

# Public Document Pack

**Democratic Services Section  
Chief Executive's Department  
Belfast City Council  
City Hall  
Belfast  
BT1 5GS**

12<sup>th</sup> December, 2017

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

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

As previously notified to you, I enclose a copies of the reports for items – 6b and 9a. In addition the following items: 3e and 9d are to be considered at the meeting to be held at 9.30 am on Friday, 15th December, 2017.

Yours faithfully,

SUZANNE WYLIE

Chief Executive

### **AGENDA:**

3. **Matters referred back from Council/Notices of Motion**

- (e) Notice of Motion: Primary Schools Curriculum Sports Programme - Response from the Permanent Secretary (Pages 1 - 6)

6. **Physical Programme and Asset Management**

- (b) Area Working Update (Pages 7 - 40)

9. **Operational Issues**

- (a) Minutes of Meeting of Budget and Transformation Panel (Pages 41 - 42)
- (d) Grenfell Tower Fire – Update on actions of Belfast City Council (Pages 43 - 50)

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Subject:	Notice of Motion: Primary Schools Curriculum Sports Programme – Response from the Permanent Secretary
Date:	15 <sup>th</sup> December, 2017
Reporting Officer:	Mr. Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager
Contact Officer:	Mr. Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<p><b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b></p> <p>To consider a response from the Mr. Derek Baker, Permanent Secretary, Department of Education, regarding the Primary Schools Curriculum Sports Programme.</p>
<b>2.0</b>	<p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>It is recommended that the Committee agrees that a deputation meets with the Permanent Secretary.</p>

<p><b>3.0</b></p> <p><b>3.1</b></p> <p><b>3.2</b></p> <p><b>3.3</b></p> <p><b>3.4</b></p>	<p><b>Main report</b></p> <p>The Committee will recall that, at its meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> November it had considered the attached report which outlined the response from the Permanent Secretary, Department of Education, regarding a motion which had been adopted by the Council in relation to the Primary Schools Curriculum Sports Programme.</p> <p>The Committee had agreed that, as the response did not address the second part of the motion in relation to concern about the cut being made to the extended schools budget of 14% and the further cut off £56 for each child attending primary or nursery school, it had requested that the Committee proceed with seeking a meeting with the Permanent Secretary.</p> <p>A further response has now been received from the Permanent Secretary in which he has indicated that he would be willing to meet with a deputation from the Council in January to discuss the Curriculum Sports Programme.</p> <p>As Members will be aware deputations from the Council normally consist of one representative from each of the main six Political Parties on the Council. However, given that the motion stands in the name of Councillor Mullan it would be appropriate if she were to be included in the deputation and it is recommended accordingly.</p>
	<p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>None.</p>
<p><b>4.0</b></p>	<p><b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b></p>
	<p>Appendix 1 – report to Committee meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> November.</p>



<b>Subject:</b>	Notice of Motion: Primary Schools Curriculum Sports Programme
<b>Date:</b>	24 <sup>th</sup> November, 2017
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	To consider the response from the Permanent Secretary, Department of Education, to the Council's motion relating to the Primary Schools Curriculum Sports Programme.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>note the response and take any such action as may be determined.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<b>Key Issues</b> The Council, at its meeting on 2nd October, passed the following motion on the Primary Schools Curriculum Sports Programme which had been proposed by Councillor Mullan and seconded by Councillor Boyle:

“This Council opposes the proposed ending of the Primary School Curriculum Sports Programme by the Department of Education, from 31st October 2017, and expresses deep concern at the impact which the potential loss of this award winning cross community programme will have for primary school pupils, primary schools and the sporting coaches involved. The Council notes with great concern the cut made to the extended schools budget of 14% and the further cut of £56 for each child attending primary or nursery school.

The Council agrees to write to and seek an urgent meeting with the Permanent Secretary of the Department of Education to highlight this concern.”

3.2 A response has now been received from Mr. Derek Baker, Permanent Secretary, Department of Education, a copy of which is attached.

3.3 The Permanent Secretary confirms that, in July, the Department of Education had informed the Gaelic Athletic Association and the Irish Football Association that funding for the Primary Schools Curriculum Sports Programme would cease on 31st October. He points out that the Department has since secured an additional £10 million in the latest Monitoring Round, which will allow the programme to be delivered until the end of the 2017/2018 financial year. However, he stresses that, due to budgetary pressures, it might not be in a position to fund the initiative in future years.

3.4 He highlights the fact that a key objective of the Curriculum Sports Programme is to provide support to primary school teachers in delivering Physical Education. Those schools which had participated in the initiative had been allocated coaches, on the understanding that the class teacher would be present, primarily to assist in delivering the sessions and to support their own knowledge and development. Overall, teachers have benefitted from their involvement in the programme over ten years and their skills and confidence should have improved significantly.

3.5 The Permanent Secretary concludes by suggesting that, since the funding for the Curriculum Sports Programme has been restored for the current financial year, the rationale for holding the meeting, as requested within the motion, no longer exists and he seeks the Council’s view in that regard.

3.6	<b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b> None
3.7	<b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></b> None
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1 - Response from Mr. D. Baker, Permanent Secretary, Department of Education

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<b>Subject:</b>	Area Working Update
<b>Date:</b>	15 <sup>th</sup> December 2017
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Nigel Grimshaw, Director of City & Neighbourhood Services Gerry Millar, Director of Property & Projects
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Geoff Dickson, Policy Analyst Jamie Uprichard, Policy Analyst

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	To update Members on the most recent Area Working Group (AWG) meetings and the relevant recommendations to SP&R Committee arising from the meetings.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to:  <b>AWG minutes</b>  Approve the most recent round of AWG Minutes ( <i>East – 22<sup>nd</sup> November; West – 23<sup>rd</sup> November, South – 27<sup>th</sup> November; North – 30<sup>th</sup> November and East – 7<sup>th</sup> December</i> ) as attached at Appendix 1.

## Physical Investment Recommendations

### LOCAL INVESTMENT FUND

- **South AWG** - agree the recommendations from the South AWG as laid out in 3.2 below in respect of reallocating the £40,000 which had been allocated to Ormeau Boxing Club back into the LIF2 fund.
- **North AWG** – agree the recommendations from the North AWG as laid out in 3.3 below in respect of changing the scope of the LIF proposals for Jennymount Methodist Church and Holy Cross Boxing Club.

### BELFAST INVESTMENT FUND

- **South AWG** – agree the recommendations from the South AWG as laid out in 3.4 in respect of adding the Belfast Islamic Centre project as a stage1 emerging project.

## 3.0 Main report

### KEY ISSUES

#### Area Working Group Minutes

- 3.1 Members agreed in June 2016 that the Area Working Group minutes would be taken into the SP&R Committee for approval going forward in line with the Council's commitment to openness and transparency and to ensure a consistent approach with other Member-led Working Groups. Members are asked to approve the most recent round of AWG Minutes (*East – 22<sup>nd</sup> November; West – 23<sup>rd</sup> November, South – 27<sup>th</sup> November; North – 30<sup>th</sup> November and East – 7<sup>th</sup> December*) as attached at Appendix 1.

### LOCAL INVESTMENT FUND

- 3.2 **South AWG** – Representatives from Ormeau Boxing Club recently contacted council officers to inform them that they no longer wish to progress their project. After discussion, the Working Group agreed to recommend to the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee that the £40,000 previously committed to Ormeau Boxing Club be transferred back into the LIF2 fund.
- 3.3 **North AWG** - The North AWG at its meeting on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017, made the following recommendations in respect of changing the scope of the LIF proposals for Jennymount Methodist Church and Holy Cross Boxing Club.

Project	LIF Allocation	Recommendations
NLIF073 - Jennymount Methodist Church	£64,000	That the funding be split in to 2 phases, (Phase 1 being the delivery of heating enhancements and phase 2 the community garden/ play area.)
NLIF057 – Holy Cross Boxing Club	£66,000	Agree to the LIF funding moving from the previous premises of the boxing club on Flax Street to the new premises at the former St Gemma’s school.

**BELFAST INVESTMENT FUND**

3.4

**South AWG** – At its meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> November, the group received a presentation from the Belfast Islamic Centre regarding the group’s plans for a new place of worship and community centre. The Working Group confirmed its support for the project and agreed that the community development element of the proposal should be added to its list of emerging projects and be considered if/when future funding streams became available.

3.5

**FINANCIAL & RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

There are no additional financial implications contained within this report.

3.6

**EQUALITY OR GOOD RELATIONS IMPLICATIONS**

No implications

**4.0**

**Appendices – Documents attached**

Appendix 1 – Minutes of the Area Working Groups

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# West Belfast Area Working Group

Thursday, 23rd November, 2017

## MEETING OF WEST BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP

Members present: Councillor Magennis (Chairperson);  
Alderman Kingston;  
Councillors Attwood, Beattie, Bell, Bunting, Carson,  
Corr, Garrett, Hutchinson,  
Heading, Nic Biorna, O'Hara and Walsh.

