

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



**Belfast
City Council**

11th April. 2019

MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in the Lavery Room - City Hall on Friday, 12th April, 2019 at 9.30 am, 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. Restricted Items

- (a) Community Support Programme (CSP) Letter of Offer 2019-20 (Pages 1 - 18)
- (b) Assets Management (Pages 19 - 32)
- (c) Recruitment Update (Verbal Report)

3. Matters referred back from Council/Motions

- (a) Update on Motion - Community Pharmacies (Pages 33 - 42)

4. **Governance**

- (a) Governance Arrangements for the new Council 2019-23 (Pages 43 - 50)

5. **Belfast Agenda/Strategic Issues**

- (a) 100RC Challenge- City Currency Update (Pages 51 - 54)
- (b) Draft Cultural Strategy 2020-2030 (Pages 55 - 112)
- (c) Social Enterprise and Employment Support Programme (Pages 113 - 120)
- (d) NI Affairs Committee Inquiry into Tourism in Northern Ireland (Pages 121 - 126)
- (e) Update on the development of the Aquatics Strategy 2018 - 2030 (Pages 127 - 142)
- (f) Summer Community Diversionary Festivals (SCDF) Programme (Pages 143 - 150)

6. **Physical Programme and Asset Management**

- (a) Area Working Update (Pages 151 - 170)

7. **Finance, Resources and Procurement**

- (a) Contracts Update (Pages 171 - 178)

8. **Equality and Good Relations**

- (a) Draft Disability Action Plan 2019-2022 (Pages 179 - 208)
- (b) Regional event to Mark Holocaust Memorial Day 2020 and the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz (Pages 209 - 210)

9. **Operational Issues**

- (a) Requests for use of the City Hall and the provision of Hospitality (Pages 211 - 214)
- (b) Request re USAF Memorial Commemoration (Pages 215 - 222)
- (c) Minutes of the Meeting of the Active Belfast Ltd. Board (Pages 223 - 226)
- (d) ABF The Soldiers' Charity D-Day Commemoration Concert (Pages 227 - 230)

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

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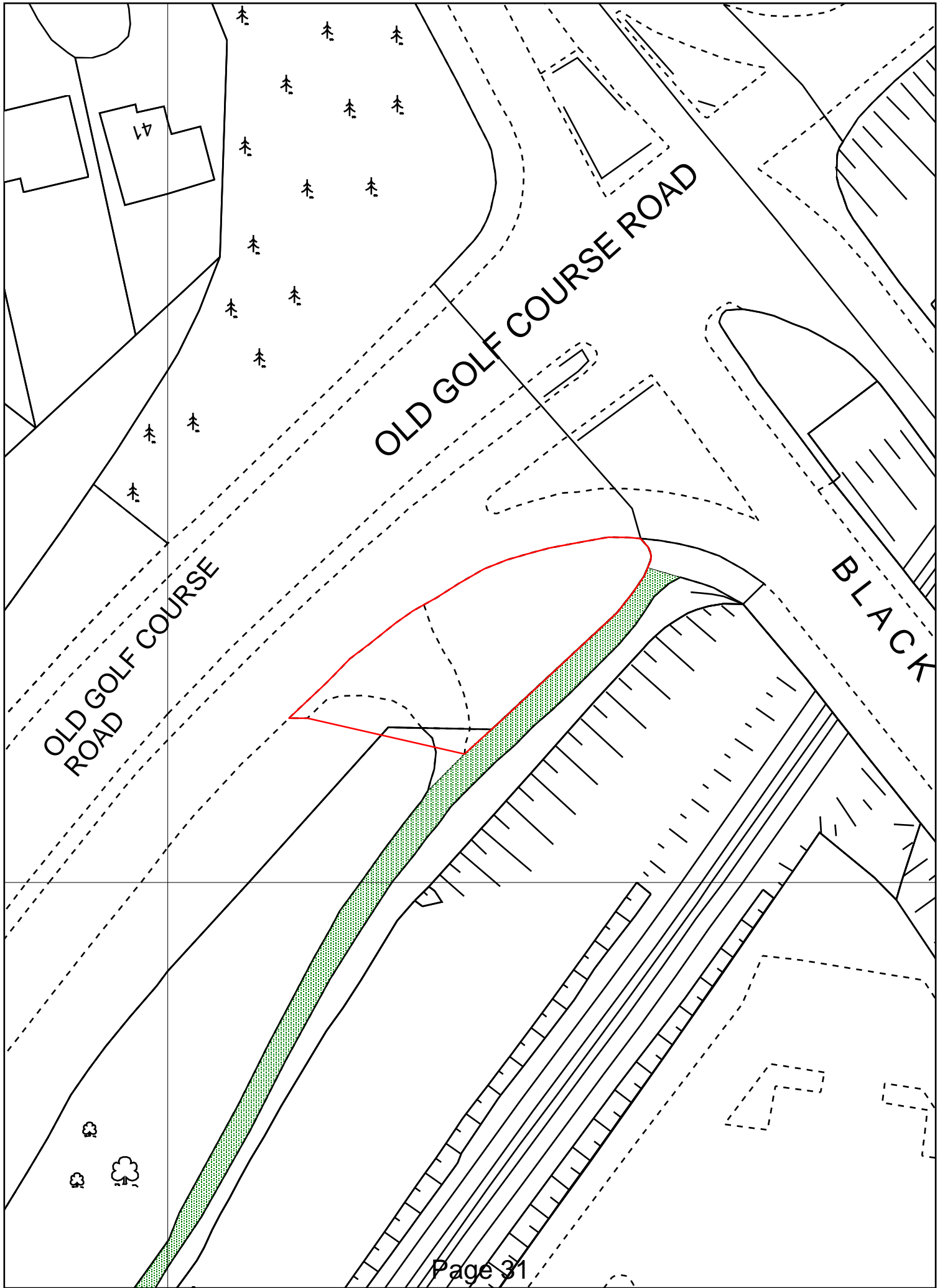
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Subject:	Update on Motion: Community Pharmacies
Date:	12th April, 2019
Reporting Officer:	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager
Contact Officer:	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager

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 consider a further response which has been received from Mr. Richard Pengelly, Permanent Secretary, Department of Health, in relation to the Council's motion on Community Pharmacies.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to note the response and take any such action as may be determined.
3.0	Main Report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	The Council, at its meeting on 3rd December, passed the following motion on Community Pharmacies, which had been proposed by Alderman Copeland and seconded by Councillor Mullan:

	<p>“This Council recognises the contribution to society made by Community Pharmacies and notes with growing concern the current financial crisis facing the sector, caused by a serious level of underfunding over the last decade.</p> <p>The Council agrees to seek an urgent meeting between the Permanent Secretary of the Department of Health and an all-party delegation from the Council, along with representatives of the Pharmacies.”</p>
3.2	Letters were forwarded subsequently to Mr. G. Greene, Chief Executive of Community Pharmacy NI and to Mr. R. Pengelly, Permanent Secretary of the Department of Health, in relation to the motion.
3.3	The Chief Executive of Community Pharmacy NI confirmed shortly afterwards that he would be willing to meet with an all-Party delegation from the Council and with the Permanent Secretary to discuss the motion. A response was then received from Mr. Pengelly and was presented to the Committee on 22nd February, a copy of which is attached at Appendix 1.
3.4	Mr. Pengelly had, within that response, provided details of substantial funding which had been made available in 2018/19 and 2019/20 to community pharmacies and had confirmed that a further £800k had been allocated within the current financial year. However, he had made no reference to the request to meet with an all-Party delegation from the Council and with Community Pharmacy NI, as had been alluded to within the motion.
3.5	The Committee noted the information which had been provided and agreed that a further letter be forwarded to Mr. Pengelly inviting him to meet with an all-Party delegation from the Council and the Chief Executive of Community Pharmacy NI. A copy of his response is attached at Appendix 2.
3.6	Mr. Pengelly again outlines the extent of funding which has been allocated to community pharmacies and points out that Departmental officials have ongoing contact with CPNI representatives on a wide range of funding issues. He states that that represents the most appropriate forum for engagement on funding issues and the development of new contractual arrangements for community pharmacies. He does not, therefore, feel that meeting with an all-Party delegation from the Council and with Community Pharmacy NI would be beneficial at this time.

3.7	<p>Mr. Pengelly then highlights the difficult and challenging financial environment being faced across the public sector, and by the health service in particular, and concludes by assuring Members that his Department is committed to ensuring that there continues to be a sustainable community pharmacy network and effective contractual arrangements.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p>
3.8	<p>None</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p>
3.9	<p>None</p>
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
	<p>Appendix 1 - Response from the Permanent Secretary - 12th February, 2019</p> <p>Appendix 2 - Response from the Permanent Secretary – 29th March, 2019</p>

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**From the Permanent Secretary
and HSC Chief Executive**



Mr Henry Downey
Democratic Services Officer
Belfast City Council
Chief Executive's Department
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democraticservices@belfastcity.gov.uk

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Tel: 02890520559
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Email: richard.pengelly@health-ni.gov.uk

Our ref: RP3500
SINV-0001-2019

Date: 12th February 2019

Dear Mr Downey,

COMMUNITY PHARMACY FUNDING

Your letter of 17 December 2018 (received on 27 December 2018) refers in which you provided details of a motion passed by Belfast City Council concerning funding of community pharmacies and a request for a meeting with an all-party delegation from the Council.

This Department and the Health and Social Care Board have been fully committed to finding a way forward to develop sustainable funding arrangements for community pharmacy services that support patient outcomes in the context of new pharmacy contractual arrangements.

In that context, and as a result of ongoing discussions with Community Pharmacy Northern Ireland (CPNI), the Department was pleased to announce in November a financial package of £11.1m by way of additional funding to support community pharmacy services up to March 2020. This funding is in addition to £104m funding per annum confirmed for 2018/19 and 2019/20 and £5m per annum for public health and pre-registration training.

A copy of the press release setting out more detail on the funding package is attached for information and is also available from: www.health-ni.gov.uk/news/additional-funding-announced-community-pharmacy/

Since that announcement on 16 November 2018 a further £4.6m has also been made available to support transformational change within the community pharmacy network.

In summary, the Department has committed £121.7m to the community pharmacy economy during 2018/19 at a time of significant financial pressures within the wider HSC. I trust that this provides assurance to members of the Department's commitment to community pharmacy.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Pengelly'.

RICHARD PENGELLY

ENC

PRESS RELEASE

Additional funding announced for Community Pharmacy

Date published: 16 November 2018

A new funding package for community pharmacies has today been announced by the Department of Health.

The additional allocations of up to £11.1m will be made available up to March 2020.

The new package is in addition to £104m per year funding confirmed for 2018/19 and 2019/20.

The additional allocations announced today comprise:

- £9m being made available across Northern Ireland up to 31 March 2020 to address immediate pressures within the community pharmacy network and support services for patients in social care settings. This additional funding will include extra support for pharmacies in rural locations;
- Transformation funding of up to £2.1m being made available immediately for launch of a Pharmacy First service for this winter season, which will be the first point of contact for patients for the treatment of a range of common conditions.

Consideration is also being given to further proposals for transformation funding to increase access to pharmaceutical care for patients, utilise the expertise of pharmacists, promote professional cooperation and build capacity in the health system

Today's announcement is the outcome of discussions with Community Pharmacy Northern Ireland (CPNI) and builds on the draft Memorandum of Understanding agreed between the Department, the Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) and CPNI to develop new contractual arrangements.

Richard Pengelly, Permanent Secretary of the Department of Health, said: **"Community pharmacies are often the first point of contact for patients seeking advice on their health, accessing the safe supply of medicines, treatment of common complaints and important public health services. The additional funding being announced today will help ensure that local populations have access to the most visited provider among all of the health services available."**

"We are very mindful of the growing pressures facing community pharmacists in different parts of the province. Officials from the Department and the Health and Social Care Board have been working very hard to make today's announcement possible."

"I would like to thank the individual community pharmacy contractors who I met personally to discuss the challenges facing their businesses."

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**From the Permanent Secretary
and HSC Chief Executive**



Mr Henry Downey
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Email: richard.pengelly@health-ni.gov.uk

Our ref: RP3799
SINV-0058-2019

Date: 29 March 2019

Dear Mr Downey

COMMUNITY PHARMACY FUNDING

Your letter of 8 March 2019 refers in which you have issued an invitation to meet with an all-party delegation from the Council, and the Chief Executive of Community Pharmacy Northern Ireland (CPNI), to discuss a motion passed by the Council on 3rd December 2018 regarding community pharmacy funding.

My previous correspondence of 12 February 2019 set out the detail of substantial funding for community pharmacy that has been confirmed for 2018/19 and 2019/20. Since then, a further £800k has been confirmed for this financial year for community pharmacies.

Colleagues within the Department and the Health and Social Care Board have ongoing contact with representatives of CPNI on a wide range of funding issues. That is the most appropriate forum for engagement in relation to funding issues and development of new contractual arrangements for community pharmacy. I therefore do not feel that a meeting as you have proposed would be beneficial at this time.

Council members will appreciate that we face a difficult and challenging financial environment across the public sector and the health service in particular. However, Council members can be assured that the Department is committed to ensuring that we continue to have a sustainable community pharmacy network and effective contractual arrangements for community pharmacy.

Yours sincerely

RICHARD PENGELLY



Subject:	Governance Arrangements for the new Council 2019-23
Date:	15 April 2019
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor / Director of Legal & Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager; Sarah Williams, Programme Manager

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	To consider the governance arrangements to apply for the new Council term commencing in 2019.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is requested to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider the issues and to decide on the preferred governance arrangements for the new Council.
3.0	Main report
	<u>Background</u>
3.1	At the meeting of the new Council following the local government elections in May, it will be necessary to agree the new council's governance arrangements for the period 2019-23.

	<p>A report on this matter was submitted to the Committee at its meeting on 22nd March. The Committee agreed to defer consideration of the report until the April meeting. In order for the proper arrangements to be made, including meetings with the Nominating Officers of the Parties returned after the elections, in advance of the Annual Meeting of the new Council on 21st May, it is now necessary for decisions to be made.</p>
3.2	<p><u>Key issues</u></p> <p>1. Council governance arrangements</p> <p>The Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 provides for a number of types of governance arrangements, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional committee arrangements (default position) • Executive model <p>In 2014, the Council adopted a Constitution which, amongst other things, agreed the default governance arrangements prescribed in the 2014 Act namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional Committee system • Positions of responsibility selected using the D’hondt model • Committee places allocated using the quota greatest remainder model <p>It would have required a qualified majority vote (80%) in order to choose any of the alternatives.</p> <p>Looking forward to the new Council term, should the Council agree to continue with the existing arrangements as set out in the Council Constitution, then the decision making process requires a simple majority vote to do so.</p> <p><u>Decision required:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do members wish to continue with existing governance arrangements ie traditional committee system?
3.3	<p>2. Standing Committees</p> <p>The council currently has established seven Standing Committees which promote cross-departmental and thematic working across the organisation supporting the delivery of the Belfast Agenda and the developing process of Outcomes Based Accountability:</p>

Committee	Number of Members	Responsibility
Strategic Policy & Resources	20	Responsible for setting the strategic direction of the Council through the development of its corporate plan and other key corporate and cross cutting strategies and policies and for setting the budget overseeing the appropriate use of Council finances
City Growth & Regeneration	20	Responsible for the development and implementation of strategies, policies, programmes and projects directed to the regeneration and inclusive growth of the city
People & Communities	20	Responsible for the development and implementation of strategies, policies, programmes, services and projects aimed at improving life at a local level
Licensing	20	Responsible for the consideration of all matters pertaining to policy and legislation in relation to licensing issues
Planning	14	Responsible for all the Council's planning functions
Belfast Waterfront & Ulster Hall Ltd. Shareholders'	14	Responsible for making the decisions required by the Shareholders' Agreement and ensure that the Company complies with the contract for the operation of the Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Halls
Brexit	20	Responsible for researching, monitoring and reviewing the financial, resource or operational impact upon the Council and the district as a result of the UK's leaving the European Union

Decisions required:

- Do we wish to continue with these Committees?
- Do we wish to maintain the current remit of each Committee?
- Do we wish to continue with these Committees with the same numbers of members?
- Do we wish to retain the Brexit committee?

3.4	<p>3. Annual review of Committee membership</p> <p>In the current council term, members were appointed to the Committees for the full four-year term. It is considered that it would be better in the new term for the members to be appointed for one-year terms, and reappointed at each Annual Meeting. This would allow for any changes in political affiliation which can occur during a council term to be accounted for. The City Solicitor believes this to be in keeping both the spirit and intent of the 2014 Act.</p> <p>Decision required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would Members be supportive of a change to a one-year committee membership term?
3.5	<p>4. Method of appointing positions of responsibility including PCSP and DPCSPs</p> <p>The positions of responsibility include the Lord Mayor, Deputy Lord Mayor, Committee Chairpersons and Deputy Chairpersons, some prescribed outside bodies and the Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) and the four District Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (DPCSPs). In dealing with the appointments of members to the PCSP and DPCSPs, the Council needs to ensure that the appointments are made in accordance with not only the LGA 2014 but also the Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 and are considered as part of the allocation of positions of responsibility.</p> <p>The solution, which was agreed by all parties in 2015, was that the appointments to the PCSP and DPCSPs were made by allocating those parties' D'hondt choices from the bottom up. Therefore, the parties' earlier choices for positions of responsibility were not adversely affected by the requirements of the Justice Act as to how the appointments to the PCSP and DPCSPs had to be made.</p> <p>A separate decision is also required in relation to the size of the main Policing and Community Safety Partnership. The Justice Act provides that the Council may appoint 8, 9 or 10 Political Members to the PCSP. The number of Independent Members is then set at one less than the number of Political Members. The Justice Act also provides that each DPCSP must have 6 Political and 5 Independent Members so no decision is required with regard to the DPCSP size. In 2015, the Council agreed to appoint 9 Political Members to the PCSP, resulting in a membership of 17 in total (9 political and 8 independent members).</p> <p>Decisions required:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are we happy to again employ the solution with regard to the Positions of Responsibility in 2019? • Are we happy to again appoint 9 Political Members to the PCSP?
3.6	<p>5. Standing Orders</p> <p>One of the first acts of business of the new Council at their meeting on 21 May will be to agree a new set of Standing Orders. It is recommended that an opportunity is taken to review some sections of the Standing Orders in:</p> <p>Standing Order 47: Call-in</p> <p>Following recent legal advice, it is recommended that Members consider some amendments to the process of call-in in order to more accurately reflect the legislation as it currently stands. Specifically this would add provisions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> That on a procedural call-in authority be delegated to the City Solicitor, in consultation with the Chief Executive, to obtain legal advice, to be tabled at the meeting of the ad hoc committee, if it is their view that this will assist in addressing the issues raised within the call-in That in suspending the operation of call-in on the grounds that the unreasonable delay that would be caused could be prejudicial to the Council's or the public's interests, the proposer will be required to give reasons as to why this is the case In relation to call-ins submitted under Section 41(1)(b) of the 2014 Act, the Chief Executive will wait until the expiry of the period for valid call-ins to be submitted before determining if the required 15% threshold is still in place. If that is the case then the opinion of a practising barrister or solicitor will be sought. <p>Standing Order 37a: Duties of Committees</p> <p>That to allow the timely implementation of decisions arising from the Contracts for Award report, delegated authority be given to SP&R for that purpose.</p> <p>Standing Order 13: Notices of Motion</p> <p>That Notices of Motion which fall within the remit of a Committee are automatically referred to the relevant committee for consideration without appearing on the Council agenda.</p> <p>Standing Order 64: Amendments to the Standing Orders and repeals</p> <p>That changes to the Standing Orders can be agreed at one Council meeting as opposed to two consecutive Council meetings as is the current requirement.</p>

	<p>Decision required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Would Members be supportive of these proposed amendments to Standing Orders? <p>Other areas of political governance which Members are asked to consider relate to:</p>														
3.7	<p>6. Appointment of Working Groups</p> <p>The Council decided to appoint a number of Working Groups in 2015. These Working Groups are not specified in the 2014 Act and the Council is free to use whatever mechanism it sees fit to appoint members to them. It is suggested that some of the current Working Groups could be re-aligned to the most relevant thematic committee in order to make their decision-making process more efficient.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Current Working Group</th><th>Recommendation</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Audit and Risk Panel</td><td>Retain</td></tr> <tr> <td>Budget and Transformation Panel / Party Group Leaders</td><td>Retain both and review individual Terms of Reference and the name of each group with the minutes being issued to any Independent members within two days of meeting</td></tr> <tr> <td>North Foreshore Members' Steering Group</td><td>Matters could be considered by City, Growth and Regeneration</td></tr> <tr> <td>Reference Group on Older People</td><td>Matters could be considered by People and Communities although some consultation may be required with sector</td></tr> <tr> <td>Shared City Partnership</td><td>Retain</td></tr> <tr> <td>Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Working Group</td><td>Matters could be considered by People and Communities and/or Strategic Policy and Resources Committees</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Current Working Group	Recommendation	Audit and Risk Panel	Retain	Budget and Transformation Panel / Party Group Leaders	Retain both and review individual Terms of Reference and the name of each group with the minutes being issued to any Independent members within two days of meeting	North Foreshore Members' Steering Group	Matters could be considered by City, Growth and Regeneration	Reference Group on Older People	Matters could be considered by People and Communities although some consultation may be required with sector	Shared City Partnership	Retain	Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Working Group	Matters could be considered by People and Communities and/or Strategic Policy and Resources Committees
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Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium Working Group	Matters could be considered by People and Communities and/or Strategic Policy and Resources Committees														

	<p>Decision required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would Members be supportive of reviewing the current Working Groups as outlined above?
3.8	<p>7. Area Working Groups</p> <p>Some consideration needs to be given to the terms of reference for the Area-Based Working Groups. Members are already aware that the financial position of the Council has changed significantly and there will not in the near future be a LIF3/BIF2 etc. This will significantly impact the role of the AWGs during this period. It is therefore recommended that there is a move to a more strategic area-based framework approach based on local needs encompassing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • council service and facility provision • external or multi-agency service and facility provision • agreed local area plans to improve outcomes for local people • longer term local regeneration and investment plans (including capital, revenue or other projects with multiple funding sources) <p>It is recommended that the AWGs are reviewed within this context and that, following holding a series of workshops with each Area Working Group, a revised Terms of Reference are drawn up (to be taken into Committee late summer / autumn).</p> <p>Decision required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would Members be supportive of this approach?
3.9	<p>8. Process for nomination for High Sheriff</p> <p>The current Council agreed to use a separate D'hondt process to decide which Parties would be entitled to nominate a person for consideration for appointment as High Sheriff for each year of the Council term. This process sits outside the positions of responsibility process as the appointment is made by the Secretary of State.</p> <p>Decision required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do we wish to use this process again from 2019?

3.10	<p>9. Appointment to Outside Bodies</p> <p>There are a number of appointments to Outside Bodies. In 2015, the Council decided to use the Sainte Lague method to make these appointments. A report on the appointments to be made would be presented to the first meeting of the new SP&R Committee in June.</p> <p>Decision required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do we wish to use this method again or the more common D'hondt method?
3.11	<p>10. Rate of Members' Allowance</p> <p>The Council did not agree in 2017 and 2018 to increase the Members' Allowances by the rate of inflation as it was permitted to do. In the new Council, do we wish to increase the basic and special responsibility allowances to the maximum permissible (as all other of the 10 Councils do currently)?</p> <p>Decision required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do we wish to do so for 2019?
3.12	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None at this stage</p>
3.13	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None at this stage</p>
4.0	<u>Appendices – Documents Attached</u>
	None



Subject:	100RC Challenge- City Currency Update
Date:	12 April 2019
Reporting Officer:	Grainia Long, Commissioner for Resilience
Contact Officer:	Claire Shortt, Research and Statistics 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 the report is to update SP&R on progress with the 'city currency challenge' through the 100 Resilient Cities network, as agreed in January.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To note progress in the development of the city currency challenge (pilot), which will run for a year from March 2019. To note that Belfast was successful in competing against other cities in the 100 Resilient Cities network to join a 'city currency' challenge. To note that an event to announce Belfast's City Currency Challenge will be held in May, involving the Lord Mayor and city partners, with the eventual 'launch' of the

	Belfast Coin city currency in August/September, to coincide with the new academic year.
3.0	Main report
3.1	Members previously agreed that Belfast would apply to join a 100 Resilient Cities Challenge to explore opportunities to develop a city currency for Belfast. It approved a funding requirement of £25k if successful in applying to join the challenge. A 'city currency' is a 'payment and rewards' app, working on a smartphone, through which people are rewarded for good behaviour, e.g. for shopping locally, for using public transport or for recycling. Party briefings took place in February to brief elected members on the challenge.
3.2	We were successful in our application to join the city challenge. In March the Commissioner for Resilience joined four other cities, Addis Ababa, Porto Alegre, Cape Town and Milan in the Headquarters of the company, Colu, in Tel Aviv, to plan next steps in the development of a city currency pilot for each city. The visit also enabled us to review how the company works in practice, how the technology platform is supported, etc.
3.3	The company is in the process of hiring three staff to work in Belfast to lead its operations here, and is currently securing a retail/community space in the city centre through which it will operate.
3.4	We have met with several city partners to encourage them to join the 'challenge' and discussions are progressing well. For example, Ulster University is exploring how it could use a currency to incentivise or reward students' behaviour, e.g. use of public transport etc. Several large employers in the city are exploring whether to use the 'city currency' to reward/encourage positive behaviour among their staff, e.g. shopping locally.
3.5	Belfast has already taken several positive steps to progress our 'city currency' challenge, and we are keen to announce the challenge in May, to help encourage new partners to come on board, including local businesses etc. Given the importance of students and young people to the success of the currency, we are keen to launch the app in August or September in time for the new academic year. We aim to ensure that at least 50 businesses and organisations have joined the challenge in advance of its launch.

