

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



**Belfast  
City Council**

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

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in the Lavery Room - City Hall on Friday, 20th September, 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) City Centre Investment Fund-Presentation
- (b) Motion: Removal of Paramilitary Flags and Banners (Pages 1 - 24)

#### **3. Matters referred back from Council/Motions**

- (a) Motion - EuroPride (Pages 25 - 26)
- (b) Motion - Silver Poppies of Remembrance (Pages 27 - 28)
- (c) Motion - Transgender Day of Visibility (Pages 29 - 30)

- (d) Motion - E-Petition Mechanism (Pages 31 - 32)
- (e) Motion - Economic Future Planning (Pages 33 - 34)

4. **Governance**

- (a) Amendment to Standing Orders (Pages 35 - 38)
- (b) Area Working Groups - Terms of Reference (Pages 39 - 44)

5. **Belfast Agenda/Strategic Issues**

- (a) Inclusive Growth Update (Pages 45 - 84)
- (b) Innovation and Inclusive Growth Commission (Pages 85 - 88)
- (c) Belfast Agenda - Update on Community Planning (Pages 89 - 110)

6. **Physical Programme and Asset Management**

- (a) Leisure Transformation Programme: Assets Update (Pages 111 - 126)
- (b) Physical Programme Update (Pages 127 - 130)

7. **Finance, Resources and Procurement**

- (a) Belfast City Council Statement of Accounts 2018/19 (Pages 131 - 262)
- (b) Medium Term Financial Plan and Efficiency Programme (Pages 263 - 270)
- (c) Belfast Local Full Fibre Networks Procurement (Pages 271 - 274)
- (d) Commercial and Procurement Services Update (Pages 275 - 282)
- (e) Contracts Update (Pages 283 - 290)
- (f) Update for Bobbin catering tender (Pages 291 - 292)

8. **Equality and Good Relations**

- (a) Minutes of Shared City Partnership (Pages 293 - 314)
- (b) Rural Needs: Annual Monitoring Report 18-19 (Pages 315 - 320)

9. **Operational Issues**

- (a) ONUS Annual Awards Ceremony 2019 (Pages 321 - 322)
- (b) Requests for use of the City Hall and the provision of Hospitality (Pages 323 - 326)
- (c) Requests for use of the Council Chamber (Pages 327 - 330)
- (d) Report from Audit and Risk Panel and Minutes (Pages 331 - 352)

- (e) Minutes of Party Group Leaders Consultative Forum (Pages 353 - 356)
- (f) Minutes of the Meeting of The Active Belfast Ltd Board (Pages 357 - 374)
- (g) Minutes of the Working Group on the Climate Crisis (Pages 375 - 380)
- (h) Council Declaration of a Climate Emergency (Pages 381 - 384)

10. **Issues Raised in Advance by Members**

- (a) Shared Future Proofing decisions - Councillor McAllister
- (b) Single Use Items - Councillor McReynolds to raise

'This Council recognises the significant detrimental effect that single use items have in Belfast; calls for the creation of an internal strategy to do away with single use item usage; and, agrees to review our internal waste policies alongside supporting any resulting recommendations with appropriate funding and necessary resources'

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 6  
of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

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<b>Subject:</b>	Motion – EuroPride
<b>Date:</b>	20th September, 2019
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Walsh, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer,

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	To consider a motion on EuroPride, which was referred to the Committee by the Council at its meeting on 2nd September.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider the motion and agree whether this is something the Committee, in principle, wishes the Council to bid for. If so officers will bring a report back.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p>At the Council meeting on 2nd September, the following motion was proposed by Councillor S. Baker and seconded by Councillor McAteer:</p> <p>“This Council recognises the significant impact that Belfast Pride has on our City. It makes our City a more diverse and welcoming city for all.</p>

3.2	<p>We also recognise the economic impact that Belfast Pride creates within the city, generating income for business and creating employment.</p> <p>This Council will task our officers to work with Belfast Pride and assist in their bid to bring EuroPride to our City.</p> <p>EuroPride will have a huge economic and social impact to Belfast and showcase to the world on how progressive and open our City is.”</p> <p>In accordance with Standing Order 13(f), the motion was referred without debate to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.</p> <p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>None</p>
3.3	<p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p> <p>None</p>
3.4	
4.0	<b>Appendices - Documents Attached</b>
	None





<b>Subject:</b>	Motion – Silver Poppies of Remembrance
<b>Date:</b>	20th September, 2019
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Walsh, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer,

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	To consider a motion on Silver Poppies of Remembrance, which was referred to the Committee by the Council at its meeting on 2nd September.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider the motion and whether this is something the Committee wishes the Council to do.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p>At the Council meeting on 2nd September, the following motion was proposed by Councillor T. Kelly and seconded by Councillor Graham:</p> <p>“With the 75th Anniversary of the end of the Second World War approaching, this Council wishes to recognise the contribution of those who fought in that war from Belfast.</p>

	<p>It notes that every year the number of surviving veterans is reducing and time to provide appropriate recognition is running out. The Council, therefore, should come together to provide all surviving veterans of WW2 (including those in the Merchant Navy) with a silver Poppy of Remembrance, to mark their service in the fight against Fascism and Nazism.</p> <p>These poppies will be presented to all surviving veterans who live in the Belfast Council area week commencing 4th November 2019.”</p>
3.2	<p>In accordance with Standing Order 13(f), the motion was referred without debate to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.</p>
3.3	<p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>None</p>
3.4	<p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p> <p>None</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices - Documents Attached</b>
	None



<b>Subject:</b>	Motion – Transgender Day of Visibility
<b>Date:</b>	20th September, 2019
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Walsh, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer,

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	To consider a motion on Transgender Day of Visibility, which was referred to the Committee by the Council at its meeting on 2nd September.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider the motion and agree whether this is something the Committee wishes the Council to do.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p>At the Council meeting on 2nd September, the following motion was proposed by Councillor Flynn and seconded by Alderman Copeland:</p> <p>“This Council recognises the contribution that our Transgender community makes to the city of Belfast and Northern Ireland. This Council notes that many within the Trans</p>

3.2	<p>community still suffer discrimination and that visibility of the community is a hugely important part of raising awareness and overcoming discrimination.</p> <p>As a statement of our solidarity with the Trans community, this Council agrees to illuminate the City Hall in the colours of the Trans flag to coincide with the Transgender Day of Visibility every year on 31st March; as a continuation of our solidarity with the community, this Council also agrees to fly the Transgender flag over the City Hall from dawn to dusk on 31st March every year to coincide with Transgender Day of Visibility.”</p>
3.3	<p>In accordance with Standing Order 13(f), the motion was referred without debate to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.</p> <p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>None</p>
3.4	<p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p> <p>None</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices - Documents Attached</b>
	None



<b>Subject:</b>	Motion – E-Petition Mechanism
<b>Date:</b>	20th September, 2019
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Walsh, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer,

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	To consider a motion on an E-Petition Mechanism, which was referred to the Committee by the Council at its meeting on 2nd September.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is requested to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider the motion and whether the Committee wishes officers to research the issue, and bring back a report on how this would be facilitated, resourced and managed.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p>At the Council meeting on 2nd September, the following motion was proposed by Councillor O'Hara and seconded by Councillor Hutchinson:</p> <p>“E-petitions are an opportunity for citizens of the City to bring forward issues of concern over which this Council has authority. They widen access to the democratic process and bring governmental structures closer to the citizens we represent. Similar</p>

	<p>processes are in place across these islands and Europe at a variety of administrative levels. In the continuing absence of a local Assembly and the democratic deficit it creates, it is imperative that this Council does what it can to enhance and broaden access to the democratic process.”</p>
3.2	<p>In accordance with Standing Order 13(f), the motion was referred without debate to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.</p>
3.3	<p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>None</p>
3.4	<p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p> <p>None</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices - Documents Attached</b>
	None



<b>Subject:</b>	Motion – Economic Future Planning
<b>Date:</b>	20th September, 2019
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Walsh, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer,

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	To consider a motion on Economic Future Planning, which was referred to the Committee by the Council at its meeting on 2nd September.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is requested to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider the motion and whether it wishes Council officers to research the issue and then bring back a report on how such a plan would be developed, resourced and led.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p>At the Council meeting on 2nd September, the following motion was proposed by Councillor Beattie and seconded by Councillor Hargey:</p> <p>“This Council recognises that economic future planning is crucial in the period ahead, particularly given the impending withdrawal from the European Union.</p>

	<p>This Council should plan for, and bring forward an economic plan for the future of this Council area in the event of the north of Ireland retaining membership of the European Union, following a referendum on Irish Unity.</p> <p>The economic plan should draw on the numerous existing reports of an all-island economy, including, but not limited to: 'Modelling Irish Unification' by Dr Kurt Hubner, 'The Economic Effects of an All Island Economy', by Paul Gosling, 'The Economic Case for Irish Unity', by Michael Burke and the Joint Oireachtas Committee Report, 'Brexit and the Future of Ireland – Uniting Ireland &amp; Its People in Peace &amp; Prosperity'.</p> <p>This Council should be prudent in planning for the future to maximise our potential and secure future economic growth and to compete effectively with other Cities across the Island of Ireland.</p> <p>The economic plan should examine how this Council would prepare for this scenario and how this Council area could position itself within this potential new constitutional arrangement, in order that Belfast maximizes all opportunities for city growth in this context.”</p>
3.2	In accordance with Standing Order 13(f), the motion was referred without debate to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.
3.3	<p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>None</p>
3.4	<p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p> <p>None</p>
4.0	<b>Appendices - Documents Attached</b>
	None





<b>Subject:</b>	Amendments to Standing Orders
<b>Date:</b>	20 September 2019
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Walsh, City Solicitor / Director of Legal & Civic Services
<b>Contact Officers:</b>	Jim Hanna, Democratic Services Russell Connelly, Policy, Research & Compliance Officer

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	The purpose of this report is to seek Committee approval to amend Standing Order 47 (in relation to call in) in order to properly reflect the Council's statutory obligations under Section 41 of the Local Government (NI) Act 2014 ("the 2014 Act").
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agree to make the changes outlined in the report to the Standing Order 47.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<u>Decisions of council subject to call in</u> Standing Order 47 in relation to call-in does not (as currently drafted) reflect the council's statutory obligations arising from the 2014 Act, which specifically provides that, when

	<p>Section 41(1) requires Council's to make provision for reconsideration of decisions, a "decision" includes a decision of the council.</p> <p>Counsel recommends that Standing Order 47(a)(1) be amended to include "<i>a decision of the council</i>" in the list of decisions which may be subject to call-in.</p>
3.2	<p><u>Sections of the inhabitants of the district</u></p> <p>Section 41(4) of the 2014 Act requires that Standing Orders specify the section of the inhabitants of the district who may claim to be adversely affected under Section 41(1)(b). The statutory requirement is not that the persons seeking the call-in of the decision specify the section of the inhabitants of the district, rather, the statute requires that standing orders do that in advance. The Council's standing orders do not appear to do so as currently drafted.</p> <p>In order to rectify this situation the City Solicitor recommends that as a minimum, the Council specify at least those categories of persons set out in Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 in standing orders. It is of course open to the Council to specify further sections of the inhabitants of the district, subject to the usual public law boundary of Wednesbury reasonableness.</p> <p>Whilst the Act is not prescriptive as to the sections which should be specified, the Draft Standing Order Regulations 2016 (which have not yet been ratified by the NI Assembly) – do provide a legislative interpretation of sections of the inhabitants of the district which is wider than just the Section 75 groups:</p> <p><i>"section of the inhabitants of the district" means any section of the inhabitants that is</i>  <b><i>clearly identifiable by location, interest or other category</i></b></p> <p>It is recommended that Council amend Standing Order 47(3)(b) to incorporate the above wording from the draft Standing Order Regulations with reference to the Section 75 categories as one of the "other" categories.</p> <p>This approach would appear to reflect the intention of the legislation as originally drafted and would prevent call in being limited to just those section 75 groups.</p> <p><b><u>Suggested wording to be included after Standing Order 47(3)(b)(3)</u></b></p> <p><i>(4) In this part, "section of the inhabitants of the district" means any section of the inhabitants that is clearly identifiable by location, interest or other category (including those categories identified in Section 75(1) of the NI Act 1998).</i></p>
3.3	<p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None.</p>
3.4	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None.</p>
4.0	<p><b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b></p>

4.1	None
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<b>Subject:</b>	Area Working Groups - Terms of Reference
<b>Date:</b>	20 September 2019
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Nigel Grimshaw, Strategic Director of City & Neighbourhoods Services Department
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Ryan Black, Director, City & Neighbourhoods Services Department

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To present final draft updated Terms of Reference for the council's Area Working Groups.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider and agree the final draft Terms of Reference.</li> <li>Agree that the first meetings of the re-configured Area Working Groups will take place in January 2020.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
	<b><u>Key Issues</u></b>
3.1	At April SP&R, committee members agreed that officers would review the role of the Area Working Groups and update the Terms of Reference. Previously, five AWGs (for North,

	South, East West and Greater Shankill) were established in 2012 and Terms of Reference were agreed at this stage. Following local government elections in 2014, AWGs were reconvened on a North, South, East and West basis (Greater Shankill was incorporated within the West AWG) using the existing terms of reference.
3.2	One of the key priorities of the Belfast Agenda is to deliver better outcomes for our Neighbourhoods, through inclusive growth, and building sustainable capacity within communities.
3.3	<p>Our Corporate priorities recognise the importance of Neighbourhood Regeneration and advocate a place shaping approach to drive the effective use of resources by Council and other partners / stakeholders within specific areas where opportunities exist to maximise impact. The proposed approach will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• council service and facility provision;</li> <li>• external or multi-agency service and facility provision;</li> <li>• agreed local area plans to improve outcomes for local people;</li> <li>• longer term local regeneration and investment plans (including capital, revenue or other projects with multiple funding sources).</li> </ul>
3.4	Within this context, officers have been working to review the Area Working Groups Terms of Reference to make recommendations to members on their future role. Taking this into consideration, members are asked to agree to the draft Terms of Reference attached at appendix 1 and agree that the first Area Working Groups are held in January 2020.
3.5	<p><b><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>All associated costs have been provided for within revenue estimates</p>
3.6	<p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Implications</u></b></p> <p>None</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1 - Draft Terms of Reference – Area Working Groups

# Area Working Groups

# Terms of Reference

2019

Version 1.4

## Contents

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## 1. Purpose of the Area Working Groups

1.1. Neighbourhood regeneration is a key priority for the council. We aim to create integrated and sustainable improvements to neighbourhoods where everyone benefits from inclusive growth and their quality of life is improved. Working with members, we will seek to influence the effective use of resources to build community capacity with and across local neighbourhoods to support the delivery of our Corporate Plan, aligned to the implementation of the Belfast Agenda.

1.2. The purpose of the Area Working Group is therefore:

*To enable and ensure that the socio-economic conditions and needs of local people, areas and communities are given due consideration with respect to the delivery of our plans, services and projects.*

## 2. Roles and responsibilities

2.1. The overarching role of the Area Working Groups is to act as “place shapers” and local area advocates in order to identify and prioritise issues and opportunities to address local needs, with the aim of improving the quality of local people’s lives. They will also consider how the City Centre integrates with neighbourhoods and

communities, and vice versa, to ensure growth is optimised and inclusive across the City.

- 2.2. It will be our aim to engage with, influence and support partnership working, both geographically and thematically. Through the identification and engagement of relevant partners, the Area Working Group will seek to gain support to work together to develop and implement collaborative interventions.
- 2.3. The Area Working Groups will consult, engage and advocate on behalf of their respective quadrant to:
  - Collectively identify and prioritise local needs, as well as support and enhance effective area-based regeneration;
  - Take an evidence-based approach to providing advice to inform and enhance the delivery of services, projects and plans;
  - Consider the local dimension of key strategic plans and projects such as the Belfast Agenda, leisure transformation, cultural strategy, tourism etc;
  - Consider area-based issues as referred by relevant Council committees;
  - Participate in and facilitate community engagement and communications activities associated with their catchment area;
  - Act as community advocates to identify and address local needs and support effective 'place-shaping'
  - Promote local area knowledge and understanding;
  - Build trust and strengthen relationships with external agencies, residents, community representatives, partnerships and the wider communities to deliver improved Council services.

### **3. Members**

- 3.1. The Area Working Groups are convened by Belfast City Council to which all Councillors elected to the following district electoral areas are invited.

Area Working Group	District Electoral Areas
North	Castle and Oldpark
South	Balmoral and Botanic
East	Lisnasharragh, Ormiston and Titanic
West	Blackmountain, Collin and Court





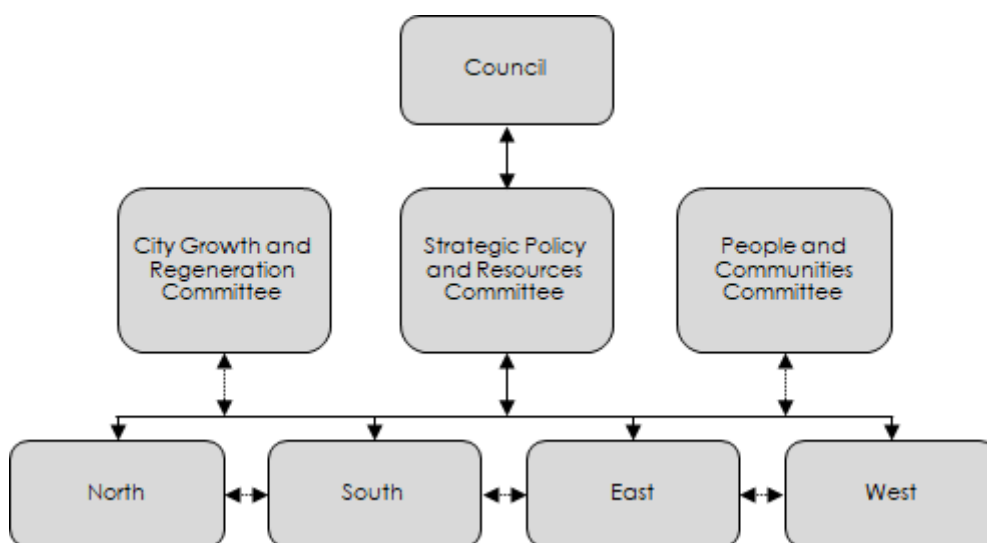
#### 4. Role of the Chairperson

- 4.1. In line with the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee decision on 19th August 2016, the Chairperson will be appointed on an annual basis. This item of business will be placed on the agenda for the first meeting of each Working Group following the Annual Council meeting each year.
- 4.2. The chair of each AWG will undertake a number of roles in addition to those required of Group members. The chair will:
  - Facilitate the meetings, or nominate an appropriate delegate, to ensure the AWG operates efficiently within these Terms of Reference;
  - Collate, share and represent the comments and priorities of their respective AWG;
  - Liaise with a member of the Strategy, Policy and Partnership team to agree the agenda in advance of a meeting.

#### 5. Accountability and reporting relationships

- 5.1. With respect to Council matters, decisions of the Area Working Groups are advisory and as such they are not binding on the Council. The business at Area Working Groups will be guided by existing council Standing Orders and the NI Local Government Code of Conduct for Councillors.
- 5.2. In keeping with its advisory role, the Area Working Groups will provide recommendations to committees on relevant items which have a specific local area remit. Unless specifically sought from a specific committee, recommendations made by Area Working Groups will be subject to ratification by the SP&R Committee.

- 5.3. The relationship between committees and Area Working Groups will be two-way to reflect items which may be referred from committee for the consideration of an Area Working Group; and conversely Area Working Groups in exercising their role may wish to make a recommendation to a standing committee.



## 6. Meeting structures and administration

- 6.1. Meetings of each of the AWGs will be held (at least) quarterly. However, depending on the individual requirements they can be facilitated more frequently.
- 6.2. A quorum shall consist of one-quarter of the AWG elected members, as set out in the table below. If the meeting is not quorate, the meeting can proceed but recommendations cannot be made to any committee.

Area Working Group	Total Number of Members	Quorum
East	19	5
North	12	3
South	10	3
West	19	5

- 6.3. CNS will act as the lead department in terms of agenda setting and facilitation of the meetings. A member of Democratic Services will provide secretariat support with the Strategy, Policy and Partnership unit providing support as required.
- 6.4. The Senior Responsible Officer will be the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services.
- 6.5. Formal minutes will be kept of all meetings and will be brought to next the Strategic Policy and Resources committee for approval. In accordance with the council's decision of 01 February 2018 meetings will also be audio recorded and made publically available on the council website once they have been approved and ratified by council.
- 6.6. To ensure coherence across the city and some form of homogeneity is maintained across the four Area Working Groups, there will be standing items within each agenda that will be common across all areas.



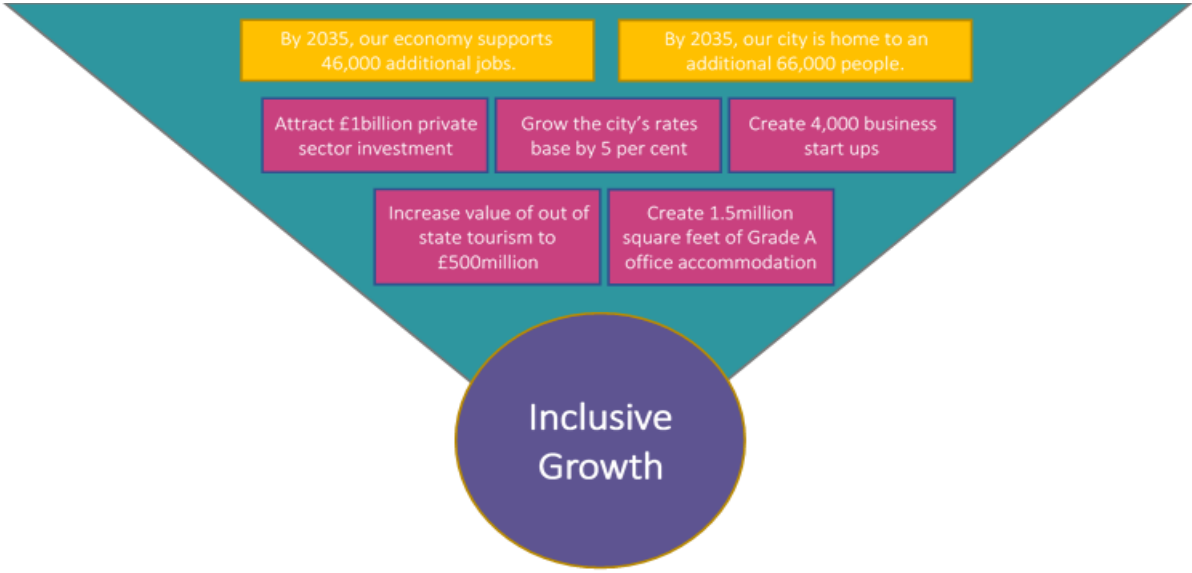
<b>Subject:</b>	Inclusive Growth Update
<b>Date:</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> September 2019
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Tully, Director of City & Organisational Strategy
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Christine Robinson, Head of Strategy, Policy and Partnerships

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	Members will be aware that officers have been drafting a document outlining the Council's commitments to inclusive growth, in line with their ambition to create an inclusive city.
1.2	At SP&R on 23 <sup>rd</sup> August the range of policy commitments were presented with a commitment to send out the full version of the document to Parties week commencing 26 <sup>th</sup> August for review and comments. Officers subsequently liaised with each Party and have updated the document, as attached in Appendix 1.
1.3	During these discussions it was requested that the Council's commitment to " <i>doing all we can to eradicate poverty and inequality in our city</i> " was re-emphasised in the concluding paragraph of the inclusive growth statement contained in section 2 of the document. Therefore, this additional text has been inserted.

1.4	This report provides Committee with the final document for approval and outlines the next steps that will be undertaken to ensure that a public consultation commences in November, alongside an All-Party launch.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approve the final document outlining the Council's commitments to inclusive growth for publication.</li> <li>• Agree to an All-Party launch of the commitments and public consultation commencing October 2019.</li> <li>• Agree to testing/engagement of the commitments with key anchor institutions, businesses, CVSE and trade unions commencing October 2019.</li> <li>• Agree to the establishment of the Inclusive Growth Oversight Group to ensure collaborative working across the organisation.</li> <li>• Agree to the additional text inserted into the inclusive growth statement of "<i>doing all we can to eradicate poverty and inequality in our city</i>".</li> </ul>
2.2	Please note there is a requirement for a full-time permanent Inclusive Growth Policy and Implementation Support Officer to embed the commitments via the development of policy, support for implementation across Council departments and anchor institutions and the ongoing monitoring of implementation.
2.3	<p>There is also a requirement for two full-time permanent support officers (policy and data) to further the work on inclusive growth and the wider Belfast Agenda implementation through data analytics and building a strong evidence base that informs decisions at a local level. The above additional resources will be considered as part of the estimates process.</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	At SP&R Committee on 20th April 2018, members agreed to a five step approach to developing an inclusive growth framework for the city. Since then officers from within the Strategy, Policy and Partnerships team have been working with departments to develop the policy commitments.
3.2	At SP&R Committee on 7th December 2018, a draft bespoke Belfast City Council inclusive growth decision-making framework was presented and agreed. This framework is designed to ensure that inclusive growth is placed at the heart of policy, capital and programme decisions.

3.3	<p>Members also agreed, that in the first instance, our efforts would be focused on the following four target inclusive growth groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Workless residents</li> <li>• Residents with low skill levels</li> <li>• In work, low earning individuals</li> <li>• Young people not in education, employment or training (NEET)</li> </ul> <p><b>The focus of our inclusive growth commitments</b></p>
3.4	<p>The inclusive growth commitments outlined in the attached document sit within the overarching framework of the Belfast Agenda and are closely aligned to its economic growth ambitions.</p>
3.5	<p>The Belfast Agenda is an ambitious plan for the city, with a strong economic focus and far-reaching targets for population and jobs growth. In order to address the long term challenges facing people in Belfast such as health and educational inequalities, the need for good relations, ensuring people feel safe and have good living conditions, we need to focus on growing our economy and ensure the benefits are felt by everyone.</p> 
3.6	<p>Council has therefore rightly set out an ambitious economic growth agenda – this is highlighted by our success and commitment to securing the Belfast Region City Deal, the creation of a range of investment funds and interventions designed to make Belfast a great place to locate and start a business. We are also committed to creating a strong and vibrant</p>

	<p>city centre – its development is vital for attracting private sector investment, creating revenue and enabling the sustainability of council expenditure and service delivery</p> <p><b>Addressing wider inequalities, their causes and consequences</b></p>
3.7	<p>It is accepted that not everyone in Belfast has benefited in the past from economic growth and unless there is a paradigm shift in our policy framework this will continue. The development of our commitments towards inclusive growth is one aspect of the work that is underway with partners to ensure that the ambitions of the Belfast Agenda are met. This includes working with partners to address many of the underlying causes of poverty and exclusion such as health inequalities (specifically mental health), educational underachievement, transport and community infrastructure. Specific detail on these strands of work is included within the paper being presented to the SP&amp;R Committee today titled “Belfast Agenda - Update on Community Planning”.</p>
3.8	<p>It is important that as we consult and engage on our commitments we will also ensure that key stakeholders understand the wider work that the Council is providing leadership on across the City.</p>
3.9	<p>The commitments within this inclusive growth document focus strongly on our role as an inclusive corporate body looking at what we do in areas of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• procurement – social value and sustainability</li> <li>• employment – recruitment, fair work and employability &amp; skills</li> <li>• investment - decision making framework</li> <li>• service design/provision - inclusive</li> </ul>
3.10	<p>It also focuses on our influencing and civic leadership role, acting as a call to action to others across the City.</p>
3.11	<p>This inclusive growth document has been designed to be a living document and to support this the first year action plan has been included within the document. It is intended that an updated action plan be produced for each subsequent year thereafter. Members are asked to note that development of the policies and initiatives required to create an ‘Inclusive Belfast’ will continue alongside the public consultation.</p>

3.12	<p>It is important to note that implementation will require ongoing policy development and operational decisions. With papers on the development of procurement policy, city wide charter, apprenticeship and social enterprise/ cooperatives (etc) being brought to committee on a regular basis.</p> <p><b>Consultation and engagement</b></p>
3.13	<p>As part of the consultation and engagement process associated with finalising our commitments to inclusive growth, we will ensure that consultation on the work being undertaken across the council to address the wider inequalities, such as poverty alleviation, will be considered.</p>
3.14	<p>A key focus of this engagement will be working together with others across the City, such as anchor institutions, businesses, Community and Voluntary Sector and wider public sector partners to hear their ideas as to how we can develop an inclusive growth agenda for Belfast. It is important that, as well as gathering their views on the overall content of the commitments, that we use this engagement opportunity to focus on how we can work in partnership to co-design and develop key initiatives, such as the development of the inclusive growth city charter.</p>
3.15	<p>A key element of the work to inform the development of our commitments was examining and adapting international best practice to meet the specific needs of Belfast. To support this, the Head of Policy, Strategy and Partnerships, Christine Robinson, participated in an All-Ireland Eisenhower Fellowship in May 2019. The purpose of Christine's fellowship was examine approaches to inclusive growth at a city, state, community and business level. Key aspects of the study trip have been included in this document and will be used to shape the ongoing policy development required to bring the ambition to life. The fellowship was fully funded by the Eisenhower Fellowship programme, however Christine completed the trip as a council employee and therefore retrospective approval for participation in the fellowship is required.</p> <p><b>Next steps</b></p>
3.16	<p>The following steps are recommended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• October 2019 – All-Party public launch of our commitments to inclusive growth</li> <li>• October 2019 – January 2020 – Complete public consultation on draft commitments and associated comprehensive equality screening to further inform final document.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• October 2019 – Commence testing/engagement of draft commitments with key anchor institutions, businesses, CVSE and trade unions.</li> <li>• October 2019 – Establishment of the Inclusive Growth Oversight Group.</li> </ul>
3.17	<p><b>Financial/ Resource Implications</b></p> <p>Should SP&amp;R Committee approve recommendations 2.2 and 2.3 above, revenue cost implications of these posts will be calculated and brought to SP&amp;R Committee as part of the estimating process. All other costs will be delivered through existing budgets.</p>
3.18	<p><b>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</b></p> <p>The Council's commitments to inclusive growth, as outlined in the attached draft document, are inherently inclusive and are aimed at bringing about inclusive economic growth to all residents, irrespective of identity. A draft comprehensive screening has been completed and will be consulted on alongside the draft commitments.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix One: Our Commitment to Inclusive Growth





# Our commitment to **Inclusive Growth**

September 2019



**Belfast**  
City Council

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# 1. Introduction

Belfast City Council (BCC) is committed to inclusive growth. For us inclusive growth means ensuring the success of the city reaches every citizen. Our aim is to connect all residents with economic growth and create vibrant communities where everyone has the opportunity and aspiration to succeed.

This document expresses the commitment of all political parties to drive inclusive growth in Belfast. We know there is a strong desire across the city for change. We want to work in collaboration with others, to collectively make a difference. This commitment has been agreed by Party Group Leaders:

“ As a Council, we are committed to ensuring that all citizens of Belfast are part of and feel pride in this exciting chapter of Belfast’s story. ”

The commitments outlined in this document will be used to guide the council in adopting business practices that support inclusive growth and to engage partners (including statutory, businesses, social enterprises and community groups) across Belfast in the development and delivery of the city’s ambitions. Furthermore, it is vital that the voices of citizens and communities shape our approach.

It is both a commitment on behalf of the council and also a call to action for other organisations across the city. It sends a message to all of our stakeholders that we want to do business in a way that brings about a more inclusive Belfast.

Throughout the document we set out a policy framework designed to deliver improved outcomes for Belfast citizens and communities and encourage multi-agency collaboration. Our commitments complement a range of local and regional strategies, plans and policies, including the Belfast Local Development Plan, the Belfast Agenda and are heavily embedded throughout our Corporate Plan 2019 – 2023.

We recognise that in order for others across the city to prioritise inclusive growth, the council must take the lead and demonstrate how it is possible to use a range of powers to create an inclusive city. That is why our initial focus is on what we can do as a corporate body and in our role as a civic leader, to improve access to economic opportunity across Belfast city area. We then set out how we believe the city as a whole, and its key anchor institutions, can respond to the imperative to develop a more inclusive economy.

The actions needed to meet these challenges are complex but delivery of the commitments within this document is one of the first key steps to meeting the vision of an inclusive Belfast, leaving no-one behind. We are looking forward to working together as an organisation, with partners and communities to translating it into a powerful programme of delivery and change.

## Context

The Belfast Agenda is an ambitious plan for the city, with a strong economic focus and far-reaching targets for population and jobs growth. We believe that, in order to address the long term challenges facing people in Belfast such as health and educational inequalities, the need for good relations, ensuring people feel safe and have good living conditions, we need to focus on growing our economy and ensuring the benefits are felt by everyone.

We know that the best route to an improved quality of life for most people is through having a good job. So we are committed to growing the number of jobs in the city and providing support for residents to take advantage of these. Our goal is that, by 2035 our urban economy will support 46,000 additional jobs.

We also know from the experience of other economically successful cities that increasing the number of jobs results in a growing population. It is our desire to grow the city's population by 66,000 more people, returning Belfast's population to similar levels not seen since the 1970s. We want to encourage more people to both live and work in the city, directly contributing to its success, vibrancy and sustainability.

We have therefore rightly set out an ambitious economic growth agenda. This is highlighted by our success and commitment to secure the Belfast Region City Deal and the creation of a range of investment funds and investments to make Belfast a great place to locate and start a business.

We are also committed to creating a strong and vibrant city centre. Its development is vital for attracting private sector investment, creating revenue and enabling the sustainability of council expenditure and service delivery.

Of course, economic and population growth on its own is not enough. These are a means to an end to help us reduce inequalities and create opportunities for all. Not everyone in Belfast has benefited in the past and unless there is a paradigm shift in our policy framework this will continue. While Belfast currently displays great economic optimism, it is imperative the benefits of this growth are inclusive, where everyone has the opportunity and aspiration to succeed.

This strategy aims to improve life chances and therefore it is something that no single organisation or sector can deliver alone. We must do it together. We look forward to working with our city partners to ensure future interventions provide inclusive growth opportunities to ensure no-one is left behind.

While significant, the measures outlined in the remainder of this document are only one part of our commitment to creating an inclusive city. Alongside these commitments to inclusive growth, we continue to work with all partners to address many of the underlying causes of poverty and exclusion such as health inequalities (specifically mental health), educational underachievement, transport and community infrastructure.

By 2035, our economy supports 46,000 additional jobs

By 2035, our city is home to an additional 66,000 people

Attract £1billion private sector investment

Grow the city's rates base by 5 per cent

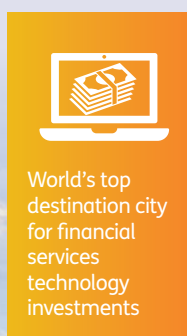
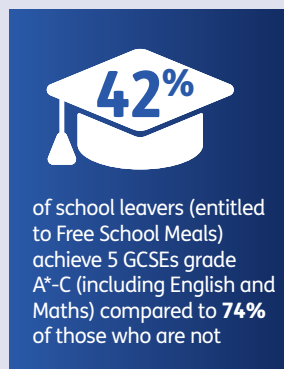
Create 4,000 business start ups

Increase value of out of state tourism to £500million

Create 1.5million square feet of Grade A office accommodation

**Inclusive  
Growth**







## 2. Our inclusive growth statement

As a council we believe it is important to have a common and shared understanding of what inclusive growth means for us. In drafting this strategy all political parties worked together to collectively examine the issues facing the city and develop an inclusive growth statement. This statement is set out below.

“

For Belfast City Council inclusive growth means writing a new chapter for Belfast, ensuring the success of the city reaches every citizen.

We have seen our city transform in recent years. We are creating new opportunities for many of our residents. We are creating a new chapter for our city, one which is optimistic and ambitious, aiming to be outward-looking and confident on the world stage with significant economic growth. But this is a tale of two cities; not everyone is part of this new story.

Whilst our city has flourished for decades, some of our communities have been left behind, with unacceptable levels of persistent deprivation and inequality. Conflict compounded this deprivation, creating a city divided on religious and economic grounds. More

than 56,000 residents in Belfast live in poverty, 28% children in Belfast grow up in poverty and over 7,000 households applying to the Northern Ireland Housing Executive are in housing stress. These issues are concentrated in inner south, inner east, west and north Belfast with pockets across other parts of the city. Many residents in these areas are out of work. They are disengaged from new developments, even when these are on their doorstep. In short, many residents are not benefitting from new opportunities and prosperity.

We also have uneven education attainment levels. Some parts of Belfast are succeeding - in one area almost every pupil attained 5 GCSEs at A\*-C (including Maths and English), whilst in another ward less than 3 in every 10 pupils achieve this. This variation is not good enough.



For years we have helped tackle the symptoms of deprivation, now we need to go one-step further. We need to stop the symptoms occurring and connect all residents with economic growth to create vibrant communities where everyone has the opportunity and aspiration to succeed. To ensure our growth sectors and new jobs are accessible for all residents, we need to better target the opportunities to all residents and ensure everyone has the right support to take these opportunities.

The Belfast Agenda will ensure the right conditions are in place so that everyone can benefit from economic growth - improved housing conditions, improved skills levels, more jobs and a more developed city. As a council we will take the lead, changing how we make investments, interventions and procurement decisions around geographic and demographic need.

We want all our residents to feel pride in their community, as such we will not only ensure our residents are supported but will ensure they can contribute and play a positive role in the city's future and help move people out of generational deprivation.

We will continue to work hard to secure business investment and growth, but we want businesses to create jobs with decent pay, fair contracts, training and career ladders which are accessible to all our residents. There will be no single way in which this can happen, and we will bring together areas such as skills, business, education, housing and transport to address this.

We are committed to doing all we can to eradicate poverty and inequality in our city.

”

### Party Group Leaders

Ciaran Beattie - Sinn Fein  
George Dorrian - DUP  
Michael Long - Alliance Party  
Donal Lyons - SDLP  
Mal O'Hara - Green Party  
Billy Hutchinson - PUP  
Sonia Copeland - UUP  
Fiona Ferguson - People Before Profit (TBC)

# Our inclusive growth cohorts

We have identified four groups of Belfast residents that we will target in the first instance. Each target group is complementary to the Belfast Agenda. Through the delivery of our data development commitments, as set out within Section 5, we will refine our evidence base. In particular we will pay attention to the composition of the four groups in relation to our equality duties.

## Workless residents

Worklessness is one of the key factors of deprivation, with unemployed and economically inactive households and individuals usually being among those most vulnerable or at highest risk of poverty. It can also impact health outcomes, both mental and physical, and school performance of children.

## Residents with low skill levels

Measuring skills attainment reflects the wide disparity in education performance within Belfast. In Belfast, 32.5 per cent of residents hold below NVQ Level 2 qualifications, which is greater than the NI and UK averages of 29.0 per cent and 25.8 per cent, respectively. Residents with lower levels of qualifications may be restricted to relatively poor paid jobs and are less likely to progress and benefit from new jobs growth in the city.

## Young people not in education, employment or training (NEET)

Research shows that time spent NEET can have a detrimental effect on physical and mental health and increases the likelihood of long-term unemployment, low wages, or a low quality of work later in life. Lowering the number of young people who spend time NEET will form an important part of Belfast's inclusive growth strategy and future prosperity.

## In work, low earning individuals

According to a joint report by the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) and the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) (2018), almost 60 per cent of people living in poverty are non-pensioners in working households. It is vital that inclusive growth interventions target low earning working individuals and encourage employers to pay their employees a fair amount. As the living wage is based on the real cost of living, individuals paid below this threshold can struggle to meet their day to day expenses, particularly as Belfast has higher living costs relative to other parts of Northern Ireland (NI), potentially leading to residents accessing lower quality housing and suffering from poorer health. The disparity between average weekly gross pay (available data is 2015) for Belfast residents (£499.10) and Belfast workers (£550.30) suggests that Belfast's growing economic prosperity is not necessarily flowing to its residents with many highly paid workers commuting into the city from surrounding towns and villages.



## 3. Our corporate commitments

This chapter details how as a corporate body we will seek to contribute towards inclusive growth. Outlining how we will leverage our procurement and employment powers to deliver against our vision and how we will place inclusive growth at the heart of our key investment and strategy decisions.

### Harnessing procurement to social value

In 2017- 18, Belfast City Council procured over £93million from revenue suppliers and over £38million from capital suppliers. We have to achieve value for money, but this doesn't mean we can't seek to ensure that the money we spend through procurement meets our city wide social ambitions. This level of expenditure can provide a boost to our local economy; supporting business and the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector; providing employment opportunity; and putting money into neighbourhoods, high streets and local shops. Our procurement approach can also make a major contribution to the reduction of our overall environmental impact.

We will place a real value on those suppliers who can offer more than the core technical requirements of the contract for goods, works or services. This could include, but is not limited to, opportunities such as:

- creating skills and training opportunities e.g., apprenticeships or on the job training;
- creating high quality sustainable employment opportunities for target groups in the local area;
- offering work placements to target groups;
- providing career advice and information on specific careers;
- providing additional opportunities for individuals or groups facing greater barriers;
- activities contributing to wider economic and institutional transformation;
- lowering barriers to social mobility and inequality;
- creating supply chain opportunities for small business and social enterprises;
- encouraging community engagement and
- delivering environmental benefits for local communities.

We will develop a comprehensive Social Value Procurement Framework. Through this framework, we commit to maximise the potential of the council's procurement spend

to support our social ambitions. Social value in procurement is defined as "the additional benefit to the community over and above the direct purchasing of goods, services and outcomes".

This work will be guided by the following principles:

**Flexible and proportionate** guidelines around the implementation of the framework will be appropriate to the value, nature, duration and complexity of the contract that is being procured. This is necessary to ensure accessibility to all suppliers from micro to Small to Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to larger businesses.

**Easy to understand** and adopt with minimal administrative burden for all businesses, especially SMEs.

**User-friendly** and supported with guidance, education, tools, and templates. This will include the development of a Social Value Procurement Toolkit. The toolkit will provide guidance for all key stakeholders, including commissioners and procurers and will include a capacity building programme around meet the buyer events, training, collaborative bids and looking at the size of lots.

Evidence based by committing to request potential suppliers provide details and evidence of how they will contribute towards the delivery of our inclusive growth ambitions and include the use of a social value calculator and a category applicability matrix.

**Strong governance arrangements** will ensure that we work within the agreed legal framework to reduce the regulatory burden on our suppliers.

**Reaching out to others** to build a pool of best practice across Belfast. As a civic leader for Belfast we want to spread best practice and will ask our partners and anchor institutions across the city to join us in our ambition so that we can use our collective influence to do more business locally, for the benefit of the many.

## ***Environmentally sound and sustainable procurement***

Environmental and sustainability considerations will be a key aspect of our social value framework.

We understand that our procurement approach can have a major contribution to the reduction of our overall environmental impact. With this in mind, we are committed to working to reduce the environmental impacts of our supply chain through sustainable procurement practices. We will work in partnership with our suppliers and contractors to minimise and manage these impacts.

## ***Monitoring of the procurement framework***

We will ensure that the measurement and monitoring of contractual commitments made by the provider are incorporated into the general performance management of the contract.

Winning providers will be expected to report on the outcomes to evidence how they are achieving the social value and sustainable outcomes they propose to deliver throughout the contract. We will monitor progress, reporting on achievements and sharing best practice with other suppliers, staff and key stakeholders. Monitoring the social and sustainable value delivered and working with providers on these aspects of their bids will be useful in producing new ideas that can be incorporated into future procurements.

# **Increasing the capacity of our local supply market**

We believe that the more we spend on Belfast based suppliers, the more our residents will be able to benefit. Research indicates that strengthening the ability of SMEs and the Community and Voluntary and Social Enterprise sector (CVSE) to compete with multi-nationals and or other larger enterprises may result in improved economic growth and resilience, supporting a region's ability to better withstand business and economic shocks.

Our approach is about boosting local competitiveness not about sheltering local businesses from competition.

We will build on the good practices already established in our processes to support and develop our local supply base by ensuring improved awareness of opportunities, advice and guidance and removal of any barriers to tender. This is our offer to local businesses. Our ask of them is that they provide good quality employment and work with us to ensure that our target groups benefit. We will do this by:

## ***Understanding demand, impact and the supply chain***

We will undertake a review of historical annual spend and establish a baseline for Belfast, including an analysis of where council money spent goes geographically, the profile of the suppliers, and wider local economic, social and environmental impact.

## ***Adjusting our approach***

We will develop focused and targeted approaches to bid for procurement opportunities and grow a local supply base in areas of under-representation.

We are committed to exploring opportunities for supporting the development of co-operatives or new businesses to meet that untapped demand. We will develop a social enterprise action plan to support and grow the sector in Belfast.

## ***Removing barriers***

Over the course of this strategy, we are committed to ensuring that we remove barriers to procurement and increase the capacity of under-represented suppliers to compete, including:

- dividing contracts into lots, so that there is more opportunity for SME organisations to bid. And in accordance with relevant legislation ensure the minimum financial turnover required does not exceed twice the estimated contract value;
- ensuring we only ask the minimum, proportionate number of quality (award) questions to establish a bidder's ability and proposals to deliver a contract;
- ensuring that we provide advice and guidance on our procurement processes;
- facilitating learning amongst suppliers and
- encouraging local businesses to engage in tenders for council contracts through publishing a forward plan of tender opportunities. And where appropriate offering pre-tender 'meet the buyer' local market engagement sessions.



## Our actions to make this happen

### Year one

#### Social value

Collaborate with other organisations with the same aspirations to develop a costs benefits approach to social value tendering.

Develop a draft framework and social value calculator and a category applicability matrix and test.

Develop accompanying policies and procedures.

Pilot implementation of draft framework through two council procurement contracts (to be agreed) and develop case studies for future.

#### Local supply market

Develop a social enterprise action plan.

Continue to collate learning from best tender practice in the council and in the market.

Undertake a review of historical annual spend over a three year period and establish a baseline for Belfast, including an analysis of direct and indirect beneficiaries.

Map our future procurement needs against the market.

Refresh the supplier database to make it easier to find local suppliers.

Examine options and seek agreement on the council's preferred approach on the status placed on social value and positive environmental outcomes in relation to other more traditional procurement considerations within the tendering process. For example in relation to cost, quality and experience.

Agree procurement data collection model.

### Year two

Launch Social Value Procurement Toolkit and test in market.

Run training and capacity building events with required council officers.

Develop capacity building programme for local businesses through community engagement and pilot.

Hold two 'meet the buyer' events with key partner and anchor organisations.

Identify two Belfast based anchor organisations willing to develop a baseline and to develop their own social value procurement framework.

# Promoting inclusive growth through our role as an employer

We are a significant employer within the city, directly employing over 2,300 people across a broad range of occupational areas. We recognise that as a civic leader and large employer in Belfast we can and should set a strong example for others in driving best practice around employment. We firmly believe we can make real progress towards the achievement of the council's inclusive growth ambitions by looking at our own employment practices and the job opportunities we create. We are committed to driving forward some immediate areas which complement the aspirations of our People Strategy.

## **Promotion of fair work and good-quality jobs**

We consider fair work an important mechanism in delivering inclusive growth. Fair work is defined as 'work that offers all individuals an effective voice, opportunity, security, fulfilment and respect'. It is generally accepted that if you have a poor quality job you are more likely to live in poverty, your children are more likely to live in poverty and your chances of accessing training or development are lower.

We will initially focus on the following areas of our employment policies and practices to bring about required outcomes:

### **Real Living Wage employer**

The Real Living Wage is an independently calculated higher rate of base pay, based on the cost of living, not just the government's minimum, national living wage. It is considered a benchmark for responsible employers who choose to pay their employees a rate that meets the basic cost of living. In April 2014 we committed to implement the Real Living Wage hourly rate for all council staff and we have been applying the

Real Living Wage, and its increases ever since. To strengthen this ambition we will also ask other Belfast employers to adopt the real living wage and work towards creating a Living Wage City.

### **Inclusive recruitment and opportunity**

The council currently adopts many inclusive employment practices, for example advertising to as wide and diverse a pool as possible, offering a guaranteed interview scheme for those with a disability and ensuring no unnecessary barriers at shortlisting or for accessing career development opportunities.

We will renew our efforts to work in collaboration across the organisation to ensure that equality, diversity and inclusion are mainstreamed. We will develop and work with our current Employee Networks (Gender, Disability and LGB&T) to improve employee voice and input into our policies and procedures. We will also develop appropriate human resource measures and metrics and work towards establishing a baseline of information.





### Security and sustainability in employment

Building stability into contractual arrangements and offering flexible working hours at all levels can help remove barriers to employment, particularly for employees with dependants and those with a disability. Zero hours contracts, where workers only work as and when they are needed by employers and are only paid for the hours they work, is not an example of best practice and may be open to abuse. We only endorse the use of casual or session work contracts where both parties to the contract enjoy flexibility and where there are no exclusivity clauses. Such an approach can provide advantages, provided these contracts are not open to abuse by employers. We will reaffirm our policy in respect of “casual” workers in BCC. We commit to carrying out a review with staff of the current suite of work-life balance options and making recommendations for the future.

### Improving participation in employment

As a council we have a role both as a corporate body, and at a policy and programming level in improving participation in employment. The following section details how we will use our corporate resources to contribute towards our inclusive growth ambitions, with detail on how we will work across the city to improve participation in employment outlined in Chapter Four. Initially we will focus on:

#### Apprenticeships

We will develop opportunities to address our current and future recruitment needs through apprenticeships from entry-level through to higher-level technical and professional qualifications. Apprenticeships provide a sustainable route into employment across all levels of the workforce and we are committed to embedding apprenticeships within our workforce planning strategy. We will do this by working in collaboration with our community planning partners and the Northern Ireland Civil Service. In the first instance we will explore opportunities in relation to digital services, customer service and operational delivery.

### Breaking down barriers for under-represented groups

We will ring fence entry level posts, where possible, and support this through the provision of appropriate pre recruitment training programmes to benefit those furthest removed from the labour market.

### Engaging and building capacity within our neighbourhoods

Through our Community Outreach Programme we offer extensive employability support to educational establishments, disability organisations, criminal justice organisations and other community based organisations. Working collectively with partner organisations we will carry out a review of our work in this area and design a targeted work placement and employability support plan. This will include a minimum of 150 work placements and 18 industrial placements.

### Volunteering

We have long recognised the value of volunteering and encouraged it across the city. In recent years nationally and internationally, cities have recognised the value of taking a more strategic focus to volunteering to make a major impact on the challenges being faced, built on clear goals, measurement of impact and partnership working. We are committed to following this best practice and will develop a city-wide volunteering strategy based on a partnership approach. We will also ensure the consistent implementation and improvement of our current corporate policy, including the development of a staff volunteering policy and explore how we can recognise volunteering as valued work experience.



## Our actions to make this happen

### Year one

#### Improving participation in employment

Identify planned recruitment to support our inclusive growth aims and develop an action plan with targets.

Commit to ring-fencing suitable entry level positions, targeting the four cohorts, and running pre-recruitment campaigns.

Develop our approach to apprenticeships, initially considering areas such as customer service, digital services and operational services.

Develop a forward action plan of work with schools, colleges, universities and youth organisations to offer work experience and business awareness, prioritizing those who face additional barriers. This will include a minimum of 150 placements and 18 industrial placements.

Review our employability and skills community outreach and engagement work in conjunction with key partner organisations and make recommendations to focus resources on agreed inclusive growth cohorts.

#### Fair, inclusive work

Review current human resource practices to ensure we can drive our inclusive growth ambitions and make recommendations, with a focus on employee voice.

Reaffirm our policy in respect of “casual” workers in BCC and partner organisations alongside a commitment, as part of our procurement of temporary staff services, to ensure that “exclusivity clauses” are not utilised.

Establish agreed human resource metrics and measures for BCC and establish a baseline from which to measure going forward.

Review the effectiveness of our current work-life balance policies and make recommendations.

Develop and deliver workforce diversity action plans (gender, disability, LGBT+ and race and ethnic minorities) as part of fair work practices.

Encourage other anchor organisations across Belfast to sign up to becoming a “Living Wage City.”

Develop a staff volunteering policy.



# Embedding an inclusive growth decision making framework

We are a significant investor. Not only do we invest through our procurement but also when deciding what capital investments we make, where to focus our revenue expenditure and what funding and grant programmes we deliver.

While the main objective of these investment decisions will not always be economic growth, we believe major investment decisions should consider if they can have a positive influence on the economic condition of people in Belfast without undermining the main objective of the investment.

To help maximise the benefits of our investment decisions, we commit to Embedding an inclusive growth decision making framework. Once implemented, the framework will test any future major investment decisions to ensure they have considered how they can help the economically disadvantaged in the city.

In 2018, the council agreed a draft framework. This framework is structured to identify how each investment will benefit our identified inclusive growth cohorts. Within this framework, questions are structured as a flow diagram and help paint a picture of who will benefit from the investment decision, how they will benefit and how many people will benefit.

This includes a series of questions used to determine if any planned investment will help the targeted groups. The questions are focused on the following five key areas: jobs; training and skills; business growth; planning and regeneration; and digital. This information will then form a critical part of the business case to help determine if the investment is approved.

We will implement the Inclusive Growth Decision Making Framework and ensure that the economic benefit of investments or interventions made by the council has considered how it can maximise the economic benefit to those in need. This will be implemented across all our investments – capital, revenue and grant funding – and we will monitor and develop it as we learn more about what works in contributing towards our aim of a truly inclusive economy.



## Our actions to make this happen

### Year one

Commence staff engagement to develop understanding and begin testing of framework through two capital projects.

Undertake testing of the framework.

Refine framework following testing period and review implementation plan.

Commence public consultation period.

Finalise framework.

### Year two

Launch and operationalise framework in a phased approach.

Commence monitoring and reporting of framework.

Encourage our city partners to use the decision making framework as part of their decision making processes.



## Continuing to prioritise poverty alleviation

While these inclusive growth commitments are designed primarily to intervene early and provide improved access to economic opportunity for all our residents, we also realise that for many households support is required to address the immediate effects of economic disadvantage. We will continue to invest directly and to work with partners across the city, to alleviate the impact of poverty and are therefore committed to:

### Targeting the use of our existing resources

In 2018-19 we focused our resources in the following areas:

- **Generalist advice services** – provision of annual core funding of generalist advice services to five area based consortia, incorporating 21 membership organisations. In total in 2018-19 there were 118,489 enquiries made, 74,085 clients assisted and an estimated benefits maximisation of £45.7million.
- **Belfast citywide tribunal services** – provision of a citywide tribunal service via the Belfast Advice Group, with an initial 5,935 enquiries made, 1,879 clients assisted, 1,451 appeals and an estimated £5.2million return on investment.
- Revenue for community buildings – in 2018-19, 78 community organisations which address the needs of their community by delivering a broad based programme from a specific building were supported through grants.
- **Capacity building grants** – capacity building grants were provided to support lead community development organisations in ensuring good practice in governance, committee procedures, appropriate policies and financial management.
- **Service-based funding** – the community sector continued to be supported via current financial arrangements with community based organisations across the city who deliver services on our behalf. This includes the independent management of our community centres, anchor tenants and service level agreements with play resources.