In attendance: Mr. N. Grimshaw, Director of City and  
Neighbourhood Services;  
Mr. G. Millar, Director of Property and Projects;  
Mrs Rose Crozier, Assistant Director;  
Mr. G. Dickson, Policy and Performance Analyst; and  
Mrs. S. Steele, Democratic Services Officer.

### **Apologies**

Apologies were reported on behalf of Councillors Collins, Groves, McConville and McVeigh.

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 26th October were agreed as an accurate record of proceedings.

### **Declarations of Interest**

Alderman Kingston declared an interest in respect of the North Belfast Men's Working Club as he was a Member of its Board but had no pecuniary interest.

### **Outstanding Actions – Decision Tracker**

The Director of City and Neighbourhood Services explained that the Decision Tracker document had been emailed to Members before the meeting and he provided the Working Group with a brief overview of actions taken since the last meeting held on 26th October.

Noted.

## Update on Urban Villages Initiative

The Chairperson welcomed to the meeting Ms. L. Farrell, Programme Director, Mr. G. Murray, Programme Co-ordinator, and Mr. C. McGurk, Capital Delivery Manager, who were in attendance in order to provide details on the Executive Office's West Belfast Urban Villages initiative.

The Programme Director informed the Working Group that the Urban Villages Initiative was a key action within the Northern Ireland Executive's 'Together: Building a United Community' Strategy, which had been designed to improve good relations outcomes and to help develop thriving places where there had previously been a history of deprivation and community tension. She confirmed that the three primary aims of the initiative were to foster positive community identities, to build community capacity and to improve the physical environment and she outlined the objectives and outcomes associated with each of those.

Mr. McGurk provided the Working Group with a summary of the investment to date in the Colin area. He reported that two million had been allocated to funding capital projects, of these projects, two had been completed, two were at design/planning stage and one was currently under construction. He reported that the initiatives included the following capital projects:

- Lagmore Community Forum;
- Saints Boxing Club;
- Colin Town Centre Transport Hub and Civic Square (capital project - ongoing);
- a new park in the Colin; and
- Twinbrook Link.

He advised also that £350,000 had been allocated to Colin revenue projects, of those projects, sixteen were community-led projects and six were cross cutting projects.

The representative reported that the Urban Villages Initiative was committed to building upon the existing assets within the Colin area. The Initiative sought to give residents of Urban Village areas an opportunity to enhance and be part of shaping the place where they lived, to increase their skills and to embrace opportunities that would improve their life chances.

The Programme Director concluded by highlighting the various partners and stakeholders, including the Council, that the Executive Office worked with in order to deliver the West Belfast Urban Villages initiative and stressed that a strategic approach to delivery was essential in order to ensure the successful delivery of these schemes.

A Member welcomed the projects that had already been progressed in the Colin area under the Urban Villages Initiative and suggested that the positive outcomes should be better promoted.

The representative addressed a number of questions in relation to the Urban Villages Initiative. Following discussion, it was noted that officers intended to submit a map to a future meeting that would clearly illustrate the various projects being progressed in the west of the City and also to show these in a wider City context.

A Member requested that officers would also provide more detail in respect of the Council's capital spend, to date, in the Colin area.

The Chairperson thanked the representatives for their presentation and they left the meeting.

### **Update on Glen 10 development**

The Chairperson welcomed to the meeting Mr. D. O'Kane, Principal Planning Officer.

The Principal Planning Officer referred to the development known as Glen 10. He advised that the proposed site was bounded by the Hannahstown Hill, Glen Road and Upper Springfield and was collectively known as Glen 10 and he provided details of the potential development within the context of the following:

- Regional Planning Policy;
- Belfast Local Development Plan (LDP);
- Urban Capacity Study; and
- Regional Development Strategy 2035 and Urban Capacity Study.

The Principal Planning Officer referred to the BMAP 2015 proposals and with the aid of a map he drew the Members' attention to the location of the Glen 10 proposal within this context. He also referred to the Glen 10 and Glenmona Masterplans.

The officer referred to the need for a 'spine road' from Hannahstown Hill to the Monagh bypass and the fact that the required investment for this infrastructure had not included in the Department for Infrastructure's (DfI) future plans. The officer reported that Transport NI considered the existing infrastructure to be at saturation point and it was essential that this issue was resolved.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the Director Property and Projects would submit an update report to a future meeting which would contain options as to how the Council might assist in progressing the development of the required spinal road.

### **Belfast Hills Update**

The Director of Property and Projects advised that he, along with the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services, had met with National Trust representatives to discuss the potential revitalisation of the Belfast Hills.

The Working Group was advised that the National Trust was keen to progress a wider regeneration programme of the Belfast Hills, however, there were challenges to be overcome in respect of landownership and boundaries. The Members noted that negotiations were ongoing with the landowners but in the event that no resolution could be achieved it might become necessary for the Council to consider using Public Path Creation Orders.

The Director advised that the meeting had been constructive and highlighted that the following matters had been discussed:

- the emerging wider regeneration potential and range of projects along the Springfield Road/Corridor;
- the potential to progress the proposals via a Peace IV bid;
- the role of the Belfast Hills Partnership;
- linking walks from the north to the west of the Belfast Hills (Colin Glen, Divis Mountain etc.);
- the best location at which access could be formalised; and
- capital investment at Divis by the National Trust.

The Director of Property and Projects advised that, in order to try and progress the landownership issues, the Council and the National Trust had agreed to share landownership maps and information. It had also been agreed that a site visit to the Belfast Hills would be arranged to enable the relevant officers to familiarise themselves with the area.

The Working Group noted that work to progress the Belfast Hills initiative was ongoing and that officers would continue to liaise with the National Trust and to update the Working Group when more information became available.

### **Local Investment Fund - Update**

The Director of Property and Projects reported that, through the original LIF1 allocation, the Members of the former West and Shankill AWGs had supported 24 projects and all of those projects had now been completed.

He continued that, when the second phase of the LIF had been agreed, £1,200,000 was allocated to the West AWG. To date, a total of 17 new projects had been agreed for in principle support, as well as additional support to two LIF 1 projects. Of the 17 projects, 2 were preparing for due diligence, 3 were currently at due diligence stage, 3 were at pre-construction stage, 2 were being delivered and 7 projects had been completed.

The Director of Property and Projects concluded by drawing the Members' attention to the list of all 41 projects.

A Member asked officers to investigate prioritising the addition of floodlighting at the White Rise MUGA should an underspend be identified. It was agreed that the Director of Property and Projects would submit an update report to the next meeting.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

The Working Group agreed to cancel the meeting scheduled for Thursday, 21st December meeting and noted that the next meeting would take place on Thursday, 25th January at 4.30 p.m.

### **Future Presentations**

The Working Group agreed that representatives from the following organisations would be invited to present to a future meeting:

- Forbairt Feirste; and
- The Brass Neck Theatre Company.



It was further agreed that the Director of Property and Projects would liaise with the Members from the Court DEA in respect of the due diligence report for the North Belfast Men's Working Club.

### **Andersonstown Leisure Centre Hoarding**

Following an issue raised by a Member, it was agreed that the relevant Directors would discuss ways in which the Council could potentially assist local businesses who were finding trading difficult as a consequence of the ongoing building works to the new Andersonstown Leisure Centre. It was further agreed that the existing signage/hoarding around the development required upgrading and the Director of Property and Projects undertook to submit a 'mock up' of new signage at a future meeting.

Chairperson

# South Belfast Area Working Group

Monday, 27th November, 2017

## MEETING OF SOUTH BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP

Members present: Councillor Dudgeon (Chairperson); and  
Councillors Boyle, Craig, Hargey, Lyons, McAteer  
and Nicholl.

In attendance: Mr. N. Grimshaw, Director of City and Neighbourhood  
Services;  
Mr. G. Millar, Director of Property and Projects; and  
Mr. H. Downey, Democratic Services Officer.

### **Apologies**

No apologies were reported.

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 25th October were approved.

### **Matters Arising**

#### **Lagan Gateway Project**

The Working Group noted that the Director of Property and Projects would be submitting to its next meeting a report providing a further update on the Lagan Gateway project and on the 'Back to the River' initiative generally.

#### **Shaftesbury Square**

The Working Group was informed that the issue of the unsightly fencing/hoardings around the former public toilets on Shaftesbury Square/Dublin Road had yet to be addressed, despite having been brought to the attention of the agent on two occasions.

Accordingly, it agreed that the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services should, in advance of its next meeting, identify other potential options for dealing with the issue.

### **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were reported.

## **Presentations**

### **Belfast Islamic Centre**

The Working Group was reminded that, at its meeting on 25th September, it had approved a request from representatives of the Belfast Islamic Centre to attend a future meeting in order to outline their plans for a new place of worship and community centre.

Accordingly, Dr. R. Al-Wazzan and Mrs. N. Green were welcomed by the Chairperson.

Mrs. Green informed the Working Group that the Belfast Islamic Centre had been founded in 1978 and that it welcomed all Muslims, irrespective of their sect, gender or ethnic group. In addition to fulfilling an important spiritual role, the Centre provided a wide range of community services for local Muslims, including language classes, an interpretation and translation facility, health and wellbeing seminars, social activities, counselling and charitable assistance. It hosted also visits from non-Muslim communities and schools and facilitated inter-faith and inter-cultural dialogue and debates.