3.6	<p><u>Finance & Resources Implications</u></p> <p>SP&R previously approved a commitment of £25k from the City Council to take part in the City Challenge, as per the term of the application. No further funding requirement is sought at this point.</p>
3.7	<p><u>Equality or good relations implications / Rural needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None associated with this report, however we will assess the potential equality, good relations and rural impacts on programme design, if accepted onto the City Challenge Programme.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None

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Subject:	Draft Cultural Strategy 2020-2030
Date:	12 April 2019
Reporting Officer:	Alistair Reid, Strategic Director of Place and Economy
Contact Officer:	Eimear Henry, Cultural Regeneration Manager

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Some time in the future

Never

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes ☒ No ☐

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is for Members to note the decision taken by the City Growth and Regeneration Committee to approve a formal 12-week public consultation on the draft Cultural Strategy 2020-2030 and agree to receive detailed draft implementation plans and financing strategy.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>It is recommended that Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Note the contents of this report and the commencement of a 12-week public consultation from 17 April 2019. - Agree to receive further detail on draft implementation plans and financing strategy in September 2019.

3.0	Main report
3.1	<p><u>Background</u></p> <p>In December 2018 the City Growth and Regeneration Committee agreed for officers to progress with the development of a new 10-year cultural strategy for the city.</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>It was agreed that the strategy would build on the extensive public engagement carried out during the bid to become European Capital of Culture. Furthermore it would present an integrated approach to long-term cultural development in the city including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A citizen focussed approach - Consideration of the long-term sustainability of the cultural sector - A new approach to Events and Festivals - Strengthen the tourism proposition in the city through greater understanding of the city's cultural narrative and international appeal. - Integration of planned major developments such as the Destination Hub into citywide tourism.
3.4	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p><u>The context</u></p> <p>The global context for this strategy is the increasing recognition that cities of culture can drive transformation. Culture has a critical role in shaping great places through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Increasing cohesion and permeability – Building identity and confidence – Attracting investment – Retaining talent and attracting talent back

3.5	<p>The Belfast Agenda sets out a vision for 2035 that imagines a culturally vibrant city. The purpose of the cultural strategy is to present a series of priorities that have the potential to contribute significantly to all five outcomes of the Belfast Agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Everyone in Belfast benefits from a thriving and prosperous economy – Belfast is a welcoming, safe, fair and inclusive city for all – Everyone in Belfast fulfils their potential – Everyone in Belfast experiences good health and wellbeing – Belfast is a vibrant, attractive, connected and environmentally sustainable city
3.6	<p>As well as supporting the Belfast Agenda, the strategy also responds to and helps to 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 - Open Spaces Strategy
3.7	<p>This work has also taken into consideration Council’s involvement in 100 Resilient Cities. In addition, the strategy has considered the wider context including ongoing public funding cuts and the need for a long-term approach to support the sustainability and resilience of the cultural sector whilst setting ambitious growth targets. Belfast City Council will also be making a submission to the public consultation on the Arts Council of Northern Ireland’s draft 5 year Framework to reflect the ambitions set out in this draft strategy.</p>
3.8	<p><u>The process</u></p> <p>The approach to developing this strategy has strongly focussed on engagement with citizens and with city partners. This has included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Holding 62 civic conversations – Engaging with 5361 citizens – Supporting 625 creators – Working with 106 artists – Across 85 places – Through 137 events
3.9	<p>The approach has been shaped by two external bodies of work. The first is Agenda 21 for Culture – an international methodology that supports cultural development in cities and regions. The focus of Culture 21 is to embed culture as the fourth dimension of sustainable</p>

	cities alongside existing economic, social and ecological pillars. Belfast's participation in the Culture 21 pilot cities programme has already been approved and this programme will support the implementation of this strategy.
3.10	<p>The second set of recommendations that have helped inform this strategy is the recently published Cultural Enquiry by the Core Cities network of which Belfast is a partner member. This enquiry presents a number of practical recommendations on investment and governance of culture in cities. This presents an opportunity for a collaborative model to be taken forward that complements the community planning process and sets shared priorities for culture along with a more effective approach to investment to maximise the overall return. This involves working closely to leverage new sources of finance including public-private models.</p> <p><u>The strategy</u></p>
3.11	<p>The strategy, <i>A City Imagining</i>, opens with a cultural statement for the city shaped by the thousands of conversations that have taken place since 2017 as part of the ongoing public engagement programme. This is then taken forward through an overall cross-cutting thematic approach to the strategy with each theme having a particular area of focus as follows.</p>
3.12	<p>Theme 1: A City Belonging – focuses on supporting active citizenship and participation in cultural life.</p> <p>Theme 2: A City Challenging – focuses on diversity through use of public and cultural spaces.</p> <p>Theme 3: A City Creating – focuses on supporting innovation and creativity across the cultural sectors.</p> <p>Theme 4: A City Exploring – focuses on Belfast's relationship to the rest of the world both inward and outward including support for cultural tourism.</p>
3.13	<p>Four strategic priorities are set out for each theme. The result is a strategic framework consisting of 16 key priorities to be delivered by 2030. Each of these priorities will be further developed in the next phase of the programme through detailed implementation plans.</p>
3.14	<p>The document also sets out a number of key strategic milestones throughout the ten-year period. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Launching a new approach to events and festivals in the city - Producing an international year of culture in 2023 - Bidding for UNESCO City of Music in 2021

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Delivering a new visitor attraction in the city centre and local neighbourhood tourism programme to open in 2024 														
3.15	These specific initiatives are considered to be central to delivering on the city's overall targets for the period and to attract new forms of investment into the city with significant cultural, social and economic impacts.														
3.16	Critically the strategy considers the governance and investment model required to deliver this type of long-term transformation clearly positioning Belfast as a regional driver.														
3.17	<p>The purpose of the strategy document is to present the overall approach and commitments over a ten year period. The next phase of work will give detailed consideration to how this will be delivered in line with the timeframe detailed below. This will include the development of initial three year implementation plans that as well as being cross-cutting will specifically address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Arts and Heritage - Events and Festivals - Tourism product development including neighbourhood tourism - Major strategic initiatives 														
3.18	These will be supported by a proposed investment model, communications strategy and evaluation framework.														
3.19	<p><u>Next steps</u></p> <p>The proposed timeline is as follows:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>April – July 2019</td><td>Public Consultation on Strategy document</td></tr> <tr> <td>April – August 2019</td><td>Development of implementation plans and new funding model</td></tr> <tr> <td>September 2019</td><td> Committee approval for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Final strategy - Draft funding model - Draft implementation plans </td></tr> <tr> <td>October 2019</td><td>Opening of new competitive funding programmes</td></tr> <tr> <td>Oct 2019 – Jan 2020</td><td>Public consultation on implementation plans</td></tr> <tr> <td>March 2020</td><td>Approval of funding recommendations and final implementation plans and finance strategy.</td></tr> <tr> <td>April 2020</td><td>Funding contracts in place and implementation plans</td></tr> </table>	April – July 2019	Public Consultation on Strategy document	April – August 2019	Development of implementation plans and new funding model	September 2019	Committee approval for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Final strategy - Draft funding model - Draft implementation plans 	October 2019	Opening of new competitive funding programmes	Oct 2019 – Jan 2020	Public consultation on implementation plans	March 2020	Approval of funding recommendations and final implementation plans and finance strategy.	April 2020	Funding contracts in place and implementation plans
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		operational	
3.20	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There are currently no immediate financial implications to this report. The final strategy will be supported by implementation plans and a detailed finance and resource plan will be presented to Committee in September 2019 as part of the next phase of work.</p>		
3.21	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>Equality and good relations have been central to the development of the Cultural Strategy to date and will continue to be considered as the investment model and implementation programmes are developed.</p>		
3.22	<p>Input has been sought from the Council's Equality and Diversity Officers to inform the strategic level assessment in terms of equality, good relations and rural needs. With a vision of cultural inclusivity and diversity in the Strategy and through the significant programme of engagement, the Cultural Strategy is likely to have a positive impact in terms of promoting equality and good relations in the city. There may be opportunities to increase levels of participation and engagement in cultural life in the city for certain groups such as older people, disabled people and those from minority ethnic backgrounds.</p>		
3.23	<p>In line with the guidance from the Equality Commission and the commitment to engagement that has informed the Cultural Strategy; the strategic level equality impact assessment report will be subject to a 12 week public consultation period. This will accompany the formal consultation on the draft Cultural Strategy. The equality impact assessment will be updated as a result of this feedback. The information will be used to inform the final Cultural Strategy and the development of the investment model and implementation programmes.</p>		
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached		
	Appendix 1: Draft Cultural Strategy 2020 - 2030		

A CITY IMAGiNING

Belfast

BELFAST'S CULTURAL STATEMENT

Culture is a complicated word. Not everyone agrees with what it means.

For some people it's art; For some people it's sport;

For some people it's the buildings around us, the music we enjoy, the food we eat or the languages we use to communicate with each other.

We have decided that we don't want to define what culture means too closely because we know what it feels like to be defined. And definitions have held us back for too long.

For many years we have felt the need to protect ourselves by turning inside and guarding our sense of belonging. But that was then and this is now.

We now know that we have gained much wisdom through the extreme experiences of living in our city. We are proud of the place we call home and our doors are opening.

We understand that culture is everything; it's the way we live our lives; it's our place in the world and how we express that place in the world.

We recognise that the freedom to choose who we are and how we shape our city is up to us.

We can see that our future is there for the imagining and that we must do this together.

It will take great courage, some patience and a lot of creativity but imagination is a gift and action a responsibility.

We know we are a work in progress. We believe that Belfast is a city imagining.





THE STORY SO FAR

CHAPTER 1

The long view

Shouldered by hills and both challenged and sustained by waterways, Belfast has been characterised by forces of endurance and determination since ancient times. Archaeologists have documented at least 9,000 years of human settlement in the mountains and high ground around modern-day Belfast. The importance of geography – both its tests and opportunities – has been evident through the long and compelling story of the city's development. Fast forward to 21st century Belfast and the landscape has become a cityscape, moulded by a new ebb and flow, by the tides of people living in, sharing and coming to visit the remarkable place that we call home.



New perspectives

In 2017, Belfast took the decision to enter a bidding process for the designation of European Capital of Culture. In October of the same year, the European Commission decided to halt the process, ending the competitive nature of the bid. Rather than being the end of a journey, the civic momentum gained through 16,000 one-to-one conversations threw open a challenge – the challenge to recognise the transformative power that culture, art and creativity have to spark a new relationship with ourselves as individuals, communities and as a city.

This 10-year cultural strategy is the result of an intensive, experimental and richly rewarding engagement process. Throughout the process, we've listened to and acknowledged the complex challenges and divisions which you've told us have blunted the city's creativity and relationship to 'culture.' Belfast's cultural statement is a synthesis of your voices and an indication of the direction in which you feel the city needs to travel in relation to culture. This strategy is a consolidation of the foundation, commitments and achievements of several preceding strategies and frameworks and commits the city to facilitating a new integrated phase of culture-led progress and development, with the individual citizen at the heart of this process.

We acknowledge that there is much work to be done in order to develop a cultural ecosystem which is both anchored and adaptable to change. The strategy does not constitute a blueprint, but rather supports a philosophy of enablement with a view to creating a fluid, permeable place which values creativity and an 'anything is possible' attitude. This will also involve respecting the richness of our different cultural identities. Releasing Belfast's full creative potential is an exciting work in progress. Belfast is a city imagining.

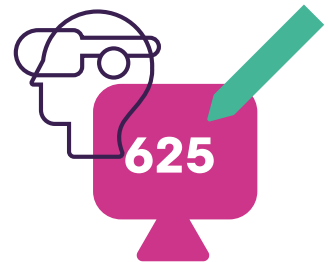




Conversations



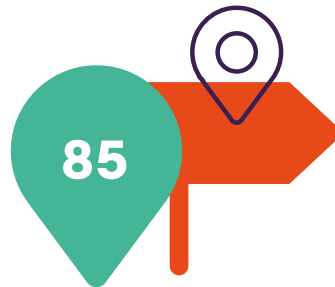
People



Creators



Artists



Places



Events



VISION FOR 2035

BELFAST WILL BE A CITY...



Belfast Agenda

Created by a strong civic partnership led by Belfast City Council, the Belfast Agenda is our city's first community plan. It sets a vision for 2035 that imagines a culturally vibrant city.

Our cultural strategy sets out a series of priorities that have the potential to contribute significantly to all five outcomes of the Belfast Agenda.

Building on the community planning process, we believe that this cultural strategy will be transformational. It acknowledges that change requires ambition, long-term commitment and a sustainable and adaptable approach. We believe that change is happening. This is our opportunity to embed cultural policy across wider city development. Our issues are complex and long standing but creativity and resilience are in the very fabric of our city and our people. *A city imagining* can be the catalyst for the urgency and agency required to encourage innovation, new connected thinking and greater collaboration.

100 Resilient Cities

Belfast has joined a global organisation called 100 Resilient Cities. Belfast is focused on strengthening the fabric of the city, reducing our vulnerability to shocks and increasing our capacity to adapt and respond to systemic stresses. Culture is at the heart of this work.

A resilient city is a culturally vibrant city. One which values culture and its role. Ensuring the city can tackle intractable problems and adapt to future challenges. Our culture gives us strength - our culture makes us resilient.



Placemaking

Our approach to cultural development has been evolving since the publication of our first dedicated cultural strategy in 2003.

We recognise the limitations of previous approaches, in particular, an over-emphasis on linear and transactional relationships. At times there has been a disconnect between recognising the benefits and understanding the value of culture. However, successive cultural strategies have helped to lay a strong foundation for what we will now take forward as a new lateral and integrated approach to cultural development and placemaking.

Placemaking is a people-centred approach to delivering a local and shared vision. People shape places. Culturally vibrant cities are places where people negotiate collective senses of belonging and where the private sphere connects to the public.

In recent years, there is an increased understanding of the role of councils in shaping great places. Local government is ideally positioned when it comes to placemaking, with an ability to connect with and bring together a diverse range of people. It is in this role that Belfast City Council must show leadership. However, equally important is our role in stepping back to facilitate and strengthen other networks that in turn support cultural lives and creative environments.

Culture 21

Cities and regions from across the world first approved Agenda 21 for Culture in 2004.

In the years since, many more local governments have aligned their policies to the actions set out in what has now become known as Culture 21. This international agenda systematically addresses the relationship between culture, citizenship and sustainability through nine commitments.

Long standing global approaches to sustainable city development have recognised the importance of social, ecological and economic factors and the interconnections between each of these three pillars. In the 21st century, there has been an increased awareness of the need to understand and value a fourth pillar. This is what Culture 21 refers to as the cultural dimension. In doing so cities not only recognise the important relationship that culture has with the three other pillars but also the need to protect the integrity of a clear cultural agenda by applying a cultural lens to all areas of local policy making.

Belfast has already committed to joining the Culture 21 Pilot Cities programme. Participation in this programme creates an opportunity for the city to be part of an international community. It also provides us with the support and guidance to take forward a number of specific actions that will respond to the local context as we embark on a process of truly embedding culture at the heart of our wider city agenda.



Cultural Rights



**Heritage,
Culture & Creativity**



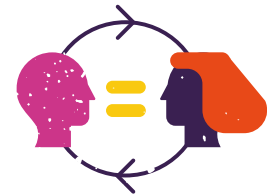
**Culture
& Education**



**Culture &
Environment**



**Culture &
Economy**



**Culture, Equality
& Social Inclusion**



**Culture,
Urban Planning,
and Public Space**



**Culture,
Information,
and Knowledge**



**Governance
of Culture**



A CITY BELONGING

CHAPTER 2

Active citizenship

Cultural belonging can be defined as an individual's feelings in relation to their sense of identity, their relationship to other people around them and their sense of place. Agenda 21 for Culture states that cultural rights guarantee the ability of everyone to identify with one or several cultural communities and to adapt this choice throughout their life. The exercise of cultural rights is essential for the development of a sustainable city. We believe that arts and creative practices can foster the confidence to imagine new and diverse senses of belonging in Belfast.



Priorities

Priorities under this theme will support citizens to be active agents of change and co-creators of cultural activity.

1

Priority 1

Developing a people focussed approach to cultural development by facilitating citizen and sector participation in setting priorities, decision-making and in the evaluation of cultural policies.

2

Priority 2

Building the creative capacity of our citizens and cultural sector to allow people to express their own cultural identities.

3

Priority 3

Protecting and promoting cultural heritage in all its dimensions, both tangible and intangible including the plurality of the city's cultural narratives.

4

Priority 4

Enabling a sense of belonging and sense of place through cultural participation.

Imagine an inclusive city where everyone actively participates in cultural life

The outcomes of the Belfast Agenda focus on improving the quality of life for the individual. *A City Belonging* responds to this by supporting cultural participation as a critical part of active citizenship. Complex and long standing issues such as life inequalities require a multidimensional response and we believe that creativity has a significant role in the ongoing transformation of Belfast.

To help take forward this theme we will engage creative facilitators, citizens and our cultural partners in a co-design process that will reach into all areas of Belfast. This will involve getting into the extraordinary ordinary spaces of people's lives – living rooms, shopping centres, bus stops, taxi cabs and classrooms.

It is in working this way that our collective city can hear new voices and people are encouraged to open up about challenging questions of belonging. Cultural vibrancy emanates from creators, participants, volunteers and audiences. This can drive new forms of citizenship that in turn support our aspiration of being a resilient city that leaves no-one behind.

For many people the city already has a thriving cultural scene including high quality sporting facilities and excellent examples of natural and built heritage. However, a vision of cultural inclusivity must push out to connect to all dimensions of cultural life including engagement, programming, accessibility, participation, audiences, volunteering and employment.

In order to support these active forms of participation and co-creation we must better understand the existing obstacles to citizens' access and engagement in cultural life. We must also support and strengthen those organisations devoted to culture and value the important contribution they make to the life of our city.





A CITY CHALLENGING

CHAPTER 3

Diversity

Globalisation and migration have increased diversity in cities across the world. Different dimensions of diversity intersect in multiple ways between individuals and communities. One of the city's challenges is to create the conditions whereby Belfast's open spaces and cultural venues offer opportunities for diverse encounters with different cultures, ethnicities, lifestyles, ideologies and attitudes.



Priorities

Priorities under this theme will aspire to cultivate creative environments for dynamic co-creation and synergy in our placemaking.

1

Priority 1

Embedding cultural impact in city development and local placemaking.

2

Priority 2

Investing in connected, resilient and sustainable infrastructure of quality cultural spaces across the city. This will also include digital spaces.

3

Priority 3

Supporting high quality cultural events and activities that are accessible, diverse and inclusive.

4

Priority 4

Transforming under-used public spaces into vibrant and diverse cultural destinations.

Imagine a diverse city with vibrant public and cultural spaces

The Belfast Agenda recognises the city's abundance of open space including parks, playing fields, greenways as well as the River Lagan and Belfast Hills. These spaces are complemented by our historic and contemporary cultural venues. The challenge is to ensure the purpose and use of these places reflect the diversity of our city.

Across Europe and beyond, citizens are questioning the ownership and use of public space. As populations increase and places change, real innovation is required in creating shared locations for recreation, leisure and sport. There is an opportunity to activate and repurpose derelict, neglected or underused space in imaginative ways. We will create contexts, which will enable intercultural exchanges to flourish in the public realm. This will also support interests, hobbies, personal creativity and connections between new and diverse communities of interest.

Cultural vibrancy will be essential to ensuring we meet our ambitious target to significantly increase the number of people living in the city centre. It will also be crucial to the sustainable evolution of our ever changing high streets and the many neighbourhoods that make up the city as a whole.

The approach must acknowledge the need for people to experience urban diversity in the places we meet and in how we use public space. Cultural impact should be inherent in our placemaking to ensure that we deliver a distinctive vision for Belfast. The design of our public spaces must be authentic to the way we live our lives but with one eye to the future. How we programme and animate these spaces will allow us to imagine new meanings.

It is the relationship between an individual's sense of belonging and a sense of place that we create a collective experience of Belfast as our home.





A CITY CREATING

CHAPTER 4

New approaches

A culturally vibrant city must take risks. The citizens of Belfast have indicated that they are ready to challenge traditional mind-sets and take a culture-led leap into the future. Cultural, arts and heritage organisations have a key role to play as creative leaders, innovators and challengers.



Priorities

Priorities under this theme will facilitate and explore new ways of working, taking more risks and helping artists to have more autonomy to engage with citizens in new and creative ways.

1

Priority 1

Increasing the autonomy of the creative sectors to shape the city's evolving, rich and multiple cultural narratives.

2

Priority 2

Supporting cultural excellence, cultural planning and cultural entrepreneurialism by providing support for artistic innovation and improved networking.

3

Priority 3

Investing in a stronger and more sustainable cultural sector by supporting artists and producers to work beyond boundaries. This will create the environment where risks can be taken across a broader range of activities, sectors and disciplines.

4

Priority 4

Empowering the innovative capacity of the creative economy to connect technology and society.

Imagine a city where creativity pushes boundaries

The Belfast Agenda sets out an ambitious vision for a city that is energised, vibrant and connected. The opportunity for this transformation is considerable, however, the challenges are significant. Each of these descriptors - energised, vibrant and connected - speak to specific cultural values. It is in this space that our artists and cultural players can lead in imagining this transformed city.

If we recognise the role of our cultural partners as collaborators and innovators, we should not approach the relationship with predetermined demands and precast solutions. The principle of reciprocity involves an open dialogue on the contribution of culture and creativity to all aspects of life in the city.

The first step in this process is to develop new forms of relationship that move beyond that of funder and recipient. Recognising the professionalism of the creative and cultural sectors and their ability to adapt is critical. In turn, cultural organisations must rise to the challenge of effectively articulating their own value proposition in order to increase mutual understanding of their contribution to the city.

The outcomes of the Belfast Agenda are clear. The aspiration is to be a culturally vibrant city. The success of this is dependent on the real experiences of the people who live, work and visit here. Council has a clear role in facilitating the networks and building the capacity and skills to deliver on the cultural dimension of this Agenda. There is an opportunity to establish Belfast as an international testing ground for new approaches to cultural engagement and development and to imagine new ways of living in our city. Belfast has always been a city of innovation and experimentation, *A city creating* supports the next evolution of this story.





A CITY EXPLORING

CHAPTER 5

Our place in the world

The depth and breadth of existing partnerships and networks between a range of cultural players (including educational, sports, community and voluntary) is already evident. The positive impact of these connections has ripple effects across many sectors at a city and regional level as well as securing Belfast's place within the global creative economy. Belfast will facilitate, support and maintain city, regional and international networks and collaborative partnerships on a range of levels, from the individual artist to established cultural institutions.



Priorities

Priorities under this theme will sustain and strengthen the city's cultural ecosystem.

1

Priority 1

Strengthening our city, regional and international cultural networks.

2

Priority 2

Growing our sustainable cultural tourism product through local placemaking.

3

Priority 3

Encouraging environmental responsibility and resilience by understanding and adapting cultural behaviours.

4

Priority 4

Increasing the contribution of both public and private cultural sectors to inclusive economic growth.

Imagine a city confident of our place in the world

This strategy seeks to sustain cultural activity and increase cultural impact by building capacity at a citizen, sector and city level. Critical to this will be the development of stronger regional cultural networks (formal and informal connections and opportunities supported by local authorities) that will allow for deeper collaboration and partnership working between Belfast and other areas.

Equally important is our ability to connect out across the world. This model already exists in other sectors and illustrates the local and international opportunities that comes from strong networks. Critical to this model of a global and resilient city is active participation at an international level. Our creative and cultural sectors are ideally placed to be global ambassadors for the city.

The connection between the local and the global is important. Belfast's tourism industry is driven by a 21st century international trend where visitors seek authentic, local and cultural experiences. In many ways, this is the contemporary articulation of an age-old phenomenon. That people connect with people. That tourism by its very nature is cultural. *A city exploring* also recognises that as well as major infrastructure, marketing and investment the success of the visitor economy will be defined by storytelling.

Our citizens, neighbourhoods and local communities are at the core of telling these stories. This in turn shapes places. This theme will support the development of cultural tourism across the city through a long-term commitment to local placemaking.

Many of the civic conversations that have supported the development of this strategy have revealed the increasing importance of environmental responsibility to the lives of the people in the city. There is undoubtedly an uncertainty as to how to proceed at an individual and collective city level yet this is a critical dimension to understanding and strengthening our place in the world. Cultural behaviours are one of the dominant factors in localised responses to environmental sustainability. We believe that this strategy can support a dialogue that increases our understanding and as a result, our ability to adapt these behaviours to better protect our city and global ecology.





LIFT OFF

CHAPTER 6

Bidding for the designation of European Capital of Culture has been a tremendous catalyst for doing things differently. Despite the end of this competition, we have decided that we must build on the momentum generated during the bidding process and push Belfast to realise its full potential as a destination city where people want to live, work and visit. We are following through with plans to make 2023 a celebratory year co-created by local people for themselves and visitors to enjoy. During 2023 we will launch a year-long programme of immersive cultural activity on a scale that Belfast has never seen before. So much more than a festival, Belfast 2023 will be a landmark in the delivery of the cultural ambition set out in *A city imagining* and a call to action for our next generation of cultural leaders. By 2023 we also aspire to have achieved the designation of UNESCO City of Music for Belfast, to have embedded a new approach to festival and events in the city, and to be well on our way towards opening our new cultural attraction in the city centre. The priorities of this strategy, including a visioning tourism narrative for the city, will facilitate the creativity, capacity building and energy that is required in the lead up to this celebration and beyond. It is hoped the impact of the year will be a change that is felt at a personal level and borne out in the collective mood of the city.



At home in 2023

2023 will be a designated year of culture. Crowdsourced through thousands of conversations with citizens, our concept for the year is *At home*.

Home in the 21st century is a complex, changing and dynamic concept. From the conversations that we have had, we understand that what it means to be *At home* can be as much about a feeling or a sense of belonging as it can be about a specific place or bricks and mortar. Our year will celebrate and challenge what it means to be at home in our city. This will involve the most ambitious public engagement programme Belfast has ever undertaken. The results will be far reaching launching an international programme that will attract visitors from across the world truly establishing Belfast as a city of culture.

Our vision for the year is to create a legacy of better understanding our identity, our relationships with each other and our place in the world.

The Plan

The artistic programme for the year will be structured around six flagship projects. Four of these projects will build on existing signature events in the city with a further two being special commissions for the year. The rationale for this is to support the long-term transformation of established cultural events as well as recognising a unique opportunity to commission new work of scale and international relevance.

The programme will also include a series of further commissions ranging in content, style, scale and purpose. This could include individual artists through to international collaborations.

The programme will support the strategic priorities set out in this ten year strategy including:

- long-term capacity building
- networking and educational projects
- volunteering programme
- artists in residence
- arts management
- audience development
- civic engagement
- international cooperation support

Our year is designed to create a collective moment for the city. The programme does not have a final destination. If the purpose of this wider strategy is cultural transformation then the legacy of 2023 is that in activating a new sense of place we can find new senses of belonging.



