – 120 young people receiving awards and attending a reception. Numbers attending – 500	B & D	Under review to be determined by City Solicitor under delegated authority	
Belfast University of the Third Age	26 February 2026	Celebration of the 25th Anniversary of Belfast u3a Drinks Reception, Dinner, Presentations, and entertainment. Numbers attending – 240 - 260	C	Under review to be determined by City Solicitor under delegated authority	Drinks Reception as significant anniversary
International Cancer Imaging Society	24 September 2026	Conference Dinner for the: 25th International Cancer Imaging Society Annual Conference for guests attending 3-day conference at Europa Hotel. Numbers attending: 150 - 200	A & B	Under review to be determined by City Solicitor under delegated authority	

FEBRUARY 2025 CITY HALL FUNCTION APPLICATIONS

Belmont Bowling Club	20 August 2027	150th Anniversary Celebration Drinks Reception, Dinner, Presentations, and entertainment. Numbers attending: 330 - 360	C & D	None	Drinks Reception as significant anniversary
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Subject:	Request for use of City Hall grounds for Orange Fest 2025
Date:	21 February 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: 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"/>											

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To consider request from Orange Fest for the use of City Hall grounds on 12th July 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 12 July 2025 for Orange Fest (<i>subject to securing funding</i>). 2. Authorise the event to take place on the basis of submission of an event management plan and risk assessment and appointment of an event controller to ensure delivery of a safe public event.
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 request set out below falls into this category.</p>
	<u>The Proposed event – Orange Fest</u>
3.2	<p>The proposed event ‘Orange Fest’ would take place on the front west lawn only and areas such as the East Lawn, the Titanic Garden and Cenotaph will remain open to the public. Access to the City Hall building will not be affected. It would involve a number of stalls in City Hall grounds. The organisers’ estimate of attendance is 3,000 to 5,000 people.</p>
3.3	<p>The event would be free to enter. The organiser would provide stewarding/marshalling staff & first aiders and would comply with the Council’s standard conditions for hire etc.</p>
3.4	<p>Members will also be aware that for many years the Orange Order have used the Cenotaph for a short commemorative ceremony on the morning of the main parade, following which participants re-join the main parade, and this would be the case again on 12th July 2025.</p>
	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u>
3.5	<p>None. Costs will be met within existing budgets.</p>
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.6	<p>There are no direct good relations, equality or rural needs implications arising from this report.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents
	None

City Hall/City Hall Grounds Installations Working Group

Wednesday, 12th February, 2025

THE CITY HALL/CITY HALL GROUNDS INSTALLATIONS WORKING GROUP MINUTES

HELD IN THE LAVERY ROOM AND
REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Members present: Councillor Flynn (Chairperson);
Alderman Rodgers; and
Councillors de Faoite, Murray and R. McLaughlin.

In attendance: Ms. N. Largey, City Solicitor/Director of
Legal and Civic Services;
Ms. K. Mullen, Client Manager;
Mrs. J. Murray, Civic Services Manager; and
Mrs. S. Steele, Member Services and Digital Support
Officer.

Apologies

No apologies were recorded.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 27th November and 12th December, 2024 were taken as read and signed as correct.

Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were reported.

Christmas Tree City Hall Grounds

The Working Group considered a report which detailed the current constraints around purchasing a real Christmas tree for the front of City Hall.

During discussion it was agreed that the City Hall tree would be included in any future Christmas updates to City Growth and Regeneration Committee.

The Civic Services Manager also agreed to liaise with the Senior Woodland and Recreation Officer regarding the planting of trees which could be used as Christmas trees annually at suitable locations throughout the city, which would encourage sustainability.

The Working Group agreed to undertake a quotation/tender exercise to test market provision and ascertain the types of artificial Christmas trees available, with an update report to be submitted to both the Working Group and the City Growth and Regeneration Committee in due course.

Stained Glass Window City Hall

The Client Manager drew the Members' attention to the final artwork for the new LGBT+ stained-glass window and she highlighted the minor amendments and refinements that had been made following the December 2024 meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee. She advised that officers now would commence formal engagement with the families of the individuals depicted in the artwork and reported that early discussions with both families had indicated that they were happy with the references included.

The Members noted that work was underway on the narrative panel that would sit to the side of the window containing a descriptor of the artwork and highlighting the role and contribution of the LBGTQ+ community to the city of Belfast. The Members were reminded that the scope of the original motion had been extended at its meeting of the Working Group in November 2024, to ensure it was reflective of all groups within the LGBT community. The Members noted that the proposed wording of the narrative panel would be presented at the next meeting of the Working Group for approval.

The Client Manager reminded the Committee that an event in the City Hall would be organised on the evening of the unveiling as part of the celebrations around International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia and further details would also be available at the next meeting of the Working Group.

The Chairperson, along with several other Members of the Committee commended the officers for their hard work and commitment in bringing this project to fruition in what was a particularly short deadline.

The Working Group agreed the final artwork for the LBGT+ stained glass window and noted the proposed unveiling date, subject to all statutory permissions being in place. It also noted that the wording for the narrative panel would be presented at the next meeting of the Working Group for approval.

Chairperson