

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



**Belfast
City Council**

4th December, 2018

MEETING OF CITY GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in the Lavery Room - City Hall on Wednesday, 5th December, 2018 at 5.15 pm, for the transaction of the business noted below.

You are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully,

SUZANNE WYLIE

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

1. Routine Matters

- (a) Apologies
- (b) Minutes
- (c) Declarations of Interest

2. Presentations

- (a) Steer Economic Development - Draft Enterprise Framework for Belfast
- (b) Draft Enterprise Framework for Belfast (Pages 1 - 6)

3. Request to Present to Committee

- (a) Request to Present to Committee - ICC Belfast and Visit Belfast (Pages 7 - 8)

4. Regenerating Places and Improving Infrastructure

- (a) Update on Bank Buildings: City Centre Recovery Programme (Pages 9 - 26)

- (b) Belfast at MIPIM 2019 (Pages 27 - 34)
 - (c) Belfast Bikes Scheme – Performance Report (Pages 35 - 40)
 - (d) Update on Belfast Region City Deal (Pages 41 - 44)
 - (e) Update on Transport Hub (Pages 45 - 68)
5. **Positioning Belfast to Compete**
- (a) Long-Term Cultural Strategy for Belfast (Pages 69 - 72)
(Including a presentation and an update on events and festivals)
 - (b) Update on Eastern Economic Corridor (Pages 73 - 76)
6. **Strategic and Operational Issues**
- (a) Belfast Zoo – Closures for Maintenance and Training (Pages 77 - 78)
 - (b) Belfast Partners (Pages 79 - 82)
7. **Finance, Procurement and Performance**
- (a) Financial Reporting – Quarter 2 2018/2019 (Pages 83 - 92)
8. **Issues Raised in Advance by Members**
- (a) 20x20 Campaign for Women's Sport
- Councillor O'Hara to raise:
- “This Council supports and endorses the 20x20 campaign for women’s sport which aims to achieve:
- 20 per cent more media coverage of women in sport by the end of 2020;
 - 20 per cent more female participation, whether at player, coach, referee or administration level, by the end of 2020; and
 - 20 per cent more attendance at women’s’ games and events by the end of 2020.
- By supporting this, the council will actively seek opportunities to highlight women’s’ roles within sport, and opportunities to showcase women in sport through our marketing and promotion of events. Building on our successful hosting of the Women's Rugby World Cup and UEFA under 19 women’s’ championships, the Council will, through our ambitious city events programme, seek to attract major women’s’ sporting events where possible.”

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Subject:	Draft Enterprise Framework for Belfast
Date:	5th December, 2018
Reporting Officer:	John Greer, Director of Economic Development, ext. 3470
Contact Officer:	Cathy Keenan, Assistant Economic Development Manager, ext. 3520

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to provide an update to Members on the Enterprise Framework for Belfast.
1.2	Members will be aware that the Council has been working with partners to develop an agreed approach to investment in enterprise support in the city to focus on increasing the number of business start-ups and making existing businesses more productive and competitive. The work is supported by more than 30 partners active in the delivery of enterprise and business support activity across Belfast including Catalyst Inc., Prince's Trust, the Enterprise Agency network, the universities and Belfast Metropolitan College.

1.3	This report sets out some of the key information to be included as part of the presentation by the team from Steer Economic Development – the expert team that has been working with officers on the development of the framework.
2.0	Recommendations
	<p>The Committee is requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • approve the ambition and priorities for Belfast through the Enterprise Framework; • agree to Council officers working in partnership with the Enterprise and Business Growth working group (EBGWG) to agree next steps and key actions to realise the ambition of the framework and; • consider and approve the allocation of £50,000 from the existing 2018/2019 Economic Development budget to support the delivery of the Scale Up initiative in partnership with Catalyst Inc and Invest NI which will commence in January 2019.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Members will be aware that, as part of the transfer of functions and Local Government Reform, responsibility for business start-up and support for under-represented groups in terms of enterprise support transferred to Councils.
3.2	<p>In 2017, the Council convened an Enterprise and Business Growth Working Group to support the achievement of the economic priorities set out in the Belfast Agenda, and work collectively towards addressing Belfast's 'Enterprise Economy' challenges around business start-up and growth. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low business start-up rates: the 2016 Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) reported that the levels of total entrepreneurial activity in Northern Ireland were 6.3%, significantly lower than in England (9.2%) and the UK average (8.8%) • High levels of business deaths: Since 2008, there has been a tendency for business deaths to outnumber the creation of new firms • Rebalance the economy: Belfast is too reliant on the public sector. Approximately 1/3 of employment in the city is within this sector • Employment opportunities: the long-term unemployment rate has fallen, albeit very slightly, over the period between 2014 and 2017 and is currently at 45.2%. However, this is still almost double that of the UK, where the rate is currently 25.3%

	<p>Business Survival Rates: Belfast's start up rate per 10,000 populations is the highest in the region, which averages at 24.4% this, is significantly lower than the UK average of 45.7%.</p> <p>However, the three-year survival rate of businesses in Belfast sits at 55.3%, higher than the UK average of 54.4%. Belfast is also the best place for businesses to reach £1m turnover in their first three years in the UK. The figures beyond that indicate that firms in Belfast are less likely to scale to £3m turnover than companies based on other parts of the UK.</p>
3.3	<p>Taking account of its statutory remit in this area, the Council has brought together the key enterprise partners to explore opportunities for a more collaborative approach to addressing these challenges and making Belfast a great place to start and grow a business. Partners agreed to develop an enterprise framework around which they could focus activity and investment.</p>
3.4	<p>The objectives of the framework – agreed by the Enterprise and Business Growth Working Group – were to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set the ambition for Belfast by establishing targets to enable Belfast to achieve rates of entrepreneurship and business start activity comparative to other relevant cities • Identify initiatives, programmes and/or projects to be delivered through a partnership approach to achieve the ambitions/targets set • Inform future investment decisions for Belfast City Council and the Enterprise and business growth working group partners • Consider the appropriate management and governance arrangements to deliver against the framework.
3.5	<p>Steer Economic Development was commissioned to develop the Enterprise Framework for Belfast in Spring 2018. Their work to date has involved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A review of the existing activity to support enterprise • A series of targeted consultations with local stakeholders from the public and private sector • Workshops with 29 stakeholders to test and refine the emerging framework thinking • Research to establish key metrics to implement, monitor and evaluate progress performance.
3.6	<p>Some of the more developed findings have now been shared with the Enterprise and Business Growth Working Group. There is consensus among the group on the ambition and</p>

	<p>the priorities that the framework identifies and also recognition that a significant amount of work needs to take place to realise this. This will also require a cultural change to the current funding-led approach, where the metrics focus on participants engaged rather than more qualitative outcomes that would align with the Belfast Agenda ambitions.</p>
3.7	<p>The draft Enterprise Framework includes a vision which sets out the ambition for the city as a great place to start and grow a business. It also outlines the steps to be take for Belfast to be <i>“recognised for its diverse community of entrepreneurs, who benefit from a comprehensive, planned and coherent system of enterprise support, which fulfils their needs at all stages of the business growth life-cycle”</i>.</p>
3.8	<p>This vision is supported by four thematic priorities which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • enable a vibrant and productive business base; • nurture a strong entrepreneurial culture, recognising enterprise as a viable career option; • nurture a strong entrepreneurial culture, recognising enterprise as a route out of economic inactivity; and • be characterised by clear leadership, co-ordination and communication
3.9	<p>Success will be measured through the following metrics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business Birth Rates • Business Survival Rates at 3 and 5 years • Levels of entrepreneurial activity.
3.10	<p>Some of the key actions to required to enable Belfast to achieve these targets include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of the Enterprise and Business Growth Working Group governance structure aligned to the recommendations of the framework and the governance procedures of the Growing the Economy theme in the Belfast Agenda • Development of a shared brand, communication strategy and potential MIS (management information system) that encorporates partner services and better supports entrepreneurs to navigate their journey through the enterprise landscape • Establishment of an incentive scheme which removes barriers to enable potential entrepreneurs to explore entrepreneurship as a viable option • Establishment of a Belfast based programme that works with entrepreneurs, SME’s and investors to facilitate access to market funds.

3.11	<p>While the Council now has statutory responsibility for the business start element of enterprise, it still has a relatively modest budget for this work, which is currently supplemented by EU funding resources. A key consideration for the long-term strategy will be to look at the level of resourcing required – across all parties – to achieve the targets set, focusing on both the social inclusion angle (enterprise as a response to economic inactivity) and the productivity challenge (supporting the development and growth of competitive, export-focused businesses).</p>
3.12	<p>The framework notes that this is a long-term challenge that will need to remain an area of focus for some time if things are to change. It proposes a series of short-term interventions (to 2021) alongside longer-term plans (to 2035). The Framework does not address specific interventions required to support the development and growth of the social enterprise sector. The main aim is to address the structural issues across the enterprise sector in Belfast, to reduce fragmentation and encourage a more collaborative and coordinated approach to delivery.</p>
3.13	<p>Subject to agreement of the framework by the Council, officers will re-engage with the Enterprise and Business Growth Working Group to agree the programme of work and resource allocations required to improve performance.</p>
3.14	<p>One of the key challenges identified through the enterprise framework is the need to encourage more businesses to scale and grow to turnover of more than £3million. In May 2018, in partnership with Catalyst Inc. and Invest NI, Belfast City Council provided support to 10 high- growth start-ups to participate in a Belfast Mass Challenge Programme. Mass Challenge is a global incubator, based in Belfast's sister city of Boston. It has a global reputation and has supported more than 1,500 start-up businesses, creating in excess of 80,000 jobs between them. The aim of Mass Challenge was to identify and accelerate the top start-ups in Belfast, connecting them to the global market and Mass Challenge's global network. Following an application process, 10 successful startups participated in an intensive multiday bootcamp in Boston in May 2018. Over the week long bootcamp the businesses made over 100 network introductions, and 50 one to one mentoring sessions. 100% of the programme feedback has been positive with participants commenting that the support has benefited their Go to Market strategy for the US, supported the development of their US networks and enabled them to access US investment opportunities. A full evaluation is underway to establish the economic impact of the support.</p>

3.15	<p>Building on the learning from the Mass Challenge experience, officers have been working with Catalyst Inc and Invest NI to consider how we can extend the support available to eligible businesses and continue the momentum of the MassChallenge Initiative. Catalyst Inc. have now taken this learning and have developed a proposal for a “Scale Up” initiative. This will provide practical support to 10 businesses to encourage CEO transformation, business modelling and sales strategy support for those businesses with the ambition to scale. The programme will encompass three core elements, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 week Boston Residential at Massachusetts Institute of Technology’s Entrepreneurship Development Programme • Interim peer-to-peer workshops with Catalyst Inc designed to maximise peer learning and address real-time business challenges • 1 week Boston residential at MassChallenge which focuses on go to market strategies and tactics
3.16	<p>The programme will be delivered in partnership with Catalyst Inc and Invest Northern Ireland. The overall cost of the programme will be £211,000. Given the alignment with the ambitions set out in the enterprise framework it is recommended that this is supported with funding of £50,000 to maximise the take-up by Belfast-based businesses, this equates to 23% of the overall programme cost. Invest NI, Catalyst Inc and the participating companies will cover the cost of the remainder (INI 30%, Catalyst Inc 24%, Participants 23%).</p>
	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p>
3.17	<p>The development of the Enterprise Framework for Belfast has been resourced from the 2018/19 Economic Development budget. The financial implications of any new areas of investment will be factored into the budget estimates for 2019/20 and into the medium-term financial planning process.</p>
3.18	<p>The Scale Up initiative will be resourced from the 2018/19 Economic Development budget previously agreed by this Committee.</p>
	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p>
3.19	<p>The proposed Enterprise Framework for Belfast will undergo the process of equality screening ensuring the framework gives consideration to equality and good relation impacts. A rural needs assessment will also be undertaken.</p>
4.0	Documents Attached
	None



Subject:	Request to Present to Committee - ICC Belfast and Visit Belfast
Date:	5th December, 2018
Reporting Officer:	John Greer, Director of Development, ext. 3470
Contact Officer:	Lisa Toland, Head of Economic Initiatives and International Development, ext. 3427

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of the report is to seek Member approval for a request Visit Belfast and International Conference Centre (ICC) Belfast to make a presentation at an upcoming meeting of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to agree to receive a presentation from ICC Belfast and Visit Belfast at the Special Meeting of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee in January, focusing on the business tourism sector.

3.0	Main Report
3.1	Members will be aware that Visit Belfast is the principal Destination Management and Marketing Organisation for the city of Belfast. Visit Belfast leads on the tourism marketing activities in Belfast. It is a membership organisation with more than 500 member businesses across the wider hospitality industry. Visit Belfast works, on behalf of its members, with a range of public and private partners such as the Belfast Chamber and the Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) to promote Belfast as a tourism destination.
3.2	Visit Belfast targets both the leisure and business tourism markets. A key partner in its business tourism work is ICC Belfast (formerly Belfast Waterfront) – the convention centre owned by Belfast City Council.
3.3	Business tourism is a key sector for the Belfast tourism economy. Recent investments, including the ICC Belfast and the 44% increase in hotel bed stock mean that the city is now well placed to service this growing market. Performance to date has been very positive and this has been recognised as ICC Belfast won the Best Venue award and Visit Belfast, on behalf of the city, won the Best Events Destination award at the recent C&IT (Conference and Incentives Travel awards) in London in September 2018. As a result, partners consider that there has never been a more appropriate time to market Belfast as a world-class international Meetings, Incentive, Conference and Exhibition (MICE) destination.
3.4	In order to ensure a coordinated approach to this activity a Business Development Taskforce has been established. This involves all the relevant public and private sector partners working on this issue, with the objective of capitalising on the external recognition and accelerating the income from business tourism. It is proposed that representatives from two of the key organisations involved – Visit Belfast and ICC Belfast – will make a presentation to the Special meeting of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee in January 2019 to outline their work and identify the significant income from this tourism segment.
3.5	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There are no specific financial or resource implications attached to this report.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p>
3.6	There are no specific equality, good relations or rural implications.
4.0	Documents Attached
	None



Subject:	Update on Bank Buildings: City Centre Recovery Programme
Date:	5th December, 2018
Reporting Officer:	John Greer, Director of Economic Development, ext.3470 Cathy Reynolds, City Regeneration and Development Lead Officer
Contact Officer:	Sean Dolan, Development Manager Lisa Toland, Head of Economic Initiatives

Restricted Reports	
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Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

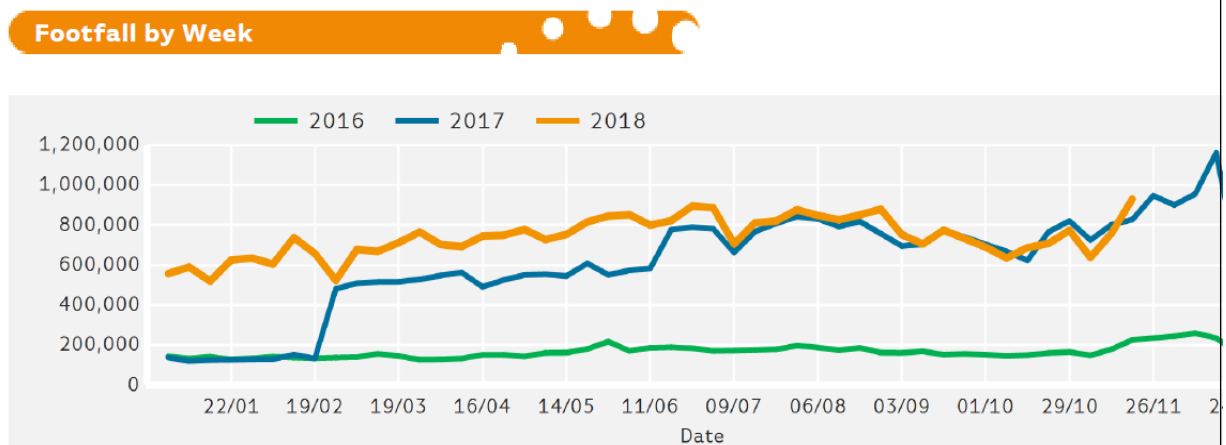
1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of the report is to provide Members with an update on the activity under way to support the City Centre Recovery Programme, focusing on the period to end December 2018. A similar update report was brought to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 23rd November.
2.0	Recommendations
	<p>The Committee is asked to note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the update on the construction work, the cordon and the protected walkway; the update on the city marketing, street animation, major attractions and environmental improvements to enhance the vibrancy and increase footfall in the city centre; the progress on the allocation of the funds from the Primark Business Support Fund; and the update on the proposed incentive scheme, including the timeline for implementation.