She reported that the Centre was based currently in a converted Victorian house in Wellington Park. However, the building was no longer fit-for-purpose, in that it was in constant need of repair, had limited disability access and lacked the space to meet the requirements of a growing Muslim community. In order to address the issue, the Belfast Islamic Centre had, in 2015, purchased, at a cost of £700,000, Aldersgate House on University Road, a short distance from its current location. Planning and Building Control approval had since been obtained, which meant that the project could now proceed to its next phase.

She explained that the new building would accommodate 700 worshippers and include an Islamic library and information centre, a multi-function room, classrooms and a café. The second floor, which would cost in the region of £274,500 to develop, would be designated primarily for community and educational use and would host events, seminars and various social activities.

Dr. Al-Wazzan pointed out that the new facility would have significant benefits for the local Muslim and non-Muslim communities and concluded by urging the Working Group to assist the Centre in developing the second floor of the building.

The representatives then retired from the meeting.

During discussion, the Director of Property and Projects confirmed that religious organisations, such as the Belfast Islamic Centre, were ineligible for support under either the Local Investment Fund or the Belfast Investment Fund. However, the community element of the Centre's project would be eligible, subject to all the necessary requirements being met and funding becoming available.

After further discussion, the Working Group confirmed its support for the Belfast Islamic Centre's project and agreed that the community development element of the proposal should be added to its list of emerging projects and be considered when future funding streams became available.

### **Urban Villages Initiative**

The Working Group was informed that Mrs. L. Farrell, Director of Urban Villages, and Mr. K. McGurk, Capital Delivery Manager, were in attendance in order to provide a further update on the Urban Villages initiative and they were welcomed by the Chairperson.

Mrs. Farrell reminded the Working Group that the Urban Villages Initiative was a key action within the Northern Ireland Executive's 'Together: Building a United Community' Strategy and had been designed to improve good relations outcomes and to help develop thriving places where there had previously been a history of deprivation and community tension. Five 'core' areas had been selected by the Executive Office to participate in the initiative, one of which comprised the Donegall Pass, Sandy Row and Markets areas of South Belfast. A Strategic Framework had been launched for each of the five areas, which had set out high level actions arising from a comprehensive process of information gathering, analysis and engagement and which was being delivered through community-led projects, capital projects and cross-cutting initiatives.

In terms of South Belfast, she reported that £700,000 had been allocated to five capital initiatives, of which the Blythefield playing fields and the Markets Sure Start community building projects had now been completed. The Markets playground lighting scheme, Rev. Robert Bradford Park and Sandy Row playground projects were being progressed. A further £350,000 had been allocated to forty-four community led and six cross-cutting revenue projects. In addition, a successful stakeholder engagement event had been held in February, which had, amongst other things, identified additional projects and key activities which the Urban Villages initiative should focus upon in 2017/2018 and in the longer term.

Mr. McGurk then provided the Working Group with information around the Urban Villages capital pipeline process and drew its attention to a map which highlighted nineteen potential projects in the South Belfast area. Those projects had been assessed against the aims and outcomes of the initiative, with those which had met the minimum standard being progressed with community partners to develop design options and associated business cases. He pointed out that partnership funding would be required, otherwise, the number of projects being delivered would be reduced.

The Working Group was then provided with an update on a number of projects, including the Gilpins, Markets Tunnels, Bankmore Greenway and Donegall Pass PSNI building transformational projects.

The representatives concluded by thanking the Working Group for its continued support for the Urban Villages initiative and left the meeting.

The Working Group noted the information which had been provided.

### **Update on Olympia Regeneration Project**

The Director of Property and Projects submitted for the Working Group's consideration the following report:

## **“1.0 Purpose and background**

The purpose of this report is to update the South Belfast Area Working Group with regard to progress on the Olympia Regeneration Project.

Members will be aware that this £21.75m capital project is being delivered in phases, the first being the new leisure facility at Olympia which opened in January 2017. The next stage comprises wider works to the remaining site including a new pitch and play park, re-provision of Midgley Park, and a new tree lined boulevard leading from the Boucher Road.

## **2.0 Recommendations**

The Working Group is requested to note:

- the progress in relation to construction and the naming of the John Stewart Bell entrance;
- the arrangements for the gift of the George Best Memorial Sculpture;
- that an artist’s brief for the Stadium Art will be brought to the Working Group; and
- the proposal in relation to a launch event.

## **3.0 Update - Olympia Regeneration Project**

### **3.1 Construction**

*Phase C:* Works are now well underway on the wider site including the pitches, playground and new boulevard. Completion is scheduled for May 2018.

*Phase D:* The development opportunity sites at the Boucher Road will be temporarily landscaped on completion of the Council’s works in May and marketed via an agent for uses sympathetic to the sports and leisure theme. Outline Planning permission is already secured for a hotel.

### **3.2 Public artworks**

#### **George Best Memorial Sculpture**

Members will be aware that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee agreed to accept the gift of a bronze life size George Best sculpture and to facilitate its installation on the new Boulevard at Olympia. The piece is currently in production by the art group Lecale Bronze. The group will raise public awareness and funds via a crowd funding website. Licencing rights from the George Best Company Ltd are being finalised and members of the George Best family have granted their support. The statue will be installed at the ‘T’ junction of the new boulevard at Olympia outside the new leisure facility. It will become the property of the Council for the purposes of ownership and maintenance.

## **Regional Stadium Public Art Project with IFA and DfC**

An additional art project is in development with the Department for Communities and the Irish Football Association via DfC's Regional Stadium Programme. The first artwork has already been installed at Kingspan Stadium, Ravenhill. It aims to contribute to shared cultural spaces and enhance the quality of life of local communities through engagement in cultural, arts and leisure activities. An artist's brief is currently being developed for the National Football Stadium at Windsor Park / Olympia by an external facilitator with extensive experience in developing public arts projects working with residents, coaches, football interest groups and other key stakeholders. Members are asked to note that the artist's brief will be brought back to the Working Group in December following this period of stakeholder engagement. Procurement of an artist can then be carried out from January with the aim to complete the work in line with the overall completion date of May 2018.

### **3.3 Naming the 'John Stewart Bell' entrance at Olympia Drive**

Members will recall that in April the Working Group endorsed a request from the community for the Olympia Drive entrance to Olympia to be named after John Stewart Bell, the eminent local physicist, in recognition of Mr. Bell's links to the area and his lasting impact on modern physics. This endorsement has now been approved by People and Communities Committee. The new name will be shown on signage at the entrance itself.

### **3.4 Launch Event**

An event is proposed to mark the completion of the Olympia Regeneration Project. This will include the launch of the new 3G pitch, the new playground, the new boulevard and the unveiling of the George Best Memorial Sculpture. Officers will work up a proposal over the coming months with the support of the recently launched Stadium Community Benefits Initiative and in partnership with the IFA, the artist collective and the George Best family. It is proposed that this event will take place on Tuesday 22 May 2018, which would have been George Best's 71<sup>st</sup> birthday. Members of the Working Group will be kept informed of plans for the event.

### **4.0 Conclusion**

Work is ongoing to progress the various projects by Property and Projects Department working alongside City and Neighbourhoods Services and other stakeholders. Members are asked to note the content of the above report."

After discussion, the Working Group noted the information contained within the report.

## Update on Local Investment Fund

The Director of Property and Projects submitted for the Working Group's consideration the following report:

### **“1. Introduction**

Through the Local Investment Fund members committed their initial allocation of £1,127,500 to 13 projects and the Phase 2 funding allocation of £800,000 to a further 10 projects. From the initial allocation of funding, the projects at Finaghy Bridge and Taughmonagh Community Forum are yet to pass due diligence, meaning 11 of the 13 projects are either practically complete or complete. Of the phase 2 allocation, eight of the 10 projects have passed through due diligence, with only Ormeau Boxing Club and Holylands Area Improvement Initiative yet to progress beyond this stage.

#### **Ormeau Boxing Club (SLIF2-10)**

Representatives from Ormeau Boxing Club have recently contacted council officers to inform them that they no longer wish to progress with their project due to their recent property move and uncertainty surrounding future moves. The original £40,000 awarded to this project is therefore available for reallocation. Members may wish to consider how they wish to reallocate this outstanding balance.

A full progress report of all projects has been circulated to the Working Group. The table below outlines the financial allocations and remaining balance.

PHASE	TOTAL ALLOCATION	AMOUNT ALLOCATED TO DATE	AMOUNT AVAILABLE
LIF1	£1,127,500	£1,127,500	£0
LIF2	£800,000	£760,000	£40,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£1,927,500</b>	<b>£1,887,500</b>	<b>£40,000</b>

### **2. Recommendations**

The Working Group is requested to:

- note the update on all LIF and LIF2 projects being delivered in South Belfast; and
- give consideration to reallocating the £40,000 previously awarded to Ormeau Boxing Club.”