Artists



Volunteers



Citizens



Visitors

● Flagship Events

● Cultural Events

● Fringe Events

The roadmap

City events have an important role within the wider cultural offer of Belfast. Events can tell stories, connect people and present new perspectives on our place.

The cultural, social and economic impacts of events cut across all areas of the Belfast Agenda. The decision to bid for the European Capital of Culture indicated that there is a desire to enhance the quality and ambition of the cultural offer in Belfast through closer partnerships within the city, across the region and internationally.

We are starting from a strong position. However, from this foundation we must commit to a long-term and strategic approach to events that supports the wider ambitions of this strategy.

Despite the richness of Belfast's cultural offer and a number of significant successes in recent years, the city has not yet established itself as an events destination. What the city has demonstrated is the potential to be different, authentic and distinctly Belfast.

Events can challenge and articulate a city's diverse identity and personality. Public engagement must underpin our city's new approach to developing events and festivals.

Successful cities of culture have shown that investment in homegrown talent has long-term and measurable impacts.

Events should:

- Encourage cultural curiosity to foster a more accessible, optimistic and celebratory city.
- Contribute to placemaking by using public spaces in innovative ways to shape identity, regenerate the city and tell new stories.
- Support inclusive growth by driving talent and skills development within the local workforce as well as indicators of economic spend.
- Inspire civic pride and volunteer engagement.

Our aim is to develop a Belfast portfolio of festivals and events. This will consist of up to five signature and 12 growth events each year. It will also include continued investment in smaller festivals.

City partners will work together to bid to secure a major event once every five years. Our approach will also consider the potential for a series of homegrown events such as a year of Cculture in 2023, to deliver the same level of impact as an external international event.

Investment in major events should consider connection to the city's cultural narrative and long-term contribution to infrastructure as well as any short-term economic impact.

We recognise that this is an ambitious approach. We are confident that by working together we can make Belfast a unique events destination.



Looking out

Belfast's Destination Hub (the Hub) will be a landmark signature experience in the heart of the city centre that speaks to the essence of this vibrant place. This will be achieved through an innovative cluster of existing and new developments.

Supported by the Belfast Region City Deal, the core element of the Hub will be the Belfast Story. This major cultural attraction will invite visitors to explore the many stories of the city and its people through an immersive, multi-gallery experience. The galleries will draw on the full range of interpretative techniques, using a combination of multi-media technologies, selected objects and creative responses to reveal the histories, personal secrets and fascinating facts about Belfast.

The concept is under development, but it is envisaged that it will take a thematic approach to story telling. Thus, for example, the attraction will immerse visitors in the city's music, arts, sports and love of a good yarn; it will connect them with the city's innovators and tell them about its tribes and heroes; it will take them inside the challenging stories of the more recent troubled past. Visitors will leave with real insights into Belfast, and with a rich sense of the city and its people.

The Hub is a working title. The experience will comprise the new developments of the Belfast Story, a film centre and a largescale exhibition space creating a place where locals meet and Belfast connects with its visitors.

Connecting outwards to the city and beyond

The ethos for the Hub is to connect Belfast's current cultural offer to create an integrated, comprehensive and unforgettable city experience. The Hub will encourage visitors to experience existing venues and explore wider areas by creating synergies with cultural partners across the city. The impact of the Hub will be far reaching. It will naturally have direct impact on the city centre by bringing a new dynamic to the area. It will also provide a cultural beacon for the city, an anchor for the wider Belfast experience and an area of orientation for visitors into Northern Ireland.

People and place

The opportunity for the people of Belfast to be involved in shaping and renewing the stories of the city is at the heart of this project. This will be an experience that is truly of the place with the power to evolve our city narratives past, present and future.

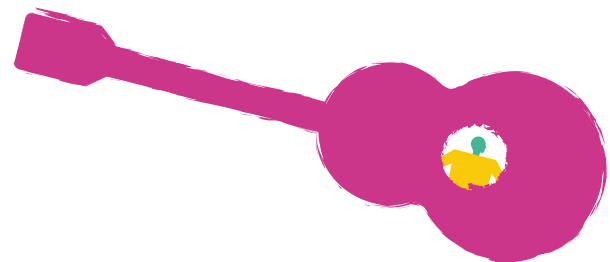
Listening in

Belfast has a unique relationship with music across many genres. It reflects the clang of our industrial past, the ferment of political events and the expressions of youth – both frustrated and hopeful. Belfast has a legacy of showbands, heavy rock and a pub culture that thrives on traditional music. Belfast is known internationally for having a rich and diverse musical history but it also has a promising future that arises from its recent revival as a genuinely global city.

Music is recognised as a distinctive aspect of Belfast's cultural profile with audience research indicating high levels of engagement locally as well as strong linkages to the city's international profile. Engagement with citizens during and after the European Capital of Culture bid also indicated that there is support for strengthening the role that music has in helping to make Belfast a culturally vibrant place to live, work and visit. In March 2018 as a result of the coalescence of many conversations which were happening in the city at the same time, council backed a proposal for the city and its partners to make an application for the endorsement of UNESCO City of Music status.

The UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) aims to strengthen cooperation with and among cities that have recognised creativity as a strategic factor of sustainable development with regard to social, cultural, economic and environmental aspects. Member cities come from diverse regions and work towards a common mission: placing creativity and cultural industries at the core of their urban development plans to make their cities safe, resilient, inclusive and sustainable.

For Belfast, the possibility of the designation is much more than just getting a title, it's the opportunity to open a new era of collaboration between the city, citizens and music communities. There must be a place at the table for everyone, from the grassroots smaller venues and their audiences through to breakthrough international artists. The process for bidding will be regarded as an experiment in partnership building and engagement in order to achieve the far-reaching impact that music can have on the lives of everyone in Belfast.







While Belfast has enjoyed a relative growth in tourism over recent years, it's time for the city to push the development of cultural tourism on to the next level. Titanic Belfast has been an enormous success and an indicator of the potential for tourism as a driver for economic growth. In order to encourage visitors to stay longer and explore more areas of the city, including our unique neighbourhoods, we must broaden and deepen the wealth of the city's current cultural offer. We have been working with partners to develop an outward facing city narrative and positioning framework for Belfast which will help the city to progress with a strategic and connected approach to product development.

Obviously Belfast

This is a city that confounds expectations. A city that's like no other. For a capital city it's small ... compact. But its heart is big. Its spirit strong. Its energy palpable. Its character stout. Its humour dark. And the craic is mighty.

It's a great wee city that welcomes you with open arms – and it's ready to tell its stories to the world. For visitors there's the unforgettable experience of being in a city in transition – an edgy city that's on the move. Colourful, complicated, messy ... and magnificent.

Because Belfast is a city that's rich in so many ways.

Richly storied: an early coastal settlement named Béal Feirste, enfolded by hills, rivers and loughs, this is a place with a long and complex history, a tapestry of narratives, and now a new story in the making.

Richly ornate: this industrial powerhouse of the 19th and early 20th centuries has lavish facades and gorgeous interiors – not just the grand civic buildings but its pubs and cafés and hotels.

And rich in culture, talent and creativity: with its history of making things, its extraordinary street art, its live music scene, its sporting legends and its unique dialect that helps give the city its different sound. Belfast's long been home to creators who

dare to dream – industrial designers and innovators, technicians and craftspeople, as well as artists, writers and poets, music and film-makers.

There are other giants in Belfast too – the world-famous story of the Titanic and the towering new edifice that marks its creation, the sleeping giant's silhouette on the ever-present Belfast hills that encircle the city, the huge yellow dockside cranes Samson and Goliath which dominate the skyline, the Peace Walls that open your eyes to the recent troubled past.

In one trip you can experience a cultural city, a vibrant evening city, a maritime river city, a university city, a foodie city and a historic city. Belfast's story is all around you – it's written (quite literally) in the paving stones and on the walls. And after a day or two here – walking the streets, hearing the stories, listening to the voices – you start to make the connections. You start to unlock the past. You start to understand the banter. You start to feel like you belong. Which is a nonsense, of course ... but tourism's still relatively new here, and the people go out of their way to make you feel welcome. There's a generosity to strangers that can take the visitor by surprise ... but it shouldn't: it's part of the local DNA.

The themes

In order to truly connect with our visitors and ultimately grow market share, we need to ensure that our visitors truly connect with Belfast's people, culture, places and heritage. To help give focus to the challenge of creating unique destination

experiences, we have identified the following four themes from our tourism narrative. These themes will help to shape the development of Belfast experiences which are immersive and engaging.

Tell me more (A city of stories)

Most cities claim their people are the best, however we truly believe that it's our incredible people who give character and charm to Belfast. A city where people love to talk, to tell and share stories, to banter and make the visitor feel like they belong – that's Belfast. Conversations are nourished as much by wonderful food as they are flavoured by local voices. You might have heard one story about Belfast but you certainly haven't heard them all.

Not what it seems (A city of contrasts)

Belfast has an intriguing and complex history stretching back thousands of years. Contrasts and endurance are etched into the character of the place. This is evident topographically from the high ground of the hills to the depths of the waterways; creatively from the spontaneous expression of street art to the considered curation of our museums and socially through the compelling stories of our recent past. Intrigue and curiosity are part of the fabric of our place.

Hidden depths (A maritime city)

It has been said that the people of Belfast walk on water. Beneath the streets, the Farset and Blackstaff rivers determined the shape of the city that grew up around them. Waterways, rivers, loughs and shores have shaped the culture and character of Belfast since ancient times; they have provided inspiration for our poets and opportunity for the city's industrialists and visionaries. The city's dockland now hosts the iconic Titanic Belfast which pays homage to the Olympic-class liners built in Harland and Wolff by the White Star Line. This is one chapter in a settlement story of tidal currents and crossings.

Homespun (Made in Belfast)

Creativity combined with hard work and ambition can be traced through the city's industrial heritage and beyond, from rope-making to ship building, whiskey distilling to the artisanal expertise of the mill workers in the linen mills. Belfast also abounds with unique cultural venues and experiences which are testimony to a city steeped in creativity and innovation. From quirky cinemas to established theatres, from incredible visual arts to a music scene that will leave the city ringing in your ears, Belfast has the edge.



A CITY CONNECTING

CHAPTER 7

New ways of working are required to grow and sustain cities in the 21st century. Belfast is a small city in terms of population but it has had a powerful impact on the world. To conserve this impact, we must develop new ways of partnership working and of making these partnerships one of the most recognisable assets of this place. In order to achieve this, Belfast is advocating a governance model based on the need to nurture lateral relationships and permeable networks which thrive on people-power and advocate an outward-facing approach. It is also acknowledged that technology has revolutionised the nature of how and why we connect. To keep ahead of the curve Belfast must meaningfully engage with the untapped potential that digital connectivity brings for people, starting at the level of the individual through to how this effects the city's position as a global player.



Our approach to governance

In presenting a long view of cultural transformation we must consider the critical role of governance in supporting the delivery of strategic priorities. Our proposed approach will be shaped by a number of commitments that have been strongly influenced by Agenda 21 for Culture and the Core Cities' Cultural Enquiry.

This strategy has been driven by thousands of conversations. Success will be defined by our willingness and capacity as a city to turn these conversations into action and to take shared responsibility for delivering a vision for culture in Belfast.

Agenda 21 for Culture

Local governments must be able to take on different roles as leaders, financial supporters, facilitators and, sometimes, just as observers. They must also accept overall responsibility for creating an enabling environment for sustainable development and cultural participation.

Our commitments

- To facilitate participative forums to discuss cultural policies
- To engage with public sector, private sector, cultural sector and citizens in the ongoing development of cultural policies
- To actively co-ordinate a joined up city approach to cultural development including at different levels of government
- To undertake and respect cultural planning at citywide and neighbourhood level
- To take into consideration the cultural dimension of crosscutting council policies

Through participation in the Culture 21 Pilot Cities programme Belfast City Council will identify key actions to support these commitments.

Imagine a collaborative city with a shared vision for culture

The model

The Cultural Enquiry produced for the Core Cities network recommends an adaptable model called a City Compact for how governance can support the delivery of a local vision for culture. The purpose of this City Compact model is to build capacity and maximise the investment required to deliver this shared vision.

Belfast City Council is committed to taking forward a City Compact and to working with our partners to deliver the strategic priorities set out in this Strategy. The purpose of this model is also to support a more joined up approach to investment in culture across both the public and private sectors.

The next phase will be to reach agreement with all of our partners on how we take forward this Compact including the co-design of implementation plans to fulfil these commitments.

Cultural enquiry: City compact

Purpose: to co-create and co-deliver a holistic vision for culture in cities

The Compact will support collective, co-ordinated action to grow and sustain the cultural ecosystem. This will involve aligning activity and funding, and leveraging additional human, financial and property resources, in support of an agreed local purpose. The Compact will be the primary vehicle for discussion between local partners and with government about how best to deploy culture for the city. Each city's Compact will have a distinctive purpose, according to need and opportunity.



A CITY iNVESTiNG

CHAPTER 8

Realising Belfast's ambition to become a culturally vibrant city requires public investment in our creative and cultural lives. This investment should recognise the intrinsic value of culture in our city. The Belfast Agenda also recognises culture and creativity as essential to delivering better health and well-being for our citizens as well as providing a platform for access and inclusive growth. Cultural projects can and should present compelling investment propositions to a wide range of public and private investors.

Projects such as the European Capital of Culture bid have shown what can be achieved when a city pulls together to support culture as a driving force for social and economic benefit. As the economies that underpin the success of our cities is changing, we must develop dynamic, diverse and innovative investment models in order to sustain the far-reaching impact that cultural activities have on all of our lives. In short, we must inject some much valued creativity into our investment approach if we are serious about our commitment to nurturing cultural vibrancy in our place.



Developing an investment programme

We are committed to delivering a cultural investment programme for the city. The purpose of this programme is to support the delivery of strategic priorities as set out in this document. These in turn will contribute to achieving the outcomes of the Belfast Agenda.

This investment approach takes the long view required to deliver transformation for the city. It recognises that the first priority must be to invest in a healthy cultural ecosystem. This is essential if we are to realise the wider social benefits and economic dividends that we know cities of culture can deliver.

We recognise the importance of public investment in culture. However, we also accept the reality that cities must develop new ways of raising finance as well as new types of cultural investment beyond traditional grant models. It is in this area that a new role for council emerges. Belfast City Council will take a lead role in developing public-private forms of investment working with partners to leverage new investment into the city.

The aims of the cultural investment programme will be to:

- 1 Support the cultural life of the city by enabling our citizens to be active, dynamic and creative agents of change.
- 2 Invest in our cultural and creative sectors to develop the skills and capacity for production and innovation.
- 3 Position Belfast as an international testing ground for new approaches to cultural engagement, development and placemaking.
- 4 Establish Belfast as a cultural destination.

Our investment priorities

We are proposing to design a number of investment strands to support arts, heritage and events. These strands will be developed around the following four priorities.

Anchor: This investment priority will support the cultural infrastructure necessary for a thriving cultural ecosystem.

Activate: This investment priority will empower civic and sectoral engagement, skills and capacity building in order to support inclusive growth.

Experiment: This investment priority will facilitate innovation, catalyst projects and new ideas.

Open: This investment priority will support outward-facing opportunities including marketing and international co-operation.



Our investment approach

The Belfast Agenda has helped establish a new approach to partnership working. This must also be applied to cultural development and investment in the city across a range of public and private partners.

Belfast City Council will continue to offer multi-annual grants recognising the importance of this type of funding in order to sustain accessible cultural activity and infrastructure. However, evaluation of our existing programme has revealed the need to adapt our one size fits all model. A new multi-annual programme will be designed to better support the diversity of our cultural organisations.

A city ready for future challenges must also support innovation and experimentation. A new approach to project grants will consider opportunities for catalyst funding.

Importantly we are also committed to moving beyond grants-based models to explore new forms of investment. The recent Cultural Enquiry published by the Core Cities network of the UK has presented a number of recommendations that merit serious consideration of how they might be applied in the local context. This includes the potential of establishing a tourism levy that would act as a tax on overnight visitors into the city and would be directly reinvested in local cultural development.

These recommendations include more effective use of cultural assets as well as new ways of investing in culture through greater collaboration between the private and public sectors. Other cities also

offer alternative forms of finance including asset transfers and social financing. Such models require further investigation into whether they could be applied in Belfast and how council might support the cultural sector to become investment ready.

The long view supported by these strategic priorities requires us to plan for the future including consideration for further capital investment in cultural infrastructure.

Our commitment

The principle of being investment ready is also one that applies to Belfast City Council. The ambitions set out in this strategy require organisational development to ensure that we can develop the resources, skills and capacity to deliver.



WHAT HAPPENS NEXT...

Engagement on this strategy began in 2017 when we asked our citizens what it meant to feel *At home* in Belfast. From what started as a number of small conversations has swelled to a movement for challenge, change and cultural transformation in our city, in short new ways of imagining Belfast.

We hope that this draft Cultural Strategy will be the beginning of a new way of working and engaging with culture in Belfast. We will be opening a 12-week public consultation on this draft strategy in April 2019. This will be your opportunity to tell us if you think we have addressed the city's strategic priorities for culture in the right way. This draft strategy will provide the framework for developing action and implementation plans which anchor culture as a city priority for Belfast.

Your feedback will help us shape these plans – look out for our creative consultations across the city.

Should you require the document in a different format please email belfast2023@belfastcity.gov.uk with your request.



***WE ASKED THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY
TO TELL US WHAT CULTURE MEANS.
THIS IS OUR BELFAST CHORUS.***

It's a layer of meaning in the bricks and mortar of the city, made by the way we live. It's our rituals and traditions, shared across generations, it's impact and legacy, the bedrock for how we live. It belongs to all of us, it's anything that's important, a learnt expression of life, and how society expresses itself. It's banter in a local chippy, an asset that should be shared, not owned. It's something we all create collectively that encompasses everything about us, the identity of the people, all striving for beautiful together. It's a collective way of thinking that we all express uniquely, fragments of society all glued together to tell our story. It's having a vision to motivate change, being proud and expressing yourself, turning emotion into action, giving life meaning and making things better. It's who we are and where we're from, it's everything that affects us, from the habits of our lives, to the way of the world. It doesn't always work, and sometimes it divides us, but it's always striving, always challenging us to come together. It's a barometer of where society is at that goes beyond aesthetics, a way of thinking that's both personal and collective. It's a tone to identify with that creates harmonies across the city. It's in us. It's in everything we do. It's how we live our lives.





Acknowledgements

- Kelly Morris Photography
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- Smug (Street Artist)
- No Oil Paintings
- Belfast 400: People, Place and History by S.J Connolly
- Rae Sofley



Subject:	Social Enterprise and Employment Support
Date:	12 April 2019
Reporting Officer:	John Greer, Director of Economic Development
Contact Officer:	Ruth Rea, Economic Development Manager

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	The purpose of this report is to request Committee approval for the delivery of two pilot projects aimed at supporting social enterprise development, business start-up and employment for those with disabilities and/or health related conditions.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note the ongoing work of the Economic Development Unit in supporting business growth, jobs creation, skills development under the Working and Learning and Growing the Economy pillars of the Belfast Agenda Approve the delivery of two pilot projects to be delivered in partnership with NOW Group and USEL (Ulster Supported Employment and Learning) aimed at supporting people

	<p>with disabilities or health related conditions into work as well as helping new artisan food businesses including social enterprises to start up and grow.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree to enter into a Licence agreement for an initial 12 months period to facilitate delivery of the pilot initiative in partnership with USEL (Ulster Supported Employment and Learning), subject to the advice and approval from the Council's Legal Services and Estates Management teams.
3.0	Main report
3.1	As Members will be aware, the Council provides a range of activities to support business growth, help create jobs and enhance the skills levels of Belfast residents. This includes delivery of a suite of business start and development programmes including social enterprise support, as well as a variety of employment and skills initiatives including the sector-specific employment academies. Aligned to both the Working and Learning and the Growing the Economy pillars of the Belfast Agenda, these work streams support inclusive growth ambitions by addressing barriers to employment and progression.
3.2	The city continues to face persistent challenges relating to the high levels of economic inactivity and geographical deprivation, and whilst unemployment rates are decreasing, levels of economic inactivity remains high at 31% or 67,850 persons of working age across the city of Belfast. Of these numbers, around 35% (or 23,748 persons of working age) are known to have a disability or health-related condition. Council officers have been working with a number of organisations to explore opportunities for developing targeted initiatives to help some of those individuals to re-enter the labour market on a voluntary participation basis. For out-of-work individuals, long periods of inactivity can cause health conditions to worsen, work related skills and motivation deteriorate, and significant new barriers to work can arise. These individuals will require additional support to remove their particular barriers to employment.
3.3	In recent years, the Council's Hospitality Employment Academy has provided an ongoing pipeline of talent into this sector. Whilst efforts in this regard have been positively received, the challenge of low levels of unemployment, sector growth and the potential implications of the UK exit from the EU on the flow of migrant labour have highlighted the risk of labour shortages within this industry and underlined the need for ongoing interventions of scale.
3.4	The growth of the hospitality industry has been driven by both international brands and indigenous outlets. In the case of the latter, the uniqueness and the quality of the sector and individual businesses operating within it have recently been recognised through

	<p>awards such as the Good Taste Awards. Importantly, Northern Ireland was announced as the “Best Food Destination” at the prestigious International Travel and Tourism Awards in London at the end of 2018. This is a significant accolade and highlights the innovation and quality of both the producers and the hospitality outlets across the region. Through business start-up activities, the Council is supporting a growing number of artisan food producers. One of the key challenges that they face is the ability to access professional kitchen space and distribution outlets for their products. Officers are aware of at least 20 food production businesses who have outgrown their existing space, and have a requirement to utilise a commercial kitchen space to grow their business.</p>
3.5	<p>To address these challenges and support the development of the hospitality sector, officers are proposing to develop two pilot initiatives in partnership with two social enterprise organisations, USEL and the NOW Group. Uniquely both organisations offer training and employment support to individuals with disabilities or health-related conditions and, in addition, support the employment of this client group through the operation of their social enterprises. Additionally both organisations have links with employers within the hospitality sector, providing access to a wider pool of employment opportunities. The pilot initiatives will also facilitate the establishment and growth of artisan food producers, including social enterprises. Further information on each of the proposed pilot projects is set out below.</p>
3.6	<p><u>Partnership with USEL: Hospitality Training Academy and Food Production Facility</u></p> <p>This pilot will involve utilising a vacant city centre property (located in Bridge Street) to operate a social enterprise café, a training academy and provide professional kitchen space for artisan food producers. Previously operated by Barnados as Dr B’s, the site is already fitted with a fully functioning café located on the ground floor with separate kitchen space located on the first and second floors of the building that can be used as preparation and training space. The scope of the site will allow for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operation of a social enterprise café providing employment opportunities for up to 20 trainees • Delivery of a hospitality training academy supporting workless individuals with a disability or health-related conditions (from USEL and partner organisations) • Provision of professional kitchen space with the potential of supporting the creation and growth of up to 40 artisan food producers.
3.7	<p>Each of the distinct elements are interlinked and complementary. For example, it is expected that academy trainees will progress into employment within the café as well as</p>

	<p>through a wider network of hospitality employers. Additionally, the café provides a potential retail outlet for artisan food producers, in addition to other outlets within the Council's responsibility, including St George's Market.</p>
3.8	<p>As an arms-length body of the Department for Communities (DfC), USEL is not in a position to enter into a lease agreement for this site. Therefore, the Council would be required to enter into a licence agreement with the landlord for a period of 12 months with the option of extension for a further 12 months (subject to legal services and estates review and final agreement on terms and conditions including liability for rates payment). Additionally the Council would be required to provide £30,000 of funding against a total expected cost of £170,000 for the 12 month period, the remainder would be provided by USEL and income generated from the operation of the social enterprise café. Expected outputs from this pilot would include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 12 week training programme for individuals with disabilities seeking to progress into employment within the hospitality industry with 40 participants to complete the training academy per annum • Up to 20 trainees employed in the Café • Up to 40 Belfast-based food production businesses supported to start or grow their business • Re-opening of a currently vacant property in the city centre, operating as a café and providing employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities to gain employment • Provision of professional kitchen space for food-based start-up enterprises to test and produce food products with the potential to look at options for selling products produced through the commercial café and other outlets.
3.9	<p><u>Now Group Catering and Hospitality Academy</u></p> <p>The aim of this proposal is to support people with learning difficulties, disabilities and autism into sustainable employment through the delivery of a 12-week catering and hospitality academy. This academy will be distinct from the USEL academy in that it will focus on catering and food production skills development as an area that has been identified within the hospitality sector as having severe skills gaps. Training will consist of both theory and practical learning methodologies providing a holistic perspective of the vocation and develop well-trained, qualified participants ready for the exploration of employment opportunities. In addition to this, this pilot provides an opportunity to expand on the relationship that the NOW Group has developed with a number of employers in the</p>

	on this activity. No specific rural needs impact – engagement is open to all eligible Council residents and businesses.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 - Expected outputs, timescales and costs

Appendix 1

Social Enterprise and Employment Support		
	Partnership with USEL	Partnership with NOW Group
	Hospitality Training Academy and Food Production Facility	Catering and Hospitality Academy
Aim	To broaden the provision of services aimed at assisting people with disabilities or health conditions into employment through a self sustaining social enterprise model approach. To deliver a local works model that will provide employment opportunities and create a better working environment within the service industry for people living with a disability or health conditions. To support local start up food production businesses to establish and scale in the city.	To provide enhanced employment support services and work experience opportunities for people with learning difficulties, disabilities and autism. To create a sustainable social entries model to support people with complex needs and health barriers enter and / or return to the labour market.
Partners	USEL, Johnsons Coffee and Belfast City Council	The NOW Group and Belfast City Council
Target Groups	Long Term Unemployed people living with a disability or other health related issue who are unemployed.	Long Term Unemployed people living with a disability or other health related issue who have are unemployed
Expected Outputs	A minimum of 20 jobs support over the proposed project term. A minimum of 20 local business start ups. Creation of a "Social Shop" outlet for business start-ups/artisan food producers	40 jobs supported over the proposed project term.
Geographical Area	City Wide	City Wide
Referral Source	BCC Employment Support, ESF STRIDE programme, Training for Success and Workable NI	BCC Employment Support, ESF Verve project
Timescale	May 2019 to April 2020 with the option to extend for a further 12 months subject to satisfactory contract performance and monitoring.	May 2019 to April 2020 with the option to extend for a further 12 months subject to satisfactory contract performance and monitoring.
Project Term	12 months with the option to extend for a further 12 months subject to satisfactory performance	12 months with the option to extend for a further 12 months subject to satisfactory performance
Total Project Costs p.a	£ 170,000.00	£70,000.00
BCC Cost p.a	£ 30,000.00	£ 35,000.00

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Subject:	Northern Ireland Affairs Committee Inquiry into Tourism in Northern Ireland
Date:	12 April 2019
Reporting Officer:	John Greer, Director of Economic Development
Contact Officer:	Lisa Toland, Head of Economic Initiatives and International 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"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of the report is to advise the Committee of an inquiry by the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee of the UK Government on tourism in Northern Ireland and to seek approval for the key elements of a Council response. This response will be subject to engagement with other partner organisations in order to ensure alignment and consistency in support of the Belfast position.