## *Working in partnership to support those in fuel poverty*

- **Affordable Warmth Scheme** – Belfast City Council has been engaged in partnership with the Department for Communities (DfC) and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) in the delivery of the Affordable Warmth Scheme (AWS) since 2014. The scheme aims to address fuel poverty for the most vulnerable households in the city. During 2018-19:
  - The BCC service completed 303 referrals to the NIHE
  - The total value of approvals granted for the scheme in Belfast was £871,381
  - 450 measures were installed
  - 233 homes were improved within Belfast
- **Administering the Belfast fuel oil stamps scheme** – Our fuel stamp scheme ‘Stay Warm’, is available throughout Belfast and helps householders save for home heating oil, by spreading the cost of their fuel. Individuals can buy oil stamps from participating retailers, collect them on a savings card and use the value of the stamps to pay for all or part of their oil when placing an order.

Over the course of the last three years fuel stamps sold equate to £302,770 and fuel stamps redeemed equate to £293,620.

- **Winter Warmth Packs** – we work with the Public Health Agency, Surestart and Age NI to procure and distribute Winter Warmth Packs to vulnerable families each year. Through this partnership a total of 660 packs were distributed to vulnerable adults in 2018-19.

## *Ensuring that our services are more accessible through concessionary rates*

Leisure pricing remains under the control of BCC with the schedule of charges being applied by Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL) as our service delivery partner. We currently have concessionary rates available based on a number of factors, for example, age, disability and economic hardship. Based on 2018-19 data, 50 per cent of all BCC leisure centre users paid the concessionary rates which reduces the monthly cost from £34.50 to £17.25.





## 4. Creating an inclusive city

We recognise that the inclusive growth agenda is not the job of a few but of the many. This section details our ambition and approach to working with others (including our private sector, anchor institutions, vibrant community and voluntary sector and our wider public sector partners) and how we will use our wider policy and planning powers to create an inclusive city.

### Developing an Inclusive Growth City Charter

Anchor institutions are big and locally rooted organisations like colleges, universities, hospitals and big businesses with local headquarters. They have a significant role to play in realising the economic and social ambitions of a city. This is especially true in Belfast where a 2013, report completed on our behalf by the Centre for Local Economic Strategies, highlighted some of the notable economic and social contributions made by anchor institutions within Belfast.

The research clearly indicated that anchors are helping strengthen city leadership and are major employers (with around 60,000 direct and indirect staff in Belfast), procurers of goods and services and innovators. They already may have employability programmes which target priority neighbourhoods for intervention, employ apprentices, and have active corporate social responsibility activities and community trusts.

The potential for collaboration across local anchor institutions around inclusive growth is huge. This is an agenda not just for one institution, but for the whole city. One way to harness the collective power of the anchor institutions across Belfast, that has proven successful in other cities, is the creation of an Inclusive Growth City Charter.

Our aim in creating this charter is to encourage organisations across Belfast to ensure their business practices as employers, procurers, or in the delivery of their services are channelled in the direction of more inclusive growth across Belfast. This charter will enable organisations to apply for a Charter Mark which will recognise their commitment to inclusive growth. The charter will follow a methodology of self-assessment and prioritise continuous progression with goals set by and appropriate to, each individual organisation, within key areas of focus.

In essence the charter and its supporting framework will enable anchor institutions across Belfast to look at their current practices and identify areas where they could make changes which would have a beneficial impact on inclusive growth for Belfast, whilst also aligning with their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activity and the promotion of equality and diversity. The framework will enable anchor institutions to self-assess where they are now, where they want to be and how to get there.



We recognise that the inclusive growth agenda is not the job of a few but of the many. This section details our ambition and approach to working with others ( including our private sector, anchor institutions, vibrant community and voluntary sector and our wider public sector partners) and how we will use our wider policy and planning powers to create an inclusive city.

## Proposed dimensions of an inclusive anchor institution

### Year one

<b>Employer</b>	<p>Recruit in ways that provide equality of opportunity and maximise scope for local people to secure good jobs</p> <p>Pay the living wage, and go further to support people in stretching take home pay, e.g. via pensions, non-pay benefits and poverty proofed HR policies</p> <p>Commit to lower paid staff reaching their potential via inclusive personal and professional development, flexible working, transparent progression pathways and excellent management</p> <p>Support mental and physical health, e.g. via facilities, policies, culture, advice</p>
<b>Procurer</b>	<p>Engage with local suppliers and increase the proportion of spend with them</p> <p>Use procurement processes to deliver social value, e.g. for communities, employees, environment</p>
<b>Physical investment</b>	<p>Procure developments in ways which create local jobs, skills and apprenticeships, with focus on young people and those facing disadvantage</p> <p>Design buildings and spaces to create vibrant places with community, health and environmental benefits</p> <p>Enable access and use by local communities</p>
<b>Services</b>	<p>Design and deliver services so that they reach and benefit disadvantaged communities</p> <p>Work with local neighbourhoods to better deliver and gain uptake of services, especially by disadvantaged communities</p>
<b>Corporate &amp; civic</b>	<p>Embed inclusive anchor dimensions into organisational vision and mission, values, culture, communications, behaviours, leadership, corporate planning and budgeting.</p> <p>Champion anchor collaboration, take civic responsibility, learn, share, promote the services of other anchors, lead by example</p>

We are committed to working in partnership with other employers and anchor institutions in the development of this charter and underpinning assessment tools. We will engage in a process of co-design with our stakeholders. We will take a phased approach to development, consulting and engaging with business to design the charter and undertaking piloting and testing with key partners in the first instance to ensure that the charter is fit for purpose.





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### ***Aligning corporate social responsibility with inclusive growth and the Belfast Agenda***

There are many examples throughout Belfast of where employers and organisations utilise and bend their resources to support city-wide challenges. This includes: staff volunteering, fundraising to support local charitable efforts, funding and expertise to support local schools and the provision of work experience and training opportunities to name but a few.

We will work directly with employers, through our existing city leadership governance structures and with existing membership and representative bodies such as Business in the Community, Confederation of British Industry (CBI) and the Chamber of Commerce (COC), to encourage employers to align their corporate social responsibility activity to address citywide challenges outlined in the Belfast Agenda.

Furthermore we will seek to access sources of philanthropic funding to support the achievement of our citywide inclusive growth ambitions.



## Working with our growth sectors

We want to ensure that as our economy develops, everyone across Belfast has the opportunity to connect to growth sectors and the 'jobs of the future'. While we have outlined our commitment and approach to connecting our under-represented residents to workplace opportunities wherever they exist, we believe that the tech, digital and innovation sector has an important role in achieving our inclusive growth ambitions. This is particularly relevant given the significant investment within the sector and its supporting infrastructure as a result of the Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD).

The digital, tech and innovation sector is a major employer within Belfast and one with significant potential for growth. We want to work with the sector to put in place the actionable steps that will support its future expansion in a way that benefits everyone and, although ambitious, look to establish a target for inclusive employment within future job creations projections.

To make this a reality we will work with key stakeholders to establish an Innovation and Technology Inclusion Working Group. The composition of this group will be critical to success and we will seek to ensure that the private sector, the wider public sector and our education and training providers are strongly represented.

The purpose of the working group will be to advise on ways in which to grow the city's digital, innovation and tech-economy in an inclusive manner, increase the number of jobs and high-technology businesses, and ensure opportunities for all of Belfast's residents.

We will ensure that the working group develops an action plan to support the achievement of these ambitions. It is anticipated that this action plan would include, but not be limited to, the development of strategies and tangible actions across:

- **foundational aspects**, providing the groundwork and fundamental tools for residents to participate in the sector;
- **capacity building** for residents to develop technical capacity through opportunities for education and workforce development;
- **capital measures** to expand access to human, social and financial capital;
- **building awareness** by developing initiatives that highlight and support inclusion



## Our actions to make this happen

### Year one

Working with employers and anchor institutions to develop an Inclusive Growth City Charter and practical guide.

Explore the feasibility of introducing an assessment framework against which to enable organisations to analyse their inclusive growth performance.

Host a citywide engagement session with key business leaders to seek buy-in and support and test the framework with two willing pilot organisations.

Work with organisations to seek alignment of corporate social responsibility activity to support city wide objectives.

Work with key stakeholders to establish an Innovation and Technology Inclusion Working Group.



## Prioritising employability and skills

Ensuring that the skills and labour supply across Belfast city area meets business needs is critical in creating a resilient and diverse inclusive economy, with the ability to respond to changing market conditions in both a local and global market context.

It is well documented that certain sections of society face more barriers to employment than others and require more targeted interventions to achieve more equity throughout the recruitment and employment pathway. Additional challenges can also be encountered in sustaining and progressing into 'better' employment.

Addressing this challenge will require a focus on both the continued creation of suitable employment opportunities alongside the upskilling and work readiness to improve participation in employment across Belfast city area.

High quality work experience and placements are vital in enhancing an individual's employability, confidence and future prospects and are of particular importance to those who may have become disengaged from the labour market e.g. NEETS, disability and long-term unemployed. Employment barriers must be removed to enable residents to take up these opportunities and facilitate them to remain in employment in the long term.

Skills levels directly correlate to the employment potential of individuals. Research suggests that there is a correlation between learning, skills development and earning potential. Encouraging and supporting skill development opportunities, is therefore vital to help residents gain and progress in employment.

Early intervention within the education environment can help to support young people to recognise the value of education, support them to identify their own career path and the skills journey they need to embark upon to reach their ultimate employment destination.

Our work with city partners under the Working and Learning pillar of the Belfast Agenda supports the inclusive growth ambitions of the council by addressing barriers to progression, focusing on educational underachievement and supporting residents to access employment and/or upskilling opportunities.

Across the spectrum of the business community potential exists to support our ambitions towards economic inclusion. Over the next ten years employment opportunities are expected across high growth sectors such as ICT, financial services, creative digital industries as well as more traditional sectors including retail, care, tourism and hospitality.

Across this work programme, we will contribute towards the goals of the Belfast Agenda to:

- Reduce levels of economic inactivity;
- Address educational inequalities;
- Enhance and increase the skill levels of Belfast residents;
- Address barriers to employment;
- Match people and skills to opportunities across Belfast.

Across the coming year up to 3,000 Belfast residents are expected to take part in a range of initiatives, including:





### Access to employment

Increasing access to employment by addressing barriers and supporting industry relevant entry and mid-tier skills will be a key area of focus. Through employability interventions flexible support systems will be delivered geared towards addressing the personal and structural barriers impacting upon a person's ability to positively progress.

Through an employer led approach we will further refine and develop our successful employment academies approach, designed to be demand led and aligned to real job opportunities. Through this activity we will continue to work with employers in order to develop a talent pool aligned to their business needs. In the coming year, these will focus on both entry-level positions and upskilling employment opportunities. A key area of focus for our future academies will be harnessing the wealth of talent amongst young people to access our employment academies.

Additionally we will trial new approaches aimed at supporting employers in growth sectors to create accessible work experience and employment opportunities for individuals who are unemployed or underemployed.

### Focus on young people

Developing the talent of our young people is a core strand of our employability and skills work. Ensuring young people have the right skills, access to work experience and are informed to make the right career decisions are all important factors.

Our youth interventions are geared towards supporting young people during their formative years in education as well as post 16. Support is provided on a needs led basis, with those identified at being at risk of or who have disengaged from education or unemployed being a primary focus. Activities are personalised to client needs, with clear outcomes seeking positive progression for young people into further education, employment and/or training. Progression pathways will be built around young people's realistic career aspirations and where possible opportunities to experience the world of work will be provided.

### Develop Belfast Workplace

Through the ongoing implementation of the Belfast Agenda, we will work with city partners to examine how we can support those furthest from the labour market to access employment opportunities. Focusing upon relevant community planning partners initially, we will collectively develop an initiative known as 'Belfast Workplace' that opens up entry level recruitment to benefit those furthest removed from the labour market. In developing this pathway, we will work closely with employability partners and stakeholders who are leading the way in employability initiatives throughout the city. We will also look at how employers across the city could be engaged as part of a coordinated approach to employer engagement through partners.



### Educational attainment

Low educational attainment is one of the key labour market challenges facing the city. Labour market intelligence suggests those with lower level skills will find it increasingly difficult to find employment with employers driving demand for mid and higher level skills.

One of the critical milestones in young people's educational journey is their GCSE attainment levels. Often regarded as a passport qualification for employment and further education. Low levels of educational attainment (measured by GCSE performance) particularly in parts of the city is an ongoing skills challenge. To address this, our GCSE support programme is aimed at supporting young people in the later stages of the school system to improve their prospects of obtaining minimum GCSE attainment levels in key subject areas.

This programme builds upon successful GCSE revision programmes which have operated in parts of the city, extending the level of provision to all parts of the city combining holiday and community revision programmes. Specifically geared towards providing additional support for young people to help them achieve Grades A\*-C in key subjects, particularly English and Maths.

Our ambitions in this area also extend to working with our community planning partners to plan for the development of an integrated city programme to address educational inequalities. Taking an evidenced based approach, learning from best practice and identifying how and where interventions are most needed.

### Strategic engagement

Working in partnership with government departments we will continue to develop joint areas of working to facilitate better alignment between regional employment and skills programmes and the needs of the Belfast labour market. This will include the development of new "test and learn" pilots with the Department for Communities (DfC) and Department for the Economy (DfE)

## Belfast Region City Deal

The Belfast Region City Deal has the potential to deliver up to 20,000 new and better jobs, with an ambitious programme of activity underpinned by employability and skills. Its impact on the growth of the region will be significant. The BRCD has inclusive growth at the centre of its vision. It will provide the mechanism to develop a transformative employability and skills programme for the region that delivers skills for growth and skills for inclusion. Inclusion is therefore being built into each investment pillar to ensure that we are connecting people into the opportunities created – through regional innovation networks, affordable transport, tourism led-regeneration and social value.

The BRCD partners recognise that a fully integrated approach may take some years to develop, but there is potential to seize the opportunity created by the BRCD investment. The BRCD creates an opportunity for councils, colleges, departments, agencies, businesses and the community and voluntary sector to co-design a new integrated

model of working that will align existing and new resources over the 10 year period to support a collective vision of inclusive growth.

As well as directly creating the opportunities for improved productivity and growth, the BRCD will also invest in transport infrastructure, ensuring that people are connected to the economic opportunities that are created. The proposed expansion of the Glider network (Belfast Rapid Transport Phase II) will be vital in connecting communities and individuals to the job opportunities of the future and crucial in realising our inclusive growth ambitions.







## Our actions to make this happen

### Year one

Develop and deliver, working closely with community planning partners, a Belfast Employability Pathway to support Belfast residents access into and through employment.

Work with community planning partners and anchor institutions to understand workforce planning needs and identify employment opportunities for entry level recruitment to benefit those furthest removed from labour market.

Deliver a suite of sectoral employment academies, including a 'Leisure Academy', to help train people and enable them to gain access into employment.

Work with DfE to develop an action plan and trial new approaches, through 'test and learn' pilots, to support young people at risk of becoming NEETs.

Development of a citywide youth engagement programme to provide flexible support for NEETs or those at risk of becoming NEET.

Delivery of large scale events to provide access to residents to employment opportunities and or career advice.

Delivery of career development support providing young people with access to information and experiences to help them identify career pathways.

Development, commissioning and launch of a citywide GCSE revision programme targeting year 12 students at risk of not achieving a grade C in English and Maths.

Deliver schools based employment academies supporting young people in year 12 at greatest risk of not achieving or dropping out of education.



# Promoting inclusive growth through planning powers

On 1 April 2015, the council became the planning authority for Belfast as part of the wider reform of local government. For the first time in a generation the council is responsible for exercising the majority of planning functions within its own boundaries creating a planning regime that is more responsive and understanding of the needs of the city. Since 2015 we have been actively working to update planning policy ensuring that we use planning to build strong communities.

## Affordable housing

Maintaining and improving access to affordable housing within the city is a key aspect of meeting our inclusive growth ambitions. The Belfast Draft Local Development Plan has proposed a new draft policy on affordable housing, which requires all housing developers on sites greater than 0.1 hectares and or containing five or more dwelling units to provide a minimum 20 per cent of units as affordable housing (social and intermediate). Other key aspects of this draft policy are that:

- Appropriate size, type and tenure of affordable units will be determined having regard to up to date analysis of housing stress and prevailing housing need
- The affordable housing should be an integral part of mixed tenure development and tenure blind
- Where the applicant can demonstrate that it is not sustainable or viable to meet the affordable housing requirements in full, suitable alternatives will be considered on a case-by-case basis

The council's draft policy on affordable housing will be accompanied by Supplementary Planning Guidance, which will provide further detail, in particular around the mechanisms for delivery. In addition, we are committed to future monitoring of affordable housing provision with Belfast in line within proposed targets.

## Planning tools – developer contributions

Developer contributions are a planning tool used to mitigate or manage the impacts of new development. For example they can be used to ensure that a new development is supported by the right infrastructure or to make sure that the environmental impacts of a proposal are appropriately managed.

Since the transfer of planning powers in April 2015, our council has routinely secured developer contributions to mitigate and manage development impacts in appropriate circumstances. That means for those developments which would otherwise have a negative impact, those impacts are mitigated through the provision of on-site infrastructure or financial contributions to off-site infrastructure or programmes. We are committed to continuing to develop the use of developer contributions to support the creation of an inclusive and sustainable city.

We have recently published a draft Developer Contributions Framework for consultation and are committed to agreeing the final policy position. This Framework sets out the types of infrastructure or environmental mitigation that may need to be addressed through developer contributions. The list below is by no means exhaustive and each planning application will be judged on its merits, having regard to the Local Development Plan and other relevant material considerations.

- open space, sport and outdoor recreation;
- local neighbourhood facilities – including meeting places, crèches, youth facilities;
- schools, surgeries and local shops;
- public realm;
- employability and skills;
- sustainable transport;
- air quality;
- natural heritage;
- flood risk and sustainable drainage; and
- waste management.



One of the regional strategic planning objectives is to tackle disadvantage and facilitate job creation. Therefore in line with our inclusive growth ambitions the draft Developer Contributions Framework sets out that the council will consider the use of developer contributions to support employability and skills initiatives as outlined below.

A key additional feature of the framework is to encourage early dialogue between developers and communities to help identify what the impacts are likely to be of a development and how they can be properly dealt with through the planning process.

The draft framework is currently being reviewed following public consultation with the intention of seeking adoption by the Planning and Strategic Policy and Resources Committees in 2019.

Description of proposal	Developer contributions
<b>Major development proposals</b>	Supporting employability and skills initiatives in the city where there is a skills shortage (either during construction or on occupation of the development)
<b>Development proposals resulting in the loss of economic development uses</b>	Supporting employability and skills initiatives in the city to enable displaced employees and people who may have sought employment at the site, to gain employment elsewhere in the city



## Our actions to make this happen

### Year one

The Developer Contributions Framework will be adopted by Belfast City Council.

Governance arrangements for utilising developer contributions will be established.

The number of apprenticeships and jobs aligned to planning agreements will be recorded, monitored and reported on.

Continue to pursue the council's ambitions in relation to affordable housing.



## Strengthening civic voice

We are committed to ensuring that citizens and communities shape our services and policies. We will design and test new and innovative models of engagement.

We will build on our learnings from previous council citizen engagement mechanisms such as The Belfast Conversation, the Cultural Hub and Citizen Space.

We will look at best practice case studies around citizen participation, to garner further ideas and agree upon the best mechanisms to put in place to enable us to understand and respond to broad stakeholder interests. In particular, we will foster participation with those who may face additional difficulties and barriers and consider the design of models of engagement which benefit local SMEs and co-operatives.

As well as ensuring direct engagement with citizens we will strengthen and modernise our approach to engagement with the Community,

Voluntary and Social Enterprise (CVSE) sectors. This will include the establishment of a CVSE sectoral advisory panel, bespoke information sharing and innovative engagement fora. This engagement will go beyond consultation and ensure that the CVSE is an equal partner in shaping action planning and delivery.

We will begin by ensuring that Belfast citizens have a role in shaping our inclusive growth agenda and in the assessment of progress. We want to draw on the ideas and experience of local people from across the city, both directly and through engagement with community and voluntary sector organisations, starting with consultation on this draft strategy.

Our long-term aim is to co-design a system of inclusive policy and agenda setting that enables the voices and experiences of local residents to be heard.



## Our actions to make this happen

### Year one

Test a range of innovative approaches to harness civic voice and citizen engagement in our policy and delivery design.

Develop a council wide approach and model to civic engagement.

Develop and test new models of engagement with the CVSE sector (in association with community planning partners)

Continue to pursue the council's ambitions in relation to affordable housing.

## 5. Holding ourselves to account

Underpinning our desire to create an inclusive city is a commitment to hold ourselves to account. We will do this in a number of ways, including publishing yearly action plans reporting against our commitments and monitoring how many people we have been able to support across our target groups. We will also continue to refine and build our evidence base, creating new measures of inclusive growth where required.

We will commit to publishing a statement of progress every two years, setting out the extent to which we are delivering against the commitments outlined in the strategy and the impact we are having.

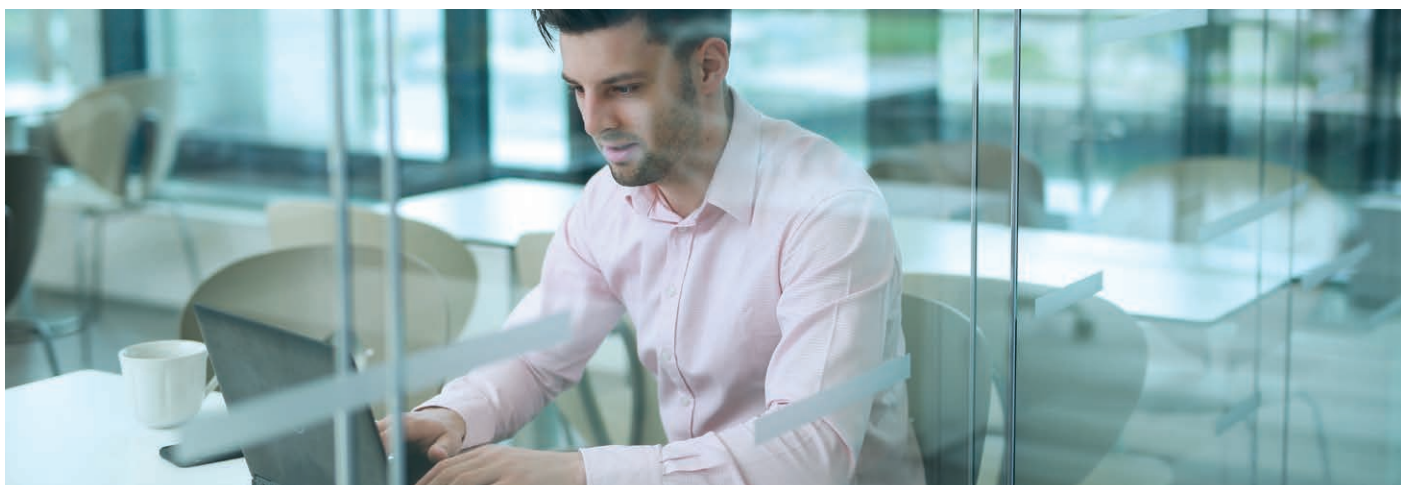
### Developing an inclusive growth dashboard

This strategy includes a number of policy interventions, which highlight the council's initial contribution towards delivering inclusive growth. They are designed to provide a contributory relationship towards the citywide outcomes of addressing workless residents, residents with low skills levels and in-work low earning residents and young people not in education, employment or training.

In pursuit of our vision for inclusive growth for Belfast, we will adopt an open and transparent approach to reporting by publishing a statement of progress every two years. This report will provide a summary of the information from the inclusive growth dashboard which will be used on an ongoing basis to measure success and the extent to which our policy interventions are having an impact.

These target groups, identified during the development of the council's inclusive growth decision making framework, align to the Belfast Agenda and can be measured by a number of its population indicators, as follows:

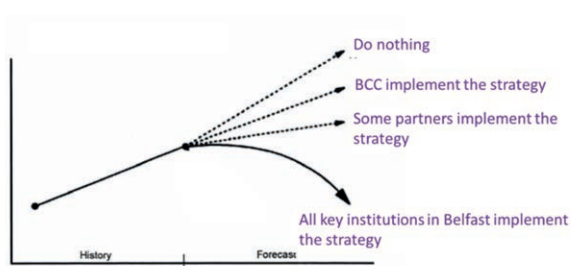
Inclusive growth target group	Belfast Agenda population indicators
<b>Workless residents</b>	1.8 The proportion of working-age population in Belfast who are employed 1.9 Working age employment rate by deprivation 1.10 Economic inactivity rate (excluding students)
<b>Residents with low skills levels</b>	3.1 Proportion of working age population who have attained Level 2 or above
<b>In work, low earning residents</b>	1.11 Average earnings
<b>Young people not in education, employment or training</b>	3.6 Proportion of school-leavers entering employment, education or training





The above population indicators provide a sense of whether as a city the entire population is heading in the right direction.

Affecting change of the above target groups requires coordinated effort amongst citywide partners and anchor institutions. This is best demonstrated by the “Turning the Curve” concept used as part of the Outcomes Based Accountability™ thinking. For example, if the chart below maps the city’s economic inactivity rate, the “Do Nothing” forecast predicts that this is likely to increase. Nevertheless, a concerted partnership approach to inclusive growth policy interventions would enable us to ‘turn the curve’ and reduce for example, economic inactivity at the population level.



In addition to the population indicators included within the Belfast Agenda’s monitoring framework, we also capture information through our biennial residents’ survey.

The residents’ survey enables reporting every two years on the extent to which a representative sample of Belfast residents:

- Agree that everyone in Belfast benefits from a thriving and prosperous city;
- Agree that Belfast is a city where everyone fulfils their potential;
- Agree that they can access job and training opportunities;
- Earn at least or above the living wage.

Obtaining access to meaningful, detailed and timely data presents a challenge for policy makers particularly at a local government district level. Proxy measures may therefore be required to report performance at a population level due to difficulties accessing data.

However we will not be constrained by this. Work is being progressed with our community planning data analytics partner, Queen’s University Belfast to develop an inclusive growth monitor

that is specific to Belfast. We are committed to developing an evidence base that will allow us to take an intelligence led approach to inclusive growth. Therefore we will also seek to benchmark our efforts by examining the work of the Centre for Progressive Policy in relation to the measurement of inclusive growth at the country, community and company level.

## Reporting on who we have supported

We will also monitor and report at a performance level. Using this to create targets and strengthen and shape our actions over time. This could include:

- the total number of participants completing employability programmes (specifically targeting those that are long term unemployed or economically inactive) and the proportion progressing into employment;
- the total number of participants completing work experience or paid placement opportunities;
- percentage and value of spend within the local supply chain;
- percentage and value of spend with SMEs and social enterprises;
- number, duration, type and scope of direct delivery of business/enterprise initiatives that supports business start-up;
- the total number of participants increasing skills, qualification levels or ‘upskilled’ to be able to access ‘better’ employment;
- the total number of employees progressing in employment as a result of ‘upskilling’.
- the total social value (£) for local communities as a result of council procurement;
- percentage of suppliers’ employees who are employed on a permanent basis;
- percentage of suppliers paying the Living Wage;
- the total number of volunteering opportunities created as a result of social value in procurement;
- the total number of pupils engaged by working with schools and colleges; and
- the total number of new apprenticeships created.

The above measures are not intended to be an exhaustive list and it is envisaged that new performance measures will be developed as monitoring mechanisms within the council are developed. We will also work collaboratively with our city partners to widen the evidence base that exists for our target groups.

## Establishing an inclusive growth oversight group

We recognise that implementing this strategy will require a significant shift in behaviour across the council. This is why we are committed to establishing an inclusive growth oversight group, reporting directly to our senior officers through well established oversight structures. The purpose of this group will be to ensure that we are working in collaboration across the organisation and on track for achievement against our stated outcomes.

This will allow support for best practice to be shared across the organisation, and for streamlined engagement with our key stakeholders in ensuring that a city wide agenda is adopted. This group will also work to commission joint research required to implement the strategy, support the development of improved targeting and monitoring and advise on improved target setting and future action planning.

## International benchmarking and networks

In our efforts to develop a fully inclusive economy we are committed to learning from other cities throughout the United Kingdom (UK), Ireland and internationally to build our expertise, benchmark our performance and develop and share best practice. Opportunities will be sought at both an officer and elected representative level to ensure that within Belfast we are leading the way and to open us up to constructive peer review. This could include continuing to build linkages with:

- **EUROCITIES** - Belfast City Council has been an active member of the EUROCITIES network (comprising 140 European cities) for more than 20 years. In February 2019 EUROCITIES launched a new political initiative “Inclusive cities for all: social rights in my city” to demonstrate cities’ contributions to a more cohesive society. Mayors and elected officials from 21 cities have announced their pledges to act on the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights through dedicated investments for city measures. There is an opportunity for Belfast to support and endorse the campaign but equally to learn from signatories on measures used by municipalities to support inclusive growth.
- **The Social Affairs Forum (SAF)** has an active working group entitled Smart Social Inclusion which enables peer reviews, the identification of solutions to address issues common to cities across Europe.
- **Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF)** - In April 2016 the Royal Society for the encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce (RSA) in association with the Joseph Rowntree Foundation launched an Inclusive Growth Commission for the UK. Belfast was one of a number of cities visited and examined by the Commission. Since then, we have been actively developing our links with the RSA, JRF and other organisations that provide leadership in this area. This ongoing relationship has led to the development of a new opportunity for Belfast that will greatly enhance our impact. With JRF and others we are exploring the potential for a city wide network of officers. We hope that these connections to other places and inclusive growth experts will enable constructive peer review, providing critical support and insight as we develop and innovate inclusive growth policy.



## Our actions to make this happen

### Year one

Finalise the measures that make up the inclusive growth dashboard.

Progress work with our partners to develop an inclusive growth monitor.

Develop a monitoring framework across the council to ensure that we are able to capture, record and report on our activity and outputs.

Continue to benchmark ourselves against best practice internationally, through membership of appropriate networks.

# Best practice case studies

## Learning from others

### Building community wealth, The Cleveland Evergreen Cooperatives

The City of Cleveland is an urban centre of around 400,000 residents located in Cuyahoga County in the state of Ohio. During the 2000s Cleveland experienced growth in a number of highly-skilled sectors, with increasing job opportunities in some STEM and health occupations, as well as growth in the number of highly-skilled workers living in the city. However, poverty rates remained comparatively high, unemployment rates were around the national average while wages were slightly below.

One important approach to economic development and harnessing inclusive growth in the city is the use of cooperative structures.

Evergreen Cooperative, is an umbrella body for a number of co-operatives in Cleveland. The co-operatives, which consist of a laundry

company, an energy efficiency contractor, and America's largest urban farm, were grown with the help of procurement contracts with Cleveland's biggest schools and universities.

The Cleveland Foundation, a private charitable trust, took the lead by encouraging the city's key anchor institutions – the Cleveland Clinic, Case Western Reserve University and University Hospitals – to buy into the vision, and the City of Cleveland quickly joined the scheme, pooling its resources in a multi-stakeholder effort.

#### Results

In 2016 the three Evergreen Cooperatives employed around 120 people from the low-income University Circle area and generated a combined revenue of \$6.3million.

### Manchester - Social value in procurement

In 2016-17 Manchester City Council spent 71 per cent of its procurement spending with local companies, equating to around £320million on goods and services from Manchester businesses. This figure was just over 50 per cent a decade ago and is the result of work to improve its procurement policy and practices, aiming to address local needs and maximise benefits to the city's residents.

The council state they are firmly committed to embedding social value into all aspects of its procurement cycle and has established a minimum 20 per cent social value weighting for all procurements.

As well as the direct economic benefits, research estimates that they have:

- created 705 apprenticeships in the city and over 1,000 jobs, including 423 employment opportunities for “hard to reach” individuals;
- created almost 70,000 hours volunteering and community sector support activities, and
- achieved 75 per cent of responding suppliers paying their staff an hourly rate in excess of that advocated by the National Living Wage foundation.



## Building on our work

### Ringfenced recruitment - Belfast City Council

In 2013 Belfast City Council, with employability partners across the city, identified that a key factor in helping the long-term unemployed was to ring fence opportunities. With our employability partners we co-designed and delivered a pre-recruitment programme for five ringfenced basic entry administration posts. 40 participants were selected by partner organisations to take part in a two week pre-recruitment and training programme. This consisted of a mix of on the job experience and classroom based learning,

and all who completed the course were invited to interview. Skills checks questionnaires were used instead of qualifications requirements. Five people were appointed to five permanent posts. Following the success of the pilot, which had never been tested in the public sector in Northern Ireland before, this approach was employed for the further recruitment of Cleansing Operatives and Business Support Clerks with a total of 27 people recruited via this method to date.

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### Volunteering - Belfast City Council

In 2015 Belfast developed a Charter for Volunteering, with an estimated 73,693 volunteer hours benefitting the council during 2013-14. We developed this commitment further by implementing an accompanying policy and procedures in 2017. Currently we are actively

promoting opportunities in our community centres, Super Connected Communities Hubs, summer schemes, Age Friendly Belfast and the Tropical Ravine, involving approximately 1,000 volunteers across the city.

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### Employability - Belfast City Council

Across the 2018-19 financial year, key achievements include over 2,750 participants engaged in employability programmes, with more than 800 expected to progress into employment this year; over 3,500 young people supported

through youth initiatives and almost 7,500 participants engaged through career events and job fairs.

## Strategic Policy, Planning and Partnerships Team

City Hall

Belfast

BT1 5GS



028 9027 0234



[policy@belfastcity.gov.uk](mailto:policy@belfastcity.gov.uk)



[www.belfastcity.gov.uk](http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk)

### Access to information

As part of our commitment to promoting equality of opportunity and good relations, we want to ensure that everyone is able to access the documents we produce. This document is available in alternative formats such as Braille, easy-read, audio, large print and also in other languages on request by contacting: 028 9027 0234.





**Belfast**  
City Council

<b>Subject:</b>	Innovation and Inclusive Growth Commission
<b>Date:</b>	20 September 2019
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Suzanne Wylie, Chief Executive
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Grainia Long, Commissioner for Resilience John Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
	This paper provides an update to Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on the work of the newly-established Innovation and Inclusive Growth Commission. Regular updates will be provided to this Committee throughout the Commission's lifetime.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
	The Committee is asked: To note the update and in particular the proposed approach to ensuring good governance and oversight of the Commission's work.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
	The Innovation and Inclusive Growth Commission was set up to support the Council and city partners in the further development and implementation of the priorities as set out in the Belfast Agenda. A particular focus has been given to the priorities of (1) growing the

economy and (2) city development. The Commission will seek to deliver the core objective of inclusive growth. Core membership of the Commission is as follows:

- Suzanne Wylie, Chief Executive, Belfast City Council
- Michael Lyons, Chair- English Cities Fund
- Matthew Taylor, RSA (previously led RSA Inclusive Growth Commission)
- Owen Reidy, or nominee, ICTU (tbc)
- Emma Cariaga, British Land
- Alice Charles, World Economic Forum
- Joe O'Neill, Belfast Harbour Commissioners
- Paddy Nixon, Vice Chancellor and President, Ulster University
- Ian Greer, Vice Chancellor and President, Queen's University Belfast
- Rotha Johnston
- Ronan Cregan, Deputy Chief Executive, Belfast City Council
- Anne McGregor, NI Chamber of Commerce
- Judith Totten, INI Non-Exec Board Member
- Ed Vernon
- Angela Magowan, Director, CBI Northern Ireland
- Neil Gibson, EY

However, the Commission will also take advice from a wide range of organisations including the Nevin Institute and JRF etc.

#### **Inclusive and Sustainable Growth**

At the previous meeting of SP&R, it was agreed that the Commission's membership would be broadened to include a wider range of economic expertise and viewpoints. Since the meeting, and following invitation to join the Commission, ICTU has confirmed it will nominate a member. The Nevin Institute has also been contacted to provide advice and insight to the Commission. As the Commission's work proceeds, it will also seek advice from Trademark and other similar organisations to ensure that insights and practice on co-operative development inform the Commission's work. We are also seeking insight from social enterprise organisations to provide advice throughout. As agreed, inclusive growth has been re-emphasised in the Commission's terms of reference and its title brief, and Commission members were also briefed on the importance attached to inclusive growth at its first meeting. Specific reference has been made to cities that have developed economic strategies with inclusive growth or 'good growth' as core goals, and officers have been tasked with seeking input and insights from cities that can demonstrate success in this area. As the Commission develops it will align with ongoing work on climate change and sustainable development and seek advice from Leeds Climate Commission, Place based Climate Action Network (PCAN), Friends of the Earth etc

#### **Governance and member engagement**

At its previous meeting, SP&R discussed governance and oversight of the Commission's work, and discussed how elected members would engage with the Commission.

The Commission is a collaboration between four city institutions- Belfast City Council, Belfast Harbour, Queen's University and Ulster University. Each organisation will take part in the Commission as per its own system of governance.

The following approach is being proposed for Belfast City Council:

1. That SP&R remains the primary committee through which the Chief Executive will report on the Commission's work. SP&R will ultimately approve early and final drafts of outputs produced by the Commission, for formal ratification by Council. City Growth and Regeneration Committee will also be consulted.
2. Three events, attended jointly by BCC members and Commission members, will be held throughout the Commission's work. The first will take place in the autumn to

inform the Commission's early thinking; the second in early 2020 when some initial themes have begun to emerge and the third to inform draft conclusions.

3. Party briefings will take place in the normal way to ensure parties are informed continuously throughout.
4. A summary note of each Commission meeting will be produced for SP&R.

#### **Summary note of the Commission's first meeting**

- The first meeting was a general introduction and context setting meeting- held on the evening of the 9<sup>th</sup> and all day on the 10<sup>th</sup> September.
  - The meeting included presentations from local SME sector and large local and global businesses based in Belfast. It also included an overview of the UK Industrial Strategy – to ensure alignment with wider policy goals. Data was presented on Belfast's existing economic and 'good growth' performance and how it compares with other cities across Europe and globally, as well as presentations and discussion on cities as drivers of inclusive economic growth.
  - Some critical issues emerged in the discussion:
1. Belfast has an immense opportunity to align its economic ambitions with its social and environmental goals. For example, the transition to a low-carbon economy must be an equitable one, and this therefore presents an opportunity to significantly reduce and perhaps eradicate fuel poverty over time. Recent successes by industry (e.g. exceeding our targets on renewables) must be learned from and scaled up.
  2. The Commission's eventual conclusions/outputs must ensure that Belfast builds on its strengths- where it has already proven to succeed. However, its work will be impacted by national (UK) policy and we must be cognisant of that—an example is UK government policy on visa restrictions for international students.
  3. The Commission does not intend to work 'behind closed doors' for a year, and then produce a report. It wants to focus on practical solutions to drive city growth in the interests of communities, and will be looking for ways that the four anchor institutions (BCC, Belfast Harbour, QUB and UU) can work collaboratively to deliver 'good growth'.
  4. Belfast has significant advantages given its proximity to Dublin and London. Both cities will continue to be successful in a post-Brexit environment, and therefore we must find ways to better leverage this connectivity and proximity, given the scale and nature of growth in both cities.
  5. The major issues remain those we've been debating for years- how to build skills among those furthest from the labour market and those economically inactive, so that they feel there are opportunities for them, as well as ensuring that we do not lose talent from the city. Skills already emerging as a major challenge.
  6. The city has many strengths but we are one of many cities that is promoting our distinctive 'offer'. Belfast has yet to really 'hone' what makes us unique. For example, the fact that the city is a leader in cyber security and food security is little known outside of these niche sectors. Generally speaking, there's a perceived lack of strategy on our economic future- other successful cities are clearer about their assets (economic, social and environmental) and focused on what they are going to do with them. A grand vision is needed- e.g. the Oxford/Cambridge corridor has a vision to be the R&D Centre for the UK.
  7. A focus on inclusive growth and/or 'good growth' (term used by Edinburgh) is an example of how we can be competitive and distinctive... Glasgow has done this by stressing its quality of life and really pursuing a strong environmental agenda- which is increasingly being sought by people visiting the city and those investing in the city- both companies and workers.

	<p>8. Several presenters/contributors emphasised the importance of focusing on the current drivers of growth – investing more in them rather than trying to do too many things.</p> <p>Future meetings/themes/areas of focus:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Transition to a low-carbon/carbon neutral economy, and how we do this in an equitable way</li> <li>- Learning from economic shocks and how the poorest and most economically vulnerable have been impacted- including across the generations</li> <li>- Opportunities from energy transition- retro-fitting our existing stock and possible job opportunities for this/next generation</li> </ul> <p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	N/A



<b>Subject:</b>	Belfast Agenda – Update on Community Planning
<b>Date:</b>	20 September 2019
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Christine Robinson, Strategy, Policy & Partnership Manager Kevin Heaney, Portfolio Manager

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	The report provides an update for Members on key priority strands of work being taken forward, in collaboration with community planning partners, to deliver the Belfast Agenda and sets out proposals to further enhance the involvement of partners and key stakeholders in supporting delivery.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) note the work currently underway across community planning partners to deliver the Belfast Agenda;</li> <li>b) note the proposed establishment of a ‘Growing the Economy and City Development Board’ and a ‘Sustainability and Resilience Board’ as part of the Belfast Agenda city governance arrangements;</li> </ul>



	<div>c) consider and approve that a Members' Belfast Agenda Reference Group be formed comprising the Party Group community planning nominated leads; and</div> <div>d) consider and approve the implementation of measures to strengthen the representation and involvement of the voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sectors in community planning.</div>			
3.0	Main report			
	<div>Key Issues</div> <div>3.1 The Belfast Agenda, the city's first community plan, was published in November 2017 and was led by the Council in partnership with its community planning partner organisations and shaped through a substantial engagement and consultation process. It is a long term framework outlining how the Council and its community planning partners will work collaboratively to deliver an ambitious and inclusive vision that will create a better quality of life for all citizens in Belfast.</div> <div>3.2 Following the publication of the plan, the community planning team undertook a series of engagements with partners across the Belfast Agenda's four priority areas. The purpose of which was to identify and define the specific range of activity underway/planned across partners in support of the Belfast and to consider and identify key strategic gaps or opportunities to deliver collaborative gains from working in partnership under community planning. Action plans had been developed and approved by the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) in October 2018 and are now being implemented through the agreed governance structures including a series of delivery focused boards, comprising CPP partners, formed on a phased basis linked to the priority pillars of the Belfast Agenda. Boards focused on Living Here and Working and Learning have been established and giving focus to the following priority areas for collaborative gain. <b>Appendix 1</b> provides more detail on the specific work underway.</div> <div>3.3<div>Living Here</div><table><tr><td>Initial Priority Areas for</td><td><div>Design and deliver an integrated city programme to address <b>health inequalities</b>, including enhancing mental wellbeing and reducing social isolation.</div></td><td><div>There has been significant partnership working and related programmes of work targeted at reducing health inequalities over many years in Belfast. However, Partner engagement has identified that deeper systemic change is required to achieve the Belfast Agenda Ambition of a 33% reduction in the life expectancy gap between the most and least deprived neighbourhoods.</div><div>Partners have highlighted the opportunity to use Community Planning as a vehicle for driving whole system change across all partners in ensuring a more joined up approach to tackling health inequalities in Belfast. It is recognised that this presents a vast and complex challenge, and CPP partners agreed the initial focus would be alcohol, drugs and mental health challenge(s) facing the city. Intended that this approach would help develop a partnership model and capture learning opportunities which could be applied more widely to other health inequality challenges.</div></td></tr></table></div>	Initial Priority Areas for	<div>Design and deliver an integrated city programme to address <b>health inequalities</b>, including enhancing mental wellbeing and reducing social isolation.</div>	<div>There has been significant partnership working and related programmes of work targeted at reducing health inequalities over many years in Belfast. However, Partner engagement has identified that deeper systemic change is required to achieve the Belfast Agenda Ambition of a 33% reduction in the life expectancy gap between the most and least deprived neighbourhoods.</div> <div>Partners have highlighted the opportunity to use Community Planning as a vehicle for driving whole system change across all partners in ensuring a more joined up approach to tackling health inequalities in Belfast. It is recognised that this presents a vast and complex challenge, and CPP partners agreed the initial focus would be alcohol, drugs and mental health challenge(s) facing the city. Intended that this approach would help develop a partnership model and capture learning opportunities which could be applied more widely to other health inequality challenges.</div>
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3.4		Collaborative planning to <b>address winter pressures on health services and communities.</b>	Lead by the Health and Social Care Board and supported by the community planning partners, work is underway to develop and deliver an integrated programme to reduce the number of avoidable deaths caused as a result of winter/cold weather.
		Planning for <b>housing</b> that meets the needs of everyone.	Focus on delivering the social and affordable housing ambitions set out within the Belfast Agenda alongside creating the conditions to attract an additional 66,000 people in Belfast by 2035.
		Integrated approach to neighborhood regeneration & improvement.	Transforming local neighbourhoods and maximising the social, economic, environmental and regeneration benefits from physical and revenue investment in local areas and helping to build greater connectivity in the city.
		An integrated, inter-agency approach to <b>early intervention, early years and family support.</b>	Improving outcomes for children and young people and their families with a focus on early and preventative interventions throughout an individual's life.
3.5	<b>Working and Learning</b>		
	Initial Priority Areas for Collaborative Focus	Deliver an integrated city programme to address <b>educational underachievement</b>	Develop an integrated programme to help alleviate educational inequalities across the city and reduce the education attainment gap which exists, particularly between those entitled to free school meals and those who not.
		Improving <b>outcomes for children and young people.</b>	Area-based demonstrator pilot brought forward by the Education Authority and Greater Shankill Partnership and agreed by the Community Planning Partnership and Working and Learning Board. The focus is to apply an evidence based approach to assessing local service needs and challenges and considering possible service delivery model options to improve the life chances and outcomes for children and young people. Intended that this approach would help develop an inter-agency approach and capture learning opportunities which could be applied more widely across the city.
		Deliver a Belfast <b>Employability &amp; Skills Pathway</b> (Belfast Workplace)	Working alongside employers and service providers to identify, plan and prepare for emerging job opportunities and to develop effective pathways for individuals (including those furthest from the labour market) to enter into and progress through employment.
		Harnessing <b>collective recruitment powers of CPP partners &amp; anchor institutions</b>	Targeted programme of work underway with CPP partners and anchor institutions to identify future workforce needs, and associated skills required, and to maximise opportunities to connect and support individuals to specific employment or training opportunities (including possible placement or apprenticeship opportunities).
	<p><b><u>Growing the Economy and City Development</u></b></p> <p>Given the clear synergies between the Growing the Economy and City Development pillars of the Belfast Agenda it is proposed that a single board is established in October 2019 to give focus, build momentum and act as a catalyst for collaborative action across city partners/stakeholders in key areas such as, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inclusive Growth</li> <li>• Sustainable Transport and Connectivity</li> </ul>		

3.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable Infrastructure for the City</li> <li>• Enterprise &amp; Business Development and Growth</li> <li>• Cultural and Tourism Development</li> </ul>
3.7	<p>A key focus of the Board will be the delivery and mainstreaming of inclusive growth and widening the engagement with and consideration of the emerging BCC Inclusive Growth Framework (NB. separate paper included on the Committee agenda). It is important that we create the right conditions to enable the widest range of people to both contribute to and benefit from economic growth and development within the city. It is also important that we maximise the social impact of our economic and physical investment in terms of, for example, creating additional jobs and providing pathways to employment, supporting income generation and distribution across the city and delivering social value for local communities. The establishment of this Board will provide a collective focus across and help build momentum with community planning and key city partners.</p>
3.8	<p>Notwithstanding the formal establishment of the combined Growing the Economy and City Development Board, there is a significant programme of work underway in collaboration with city partners to support the delivery of the Belfast Agenda priorities, examples of which is included in <b>Appendix 1</b>.</p>
3.9	<p><b><u>Sustainability and Resilience</u></b></p> <p>Members will be aware of the significant environmental and sustainability challenges and chronic stresses facing the city and their potential to constrain future city growth. It is proposed that a Sustainability and Resilience Board be formed as part of the wider Belfast Agenda governance arrangements to give collaborative focus across city partners/ stakeholders to such challenges and bring forward a programme of work specific work around, for example, climate change, city energy, waste and sustainable development.</p>
3.10	<p><b><u>Community Planning Partnership</u></b></p> <p>The next meeting of the Belfast Community Planning Partnership is scheduled for 30 September 2019. As part of its business, the partnership will consider the proposal to amend the Belfast Agenda governance structures to combine the Growing the Economy and City Development board and create a separate board focused on Resilience and Sustainability.</p> <p><b><u>VCSE Sector Engagement Model</u></b></p> <p>At SP&amp;R in June a report was tabled seeking agreement to move forward with the implementation of arrangements to strengthen representation of the voluntary, community and social enterprise</p>

3.11	<p>(VCSE) sectors in community planning. During the committee session, members requested that approval be postponed to enable a workshop with Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships to be completed. This workshop was carried out on 5<sup>th</sup> September – the feedback from this session, along with the wider engagement with the sector in June, continue to inform the proposed structures and forms of engagement. By way of reminder a short overview of the mechanism for improved engagement is outlined in <b>Appendix 2</b>. Members will note that these mechanisms will continue to be developed in association with the sector and will, when implemented, greatly improve the involvement of the voluntary and community sector in community planning.</p>
3.13	<p><b><u>Members' Engagement</u></b></p> <p>It is important to note that each Political Party had previously a nominated elected Member lead to be represented on the Community Planning Partnership and help inform the identification of initial priority areas for collaborative gain. Following the recent elections, each political party has been asked to renominate a lead member onto the Community Planning Partnership. In order to enable members to have focused consideration and input into the ongoing work and future planning around the Belfast Agenda, it is proposed that the Party nominees form a reference group which are brought together in lead up to CPP meetings as well as at other key milestones. Regular updates on the Belfast Agenda will also be brought into Committee for Members' consideration.</p>
3.14	<p><b><u>Key Next Steps</u></b></p> <p>Key strands of work to be progressed over coming months:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VCSE Sector Engagement Model – planned establishment of VCSE Advisory Forum and wider sectoral network (Oct/Nov 2019)</li> <li>• Inclusive Growth Strategy – securing Council approval and launch strategy for public consultation and engagement (Oct/Nov. 2019)</li> <li>• Establish combined Growing the Economy and City Development Board (Oct/Nov. 2019)</li> <li>• Establish Sustainability and Resilience Board (Oct/Nov. 2019)</li> <li>• Publish Belfast Agenda 'Statement of Progress' (Nov. 2019)</li> <li>• Establishment of the Members' Area-Based Working Groups.</li> </ul>
3.15	<p><b><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>There are no additional resource implications as a result of this report. Alignment of resources to the delivery of the Belfast Agenda is part of the ongoing organisational and financial planning processes.</p> <p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p>

	The Belfast Agenda has been subject to an Equality Impact Assessment at a strategic level and a Rural Needs impact statement at the time of its publication.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	<p>Appendix 1: Overview of activity underway linked to the Belfast Agenda.</p> <p>Appendix 2: Overview of VCSE Sector Engagement Model</p>



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## APPENDIX 1: Belfast Agenda – Overview of work underway in relation to priority areas of focus for collaborative gain.



### Living Here

In developing the Belfast Agenda, people told us how important it was that all Belfast residents lead a healthy, engaged and fulfilling lives as part of vibrant, growing communities and neighbourhoods. Also highlighted the importance that residents are enabled to reach their full potential at every stage of life. In this context the community planning partners identified a number of specific areas for collaborative focus including:

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| <p>i) <b><i>Integrated city programme to address health inequalities &amp; improve wellbeing</i></b></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Alcohol, Drugs and Mental Health</i> – Working closely alongside our health partners (Public Health Agency, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust and Health and Social Care Board) and other key agencies, work is underway to develop and test an integrated, whole system approach to addressing health inequalities, with a specific focus, initially, on the systemic and increasing challenges around drugs, alcohol and mental health within the city. Whilst there is already a range of services and support available, CPP partners recognise the growing prevalence of these health conditions and the significant impact on individuals, their families and wider community. CPP partners have highlighted the need for a more comprehensive, integrated and multi-sectoral approach to supporting vulnerable people in terms of health promotion, prevention, treatment, care and recovery. CPP partners also recognised the need to adopt a placed-based approach to understanding and taking action to address health inequalities and improving wellbeing in communities.</li> </ul> <p>It is important to recognise that there has been recent developments at a regional level to move towards a more integrated approach to additional and mental health with the recent consultation on a 'New Strategic Direction for Alcohol and Drugs'. Members are acutely aware of the significant challenges which exist across the city with a number of Notice of Motions and specific reports considered by the People and Communities Committee and full Council over recent months (e.g. proposals around establishment of a city-wide task force on Mental Health and Suicide; community impact of needle finds). Through the strengthened collaborative arrangements now in place through community planning and the Living Here Board, there is a real opportunity to intensify the focus on these important societal challenges and help co-design and deliver more integrated support programmes and interventions.</p> |
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In order to inform the emerging approach, a workshop was held with a range of partners/stakeholders/service users to examine the scope and effectiveness of current support and interventions and identify specific opportunities for improvement. Key areas identified for improvement (action) included the need to streamline /consolidate the governance and support structures in place and develop a more integrated, targeted and responsive referral and support model; the need for an inter-agency approach to promoting emotional wellbeing and positive mental health and raising awareness of the support services available with stakeholder groups including vulnerable people and youth. Recognition of opportunity provided through community planning to help support wider outreach activity including linking community based institutions and facilities (e.g. schools, community centres etc.).