After discussion, the Working Group noted the contents of the report and agreed:

- i. that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee be recommended to approve the transfer back into the LIF2 fund of the £40,000 which had been allocated to the Ormeau Boxing Club project;
- ii. to defer consideration of the reallocation of the £40,000 of LIF2 funding until the new year; and
- iii. that its next LIF report should include a detailed update on the Holylands Area Improvement Initiative (SLIF2-07).

### **Alleygating Programme**

The Working Group agreed that the Safer City Manager be invited to attend its next meeting to facilitate further discussion around elements of the alleygating programme for South Belfast.

### **Other Business**

#### **Request to Address a Future Meeting**

The Working Group acceded to a request which had been received from a representative of the Lower Ormeau Residents' Action Group to attend a future meeting in order to discuss the potential development of the John Murray lock house on the Lagan walkway.

#### **Date of Next Meeting**

The Working Group agreed to cancel its meeting which was due to take place on Monday, 18th December and noted that it would next meet at 4.30 p.m. on Monday, 22nd January.

Chairperson



# North Belfast Area Working Group

Thursday, 30th November, 2017

## NORTH BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP

Members present: Councillor McCabe (Chairperson);  
Aldermen McKee, Patterson and  
Councillors Campbell, Clarke, Corr Johnston,  
and Magee.

In attendance: Mr. G. Millar, Director of Property and Projects;  
Mr. N. Grimshaw, Director of City and  
Neighbourhood Services;  
Mr. G. Dickson, Policy Analyst; and  
Ms E. McGoldrick, Democratic Services Officer.

### **Apologies**

Apologies were reported on behalf of the Lord Mayor, Councillor McAllister, and Aldermen. Browne, Convery, Spence and Councillor McCusker.

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 31st October were agreed as an accurate record of proceedings.

### **Declaration of Interest**

Councillor Corr Johnston declared an interest in relation to 'Additional Item- Local Investment Fund Update', in that she was now employed by North Belfast Alternatives.

### **Decision Tracker**

The Working Group noted that the Decision Tracker document had been emailed to Members before the meeting and provided Members with a brief overview of actions since the last meeting held on 31st October.

### **Presentation – Ulster University**

The Chairperson welcomed to the meeting Prof. D. Morrow, Director of Community Engagement and Prof. R. Folli, Provost of the Belfast Campus.

Prof. Morrow provided an overview of the community outreach and development work the University had undertaken. He informed the Working Group that the aim of the University was to build permanent relationships with the area, increase access and participation in the learning city model and engage with the wider community.

He reported that civic contribution was an important part of the Ulster University's Strategic Plan and the university participated in inter-agency groups such as the Strategic Advisory Forum and the Community Campus Regeneration Forum to progress work plans and issues such as physical regeneration, social and economic change and educational outreach.

He advised that the University's Civic Contribution were as follows:

- Participation in neighbourhood meetings: Ashton Centre, Lancaster Street residents, Carrick hill Community Association, Churches;
- Belfast City Centre Management, Cathedral Quarter Business Improvement District, Cathedral Quarter Trust;
- 'Meet the Developer' day regarding student housing;
- Ulster Discovery Framework – linked to local schools;
- Campus Art Shop;
- Work with the business community and partners to design events;
- Cultural and other Programming: Interface Exhibition, Schools Art Exhibition, Cultural Corridor Day, Culture Night
- Community safety planning;
- Social clauses, in relation to building contracts; and
- Walk-in Art Room.

He informed the Working Group that Key Issues of community engagement were: construction of the new buildings, including neighborhood issues; maximise the regeneration impact with City Council and Cathedral Quarter; align educational outreach to meet community needs; community safety planning; Student Housing, Transport and Parking; Cultural Contribution; Student Program; and building a robust network.

He explained that future issues included:

- Civic Contribution;
- Higher Education and Regional Government;
- Belfast Agenda: Transport Planning; and
- Maximisation of Community Benefit.

During discussion, Prof. Morrow provided further information on the construction timescales of the new University building and advised that the building works should be completed in 2019, with a view for all students and staff to be relocated for the 2020 September semester.

Members raised concerns regarding the level and clustering of student housing already approved for the area surrounding the University, the car parking provision and the consultation and engagement that had taken place with local residents. Prof. Morrow advised that they recognised the importance of engagement with the local community and partnership working with all stakeholders. He highlighted that the University support some student managed accommodation but do not control the volume of development on private land. He confirmed he would update with residents who had contacted him regarding Lane St.

Prof. Folli advised that the current car park was essential as it had reserved special assistance parking and the University had been advised that the site location had been zoned for that reason.

Prof. Morrow advised that he would welcome the opportunity to provide further updates to the Working Group in relation to the Community Engagement to include an update on the student housing position of the University.

The Chairperson thanked the representative's for attending and they left the meeting.

Following further discussion, the Working Group noted the information which had been provided and agreed that the Working Group receive quarterly updates from the University regarding its community engagement and programme of building work.

The Working Group also agreed that advice be provided from Legal Services regarding the clustering of student accommodation and the appeals process at its next meeting.

### **Presentation – Urban Villages**

The Chairperson welcomed to the meeting Ms. L. Farrell, Programme Director, and Mr. C. McGurk who were in attendance in order to provide details on the Executive Office's North Belfast Urban Villages initiative.

With permission of the Chairperson, Ms. Farrell tabled an information pack in relation to the Urban Villages initiative. She informed the Working Group that it was a key action within the Northern Ireland Executive's 'Together: Building a United Community' Strategy, which had been designed to improve good relations outcomes and to help develop thriving places where there had previously been a history of deprivation and community tension. She confirmed that the three primary aims of the initiative were to foster positive community identities, to build community capacity and to improve the physical environment and outlined the objectives and outcomes associated with each of those.

She provided detail of the £400,000 capital project investments under the North Belfast initiative and updated the Working Group on some of the outstanding project works, which included:

- Ballysillan Youth for Christ Youth Club - completed;
- Crumlin Road and Ligoneil Road environmental improvements - work programme had been secured for the junction, to be completed by March, 2018.;
- Glenbryn Playpark - agreement had been reached for the transfer of land;
- Marrowbone Millennium Park - had reached the concept design stage, for consultation in January, 2018; and
- Ballysillan Park or Upper Crumlin Road environmental improvements - had reached the design stage.

She also advised that £350,000 had been allocated to revenue projects, which included 30 Community-led Projects and 6 cross cutting projects.

Mr. McGurk explained the wider stakeholder engagement process and presented an illustrated map which identified North Belfast Capital Pipeline Projects from 2017-2021.

Ms. Farrell highlighted the importance of partnership working in order to deliver the North Belfast Urban Villages initiative and stressed that a strategic approach to delivery was essential in order to ensure its success.

The Chairperson thanked the representative's for attending and they left the meeting.

During further discussion, the Director of Property and Projects highlighted that the enhancements to Ballysillan Playing Fields had now been formalised, therefore Urban Villages would be reminded to keep the Working Group up to date with the project.

The Working Group noted the update provided and welcomed the initiatives that had already been progressed.

### **Belfast Hills Update**

The Director of Property and Projects advised that he, along with the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services, had meet with National Trust representatives to discuss the potential revitalisation of the Belfast Hills.

He advised that the National Trust was keen to progress a wider regeneration programme of the Belfast Hills, however, there was challenges to be overcome in respect of landownership and boundaries. He indicated that negotiations were ongoing with the landowners but in the event that no resolution could be achieved it might become necessary for the Council to progress with Path Creation Orders.

He reported that the meeting had been constructive and both parties had agreed to share landownership maps and information. He highlighted that a site visit to the Belfast Hills would be arranged to enable the relevant officers to familiarise themselves with the area.

The Working Group noted that work to progress the Belfast Hills initiative was ongoing and that officers would continue to liaise with the National Trust and to update the Working Group in due course.

### **Additional Item- Local Investment Fund (LIF) Update**

With the permission of the Chairperson, the Director of Property and Projects tabled the following report:

#### **“1.0 Background**

**Members will be aware that there are two projects remaining which the North AWG have requested officers to report back on with further information before deciding if they wish to commit LIF support:**

- **Ardoyne Shankill Health Partnership (£TBD); and**
- **North Belfast Alternatives and Good Morning North Belfast (£TBD).**

**Following officer engagement with these groups, an update is now brought forward for consideration.**

**Updates are also provided on two existing LIF projects at Jennymount and Holy Cross Boxing Club.**

#### **2.0 Projects assessed for feasibility:**

## **2.1 North Belfast Alternatives and Good Morning North Belfast**

This proposal was identified as a potential LIF project by the Working Group on 23 November 2015. The feasibility of the project has now been examined in terms of possible eligibility for assistance. The project has scored below threshold and is now brought back to the Working Group for a decision.

Both groups operate out of flats leased from NIHE to Sunningdale Community Association. The lease is being terminated due to redevelopment by DfC and NIHE. NIHE require the groups out of the premises urgently due to the condition of the building. Feasibility testing on this LIF proposal was on hold until the groups found suitable new premises, which have now been secured via a private rental lease. The amount requested is £24,453 for new signage, furniture and phone/IT equipment.

The project was tabled at the Due Diligence meeting in October for consideration in principle. Under LIF, the lease period is considered insufficient (3 years with an option to extend by 2 years). The Board recommended that it is sent back to North AWG for a decision.