3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>Members will be aware that, following the fire at Bank Buildings at the end of August, the Council and partners have put together a significant programme of investment to secure and consolidate the city centre in the short term. In parallel, work is under way on a longer-term plan to secure the future viability of the city centre. There are a number of strands to this work, and details on the current position are set out below.</p> <p><u>Update on Cordon</u></p>
3.2	<p>Work on the container cordon is nearing completion and construction of the protected walkway has commenced. This walkway will allow pedestrian access between Donegall Place and Royal Avenue and is still on schedule to be open on Monday 3 December 2018. Once the walkway opens, 8 businesses that were inside the original cordon will be able to open and trade (Argento, Spar, Coffee Kiosk, Cookie Box, DV8, McDonald's, Skechers and Aldo). Discussions are ongoing with these businesses about access arrangements prior to 3 December and some started work to prepare for re-opening on 26th November.</p>
3.3	<p>Works to remove the most dangerous parts of the Bank Buildings continue with 2 of the chimneys now removed on the Castle Street elevation. Unfortunately, examination of the stonework has revealed that 80% of this is too badly fire-damaged to be able to be used in any reconstruction works. Props have been installed to the front of the building and work will commence this week when we expect that the clock will be next to be removed. Works are still on track to have the facade retention system in place by spring 2019.</p> <p><u>Marketing and Communications</u></p>
3.4	<p>All of the animation investment is being supported by a tactical and sustained PR and marketing campaign led by the Council and inclusive of all city partners. The Head of Marketing has advised that feedback via social media and other channels has been positive and a marketing summary is included below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each day there is a renewed effort to keep the media briefed – keeping the narrative on the city centre positive. Figures from 24th October to 21st November show 754 articles, the majority of them being positive. • On social #YourBelfast had organic reach of 13.5 million and a selection of positive social media anecdotal comments. • The 'Belfast Alive with Christmas' overarching marketing and campaign activities include print, digital, outdoor, TV – 10 second and 30 second ad and the reskinning/ redirecting of Belfast Wifi. This activity stretches to New Year sales.

- In parallel with this, each city event/ programme of activities has tactical PR and marketing campaigns to support it – sitting within overarching campaign.
- Business and support organisations have received a toolkit to help share city messages. The #YourBelfast toolkit can be used on social media to share updates from @BelfastCC, @VisitBelfast and @Translink_NI on Twitter. Details of all events and attractions are updated daily on Council and Visit Belfast websites.

Footfall Figures

- 3.5 While members will be aware of the challenges around footfall, figures from last week (week 47) do show some signs of recovery. Details are set out below:



Street Animation, Major Attractions and Environmental Improvements

- 3.5 Following approval by the SP and R Committee on 19th October, a programme of animation, major attractions and environmental improvements, supported by an enhanced marketing campaign has been developed in order to drive footfall into the city centre and support the economic recovery. Given the tight timeframes, and in the lead-up to Christmas, this has required a concerted effort to pull the programme of activity together, taking into account the need to obtain consents, procure, mobilise and deliver the activities, while undertaking engagement with all relevant stakeholders and putting in place an enhanced marketing campaign.
- 3.7 There has been investment in new feature lighting, planters, wayfinding and other environmental improvements and these are currently being rolled out. In addition, large scale family based attractions have been is aimed at attract visitors into the city to experience the Christmas offer.

3.8	<p>A summary of the main elements include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Donegall Place: an astro-turf area is in place along with new planters and seating arrangements adjacent to the chalets as part of the extended Christmas Market. This area will be supplemented with additional seating following the removal of the trading locations to create a temporary area of green space within the city centre and to facilitate a 2019 animation programme. A large snow slide attraction has also been installed on Donegall Place adjacent to the cordon. This snow slide, alongside the other attractions, r and it has proven very popular to date. • Castle Place: a new astro-turf area and image representing the location of the River Farset is in place alongside family based attractions, including a carousel, children's rides and a German bratwurst grill. Final work to complete this area is ongoing and the area will be supplemented with additional seating following the removal of the attractions to create temporary additional green space. • Royal Avenue: an area for animation has been constructed outside the entrance to Castle Court as an attractor to Castle Court and the wider Royal Avenue area. Based on an astro-turf surface, a temporary pop up stage has been installed and operated by Cathedral Quarter Trust for choirs, brass bands and City of Music animation. The area has been further enhanced by large lighting attractions, planters and seating arrangements and will provide a focal point for a proposed lighting projection spectacle onto adjacent buildings. This complements a programme of animation and events being undertaken in conjunction with Castlecourt and BID. • Fountain Street Area: a number of lighting features are already in place throughout the perimeter of the cordon area to improve safe access along the existing diversion routes. Canopy lighting has been installed to Fountain Lane, Fountain Street and Berry Street, with additional lighting schemes planned to be in place on Castle Arcade for the beginning of December. • Bank Square/ Castle St Area -There were proposals to install environmental improvements onto Bank Square, including an astro turf and seated area. However, following concerns raised by some businesses relating to attracting antisocial behaviour to the area, it was agreed that animation and programming should be promoted in the area instead of the temporary environmental improvements. Following discussions with the traders, and in conjunction with DfC, we are currently exploring more permanent improvements that could
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installed within the square including a potential canopy system that would enable the square to be better utilised by the traders throughout the year. A further report will be brought back to committee as cost and feasibility options are complete. Approval was also given by the SP&R Committee on 23 November 2018 on a potential public realm scheme in the Queen Street, King Street and College Court. This could provide improved connectivity to Castle Street and the surrounding areas and act as a catalyst for further environmental improvements in the area. In addition, a meanwhile use of the DfC site at 83-87 Castle Street is currently being explored to provide a temporary hub use of a derelict site, pending confirmation of a permanent development proposal. This concept is currently under design in conjunction with DfC. Further reports will be brought back to Committee as the scheme develops.

- Cathedral Gardens – Family based attractions including a 40m Observation Wheel and other rides. Work to provide dressing to this area is ongoing.
- Lighting features: Christmas-themed lighting features is being installed to the areas of animation on Castle Place, Royal Avenue, Cathedral Gardens and Donegall Place. The lighting features include 4m high ribbon towers of light and a 4.5m high Christmas Bauble archway that will be moved among the animation areas.
- City Dressing: with the construction elements of the animation areas now largely complete, additional dressing to these areas commenced from Monday 26 November. This will include Christmas themed wraps to the heras fence panels, lighting features to trees and planters, and dressing across areas of animation and market chalets.
- Wayfinding: an enhanced wayfinding system commenced installation on 26 November with an installation period of 1 week. These measures will include new easy-to-use maps for wayfinding around the perimeter of the cordon, an enhanced Yellow Dot Trail with the yellow dots lifted from the pavement and placed at strategic locations above eye line throughout the perimeter route. Key decision point totem signs will replace the existing heras fence panel arrangements at key junctions. The existing cordon fencing wrap will be replaced with bright messaging promoting the 'We Are Open' message at the cordon locations to ensure visitors are aware that the areas are still open for business.
- Cordon Dressing: Primark are currently installing the structural container cordon to Castle Place and the scaffold access walkway between Donegall Place and Castle Place, and between Castle Place and Royal Avenue with an opening date of 3 December 2018. The exposed surfaces of the containers and the access walkways will be dressed and there will be enhanced lighting. It is intended that this will be in place early December.

3.9	<p>In addition to the infrastructure and installations, there has been a significant programme of animation and activities underway. The programme of events started in early November with the Red Bull F1 event which attracted 35,000 people into the city. This was followed by the Christmas lights switch-on took place on 17 November 2018. This attracted almost 11,000 people into the city centre. It also marked the opening of the Christmas Market at the front of City Hall and this will remain in place until 22 December 2018. Given the challenging business environment this year, members will be aware that a number of chalets will extend on to Donegall Place. These will house a number of local businesses – including some who have been displaced or whose business has been adversely affected by the fire. These locations were operational by 23 November and will operate at this location until 6 January 2019.</p>
3.10	<p>Members were previously advised that the attractions were to be supported by a wider programme of animation, events and entertainment. The Council is working in partnership with the Cathedral Quarter Trust (CQT) who are responsible for the annual Culture Night event that is held in Belfast each September. CQT are working with other cultural providers across the city to put together a programme of animation and events with the aim of providing a vibrant city atmosphere with a diverse offering and experience for all. CQT's plans include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Magical Musical Christmas Stage on Royal Avenue (adjacent to CastleCourt). This will be programmed every weekend and during the week in the run-up to Christmas and will feature a selection of local choirs, orchestras, performers and youth arts organisations • Big Belfast "Christmas" Busk Off on 15 December – performances will take place across the city, offering a platform to local talent • Caribbean Christmas on Royal Avenue on 16 December – working in conjunction with the African and Caribbean Society of Northern Ireland, CQT will present a unique experience of Christmas with a Caribbean twist • "Cinema on the Square" – pop-up cinema on Bank Square from 1-9 December 2018. The cinema will feature a number of popular Christmas classics and will include a signed performance and one performance specifically for those with autism. This event is being delivered in conjunction with Belfast One BID • Fire and Ice – this will involve an ice sculpture gallery on Royal Avenue/Bank Square. It will be complemented by spectacular performances by fire artists. This event will take place on the weekend of 7/8 December • Q-Con Christmas Bizarro – this is a gaming event that will attract young people and those interested in gaming into the city centre. It will be supported by retailers and specialist businesses in this field and will take place on 15/16 December

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “A Gift for All” sound and light spectacular – this is a six-minute light show which will run on repeat every quarter hour from 4.30-9pm from 17-23 December 2018. The show will take place on Royal Avenue, adjacent to CastleCourt. • Elf workshops and Christmas walking tours at various venues across the city centre, running through to 23 December, as well as a Santa Post-box on Royal Avenue (operated by Belfast One BID) which will be available from 29 November 2018.
3.11	<p>While the detail above focused on the activity up to the Christmas period, work is also under way to look at a programme of investment post-Christmas, in order to underpin the longer-term viability of the city centre. Further details will be brought back to Committee in the near future. .</p> <p><u>Public transport offers</u></p>
3.12	<p>Translink has revealed its most extensive range of discount travel tickets and special services to attract more people to shop and socialise in Belfast during the festive season. The launch follows the recent Executive Office announcement that the Department for Infrastructure will provide extra funding to Translink to support delivery of a high impact festive travel campaign.</p> <p>Starting from 17 November 2018, the package includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Day travel across the city for just £2 (£1 child), a £5 family ticket and additional bus, coach and train services including midnight departures • Ulsterbus or Goldline services incentives include day return travel for the price of a single ticket after 9.30am from across NI • One third off NI Railways day return tickets after 9.30am on weekdays and all day at weekends until the end of December • 50% off bus and rail single fares for yLink card customers • Midnight departures on NI Railways, Metro and Goldline on Fridays and Saturdays until Christmas and main Park & Ride facilities will offer late night and Saturday services along with free parking at the Park & Ride sites.
3.13	<p>Although it is too early to report on the impact of these incentives, Translink have indicated an increase of some 25% across the Glider network since the announcement, although the relocated northbound services continue to experience a diminished uptake. Translink will report uptake on the fare incentives on a weekly basis going forward.</p>

	<p><u>Incentive Scheme</u></p>
3.14	<p>Traders and city centre partners have given feedback that, while they are supportive of activities that are taking place across the city, they were keen to consider how we could drive additional footfall to generate sales in the stores.</p> <p>As a result of this feedback, officers have been working with partners to develop an app to support a City Centre Incentive Scheme, the Your Belfast Rewards app will go live on Saturday 1st December. It aims to drive the additional visitors into city centre businesses by providing a range of incentives and rewards for city centre shoppers and visitors. This will also offer the potential to profile local business.</p>
3.15	<p>When users download the app, they will be tasked with finding codes located in the premises of retailers in areas around the city centre, each retailer will have their own unique code. This location of these will be tactical based on footfall figures. Once they have collected the allocated number of codes, they will have to answer a quiz question to be entered into the daily / weekly draw. The winners will be selected at random and the rewards will take the form of vouchers from various retailers. An indicative promotional calendar has been developed; however, this is subject to change based on feedback and review of the weekly analytics. Through the app users will also be able to access a range of offers from city centre retailers and find out what events are happening throughout the city in the run up to Christmas.</p>
3.16	<p>To date 200 city centre businesses have signed up to the scheme. Officers are still engaging with businesses and further businesses are likely to get involved. The consultation on the app with partners and retailers has been extremely positive and they see the value of getting involved. The analytics on the app will enable officers undertake a weekly review to ensure that it is having an impact on those businesses most adversely affected and to flex the offers to ensure that these areas and businesses are benefitting from engagement.</p>
	<p><u>Finance and Resources and Equality Implications</u></p>
3.17	<p>The Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at the meeting on 13th November, was provided with details of the full City Recovery programme budget, following confirmation of Treasury monies and funding from NI Executive departments. The Committee agreed the overall programme expenditure as set out in the report and was advised that further detail on expenditure to March 2019 would be brought to a future meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.</p>

	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.18	No specific equality or good relations implications associated with this investment.
4.0	Document Attached
	Animation Programme

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Belfast City Centre

Animation Programme



Belfast
City Council

Animation Programme

Castle Street and Bank Square

Key

- Boundary
- No pedestrian access



Belfast City Council

Events:

1 Cinema on the Square

1-9 December

Mon - Fri - 1pm, 5.15pm and 7pm

Sat and Sun - first screening 10am, last screening - 7pm

Take a break from your Christmas shopping and enjoy some festive family favourites, as our pop-up cinema takes up its residency in Bank Square.

Free event - booking required.

Christmas Themed Walking Tour

24 November - 23 December

Saturday - 11am, 12noon, 1.30pm, 2.30pm.
Sunday - 1pm, 2pm, 3pm, 4pm

Join our fun and interactive family walking tours and meet ELFISH, a grumpy, greedy little elf who is DEFINITELY on Santa's 'Naughty List' this year. Find the answers to some seasonal clues, explore the city centre and help Elfish get back onto Santa's Nice List. Free event - booking required.

Big Belfast Christmas Busk Off

15 December, 11am - 5pm

Enjoy a feast of festive tunes and original tracks from a range of talented musicians.

City of Music Events

Throughout December

Keep an ear out for some of the best local musical talent as they pop-up around the city centre to entertain you in a series of mini street-gigs during the festive season.

Fire and Ice

7-8 December

Be amazed as parts of the city centre transform into a sculpture gallery, with a stunning corridor of ice sculptures and fire. Some fabulously-talented fire artists will be raising the heat with a range of hair raising performances as you take in the beauty of these icy sculptures

New Features:

- Tree planters
- Cross street lighting
- Surface road markings
- Christmas Light projections onto Norwich Union House

For more details including opening times and booking arrangements go to www.visitbelfast.com



Animation Programme

Donegall Place



Belfast
City Council

Key

Boundary

No pedestrian access



Events:

Christmas Themed Walking Tour

24 November - 23 December

Saturday - 11am, 12noon, 1.30pm, 2.30pm. Sunday - 1pm, 2pm, 3pm, 4pm

Join our fun and interactive family walking tours and meet ELFISH, a grumpy, greedy little elf who is DEFINITELY on Santa's 'Naughty List' this year. Find the answers to some seasonal clues, explore the city centre and help Elfish get back onto Santa's Nice List. Free event - booking required.

Serenity Sunday

25 November

Before all the hustle and bustle of Christmas begins, you can treat yourself to a moment of calm and relaxation, enjoy a free hand massage, try a little Tai Chi, indulge in some aroma therapy and much more. The participating retailers include Lush, Kiehls, The Learning Space and Waterstones.

Big Belfast Christmas Busk Off

15 December, 11am - 5pm

Enjoy a feast of festive tunes and original tracks from a range of talented musicians.

City of Music Events

Throughout December

Keep an ear out for some of the best local musical talent as they pop-up around the city centre to entertain you in a series of mini street-gigs during the festive season.

New Features:

- 1 Snow Slide Ride
- 2 Decorative light features
- 3 Christmas Market chalets
- 4 Astro turf in the east side bus stop bays and planters

All attractions £2

For more details including opening times and booking arrangements go to www.visitbelfast.com



Animation Programme

Fountain Street

Events:

Christmas Themed Walking Tour

24 November - 23 December

Saturday - 11am, 12noon, 1:30pm, 2:30pm. Sunday - 1pm, 2pm, 3pm, 4pm

Join our fun and interactive family walking tours and meet ELFISH, a grumpy, greedy little elf who is DEFINITELY on Santa's 'Naughty List' this year. Find the answers to some seasonal clues, explore the city centre and help Elfish get back onto Santa's Nice List. Free event - booking required.

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15 December, 11am - 5pm

Enjoy a feast of festive tunes and original tracks from a range of talented musicians.

City of Music Events

Throughout December

Keep an ear out for some of the best local musical talent as they pop-up around the city centre to entertain you in a series of mini street-gigs during the festive season.

New Features:

- 1 Skynet canopy lighting the length of Fountain Street & Fountain Lane
- 2 Decorative light features
- 3 Tree planters along Fountain Street
- 4 Planter benches along Fountain Street and Fountain Lane
- 5 Environmental improvements including graffiti removal and wall art

For more details including opening times and booking arrangements go to www.visitbelfast.com

Key

- Boundary
- No pedestrian access

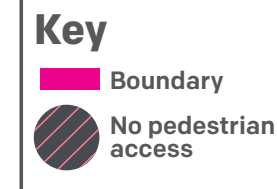


Belfast City Council



Animation Programme

Royal Avenue



Belfast
City Council

Events:

1 Magical Musical Christmas Stage 17 November to 23 December

Saturday and Sunday afternoons and from 6-21 Dec, Thursday and Friday evenings

Get yourself into the festive spirit by enjoying a fantastic array of musical performances on the Royal Avenue Stage. It will feature a selection of local choirs, orchestras, youth arts organisation and others.