In addition, a detailed review and critical appraisal had been undertaken of previous reports and studies commission relating to drugs, alcohol and mental health challenges facing the city. The review has helped surface up those recurrent and common findings and associated recommendations emerging but which may not have been followed through into implementation. Work is underway to bring these recommendations into a prioritised and resourced action plan which will be

- *Seasonal pressures on health services and communities* - identified by community planning partners as a key priority for collaborative focus. The Health and Social Care Board have been working with the Council and key partners to develop a multi-agency partnership approach to reducing the number of avoidable winter deaths in Belfast, through a more coordination approach to identifying vulnerable people/ those most at risk (using data on risk factors such as fuel poverty, social isolation, housing conditions, respiratory and cardiovascular information); developing a streamlined referral process and integrated multi-agency response model. The BHSC Board has committed a significant level of resources including staff and up to £50,000 budget to help develop and test his new interagency approach as they see they opportunity to significant help improve outcomes for vulnerable people.
- Work is also underway with our health partners to further strengthen the city partnership arrangements in place linked to health including the transition of the Belfast Strategic Partnership into a new Healthier Belfast

	<p>Forum. This will involve the refresh / refocus of the collaborative relationship and joint working across the funding partners (PHA/HSCB, BHSCT and Council). Direct engagement is also underway with the BSCHT to explore and identify opportunities to work collaboratively including early consideration of the potential co-location of services.</p>
<p>ii) <b><i>Planning for housing that meets the needs of everyone</i></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Belfast Agenda sets out an ambitious population growth target of attracting 66,000 additional people into Belfast by 2035 and increasing the supply of affordable and social housing within the city. Clearly this will require a concerted focus across key agencies which have a role to play in supporting and enabling delivery. Under the auspices of community planning a specific working group has now been formed and work underway with the Department of Communities, Department of Infrastructure, Northern Ireland Housing Executive and other partners to identify and take forward a programme of work to deliver the population growth and housing commitments (e.g. completion of a Housing Market Analysis for the Greater Belfast area that considers all sectors of the housing market, drivers and trends; assessment of land availability which could be used for housing development; scope and identify potential funding/finance models which may be available to assist housing delivery in the city etc.).</li> <li>• It is important to recognise the significance of the emerging Local Development Plan and associated planning policies in supporting the delivery of housing across the city. A key milestone has been reached in the development of the LDP with the completion of stakeholder consultations and move to prepare for the submission of the draft Plan Strategy to the Department for Infrastructure later this year.</li> </ul>
<p>iii) <b><i>Integrated interagency approach to neighborhood regeneration &amp; improvement</i></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A key focus of the Belfast Agenda is to work collaboratively with CPP partners to transform local neighbourhoods and maximise the social, economic, environmental and regeneration benefits from physical and revenue investment in local areas and helping to build greater connectivity in the city. The Council, through its corporate planning process, is committed to taking forward five transformational, place based regeneration programmes in local areas across the city which supports and encourages greater collaboration and underpinned by an evidence and data-driven approach.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Area based regeneration including city centre development share a common motivation to create more than the sum of their parts through alignment, collaboration and partnership working. The emerging and proposed area based approach could involve exploring themes (e.g. quality of life; economic renewal); linking to priorities (education; employment; social isolation etc); identifying partners; exploring existing opportunities and existing Council services and programming opportunities.</li> <li>We will continue to use the community planning structures (i.e. Living Here Board) to engage and secure the commitment of partners in co-designing and delivering such programmes. The new Members' Area Working Groups (AWG) will have a core role in helping shape the approach to neighbourhood regeneration and focus of activity going forward (N.B a separate report on AWGs is included on the committee agenda for Members consideration)</li> </ul>
iv) <b><i>An integrated, inter-agency approach to early intervention, early years and family</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Council is working closely with community planning partners and key stakeholders including the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership and Belfast Area Outcomes Group (BAOG) to get a shared understanding of the challenges facing children and young people and their families within the city and to identify opportunities for improved collaboration across the system. A small joint task group is being will be set up to further develop proposals around specific areas for collaboration.</li> </ul>



## Working & Learning

Having a good job is the most important way of improving life for many people in Belfast. The number of people out of work in Belfast is high compared with other cities. When developing the Belfast Agenda people told us that there are key issues including poor health, low skills and qualifications, and access to childcare, which make it difficult for some people to return to work. Through community planning we want to ensure people in Belfast have access to the best education, skills and employment opportunities, and that we do everything we can to connect people to good jobs.

To this end, since its inaugural meeting in November 2018, the Working & Learning Board, and community planning partners, have been working collaboratively to achieve the key commitments and stretched goals outlined within the Working & Learning pillar of the Belfast Agenda. Within this context the Working & Learning Board and community planning partners have identified a number of specific areas for collaborative focus including:

i) <b><i>Addressing Educational Underachievement</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A key challenge as outlined within the Belfast Agenda is the persistence of educational inequalities across the city and an attainment gap, particularly between those entitled to free school meals and those who not..</li> <li>• In order to help identify and deliver opportunities to work collaboratively across partners to help address educational inequality within the city, an inter-agency task and finish group has been established and lead by the Education Authority. Other partners include the Department of Education, Area Partnership Boards, Queens University Belfast, Ulster University, the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools, St Mary's University College, Stranmillis University College, Urban Villages and Council.</li> <li>• To inform the potential focus an initial detailed mapping exercise had been undertaken with support from CPP partners to capture current activity and potential gaps as well as help identify possible good practice which could be scaled up (e.g. the recent citywide extension of the Easter school programme which seeks to provide targeted support to help improve GCSE attainment levels). The emerging programme of work gives focus to key challenges identified in terms of, for example, enhancing school readiness of children starting primary school; supporting children transitioning from primary to post-primary education; improving GCSE outcomes with a particular focus on those most disadvantaged (i.e. pupils receiving free school meals), improving access to vocational training for those at high risk of underachieving.</li> <li>• An engagement plan will be delivered to support the wider input into this work including direct engagement with schools and school principals.</li> </ul>
ii) <b><i>Improving outcomes for children and young people (area based pilot)</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Area-based demonstrator pilot brought forward by the Education Authority and Greater Shankill Partnership and agreed by the Community Planning Partnership and Working and Learning Board. The focus is to apply an evidence based approach to assessing local service needs and challenges and considering possible service delivery model options to improve the life chances and outcomes for children and young people. Intended that this approach would help develop an inter-agency approach and capture learning opportunities which could be applied more widely across the city.</li> <li>• The Greater Shankill Partnership and the Education Authority are taking a lead and convening role in taking this work forward in the context of community planning, and have brought together a steering group comprising</li> </ul>



key partners with direct or indirect service delivery responsibility in the area. The key focus of work to date has been collating and analysing a statistical and technical baseline of the pilot area and gaining insight into the local factors that impact on the lives of children and young people. Work is also underway to identify the key service providers within the pilot area and to develop a robust engagement plan, in collaboration with partners, which provides insight into the services currently being provided in the area and any associated challenges that impact on delivering outcomes for children and young people. A three stage engagement plan is being developed in collaboration with partners

- **Stage 1 – Direct engagement with service providers** to gain insight and understanding of any challenges, gaps or overlaps in service provision;
  - **Stage 2 – Wider community engagement** to allow service users and the general public to have their say and provide feedback on opportunities to improve service delivery;
  - **Stage 3 - Reviewing feedback and identifying future opportunities** for integrated service delivery model(s) for the area taking into account policy, operational and financial considerations as well as potential constraints and opportunities.
- It is envisaged that a comprehensive and SMART implementation plan will be developed to take forward any integrated service proposals that may emerge following this process, which will include a further stage of public consultation to inform any emerging service design models.

iii) ***Creation of an Employability & Skills Pathway***

- The Employability & Skills Pathway has been designed in recognition of the considerable activity underway across the Belfast area to support individuals to enter, sustain and progress in employment. Whilst there is a range of service and support provision which already exist in the market, it is difficult for individuals to navigate and make informed choices about which intervention will achieve the best outcome for them. This is particularly challenging for deprived communities who often experience a range of barriers impacting upon their ability to enter into and progress through employment. In addition, there is a need to help employers gain access to a 'talent pool' with the appropriate skills, attitudes and competencies to meet their needs.
- A working group has been established, led by the Council with support from wider partners including Belfast Metropolitan College, Department for Communities, Department for the Economy, Invest NI, Queens University Belfast, Ulster University, Belfast Health Trust, Urban Villages and business sector representatives.
- A pathway model has been developed, with support from partners, detailing the key stages involved in supporting an individual into employment and identifying the nature of support they may require. Based upon an employer led approach, the pathway has been developed to ensure the employability and skills support provided aligns with employer needs.

iv) <b><i>Harnessing the collective recruitment powers of CPP partners</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In support of inclusive growth and to enable a targeted approach to be taken to connecting individuals or specific cohorts (including those who may be hard to reach) to future employment opportunities, a workforce survey was undertaken with a number of CPP Partners (e.g. Queens University, Belfast Met, Belfast City Council) with a total workforce covering 8,500 to identify future workforce needs. This work has informed the development of the Belfast Employability &amp; Skills Pathway, as referred to above, as well as designing specific support programmes such as employment academies.</li> <li>• Through this work opportunities have been identified within the BH&amp;SC Trust to support them in addressing growing demand and pressure on recruiting across a number of roles. Work is ongoing to determine the specific requirements of the employer, timeline and volume of employment opportunities. It is also expected that the needs of the BH&amp;SC Trust will be supported through a coordinated employer engagement approach with partners. Opportunities are being explored this co-ordination to be undertaken through a 'hub' based approach providing a mechanism for partner organisations to coordinate services for employers across the city, ensuring a joined up approach to provision.</li> </ul>
	<p>In addition to the priorities outlined above, work is also underway in a number of other areas which fall under the Working &amp; Learning pillar of the Belfast Agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Belfast Region City Deal</b> – Employability and skills is an underpinning pillar of the BRCD. Comprising a range of projects spanning across infrastructure, regeneration, tourism, innovation and digital. Delivery and implementation of these projects is expected to result in up to 20,000 new and/or better employment opportunities.</li> <li>• <b>City Youth Pledge</b> – Research has been undertaken to inform the development of a City Youth Pledge for Belfast, incorporating consultation with government departments, education providers, business representative bodies and young people. Further consideration is required through the W&amp;L Board to identify the scope of the city pledge, definition of target audience and identification of measurable indicators and resource implications</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Belfast - A Learning City</b> – Belfast was accepted into the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities in 2018. The Belfast Strategic Partnership Lifelong Learning Group recently undertook a consultation exercise, which will form the creation of a revised Learning City Action Plan and work is underway to align this with the Belfast Agenda and help build momentum around lifelong learning.</li> </ul>
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## **Growing the Economy & City Development**

<div>Page 105</div>	i) <b><i>Support entrepreneurs and business start-ups</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The development and delivery of a range of enterprise and business start-up support programmes including, for example the 'Go for it' programme which supported 590 people in 2018/19 resulting in 430 business plans being developed and 430 jobs promoted. Other programmes include specialist mentoring to more than 80 organisations through City Start-up and Support for Social Enterprise programmes, contributing to 71 new jobs; more than 60 start-ups within the high growth sector at the 'Venture for Success' programme; 200 individuals from underrepresented groups were helped to develop their business ideas; more than 770 participants were engaged in community focussed enterprise activity during Global Entrepreneurship week; and 30 graduates attended the Belfast Enterprise Academy.</li> <li>• The development and delivery of a range of business growth programmes across various sectors. In 2018-19 programmes included: business growth support to almost 300 businesses, contributing to the creation of 65 jobs; mentoring and dedicated retail support to a further 353 businesses; one-to-one mentoring and 'meet the buyer' events to 123 businesses; 450 delegates at the 'Output Belfast Conference' for creative and digital industries; and provision of specialist support to 18 businesses through the Export Hub Initiative.</li> <li>• The development of an Enterprise Framework for the city, ratified by the Council in January 2019, which seeks to address the structural issues across the enterprise sector in Belfast, reduce fragmentation and encourage a more collaborative and coordinated approach to delivery.</li> </ul>
	(ii) <b><i>Supporting cultural and tourism development</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The development of the new Cultural Strategy 'A City Imagining' will transform the city's offering in terms of cultural, tourism, festivals and events and help maximise the impact of future programmes and investments.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A local tourism product development framework has been developed and work is underway, in partnership with TNI, to bring forward a 3-year implementation plan to support local tourism development including capacity building across the city's neighbourhoods.</li> <li>• The City Markets continue to hold a programme of 3 Twilight Markets which attract a footfall of approx. 20,000 per event at St George's Market.</li> <li>• City Events - The estimated economic impact from the City Events programme over the last year was £12,123,140, with an estimated attendance figure for these events of 306,964.</li> </ul>
(iii) <b><i>Make Belfast a great place to do business and invest</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting and enhancing the city's competitiveness and attracting investment through specific targeted programmes including the delivery of a shared Belfast city promotional brand and participation in major events to showcase Belfast to an international audience as a key investment location. In 2018/19, the Council worked collaboratively with Invest NI on 12 FDI visits to the city.</li> <li>• Delivery of the two-year pilot 'City for Investment' service, launched in April 2018, which provides support for businesses or people seeking to expand their operations or considering the city as an investment location.</li> </ul>
(iv) <b><i>Enabling and Supporting City Development</i></b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued work on the development of the Belfast Local Development Plan 2035, which will set out a clear vision for how the city should look in the future; developing a Belfast Infrastructure Study which will bring forward specific proposals for enhancing the future sustainability of the city's urban infrastructure which is critical to unlocking future economic growth across the city; the delivery of the Belfast Regeneration and Investment Strategy and working with city partners to deliver transformational regeneration schemes including the City Centre Revitalisation Programme.</li> </ul>

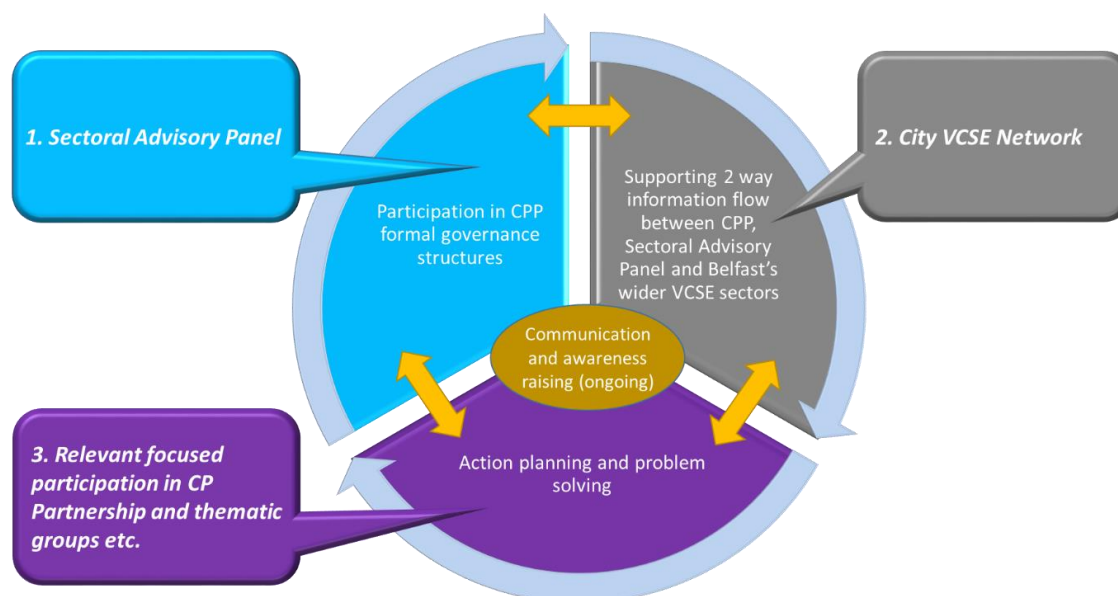


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## APPENDIX 2: Overview of VCSE Sector Engagement Model

The proposed model for VCSE sectors representation and participation in community planning has identified 3 forms of participation in community planning, summarised as follows:

1. Establishment of a **Sectoral Advisory Panel** to facilitate the selection of participation of VCSE sectoral delegates, who can advocate on behalf of others in the sector, in the formal community planning governance structures.
2. Establishment of a **VCSE Network** to facilitate effective and ongoing communication across the wider VCSE sectors in the city, in relation to the Belfast Agenda, community planning and the work of the Sectoral Advisory Panel, and to provide appropriate engagement and consultation opportunities to support the community planning process;
3. Utilising both the knowledge, expertise and stakeholder intelligence from both (1) and (2) above, to assist the Community Planning Partnership in identifying appropriate stakeholder **participation from VCSE sectors in action planning** activities/working groups.



### 1. Sectoral Advisory Panel

The purpose of the Panel will be to:

- i) Ensure the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sector's voices are articulated by participating in Community Planning Partnership and its Governance Structures, and providing advice and advocacy on the sector's behalf
- ii) Support the development of Cross-sectoral Relationships and improved Partnership working by increasing collaboration, assisting in identifying key stakeholders and networks, and acting as a 2 way conduit for information sharing and engagement
- iii) Promote ongoing and effective community engagement by promoting broad and inclusive engagement and consultation.

It is proposed the Panel would be comprised of up to 15 members (drawn from organisations and groups operating with the VCSE sectors in Belfast) via a nomination and selection process that will seek to ensure as far as possible a balanced membership across:

- Thematic areas and priorities in the Belfast Agenda
- Coverage of the city geography
- S75 groups
- Large and small organisations

## **2. VCSE Network**

The inclusive citywide VCSE network will support both the Community Planning Partnership and the Sectoral Advisory Panel, in particular in its ability to effectively communicate and engage with the wider VCSE sectors in the city in both the Belfast Agenda and Community Planning. The purpose of this network would be to facilitate effective dissemination of information, and co-ordinate engagement around key Belfast Agenda themes.

This network will be primarily virtual (online) – in registering to be part of the network participants will be entering into a commitment from City Partners to receive communications, and also opportunities to be engaged in the shaping and design of the Belfast agenda and its delivery. In practical terms, this will involve website content, social media, an online engagement platform, along with a series sectoral engagement events (A programme of engagement around Belfast Agenda and community planning themes is being developed with Partners to animate this process).

## **3. VCSE Sectors participation in detailed action planning**

In delivering Belfast Agenda priorities, Community Planning Partners are convening a range of action planning activities with relevant stakeholders, often on a 'task and finish' or ad hoc basis, to explore evidence and data, understand issues at hand, and develop interventions through collaborative working.

Immediate steps are being taken to embed strengthened VCSE sectors participation in action planning, working with action leads to ensure stakeholder identification/ mapping and engagement plans are in place across areas of work such as drugs, alcohol and mental health; addressing avoidable winter deaths; children and young people, early years and family support; educational inequalities; and employability and skills.

Going forward the strengthened approach to VCSE participation afforded by the Sectoral Advisory Panel and wider network aims to facilitate:

- Improved identification of key stakeholders and involvement to key organisations, groups and networks to participate in such groups through advice of the Sectoral Advisory Panel, and
- a more coherent supporting engagement mechanism to seek views across the wider VCSE sectors (through the VCSE Network) in relation to the themes and action plans under development.





<b>Subject:</b>	Leisure Transformation Programme: Assets Update
<b>Date:</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> September 2019
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Ronan Cregan; Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Sinead Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
<b>1.1</b>	This report updates Members on the development and implementation of the £105m leisure assets capital programme.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
<b>2.1</b>	<p>The Committee is asked to note the contents of this report and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>note the programme level update in respect of the new facilities under the leisure programme as outlined at 3.1-3.5</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• note that site visits to the three new centres have been arranged for Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> September and that all Members are encouraged to avail of this opportunity (see 3.6)</li><li>• note the update on communications around the opening of the new centres (see 3.7)</li><li>• note the update on employment opportunities as arising from the new centres (see 3.8)</li><li>• note the update on the Social Responsibility Plan which is being delivered (see 3.9)</li><li>• note the update around the next phase of the Programme with respect to proposed closure and start dates for Avoniel and Templemore (see 3.11 &amp; 3.12)</li><li>• note the update with respect to a further leisure development at the Girdwood site as outlined at 3.13 and agree the request from DFC that the Council acts as Delivery Agent for the project under the current LTP Governance structures. Members are further asked to note that the next steps will include working up options (further options can be added), appointing Integrated Consultancy Team (ICT) and developing concept designs before carrying out public consultation. Members are asked to note that DFC are funding the appointment of the ICT</li><li>• agree that a feasibility study is undertaken on the rest of the Council's leisure estate with a focus on Ballysillan, Whiterock, Shankill and Loughside with further detail to be brought back to Committee in due course</li></ul>																												
3.0	<b>Main report</b>																												
	<b>Programme level</b>																												
3.1	<p>Members will recall that they have agreed the design cost limits and the citywide USP strategy for the Council's £105m leisure programme, which will ensure that the city has a unique offering in terms of its leisure provision and minimises any duplication of provision ensuring both balanced investment and value for money. A high level summary of the current status of all the projects is outlined below -</p> <table><tr><th>CENTRE</th><th>USP</th><th>BUDGET</th><th>STATUS</th></tr><tr><td>Olympia</td><td>Sports Village</td><td>£19m (£21.75m total - £2.75m DfC)</td><td>Centre opened January 2017. Continues to exceed performance indicators Phase 2 (outdoor space) officially opened at the end of May 2018</td></tr><tr><td>Andersonstown</td><td>Family fun leisure water</td><td>£25m</td><td>Works well underway. See images at Appendix 1</td></tr><tr><td>Lisnasharragh</td><td>Aquatic Centre</td><td>£20m</td><td>Works well underway. See images at Appendix 1</td></tr><tr><td>Brook</td><td>Outdoor Centre of Excellence</td><td>£15m</td><td>Works well underway. See images at Appendix 1</td></tr><tr><td>Avoniel</td><td>Outdoor Centre of Excellence</td><td>£8m</td><td>Centre will close and works will begin once Lisnasharragh opens</td></tr><tr><td>Templemore</td><td>Spa and heritage</td><td>£12m (£17m total - £5m HLF)</td><td>Heritage Fund funding secured. Planning secured. Detailed designs being developed</td></tr></table>	CENTRE	USP	BUDGET	STATUS	Olympia	Sports Village	£19m (£21.75m total - £2.75m DfC)	Centre opened January 2017. Continues to exceed performance indicators Phase 2 (outdoor space) officially opened at the end of May 2018	Andersonstown	Family fun leisure water	£25m	Works well underway. See images at Appendix 1	Lisnasharragh	Aquatic Centre	£20m	Works well underway. See images at Appendix 1	Brook	Outdoor Centre of Excellence	£15m	Works well underway. See images at Appendix 1	Avoniel	Outdoor Centre of Excellence	£8m	Centre will close and works will begin once Lisnasharragh opens	Templemore	Spa and heritage	£12m (£17m total - £5m HLF)	Heritage Fund funding secured. Planning secured. Detailed designs being developed
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Girdwood	TBC	£6m	Discussions continuing with DfC
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## Project Updates

### Current builds

- 3.2 Works are well underway on the three new builds. All are currently on schedule and are moving towards construction completion. Members are asked to note that each new centre requires a period of commissioning following construction completion – this is to allow for testing of equipment etc. Following this period of commissioning each centre will have a ‘soft opening’ during which the centres will be open to schools, community groups etc. for taster sessions before the centre is officially opened to the public. A summary of the status is outlined below and photos showing ‘the current status of the builds are attached at Appendix 1.

Centre	Construction complete	Opening
Lisnasharragh	Mid October	Soft opening – December Official opening – January 2020*
Brook	End October	Soft opening – December Official opening – January 2020*
Andersonstown	February 2020	Soft opening March Official opening – April 2020*

*\* All centres will have an official opening – the dates of these are to be agreed and will be brought back to Committee in due course.*

- 3.3 **Lisnasharragh-** Tiling to the main pool hall and changing rooms has been completed, the diving board structures have been installed and the flooring to the gym and sports hall is currently being fitted. Externally all utilities connections are in place and the 3G pitch and installation of fencing is almost complete. In addition, the community facility is now completed. The finished centre is due to be handed over to Council in mid-October. Following this there will be a period of approximately 6 weeks of mobilisation during which the centre will be furnished, machines installed, staff trained and systems tested. **The centre itself will then undergo a ‘soft opening’ in December where various groups will be invited to use the facility before it formally opens to the public at the start of January 2020.** Members will be aware that discussions are ongoing regarding the proposed facilities at the rear of the site and Members will be verbally updated on this at Committee.

- 3.4 **Brook-** Tiling to the ground floor is almost complete and the timber floor is being fitted in the sports hall. Third fix M&E is now underway with pool lights now installed. Externally groundworks continue with pathways being formed and 3G pitch carpets laid. The centre is due to be handed over to Council at the end of October. Following mobilisation period of approximately 4 weeks it is then envisaged that **the centre will undergo a ‘soft opening’ in early December before opening to the public at the start of January 2020.**

- 3.5 **Andersonstown-** The slides and tower are now in place and internally the building is continuing to be fitted out with the children's splash adventure area and surf machine now installed. The underfloor heating is currently being installed and tiling to the main changing areas has been completed. The building is about to be made watertight which will allow completion of the main pool hall. Externally the 3G pitch is currently well underway. The centre is currently on schedule to be handed over to Council in February 2020 and following mobilisation **will undergo a soft opening in late March 2020 before opening to the public in mid-April 2020.**
- 3.6 **Site Visits-** visits to the three new builds have been organised for Members for next **Tuesday, 24<sup>th</sup> September.** A bus will leave City Hall at 10am for Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre and return at 12.30pm. The bus will then leave for Andersonstown and Brook Leisure Centres at 1.00pm and return to City Hall at approximately 4.30pm. All Members are invited to attend these site visits and are encouraged to take up this opportunity. Further visits can be arranged if these dates do not suit Members and if this is required then Members can contact the Physical Programmes Department.
- 3.7 **Communications-** Members are asked to note that a full communications plan to promote the opening of the three new centres is in place and BCC officers are working closely with GLL to coordinate its delivery. Regular updates on the progress of the builds are being provided on the Council website, Facebook and via social media and are receiving extremely positive feedback. In addition, information stands promoting the centres will be appearing in the Kennedy Centre, Victoria Square, Castle Court, Connswater and Forestside shopping centres over the coming weeks. GLL will also shortly be launching their formal 'pre-sales' offering allowing people to join the new centres prior to opening. An extensive outdoor advertising campaign will also be rolled out across the city.
- 3.8 **Employment-** The opening of the three new facilities will create up to 75 new permanent jobs and up to 100 casual positions for the city. This represents another very positive impact for the Leisure Transformation Programme and feeds directly into the ambitious job creation targets within the Council's Belfast Agenda. To date GLL have recruited all the management posts for the new centres, including General and Duty Managers and are now focusing on some of the more customer facing posts such as Customer Service Staff, Recreation Assistants and Fitness Instructors. Many of these posts will be recruited through the Council's newly established Leisure Academy (see below).
- 3.9 **Social Responsibility – Economic and social benefit clauses -** In line with Council policy our leisure contractor, Heron Brothers, have developed a **Social Responsibility Plan** which maximises the social, economic and environmental benefits of the contract through focusing on a number of areas including employment, promotion of local businesses and community

and social initiatives. Members are asked to note the following key outcomes which have been delivered to date under the Social Responsibility Plan –

- **Employment** - The creation of **employment opportunities** was a central component of the Social Responsibility Plan including employment opportunities for the long term unemployed, apprentices and tertiary level students. Employment outcomes are principally measured in employment weeks although additional indicators are also being monitored in terms of the number of jobs created, salary levels, duration of employment etc. In regards to the employment opportunities targeted at the unemployed and economically inactive, the Employability & Skills Team have co-designed and delivered a **Construction Employment Academy** targeted at supporting the contractor to fulfil the employment and employments weeks, ensuring optimum outcomes in specific relation to those unemployed, economically inactive, apprentices/trainees and higher-level students. As of September 2019 Members are asked to note that the following employment opportunities have been delivered as part of the Council's leisure contract and **that the overall target number of weeks for employment, apprentices and paid placements has now been exceeded by over 35%.**

	Target	Weeks Delivered	Individuals Recruited
Employment for long-term unemployed or economically inactive	620	700 (up from 489 in Feb 19)	12
Apprentice	620	1435 (up from 1196 in Feb 19)	34
Paid Placement/Work Experience	1100	1040 (up from 746 in Feb 19)	15 (up from 14 in Feb 19)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2340</b>	<b>3175</b>	<b>61</b>

- In addition to the Construction Academy the Council's Economic Development Unit have recently launched a **Leisure Employment Academy** to provide support for those out of work or currently working under 16 hours to compete for the 75 new permanent jobs and 100 casual positions that will be created as part of the current phase of LTP. This Academy will provide participants with job specific skills and the relevant qualifications required to access the employment opportunities identified. GLL have recently been awarded the contract to deliver this training and the academies have been split into a number of different occupational areas as follows:
  - Wetside Employment Academy (National Pool Lifeguard NPLQ)
  - Wetside Employment Academy (STA Swimming Teachers)
  - Dryside Employment Academy (Fitness Instructor)
  - Dryside Employment Academy (Customer Service)



The investment per person involved in the Academy will be approximately £1,700 and each successful participant is guaranteed an interview with GLL. It is envisaged that approximately 40-50 permanent and casual posts will be filled through this route. The Academy has been widely publicised through a series of roadshows, radio ads and press articles and will commence delivery in late September.

- 3.10 In addition to this Heron Bros Ltd. have also taken forward a range of other initiatives under their Social Responsibility Plan including promotion of local suppliers and businesses, community initiatives and engagement, sports development and skills and health initiatives. Further details of these are attached at Appendix 2.

### **Next Phase**

Plans are well developed to progress the next phase of the Programme as follows:

- 3.11 **Avoniel** – Members agreed in April 2016, that Avoniel would become a ‘dry’ centre with a focus on outdoor soccer facilities and that Templemore would become the ‘wet’ centre for inner east Belfast. Members will also be aware that a comprehensive consultation and engagement process was held in relation to the development proposals for Avoniel and Templemore between November 2017 and January 2018. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive with 97% of respondents expressing support for Templemore and 85% expressing support for Avoniel. As part of the planning process for Avoniel a further consultation event was held in Avoniel Leisure Centre on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March from 3pm - 8pm. This event produced 31 individual responses with 49% expressing support for the project and 32% expressing opposition. There was significant representation at the event from the Avoniel ‘Over 50s’ group with 66% of respondents coming from the 55+ age group. Several clubs also attended the consultation including Glentoran FC, East Belfast FC and two local hockey clubs, all of whom expressed strong support for the plans. The main comment from those opposed to the plans was a request to keep Avoniel open until the redevelopment of Templemore is complete. Members have previously considered and rejected this request, as any deviation from the previously already agreed phasing would have serious financial and contractual implications on the delivery of the Programme. Members had also previously reflected that officers relook at the design and cost implications to see if it would be possible to incorporate a café within the new Avoniel. Members are asked to note that officers have looked at this and given that the facilities mix has been signed off and ‘design freeze’ is in place that the costs of this and the wider impact on the design would be prohibitive within the budget envelope. The development of a café would also compromise the design in that it will require losing one of the two multi-purpose rooms which has been designed in to ensure that the building is as flexible as possible and can deliver a range of activities and classes.

**It is planned that works will commence at Avoniel in January 2020.** Council officers are working closely with GLL on their demobilisation plans for Avoniel. As agreed, there will be no disruption to the continuity of swim provision in East Belfast and **Avoniel will not fully close until Lisnasharragh is fully operational.**

- 3.12 **Templemore** – Following the decision by the ‘Heritage Fund’ (HF) (previously the ‘Heritage Lottery Fund’) to fund the project, officers have been working closely with HF to secure formal ‘Permission to Start’. Planning Permission for the project was granted in June and the formal paperwork has just been received. This completes HF’s requirements and Permission to Start notification is expected before the end of September. The Design Team are now working on Stage 4 designs and these should be completed before the end of this year. Contractor procurement (PQQ) is due to commence before the end of September with the ITT then going out before Christmas. It is expected that the contractor will be in place by mid-April 2020 and following mobilisation construction will commence in June 2020. In order to maximise leisure provision in East Belfast and ensure the building remains operational as long as possible **it is proposed that the current facilities Templemore remain open until May 2020.**

Council officers and GLL are currently liaising with the Templemore Users Trust (TUT) to help ensure they have access to facilities to provide continuity of provision of their services for the period that Templemore Baths is under development. These discussions are ongoing and a further update will be brought to Members in due course. As with previous centres, a full demobilisation plan for Templemore will also be developed in due course.

- 3.13 **Girdwood Phase 2** – Members will be aware that officers have been in discussions with DfC, as the land owners of Girdwood Park, around options for a further leisure development at the Girdwood site. A high-level options paper has been developed by DfC, which outlined 3 options with regard to the facilities mix. These options included (i) Indoor Basketball Arena + community pool, (ii) High performance boxing facility + community pool and, (iii) Specialist Climbing Facility + community pool. These options were presented to a cross-party (political) group in December 2017 and the Girdwood Community Forum in May 2018; no issues or constraints outside of financing and statutory approvals were identified. **It is therefore proposed that these options are taken forward for viability assessment.** This will involve the engagement of an Integrated Consultant Team (ICT) to further test the options and develop concept designs, which will then be subject to consultation. **It is important to note that at this stage DfC have not ruled out the potential to explore further options should these emerge during the development process, providing they still reflect the broad objectives for the site as outlined in the options paper.** The proposed facilities mix for this facility must also take into account the Council’s other facilities across the city (both current and planned), particularly in terms of USPs, usage, catchment area and revenue implications.

3.14	<p>Given the Council's capacity and experience with respect to the delivery of leisure facilities, the current governance structures already in place for LTP, and its current £6m commitment to the project, DfC have now formally requested that Council act as the Delivery Agent for this project. DfC have ring-fenced budget to cover the costs of ICT engagement and have requested that Council lead this procurement. The estimated costs for the new indoor sports facility are currently projected at £14m and consideration for DfC to fund the balance of the project (£8m) will be subject to the outcomes of the Business Plan process, budget priorities and availability of Ministerial approvals. A high level timeline for the new Girdwood facility which is indicative only at this stage is - Concept design 2020/21, Planning and detailed design 2021/2022, Construction 2022/2023-2024 (18 months build).</p> <p><b>Other leisure facilities</b> – Members will be aware that there are a number of other leisure facilities across its estate which have not been part of the Leisure Transformation Programme. A number of these are aging and to ensure that leisure continues to be looked at on a city-wide basis it is proposed that a feasibility study is undertaken on the rest of the leisure estate with a focus on Ballysillan, Whiterock, Shankill, Loughside given the age of these facilities. Members are asked to agree that a feasibility is now undertaken with further detail to be brought back to Committee. The costs for this feasibility will be met from the Feasibility Fund.</p>
3.15	<p><b><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>Financial – The design costs limits for each centre were agreed by Committee in April 2015 as part of the overall £105m leisure programme.</p> <p>Costs for taking forward the feasibility studies for the</p> <p>Resource- relating to Council acting as Delivery Agent for the designs development stage of Girdwood II using the existing LTP Governance structures</p>
3.16	<p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></b></p> <p>There are no direct equality implications</p>
4.0	<p><b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b></p>
	<p>Appendix 1 – Photos – Lisnasharragh, Andersonstown and Brook Leisure Centres</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Detail of other initiatives taken forward under the Leisure Social Responsibility Plan</p>



## Appendix 1- New Leisure Centre Photos



Lisnasharragh- external

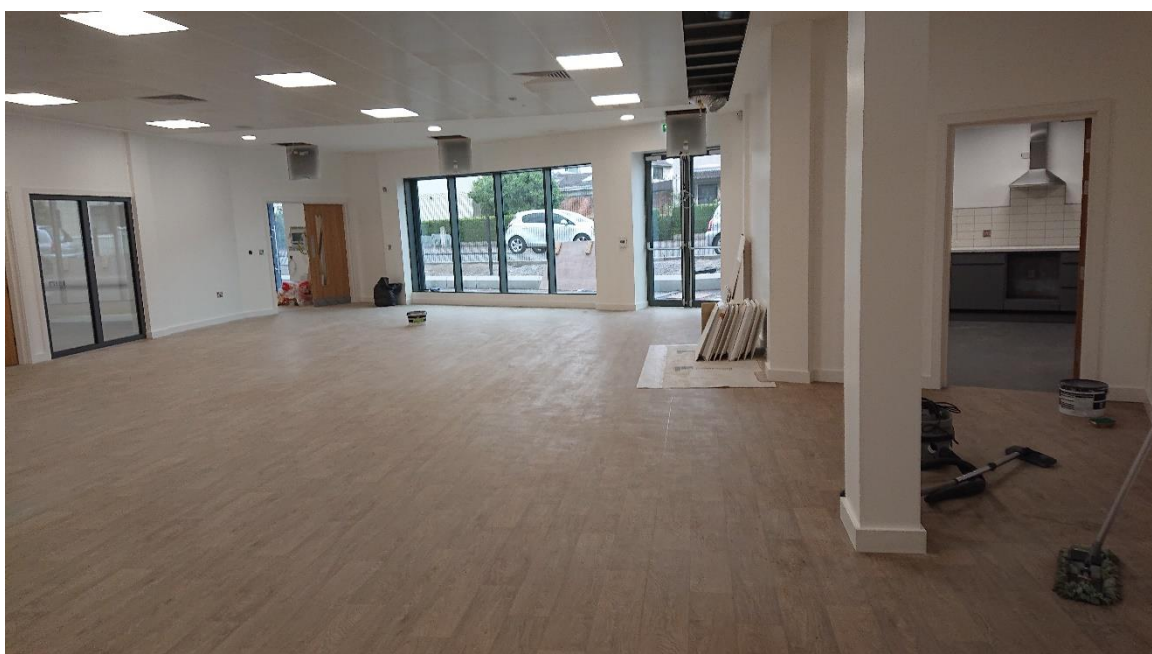


Lisnasharragh- front elevation





Lisnasharrgh- main pool hall



Lisnasharragh- Community Centre





Andersonstown- front elevation



Andersonstown- main pool hall





Andersonstown- top of slide tower



Andersonstown- village changing





Brook- external



Brook- main pool hall



Brook- covered 3G pitch

## **Appendix 2 – Leisure Update - Initiatives taken forward under the Leisure Social Responsibility Plan**

### ***Promotion of Local Suppliers and Businesses***

- A 'Business-to-Business' wall has been installed at each site for local businesses to promote their goods and services

### ***Community Initiatives and Engagement***

- Fund raising activities including a Cystic Fibrosis 'Trick or Treat' breakfast and a McMillian Cancer Coffee Morning
- Partnering with South Belfast Foodbank to collect food from site employees and help local people in crisis at Christmas
- Christmas decorations installed at each site
- Sponsorship of a range of community groups and festivals including Féile an Phobail; Clonduff July Festival; Colinglen Christmas tree and festival;
- Benefit in kind materials (fencing) to support West Spend summer festival and benefit in kind materials (brick) to help community memorial wall in Clonduff
- Eight site employees have undertaken volunteering at Reconnect NI to lay new patio and tidy up the garden facilities for the local West Belfast charity

### **Sports Development**

- Partnership with GLL on summer 2019 cross community activities
- Sponsorship of Clonduff Under 14 Football Club
- Sponsorship of 'Run Belfast Hills' in partnership with North Belfast Harriers and National Trust.

### **Skills & Health Initiatives**

- Worked in partnership with Groundwork NI to plan and deliver the 'Grow Bus' to 4 cross community schools local to the sites to educate the children on the benefits of eating fruit and veg plus how to grow your own.

### **West&pend Initiative**

This Initiative has now been completed. A summary of the main points is as follows:

- Aiken PR appointed to engage with local businesses on the Andersonstown Road



- A budget of £20,000 was utilised to develop and deliver a range of marketing and promotional activities such as PR and social media campaigns and a targeted advertising campaign
- Over 80 businesses in the area availed of support
- Range of events were delivered such as Summer Street Fair, Pumpkin Festival and Christmas Light Switch on Event



<b>Subject:</b>	Physical Programme Update
<b>Date:</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> September 2019
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Sinead Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes Ronan Cregan; Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Omar Balite, Programme Office Coordinator Shauna Murtagh, Programme Office Coordinator

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	The Council's Physical Programme covers over 150 live regeneration projects across a range of funding streams including the Capital Programme, Leisure Transformation Programme, Belfast Investment Fund, Local Investment Fund, Social Outcomes Fund and the projects which the Council is delivering on behalf of other agencies. This report highlights projects recommended to be move through the approval stages.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>

2.1	<p>The Committee is requested to –</p> <p><b>Proposed movement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>agree that the <b>Boodles Dam abandonment and redevelopment project</b> is moved to <b>Stage 3- Committed on the Capital Programme</b>. It is however recommended that this be held at Pre-Tender Stage pending planning approval and the tender return price at which stage the final budget will be brought back to Committee. Members are further asked to <b>agree that the necessary procurement processes</b> be initiated as required with contracts to be awarded on the basis of most economically advantageous tenders received and full commitment to deliver</li></ul> <p><b>Externally funded programme</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>agree to the request by DFC to administer its <b>Access and Inclusion Capital Programme 2019/20</b> in the Belfast City Council area.</li></ul>						
3.0	<p><b>Main report</b></p> <p><u>Key Issues</u></p>						
3.1	<p><b>Proposed Movements – Capital Programme</b></p> <p>Members have previously agreed that <b>all</b> capital projects must go through a <b>3 Stage process</b> where decisions on which projects progress are taken by SP&amp;R. This provides assurance as to the level of financial control and will allow Members to properly consider the opportunity costs of approving one capital project over another capital project. Members are asked to agree to the following movement on the Capital Programme</p> <table><tr><th>Project</th><th>Overview</th><th>Stage</th></tr><tr><td>Boodles Dam Abandonment and Redevelopment</td><td>To safely decommission Boodles Dam and develop the site for amenity use (located at Ligonell Park – off the Ligonell Road)</td><td>Move to Stage 3- Committed Recommended to be held at Pre-Tender stage pending tender return</td></tr></table> <p>Any project which is being moved from Stage 2 to Stage 3 under the Capital Programme is required as part of the Council three stage approval process to complete an Outline Business Case (OBC).</p>	Project	Overview	Stage	Boodles Dam Abandonment and Redevelopment	To safely decommission Boodles Dam and develop the site for amenity use (located at Ligonell Park – off the Ligonell Road)	Move to Stage 3- Committed Recommended to be held at Pre-Tender stage pending tender return
Project	Overview	Stage					
Boodles Dam Abandonment and Redevelopment	To safely decommission Boodles Dam and develop the site for amenity use (located at Ligonell Park – off the Ligonell Road)	Move to Stage 3- Committed Recommended to be held at Pre-Tender stage pending tender return					
3.2	<p><b>Project Update – Boodles Dam</b></p> <table><tr><td>Moved to Stage 2- Uncommitted on the Capital Programme</td><td>19 August 2016</td></tr><tr><td>Senior Responsible Owner (SRO)</td><td>Nigel Grimshaw</td></tr><tr><td>Client Department</td><td>City &amp; Neighbourhood Services</td></tr></table> <p>Members will be aware that in August 2016 the Committee agreed to move Boodles Dam project to Stage 2- Uncommitted. Members have been previously updated that a Section 10</p>	Moved to Stage 2- Uncommitted on the Capital Programme	19 August 2016	Senior Responsible Owner (SRO)	Nigel Grimshaw	Client Department	City & Neighbourhood Services
Moved to Stage 2- Uncommitted on the Capital Programme	19 August 2016						
Senior Responsible Owner (SRO)	Nigel Grimshaw						
Client Department	City & Neighbourhood Services						

safety report has set out a recommendation for Boodles Dam to be abandoned due to the risk of a landslip from the landfill and park on the adjacent western slope. The Dam has a heavily populated urban development downstream, and as a result is defined as a Category A reservoir and as such carries requirements for the Council under the Reservoir Safety Act. The most recent monitoring survey (Ligoniel Park - 2019 Ground Movement Survey) undertaken in July 2019 provides evidence of ongoing movement of the ground uphill of the dam and therefore in order to ensure that the Council complies with its statutory requirements under the Reservoirs Safety Act works to Boodles Dam must now be undertaken.

3.3 Members are asked to note that the OBC for the Boodles Dam project has been completed and reviewed internally and found to be consistent with the required abilities (feasibility, affordability, deliverability, sustainability, strategic fit. The proposed scope of the project includes works to address Section 10 Report requirements along with some wider environmental improvements and upgrades including paths, landscaping and new fencing. This ensures the council meets its statutory obligations with respect to the management of reservoirs. In addition it will open up the site up for community use as an amenity.

3.4 Members are also asked to note that this project is linked to the Reservoir Safety Programme (currently at Stage 2- Uncommitted project) a city wide initiatives which look at the council's responsibility for the management of reservoirs that retain over 10,000m<sup>3</sup> of water above natural ground level. These reservoirs includes the Waterworks Upper and Lower, Alexandra Park and Half Moon Lake. Monitoring of these reservoirs is ongoing in line with our requirements under the Act. Following these monitoring regimes, future works and requirements will be identified and an OBC will be prepared.

3.5 **In order to comply with its statutory requirements under the Reservoirs Safety Act it is therefore recommended that the Boodles Dam project be moved to Stage 3- Committed on the Capital Programme. It is however recommended that this be held at Pre-tender stage pending planning approval and the tender return price.** At this stage the final budget will be brought back to the Committee for sign-off and confirmation that is within the affordability limits of the Council. Members are further asked to agree that the necessary procurement process be initiated as required with contracts to be awarded on the basis of most economically advantageous tenders received and full commitment to deliver.

3.6 **Delivery of externally funded programme – DfC Access and Inclusion**

All local councils in NI have been approached again by DfC to request that they administer the DfC Access and Inclusion Capital Programme 2019/20 within their respective local council areas. The Council acted as the lead management partner for the 18/19 Access and Inclusion Fund within Belfast. This programme supports small-scale capital investments up to £30,000

	and aims to improve access to arts and cultural activities, including leisure and recreation facilities, by people with disabilities. The Council is eligible to apply for support as well as community groups and arts and cultural venues, where demonstrable need is evidenced. The available budget across the 11 council areas is £500,000. The Belfast programme will be administered by the Place and Economy Dept, in line with the process initiated in 2018/19, with support from the Physical Programmes Dept.
3.7	<p><b><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p><i>Financial</i> -- Boodles Dam abandonment and redevelopment – as above</p> <p>DFC Access and Inclusion Fund - There is no requirement for match-funding from Council. The funding will be provided by DfC up to a maximum of £30,000 per eligible project. The total available funding across NI is £500,000.</p> <p><i>Resources</i> – Officer time to deliver as required</p>
3.8	<p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p> <p>All capital projects are screened as part of the stage approval process</p> <p>DFC Access and Inclusion Fund – working closely with the Council's Equality Unit and DFC to ensure positive equality implications which is the central component of the Fund</p>
4.0	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	None





<b>Subject:</b>	Belfast City Council Statement of Accounts 2018/19
<b>Date:</b>	20 September 2019
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Ronan Cregan; Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Trevor Wallace, Head of Finance Helen Lyons, Corporate Finance Manager

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	The purpose of this report is to present to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, the Statement of Accounts of the Council, including the Annual Governance Statement, for the period ending 31 March 2019.
1.2	The Statement of Accounts are an important element of the council's overall corporate governance framework as they provide assurance to Members and ratepayers on the stewardship of the council's finances and its financial position.

1.3	The Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2019, as attached, have been prepared in line with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2018/19 based on International Financial Reporting Standards and the Department for the Communities Accounts Direction, Circular LG 12/19 dated 29 March 2019.
1.4	I can confirm that the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2019 has been prepared in the form directed by the Department for the Communities and in my opinion the Statement of Accounts give a true and fair view of the income and expenditure and cash flows for the financial year and the financial position as at the end of the financial year.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approve the Council's Statement of Accounts and incorporated Annual Governance Statement for the year ended 31 March 2019.</li> <li>• Agree that this paper should not be subject to call-in (as indicated above) because it would cause an unreasonable delay which would be prejudicial to the Council's and the public's interests given that the statement of accounts must be published by 30th September 2019.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
	<u>Key Issues</u>
	<b>Audit Opinion</b>
3.1	<p>It is the Local government Auditors' opinion that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with relevant legal and statutory requirements and the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2018-19, of the financial position of Belfast City Council as at 31 March 2019 and its income and expenditure for the year then ended; and</li> <li>• the statement of accounts have been properly prepared in accordance with the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and the Department for Communities directions issued thereunder; and</li> <li>• the part of the Remuneration Report to be audited has been properly prepared in accordance with the Department for Communities directions made under the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015; and</li> <li>• the information given in the Narrative Report for the financial year ended 31 March 2019 is consistent with the financial statements.</li> </ul>
	<b>Reserves</b>
3.2	<b>General Fund</b>

The credit balance on the General Fund has increased to £25,796,988 (of which £12,957,466 relates to specified reserves). The movement on the reserves balance is summarised in Table 1 below:

**Table 1: Summary of Reserves Position**

Opening Balance	£24.4m
In year movement in reserves	<u>£ 1.4m</u>
<b>Closing Balance</b>	<b>£25.8m</b>
Specified Reserves at year end	<u>£13.0m</u>
<b>Balance Available</b>	<b><u>£12.8m</u></b>

3.3	<p><b>Capital Fund                    £25,288,151</b></p> <p>The Capital Fund is made up of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Belfast Investment Fund (£5,559,723)</b> -created to support key partnership projects to regenerate Belfast and help lever substantial funds from other sources</li> <li>• <b>Local Investment Fund (£1,425,280)</b> to fund smaller local regeneration projects</li> <li>• <b>City Centre Investment Fund (£15,154,012)</b> to support the Belfast City Centre Regeneration Investment Plans</li> <li>• <b>Social Outcomes Fund (£3,149,136)</b> to support City Centre projects which might not generate a direct financial return but would enhance the overall City Centre offer and support the attraction of investment.</li> </ul>
3.4	<p><b>Leisure Mobilisation Fund        £1,441,702</b></p> <p>This fund is to support the Leisure Transformation Programme and will cover programme level costs including communications, engagement and procurement costs.</p>
3.5	<p><b>Capital Receipts Reserve    £5,200,457</b></p> <p>These are capital receipts which have originated primarily from the sale of assets and which have not yet been used to finance capital expenditure.</p>
3.6	<p><b>Other Fund Balances and Reserves    £1,063,919</b></p> <p>This relates to the Election Reserve (£674,607) which has been set up to smooth the cost of running council elections, the BWUH Subvention Fund (£322,667) to support national and international organisations in bringing their conferences to Belfast and the BWUH Sinking</p>

	Fund (£66,645) to support planned maintenance and future capital works at the new exhibition centre.															
3.7	<p><b>Debt</b></p> <p>The overall level of trade debtors had decreased over the previous 10 years, reducing from £7.5m at 31 March 2009 to £2.5m at 31 March 2019. An analysis of trade debtors, inclusive of VAT, for the last two years is shown below:</p> <p><b>Table 2 : Analysis of Trade Debtors</b></p> <table><tr><td></td><td><b>31 March 2019</b></td><td><b>31 March 2018</b></td></tr><tr><td>Less than three months</td><td>£2,131,221</td><td>£2,859,979</td></tr><tr><td>Three to one year</td><td>£128,050</td><td>£154,081</td></tr><tr><td>More than one year</td><td>£285,208</td><td>£736,633</td></tr><tr><td><b>Total</b></td><td><b>£2,544,479</b></td><td><b>£3,750,693</b></td></tr></table>		<b>31 March 2019</b>	<b>31 March 2018</b>	Less than three months	£2,131,221	£2,859,979	Three to one year	£128,050	£154,081	More than one year	£285,208	£736,633	<b>Total</b>	<b>£2,544,479</b>	<b>£3,750,693</b>
	<b>31 March 2019</b>	<b>31 March 2018</b>														
Less than three months	£2,131,221	£2,859,979														
Three to one year	£128,050	£154,081														
More than one year	£285,208	£736,633														
<b>Total</b>	<b>£2,544,479</b>	<b>£3,750,693</b>														
3.8	<p><b>Creditors</b></p> <p>The Department for Communities has set councils a target of paying invoices within 30 days. During the year the council paid 61,520 invoices totalling £163,474,395.</p>															
3.9	<p>The average time taken to pay creditor invoices was 15 days for the year ended 31 March 2019. The Council paid 39,940 invoices within 10 days, 56,029 invoices within 30 days, and 5,491 invoices outside of 30 days. The council endeavours to process invoices as quickly as possible and has an improvement plan to support this process.</p>															
3.10	<p><b>Annual Governance Statement (AGS)</b></p> <p>The Statement of Accounts include Annual Governance Statement (AGS) for the year 2018/19, which has been prepared in line with the Accounts Directive provided by the Department for Communities, NIAO guidance and is consistent with the principles of the CIPFA/SOLACE Framework ‘Delivering Good Governance in Local Government’. Specifically the AGS sets out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• scope of responsibility of the Council in relation to governance</li><li>• the purpose of the governance framework</li><li>• the governance framework in place</li><li>• review of effectiveness of the governance framework</li><li>• significant governance issues to be disclosed.</li></ul>															
3.11	<p>The AGS is approved by the Chair of the Strategic Policy and Resources, the Chief Executive and the Director of Finance and Resources. It is subject to review by the LGA (NIAO) as part of their annual audit.</p>															
3.12	<p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></p>															

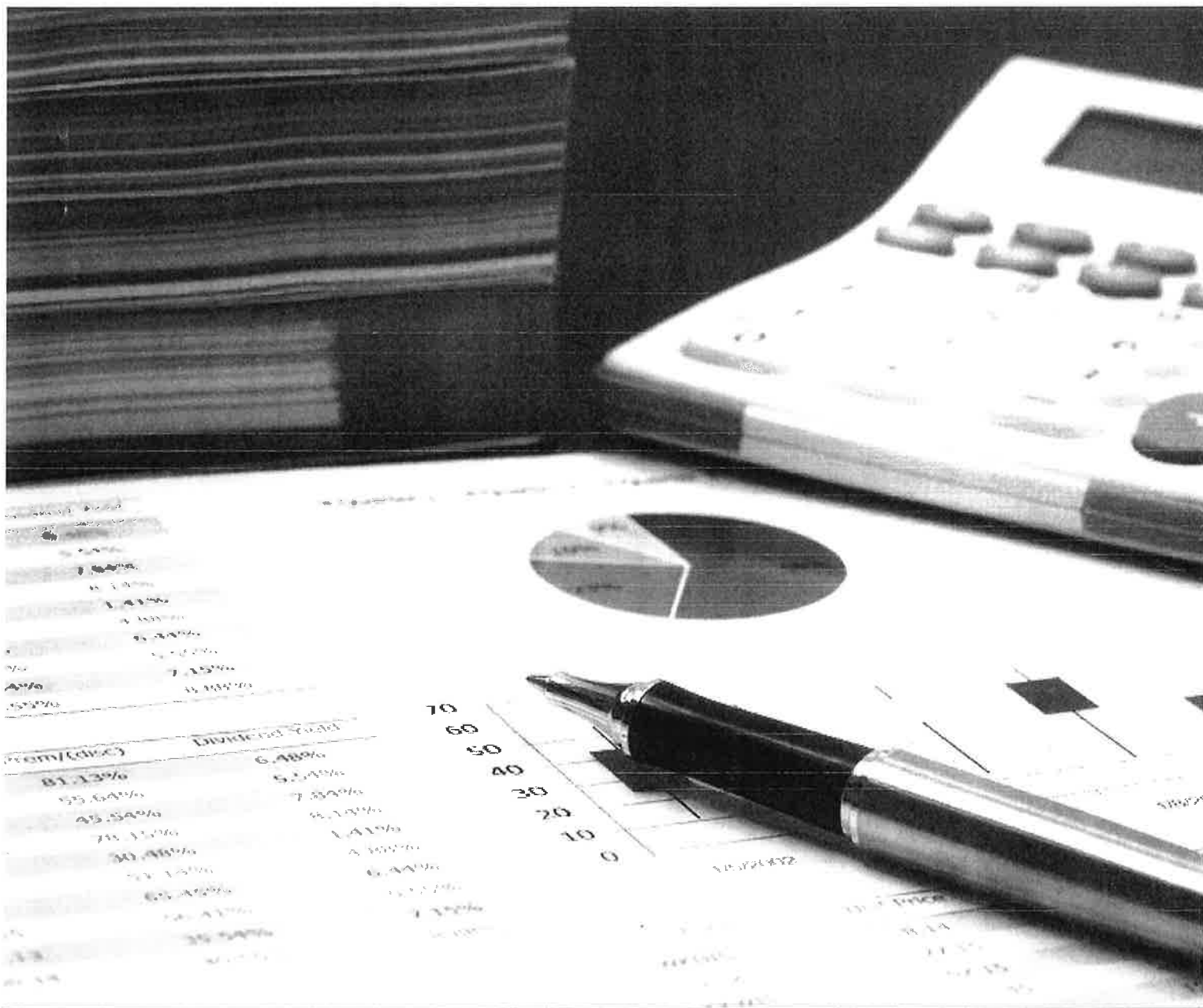
	None
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.13	None
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1 - Detailed Statement of Accounts titled “Belfast City Council Statement of Accounts 2019”



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# Belfast City Council

## Statement of Accounts 2019



**Belfast**  
City Council

**BELFAST CITY COUNCIL**  
**Statement of Accounts**  
**For the year ended 31 March 2019**

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## Narrative Report

### Introduction

#### Organisational overview and external environment

Belfast City Council remains the largest of Northern Ireland's 11 local authorities, serving a population of 340,220 residents, as well as the thousands of people who travel to the city to work, study and visit each day.