## **2.2 Ardoyne Shankill Health Partnership**

This proposal was identified as a potential LIF project by the Working Group on 28 October 2015. The feasibility of the project has now been examined in terms of possible eligibility for assistance. The project scored above threshold and is brought back to the Working Group for a decision.

Feasibility testing on this LIF proposal was held until the group knew what works Belfast Trust may require in order to secure a childcare licence, which is now in place. The project has reduced in scope as the Belfast Trust did not require any internal alterations, so the LIF request is for play equipment only at the new facility in the Houben Centre. The amount requested under LIF is £15,000.

## **3.0 LIF2 – Project Updates:**

### **3.1 NLIF073/NLIF2-20 - Jennymount Methodist Church**

The group have requested a phased delivery approach to allow them to deliver the heating enhancements first and hold the community garden/play area until partner funding can be sourced. The overall project is £12,000 over budget following a joint procurement exercise – hence the need to split the project – a few bids for partner funding to Alpha/Groundwork and Building Successful Communities were unsuccessful. The group are currently seeking quotes for the heating improvements to enable Due Diligence to consider the project again in December and release part of the funding in the new year.

**Members are asked to note this change to the project and confirm that it can proceed in two stages.**

**3.2 NLIF057 - Holy Cross Boxing Club**

**The original project was a contribution to a wider Sport NI scheme for Holy Cross Boxing Club to refurbish their premises in Flax Street. Due to circumstances outside the control of the group the premises at Flax Street are no longer available. The group has now moved to the former St Gemma's school and are seeking assistance through LIF.**

**The group will require a new project proposal and to be considered by the Due Diligence board. Members are asked to allow for this to proceed in this manner.”**

During discussion, the Working Group affirmed the positive work of North Belfast Alternatives and Good Morning North Belfast and the Director of Property and Projects explained the Due Diligence Process for the protection of Council funding and the requirement of a seven-year lease for such projects.

In relation to the potential Ardoyne Shankill Health Partnership project, he clarified that the request for only playground equipment had been considered feasible at the new facility in the Houben Centre.

After discussion, the Working Group:

- noted that the potential LIF project for Ardoyne Shankill Health Partnership had scored above the feasibility threshold and that the scope had changed to play equipment only at the new facility in the Houben Centre and required the amount of £15,000;
- agreed that the Director of Property and Projects would discuss the terms of the lease of the North Belfast Alternatives and Good Morning North Belfast premises with the Northern Ireland Housing Executive; and
- agreed that the following changes to the LIF proposals, that had been assessed for feasibility, be submitted to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for approval:
  - Jennymount Methodist Church – phased delivery approach to proceed in two stages to allow partner funding to be sourced: and
  - Holy Cross Boxing Club – a new project proposal for the alternative location at St. Gemma's to be submitted and considered by the Due Diligence Board.

**Future Agenda Items**

The Working Group noted the following future deputations and agenda items:

- Information sessions on Inner North Belfast Projects;
- Zoo Update;
- Harbour Commissioner Update;
- York Street Interchange Update;

- Update on the work of the support services/youth workers implemented by the DPCSP;
- Alleygate Update;
- Doggy Dynamo (pop up dog park); and
- Clustering of Student Accommodation – Legal services

The Working Group also noted that two requests had been received in relation to the local tourism infrastructure funding but as the item had been called in for reconsideration by the Council, the deputations could not be added to the list of future deputations until the matter had been resolved.

#### **Date of Next Meeting**

Members agreed that the next meeting of the Working Group be scheduled for January, 2018.

Chairperson

# East Belfast Area Working Group

Wednesday, 22nd November, 2017

## SPECIAL MEETING OF EAST BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP

Members present: The High Sheriff of Belfast, Alderman Haire (Chairperson);  
The Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Copeland;  
Aldermen McGimpsey, Rodgers; and  
Councillors Armitage, Graham, Johnston and Newton.

In attendance: Mr. R. Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources;  
Mr. N. Grimshaw, Director of City and  
Neighbourhood Services;  
Mr. G. Millar, Director of Property and Projects;  
Ms E. McGoldrick, Democratic Services Officer.

### Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Alderman Sandford and Councillors Dorrian, Howard, Kyle, Long, Mullan, McReynolds and O'Neill.

### Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were recorded.

### Presentation: Designs and Consultation Plans for Templemore Baths and Avoniel Leisure Centre

(Mr. B. Carr, Project Sponsor Officer, attended in connection to this item.)

The Director of Finance and Resources summarised the current position of the Leisure Transformation Programme in East Belfast. He reminded the Working Group of the proposed vision for Templemore Baths and Avoniel Leisure Centre which had been agreed by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in April, 2016.

He also reminded the Group that the current budget for the projects had been agreed by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in August, 2017.

The Chairperson welcomed representatives from the Integrated Consultancy Team, Mr. M. Hare, McAdam Design, and Ms. B. Lynch, Consarc Design, to the meeting.

Mr. Hare outlined the programme of work for Templemore Baths and provided an overview of the Stage 2 design together with illustrations and layout plans of the proposed restoration and extension to the building. He reminded the Working Group that the proposed design of the project included the following facilities:

- Heritage Site – for learning and engagement;
- Spa and Wellness Facility;
- Exercise Studio;
- Existing Pool/Learner Pool;



- New 25m 6 lane pool with partial moveable floor;
- Spectator seating to new pool;
- 80 station Gym;
- Parking; and
- Potential enterprise area (caretakers House/courtyard).

Ms. Lynch highlighted the importance of the existing listed building and explained how the old and new buildings would be connected.

During discussion, Members raised concerns regarding access points, car parking, impact on residents, length of time the development would take to build and consultation dates. One member also suggested the inclusion of bicycle racks in the design.

Mr. Hare provided an overview of the proposed development for Avoniel Sports Centre, which included Stage 2 designs illustrations and site plans. He advised that the core facilities and unique selling points of the Avoniel Leisure Centre were as follows:

- 1 seven-a-side pitch;
- 1 3G pitch;
- 2 five-a-side pitches;
- 3 covered five-a-side Pitches
- 240 covered seats
- 2 studios/multipurpose rooms plus supporting kitchen
- 6 team changing and 2 official changing rooms
- 2 multi-use rooms; and
- Car parking.

He highlighted that, since the last design update, one of the intended five-a-side pitches had been increased in size to a seven-a-side pitch which made the pitch provision compatible for all age groups on the IFA's small-sided games criteria.

During discussion, Members were informed of the physical connections and potential pathways between the facility and the wider area. Mr. Hare explained further the access points, the anticipated level of car parking and intended mix of leisure facilities of the proposal.

The Chairperson thanked the representatives for their presentation and they retired from the meeting.

The Director of Property and Projects advised that the next step in the process was Stage 2 - Consultation and, given the interdependencies between the two projects, it was suggested that the consultation for both of the developments would be undertaken in tandem. He explained that consultation information would be publicised in advance, using various methods, which included:

- an online survey - 28th November, 2017 - 14th January, 2018; and
- 9 public information sessions to be held at leisure, community and shopping centres.

He advised that delivery of the Avoniel Leisure Centre could not start until the Robinson Centre had been opened and highlighted that the Templemore Project was subject to a successful Heritage Lottery Fund application. He informed the Working Group of the timescales for the projects and advised that construction was anticipated to start in late 2019.

After discussion, the Working Group noted the designs and consultation timetable of the Templemore Baths and Avoniel Leisure Centre projects.

### **Templemore Baths - Future Management Options**

(Mr. C. Campbell, Divisional Solicitor, Legal Services, attended in connection to this item.)

The Director of Property and Projects reminded the Working Group that the Templemore Users Trust currently managed the Templemore Baths.

The Divisional Solicitor explained the legal requirements for the future management of the proposed new Templemore Baths facility. He pointed out that the Templemore Users Trust did not hold Business Tenancy Protection, therefore, it could not automatically continue to manage the new facility. He advised the Group of the two options for the future management of the Templemore Baths which included a procurement process or the inclusion of the new facility within the existing leisure services contract.

The Director of Finance and Resources advised that officers had met with the Templemore Users Trust to discuss the matter and would like to engage with them further to assess their role in the new facility.

During discussion, Members suggested that the Working Group should have been notified of this matter as soon as it had become apparent and that officers should consider the options for the continued involvement of the Templemore Users Trust. Members also raised concerns regarding the closure of the centre and access to an interim pool.

The Director of Finance and Resources advised that the programme of work had been scheduled in line with the Heritage Lottery Fund application process and, during construction, the facility would be required to close for approximately 25 months. He explained that, to progress the management options, further research was required to review best practice and business models of similar facilities, together with data analysis of costings and prospective usage.

The Working Group noted the information which had been provided and that the Council would continue to engage with the Templemore Users Trust regarding the matter.

### **Future Agenda Item**

Members noted that an update would be provided on the 3G pitch and floodlighting project at King George V Playing Fields (Stage 2 – Uncommitted) to the Working Group in due course.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

The Working Group noted that the next meeting would take place at 5.30pm on Thursday, 7th December.