1.2	The official deadline for submissions is 18 April 2019. However, the NI Affairs Committee has agreed to an extension until early May 2019 to allow time for additional liaison with our partner organisations.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree that a full response is developed along the lines set out in section 3.3. below • Consider any additions or amendments that they wish to see incorporated in the final Council response • Agree that officers should continue to liaise with our strategic partners including Tourism NI, Visit Belfast, ICC Belfast and Northern Ireland Statistics Research Agency, to ensure consistency in our responses and to put forward the best case for Belfast • Agree that authority is delegated to the Director of Economic Development to submit the final version of the response within the timeframe set out by the Northern Ireland Affairs Committee.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p>The Northern Ireland Affairs Committee has recently launched an Inquiry examining the importance of tourism to the economy and society of Northern Ireland more widely and to investigate ways in which the industry could be improved or further supported. Specifically, the Inquiry has invited written submissions pertaining to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The economic and societal impact of the tourism industry in Northern Ireland • Transport links to Northern Ireland • The promotion of Northern Ireland as a destination.
3.2	Officers are liaising with our strategic partners (ICC Belfast, Visit Belfast and Tourism NI) who have specific expertise and information relating to the areas set out in the scope of the inquiry. While each of the partners is working on their own individual responses, Council officers are engaging with them all to ensure that the response from the Council is consistent with the key messages and draws out the specific challenges and opportunities for Belfast.
3.3	In terms of headline commentary, it is proposed that the Council response covers the following key points:

The economic and societal impact of the tourism industry in Northern Ireland

- The growth of tourism has been critical to Belfast's improved economic performance, particularly over the last two decades
- Belfast is the key regional driver for tourism in the region. The last Local Government District tourism statistics published by the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency in 2017 indicated that Belfast generated 30% of all overnight tourism trips to Northern Ireland (1.5m trips) and tourism spend on overnight trips amounted to £328m, 35% of Northern Ireland tourism spend
- The city's contribution to the region's visitor economy increases to 44% when analysing spend from visitors originating from outside Northern Ireland
- Jobs supported in the tourism sector in Belfast are 18,600 which is 30% of all tourism jobs in Northern Ireland
- Overnight business trips account for 15% of bednights compared with 9% for NI as a whole
- Belfast City Region Deal partners welcome the recent Treasury investment in tourism as part of the wider programme of investment for the city region. The inclusion of tourism as a key growth sector represents an acknowledgement of the importance of this sector to the city (and region's) future economic growth. This investment will both enhance productivity in the sector and provide opportunities for new product development, which can have positive economic and social impacts on local communities.

Transport links to Northern Ireland

- Belfast is directly served by two airports, George Best Belfast City Airport and Belfast International Airport
- Unlike other major UK cities, Belfast is only accessible by either air or sea – with the majority of passengers coming by air. Consideration needs to be given to ensuring that these modes of travel are not subject to policy change which could have disproportionate cost implications – and thereby impact on usage levels
- Direct air route access is critical to the success of any destination and whilst Dublin Airport is an important access point onto the Island of Ireland with direct access from over 170 destinations, it will be important to further develop direct access into Northern Ireland's airports
- The Council and Tourism NI have recently invested in a major conference and exhibition centre (ICC Belfast), at a cost of almost £30million (drawing in EU match

funding). The success of this investment is predicated on maintaining air route access to the city for national and international conference delegates

- Road and rail links in Belfast and the surrounding areas have been strengthened in recent years. This is important in helping tourists to access areas outside of Belfast if they wish. There are still gaps in the rail infrastructure to the two Belfast airports. This means that there is a disproportionate reliance on car travel to both airports.
- The introduction of the Glider service in Belfast helps visitors to move across the city in a way that they have not been able to do previously. The uptake by tourists has been significant and this is having a positive effect on enhancing the impact of tourism across the city and into communities
- The tourism and infrastructure investments in the Belfast City Region Deal will act as a catalyst for enhanced regional connectivity between Belfast and other key tourism destinations
- Belfast as a cruise destination has gone from strength to strength with recent commitment to investing in upgraded cruise facilities at Belfast Harbour.

The promotion of Northern Ireland as a destination

- The promotion of Belfast City and region is currently led by Visit Belfast, working in close collaboration with Tourism NI (for marketing in NI and RoI) and Tourism Ireland (for campaign activity beyond the island of Ireland)
- The Council recognises and supports a collaborative, multi-agency approach to promoting the city and region
- The Council is in the process of developing a new cultural strategy. As part of that work, we have developed a new tourism narrative and will be working with our marketing partners to ensure that the unique and authentic Belfast narrative is carried as part of the wider partner campaigns and activities in the various markets
- Tourism growth figures from international visitors indicate that Tourism Ireland is having significant success in delivering new visitors to the island of Ireland. It is critical for all partners in the destinations to work together to ensure that the quality of the product is enhanced in order to attract those visitors and to ensure that they have a positive experience of their time in the destination. This underlines the need for collective action.

Financial & Resource Implications

There are no specific costs associated with provision of this response.

3.4

	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.5	None.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None

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Subject:	Update on the development of the Aquatics Strategy 2018 - 2030
Date:	12 th April 2019
Reporting Officer:	Nigel Grimshaw, Strategic Director City & Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Rose Crozier, Director Neighbourhood Services Noel Munnis, Partnership Manager

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 update Members' on completion of the final draft of 'An Aquatics Strategy for Belfast' and seek approval to move to a formal launch event as soon as is practicable.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • note completion of the public consultation exercise; • note completion of equality screening and the resulting 'screened out' decision; • approve the final draft document 'An Aquatics Strategy for Belfast' and

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> grant approval to prepare for a formal launch of the strategy as soon as is practicable 																						
3.0	Main report																						
	<u>Key Issues</u>																						
3.1	The proposal to develop an Aquatics Strategy was prompted by the Active Belfast Ltd (ABL) board at its meeting on 9 th June 2016. A further report was presented to the ABL board on 31 August 2016 outlining a proposed development approach and a broad scope works. Approval to proceed was granted and a working group consisting of representatives from ABL, Belfast City Council (BCC) and Greenwich Leisure Ltd (GLL) was set up to deliver the project.																						
3.2	The Aquatics Strategy Working Group was made up of officers from BCC, staff from GLL and members of the ABL Board.																						
3.3	The Working Group met on ten occasions between 6 th October 2016 and 26 October 2017 with numerous development sessions between formal working group meetings.																						
3.4	<p>Aquatics Strategy update reports were presented to the ABL board and subsequently to BCC via SP&R on the following dates:</p> <table> <tr> <td><u>ABL Board</u></td><td><u>SP&R Committee</u></td></tr> <tr> <td>9 June 2016</td><td>24 June 2016</td></tr> <tr> <td>31 August 2016</td><td>23 September 2016</td></tr> <tr> <td>13 October 2016</td><td>21 October 2016</td></tr> <tr> <td>5 December 2016</td><td>16 December 2016</td></tr> <tr> <td>21 March 2017</td><td>21 April 2017</td></tr> <tr> <td>20 April 2017</td><td>19 May 2017</td></tr> <tr> <td>7 August 2017</td><td>18 August 2017</td></tr> <tr> <td>30 October 2017</td><td>24 November 2017</td></tr> <tr> <td>5 March 2018</td><td>23 March 2018</td></tr> <tr> <td>10 September 2018</td><td>21 September 2018</td></tr> </table> <p><u>Pre-consultation</u></p>	<u>ABL Board</u>	<u>SP&R Committee</u>	9 June 2016	24 June 2016	31 August 2016	23 September 2016	13 October 2016	21 October 2016	5 December 2016	16 December 2016	21 March 2017	21 April 2017	20 April 2017	19 May 2017	7 August 2017	18 August 2017	30 October 2017	24 November 2017	5 March 2018	23 March 2018	10 September 2018	21 September 2018
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7 August 2017	18 August 2017																						
30 October 2017	24 November 2017																						
5 March 2018	23 March 2018																						
10 September 2018	21 September 2018																						
3.5	Pre consultation with key stakeholders was undertaken between 7 July and 10 August 2017.																						
3.6	The final Aquatics Strategy document (draft for consultation) was approved by the ABL board on 5 th March 2018 and subsequently accepted by SP&R and full Council on 22 nd June 2018 and 2 July 2018 respectively.																						

3.7	<p><u>Public consultation on the draft strategy</u></p> <p>A twelve week period of public consultation on the draft strategy took place between 24 July and 12 October 2018. A copy of the draft strategy and a response questionnaire were available to download from the Council's website.</p>
3.8	<p>The public consultation exercise yielded 58 written responses of which 28 were on behalf of organisations. The content of the draft document was positively received. Most comments received were of an operational nature and have been noted for consideration when a post launch action plan is being developed. No amendments have been made to the draft strategic document attached at Appendix 1.</p>
3.9	<p><u>Equality Screening</u></p> <p>Following review of the public consultation the draft strategy was subject to equality screening. Equality screening took place in March 2019 and resulted in the strategy being 'screened out'.</p>
3.9	<p><u>Next steps</u></p> <p>The final draft document is attached at Appendix 1. This is the final draft version agreed for public consultation which has remained unchanged following the consultation exercise.</p>
3.10	<p>Subject to Council sign off, a public launch will be scheduled as soon as practicable after the forthcoming Council elections. The intention is to launch the strategy in June to allow for the preparation of an implementation action plan during the summer months.</p>
3.11	<p>Having an agreed strategy and action plan in place by September 2019 will significantly support mobilisation and operational planning for the start of the 2019/20 aquatics season/term and will underpin programming principles for the Phase 1b of the Leisure Transformation Programme new build openings at Lisnasharragh, Brook and Andersonstown.</p>
3.12	<p><u>Communications & Public Relations</u></p> <p>Subject to final approval, the Aquatics Strategy will be publicly launched in the Summer of 2019.</p>
3.13	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>Outside of the cost of a public launch of the strategy there are no financial or other resource implications.</p>

3.14	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u> The strategy is subject to equality screening. 'Screened out' on 5 th April 2019.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 Final draft 'An Aquatics Strategy for Belfast' document



An Aquatics Strategy for Belfast

Draft for consultation

July 2018

Active
Belfast
Ltd. Page 131

GLL
better for everyone



Belfast
City Council

1. Introduction and background

Belfast City Council, Active Belfast Limited and Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL) are partners in delivering the leisure service for Belfast. As partners, we have committed to developing a strategy for aquatics for the period 2018 – 2030.

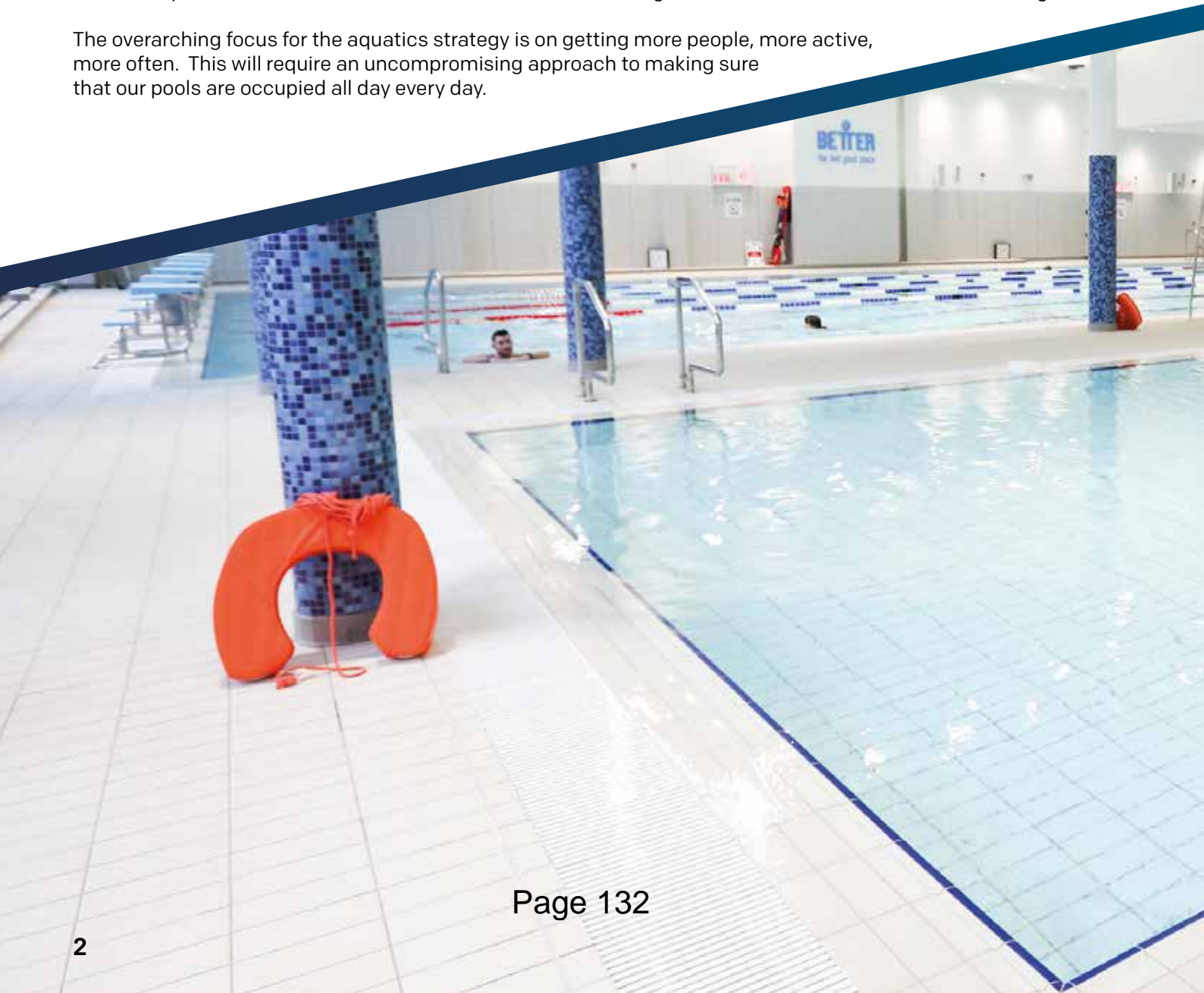
Active Belfast Limited was set up by the council to oversee the delivery of the council's leisure services in Belfast. In January 2015, Belfast City Council and Active Belfast Limited awarded Greenwich Leisure

Limited a 15 year contract to directly manage and deliver leisure services in their leisure centres. The leisure partnership is built around the following nine principle objectives:

1. **5* service at 3* prices**
2. **Focus on health and wellbeing outcomes**
3. **More than sport** - broader impact of sport and contributing to the Belfast Agenda
4. **Value for money** - reducing deficits and dependence on Belfast City Council rates subsidy
5. **Democratically accountable**
6. **Well connected** - well run, well used and well promoted centres and activity programmes
7. **People focused** - staff development
8. **Balanced investment** - strategic citywide approach to local provision
9. **Partnerships and collaborative working** - internal and external partnerships

Belfast City Council has embarked on an ambitious and exciting £105 million Leisure Transformation Programme.

The overarching focus for the aquatics strategy is on getting more people, more active, more often. This will require an uncompromising approach to making sure that our pools are occupied all day every day.



2. Understanding the drivers for change

The Belfast City Council commitment to a capital investment fund of £105m demonstrates unprecedented confidence and leadership. It is imperative that the transformation of leisure extends beyond the physical re-development of the centres. The new pool facilities will provide exciting opportunities which must be welcomed as a catalyst for positive change.

We need to provide a top quality value for money service and at the same time reduce dependency on council rates subsidies.

The council's leisure service can contribute significantly to achieving improvements in general health by getting more people, more active, more often. The re-development of

our centres, and pools in particular, will only partially achieve the council's ambitions in this regard. We need to maximise participation in water based activities by developing all day programmes with access for all citizens.

We recognise that there are other agencies with strategic plans that are closely aligned to the aims of our aquatics strategy. We will explore every opportunity to work in partnership with government departments, Sport NI, health trusts, sport governing bodies, clubs, schools and community organisations.





Belfast has a population of approximately 335,000 within an overall figure of 675,000 for the wider Belfast metropolitan area. The local population is anticipated to grow steadily but not dramatically over the next five years. While people are living longer and the 60+ population continues to grow in line with national trends, we are still a 'young city'. One fifth of the population is under 15 years old.

Like most other capital cities, Belfast exhibits a wide range of socio economic conditions. On the one hand we are a vibrant, economically active, exciting and developing city. However, we also have areas of extensive deprivation.

Health inequalities present a significant challenge. 24% of the Belfast population have a long term health problem or disability that restricts daily activities. There is an eight year variance in life expectancy along one Belfast bus route.

Persistent disadvantage is now an accepted reality. The most deprived areas in 1970 remain so, despite almost 50 years and a succession of government initiatives. Belfast has nine of the ten most deprived wards in Northern Ireland.

Statistics source: 'About Our City (Belfast City Council Position Statement, LGA Peer Review 2015)'

Why do we need an aquatics strategy?

- Our capital investment and service transformation offers unprecedented opportunities and we need to deliver on social, cultural, economic and in particular health benefits. We need a robust plan to maximise delivery of these benefits
- We need to drive increased pool occupancy and participation for all water based activities and develop the diversity of opportunities for Belfast residents in order to contribute to a healthier, better connected and more vibrant city
- We need to demonstrate value for money and justify the capital investment
- We need to harness all available resources and maximise partnership working as keys to achieving success
- We want to ensure that the profile of aquatics grows and is recognised for making a significant contribution to the Belfast Agenda
- We want to establish and maintain top quality facilities and customer services
- We need to reduce financial operating deficits and dependency on council subsidy while maximising the number of citizens benefiting from our aquatics provision

3. Our strategic vision

To provide a top class aquatics service designed to promote social regeneration, tackle health inequalities, ensure affordable equitable access for all, maximise participation and enable people to reach their full potential.

This aquatics strategy is written taking account of the capital investment programme and with particular focus on alignment with the Belfast Agenda 2017 – 2021 key priorities of:

- growing the economy,
- living here,
- city development, and
- working and learning.



4. Baselines and targets

Belfast City Council currently (2018) operates 13 leisure centres, seven of which are 'wet centres' with a total of nine separate pools. As a result of the capital investment programme, by 2025, overall provision and the locations of our wet centres will be transformed and the total number of pools increased.

- 45% of all centre visits in 2017 were to the pool
- 25% of all GLL Sports Foundation supported athletes are from aquatics disciplines
- 14 Belfast based aquatic clubs use Belfast City Council pools

Working towards 2025 and on to 2030, a set of key performance indicators will be agreed to reflect the objectives and priorities set out in our aquatics strategy.

The success of our strategy will be measured against growth in the number of people using our pools alongside the total number of visits. In short, we want to fill our pools but we will focus equally on attracting new users as well as increasing the frequency of use.

It is only by attracting more people into water based activities that our key priority of delivering real health benefits can be achieved. A comprehensive set of

measurements will be developed as part of our action plan. It is important that our performance is measured accurately and the information collected is specific to our key objectives.

We want to ensure that we remain focused on:

- the safety and quality of our facilities,
- delivering real health benefits,
- making a difference through community impacts,
- customer satisfaction,
- staff development, and
- value for money.

The table below sets out our initial baseline and long term targets. Performance and impact measures will be expanded through the development of our strategic action plan and included in annual progress reports and strategic reviews.

Measure	2017 Baseline	2030 Target
Pool visits per year	900,000	1,500,000 per year
School swimming lessons per week	212	300 per week
GLL 'Better Swim School' lessons per week	433	800
Better Swim School members	3,300	7,500
Club booking lane hours per week	378	450
Disabled group booking lane hours per week	28.5	50
Aquatic group exercise class lane hours per week	38	50
Fitness lane hours in 'swim for all' sessions per week	160	300
Grow female pool visits to 50%	371,700	750,000 per year
Grow 60+ age group pool visits to 12%	83,700	150,000 per year
Grow people with disability pool visits to 5%	33,300	75,000 per year



Key objectives

- Delivery of our ambitious £105m facility investment programme on time and on budget
- Providing high quality aquatics facilities and services with a focus on safety for all
- More people able to swim a minimum of 25m
- Improved health and wellbeing through regular participation in water based activities. More people, more active, more often
- More people motivated to try new aquatic disciplines
- Improved opportunity and support for all to reach their aquatics potential through learning, playing, training and competing
- More people realising their aquatics potential through strong club partnerships and robust athlete development pathways
- Development of effective partnerships with statutory, educational and sporting bodies to deliver on the benefits of aquatic activity
- Strong continuous improvement with room to grow
- Diverse and innovative aquatic programmes
- A more skilled and productive workforce

Belfast City Council Leisure Transformation Programme

Belfast City Council is committed to a £105million capital expenditure budget and a phased plan for the physical re-development of leisure facilities over a 10 year period leading up to 2025. The programme will provide balanced investment across the city with each city area having wet and dry health and fitness facilities, general indoor activity spaces and extensive outdoor sports and recreation provision. Active Belfast Ltd will work closely with the council in delivering this once-in-a-generation opportunity to transform leisure provision in the city.

The Leisure Transformation Programme has been developed in consideration of 10 'wet centres'. The initial development phases include a long term commitment to seven wet centres including five new build developments. A site map on page 7 illustrates the locations of our 'wet centres' along with descriptions of the pool facilities at each.



Map of Belfast's wet leisure centres

Open or committed wet centres under the current Leisure Transformation Programme project schedule.

Currently open:

Falls: opened 2005

6 lane 25m pool with partial moving floor

Grove: opened 2008

6 lane 25m pool with partial moving floor, 8m x 13m teaching pool

Olympia: opened 2017

6 lane 25m pool with partial moving floor, 7m x 12m teaching pool

New builds:

Andersonstown: opening 2019

6 lane 25m pool, 10m x 15m teaching pool, extensive leisure water with indoor surfing basin

Brook: opening 2019

4 lane 25m pool with partial moving floor

Girdwood Community Hub (phase 2)

Phase 2 of the Girdwood development includes the provision of an indoor sports facility. The final facility mix for the indoor sports centre has not yet been agreed.

Robinson: opening 2019

8 lane 25m pool with partial moving floor, 13m x 17.5m teaching and diving pool, confidence water

Templemore: opening 2021

6 lane 25m pool with partial moving floor, four lane 25 yard pool

Existing centres.

Avoniel

The existing Avoniel Leisure Centre has a 6 lane 25m pool. Avoniel will close in 2019 to be replaced by an extensive indoor and outdoor dry sports facility. An additional 6 lane 25m pool has been added to the facility mix at Templemore to replace the existing pool at Avoniel.

Ballysillan

4 lane 25m L shaped pool with shallow teaching area

Shankill

Abstract leisure pool with wave machine and slides incorporating a four lane 25m training area

Templemore

The existing Templemore facility will close in 2019 to be replaced by a new facility on the same site.

Whiterock

6 lane 25m pool



5. Timeline

Our aquatics strategy includes a 12 year action plan which will inform the development of aquatics activities in the city from 2018 to 2030.

The 12 year period has a natural mid-point in 2024 at which time the £105m capital investment programme will be complete. This will provide a key review point as from 2024 onwards all new pool facilities will be fully operational and ready to support our ambitious participation targets.

We are committed to continuous improvement and performance monitoring and will ensure that these remain central to all performance evaluations throughout the life of the strategy. We will produce 12 annual progress reports and four key stage strategic reviews in 2021, 2024, 2027 and 2030.

6. Strategic objectives and priorities

Strategic objectives have been developed to cover all aspects of the council's pools including facility management, service delivery and future development. The overall strategy is built around priority areas clustered under the broad themes of 'What we want to do', 'How we want to do things', 'Who we want to do it for' and 'What we want to achieve'.