Caribbean Christmas

16 December, 1pm-4pm

Feeling the cold? Transport yourself to a tropical paradise as you experience Christmas with a Caribbean twist.

Fire and Ice

7-8 December

Be amazed as parts of the city centre transform into a sculpture gallery, with a stunning corridor of ice sculptures and fire. Some fabulously-talented fire artists will be raising the heat with a range of hair-raising performances as you take in the beauty of these icy sculptures

Christmas Themed Walking Tour

24 November - 23 December

Saturday - 11am, 12noon, 1:30pm, 2:30pm
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Join our fun and interactive family walking tours and meet ELFISH, a grumpy, greedy little elf who is DEFINITELY on Santa's 'Naughty List' this year. Find the answers to some seasonal clues, explore the city centre and help Elfish get back onto Santa's Nice List. Free event - booking required.

Big Belfast "Christmas" Busk Off

15 December, 11am - 5pm

Enjoy a feast of festive tunes and original tracks from a range of talented musicians.

City of Music Events

Throughout December

Keep an ear out for some of the best local musical talent as they pop-up around the city centre, to entertain you in a series of mini street-gigs during the festive season.

Elf Workshops - Castlecourt

17 November to 23 December

Saturday, 12 - 5pm. Sunday, 1 - 6pm.
From 6 -23 Dec, Thursday and Friday 3 - 6pm.

Our Christmas elves will be setting up workshops this festive season. Bring your little helpers along and have a go with free festive arts and crafts from around the world.

4 A Gift to All

17-23 December, 4.30-9pm

Sound and light spectacular - this is a six-minute light show which will run on repeat every quarter hour.



New Features:

- 2 Selfie Bauble
- 3 Santa's Post Office
- 5 Cross street light, additional lighting in Berry Street and Rosemary St
- 6 Ground based light features
- 7 Astro turf, seating and additional planters

Animation Programme

Cathedral Gardens

Events:

1 Q-Con Christmas Bizarro - Belfast Telegraph Building

Sat 15 December, 10am-6pm
and Sun 16 December, 10am-6pm

Q-Con, Northern Ireland's premiere gaming event, comes to Belfast city centre for the first time ever! The Q-Con Christmas Bizarro features all the best Q-Con events with gaming tournaments, console stations, traders showing off the latest new releases, cosplay artists, board games and much, much more.

There'll be games for all ages and some amazing prizes to be won throughout the weekend. Best part is, it's totally free to come along!

New Features:

- 2 40m Observation Wheel
- 3 Sea Storm Ride attraction
- 4 Boat Swings
- 5 Santa Train
- 6 Buzz Bee Junior Fair Ride
- 7 Small food and drink traders

All attractions £2

For more details including opening times and booking arrangements go to www.visitbelfast.com

Key

Boundary

No pedestrian access



Belfast City Council



Animation Programme

Castle Place

Key

Boundary

No pedestrian access



Belfast
City Council

Events:

1 Elf Workshops - Donegall Arcade
17 November to 23 December
Saturday, 12 - 5pm. Sunday, 1 - 6pm.
6 - 23 Dec, Thursday and Friday 3 - 6pm.
Our Christmas elves will be setting up workshops this festive season. Bring your little helpers along and have a go with free festive arts and crafts from around the world.

Christmas Themed Walking Tour
24 November - 23 December
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Big Belfast "Christmas" Busk Off
15 December, 11am - 5pm
Enjoy a feast of festive tunes and original tracks from a range of talented musicians.

City of Music Events
Throughout December
Keep an ear out for some of the best local musical talent as they pop-up around the city centre, to entertain you in a series of mini street-gigs during the festive season.

New Features:

- 2 Olaf Snowman Fair Ride
- 3 Carousel
- 4 Windmill
- 5 Selfie Bauble
- 6 Street surface in blue to represent Farset River
- 7 Performance benches
- 8 Trees and street planters
- 9 Festoon Lighting
- 10 Environmental improvements including graffiti removal and wall art

All attractions £2

For more details including opening times and booking arrangements go to www.visitbelfast.com



Wayfinding - new phase signs

1800mm wide x 2400mm tall

610mm wide x 2400mm tall

1800mm wide x 2400mm tall - EAST VECTOR

610mm wide x 2400mm tall

CASTLE STREET

CASTLE COURT

YES, WE'RE OPEN!

CASTLE LANE

DONEGALL PLACE

YELLOW DOT TRAIL



Subject:	Belfast at MIPIIM 2019
Date:	5 th December 2018
Reporting Officer:	Cathy Reynolds, City Regeneration and Development Lead Officer, ext. 3493
Contact Officer:	Deirdre Kelly, Corporate Support Officer, ext. 3571

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To update the Committee on proposals for MIPIIM 2019.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the successful launch event on 9th October, 2018 and the ongoing preparations for MIPIIM 2019; the designs for the proposed new larger Belfast stand in its current location, which was approved in principle by the Committee in April 2018, subject to officers presenting more detailed proposals at a later meeting; and the approach to MIPIIM 2019, including activities being undertaken to promote Belfast to the investment and development community.

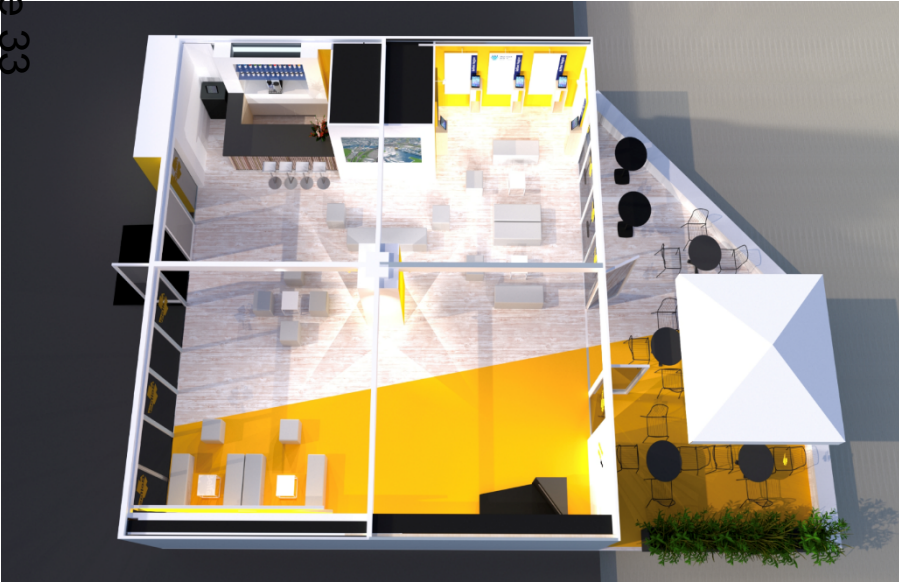
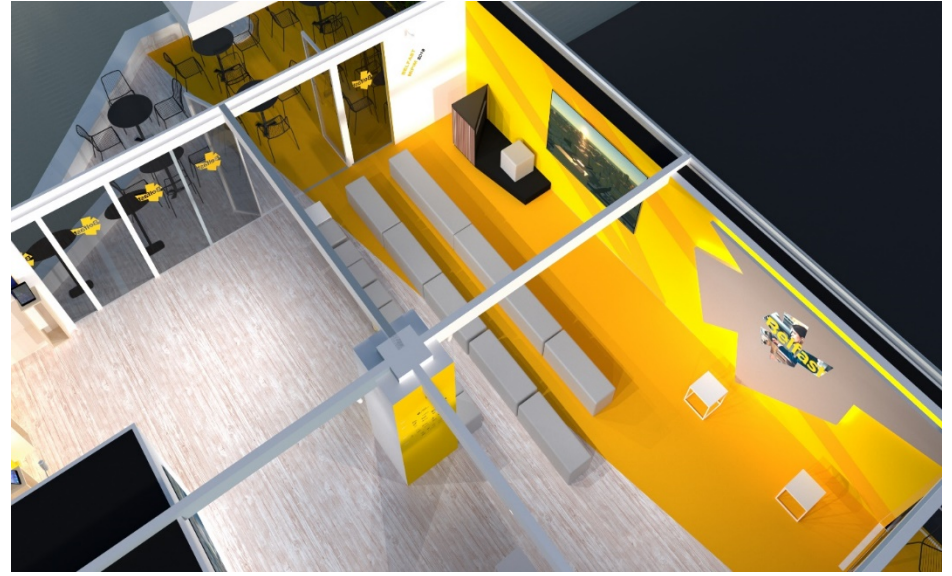
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Members will be aware that MIPIIM is the premier event in the European real estate calendar where many of the world's investors, developers and funders from both the private and public sectors gather to showcase cities and investment and regeneration opportunities. Over 27,000 people attended MIPIIM 2018.
3.2	In April 2018, the Committee authorised officers to commence preparations for MIPIIM 2019 (to be held 12-16 March 2019) including budget spend. Specialist support for programming, event management, communications and design have subsequently been procured and work is ongoing in terms of securing sponsorship, speakers and programming of events.
3.3	Belfast at MIPIIM 2019 was successfully launched on 9th October, with strong media interest and attendance. Cllr. Donal Lyons, as the Chair of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee, delivered the opening speech at the event, which was attended by over 100 representatives from across public and private sectors. It was highlighted at the launch that if we are to attract further growth, investment and regeneration, we must work collectively with all stakeholders to set out our ambitions to achieving sustainable, inclusive growth and building resilient cities. Subsequent sponsorship support for the Belfast at MIPIIM 2019 delegation has been strong, both from the public and private sectors.
3.4	At the time of writing, organisations committed to supporting Belfast at MIPIIM 2019 include: Aecom, Arup, Aurora Prime Real Estate, Belfast City Council and Belfast City Region Councils, Belfast Harbour, Benmore Developments, Bruceshaw, Bywater Properties, Carson McDowell, Castlebrooke, Causeway Asset Management, Deloitte, Heron Bros, Invest NI, Killultagh Estates, McAleer and Rushe, Oakland, Queens University, Titanic Quarter, TLT, TODD Architects, Tourism NI, Tughans, Ulster University, Valor Homes, Osborne & Co. It is anticipated that further organisations will support the delegation in coming weeks. The level of support to date is creating a platform for the strongest Belfast delegation at MIPIIM yet.
3.5	Following the announcement from the Chancellor in the Autumn budget statement in relation to the Belfast Region City Deal, Members should note that this year's MIPIIM delegation will, for the first time, include representatives from the five councils partnering with Belfast City Council in the Belfast Region City Deal bid. This represents a strong commitment to collaborative working as part of the BRCD proposition.

3.6	A dedicated MIPIM landing page has been built into the Council's 'investinbelfast.com' website. This page was live in line with the launch event and provides a platform for organisations and individuals to register their interest and support. The website provides details on investment opportunities in the City and provides news updates. .
3.7	<p>Key objectives for MIPIM 2019 are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • attract the interest of real estate investors, developers, occupiers and funders in the context of development and investment that provides for sustainable inclusive growth in the city; • positively influence perceptions of the city showing its investment potential; • create and continue to foster a strong public-private sector collaborative effort; and • deliver an initiative which reflects the ambitions of the Belfast Agenda;
3.8	MIPIM is a real estate conference aimed at investment, development and regeneration but it important to note that it is not just about commercial development. It is intended that we will have an increased focus on housing this year in the context of inclusive growth across the city, mixed use developments and increased city centre living.
3.9	<p>The 4-day event conference at MIPIM involves a concentrated programme of events, meetings and engagements which allow us to showcase Belfast as an exciting location for investment. A 4-day programme at MIPIM based on initial work by officers with the appointed contractor and MIPIM at Belfast Task Force is being drafted and includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaking engagements on and off stand involving high profile speakers from the City and beyond • Joint ventures with other Cities from across the UK and Europe • BRCD focused session • Panel sessions focusing on the following initial proposed themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - City centre living; mixed use developments and housing - City of Innovation - Smart City - Screen Tourism - Office Market - BRCD - Waterfront Cities

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On and off stand presentations to identified potential city investors, developers and funders • Media interviews and social media slots
3.10	Officers, along with the MIPIIM at Belfast Task Force and the appointed consultant, will work to firm the event programme, including building the narrative and engaging speakers. There will also be further work undertaken to increase and build on sponsorship. It is also proposed to have a pre MIPIIM Huddle event for February 2019 in advance of the delegation heading out to MIPIIM.
3.11	At its meeting in April 2018, approval was given by Members to scope out options for re-positioning the Belfast stand or increasing its size in its current position, with approval for additional investment in a larger stand, subject to final details being presented to Committee. The Council contribution represents less than 20% of the cost of the stand, marketing, speaking events etc that take place at MIPIIM. The remainder will be paid for via the business community.
3.12	Given the larger Belfast delegation proposed for this year and, in particular, the addition of the BRCD Councils, an increase in size of the stand is considered appropriate. Whilst Reed MIDEM, the MIPIIM event organisers have been unable to offer an alternative location for the Belfast stand there is an opportunity to increase the size of the Belfast stand in its original location.
3.13	Members may recall that we were limited in previous years as to what events we could hold on stand due to its size and capacity. With 2019 set to have a record number of Belfast delegates the larger stand is required not only to hold the delegation including those from the private sector and City Region Councils but also those from the international and global markets who want to visit and hear the Belfast story. The larger stand will allow Belfast to raise its profile and compete with those regional Cities from across the UK who upped their game in 2018 through increasing their foothold at the conference. Belfast has built a reputation in MIPIIM attracting a lot of interest regionally and internationally and the larger stand will enable the accommodation of larger groups and networking, allowing us to get our message across to a bigger audience and removing the need to hire of stand venues. The larger stand will have a dedicated BRCD area whilst showcasing Belfast as the regional driver.

3.14	<p>Details of the proposed stand designs are enclosed at Appendix 1. These designs allow the stand to double in size and with an extended terrace to the rear and an open terrace to the front giving Belfast a more visible presence. The new increased stand incorporates a glazed frontage which gives the feeling of bringing the main thoroughfare of Croisette in, and Belfast out to the Croisette. The designs also include a dedicated BRCD area.</p> <p><u>Equality, Good Relations and Rural Needs implications</u></p>
3.15	<p>None</p> <p><u>Finance and Resources Implications</u></p>
3.16	<p>At the time of writing, £350,000 of private sector sponsorship for Belfast at MIPIM has been raised.</p>
4.0	Documents Attached
	Belfast at MIPIM 2019 Stand Designs

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Subject:	Belfast Bikes Scheme – Performance Report
Date:	5th December, 2018
Reporting Officer:	John Greer, Director of Economic Development, ext. 3470
Contact Officer:	Anne Doherty, Planning and Transport Officer, ext. 3477

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	This report provides an update on the performance of the Belfast Bikes public hire scheme with regard to usage to and financial performance. It considers options for a strategic review in the future to maximise the usage and minimise the subvention of the Belfast Bikes Public Hire Scheme while ensuring equity of access for all Belfast residents.

2.0	Recommendations																																			
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">consider a strategic review of the Belfast Bikes Public Hire Scheme, examining the current operating model and how usage can be increased and commercial revenues enhanced. Members will receive a future report detailing the terms of reference for a strategic review and any associated costs; andnote the performance to date of the Belfast Bikes public hire scheme.																																			
3.0	Main Report																																			
3.1	<p>Background</p> <p>The Belfast Bikes scheme launched in 2015. The business case used to inform the Council’s projections was commissioned by the Strategic Investment Board and published in 2012. At the time, bike share schemes were in their infancy in the UK and Ireland, and information on the transparency of costs and income was not widely available. In recent years, bike share schemes have expanded rapidly in the UK and in Ireland and experience shows that they require some level of public sector investment. Funding models differ between cities however; the level of investment in the Belfast scheme is similar or lower than other comparator cities. For example, Dublin City Council contributes approximately €376,000 per annum towards the operating cost of the Dublin Bikes Scheme.</p>																																			
3.2	<p>Historic Financial Performance</p> <table><tr><th>Financial Year</th><th colspan="2">Income</th><th>Expenditure</th><th></th><th>Subsidy</th><th></th></tr><tr><th></th><th>Plan</th><th>Actual</th><th>Plan</th><th>Actual</th><th>Plan</th><th>Actual</th></tr><tr><td>15/16</td><td></td><td>£212,987</td><td></td><td>£392,170</td><td></td><td>£179,183</td></tr><tr><td>16/17</td><td>£336,340</td><td>£251,064</td><td>£422,780</td><td>£466,474</td><td>£56,440</td><td>£215,410</td></tr><tr><td>17/18</td><td>£247,000</td><td>£251,667</td><td>£456,016</td><td>£493,031</td><td>£209,016</td><td>£241,734</td></tr></table>	Financial Year	Income		Expenditure		Subsidy			Plan	Actual	Plan	Actual	Plan	Actual	15/16		£212,987		£392,170		£179,183	16/17	£336,340	£251,064	£422,780	£466,474	£56,440	£215,410	17/18	£247,000	£251,667	£456,016	£493,031	£209,016	£241,734
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3.3	<p>18/19 Financial Performance Forecast</p> <table><tr><th>Financial Year</th><th colspan="2">Income</th><th>Expenditure</th><th></th><th>Subsidy</th><th></th></tr><tr><th></th><th>Plan</th><th>Actual</th><th>Plan</th><th>Actual</th><th>Plan</th><th>Actual</th></tr><tr><td>18/19</td><td>£305,313</td><td>£167,186*</td><td>£469,321</td><td></td><td>£163,918</td><td>£302,135*</td></tr></table> <p><i>*forecasted</i></p>	Financial Year	Income		Expenditure		Subsidy			Plan	Actual	Plan	Actual	Plan	Actual	18/19	£305,313	£167,186*	£469,321		£163,918	£302,135*														
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3.4

The forecasts articulated in the table above are predicated on the following assumptions. Expenditure is in line with budget at year-end.