Chairperson

# East Belfast Area Working Group

Thursday, 7th December, 2017

## MEETING OF EAST BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP

Members present: The High Sheriff of Belfast, Alderman Haire (Chairperson);  
The Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Copeland;  
Aldermen Rodgers and Sandford; and  
Councillors Armitage, Graham, Hussey, Johnston,  
Kyle, Long, McReynolds, Mullan, Newton,  
O'Donnell and O'Neill.

In attendance: Mr. N. Grimshaw, Director of City and  
Neighbourhood Services;  
Mrs. A. Allen, Safer City Manager;  
Mrs. T. Slevin, Programme Manager; and  
Mrs L. McLornan, Democratic Services Officer.

### **Apologies**

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Councillors Dorrian and Howard.

### **Minutes**

The Working Group agreed that the minutes of the meeting of 15th November were an accurate record of proceedings.

### **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were recorded.

### **Expression of Condolences**

The Chairperson, on behalf of the Working Group, expressed his condolences to Councillor Howard, on the death of her mother, Violet.

### **Update on Alleygates Phase 4**

The Area Working Group considered the undernoted report:

#### **“1.0 Purpose**

##### **1.1 The purpose of this report is to:**

- provide the Area Working Group with an update on the process agreed for selecting Phase 4 Alleygate locations
- to ask Members to agree the final gate locations for East Belfast Phase 4
- provide the Area Working Group with an update on the next steps

## **2.0 Background**

**2.1 As part of Phase 4 Alleygates (Capital Programme) East Belfast was allocated a budget of £210,000**

## **3.0 Key Issues**

### **Process for selecting Phase 4 Alleygate Locations**

**3.1 Members will recall that for Phase 3 Alleygates, proposed alleygate locations were determined as a result of a complex assessment matrix based on statistical evidence from a range of statutory bodies. A number of elected members argued that official statistics do not always fully represent actual need, as crime and anti-social behaviour is often under reported in some of the areas of greatest need across Belfast.**

**3.2 Therefore, a strategic review of alleygates took place in 2012 with a subsequent recommendation that;**

**‘Decision making should be informed by both statistical analysis but also critically by local knowledge and ‘soft’ data’.**

**3.3 The recommendation was adopted by Health and Environmental Services Committee at their meeting on 7 November 2012. The new process provided that Officers would provide each Area Working Group with statistical evidence of need based on statistics for consideration. Area Working Groups would then use their local knowledge to enrich this evidence of need before making a recommendation to Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.**

**3.4 This process has been followed with North, South and West Area Working Groups and all gate locations have been selected for Alleygates Phase 4 with Members considering the statistical evidence of need and then making final recommendations taking into account their local knowledge.**

**3.5 This process was also followed when East Belfast Area Working Group agreed the first batch of gates in June 2016. However, at that meeting of East Belfast Area Working Group, it was agreed that;**

**‘the remaining 46 gates should be installed in the streets identified as ‘high need’ by the PSNI, and that a reserve list would also be created from this list’**

**3.6 However, at its meeting in February 2017, East Belfast Area Working Group decided that Members should be given a further opportunity to suggest potential alleygate locations (rather than revert directly to the list based on police statistics) and that a future report on Members suggestions would be provided.**

- 3.7 Officers engaged with all East Belfast Elected Members during summer 2017 and a subsequent report was presented to East Area Working Group in October 2017 detailing all Member proposals and requesting a final decision on the remaining gate locations.
- 3.8 A subsequent amendment to the minute of the October 2017 meeting of East Belfast Area Working Group has resulted in Members requesting the list of gate locations based on police statistics provided again in order of priority and this is provided below.
- 3.9 For Members information the priority has identified based on the number of reports of crime and anti-social behaviour in/near a particular street between April 2016 and September 2017.
- 3.10 Members may recall that East Belfast has available budget remaining to install a further 28 alleygates maximum.

**PSNI Statistical Evidence of Need in Order of Priority**

High count ASB Y/N	High count Burglary Y/N	High Incident Y/N	Street	Number of gates required	Gating requests
N	N	Y	Avoniel Road	2	2
N	N	Y	Woodcot Avenue	4	2
N	N	Y	Melrose Avenue	2	3
N	N	Y	Lord Street	6	3
N	N	Y	Hyndford Street	12	0
N	N	Y	Greenville Road	6	2
N	N	Y	Clara Avenue	4	2
N	N	Y	Templemore Street	4	1
N	N	Y	Hollycroft Avenue	4	3
N	N	Y	Crystal Street	3	0
N	N	Y	Moorfield Street	3	0
N	N	Y	Kensington Avenue	4	1
N	N	Y	Glenbrook Avenue	4	1
N	N	Y	Beechwood Street	3	0
N	N	Y	Ravensdale Court	2	1
N	N	Y	Dunraven Avenue	12	0
N	N	Y	Chobham Street	3	0
N	N	Y	Moorgate Street	3	0
N	N	Y	Bramcote Street	4	2
N	N	Y	Lichfield Avenue	4	1

- 3.11 Members are also reminded that the gate locations previously suggested by Members (as presented to East Belfast Area Working Group in October 2017) are detailed below:

Gate Location	Number of Gates	Proposed By
Ardmore/Rossmore Avenue	4	Cllrs Long and Mullan
Beechfield Street	4	Cllr Armitage
Carrington Street	2	Cllr Newton
Clara Street	2	Cllr Kyle
Derwent Street	2	Cllr Dorrian
Donard Street	11	Cllrs Armitage and Copeland
Grace Avenue	2	Cllrs Armitage and Newton
Imperial Street	2	Cllr Armitage
Jocelyn Street	2	Emma Little-Pengelly MLA
Lichfield Avenue	8	Cllr Newton
Lisbon Street	3	Cllr Armitage
London Road	15	Cllr Armitage
Parkgate Avenue	4	Cllr Dorrian
Ravenhill Avenue/Florida Dr	3	Emma Little-Pengelly MLA
Ravenhill Street	6	Cllr Armitage
Sintonville Avenue	5	Cllr McReynolds
Titania Street	2	Cllr McGimpsey
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>77</b>	

- 3.12 Members are asked to agree the final reserve list (28 gates approximately).

#### 4.0 Resource Implications

- 4.1 £700,000 of Capital Programme funding has already been allocated for the delivery of Alleygates Phase 4.

- 4.2 £210,000 of this capital funding was allocated to East Belfast

#### 5.0 Equality and Good Relations Implications

- 5.1 There are no equality or good relations implications at this stage; however, this will be reviewed on an ongoing basis as key decisions are taken.

#### 6.0 Recommendations

- 6.1 Councillors are requested to:

- Consider the contents of the report
- Finalise the reserve list and give Officers authority to complete East Belfast Phase 4.”

The Safer City Manager reminded the Working Group that, at its previous meeting on 15th November, it had requested that a list of gate locations based on police statistics, in order of priority, be provided to the Group for its consideration.

She outlined that she needed the Working Group to agree on the final reserve list for the area, consisting of approximately 28 gates.

A Member questioned why Ardmore/Rossmore Avenue were not on the PSNI statistics list, given that there had been a high number of burglaries in that area.

The Safer City Manager advised the Working Group that neither Ardmore Avenue, nor Rossmore Avenue, featured on the PSNI's list of ASB/Burglary or incident hotspots.

During discussion, a Member suggested that Ardmore/Rossmore Avenue, Donard Street and Grace Avenue should have gates installed, totalling 17 gates, on the basis that they had all been requested by representatives of more than one political party.

The Safer City Manager advised the Working Group that an email from a Member had been missed during the selection process and that Carrington Street had also been suggested by representatives from more than one party, which required 2 gates.

During discussion, a further Member added that she had previously requested that 4 gates be installed in Beechfield Street, which added to the support from a representative of a different party.

The Chairperson advised the Working Group that those gates which had been requested by representatives from more than one political party totalled 23 gates.

The Safer City Manager advised the Working Group that this left around 5 gates to be determined and she explained that she therefore required direction from the Group on how to allocate the last five, considering that, for various reasons, it was not always possible to secure gates in all of the suggested locations.

A Member advised the Working Group that she had secured separate funding for 3 alleygates to be installed in Lisbon Street, and that it could therefore be removed from the Members' suggestions list.

A further Member requested that two gates for Clara Street be given consideration, given that it was the top location on the Members' suggestions list, in priority order of PSNI statistics.

After discussion, the Working Group to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, the installation of:

- 4 gates in Ardmore/Rossmore Avenue;
- 11 gates in Donard Street;
- 2 gates in Grace Avenue;
- 2 gates in Carrington Street; and
- 4 gates in Beechfield Street.

It further agreed that the Safer City Manager would create a reserve list by working down the following Members' suggestions list, in priority order based on PSNI statistics, based on affordability:

<b>Gate Location</b>	<b>Number of Gates</b>
Clara Street	2
London Road	15
Ravenhill Street	6
Titania Street	2
Jocelyn Street	2
Imperial Street	2
Parkgate Avenue	4
Derwent Street	2
Sintonville Avenue	5
Lichfield Avenue	8
Ravenhill Avenue/Florida Drive	3

## **Presentation**

### **Urban Villages**

The Chairperson advised the Working Group that Ms. L. Farrell, Programme Director of Urban Villages, and Mr. C. McGurk, Capital Delivery Manager, were in attendance and they were admitted to the meeting.