What we want to do

A citywide strategic approach to access, programming and bookings

- Deliver balanced city wide facility provision with local unique selling points
- Provide services and programmes that promote cross city travel
- Develop an area based programme built around north, south, east and west access
- Develop innovative community focused aquatic programmes to promote health and well being and social regeneration at both local and city wide levels

Fair access based on geographic location

- Establish an area based approach to delivering equal access to 'local' facilities
- Ensure priority is given at an area level for access to recreational sessions and casual fitness lane swimming

Equitable access for all users recognising the different needs of particular groups

- Provide fair access to pools recognising the different needs of particular groups and individuals
- Establish challenging targets to increase overall pool visits, the number of unique individuals using our pools and particularly from traditionally underrepresented groups

Balanced and fair booking policies with an emphasis on shared use

- Increased access for group bookings
- Promote shared use to maximise pool occupancy and participation
- Establish a booking policy accepting the principle of restricting exclusive use



How we want to do things

Modern, well maintained, safe and clean facilities

- Recognise that the quality and safety of our facilities must become and remain a key priority
- Ensure that our leisure facilities are safe, secure and clean with particular regard for safeguarding children and vulnerable adults
- Our centres will be well branded throughout and provide current, accurate and easily accessible customer information
- Excellent facilities will be matched by excellent services delivered by professional, well trained, helpful and welcoming staff
- Performance will be robustly monitored with customer feedback systems and annual customer satisfaction surveys at the heart of our quality assurance programme

Policies to cover how we operate our pools

- We will ensure that our pool operating procedures and conditions of use are clear, consistent and well communicated
- Our pools will be managed to provide a safe, comfortable and enjoyable environment



Who we want to do it for

Pricing and affordability

- We will have a clear and transparent schedule of charges for all aquatic activities, pool hire and membership categories
- We will maintain concessionary rates for specified user groups alongside preferential discounts for Belfast residents
- We will ensure that pricing does not become a genuine barrier to participation
- The schedule of charges will be reviewed annually
- Fees and charges will be set to encourage growth in participation while effectively managing annual budgets
- Pricing will be based on a logical approach for fees and charges and the fundamental principle of equity for like for like services

Focus on priority target groups

- Our pool operating procedures, programming and marketing will support and encourage increased participation from Section 75 listed categories and other traditionally underrepresented groups
- Our policies will be designed to ensure increased participation and equitable access for all citizens
- Priority target groups will be identified and provided for to ensure that pool availability and access do not become barriers to participation, the pursuit of personal goals or achieving full potential

What we want to achieve

Increased participation in water based activities

- More individual people participating more often
- More people motivated to try new water based activities
- Improved health outcomes through participation in water based activities
- More people participation from traditionally underrepresented groups

Promoting skills and attainment

- More children able to swim at least 25m
- Equal opportunities for citizens to pursue goals and realise their potential
- Clear athlete development pathways, including partnerships with clubs and sport governing bodies, alongside robust area based opportunities
- A more skilled, flexible and productive workforce

Developing effective partnerships

- Effective partnerships and joined up action plans with external agencies and community groups
- Successful partnerships with aquatic sports governing bodies and clubs

Reputation for excellence

- Challenging brand standards and performance targets
- A reputation for quality, innovation and creativity
- High quality aquatic facilities with a focus on safety for all
- Strong continuous improvement with room to grow

Action plan

- Develop a detailed action plan within three months of the launch of our strategy
- Ensure that the action plan includes annual performance reports and key strategic review points

For more information and queries please contact:

Noel Munnis
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Belfast City Council,
4th Floor, Cecil Ward Building,
4 – 10 Linenhall Street,
Belfast,
BT2 8BP.

Email: munnisn@belfastcity.gov.uk
Tel: **028 9032 0202** extension **3526** - Direct Line **028 9027 0394**



Subject:	Summer Community Diversionary Festivals (SCDF) Programme
Date:	12 April, 2019
Reporting Officer:	Nigel Grimshaw, Strategic Director, City & Neighbourhoods
Contact Officer:	Stevie Lavery, Programme Manager

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	At the Council meeting in January 2019 it was agreed to allocate £500k to a summer diversionary and festival programme, this was in context of the Revenue Estimates & District Rate report agreed as part of the rate setting process. The programme was advertised as an open call and officers have completed the preliminary assessment process.
1.2	The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with the detail of the preliminary assessments undertaken by officers and seek approval to award funding to those groups who have met the minimum standard required to receive funding.

2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make a recommendation that successful projects are awarded funding, totalling the amounts outlined in Table 1. Any funding awarded is subject to further engagement with groups and analysis of projects and associated budgets in line with Council due diligence procedures; • Work with any unsuccessful groups to support, where appropriate, aspects of their application that can be delivered through the Council led Bonfire and Cultural Expression Programme
3.0	Main report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	<p>Process</p> <p>Following approval by Council in January 2019 to deliver a £500,000 Summer Community Festivals Diversionary Programme (£250,000 for July Groups and £250,000 for August Groups), the following process has been followed;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All applicants submitted an application form by an agreed date; • Officers undertook due diligence exercise to ensure that only applications that are fully completed and meet the conditions of funding were considered for assessment; • During the open application process, officers were available to advise groups on the necessary due diligence requirements that must be met to enable groups to be considered suitable for funding; • Officers have undertaken a preliminary assessment of each application against the agreed criteria (see Appendix 1) and are seeking a recommendation from the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on proposed successful applications.
3.2	<p>July Programme</p> <p>Five applications for the July programme were received with a total funding requirement of £354,229, (this was reduced to £311,729 following a reduction in the amount requested by the The Hubb.</p>

One of the applications, Consensus Restorative Justice did not meet the minimum quality standard to receive funding. It is proposed, that officers will work with this group to offer support in delivering a community festival in the local area in the lead up to the 11 July, through the Council led Bonfire and Cultural Expression Programme.

Table 1 summarises the applications received for the July programme.

No	Group / Consortium (Project name)	Overview of project	Request £	Score out of 100	Proposed funding award £
1.	Twadell & Woodvale Residents Association (Woodvale Festival 2019)	Delivery of an extensive and varied series of events in Woodvale park and other local venues from 5 th – 11 th July. These will include a community activity programme and large scale musical events at Woodvale Park on 9, 10, & 11 July	100,000	78	84,386
2.	The Hubb Community Resource Centre (Community Shorefest)	Deliver of a number of diversionary and cultural workshops from 1 June, which will include music and community festival events in the local area in the lead up to and on 11 July	44,000 (original request £86,500)	57	44,000
3.	Greater Village Regeneration Trust (GVRT)	Delivery of a coordinated programme of cultural, family and diversionary events across South Belfast from June until 11 July. This project is being delivered with community partners who are based across south Belfast and work with local communities to address issues at bonfires.	37,229	48	37,229
4.	EastSide partnership (Eastival)	Delivery of cultural, arts and diversionary workshops and programmes during June and July. The project will also deliver festival and music events at C.S. Lewis Square in the week leading up to 11 July.	100,000	41	84,386
5.	Consensus Restorative Justice	Delivery of workshops with bonfire builders, culminating in a community festival and fun day on the 11 July.	30,500	18	0
Total			311,729		250,000

Following initial assessment of applications, officers are proposing the following funding for projects who met the minimum quality standard;

1. **Greater Village Regeneration Trust (GVRT)** – This was the only application for South Belfast, therefore due to the disproportionate amount requested, £37,229, it is proposed that they receive the full amount;
2. **The Hubb Community Resource Centre** – Initially, as part of their submission a major headline music festival was proposed to be held on the 31 May to 2 June, the total requested was £86,500. This has been amended to include a community festival 10 to 12 July, with a request for £44,000 in total. As part of their proposal a number of workshops and diversionary activities will also be held in the lead up to the 11 July. It is proposed that they receive £44,000.
3. **East Side Partnership and Twadell & Woodvale Residents Association** – Both applications requested £100,000, it is proposed that, if members agree to 1 and 2 the remaining funding available for July (£168,771) is allocated on a pro rata basis, £84,386 for each project.

3.3 August Programme

Three applications were received for the August programme with a total funding request amounting to £250,000. As can be seen from Table 2 below all three applications have been assessed to meet the minimum funding threshold. Officers are proposing that all three applications are allocated the funding requested.

Table 2 summarises the applications received for the August programme.

No	Group / Consortium (Project name)	Overview of project	Request £	Score out of 100	Proposed funding award £
1.	Feile (Feile August Diversionary Dance Night)	Delivery of a free Dance music event as part of Feile on the 8 August. It is proposed that this event will be developed in partnership with local community groups across Belfast to provide an alternative event for young people who may otherwise	100,000	78	100,000

			engage in activities associated with 8 August bonfires.			
	2.	Feile (South & East Summer Diversionary Intervention Programme)	Delivery of outreach and diversionary work during the summer, in the lead up to the 8 August. This project will also run a number of festival and community events across South and East Belfast in the lead up to the 8 August.	50,000	55	50,000
	3.	Feile (North Belfast Summer Diversionary Intervention Programme)	Delivery of a number of diversionary outreach activities and community and sporting events in the lead up to the 8 August. This project will also deliver music festivals and community events in a number of locations in North Belfast.	100,000	52	100,000
	Total			250,000		250,000
3.4	Future Process <p>Subject to council approval, an appointed officer will work with each successful applicant to support projects in terms of ensuring all relevant policies and procedures are followed including monitoring and evaluation procedures. This will include further analysis of the detail of the projects and associated budgets and may result in some changes to proposed programmes of works and if required a reduction in funds awarded to ensure relevant council policies and procedures are followed.</p> <p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p>					
3.5	<p>Budget is included within this year's revenue estimates.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p>					
3.6	<p>This programme is being included as part of an equality screening process for our overall approach to Bonfires</p>					
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached					
	Appendix 1 - Scoring Assessment Criteria					

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Summer Community Diversionary Festival Festivals Programme 2019

Assessment Criteria

Criteria	Weighting (Total 100%)
1. The need and demand for the festival activity, particularly from its intended beneficiaries and the wider community	15
2. How the festival activity will reduce anti-social behaviour in areas where it is being delivered. This should include consideration of timings, location/s, partnership working and identification and inclusion of at risk young people;	15
3. The applicant has a track record of successful delivery in carrying out similar work at an area / local level;	15
4. High levels of project planning and management (project plans are encouraged) and value for public money.	15
5. How the festival activity will increase social cohesion, promote positive cultural expression and strengthen community relations.	15
6. How the festival activity will contribute to a positive image of Belfast.	10
7. How your project meets the definition of a diversionary festival.	10
8. How you propose to work with other successful applicants across geographical areas to assist the Council in learning for future programmes.	5

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Subject:	Area Working Update
Date:	12 th April 2019
Reporting Officer:	Nigel Grimshaw, Strategic Director of City & Neighbourhood Services Gerry Millar, Director of Property & Projects
Contact Officer:	Geoff Dickson, Strategic Planning & Policy Officer Jamie Uprichard, Community Planning 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	To seek Members' approval of the minutes of the recent meetings of the North and South AWGs and recommendations to the SP&R Committee arising from the meeting.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: AWG minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approve the minutes of the North Belfast AWG on 19th March 2019 and the South Belfast AWG on 25th March 2019 as attached at Appendix 1.

2.2	<p>Project Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • agree that the following project receives funding from the Social Innovation Challenge Programme – £15,000 for the New Lodge Arts Group Breakthrough project • agree the proposed movements of the BIF and LIF projects from North and South as laid out in 3.6 below
3.0	Main report
	<p><u>KEY ISSUES</u></p> <p>Area Working Group Minutes</p> <p>3.1 Members agreed in June 2016 that the Area Working Group minutes would be taken into the SP&R Committee for approval going forward in line with the Council’s commitment to openness and transparency and to ensure a consistent approach with other Member-led Working Groups. Members are asked to approve the minutes of the North Belfast AWG on 19th March 2019 and the South Belfast AWG on 25th March 2019 as attached at Appendix 1.</p> <p>Project Updates</p> <p>3.2 Social Innovation Challenge Programme – The Council previously agreed to test how Community Planning might be applied at the local area level and to help inform future neighbourhood working in the following areas; 1. Whiterock, 2. Inner East, 3. Belvoir & Milltown, 4. New Lodge.</p> <p>3.3 To support this work, Council agreed to commission the Young Foundation to work with officers to develop and test a ‘social innovation model.’ The term ‘social innovation’ refers to new ideas or ways of working that aim to fulfil unmet social needs or tackle social problems. As part of this model, a Challenge Programme is being implemented with funding available in each of the four areas for up to four projects up to a maximum of £15,000 per project.</p> <p>3.4 The following group successfully pitched their ideas to a decision panel on the 12 March 2019 and the Committee is asked to approve £15,000 of funding to the New Lodge Arts Group for their Breakthrough Project which is designed to support local young people will develop a LGBTQ Awareness and Safety programme for Young People in New Lodge and surrounding areas to -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise awareness and educate people in the New Lodge about the LGBTQ community and young people; • Develop young people’s skills in research and consultation with the wider New Lodge Community; • To promote anti-bullying within local schools; and • Raise the capacity and confidence of young people from the New Lodge (and surrounding areas). <p>3.5 Subject to final approval at council, officers will work with internal colleagues in legal to draw up funding agreements to progress this work.</p>

3.6

BIF and LIF Programmes

Members are asked to approve the following movements for projects being funded under BIF and LIF programmes -

LIF Programme - LORAG – John Murray Lock House project (LIF2-13 - £40,000) has been scored and met the minimum threshold and agree that this project is progressed to Due Diligence stage.

BIF Programme – approve the following movements through the stages for the following projects. This will continue to be subject to the Council’s Due Diligence process.

Ref	Project	Current Stage	Proposed Stage
BIF33	Linfield FC/ Boys Brigade and Belvoir FC – maximum allocation of £250,000	Stage 2- Uncommitted	Move to Stage 3- Committed
BIF35	Knockbreda Parish Church Hall – maximum allocation of £250,000	Stage 2- Uncommitted	Move to Stage 3- Committed
BIF20	Malgrove – maximum allocation of £500,000	Stage 1 – Emerging	Move to Stage 2- Uncommitted

FINANCIAL & RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

3.7

Social Innovation Fund - £15,000 from the ring-fenced allocation for the New Lodge Arts Group Breakthrough Project

LIF/BIF – all projects already have in-principle ring-fenced allocations agreed by Committee

3.8

EQUALITY OR GOOD RELATIONS IMPLICATIONS/RURAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT

No implications.

4.0

Appendices – Documents attached

Appendix 1 – Minutes of the North Belfast Area Working Group (19th March 2019) and the South Belfast Area Working Group (25th March 2019).

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North Belfast Area Working Group

Tuesday 19th March, 2019

NORTH BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP

Members present: Alderman Convery (Chairperson); and
Councillors Campbell, Clarke, Corr-Johnston, Magee,
Murphy and Pankhurst.

In attendance: Mr. R. Black, Neighbourhood Services Manager;
Mr. G. Dickson, Policy Analyst;
Miss C. Donnelly, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported for Aldermen L. Patterson and Spence.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 18th February were agreed as an accurate record of proceedings.

Declaration of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Decision Tracker

The Working Group noted that the Decision Tracker document had been emailed to the Members before the meeting which provided a brief overview of actions since the last meeting held on 19th February.

Presentation – North City Business Centre

The Working Group was reminded that, at its meeting on 30th October, 2018, it had agreed that it would be beneficial to obtain a presentation on the North City Business Centre.

Accordingly, Mr. D. Murphy, Chief Executive Officer, and Ms. N. Fisher, Finance Manager, North City Business Centre, were welcomed to the meeting.

Mr. Murphy informed the Members of the North City Business Centre's (NCBC) mission to play the lead role in meeting North Belfast's needs by working individually and in partnership with others to address enterprise creation and development, skills for employment and as a catalyst for economic regeneration. He added that NCBC was seeking to play a key role in developing north Belfast to be vibrant and thriving with a

sustainable mix of businesses, good employment opportunities and to develop an attractive physical environment where people respected other traditions, that was free from sectarian interfaces and where people wanted to live and work.

Mr. Murphy provided details on North City Business Centre's property portfolio and how it had developed since it was established in 1991. He advised the Members that NCBC was entering Phase 4 of its development which was estimated to cost £4Million, and gave an overview of how NCBC had planned on sourcing funding for the development.

He concluded by highlighting how NCBC's drive to support enterprise and business development in north Belfast was aligned with the Council's objectives through, for example, the Belfast Agenda.

After discussion, Mr. Murphy and Ms. Fisher answered a number of questions by the Members in relation to the levels of social deprivation in north Belfast and if NCBC had sourced funding from other government agencies. They were thanked by the Chairperson, following which the Working Group noted the information which had been provided.

Presentation – North Belfast Heritage Cluster

Ms. P. Reynolds, CEO Belfast Charitable Society and Chair of North Belfast Heritage Cluster, Mr. S. Quinn, Belfast Buildings Trust, and Mr. D. Morrow, Director of Community Engagement, Ulster University, were welcomed to the meeting.

Ms. Reynolds informed the Members that the North Belfast Heritage Cluster's Great Place North Belfast Project was comprised of a network of voluntary organisations with responsibility for historic assets within north Belfast.

She explained that the Great Place North Belfast project would focus on a one mile stretch starting from Donegall Street and ending on the Crumlin Road and that it would involve working closely with the sites and associated organisations to reflect the diverse stories and vibrant history of north Belfast.

Mr. Morrow informed the Members that the cluster organisations and assets involved in the Great Place North Belfast project were:

- St Anne's/ St Anne's Cathedral;
- Redeemer Central / Donegall Street Congregational Church;
- Belfast Buildings Trust / St. Patrick's School & Carlisle Memorial Church;
- St Patrick's Church & Parochial House;
- Quaker Society / Frederick Street Institute;
- Belfast Charitable Society / Clifton House & Graveyard;
- Belfast Orange Hall;
- Indian Community Centre;
- UniTorah / Annesley Street Synagogue;
- St. Malachy's College & The O'Lavery Library;
- Carnegie Oldpark Library;
- St. Mary's Church of Ireland Church & Halls;
- North Belfast Working Men's Club;
- Duncairn Complex – 174 Trust;

- Dunlewey – Cliftonville Road.

A Member thanked the deputation for work that had been carried out in relation to Clifton Street Cemetery and Carlisle Circus. The deputation was then thanked by the Chairperson, following which the Working Group noted the information which had been provided.

Cavehill Mountain Biking

The Working Group considered the undernoted report:

Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues

To advise members, as requested, of the timeline for actions required to implement the recommendations of the report supplied by Forestry Commission Scotland officer John Ireland.

Recommendations

Activity	Start w/c	End w/e
Identification and mapping of mountain bike club proposed bike trails	11/03	29/03
Externally Facilitated discussions with residents group	1/04	26/4
Environmental Impact assessment by Consultant	15/04	24/5
Officer and Environmental Consultant Engagement with key stakeholders	13/05	24/5
Committee approval of routes identified as suitable by environmental assessment	June	
Public consultation <i>if required</i> .	17/6	30/08

Main report

Initial engagement with the mountain biking club has led to the identification of a number of current trails through steeply wooded areas which they would propose to retain with our consent and adapt as required to improve safety where they terminate close to recognised walking paths. A number of current trails have also been proposed for abandonment or diversion due to their overlap with walking trails. All of these trails are currently being mapped by officers to facilitate engagement with stakeholders and to inform the environmental impact assessment. As this work is currently ongoing it is anticipated maps will be available by weekending 29th March.

Ongoing engagement with those walkers who made representation to N AWG in opposition to mountain biking on the Cavehill has shown this user group to be still strongly opposed to the activity and actively campaigning against any BCC adoption of the trails. It is proposed, in line with advice from forestry commission Scotland, that an external mediator is used to facilitate engagement with this

group. An initial meeting would involve only officers, the facilitator and the group in order to introduce the proposed routes. This would be followed by a series of mediated meetings between this group and the mountain biking club, the object of which being development of a code of conduct agreeable to both user groups. It is anticipated that this mediation activity would continue throughout the month of April until a level of mutual tolerance is reached.

Assessment of the potential environmental impact of the proposed trials cannot be carried out until there is an adequate level of Spring growth. Given the habitats in question the earliest possible period identified is the 4 weeks running from mid April to mid May. It is intended that all initial engagement on proposed routes will be subject to their being no negative environmental impact identified. Should a negative impact be identified routes will be altered to avoid any sensitive environmental areas.

The external expert in parallel with carrying out the environmental assessment will assist officers in formally engaging with those stakeholders for whom the environmental aspects of the scheme may be of most concern. It is proposed that this would include as a minimum:

- NIEA
- Cavehill Conservation Group
- Belfast Hills Partnership

Given the two strand approach to the environmental assessment and engagement it is anticipated that this combined activity will be complete by weekending May 24th.

Assuming the time frames above are achieved final recommendations for the adoption of specific routes will be ready for submission to People and Communities Committee in June.

Risks

Legal risks

As previously advised, under the Occupier's Liability (NI) Act 1957 the Council has a duty to take such care as is reasonable to ensure that a visitor will be reasonably safe for the purposes for which he is permitted to be there.

Legal Services has considered the report obtained from John Ireland in detail. Mr Ireland evidently has a wealth of experience in dealing with mountain biking issues on Scottish land. The approach recommended by Mr Ireland will mitigate the risk of injury to users at Cavehill, however it will not eliminate the potential for liability claims to be made against the Council.

Mountain bikers are currently using the trails on Cavehill and will continue to do so throughout the period of engagement outlined above. Those club members who have been actively engaging with council officers are endeavouring to discourage any alteration of the current trails, the building of ramps and jumps, by those riders who frequent the hill.

The view of Legal Services in relation to mountain biking continuing has been set out in the April 2018 report to the North Area Working Group. The continuing activity carries a public liability risk. The signage previously installed should remain in place and be appropriately monitored during the consultation process.

Financial & Resource Implications

- Consultancy costs for environmental assessment circa £3000
- Facilitation/Mediation costs circa £7000

Noted.

Former Upper Ardoyne Youth Centre – Future Options Report

The Working Group considered the undernoted report:

1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

Upper Ardoyne Youth Centre became vacant when the former occupier Upper Ardoyne Youth Centre Limited (UAYC) dissolved. The Council owns the land and had entered an Agreement for Lease with the former UAYC although the lease was never executed.

Having considered the building in the context of the wider needs of the area the North AWG of Sept 2017 recommended that the building would return to council possession.

It was agreed that once the condition of the building had been established a further paper would be brought to committee to identify options for future use. This paper presents the current options. The long list is attached at Appendix 1

2.0 Recommendations

That by means of an expression of interest exercise (EOI) carried out by officers of our Estates service and targeted on community focused organisations currently active in the North Belfast area the following options are tested:

- Retain and make available to multiple external service providers on hire basis. Use for delivery of BCC services as required
- Lease to partner organisation/s for service delivery
- Dispose by CAT

That, should the EOI not return a viable operating proposal, the final option of disposal by sale is considered.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

The Council entered into an Agreement for Lease with UAYC on 25 October 2007 to facilitate construction of a Community Centre and Community Garden on land owned by the Council. The Company constructed the youth centre using funding provided under Urban II through the former north Belfast Partnership. The facility comprises a single storey brick built building laid out to provide partitioned meeting room, office, youth room and ancillary facilities, together with external yard space and grassed area. It is located on the boundary of Ballysillan Park.

The longlist of future options for the building which are based on the broad options of retaining or disposing of the asset. Some immediate pros and cons of each are also indicated in the table. The options are detailed below:

Option 1: Retain and use for administrative purposes.

This option has been discounted as there is no identified need. The building layout is unsuited to purely administrative use due to the scale of the rooms which were specifically designed for youth/community use, physical alterations would be required for adaptation to any other use.

Option 2 Retain and use for in house, customer facing, community service delivery.

There is currently no gap identified in BCC services which could be filled from this building. This option is very likely to result in activity displacement and duplication of effort given the proximity of Concorde Community Centre. This option is not being recommended

Option 3 Retain and make available to multiple external service providers on a hire basis. Use for delivery of BCC services as required.

This option is being recommended for testing via an EOI process as it is possible that organisations may wish to avail of premises for delivery of occasional services or time bound programmes which do not require a long term permanent base. Note that there are cost implications in the staffing (occasional) and equipping of the premises for this option as well as the ongoing maintenance costs.

Option 4 Retain and lease to partner organisation for service delivery

This option is being recommended for testing by EOI as it is possible that the building may be of interest to an existing or new service provider or a consortium of providers seeking greater access to this part of North Belfast

Option 5. Dispose by Community Asset Transfer or similar.

This option is being recommended for testing by EOI as there is the potential for an organisation as at option 4 to be interested in more than a lease term.

Option 6. Disposal by sale

Should the EOI not return a viable operating proposal, the final option of disposal by sale could be considered.

Financial & Resource Implications

Acting on advice from the Crown Solicitors, officers facilitated the removal of the equipment and furniture representing the contents of the centre by members of the former board of the UAYC. It is our understanding that much of the equipment was transferred to another youth facility in North Belfast. This in effect means that any organisations wishing to provide services from the premises will require a budget for furniture and equipment.

Over and above any ongoing revenue costs incurred for annual maintenance, for which there is no budget provision in revenue estimates, should the building be retained the condition survey Appendix 2 highlight the following expenditure which would be required to bring the building back into operational use. All options except Option 6 are likely to incur some or all of these costs:

Fabric Repairs and Redecoration	£7,900
Mechanical Repairs	£4,500
Electrical Repairs	£2,960
Total	£15,360

Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

None associated with this report

The Working Group agreed that an expression of interest exercise be undertaken, which targeted community focussed organisations in north Belfast to test the proposed options.

Social Innovation – Challenge Programme

The Neighbourhood Services Manager reminded the Working Group that the Council had previously agreed to test how Community Planning might be applied at a local area level and help inform future neighbourhood working in the New Lodge. He added that, to support the programme, the Council had agreed to commission the Young Foundation to work with Council officers to develop and test a social innovation model and that as part of that model, a Challenge Programme was being implemented with funding available for up to four projects within the New Lodge area, up to a maximum of £15,000 per project

He informed the Members that, as part of the process, local residents and community groups had been working with the Young Foundation and Council officers to complete a two stage application process that included accelerator workshops and pitching exercises.

He advised the Working Group that at a workshop held on 12th March, the Breakthrough Project successfully pitched its idea to assessment panels that included practitioners who worked in the field of innovation.

The Neighbourhood Services Manager asked the Working Group to consider recommending that £15,000 be awarded to the Breakthrough Project, which aimed to promote LGBTQ awareness and safety for young people in the New Lodge.

The Working Group agreed to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that £15,000 be awarded to the Breakthrough project

Future Agenda Items

The Policy Analyst reminded the Working Group that there would be no meeting in April and notification would be sent of a future meeting should the Council reconstitute the working groups following the local government elections in May.

Chairperson

South Belfast Area Working Group

Monday, 25th March, 2019

MEETING OF SOUTH BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP

Members present: Councillors Boyle and Dudgeon.

In attendance: Mr. G. Millar, Director of Property and Projects;
Mrs. C. Reynolds, City Regeneration and Development
Lead Officer; and
Mr. H. Downey, Democratic Services Officer.

Chairing of Meeting

In the absence of the Chairperson (Councillor Craig), it was agreed that Councillor Dudgeon take the Chair.

(Councillor Dudgeon in the Chair)

Apologies

An apology for inability to attend was reported on behalf of the Chairperson (Councillor Craig).

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 21st January were approved.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Presentations

Belfast Tidal Flood Alleviation Scheme

The Working Group was reminded that, at its meeting on 21st May, 2018, it had received from representatives of Atkins Global, project consultants, and DfI Rivers a presentation on the Belfast Tidal Flood Alleviation Scheme.

It was reported that Mr. P. Aldridge and Ms. R. Murray, Atkins Global, and Mr. I Coulter, DfI Rivers, were in attendance in order to provide a further update on the scheme and they were welcomed by the Chairperson.