YTD Financial Performance

18/19 YTD – Revenue £87,342.63

17/18 YTD – Revenue £79,120.94

Financial Performance Issues

The forecasted financial performance is primarily due to two factors, namely:

1. a delay in securing the sponsorship of the Belfast bikes; and
2. a forecasted failure of the bikes to achieve their rental revenue plan.

Sponsorship

Sponsorship of the Belfast Bikes ended in April 2018. A procurement exercise began Mid-April 2018 with a closing date of May 8th 2018. An award was made in August 2018 but, due to ongoing contract negotiations, the contract was signed in October 2018. The 18/19 financial plan assumed the ongoing sponsorship at a value of £110,000 per year, £9,166 per month. Therefore, the delay in sponsorship between April and September inclusive as resulted in a financial loss of £55,000.

It was agreed by the Committee in September 2017 to introduce new membership and usage charges from 1st April 2018. The annual subscription fee was increased from £20 to £25, the casual subscription was increased from £5 to £6 and a new ‘pay as you go’ option introduced with usage charges of £1 for 30 minutes usage was introduced. The changes have resulted in a drop in income detailed later in the report. In conjunction with the price change, the revenue plan for the Bikes assumed an increase in rental revenue from £114,845 to £194,668, a 69% increase in revenue. It was thought at that time that a combination of increased usage and price would generate the planned increase in revenue.

The table below details historic year on year growth/decline in rental revenues.

	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19
Rental Income	£115,000	£134,000	£114,429	£118,436
Yr on Yr		116.52%	85.39%	103.50%

3.5

3.6

3.7

3.8	<p>The increase in planned rental revenue was predicated on an increase in users of 35% linked to the aforementioned increase in rental rates. Members should note the relatively flat growth in the usage of the Belfast Bikes scheme.</p> <p>Operational issues</p> <p>Vandalism</p>														
3.9	<p>Vandalism was an ongoing problem in Year 3 and did affect bike numbers on the street during Year 3 in particular in the last quarter. Extensive work has been ongoing with local communities, elected members, schools and the PSNI to reduce the incidents. There has been a reduction in the last quarter of Year 3 and the first 4 months of Year 4.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Year 1 (27th April 2015 to 31st March 2016) - £1,800 • Year 2 (1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017) - £19,000 • Year 3 (1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018) -£22,700 • Year 4 (1st April 2018 to present) - £4,425.00 (This is down for the same period last year of £6,440) 														
3.10	<p>Anti-vandalism initiatives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased engagement with the PSNI • PSNI stickers on the terminals • Support for the operating team from Council community safety staff • Increase awareness of customers and citizens in general (crime prevention – phone number to call) • Continuous work with the operator to make the system more vandal proof • increased involvement of community organisations • Schools programme 														
3.11	<p>NSL (the operator), has arranged, in conjunction with the youth justice agency, to provide training and work experience days for several young persons following youth conferences</p> <p>Recent community Engagement Event are as follows:</p>														
3.12	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Date</th><th>Event</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>June</td><td>Presentation to school – Corpus Christ</td></tr> <tr> <td>June</td><td>School St Joseph's - stall and competition (around 50 kids took part)</td></tr> <tr> <td>June</td><td>Presence at community event Roden Street Community Centre</td></tr> <tr> <td>July</td><td>Presence at Lower Shankill Community Regeneration event</td></tr> <tr> <td>Spring</td><td>Meeting with Ballymac Community group</td></tr> <tr> <td>May</td><td>Stall at Girdwood Open Day</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Date	Event	June	Presentation to school – Corpus Christ	June	School St Joseph's - stall and competition (around 50 kids took part)	June	Presence at community event Roden Street Community Centre	July	Presence at Lower Shankill Community Regeneration event	Spring	Meeting with Ballymac Community group	May	Stall at Girdwood Open Day
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<p>3.13</p> <p>3.14</p> <p>3.15</p>	<p><u>Proposals</u></p> <p>Strategic Review – a strategic review of the bike scheme is required, specifically considering, reviewing the performance of the location and operation of Bike Docking stations, with a view to maximising revenue opportunities while ensuring equity of access.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>A further report will be provided to Committee detailing any additional cost associated with the proposed strategic review.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations and Rural Needs Implications</u></p> <p>None</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Documents Attached</p>
	<p>None</p>

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Subject:	Update on Belfast Region City Deal
Date:	5th December, 2018
Reporting Officer:	Suzanne Wylie, Chief Executive, ext. 6001
Contact Officer:	Ronan Cregan, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources, Emer Husbands, Strategic Performance Manager, ext. 6186

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To update the Committee on the £850m investment Programme agreed for Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD) and to outline next steps including the signing of the Heads of Terms document and the arrangements that need to be put in place to deliver the Programme.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to note;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the successful BRCD bid which has secured at least £850m investment programme for the region; and next steps including the signing of the Heads of Terms and the need to establish resources to further develop and deliver the investment programme.

3.0	Main Report
3.1	Members will be aware that a major programme to enable the development of the Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD), in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), resulted in the submission of the BRCD proposition document to NIO and UK government on 30 th September, 2018.
3.2	A number of weeks of negotiation and engagement took place, including a successful event in Westminster where all the partners came together to present the proposed programme and projects to political and business representatives.
3.3	In his budget on 29 th October 2018, the Chancellor announced a commitment of £350m from UK government to the (BRCD), leveraging at least £350m from NI regional government, £100m from the BRCD councils and £50m from the two universities. This provides a starting funding package of £850m which will be further enhanced by at least £150m private sector investment, providing the BRCD with a 10 year £1billion Programme of Investment.
	Programme Update
3.4	<p>The BRCD comprises approximately 22 projects across the investment pillars of Digital / Innovation, Infrastructure and Tourism led Regeneration underpinned by a significant employability and skills programme. Each of the capital projects will require significant resources in their own right but the benefits of the deal can only be realised when managed and delivered at an overall programme level. It is anticipated that BCC will be expected to act as the lead authority and accountable body, and therefore will now be required to work with the BRCD partners to put in place the appropriate management structures to manage and deliver this £1billion Investment programme in areas including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governance and Decision Making • Financial Planning and Management • Programme and Project Management • Performance Monitoring and Assurance • Communication and Engagement
3.5	All of these strands will not only need to build on the partnership arrangements already established at programme level but will have to be tailored at investment pillar level given the size and complexities of the projects and to ensure synergies at pillar and programme level.

3.6	In addition, specific city region structures will need to be established to develop the Digital strand of the programme, given that this is not owned by a specific partner, the specialist nature of the projects and the potential for significant private sector investment. Specialist technical support will also have to be procured to support this strand.
3.7	Learning from other deals suggests it can take up to a year to develop the programme structures and develop an implementation plan. It is envisaged that work will continue in developing individual business cases which will also feed into the delivery plan and financial strategy.
3.8	<p>Given the scale of the Programme it will be necessary to allocate resources to support the development and delivery of the BRCD. Officers are liaising with other authorities who are delivering similar city deals to help inform the possible structures and resources required to deliver the BRCD. Following this a further report will be brought to committee with proposals including the likely resources required to deliver the BRCD Investment Programme.</p> <p><u>Next Steps</u></p> <p><u>Heads of Terms</u></p>
3.9	<p>Officers are liaising with the NIO and MHCLG who are now drawing up the Heads of Terms document which details the funding commitments outlined in the report and will then be signed by both UK and Regional governments, the six councils and the two universities.</p> <p>It is envisaged that this process will be completed in advance of Christmas allowing the BRCD partners to move ahead with the further development of individual projects. This Heads of Terms will be brought to Council for formal approval.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p>
3.10	Finance for the further development and implementation of the Belfast City Region Deal is being considered as part of the 2019 / 20 rates setting process.
3.11	Additional costs associated with the development of the BRCD will be allocated across the BRCD partners.
3.12	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>The Approach taken to develop the City Deal has been subject to independent equality screening and rural proofing and states that:</p>

	<p><i>'BRCD is inherently inclusive, affording an opportunity for the region to grow in a way that will benefit the economy of Northern Ireland as a whole, thereby enhancing the lives and well-being of its citizens. If during further development of the programme it becomes apparent that there may be an adverse impact on certain groups or communities then the partnership commits to carrying out further Section 75 work and including screening and EQIAs as and when appropriate.'</i></p>
4.0	Documents Attached
	None



Subject:	Transport Hub Update
Date:	5 December 2018
Reporting Officer:	Alistair Reid, Director of Place and Economy
Contact Officer:	Cathy Reynolds, City Regeneration and Development Lead Officer

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to provide Committee with an update on progress of the proposals for the Transport Hub.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>Members are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note the update in relation to the planning application for the proposed Transport Hub and its strategic importance in the regeneration and growth of the city. Note that, in light of its strategic and economic significance, the Council's SP&R Committee agreed on 23rd November, to provide its support to the proposed development and to note that this is in the context of the comments already made from a planning perspective, as agreed by the Planning Committee on 11 September 2018 and 17 October 2017;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note that the future proposals for the wider Weavers Cross regeneration will be brought to both the City Growth & Regeneration Committee and to the Planning Committee in due course. This will, of course, consider neighbouring communities.
3.0	Main report
	<u>Background</u>
3.1	The proposed Belfast Transport Hub and wider Weavers Cross regeneration is a transport-led regeneration project which will ultimately involve the redevelopment of the Europa Bus Centre, Great Victoria Street Railway Station and surrounding NI Transport Holding Company (NITHC) land. It is proposed that this 20 acre mixed-use development site will comprise a multi-modal transport hub alongside commercial, leisure and residential facilities.
3.2	<p>NITHC served a Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) on the Council in October 2016 in respect of both the Transport Hub and the wider Weavers Cross Regeneration proposal. Subsequently a planning application was received for the new integrated Transport Interchange element only on 16th June 2017. This was called in by the Department for Infrastructure on 26th June 2017 due to its regional significance and it is still under consideration. Consequently, the proposed development now consists of two separate elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transport Hub; and Wider masterplan development scheme (Weavers Cross) <p><i>Transport Hub</i></p>
3.3	<p>As noted above, in June 2017 NITHC submitted a full planning application (LA04/2017/1388/F) for a new integrated transport interchange comprising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> station concourse; 26 bus stands; 8 railway platforms; bus maintenance and parking; track and signaling enhancements; bus access bridge; cycle and taxi provision; car parking; new public square and public realm improvements; highway and infrastructure improvements; and

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • temporary structures and compounds for bus operations during construction.
3.4	<p>The application is currently being considered by DfI and a decision is expected before the end of 2018. The Council, as the local planning authority, responded formally to the consultation supporting the application, following meetings of the Planning Committee on 17th October 2017 and 11 September 2018.</p> <p><u>Key Issues.</u></p>
3.5	<p>By way of policy background, the Belfast City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy (BCCRIS) sets out the Council's collective ambition for the continuing growth and regeneration of the city core and its surrounding area and includes a road map of policies and projects to underpin this growth, with the Transport Hub highlighted as a key strategic project in this overall regeneration. The Strategy was shaped by extensive engagement with city stakeholders from all sectors.</p>
3.6	<p>Transport and connectivity will play a key role in the economic growth and regeneration of Belfast by enhancing access and serving as one of the key elements to catalyse growth and support Belfast as a successful modern city. BCCRIS underscores the importance of this in terms of city wide regeneration.</p>
3.7	<p>The proposed Transport Hub is located in one of the identified signature areas of the BCCRIS i.e. the South Centre and the significance of the Transport Hub becoming the gateway to the city centre and its immediate vicinity is emphasised in this. It highlights that the proposal for a new Transport Hub at this location is to be welcomed as a major improvement in convenience and connectivity of the regional rail system and associated transport links, with significant increases in passenger traffic anticipated. It also emphasises that the opportunity is not just one of transport engineering but is a chance to redefine the gateway to Belfast's city centre and act as a major regeneration opportunity for the entire city centre and neighbouring areas.</p>
3.8	<p>The Transport Hub is also identified in the Belfast Agenda as a key element of the City Development growth ambitions. It highlights the importance of improved connectivity and that we will seek to maximise the opportunities of the Transport Hub and provide the development of sustainable transport.</p>

3.9	<p>The Council's Planning Committee responded to the planning application as consultee and the response was agreed by the Planning Committee on 27th October 2017 and again on 11 September 2018. A copy of the response is attached at Appendix 1.</p>
3.10	<p>Translink is also liaising with Council to bring forward various aspects of the development. There has been ongoing liaison on the Buy Social clauses and a draft Memorandum of Understanding has been prepared and will be implemented upon planning approval and appointment of the contractor. This Memorandum of Understanding agrees partnership-working arrangements for Council and Translink to deliver employability and skills interventions that will optimise the ability of those long-term unemployed and economically inactive within Belfast to access employment opportunities arising from the Buy Social requirements within the Belfast Transport Hub. This will initially focus on embedding the Construction Employment Academy model within the enabling works and construction phases of this redevelopment as a demonstrator project for the wider partnership to optimise the employment opportunities resulting from the wider redevelopment of the surrounding area.</p>
3.11	<p>The Construction Employment Academies will involve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholder engagement with the range of employability, community and training providers across the city to prepare individuals for upcoming Construction Employment Academies; • Targeted animation within local communities close to the vicinity of the development to identify individuals interested in the job opportunities; • Outreach animation across the city to identify individuals interested in the job opportunities; • Belfast City Council will provide resources to deliver Construction Employment Academies and co-designed with Translink and the relevant contractor/subcontractor for the identified employment opportunities; • The Construction Employment Academy includes job roadshows, site visits, training and employability skills development delivered close to the vicinity of the development; • Guaranteed job interviews with the contractor; and • Working with the appointed contractor/s to identify wider employment opportunities within the construction of the Belfast Transport Hub and ensure the contractor has access to the Construction Employment Academy model to meet these employment needs;

3.12	This is planned to ensure a focus on achieving sustainable employment outcomes that contribute to achieving the goals of the Belfast Agenda.
3.13	It is clear that the Transport Hub will bring about significant regeneration, economic and environmental benefits to the city and aligns with the Council's ambitions within the Belfast Agenda and the Belfast Regeneration and Investment Strategy. The Council will however continue to work with Translink to ensure that delivery of the Transport Hub generates the greatest possible regeneration benefits to local residents in terms of jobs, training and economic impact.
3.14	<p><i>Wider masterplan development scheme (Weavers Cross)</i></p> <p>The full application for the wider regeneration scheme has not yet been submitted to the Council. The site sits within the wider context of a regeneration masterplan, referred to collectively as Weavers Cross, which will be submitted in outline planning application form. The proposed regeneration masterplan for this wider area is expected to consist of a mix of commercial and residential development. Initially both the outline and full applications were to be submitted in tandem but the outline application for the wider site is yet to be submitted pending planning approval for the Transport Hub.</p>
3.15	Further reports on the wider Weavers Cross regeneration proposals will be brought back to the City Growth & Regeneration Committee in due course and officers are continuing to engage with Translink on this. In addition, it is expected that the outline application for the wider site will be processed and determined by the Council. Prior to the submission of an outline application for the wider development, the applicant will be required to undertake pre-application community consultation as the proposal will be for Major development.
3.16	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>No direct resource implications associated this report.</p>
3.17	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>No specific equality or good relations implications at this time.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 - Planning Addendum report 11 September 2018.

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ADDENDUM REPORT

Re-Consultation From Department for Infrastructure

Committee Meeting Date: 11 September 2018

Application ID: LA04/2017/1388/F

Proposal:

New integrated transport interchange comprising; station concourse, 26 bus stands, 8 railway platforms, bus maintenance and parking, track and signalling enhancements, bus access bridge, cycle and taxi provision, car parking, new public square, public realm improvements, highway improvements, infrastructure improvements, temporary structures for bus operations during construction and temporary site construction compounds.