The Programme Director informed the Working Group that the Urban Villages Initiative was a key action within the Northern Ireland Executive's 'Together: Building a United Community' Strategy, which had been designed to improve good relations outcomes and to help develop thriving places where there had previously been a history of deprivation and community tension. She confirmed that the three primary aims of the initiative were to foster positive community identities, to build community capacity and to improve the physical environment and she outlined the objectives and outcomes associated with each of those.

Mr. McGurk provided the Working Group with a summary of the investment to date in the Lower Newtownards Road area. He reported that £1.3million had been allocated towards funding capital projects in the EastSide area and £350,000 towards revenue projects. He advised the Members that there were 7 existing projects and another 15 proposed capital projects in the pipeline.

He advised that the Frazer Pass Public Realm scheme, the Pocket Park at EastSide Visitors Centre and the Belfast Bikes at C. S. Lewis Square as examples of some of the work which had been carried out by Urban Villages in the area.

The Director of City and Neighbourhood Services provided the Committee with an overview of the work which was ongoing between Urban Villages and the Council, and outlined that his Department, along with the Department of Property and Projects and the Development Department were all working closely to ensure that no duplication was taking place and that the outputs were being maximised.

The Chairperson thanked the representatives for their presentation and they left the meeting.

### **Local Investment Fund (LIF) Update**

Mrs T. Slevin, Project Manager, provided an updated list of the status of each LIF project. She outlined that 7 out of the 8 projects of LIF1 had been completed. The eighth project, namely the Westbourne Presbyterian Community Church project, which had received



partnership funding from The Executive Office through the Social Investment Fund, was in the second stage of design team procurement.

The Members were advised that, in the second phase of LIF, all projects had now passed through the due diligence stage, with project works being delivered or completed in 9 out of the 12 projects.

The Working Group noted the update.

### **Schedule of Meetings 2018**

The Working Group agreed to meet on the following dates in 2018:

- Thursday, 11th January
- Thursday, 8th February
- Thursday, 8th March
- Thursday, 5th April
- Thursday, 3rd May
- Thursday, 7th June
- *No meetings in July*
- Thursday, 2nd August
- Thursday, 6th September
- Thursday, 4th October
- Thursday, 8th November
- Thursday, 6th December

### **Date of Next Meeting**

The Working Group noted that the next meeting would take place at 5.00pm on Thursday, 11th January, 2018.

Chairperson

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## Minutes of Budget and Transformation Panel Meeting 7<sup>th</sup> December 2017

### In Attendance

Members:

Councillor Brian Heading (for Cllr Attwood)  
Councillor Billy Hutchinson  
Councillor Michael Long  
Councillor Matt Garrett (for Cllr McVeigh)  
Councillor Lee Reynolds  
Alderman Jim Rodgers (for Alderman D Browne)

Apologies: Alderman Browne, Cllr McVeigh, Cllr Attwood

Officers:

Suzanne Wylie, Chief Executive  
Ronan Cregan, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources  
John Walsh, City Solicitor  
Nigel Grimshaw, Director of City and Neighbourhood Services (for item 1)  
Emer Husbands, Strategic Performance Manager (secretariat)

### 1. Belfast Zoo

The Director of City and Neighbourhood Services provided the panel with an update on the review of Belfast Zoo. A report on options was being developed and would be presented to the City Growth and Regeneration Committee in February 2018. Members asked that the review is also brought back to Budget Panel for discussion.

### 2. ECOC 2023

The Chief Executive outlined to the members that the five UK Cities who were preparing bids for the European Capital of Culture 2023 were working together to provide a joint response on the decision that they were now not able to complete the application process due to Brexit.

### 3. Revenue Estimates 2017-18

The Director of Finance and Resources updated the panel on the revenue estimating process for 2017 – 18 following the party group briefings. He highlighted the change in the EPP and also the final pay increase which is agreed nationally, and therefore is an added uncontrollable cost. In addition, a request had been received from People and Communities Committee to allocate £200,000 to the Boxing Strategy. The panel discussed options on areas where savings could possibly be made to fund these additional costs.

#### **4. Developers Contributions**

The City Solicitor circulated a paper outlining the proposal for the development of a Developers Contribution Framework and it was agreed that a workshop would be held with Members in January to discuss the draft policy. The panel welcomed this framework and agreed that it should be progressed as quickly as possible.

#### **5. Strategy and Prioritisation Workshop**

The Chief Executive proposed to set up a series of workshops linked to the Belfast Agenda and it was agreed that her office would circulate dates to Party Group Leaders.

#### **6. Recruitment Update**

The Chief Executive updated members on the current recruitment process for Directors.

#### **7. Notices of Motion**

The Chief Executive reminded the panel that there were previous discussions in relation to how we may limit the number of notices of motion considered at each council meeting. It was agreed that the previous paper which was considered at committee in May 2016 would be circulated and that this would be discussed by individual party groups.

#### **8. Planning Updates**

The Chief Executive informed the panel of the applications that were being presented to the Planning Committee this month.

#### **9. AOB**

Bonfire Review

Tom Frawley to attend a future meeting of the Party Group Leaders Forum and a report will subsequently be brought to SP&R.



<b>Subject:</b>	Grenfell Tower Fire – Update on actions of Belfast City Council
<b>Date:</b>	15 December 2017
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Walsh, City Solicitor, Ext. 6042
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Stephen Hewitt, Building Control Manager, Ext. 2435

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	Arising from the Notice of Motion; ‘Cladding on flats and high rise buildings’ which was considered at the SP&R meeting of 18 August this report is to inform Members of the actions that have been undertaken in the wake of the tragedy.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	Members are asked to note the contents of the report.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
	<u>Background</u>
3.1	It has been nearly six months since the fire at Grenfell tower where many residents lost their lives. The inquiry into the fire has now opened, with its chairman promising it will provide answers to how the disaster could have happened in the 21st century.
3.2	The fire started in a Hotpoint fridge freezer on the fourth floor and spread to the external cladding system. The London fire brigade were faced with an unprecedented level of rapid fire spread through the tower with 40 fire engines and more than 200 firefighters tackling the blaze.
3.3	The fire affected most of the floors of the building and destroyed 151 homes, both in the tower and surrounding areas. It has recently been confirmed that 71 lives have been lost as a result of the fire.
3.4	The cladding system installed at Grenfell is the main focus in relation to the rapid fire spread over the envelope of the building. The external cladding panel was a polyethylene (PE) filled aluminum panel (ACM). The insulation installed on the tower as part of the cladding system was a polyisocyanurate (PIR) insulation material.

3.5	On 6 July an Independent Expert Advisory Panel recommended a series of large scale fire tests to establish the performance of a range of ACM panels in conjunction with a range of insulation materials in order to help building owners make decisions on any further measures that may need to be put in place.
3.6	The testing was carried out by the Building Research Establishment (BRE) and involved large scale fire tests to BS 8414 which is currently one of the methods of determining compliance with national Building Regulations across the UK.
3.7	The type of ACM and insulation material employed on Grenfell was tested and failed to meet the performance criteria contained in BRE135 - Fire Performance of External Thermal Insulation for Walls of Multi-Storey Buildings.
3.8	The Building Regulations guidance in England, which is similar to that in Northern Ireland, has been called into question and is certainly unclear with regard to ACM panels. Many industry experts hold the view that the guidance as it stands does not prevent the use of PE filled ACM's and that this must be reviewed.
3.9	On 28 <sup>th</sup> July 2017 the Department for Communities and Local Government announced an independent review of building regulations and fire safety in England. This independent review will be led by Dame Judith Hackitt, Chair of EEF, the Manufacturers' Organisation, and will look at current Building Regulations and fire safety with a particular focus on high rise residential buildings.
3.10	The outcome, including any subsequent change to both regulations and guidance in England, will greatly influence any change to the Building Regulations in Northern Ireland which has closely followed the requirements in England since implementation.
<u>Actions of Belfast City Council in relation to NIHE high rise residential blocks</u>	
3.11	Since the fire at Grenfell tower the Building Control Service have been providing advice to the NIHE in relation to the external cladding systems employed on 4 of their 32 high rise residential blocks in N. Ireland.
3.12	Specifically we have carried out site inspections of the 4 blocks, all of which are in Belfast. Two of these blocks, Eithne House and Cuchulain House in the New Lodge are in the North of the city and two are in the East, Carnet House, Upper Newtownards Road and Whincroft House in the Braniel estate.
3.13	These inspections involved removing cladding panels to check the materials and products used and also checking fire separation measures around windows and at compartment floors and walls.
3.14	We have also reviewed the suitability of the two different cladding systems used on these blocks, both of which have undergone large scale fire testing to BS8414, and both were found to be in compliance with Building Regulations.
3.15	It should be emphasised that none of the Housing Executive tower blocks have Aluminium Composite Material, rainscreen cladding similar to that used in Grenfell tower block.
3.16	The Service have also provided advice on other aspects of fire safety in the 4 high rise blocks including methods of staircase and landing lobby smoke ventilation.
One of our Assistant Building Control Managers, Alan Mayrs, has been nominated onto an	