With a net budgeted expenditure of £159.9m in 2018/19, Belfast City Council's 2,305 employees, led by 60 councillors across 10 electoral areas, carry out six principal roles:

- a civic leadership role to ensure a better quality of life for our citizens;
- provision of a number of services and facilities including planning, parks and leisure, refuse and recycling and community services;
- promoting the arts, tourism, community and economic development;
- regulating and licensing activities relating to environmental health, consumer protection, building and public safety;
- a representative role on a number of bodies and boards, including education and health; and
- a consultative role in relation to functions conducted by other government bodies and agencies on issues such as planning, water, roads and housing.

With our role in leading community planning in Belfast we have published the Belfast Agenda 2017-2035, outlining our priorities for the City which will require collaboration with key partners to ensure delivery of these ambitions for the City.

The key services delivered by the Council are outlined below under our Operational Model and the key objectives of the Council are outlined below under Strategic Performance. The key deliverables for year ended 31 March 2019 reflect the priorities articulated by local people and relate to the council's functions as both a civic leader and service provider.

## Operational Model

Each year, the Council must ensure it has the resources it needs to deliver services to the standard expected by its ratepayers. Budget plans are submitted to the relevant committees for approval regarding what the Council hopes to do and how much it will cost. This helps the Council understand how much money is required and, taking account of other sources of income, what 'rate' needs to be set for the city to raise the required money.

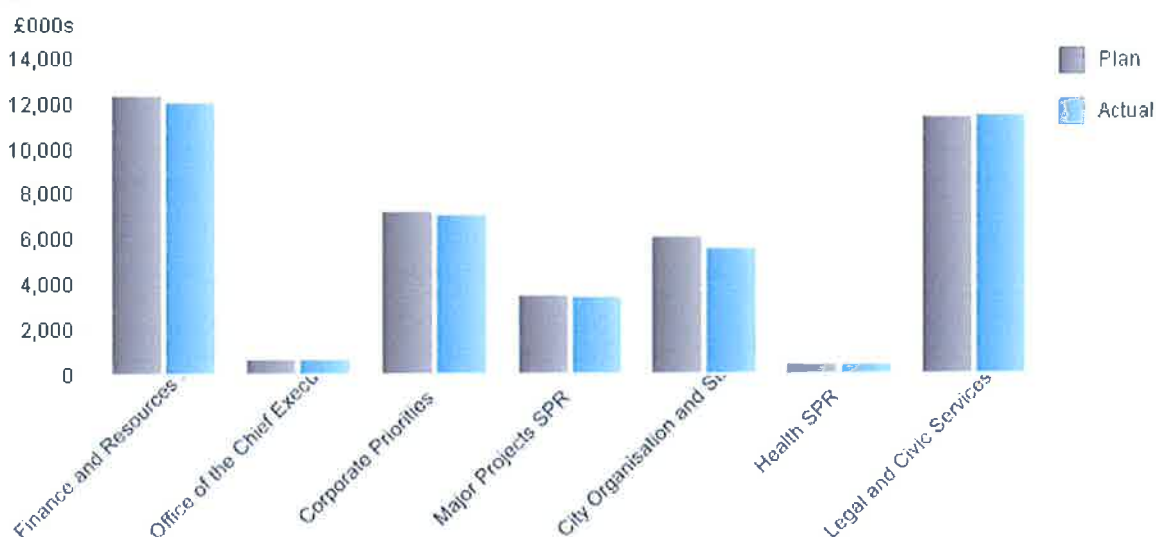
Throughout the year the Council reports to the relevant committees on the financial performance against agreed budget for each committee. The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement shows the accounting cost in the year of providing services in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices, rather than the amount to be funded from taxation. Councils raise taxation to cover expenditure in accordance with statutory requirements; this may be different from the accounting cost. The taxation position is shown in both the Expenditure and Funding Analysis and the Movement in Reserves Statement.

The majority of the variance between budget and actual expenditure is disclosed in the Expenditure and Funding analysis in Note 2 and is mainly due to accounting adjustments that are required for the purposes of preparing the financial statements, such as depreciation and impairments, fair value adjustments on investment properties and IAS 19 accounting adjustments. There are also variances due to reclassification of income and expenditure to other income and expenditure for financial accounting purposes such as rental and financing activities.

Each committee is responsible for the delivery of key services to the Council and the main services included in each committee is as follows:

### Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

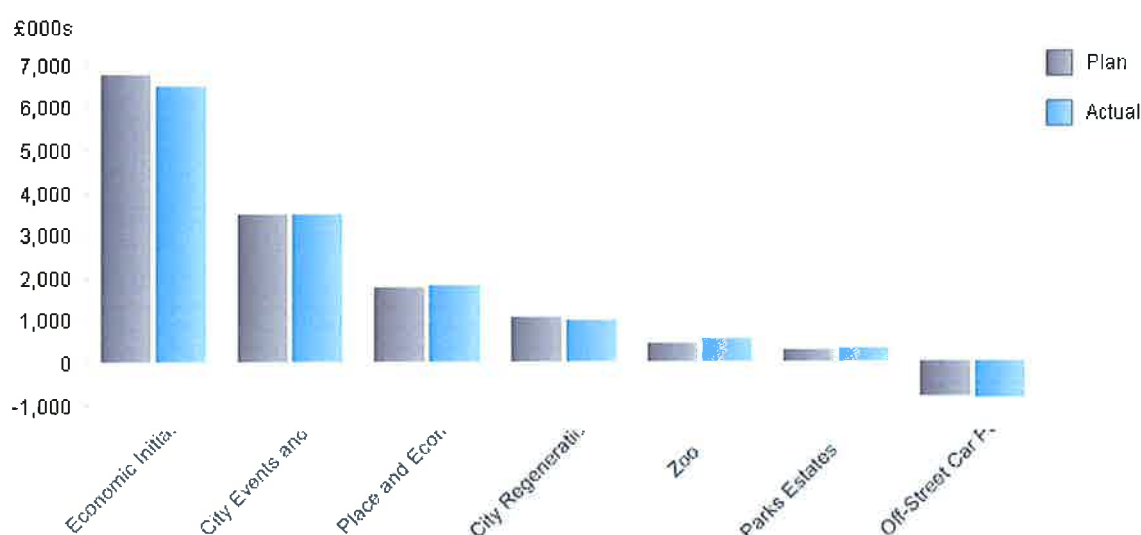
This committee is responsible for setting the strategic direction of the Council through the development of its Corporate Plan and other key corporate and cross cutting strategies and policies. The net expenditure of this committee includes Legal and Civic Services, Finance and Resources, City Organisation Structure and Major Projects and Corporate Priorities with Human Resources and Good Relations. The net expenditure budget for this committee for these services in 2018/19 is £41.3m with actual net expenditure for the year amounting to £40.1m. The graph below outlines the services delivered within this committee and performance against budget. These amounts do not include the accounting adjustments that are required to be included in the net expenditure for this committee in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account. The net expenditure of £66.9m for this Committee includes the accounting adjustments that are required for preparing the financial statements.





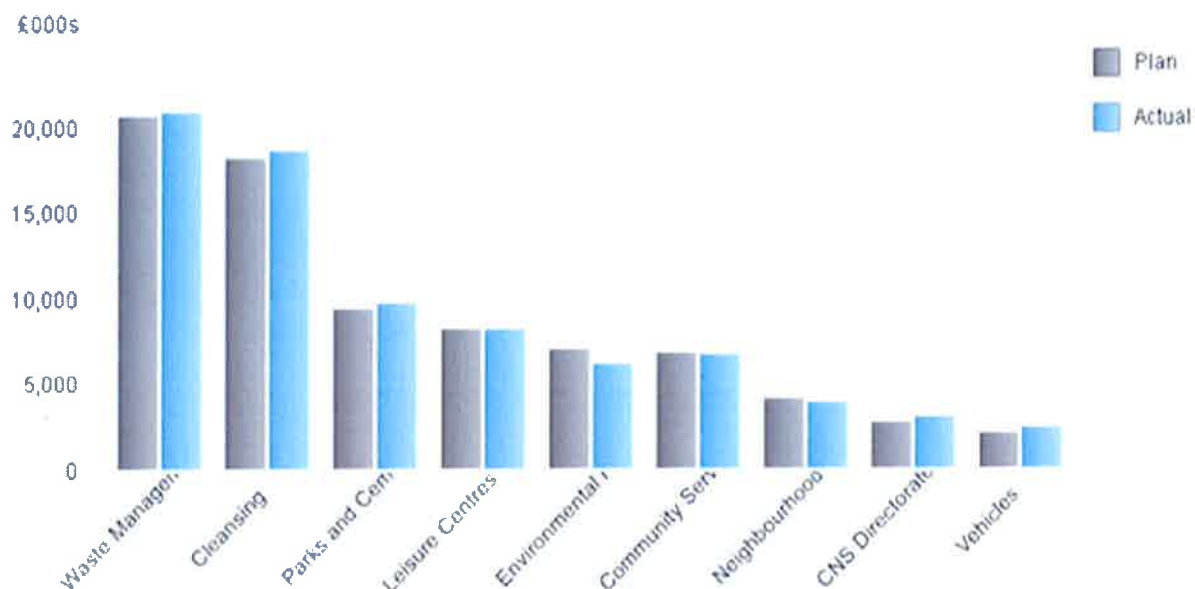
## City Growth and Regeneration Committee

This committee is responsible for the development and implementation of strategies, policies, programmes and projects directed to the regeneration and growth of the City in the context of outcomes agreed in the Community and Corporate plans and other corporate strategies. The net expenditure of the committee includes Economic Initiatives and City Regeneration, City Events and Venues including Off-Street Car Parking, Place and Economy and Parks Estates and Zoo. The total budget for net expenditure for this committee for these services was £17.4m and actual net expenditure was £17.4m. The graph below outlines the services delivered within this committee and performance against budget. These amounts do not include the accounting adjustments that are required to be included in the net expenditure for this committee in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account. The net expenditure of £23.3m for this Committee includes the accounting adjustments that are required for preparing the financial statements.



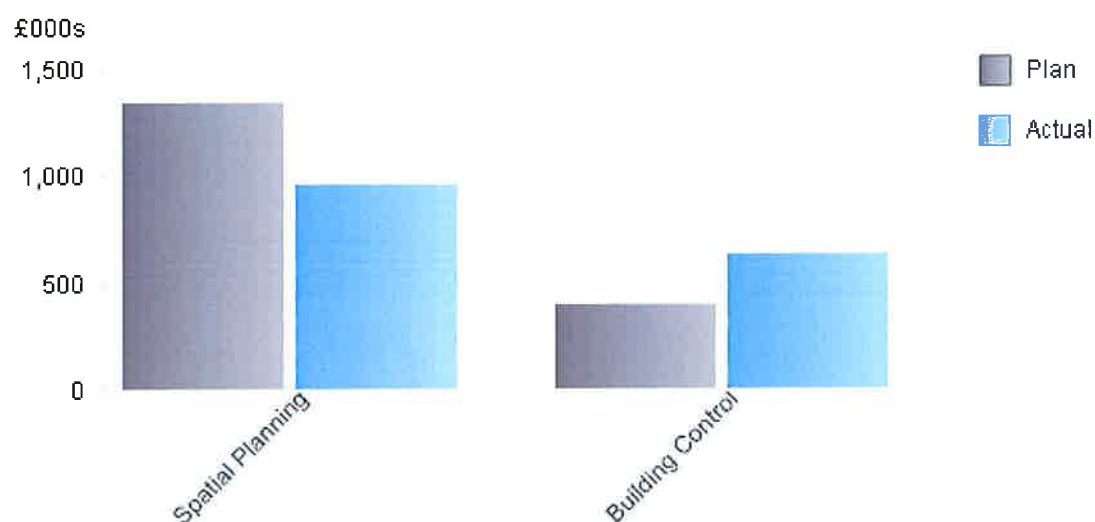
## People and Communities Committee

This committee is responsible for the development and implementation of strategies, policies, programmes and projects aimed at improving life at a local level in the context of the outcomes agreed in the community and corporate plans and other corporate strategies. The net expenditure of the committee includes Cleansing, Waste Management and vehicles, Parks, Cemeteries and Leisure Centres, Environmental Health, Neighbourhood and Development and Community Services. The total budget for net expenditure for this committee for these services was £78.8m and actual net expenditure was £79.1m. The graph below outlines the services delivered within this committee and performance against budget. These amounts do not include the accounting adjustments that are required to be included in the net expenditure for each committee in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account. The net expenditure of £96.4m for this Committee includes the accounting adjustments that are required for preparing the financial statements.



### Planning and Licensing

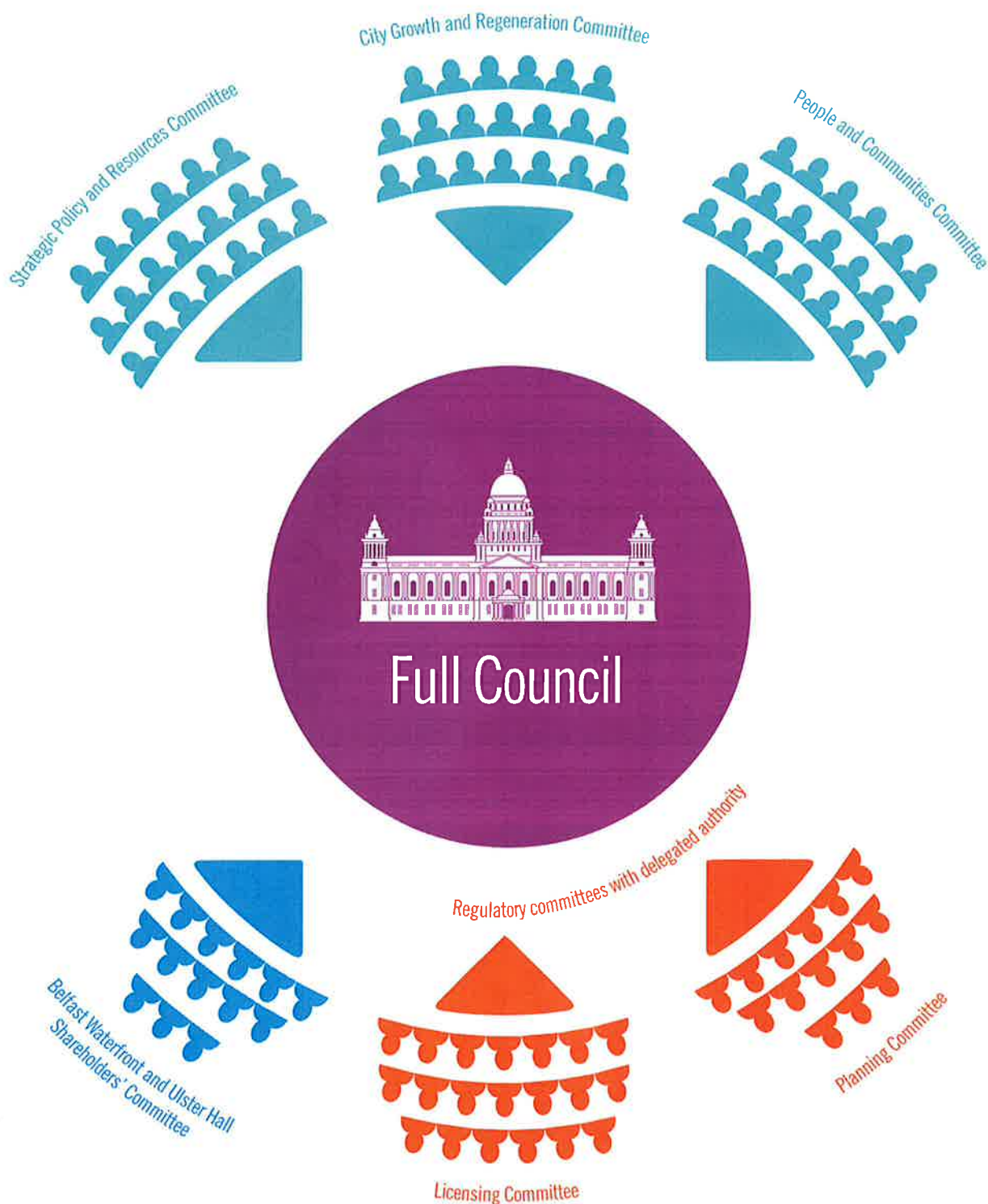
These committees are responsible for delivery of all of the Council's planning functions and policy and legislation in relation to licensing issues. The net expenditure includes Planning and Building Control services. The total budget for net expenditure for this committee for these services was £1.7m and actual net expenditure was £1.6m. The graph below outlines the services delivered within this committee and performance against budget. These amounts do not include the accounting adjustments that are required to be included in the net expenditure for each committee in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account. The net expenditure of £2.3m for this Committee includes the accounting adjustments that are required for preparing the financial statements.



Further information regarding the variances between planned and actual expenditure is included in the individual committee reporting for 2018/19. Total net expenditure budget of £159.9m includes the above services budget of £139.2m and the capital financing budget of £20.7m.

## Governance

The work of Belfast City Council is overseen by the committee structure outlined below and detailed further in our Governance Statement on pages 14- 26. This Annual Governance Statement for 2018/19 highlights the Council's governance arrangements during the year and how significant governance issues are being addressed and actions implemented. A programme management framework is in place to manage both revenue and capital streams of activity for the Council. Directors and Members have oversight in accordance with the terms of reference for the relevant Committee as well as finance reports covering all aspects of Council expenditure being presented to Committee on a quarterly basis. The committee structure is as follows and in addition a Brexit Committee has been established and is 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 and for making recommendations to Council on such issues (or to the relevant Standing Committee where appropriate). The first meeting took place in August 2018:



## Strategic Performance

The strategic performance of the Council is incorporated in the Belfast City Council's Corporate Plan 2017-21, which includes the Improvement Plan. The Belfast Agenda is published on the Council's website and outlines the Council's ambitions for the City by 2035 as well as the immediate priorities for:

- Growing the economy
- Living here
- City Development
- Working and learning

The Council outlines its priorities within the Corporate Plan 2017-21. These priorities cascade from the longer term outcomes identified in the Council's Community Plan (Belfast Agenda). These priorities are based upon extensive external and internal analysis, including key socio-economic data, analysis of the plans and strategies impacting the city and its communities, performance information and political engagement.

The Council has also incorporated six key improvement objectives included within the Improvement Plan to ensure continuous improvement in the exercise of the Council's functions and alignment with the work the Council is doing to formulate the priorities of the Belfast Agenda.

These six key objectives are:

- Build the city's position as a magnet for Foreign Direct Investment
- Make Belfast a great place to do business by supporting entrepreneurs and business starts
- Deliver an integrated approach to employment and skills
- Design and deliver programmes to address health inequalities in the city
- Deliver the integrated tourism strategy to increase numbers of leisure and business tourists
- Deliver city centre regeneration and investment projects

An annual performance assessment of progress against these objectives is contained within the Corporate Performance Assessment Report to include details of the Council's performance against statutory performance indicators set by the Department.

## **Financial Statements**

The Council's financial performance for the year ended 31st March 2019 is as set out in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and its financial position is as set out in the Balance Sheet and Cash Flow Statement.

These financial statements have been prepared in line with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom for the year ended 31st March 2019 (the Code) and the Department for Communities Accounts Direction, Circular LG 12/2019. It is the purpose of this foreword to explain, in an easily understandable way, the financial facts in relation to the Council.

This Statement of Accounts explains Belfast City Council's finances during the financial year 2018/19 and its financial position at the end of that year. It follows approved accounting standards and is necessarily technical in parts.

## **Group Accounts**

The Code requires Local Authorities to consider all their interests and to prepare a full set of group financial statements where they have material interests in subsidiaries, associates or joint ventures. Belfast City Council have prepared group financial statements for the financial year ended 31 March 2019 to include Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Limited ( BWUH) and Belfast City Council's contribution to Beltel LLP in relation to the redevelopment of the Belfast Telegraph Building. The results of Beltel LLP are included in the group financial statements. The results of Belfast Gasworks Management Co Ltd for the year ended 31 March 2019 are not deemed material to Belfast City Council accounts and as such are not included in the group financial statements.

## **The Movement in Reserves Statement**

This Statement, as set out on page 37, shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the Council, analysed into 'usable reserves' (i.e. those that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation) and other reserves. The 'Surplus or (Deficit) on the provision of services' line shows the true economic cost of providing the Council's services, more details of which are shown in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Summary (CIES). These are different from the statutory amounts required to be charged to the General Fund Balance for Local Tax purposes. The 'Net Increase/Decrease before transfers to Earmarked Reserves' line shows the statutory General Fund Balance before any discretionary transfers to or from earmarked reserves undertaken by the Council. The group movement in reserves statement on page 113 includes the reserves of BWUH limited, contributing to an increase of £6.5k on the Group General Fund.

## **The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement**

This statement, as set out on page 38, shows the accounting cost in the year of providing services in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices, rather than the amount to be funded from taxation. Councils raise taxation to cover expenditure in accordance with regulations; this may be different from the accounting cost. The taxation position is shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement. The group comprehensive income and expenditure statement on page 114 includes the consolidated income and expenditure of BWUH Ltd.

## **The Balance Sheet**

The Balance Sheet, as set out on page 39, shows the value as at the Balance Sheet date of the Council's assets and liabilities. The net assets of the Council (assets less liabilities) are matched by the reserves held by the Authority. Reserves are reported in two categories. The first category of reserves are usable reserves, i.e. those reserves that the Council may use to provide services, subject to the need to maintain a prudent level of reserves and any statutory limitations on their use



(for example the Capital Receipts Reserve that may only be used to fund capital expenditure or repay debt). The second category of reserves are those that the authority is not able to use to provide services. This category of reserves includes reserves that hold unrealised gains and losses (for example the Revaluation Reserve), where amounts would only become available to provide services if the assets are sold; and reserves that hold timing differences shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement line 'Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations'. Due to the review of the accounting policy for Community Assets and subsequent restatement of the relevant balances, there are three balance sheets included on page 39. The group balance sheet on page 115 includes relevant balances for BWUH Ltd and Beltel LLP.

### **The Cash Flow Statement**

The Cash Flow Statement shows the changes in cash and cash equivalents of the Council during the reporting period. The statement shows how the Council generates and uses cash and cash equivalents by classifying cash flows as operating, investing and financing activities. The amount of net cash flows arising from operating activities is a key indicator of the extent to which the operations of the Council are funded by way of taxation and grant income or from the recipients of services provided by the Council. Investing activities represent the extent to which cash outflows have been made for resources which are intended to contribute to the Council's future service delivery. Cash flows arising from financing activities are useful in predicting claims on future cash flows by providers of capital (i.e. borrowing) to the Council. The group cashflow statement on page 116 includes the cash and cash equivalents of BWUH Ltd, Gas pension Fund and the Council's interests in Beltel LLP.

### **Expenditure and Funding Analysis**

The resourcing of the Council's activities is outlined in the Annual Report, demonstrating the funding available and what services this funding provided for 2018/19.

The objective of the Expenditure and Funding Analysis is to demonstrate to ratepayers how the funding available to the Council (i.e. government grants, rates, fees and charges) for the year has been used in providing services in comparison with those resources consumed or earned by the Council in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices. The main services provided under each committee are summarised in this note and performance against budget is summarised in the Narrative Report. The main variances from budget will arise due to the accounting cost of providing services in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices, such as depreciation charges and IAS 19 pension adjustments which are not funded from taxation. These charges are summarised per committee in Note 2a and Note 2b.

The Expenditure and Funding Analysis also shows how this expenditure is allocated for decision-making purposes between the Council's committees. Income and expenditure accounted for under generally accepted accounting practices is presented more fully in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

### **Financial performance**

For the year ended 31 March 2019, the Council increased its General Fund to £25.8m. The Budget plans form part of the Revenue Estimates and in 2018/19 the total net expenditure budget for the Council was set at £159.9m.

The Council reported £1m under spend on service delivery at the year end. Performance against budget for each of the Committees is continuously monitored throughout the year. This performance is reported to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on a quarterly basis. The overall position for the year ended 31 March 2019 is mainly due to programme delays reducing expenditure on programme and premises costs.

The Cost of Services on Continuing Operations of £189m as reported in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, also includes the accounting cost of providing services in addition to the

amount to be funded from taxation. The total net expenditure reported in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is £18m.

### **Borrowings**

For the 2018/19 year the Council has an authorised borrowing limit of £192m. This is based on the Council's forecast capital expenditure plans over the medium to long term. In conjunction with the Council's Capital Financing Requirement of £115m, this ensures that the Council only borrows for capital purposes. During the year, the Council repaid external loans of £8.87m. The Council borrowed £35m to fund ongoing capital projects from Department of Finance and on a short term basis £30m was borrowed from other Councils and repaid before year end. At 31 March 2019, the total amount outstanding on external loans was £62.9m, of this total £0.3m represents the outstanding debt of the former Belfast Corporation Services which is now the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, and on whose behalf the Council is administering the loans.

### **Capital Expenditure**

The total net expenditure reported in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement includes allocations of £9.2m to fund capital expenditure. Expenditure on capital projects during the year amounted to £38.9m, the most significant expenditure was on: Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre £8.6m; Andersonstown Leisure Centre £8.4m; Brook Activity Centre £6.8m; Olympia Leisure Centre £2.3m; and the Fleet Vehicle Replacement Programme £2.9m.

There was one significant impairment during the year, £1.6m, as detailed on page 81. Olympia Leisure Centre came into operation recently and its value was re-measured to depreciated replacement cost, the valuation basis for this type of specialised property, to reflect its current estimated service potential. The difference between the two methods of measurement, of historic cost during construction as opposed to depreciated replacement cost when in operation, resulted in an impairment in the first year under the current valuation basis.

### **Strategy and Resource allocation**

When setting the district rate for 2019/20 consideration was given to the following key financial factors for the Council:

- The main uncontrollable cost risk to the Council in the medium term, continues to be the impact of externally imposed increases to the Council's pay bill, such as the nationally negotiated pay awards, the foundation wage increase and employer's pension contributions increase. These combined with inflation levels exert financial pressure on the District Rate which are beyond the Council's control
- The Council will face significant year on year increases in costs in several areas such as the increased revenue costs required for the implementation of the Waste Plan, financial contributions required under the delivery of the City Deal, increased resource requirements to deliver priorities under the Belfast Agenda and continued investment in large scale capital projects combined with the revenue costs of these assets as they become operational
- The Council's income streams are under risk with the uncertain political environment which could have an impact on both EU and Central Government funding. Work is continuing with Land and Property Services (LPS) and the Institute of Revenues Ratings and Valuations (IRRV) to provide assurances on the rates base in this challenging economic landscape
- The Council continues to develop its Efficiency Programme through a targeted work stream of activities delivering savings of £3m in 18/19 and savings of £3m in 2019/20 which have already been factored into the budget setting process and should help minimise the burden on the ratepayer of the cost pressures highlighted above.

## Outlook

The Council is fully aware that it is continuing to operating in a continually challenging economical and political environment and with the Bank Buildings fire the City's spirit and resilience was tested. The Council is committed to delivering business as usual and will continue with our ambitions for the City under the Belfast Agenda and City Deal. The Council strives to deliver at the highest of standards and these efforts have been recognised in the many awards achieved by the Council in the year ended 31 March 2019, including:

- Connswater Community Greenway named Community Engagement Initiative of the Year at British Construction Industry Awards 2018
- The 54th Britain in Bloom awards ceremony was held, for the first time, at Belfast Waterfront with Belfast awarded Gold Medal in Large City category
- Our Health and Wellbeing (H&WB) Cross-Council Working Group won Best Public Sector Wellbeing Initiative in the recent inaugural INSPIRE Workplace Wellbeing Awards 2018 and were finalists in the Excellence in Local Government Wellbeing initiatives.
- The restoration of the Tropical Ravine project which re-opened to the public in April 2018 picked up two awards at the annual Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) Awards, Northern Ireland, winning both the Building Conservation category and overall Project of the Year.
- The Council's family friendly policies and initiatives have been recognised at the Employers for Childcare – Family Friendly Employer awards with the Council being Highly Commended and runner up in large Public Sector organisation category.
- Belfast Waterfront won best Local Authority Tourism Initiative at the 2018 Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA) Awards
- Head of Finance & Performance, Mark McBride was awarded Public Finance Professional of the Year 2018 at the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) NI annual conference
- St George's Market awarded Best Large Indoor Market at the Great British Market Awards
- First NI City Region Deal awarded - £850million investment

The Council seeks out opportunities to pursue additional funding streams for the City, adopting innovative approaches to delivering services and working in partnership to ensure the City optimises its resources to deliver on its six key objectives. A few of the current initiatives the Council is currently developing are outlined below:

- Smart City Framework – the Council continues to adopt a leadership role to establishing a City Data Platform, a Smart Belfast portal which is a critical resource for a modern Belfast to stage challenges, promote and share learning and attract investment. This will be the foundation for the rates forecasting model and Planning Growth tool to encourage innovative solutions for increasing economic growth for the City. A new Smart Belfast competition has been launched for companies to explore the use of innovative digital technology and data-driven solutions to help manage parks and open spaces. Details of the 'Amazing Spaces, Smart Places' Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI) challenge were unveiled at the 'Big Data Belfast' conference at ICC Belfast (Belfast Waterfront) which explores trends and opportunities emerging in Smart Cities, IoT, Fintech and business analytics among other areas.

- 100RC - Belfast is the only city in Ireland, and one of only five in the UK to have been selected from over 1,000 applicant cities to participate in the 100 Resilient Cities Network- pioneered by The Rockefeller Foundation (100RC). The aim of this network is to partner with cities to build resilience to the shocks and stresses of the 21st Century, share international challenges and lessons learned, and to build a global community of urban resilience experts. The funding available has allowed Belfast to appoint a Commissioner for Resilience who reports directly to the Chief Executive and works with our council and our partners to build our city's ability to plan for and manage any threats and vulnerabilities that we have as a city, such as weaknesses in our economy, segregation, poor infrastructure, risks of flooding and cyber attack. A Belfast currency will be rolled out as part of our 100 Resilient Cities programme later this year.
- City Deal- the City deal model is the UK Government's innovative strategy for building stronger urban and regional growth via smarter, more localised and growth focused investment decision-making. It is an exciting initiative collaborating with our neighbouring councils, NI Executive and UK Government to deliver an integrated economic growth programme. An initial proposal has been developed which sets out an ambition for up to £1bn investment in the city-region through a 10-year programme which could act as catalyst to lever substantial private sector investment across the region and to support economic resilience. Belfast Region City Deal partners have welcomed commitment of £350 million investment from Treasury. As part of the deal, the NI Executive is expected to add at least a further £350 million and councils will contribute over £100 million. It is hoped the deal will create up to 20,000 new and better jobs alongside delivering a 10 year programme of inclusive economic growth - including an increase of £470m Gross Value Added (GVA).
- The PEACE IV Programme - is a cross-border initiative designed to support peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland and the border region. Funding of £8.8m was awarded from the European Union PEACE IV Programme managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) and also includes funding from the Executive Office in Northern Ireland and the Department of Rural and Community Development in Ireland. In 2018/19 an additional £5.6million of funding was awarded through the PEACE IV programme, to promote peace and reconciliation across communities in the city, bringing the total amount of funding for Belfast to £14.4million. Belfast City Council has already commissioned a wide range of delivery partners to deliver PEACE IV projects under the three key themes of, 'Children and Young People', 'Building Positive Relations' and 'Shared Spaces and Services'. Mobilisation of the PEACE IV programme on the ground commenced in December 2017, with the first contract award in May 2018. The most recent project mobilised in July 2019. To date 12 project elements from a possible 15 are actively delivering on the ground. It is envisaged that all outstanding project elements will be mobilised by January 2020.

These initiatives enhance the Council's opportunities to develop services, deliver on our key objectives for the City and grow the City to make it a leading destination to live, work, visit and invest.

## **Statement of the Council's and Chief Financial Officer's Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts**

### **The Council's Responsibilities**

Under Section 1 of the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 a council shall make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs. A council shall designate an officer of the council as its chief financial officer and these arrangements shall be carried out under the supervision of its chief financial officer.

Under Regulation 7 of the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 the Council, or a Committee, is required by resolution, to approve the accounts.

These accounts were approved by the Chief Finance Officer on 20 June 2019.

### **The Chief Financial Officer's Responsibilities**

Under Regulation 8 of the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015, the Chief Financial Officer is responsible for the preparation of the Council's Statement of Accounts in the form directed by the Department for Communities.

The accounts must give a true and fair view of the income and expenditure and cash flows for the financial year and the financial position as at the end of the financial year.

In preparing this Statement of Accounts, the Chief Financial officer is required to:

- observe the Accounts Direction issued by the Department for Communities including compliance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom
- follow relevant accounting and disclosure requirements and apply suitable accounting policies on a consistent basis, and
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.

The Chief Financial Officer is also required to:

- keep proper accounting records that are up-to-date, and
- take reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.



## Annual Governance Statement 2018/2019

The Council's Annual Governance Statement (AGS) follows DfC accounts directions and where applicable, the factsheet on governance statements issued by the NIAO in 2013, and comprises the following sections:

- Scope of responsibility
- The purpose of the governance framework
- The governance framework
- Review of effectiveness
- Update on the significant governance issues that were declared last year
- Significant governance issues for the year-end 2019

### Scope of responsibility

Belfast City Council is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for, and used economically, efficiently and effectively. The Council also has a duty under Part 12 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 to make arrangements for continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of strategic effectiveness, service quality, service availability, fairness, sustainability, efficiency and innovation.

In discharging this overall responsibility, the Council is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for the governance of its affairs and facilitating the effective exercise of its functions, which includes arrangements for the management of risk.

The Council has prepared an Annual Governance Statement, which is consistent with the principles of the new CIPFA/SOLACE Framework *Delivering Good Governance in Local Government (2016 edition)*. This statement explains how the Council has complied with the code and meets the requirements of the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland 2015) in relation to the publication of an annual governance statement.

### The purpose of the governance framework

The governance framework comprises the systems and processes, and culture and values, by which the Council is directed and controlled and the activities through which it accounts to, engages with and leads its communities. It enables the Council to monitor the achievement of its strategic objectives and to consider whether those objectives have led to the delivery of appropriate services and value for money.

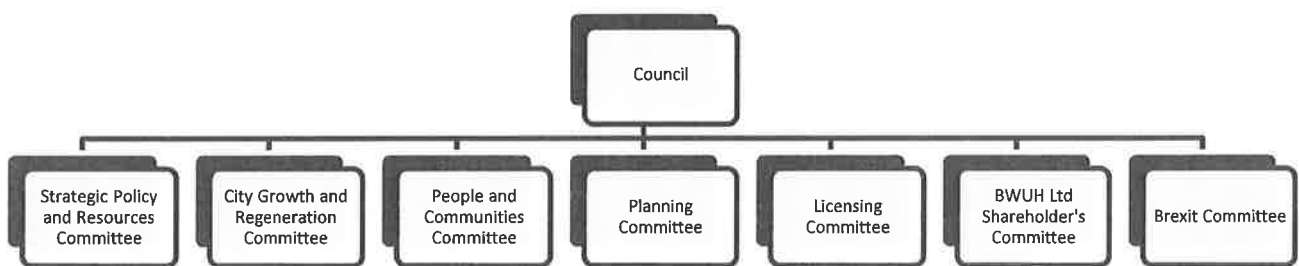
The system of internal control is a significant part of that framework and is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level. It cannot eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies,

aims and objectives and can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of the Council's policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically.

The governance framework continues to be place at Belfast City Council for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 and up to the date of approval of the Annual Governance Statement and statement of accounts. The following section sets out the key elements of the governance framework.

### **The governance framework**

Our committee structure, which is based on the full council and seven standing committees is illustrated and described below.



Through the work of committees, our Members oversee the work of the council. All committee decisions need to be ratified by the full council except where committees have been granted delegated authority to make decisions.

The full council, which consists of all 60 elected representatives, is the overarching decision-making body.

The Strategic Policy and Resources Committee is 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. It will also ensure effective use of resources and value for money for ratepayers, and oversee the Council's relationship with a number of key agencies and partners.

The City Growth and Regeneration Committee is responsible for the development and implementation of strategies, policies, programmes and projects directed to the regeneration and growth of the city in the context of the outcomes agreed in the community and corporate plans and other corporate strategy.

The People and Communities Committee is responsible for the development and implementation of strategies, policies, programmes and projects aimed at improving life at a local level in the context of the outcomes agreed in the community and corporate plans and other corporate strategy.

The Planning Committee is responsible for all of the Council's planning functions, except those matters, which are delegated to officers or reserved to full Council.

The Licensing Committee is responsible for the consideration of all matters pertaining to policy and legislation in relation to licensing issues.

The Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd Shareholders' Committee is responsible for making the decisions required by the Shareholders' Agreement and ensure that the company complies with the contract for the operation of the venues.

The Brexit Committee is responsible for researching, monitoring, and reviewing the financial, resource or operational impact upon the council and the district as a result of the UK leaving the European Union and for making recommendations to council on such issues (or the relevant standing committee where appropriate).

In addition to the Committees listed in the diagrams above there are ten Working Groups established which include the Audit & Risk Panel, the Budget and Transformation Panel and four Area Working Groups.

In June 2018, the Council appointed a Commissioner for Resilience, fully funded by the organisation '100 Resilient Cities'. The Commissioner who reports directly to the Chief Executive, is working with Council officers and city partners to design and implement a resilience strategy for Belfast, focusing on economic resilience.

The Audit & Risk Panel provides an independent assurance on the adequacy of the Council's risk management framework and associated control environment. It provides an independent scrutiny of the Council's financial and non-financial performance, which is relied upon by the Council, to the extent that it exposes it to risk and weakens the control environment. The Panel reports to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee. The Audit & Risk Panel met four times during 2018/19.

The Council's Code of Governance is based on the seven core principles set out in the CIPFA/SOLACE Framework (2016 edition). How we meet these seven core principles is reviewed and updated annually and a summary of the key elements of our governance framework are set out in the table below:

### Our seven principles of good governance

#### A: Behaving with integrity

- Shared values communicated via corporate plan, community plan and key strategies
- Codes of conduct for Members & staff
- PDP / appraisal process for Members & staff
- Gifts and hospitality and conflicts of interest policies & registers in place
- Fraud & whistleblowing policies and investigations
- Good Relations Unit
- Equality & Diversity Framework
- Council constitution, standing orders & scheme of delegation
- Expert professional advice
- Partners and contractors required to comply with relevant policies
- Achieving Through People Framework and development of organisational values and behaviours

#### B: Ensuring openness

- Council / committee meetings open to the public and agendas / minutes on website with a process in place for time bound restrictions
- Belfast Agenda developed via extensive consultation and engagement with public "Belfast Conversation" events as well as statutory and other key partners
- Statement of Community Involvement for production of the Local Development Plan
- Ongoing consultation and engagement with staff & trade unions
- Corporate communications
- Annual financial report and annual report to Equality Commission published on BCC website
- Partnership / legal agreements with GLL, Active Belfast, arc21, BWUH Ltd, Visit Belfast
- "Your Say" consultation hub on BCC website
- Working with Belfast Region City Deal partners

#### C: Defining outcomes

- Belfast Agenda outlines long term economic, social and environmental benefits
- Agreed Heads of Terms for Belfast Region City Deal
- Corporate plan outlines the annual contribution to the Belfast Agenda
- City centre regeneration & investment strategy
- Physical Investment Programme
- Leisure transformation programme
- Grant funding processes
- Equality Impact Assessments

#### D: Optimising the achievement of outcomes

- Corporate plan aligned to delivery of Belfast Agenda
- Consultation and engagement processes
- Strategic financial management framework in place, including quarterly challenge process.
- Performance management framework
- Regular reports on progress of our performance improvement plan (corporate plan) to CMT and SP&R
- Risk management strategy & framework
- Commercial Panel aims to ensure that commercial activity places an emphasis on outcomes

#### E: Developing capacity & capability

- Creation of City Organisational Strategy department
- Achieving Through People Framework and development of organisational values and behaviours
- Benchmarking activity
- Efficiency programme
- Regular performance monitoring of the delivery of improvement objectives
- Learning and development policy
- Health and wellbeing strategy
- Appraisal scheme in place for Chief Officers, Heads of Service and Senior Managers
- PDPs for officers and Members
- Member capacity building plan completed for 2018/19
- Continuing Development Programme in place for the Planning Committee
- Party group briefings

#### F: Finance, performance and risk management

- Strategic financial management framework in place
- Efficiency programme
- Performance management framework
- Financial resilience review
- Risk management strategy
- Corporate risk management system (MKinsight) and processes / procedures in place
- Regular reporting of finance, risk & performance
- Audit and Risk Panel
- Internal audit function / annual internal audit strategy & plan in place
- Recommendations Monitor process
- Data protection policy and procedures
- Corporate Fraud Risk Assessment



- Head of Commercial & Procurement Services to lead on the development of commercial skills



**G: Transparency, reporting & effective accountability**

- BCC website regularly updated
- Publication of key reports including the annual financial report; annual governance statement; performance improvement report and annual report to Equality Commission
- Committee support framework to approve papers prior to submission to Members
- AGRS (internal audit) annual assurance statement within the annual governance statement
- Internal Audit effectiveness annually reviewed against public sector internal audit standards, with an independent external review every five years
- Internal / external audit recommendations followed up as part of recommendations monitoring process every six months

In the reporting period, the Council had two personal data breach incidents which were referred to the Information Commissioners Office, who took no further action.

The Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources is the Council's designated Chief Financial Officer under the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, responsible for the proper administration of the Council's financial affairs.

The Council's financial management arrangements conform to the governance requirements of the CIPFA Statement on the Role of the Chief Financial Officer in Local Government (2016).

Having considered all the principles of the CIPFA Code of Practice on Managing the Risk of Fraud and Corruption (2014), subject to the implementation of the Fraud Action Plan, the Council has adopted a response that is appropriate for its fraud and corruption risks and commits to maintain its vigilance to tackle fraud.

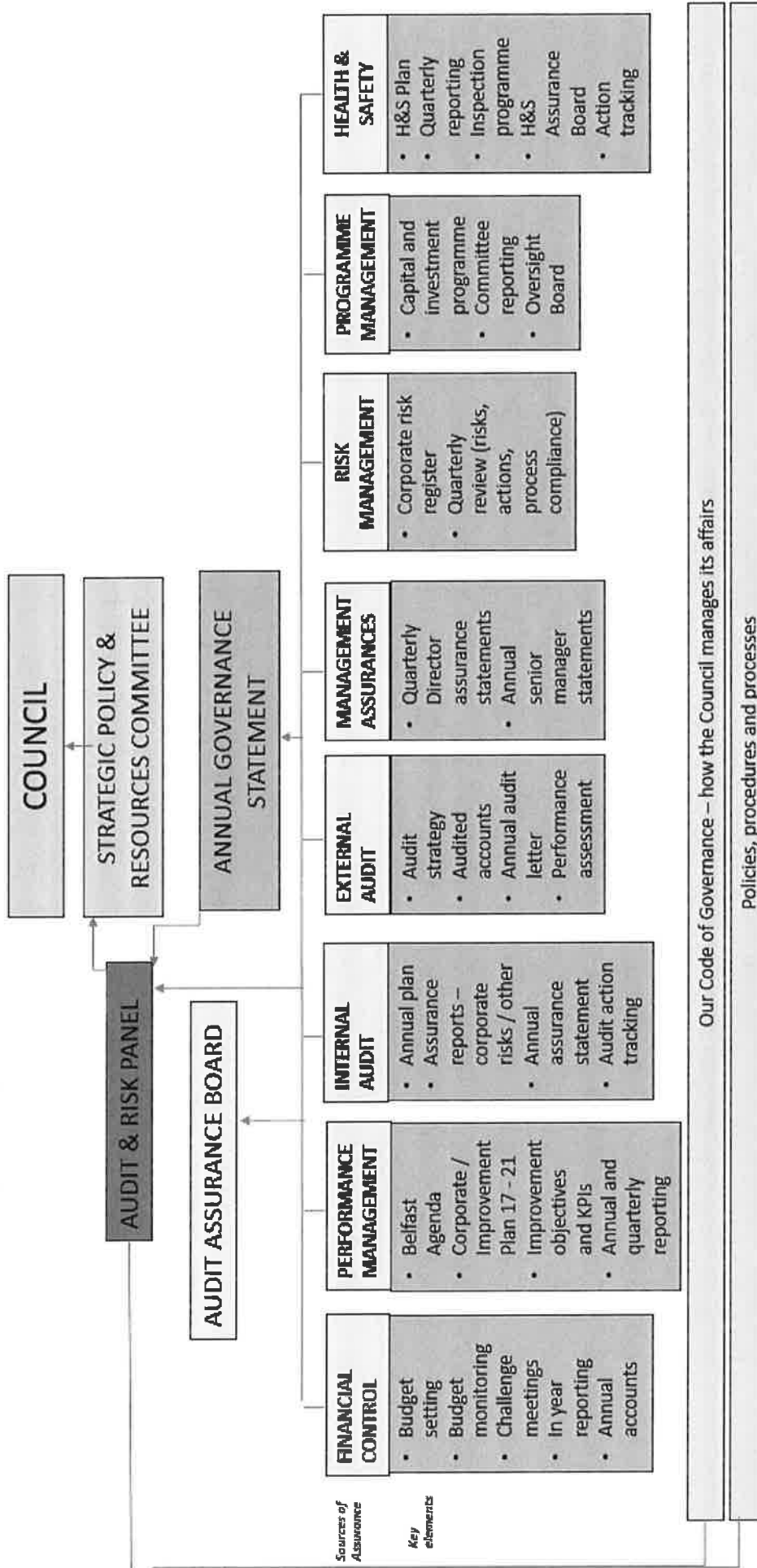
The CIPFA Statement on the Role of the Head of Internal Audit (2019 edition) sets out the five principles that set out the organisation's responsibilities to ensure HIAs are able to operate effectively and perform their core duties. The Statement also sets out the core responsibilities of the HIA along with the personal skills and professional standards expected of the HIA.

The Head of Audit, Governance and Risk Services (AGRS), and the supporting operational arrangements in place, conform to the five principles set out in the CIPFA Statement. This is demonstrated through a self-assessment exercise undertaken by AGRS. While the principles state that the HIA should not be responsible for preparing the annual governance report, the arrangements within the Council, involve AGRS co-coordinating the preparation of the Annual Governance Statement which is then reviewed and approved by the Corporate Management Team, Assurance Board and Audit and Risk Panel, before being reviewed by Strategic Policy and Resources committee and signed by the Chair of Strategic Policy & Resources, the Chief Executive and the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources.

### **Review of Effectiveness**

The following diagram illustrates the Assurance Framework in place that provides information on compliance with the various elements of the Council's Governance Framework, including performance reports, health and safety reports, finance reports, internal audit reports and risk management reports.

# Key Components of the Council's Assurance Framework



The various in year and year-end reports arising from the Assurance Framework are reviewed and approved by the Audit and Risk Panel and Strategic Policy and Resources Committee annually.

In addition, the review of the effectiveness of the Governance Framework is also informed by:

- the annual review and update of the Code of Governance;
- comments or recommendations made by the external auditors during their annual audit; and
- the Head of Audit Governance and Risk Services (AGRS) annual assurance statement for the period ending 2018/19, which gives an opinion on the Council's risk and control environment.

An extract from the Head of AGRS Annual Assurance Statement for the period ending 2018/19 is given below:

*As Head of Audit, Governance and Risk Services (AGRS), on the basis of work carried out, I can provide a reasonable assurance regarding the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's framework of governance, risk management and control. This opinion is based on the following:*

- *evidence from areas subject to detailed internal audit during 2018/19, in that AGRS has been able to provide positive statements of assurance with the majority of audits falling into the 'some improvement needed' category - the 2<sup>nd</sup> tier of assurance in the 4 tier model*
- *application of risk management and management assurance processes and our reviews of the management of key corporate risks*
- *the evidence set out in the review of the Council's Code of Governance and Annual Governance Statement regarding the range of key assurance and governance arrangements that the Council has in place to direct / oversee its activities.*

*However, some weaknesses and areas for improvement have been identified through audit work. These have been reported in detail to the Council's Assurance Board and Audit and Risk Panel during 2018/19 through quarterly progress reports. In addition, I have highlighted, where appropriate, where further action is required to implement agreed audit actions. The key issues I would highlight in this statement are as follows*

- *While AGRS was able to provide positive statements of assurance in the majority of audits completed in 2018/19, four areas resulted in 'major improvement' assurance levels – the review of the management of the corporate risk on Asset Management; the corporate / strategic level issues identified as part of the capital programme audit; the internal audit of Fire Safety arrangements and; the internal audit of the Markets. It is important that the action plans that are in place to address these are implemented in a timely manner.*

*Regarding the corporate risk on Asset Management, there is need for a fundamental review of the risk, the associated mitigation plan, the allocation of accountability and the progression of actions in relation to the baseline survey, clarifying roles and responsibilities and reviewing resourcing and financing.*

*Our audit of the Capital Programme identified issues that were not unique to the capital programme but had wider corporate / strategic significance relating to how the Council aligns and prioritises projects in relation to the Belfast Agenda, with a focus on those projects which will best contribute to the outcomes of Belfast Agenda. It is important that an action plan is developed and taken forward to address these corporate wide issues.*

- *The corporate risk register is currently being reviewed. It is important that any proposed changes to the corporate risks are agreed, ownership assigned and mitigation plans developed in a timely manner.*
- *The updated Risk Strategy was approved in early 2019 and requires departments to better integrate risk management into their planning and performance management processes. AGRS will support and challenge departments in this regard.*
- *Following the completion of the Corporate Fraud Risk Assessment, and in order to underline where responsibility for the management of fraud risk lies, the majority of departments have completed an initial fraud risk assessment. AGRS will be working with management to review the initial assessment and determine any follow up work that is required.*

*Finally, looking ahead, the Council is taking forward a number of transformational programmes in 2019/20 including the Belfast Region City Deal, Customer Focus Programme and the Continuous Improvement Programme. These present significant risks and opportunities to the Council. AGRS will be providing assurance and consultancy services to the Council in relation to these programmes and this has been built into our plan of work for the year ahead.*

Continued effort has been put into developing and implementing the key elements of an assurance framework within the Council with the key elements being:

- a process whereby senior managers are required to sign annual assurance statements;
- a process whereby Directors are required to sign quarterly assurance statements;
- embedding risk management and developing the arrangements for oversight of the management of these risks;
- business planning and related performance reporting arrangements;
- an Audit and Risk Panel;
- a professional internal audit function, which has been reviewed for effectiveness against the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards; and
- a Health & Safety Assurance Board.

#### **Update on the Significant Governance Issues that were declared last year**

Six issues were declared last year and three of these continue to be declared as issues in this year's statement (waste management, digital information security, and the Belfast Region City Deal). An update on the action that was taken regarding the remaining three issues that were declared last year (procurement and contract management, change management and bonfire management) is provided below.

#### **Procurement and Contract Management**

Since the identification of Procurement and Contract management as a corporate risk in the year ending March 2018, a new staffing structure for the Procurement Service has been implemented. The Head of Commercial and Procurement Services is now in post and management roles have since been recruited with new starts in Quarter 2 of this financial year. A Procurement Improvement Plan



has been developed and is being implemented which should address the procurement and commercial risks identified.

### Change management

The Strategic Hub has been created to support the delivery of the Belfast Agenda, to provide project management and service design support to the change programmes, develop the people strategy and lead on staff engagement and communications.

### Bonfire Management

Bonfires continue to be a very complex legacy issue and a framework for managing them has still to be agreed at a regional level. The Council continues to play a role in engaging with regional structures being led by The Executive Office. The Council has also worked through the recommendations in the independent review of bonfire management. It sourced additional help on Governance and the new Governance arrangements are now embedded in the Council's overall approach to bonfires.

### **Significant Governance Issues for the year-end 2019**

The significant governance issues for the year-end 2019 were identified through the review of the risks in the Corporate Risk Register and review of the Directors' Annual Assurance Statements.

The most significant issues for the Council are in relation to:

1. Waste management
2. Digital Information Security
3. Belfast Region City Deal
4. City Centre Recovery and Revitalisation
5. New Member Development and Development of the Political Management Arrangements

More information on these significant governance issues is provided on the following pages.