Location:

To The East Of The Westlink (A12); South Of (Nos.127-9) And Including Grosvenor Road; At Intersection Of Grosvenor Road And Stanley Street; At The Intersection Of Durham Street And Grosvenor Road; At The Intersection Of Fisherwick Place And Howard Street; At Great Victoria Street (between Nos. 1-3 To 27-45); At Glengall Street (between Nos. 3-21); At The Junction Of Hope Street, Bruce Street And Great Victoria Street; At The Junction Of Durham Street, Linfield Road, Sandy Row And Hope Street; At Sandy Row From 2 Hurst Park To 85-87 Sandy Row, Gilpins Site; To North Of Former Whitehall Tobacco Works At Linfield Road, Weavers Court Business Park/ Linfield Industrial Estate, Blythefield Primary School And Charter Youth Club; At Weavers Court Business Park And Railway Track Lands Surrounding Arellian Nursery And Bounded By Utility Street/Bentham Drive/Egmot Gardens/ Felt Street (to North); Prince Andrew Park And Abingdon Drive (to South); Beit Street, Roosevelt Rise, Roosevelt Square

Introduction

This matter relates to re-consultation by the Department for Infrastructure (DFI) on the planning application for the new Transport Hub (LA04/2017/1388/F). DFI is the determining authority having formally “called in” the planning application under Section 29 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011.

This addendum report should be read in conjunction with the original report to the Planning Committee in October 2017, which is appended.

Background

The planning application for a new Transport Hub was originally submitted to Belfast City Council in June 2017. Later that month, DFI directed the Council to refer the application to it for determination. The Department gave this direction as it considered the application to be of regional significance.

In July 2017, DFI formally consulted Belfast City Council on the application. The planning application was considered by the Planning Committee in October 2017. A copy of the Planning Committee report is appended.

The Planning Committee agreed to the recommendation set out in the report with the addition of a paragraph highlighting the broader regeneration opportunities and resources for local communities which this development presented and calling for these to be considered as part of the recommended Section 76 agreement.

In summary, the Council's response to the original consultation was:

- Further clarification required regarding cycle and car parking;
- Recommendation of a larger amount of usable green space;
- Recommendation of the use of Section 76 agreements for phasing, landscaping, public realm, parking and job creation (failing that a planning condition); and
- In addition, the Council requested that the Department considers the potential for regeneration opportunities for the communities in the area and a direct resource for local communities to deal with issues such as disruption, transport, and business closures. It is also suggested that a Section 76 agreement, which has the potential for supporting local regeneration such as business development, tourism initiatives, and tackling health inequalities, and that provides resources at a local level for the wider community via development contributions, should be considered.

Amended/Additional information:

In August 2018, DFI undertook a further round of consultation with the Council based on the receipt of further environmental information from the applicant. The Council has requested an extension to the consultation period until 28 September 2018 to allow time to coordinate its response.

Summary of new information:

- A 'Further Environmental Information' Planning Statement which responds to issues previously raised by consultees
- The Boyne Bridge Planning Information Summary which outlines the history of bridges at this location and the constraints to retention. It also outlines the proposed heritage aspects and highlights that Historic Environment Division welcome the approach and mitigation measures proposed
- A Construction Phase Sustainable Travel Plan
- Multiple documents pertaining to traffic surveys and modelling

Response to issues previously raised by the Council:

- Clarification has been provided regarding cycle and car parking. Officers advise that the proposed temporary car park should be appropriately conditioned to prevent permanent use.
- Clarification and further information was provided to deal with transport and parking. This will be assessed by DFI Roads.
- Whilst the Council felt that a larger amount of green usable space should be provided, the applicant states that the public consultation exercise showed a preference for flexible open space to hold events.
- The Council recommended a legal agreement to ensure that public realm, phasing, landscaping and parking are completed in the appropriate time and manner. The applicant responded to state that they are fully committed to the delivery of all of these components and that DFI feels these can be satisfactorily addressed via planning conditions. They further state that Translink's public funding includes some £7m for public realm and landscaping.

- The Council recommended a Section 76 agreement to leverage opportunities for residents to benefit both from construction jobs and long-term jobs. The applicant states that they have been working with the Council's Economic Development Unit (ECU) since April 2017 and hosted an event in October 2017 for attendees to learn of immediate and long-term employment opportunities as a result of this project. In addition, Translink and the Council have announced an official partnership to deliver the "Buy Social" clauses during the construction and engineering phase of the project which will include the formation of a "bespoke Construction Employment Academy".
- Finally, the Planning Committee requested the appointment of a dedicated community liaison officer to work closely with the local community on all aspects of the project. The applicant advises that a Community Development Manager was appointed specifically for this in Spring 2017.

Recommendation:

1. Members are requested to note the content of this briefing and advise if they wish to make any further comment on this planning application to DFI.

ORIGINAL PLANNING COMMITTEE REPORT

Consultation

From Department for Infrastructure	
Committee Meeting Date: 17 October 2017	
Application ID:	LA04/2017/1388/F
<u>Proposal:</u> New integrated transport interchange comprising; station concourse, 26 bus stands, 8 railway platforms, bus maintenance and parking, track and signalling enhancements, bus access bridge, cycle and taxi provision, car parking, new public square, public realm improvements, highway improvements, infrastructure improvements, temporary structures for bus operations during construction and temporary site construction compounds.	<u>Location:</u> To The East Of The Westlink (A12); South Of (Nos.127-9) And Including Grosvenor Road; At Intersection Of Grosvenor Road And Stanley Street; At The Intersection Of Durham Street And Grosvenor Road; At The Intersection Of Fisherwick Place And Howard Street; At Great Victoria Street (between Nos. 1-3 To 27-45); At Glengall Street (between Nos. 3-21); At The Junction Of Hope Street, Bruce Street And Great Victoria Street; At The Junction Of Durham Street, Linfield Road, Sandy Row And Hope Street; At Sandy Row From 2 Hurst Park To 85-87 Sandy Row, Gilpins Site; To North Of Former Whitehall Tobacco Works At Linfield Road, Weavers Court Business Park/ Linfield Industrial Estate, Blythefield Primary School And Charter Youth Club; At Weavers Court Business Park And Railway Track Lands Surrounding Arellian Nursery And Bounded By Utility Street/Bentham Drive/Egmot Gardens/ Felt Street (to North); Prince Andrew Park And Abingdon Drive (to South); Beit Street, Roosevelt Rise, Roosevelt Square
<u>Notification and Call In:</u> Belfast City Council has been notified of the above planning application. This application is being dealt with by the Department for Infrastructure as a result of it being classified as 'Regionally Significant' under Section 26 of the Planning Act (NI) 2011. The Department will be responsible for determining the application. After consideration of the application the Department will present a recommendation to the Minister for consideration. Section 26 (6) of the Planning Act (NI) 2011 empowers the Department to cause a public local inquiry to be held by the Planning Appeals Commission (PAC) or a person appointed by the Department. It is not mandatory to have a Public Inquiry and the Department will consider if such an inquiry is necessary when reaching its recommendation to the Minister. Where an inquiry is not held, and before a final determination is made, Section 29 (7) requires a notice in writing to be served on the applicant and Belfast City Council indicating the decision it proposes to make. The notice must specify that within a timeframe of not less than 28 days, the applicant or Belfast City Council can request the opportunity to be heard by the PAC or a person appointed by the Department. In such circumstances the Department on receipt of a request will write to the PAC asking them to convene a hearing. If an inquiry or hearing is held then the Department must take into account any report submitted to it by either the PAC or appointed person before making a determination. The Department will issue a decision notice to the applicant and inform the relevant council and third parties of the decision that has been made.	

The decision of the Department is final and there is no right of appeal. It is open to an individual to apply for judicial review in the Courts if they do not agree with the decision of the Department. Judicial review is limited to legal or procedural aspects of the decision only.

Recommendation:

2. Members are requested to note the content of this briefing and advise if they wish to make any comment on this planning application to DFI at this stage.

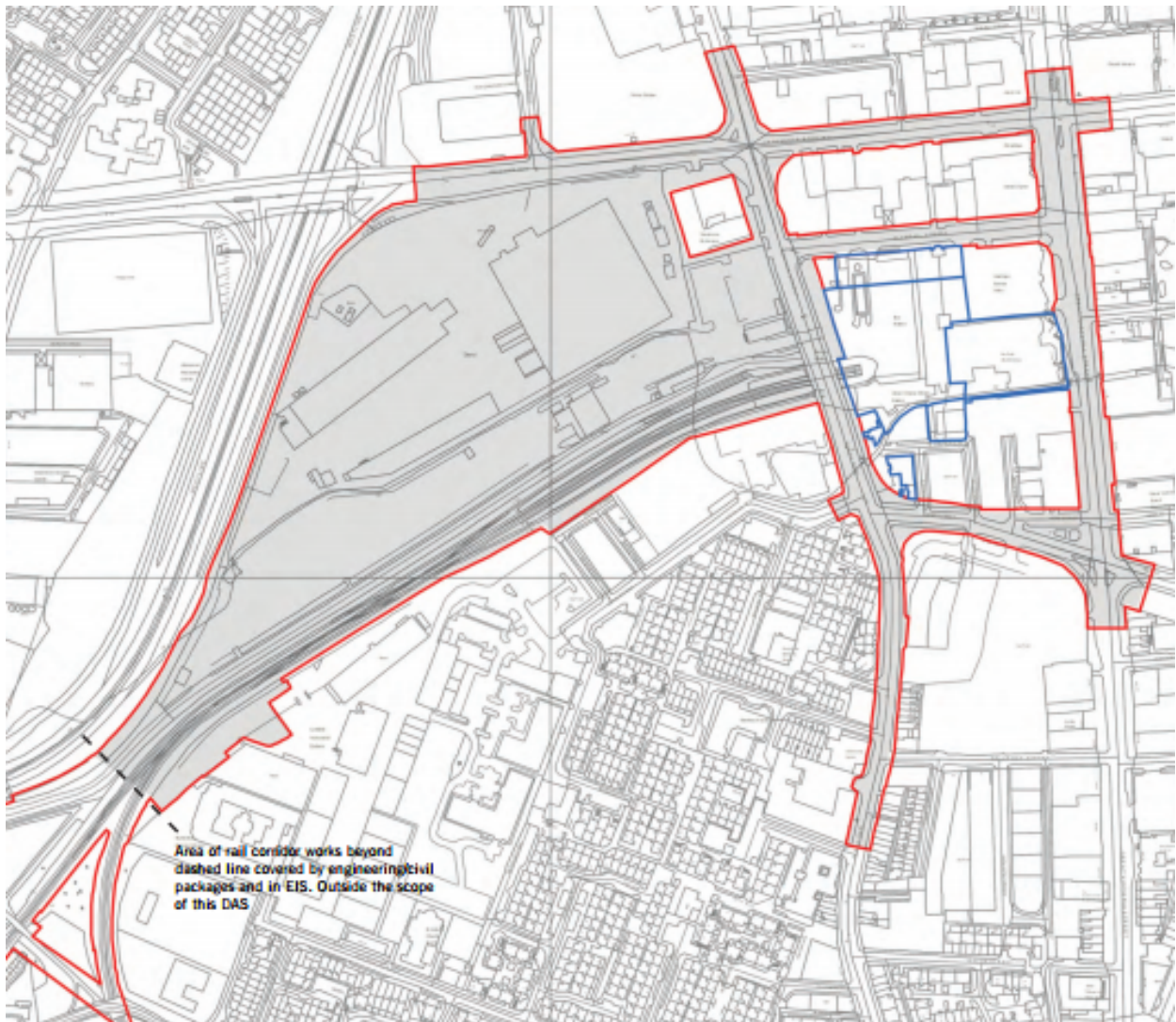
Applicant Name and Address:

NITHCO
22 Great Victoria Street
Belfast
BT2 7LX

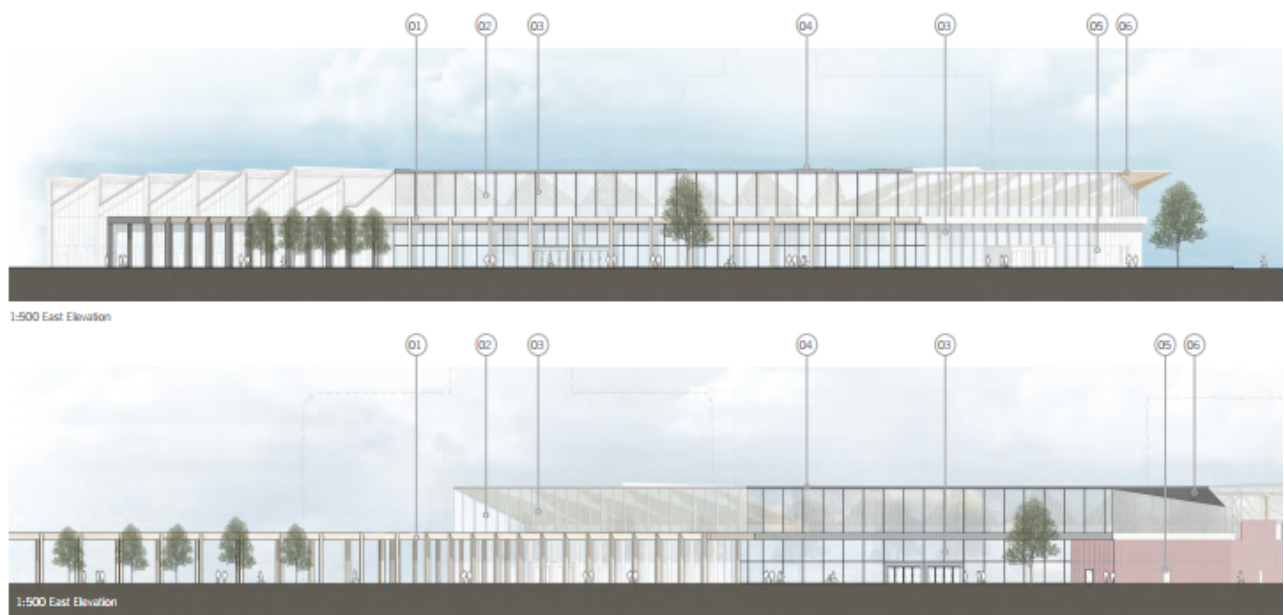
Agent Name and Address:

Juno Planning and Environmental Ltd.
409 Lisburn Road
Belfast
BT9 7EW

Site Location Plan







Pre-Application Community Consultation:

In accordance with the requirements of Section 27 of the Planning Act (NI) 2011, the applicant served a Proposal of Application Notice (PAN) on Belfast City Council on 12th October 2016. Belfast City Council responded on 18 May 2016 confirming that the PAN and associated approach to pre-application consultation met the requirements of Section 27 of the Planning Act and also provided information on a number of community groups that should be included in the consultation exercise.

The Pre-Application Community Consultation (PACC) Strategy included events in November 2016 and February 2017.

A Pre-Application Community Consultation Report has been produced to comply with the statutory requirement laid out in Section 28 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 and is available to view on the Planning Portal - <http://epicpublic.planningni.gov.uk>.

Background:

The planning application was received by Belfast City Council on 16th June 2017 and is accompanied by an Environmental Statement.

On 26th June 2017, the Department for Infrastructure (DfI), in exercise of the powers conferred on it by Section 29 (1) of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 and all of the other powers enabling it in that behalf, directed Belfast City Council to refer the application to DfI for determination under the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011. The Department gave this direction in view of the project being considered to be of regional significance.

Description of Proposal:

The site is located to the rear of the existing Europa Bus and Train Stations as well as adjacent lands. The proposed Hub will be located at a site west of Durham Street which is bounded by the existing rail corridor, the Westlink motorway, Grosvenor Road and Durham Street (and the Boyne Bridge). There are no proximate residential units within the immediate vicinity of the site and the area is characterised by mixed transport and commercial uses. There are however residential areas to the south in the Sandy Row area.

The proposed development comprises:

- The Belfast Hub building (No. 13 on the accompanying plan)
- The Station Square public realm (No. 01)
- Taxi ranks/pick up/ drop off areas (No. 02 and 22)
- Collanade (No. 05)
- Cycle parking (No. 06)
- Landscaping (No. 08 and 09)
- Temporary carpark (No. 10)
- Disabled bay (No. 23)
- Loading and coaches (No. 24 and 25)
- Bus operations area (No.11)
- Entrance area and ramps Grosvenor Road (No. 07)
- Bus maintenance facility (No. 12)
- Watercourse culverting
- Retail kiosk
- Temporary and permanent bus wash and refuelling facilities
- Lighting proposals
- Retaining walls
- Pedestrian accesses
- Road realignments
- Junction improvements
- Rail signals
- Signalling suite
- A footbridge
- A BMX park
- Cycleways
- Tracked busways
- 8 train platforms

The Belfast Hub building is comprised of a two-storey building with feature canopy/roofline to accommodate passengers for multi-modal transport. The building varies in height from approximately 10.6m to 14.5m above finished floor level with a canopy at a height of approximately 4.8m. It is largely glazed though the colonnade provides a pedestrian scale and contrasting sandstone and Portland stone. The flooring will comprise herringbone stone. The south elevation comprises sandstone/Portland stone cladding with a frameless glazing/curtain walling system with steel support and brushed stainless steel window frames. The west elevation contains sandstone coloured terracotta cladding and framed glazing with powder-coated framing. The east elevation comprises materials seen in both the west and south elevations. Internally, timber soffits are proposed to clad the underside of the roof features.