Mr. Aldridge reminded the Members that 1,000 properties in the City were considered to be at risk currently from tidal flooding and that that figure would be likely to rise significantly in future years, as a consequence of climate change. In order to address the issue, DfI Rivers had commissioned Atkins Global to deliver a flood alleviation scheme

along the tidal reach of the River Lagan, stretching from the Stranmillis Weir to the Harbour Estate. The line of flood defences would, he pointed out, follow existing boundary fences and walls to the rear of the towpath, with the width of the towpath, current access points and property security being maintained. He reviewed the types of flood defences which were being proposed at various points along the river and, in terms of future steps, confirmed that further engagement was planned with stakeholders and would be followed by a tendering exercise to appoint a contractor to design and deliver the scheme. It was envisaged that construction would commence in late 2019/early 2020 and take around one year to complete.

Mr. Coulter confirmed, in response to a Member, that the Council would, in its next update, be briefed on the outcome of discussions which were taking place currently around responsibility for removing any graffiti from the flood defences.

The Chairperson thanked the representatives, following which the Working Group noted the information which had been provided.

Update on Weavers Cross/Belfast Transport Hub

The Working Group was reminded that, on 28th January, it had agreed that it would be beneficial to obtain at its next meeting an update on the Weavers Cross/Belfast Transport Hub project.

It was reported that Mr. B. Gallagher, Mr. L. McComb, Mr. B. Mulgrew and Mr. M. Wray, representing the Belfast Transport Holding Company, were in attendance and they were welcomed by the Chairperson.

Mr. McComb confirmed that Weavers Cross, which was one of the Northern Ireland Executive's Flagship projects, was a transport led regeneration project focusing on an area around the existing Europa bus centre and Great Victoria Street train station. He provided an overview of the project, which, in addition to the transport hub, would include a central area, to be known as Saltwater Square, and mixed used development. He reported that planning approval had on 21st March been granted for the transport element of the project and it was anticipated that construction work would commence towards the end of this year. Overall, the scheme would take around five years to complete and would cost in the region of £200 million. He pointed out that the project would provide a range of key benefit in terms of integration and connectivity, regeneration and job creation and would support the aims of the Belfast Agenda.

The other representatives then provided details of the significant outreach work being undertaken with local communities and of its work with partners, including the Council, and concluded by addressing a number of issues which had been raised around the project.

The Working Group noted the information which had been provided.

South Belfast Corridor

The Director of Property and Projects circulated a map which highlighted up to sixty projects which had been identified along the 'South Belfast Corridor'. He reported that the Lord Mayor had recently held discussions with a broad range of public and private stakeholders to share details of various emerging development proposals and initiatives

and that officers were arranging follow-up meetings with each stakeholder to assess the impact of the various proposals.

Noted.

Update on Physical Programme

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

"1. Introduction

The Council's Physical Programme covers projects under a range of funding streams including the Capital Programme, the Leisure Transformation Programme, LIF, BIF, Social Outcome Fund (SOF) and the projects that the Council is delivering in behalf of other agencies. This report outlines the status of projects under the Physical Programme.

Members will be aware, through the recent round of Party Group briefings and the Strategic Policy and Resources report in November 2018, that the key issue going forward for the physical programme is the overall affordability of the programme with no agreed future allocations for LIF/ BIF and limited amount of capital funding to support the programme. Currently, there is a 'wish list' of over 50 potential capital programme proposals, which have come forward through the AWGs / Party Group, and there is no capacity to deliver these – both from a financial and resource perspective. In addition, there is a growing list of community projects that are seeking support and there is no mechanism under which to fund these projects going forward. Members are therefore asked to consider this going forward – particularly in respect of any new project proposals – under the capital programme or from Groups.

2. Recommendations

The Working Group is requested to:

- note the contents of this report and the updates on LIF projects;**
- note the update on LORAG – John Murray Lock House project, which has been scored and met the minimum threshold and agree that this project is progressed to Due Diligence stage; and**
- note the update of BIF projects – Knockbreda Parish Hall and Linfield FC/ Boys Brigade and Belvoir FC.**

3. Local Investment Fund

To date, 24 projects have received in principle support under LIF1 and LIF2. A summary of the status of the LIF projects is

outlined below and a full progress report has been circulated to the Working Group.

	LIF 1		LIF 2	
Stage/ Description	Projects	Amount/ Value (£)	Projects	Amount/ Value (£)
Number of Projects Completed	12 (92%)	£1,053,600	9 (82%)	£676,000
Number of Projects in Delivery				
Number of Projects in Pre-construction			1 (9%)	£80,000
Number of Project in Initial Stage (Due Diligence)	1 (8%)	£30,000	1 (9%)	£40,000
Total Number of Approved Projects	13	£1,083,600	11	£796,000

SLIF2-13 LORAG – John Murray Lockhouse – AWG will note that the SP&R Committee on 16th February 2018 has agreed to ring-fence a LIF budget of £40k to LORAG towards the John Murray Lockhouse. Members will note that the John Murray Lockhouse Development feasibility study and economic appraisal has now been completed. The overall development proposal includes the establishment of a community garden, which the LIF money will be used. The LORAG – John Murray Lockhouse project has been scored by officers and has successfully met the minimum threshold. It is recommend that this project now proceed to the Due Diligence stage of the LIF process.

4. Belfast Investment Fund

To date, six projects have received an in-principle funding commitment under BIF. There is one project on the BIF list that has no commitment.

South	Stage 3—Lagan Gateway—£2.1m; Lanyon Tunnels—£1.3m; Bredagh GAC- £700k Stage 2— Gilpins— £1.3m Stage 1— <i>Belfast Islamic Centre—no commitment</i>
Balmoral DEA	Stage 2— Linfield FC/ Boys Brigade and Belvoir FC—£250k; Knockbreda Parish Church Hall—£250k

Brief updates on the projects that have received in-principle funding are provided below:

Project	Status and update
Lagan Gateway	Project works on site has been stopped as the contractor went into administration. Procurement of new contractor ongoing.
Lanyon Tunnels	Project has been delayed due to legal proceedings regarding the adjacent development. Officer has looked at the feasibility for an alternative solution with a single access from the Lanyon side. However, MDA have made it clear that they are not willing to look at another option – has potential impact on the BIF and SIF funding. Awaiting decision on adjacent Planning Application before determining next steps.
Bredagh GAC	A draft access agreement has been drawn up and agreed – just awaiting signatures from all parties. Producing programme for the design team appointment. PQQ will be issued early April 19.
Gilpins	Meetings took place with Department for Communities and community stakeholders. DfC to formally confirm commitment as Lead Partner. There is a requirement to fully scope out project in terms of community and political requirements for the scheme. Awaiting DfC to convene the roundtable discussion.
Linfield FC/ Boys Brigade and Belvoir FC *	See below
Knockbreda Parish Church Hall *	See below

** Outer South projects*

The South AWG made the following recommendations to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in relation to the ringfenced BIF allocation of £500k for projects in Outer South (Balmoral). These projects are at Stage 2- Uncommitted so it is recommended that they are progressed to Stage 3 – Committed. It should be noted that all are on the basis of a maximum budget allocation, going through the Council's due diligence processes and are subject to return of satisfactory tenders.

Project	Update	Recommendation
BIF33 Linfield FC/ Boys Brigade and Belvoir FC	<p>BIF support to focus on Phase 1A of the sports hub project i.e. replacement of Belvoir FCs grass football with associated widen of adjacent road access and resurface of existing car park.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Stage 1- Emerging – Strategic Policy and Resources 18th November 2016- project with up to £250k to be ringfenced 	Moved to Stage 3- Committed subject to satisfactory Due Diligence process, return of a satisfactory tender and the Council acting as delivery agent

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Stage 2- Uncommitted – Strategic Policy and Resources 22nd February 2019 <p>Project due to be discussed at Due Diligence on 28th March 2019 on the view of progressing the project to detailed design stage and procurement of design team</p>	
BIF35 Knockbreda Parish Church Hall	<p>Project involves extending the current Parish Halls to improve accessibility and increase capacity to deliver its programme of community activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Stage 1- Emerging – Strategic Policy and Resources 24th March 2017- project with up to £250k to be ringfenced · Stage 2- Uncommitted – Strategic Policy and Resources 22nd February 2019 <p>Procurement of design team ongoing. PQQ is currently being issued. Design Team will be appointed in March 2019</p>	Moved to Stage 3- Committed subject to satisfactory Due Diligence process, return of a satisfactory tender and the Council acting as delivery agent

5. The Capital Programme is the rolling programme of enhancing existing Council assets or building / buying new ones. Updates on the projects under the programme in South Belfast are provided below:

Project	Status and update
Pitches Programme- Ulidia Playing Fields	Stage 3 – Committed. Project works complete. Handed over to City & Neighbourhood Services
LTP- Olympia	Stage 3 – Committed. Project completed and operational
Alleygating Phase 4 – City wide	Stage 3 – Committed. On Ground
Playground Refurbishment Programme 2018/2019 – City wide	Stage 3 – Committed. On Ground Fullerton and Barnetts Playground – to be completed by March 2019
Palm House, Botanic Gardens	Stage 1- Emerging. Link to Tropical Ravine

6. Social Outcome Fund

To date, projects have received an in-principle funding commitment under SOF. Below are the brief updates on the projects.

Project	Status and update
Assembly Buildings Conference Centre	Exhibition and Genealogical Research Space – project is substantially complete. Launch event planned for 27 th March 2019.
Coffee Culture	Development of a social economy café designed to support investment in tourism infrastructure including the Transport Hub and Gilpins. Discussions ongoing with the Group. Urban Villages agreed to prioritise the business case which will be completed in March 2019.
Sandy Row Community Forum	Development of a Tourism Trail (with digital element) to complement the Transport Hub. The project was discussed at Due Diligence and number of issues raised that need to be resolved including the project concept, delivery on site and future maintenance arrangement. Project concept needed significant development. Ongoing engagement with group and design team

7. Externally – funded programmes

Social Investment Fund – The overall SIF programme has been significantly delayed however considerable progress on outstanding issues has been made recently and a number of projects are moving forward. Below is a status update on SIF projects in South Belfast.

Project	Status and update
South City Resource and Development Centre (St. Simon's)	Project at design procurement stage. PQQ/ ITT process ongoing with the view of appointing the contractor by April 2019. The conveyancing process is underway
Mornington Community Project	Design and survey work underway. PQQ/ ITT to be completed by June 2019
Lanyon Tunnels	Project has been impacted by the JR decision— MDA have made it clear that they are not willing to look at another option—has implications for the BIF funding

Urban Villages - Members are asked to note that works on two projects, Rev Robert Bradford Memorial Park and Sandy Row Play Park, are both underway. In addition, Officers are continuing to work with UV on emerging projects.

Project	Status and update
Rev Robert Bradford Memorial Park	Contractor has been appointed. On site March/ April 2019
Sandy Row Play Park	Contractor has been appointed. Project on site in April 2019

After discussion, those Members present agreed to note the contents of the report and to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that the LORAG – John Murray Lockhouse project proceed to the Due Diligence stage of the LIF process.

Expression of Thanks

The Chairperson referred to the fact that this would be the last meeting before the Local Government Elections and thanked the Head of Property and Projects and other officers for the significant contribution which they had made to the work of the Working Group over the course of the current Council term.

Chairperson



Subject:	Contracts Update
Date:	12 April 2019
Reporting Officer:	Ronan Cregan, Deputy Chief Executive and Director Finance and Resources Gerry Millar, Director of Property and Projects
Contact Officer:	Noleen Bohill, Head of Commercial & Procurement Services

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	The purpose of this report is to update Members on Contracts for Award for this month and to notify Members of the proposed extension of an existing contract that the Council has with LPS for the provision of detailed property surveys update
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approve the public advertisement and acceptance of tenders as listed in Appendix 1, Table 1 through the Council's electronic procurement system. Members are advised that these tenders will only be advertised when they have gone through the Councils internal governance process which include demonstrating strategic alignment with the Belfast Agenda Grant delegated authority to the appropriate Director using pre-agreed criteria the most economically advantageous tender.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree to accede to Standing Order 555(b) exceptions in relation to contracts by direction of the council acting on recommendation of a Chief Officer that the exception is justified in special circumstances for the contracts laid out in 3.6 and Appendix 1 Table 2 • note that the Council has an existing contract with LPS for the provision of detailed property surveys. LPS have requested that this contract is extended for another year. Members are asked to agree this • note the update on the City Revitalisation Programme
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>Section 2.5 of the Council's Scheme of Delegation outlines that under Standing Order 60(a) any contract that exceeds the statutory amount (currently £30,000) needs to be made under the Corporate Seal. Under Standing Order 51(b) the Corporate Seal can only be affixed when there is a resolution of the Council.</p>
3.2	<p>The tenders submitted for approval in Appendix 1, Table 1, have been forwarded by Departments for approval. Departments have been required to provide assurance that provision for the expenditure has either been made within their departmental budgets or approval has been sought from the Director of Finance and Resources that this expenditure has been provided for within a corporate budget.</p>
3.3	<p>Members should note that they are being asked to approve tenders in principal, after which the internal governance process demonstrating strategic alignment with the Belfast Agenda will be applied. As part of this process, Departments have also provided assurance that appropriate resources are available within their departments in order to effectively administer and manage any contract(s).</p>
3.4	<p>In accordance with Standing Orders these tenders shall comply with the relevant requirements of national legislation and European directives and be overseen by Corporate Procurement Services.</p>
3.5	<p>This report relates to corporate and departmental supplies and services contracts only. The procurement of services and works contracts relating to the capital procurement is dealt with under the Capital Programme reports in accordance with the approved stage approval process.</p>

3.6	<p><u>Direct Award Contracts</u></p> <p>Members are asked to accede to Standing Order 55 (b) exception in relation to contracts allowed by a Chief Officer certifying that that the exception is justified in special circumstances for the following and as per Appendix 1 Table 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In June 2018, following a competitive tender process the contract for Event Management & Support Service for MIPIM was awarded to Lanyon Communications, the only supplier to submit a bid. The contract ends of 30 April 2019. This year the sponsorship fund amounted to £426,730. Officers are now progressing follow-ups with individual investors and investment companies. There is however an urgent need for immediate planning and work to commence on the MIPIM 2020 programme in order to build on the success of the 2019 event. This will include generation of sponsorship revenue, investor and developer targeting, pavilion design, and the development of the themes and objectives for the 2020 programme. This STA is an extension to the current contract to ensure that the deadlines for next year are met. Members are asked to note that the contract for MIPIM 2021 will be re-tendered as listed on Appendix 1 <p><u>Extension of existing Council contract</u></p> <p>3.7 Members are asked to note that the Council currently provides a service to LPS in respect of carrying out detailed property surveys. The Council carries out these surveys on buildings on behalf of LPS. LPS have requested that this contract is extended for a further year. Members are asked to agree this extension.</p> <p><u>City Revitalisation Programme</u></p> <p>3.8 The City Revitalisation Programme and associated budget was ratified at council in March 2019, with delivery to be in the public domain in May. Due to the extreme urgency and tight timeframe the marketing and communication work strand, with a value of £300,000 will need to be procured and initiated immediately. Members are being asked to approve this in principal. Following consultation with Legal Service, It is anticipated that this will actioned, in line with council governance, via the corporate exceptional procurement process and reported as an STA in the June Contract for Award report.</p> <p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>3.9 The financial resources for these contracts will be met within the current departmental budgets and the proposed departmental estimates process which are taken forward through the rate setting process.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>3.10 No specific equality or good relations implications.</p>
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4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 Schedule of Tenders for Consideration / Notation Table 1 – New tenders Table 2 – Direct Award Contracts (Single Tender Action)

Appendix 1 - Schedule of tenders for consideration

Table 1 - New tenders

Title of tender	Senior Responsible Officer	Proposed contract duration
Microsoft SQL Server	Ronan Cregan	Up to 3 years
Twilight Market (T1957)	Alistair Reid	Up to 2 years
Technical Procurement Support	Alistair Reid	Up to 2 years
Employment Academies – procurement framework	Alistair Reid	Up to 4 years
GCSE Revision Programme	Alistair Reid	Up to 4 years
City Youth Support Programme	Alistair Reid	Up to 4 years
Enterprise Pathway	Alistair Reid	Up to 4 years
Employer Engagement	Alistair Reid	Up to 4 years
City Deal: technical expertise	Alistair Reid	Up to 2 years
Employment Academy - Leisure	Alistair Reid	Up to 2 years
Graduate Enterprise Programme	Alistair Reid	Up to 3 years
Social Economy Programme	Alistair Reid	Up to 3 years
Accessibility Research	Alistair Reid	1 year
Service Evaluation	Alistair Reid	Up to 3 years
Local Tourism – capacity building programme	Alistair Reid	Up to 3 years
Event Management and Support Services for MIPIIM 2021 (T1956)	Alistair Reid	Up to 3 years
Employee Counselling Service (T1953)	John Tully	Up to 3 years
Occupational Health Physician Services (T1954)	John Tully	Up to 3 years
Tender for treatment and recycling of carpets and mattresses (T1938)	Nigel Grimshaw	Up to 4 years
Tender for the provision of Asset Management (T1916)	Ronan Cregan	Up to 7 years
Printing and Promotional Publications	Nigel Grimshaw	Up to 5 years
Line marking products and equipment	Nigel Grimshaw	Up to 5 years

Removal of litter and weeds from open spaces including water features	Nigel Grimshaw	Up to 5 years
Supply and delivery of resale goods for Belfast Zoo	Nigel Grimshaw	Up to 4 years
Supply and delivery of trees	Nigel Grimshaw	Up to 3 years
Supply and delivery of Lucerne and Browse	Nigel Grimshaw	Up to 4 years
Provision of services for kerbside recyclable materials	Nigel Grimshaw	Up to 4 years
Receipt, stock control and delivery of waste containers	Nigel Grimshaw	Up to 4 years
Collection and reuse/recycling of plasterboard	Nigel Grimshaw	Up to 3 years
Removal, transportation and emptying of skips and hook lift containers	Nigel Grimshaw	Up to 5 years
Supply and delivery of bedding plants	Nigel Grimshaw	Up to 3 years
Supply and installation of summer plants and containers	Nigel Grimshaw	Up to 4 years
Corporate Health & Safety Management System	Ronan Cregan	Up to 7 years

Table 2 - Direct Award Contracts (Single Tender Action)

System/Product	Supplier	Annual estimate
Housing Benefits software and support (NIHE Managed Service Contract) (T1959)	Northgate	£230,000
Mapping Agreement LPS	LPS Ordnance Survey	£75,000
Premier Support (Gold)	Microsoft	£52,000
Oracle Site Licence	Oracle	£38,000
Clockwise Replacement	Softworks	£50,000
E-Bravo	Bravo Solutions	£30,000
Remote site connectivity – BT complete	BT	£35,000
Event Management and Support Services for MIPIM 2020	Lanyon Communications	£90,000

City Revitalisation Programme Marketing & Communication (approved in principle see 3.8)	TBC	£300,000
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Subject:	Disability Action Plan 2019-2022
Date:	12 th April 2019
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Stella Gilmartin, Equality and Diversity 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"/>
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	Members are being asked to consider the Council's Draft Disability Action Plan for 2019 – 2022 prior to consultation.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • approve the Draft Disability Action Plan 2019- 2022 (Appendix 1) • approve the document for consultation for a 12 week period, from 15th April 2019 – 8th July 2019.
2.2	The final documents, including consultation feedback will then be resubmitted for approval prior to sending to the ECNI.

3.0	Main Report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	<p>Under section 49A of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 ('the Act'), (as amended by the Disability Discrimination(NI) Order 2006) public authorities, when carrying out their functions must have due regard to the need to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promote positive attitudes towards disabled people; and ▪ Encourage participation by disabled people in public life.
3.2	<p>The Council's Disability Action Plan items expired on March 2018. We arranged a one year holding Action Plan April 2018 – March 2019, to allow us time to develop the draft three year plan. The Equality Commission were advised that we would be resubmitting a DDO Disability Action Plan in 2019 which will cover a three year period.</p>
3.3	<p>The three year DDO Disability Action Plan items are now being presented as a draft document to proceed through the committee cycle and also to go out for public consultation as required.</p>
3.4	<p>This draft document is presented to the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee for approval and will be submitted for a twelve week period of public consultation from 15th April 2019 to 8th July 2019. The final document will then be resubmitted to Council with any subsequent amendments.</p>
3.5	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>All costs met from Equality and Diversity Unit's revenue budget</p>
3.6	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Implications</u></p> <p>Final Equality Screening will be prepared following consultation.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 - Disability Action Plan 2019 – 2022 (DDO) (Appendix 1)

Draft Disability Action Plan

Belfast City Council 2019 - 2022

April 2019

This Disability Action Plan can be obtained from Belfast City Council in alternative formats, including large print, Braille, audio cassette, computer disk, easy read, sign

language format and plain language. You can also download it from our website. Our website is accessible (we work towards level AA of the W3C Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 1.0). The council will also consider requests to produce this document in other languages. If you require the document in these or other formats please contact the Equality and Diversity Officer on 02890 320202 or gilmartins@belfastcity.gov.uk

DRAFT

Foreword

As the democratically elected body representing the people of Belfast, it's important for us to be conscious of the Disability Discrimination Act 1998 when carrying out our functions and providing civic leadership.

This Disability Action Plan is an important document in that it reaffirms Belfast City Council's commitment to fulfilling our statutory obligations in compliance with Section 49A of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (as amended by the Disability Discrimination (NI) Order 2006) which places new duties on public authorities to:

- promote positive attitudes towards disabled people
- encourage participation by disabled people in public life.

The council's Disability Action Plan (hereinafter referred to as 'the Plan') sets out how we propose to positively meet these new duties.

The council exists to serve the people of Belfast and to provide civic leadership on issues of concern to the people who live and work in the city.

We will ensure that all councillors and council employees are aware of the DDO disability duties. We will take the lead to ensure that the necessary resources are made available for preparing councillors and employees to deliver the actions set out in this Plan. We wish to ensure that the Disability Action Plan is implemented effectively in the true spirit of our commitment to the DDO duties.

Lord Mayor

Chief Executive

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3.	Public life positions	8
4.	Commitment to the effective implementation of the disability action plan	9
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1. Introduction

1.1 Section 49A of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (as amended by the Disability Discrimination (NI) Order 2006 requires us, in carrying out our functions, to:

- promote positive attitudes towards disabled people; and
- encourage participation by disabled people in public life.

Under Section 49B of the DDA 1995, Belfast City Council is also required to submit to the Equality Commission a **disability action plan** showing how it proposes to fulfil these duties in relation to its functions.

1.2 As Lord Mayor and Chief Executive of Belfast City Council, we are committed to the fulfilment of these disability duties in all parts of our organisation and have set out how we intend to do this in our Disability Action Plan.

We will allocate all necessary resources (in terms of people, time and money) in order to implement effectively this plan and where appropriate, build objectives and targets relating to the disability duties into corporate and annual operating plans.

We will also put appropriate internal arrangements in place to ensure that the disability duties are complied with and this disability action plan effectively implemented. We will ensure the effective communication of the plan to staff and provide all necessary training and guidance for staff on the disability duties and the implementation of the plan.

We confirm our commitment to submitting an annual report to the Equality Commission on the implementation of this plan as well as carrying out a five yearly review of this plan.

We are committed to consulting with disabled people when implementing and reviewing the council's disability plans.

- 1.3 We will undertake a planned programme of communication and training on the disability duties for all staff and Councillors. This training will coincide with our induction training, refresher training and Councillor training on disability. Training timescales are evidenced in the Plan.

Responsibility for implementing, reviewing and evaluating the Plan and the point of contact within Belfast City Council will be:

Name: Stella Gilmartin/Lorraine Dennis
Title: Equality and Diversity Officers
Address: 9 Adelaide, 9 – 21 Adelaide Street, Belfast, BT2 8DJ
Telephone number: (Freephone) 0800 0855412
Email: gilmartins/dennisl@belfastcity.gov.uk
Textphone: (028) 9027 0405
Website: www.belfastcity.gov.uk

- 1.4 We confirm our commitment to submitting an annual progress report on the implementation of this plan to the Equality Commission and carrying out a five year review of this plan, or plans submitted to the Equality Commission over the five year review period.

A copy of the Plan, our annual progress to the Equality Commission and our five year review of this plan will be made available on our website www.belfastcity.gov.uk

2. Our role and function

- 2.1 Outlined below is the range of functions of Belfast City Council. We perform a number of key roles for Belfast, including:
- a civic leadership and community planning role agreeing a vision for Belfast and its people and working in collaboration with partners and others to invest for the future and ensure a better quality of life for all our citizens;
 - the direct provision of a number of services and facilities;

- the promotion and protection of our built and natural environment;
- the promotion of the arts, tourism, community and economic development, equality and good relations;
- regulating and licensing certain activities relating to environmental health, consumer protection and public safety;
- local planning functions;
- representation on a number of bodies and boards;
- consulting on issues relating to functions conducted by other government bodies and agencies on issues such as planning, water, roads and housing.

2.2 In performing the above roles we provide:

- facilities for recreational, social and cultural activities including leisure centres, community centres, parks, open spaces and playgrounds, sports grounds and places of entertainment;
- street cleansing services;
- waste collection and disposal services;
- cemeteries and crematorium ;
- registration of births, deaths and marriages
- programme support and grant aid for-the arts, good relations, community development and the promotion of local tourism and economic development;
- administration and regulation of matters relating to environmental health, such as public health and safety, food safety, building control, noise pollution and consumer protection;
- licensing and regulation of street trading, places of entertainment, amusement centres, sex establishments, lotteries, cinemas and petroleum stations
- planning development and enforcement and local development planning
- off-street parking (except Park and Ride); and
- the making and regulation of bye-laws.

2.3 To enable us to provide the above services and perform our other functions, we must levy an annual rate (district rates). We also obtain funding through:

- various grants, mostly provided by the Department of Communities (DfC)
- government grants
- fees and charges for certain services
- loans

We have the power to:

- acquire and dispose of land;
- borrow money;
- employ staff; and
- procure goods and services.

2.4 We have adopted a wide range of policies to support and implement the above statutory functions and provision of services and facilities.