#### 1. Waste Management

The impact of the failure to manage the City's waste targets in an affordable manner is significant in relation to the financial penalties that can be imposed. Key actions have been undertaken to mitigate against the likelihood of this with the development of the draft Waste Framework, which sets the direction of the Council until 2030. Elements of this framework will require ongoing political and community support and significant capital investment. The monitoring of our existing waste contracts is ongoing. In addition we will continue to monitor the position of the proposed arc21 Residual Waste Treatment Project following the Court of Appeal's judgment in July 2018 in relation to planning permission, and the subsequent decision by the Department for Infrastructure not to appeal this ruling.

## 2. Digital Information Security

Security of our information assets remains a concern. Digital Services uses its resources to deliver a securely designed infrastructure, continually improve the maturity of security processes and to ensure security controls are in place to detect threats to the ICT environment. The delivery of a secure ICT Infrastructure aligns security activities with business need in order to optimise security budgets and resources.

Last year, in addition to ensuring the operation of established controls, we established a Security Oversight Group, revised the ICT security strategy against business impact assessment and investigated tools to detect approved and non-approved use of cloud-based services.

This year we will take the following additional actions to further mitigate this risk; completion of the work to create a new ICT security strategy against business impact assessment; assessment and acting on the results of the review of approved and non-approved use of cloud-based services and; implementation of the recommendations of the Corporate Risk Review – Digital Information Security.

## 3. Belfast Region City Deal

Appropriate governance and programme management arrangements were put in place to develop the Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD) proposition, which was presented to UK and NI governments in September 2018. The Chancellor in his budget statement in October 2018, announced a £350m investment package for the BRCD, with a further £350m match funding from NI Executive and £150m contribution from BRCD partners. Belfast City Council, as the lead authority, are now putting in place a dedicated programme office and revised governance structures to deliver the second phase of the programme, which includes the development of outline business cases for all projects, and will result in a financial agreement being drawn up between BRCD and the UK government and NI Executive. Work will also continue on the governance arrangements and assurance framework which will be put in place for the delivery phase of the deal, which is likely to commence in 2021.

## 4. City Centre Recovery and Revitalisation

The major fire at the Bank Buildings in August 2018 resulted in the forced closure of 14 city centre retail traders inside a cordoned off area and had a negative impact on traders and businesses within the immediate vicinity of the cordon. Council sought and was granted £2 million towards the recovery of the city centre from the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the October 2018 budget. This fund was supplemented by additional monies from the Northern Ireland Government Departments and from Council itself to support the recovery of the city centre. Council is committed to supporting recovery in the city centre having put in place a programme to manage the immediate recovery and going forward, has put in place a revitalisation programme to encourage visitors and shoppers back to the city centre. This is supported by a team delivering on each work strand, led by the Director of Place and Economy.

The Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting on 14 November 2018, agreed the overall expenditure for the City Recovery Programme, with a total cost of the Phase 1 Programme estimated at £2.79m. A further report to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, on 22 February 2019, advised that the forecast net expenditure to date was £1.882m and that the Council would continue to undertake expenditure on behalf of Treasury and NICS government departments (as outlined in November Report). In addition to this spend was £0.42m of costs in relation to initial response action following the Primark fire. It was agreed by Committee that the remaining budget for Phase 1 be carried through into the Phase 2 City Revitalisation Programme and approved the broad strands of work and a budget allocation of £2.505m.

5. New Member Development and Development of the Political Management Arrangements

Following the elections in May 2019, the Council now has 22 new members and there is a need to design and deliver a significant programme of work to ensure that they are provided with sufficient support and development to help them fulfil their role. This will also involve ongoing development of our political management arrangements to ensure that they provide effective support for parties and party group leaders.

**Signed:** .....  
Chair Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

**Signed:** .....  
Chief Executive Officer

**Signed:** .....  
Chief Financial Officer

## **NORTHERN IRELAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT BODIES'**

### **REMUNERATION REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 require larger local government bodies to prepare a remuneration report as part of the statement of accounts.

#### **ALLOWANCE AND REMUNERATION ARRANGEMENTS**

##### **COUNCILLORS**

Allowances are payable by councils to councillors and committee members under Part 3 of the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 and The Local Government (Payments to Councillors) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012, which came into operation on 1 April 2012.

Guidance and determinations on Councillors' Allowances applicable from 1 April 2018 were issued by the Department for Communities on 31 July 2018 (Circular LG 12/2018). Details of the allowances paid to individual councillors are published on council websites.

Following local elections on 2 May 2019 Belfast City Council has 60 elected Members representing 10 District Electoral Areas.

##### **SENIOR EMPLOYEES**

The remuneration of senior employees employed by the Council is determined by the Council in line with that determined by the National Joint Council (NJC) for Local Government Services. Senior staff are those staff who are members of the Corporate Management Team, namely the Chief Executive and Directors.

Council appointments of employees are made in accordance with the Local Government Staff Commissions' Code of Procedures on Recruitment and Selection, which requires appointment to be on merit and on the basis of fair and open competition.

Unless otherwise stated below, the officials covered by this report hold appointments which are open-ended.

## ALLOWANCES PAID TO COUNCILLORS

The total amount paid to Councillors by way of allowances, under Part 3 of the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 and the Local Government (Payments to Councillors) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012 was:

**Table 1: Total Allowances paid to councillors (audited information)**

Allowance	2018/19		2017/18	
	Total Allowances £	Number of Councillors receiving the Allowance	Total Allowances £	Number of Councillors receiving the Allowance
Basic Allowance	851,196	60	849,435	60
Special Responsibility Allowance	106,691	39	107,580	41
Lord Mayor Allowance	34,800	1	34,800	1
Deputy Lord Mayor Allowance	6,250	1	6,250	1
PCSP Allowance	12,360	25	13,620	27
High Sheriff's Allowance	6,250	1	6,250	1
Subsistence	4,223	25	7,812	38
Mileage Allowance	14,248	33	11,410	38
Courses/ Conferences Visits (registration & joining fees)	5,997	20	25,345	38
Telephone rental	4,410	16	4,261	18
Miscellaneous costs			2,834	15
Other Travel allowance	9,270	27	27,076	44
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,055,695</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,096,673</b>	

Details of the allowances paid to individual councillors in 2018/19 are published on the council website at [www.belfastcity.gov.uk/freedomofinformation/councillorexpenditures.aspx](http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/freedomofinformation/councillorexpenditures.aspx)

The above table provides further information and details on the allowances paid to councillors to that published on the council website.

### **The following is a summary of resignation and appointments of Councillors during 2018-19:**

Councillor Mary McConville resigned on 27 November 2018  
Councillor Christina Black was appointed on 28 November 2018



## REMUNERATION OF SENIOR EMPLOYEES

The remuneration of senior employees covers the Corporate Management Team. The following table provides details of the remuneration paid to senior employees:

**Table 2 - Table 2: Remuneration (including salary)[audited information]**

Officers	2018/19				2017/18			
	Salary (Full year equivalent in brackets where applicable) £'000	Bonus Payments £'000	Benefits in kind (to nearest £100) £'000	Total £'000	Salary (Full year equivalent in brackets where applicable) £'000	Bonus Payments £'000	Benefits in kind (to nearest £100) £'000	Total £'000
Chief Executive - Suzanne Wylie <sup>Λ</sup>	155-160	0	0	155-160	135-140	0	0	135-140
Director of Finance & Resources - Ronan Cregan	110-115	0	0	110-115	105-110	0	0	105-110
Director of Property & Projects - Gerry Millar	105-110	0	0	105-110	100-105	0	0	100-105
Director of City & Neighbourhood Services - Nigel Grimshaw	100-105	0	0	100-105	95-100	0	0	95-100
City Solicitor - John Walsh	100-105	0	0	100-105	95-100	0	0	95-100
Director of City Centre Development - Nuala Gallagher**	15-20 (100-105 FYE)	0	0	15-20 (100-105 FYE)	95-100	0	0	95-100
Director of City & Organisational Strategy - John Tully	100-105	0	0	100-105	5-10 (100-105 FYE)	0	0	5-10 (100-105 FYE)
Strategic Director of Place & Economy - Alistair Reid*	85-90 (95-100 FYE)	0	0	85-90 (95-100 FYE)	-	-	-	-
Commissioner for Resilience - Grainia Long***	65-70 (80-85 FYE)	0	0	65-70 (80-85 FYE)	-	-	-	-

\*Strategic Director of Place & Economy Alistair Reid joined the Council on 21 May 2018.

\*\*Director of City Centre Development Nuala Gallagher left the Council on 6 June 2018.

\*\*\*Commissioner for Resilience Grainia Long joined the Council on 14 June 2018.

<sup>Λ</sup> There was an additional disbursement in year in recompense for additional work undertaken by the Chief Executive due to unforeseen events which were within her normal contractual arrangements and no bonus payment was received.

Councils are required to disclose the relationship between the remuneration of the highest paid member of the Corporate Management Team and the median remuneration of the Councils workforce.

The banded remuneration of the highest paid member of the Corporate Management Team in the financial year 2018/19 was £155-160k. This was 6.7 times the median remuneration of the workforce, which was £23,111.

**Table 3: Relationship between the remuneration of the highest paid member of the Corporate Management Team and the median remuneration of the Councils workforce (audited information)**

	2018/19 £'000	2017/18 £'000
Salary Band of Highest Paid member of the Executive	155-160	135-140
Median Total Remuneration	23.1	22.7
Ratio	6.7	6.1

In 2018/19, no employees received remuneration in excess of the highest paid member of the Corporate Management Team.

Total remuneration includes salary, bonus payments and benefits in kind.

#### Salary

"Salary" includes gross salary and any ex gratia payments.

#### Benefits in Kind

The monetary value of benefits in kind covers any benefits provided by the employer and treated by HM Revenue and Customs as a taxable emolument.

#### Exit Packages for staff

The number of exit packages provided to all staff by the Council, together with total cost per band and total cost of the voluntary redundancies as agreed under the Council's voluntary redundancy scheme are set out in the table below:

**Table 4: Exit Packages in 2018/19 (audited information)**

Severance Package Cost Band	2018/19				2017/18			
	Number of Compulsory Redundancies	Number of Other departures agreed	Total Number of Exit Packages in each Cost Band	Total Cost of Packages in each Cost Band £'000	Number of Compulsory Redundancies	Number of Other departures agreed	Total Number of Exit Packages in each Cost Band	Total Cost of Packages in each Cost Band £'000
£0 - £20,000	0	2	2	24	0	7	7	67
£20,001 - £40,000	0	5	5	126	0	4	4	135
£40,001 - £60,000	0	4	4	206	0	6	6	278
£60,001 - £80,000	0	7	7	497	0	2	2	156
£80,001 - £100,000	0	1	1	94	0	4	4	370
£100,001 - £150,000	0	6	6	691	0	3	3	360
£150,001 - £200,000	0	2	2	365	0	2	2	312
£200,001 - £250,000	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	209
<b>Total</b>	0	27	27	2,003	0	29	29	1,887

#### Pension Benefits

The Local Government Pension Scheme (Northern Ireland) (the Scheme) which is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, which provides retirement benefits for council employees on a "career average revalued earnings" basis from 1 April 2015. Prior to that date benefits were built up on a "final salary" basis.

From 1 April 2015, a member builds up retirement pension at the rate of 1/49th pensionable pay for each year. Pension benefits in relation to membership between 1 April 2009 and 31 March 2015 were built up at the rate of 1/60th pensionable pay for each year of membership. There is no automatic lump sum provided in respect of membership after 31 March 2009. Pension benefits in relation to any membership before 1 April 2009 were built up at the rate of 1/80th (pension) and 3/80ths (tax-free lump sum) of pensionable pay for each year of membership up to 31 March 2009. At retirement, members may give up some pension for additional lump sum, subject to HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) limits. The conversion rate is £12 additional lump sum for every £1 of pension given up.

Councillors have been able to join the Scheme since May 2011. The Scheme application is modified to reflect the fact that councillors hold an elected office. Councillor members have always accrued pension on a career average basis. Prior to 1 April 2015 pension was accrued at a rate of 1/60th and thereafter at a rate of 1/49th.

The Scheme is funded by contributions made by both employees/councillors and employers. Prior to 1 April 2009, a member's contribution rates were fixed at 6% of their pensionable remuneration (except for those who were entitled to contribute to the Scheme at 5% before 1 February 2003 and have remained in continuous employment). Tiered member contribution rates, determined by the whole-time equivalent rate of pay, were introduced from 1 April 2009. From 1 April 2015, the member contribution rates are determined on the actual rate of pay.

The ranges for the bands for tiered contribution rates are revised by the Department for Communities in April each year in accordance with the increase applied to a pension in payment. The bands, effective from 1 April 2018, were as follows:

**Table 5: Employee Contribution Rates**

Band	Range	Employee Contribution Rate
1	£0 - £14,500	5.5%
2	£14,501 - £22,100	5.8%
3	£22,101 - £36,900	6.5%
4	£36,901 - £44,700	6.8%
5	£44,701 - £88,300	8.5%
6	More than £88,300	10.5%

Employers' contribution rates are determined by the fund's actuary every three years at the triennial valuation. A formal triennial actuarial valuation of the Fund as at 31 March 2016 was carried out in 2016/17 and set the employer contribution rates for the 3 years commencing 1 April 2017 as follows:

**Table 6: Employer Contribution Rates**

Year	Employer Contribution Rate
1 April 2017 - 31 March 2018	18% + 2% deficit contribution
1 April 2018 - 31 March 2019	19% + 2% deficit contribution
1 April 2019 - 31 March 2020	20% + 2% deficit contribution

The Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 were made on 27 June 2014 and The Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment and Transitional Provisions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 were made on 30 June 2014. Both sets of regulations are effective from 1 April 2015.

Councillors have been able to join the Scheme since May 2011 and therefore have not accrued significant benefits thus far. However, the in-year pension contributions made by the Council for all councillors during 2018/19 was £160,306 (2017/18 £154,733).

The value of pension benefits of the most senior management of the Council accrued during the year was as follows:

**Table 7: Pension Benefits of senior staff in 2018/19 (audited information)**

Officers	Accrued Pension and Lump Sum (LS) at pension age as at 31/03/19 £'000	Real increase in pension and related lump sum at pension age £'000	CETV at 31/03/19 £'000	CETV at 31/03/18 (restated) £'000	Real Increase in CETV £'000
Suzanne Wylie	50-55	(0-2.5)	976	953	(7)
	100-105 (LS)	(2.5-5) (LS)			
Ronan Cregan	45-50	0-2.5	923	855	36
	85-90 (LS)	(0-2.5) (LS)			
Gerry Millar	45-50	0-2.5	1,084	1,076	(18)
	110-115 (LS)	0-2.5 (LS)			
Nigel Grimshaw	5-10	0-2.5	83	53	17
	0 (LS)	0 (LS)			
John Walsh	35-40	2.5-5	703	616	62
	60-65 (LS)	2.5-5 (LS)			
Nuala Gallagher	0-5	0-2.5	43	38	5
	0 (LS)	0 (LS)			
John Tully	0-5	0-2.5	29	1	17
	0 (LS)	0 (LS)			
Alistair Reid	0-5	0-2.5	24	-	24
	0 (LS)	0 (LS)			
Grainia Long	0-5	0-2.5	13	-	13
	0 (LS)	0 (LS)			

#### The Cash Equivalent Transfer Value (CETV)

This is the actuarially assessed capitalised value of the pension scheme benefits accrued by a member at a particular point in time. The benefits valued are the member's accrued benefits and any contingent spouse's pension payable from the scheme. It is a payment made by a pension scheme or arrangement to secure pension benefits in another pension scheme or arrangement when the member leaves a scheme and chooses to transfer the pension benefits they have accrued in their former scheme. The pension figures shown relate to the benefits that the individual has accrued as a consequence of their total membership of the pension scheme, not just their service in a senior capacity to which disclosure applies. CETVs are calculated in accordance with The Occupational Pension Schemes (Transfer Values) (Amendment) Regulations and do not take account of any actual or potential reduction to benefits resulting from Lifetime Allowance Tax which may be due when pension benefits are taken. The CETV amounts at 31 March 2018 were updated to take account of new factors and the revised figures are included in the table above.

#### The real increase in the value of the CETV

This reflects the increase in CETV effectively funded by the employer. It takes account of the increase in accrued pension due to inflation, contributions paid by the employee (including the value of any benefits transferred from another pension scheme or arrangement) and uses common market valuation factors for the start and end of the period. However, the real increase calculation uses common actuarial factors at the start and end of the period so that it disregards the effect of any changes in factors and focuses only on the increase that is funded by the employer.

#### Chief Executive

**Certificate of the Chief Financial Officer**

I certify that:

- (a) The Statement of Accounts for the year ended on pages 37 to 128 has been prepared in the form directed by the Department for Communities and under the accounting policies set out on pages 41 to 64 and page 117.
- (b) in my opinion the Statement of Accounts gives a true and fair view of the income and expenditure and cash flows for the financial year and the financial position as at the end of the financial year ending 31st March 2019.

**Chief Financial Officer**

**Date**

These accounts were approved by resolution of the Strategic Policy & Resource Committee on 20 September 2019

**Chairperson**

**Date**



**Belfast City Council**  
**Movement in Reserves Statement for the year ended 31 March 2019**

The Movement in Reserves Statement shows the movement from the start of the year to the end on the different reserves held by the authority, analysed into 'usable reserves' (ie those that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation) and other 'unusable reserves'. The Statement shows how the movements in year of the Council's reserves are broken down between gains and losses incurred in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices and the statutory adjustment required to return to the amounts chargeable to council tax for the year. The Net Increase/Decrease line shows the statutory General Fund Balance movements in the year following those adjustments.

	General Fund Summary (Restated) £	Other Fund Balances and Reserves £	Capital Receipts Reserve £	Total Usable Reserves (Restated) £	Total Unusable Reserves (Restated) £	Total Council Reserves £
<b>Balance as at 1 April 2017</b>	<b>20,989,452</b>	<b>27,153,134</b>	<b>1,632,457</b>	<b>49,775,043</b>	<b>482,230,021</b>	<b>532,005,064</b>
<b>Movement in reserves during the year</b>						
Surplus/ (Deficit) on the provision of services	(17,319,854)	-	-	(17,319,854)	-	(17,319,854)
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	-	-	-	-	23,892,284	23,892,284
<b>Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure</b>	<b>(17,319,854)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(17,319,854)</b>	<b>23,892,284</b>	<b>6,572,430</b>
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding under regulations	21,434,399	(276,792)	3,107,000	24,264,607	(24,368,607)	(104,000)
<b>Net increase before transfers to Statutory and Other Reserves</b>	<b>4,114,545</b>	<b>(276,792)</b>	<b>3,107,000</b>	<b>6,944,753</b>	<b>(476,323)</b>	<b>6,468,430</b>
Transfers to / from Statutory and Other Reserves	(1,430,134)	1,430,134	-	-	-	-
Other movements	734,733	(65,170)	-	669,563	(247,987)	421,576
<b>Increase/ Decrease in year</b>	<b>3,419,144</b>	<b>1,088,172</b>	<b>3,107,000</b>	<b>7,614,316</b>	<b>(724,310)</b>	<b>6,890,006</b>
<b>Balance as at 31 March 2018</b>	<b>24,408,596</b>	<b>28,241,306</b>	<b>4,739,457</b>	<b>57,389,359</b>	<b>481,505,711</b>	<b>538,895,070</b>
<b>Movement in reserves during the year</b>						
Surplus/ (Deficit) on the provision of services	(18,000,936)	-	-	(18,000,936)	-	(18,000,936)
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	-	-	-	-	24,971,471	24,971,471
<b>Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure</b>	<b>(18,000,936)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(18,000,936)</b>	<b>24,971,471</b>	<b>6,970,535</b>
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding under regulations	18,313,728	(89,928)	400,000	18,623,800	(18,583,644)	40,156
<b>Net increase before transfers to Statutory and Other Reserves</b>	<b>312,792</b>	<b>(89,928)</b>	<b>400,000</b>	<b>622,864</b>	<b>6,387,827</b>	<b>7,010,691</b>
Transfers to / from Statutory and Other Reserves	349,548	(349,548)	-	-	-	-
Other movements	726,052	(8,058)	61,000	778,994	(304,704)	474,290
<b>Increase in year</b>	<b>1,388,392</b>	<b>(447,534)</b>	<b>461,000</b>	<b>1,401,858</b>	<b>6,083,123</b>	<b>7,484,981</b>
<b>Balance as at 31 March 2019</b>	<b>25,796,988</b>	<b>27,793,772</b>	<b>5,200,457</b>	<b>58,791,217</b>	<b>487,588,834</b>	<b>546,380,051</b>

**Belfast City Council**
**Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for the year ended 31 March 2019**

The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement shows the accounting cost in the year of providing services in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices, rather than the amount to be funded from taxation. Councils raise taxation to cover expenditure in accordance with statutory requirements; this may be difference from the accounting cost. The taxation position is shown in both the Expenditure and Funding Analysis and the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Service Expenditure	Notes	2018/19			2017/18		
		Gross Expenditure £	Gross Income £	Net Expenditure £	Gross Expenditure (restated) £	Gross Income £	Net Expenditure £
Strategic Policy & Resources	2	78,594,231	(11,644,878)	66,949,353	62,655,671	(9,437,721)	53,217,950
City Growth & Regeneration	2	33,610,670	(10,302,272)	23,308,398	31,889,241	(11,462,686)	20,426,555
People & Communities	2	112,535,363	(16,091,022)	96,444,341	106,581,903	(15,984,609)	90,597,294
Planning & Licencing	2	8,527,144	(6,208,226)	2,318,918	7,835,696	(5,595,361)	2,240,335
<b>Cost of Services on Continuing Operations</b>		<b>233,267,408</b>	<b>(44,246,398)</b>	<b>189,021,010</b>	<b>208,962,511</b>	<b>(42,480,377)</b>	<b>166,482,134</b>
Other Operating Expenditure/Income	8	-	(30,080)	(30,080)	5,166,932	-	5,166,932
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	9	6,074,753	(13,984,884)	(7,910,131)	10,607,076	(6,894,671)	3,712,405
(Surplus) or Deficit on Discontinued Operations				-			-
<b>Net Operating Expenditure</b>		<b>239,342,161</b>	<b>(58,261,362)</b>	<b>181,080,799</b>	<b>224,736,519</b>	<b>(49,375,048)</b>	<b>175,361,471</b>
Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income	10	(91,683)	(162,988,180)	(163,079,863)	(21,440)	(158,020,177)	(158,041,617)
<b>(Surplus)/Deficit on the Provision of Services</b>		<b>239,250,478</b>	<b>(221,249,542)</b>	<b>18,000,936</b>	<b>224,715,079</b>	<b>(207,395,225)</b>	<b>17,319,854</b>
(Surplus)/Deficit on revaluation of non-current assets	11			(9,648,471)			(24,906,284)
Impairment losses on non-current assets charged to the Revaluation Reserve	11			-			-
Surplus/(Deficit) arising on revaluation of available-for-sale financial assets	27						
Remeasurements of the Net Defined Benefit Liability (Asset)	20			(15,323,000)			1,014,000
Share of Other Comprehensive Expenditure & Income of associates and joint ventures	30			-			-
<b>Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure</b>				<b>(24,971,471)</b>			<b>(23,892,284)</b>
<b>Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure</b>				<b>(6,970,535)</b>			<b>(6,572,430)</b>

**Belfast City Council**  
**Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2019**

The Balance Sheet shows the value as at the Balance Sheet date of the assets and liabilities recognised by the Council. The net assets of the Council (assets less liabilities) are matched by the reserves held by the Council. Reserves are reported in two categories. The first category of reserves are usable reserves, ie those reserves that the Council may use to provide services, subject to the need to maintain a prudent level of reserves and any statutory limitations on their use. The second category of reserves is those that the Council is not able to use to provide services. This category of reserves includes reserves that hold unrealised gains and losses (for example the Revaluation Reserve), where amounts would only become available to provide services if the assets are sold; and reserves that hold timing differences shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement line 'Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations'.

	Note	31st March 2019	31st March 2018 Restated	31st March 2017 Restated
		£	£	£
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	11	746,868,338	710,987,753	689,377,789
Long Term Investments		-	-	-
Investment In Associates and Joint Ventures	30	3,436,859	3,346,931	3,070,140
Long Term Debtors	15	603,659	1,137,030	1,296,062
Contract Assets		-	-	-
Contract Costs		-	-	-
<b>LONG TERM ASSETS</b>		<b>750,908,856</b>	<b>715,471,714</b>	<b>693,743,991</b>
Short Term Investments		-	-	-
Inventories	14	276,290	326,164	295,715
Short Term Debtors	15	14,936,338	15,928,389	21,153,585
Cash and Cash Equivalents	24	23,574,416	10,418,212	7,317,266
Assets Held for Sale	11	266,607	-	3,197,000
Contract Assets		1,947,969	1,597,451	767,259
Contract Costs		-	-	-
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>41,001,620</b>	<b>28,270,216</b>	<b>32,730,825</b>
Bank Overdraft	24	-	-	-
Short Term Borrowing	16	4,000,000	4,158,529	163,482
Short Term Creditors	17	30,097,266	25,161,702	27,011,604
Provisions	18	2,894,851	2,906,973	2,584,680
Contract Liabilities		-	-	-
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>36,992,117</b>	<b>32,227,204</b>	<b>29,759,766</b>
Long Term Creditors	17	50,386	60,848	82,707
Provisions	18	1,789,315	1,749,239	1,716,737
Long Term Borrowing	16	58,888,981	32,604,494	36,444,276
Other Long Term Liabilities	20	146,360,942	136,947,942	125,832,942
Contract Liabilities		-	-	-
Donated Assets Account	21	430,001	10,001	10,001
Capital Grants Receipts In Advance	22	1,018,683	1,247,132	623,323
<b>LONG TERM LIABILITIES</b>		<b>208,538,308</b>	<b>172,619,656</b>	<b>164,709,986</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>546,380,051</b>	<b>538,895,070</b>	<b>532,005,064</b>
<b>USABLE RESERVES</b>				
Capital Receipts Reserve	25	5,200,457	4,739,457	1,632,457
Capital Fund	25	25,288,151	25,669,445	24,567,205
Leisure Mobilisation Fund	25	1,441,702	1,704,334	1,945,000
Other Balances and Reserves	25	1,063,919	867,527	640,929
General Fund	25	25,796,988	24,408,596	20,989,452
		<b>58,791,217</b>	<b>57,389,359</b>	<b>49,775,043</b>
<b>UNUSABLE RESERVES</b>				
Capital Adjustment Account	26	470,959,253	460,487,377	470,929,509
Revaluation Reserve	26	164,611,507	159,528,493	138,508,289
Pensions Reserve	26	(146,360,942)	(136,947,942)	(125,832,942)
Accumulated Absences Account	26	(1,357,825)	(1,344,230)	(1,374,835)
Provisions Discount Rate Reserve	26	(263,159)	(217,987)	-
		<b>487,588,834</b>	<b>481,505,711</b>	<b>482,230,021</b>
<b>NET WORTH</b>		<b>546,380,051</b>	<b>538,895,070</b>	<b>532,005,064</b>

**Belfast City Council****Cash Flow Statement at 31 March 2019**

The Cash Flow Statement shows the changes in cash and cash equivalents of the Council during the reporting period. The statement shows how the Council generates and uses cash and cash equivalents by classifying cash flows as operating, investing and financing activities. The amount of net cash flows arising from operating activities is a key indicator of the extent to which the operations of the Council are funded by way of taxation and grant income or from the recipients of services provided by the Council. Investing activities represent the extent to which cash outflows have been made for resources which are intended to contribute to the Council's future service delivery. Cash flows arising from financing activities are useful in predicting claims on future cash flows by providers of capital (ie borrowing) to the Council.

	Note	2018/19	2017/18 (Restated)
		£	£
Net Deficit on the provision of services		(18,000,936)	(17,319,854)
Adjustment for non-cash movements	24	46,538,139	42,967,970
Adjust for Items Included In the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities	24	(3,393,017)	(5,709,582)
<b>Net cash flows from operating activities</b>		<b>25,144,186</b>	<b>19,938,534</b>
Cash flows from Investing Activities	24	(38,113,940)	(16,992,852)
Net Cash flows from Financing Activities	24	26,125,958	155,264
<b>Net increase or decrease in cash and cash equivalents</b>		<b>13,156,204</b>	<b>3,100,946</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		10,418,212	7,317,266
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period</b>		<b>23,574,416</b>	<b>10,418,212</b>

**Restatements**

The Accounts have been restated for the change in accounting policy as per Note 31 Prior Year Restatement and all corresponding primary statements and notes to accounts have been marked as restated where relevant.

**Belfast City Council**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019**

**1 Accounting Policies**

**a General Principles**

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Council's transactions for the 2018/19 financial year and its position at the year-end of 31 March 2019. The Council is required to prepare an annual Statement of Accounts in a form directed by the Department for Communities in accordance with regulations 3 (7) and (8) in the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 in accordance with proper accounting practices.

These practices primarily comprise the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2018/19, supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). The accounting convention adopted in the Statement of Accounts is principally historical cost, modified by the revaluation of certain categories of non-current assets and financial instruments.

**Summary of Significant Accounting Policies**

**i) Accruals of Income and Expenditure**

- Revenue from contracts with service recipients, whether for services or the provision of goods, is recognised when (or as) the goods or services are transferred to the service recipient in accordance with the performance obligations in the contract.

- Supplies are recorded as expenditure when they are consumed – where there is a gap between the date supplies are received and their consumption, they are carried as inventories on the Balance Sheet.

- Expenses in relation to services received (including services provided by employees) are recorded as expenditure when the services are received rather than when payments are made.

- Interest receivable on investments and payable on borrowings is accounted for respectively as income and expenditure on the basis of the effective interest rate for the relevant financial instrument rather than the cash flows fixed or determined by the contract.

- Where revenue and expenditure have been recognised but cash has not been received or paid, a debtor or creditor for the relevant amount is recorded in the Balance Sheet. Where it is doubtful that debts will be settled, the balance of debtors is written down and a charge made to revenue for the income that might not be collected.



ii) **Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions repayable without penalty on notice of not more than 24 hours. Cash equivalents are highly liquid investments that mature in six months or less from the date of acquisition and that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value.

In the Cash Flow Statement, cash and cash equivalents are shown net of bank overdrafts that are repayable on demand and form an integral part of the Council's cash management.

iii) **Contingent Liabilities**

A contingent liability arises where an event has taken place that gives the Council a possible obligation whose existence will only be confirmed by the occurrence or otherwise of uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the Council. Contingent liabilities also arise in circumstances where a provision would otherwise be made but either it is not probable that an outflow of resources will be required or the amount of the obligation cannot be measured reliably.

Contingent liabilities are not recognised in the Balance Sheet but disclosed in a note to the accounts.

iv)

### **Employee Benefits**

Short-term employee benefits are those due to be settled wholly within 12 months of the year-end. They include such benefits as wages and salaries, paid annual leave and paid sick leave, bonuses and non-monetary benefits (e.g. cars) for current employees, and are recognised as an expense in the year in which employees render service to the Council. An accrual is made for the cost of holiday entitlements (or any form of leave, eg time off in lieu) earned by employees but not taken before the year-end which employees can carry forward into the next financial year. The accrual is made at the applicable wage and salary rate. The accrual is charged to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services, but then reversed out through the Movement in Reserves Statement so that holiday entitlements are charged to revenue in the financial year in which the holiday absence occurs.

### **Termination benefits**

Termination benefits are amounts payable as a result of a decision by the Council to terminate an officer's employment before the normal retirement date or an officer's decision to accept voluntary redundancy in exchange for those benefits and are charged on an accruals basis to the appropriate service segment or, where applicable, to a corporate service segment at the earlier of when the Council can no longer withdraw the offer of those benefits or when the Council recognises costs for a restructuring.

Where termination benefits involve the enhancement of pensions, statutory provisions require the General Fund balance to be charged with the amount payable by the Council to the pension fund or pensioner in the year, not the amount calculated according to the relevant accounting standards. In the Movement in Reserves Statement, appropriations are required to and from the Pensions Reserve to remove the notional debits and credits for pension enhancement termination benefits and replace them with debits for the cash paid to the pension fund and pensioners and any such amounts payable but unpaid at the year-end.

### **Post Employment Benefits**

The majority of employees of the Council are members of the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Pension Fund administered by the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Superannuation Committee. The scheme provides defined benefits to members (retirement lump sums and pensions), earned as employees worked for the Council.

## **The Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Pension Fund**

The Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Pension Fund is accounted for as a defined benefits scheme.

The liabilities of the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Pension Fund attributable to the Council are included in the Balance Sheet on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method – i.e. an assessment of the future payments that will be made in relation to retirement benefits earned to date by employees, based on assumptions about mortality rates, employee turnover rates, etc, and projections of projected earnings for current employees.

Liabilities are discounted to their value at current prices, using a discount rate based on the Aon Hewitt GBP Select AA Curve over the duration of the Employer's liabilities.

The assets of the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' pension fund attributable to the Council are included in the Balance Sheet at their fair value:

- quoted securities – current bid price
- unquoted securities – professional estimate
- property – market value
- unitised securities – current bid price

The change in the net pensions liability is analysed into the following seven components:

### **Within the Cost of Services**

**Current Service Cost** – the increase in the present value of the defined benefit obligation (liabilities) resulting from employee service in the current period.

**Past Service Cost** – (where applicable) the change in the present value of the defined benefit obligation for employee service in prior periods, resulting from a plan amendment (the introduction or withdrawal of, or changes to, a defined benefit plan) or a curtailment (a significant reduction in the number of employees covered by the plan).

**Any Gains or Losses on Settlement** – (where applicable) arising where a council enters into a transaction that eliminates all further legal or constructive obligations for part or all of the benefits provided under a defined benefit plan.

### **Within Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure**

**Net Interest on the Net Defined Benefit Liability (Asset)** – the change in the net defined benefit liability (asset) that arises from the passage of time.

Within Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure (Remeasurements)

The Return on Plan Assets – excluding amounts recognised in the Net Interest on the Net Defined Benefit Liability (Asset). This includes interest, dividends and other income derived from the plan assets, together with realised and unrealised gains or losses on the plan assets, less any costs of managing plan assets, and any tax payable by the plan itself other than tax included in the actuarial assumptions used to measure the present value of the defined benefit obligation.

Actuarial Gains and Losses – changes in the present value of the defined benefit obligation resulting from: a) experience adjustments (the effects of differences between the previous actuarial assumptions and what has actually occurred) and b) the effects of changes in actuarial assumptions.

Within the Movement in Reserves Statement Appropriations

Contributions by Scheme Participants – the increase in scheme liabilities and assets due to payments into the scheme by employees (where increased contribution increases pension due to the employee in the future).

Contributions by the Employer – the increase in scheme assets due to payments into the scheme by the employer.

In relation to retirement benefits, statutory provisions require the General Fund balance to be charged with the amount payable by the Council to the pension fund or directly to pensioners in the year, not the amount calculated according to the relevant accounting standards. In the Movement in Reserves Statement, this means that there are transfers to and from the Pensions Reserve to remove the notional debits and credits for retirement benefits and replace them with debits for the cash paid to the pension fund and pensioners and any such amounts payable but unpaid at the year-end. The negative balance that arises on the Pensions Reserve thereby measures the beneficial impact to the General Fund of being required to account for retirement benefits on the basis of cash flows rather than as benefits are earned by employees.

#### Discretionary Benefits

The Council also has restricted powers to make discretionary awards of retirement benefits in the event of early retirements. Any liabilities estimated to arise as a result of an award to any member of staff are accrued in the year of the decision to make the award and accounted for using the same policies that are applied to the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' pension fund.

As a result of Local Government Reform on 1 April 2015, staff that transferred from Central Government to the Council retained membership of the Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS) Pension Scheme. The scheme provides defined benefits to members (retirement lump sums and pensions). However, the arrangements for the NICS Pension Scheme mean that liabilities for these benefits cannot ordinarily be identified specifically to the Council. The scheme is therefore accounted for as if it were a defined contribution scheme and no liability for future payments of benefits is recognised in the Balance Sheet.

v) **Events After the Balance Sheet Date**

Events after the Balance Sheet date are those events, both favourable and unfavourable, that occur between the end of the reporting period and the date when the Statement of Accounts is authorised for issue. Two types of events can be identified:

- those that provide evidence of conditions that existed at the end of the reporting period – the Statement of Accounts is adjusted to reflect such events
- those that are indicative of conditions that arose after the reporting period – the Statement of Accounts is not adjusted to reflect such events, but where a category of events would have a material effect, disclosure is made in the notes of the nature of the events and their estimated financial effect.

The Statement of Accounts may subsequently be adjusted up to the date when they are authorised for issue. This date will be recorded on the Statement of Accounts and is usually the date the Local Government Auditor issues the certificate and opinion. Where material adjustments are made in this period they will be disclosed.

Events taking place after the date of authorisation for issue are not reflected in the Statement of Accounts.

vi) **Exceptional Items**

When items of income and expense are material, their nature and amount is disclosed separately, either on the face of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement or in the notes to the accounts, depending on how significant the items are to an understanding of the Council's financial performance.

vii) **Prior Period Adjustments, Changes in Accounting Policies and Estimates and Errors**

Prior period adjustments may arise as a result of a change in accounting policies or to correct a material error. Changes in accounting estimates are accounted for prospectively, i.e. in the current and future years affected by the change and do not give rise to a prior period adjustment.

Changes in accounting policies are only made when required by proper accounting practices or the change provides more reliable or relevant information about the effect of transactions, other events and conditions on the Council's financial position or financial performance. Where a change is made, it is applied retrospectively (unless stated otherwise) by adjusting opening balances and comparative amounts for the prior period as if the new policy had always been applied.

Material errors discovered in prior period figures are corrected retrospectively by amending opening balances and comparative amounts for the prior period.

During 2018/19 the Council revised its Community Asset policy and this is included in section xx of Note 1. Any necessary restatements have been reflected in the relevant notes and statements in the Accounts.

**Financial Instruments**

Financial liabilities are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the Council becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured at fair value and are carried at their amortised cost. Annual charges to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for interest payable are based on the carrying amount of the liability, multiplied by the effective rate of interest for the instrument. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments over the life of the instrument to the amount at which it was originally recognised.

For most of the borrowings that the Council has, this means that the amount presented in the Balance Sheet is the outstanding principal repayable (plus accrued interest); and interest charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the amount payable for the year according to the loan agreement.

Where premiums and discounts have been charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, regulations allow the impact on the General Fund Balance to be spread over future years. The Council has a policy of spreading the gain or loss over the term that was remaining on the loan against which the premium was payable or discount receivable when it was repaid. The reconciliation of amounts charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the net charge required against the General Fund Balance is managed by a transfer to or from the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

**Financial Assets**

Financial assets are classified based on a classification and measurement approach that reflects the business model for holding the financial assets and their cashflow characteristics. There are three main classes of financial assets measured at:

- amortised cost

The Council's business model is to hold investments to collect contractual cash flows. Financial assets are therefore classified as amortised cost, except for those whose contractual payments are not solely payment of principal and interest (ie where the cash flows do not take the form of a basic debt instrument).



### **Financial Assets Measured at Amortised Cost**

Financial assets measured at amortised cost are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the Council becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured at fair value. They are subsequently measured at their amortised cost. Annual credits to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for interest receivable are based on the carrying amount of the asset multiplied by the effective rate of interest for the instrument. For most of the financial assets held by the Council, this means that the amount presented in the Balance Sheet is the outstanding principal receivable (plus accrued interest) and interest credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure is the amount receivable for the year in the loan agreement.

Any gains and losses that arise on the derecognition of an asset are credited or debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

### **Expected Credit Loss Model**

The Council recognises expected credit losses on all of its financial assets held at amortised cost, either on a 12-month or lifetime basis. The expected credit loss model also applies to lease receivables and contract assets. Only lifetime losses are recognised for trade receivables (debtors) held by the Council.

Impairment losses are calculated to reflect the expectation that the future cash flows might not take place because the borrower could default on their obligations. Credit risk plays a crucial part in assessing losses. Where risk has increased significantly since an instrument was initially recognised, losses are assessed on a lifetime basis. Where risk has not increased significantly or remains low, losses are assessed on the basis of 12-month expected losses.

### **Financial Assets Measured at Fair Value through Profit or Loss**

Financial assets that are measured at FVPL are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the Council becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured and carried at fair value. Fair value gains and losses are recognised as they arrive in the Surplus or Deficit on Provision of Services.

The fair value measurements of the financial assets are based on the following techniques:

- instruments with quoted market prices - the market price
- other instruments with fixed and determinable payments - discounted cash flow analysis.

The inputs to the measurement techniques are categorised in accordance with the following three levels:

- Level 1 inputs - quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets that the authority can access at the measurement date.
- Level 2 inputs - inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset, either directly or indirectly.
- Level 3 inputs - unobservable inputs for the asset.

Any gains and losses that arise on the derecognition of the asset are credited or debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

ix) **Foreign Currency Translation**

Where the Council has entered into a transaction denominated in a foreign currency, the transaction is converted into sterling at the exchange rate applicable on the date the transaction was effective. Where amounts in foreign currency are outstanding at the year-end, they are reconverted at the spot exchange rate at 31 March. Resulting gains or losses are recognised in the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

x) **Government Grants and Contributions**

Whether paid on account, by instalments or in arrears, government grants and third party contributions and donations are recognised as due to the Council when there is reasonable assurance that:

- the Council will comply with the conditions attached to the payments, and
- the grants or contributions will be received.

Amounts recognised as due are not credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement until conditions attaching to the grant or contribution have been satisfied. Conditions are stipulations that specify that the future economic benefits or service potential embodied in the asset in the form of the grant or contribution are required to be consumed by the recipient as specified, or future economic benefits or service potential must be returned to the transferor.

Monies advanced as grants and contributions for which conditions have not been satisfied are carried in the Balance Sheet as creditors. When conditions are satisfied, the grant or contribution is credited to the relevant service line (attributable revenue grants and contributions) or Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income (non-ring-fenced revenue grants and all capital grants) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Where capital grants are credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, they are reversed out of the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement. Where the grant has yet to be used to finance capital expenditure, it is posted to the Capital Grants Unapplied Reserve. Where it has been applied, it is posted to the Capital Adjustment Account. Amounts in the Capital Grants Unapplied Reserve are transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account once they have been applied to fund capital expenditure.

xi) **Inventories & Long Term Contracts**

Inventories are included in the Balance Sheet at the lower of cost and net realisable value. The cost of inventories is assigned using the FIFO costing formula.

Long-term contracts are accounted for on the basis of charging the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services with the consideration allocated to the performance obligations satisfied based on the goods or services transferred to the service recipient during the financial year.

xii) **Overheads and Support Services**

The majority of overheads and support services are included in the expenditure of the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

xiii) **Landfill Allowance Scheme**

The Landfill Allowances Scheme operates under the Landfill Allowances Scheme (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2005. Local Authorities are allocated annual target figures for the maximum amount of biodegradable municipal waste that can be sent to landfill but there are no tradable allowances. It is not a 'cap and trade' scheme since landfill allowances are not tradable. For this reason, landfill allowances are not recognised as assets on the Balance Sheet.

xiv) **Intangible Assets**

Expenditure on non-monetary assets that do not have physical substance but are controlled by the Council as a result of past events (e.g. software licences) is capitalised when it is expected that future economic benefits or service potential will flow from the intangible asset to the Council.

Internally generated assets are capitalised where it is demonstrable that the project is technically feasible and is intended to be completed (with adequate resources being available) and the Council will be able to generate future economic benefits or deliver service potential by being able to sell or use the asset. Expenditure is capitalised where it can be measured reliably as attributable to the asset and restricted to that incurred during the development phase (research expenditure is not capitalised).

Expenditure on the development of websites is not capitalised if the website is solely or primarily intended to promote or advertise the Council's goods or services.

Intangible assets are measured initially at cost. Amounts are only revalued where the fair value of the assets held by the Council can be determined by reference to an active market. In practice, no intangible asset held by the Council meets this criterion, and they are therefore carried at amortised cost. The depreciable amount of an intangible asset is amortised over its useful life to the relevant service line(s) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. An asset is tested for impairment whenever there is an indication that the asset might be impaired – any losses recognised are posted to the relevant service line(s) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Any gain or loss arising on the disposal or abandonment of an intangible asset is posted to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Where expenditure on intangible assets qualifies as capital expenditure for statutory purposes, amortisation, impairment losses and disposal gains and losses are not permitted to have an impact on the General Fund Balance. The gains and losses are therefore reversed out of the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement and posted to the Capital Adjustment Account and (for any sale proceeds greater than £5,000) the Capital Receipts Reserve.

xv) **Investment Property**

Investment properties are those that are used solely to earn rentals and/or for capital appreciation. The definition is not met if the property is used in any way to facilitate the delivery of services or production of goods or is held for sale.

Investment properties are measured initially at cost and subsequently at fair value, being the price that would be received to sell such an asset in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measureable date. As a non-financial asset, investment properties are measured at highest and best use. Properties are not depreciated but are revalued annually according to market conditions at the year-end. Gains and losses on revaluation are posted to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The same treatment is applied to gains and losses on disposal.

Rentals received in relation to investment properties are credited to the Financing and Investment Income line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and result in a gain for the General Fund Balance. However, revaluation and disposal gains and losses are not permitted by statutory arrangements to have an impact on the General Fund Balance. The gains and losses are therefore reversed out of the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement and posted to the Capital Adjustment Account and the Capital Receipts Reserve.

xvi) **Leases**

Leases are classified as finance leases where the terms of the lease transfer substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of the property, plant or equipment from the lessor to the lessee. All other leases are classified as operating leases.

Where a lease covers both land and buildings, the land and buildings elements are considered separately for classification.

Arrangements that do not have the legal status of a lease but convey a right to use an asset in return for payment are accounted for under this policy where fulfilment of the arrangement is dependent on the use of specific assets

### **The Council as Lessee - Finance Lease**

Property, plant and equipment held under finance leases is recognised on the Balance Sheet at the commencement of the lease at its fair value measured at the lease's inception (or the present value of the minimum lease payments, if lower). The asset recognised is matched by a liability for the obligation to pay the lessor. Initial direct costs of the Council are added to the carrying amount of the asset. Premiums paid on entry into a lease are applied to writing down the lease liability. Contingent rents are charged as expenses in the periods in which they are incurred.

Lease payments are apportioned between:

- a. a charge for the acquisition of the interest in the property, plant or equipment – applied to write down the lease liability, and
- b. a finance charge (debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement)

Property, Plant and Equipment recognised under finance leases is accounted for using the policies applied generally to such assets, subject to depreciation being charged over the lease term if this is shorter than the asset's estimated useful life (where ownership of the asset does not transfer to the Council at the end of the lease period).

The Council is not required to raise district rates to cover depreciation or revaluation and impairment losses arising on leased assets. Instead, a prudent annual contribution is made from revenue towards the deemed capital investment in accordance with statutory requirements. Depreciation and revaluation and impairment losses are therefore substituted by a revenue contribution in the General Fund Balance, by way of an adjusting transaction with the Capital Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement for the difference between the two.

### **Operating Leases:**

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as an expense of the services benefiting from use of the leased property, plant or equipment. Charges are made on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease, even if this does not match the pattern of payments (e.g. there is a rent-free period at the commencement of the lease).



### **The Council as Lessor - Finance Lease**

Where the Council grants a finance lease over a property or an item of plant or equipment, the relevant asset is written out of the Balance Sheet as a disposal. At the commencement of the lease, the carrying amount of the asset in the Balance Sheet (whether Property, Plant and Equipment or Assets Held for Sale) is written off to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of the gain or loss on disposal. A gain, representing the Council's net investment in the lease, is credited to the same line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement also as part of the gain or loss on disposal (i.e. netted off against the carrying value of the asset at the time of disposal), matched by a lease asset (long term debtor) in the Balance Sheet.

Lease rentals receivable are apportioned between:

- a. a charge for the acquisition of the interest in the property – applied to write down the lease debtor together with any premiums received, and
- b. finance income (credited to the Financing and Investment income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement).

The gain credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on disposal is not permitted by statute to increase the General Fund Balance and is required to be treated as a capital receipt. Where a premium has been received, this is posted out of the General Fund Balance to the Capital Receipts Reserve in the Movement in Reserves Statement. Where the amount due in relation to the lease asset is to be settled by the payment of rentals in future financial years, this is posted out of the General Fund Balance to the Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve in the Movement in Reserves Statement. When the future rentals are paid, the element for the capital receipt for the disposal of the asset is used to write down the lease debtor. At this point, the deferred capital receipts are transferred to the Capital Receipts Reserve.

The written-off value of disposals is not a charge against District rates, as the cost of non-current assets is fully provided for under separate arrangements for capital financing. Amounts are therefore appropriated to the Capital Adjustment Account from the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

### **The Council as Lessor - Operating Lease**

Where the Council grants an operating lease over a property or an item of plant or equipment, the asset is retained in the Balance Sheet. Rental income is credited to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Credits are made on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease, even if this does not match the pattern of payments (e.g. there is a premium paid at the commencement of the lease). Initial direct costs incurred in negotiating and arranging the lease are added to the carrying amount of the relevant asset and charged as an expense over the lease term on the same basis as rental income.

xvii) **Surplus Assets**

Surplus assets are non-operational assets that do not meet the conditions to be classified as assets held for sale. They are measured at fair value, reflecting the actual market state and conditions at the balance sheet date (which is the valuation date) with best evidence of fair value in an active market for similar properties in the same location. The council classifies assets to surplus assets on the advice of its estates management officers and in consultation with its external property valuers.

The surplus assets held by the council comprise a number of properties including land, buildings or sites of land and buildings combined, which have not reached the stage where the council can market these for sale advantageously, or where the properties have restrictions that prevent them currently being brought to market.

xviii) **Disposals and Non-Current Assets Held for Sale**

When it becomes probable that the carrying amount of an asset will be recovered principally through a sale transaction rather than through its continuing use, it is reclassified as an Asset Held for Sale. The asset is revalued immediately before reclassification and then carried at the lower of this amount and fair value less costs to sell. Where there is a subsequent decrease to fair value less costs to sell, the loss is posted to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Gains in fair value are recognised only up to the amount of any previously recognised losses in the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services. Depreciation is not charged on Assets Held for Sale.

If assets no longer meet the criteria to be classified as assets held for sale, they are reclassified back to non-current assets and valued at the lower of its carrying amount before they were classified as held for sale: adjusted for depreciation, amortisation or revaluations that would have been recognised had they not been classified as held for sale, and their recoverable amount at the date of the decision not to sell.

Assets that are to be abandoned or scrapped are not reclassified as assets held for sale.

When an asset is disposed of, or decommissioned, the carrying amount of the asset in the Balance Sheet (whether property, plant and equipment or assets held for sale) is written off to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of the gain or loss on disposal. Receipts from disposals (if any) are credited to the same line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement also as part of the gain or loss on disposal (i.e. netted off against the carrying value of the asset at the time of disposal). Any revaluation gains accumulated for the asset in the Revaluation Reserve are transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account.

Amounts greater than £5k received for a disposal are categorised as capital receipts and credited to the Capital Receipts Reserve. Receipts are appropriated to the Reserve from the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

The written-off value of disposals is not a charge against district rates, as the cost of non-current assets is fully provided for under separate arrangements for capital financing. Amounts are appropriated to the Capital Adjustment Account from the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

xix)

## **Property, Plant and Equipment**

Assets that have physical substance and are held for use in the production or supply of goods or services, for rental to others, or for administrative purposes and that are expected to be used during more than one financial year are classified as Property, Plant and Equipment.

### **Recognition**

Expenditure on the acquisition, creation or enhancement of Property, Plant and Equipment is capitalised on an accruals basis, provided that it is probable that the future economic benefits or service potential associated with the item will flow to the Council and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. Expenditure that maintains but does not add to an asset's potential to deliver future economic benefits or service potential (i.e., repairs and maintenance) is charged as an expense when it is incurred. The Council applies a de-minimis level of £25k to Plant & Machinery, Information Technology equipment, Fixtures & Fittings and Office equipment, meaning only assets over £25k are capitalised. Subsequent capital expenditure is only capitalised where it provided an enhancement to the economic benefits of the asset in excess of those previously addressed.

### **Measurement**

Assets are initially measured at cost, comprising:

- a. the purchase price
- b. any costs attributable to bringing the asset to the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by management
- c. the initial estimate of the costs of dismantling and removing the item and restoring the site on which it is located

The Council does not capitalise borrowing costs incurred whilst assets are under construction.

The cost of assets acquired other than by purchase is deemed to be its fair value, unless the acquisition does not have commercial substance (ie it will not lead to a variation in the cash flows of the Council). In the latter case, where an asset is acquired via an exchange, the cost of the acquisition is the carrying amount of the asset given up by the Council.

Donated assets are measured initially at fair value. The difference between fair value and any consideration paid is credited to the Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income line of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, unless the donation has been made conditionally. Until conditions are satisfied, the gain is held in the Donated Assets Account. Where gains are credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, they are reversed out of the General Fund Balance to the Capital Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Assets are then carried in the Balance Sheet using the following measurement bases:

- infrastructure, community assets and assets under construction – depreciated historical cost
- short life assets, including road vehicles, plant and equipment, fixtures and fittings, office equipment, and IT and IT equipment – depreciated historic cost as an estimate of fair value
- surplus assets – fair value (at highest and best use)
- investment properties – measured initially at cost and subsequently at fair value as outlined in accounting policy note xiv
- all other assets – service potential (current value)

Where there is no market-based evidence of fair value because of the specialist nature of an asset, depreciated replacement cost is used as an estimate of fair value.

### **Valuation**

The Council operates a rolling programme for the revaluation of Land and Buildings with approximately 25% of these being revalued by physical inspection each year and the remainder being revalued by a desktop exercise. Increases in valuations are matched by credits to the Revaluation Reserve to recognise unrealised gains. Exceptionally, gains might be credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement where they arise from the reversal of a loss previously charged to a service.

The Revaluation Reserve contains revaluation gains recognised since 1 April 2007 only, the date of its formal implementation. Gains arising before that date have been consolidated into the Capital Adjustment Account.

### **Impairment**

Assets are assessed at each year-end as to whether there is any indication that an asset may be impaired. Where indications exist and any possible differences are estimated to be material, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated and, where this is less than the carrying amount of the asset, an impairment loss is recognised for the shortfall.

Where impairment losses are identified, they are accounted for by:

- a. where there is a balance of revaluation gains for the asset in the Revaluation Reserve, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against that balance (up to the amount of the accumulated gains),
- b. where there is no balance in the Revaluation Reserve or an insufficient balance, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against the relevant service line(s) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Where an impairment loss is reversed subsequently, the reversal is credited to the relevant service line(s) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, up to the amount of the original loss, adjusted for depreciation that would have been charged if the loss had not been recognised.