Internally, the hub provides an Enterprise Lounge for the Belfast-Dublin train route, a Goldline Lounge to service national bus routes, general seating areas, bus stands, kiosks, toilets, retail units, and back of house facilities such as security, left luggage and ticket office. The building naturally accesses the bus stands and rail platforms as well as Station Square.

Connectivity to the City Centre is via Glengall Street and on to Grosvenor Road (primary). The concept and design is detailed in the Design and Access statement which states that “key in the selection of the preferred option was the ability for the hub structure to be built while the existing rail and bus facility remain operational” which is achieved via construction phasing.

Station Square public realm is approximately 7000 sq. metres and will serve as a forecourt to the project. The area will serve as a civic square and will address two public entrances (Durham Street and Grosvenor Road) and will accommodate significant rush hour pedestrian traffic whilst also providing cycle parking facilities. This component of the proposal will comprise granite hardstanding with landscaping, a water feature, amphitheatre/seating areas, art installations, colonnade, taxi rank, drop-off area, cycle parking and retail kiosks.

The Glengall Street pedestrian access will form the main pedestrian access from the city centre through to Station Square and will contain two “super crossings” on Durham Street and Great Victoria Street. Vehicular access will be restricted to taxis and deliveries. The street will be paved in granite blocks. It is intended to provide lighting, planting and seating to facilitate pedestrian traffic.

Durham Street removal of Boyne Bridge

Durham Street will replace the existing Boyne Bridge and will retain the North-South vehicular movement. There is proposed landscaping at both the northern and southern ends of the street to tie in with Station Square.

The Boyne Bridge replaced and encases two arches of the 17th century Saltwater Bridge. The shotcreted remnant of the Saltwater Bridge still remains incorporated into the southern limit of the current Boyne Bridge. Being of local importance due to its origins, it is proposed that careful excavation is undertaken to establish the practicality of retaining and incorporating within the new station square and providing interpretive panels to describe the historic significance (this will be the subject of Outline Planning application.)

Sandy Row/Grosvenor Roads

The Sandy Row connection with the Transport Hub is stated as being critical to the scheme. Grosvenor Road similarly will provide a direct entrance to the hub. Both areas will be treated with proposed landscaping and granite paving.

Operational Area

The operational area of the hub is located to the south of the site and contains the more functional side of the proposals with bus operations, maintenance, drop-off and pick-up areas, the rail tracks and temporary carpark. Landscaping and public realm works are also proposed to create continuity throughout the site.

Future masterplan

The full application for the Transport Hub sits within the wider context of a regeneration masterplan which is being submitted in outline form in due course. Initially both the outline and full applications were to be submitted in tandem but given the intended call-in of the full application, the applicant decided to await the outcome of the full application before submission of the outline.

Car parking and Access:

The Transport Plan for the proposed hub is available to view on www.planningni.gov.uk and states that Translink have set a target for passenger growth of 1m additional passenger journeys per year resulting in 85m passenger journeys per annum by 2021. The Transport Plan describes the proposal as a “transport-led regeneration project” which will “act as a catalyst for the regeneration” of the area.

There are 100 cycling spaces proposed to cater for the new Transport Hub building which will be located adjacent to the main entrance of the hub and Station Square. It is anticipated that a Belfast Bikes docking station will be incorporated into the square in order to continue the ability to use public hire bikes to get to and from key points in the city in a sustainable manner. It is noted however that no agreement has been reached with the operator.

There are 90 staff parking spaces proposed as well as 112 visitor spaces.

In terms of traffic management the Hub proposals promote and enable a multimodal transport interchange enabling rail to connect with bus; BRT, taxis, Belfast Bike and cars. The proposal provides strategic on-site car parking provision to accommodate those driving to use public transport (the Belfast/Dublin train) which should minimise the need for drivers to traverse the city centre to locate car parking

Landscaping and Public Realm:

The proposals include large amounts of landscaping and public realm both to the frontages of the proposed hub as well as along key approaches from Sandy Row, Grosvenor Road and most notably, Glengall Street. The area described as Station Square creates a large civic space as a focal point to the Transport Hub. This area includes seating, landscaping, a water feature and cycle parking. It contains a number of pedestrian routes through from key entrances to the hub itself.

Transport hubs are no longer seen as purely functional nodes. Public demands and expectations of such facilities are higher, not only in terms of high quality architecture but also in relation to the place making qualities of associated open space and public realm. The city centre is currently lacking in green space with a large proportion of its existing public spaces dominated by hard surfacing.

The proposal incorporates a considerable expanse of hard surfacing within both the main civic space (Station Square) and the public realm associated with the Grosvenor Road entrance. Within Station Square the amount of green space is limited to three modest raised planting areas. In terms of the wider functioning of the city, an aspiration would have been to include a larger amount of usable green space, as an integral part of the design of Station Square, particularly given that ultimately it will be one of the more densely developed parts of the city. The injection of additional green space within this expansive 7000m² square (more than twice the size of Custom House Square) would, in this context, encourage increased dwell time within the space and prevent it from becoming merely a transition space. Consideration could also be given to injecting an element of playfulness to the design of the square/public realm which are presently very formal in its arrangement.

Given the proposals for such significant amounts of additional new public realm the applicant will need to consider the long term management and maintenance of these areas, particularly if they constructed from high quality materials. Whilst it may be assumed footways and roadways will be adopted in due course, this may not be the case with Station Square and it may be that Translink become responsible for this space in the long-term. This will generate an ongoing revenue cost.

In terms of Glengall Street it is suggested that this will both be the main pedestrian access from the city centre whilst also serving a function in terms of taxis and servicing. This has the potential to cause conflict between modes of transport and undermine the route as the key pedestrian connection. The applicant will need to consider how to mitigate this potential conflict through its estate management and servicing strategy.

The proposed colonnading is approximately 5.6-6.0m wide (distance between columns) which is considered adequate for two way pedestrian movement. However a potential pinch point exists within the public realm outside the Grosvenor Road entrance, specifically between the entrance and sections of retaining walls.

Urban Design Considerations

The RDS advises that Belfast City Centre is the most important place in Northern Ireland and the place where investment impact can be maximised. The Transport Hub for Belfast should therefore play a key role in this continued transformation. A truly integrated Transport Hub should do exactly that, integrate with the fabric of the city to become a gateway to its centre and in doing so a catalyst for future investment and development. The Belfast Hub should represent one of the primary gateways to Belfast and create an excellent first impression of a confident and progressive capital city.

Given the significance of the Hub, not only to its immediate context but also the wider city centre, it is important that its relationship to the wider area be clearly contextualised within an overarching masterplan. This is not the case in this current application. The exclusion of the BT Exchange building/site and the adjoining Great Northern Mall from the overarching masterplan, which would have enabled a greater prominence along Great Victoria Street and Grosvenor Road, are missed opportunities from an urban design perspective.

The Hub is to be constructed a substantial distance to the rear of the original station and will be of a relatively low density, operating for the most part as a standalone transport facility albeit integrated within a network of public realm proposals. Transport hubs have become much more than just a place to get on and off trains and buses and are increasingly becoming places within which to shop, work, do business and relax. While there is a simplicity and elegance in the proposed contemporary architectural approach, including historical references to railway engineering vernacular through the use of colonnading and the undulating roof form, the opportunity could have been taken to deliver a transport hub with multiple functionalities. In this instance consideration could have been given to explore a range of compatible uses under one roof which may have resulted in a building of a higher density, presenting a more sustainable and legible solution that delivers a strong urban presence within the city that would be expected from a project of this calibre.

Active frontages

It is noted that the proposed ground floor plans include a number of 'front of house' retail units located between both entrances, which are welcomed. However the opportunity should be taken to design these as dual aspect units that would enable them to have both active frontages both internally and externally, thereby helping to animate the public realm to the front of the building (a section of which would be covered by the proposed colonnade).

The redevelopment of the BT Exchange site, which abuts the northern edge of the square, does not form part of this application. As such a total of four kiosks are proposed along the southern edge of the BT Exchange site in order to address the obvious lack of active frontage to the square in this location. While there would be no objection in principle to the proposed kiosks, which are contemporary in their design and choice of materials, again this is considered to be a missed opportunity and one which may be perceived as a temporary arrangement within what should be one of the city's key public spaces. As a minor point, it is noted that a wedge shaped ornamental planting strip is proposed along the rear of the four kiosks. This arrangement could result in an area prone to trapping litter and may have the potential for anti-social behaviour.

Materials

The simplicity of materials including Portland stone, terracotta panelling and glass curtain walling will be a positive design feature, however further detail would be required in relation to a number of annotations included within the drawings. These include reference to "concrete columns over clad in white" and large areas referred to only as "louvres". It is acknowledged that the use of glass curtain walling in this context will provide a transparent boundary between the buildings internal arrangement and its external setting which will enhance its legibility while allowing natural light to penetrate deeper into the building.

Temporary uses

A number of interim uses form part of the current application. These relate to:

- Temporary landscape (public realm) south of the proposed civic space/colonnading – highlighted within previous PADs as a proposed commercial (tall) building;
- Temporary landscape (wildflower meadow) and temporary car parking west of the transport hub – highlighted within previous PADs as a collection of commercial buildings with an element of amenity/leisure/community use.

It is understood that the wider masterplan area will be subject to an outline application which will follow the full application for the Transport Hub and associated infrastructure. While there are no objections in principle to the temporary uses as proposed, their inclusion in this application means that they will be assessed outside of the context of those uses included within the wider masterplan which will be brought forward through the forthcoming outline application. Good urban design practice advocates that schemes should be resisted which would prejudice future development potential and/or quality. Conversely schemes should also be evaluated in relation to the wider context of the masterplan and any subsequent phases of development that are aspired to.

The lack of a wider masterplan context raises concern relating to the temporary landscape (public realm) proposed in this application, south of the proposed civic space/colonnading, which according to previous PADs, was earmarked for a proposed commercial (tall) building within the wider masterplan. It is unclear how this area of temporary landscape (public realm) will relate to the tall building shown in previous PADs and which is likely to form part of a future outline application. Of particular concern is the potential for such a building to potentially overshadow the civic space being due north of the site and any micro climatic conditions that may arise.

The temporary condition of the site, particularly during periods of construction, will be critical to the long-term success of the scheme in the eyes of not only commuters and residents, but it will also shape the perception of potential occupiers of the commercial space and residential units within

the wider masterplan area. Temporary landscaping, hoardings and wayfinding signage should consequently be of a high quality so as to generate value for the wider masterplan area. Thought should also be given as to how these temporary and permanent spaces can be animated and activated prior to development.

Likewise concerns would also exist in relation to the quantum of residential accommodation proposed within the wider masterplan, which for a scheme of this scale and significance should be substantially higher.

Regeneration Considerations

The Belfast City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy (BCCRIS) sets out the Council's collective ambition for the continuing growth and regeneration of the city core and its surrounding area up to 2030. It has been shaped by extensive engagement with stakeholders, including Translink, and contains a road map policies to guide city-centre decision-making and key projects that translate those policies into action.

The Council believes that the city centre will play a pivotal role in the growth of Belfast and the entire region and that there are exciting and significant potential opportunities for investment. Our commitment to city-centre regeneration is underlined by the £18.7m City Centre Investment Fund which the Council created to support the implementation of the Strategy.

BCCRIS identifies the South Centre of the city centre as the primary focus for Belfast's office sector, at the centre of Northern Ireland's knowledge economy and an essential driver of the region's economic growth.

The Strategy strongly welcomes the Belfast Hub as a major improvement in convenience and connectivity of the regional rail system and associated transport links.

The opportunity is not just one of transport engineering: it is a chance to redefine the gateway to Belfast's City Centre and is a major regeneration opportunity for the entire city centre with particular significance for the neighbouring community of Sandy Row which forms part of the South Belfast Urban Village comprising Sandy Row, Donegall Pass and the Market areas and West Belfast, Grosvenor road community.

This consultation relates to the detailed planning application for the station building, public square and associated proposals described on page 5. Although it includes streets and public realm for a considerable distance beyond the application boundary on Grosvenor Road, Glengall Street, Durham Street, Great Victoria Street and Sandy Row, it omits significant areas of land and buildings with regeneration potential between Durham Street and Great Victoria Street and south to Sandy Row. It is expected that these areas will be included in an outline application for the wider area likely to be submitted by Translink for determination by the Council early in 2018

Improved Connectivity

It is important to make the Hub a civic gateway to the city with key connections.

It is important that there is a safe and easy way to cross Durham Street. The application proposes a significant new public square in front of the station with a crossing leading towards the rear of existing buildings fronting Great Victoria Street. This includes a colonnade which leads from the station around the southern boundary of the Square and aligns with the rear entrance of the Greta Northern mall. This is supported. The design of buildings and spaces between should assist those arriving at the new station to navigate through the proposed station square towards the Mall and Glengall Street and to the city centre beyond.

The improved physical links to the Sandy Row area with quality pedestrian connections that take account of safety issues, traffic management and improved street surface and public realm are supported. In particular the public realm proposals which stretch beyond the site boundary to Sandy Row and the Hope Street and Durham Street junction areas are welcome. However, to make these connections successfully, the improved public realm will require to be complemented by proposed new buildings on the southern side of Durham Street to respond to the context of existing city fabric and promote a quality city and street scape, making reference to building line of the Whitehall Tobacco Works building and encourage footfall along Sandy Row. This will need to be addressed in the forthcoming outline application for the wider regeneration area.

Improved links with the Sandy Row community through exploration of the cultural legacy and its interrelationships with the Hub site (for example with regard to Boyne Bridge and its predecessor, the Saltwater Bridge) are supported and encouraged.

The application seeks to improve physical links to West Belfast area with quality pedestrian connections that take account of safety issues, traffic management and improved street surface and public realm to stretch beyond the site boundary to the Grosvenor Road Area. This is welcome.

Proposals coming forward in the outline application should reduce severance, perception of severance, promote safety and ensure that proposed developments respond to the creation of a streetscape, with active uses and overlooking encouraged onto the Grosvenor Road.

Although beyond the boundaries of this application, it is important that the applicant recognises the importance of this proposal as the first element of providing improved access through the Great Northern Mall as the primary pedestrian route between the Hub and the Linen Quarter with a pedestrian crossing relocated to lead from the mall across to Blackstaff square and the city centre. It is expected that the improved public realm and pedestrian connectivity across Great Victoria Street, with the treatment of the proposed landscaping of Great Victoria Street to reflect its role as a civic gateway and materials to tie-in or make reference to Linen Quarter palette of materials will be addressed in the forthcoming outline application.

Develop mixed-use land uses appropriate to this key, city centre location

Proposed ground floor plans include a number of 'front of house' retail units located between both entrances to the station and these are welcomed. It is essential to maximise active street frontages, retail opportunities and community uses on the ground floors on the approach to the station building and on all proposed buildings within the wider Hub redevelopment area.

In addition to the development opportunity created by the relocation of the bus station closer to Durham Street, there are a number of surface car parks on Great Victoria Street, Bruce Street/Hope Street and Glengall Street which could accommodate new mixed use development. This should be addressed in the forthcoming outline application for the wider masterplan area.

Any forthcoming proposals for the wider Hub redevelopment area should, in addition to active ground floor uses, comprise mixed use development including Grade A office provision as well as quality mixed and tenure-blind residential accommodation. This would promote job creation and city centre living close to the new station, and encourage day and evening activity in the area.

Meanwhile and interim uses

As noted above, a number of areas of temporary landscaping are proposed within this application, and it is assumed that the wider outline application will include areas within the masterplan that will also either be vacant or be subject to temporary landscaping.

How such spaces are treated in terms of materials, management and activation is vital not only to how the Hub is received, but also in terms of generating long-term commercial interest in the

wider development and regeneration opportunities within the masterplan area. Transport-led regeneration projects elsewhere in the UK have recognised the importance of establishing a strong sense of place within the station environs, and in many cases have invested heavily both in temporary landscaping and meanwhile-type activities. In order to generate such added value the applicant would be encouraged to take a holistic approach to the 'curation' of the public realm and open spaces within this application and the subsequent outline application for the masterplan area, alongside such development partners as may be appointed in the future.

Employment Opportunities

This is one of the most significant projects in terms of size within the Belfast City area and is exceptionally important in the creation of local employment, both for in terms of the construction jobs and long term employment. The Council would welcome early discussions on how a pipeline of training, skills and jobs may be created over the life cycle of this project in order to leverage opportunities for Belfast City residents. This would involve working with development partners and local training groups in addition to the council's Belfast Works initiative. Any such skills and employment programme would be compliant with statutory and legal requirements in the promotion of fairness and equality.

Planning Considerations:

Volume I of the Environmental Statement submitted contains the following chapters:

- Chapter 1 Introduction;
- Chapter 2 Background;
- Chapter 3 The Site and Surrounding Area;
- Chapter 4 The Proposed Development;
- Chapter 5 Consideration of Alternatives;
- Chapter 6 The Environmental Assessment Process;
- Chapter 7 Ecology and Nature Conservation;
- Chapter 8 Air Quality;
- Chapter 9 Noise and Vibration;
- Chapter 10 Ground Conditions;
- Chapter 11 Historic Environment;
- Chapter 12 Townscape and Visual Impact;
- Chapter 13 Water Environment;
- Chapter 14 Socio-Economic;
- Chapter 15 Transport;
- Chapter 16 Waste;
- Chapter 17 Cumulative Effects; and
- Chapter 18 Mitigation Schedule.