3. Public life positions

3.1 The Council does not have direct control over public life positions, however we do have people from various sections of the community sitting on council groups, for example:

- Good Relations Partnership
- Equality Consultative Forum;
- Friends of Botanic and Falls Parks;
- Friends of Belfast Zoo;
- Families of the Waterworks;
- Cave Hill Conservation Group
- Youth Forum;
- Belfast Policing & Community Safety Partnership;
- District PCSP's
- BCC Migrants Forum

- Disability Advisory Panel

4. Commitment to the effective implementation of the Disability Action Plan

- 4.1 We are committed to the effective implementation of all aspects of the Plan in all parts of the organisation. Overall responsibility for determining policy on how this will be achieved lies with our Councillors. Day-to-day responsibility for carrying out the policy lies with the Equality and Diversity Officer, who reports through the City Solicitor, to the Corporate Management Team who are ultimately responsible for the oversight and implementation of administrative arrangements to ensure that the Council complies with our disability duties.
- 4.2 As part of its planning process, Belfast City Council will build objectives, target setting and monitoring relating to the disability duties into corporate and business plans.
- 4.3 Progress on meeting the objectives of the Plan, including those relating to the disability duties, will be monitored and reported upon at the most senior level within the organisation. The Equality and Diversity Officer will ensure the Plan will be monitored and reported on annually. All Disability Action Plan reports will proceed through the council reporting mechanisms and to Corporate Management Team.
- 4.4 We will include a formal progress report on meeting the objectives in our annual report to the Equality Commission which is submitted through the standard Committee reporting procedure.

5. Internal arrangements

5.1 We have 60 Councillors elected for a four year period. They currently meet monthly in full session and more frequently in committees. The principal committees under Belfast City Council are:

- Strategic Policy and Resources Committee;
- City Growth & Regeneration Committee;
- People & Communities Committee;
- Planning Committee and
- Licensing Committee.

A range of council departments and working groups support these committees.

5.2 The Chief Executive oversees the work of the departments through the Corporate Management Team.

5.3 The Chief Executive is responsible for the delivery of the strategic direction set by the Council and through the Corporate Management Team has oversight of the management of services and the longer term planning and allocation of resources.

5.4 Statutory responsibility for the effective implementation of the Disability Duty lies with the council.

5.4.1 The Chief Executive and the Corporate Management Team are responsible for ensuring that the council's decisions are implemented and for overseeing administrative arrangements to make sure the Plan is implemented effectively.

5.4.2 Our Equality and Diversity Officer will support this work and act as our main point of contact. Currently, our Equality and Diversity Officer is carried out on a job share basis by Stella Gilmartin who can be contacted at:

gilmartins@belfastcity.gov.uk and Lorraine Dennis who can be contacted at dennisl@belfastcity.gov.uk.

Legal and Civic Services Department,
Equality and Diversity Unit,
9 Adelaide, 9 – 21 Adelaide Street,
Belfast, BT2 8DJ

Text phone number: 028 9027 0405

Email: gilmartins/dennisl@belfastcity.gov.uk

Website: www.belfastcity.gov.uk

- 5.4.3 The Equality and Diversity Officer will report regularly to the City Solicitor and regular progress reports are sent to the Corporate Management Team and the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.
- 5.4.4 We place great importance on disability issues and have established an Equality and Diversity Network. This two level structure incorporates a strategic and operational group. The network addresses key equality, diversity and inclusion issues on a regular basis providing leadership and direction.

6. Annual report

- 6.1 Belfast City Council will submit an annual report on the implementation of its Plan. The annual report will be included as part of Belfast City Council's Annual Report to the Equality Commission on the implementation of our Equality Scheme but will also be available as a stand-alone document.
- 6.2 A copy of the annual report will be made available on our website. You can also download it from our website. Our website is accessible (we work towards level AA of the W3C Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 1.0).

7. Five year review

- 7.1 We will carry out a five year review of the Plan in accordance with guidelines from the Equality Commission for NI.

8 Consultation

- 8.1 We are committed to carrying out consultation in accordance with the guiding principles set out in the Equality Commission guidelines and recognise the need for such consultation to be timely, open and inclusive.

- 8.2 We are keen to seek the views of disabled people on this revised and updated Plan. We will:

- consult our AA list (a list of consultees identified in our Equality Scheme)
- present the Plan to the council's equality consultative forum which includes representatives from disability organisations;
- present the plan to our Disability Advisory Panel and
- host a targeted consultation event.

- 8.3 The anticipated outcomes of this robust consultation exercise are to:

- identify barriers faced by disabled people in public life and specifically any barriers they've encountered when dealing with us;
- identify past examples where we have not promoted positive attitudes towards disabled people and identify future opportunities to promote positive attitudes;
- set priorities and identify solutions to take remedial action; and
- monitor and review how effective these measures have been.

- 8.4 When consulting on any matter relating to the duties, we will work with representative groups, individuals with disabilities and Section 75 groups on the best way to get their views. This may take the form of face to face meetings, advisory groups, surveys, consultative panels, internet discussions and other methodologies identified as best practice. Consultee responses to the consultations and our response will be recorded. All consultees will receive a copy of our response to their comments.
- 8.5 We will place the Plan on our website asking for feedback from individuals and organisations.
- 8.6 As part of the consultative process, we will remove barriers by making sure documents are available in alternative formats, including large print, Braille, audio cassette, computer disk, easy read, signed language format and plain language. This will be done in a timely fashion and will establish the basis for dialogue and engagement with disabled people during the life of the Plan.
- 8.7 We will develop best practice in communicating with young disabled people as well as looking at additional dimensions which create multiple identities such as ethnicity, age, gender, sexual orientation and religious belief.
- 8.8 Belfast City Council is keen to ensure the highest level of inclusivity in our consultation and therefore we will consider the following:
- The time of day of the meeting;
 - The appropriateness of the venue to ensure the highest standard of accessibility
 - How the meeting will be run
 - The use of appropriate language
 - Whether a signer or interpreter or other communication support is necessary
 - Ensuring that the communication of the consultation is inclusive and timely

8.8 We believe that it's important for disabled people to be involved in the implementation, monitoring and review of the Plan. The Action Plan at Appendix 1 lays out the initiatives Belfast City Council wishes to implement. We are keen to hear your views and comments on these actions and will consider amending them or including additional ones following the comments we receive.

9. Measures to promote positive attitudes towards disabled people and encourage the participation of disabled people in public life

Promote positive attitudes towards disabled people

- A range of equality and disability training programmes
- Induction programmes
- Recruitment & selection training
- Disability awareness training
- Developing our website
- Workplace policies and reasonable adjustments;
- Targeted recruitment policies;
- Accessibility policies;
- Equality screening exercises

Encourage the participation of disabled people in public life

- Workplace policies
- Recruitment policies
- Accessibility policies
- Policy screening
- AccessAble Project
- Equality Consultative Forum and other stakeholder groups

For further details of the full range of measures previously undertaken by the council, contact the Equality and Diversity Officer.

10. Action measures

- 10.1 Belfast City Council has detailed the measures it intends to take in order to implement the disability duties. Full details of these are given in the Action Plan (See Appendix 1).

11. Timescale for the implementation of the action measures

- 11.1 The Action Plan at appendix 1 outlines the actions and the timescales for the implementation of the action measures we intend to take in order to promote positive attitudes towards disabled people and to encourage the participation of disabled people in public life. This timetable outlines the actions, which Belfast City Council will take until March 2022.

12. Performance indicators or targets

- 12.1 Belfast City Council is committed to monitoring and reviewing policies and practices to ensure that disability equality duties are being met. Monitoring the progress of this Plan is a significant element of achieving that.
- 12.2 As part of this process, the annual review of the Plan will contribute towards the monitoring and review process and assist in drafting appropriate targets and performance indicators for the next period, whilst reporting on the achievement, or otherwise, of those set for the current period of the annual review.

13. How the disability action plan will be published

- 13.1 Following submission to the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland, this Plan will be available by contacting the Equality and Diversity Officer.
- 13.2 Belfast City Council will communicate the Plan appropriately. The Plan will be produced in clear print and plain language and will be available in alternative formats upon request.

- 13.3 The Plan will be highlighted through meeting directly with disability organisations and representative groups.
- 13.4 We will follow the guidelines set out by the councils accessible communications guide.

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Appendix 1

Draft Disability Action Plan 2019 – 2022

Strategic priority	Outcomes	Action Measures	Timescale	Responsibility	Performance Indicators
Strategic Priority 1 Encouraging the participation of disabled people in public life	Feedback encouraged from disabled people and their representative groups in how we can encourage greater participation by disabled people in public life and we can prove that we act on this feedback	Review membership of Equality Consultative Forum (ECF) and increase representation of disabled people and representing organisations	2019	EDO	New ECF Terms of Reference established % attendance at each meeting from cross section of disability organisations/ individuals % of staff/members who understand purpose of the ECF and find it useful Effective feedback mechanism established, and used by members
	Feedback encouraged from disabled people and their representative groups in how we can encourage greater participation by disabled people in public life and we can prove that we act on this feedback	Arrange a minimum of 3 Forum meetings per year and additional meetings as required	2019	EDO	Minimum of 3 forum meetings held
	Improved opportunities for disabled people to engage with and influence policy makers	Carry out a targeted consultation to identify the potential impact of living in a rural area for those with a disability within the council area.	2020	EDO	Report on the key findings and make recommendations as appropriate
	Improved opportunities	The Disability Advisory Panel (DAP) attend	2019	EDO/Language	4 projects per year to receive advice

	for disabled people to engage with and influence policy makers	and participate in consultation processes		Officer EDO/Language Officer	and guidance from the DAP Number of changes made to policies/services as a result of their input.
	Improved opportunities for disabled people to engage with and influence policy makers	The Disability Advisory Panel to provide advice and guidance on various capital projects	2021	EDO/Language Officer	A reduction in disability related complaints by 10% each year. Disability Advisory Panel to meet at least three times per year.
	Improved opportunities for Sign Language Users to engage with and influence policy makers and to educate employees	Establish and facilitate a Sign Language Users Forum	2019	Language Officer	A Sign Language Users Forum to meet at least twice a year
	Disabled people are provided with appropriate support to enhance employability and obtain employment	The Disability Staff Network to provide support on future action planning	2019	HR	Disability Staff Network to meet at least three times a year
	Disabled people are provided with appropriate support to enhance employability and obtain employment	Identify opportunities to ring fence certain posts to long-term unemployed, including those with a disability and ensure any pre-recruitment and training programme caters for any reasonable adjustments	2019	HR	Consider suitability of campaigns for pre- recruitment and training programmes Ring-fence 20% of places available on pre-recruitment and training programmes to people with disabilities
	Disabled people are provided with appropriate support to enhance	Review recruitment process in respect of adjustments provided to applicants with autism and learning difficulties	2019	HR	% of Changes implemented

	employability and obtain employment				
	Disabled people are provided with appropriate support to enhance employability and obtain employment	Consider all requests for reasonable adjustments as part of the selection process	2019	HR	% of reasonable adjustments requested and provided
	Disabled people have the opportunity to find out about the range of job opportunities available and are provided with appropriate support to enhance employability and obtain employment	Participate in careers/ employability activity targeted towards disabled people i.e. careers fairs, mock interviews, site visits, employability talks	2019	HR	Attend four events a year
	Disabled people have the opportunity to participate in work experience	Facilitate at least 30 work experience placements for people with disabilities Participate in annual job shadowing initiative promoted by NIUSE (internal)	2019	HR	30 placement opportunities facilitated, including three via the job shadowing initiative
	Develop the capacity of the organisation to support staff with disabilities, in relation to attendance management	Ensure all managers are aware of the provisions of the Attendance Policy which allow for special consideration of disability issues	2019	HR	All staff who assume responsibility for managing attendance to attend training within 6 months of taking up that role
	Develop the capacity of the organisation to support staff with disabilities	Provide ongoing advice and support to employees in relation to reasonable adjustment requirements Investigate options around how staff could be encouraged and feel confident in declaring a	2019	HR/Departments	Monitor number of reasonable adjustments requests and those subsequently provided Create database of types of reasonable adjustments made Publish results from investigation /voluntary monitoring and make

	disability via internal HR system			recommendations as appropriate.
	Conduct a voluntary monitoring exercise			
Improved opportunities for disabled people to engage with and influence policy makers	Analyse staff Equality and Diversity survey and identify areas for improvement for action planning going forward	2019	HR	Publish high level results from staff survey and agree action plan for future initiatives, as appropriate
Improved range of ways to provide access to parks and open spaces	Review of existing stakeholder engagement with disability groups to use parks and open spaces	2019	City & Neighbourhood Services Department	Report on the review of stakeholder engagement in 19/20
Feedback encouraged from disabled people and their representative groups in how we can encourage greater participation by disabled people in public life and provide opportunities for disabled people to engage with and influence policy makers	Consult and engage with the sector in relation to the emerging LDP draft plan strategy, which will provide the planning framework to shape the future growth of the City up to 2035.	2019	Place and Economy Department	The Local Development Plan and Policy Team will carry out appropriate targeted engagement with the disability sector at significant stages, during the progress of the Local Development Plan
Disabled people who are considering starting a business are supported	Deliver targeted outreach to encourage and support disabled people to consider enterprise and start a business	Ongoing / 2019 - 2022	Place and Economy Department	Increase in % participants with disability on enterprise awareness initiatives
Programmes and activities are promoted to persons with a disability through suitable mediums.	Engage with under-represented groups via umbrella organisation representation on the Enterprise and Business Growth Working Group. Put in place reasonable adjustments to support disabled people access support programmes designed to help them start a	Ongoing / 2019 - 2022	Place and Economy Department	Hold two meetings per year minimum with representative bodies / stakeholder groups.

		business			
	Disabled people are supported to access employability initiatives	Review and consider opportunities to engage disabled people in the Belfast Employability Pathway (Belfast Workplace) Provide specific adaptations/ support to enable participants to take part in council employability initiatives	Ongoing / 2019 - 2022	Place and Economy Department	Six monthly retrospective measurement of participant numbers on disability focused employment initiatives
	Disabled people have appropriate support so that they can participate in the cultural life of the city on an equal basis	Deliver the Inspiring Communities theme which identifies disabled people as a priority area and removing barriers to participation to ensure all sections of the community engage with high quality culture, arts and heritage	Ongoing / 2019 - 2020	Place and Economy Department	Deliver small capital enhancement projects that will increase access for disabled people to quality cultural product and experiences 6 projects in year 1, 18-19 10 projects in year 2, 19-2
	Improved opportunities for disabled people to engage with and influence policy makers	Consult and engage with Disability Advisory Panel in relation to the physical programme/ capital projects of the Council	2019	Property and Projects Department	Number of changes made to policies/services as a result of their input.
	Disabled people have appropriate support so that they can participate in the cultural life of the city on an equal basis	Address licensing of Pavement Cafes when the Council receives guidance from Dfi	tbc	Planning and Building Control (Building Control)	Monitor implementation of licensing Pavement Cafes
	City Centre retailers are encouraged to support accessibility for disabled people	Engage with city centre retailers to consider how to support disabled people as part of customer focus support programmes	2019	Place and Economy Department	Number of businesses that participate
	Those with complex needs and disabilities	Have the new Changing Places Toilet facility accessible 9am-10pm Monday to Sunday	Jan 2019	Facilities Management	Monitor the number of users and take action as required

	have access to facilities to enable them to participate in the life of the city throughout the week				
Strategic priority	Outcomes	Action Measures	Year	Responsibility	Performance Indicators
Strategic Priority 2 Promoting Positive Attitudes towards Disabled People	Public attitudes to disabled people are more positive and negative attitudes are challenged	Facilitate biennial event on a current theme linked to Council priorities eg Festival of Learning or Accessible Belfast	2019	EDO and HR	2 events held with external/internal press and communications
		Evaluate feedback and develop an action plan to improve disability initiatives, where appropriate	2019	EDO and HR	Attendance by a wide range of relevant organisations and disabled people Feedback used to improve further events and future policies/initiatives
	Public attitudes to disabled people are more positive and negative attitudes are challenged	Produce a film project, showcasing the diverse language and disability groups	2019	Language Officer	Showcase video clips produced by QUB incorporating Sign Languages and Disabled communications
	Public attitudes to disabled people are more positive and negative attitudes are challenged	Language Officer to represent Council at the Coalition on Deafness	2019	Language Officer	Attend at least 1 Coalition on Deafness meeting
		Effective partnership working with the British Deaf Association	2019	Language Officer	Develop and implement a 3 year BSL and ISL Charter Action Plan in partnership with the British Deaf Association
	Disabled people can participate fully in all activities facilitated by the council and are encouraged to do so.	Raise awareness of Council's Disability Event Plan	2021	Language Officer/ Departments	A number of completed event action plans received
	Disabled people are able to choose between	Increase information in Sign Language to Sign Language users at City Hall and Tropical	2020	Language Officer Facilities	4 Sign Language translated tablets to be available at City Hall Visitors

	options in terms of the way they receive and benefit from council services	Ravine		Management	Exhibition and Tropical Ravine
	Disabled people are able to choose between options in terms of the way they receive and benefit from council services	Review the locations of portable loop systems across our venues	2019	Language Officer Facilities Management	Portable Loop Systems in place at a number of identified venues
	Disabled people have appropriate support so that they can participate in the cultural life of the city on an equal basis	Consult with internal staff and Mencap to explore the introduction of appropriate communication tools for people with learning disabilities at customer centres e.g. City hall Reception, Belfast Zoo	2019	Language Officer	A number of communication tools for people with learning disabilities at customer centres
	Disabled people have appropriate support so that they can participate in the cultural life of the city on an equal basis	Liaise with AccessAble to monitor and review the new APP for people with disabilities, accessing facilities and services in the City of Belfast	2019	Language Officer	Increased satisfaction accessing facilities and services in the City of Belfast
	Disabled people are aware of the availability of accessible information and make use of it	Improve accessibility in contacting and communication for Deaf Users	2019	Language Officer/ Facilities Management	Pilot and deliver a Sign Language Video Relay Service and Video Remote Interpreting Service. VRS on website and VRI at Belfast City Hall reception, Birth, Deaths and Marriages registration office and Belfast Zoo
	Sign Language Users are aware of accessible communication within the Council	Create a translation protocol document for Sign Language Users and Disabled people accessing Council's online material and electronic documents	2020	Language Officer	A number of identified BCC online material and electronic documents to be produced in accessible formats
	Disabled people are aware of the availability	Increased provision of an accessible City Matters magazine for disabled people	2019	Language Officer/Comms	Audio version of each quarterly City matters Magazine produced

	of accessible information and make use of it				
	Disabled people are aware of the availability of accessible information and make use of it	Consult with City Matters team to include disability related articles in City Matters magazine, sharing accessible information within the Council and Community Partners	2019	Language Officer/Comms	A number of disability related articles to be added to the City matters magazines
	Disabled people are aware of the availability of accessible information and make use of it	Meet with key staff to discuss and explore the preparation and production of council documents in alternative formats	2019	Language Officer/Comms	Arrange at least two meetings per year with key staff
	Council increases the level of inclusive/accessible communications so that disabled people can access information as independently as possible and make informed choices	Consult with Corporate Communications to explore the introduction of accessible changes being made on Council's website and social media platform (to include easy reading; audio; Sign Language translation and subtitles on video)	2020	Language Officer/Comms	Three meetings held with Corporate Communications Consult with Corporate Communications to identify a number of audio providers and to assign a provider for the new Council's website
	Disabled people are aware of how council services can support them	Provide information to disabled people on aspects of Council services which specifically affect them through: minimum of 4 articles per year in City Matters; minimum of 2 targeted information leaflets per year; accessible information on the Council website	2019	Corporate Communications/Lead Communicators/ Language Officer	% of images in printed documents featuring positive images of disabled people Number of documents provided in alternative formats
	Promotion of positive attitudes towards disabled people	Include articles related to disability and ensure photography of disabled people is included	2019		% of people who found the information relevant and useful assessed by appropriate evaluation tool

	Staff will be engaged and awareness will be raised about particular disabilities	<p>Include disability related information in staff e-briefings, staff newsletters/ magazines, staff meetings, email, intranet, internet (internal)</p> <p>Include annual disability days on Interlink and consider awareness raising activity</p>	2019	HR/EDO	<p>% of internal communications documents which featured disability related information</p> <p>% of people who found the information relevant and useful assessed by appropriate evaluation tool</p>
	Council increases the level of inclusive/accessible communications so that disabled people can access information as independently as possible and make informed choices	Communication tools for people with learning disabilities to be introduced at customer centres e.g. City Hall reception, Belfast Zoo	2019 - 2022	Departments	Appropriate communication tools introduced at selected relevant sites
	Awareness of disability and the disability duties when compiling policies and making decisions will be increased.	Deliver equality screening training based on an analysis of priority areas and job roles	2019	EDO	<p>100% of priority one and priority two staff identified are trained</p> <p>Increased understanding and use of appropriate screening tools and methodology assessed by audit of screenings carried out and staff feedback.</p>
	Develop the capacity of the organisation to support people with disabilities, focusing on communication.	Provision of Sign Language courses for employees	2019	HR/Language Officer	<p>Deliver 1 pilot introduction to BSL course</p> <p>12 employees (2 from each Department) to be able to communicate in Sign Language</p>
	Develop the capacity of the organisation to support people with disabilities, focusing on communication	Provision of tailor-made course to employees	2019	HR/Language Officer	Deliver 2 tailor made disability courses to employees

Develop the capacity of staff to ensure awareness of the legal obligations in relation to employment and service delivery	<p>Roll-out Diversity Awareness training programmes for council employees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - continue delivery of disability equality awareness training; - continue to seek nominations from staff with disabilities to provide specific awareness raising session around disability - continue providing access to diversity e-learning programme; - continue delivery of classroom based diversity training; - identify and target awareness raising sessions on specific areas of disability - incorporate equality and diversity module into Tier 3 Training - Unconscious bias training will be rolled out to Corporate Management Team 	2019	HR	<p>Deliver 12 disability awareness training sessions to managers and employees</p> <p>Deliver 12 diversity awareness training sessions to managers and employees</p> <p>All new staff to attend training within 6 months of commencing employment</p> <p>All Tier 3 Managers to attend Equality and Diversity module</p> <p>All Corporate Management Team to attend Unconscious Bias Training</p>
Develop the capacity of Members to ensure awareness of the legal obligations in relation to employment and service delivery	<p>Research the possibility of including disability awareness sessions for Members in the Members Training Programme and include Disability Action Plan in the members Induction Programme</p> <p>Upload the Disability Action Plan to the Members Portal</p>	2019	HR	<p>Communicate outcomes of research and plan next steps if applicable.</p> <p>Disability Action Plan uploaded to the Members Portal</p>
The capacity of staff/ volunteers will be increased to help them manage their own emotional health and well-being	Provide emotional health and wellbeing awareness training for staff and council volunteers (internal)	2019	HR/Occ Health	<p>Deliver four Positive Mental Health training sessions</p> <p>Deliver one mindfulness programme</p> <p>% of staff who found the training useful</p>

	The capacity of staff/ volunteers will be increased to help them manage their own emotional health and well-being	Provide training for managers in managing stress and mental health issues (internal)	2019	HR/Occ Health	Deliver four stress awareness training sessions % of staff who found the training useful
	Staff will be engaged and awareness will be raised about health and wellbeing initiatives.	Maintain dedicated health and wellbeing page on Interlink (internal)	2019	HR/Corporate Communications	Include monthly updates on Interlink
	Develop the capacity of staff to help them manage their own mental health and to help support others	Review pilot programme for mental health first aiders	2019	HR	Evaluation of programme used to inform decision on roll out of programme
	Promotion of positive attitudes towards disabled people	Printed documents and brand campaigns to feature positive images of disabled people	2019	Corporate Communications	% of documents/campaigns which feature positive images of disabled people
	Disabled people are able to access the information they need in the format most accessible to them	Continue to promote / communicate our options for access to information/ forms / people/ services in relation to council buildings	2019	Corporate Communications	Survey the number of departments who do this successfully and report on findings
	Improve awareness of disabled toilet facilities for people with disabilities	To promote and review disabled toilet access and engage with disability groups to encourage wider use.	2019	City & Neighbourhood Services Department	Report on the review of existing process and the number of stakeholder organisations engaged for 19/20
	Improved accessibility to Changing Places facilities across the City.	To promote the Changing Places facilities across the City and review the existing process.	2019		Increase in choice of available Changing Places facilities across the city. From 3 to 5 over the next 24 months
	Improved social inclusion	To provide information and training (where			Ensuring a continuing presence of Changing Places facilities are

	for people with disabilities	necessary) to front-line staff about RADAR key including its use and how to apply for it	2019		available on BCC and Changing Places website
	Develop the capacity of the organisation to support disabled people to access the city centre	Scope and research the accessibility of Belfast City Centre to identify gaps and opportunities, to enable disabled people to participate fully in city centre life. This will include initiatives to promote accessibility in the city centre from an economic development and perspective.	2019	Place and Economy Department	Conclusion of research and determine next steps in delivery to target hard to reach groups.
	Persons with a disability are able to attend and fully engage in events and programmes delivered by Council	Ensure that the Inclusive Events Checklist is completed for all events that are being held in Council facilities.	2019-2022	All Departments	% large events held with an inclusive events checklist completed
	Persons with a disability are able to easily access relevant council information	Promote the range of alternative formats that are available	2019-2022	All Departments	Evaluation of accessibility of council information via various formats
	Promotion of positive attitudes towards disabled people	Organise specialist training/ workshop for Project Sponsors/ Project Managers/ APMS regarding the relevant DDA issues on capital build scheme.	2019	Property and Projects Department	Deliver two training sessions % of staff who found the training useful



Subject:	Regional event to Mark Holocaust Memorial Day 2020 and the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz
Date:	12 th April 2019
Reporting Officer:	Nigel Grimshaw, Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Leish Dolan, Good Relations 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	To obtain approval to partner with the Northern Ireland Executive to host the Northern Ireland Regional Event to mark Holocaust Memorial Day and the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz and to run a programme of events to supplement the main commemoration ceremony.
1.2	Holocaust Memorial Day is the international day of remembrance for all the victims of the Holocaust and subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.
1.3	The date, 27 th January, marks the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau extermination camps. The purpose of the commemoration is to honour survivors and challenge ourselves to use the lessons of their experience to inform our lives today.