The same accounting treatment is applied to revaluation losses as a result of a general fall in asset prices across the board as opposed to a consumption of economic benefit specific to an asset as is in the case of impairment losses.

## **Depreciation**

Depreciation is provided for on all property, plant and equipment assets by the systematic allocation of their depreciable amounts over their useful lives. An exception is made for assets without a determinable finite useful life (i.e. freehold land and certain Community Assets) and assets that are not yet available for use (i.e. assets under construction).

Depreciation is calculated on a straight-line basis on the following classes of tangible asset:

- buildings, installation and fittings are depreciated on their fair value over the estimated remaining lives of those assets as advised by the Independent Chartered Surveyors. Depending on the type of building, installation or fitting the maximum useful life will be a range up to 60 years.
- infrastructure assets, short-life assets, including road vehicles, plant and equipment, fixtures and fittings, office equipment, and IT and IS equipment are depreciated over their estimated useful lives.

Intangible assets are amortised on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful lives.

Depreciation is calculated on the following bases:

- straight-line allocation of the estimated useful lives
- depreciation is charged in the month of capitalisation but not in the month of disposal

## **Componentisation**

Where an item of Property, Plant and Equipment asset has major components whose cost is significant in relation to the total cost of the item, the components are depreciated separately.

Componentisation is only applicable to larger value land and buildings or equipment assets. The Council applies the following de-minimis levels in relation to componentisation:

- a component should be valued separately if it is greater than or equal to 3% of the total value of the asset and
- the individual component has a valuation of greater than or equal to £300k

## **Revaluations**

Revaluation gains are also depreciated, with an amount equal to the difference between current value depreciation charged on assets and the depreciation that would have been chargeable based on their historical cost being transferred each year from the Revaluation Reserve to the Capital Adjustment Account.



xx) **Community Assets**

From 1 April 2017, community assets are recognised, measured and accounted for at their depreciated historic cost. The historical cost of a community asset is deemed to be the carrying amount of an asset as at 1 April 2007 or at the date of acquisition, whichever date is the later, and adjusted for subsequent depreciation or impairment (if applicable).

Community assets that consist of land or that have an indeterminable useful life will not be depreciated but will be subject to annual review for impairment. Community assets that are depreciable and have a determinable useful life will be depreciated systematically at a constant (straight-line) rate over their useful lives, as well as being subject to impairment review if there is evidence of excessive deterioration or that their value to the Council is below their then carrying amount.

Depreciation on community assets will be charged on an annual basis to the appropriate service of the Council in that year against the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

xxi) **Heritage Assets**

Heritage Assets are assets with historical, artistic, scientific, technological, geophysical or environmental qualities that are held and maintained principally for their contribution to knowledge and culture.

Heritage Assets are those assets that are intended to be preserved in trust for future generations because of their cultural, environmental or historic associations. They would be held by this authority in pursuit of our overall objectives in relation to the maintenance of heritage.

The Council's collection of Heritage Assets (Works of Art and Civic Items) is reported in the balance sheet at insurance valuation, which is based on market values, or if it is not possible to obtain a valuation, they are maintained at historical cost less any depreciation, amortisation or impairment losses. These insurance valuations based on market values are updated on a periodic basis. Summary information on Heritage Assets has been provided for transactions in 2017/18 and 2018/19 financial years. Detailed information relating to transactions has not been included for prior years as it would not be practical to do so and there is little value added for the users of the accounts.

xxii) **Provisions**

Provisions are made where an event has taken place that gives the Council a legal or constructive obligation that probably requires settlement by a transfer of economic benefits or service potential, and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation. For instance, the Council may be involved in a court case that could eventually result in the making of a settlement or the payment of compensation.

Provisions are charged as an expense to the appropriate service line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the year that the Council becomes aware of the obligation, and measured at the best estimate at the balance sheet date of the expenditure required to settle the obligation, taking into account relevant risks and uncertainties.

When payments are eventually made, they are charged to the provision carried in the Balance Sheet. Estimated settlements are reviewed at the end of each financial year – where it becomes less than probable that a transfer of economic benefits will now be required (or a lower settlement than anticipated is made), the provision is reversed and credited back to the relevant service.

Where some or all of the payment required to settle a provision is expected to be recovered from another party (e.g. from an insurance claim), this is only recognised as income for the relevant service if it is virtually certain that reimbursement will be received if the Council settles the obligation.

xxiii) **Reserves**

The Council sets aside specific amounts as reserves for future policy purposes or to cover contingencies. Reserves are created by transferring amounts out of the General Fund Balance. When expenditure to be financed from a reserve is incurred, it is charged to the appropriate service in that year against the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The reserve is then transferred back into the General Fund Balance so that there is no net charge against District Rates for the expenditure.

Certain reserves are kept to manage the accounting processes for non-current assets, financial instruments, retirement benefits and employee benefits and do not represent usable resources for the Council – these reserves are explained in the relevant note to the accounts.

xxiv) **Charges to Revenue for Non-Current Assets**

Services, support services and trading accounts are debited with the following amounts to record the cost of holding non-current assets during the year:

- a. depreciation attributable to the assets used by the relevant service
- b. revaluation and impairment losses on assets used by the service where there are no accumulated gains in the Revaluation Reserve against which the losses can be written off
- c. amortisation of intangible fixed assets attributable to the service.

The Council is not required to raise District Rates to cover depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses or amortisations. However, it is required to make an annual contribution from revenue to contribute towards the reduction in its overall borrowing requirement [equal to either an amount calculated on a prudent basis determined by the Council in accordance with statutory guidance]. Depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses and amortisation are therefore replaced by the contribution in the General Fund Balance [minimum revenue provision (MRP)], by way of an adjusting transaction with the Capital Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement for the difference between the two.

xxv) **Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute**

Expenditure incurred during the year that may be capitalised under statutory provisions but that does not result in the creation of a non-current asset has been charged as expenditure to the relevant service in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the year. Where the Council has determined to meet the cost of this expenditure from existing capital resources or by borrowing, a transfer in the Movement in Reserves Statement from the General Fund Balance to the Capital Adjustment Account then reverses out the amounts charged, so that there is no impact on the level of District Rates.

xxvi) **Value Added Tax**

VAT payable is included as an expense only to the extent that it is not recoverable from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs. VAT receivable is excluded from income.

xxvii) **The Carbon Reduction Commitment Scheme (CRC)**

The Council is required to participate in the Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme. The scheme is currently in the last year of its introductory phase, which ends on 31st March 2014. The Council is required to purchase and surrender allowances, currently retrospectively, on the basis of emissions, i.e. carbon dioxide produced as energy is used. As carbon dioxide is produced (i.e. as energy is used), a liability and an expense are recognised. The liability will be discharged by surrendering allowances. The liability is measured at the best estimate of the expenditure required to meet the obligation, normally at the current market price of the number of allowances required to meet the liability at the reporting date. The cost to the Council is recognised and reported in the costs of the Council's services and is apportioned to services on the basis of energy consumption. These costs were £214k in 2018/19.

xxviii) **Landfill Exploration and Evaluation**

The Council considers the facts and circumstances to determine whether an exploration and evaluation asset should be recognised in respect of the landfill site including assessment of the amount, timing and certainty of future cash flows under IFRS 6. The Council's landfill site produces gas to generate electricity and the income from this electricity generation is reducing year on year due to environmental and other uncontrollable variables. In 2018-19 the costs of production of gas outweighed the income and resulted net gain of £261k. The Council does not recognise any asset in respect of this gas production as any forecasting or estimating of future income is uncertain. The Council cannot reliably measure or value such an asset under IAS 38.

xxix) **Fair Value Measurement**

The Council measures some of its non-financial assets such as surplus assets and investment properties and some of its financial instruments such as equity shareholdings [other financial instruments as applicable] at fair value at each reporting date. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The fair value measurement assumes that the transaction to sell the asset or transfer the liability takes place either:

- a) in the principal market for the asset or liability, or
- b) in the absence of a principal market, in the most advantageous market for the asset or liability.

The Council measures the fair value of an asset or liability using the assumptions that market participants would use when pricing the asset or liability, assuming that market participants act in their economic best interest.

When measuring the fair value of a non-financial asset, the Council takes into account a market participant's ability to generate economic benefits by using the asset in its highest and best use or by selling it to another market participant that would use the asset in its highest and best use.

The Council uses valuation techniques that are appropriate in the circumstances and for which sufficient data is available, maximising the use of relevant observable inputs and minimising the use of unobservable inputs.

Inputs to the valuation techniques in respect of assets and liabilities for which fair value is measured or disclosed in the Council's financial statements are categorised within the fair value hierarchy, as follows:

- \* Level 1 – quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the authority can access at the measurement date
- \* Level 2 – inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly
- \* Level 3 – unobservable inputs for the asset or liability.

xxx) **Capital Receipts Unapplied**

This represents capital receipts that are held on the balance sheet to finance future capital expenditure. Income from disposal of fixed assets is posted into the capital receipts unapplied account until such time as it is allocated to finance other capital expenditure.

The amount of £117k in capital receipts unapplied relates to the remaining proceeds from a disposal to the NIHE which is being used to finance a playground.

**b Accounting Standards That Have Been Issued but Have Not Yet Been Adopted**

The Council has considered the following accounting standards that come into effect for financial years commencing on or before 1 January 2019 and identified the impact they will have on the Council's financial statements;

a) amendments to IAS 40 Investment Property: Transfers of Investment Property

b) Annual Improvements to IFRS Standards 2014-2016 Cycle

c) IFRIC 22 Foreign Currency Transactions and Advance Consideration

d) IFRIC 23 Uncertainty over Income Tax Treatments

e) amendments to IFRS 9 Financial Instruments: Prepayment Features with Negative Compensation

There is no identifiable material impact for any of the above.

**c Critical Judgements in Applying Accounting Policies**

In applying accounting policies set out from 1a above the Council has had to make certain judgements about complex transactions or those involving uncertainty about future events. The critical judgements made in the Statement of Accounts are:

Landfill Provision

The calculation of the necessary financial provision for the capping and aftercare costs for the landfill site depends on a judgement around the appropriate discount rate to be used and the number of years over which these costs need to be provided. The landfill provision figures are sensitive to the assumptions used. The impact of amending the interest rates used to discount this provision has been mitigated through the creation of a Provision Discount Rate Reserve to accommodate fluctuations in the current value of the annual calculation of long term provisions for landfill costs.

**d Assumptions Made About the Future and Other Major Sources of Estimation Uncertainty**

**Pension Liability**

Estimation of the net liability to pay pensions depends on a number of complex judgements relating to the discount rate used, the rate at which salaries are projected to increase, changes in retirement ages, mortality rates and expected returns on pension fund assets. A firm of consulting actuaries AON Hewitt is engaged to provide the Council with expert advice about the assumptions to be applied. The pension figures disclosed in these financial statements are sensitive to the assumptions used.

The approximate impact of changing key assumptions on the present value of the funded defined benefit obligation as at 31 March 2019 and the projected service cost for the year ending 31 March 2020 is set out in Note 20.

2

**a Expenditure and Funding Analysis**

The Expenditure and Funding Analysis shows how annual expenditure is used and funded from resources (government grants, rents, and rates) by local authorities in comparison with those resources consumed or earned by authorities in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices. It also shows how this expenditure is allocated for decision making purposes between the council's committees. Income and expenditure accounted for under generally accepted accounting practices is presented more fully in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

	2018/19			2017/18		
	Net Expenditure Chargable to the General Fund	Adjustments	Net Expenditure In the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	Net Expenditure Chargable to the General Fund	Adjustments	Net Expenditure In the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement
	£	£	£	£	(Restated) £	(Restated) £
Strategic Policy & Resources	46,900,685	(20,048,668)	66,949,353	48,981,261	(4,236,689)	53,217,950
City Growth & Regeneration	17,772,285	(5,536,113)	23,308,398	14,357,901	(6,068,654)	20,426,555
People & Communities	81,126,640	(15,317,701)	96,444,341	74,330,146	(16,267,148)	90,597,294
Planning & Licencing	1,799,300	(519,618)	2,318,918	1,659,623	(580,712)	2,240,335
<b>Net Cost of Services</b>	<b>147,598,910</b>	<b>(41,422,100)</b>	<b>189,021,010</b>	<b>139,328,931</b>	<b>(27,153,203)</b>	<b>166,482,134</b>
Other Income and Expenditure	(148,987,302)	22,032,772	(171,020,074)	(142,748,075)	6,414,205	(149,162,280)
<b>Surplus or Deficit</b>	<b>(1,388,392)</b>	<b>(19,389,328)</b>	<b>18,000,936</b>	<b>(3,419,144)</b>	<b>(20,738,998)</b>	<b>17,319,854</b>
<b>Opening General Fund</b>			<b>24,408,596</b>			<b>20,989,452</b>
<b>Surplus/ (Deficit) on General Fund Balance in Year</b>			<b>1,388,392</b>			<b>3,419,144</b>
<b>Closing General Fund</b>			<b>25,796,988</b>			<b>24,408,596</b>



2

b

### Note to the Expenditure and Funding Analysis

This note provides a reconciliation of the main adjustments to Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund to arrive at the amounts in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The relevant transfers between reserves are explained in the Movement in Reserves Statement

#### Adjustments between Funding and Accounting Basis

2018/19

Adjustments from General Fund to arrive at the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Amounts	Adjustments for Capital Purposes	Net Change for the Pension Adjustments	Other Statutory Adjustments	Other non-statutory Adjustments	Total adjustments
	£	£	£	£	£
Strategic Policy & Resources	(3,284,280)	(17,218,473)	(72,116)	526,201	(20,048,668)
City Growth & Regeneration	(4,065,197)	(575,729)	(19,438)	(875,749)	(5,536,113)
People & Communities	(11,675,580)	(3,652,191)	10,070	-	(15,317,701)
Planning & Licencing	-	(529,803)	10,185	-	(519,618)
<b>Net Cost of Services</b>	<b>(19,025,057)</b>	<b>(21,976,196)</b>	<b>(71,299)</b>	<b>(349,548)</b>	<b>(41,422,100)</b>
Other Income and Expenditure from the Expenditure and Funding Analysis	25,191,548	(2,512,804)	-	(645,972)	22,032,772
Difference between General Fund surplus or deficit and Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	6,166,491	(24,489,000)	(71,299)	(995,520)	(19,389,328)

#### Adjustments between Funding and Accounting Basis

2017/18

Adjustments from General Fund to arrive at the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Amounts	Adjustments for Capital Purposes (Restated)	Net Change for the Pension Adjustments (Restated)	Other Statutory Adjustments	Other non-statutory Adjustments	Total adjustments
	£	£	£	£	£
Strategic Policy & Resources	(4,190,363)	(3,298,634)	(174,092)	3,426,400	(4,236,689)
City Growth & Regeneration	(3,807,215)	(498,514)	(7,325)	(1,755,600)	(6,068,654)
People & Communities	(12,299,208)	(3,725,416)	(1,858)	(240,666)	(16,267,148)
Planning & Licencing	-	(575,722)	(4,990)	-	(580,712)
<b>Net Cost of Services</b>	<b>(20,296,786)</b>	<b>(8,098,286)</b>	<b>(188,265)</b>	<b>1,430,134</b>	<b>(27,153,203)</b>
Other Income and Expenditure from the Expenditure and Funding Analysis	9,146,929	(1,972,714)	(25,277)	(734,733)	6,414,205
Difference between General Fund surplus or deficit and Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	(11,149,857)	(10,071,000)	(213,542)	695,401	(20,738,998)

Each committee is responsible for the delivery of key services to the Council and the main services included in each committee is as follows:

#### Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

The net expenditure of this committee includes Legal and Civic Services, Finance and Resources, City Organisation Structure and Major Projects and Corporate Priorities with Human Resources and Good Relations.

#### City Growth and Regeneration Committee

The net expenditure of the committee includes Economic Initiatives and City Regeneration, City Events and Venues including Off-Street Car Parking, Place and Economy and Parks Estates and Zoo.

#### People and Communities Committee

The net expenditure of the committee includes Cleansing, Waste Management and vehicles, Parks, Cemeteries and Leisure Centres, Environmental Health, Neighbourhood and Development and Community Services.

#### Planning and Licencing

The net expenditure includes Planning and Building Control services.

### 3 a Expenditure and Income Analysed by Nature

Expenditure		2018/19	2017/18
	Notes	£	£
Employee Benefits Expenses	7	88,602,500	84,658,091
Other Services Expenditure		126,408,328	107,809,591
Support Service Recharges		-	-
Depreciation, Amortisation, Impairment	11	19,025,057	19,918,535
Interest Payments	9	1,811,731	1,749,388
Gain on the Disposal of Assets	8	(80,080)	5,166,932
Other Expenditure		3,482,942	5,412,542
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>239,250,478</b>	<b>224,715,079</b>

Income		2018/19	2017/18
	Notes	£	£
Fees, Charges and other service income		(44,276,478)	(42,480,377)
Interest and Investment Income	9	(13,984,884)	(6,894,671)
District rate income	10	(154,776,084)	(150,540,780)
Government grants and Contributions	10	(8,212,096)	(7,479,397)
Support Service Income		-	-
Other Income		-	-
<b>Total Income</b>		<b>(221,249,542)</b>	<b>(207,395,225)</b>

<b>(Surplus) or Deficit on the Provision of Services</b>		<b>18,000,936</b>	<b>17,319,854</b>
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### b Revenue from contracts with service recipients

On transition to IFRS 15, there is no impact on the Belfast City Council revenue recognition for contracts with customers.

Amounts included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for contracts with service recipients:

Revenue from contracts with service recipients		2018/19	2017/18
	Notes	£	£
Strategic Policy & Resources		3,923,655	1,449,778
City Growth & Regeneration		911,423	639,036
People & Communities		3,146,839	3,174,819
<b>Total included in Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement</b>		<b>7,981,917</b>	<b>5,263,633</b>

Revenue from contracts with service recipients includes services such as the provision of IT support, the provision of off street car parking facilities, and the sale of recycle. Income is recognised as the contract obligation is satisfied and received in arrears after each event.

The Council has applied the accounting standard to determine revenue recognition under IFRS 15.

Amounts included in the Balance Sheet for contracts with service recipients:

		31st March 2019	31st March 2018
	Notes	£	£
Receivables, which are included in debtors		-	-
Contract Assets		1,947,969	1,597,451
Contract Liabilities		-	-
Other		-	-
<b>Total included in Net Assets</b>		<b>1,947,969</b>	<b>1,597,451</b>

4 Adjustments between an Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under Regulations.  
a Amounts included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement but required by statute to be excluded when determining the Movement on the General Fund Balance for the year:

		2018/19		2017/18	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
<b>Amounts included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement but required by statute to be excluded when determining the Movement on the General Fund Balance for the year:</b>					
Impairments (losses & reversals) of non-current assets		-	-	-	-
Derecognition (other than disposal) of non-current assets	11	-	-	-	-
Revaluation increases/decreases taken to Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	11	(6,312,957)		3,291,888	
Depreciation charged in the year on non-current assets	11	18,313,014	12,000,057	16,626,647	19,918,535
Net Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	12		-		-
Carrying amount of non current assets sold	11e	350,000		8,612,078	
Proceeds from the sale of PP&E, investment property and intangible assets	8, 24	(430,080)	(80,080)	(3,445,146)	5,166,932
Difference between finance costs calculated on an accounting basis and finance costs calculated in accordance with statutory requirements			-		-
Net charges made for retirement benefits in accordance with IAS 19	20		38,826,000		23,597,000
Direct revenue financing of Capital Expenditure	12,25		(9,239,567)		(5,518,199)
Capital Grants and Donated Assets Receivable and Applied in year	10		(2,919,677)		(2,541,228)
Capital Grants Receivable and Unapplied in year	10		(133,188)		-
Rates Claw-Back Reserve			-		-
Adjustments in relation to Short-term compensated absences	26		13,595		(30,605)
Adjustments in relation to Lessor Arrangements			-		26,160
Landfill Regulations Reserve Adjustment			-		-
Provisions Discount Rate Reserve Adjustment	26		57,704		217,987
<b>Amounts not included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement but required by statute to be included when determining the Movement on the General Fund Balance for the year</b>					
Statutory Provision for the financing of Capital Investment	26		(5,874,116)		(5,876,183)
Employers contributions payable to the NILGOSC and retirement benefits payable direct to pensioners	20		(14,337,000)		(13,526,000)
			<b>18,313,728</b>		<b>21,434,399</b>

b Net transfers (to)/from statutory and other earmarked reserves:					
	Notes	2018/19 £	2018/19 £	2017/18 £	2017/18 £
<b>Capital Fund</b>					
Interest		-	-	-	-
From Capital		-	-	-	-
Other	25c	247,604	247,604	(1,514,399)	(1,514,399)
<b>Leisure Mobilisation Fund</b>					
Interest		-	-	-	-
Other	25d	262,632	262,632	240,666	240,666
<b>Capital Receipts Reserve</b>					
Interest		-	-	-	-
Other	25	-	-	-	-
<b>Other Funds and earmarked reserves</b>					
Interest		(10,688)	-	(6,401)	-
From Other funds		-	-	-	-
Other	25e	(150,000)	(160,688)	(150,000)	(156,401)
<b>Unusable reserves</b>					
Capital Adjustment Account		-	-	-	-
			349,548		(1,430,134)

## 5 Cost of Services on Continuing Operations

### a General power of competence

Under Section 79 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014, the Council has the power to do anything that individuals generally may do. Councils have the power to do this with or without charge. The power of competence is not limited to benefitting the area or its residents nor is it limited by existing powers.

There was no expenditure under the power of competence during 2018/19.

### b External Audit Fees

The Council has incurred the following costs relating to the annual audit of the Statement of Accounts, certification of grant claims and other services provided by the Councils external auditors.

	2018/19 £	2017/18 £
External Audit Fees	78,000	78,000
National Fraud Initiative	1,982	-
Performance Improvement work	25,000	22,200
	104,982	100,200

There were no other fees payable in respect of any other services provided by the appointed auditor over and above those described above.

**6 Operating and Finance Leases  
Council as Lessor**

**a Finance Leases (Council as lessor)**

The Council leases out a number of land assets by long term leases with lease terms from 250 to 999 years. The leases for 250 years are on a perpetual basis and it is assumed the leases will be renewed so the economic substance is similar to disposal. The rental income is either nil or 5p per annum. Rent is not normally received on these properties and future minimum lease income is assumed to be nil.

The present value of lease payments receivable under the finance lease arrangements is recognised as a receivable and included in both short and long term debtors. The difference between the gross amount receivable and the present value of the amounts receivable is recognised as unearned finance income.

No contingent rents were recognised as receivable by the Council.

**b Operating Leases (Council as lessor)**

The Council, in accordance with its statutory and discretionary responsibilities, leases out property and equipment under operating leases for the following purposes:

- for the provision of community services, such as sports facilities, tourism services and community centres
- for economic development purposes to provide suitable affordable accommodation for small local businesses
- any other purposes

Rental income recognised in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the current year amounts to £6,440,849 (prior year £6,714,318). No contingent rents were recognised.

The lease contracts are all non-cancellable and do not include an extension option. The lease terms are between 1 and 125 years. Future minimum lease income is set out below:

	2018/19		2017/18	
	Land and Buildings	Vehicles, Plant and Equipment	Land and Buildings	Vehicles, Plant and Equipment
	£	£	£	£
<b>Minimum lease rentals receivable:</b>				
No later than 1 year	6,330,814		6,298,405	
Later than 1 year and no later than 5 years	21,156,154		21,087,235	
Later than 5 years	422,374,653		422,161,184	
	<b>449,861,621</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>449,546,824</b>	<b>-</b>

The assets leased by the Council to third parties are included in the following categories of Property, Plant and Equipment with carrying values of:

	2018/19		2017/18	
	Land and Buildings	Vehicles, Plant and Equipment	Land and Buildings	Vehicles, Plant and Equipment
	£	£	£	£
Cost	88,905,000	-	93,901,169	-
Accumulated depreciation and impairments at 1 April	-	-	-	-
Depreciation charge for the year	-	-	-	-
Impairments	4,525,000	-	(4,600,000)	-
Revaluations	2,500,000	-	(396,169)	-
Transfers and reclassifications	1,300,000	-	-	-
Disposals	(350,000)	-	-	-
	<b>96,880,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>88,905,000</b>	<b>-</b>

**Council as Lessee**

**c Finance Leases (Council as lessee)**

The Council has a number of assets of land held by long term leases from 980 to 10,000 years. Rental income is between 1p to £32 per annum, if demanded. Rent is not normally demanded on these properties and therefore future minimum lease payments are assumed to be nil.

The assets acquired under these leases are carried as property, plant and equipment in the Balance Sheet at the following net amounts:

	2018/19	2017/18
	£	£
Other Land and Buildings	678,204	653,204
Vehicles, Plant, Furniture and Equipment	-	-
	<b>678,204</b>	<b>653,204</b>

**d Operating Leases (Council as lessee)**

The Council is leasing a number of office buildings with lease terms up to 25 years and vehicles/office equipment with lease terms up to 4 years.

The expenditure charged to services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement during the year in relation to these leases was:

	2018/19		2017/18	
	Land and Buildings	Vehicles, Plant and Equipment	Land and Buildings	Vehicles, Plant and Equipment
	£	£	£	£
Minimum lease payments	249,809	9,801	562,216	48,943
Contingent rentals				
Less: Sublease payments receivable				
	249,809	9,801	562,216	48,943

No sub-lease payments or contingent rent payments were made or received. No sublease income is expected as all assets held under operating lease agreements are used exclusively by the Council.

The future minimum lease payments due under non-cancellable operating leases in future years are set out below:

	31st March 2019		31st March 2018	
	Land and Buildings	Vehicles, Plant and Equipment	Land and Buildings	Vehicles, Plant and Equipment
	£	£	£	£
Not later than 1 year	284,387	10,116	235,150	8,576
Later than 1 year and no later than 5 years	1,167,802	7,199	1,106,055	7,118
Later than 5 years	1,456,847	-	1,637,161	-
	2,909,036	17,315	2,978,366	15,694



7 Employee Costs and Member Allowances		
a Staff Costs		
	2018/19	2017/18
	£	£
Salaries and Wages	68,192,147	65,511,324
Employers NIC	6,331,569	6,117,551
Employers Superannuation	14,078,784	13,029,216
<b>Total staff costs</b>	<b>88,602,500</b>	<b>84,658,091</b>

The above staff costs include the costs of voluntary redundancies in 2018/19. These costs total £2,003,028 and are disclosed separately in Table 4 of the Remuneration Report. In addition, agency costs during the year amounted to £4,818,572 (2017/18 £4,649,576).

The Council's current contribution rate to NILGOSC scheme is 19% plus a 2% Deficit Recovery Contribution.

**Average Number of Employees - where FTE represents fulltime equivalent employees**

b Average Number of Employees		
	2018/19	2017/18
	FTE	FTE
Strategic Policy & Resources	627	661
City Growth & Regeneration	153	179
People & Communities	1,225	1,239
Planning & Licencing	145	147
<b>Total Number</b>	<b>2,151</b>	<b>2,226</b>

	2018/19	2017/18
	Actual Numbers	Actual Numbers
Full-time numbers employed	1,982	2,033
Part-time numbers employed	323	351
<b>Total Number</b>	<b>2,305</b>	<b>2,384</b>

c Senior Employees' Remuneration		
	2018/19	2017/18
	£	£
£50,001 to £60,000	52	50
£60,001 to £70,000	15	10
£70,001 to £80,000	6	11
£80,001 to £90,000	4	2
£90,001 to £100,000	6	4
£100,001 to £110,000	4	2
£110,001 to £120,000	1	-
£130,001 to £140,000	-	1
£150,001 to £160,000	1	-
<b>Total Number</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>80</b>

**d Members' Allowances**

	2018/19	2017/18
	£	£
Salaries	-	-
Basic allowance	851,196	849,435
Mayor's & Deputy Mayor's Allowance	41,050	41,050
Special Responsibility Allowances	106,691	107,452
High Sheriff's Allowance	6,250	6,250
Mileage	14,248	11,410
Conferences and Courses	5,997	25,345
Travel & Subsistence Costs	13,493	34,898
Miscellaneous Costs	-	2,834
PCSP Allowance	12,360	13,620
Telephone rental	4,410	4,261
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,055,695</b>	<b>1,096,555</b>

**e Northern Ireland Civil Service Pension Arrangements**

As a result of Reform on 1st April 2015, staff transferred from Central Government to the Council are members of the Northern Ireland Civil Service Pension Scheme.

The Northern Ireland Civil Service Pension arrangements are unfunded multi-employer defined benefit schemes but the Department for Communities is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities. The most up to date actuarial valuation was carried out as at 31 March 2016. This valuation is then reviewed by the Scheme Actuary and updated to reflect current conditions and rolled forward to the reporting date of the DOF Superannuation and Other Allowances Resource Accounts as at 31 March 2019.

For 2018-19, employers' contributions of £201,363 were payable to the NICS pension arrangements at one of three rates in the range 20.8% to 26.3% of pensionable pay, based on salary bands.

The scheme's Actuary reviews employer contributions every four years following a full scheme valuation. The scheme funding valuation based on data as at 31 March 2012 was completed by the Actuary during 2014-15. This valuation was used to determine employer contribution rates for the introduction of a new career average earning scheme from April 2015. The contribution rates are set to meet the cost of the benefits accruing during 2018-19 to be paid when the member retires, and not the benefits paid during this period to existing pensioners.

**8 Other Operating Income & Expenditure****a Surplus/Deficit on Non-Current Assets (excl Investment Properties)**

	2018/19	2017/18
	£	£
Proceeds from sale	(30,080)	(3,445,146)
Carrying amount of non-current assets sold (excl Investment Properties)	-	8,612,078
	<b>(30,080)</b>	<b>5,166,932</b>

**b Other Operating Income/ Expenditure**

	2018/19	2017/18
	£	£
Income	-	-
Expenditure	-	-
	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

Other Operating Expenditure	2018/19	2017/18
	£	£
(Surplus) / Deficit on Non Current Assets	(30,080)	5,166,932
Other Operating (Income) / Expenditure	-	-
	<b>(30,080)</b>	<b>5,166,932</b>

## 9 Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure

### a Interest Payable and Similar Charges

	2018/19	2017/18
	£	£
Lease/hire purchase interest	-	-
Bank interest	-	-
Government Loan Interest	1,733,342	1,682,860
Commercial Loan Interest	-	-
Other interest	78,389	66,528
	<u>1,811,731</u>	<u>1,749,388</u>

### b Interest and Investment Income

	2018/19	2017/18
	£	£
Bank Interest	82,444	56,769
Employee car loan interest	4,677	1,861
NIHE Loan interest receivable	21,226	115,322
Investment income on Fund Balances		
Capital Fund	-	-
Repairs & Renewals Fund	-	-
Election Fund	10,688	6,401
Other Investment income	-	-
	<u>119,035</u>	<u>180,353</u>

### c Pensions Interest costs and expected return on pensions assets

	2018/19	2017/18
	£	£
Net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset)	3,324,000	3,047,000
	<u>3,324,000</u>	<u>3,047,000</u>

### d Surplus/ (Deficit) on trading operations

	2018/19	2017/18
	£	£
Income from trading	-	-
Expenditure	-	-
(Surplus)/Deficit for the year	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

### e Income, Expenditure and changes in Fair Value of Investment Properties

	2018/19	2017/18
	£	£
<b>Income/Expenditure from Investment Properties:</b>		
Income including rental income	(6,440,849)	(6,714,318)
Expenditure	589,022	814,519
Net income from investment properties	(5,851,827)	(5,899,799)
<b>Surplus/deficit on sale of Investment Properties</b>		
Proceeds from sale	(400,000)	-
Carrying amount of investment properties sold	350,000	-
(Surplus)/deficit on sale of Investment Properties:	(50,000)	-
<b>Changes in Fair Value of Investment Properties</b>		
	(7,025,000)	4,996,169
	<u>(12,926,827)</u>	<u>(903,630)</u>

Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure						
	2018/19		2017/18			
	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Interest Payable and Similar Charges	1,811,731	-	1,811,731	1,749,388	-	1,749,388
Interest and Investment Income	-	(119,035)	(119,035)	-	(180,353)	(180,353)
Pensions interest cost	3,324,000	-	3,324,000	3,047,000	-	3,047,000
Surplus/(Deficit) on trading operations	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other investment income	939,022	(6,840,849)	(5,901,827)	814,519	(6,714,318)	(5,899,799)
Changes in Fair Value of Investment Properties	-	(7,025,000)	(7,025,000)	4,996,169	-	4,996,169
	<b>6,074,753</b>	<b>(13,984,884)</b>	<b>(7,910,131)</b>	<b>10,607,076</b>	<b>(6,894,671)</b>	<b>3,712,405</b>

## 10 Taxation and Non Specific Grant Income

### a Revenue Grants

	2018/19	2017/18
	£	£
General	(5,159,231)	(4,938,169)
Other	-	-
	<b>(5,159,231)</b>	<b>(4,938,169)</b>

### b Revenue Grants - Unapplied

	2018/19	2017/18
	£	£
Government & Other Grants - Conditions met and applied in year	-	-
Other	-	-
	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

### c Capital Grants and Donated Assets - Applied

	2018/19	2017/18
	£	£
Government & Other Grants - Conditions met and applied in year	(2,867,245)	(2,477,979)
Government & Other Grants - Transfer from receipts in advance	(42,432)	(63,249)
Donated Assets - Conditions met	-	-
Donated Assets - Transfer from donated assets creditor	(10,000)	-
	<b>(2,919,677)</b>	<b>(2,541,228)</b>

### d Capital grants from capital receipts unapplied

	2018/19	2017/18
	£	£
Government & Other Grants - Conditions met and not applied in year	-	-
Capital grants from capital receipts unapplied	(133,188)	-
	<b>(133,188)</b>	<b>-</b>

e District Rates

	2018/19	2017/18
	£	£
Current year	(154,726,084)	(149,511,780)
Finalisation - previous year	(50,000)	(1,029,000)
Transitional Relief	-	-
Finalisation - other years	(91,683)	(21,440)
	(154,867,767)	(150,562,220)

Taxation and Non Specific Grant Income	2018/19	2017/18
	£	£
District Rate Income	(154,867,767)	(150,562,220)
Revenue Grants	(5,159,231)	(4,938,169)
Capital Grants from capital receipts unapplied	(133,188)	
Capital Grants and Contributions	(2,919,677)	(2,541,228)
	(163,079,863)	(158,041,617)

**Belfast City Council**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019**

**Long - Term Assets - Current Year**

11 a

Cost or Valuation	Land	Buildings	Infrastructure Assets	Landfill Sites	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment	Community Assets	PP&E Under Construction	Surplus Assets	Total PP&E	Heritage Assets	Assets Held for Resale	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Balance as at 1 April 2018</b>	100,840,501	414,305,914	5,774,607	-	41,921,733	44,867,100	25,304,135	7,129,001	<b>640,142,991</b>	8,631,550	-	<b>648,774,541</b>
Adjustments between cost/value & depreciation/impairment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Balance as at 1 April 2018</b>	<b>100,840,501</b>	<b>414,305,914</b>	<b>5,774,607</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>41,921,733</b>	<b>44,867,100</b>	<b>25,304,135</b>	<b>7,129,001</b>	<b>640,142,991</b>	<b>8,631,550</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>648,774,541</b>
Additions	-	385,480	-	-	3,577,125	1,385,146	32,950,225	19,828	<b>38,317,804</b>	530,977	-	<b>38,848,781</b>
Donations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluation increases/ (decreases) to Revaluation Reserve	339,640	(3,703,588)	-	-	-	-	893,060	(60,000)	<b>(2,530,888)</b>	(3,700)	-	<b>(2,534,588)</b>
Revaluation increases/ (decreases) to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	263,860	(2,116,266)	-	-	-	(2)	5,539	(19,828)	<b>(1,866,697)</b>	-	-	<b>(1,866,697)</b>
Impairment to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Derecognition - Disposals	-	-	-	-	(1,884,805)	-	-	-	<b>(1,884,805)</b>	-	-	<b>(1,884,805)</b>
Derecognition - Other	-	-	-	-	(994,916)	-	-	-	<b>(994,916)</b>	-	-	<b>(994,916)</b>
Reclassifications & Transfers	-	9,912,975	-	-	125,610	960,127	(10,998,711)	(1,300,000)	<b>(1,299,999)</b>	-	-	<b>(1,299,999)</b>
Reclassified to(-) / from(+) Held for Sale	-	-	-	-	-	(186,607)	-	(80,000)	<b>(266,607)</b>	-	-	<b>(266,607)</b>
<b>Balance as at 31 March 2019</b>	<b>101,444,001</b>	<b>418,784,515</b>	<b>5,774,607</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>42,744,747</b>	<b>47,025,764</b>	<b>48,154,248</b>	<b>5,689,001</b>	<b>669,616,883</b>	<b>9,158,827</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>678,775,710</b>

Depreciation and Impairment	Land	Buildings	Infrastructure Assets	Landfill Sites	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment	Community Assets	PP&E Under Construction	Surplus Assets	Total PP&E	Heritage Assets	Assets Held for Resale	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Balance as at 1 April 2018</b>	-	-	320,679	-	25,353,410	1,443,891	-	-	<b>27,117,980</b>	35,467	-	<b>27,153,447</b>
Adjustments between cost/value & depreciation/impairment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Balance as at 1 April 2018</b>	-	-	320,679	-	25,353,410	1,443,891	-	-	<b>27,117,980</b>	35,467	-	<b>27,153,447</b>
Depreciation Charge	-	13,337,713	192,492	-	3,074,250	1,481,337	-	-	<b>18,085,792</b>	98,273	-	<b>18,184,065</b>
Depreciation written out on Revaluation Reserve	-	(12,183,059)	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>(12,183,059)</b>	-	-	<b>(12,183,059)</b>
Depreciation written out on Revaluation taken to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	(1,154,654)	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>(1,154,654)</b>	-	-	<b>(1,154,654)</b>
Impairment losses/reversals to Revaluation Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Impairment losses/reversals to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Derecognition - Disposals	-	-	-	-	(1,884,805)	-	-	-	<b>(1,884,805)</b>	-	-	<b>(1,884,805)</b>
Derecognition - Other	-	-	-	-	(994,916)	-	-	-	<b>(994,916)</b>	-	-	<b>(994,916)</b>
Reclassifications & Transfers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eliminated on reclassification to Held for Sale	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Balance as at 31 March 2019</b>	-	-	513,171	-	25,547,939	2,925,228	-	-	<b>28,986,338</b>	133,740	-	<b>29,120,078</b>
<b>Balance as at 31 March 2019</b>	<b>101,444,001</b>	<b>418,784,515</b>	<b>5,261,436</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>17,196,808</b>	<b>44,100,536</b>	<b>48,154,248</b>	<b>5,689,001</b>	<b>640,630,545</b>	<b>9,025,087</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>649,655,632</b>



Long - Term Assets - Comparative Year												
Cost or Valuation	Land	Buildings	Infrastructure Assets	Landfill Sites	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment	Community Assets (Restated)	PP&E Under Construction	Surplus Assets	Total PP&E	Heritage Assets	Assets Held for Resale	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Balance as at 1 April 2017</b>	103,657,851	403,227,655	5,772,087	-	41,911,334	43,107,109	14,810,877	3,674,001	<b>616,160,914</b>	4,681,022	-	<b>620,841,936</b>
Adjustments between cost/value & depreciation/impairment	-	345	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>345</b>	-	-	<b>345</b>
Prior year purchase	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,000	-	<b>10,000</b>
<b>Balance as at 1 April 2017</b>	<b>103,657,851</b>	<b>403,228,000</b>	<b>5,772,087</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>41,911,334</b>	<b>43,107,109</b>	<b>14,810,877</b>	<b>3,674,001</b>	<b>616,161,259</b>	<b>4,691,022</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>620,852,281</b>
Additions	1	1,850,460	2,520	-	2,206,244	789,413	17,102,625	-	<b>21,951,263</b>	2,210	-	<b>21,953,473</b>
Donations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluation increases/decreases to Revaluation Reserve	219,399	13,619,418	-	-	-	(18,499)	(3,999)	1,254	<b>13,817,573</b>	(770)	-	<b>13,816,803</b>
Revaluation increases/decreases to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	312,250	864,777	-	-	-	258,857	269,998	(527,120)	<b>1,178,762</b>	-	-	<b>1,178,762</b>
Impairment to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Derecognition - Disposals	-	-	-	-	(3,177,753)	-	-	-	<b>(3,177,753)</b>	-	-	<b>(3,177,753)</b>
Derecognition - Other	-	(5,803,680)	-	-	-	(3)	-	-	<b>(5,803,683)</b>	-	-	<b>(5,803,683)</b>
Reclassifications & Transfers	(3,349,000)	546,939	-	-	981,908	730,223	(6,875,366)	3,980,866	<b>(3,984,430)</b>	3,939,088	-	<b>(45,342)</b>
Reclassified to(-) / from(+) Held for Sale	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Balance as at 31 March 2018</b>	<b>100,840,501</b>	<b>414,305,914</b>	<b>5,774,607</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>41,921,733</b>	<b>44,867,100</b>	<b>25,304,135</b>	<b>7,129,001</b>	<b>640,142,991</b>	<b>8,631,550</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>648,774,541</b>

b

Depreciation and Impairment	Land	Buildings	Infrastructure Assets	Landfill Sites	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment	Community Assets (Restated)	PP&E Under Construction	Surplus Assets	Total PP&E	Heritage Assets	Assets Held for Resale	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Balance as at 1 April 2017</b>	-	-	128,269	-	25,668,486	-	-	-	25,796,755	27,261	-	25,824,016
Adjustments between cost/value & depreciation/impairment	-	345	-	-	-	-	-	-	345	-	-	345
<b>Balance as at 1 April 2017</b>	-	345	128,269	-	25,668,486	-	-	-	25,797,100	27,261	-	25,824,361
Depreciation Charge	-	12,120,981	192,410	-	2,822,017	1,366,827	-	-	16,502,235	8,206	-	16,510,441
Depreciation written out on Revaluation Reserve	-	(11,070,037)	-	-	-	-	-	(19,444)	(11,089,481)	-	-	(11,089,481)
Depreciation written out on Revaluation taken to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	(559,230)	-	-	-	65,603	-	(31,892)	(525,519)	-	-	(525,519)
Impairment losses/reversals to Revaluation Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Impairment losses/reversals to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Derecognition - Disposals	-	-	-	-	(3,137,093)	-	-	-	(3,137,093)	-	-	(3,137,093)
Derecognition - Other	-	(429,262)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(429,262)	-	-	(429,262)
Reclassifications & Transfers	-	(62,797)	-	-	-	11,461	-	51,336	-	-	-	-
Eliminated on reclassification to Held for Sale	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Balance as at 31 March 2018</b>	-	-	320,679	-	25,353,410	1,443,891	-	-	27,117,980	35,467	-	27,153,447
<b>Net Book Values</b>												
Balance as at 31 March 2018	100,840,501	414,305,914	5,453,928	-	16,568,323	43,423,209	25,304,135	7,129,001	613,025,011	8,596,083	-	621,621,094
Balance as at 31 March 2019	101,444,001	418,784,515	5,261,436	-	17,196,808	44,100,536	48,154,248	5,689,001	640,630,545	9,025,087	-	649,655,632

#### Valuations

The Council is not aware of any material changes in freehold and leasehold properties. The land and buildings assets held by the Council were valued originally as at 1 April 1997 by the Valuations and Lands Agency, in accordance with the statements of asset valuation practice and guidance notes of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors. The Council operates a rolling programme for the valuation of its land and building properties with approximately 25% of these being revalued discretely by physical inspection each year, and the remainder being revalued by a desktop exercise.

In the 2018/19 year, land and buildings including investment properties have been valued as at 31 March 2019. This revaluation was carried out by Land and Property Services, a part of the Department of Finance.

### Capital Commitments

A total of 8 capital contracts were entered into during the period:

Project Name	Date	Capital Commitment
Belfast Beacons	01/05/2018	110,000
Ulidia Playing Fields	01/07/2018	700,000
Peace IV Shared Spaces	01/06/2018	250,000
Old Golf Course Road	22/06/2018	225,000
Navarra Place	28/08/2018	300,000
Gasworks Public Realm	01/09/2018	250,000
Whiterise MUGA	01/12/2018	135,000
City Hall Emergency Lighting	09/01/2019	181,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>2,151,000</b>

### Effects of Changes in Estimates

During the course of financial year 2018-19, the Council reviewed its accounting policy for community assets and so adopted the historic cost option, where applicable, for the recognition and measurement of community assets as set out in the Code. This was to present more clearly to users of the Council's financial statements the amount of resources invested by the Council in its community assets. Community assets with depreciable components have been re-valued from 1 April 2017 as follows: 10 years for playgrounds, 30 years for infrastructure assets; an appropriate period for other depreciable assets dependent on individual characteristics. A depreciation charge has been applied to community assets in the 2018-19 financial year, and the 2017-18 comparatives have been adjusted accordingly. The financial effects of these changes, and the prior year restatements to the 2017-18 comparatives, are set out in more detail in Note 31.

There were no material changes in accounting estimates for other classes of property, plant and equipment during the period.

### Surplus Assets

Surplus assets are non-current assets that are not being used to deliver services but which do not meet the criteria to be classified as either investment properties or non-current assets held for sale. Assets held for sales are assets which are not being used to deliver services and whose economic value will be realised by disposal, are actively being marketed, and ordinarily are expected to be disposed of within 12 months of the balance sheet date.

### Impairment

There were material impairments to property and investment property during the period. Impairments over £500,000 are detailed in the table below:

Asset	Amount of impairment £	Asset class	Reason
Olympia Leisure Centre	(1,597,912)	Operational building	Change in basis of valuation at 31.03.2019 - see note below
Sum of material impairments over £500,000	<u>(1,597,912)</u>		

Capital expenditure on Olympia Leisure Centre while it was under construction was measured on the historic cost basis. The leisure centre was brought into operation recently and its value was remeasured to depreciated replacement cost basis, the valuation method for this type of specialised property, to reflect its current estimated service potential.

# 11 c Property, plant and equipment

## Depreciation

The useful lives and depreciation rates applied to calculate the depreciation are outlined in Note 1.

## d Intangible Assets

Intangible assets relate to landfill closure costs with a net book value of £nil (2017/18: £nil) and a gross cost before amortisation of £16,700k (2017/18: £16,700k); and purchased licensed software and related implementation costs with a net book value of £333k (2017/18: £462k), and a gross costs before amortisation of £2,409k (2017/18: £2,409k).

Intangible Assets	2018/19	2017/18
	£	£
Balance at start of year:		
Gross carrying amounts	19,108,746	18,990,754
Accumulated amortisation	(18,647,091)	(18,530,885)
Net carrying amount at start of year	461,655	459,869
Additions	-	72,650
Amortisation for the period	(128,949)	(116,206)
Other Changes	-	45,342
Net carrying amount at end of year	332,706	461,655
Comprising:		
Gross carrying amounts	19,108,746	19,108,746
Accumulated amortisation	(18,776,040)	(18,647,091)
Net carrying amount at end of year	332,706	461,655

## e Investment Properties

The following items of income and expense have been accounted for in the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:

Investment Properties	31/03/2019	31/03/2018
	£	£
Rental Income from Investment Activities	6,440,849	6,714,318
Direct Operating expenses arising from investment properties	(589,022)	(814,519)
Net gain/(loss)	5,851,827	5,899,799

The following table summaries the movement in the fair value of investment properties over the year:

Investment Properties	2018/19	2017/18
	£	£
Balance at start of the year	88,905,000	93,900,000
Additions	-	1,169
Disposals	(350,000)	-
Net gains/losses from fair value adjustments	7,025,000	(4,996,169)
Other changes	1,300,000	-
Balance at end of the year	96,880,000	88,905,000

Investment Properties are comprised of the following properties, all held at valuation:

Investment Property	2018/19	2017/18
	£	£
Industrial Estates	73,800,000	72,300,000
Commercial Units	23,080,000	16,605,000
Balance at end of the year	96,880,000	88,905,000

Summary of the net book values of non-current assets as reported in the balance sheet

Non-current assets	Total PP&E	Heritage Assets	Investment Properties	Intangible Assets	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£	£
Net Book Value as at 31 March 2018	613,025,011	8,596,083	88,905,000	461,655	710,987,749
Net change in cost or valuation	29,473,892	527,277	7,975,000	-	37,976,169
Depreciation and Impairment in the year	(1,868,358)	(98,273)	-	(128,949)	(2,095,580)
Net movement for the year	27,605,534	429,004	7,975,000	(128,949)	35,880,589
Net Book Value as at 31 March 2019	640,630,545	9,025,087	96,880,000	332,706	746,868,338

## Fair Value Hierarchy

Details of the Council's Investment Properties and information about the fair value hierarchy as at 31 March 2019 and 2018 are as follows

2018/19 Recurring fair value measurements using:	Quoted Prices in active markets for identical assets (Level 1)	Other significant observable inputs (Level 2)	Significant unobservable inputs (Level 3)	Fair value as at 31st March 2019
	£	£	£	£
Industrial Estates and Commercial Units	-	96,880,000	-	-
<b>Total</b>	-	<b>96,880,000</b>	-	-

2017/18 Recurring fair value measurements using:	Quoted Prices in active markets for identical assets (Level 1)	Other significant observable inputs (Level 2)	Significant unobservable inputs (Level 3)	Fair value as at 31st March 2018
	£	£	£	£
Industrial Estates and Commercial Units	-	88,905,000	-	-
<b>Total</b>	-	<b>88,905,000</b>	-	-

### Transfers between levels of the fair value hierarchy

There were no transfers between Levels 1 and 2 during the year.

Investment Properties are considered to have enough uniqueness so they no longer can be compared to similar items that are used for reference in an active market, and are valued using inputs other than quoted prices that are observable. As such, they are valued using Level 2 inputs.

### Valuation techniques used to determine Level 2 and 3 Fair Values for Investment Properties

#### Significant Observable Inputs - Level 2

In 2018/19, all Investment Properties were measured using the same methodology as in 2017/18. The inputs used to value these properties have been classified as Level 2, other significant observable inputs.

#### Highest and best use of Investment Properties

In estimating the fair value of the Council's Investment Properties, the highest and best use of the properties is their current use, selecting best estimates of fair value given by current prices on a market for similar property in similar locations.

#### Valuation Techniques

There has been no change in the valuation techniques used during the year for Investment Properties.

Gains or losses arising from changes in the fair value of the investment properties are recognised in Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services - Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line.

#### Valuation process for Investment Properties

The fair value of the Council's investment properties is measured at market value as at 31 March 2019. All valuations are carried out by Land and Property Services, in accordance with their methodologies and bases for estimation as set out in the professional standards of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. The Council's valuation experts work closely with Council finance officers reporting directly to the Chief Financial Officer on a regular basis regarding all valuation matters.

## Heritage Assets

The Council's collection of heritage assets consists of works of art, civic items, donated works of art, and certain historic buildings and monuments with historical, artistic, scientific, technological, geophysical or environmental qualities that are held and maintained principally for their contribution to knowledge and culture. These assets are reported in the balance sheet at valuation; or at insurance valuation as a proxy for market value; or, if it is not possible to obtain a valuation, they are measured at historic cost less depreciation, amortisation or impairment losses. Insurance valuations are updated on a periodic basis. On the occasion that no cost can be measured accurately for an item, it is held on the balance sheet at a notional value of £1 for stewardship purposes: there are currently 164 of these items recorded by Belfast City Council.

Heritage assets- additions	31/03/2019	31/03/2018
Neil Shawcross "Writers of Belfast" collection	430,000	-
Portrait of Councillor Nuala McAllister	10,850	-
Tropical Ravine	90,127	3,939,088
Hollywood Arches Artwork (Connswater Community Greenway)	-	2,210
<b>Total</b>	<b>530,977</b>	<b>3,941,298</b>

No amounts were transferred from property, plant and equipment under construction to heritage assets during the year.

There were no disposals of heritage assets during 2018/19.

**g Assets Held for Sale**

Assets Held for Sale	Current	Non Current	Total
	£	£	£
<b>Cost or Valuation</b>			
Balance as at 1 April 2018	-	-	-
Adjustments between cost/value & depreciation/impairment	-	-	-
Transferred from Non-Current Assets during year	266,607	-	266,607
Assets Held for Sale Donations	-	-	-
Assets Held for Sale Revaluation increases/decreases to Revaluation Reserve	-	-	-
Revaluation increases/decreases taken to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	-	-
Assets Held for Sale Impairment @ Cost to Provision of Services	-	-	-
Derecognition - Disposals	-	-	-
Derecognition - Other	-	-	-
Reclassified from Current Assets Held for Sale to non current Assets Held for Sale	-	-	-
Transferred to Property, Plant & Equipment during year	-	-	-
<b>Balance as at 31 March 2019</b>	<b>266,607</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>266,607</b>
<b>Impairment</b>			
Balance as at 1 April 2018	-	-	-
Adjustments between cost/value & depreciation/impairment	-	-	-
Impairment losses/reversals taken to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	-	-
Derecognition - Disposals	-	-	-
Derecognition - Other	-	-	-
Reclassified from Current Assets Held for Sale to non current Assets Held for Sale	-	-	-
Transferred to Property, Plant & Equipment during year	-	-	-
<b>Balance as at 31 March 2019</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Net Book Value</b>			
<b>Balance as at 31 March 2019</b>	<b>266,607</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>266,607</b>
<b>Balance as at 31 March 2018</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

Three non-current assets were reclassified to current assets held for sale during 2018/19. No non current assets held for sale were disposed of during 2018/19.

Assets Held for Sale	Current	Non Current	Total
	£	£	£
<b>Cost or Valuation</b>			
Balance as at 1 April 2017	3,197,000	-	3,197,000
Adjustments between cost/value & depreciation/impairment	-	-	-
Transferred from Non-Current Assets during year	-	-	-
Assets Held for Sale Donations	-	-	-
Assets Held for Sale Revaluation increases/decreases to Revaluation Reserve	-	-	-
Revaluation increases/decreases taken to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	-	-
Assets Held for Sale Impairment @ Cost to Provision of Services	-	-	-
Derecognition - Disposals	(3,197,000)	-	(3,197,000)
Derecognition - Other	-	-	-
Reclassified from Current Assets Held for Sale to non current Assets Held for Sale	-	-	-
Transferred to Property, Plant & Equipment during year	-	-	-
<b>Balance as at 31 March 2018</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Impairment</b>			
Balance as at 1 April 2017	-	-	-
Adjustments between cost/value & depreciation/impairment	-	-	-
Impairment losses/reversals taken to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	-	-
Derecognition - Disposals	-	-	-
Derecognition - Other	-	-	-
Reclassified from Current Assets Held for Sale to non current Assets Held for Sale	-	-	-
Transferred to Property, Plant & Equipment during year	-	-	-
<b>Balance as at 31 March 2018</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

Three non-current assets held for sale were disposed of during 2017/18, including sites at Maysfield and Primrose Street.