Volume II contains the technical appendices as follows:

- A. Development Proposals;
- B. Ecology;
- C. Air Quality;
- D. Noise and Vibration;
- E. Ground Conditions;
- F. Historic Environment;
- G. Townscape and Visual Impact;
- H. Water Environment;
- I. Socio Economic;
- J. Transport; and
- K. Waste.

Volume III contains the figures as follows:

- A. Development Proposals;
- B. Ecology;
- C. Air Quality;
- D. Noise and Vibration;
- E. Ground Conditions;
- F. Historic Environment;
- G. Townscape and Visual Impact;
- H. Water Environment;
- I. Socio Economic;
- J. Transport; and
- K. Waste.

DFI have consulted the council on the details of the application and have undertaken consultation with the following organisations:

Consultations -

Northern Ireland Water Ltd – Interim response to state that NI Water are working with the applicant's consultants to agree a number of infrastructure alterations to accommodate the construction of the proposed project.

Northern Ireland Environment Agency/DAERA – Water Management Unit consider that the proposal has the potential to adversely affect the surface water environment. The Regulation Unit are content subject to conditions and informatives with regards to fuel tank removal, implementation of a remedial strategy, a piling risk assessment and verification of all remedial works. Natural Environment Division have provided advice.
Historic Environment Division –

Historic Environment Division – HED Historic Buildings have no comment to make. HED Historic Monuments is content that the proposal satisfies PPS 6 policy requirements subject to conditions for the agreement and implementation of a developer-funded programme of archaeological works. This is to identify and record any archaeological remains in advance of new construction or provide for their preservation.

Environmental Health – Belfast City Council – Extension sought until 20 September 2017.

Rivers Agency – No response to date.

Shared Environmental Services – No response to date.

Transport NI – No response to date.

Representations-

At the time of writing a total of 25 No representations have been received from third parties raising 22 letters of objection, 1 petition of objection containing over 3000 signatures, 1 comment requesting further information on the Environmental Assessment and 1 letter by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive requiring amendments to the proposal to prevent blocking access to their land as well as other comments regarding landscaping and housing.

The representations can be summarised as follows:

- Demolition of the Boyne Bridge and loss of heritage therein

- Loss of allotment plots
- Pollution caused by the proposal
- Encroachment on public amenity facilities
- Inappropriate spending of public resource given deprivation in the area
- Omission of the Blythefield Park area in the Environmental Assessment
- Noise and disturbance
- Loss of trees/buffer zones
- Negative impact on the Markets Area, Victoria Square and Central Station
- Project should have a wider scope to include other parts of the city such as Yorkgate
- Impacts on NIHE land and access
- Concern regarding public realm and landscaping layouts

The full details of the planning application (drawings, reports and the Environmental Statement) can be accessed on the planning portal at <http://epicpublic.planningni.gov.uk>

Recommendation:

- Further clarification is required regarding cycle and car parking. There is reference to a large surface car park which is marked as temporary however, the Environmental Statement makes reference to only a reduction of 21 spaces following completion. It is noted that that staff numbers are anticipated at 300 daily, staff parking is proposed at 90 spaces. Further clarification would be required on justification of this number as well as a parking plan to delineate where the spaces are and how the uses would be conditioned.
- In addition the Transport Plan compares existing and proposed parking spaces on site but there is repeated reference to parking at Central Station which it would not appear to be appropriate to use for a before and after analysis. Similarly some of the modelling information refers to residential units which are not included in this application.
- In light of the scale of the proposed Station Square, the applicant should consider the inclusion of a larger amount of usable green space, as an integral part of its design.
- In light of the scale of development and the context of the wider masterplan, a Section 76 agreement would be recommended to ensure that public realm, phasing, landscaping and parking are completed in the appropriate time and manner. In the absence of a legal agreement, BCC would recommend that a Phasing and Implementation Plan be required and conditioned to formalise the phasing plans as set out in 4.11 of Volume I of the Environmental Statement and other documents and agreed prior to commencement.
- In light of the importance of the project in terms of employment creation, a Section 76 agreement would be recommended to leverage opportunities for Belfast City residents to benefit both from the construction jobs and long terms jobs that may come forward,

working with development partners and local training groups in addition to the council's Belfast Works initiative. In the absence of a legal agreement, BCC would recommend that a plan be required and conditioned for submission to the Council outlining the applicant's proposals for access to employment opportunities.

Members are requested to note the content of this briefing and advise if they wish to make any comment on this planning application to DFI at this stage.



Subject:	Long-Term Cultural Strategy for Belfast
Date:	5th December 2018
Reporting Officer:	Eimear Henry, Cultural Regeneration Manager, ext. 3582
Contact Officer:	Eimear Henry, Cultural Regeneration Manager, ext. 3582

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update Members on the development of a long-term cultural strategy for Belfast.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is recommended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> note the contents of this report and agree to proceed with the development of a ten-year strategy, as set out in the presentation to Committee; and agree the timeline as set out in paragraph 3.8

3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p><u>Background</u></p> <p>Members will be aware that, at a meeting of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee in June 2018, it was agreed that officers would develop options for an approach to long-term cultural development in the city. At this stage, it was proposed that this would be a five-year initiative.</p>
3.2	<p>The timing of this work was in response to a number of important developments and milestones including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – End of participation in the European Capital of Culture bidding process. – Initial recommendations from a draft Festival and Events strategy. – Current Cultural Framework due to end in March 2020. – Current Tourism Strategy due to end in March 2020. – Core multi-annual funding programme for arts and heritage organisations in the city due to end in March 2020. – Tourism as a key strand in the Belfast Region City Deal including proposals for a new visitor attraction, the Destination Hub.
3.3	<p>All of these strategies and developments are in the context of the Belfast Agenda clearly setting out a vision for Belfast to be a ‘culturally vibrant’ city.</p>
3.4	<p>Furthermore, it has now emerged that the Arts Council of Northern Ireland is working on a new five-year framework as well as work by Tourism NI to further develop the regional events offer.</p>
3.5	<p><u>Proposed approach</u></p> <p>Following a review of previous approaches and an assessment of models from elsewhere it is now proposed that a minimum of a ten-year strategy should be developed. As well as supporting the Belfast Agenda it will also respond to and help define the role of culture across other priority areas including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Local Development Plan - City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy - Good Relations Strategy
3.6	<p>The Strategic Framework will better integrate a number of existing standalone strands within the Place and Economy Department including culture, arts, heritage, events,</p>

3.7	<p>festivals and tourism. It will also set out a template for effective cross-departmental and citywide collaboration. The result will be a clear set of strategic priorities and a proposed investment model that will be cognisant of the cultural ecosystem and interdependencies within the city. This will in turn be supported by detailed implementation plans.</p> <p>The proposed approach follows 6 key steps:</p> <p>Step one: Articulating a cultural statement for the city. This will be based on extensive engagement and consultation with citizens, the cultural sector and other stakeholders. The purpose of the statement will be to present a vision for transformation recognising the value of culture in the city.</p> <p>Step two: Establishing an outward facing narrative. This will present a coherent and authentic story that will be resonate both locally and internationally. As part of this process, a number of key thematic areas will be tested in the local and key visitor markets. This will then help to give greater focus to the city’s tourism and events offer.</p> <p>Step three: Creating a Framework establishing crosscutting strategic priorities. These priorities will focus on the contribution of culture to place-making and will set out an approach to long-term measurement of progress against agreed indicators.</p> <p>Step four: Designing an investment programme to support delivery of strategic priorities. This will include leveraging non-Council sources of funding including contributions from the private sector. This will include the implementation of key recommendations from the Core Cities Cultural Enquiry due to be published later this month.</p> <p>Step five: Developing detailed implementation plans. Key strands will include cultural development; events and festivals; and tourism development as well as a cross-departmental and city partnership model for delivery.</p> <p>Step six: Producing a bespoke programme of activity centred around 2023. A yearlong programme of activity is considered as a key milestone in the ten-year strategy. A dedicated year is considered as the critical catalyst for change and transformation. This is to coincide with a precursor to the opening of the Belfast Story.</p>
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	<p><u>Next Steps</u></p>														
3.8	<p>The proposed timeline associated with next steps is set out below:</p>														
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="276 405 624 555">Dec 2018 – March 2019</td><td data-bbox="624 405 1426 555">Ongoing engagement Development of cultural statement, narrative, strategic framework and investment programme</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="276 555 624 600">March 2019</td><td data-bbox="624 555 1426 600">Approval for draft strategy to go out to public consultation</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="276 600 624 656">April 2019 – June 2019</td><td data-bbox="624 600 1426 656">Public Consultation</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="276 656 624 701">August 2019</td><td data-bbox="624 656 1426 701">Approval of final strategy</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="276 701 624 757">Sept 2019 – Feb 2020</td><td data-bbox="624 701 1426 757">Development of implementation plans</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="276 757 624 813">October 2020</td><td data-bbox="624 757 1426 813">Opening of new funding programme</td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="276 813 624 913">March 2020</td><td data-bbox="624 813 1426 913">Approval of funding recommendations and implementation plans</td></tr> </table>	Dec 2018 – March 2019	Ongoing engagement Development of cultural statement, narrative, strategic framework and investment programme	March 2019	Approval for draft strategy to go out to public consultation	April 2019 – June 2019	Public Consultation	August 2019	Approval of final strategy	Sept 2019 – Feb 2020	Development of implementation plans	October 2020	Opening of new funding programme	March 2020	Approval of funding recommendations and implementation plans
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October 2020	Opening of new funding programme														
March 2020	Approval of funding recommendations and implementation plans														
	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p>														
3.8	<p>There are no specific financial or resource implications at this stage. All costs associated with developing the long-term strategy are included in existing 2018/19 budgets.</p>														
	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment</u></p>														
3.9	<p>Full consideration will be given to Equality and Good Relations implications as part of the development of the strategy.</p>														
4.0	<p>Documents Attached</p>														
	<p>None</p>														



Subject:	Update on Eastern Economic Corridor
Date:	5th December, 2018
Reporting Officer:	John Greer, Director of Economic Development, ext. 3470
Contact Officer:	Cathy Keenan, Assistant Economic Development Manager (Local Economic Development)

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
	The purpose of this report is to provide an update to Members on progress to date on work to support the development of the Belfast-Dublin Economic Corridor, including engagement with the other seven other councils along the corridor.
2.0	Recommendations
	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> note the progress to date on this work, including the proposed conference, which members will be invited to attend; note the plans for the conference and the emerging research outcomes; and

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • agree to receive a future report in advance of the conference, providing an update on the Memorandum of Understanding for information and endorsement.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Members will recall the update provided on the Eastern Economic Corridor (EEC) at the City Growth and Regeneration Committee meeting on 12 September 2018. The report provided an update on the work currently being undertaken by the Economic Development team to increase collaborations with Dublin, and opportunities to support economic cooperation and engagement between the cities and along with Belfast-Dublin corridor.
3.2	The report outlined plans for a proposed conference which aims to highlight cooperation opportunities along the corridor and Belfast City Council has been working with the other seven Councils along the corridor to develop this concept further. The eight councils are Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council; Belfast City Council; Dublin City Council; Fingal County Council; Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council; Louth County Council; Meath County Council; and Newry, Mourne and Down District Council.
3.3	In order to shape the conference and ensure that all partners are content with the content and approach, a steering group of senior council officials has been established. The steering group has commissioned the local universities (a collaboration between Ulster University and Dublin City University) to carry out further research to articulate the economic opportunities along the corridor. This research will form the basis of the conference proceedings and will provide a useful platform from which to scope additional opportunities for ongoing engagement with partners, in order to exploit the economic potential of this 100-mile corridor.
3.4	A key agreed outcome of the steering group meetings to date has been the aspiration to deliver a Memorandum of Understanding between the eight local authorities. This MoU will set out the scope of the joint areas of working across the corridor on infrastructure, attracting investment and jobs. This MoU will be brought back to the Council for information and endorsement.
3.5	A workshop was held in September, where each of the 8 EEC Councils outlined the key economic challenges and opportunities in their area and discussed the future of the partnership. The session documented a number of common themes, which is to be further explored through the research.

3.6	On 29th November 2018, the Chief Executives of each of the councils will attend a steering group meeting in Belfast City Council. At this meeting, an update on the themes emerging from the research will be presented and the strategic themes for the conference and next steps will be agreed.
3.7	<p>The key requirement of the study are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • define the geographic boundary of the economic corridor study area based on the economic value of the area; • identify sectoral strengths and opportunities for the Corridor; • identify assets and explore core economic drivers or hubs on the Corridor; • identify how the region can accommodate and deliver against the ambitions contained in national and regional policy to facilitate growth; • assess the potential impact of Brexit;and • set out the case for collaboration on the Eastern Economic Corridor.
3.8	<p>To date, the research project has identified a number of key strategic sectors and overarching themes including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Employability - Connectivity - Inclusive growth - Tourism - Agri-food - Biotech - Advanced engineering - Energy
3.9	<p>The conference will take place in the Waterfront Hall Belfast. Currently, this is planned for the end of February but will be confirmed in due course. The content of the conference will include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Signing of MOU between the 8 EEC Councils - Presentation of the research - Speakers from international business community - Chief Executives from Belfast and Dublin Councils to outline the potential of the Cities to work in partnership. - Other partners to feature in panel discussions

3.10	Members will be invited to attend the conference and there is likely to be public and private sector representation from all eight council areas as well as attendance by senior government representatives from both sides of the border.
	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u>
3.11	The activities outlined in this report will be resourced from the 2018/19 Economic Development budget previously agreed by this Committee.
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.12	The unit is currently undertaking a process of equality screening on the overall work programme, this will ensure that consideration is given to equality and good relations impacts throughout the development and delivery of this project. Both urban and rural areas are involved in this work.
4.0	Documents Attached
	None



Subject:	Belfast Zoo – Closures for Maintenance and Training
Date:	5 th December 2018
Reporting Officer:	Nigel Grimshaw, Strategic Director City and Neighbourhood Services, ext. 3260
Contact Officer:	Jacqui Wilson, Business Manager, City and Neighbourhood Services Department

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to advise the Committee of proposed closures to the public to allow for maintenance and staff training over the low season at the Zoo.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is requested to agree to the Zoo being closed to the public for a period of four weeks (excluding weekends) over the Winter period to allow for essential maintenance and staff training. The exact dates are to be agreed with Property Maintenance and Management.

3.0	Main Report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	Belfast Zoo is currently open to the public all year round and only closed on Christmas Day and Boxing Day. The Zoo infrastructure requires continual planned and reactive maintenance to ensure that health and safety and customer experience of the Zoo are achieved. Management are working closely with property maintenance and our landscape planning unit to ensure that as much essential maintenance is carried out in low season to ensure disruption to the service and the customer experience is minimised. Having the Zoo closed to the public for a number of days over a limited period will facilitate this without significant impact on our customers. It will also allow the Zoo to plan and release staff to attend essential training.
	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u>
3.2	Management have assessed the impact on footfall during this off-season period and as visitor numbers are low historically and some front of house staff will not be required, due to the closure, there are no significant financial implications.
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.3	There are no Equality, Good Relations or Rural needs Assessment implications.
4.0	Documents attached
	None.