3.17	<p>independent review group set up by the NIHE and chaired by Professor Alastair Adair of Ulster University. The group will assess all aspects of fire safety in relation to NIHE properties but has a central focus on high rise properties. There have been 6 meetings of the group and its findings are contained in a report which was taken to the NIHE Board on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2017.</p>
3.18	<p>It is important to note that once a building has been completed for the purposes of Building Regulations the Council has no power of continuing control as to how that building is maintained or operated. Nor is it the case that we can retrospectively apply the Regulations to existing buildings although improvements to fire safety may be enforced by other legislation such as the Fire Services Order if appropriate.</p>
3.19	<p><u>Evacuation procedures from high rise residential blocks</u></p> <p>Queries have been raised about the concept of the Building Regulations design guidance which advocates a 'stay put' strategy in the event of fire in a high rise apartment block.</p>
3.20	<p>This is a concept that only the flat on fire needs to evacuate and that all residents in all the other flats will be safe to remain in their flat unless evacuation beyond the flat of origin becomes necessary due to a growing fire. Any such evacuation would be a controlled evacuation with the Fire Brigade removing those at greatest risk first.</p>
3.21	<p>The reason that this concept is considered safe is that each flat is designed and constructed as a self-contained fire compartment with each flat separated from the other flats adjacent, above and below by walls and floors which are of fire resisting construction. The amount of fire resistance required is specified in periods of time and can range from 30 minutes to 120 minutes depending on the size of the development.</p>
3.22	<p>The flats are also separated from the common corridor or lobby area by fire resisting walls and smoke ventilation may also be required to corridors or lobbies leading to the stairs depending on factors such as travel distance, number of stairs and height of the building.</p>
3.23	<p>The staircase enclosures will also be of fire resisting construction and will be required to have smoke ventilation installed.</p>
3.24	<p>Nationally the design of residential blocks of flats under Building Regulations and the associated British Standards are based on this 'stay put' concept. To move away from this would mean a complete shift by Government from established fire safety design principles.</p>
3.25	<p>However following a fire in Kensington and Chelsea and in Lakanal House in Southwark in 2009 it is clear this can sometimes go wrong. We won't have any recommendations from the investigation into Grenfell for some time but there seems a strong link to the work carried out to provide an external thermally insulated over cladding system to the building. We know from the investigations at Lakanal house that the serious fire spread that occurred was strongly influenced by building works carried out to the building over many years that compromised the original fire safety features of Lakanal House. While these works were not the sole reason the fire got so out of control they were a very relevant factor.</p>
3.26	<p><u>Local experience of fire in high rise accommodation</u></p> <p>Members will be aware that a fire recently broke out in NIHE high rise accommodation at Coolmoyne House in Dunmurry. Thankfully, no-one was seriously injured and everyone was successfully evacuated from the building but there was some concern from residents that there had been no general fire alarm sounded.</p>

3.27	<p>However, the NIFRS confirmed that the fire alarm system had worked as intended in that the alarm in the flat where the fire occurred operated and automatic smoke vents linked to the detection system in the common areas also successfully operated in the communal hallway.</p>
3.28	<p>Each flat has self-contained smoke alarms, the flat in question had three smoke detectors and they worked, and other residents' alarms should not go off unless they detected smoke. It is not the case that there would be sounders in the common hallway as these are not necessary (nor advisable) for flats built in accordance with the codes.</p>
3.29	<p>In relation to evacuation procedures the NIFRS have issued fire safety advice for residents of high rise accommodation which can be accessed online at: -  <a href="https://www.nifrs.org/fire-safety-advice-residents-high-rise-accommodation/">https://www.nifrs.org/fire-safety-advice-residents-high-rise-accommodation/</a></p>
3.30	<p>In addition the NIHE have also issued advice for housing executive tenants which can be accessed online at:-  <a href="https://www.nihe.gov.uk/index/advice/advice_for_housing_executive_tenants/advice_safety/fire_safety/highrise_buildings.htm">https://www.nihe.gov.uk/index/advice/advice_for_housing_executive_tenants/advice_safety/fire_safety/highrise_buildings.htm</a></p>
<p><u>Other actions of Belfast City Council</u></p>	
3.31	<p>The Service have carried out a review of the building regulations requirements and guidance across the UK in relation to external fire spread over the surface of a building to inform the NIHE independent review group and to establish how our own legislation in NI compares with legislation in GB.</p>
3.32	<p>The Building Standards Branch (BSB) of the Department of Finance is responsible for the Building Regulations (NI) Order 1979 and for updating all fire safety requirements and guidance issued under the Regulations (Part E: Fire Safety). Since the fire we have, along with Building Control colleagues in the rest of N.Ireland, been working with BSB to review the methods of compliance and standards incorporated into fire safety guidance relevant to external fire spread and also on the issue of automatic fire suppression.</p>
3.33	<p>Based on these discussions an informative was issued by BSB in relation to the use of BRE 135 and large scale fire testing as a method of Building Regulations compliance in N. Ireland.</p>
3.34	<p>Within Building Control all our surveyors have been fully updated on the requirements and guidance in relation to external fire spread contained in Building Regulations and we have asked them all to review records over the last 2 years to ensure there are no issues in relation to external cladding assemblies in high rise buildings. To date we have not identified any buildings where the cladding has been cause for concern.</p>
3.35	<p>In response to a letter to the Chief Executive from the Head of the NI Civil Service requiring all public authorities to check for ACM type cladding systems (see table below for relevant premises) our colleagues in Property &amp; Projects have reviewed all relevant Council buildings and found we have no buildings that fall within the parameters outlined.</p>



<b>Trigger heights for investigation of ACM Cladding Systems</b>			
<b>Building Use</b>	<b>Overnight accommodation</b>	<b>Trigger Height/storey*</b>	<b>Test?</b>
Schools	Yes	Any height	Yes
	No	18 metres or more	Yes
Health care facilities (including Hospitals)	Yes	2 storeys or more	Yes
	No	18 metres or more	Yes
All other buildings	Yes	18 metres or more	Yes

*\* Height is measured from ground level at its lowest point to the upper surface of the top storey (excluding plant rooms)*

3.36 This letter was also sent to Departmental Permanent Secretaries and responses sought from them in relation health care and school buildings. Those buildings where any testing or follow up action is required will be the responsibility of the relevant government Department to address.

**4.0 Appendices**

4.1 Appendix 1 – Additional information about Building Regulations and also the role of NIFRS.

## Appendix 1

### The current requirements under Building Regulations

The current Building Regulations are mostly non-prescriptive performance based requirements. The functional requirements of the Building Regulations mean there are many different ways of meeting the requirements using a combination of materials and techniques.

Fire safety regulations contained in the Building Regulations are a complex subject and require detailed knowledge to understand the requirements.

In the case of flats, all elements of structure including floors and stair cores are constructed to have a minimum period of fire resistance. The period of fire resistance would vary with the height of the building. Each flat is also constructed with a minimum period of fire resistance depending on the height of the building to prevent fire spread between flats.

To prevent the building from premature collapse the structural elements are protected to withstand the fire and heat for a specified period of time.

There are also provisions to prevent fire and smoke spreading unseen in cavities and concealed areas.

External walls are constructed such that the risk of ignition from an external source, the spread of flame over an external surface and the spread of fire from one building to another are restricted. In addition roofs are constructed in order to restrict the spread of flame and the potential for fire penetration from an external source. The requirements are determined by the proximity of other buildings and the boundaries.

Building Regulations cannot be retrospectively applied to existing buildings although improvements to fire safety may be enforced by other legislation such as the Fire Services Order if appropriate.

### Role of the NIFRS

In high rise apartments the Fire and Rescue Service are the enforcing authority for facilities provided for the protection of firefighters, such as dry or wet risers, firefighting shafts, firefighting lifts and smoke extraction systems.

As flats are domestic premises they do not have any enforcement role as they do not fall within the remit of the Fire Services Order.

Recent advice published on the NIFRS website following the Grenfell disaster states:

*“In light of this unprecedented incident, we wish to reassure people living in high rise accommodation in Northern Ireland that fires of this scale are extremely rare however we are providing fire safety advice for anyone concerned and living in a high rise building.*

*We carry out regular visits to high-rise buildings across Northern Ireland and our Firefighters are routinely involved in training exercises to respond to incidents in these types of buildings”.*

#### Advice for people living in high-rise accommodation

*Check if your building has a fire policy which will advise you on a specific fire safety plan for that building in the event of a fire – this will determine your emergency plan. High-rise buildings are designed to resist fire, stop the spread of smoke and provide a safe means of escape. Your*

*building's fire policy may dictate that you remain in your flat during an incident unless you are directly affected by the fire.*

*For more information visit <https://www.nifrs.org/fire-safety/community-information-bulletins>*

*If you are concerned about your fire safety or the fire safety of a family member or friend contact NIFRS Prevention and Protection Department on 028 92664221.*

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