The gain on assets classified to held for sale and sold during the year was £83k.

## h Fair Value Hierarchy for Surplus Assets

Surplus assets are non-operational assets that do not meet the conditions to be classified as assets held for sale. They are measured at fair value, reflecting the actual market state and conditions at the balance sheet date (which is the valuation date) with best evidence of fair value in an active market for similar properties in the same location. The council classifies assets to surplus assets on the advice of its estates management officers and in consultation with its external property valuers.

The surplus assets held by the council comprise a number of properties including land, buildings or sites of land and buildings combined, which have not reached the stage where the council can market these for sale advantageously, or where the properties have restrictions that prevent them currently being brought to market.

Details of the Council's surplus assets and information about the fair value hierarchy as at 31 March 2019 and 2018 are as follows:

2018/19 Recurring fair value measurements using:	Quoted Prices in active markets for identical assets (Level 1)	Other significant observable inputs (Level 2)	Significant unobservable inputs (Level 3)	Fair value as at 31st March 2019
	£	£	£	£
Land	-	1,824,001	-	1,824,001
Buildings	-	380,000	-	380,000
Land and Buildings combined	-	3,485,000	-	3,485,000
<b>Total</b>	-	<b>5,689,001</b>	-	<b>5,689,001</b>

2017/18 Recurring fair value measurements using:	Quoted Prices in active markets for identical assets (Level 1)	Other significant observable inputs (Level 2)	Significant unobservable inputs (Level 3)	Fair value as at 31st March 2018
	£	£	£	£
Land	-	2,584,001	-	2,584,001
Buildings	-	380,000	-	380,000
Land and Buildings combined	-	4,165,000	-	4,165,000
<b>Total</b>	-	<b>7,129,001</b>	-	<b>7,129,001</b>

Surplus Assets are considered to have enough uniqueness that they no longer can be compared to similar items that are used for reference in an active market, and are valued using inputs other than quoted prices that are observable. As such, they are valued using Level 2 inputs.

### Transfers between levels of the fair value hierarchy

There were no transfers between Levels 1 and 2 during the year.

In 2018/19, all Surplus Assets were measured using the same methodology as in 2017/18. The inputs used to value these properties have been classified as Level 2, other significant observable inputs, due to the uniqueness of these properties.

### Highest and best use of surplus assets

In estimating the fair value of the Council's surplus assets, the highest and best use of the assets is their current use, reflecting best estimates of fair value given by current prices on a market for similar property in similar locations.

### Valuation Techniques

There has been no change in the valuation techniques used during the year for surplus assets.

The fair value of the Council's Surplus Assets is measured at market valuation as at 31 March 2019. All valuations are carried out externally by Land and Property Services, in accordance with the methodologies and bases for estimation set out in the professional standards of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. The Council's valuation experts work closely with finance officers reporting directly to the chief financial officer on a regular basis regarding all valuation matters.



## 12 Capital Expenditure and Capital Financing

The total amount of capital expenditure incurred in the year is shown in the table below (including the value of assets acquired under finance leases and PFI contracts), together with the resources that have been used to finance it. Where capital expenditure is to be financed in future years by charges to revenue as assets are used by the Council, the expenditure results in an increase in the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), a measure of the capital expenditure incurred historically by the Council that is yet to be financed. The CFR is analysed in the second part of this note.

Capital Expenditure		2018/19	Restated 2017/18
		£	£
<b>Opening Capital Financing Requirement</b>		94,318,811	86,217,129
<b>Capital Investment</b>			
Property, Plant and Equipment	11	38,848,781	21,963,473
Investment Properties		-	1,169
Intangible Assets		-	72,650
Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute		-	-
Investments		89,928	276,792
<b>Sources of Finance</b>			
Capital Receipts		-	-
Government Grants and Other Contributions	10	(3,052,865)	(2,541,228)
Transfers from Earmarked Reserves		(89,928)	(276,792)
<b>Sums set aside from Revenue:</b>			
Direct Revenue Contributions		(9,239,567)	(5,518,199)
Minimum Revenue Provision		(5,874,116)	(5,876,183)
<b>Closing Capital Financing Requirement</b>		<b>115,001,044</b>	<b>94,318,811</b>
<b>Explanation of Movements in Year</b>		<b>2018/19</b>	<b>Restated 2017/18</b>
		£	£
Increase in underlying need to borrow		20,682,233	8,101,672
Assets acquired under finance leases		-	-
Assets acquired under PFI/PPP contracts		-	-
<b>Increase/(decrease) in Capital Financing Requirement</b>		<b>20,682,233</b>	<b>8,101,672</b>

## 13 Future Capital Commitments

	Gross Cost	Grant Aid	Net Cost
	£	£	£
Schemes underway	93,168,632	2,750,000	90,418,632
Other Commitments	51,598,000	2,067,000	49,531,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>144,766,632</b>	<b>4,817,000</b>	<b>139,949,632</b>

Total net expenditure of £28,800,756 has been incurred against these projects in the year ended 31 March 2019.

Inventories		2018/19	2017/18
		£	£
Central Stores		276,290	326,164
<b>Total</b>		<b>276,290</b>	<b>326,164</b>

The cost of inventories written down, recognised as an expense and included in 'services' amounted to £643,688 (17/18 £669,780).

<b>15</b>	<b>Debtors</b>	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2017/18</b>
<b>a</b>	<b>Long Term Debtors</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>(Restated) £</b>
	Government Departments	-	-
	Other Councils	-	-
	Public corporations and trading funds	-	-
	Bodies external to general government	-	-
	Employee car loans	59,591	59,587
	Revenue Grants	-	-
	Capital Grants	-	-
	Interest Receivable	-	-
	Capital Debtors	-	-
	Loans and advances	-	-
	Finance lease debtors	-	-
	Trade debtors	285,208	736,633
	NIHE Loans	258,860	340,810
	Other	-	-
	Impairment of loans and receivables	-	-
	Contract Receivables	-	-
	<b>Total Long-Term Debtors</b>	<b>603,659</b>	<b>1,137,030</b>
<b>b</b>	<b>Short Term Debtors</b>	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2017/18</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>(Restated) £</b>
	Government Departments	611,491	320,271
	Other Councils	58,122	159,488
	Public corporations and trading funds	-	-
	Bodies external to general government	-	-
	NIHE loans	81,950	76,950
	Employee car loans	56,516	58,110
	Revenue Grants	5,933,912	3,825,967
	Capital Grants	1,733,211	1,411,696
	Interest Receivable	-	-
	Capital Debtors	-	-
	Value Added Tax	1,848,860	1,978,620
	Prepayments	3,527,783	4,480,065
	Finance lease debtors	-	-
	Other	250,722	1,537,174
	Trade receivables	1,117,365	2,534,300
	Impairment loss - Trade receivables	(283,594)	(454,252)
	Contract Receivables	1,947,969	1,597,451
	<b>Total Short-Term Debtors</b>	<b>16,884,307</b>	<b>17,525,840</b>
	<b>Total Debtors</b>	<b>17,487,966</b>	<b>18,662,870</b>

Trade debtors, inclusive of VAT, can be analysed by age as follows:

	<b>£</b>
Less than 3 months	2,131,221
Three months to one year	128,050
More than one year	285,208
	<b>2,544,479</b>

<b>16</b>	<b>Borrowings</b>	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2017/18</b>
<b>a</b>	<b>Short Term Borrowing</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
	Loans re-payable within one year	4,000,000	4,158,529
	Finance Lease Principal	-	-
	<b>Total Short Term Borrowing</b>	<b>4,000,000</b>	<b>4,158,529</b>
<b>b</b>	<b>Long Term Borrowing</b>	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2017/18</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
	Between 1 and 2 years	7,136,376	4,000,000
	Between 2 and 5 years	5,061,000	15,591,983
	Between 5 and 10 years	9,197,934	10,459,399
	In more than 10 years	37,493,671	2,553,112
	<b>Government Loans Fund</b>	<b>58,888,981</b>	<b>32,604,494</b>
	<b>Total Borrowing</b>	<b>62,888,981</b>	<b>36,763,023</b>

<b>17</b>	<b>Creditors</b>		
<b>a</b>	<b>Short Term Creditors</b>	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2017/18</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
	Government Departments	1,818,188	1,673,415
	Other Councils	13,010	17,826
	Public corporations and trading funds	-	-
	Bodies external to general government	-	-
	Rates clawback	100,000	350,000
	VAT	-	-
	Remuneration due to employees	583,873	331,117
	Accumulated Absences	1,357,825	1,344,230
	Loan Interest Payable	331,903	282,976
	Capital Creditors	1,450,637	2,375,471
	Receipts in advance	4,473,249	4,440,803
	Trade creditors	2,499,735	2,902,153
	Creditor Accruals	17,468,846	11,443,711
	Contract Payables	-	-
	<b>Total Short Term Creditors</b>	<b>30,097,266</b>	<b>25,161,702</b>

<b>b</b>	<b>Long Term Creditors</b>	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2017/18</b>
	<b>Other creditors falling due after more than one year</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
	Government Departments	-	-
	Other Councils	-	-
	Public corporations and trading funds	-	-
	Bodies external to general government	-	-
	Rates clawback	-	-
	Remuneration due to employees	-	-
	Accumulated Absences	-	-
	Receipts in advance	-	-
	Trade creditors	-	-
	Other	50,386	60,848
	Contract Payables	-	-
	<b>Total Long Term Creditors</b>	<b>50,386</b>	<b>60,848</b>
	<b>Total Creditors</b>	<b>30,147,652</b>	<b>25,222,550</b>

#### **c Payment of Invoices**

The council has a target, where no other terms are agreed, of paying supplier invoices within 30 days. During the year the Council paid 61,520 invoices totalling £163,474,395 (2017/18: 58,319 invoices totalling £142,055,044).

The Council paid:

56,029 invoices with 30 calendar days target (2017/18: 51,403);  
39,940 invoices within 10 working days target (2017/18: 39,355); and  
5,491 invoices outside of the 30 day target (2017/18: 6,916).

The average number of days taken to pay suppliers during the year was 15 days (2017/18: 21 days).

The Council paid 91% of invoices within the target of 30 days, against the target objective of 90%.

Provisions	Balance as at 1 April 2018 £	(Decrease)/Increase In provision during year £	Utilised during year £	Unused amounts reversed £	Interest cost and/or discount rate changes £	Balance as at 31 March 2019 £
Landfill Closure	3,530,260	(26,778)	(50,853)	-	97,780	<b>3,550,409</b>
Claims Management	1,125,952	45,413	(37,608)	-	-	<b>1,133,757</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,656,212</b>	<b>18,635</b>	<b>(88,461)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>97,780</b>	<b>4,684,166</b>

Current Provisions	2,906,973	18,635	(88,461)	-	57,704	<b>2,894,851</b>
Long Term Provisions	1,749,239	-	-	-	40,076	<b>1,789,315</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,656,212</b>	<b>18,635</b>	<b>(88,461)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>97,780</b>	<b>4,684,166</b>

#### Comparative Year

Provisions	Balance as at 1 April 2017 £	Increase in provision during year £	Utilised during year £	Unused amounts reversed £	Interest cost and/or discount rate changes £	Restated Balance as at 31 March 2018 £
Landfill Closure	3,151,343	168,070	(39,642)	-	250,489	<b>3,530,260</b>
Claims Management	1,150,074	-	(24,122)	-	-	<b>1,125,952</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,301,417</b>	<b>168,070</b>	<b>(63,764)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>250,489</b>	<b>4,656,212</b>

Current Provisions	2,584,680	168,070	(63,764)	-	217,987	<b>2,906,973</b>
Long Term Provisions	1,716,737	-	-	-	32,502	<b>1,749,239</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,301,417</b>	<b>168,070</b>	<b>(63,764)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>250,489</b>	<b>4,656,212</b>

#### Landfill Closure

The financial provision for the capping and annual monitoring costs required to meet the Council's environmental obligations under the NIEA licence has been agreed on a Local Authority Deed. The discount rates applied on the provision are based on PWLB borrowing rates adjusted for inflation which has resulted in a valuation of £3,550,409.

#### Claims Management

A provision of £1,133,757 has been made in respect of public liability, employer's liability and other claims/legal cases notified but not processed. Adequate insurance arrangements are in place covering the Council's activities as recommended by the Council's Insurance Brokers. The related insurance premiums paid are accounted for in the financial statements. At 31 March 2019, the total liability for legal cases notified but not processed amounted to an estimated maximum liability of £2,041,443.

### 19 Financial Instruments

#### Financial Assets as at 31 March 2019

The Council has the following non-current Investments and debtors:

The Council's contribution to Belfel LLP is included in 'Investments in Associates and Joint Ventures' and is disclosed at the original value of the contribution.

The majority of the long term debtors relate to trade debtors as well as balances with NIHE and car loan balances with employees. The relevant credit losses have been calculated and included in the impairment loss balance.

Current financial assets, namely trade debtors, employee car loans and cash balances have been assessed and relevant credit losses calculated. These amounts are included in the impairment loss balance of £283,594 for 2018/19.

The employee car loan rate is currently 2.2%, in comparison to the HMRC official rate of 2.5%.

#### Financial Liabilities as at 31 March 2019

The Council is in receipt of loans from the Department of Finance at concessionary interest rates that differ from the prevailing market rates. The fair value of these loans is £69,174,552 (2017-18 £41,315,170).

## 20 Retirement Benefits

### a Participation in the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Pension Fund.

As part of the terms and conditions of employment of its officers and other employees, the Council offers retirement benefits. Although these benefits will not actually be payable until employees retire, the Council has a commitment to make the payments that need to be disclosed at the time that employees earn their future entitlement.

The Council participates in the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Pension Fund administered by the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Superannuation Committee. This is a funded scheme, meaning that the Council and employees pay contributions into a fund, calculated at a level intended to balance the pension's liabilities with investment assets.

### b Transactions relating to retirement benefits - Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

The Council recognises the cost of retirement benefits in the Cost of Services on Continuing Operations when they are earned by employees, rather than when the benefits are eventually paid as pensions.

However, the charge the Council is required to make against district rates is based on the cash payable in the year, and the real cost of retirement benefits is reversed out in the adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations line, in the Movement on Reserves Statement.

The following transactions have been made in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations line, in the Movement on Reserves Statement during the year:

Note	2018/19 £	2017/18 £
Net cost of services:		
Current service cost	20,655,000	19,951,000
Past service cost/(gain)*	14,847,000	599,000
Gains and losses on settlements or curtailments	-	-
Net operating expenditure:		
Net Interest on net defined benefit Liability (asset)	3,324,000	3,047,000
<b>Total Post-employment Benefits charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services</b>	<b>38,826,000</b>	<b>23,597,000</b>
Movement in Reserves Statement:		
Reversal of net charges made for retirement benefits in accordance with IAS 19 and the Code	(38,826,000)	(23,597,000)
Actual amount charged against the general fund balance for pensions in the year:		
Employers' contributions payable to scheme	14,337,000	13,526,000
<b>Net adjustment to General Fund</b>	<b>(24,489,000)</b>	<b>(10,071,000)</b>

The service cost figures include an allowance for administration expenses of £250k (17/18 £248k).

\*Past Service Cost has been updated to reflect the potential liabilities arising from the McCloud judgement and GMP Indexation and Equalisation. This is explained in further detail at the end of this note.

Remeasurements recognised in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	Note	2018/19 £	2017/18 £
Liability gains/(losses) due to change in assumptions		(40,332,000)	(11,937,000)
Liability gains/(losses) due to demographic changes		29,809,000	-
Liability experience gains/(losses) arising in the year		(196,000)	(2,574,000)
Actuarial gains/(losses) on plan assets		26,042,000	13,497,000
Other		-	-
<b>Total gains/(losses) recognised in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure</b>		<b>15,323,000</b>	<b>(1,014,000)</b>

c Assets and liabilities in relation to retirement benefits			
Reconciliation of present value of the scheme liabilities:	Note	2018/19 £	2017/18 £
Balance as at 1 April		696,976,000	656,080,000
Current service cost		20,655,000	19,951,000
Interest cost		17,977,000	16,919,000
Contributions by members		4,190,000	4,166,000
Remeasurement (gains) and losses:			
Actuarial gains/losses arising from changes in financial assumptions		40,332,000	11,937,000
Actuarial gains/losses arising from demographic changes		(29,809,000)	-
Actuarial gains/losses arising on liabilities from experience		196,000	2,574,000
Other (if applicable)		-	-
Past service costs/(gains)*		14,847,000	599,000
Losses/(gains) on curtailments		-	-
Liabilities extinguished on settlements		-	-
Estimated unfunded benefits paid		(757,000)	(786,000)
Estimated benefits paid		(14,889,000)	(14,464,000)
<b>Balance as at 31 March</b>		<b>749,718,000</b>	<b>696,976,000</b>

Reconciliation of present value of the scheme assets:	Note	2018/19 £	2017/18 £
Balance as at 1 April		562,027,058	532,216,058
Interest income		14,653,000	13,872,000
Contributions by members		4,190,000	4,166,000
Contributions by employer		13,580,000	12,740,000
Contributions in respect of unfunded benefits		757,000	786,000
Remeasurement gain/(loss)		26,042,000	13,497,000
Assets distributed on settlements		-	-
Unfunded benefits paid		(757,000)	(786,000)
Benefits paid		(14,889,000)	(14,464,000)
<b>Balance as at 31 March</b>		<b>605,603,058</b>	<b>562,027,058</b>

Belfast City Council employs a building block approach in determining the rate of return on Fund assets. Historical markets are studied and assets with higher volatility are assumed to generate higher returns consistent with widely accepted capital market principles. The assumed rate of return on each asset class is calculated and the overall expected rate of return on assets so derived by aggregating the expected return for each asset class over the actual asset allocation for the Fund at 31 March 2019.

The actual return on scheme assets in the year was a gain of £40,695k (2017/18 gain of £27,369k).

Fair Value of Plan Assets	2018/19 £	2017/18 £
Equity investments	360,333,843	401,287,320
Bonds	142,316,705	69,691,355
Property	67,827,536	56,202,706
Cash	16,351,281	25,291,218
Other	18,773,693	9,554,459
	<b>605,603,058</b>	<b>562,027,058</b>

**The Council's share of the Net Pension Liability (included in the Balance Sheet):**

	2018/19 £	2017/18 £
Fair Value of Employer Assets	605,603,058	562,027,058
Present value of funded defined benefit obligation	(738,398,000)	(684,457,000)
Pension asset/(liability) of Funded Scheme	(132,794,942)	(122,429,942)
Present Value of unfunded defined benefit obligation	(11,320,000)	(12,519,000)
Other movement in the liability (asset) (if applicable)	-	-
<b>Net asset/(liability) arising from the defined benefit obligation</b>	<b>(144,114,942)</b>	<b>(134,948,942)</b>
Amount in the Balance sheet:		
Liabilities	(749,718,000)	(696,976,000)
Assets	605,603,058	562,027,058
<b>Net Asset/(Liability)</b>	<b>(144,114,942)</b>	<b>(134,948,942)</b>

**d Scheme History**

Analysis of scheme assets and liabilities	2018/19 £	2017/18 £
Fair Value of Assets in pension scheme	605,603,058	562,027,058
Present Value of Defined Benefit Obligation	(749,718,000)	(696,976,000)
<b>Surplus/(deficit) in the Scheme</b>	<b>(144,114,942)</b>	<b>(134,948,942)</b>

Amount recognised in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure:	2018/19 £	2017/18 £
Actuarial gains/(losses)	15,323,000	(1,014,000)
Expected Return on Plan Assets	-	-
Increase/(decrease) in irrecoverable surplus from membership fall and other factors	-	-
Remeasurements recognised in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	15,323,000	(1,014,000)
Cumulative actuarial gains and losses	(37,163,000)	(52,486,000)
<b>History of experience gains and losses:</b>		
Experience gains and (losses) on assets	26,042,000	13,497,000
Experience gains and (losses) on liabilities	(196,000)	(2,574,000)

The liabilities show the underlying commitments that the authority has in the long run to pay retirement benefits. The total liability of £144,114,942 has a substantial impact on the net worth of the Council as recorded in the Balance Sheet.

However, statutory arrangements for funding the deficit mean that the financial position of the Council remains healthy. The deficit on the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Pension Fund will be made good by increased contributions over the remaining working life of employees, assessed by the scheme actuary.

**Analysis of projected amount to be charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for the year to 31 March 2020**

	31/03/2020 £	31/03/2020
Projected current cost	21,954,000	88.2%
Net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset)	2,940,000	11.8%
Past service cost	-	0.0%
Gains and losses on settlements or curtailments	-	0.0%
	<b>24,894,000</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

The total contributions expected to be made to the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Pension Fund by the council in the year to 31 March 2020 is £14,818k.

**History of experience gains and losses**

The actuarial gains/losses identified as movements on the Pensions Reserve 2018/19 can be analysed into the following categories, measured as a percentage of assets or liabilities at 31 March 2019.

	2018/19 %	2017/18 %
Experience gains and (losses) on Assets	4.30%	2.40%
Experience gains and (losses) on Liabilities	0.03%	0.37%



#### • Basis for estimating assets and liabilities

Liabilities have been assessed on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method, an estimate of the pensions that will be payable in the future years dependent on assumptions about mortality rates, salary levels, etc. The Council's Fund liabilities have been assessed by Aon Hewitt Limited, an independent firm of actuaries, estimates for the Council Fund being based on data pertaining to the latest full valuation of the scheme as at 31 March 2019.

Pension scheme assumptions:	2018/19	2017/18
	%	%
<b>Mortality assumptions:</b>		
<i>Longevity at 65 current pensioners:</i>	Years	Years
Men	22.6	23.3
Women	24.9	25.9
<i>Longevity at 65 for future pensioners:</i>		
Men	24.3	25.5
Women	26.7	28.2
Inflation/Pension Increase Rate	2.20%	2.10%
Salary Increase Rate	3.70%	3.60%
Discount Rate	2.40%	2.60%
Pension accounts revaluation rate	2.20%	2.10%
<b>Take-up of option to convert annual pension into retirement lump sum:</b>		
Service to April 2009	75%	75%
Service post April 2009	75%	75%

#### Pension Assumptions Sensitivity Analysis

The pension figures disclosed in these financial statements are sensitive to the assumptions used.

The approximate impact of changing key assumptions on the present value of the funded defined benefit obligation as at 31 March 2019 is set out below.

In each case, only the assumption noted below is altered; all other assumptions remain the same and are summarised in the disclosure above.

#### Funded Pension Scheme Benefits

<b>Discount Rate Assumption</b>		
Adjustment to discount rate	<b>+0.1%p.a.</b>	<b>-0.1%p.a.</b>
Present value of the total obligation	724,435,000	752,630,000
% change in the present value of the total obligation	-1.90%	1.90%
Projected service cost	21,331,000	22,592,000
Approximate % change in projected service cost	-2.80%	2.90%
<b>Rate of General Increase in Salaries</b>		
Adjustment to salary increase rate	<b>+0.1%p.a.</b>	<b>-0.1%p.a.</b>
Present value of the total obligation	742,556,000	734,281,000
% change in the present value of the total obligation	0.60%	-0.60%
Projected service cost	21,954,000	21,954,000
Approximate % change in projected service cost	0.00%	0.00%
<b>Rate of Increase to Pensions In Payment and Deferred Pension Assumption</b>		
Adjustment to pension increase rate	<b>+0.1%p.a.</b>	<b>-0.1%p.a.</b>
Present value of the total obligation	748,428,000	728,510,000
% change in the present value of the total obligation	1.40%	-1.30%
Projected service cost	22,592,000	21,331,000
Approximate % change in projected service cost	2.90%	-2.80%
<b>Post Retirement Mortality Assumption</b>		
Adjustment to mortality age rating assumption*	<b>- 1 Year</b>	<b>+1 Year</b>
Present value of the total obligation	761,933,000	715,068,000
% change in the present value of the total obligation	3.20%	-3.20%
Projected service cost	22,796,000	21,120,000
Approximate % change in projected service cost	3.80%	-3.80%

\* A rating of +1 year means that members are assumed to follow the mortality pattern of the base table above for an individual that is 1 year older than that.

#### f Major categories of plan assets as percentage of total plan assets

The Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Pension Fund's assets consist of the following categories, by proportion of the total assets held:

	31/03/2019	31/03/2018
	%	%
Equity investments	59.50%	71.40%
Government Bonds	16.50%	5.20%
Corporate Bonds	7.00%	7.20%
Property	11.20%	10.00%
Cash	2.70%	4.50%
Other	3.10%	1.70%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

#### g Northern Ireland Civil Service Pension Arrangements

The Northern Ireland Civil Service Pension arrangements are unfunded multi-employer defined benefit schemes but the Council is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities. The most up to date actuarial valuation was carried out as at 31 March 2016. This valuation is then reviewed by the Scheme Actuary and updated to reflect current conditions and rolled forward to the reporting date of the DoF Superannuation and Other Allowances Resource Accounts as at 31 March 2019.

#### h Assets and liabilities in relation to retirement benefits of the Gas Pension Fund

Reconciliation of present value of the scheme liabilities:	Note	2018/19 £	2017/18 £
Balance as at 1 April		1,209,000	1,516,000
Current service cost		-	-
Interest cost		29,000	35,000
Contributions by members		-	-
<b>Remeasurement (gains) and losses:</b>			
Actuarial gains/losses arising from changes in financial assumptions		15,000	14,000
Actuarial gains/losses arising from demographic changes		-	(9,000)
Actuarial gains/losses arising on liabilities from experience		3,000	(107,000)
Other (if applicable)		-	-
Past service costs/(gains)		-	-
Losses/(gains) on curtailments		-	-
Liabilities extinguished on settlements		-	-
<b>Net benefits paid</b>		<b>(216,000)</b>	<b>(240,000)</b>
<b>Balance as at 31 March</b>		<b>1,040,000</b>	<b>1,209,000</b>

Reconciliation of present value of the scheme assets:	Note	2018/19 £	2017/18 £
Balance as at 1 April		1,269,000	1,513,000
Interest Income		30,000	35,000
Contributions by members		-	-
Contributions by employer		-	-
Remeasurement gain/(loss)		(22,000)	(39,000)
Assets distributed on settlements		-	-
<b>Net Benefits paid</b>		<b>(216,000)</b>	<b>(240,000)</b>
<b>Balance as at 31 March</b>		<b>1,061,000</b>	<b>1,269,000</b>

Analysis of scheme assets and liabilities	Note	2018/19 £	2017/18 £
Fair Value of Assets in pension scheme		1,061,000	1,269,000
Present Value of Defined Benefit Obligation		1,040,000	1,209,000
<b>Net Asset/(Liability) recognised on the balance sheet</b>		<b>21,000</b>	<b>60,000</b>

#### Funded Pension Scheme Benefits- Gas Pension Fund Sensitivity Analysis

<b>Discount Rate Assumption</b>		
Adjustment to discount rate	<b>+0.1% p.a.</b>	<b>-0.1% p.a.</b>
Present value of the total obligation	1,035,000	1,045,000
% change in the present value of the total obligation	-0.50%	0.50%
<b>Rate of Increase to Pensions In Payment accounts assumption</b>		
Adjustment to pension increase rate	<b>+0.1% p.a.</b>	<b>-0.1% p.a.</b>
Present value of the total obligation	1,045,000	1,035,000
% change in the present value of the total obligation	0.50%	-0.50%
<b>Post Retirement Mortality Assumption</b>		
Adjustment to mortality age rating assumption*	<b>-1yr</b>	<b>+1yr</b>
Present value of the total obligation	1,113,000	969,000
% change in the present value of the total obligation	7.00%	-6.80%

\* A rating of +1 year means that members are assumed to follow the mortality pattern of the base table above for an individual that is 1 year older than that.

	Note	2018/19 %	2017/18 %
Government Bonds		40.70%	34.10%
Cash		59.30%	65.90%
<b>Total</b>		<b>100.00%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

<b>Mortality assumptions:</b>			
Members aged 85 at accounting date		Years	Years
Men		6.9	6.9
Women		7.8	7.7

Inflation/Pension Increase Rate		2.20%	2.10%
Discount Rate		2.40%	2.60%

#### Gas Pension Fund

The Gas Pension Fund is maintained to provide for future pension payments to the beneficiaries, the objective being to maintain a fund sufficient to provide all future anticipated payments. No contributions are currently being paid and there are no service members accruing further benefits. Members' benefits are guaranteed by statute. Should the Fund's assets not be sufficient to provide all the benefits, the residual liability for pension payments would fall on Belfast City Council.

The current market value of the Fund at 31 March 2019 is assessed by the Council's actuaries, Aon Hewitt and is disclosed above. The Fund's Financial Statements outlined below do not take account of liabilities to pay pensions and other benefits after 31 March 2019.

At 31 March 2019 there were 25 pensioners left in the Gas Pensions Fund and the balances relating to the Gas Pension Fund are fully consolidated in the Group financial statements.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT		31/03/2019	31/03/2018
		£	£
<b>INCOME:</b>			
Investment Income		9,753	9,235
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Pensions Paid		(206,035)	(234,757)
Administration Expenses		(10,230)	(5,699)
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year		<b>(206,512)</b>	<b>(231,221)</b>
<b>NET ASSET MOVEMENTS</b>			
Brought forward balance at 01.04.2017		1,106,441	1,337,519
Unrealised gain at 01.04.2018		166,625	179,028
<b>Opening Value of Fund</b>		<b>1,273,066</b>	<b>1,516,547</b>
Add Contribution from City Council			
Add surplus/(deficit) for the year		(206,512)	(231,221)
<b>CHANGE IN MARKET VALUES OF INVESTMENTS</b>			
Realised gain for year		0	0
Unrealised gain/(loss) for year		(1,461)	(12,260)
<b>Closing value of fund</b>		<b>1,065,093</b>	<b>1,273,066</b>
<b>FINANCED BY:</b>			
UK Index Linked Investments		431,725	433,182
Cash deposits and at bank		629,560	836,071
Debtors		3,808	3,813
		1,065,093	1,273,066
Bank Balance		-	-
Creditors		-	-
<b>Closing value of fund</b>		<b>1,065,093</b>	<b>1,273,066</b>

Summary Net Asset/Liability recognised on the Balance Sheet		31/03/2019	31/03/2018
Northern Ireland Local Government Officer's Pension Fund		(144,114,942)	(134,948,942)
Gas Pension Fund		21,000	60,000
Belfast Waterfront & Ulster Hall Limited		(2,267,000)	(2,059,000)
<b>Total Net Asset/Liability recognised on the Balance Sheet</b>		<b>(146,360,942)</b>	<b>(136,947,942)</b>

The figures above include a pension liability in respect of Belfast Waterfront & Ulster Hall Limited ( BWUH Ltd). BWUH Ltd became a participating employer in the NILGOSC scheme on 1 April 2016. Belfast City Council has agreed to include and disclose the net liability under this scheme up to 31 March 2019 within the net liability total for Belfast City Council.

#### Allowance for the McCloud Judgement and GMP Indexation / Equalisation

The above amounts include an estimated allowance for additional liabilities that are now probable arising from the McCloud Judgement and GMP Indexation and Equalisation cases outlined below.  
The additional liability is shown as a Past Service Cost over the accounting period based on an effective date of 31 March 2019.

#### McCloud Judgement

In December 2018 the Court of Appeal ruled in the 'McCloud/Sargeant' judgement that the transitional protection arrangements put in place when the Firefighters' and Judges' pension schemes were reformed were age discriminatory. The Government applied to the Supreme Court for permission to appeal this judgement, however the Supreme Court rejected the request on 27 June 2019. The next stage is for the case to be referred to the Employment Tribunal to agree the remedy, following appropriate consultation.

While the judgement was not in relation to members with Local Government Pension Scheme (NI) benefits it would be reasonable to assume that the Government will now seek remedy for all public sector schemes, including Local Government Pension Scheme (NI).

The additional liability was calculated to be 3.2% of the Council's active liabilities using a salary increase assumption of 1.5% above CPI inflation (as used for employers in the Northern Ireland Local Government Officer's Pension Fund), and less than 0.1% of the active liabilities where salaries were assumed to increase in line with CPI inflation.

#### GMP Indexation and Equalisation

Guaranteed Minimum Pension (GMP) is a portion of pension that is payable to members who were contracted out of the State Second Pension and accrued benefits in the scheme between 6 April 1978 and 5 April 1997. The LGPS (NI) was contracted out. The GMP was intended to approximately replace the State Pension which members were giving up, however the payment terms of GMP are different between men and women, which was a consequence of the state pension itself being unequal at that time. On 26 October 2018 the High Court ruled in the Lloyds Bank case that equalisation for the effect of unequal GMPs is required. The estimated liability has been based on a typical Local Government pension fund to quantify the value of fully indexing GMP's in line with CPI inflation for those reaching State Pension Age after 5 December 2018. This was calculated to be 0.3% of the liabilities / defined benefit obligation.

21	Donated Assets Account	Note	2018/19 £	2017/18 £
	Opening balance		10,001	10,001
	Add: new donated assets received (condition of use not met)		430,000	-
	Less: amounts released to the District Fund - Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account		(10,000)	-
			430,001	10,001

#### Analysis of Donated Assets Account

The balance of the Donated Assets Account represents donations received that have yet to be recognised as income, as they have conditions attached to them, which will require the donated assets to be returned, if conditions are not met. The balances at the year end are as follows:

Donated Assets Account	Note	2018/19 £	2017/18 £
Animal Welfare Van		-	10,000
Councillor Samuel Turpin Mercer Portrait		1	1
Neil Shawcross "Writers of Belfast" collection		430,000	-
		430,001	10,001

Capital Receipts Unapplied	Note	2018/19 £	2017/18 £
Opening balance		250,000	-
Add: new capital grants received in advance (condition of use not met)		-	250,000
Less: amounts released		(133,188)	0
		116,812	250,000

The amount of £250k in capital receipts unapplied relates to the proceeds from a disposal to the NIHE of which £133k has been used to finance a playground.

22	Capital Grants Received In Advance	Note	2018/19 £	2017/18 £
	Opening balance		997,132	623,323
	Add: new capital grants received in advance (condition of use not met)		-	437,058
	Less: amounts released to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement other projects		(52,829)	
	Less: amounts released to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		(42,432)	(63,249)
			901,871	997,132

#### Analysis of Capital Grants Receipts In Advance Balance

The balance of Capital Grants Receipts in Advance represents grants received that have yet to be recognised as income, as they have conditions attached to them, which will require the grant to be repaid, if conditions are not met. The balances at the year end are as follows:

Capital Grants Receipts In Advance	Note	2018/19 £	2017/18 £
Whiterock Community Garden Allotments		483	483
BSC 7 Alleygates Lenadoon		-	5,705
BSC Alleygates Divis		499	10,147
BSC Bikes Lower Oldpark		6,700	14,127
BSC Bikes Lower Falls		9,744	24,416
BSC Bikes Lower Shankill		9,859	17,286
BSC 26 Alleygates Lenadoon		769	10,417
Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre		500,000	500,000
Springfield Dam		373,817	414,551
		901,871	997,132

#### 23 Contingencies

##### Residential Waste Treatment Project

The arc21 Joint Committee has, with the approval of their Participant Councils, entered into a Contingent Liability Undertaking with the bidding consortium in the procurement for the Residential Waste Treatment Project. Payments made, if any, in accordance with this undertaking will be funded by the Participant Councils.

##### Landfill Site

The financial provision for the capping and annual monitoring cost of the landfill site, required to meet the Council's environmental obligations under the NIEA licence, has been agreed on a Local Authority Deed and disclosed in Note 18. The remaining area not covered by NIEA licence may require specific capping depending on the future use of this land. The impact of any future capping of this area on the liabilities of Belfast City Council is uncertain and therefore no provision for any such costs has been made.

**Belfast City Council**  
**Notes to the Financial Statements**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019**

**24 Other cash flow disclosures**  
**a Analysis of Adjustments to Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services**

Adjustment to surplus or deficit on the provision of services for noncash movements	Notes	2018/19 £	2017/18 (Restated) £
Depreciation	11	18,313,014	16,626,647
Impairment & downward revaluations (& non-sale derecognitions)	11	(6,312,957)	3,291,888
Amortisation (included with depreciation above)		-	-
(Increase)/Decrease in inventories		49,874	(30,449)
(Increase)/Decrease in Debtors		1,345,562	4,517,259
Increase/(decrease) in impairment provision for bad debts		(170,658)	36,777
Increase/(Decrease) in Creditors		4,911,557	(1,841,256)
Increase/(Decrease) in Interest Creditors		-	-
Payments to NILGOSC	20	24,489,000	10,071,000
Carrying amount of non-current assets sold	8a, 11e	350,000	8,612,078
AIC/WIP written off to Net Cost of Services		-	-
Contributions to Other Reserves/Provisions		3,572,747	1,684,026
Movement in value of investment properties-included above in Impairment & downward revaluations (& non-sale derecognitions)		-	-
Amounts posted to CIES from Donated Assets Account	21	(10,000)	-
Contract Costs		-	-
Contract Assets		-	-
Contract Liabilities		-	-
Deferred revenue		-	-
		<b>46,538,139</b>	<b>42,967,970</b>

Adjust for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing	Notes	2018/19 £	2017/18 £
Purchase of short-term (not considered to be cash equivalents) and long-term investments (includes investments in associates, joint ventures and subsidiaries)		89,928	276,792
Proceeds from short-term (not considered to be cash equivalents) and long-term investments (includes investments in associates, joint ventures and subsidiaries)		-	-
Proceeds from the sale of PP&E, investment property and intangible assets		(430,080)	(3,445,146)
Capital grants included in "Taxation & non-specific grant income"		(3,052,865)	(2,541,228)
		<b>(3,393,017)</b>	<b>(5,709,582)</b>

**b Cash and Cash Equivalents**

For the purposes of the cash flow statement, cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand and in bank and short term deposits and investments (considered to be cash equivalents), net of outstanding bank overdrafts. Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period as shown in the statement of cash flows can be reconciled to the related items in the Balance Sheet as follows:

		2018/19	2017/18
		£	£
Cash and Bank balances		6,574,416	1,918,212
Short Term Deposits (considered to be Cash Equivalents)		17,000,000	8,500,000
Short Term Investments (considered to be Cash Equivalents)		-	-
Bank Overdraft		-	-
		<b>23,574,416</b>	<b>10,418,212</b>

There is currently a balance of £1,806,778 held within an escrow bank account with the BIG Lottery Fund in relation to the funding of the Connswater Greenway project. This balance is intended for future use within this wider project and funding will be drawn down accordingly. This balance is not included in the above total.

**d Cash flows from Investing Activities**

		2018/19	2017/18
		£	£
Purchase of PP&E, investment property and intangible assets		39,773,615	21,019,574
Purchase of Short Term Investments (not considered to be cash equivalents)		-	-
Purchase of Long Term Investments		89,928	276,792
Other Payments for Investing Activities		1,733,342	1,682,860
Proceeds from the sale of PP&E, investment property and intangible assets		(430,080)	(3,445,146)
Proceeds from Short Term Investments (not considered to be cash equivalents)		-	-
Proceeds from Long Term Investments		-	-
Capital Grants and Contributions Received		(3,052,865)	(2,541,228)
Other Receipts from Investing Activities		-	-
<b>Net Cash flows from Investing Activities</b>		<b>38,113,940</b>	<b>16,992,852</b>



e Cash flows from Financing Activities	2018/19	2017/18
	£	£
Cash Receipts from Short and Long Term Borrowing	65,000,000	5,000,000
Other Receipts from Financing Activities	-	-
Cash payments for the reduction of the outstanding liability relating to a finance lease and on-Balance Sheet PFI contracts	-	-
Repayment of Short and Long Term Borrowing	(38,874,042)	(4,844,736)
Other payments for Financing Activities	-	-
<b>Net Cash flows from Financing Activities</b>	<b>26,125,958</b>	<b>155,264</b>

## 25 Usable Reserves

### a Capital Receipts Reserve

These are capital receipts which have originated primarily from the sale of assets which have not yet been used to finance capital expenditure.

The Capital Receipts Reserve is credited with the proceeds from fixed asset sales and other monies defined by statute as capital receipts. These are originally credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of the gain/loss on disposal and posted out via the Movement in Reserves Statement to the Capital Receipts Reserve. The reserve is written down when resources are applied to finance new capital expenditure or set aside to reduce an authority's capital financing requirement (or used for other purposes permitted by statute).

Capital Receipts Reserve	Notes	31/03/2019	31/03/2018
		£	£
<b>At 1 April</b>		4,739,457	1,632,457
<b>Movement</b>			
Transfers between statutory & other reserves & the General Fund		-	-
Disposal of Non Current Assets/ Capital Sales	8e	400,000	3,107,000
Capital Receipts used to finance capital expenditure		-	-
Difference between finance and other costs and income calculated on an accounting basis and finance costs calculated in accordance with statutory requirements		-	(26,160)
Other Movements		61,000	26,160
<b>At 31 March</b>		<b>5,200,457</b>	<b>4,739,457</b>

### b Capital Grants Unapplied Account

Where a capital grant or contribution (or part thereof) has been recognised as income in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, but the expenditure to be financed from that grant or contribution has not been incurred at the Balance Sheet date, the grant or contribution shall be transferred to the Capital Grants Unapplied Account (within the usable reserves section of the balance sheet), reflecting its status as a capital resource available to finance expenditure. This transfer is reported in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

When, at a future date, the expenditure to be financed from the grant or contribution is incurred, the grant or contribution (or part thereof) shall be transferred from the Capital Grants Unapplied Account to the Capital Adjustment Account, reflecting the application of capital resources to finance expenditure. This transfer is also reported in the Movement in Reserves Statement or in the notes to the accounts.

Capital Grants Unapplied account	Notes	31/03/2019	31/03/2018
		£	£
<b>At 1 April</b>		-	-
<b>Movement</b>			
Unapplied Capital Grants received in year		-	-
Unapplied Capital Grants transferred to CAA in year		-	-
<b>At 31 March</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

## c Capital Fund

This fund is authorised under Section 9 of Part 1 of the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011.

Capital Fund	Notes	31/03/2019 £	31/03/2018 £
At 1 April		25,669,445	24,567,205
Transfers between statutory & other reserves & the General Fund	4b	(247,604)	1,514,399
Financing from CCIF		(43,762)	(135,367)
Transfers between Capital Fund & CAA to finance Capital Expenditure	12	(89,928)	(276,792)
<b>At 31 March</b>		<b>25,288,151</b>	<b>25,669,445</b>

	£	£
Local Investment Fund	1,425,280	2,301,028
Belfast Investment Fund	5,559,723	4,080,715
City Centre Investment Fund	15,154,012	15,287,702
Social Outcomes Fund	3,149,136	4,000,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>25,288,151</b>	<b>25,669,445</b>

The movement and purpose of these funds is outlined below:

Local Investment Fund		31/03/2019 £	31/03/2018 £
Opening balance		2,301,028	4,056,629
Add: new contributions to fund			-
Less: financing drawn down from fund	4b	(875,748)	(1,755,601)
<b>At 31 March</b>		<b>1,425,280</b>	<b>2,301,028</b>

Local Investment Fund (LIF) is a key part of the Investment Programme that provides funding for smaller initiatives focusing on physical work on buildings or facilities within communities. The balance on this fund as at 31 March 2019 is £1,425,280.

Belfast Investment Fund		31/03/2019 £	31/03/2018 £
Opening balance		4,080,715	3,810,715
Add: new contributions to fund	4b	3,270,000	3,270,000
Less: financing drawn down from fund	4b	(1,790,992)	
Less: transfer to Social Outcomes fund			(3,000,000)
<b>At 31 March</b>		<b>5,559,723</b>	<b>4,080,715</b>

There is a balance of £5,559,723 on the Belfast Investment Fund at year end 31 March 2019. This fund was established to support partnership projects across the City.

City Centre Investment Fund			31/03/2019	31/03/2018
			£	£
Opening balance			15,287,702	15,699,861
Add: new contributions to fund				
Less: amounts drawn down from fund			(133,690)	(412,159)
<b>At 31 March</b>			<b>15,154,012</b>	<b>15,287,702</b>

City Centre Investment Fund (CCIF) is a fund to support the Belfast City Centre Regeneration Investment Plans. The proposed investment principles for the CCIF are as follows:

- the project should make a significant impact on the City Centre economy in terms of "gross value added" and job creation
- the project should make positive and net contribution to the business rates income received by Belfast City Council

During the year Belfast City Council used this fund to support ongoing and potential City Centre regeneration projects. The balance on CCIF at year end 31 March 2019 is £15,154,012.

Social Outcomes Fund			31/03/2019	31/03/2018
			£	£
Opening balance			4,000,000	1,000,000
Add: transfer from Belfast Investment fund				3,000,000
Less: amounts drawn down from fund		4b	(850,864)	-
<b>At 31 March</b>			<b>3,149,136</b>	<b>4,000,000</b>

Social Outcomes Fund is set up to support City Centre projects which might not generate a direct financial return but which would enhance the overall City Centre offer and support the attraction of investment into the City Centre. The balance on this fund as at 31 March 2019 is £3,149,136.

#### d Leisure Mobilisation Fund

This fund is authorised under Section 9 of Part 1 of the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011.

Leisure Mobilisation Fund		Notes	31/03/2019	31/03/2018
			£	£
At 1 April			1,704,334	1,945,000
Transfers between statutory & other reserves & the General Fund		4b	(262,632)	(240,666)
Transfers between Renewal & Repair Fund & CAA to finance Capital Expenditure		12	-	-
<b>At 31 March</b>			<b>1,441,702</b>	<b>1,704,334</b>

The Leisure Mobilisation Fund is a fund to support the Leisure Transformation Programme. This fund will cover programme level costs including communications, engagements and procurement costs.

## e Other Balances & Reserves

Other Balances & Reserves		Notes	31/03/2019	31/03/2018
			£	£
At 1 April			867,527	640,929
Transfers between statutory & other reserves & the General Fund		4b	160,688	156,401
Transfer to BWUH Subvention Fund			153,029	169,638
Transfer to BWUH Subvention Fund			(117,325)	(99,441)
<b>At 31 March</b>			<b>1,063,919</b>	<b>867,527</b>

			£	£
Election Fund			674,607	513,919
BWUH Subvention Fund			322,667	169,638
BWUH Sinking Fund			66,645	183,970
<b>Total</b>			<b>1,063,919</b>	<b>867,527</b>

The movement and purpose of these funds is outlined below:

Election Fund			31/03/2019	31/03/2018
			£	£
Opening balance			513,919	357,518
Add: new contributions to fund		4b	160,688	156,401
Less: financing drawn down from fund			-	-
<b>At 31 March</b>			<b>674,607</b>	<b>513,919</b>

This reserve is used to equalise (smooth) the cost of elections by building up a fund to cover the costs of future elections by making contributions, as and when required, to the reverse.

BWUH Subvention Fund			31/03/2019	31/03/2018
			£	£
Opening balance			169,638	-
Add: new contributions to fund			300,903	300,903
Less: amounts drawn down from fund			(147,874)	(131,265)
<b>At 31 March</b>			<b>322,667</b>	<b>169,638</b>

BWUH Subvention Fund was established to support national and international corporate organisations in bringing their conferences to Belfast.

BWUH Sinking Fund			31/03/2019	31/03/2018
			£	£
Opening balance			183,970	283,411
Add: new contributions to fund				57,242
Less: amounts drawn down from fund			(117,325)	(156,683)
<b>At 31 March</b>			<b>66,645</b>	<b>183,970</b>

BWUH Sinking Fund is a fund to support planned maintenance and future capital works of the new exhibition centre at Waterfront Hall.

## f General Fund

This reserve shows the accounting cost in the year of providing services in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices, rather than the amount to be funded from District Rates. Councils raise rates to cover expenditure in accordance with regulations; this may be different from the accounting cost. The taxation position is shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

General Fund		2018/19	2017/18 (Restated)
	Notes	£	£
At 1 April		24,408,596	20,989,452
Prior year adjustment			
Applied Capital Grants	10, 12	(3,052,865)	(2,541,228)
Unapplied Capital Grants received in year		-	-
Direct Revenue Financing	4, 12	(9,239,567)	(5,518,199)
Depreciation and Impairment adjustment	4	12,000,057	19,918,535
Statutory Provision for financing Capital Investment	4	(5,874,116)	(5,876,183)
Net Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	4, 12	-	-
Surplus/(Deficit) on the Provision of Services	CIES	(18,000,936)	(17,319,854)
Transfers between Statutory and Other Reserves and the General Fund	4	349,548	(1,430,134)
Net movements on Pension Reserve	4, 20	24,489,000	10,071,000
Disposal of Fixed Assets/Capital Sales	3, 4, 11, 23	(80,080)	5,166,932
Difference between finance and other costs and income calculated on an accounting basis and finance costs calculated in accordance with statutory requirements		71,299	213,542
Other Movements		726,052	734,733
<b>At 31 March</b>		<b>25,796,988</b>	<b>24,408,596</b>

This fund represents the surplus of income over expenditure. It can be used to supplement income and unexpected expenditure in future years. Of the £25,797k, £12,957k relates to expenditure committed at the year end (17/18 £24,408k, £10,738k committed).

## 26 Unuseable Reserves

### a Capital Adjustment Account

The Capital Adjustment Account absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for the consumption of non-current assets and for the acquisition, construction or enhancement of those assets under statutory provisions.

The Account is debited with the cost of acquisition, construction or enhancement as depreciation, impairment losses and amortisations are charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, with reconciling postings from the Revaluation Reserve to convert fair value figures to an historic cost basis.

The account is credited with the amounts set aside by the Council as finance for the costs of acquisition, construction and subsequent costs.

The Account contains accumulated gains and losses on Investment Properties and gains recognised on donated assets that have yet to be consumed by the Council.

The Account also contains revaluation gains accumulated on Property, Plant and Equipment before 1 April 2007, the date that the Revaluation Reserve was created to hold such gains.

Capital Adjustment Account	Notes	2018/19 £	2017/18 (Restated) £
At 1 April		460,487,377	470,929,509
Applied Capital Grants	10, 12	3,052,865	2,541,228
Unapplied Capital Grants transferred to CAA in year		-	-
Direct Revenue Financing	4, 12	9,239,567	5,518,199
Depreciation & Impairment adjustment	11	(12,000,057)	(19,918,535)
Statutory Provision for financing Capital Investment	4, 12	5,874,116	5,876,183
Net Revenue expenditure funded from Capital under	4, 12	-	-
Disposal of Fixed Assets/ Capital Sales	4, 11	(350,000)	(8,612,078)
Capital Receipts used to finance capital expenditure	4, 12	-	-
Other Movements		4,565,457	3,876,079
Transfers between Capital Fund/Renewal & Repair Fund & CAA to finance capital expenditure	12	89,928	276,792
<b>At 31 March</b>		<b>470,959,253</b>	<b>460,487,377</b>

## b Revaluation Reserve

The Revaluation Reserve contains the gains made by the Council arising from increases in the value of its Property, Plant and Equipment and Intangible Assets. The reserve is reduced when assets with accumulated gains are:

- revalued downwards or impaired and the gains are lost
- used in the provision of services and the gains are consumed through depreciation, or
- disposed of and the gains are realised.

The reserve contains only revaluation gains accumulated since 1 April 2008, the date the reserve was created. Accumulated gains arising before that date are consolidated into the balance on the Capital Adjustment Account.

The purpose of this account is to build up a balance based on the revaluation (upwards or downwards) of individual assets. All such revaluations (excluding impairment losses that have been debited to Surplus/(Deficit) on the Provision of Services are mirrored in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure. It is a fundamental principle of this account that it never becomes negative. If an asset was held at current value when derecognised, the balance held on the Revaluation Reserve is written off to the Capital Adjustment Account.

Revaluation Reserve	Notes	2018/19	2017/18
		£	£
At 1 April		159,528,493	138,508,289
Revaluation & Impairment	11	9,648,471	24,906,284
Movements from associates & joint ventures			-
Other Movements		(4,565,457)	(3,886,080)
<b>At 31 March</b>		<b>164,611,507</b>	<b>159,528,493</b>

## c Pension Reserve

Pension Reserve	Notes	2018/19	2017/18
		£	£
At 1 April		(136,947,942)	(125,832,942)
Net Movements on Pension Reserve	4, 20	(24,489,000)	(10,071,000)
Revaluation & Impairment	20	15,323,000	(1,014,000)
Gas pension & BWUH movement		(247,000)	(30,000)
<b>At 31 March</b>		<b>(146,360,942)</b>	<b>(136,947,942)</b>

The Pensions Reserve absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for post-employment benefits and for funding benefits in accordance with statutory provisions. The Council accounts for post-employment benefits in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as benefits are earned by employees accruing years of service, updating the liabilities recognised to reflect inflation, changing assumptions and investment returns on any resources set aside to meet the costs

However, statutory arrangements require benefits earned to be financed as the Council makes employer's contributions to pension funds or eventually pays any pensions for which it is directly responsible. The debit balance on the Pensions Reserve therefore shows a substantial shortfall in the benefits earned by past and current employees and the resources the Council has set aside to meet them. The statutory arrangements will ensure that funding will have been set aside by the time the benefits come to be paid.



**d Accumulated Absences Account**

The Accumulated Absences Account absorbs the differences that would otherwise arise on the General Fund balance from accruing for compensated absences earned but not taken in the year e.g. staff annual leave entitlement carried forward at the end of the financial year. Statutory arrangements are expected to require that the impact on the General Fund is neutralised by transfers to or from this Accumulated Absences Account

Accumulated Absences Account		Notes	31/03/2019	31/03/2018
			£	£
At 1 April			(1,344,230)	(1,374,835)
Difference between finance and other costs and income calculated on an accounting basis and finance costs calculated in accordance with statutory requirements			(13,595)	30,605
At 31 March			(1,357,825)	(1,344,230)

**e Provisions Discount Rate Reserve**

The Provisions Discount Rate Reserve covers the arrangement, put in place by the Department under its amendment to the 2017/18 accounts direction (see DfC circular LG O5/2018), to accommodate changes in the current value of the annual calculation of long term provisions for landfill costs, which arises as a result of changes to the interest rates used to discount these provisions and landfill cash flows being increased for inflation.

Provisions Discount Rate Reserve		Notes	31/03/2019	31/03/2018
			£	£
At 1 April			(217,987)	-
Difference between finance and other costs and income calculated on an accounting basis and finance costs calculated in accordance with statutory requirements			(57,704)	(217,987)
Other Movements			12,532	-
At 31 March			(263,159)	(217,987)

## 27 Significant Trading Operations

The Council considers a trading operation exists where the service it provides is competitive i.e the user always has the choice to use an alternative supplier to the Council and the Council charges the user on a basis other than a straightforward recharge of the Council's costs in supplying the service. The Council uses a variety of charging mechanisms such as quoted lump sums, fixed periodical charges or rates, or a combination of these.