Subject:	Belfast Partners – update
Date:	5 December 2018
Reporting Officer:	John Greer, Director of Economic Development
Contact Officer:	Cathy Keenan, Assistant Economic Development Manager (Local Economic Development)

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to provide an update to Members on progress to date on Belfast Partners and planned events taking place in London in February 2019 and early March 2019 in order to promote engagement between business contacts in Belfast and London and Dublin and to recommend attendance at the event by the Chair of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee and for aspects which are of a civic nature, the Lord Mayor.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the upcoming Belfast Partners Financial Services Sector event in London on 5 February 2019 and potential event in Dublin early March 2019. • Approve attendance at the event by the Chair of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee and for aspects which are of a civic nature, the Lord Mayor in London on 5 February 2019 and potential event in Dublin early March 2019.
3.0	Main report
3.1	Members will be aware that at the 7 March 2018 meeting of City Growth and Regeneration Committee, an update was provided on a range of business development activities that had taken place in London in previous months. This included the work to secure the City Deal and previous activity with Belfast Partners Network in London. Furthermore a member of Council staff had been seconded to the City of London Corporation in order to explore opportunities for further collaborative engagement.
3.2	One of the areas of particular joint interest that has emerged is support for the financial services sector post Brexit. There is both a sectoral ecosystem which should be leveraged and promoted between London and Belfast as well as Belfast and Dublin.
3.3	In regard to this, Members will be aware that the City of London now has a regional strategy for financial and professional services which features Belfast and that the Lord Mayor of London is promoting this internationally, and in this vein have invited the City of Belfast to be hosted by the City of London in early 2019.
3.4	Members will also be aware that Belfast City Council has been supporting the Belfast Partners Network in London for the last two years. Belfast Partners is a network of London-based companies within the Financial Services, and Fintech with an interest in Belfast – focusing on the city as a business and investment location.
3.5	As part of our engagement within this network, we have now hosted two major receptions in the City of London, at Mansion House on 23 November 2017 and a business mission for six local tech companies to engage with London based partners on 22 and 23 November 2017.
3.6	Further to this an inward investment visit to Belfast for 10 Venture Capital companies based in London took place in March 2018 in collaboration with Belfast Partners and British Business Bank, as well as local partners including Invest NI, CSIT, Novosco, and KPMG. Local Belfast companies were given the opportunity to engage directly with Venture

	Capitalists to explore opportunities for obtaining Venture Capital finance and to grow their business.
3.7	To follow on from these activities, and in order to sustain the networks and relationships that have been developed and to respond to an invitation that has been offered by City of London Corporation, an event for up to 150 senior representatives within the Financial Services Sector is currently being finalised for February 2019.
3.8	City of London Corporation have offered to host the evening in the Crypt, Central London which will be hosted by Catherine McGuinness Chair of the Policy and Resources Committee of the City of London Corporation (a specialist in financial law) and Right Honourable, the Lord Mayor of Belfast. The proposed running order will include speeches from Catherine McGuinness, Lord Mayor of Belfast, a Chief Executive Officer Belfast City Council, and a representative from Financial Services for example Danny Colligan who was involved in setting up Chicago Mercantile Exchange Belfast. There will be senior ambassadors from Belfast Financial Services invited including, McGuinness Consulting, Ernest Young and PA Consulting.
3.9	Speeches will focus on the business benefits of locating a business within the sector in Belfast, and how the city can offer a positive solution for a range of support services for a business working in a global operating environment. Belfast provides very similar accolades to London and it is an opportunity to describe the stand-outs which are particularly important bearing in mind post Brexit as it has been reported that a number of financial institutions are considering moving operations out of London and Belfast can provide an alternative proposition. Following the formal speeches there will be an opportunity for networking with those in attendance and the ambassadors from Belfast.
3.10	Equally firms based in Dublin within the financial services sector have an opportunity to locate a second site or new site in Northern Ireland and still support European passporting.
3.11	The proposed event in Dublin in March 2019 will follow a similar methodology, the detail of this is still to be confirmed however Glandore have offered to host the event. The focus will again be on Financial Services and the promotion of Belfast as an investment location. A date for early March is to be finalised in early December.
3.12	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u>

3.13	<p>The activities outlined in this report will be resourced from the 2018/19 Economic Development budget previously agreed by this Committee in March 2018.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>The unit is currently undertaking a process of equality screening on the overall work programme, this will ensure that consideration is given to equality and good relations impacts throughout the development and delivery of this project. Both urban and rural areas are involved in this work.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None



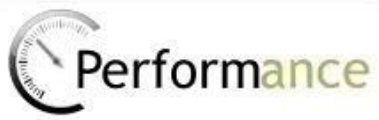
Subject:	Financial Reporting – Quarter 2 2018/2019
Date:	5 th December 2018
Reporting Officer:	Alistair Reid; Strategic Director of Place and Economy, ext. 2233
Contact Officer:	David Orr; Business Manager, Place and Economy Department, ext. 3502

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	This report presents the Quarter 2 financial position for the City Growth and Regeneration Committee including a forecast of the year-end outturn. A reporting pack, which contains a summary of the financial indicators and an executive summary, is attached. It also provides a more detailed explanation of each of the relevant indicators and the forecast outturn for the year.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to note the contents of the report and the associated financial reporting pack.

3.0	Main Report
	<p>Overall Council Financial Position</p> <p>3.1 The forecast year-end position for the Council is an under spend of £1.225m which is 0.9% of the budgeted net expenditure. This was reported to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on the 23rd November 2018. The Quarter 2 forecast from LPS is a clawback of £1.201m. The Committee agreed that no budget reallocations would be considered until the year end given the considerable financial challenges currently facing the Council.</p> <p>Committee Financial Position 2018/2019</p> <p>3.2 The Quarter 2 position for the Committee is an over spend of £157k (1.7%), with the forecast year-end position being an under spend of £24k (0.1%) which is within the acceptable tolerance which is 3%.</p> <p>3.3 The main reasons for the Committee over spend relate to additional staffing costs across a number of services, loss of Belfast Bikes sponsorship income, additional health and safety expenditure in City Markets and programme expenditure ahead of the budget profile.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>3.4 The report sets out the 2018/19 quarter 2 position.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>3.5 There are no equality implications with this report.</p>
4.0	Documents Attached
	Quarter 2 Performance Report



City Growth and Regeneration Committee

Quarterly Finance Report

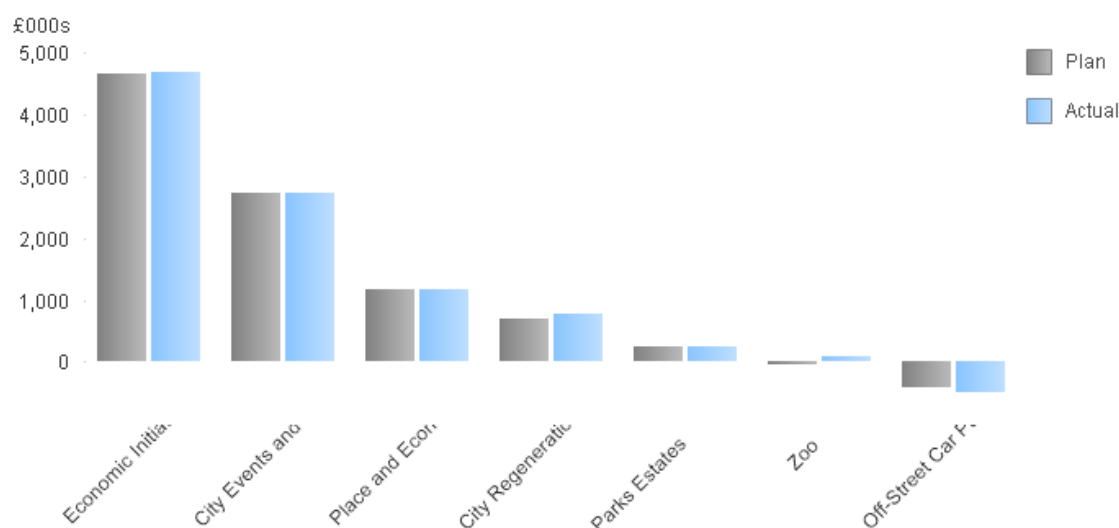
Report Period: Quarter 2, 2018/19

Dashboard

Quarter 2, 2018/19

Revenue Section							Page
Committee	YTD	YTD Var £000s	Var %	Forecast	Forecast Var £000s	Var %	3 - 7
Economic Initiatives & Internat Devpt	✓	13	0.3%	✓	(30)	(0.3)%	
City Events and Venues	✓	9	0.3%	✓	0	0.0%	
Place and Economy Directorate	!	16	1.3%	!	26	1.0%	
City Regeneration	✗	66	9.4%	✓	0	0.0%	
Parks Estates	✗	17	6.9%	✓	0	0.0%	
Zoo	✗	113	(636.7)%	✗	130	14.3%	
Off-Street Car Parking	✗	(77)	20.4%	✗	(150)	13.7%	
Total	!	157	1.7%	✓	(24)	(0.1)%	

Committee Net Revenue Expenditure: Year to Date Position



The **City Growth and Regeneration Committee** budget is over spent by £156,977, or 1.7% of its net budgeted expenditure of £9.1m at the end of quarter 2 of the 2018/2019 Financial Year.

The Committee's budget is made up of the following profit centres:

- ✚ **Economic Initiatives** (P&E):- Tourism, Culture, Heritage and Arts; Economic Development; Markets; European Unit and International Relations
- ✚ **City Events and Venues** (P&E): City Events; Belfast Waterfront; Ulster Hall
- ✚ **Place and Economy Directorate** (P&E): Belfast Bikes; Business Research and Development; Directorate
- ✚ **City Regeneration and Development** (P&E)
- ✚ **Estates Management** (PKS/CNS): Malone House; Belfast Castle; Stables Restaurant; Adventure Playground
- ✚ **Zoo** (PKS/CNS)
- ✚ **Off Street Car Parking** (H&ES/CNS)

Economic Initiatives & International Development (EIID) is over spent by £13,379 (0.3%); Parks Estates Management are over spent by £16,703 (6.9%); the Zoo is over budget by £113,017 (636%); Place and Economy Directorate is over spent by £15,512 (1.3%); City Events & Venues is over spent by £9,284 (0.3%) and City Regeneration and Development is also over spent by £65,905 (9.4%) whilst Off Street Car Parking is under budget by £76,824 (20.4%) at the end of quarter 2 of the 2018/2019 Financial Year.

There are five main areas that give rise to the current overall £157k (1.7%) over spend within the City Growth and Regeneration Committee budget at the end of quarter 2 of the 2018/2019 Financial Year. These are as follows:

1. Gross Income was £137k less than budgeted income to the end of September 2018. This variance relates to more income being received than planned in Off Street Car Parking £80k which is offset by less income than planned in the Zoo

£96k, Directorate £69k, EIID £28k; City Events £3k; Parks Estates £11k and City Regeneration £10k.

2. Employee costs are £7k less than budget with under spends in Place and Economy Directorate £65k; EIID £46k, City Regeneration £30k as a result of vacant posts which are offset by additional employee costs in Parks Estates £5k; the Zoo £77k and Off Street Car Parking £52k.
3. Premises expenditure was £54k less than budget with additional costs in EIID £32k and City Events £10k offset by under spends in Off Street Car Parking £39k, Parks Estates £18k and the Zoo £40k.
4. Supplies and Services expenditure was £120k over budget. Under spends in City Events £14k, the Zoo £16k and Off Street Car Parking £9k are offset by additional expenditure in Parks Estates £18k; Place and Economy Directorate £10k; EIID £44k, City Regeneration £86k.
5. Subscriptions, contributions and Grants are £38k under budget. An under spend in EIID £46k is offset by an over spend of £8k in City Events.

Service Analysis

EIID are over spent by £13,379 at the end of Quarter 2

(Budgeted Net Expenditure: £4,666,214; Actual Net Expenditure: £4,679,594).

Over spends in premises costs £32k (health and safety related); supplies and services £44k (programme costs Economic Development and European Unit) and less income 28k than budgeted (City Markets) are offset by Underspends in employee costs £46k and subscriptions and grants £46k.

City Events and Venues are currently over spent by £9,284

(Budgeted Net Expenditure: £2,728,166; Actual Net Expenditure: £2,737,450).

City Events are currently £9k over spent at the end of Quarter 2, mainly, as a result of Sports Events grants being paid out ahead of the profiled budget. There are also small over spends in employees and premises offset by reduced expenditure in supplies and services.

The Belfast Waterfront & Ulster Hall is currently on budget at the end of Quarter 2.

Directorate are currently over spent by £15,512

(Budgeted Net Expenditure: £1,169,873; Actual Net Expenditure: £1,185,385)

Within Directorate there is a current over spend of £16k. This is mainly the result of less than expected income for the Belfast Bike Scheme £70k with the loss of sponsorship income as a result of the contract renewal and a reduction in bike hire income year to date and an over spend in supplies and services of £10k off-set by an under spend in employee costs of £65k in relation to vacant posts.

**The Zoo is over spent by £113,017 at the end of quarter 2.
(Budgeted Net Expenditure: -£17,749; Actual Net Expenditure: £95,268)**

Zoo net expenditure at Quarter 2 is £113,017 over budget due to income being down £96k and staff costs being over spent by £59k. Reduction in supplies and services has offset some of this over spend.

**Parks Estates are over spent by £16,703 at the end of quarter 2.
(Budgeted Net Expenditure: £240,458; Actual Net Expenditure: £257,161)**

Parks Estates net expenditure is £16,703 (6.9%) over budget. This is primarily due to a reduction in income and expenditure on an essential piece of equipment.

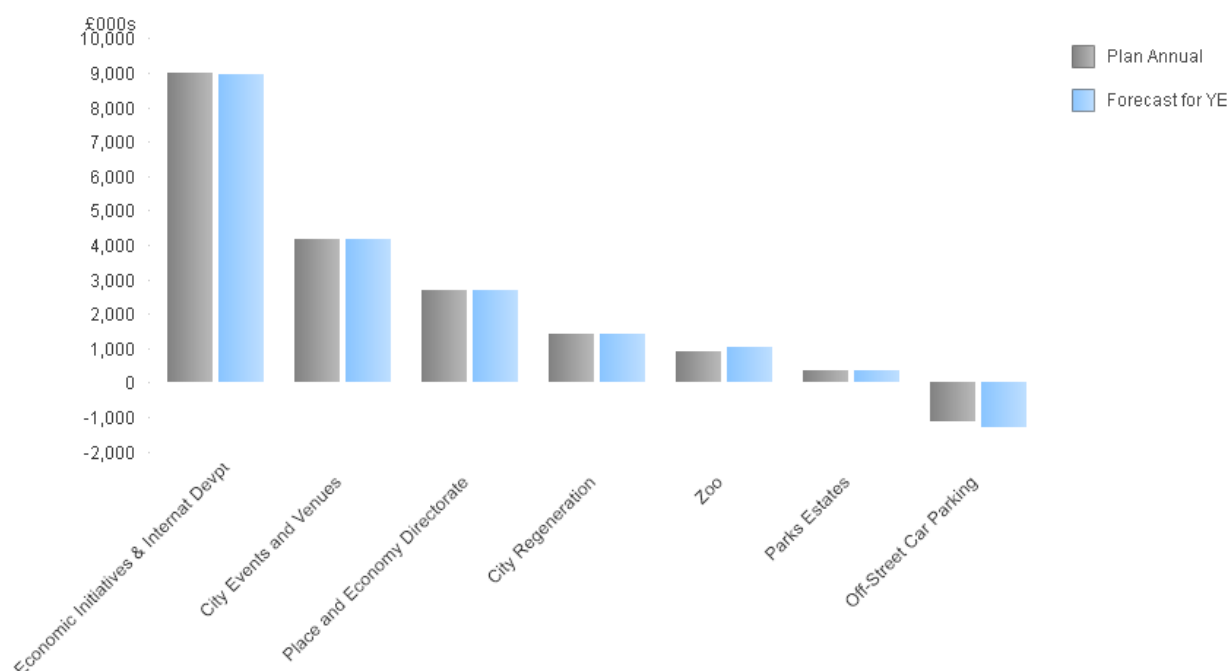
**Off Street Parking is under budget by £76,824 at the end of Quarter 2.
(Budgeted Net Expenditure: -£377,025; Actual Net Expenditure: -£453,849)**

Off Street Car Parking net expenditure is £76,824 under budget due to higher than anticipated income as a result of NI Water's use of Little Victoria Street for sewer improvement works.

**City Regeneration and Development is over budget by £65,905 at the end of quarter 2 of the 2018 /2019 Financial Year.
(Budgeted Net Expenditure: £704,335; Actual Net Expenditure: £770,241)**

City Regeneration and Development net expenditure is £66,905 (9.4%) over budget due to increased project expenditure of £86k which is off-set by £18k unbudgeted income in relation to MIPIM.

Committee Net Revenue Expenditure: Forecast for Year End



It is forecast that the **City Growth and Regeneration Committee** budget will be under spent by £24k, or 0.1%, of its budgeted net expenditure of £17.4 million at year end.

The Economic Initiatives and International Development service are forecast to be under spent by £30k (0.33%) at year end as a result of an under spend in programme costs in the Economic Development Unit which are partially off-set by additional health and safety costs within City Markets.

The City Events and Venues service is forecast to be on budget at year end.

Place and Economy Directorate are forecast to be over spent by £26k (0.97%) at year end as a result of the loss of Belfast Bikes sponsorship income mainly offset by reduced costs as a result of vacant posts.

City Regeneration and Development is forecast to be on budget at year end.

The **Zoo** net expenditure is forecast to be £130k (14.3%) overspent due to income targets not being achieved

Parks Estates net expenditure is forecast to be on budget at year end.

Off Street Car Parking is forecast to be £150,000 (13.7%) below budget due to additional income being offset against additional premises costs forecast to take place in 2018.

City Growth and Regeneration Committee

Section Expenditure Budgetary Analysis & Forecast

	Plan YTD £000s	Actuals YTD £000s	Variance YTD £000s	% Variance	Annual Plan 2018/2019 £000s	Forecast for Y/E at P6 £000s	Forecast Variance £000s	% Variance
Economic Initiatives & Internat Devpt	4,666	4,680	13	0.3%	8,994	8,964	(30)	(0.3)%
City Events and Venues	2,728	2,737	9	0.3%	4,163	4,163	0	0.0%
Place and Economy Directorate	1,170	1,185	16	1.3%	2,675	2,701	26	1.0%
City Regeneration	704	770	66	9.4%	1,409	1,409	0	0.0%
Parks Estates	240	257	17	6.9%	364	364	0	0.0%
Zoo	(18)	95	113	(636.7)%	911	1,041	130	14.3%
Off-Street Car Parking	(377)	(454)	(77)	20.4%	(1,098)	(1,248)	(150)	13.7%
	9,114	9,271	157	1.7%	17,417	17,393	(24)	(0.1)%

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