1.4	The commemorative events for 2020 are of particular significance as next year marks 75 years since the liberation of Auschwitz.
1.5	The Executive Office has asked the Council to partner with them in hosting the Northern Ireland Regional Event on 27 th January in City Hall.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommend that Belfast City Council partners with the Executive Office to host the regional event, in City Hall, to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day and to run a programme of events to supplement the main commemoration ceremony.
3.0	Main report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	The Good Relations Unit has been invited to partner with the Executive Office to run a regional event in the City Hall to mark Holocaust Memorial Day.
3.2	In addition a programme of events will be organised to engage schools and wider society in events to mark Holocaust Memorial Day.
	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u>
3.3	Costs for these events are estimated at £3,000. All costs will be covered through the existing Good Relations budget.
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.4	This proposal seeks to raise awareness of genocide and the need to challenge expressions of hate. The events complement the Council's good relations action plan and continued efforts to promote good relations within the City.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None



Belfast
City Council

Subject:	Requests for use of the City Hall and the provision of Hospitality
Date:	12 April 2019
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor / Director of Legal & Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Aisling Milliken, Functions and Exhibition Manager

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

☐

No

☒

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Some time in the future

Never

☐
☐
☐
☐

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☒

No

☐

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	This paper, together with the attached appendix, contains the recommended approach in respect of each of the requests by external organisations for access to the City Hall function rooms received up to 29 March 2019 which appear to the Civic HQ Unit to comply with the criteria previously established by the Committee and are recommended for approval.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approve the recommendations made in respect of applications received up to 29 March 2019 as set out in the attached appendix.
3.0	Main report
	<u>Background Information</u>

3.1	Members will be aware that the Committee, at its meeting of 6th January 2017, agreed to modify the criteria governing access to the City Hall function rooms for external organisations.
3.2	The Committee also agreed to the implementation of room-hire charges for some categories of function, and also revised the approach to the provision of civic hospitality for functions on foot of the agreed efficiency programme. Some further modifications to this approach were agreed at the Committee's meetings of 24th March 2017 & 23 rd June 2017.
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.3	The existing revised criteria and scale of charges have been applied to the various requests received and the recommendations herein are offered to the Committee on this basis for approval.
3.4	The schedule attached at Appendix 1 covers a number of applications for functions, which are scheduled for 2019, 2020 and 2021 are included in order to permit the organisers to commence their event planning and communications activity as early as possible.
	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u>
3.5	The implementation of charging for external functions has commenced, in line with the Committee's decisions in the matter.
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u>
3.6	There are no direct good relations or equality implications arising from this report.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 - Schedule of Function requests received up to 29 March 2019.

APRIL 2019 CITY HALL FUNCTION APPLICATIONS

NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
2019 EVENTS						
Now Group	24 May 2019	Now Graduation Ceremony to celebration the work of trainees supported by the Now Group and completion of the training programme. Numbers attending - 300	C & D	No (Charity)	No hospitality as annual event not one off	Approve No charge No hospitality
Allstate Northern Ireland	4 July 2019	20th Anniversary Gala Dinner – Celebration evening to recognize 20 years of All State operating in Belfast. Format of the evening is drinks reception, dinner and speeches. Numbers attending - 80	C	Charge £300	No as commercial company	Approve Charge £300 No hospitality
Belfast Health and Social Care Trust	6 October 2019	A Time to Remember – Children’s Services of Remembrance for bereaved parents – Remembrance service for bereaved relatives and friends of children who have died at Royal Belfast Hospital for sick Children. Numbers attending – 350	C	No <i>£300 waived given nature of the event</i>	Yes, Tea Coffee and Biscuits	Approve No Charge Tea and Coffee Reception
South Belfast Youth Invitational Football League	2 November 2019	Proudly celebrating 50 years of #lettingthemplay – Dinner event to celebrate 50 year anniversary of South Belfast Youth League, the biggest in NI with 600+ teams; aged 10 – 19 years; competing at weekends. Numbers attending – 350	C	No (Charity)	Yes, Wine Reception	Approve No charge Wine Reception
Polish Educational and Cultural Association	17 November 2019	Polish Independence Day 2019 – Celebration event to promote diversity and reflect on positive contribution of Polish community. Numbers attending - 160	C & D	No (Charity)	Yes, Tea, Coffee & Biscuits	Approve No Charge Tea and Coffee Reception
2020 EVENTS						

APRIL 2019 CITY HALL FUNCTION APPLICATIONS

Association for Citizenship Teaching	January/February 2020	Five Nations Network 20th Annual Conference Reception and Dinner – Opening reception with speeches, dinner and dancing as part of a 3 day conference taking place in Queens University Belfast. Numbers attending –85	A & B	No (Charity)	Yes, Wine Reception	Approve No charge Wine Reception
2021 EVENTS						
British Geriatrics Society	29 April 2021	Welcome Reception for the BGS Spring meeting 2021 Conference Dinner – reception & dinner for international delegates as part of a 4 day conference taking place in Belfast. Numbers attending – 100	A & B	No <i>(£300 waived as linked to Visit Belfast)</i>	Yes, Wine Reception <i>(linked to Visit Belfast)</i>	Approve No charge Wine Reception



Subject:	Request re USAF Memorial Commemoration
Date:	12 th April 2019
Reporting Officer:	Nigel Grimshaw, Strategic Director of City & Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Rose Crozier, Director of Neighbourhood Services Ryan Black, Neighbourhood Services Manager

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 update members of a request from the Oldpark/Cavehill Royal British Legion Branch to lead on an event on 1 st June 2019 at the USAF Memorial at Belfast Zoo. The event is being held to commemorate the 75 th anniversary of the air crash involving an American B-17 crew in which all 10 members lost their lives.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked consider the request in the following context:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The event on 1st June 2019 at the USAF memorial to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the air crash on Cavehill should be coordinated by Council. 2. The level of support which Council can contribute bearing in mind there has been no budget set aside for this type of event and the SP&R Committee has previously agreed not to consider requests for ad hoc funding until the end of June 2019.

3.0	Main report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	On June 1st 1944, only five days before D Day B-17 Flying Fortress no 42-97862 had flown from the US via Reykjavik and was preparing to land at Nutts Corner and was due to fly onward to Anglesey in Wales in preparation for deployment in the Allied war effort.
3.2	The plane never managed to reach its destination due to fog shrouding Cavehill, obscuring its course with such fatal and tragic consequences for the aircrew on board, their comrades and their families.
3.3	A memorial at Belfast Zoo was unveiled by the then Lord Mayor, Councillor Wallace Browne on Thursday June 1st 2006. The service included a colour guard from US Military, a service conducted by Very Reverend Dr. Houston McKelvey, an address by the US Consul General and by an assistant air attaché at the US Embassy in London, Taps and a flypast by a WW2 aircraft.
3.4	Since the unveiling and dedication of the memorial, the Oldpark/Cavehill RBL branch have organised and held regular services and a wreath laying at the memorial on June 1st and the Friday preceding Remembrance Sunday of each year.
3.5	The Secretary of the Oldpark/Cavehill branch has written to Council to advise that he had recently met with Dawn and Alfie Montgomery. Alfie Montgomery was the person who found the wedding ring that belonged to the pilot. The ring was eventually returned to the deceased pilot's family and this story was subsequently made famous by Richard Attenborough in the film 'Closing the Ring.'
3.6	Permission has been granted under delegated authority for the regular service to take place on 1 st June 2019, with arrival at 9.15am, the service taking place at 9.30am and finishing prior to the Zoo opening at 10am. Those taking part usually drive to the memorial given its location within the Zoo.
3.7	The organisers have been in touch with Alison Fleming from UTV who has agreed to cover the story and at the time of writing this report 12 family members of the crew are confirmed to attend.
3.8	In the meantime, the secretary of the RBL branch has written to advise the following:

<p>3.9</p> <p>3.10</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the authorisation to access the memorial before the Zoo opens on June 1st is unrealistic from a number of points not least of all the fact this is five days before the 75th anniversary of the D Day landings. • The group have only been given from 9.15am until 10am before the Zoo opens. They wish to have the service at 10.30am which was the time that the plane crashed. They did ask if there was a possibility the Zoo could be closed for the duration of the service. • They have made a request for a civic dignitary to participate. • There are a number of relatives of the aircrew who have indicated their intention to travel to Belfast to participate in any commemoration. • There will be a US Consular presence on the day. • They have spoken informally with a colleague at the MOD Press Office at Thiepval who has indicated that there would be an interest in attending, possibly a representative(s) of the RAF. (The MOD have indicated that commemorations for D-Day on 6th June will take place in Normandy and there are no plans for any other events). • There will be a number of representatives from other local RBL branches and from RBL NIDC. • Given where the memorial is situated, they would also need assistance with logistics to ensure all guests could be transported to and from the memorial. <p>Furthermore, Council has been advised that Alfie Montgomery is currently in the final stages of completing a book which relates to his childhood experiences up to and beyond the finding of the ring. He is hoping to launch at Belfast Castle in the lead up to the commemorations. Members are asked to note that he has provided a permanent display of artefacts and background information about the tragedy at Belfast Castle.</p> <p>The RBL has also highlighted that the Lisnabreeney Memorial Garden (the site of the original USA cemetery, where the aircrew were buried prior to final repatriation to the US in</p>
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	the late 1940s is now in the ownership of BCC and there is certainly an opportunity to highlight this unique event for the City.
3.11	Officers have been advised that the number of people attending is anticipated to be around 50.
3.12	<p>Request for Support from Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to and from the grounds of the zoo; • Transport to and from the memorial; • Erection of a 'temporary' flagstaff to facilitate the flying of a US Flag at the memorial; • Possible reception either at the zoo or at Belfast Castle for guests; • Provision of US military vehicle from WW2 era; • Provision of personnel in period uniform; • Provision of bugler; • Provision of flypast by 'Sally B';; • Provision of appropriate security arrangements and discussions with appropriate agencies.
3.13	The group are requesting that the event be coordinated by Council with Officer support required to deliver the event and providing liaison among the different parties involved. A resource/s would need to be identified for this.
3.14	In relation to the flypast, costs have been estimated at £15,000. Officers have been advised that there is a small window of opportunity for this as the aircraft will be required for other D Day events and flight plans need to be submitted as soon as possible.
3.15	Members may wish to note that the group could potentially be signposted to the NI War Memorial Museum who may be able to assist in accessing the US Military vehicle or personnel in period uniform. However, the feasibility of placing vehicles at the site would have to be explored with the Zoo.
	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u>
3.16	The group is requesting that this be a Council led event with Officer support required to deliver the event and providing liaison among the different parties involved which would require significant input and is not within current workplans.

	<p>There is no budget set aside for this event in current Council budgets and the SP&R Committee has previously agreed not to consider requests for ad hoc funding until the end of June 2019.</p> <p>In relation to financial costs, the flypast would be in the region of £15,000 and a tea/coffee and scone reception at Belfast Castle could be in the region of £360 based on 50 people attending. It is difficult to put a cost on transport at this stage, as previously organisers have used their own cars to access the memorial but increased numbers could present an issue for parking, health and safety etc.</p> <p>However, should the event affect public access to the Zoo, this could have a financial impact on the service and would require timely communication.</p>
3.17	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>The commemoration event led by Oldpark/Cavehill RBL has been taking place since 2006 and there have been no good relations or equality implications identified with the customary event.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 - Copy of the request from Oldpark/Cavehill Royal British Legion.

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Request from Oldpark/Cavehill RBL re USAF Commemorative Event on 1st June 2019.

Background

On June 1st 1944 only five days before D Day B-17 Flying Fortress no 42-97862 had flown from the US via Reykjavik and was preparing to land at Nutts Corner and was due to fly onward to Anglesey in Wales in preparation for deployment in the Allied war effort.

The plane never managed to reach its destination due to fog shrouding Cavehill, obscuring its course with such fatal and tragic consequences for the aircrew on board, their comrades and their families.

The memorial at Belfast Zoo was unveiled by the then Lord Mayor, Councillor Wallace Browne (now Lord Browne) on Thursday June 1st 2006. The service included a colour guard from US Military, a service conducted by Very Reverend Dr. Houston McKelvey, an address by US Consul General and by a assistant air attaché at the US Embassy in London, Taps and a flypast by a WW2 aircraft.

Since the unveiling and dedication our RBL branch have held regular services and wreath laying at the memorial on June 1st and the Friday preceeding Remembrance Sunday of each year.

I recently met with Dawn and Alfie Montgomery, Alfie was the person who found the wedding ring that belonged to the pilot. The ring was eventually returned to the deceased pilot's family and this story was subsequently made famous by Richard Attenborough in the film 'Closing the Ring.'

From the outset I think it would be fair to say that the authorisation to access the memorial before the zoo opens on June 1st as detailed to Dawn and subsequently to myself is unrealistic from a number of points not least of all the fact this is five days before the 75th anniversary of the D Day landings. I would respectfully make the following points:

- 1) We have made a request for a civic dignitary to participate. I understand the complexity this may throw up taking into account the local government elections in may of this year. I have spoken to Alderman Tommy Sandford, the High Sheriff about the possibility of his participation as you are aware his post runs through until December 2019.
- 2) There are a number of relatives of the aircrew who have indicated there intention to travel to Belfast to participate in any commemoration
- 3) There will be a US Consular presence on the day
- 4) I have spoken informally with a colleague at the MOD Press Office at Thiepval who has indicated that there would be an interest in attending, possibly a representative(s) of the RAF
- 5) There is media interest in covering the event
- 6) There will be a number of representatives from other local RBL branches and from RBL NIDC
- 7) The logistics of transporting a significant number of people to and from the memorial

With reference to Dawn and Alfie I cannot overstate the commitment of both of them and their friends and colleagues in respect of keeping the memory of these 10 USAF crewmen. Alfie is

Appendix 1

currently in the final stages of completing a book which relates to his childhood experiences up to and beyond the finding of the ring which they are hoping to launch at Belfast Castle in the lead up to the commemorations. I should point out that they have provided a permanent display of artifacts and background information about the tragedy at Belfast Castle.

With the fact that the Lisnabreeny Memorial Garden (the site of the original USA cemetery, where the aircrew were buried prior to final repatriation to the US in the late 1940s is now in the ownership of BCC there is certainly an opportunity to highlight this unique event for the City.

Requests for support and further discussion:

Access to and from the grounds of the zoo

Transport

Erection of a 'temporary' flagstaff to facilitate the flying of a US Flag at the memorial

Possible reception either at the zoo or at Belfast Castle

Provision of US military vehicle from WW2 era

Provision of personnel in period uniform

Provision of bugler

Provision of flypast by 'Sally B'

Provision of appropriate security arrangements and discussions with appropriate agencies

At this stage I can confirm the cost of the flypast would be in the region of £15,000. There is a small window of opportunity for this as the aircraft will be required for other D Day events and flight plans need to be submitted as soon as possible.

I hope I have covered everything in this email but am happy to meet to discuss further.

Regards and best wishes

John MacVicar

Secretary

Oldpark/Cavehill RBL

ACTIVE BELFAST LIMITED BOARD

Monday, 8th April, 2019

MEETING OF ACTIVE BELFAST LIMITED BOARD

(Held in the Boardroom, Room 222, City Hall)

Attendees

- Directors:** Mr. J. McGuigan, Chairperson
Mr. P. Boyle
Mr. C. Kirkwood and
Mr. K. O'Doherty
- Officers:** Mr. N. Munnis, Partnership Manager; and
Mr. C. McCann, Leisure Development Manager;
Mr. G. Graham, Democratic Services Assistant.
- GLL:** Mr. G. Kirk, Regional Director; and
Ms. S. Owens, Marketing Manager.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Councillor S. Corr, Mr. J. Higgins, Mrs. K. McCullough, Councillor P. McReynolds, Mr. R. Stewart, and Mr. G. Walls.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 11th March were approved.

Matters Arising

Lessons Learned

The Board members noted that GLL would submit a lessons learned report, in respect of their Leisure Transformation Programme, to the next ABL board meeting, scheduled currently for August, 2019. The Chairperson reminded the members that the report had been requested at a previous Board meeting, following discussions on the various challenges faced during mobilisation in respect of the opening of the new Olympia centre.

Customer Cross Centre Usage

The Chairperson referred to the pre-paid targets for leisure attendance, which had been incorporated within the quarterly customer scorecard. He identified the requirement to incorporate customer cross centre usage into the quarter one statistical report, as a means to track customer mobility between the Council's various leisure facilities and the effectiveness of promotional activity and the Leisure Transformation Programme (LTP) centre USPs. The Board outlined the need to link the marketing and promotion of the Council's leisure facilities with a dedicated public transport system accepting however that, anticipating customer demand for such a service would present a challenge.

Declarations of Interest

Mr. C. Kirkwood declared an interest in respect of an update on the work of the Council's Sports Development Unit in that he was a member of the Board of the Irish Football Association.

Update on BCC Sports Development Unit

The Leisure Development Manager attended in connection with this item and he was welcomed by the Chairperson.

The Board was provided with an update on the extensive range of sports development activities delivered through the Council's Leisure Development Unit. The members were presented with an outline of the link between the various sports development initiatives and the Belfast Agenda.

The Leisure Development Manager reminded the Board of the co-funding arrangements in respect of the National Stadium and the collaborative work undertaken by the Department for Communities (DfC), the Council and the Irish Football Association (IFA). He referred specifically to the Stadium Community Benefits Initiative and of the plans to target under-represented groups including women girls, and older people. He informed the Board that agreement had been reached with the GAA to participate in the initiative and highlighted the need to produce a revised work plan to incorporate Gaelfast targets and outcomes.

The Leisure Development Manager provided the Board with information in respect of the Clubmark accreditation programme and the fact that eighty clubs had now been accredited to that scheme. He referred also to the close working relationship between the Council and a range of governing bodies thereby improving the standards of leisure provision and the development of leisure inclusivity for all.

The Chairperson, on behalf of the Board, thanked the Leisure Development Manager for his informative update and he departed from the meeting.

Update on Leisure Transformation Programme

The GLL representatives attended in connection with this item and were welcomed by the Chairperson.

The Partnership Manager provided the Board with an update on the Leisure Transformation Programme (L.T.P.) capital build programme. The members of the Board were reminded that the L.T.P. comprised two distinct strands, namely, the capital build programme and the service modernisation programme. The Board was advised that, as the three new leisure facilities identified within the current phase of the capital projects programme entered their final implementation stage, the focus would now, out of necessity, switch to mobilisation operational planning and business development issues. He referred specifically to the focus on mobilisation, marketing and business development as key operational objectives. In this regard, he suggested that GLL should take the lead in delivering future LTP updates and provide the Board with six monthly progress reports in regard to the aforementioned operational areas.

The Board noted the information which had been provided and the agreement by GLL to take the lead in providing the operational updates as requested. It was reported that Belfast City Council Property and Projects officers would be in attendance to present updates on the capital build programme.

The GLL representative stated that he was pleased to announce that, as a result of the capital build programme (Phase 1b), seventy five new full-time equivalent jobs would be created plus a similar number of additional casual positions in the area of coaching, programme delivery and facility creation schemes. The Regional Director

reported further that recruitment and training initiatives were being developed with a range of strategic partners. The Regional Director stated further that, as part of the marketing strategy, GLL would issue a press release on the social and economic benefits associated with the capital build programme. The Partnership Manager agreed to distribute the job creation press release, to all Directors, on Tuesday, 9 April.

Tier 2 Performance – Marketing and Communications

The Marketing Manager provided the Board members with an update on the GLL Belfast partnership marketing plan incorporating the outputs for 2018/19. She referred to the key themes of the marketing plan, including attracting more people to make use of Gyms, Swimming pools and engagement in leisure activities generally. She referred to the importance of GLL's social enterprise commitment and of the marketing objectives associated with their campaign in respect of the promotion of adult health and fitness.

Student Campaign

The Board was provided with an outline of GLL's strategy to offer citywide access in respect of multi-sport participation as a means to promote its fitness participation campaign in a highly competitive market.

Jam Card Scheme

The members were advised of the launch and success of its 'Just a Minute' (JAM) card scheme, including its half price health and fitness campaign, for a period of one month, including other marketing strategies to promote health awareness and fitness participation.

Events

The Regional Director provided the Board with an update on the success of its recent award events, including the positive publicity in connection therewith. He referred specifically to the promotion of the Belfast City Marathon, including the Belfast Telegraph sports awards, which was sponsored by GLL.

The Board members noted the information which had been provided and congratulated the GLL representatives on the success of their various campaigns.

GLL Six-monthly Positive Impact

The Regional Director provided the Board with an update in regard to the positive impact of GLL in the delivery of leisure services in Belfast, covering the period to March 2019. The Board was presented with information in regard to GLL's four pillars, incorporating; Better Service, Better People, Better Communities and Better Business. The Board was informed that, since 1st January 2019, Belfast had achieved a positive uplift in regard to the new pre-paid membership sales, including increased membership growth. He highlighted the impact of the JAM (Just A Minute) card friendly scheme and the fact that the Belfast Partnership was the first provider in Northern Ireland and the United Kingdom to become JAM card friendly.

The members were provided with an overview in respect of the GLL team communication Day and the significant success and positive marketing attributed to that event. The Board was informed of the various achievements by GLL staff under a range of categories in recognition of their skill and commitment to customer service. The Regional Director advised the Board that Belfast had been successful in achieving Quest quality accreditation in ten of its centres during 2018 and outlined the significant achievement in sharing best practice learning across its various leisure facilities.

The Board congratulated GLL on its significant achievement and noted the improvements in staff/management relations which had made a significant difference to the customer experience and quality of service provided. The Board noted also the significant achievement by GLL in its fundraising campaign which had made a significant contribution to a range of charities, including Action Cancer.

The Board members, in consideration of the performance targets, suggested that the KPIs could be refreshed to meet new challenges and that this exercise should be included within the planned ABL Business Plan review process, previously agreed for the period August 2019-January 2020.

Policy and Procedure Alignment (Equality and Diversity)

The Partnership Manager provided the Board members with an annual confirmation statement in respect of GLL's Equality and Diversity policy and procedure alignment. As a result of that policy convergence it was reported that both GLL and Belfast City Council (BCC) equality and diversity positions were significantly aligned.

ABL Register of Members' Interests

The Partnership Manager provided the Board members with a copy of the 'Register of Members' Interests' forms, including a timetable, subject to agreement, in respect of their completion and return. It was agreed further that the Partnership Manager should proactively encourage 100% return by the next Board meeting, scheduled to be held in August, 2019.

Any Other Business

The Partnership Manager reported that the Aquatic Strategy had now been through the equality screening process and, as a result, had been 'screened out'. He stated that the final draft document, which had been approved by ABL and BCC, together with confirmation of the equality screening outcome, would be presented to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 12th April 2019. It was reported that, subject to ratification by the Council at the end of April, it was planned to hold a public launch of the strategy as soon as practicable after the Local Government Elections.

Chairperson



Subject:	ABF The Soldiers' Charity D-Day Commemoration Concert
Date:	12 th April, 2019
Reporting Officer:	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager
Contact Officer:	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager

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	To consider authorising Members to attend the D-Day Commemoration Concert on 8 th June, 2019.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is requested to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> consider the matter and decide if it wishes to nominate Members to attend.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1.1	The Council has received a letter (copy attached) asking it to nominate Members to attend the D-Day Commemoration Concert being held in the Waterfront Hall on 8 th June, 2019.

3.1.2	<p>The Committee will recall has it has previously approved the attendance of the Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson plus one Member from the six main parties on the Council at events organised by the ABF Charity as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Centenary of the Battle of the Somme Event on 7th May, 2016; 2. The Ulster at War Concert on 24th March, 2018 3. The Ladies' Lunch Event on 11th September, 2018.
3.1.3	<p>Members will note that this event takes place on 8th June, which is after the local elections on 2nd May. It would not be possible to nominate Members to attend until after the elections. However, the Committee may decide to reserve places for the incoming Chairperson and the Chairperson of the Committee who will be appointed at the Annual Council Meeting on 21st May and for a representative of each of the main Parties on the Council. The names of the nominees could then be given after the elections.</p>
3.2	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p>
3.2.1	<p>A ticket costs £48 and the overall cost can be met through existing budgets.</p>
3.3	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p>
3.3.1	<p>None associated with this report.</p>
4.0	<p>Appendices – Documents Attached</p>
	<p>Appendix 1 - Letter from ABF The Soldiers' Charity</p>



The Army's National Charity

Patron
Her Majesty The Queen

President
General Sir Mike Jackson
GCB CBE DSO DL

Chairman of Trustees
Lieutenant General Philip Jones
CB CBE

Chief Executive
Major General Martin Rulledge
CB OBE

ABF The Soldiers' Charity (NI)
Building 115
Thiepval Barracks
Lisburn BT28 3NP

02892 678112
ni@soldierscharity.org
soldierscharity.org

NI Councils Chief Executives

26th March 2019

Dear Suzanne,

D-DAY COMMEMORATION CONCERT – 8 JUN 2019

The year 2019 will be marked by ABF The Soldiers' Charity's 75th Anniversary, which also coincides with the 75th Anniversary of the OPERATION OVERLORD. We will commemorate both occasions with our own unique Flagship Concert at the Belfast Waterfront. **'D-DAY 75 – a Musical Commemoration of Ulster's Contribution to the Normandy Landings'** will take place on Saturday 8th June 2019 at 8pm and will be a showcase of Northern Ireland's talent. The Guest of Honour will be Mrs Fionnuala Jay-O'Boyle, Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the City of Belfast. All proceeds from the show will go to help support soldiers, veterans and their families in times of need.

Notwithstanding local elections, we would like to invite Councillors and Staff from your authority to join us, as we travel back to the year 1944 in wartime Northern Ireland Garrison and hear tales of Ulster's brave soldiers as they prepare to assault Nazi occupied France, by both sea and air.

The evening, which promises to be a 'sell-out' event, will be hosted by popular News Anchor, Pamela Ballantine and will feature the Band, Bugles, Pipes and Drums of the Royal Irish Regiment, plus a number of other well-known local artistes performing popular music, songs and re-enactments from the 1940s era.

This should be a fantastic evening out. VIP Tickets are £48pp and will include top show seats, entry to a pre-show VIP reception and interval drinks and nibbles. Should your authority be able to accept, please let me know soonest and I will ensure that places are reserved and further details are sent out to you in due course. Spaces may be booked in advance for Council representation at the event and allocated later based on results of the election.

Best wishes,

David

Chief Executive's Office		
Date:	5/4/19	
Noted by CX:	Y/N	
Ref:	SW 18/4	
Referred to:		
Copy sent	Original sent	
MB updated	Invite reg	

David Forsey
Regional Director (NI)

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