In deciding whether a trading operation is significant the Council takes both financial and non-financial criteria into account.

Financial criteria taken into account in deciding whether trading operations are significant to the Council are:

- the magnitude of each individual trading operation's turnover when compared with the Council's net revenue budget
- the risk of financial loss the Council may be exposed to in providing the service to the user.

Non-financial criteria taken into account in deciding whether trading operations are significant to the Council are:

- the importance of each individual trading operation to demonstrating the achievement of Council targets and improving performance.
- the exposure of the Council to service reputational loss risk by providing the service
- whether the provision of the service is likely to be of interest to the Council's key stakeholders and their needs.

In applying the aforementioned criteria, the Council considers the letting of industrial estates to be a significant trading operation. The income and expenditure associated with these industrial estates is disclosed below:

Industrial Estate Lettings		2018/19	2017/18
		£	£
Rental Income		5,310,381	6,714,318
Rental Expenditure		(107,713)	(814,519)
<b>Net income</b>		<b>5,202,668</b>	<b>5,899,798</b>

These significant trading operations form part of Note 9e to these financial statements.

## 28 Agency Services

The Council provides administration services to Belfast One BID Ltd, Destination CQ BID Ltd and Belfast Central Business District. These entities pay an administration fee to the Council for these services. This fee amounted to £30,059 across the 3 entities (2017/18 £13k).

## 29 Joint Arrangements

During 2018/19 Belfast City Council made a financial contribution of £89,928 (17/18 £276,792) to Beltel LLP relating to the redevelopment of the Belfast Telegraph Building.

This contribution to LLP is included in the Long term Assets of Belfast City Council. This represents 46% of the net assets of the LLP which is included in Belfast City Council's consolidated balance sheet.

	2018/19	2017/18
	£	£
Long term assets	3,231,429	3,058,283
Current assets	242,435	188,179
Current liabilities	(37,005)	100,469
Long term liabilities	-	-
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>3,436,859</b>	<b>3,346,931</b>

On 1 April 2016, the operations of Waterfront Hall and Ulster Hall were transferred to a company BWUH Limited. Belfast City Council hold the entire share capital of this company, 1 ordinary share at £1 each. Belfast City Council entered into an agreement with BWUH Limited under which the Council pays the company a management fee for the operation of Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall. Payments to and from the company are outlined in Note 30 f.

A Related Party Transaction is a transfer of resources or obligations between related parties, regardless of whether a price is charged. Related Party Transaction exclude transactions with any other entity that is a related party solely because of its economic dependence on the Council or the Government of which it forms part. A related party is one that has the ability to control the other party or exercise significant influence over the other party in making financial and operating decisions. This includes cases where the related party entity and another entity are subject to common control but excludes providers of finance in the course of their normal business with the Council and Trade Unions in the course of their normal dealings with the Council. In addition where the relationship with the Council and the entity is solely that of an Agency (see note 28) these are not deemed to be Related Party Transactions.

As part of their duties, Councillors are appointed to represent the Council in a range of other organisations and further details of these arrangements can be found on the Council's website.

Transactions with related parties not disclosed elsewhere in these financial statements are set out below.

Councillors have direct control over the Council's financial and operating policies. In the 2018/19 financial year the Council commissioned £3,019,697 (2017/18 £2,412,431) of works and services from Visit Belfast in which Councillors have an interest. The Council entered into these contracts in full compliance with the Council's standing orders and codes of conduct.

The Council also paid grants of £1,403,026 (2017/18 £1,066,516) to a number of organisations in which Councillors and Council officers had an interest. These grants were made with proper consideration of declaration of interests.

During 2018/19 the Council had expenditure of £531,913 (2017/18 £263,533) with other Councils and income received of £1,508,972 (2017/18 £980,249) from other Councils, of which £58,122 (2017/18 £159,488) was outstanding at 31 March 2019. These amounts mainly related to services provided.

The Council also borrowed £30m from other Local Authorities within the UK. These loans were fully repaid by 31 March 2019.

#### **a Other Organisations**

	<b>Councillors</b>	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>Restated 2017/18</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Association of Port Health Authorities	1	222	1,248
Belfast City Centre Management Board	2	238,260	259,842
Belfast Harbour Commissioners	3	36,369	87,892
Belfast Hills P'ship	1	36,900	37,601
Board of Ulster Orchestra Society Ltd	1	319,253	308,363
Cathedral Quarter Trust	2	396,989	62,380
Concorde Community Centre Committee	2	240	600
Donegall Pass Community Centre Committee	3	600	0
Duncairn Community Centre Committee	4	0	600
Finaghy Community Centre Committee	2	0	600
Grand Opera House Trust	1	35,000	35,000
Greater Shankill Partnership Board	4	49,414	34,096
Highfield Community Centre Committee	2	0	600
Knocknagoney Community Centre Committee	5	1,420	2,329
Lagan Valley Regional Park Advisory Committee	2	0	2,360
Ligoniel Community Centre Committee	1	0	600
Linenhall Library Board	1	35,835	35,357
Local Strategic Partnership on Travellers Issues	2	1,000	0
Lyric Theatre Education Advisory Panel	2	150,978	100,000
Morton Community Centre Committee	4	0	600
National Association of Councillors	6	3,560	3,560
NI Amenity Council	1	4,660	0
NI Local Government Association	9	90,434	91,088
Somme Advisory Council	3	1,894	1,200
Visit Belfast	4	3,019,697	2,412,431
Woodvale Community Centre Committee	2	0	600
<b>At 31 March</b>		<b>4,422,723</b>	<b>3,478,947</b>

**b Payments to Community Groups**

Belfast City Council made payments to the following Community Groups that have Councillors as part of their committee structure;

Councillors		2018/19	2017/18
		£	£
East Belfast Partnership Board	8	20,500	32,500
South Belfast Partnership Board	5	20,220	32,937
West Belfast Partnership Board	7	8,784	3,872
		<b>49,504</b>	<b>69,309</b>

**c Joint Committees**

Belfast City Council made payments to the following Joint Committees;

Councillors		2018/19	2017/18
		£	£
Arc 21	1	7,517,584	7,989,377

The origins of arc21 can be traced back to June 1999, when a small number of Council representatives agreed that a joint approach was the best way to deliver an effective waste management strategy for the region. By 2000, 11 Councils had joined together from the eastern Region Waste Management Group, which was eventually renamed arc21.

**d Active Belfast Limited**

Belfast City Council with Active Belfast Limited entered into an agreement with GLL for the provision of leisure services. These financial statements include expenses of £7,269,390 (2017/18 £8,606,329) for the provision of these services in the year ended 31 March 2019.

**e Car Loans to Council Officers**

The Council makes car loans available to employees who are designated essential car users. The total amount outstanding in respect of car loans to designated employees as at 31 March 2019 was £116,107 (2017/18 £117,698).

**f Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Limited**

With effect from 1 April 2016 the Council transferred the operations of Belfast Waterfront Hall and Ulster Hall to a new company BWUH Limited with the Council being the sole shareholder in this new company. During 2018/19 the Council invoiced BWUH Ltd for £2,189,993 for expenditure incurred on its behalf and also received invoices from the Company for £3,359,644 mainly for the management fee. At 31 March 2019, £182,811 was owed to the company by the Council and £132,142 receivable from the company.

**g Beltel LLP**

During 2018/19, Belfast City Council made a financial contribution of £89,928 (17/18 £276,792) to Beltel LLP relating to the redevelopment of the Belfast Telegraph Building (as outlined in Note 29). The Council is represented by two officers on the Management Board of the LLP and Timec 1523 Limited is also represented by two members on the Management Board.

Community assets are assets that the Council intends to hold in perpetuity, that have no determinable useful life, and which may, in addition, have restrictions on their disposal. The Council includes in this class of assets such properties as allotments and community gardens, cemeteries, some monuments, open ground spaces, parks and playgrounds. These comprise substantial areas within the Council area and form a significant amenity value to the life of the local community.

In financial years up to and including the financial year 2017-18, which ended on 31 March 2018, the council's accounting policy for the recognition and measurement of community assets was at a nominal value of £1 per asset, under the valuation option contained in the "Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom" (the Code). The effect of this policy was that any capital expenditure on community assets was not reflected in their carrying value.

During the course of financial year 2018-19, the Council reviewed its accounting policy for community assets and so adopted the historic cost option, where applicable, for the recognition and measurement of community assets as set out in the Code. This was to present more clearly to users of the Council's financial statements the amount of resources invested by the Council in its community assets.

The revised accounting policy on community assets is intended to take effect from the earliest presented balance sheet contained in the 2018-19 financial statements. Thus, from 1 April 2017, community assets will be recognised, measured and accounted for at their depreciated historic cost. Community assets that consist of land or that have an indeterminate useful life will not be depreciated but will be subject to annual review for impairment. Community assets that are depreciable and have a determinable useful life will be depreciated systematically at a constant (straight line) rate over their useful lives, as well as being subject to impairment review if there is evidence of excessive deterioration or that their value to the Council is below their then carrying value. Depreciation will be charged on an annual basis to the relevant service of the Council that controls the community asset, and so will form part of the annual depreciation charge to the CIES for that service.

Due to the difficulty in determining a reliable estimate of the useful lives of these assets, the Council has decided on a pragmatic approach to re-life depreciable assets as at the commencement of the new policy from 1 April 2017, until these assets fall to be included in the annual property asset inspection cycle as part of the council's property valuation approach. Community assets with depreciable components will be re-lifed from 1 April 2017 as follows: 10 years for playgrounds, 30 years for infrastructure assets; an appropriate period for other depreciable assets dependent on individual characteristics.

The Code states that "historical cost is deemed to be carrying amount of an asset as at 1 April 2007 or at the date of acquisition, whichever date is the later, and adjusted for subsequent depreciation of impairment (if applicable)". The amount of capital expenditure on community assets that was previously written off to the CIES but has now been reinstated to the historic cost of these assets is £44.8 million, being the sum of: (a) capital expenditure on community assets recognised between when the Code came into operation on 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2017; plus (b) the historic cost of assets transferred to Belfast City Council from other local authorities on 1 April 2015 as part of Local Government Reorganisation.

The Balance Sheet values of community assets as recognised and measured at their restated depreciated historic cost values are presented below as at 1 April 2017 and 31 March 2018, along with the impact that these restated values would have had on the CIES.

	<b>2017/18 £</b>
<u>COST OR VALUATION</u>	
<b>Carrying value of community assets as at 31 March 2017 as previously reported</b>	<b>257</b>
Write back cumulative capital expenditure 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2017	43,106,852
<b>Carrying value of community assets as at 31 March 2017 restated</b>	<b>43,107,109</b>
Add: additions for the year and transfers in from work in progress	1,322,426
Add: assets reclassified to community assets from other asset classes	437,569
Less: asset transferred from community assets to other asset class	-1
Less: assets derecognised during the year	-3
Less: write out revaluation reserve on assets transferred from operational assets held at current valuation to community assets held at historic cost	0
<b>Gross book value of community assets as at 31 March 2018 restated</b>	<b>44,867,100</b>
<u>DEPRECIATION</u>	
Less: accumulated historic cost depreciation on asset reclassified to community assets from other asset classes	-77,064
Less: historic cost depreciation for the year 2017-18	-1,366,827
<b>Accumulated historic cost depreciation on community assets as at 31 March 2018 restated</b>	<b>-1,443,891</b>
<b>Net book value of community assets as at 31 March 2018 restated</b>	<b>43,423,209</b>
 <b>SUMMARY MOVEMENTS ON RESTATEMENT</b>	 <b>2017/18 £</b>
<u>COST OR VALUATION</u>	
Carrying value of community assets as at 31 March 2017 as previously reported	257
Write back cumulative capital expenditure 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2017	43,106,852
Movement in 2017/18	316,100
<b>Net book value of community assets as at 31 March 2018 restated</b>	<b>43,423,209</b>

**Belfast City Council**  
**Group Movement in Reserves Statement for the year ended 31 March 2019**

	General Fund Summary £ Restated	Other Fund Balances and Reserves £	Capital Receipts Reserve £	Total Usable Reserves £ Restated	Total Unusable Reserves £	Total Council Reserves £ Restated
<b>Balance as at 1 April 2017</b>	<b>20,985,750</b>	<b>27,153,134</b>	<b>1,632,457</b>	<b>49,771,341</b>	<b>482,230,021</b>	<b>532,001,362</b>
<b>Movement in reserves during the year</b>						
Surplus/ (Deficit) on the provision of services	(17,743,656)	-	-	(17,743,656)	-	(17,743,656)
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	-	-	-	-	23,892,284	23,892,284
<b>Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure</b>	<b>(17,743,656)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(17,743,656)</b>	<b>23,892,284</b>	<b>6,148,628</b>
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding under regulations	21,853,201	(276,792)	3,107,000	24,683,409	(24,368,607)	314,802
<b>Net Increase before transfers to Statutory and Other Reserves</b>	<b>4,109,545</b>	<b>(276,792)</b>	<b>3,107,000</b>	<b>6,939,753</b>	<b>(476,323)</b>	<b>6,463,430</b>
Transfers to / from Statutory and Other Reserves	(1,430,134)	1,430,134	-	-	-	-
Other movements	739,734	(65,170)	-	674,564	(247,987)	426,577
<b>Increase/ Decrease in year</b>	<b>3,419,145</b>	<b>1,088,172</b>	<b>3,107,000</b>	<b>7,614,317</b>	<b>(724,310)</b>	<b>6,890,007</b>
<b>Balance as at 31 March 2018</b>	<b>24,404,895</b>	<b>28,241,306</b>	<b>4,739,457</b>	<b>57,385,658</b>	<b>481,505,711</b>	<b>538,891,369</b>
<b>Movement in reserves during the year</b>						
Surplus/ (Deficit) on the provision of services	(18,469,670)	-	-	(18,469,670)	-	(18,469,670)
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	-	-	-	-	24,971,471	24,971,471
<b>Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure</b>	<b>(18,469,670)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(18,469,670)</b>	<b>24,971,471</b>	<b>6,501,801</b>
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding under regulations	18,744,640	(89,928)	400,000	19,054,712	(18,583,644)	471,068
<b>Net Increase before transfers to Statutory and Other Reserves</b>	<b>274,970</b>	<b>(89,928)</b>	<b>400,000</b>	<b>585,042</b>	<b>6,387,827</b>	<b>6,972,869</b>
Transfers to / from Statutory and Other Reserves	349,548	(349,548)	-	-	-	-
Other movements	774,052	(8,058)	61,000	826,994	(304,704)	522,290
<b>Increase in year</b>	<b>1,398,570</b>	<b>(447,534)</b>	<b>461,000</b>	<b>1,412,036</b>	<b>6,083,123</b>	<b>7,495,159</b>
<b>Balance as at 31 March 2019</b>	<b>25,803,465</b>	<b>27,793,772</b>	<b>5,200,457</b>	<b>58,797,694</b>	<b>487,588,834</b>	<b>546,386,528</b>



**Belfast City Council**  
**Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for the year ended 31 March 2019**

		2018/19			2017/18		
		Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	Gross Expenditure Restated	Gross Income	Net Expenditure Restated
	Notes	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Service Expenditure</b>							
Strategic Policy & Resources	2	78,594,231	(11,644,878)	66,949,353	62,655,671	(9,437,721)	53,217,950
City Growth & Regeneration	2	39,095,072	(15,365,940)	23,719,415	36,703,673	(15,897,316)	20,806,357
People & Communities	2	112,535,363	(16,091,022)	96,444,341	106,581,903	(15,984,609)	90,597,294
Planning & Licencing	2	8,527,144	(6,208,226)	2,318,918	7,835,696	(5,595,361)	2,240,335
<b>Cost of Services on Continuing Operations</b>		<b>238,751,810</b>	<b>(49,310,066)</b>	<b>189,432,027</b>	<b>213,776,943</b>	<b>(46,915,007)</b>	<b>166,861,936</b>
Other Operating Expenditure	8	-	(30,080)	(30,080)	5,166,932	-	5,166,932
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	9	6,122,753	(13,984,884)	(7,862,131)	10,651,076	(6,894,671)	3,756,405
<b>Net Operating Expenditure</b>		<b>244,874,563</b>	<b>(63,325,030)</b>	<b>181,539,816</b>	<b>229,594,951</b>	<b>(53,809,678)</b>	<b>175,785,273</b>
Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income	10	(91,683)	(162,988,180)	(163,079,863)	(21,440)	(158,020,177)	(158,041,617)
<b>(Surplus)/Deficit on the Provision of Services</b>		<b>244,782,880</b>	<b>(226,313,210)</b>	<b>18,469,670</b>	<b>229,573,511</b>	<b>(211,829,855)</b>	<b>17,743,656</b>
(Surplus)/Deficit on revaluation of non-current assets	11			(9,648,471)			(24,906,284)
Surplus/(Deficit) arising on revaluation of available-for-sale financial assets	27			-			-
Remeasurements of the Net Defined Benefit Liability (Asset)	21			(15,323,000)			1,014,000
<b>Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure</b>				<b>(24,971,471)</b>			<b>(23,892,284)</b>
<b>Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure</b>				<b>(6,501,801)</b>			<b>(6,148,628)</b>

**Belfast City Council**  
**Group Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2019**

	Note	31st March 2019	31st March 2018 Restated	31st March 2017 Restated
		£	£	£
Fixed Assets		750,563,883	714,213,624	692,339,626
Long Term Investments		431,000	433,000	445,585
Investment in Associates and Joint Ventures		-	-	-
Long Term Debtors		603,659	1,137,030	1,296,062
Contract Assets		-	-	-
<b>LONG TERM ASSETS</b>		<b>751,598,542</b>	<b>715,783,654</b>	<b>694,081,273</b>
Short Term Investments		-	-	-
Inventories		276,291	326,164	295,715
Short Term Debtors		16,367,024	16,772,757	22,063,079
Cash and Cash Equivalents		27,866,068	14,490,997	11,052,247
Assets Held for Sale		266,607	-	3,197,000
Contract Assets		1,947,969	1,503,004	767,259
Contract Costs		-	-	-
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>46,723,959</b>	<b>33,092,922</b>	<b>37,375,300</b>
Bank Overdraft		-	-	-
Short Term Borrowing		4,000,000	4,158,529	163,482
Short Term Creditors		36,502,814	30,300,049	31,997,062
Provisions		2,894,851	2,906,973	2,584,680
Contract Liabilities		-	-	-
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>43,397,665</b>	<b>37,365,551</b>	<b>34,745,224</b>
Long Term Creditors		50,386	60,848	82,707
Provisions		1,789,315	1,749,239	1,716,737
Long Term Borrowing		58,888,981	32,604,494	36,444,276
Other Long Term Liabilities		146,360,942	136,947,942	125,832,942
Contract Liabilities		-	-	-
Donated Assets Account		430,001	10,001	10,001
Capital Grants Receipts in Advance		1,018,683	1,247,132	623,323
<b>LONG TERM LIABILITIES</b>		<b>208,538,308</b>	<b>172,619,656</b>	<b>164,709,986</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>546,386,528</b>	<b>538,891,369</b>	<b>532,001,363</b>
USABLE RESERVES				
Capital Receipts Reserve		5,200,457	4,739,457	1,632,457
Capital Fund		25,288,151	25,669,445	24,567,205
Leisure Mobilisation Fund		1,441,702	1,704,334	1,945,000
Other Balances and Reserves		1,063,919	867,527	640,929
General Fund		25,803,465	24,404,895	20,985,750
		<b>58,797,694</b>	<b>57,385,658</b>	<b>49,771,341</b>
UNUSABLE RESERVES				
Capital Adjustment Account		470,959,253	460,487,377	470,929,510
Revaluation Reserve		164,611,507	159,528,493	138,508,289
Pensions Reserve		(146,360,942)	(136,947,942)	(125,832,942)
Accumulated Absences Account		(1,357,825)	(1,344,230)	(1,374,835)
Provisions Discount Rate Reserve		(263,159)	(217,987)	-
		<b>487,588,834</b>	<b>481,505,711</b>	<b>482,230,022</b>
<b>NET WORTH</b>		<b>546,386,528</b>	<b>538,891,369</b>	<b>532,001,363</b>

Belfast City Council  
**Group Cash Flow Statement at 31 March 2019**

	Note	2018/19	2017/18
		£	£
Net Deficit on the provision of services		(18,469,670)	(17,743,656)
Adjustment for non-cash movements		48,275,099	44,163,622
Adjust for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities		(3,393,017)	(5,709,582)
<b>Net cash flows from operating activities</b>		<b>26,412,412</b>	<b>20,710,384</b>
Cash flows from Investing Activities		(39,163,299)	(17,426,898)
Net Cash flows from Financing Activities		26,125,958	155,264
<b>Net increase or decrease in cash and cash equivalents</b>		<b>13,375,071</b>	<b>3,438,750</b>
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		14,490,997	11,052,247
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period</b>		<b>27,866,068</b>	<b>14,490,997</b>

**Belfast City Council**  
**Notes to the Group Financial Statements**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019**

**G1 Group Accounts**

The Group Accounting Policies are the same as the Council policies and have not been repeated again in these Notes. The exception to this is in relation to Retirement Benefits which have been treated in BWUH Limited as a defined contribution scheme as the liabilities of the NILGOSC scheme remain with Belfast City Council and have been disclosed in Belfast City Council's financial statements.

Since there are no significant changes to the Consolidated Group Balance Sheet as compared to the Council's Balance Sheet, only those notes affected by group transactions have been included.

**G2 Combining Entities**

**Belfast Waterfront Ulster Hall Limited ( BWUH Ltd)**

Belfast Waterfront Ulster Hall Limited is a company incorporated under the terms of the Companies Acts to operate the Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall. The Authority is the principal shareholder in the company holding 1 ordinary £1 shares and representing 100% of the issued share capital. Under accounting standards, the Authority has a controlling interest in this company. The financial results for the company have been included in the group accounts as a subsidiary.

Net assets of the company were £6.5k at 31 March 2019. The profit on ordinary activities before taxation for the period to 31 March 2019 was £19.9k. No dividend payments were due to, or received by, the Authority in respect of its investment.

As noted in Note 20, the pension liability of BWUH Limited is included in the pension liability of Belfast City Council.

The latest set of accounts is for the year to 31 March 2019 has an unqualified audit certificate.

**BELTEL LLP**

For the purposes of economic regeneration as part of the City Centre Regeneration objectives the Council made a financial contribution in the form of a loan of now totalling £3,436,859 as at year ended 31 March 2019, to Beltel LLP relating to the redevelopment of the Belfast Telegraph building. This contribution represents 46% of the net assets of Beltel LLP which have been included in the Council's group balance sheet and the breakdown of the net assets is included in Note 29 Joint Arrangements.

**Gas Pension Fund**

The asset of £21,000 in respect of the Gas Pension Fund is disclosed and recognised in Belfast City Council's balance sheet and Note 20 Retirement Benefits disclosures. The Group balance sheet has included the assets and liabilities giving rise to this asset:

	£
Long term assets	431,725
Current assets	633,368
Long term liabilities	1,044,093
Net asst	21,000

The Council has not consolidated its interests in Active Belfast Limited, Belfast Gasworks Management Co Ltd and Arc21 as the Council's share of these balance sheets is not deemed material to the group accounts at this point in time.

**Financial Impact of combination**

The effect of the inclusion of the subsidiaries and associates in 2018/19 was to increase the Council's reserves and net assets by £6.5k representing the net asset in the consolidating entities.

**G3 Adjustments between an Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under Regulations**

Amounts included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement but required by statute to be excluded when determining the Movement on the General Fund Balance for the year:

Notes	2018/19		2017/18	
	£	£	£	£
<b>Amounts included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement but required by statute to be excluded when determining the Movement on the General Fund Balance for the year:</b>				
Impairments (losses & reversals) of non-current assets	-	-	-	-
Derecognition (other than disposal) of non-current assets	-	-	-	-
Revaluation increases/decreases taken to Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	(6,312,957)		3,291,888	
Depreciation charged in the year on non-current assets funded from capital under statute	18,382,926	12,069,969	16,640,449	19,932,337
Carrying amount of non current assets sold	350,000		8,612,078	
Proceeds from the sale of PP&E, investment property and intangible assets	(430,080)	(80,080)	(3,445,146)	5,166,932
Difference between finance costs calculated on an accounting basis and finance costs calculated in accordance with statutory requirements		-		-
Net charges made for retirement benefits in accordance with IAS 19		39,630,000		24,417,000
Direct revenue financing of Capital Expenditure		(9,239,567)		(5,518,199)
Capital Grants and Donated Assets Receivable and Applied in year		(2,919,677)		(2,541,228)
Capital Grants Receivable and Unapplied in year		(133,188)		-
Rates Claw-Back Reserve		-		-
Adjustments in relation to Short-term compensated absences		13,595		(30,605)
Adjustments in relation to Lessor Arrangements		-		26,160
Provisions Discount Rate Reserve Adjustment		57,704		217,987
<b>Amounts not included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement but required by statute to be included when determining the Movement on the General Fund Balance for the year</b>				
Statutory Provision for the financing of Capital Investment		(5,874,116)		(5,876,183)
Employers contributions payable to the NILGOSC and retirement benefits payable direct to pensioners		(14,780,000)		(13,941,000)
		<b>18,744,640</b>		<b>21,853,201</b>

Belfast City Council  
Notes to the Group Financial Statements  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019

G4 Fixed Assets

Cost or Valuation	Land	Buildings	Infrastructure Assets	Landfill Sites	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment	Community Assets	PP&E Under Construction	Surplus Assets	Total PP&E	Heritage Assets	Assets Held for Sale	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Balance as at 1 April 2018</b>	100,840,501	414,305,914	5,774,607	-	42,003,695	44,867,100	25,304,135	7,129,001	<b>640,224,953</b>	8,631,550	-	<b>648,856,503</b>
Adjustments between cost/value & depreciation/impairment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Balance as at 1 April 2018</b>	<b>100,840,501</b>	<b>414,305,914</b>	<b>5,774,607</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>42,003,695</b>	<b>44,867,100</b>	<b>25,304,135</b>	<b>7,129,001</b>	<b>640,224,953</b>	<b>8,631,550</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>648,856,503</b>
Additions	-	385,480	-	-	4,285,412	1,385,146	32,950,225	19,828	<b>39,026,091</b>	530,977	-	<b>39,557,068</b>
Donations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluation increases/ (decreases) to Revaluation Reserve	339,640	(3,703,588)	-	-	-	-	893,060	(60,000)	<b>(2,530,888)</b>	(3,700)	-	<b>(2,534,588)</b>
Revaluation increases/ (decreases) to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	263,860	(2,116,266)	-	-	-	(2)	5,539	(19,828)	<b>(1,866,697)</b>	-	-	<b>(1,866,697)</b>
Impairment to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Derecognition - Disposals	-	-	-	-	(2,226,653)	-	-	-	<b>(2,226,653)</b>	-	-	<b>(2,226,653)</b>
Derecognition - Other	-	-	-	-	(994,916)	-	-	-	<b>(994,916)</b>	-	-	<b>(994,916)</b>
Reclassifications & Transfers	-	9,912,975	-	-	125,610	960,127	(10,998,711)	(1,300,000)	<b>(1,299,999)</b>	-	-	<b>(1,299,999)</b>
Reclassified to (-) / from (+)	-	-	-	-	-	(186,607)	-	(80,000)	<b>(266,607)</b>	-	-	<b>(266,607)</b>
Held for Sale	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Balance as at 31 March 2019</b>	<b>101,444,001</b>	<b>418,784,515</b>	<b>5,774,607</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>43,193,148</b>	<b>47,025,764</b>	<b>48,154,248</b>	<b>5,689,001</b>	<b>670,065,284</b>	<b>9,158,827</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>679,224,111</b>

Depreciation and Impairment	Land	Buildings	Infrastructure Assets	Landfill Sites	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment	Community Assets	PP&E Under Construction	Surplus Assets	Total PP&E	Heritage Assets	Assets Held for Resale	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Balance as at 1 April 2018</b>	-	-	320,679	-	25,363,069	1,443,891	-	-	<b>27,127,639</b>	35,467	-	<b>27,163,106</b>
Adjustments between cost/value & depreciation/impairment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Balance as at 1 April 2018</b>	-	-	<b>320,679</b>	-	<b>25,363,069</b>	<b>1,443,891</b>	-	-	<b>27,127,639</b>	<b>35,467</b>	-	<b>27,163,106</b>
Depreciation Charge	-	13,337,713	192,492	-	3,134,219	1,481,337	-	-	<b>18,145,761</b>	98,273	-	<b>18,244,034</b>
Depreciation written out on Revaluation Reserve	-	(12,183,059)	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>(12,183,059)</b>	-	-	<b>(12,183,059)</b>
Revaluation taken to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	(1,154,654)	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>(1,154,654)</b>	-	-	<b>(1,154,654)</b>
Impairment losses/reversals to Revaluation Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Impairment losses/reversals to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Derecognition - Disposals	-	-	-	-	(1,884,805)	-	-	-	<b>(1,884,805)</b>	-	-	<b>(1,884,805)</b>
Derecognition - Other	-	-	-	-	(994,916)	-	-	-	<b>(994,916)</b>	-	-	<b>(994,916)</b>
Reclassifications & Transfers Eliminated on reclassification to Held for Sale	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Balance as at 31 March 2019</b>	-	-	513,171	-	25,617,567	2,925,228	-	-	<b>29,055,966</b>	133,740	-	<b>29,189,706</b>
<b>Net Book Values</b>												
<b>Balance as at 31 March 2019</b>	<b>101,444,001</b>	<b>418,784,515</b>	<b>5,261,436</b>	-	<b>17,575,581</b>	<b>44,100,536</b>	<b>48,154,248</b>	<b>5,689,001</b>	<b>641,009,318</b>	<b>9,025,087</b>	-	<b>650,034,405</b>



Cost or Valuation	Land	Buildings	Infrastructure Assets	Landfill Sites	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment	Community Assets (Restated)	PP&E Under Construction	Surplus Assets	Total PP&E	Heritage Assets	Assets Held for Resale	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Balance as at 1 April 2017</b>	103,657,851	403,227,655	5,772,087	-	41,945,063	43,107,109	14,810,877	3,674,001	<b>616,194,643</b>	4,681,022	-	<b>620,875,665</b>
Adjustments between cost/value & depreciation/impairment	-	345	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Prior Period adjustment</b>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	<b>345</b>	-	-	<b>345</b>
<b>Balance as at 1 April 2017</b>	<b>103,657,851</b>	<b>403,228,000</b>	<b>5,772,087</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>41,945,063</b>	<b>43,107,109</b>	<b>14,810,877</b>	<b>3,674,001</b>	<b>616,194,988</b>	<b>4,691,022</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>620,886,010</b>
Additions (Note 11)	1	1,850,460	2,520	-	2,254,477	789,413	17,102,625	-	<b>21,999,496</b>	2,210	-	<b>22,001,706</b>
Donations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Increases/decreases to Revaluation Reserve	219,399	13,619,418	-	-	-	(18,499)	(3,999)	1,254	<b>13,817,573</b>	(770)	-	<b>13,816,803</b>
Revaluation increases/decreases to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	312,250	864,777	-	-	-	258,857	269,998	(527,120)	<b>1,178,762</b>	-	-	<b>1,178,762</b>
Impairment to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Derecognition - Disposals	-	-	-	-	(3,177,753)	-	-	-	<b>(3,177,753)</b>	-	-	<b>(3,177,753)</b>
Derecognition - Other	-	(5,803,680)	-	-	-	(3)	-	-	<b>(5,803,683)</b>	-	-	<b>(5,803,683)</b>
Reclassifications & Transfers	(3,349,000)	546,939	-	-	981,908	730,223	(6,875,366)	3,980,866	<b>(3,984,430)</b>	3,939,088	-	<b>(45,342)</b>
Reclassified To (-) / From (+) Held for Sale	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Balance as at 31 March 2018</b>	<b>100,840,501</b>	<b>414,305,914</b>	<b>5,774,607</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>42,003,695</b>	<b>44,867,100</b>	<b>25,304,135</b>	<b>7,129,001</b>	<b>640,224,953</b>	<b>8,631,550</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>648,856,503</b>

b

Depreciation and Impairment	Land	Buildings	Infrastructure Assets	Landfill Sites	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment	Community Assets (Restated)	PP&E Under Construction	Surplus Assets	Total PP&E	Heritage Assets	Assets Held for Resale	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Balance as at 1 April 2017</b>	-	-	128,269	-	25,668,486	-	-	-	25,796,755	27,261	-	25,824,016
Adjustments between cost/value & depreciation/impairment	-	345	-	-	-	-	-	-	345	-	-	345
<b>Balance as at 1 April 2017</b>	-	<b>345</b>	<b>128,269</b>	-	<b>25,668,486</b>	-	-	-	<b>25,797,100</b>	<b>27,261</b>	-	<b>25,824,361</b>
Depreciation Charge	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Depreciation written out on Revaluation Reserve	-	12,120,981	192,410	-	2,831,676	1,366,827	-	-	16,511,894	8,206	-	16,520,100
Depreciation written out on Revaluation taken to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	(11,070,037)	-	-	-	-	-	(19,444)	(11,089,481)	-	-	(11,089,481)
Impairment losses/reversals to Revaluation Reserve	-	(559,230)	-	-	-	65,603	-	(31,892)	(525,519)	-	-	(525,519)
Impairment losses/reversals to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Derecognition - Disposals	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Derecognition - Other	-	(429,262)	-	-	(3,137,093)	-	-	-	(3,137,093)	-	-	(3,137,093)
Reclassifications & Transfers	-	(62,797)	-	-	-	11,461	-	51,336	(429,262)	-	-	(429,262)
Eliminated on reclassification to Held for Sale	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Balance as at 31 March 2018</b>	-	-	<b>320,679</b>	-	<b>25,363,069</b>	<b>1,443,891</b>	-	-	<b>27,127,639</b>	<b>35,467</b>	-	<b>27,163,106</b>

#### Net Book Values

<b>Balance as at 31 March 2018</b>	<b>100,840,501</b>	<b>414,305,914</b>	<b>5,453,928</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>16,640,626</b>	<b>43,423,209</b>	<b>25,304,135</b>	<b>7,129,001</b>	<b>613,097,314</b>	<b>8,596,083</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>621,693,397</b>
<b>Balance as at 31 March 2019</b>	<b>101,444,001</b>	<b>418,784,515</b>	<b>5,261,436</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>17,575,581</b>	<b>44,100,536</b>	<b>48,154,248</b>	<b>5,689,001</b>	<b>641,009,318</b>	<b>9,025,087</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>650,034,405</b>

**Belfast City Council**  
**Notes to the Group Financial Statements**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2019**

<b>Intangible Assets</b>	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2017/18</b>
	£	£
Balance at start of year:		
Gross carrying amounts	19,208,176	18,990,754
Accumulated amortisation	18,651,234	18,530,885
Net carrying amount at start of year	556,942	459,869
Additions	-	172,080
Assets reclassified as held for sale	-	-
Revaluation increases or decreases	-	-
Impairment losses recognised or reversed directly in the Revaluation Reserve	-	-
Impairment losses recognised or reversed directly in the Surplus/ Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	-
Amortisation for the period	(138,892)	(120,349)
Other Changes	45,342	45,342
Net carrying amount at end of year	<b>418,050</b>	<b>556,942</b>

<b>Investment Properties</b>	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2017/18</b>
	£	£
Balance at start of the year	91,963,283	96,828,108
Additions	173,146	131,344
Disposals	(350,000)	-
Net gains/losses from fair value adjustments	7,025,000	(4,996,169)
Transfers to/ from inventories	-	-
Transfers to/ from property, plant and equipment	-	-
Other changes	1,300,000	-
Balance at end of the year	<b>100,111,429</b>	<b>91,963,283</b>

<b>Investment Property</b>	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2017/18</b>
	£	£
Industrial Estates	73,800,000	72,300,000
Commercial Units	26,311,429	19,663,283
Balance at end of the year	<b>100,111,429</b>	<b>91,963,283</b>

G5

<b>Employee Costs and Member Allowances</b>		
<b>Staff Costs</b>	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2017/18</b>
	£	£
Salaries and Wages	70,725,504	68,177,410
Employers NIC	6,536,203	6,321,447
Employers Superannuation	14,521,573	13,439,009
<b>Total staff costs</b>	<b>91,783,280</b>	<b>87,937,866</b>

The above staff costs include the costs of voluntary redundancies in 2018/19. These costs total £2,003,028 and are disclosed separately in Table 4 of the Remuneration Report. In addition, agency costs during the year amounted to £4,818,572 (2017/18 £4,649,576).

The Council's current contribution rate to NILGOSC scheme is 19% plus a 2% deficit recovery contribution. At the last actuarial valuation, dated 31 March 2016, the Fund's assets as a whole were sufficient to meet 96% of the liabilities accrued up to that date.

Average Number of Employees - where FTE represents fulltime equivalent employees

<b>Average Number of Employees</b>	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2017/18</b>
	FTE	FTE
Strategic Policy & Resources	627	661
City Growth & Regeneration	289	316
People & Communities	1,225	1,239
Planning and Licencing	145	147
<b>Total Number</b>	<b>2,286</b>	<b>2,363</b>

	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2017/18</b>
	Actual Numbers	Actual Numbers
Full-time numbers employed	2,029	2,086
Part-time numbers employed	333	354
<b>Total Number</b>	<b>2,362</b>	<b>2,440</b>

<b>Senior Employees' Remuneration</b>	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2017/18</b>
	£	£
£50,001 to £60,000	52	50
£60,001 to £70,000	15	10
£70,001 to £80,000	6	11
£80,001 to £90,000	4	2
£90,001 to £100,000	6	4
£100,001 to £110,000	4	2
£110,001 to £120,000	1	-
£120,001 to £130,000	-	-
£130,001 to £140,000	1	1
<b>Total Number</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>80</b>

<b>G6</b>	<b>Debtors</b>		
<b>a</b>	<b>Long Term Debtors</b>	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2017/18</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
	Government Departments	-	-
	Other Councils	-	-
	Public corporations and trading funds	-	-
	Bodies external to general government	-	-
	Employee car loans	59,591	59,587
	Revenue Grants	-	-
	Capital Grants	-	-
	Interest Receivable	-	-
	Capital Debtors	-	-
	Loans and advances	-	-
	Finance lease debtors	-	-
	Trade debtors	285,208	736,633
	NIHE Loans	258,860	340,810
	Other	-	-
	Impairment of loans and receivables	-	-
	Contract Receivables	-	-
	<b>Total Long-Term Debtors</b>	<b>603,659</b>	<b>1,137,030</b>
<b>b</b>	<b>Short Term Debtors</b>	<b>2018/19</b>	<b>2017/18</b>
		<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
	Government Departments	611,491	320,271
	Other Councils	58,122	159,488
	Public corporations and trading funds	-	-
	Bodies external to general government	-	-
	NIHE loans	81,950	76,950
	Employee car loans	56,516	58,110
	Revenue Grants	5,933,912	3,825,967
	Capital Grants	1,733,211	1,411,696
	Interest Receivable	-	-
	Capital Debtors	-	-
	Value Added Tax	1,848,860	1,978,620
	Prepayments	3,527,783	4,480,065
	Finance lease debtors	-	-
	Other	1,726,399	3,192,000
	Trade receivables	1,072,374	1,629,395
	Impairment loss - Trade receivables	(283,594)	(454,252)
	Contract Receivables	1,947,969	1,597,451
	<b>Total Short-Term Debtors</b>	<b>18,314,993</b>	<b>18,275,761</b>
	<b>Total Debtors</b>	<b>18,918,652</b>	<b>19,412,791</b>

G7

a

Creditors		2018/19	2017/18
Short Term Creditors		£	£
Government Departments		1,818,188	1,673,415
Other Councils		13,010	17,826
Public corporations and trading funds		-	-
Bodies external to general government		-	-
Rates clawback		100,000	350,000
VAT		-	-
Remuneration due to employees		583,873	331,117
Accumulated Absences		1,357,825	1,344,230
Receipts in advance		4,473,249	4,440,803
Trade creditors		2,499,735	2,902,153
Loan interest		331,903	282,976
Capital Creditors		1,450,637	2,375,471
Creditor Accruals		23,874,394	16,582,058
Contract Payables		-	-
Total Short Term Creditors		36,502,814	30,300,049

b

Long Term Creditors		2018/19	2017/18
		£	£
Government Departments		-	-
Other Councils		-	-
Public corporations and trading funds		-	-
Bodies external to general government		-	-
Rates clawback		-	-
Remuneration due to employees		-	-
Accumulated Absences		-	-
Receipts in advance		-	-
Trade creditors		-	-
Other		50,386	60,848
Contract Payables		-	-
Total Long Term Creditors		50,386	60,848

Total Creditors	36,553,200	30,360,897
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**G8 Other cash flow disclosures**
**a Analysis of Adjustments to Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services**

Adjustment to surplus or deficit on the provision of services for non cash movements		Notes	2018/19	Restated 2017/18
			£	£
Depreciation			18,382,926	16,640,449
Impairment & downward revaluations (& non-sale derecognitions)			(6,312,957)	3,291,888
Amortisation (included with depreciation above)			-	-
(Increase)/Decrease in Inventory			49,874	(30,449)
(Increase)/Decrease in Debtors			664,797	4,676,832
Increase/(decrease) in impairment provision for bad debts			(170,658)	36,777
Increase/(Decrease) in Creditors			6,178,708	(1,688,267)
Increase/(Decrease) in Interest Creditors			-	-
Payments to NILGOSC			24,850,000	10,476,000
Carrying amount of non-current assets sold			350,000	8,612,078
AIC/WIP written off to Net Cost of Services			-	-
Contributions to Other Reserves/Provisions			4,292,409	2,148,314
Movement in value of investment properties-included above in Impairment & downward revaluations (& non-sale derecognitions)			-	-
Amounts posted to CIES from Donated Assets Account			(10,000)	-
Contract Costs			-	-
Contract Assets			-	-
Contract Liabilities			-	-
Deferred revenue			-	-
			48,275,099	44,163,622

Adjust for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities		Notes	2018/19 ed	2017/18
			£	£
Purchase of short-term (not considered to be cash equivalents) and long-term investments (includes investments in associates, joint ventures and subsidiaries)			89,928	276,792
Proceeds from the sale of PP&E, investment property and intangible assets			(430,080)	(3,445,146)
Capital grants included in "Taxation & non-specific grant income"			(3,052,865)	(2,541,228)
			(3,393,017)	(5,709,582)

**b Cash and Cash Equivalents**

		Notes	2018/19 ed	2017/18
			£	£
Cash and Bank balances			10,866,068	5,990,997
Short Term Deposits (considered to be Cash)			17,000,000	8,500,000
Short Term Investments (considered to be Cash)			-	-
Bank Overdraft			-	-
			27,866,068	14,490,997



c	Cash flows from Investing Activities		2018/19 'ed	2017/18
			£	£
	Purchase of PP&E, investment property and intangible assets		40,481,902	21,297,412
	Purchase of Short Term Investments (not considered to be cash equivalents)		-	-
	Purchase of Long Term Investments		431,000	433,000
	Other Payments for Investing Activities		1,733,342	1,682,860
	Proceeds from the sale of PP&E, investment property and intangible assets		(430,080)	(3,445,146)
	Proceeds from Short Term Investments (not considered to be cash equivalents)		-	-
	Proceeds from Long Term Investments		-	-
	Capital Grants and Contributions Received		(3,052,865)	(2,541,228)
	Other Receipts from Investing Activities		-	-
	<b>Net Cash flows from Investing Activities</b>		<b>39,163,299</b>	<b>17,426,898</b>

d	Cash flows from Financing Activities		2018/19 'ed	2017/18
			£	£
	Cash Receipts from Short and Long Term Borrowing		65,000,000	5,000,000
	Other Receipts from Financing Activities		-	-
	Cash payments for the reduction of the outstanding		-	-
	Repayment of Short and Long Term Borrowing		(38,874,042)	(4,844,736)
	Other payments for Financing Activities		-	-
	<b>Net Cash flows from Financing Activities</b>		<b>26,125,958</b>	<b>155,264</b>

#### Events after the Balance Sheet Date

Due to the McCloud/Sargeant ruling on pensions account disclosures, the past service cost of the Council's pension scheme has materially changed. Revisions have been made to all relevant prime statements and notes based on an updated IAS 19 Accounting Results Schedule prepared by the Council's actuary AON Hewitt.

#### Date of authorisation for issue

The Chief Financial Officer authorised these financial statements for issue on September 2019.



<b>Subject:</b>	Medium Term Financial Plan and Efficiency Programme
<b>Date:</b>	20 September 2019
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Ronan Cregan; Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Trevor Wallace, Head of Finance

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	This report provides an update on the priorities and work in progress to establish the efficiency agenda and associated targets for 2020/21 - 2022/23.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Note the challenges to be taken into consideration in setting the efficiency programme</li> <li>Agree an interim efficiency target of £3m for 2020/21 subject to review as the rates process progresses.</li> <li>Note that a further report on progress will be brought to Committee in October/November as part of the Rate Setting timetable.</li> <li>Agree the work streams needed to support the efficiency agenda going forward.</li> </ul>

3.0	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<p><b><u>Background</u></b></p> <p>Over the past 14 years the Council has delivered over £29m year on year cash efficiency savings. For the 2 year period 2018/19 to 2019/20, Members increased the target from £2m to £3m, the efficiencies to be realised from reductions in spend (£2.5m) and increased income (£0.5m). The potential for securing efficiencies beyond this time frame required transformational change and revised targets would be set in tandem with the priorities of the new Council.</p>
3.2	<p><b><u>Current Position</u></b></p> <p>Efficiency targets for 2020/21 and future years have not been finalised. As advised at the Strategic Policy &amp; Resources Committee meeting of 23<sup>rd</sup> August, a number of factors need to be considered as part of the rate setting process including business as usual risks, existing priorities growth priorities and efficiencies. These can be further considered in terms of uncontrollable and controllable.</p>
3.3	<p><b>Uncontrollable Costs</b></p> <p><b>Employee Related</b></p> <p>Employee related costs are one of the major uncontrollable costs faced by the Council. As advised at the Strategic Policy &amp; Resources Committee meeting of 23<sup>rd</sup> August the National Pay Award and NILGOSC Triennial Valuation will be the key pay pressures. Both are still subject to review.</p>
3.4	<p>A Regional Briefing on the Future Pay Settlement was being held by NILGA on 10<sup>th</sup> September to allow Northern Ireland Councils to consider the Trade Union Side new pay claim for the year commencing 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020. Negotiations between the Employer side and Trade Unions are ongoing.</p>
3.5	<p>The Actuary is currently in the early stages of work for the 2019 NILGOSC valuation. However, NILGOSC have advised that by the end of September they should be able to provide an estimate of what the Employers' Contribution Rates for the next three years are likely to be. Officers from Finance will be attending a seminar on 9<sup>th</sup> October and again will report back as part of the rate setting process.</p>



**Table 2**  
**Other Financial Risks**

<b>City Deal</b>	In previous years Members have agreed to include rate supported funding to help build the City Deal fund for Belfast.
<b>Belfast Agenda</b>	Cultural Strategy, Inclusive Growth Strategy and Climate Resilience
<b>Existing Capital Programme</b>	As reported to Committee in August 2019, a capital financing deficit of £526k is forecast for the 2021/22 financial year.
<b>Physical Programmes</b>	There is pressure for additional budgetary support in a number of areas including the Leisure, upgrades to parks and pitches, neighbourhood tourism, neighbourhood regeneration, Climate Resilience and Maintenance, etc.

3.9 Departments will submit growth proposals for the above additional cost pressures as part of the rate setting process. These will be scrutinised by the Chief Executive and the Director of Finance, with approved proposals brought to Committee for their consideration in November.

**Efficiencies**

3.10 As can be seen from the analysis in Table 1, early indications are that extending the previous year level of efficiencies (£3m) to the 2020/21 to 2022/23 would not fully offset the increase in uncontrollable costs. However setting an interim target of £3m for 2020/21, which will be subject to review as further work on priority areas are agreed, will allow most of the uncontrollable costs to be met from this target.

3.11 The Council is committed to ensuring that key priorities will be delivered while at the same minimising the rate burden on ratepayers. Therefore in order to support medium term planning and the delivery of future efficiencies, a number of workstreams where efficiency opportunities exist are shown in Table 3 below.

**Table 3**  
**Work Streams 2020/21 to 2022/23**

<b>Workstream</b>	<b>Areas for Review</b>
Organisation / Service Redesign / Voluntary Redundancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Savings generated through employee cost reduction in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Workforce Planning Strategy</li> <li>○ Business Support &amp; HR Reviews</li> <li>○ Customer Focus</li> <li>○ Streetscene</li> <li>○ Smart Cities</li> <li>○ Review of overtime and agency</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Procurement / Spend Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Procurement support to identify efficiency opportunities from <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Tender / Quotation savings through strategic procurement</li> <li>○ Demand management and challenge</li> <li>○ Contract management</li> <li>○ Category management</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Commercialisation / Income Maximisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Procurement support to identify efficiency opportunities from <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Maximising income from existing commercial activities</li> <li>○ Securing additional income streams</li> <li>○ Review of Zoo, Malone House, Belfast Castle</li> <li>○ Use of assets</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Rates Maximisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ongoing IRRV reviews of valuation list</li> <li>• SBRI Pilot Project</li> </ul>
Budgetary Challenge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of recurring underspends</li> <li>• Reviewing discretionary and non discretionary spend</li> </ul>

3.12

A detailed report on this programme will be brought to Committee in October.

	<p><b>Rate Base</b></p>
3.13	Members will be aware of the non domestic revaluation which will form the basis for the 2020/21 EPP. Officers will work with LPS on the impact for the Council and bring an update to Committee in October. The Acting Director of Valuation will present an overview of the revaluation exercise to Members in October.
3.14	Members will also be aware of the review of business rates. The Director of Rating Policy will make a presentation to Members on 27 <sup>th</sup> September. Updates on the EPP will be brought to Members as part of the rate setting process.
	<p><b>Next Steps</b></p>
3.15	Departments will submit their business as usual estimates for 2020/21 with zero increase on 2019/20 estimates by the end of September. They will also submit growth proposals to support the issues identified in Table 2 by the end of September. Departments will undergo a challenge on their budgetary submissions from the Chief Executive and the Director of Finance and Resources with approved submissions being brought to Committee for consideration in November.
3.16	Officers will continue to quantify the financial risks in the above areas, their impact on the revenue estimates for 2020/21 and the medium term and develop the efficiency programme to counter the cost pressures. Based on the information available at present, Members are asked to agree an indicative efficiency target for 2020/21 of £3m which will offset to a large extent the uncontrollable costs shown in Table 1. However this will be subject to ongoing review until the outcomes from the Pay Award and Employers' Pension Contributions negotiations are finally agreed.
3.17	Progress in these areas will be reported to Committee in October and November as part of the Rate Setting timetable.
	<p><b><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></b></p>
3.18	An indicative target of £3m efficiency savings for 2020/21 to be agreed by Committee. Monthly updates on estimates and additional efficiencies will be provided to Members as part of the rate setting process.



	<b><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs assessment</u></b>
3.19	None
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	None

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<b>Subject:</b>	Belfast Local Full Fibre Networks Procurement
<b>Date:</b>	20 September 2019
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Ronan Cregan; Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Paul Gribben – Head of Digital Services

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	Members will recall that the Council applied for and has now been awarded £11.5M from the Department of Culture Media and Sport's (DCMS) Local Full Fibre Networks (LFFN) Programme. Digital Services has now completed the procurement of gigabit fibre optic network services which will connect and future proof the network connections of 201 Council buildings across the city for the next 35 years.
1.2	This report provides an update on the outcome of the procurement, the potential benefits of a full fibre network for BCC and estimated timescales for delivery.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	Approval is sought to enter into a Digital Fixed Line Infrastructure Wayleave Agreement with Virgin Media in respect of the installation of electronic communication apparatus at locations within BCC ownership.

<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<p>Virgin Media has been awarded the BCC Full Fibre network contract that will connect 201 BCC sites across the city with gigabit fibre optic network connectivity.</p> <p>The new BCC gigabit fibre network will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meet our network connectivity and digital business requirements for the next 35 years,</li> <li>• Deliver almost unlimited bandwidth potential of optical fibre,</li> <li>• Provide a more secure purpose built point-to-point network,</li> <li>• Open up new possibilities for the underlying fibre infrastructure to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ support the development of new 'smart' technology initiatives now and in the future,</li> <li>○ and enable more efficient delivery of digital services like telephony and CCTV for the Council.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
3.2	<p>Virgin Media will utilise their existing fibre optic network to provide a fibre solution to Belfast City Council. 80% of the network will be provided through existing infrastructure, significantly reducing potential disruption caused by street works.</p> <p>The remaining 20% of the network will be new build, meaning that there will be some requirement for street works. Early engagement with the Highways division and Virgin Media's experience in network deployment will hopefully ensure that disruption to communities and businesses is kept to a minimum.</p>
3.3	<p>The provision of the new BCC network will provide several additional benefits by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allowing Virgin Media to extend its fibre footprint in Belfast to an increased number of businesses and communities,</li> <li>• Increasing procurement opportunities for Belfast businesses and consumers for digital connectivity,</li> <li>• Indirectly leading to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ increased investment in Belfast,</li> <li>○ encouraging economic growth,</li> <li>○ and creating new job opportunities.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
3.4	<p>Virgin Media Business' existing network footprint within Belfast ensures that implementation timescales will be much shorter than originally anticipated. It is expected that roll out of the new BCC full fibre network will be completed in under a year, with an estimated timescale for delivery of September 2020.</p>

3.5	<p>Successful delivery of the network will require assistance from several Council departments, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Estates and Legal Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Virgin Media are required to enter into a Wayleave Agreement with BCC to record the locations and terms of the installation of electronic communication apparatus at sites within BCC ownership. The final destinations of the full fibre apparatus are still to be determined, Members are requested to delegate authority to the Estates Manager and Legal Services to agree the locations and terms of the Wayleave Agreement with Virgin Media.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Facilities for power, asbestos surveys and other internal works</li> <li>• Relevant departments to provide key holders for building access</li> <li>• Planning for any required planning permissions</li> <li>• Financial planning</li> </ul>
3.6	<p>The Virgin Media proposal has also come with offers of free internet service provision and access to Virgin Media's Wi-Fi solution for a period of 5 years. These have the potential to either enhance or replace parts of the Belfast Wi-Fi service and deliver significant cost savings.</p>
3.7	<p><b>City Centre Broadband Infrastructure</b></p> <p>A second phase of the BCC Local Full Fibre Programme will attempt to improve broadband infrastructure in the City Centre.</p>
3.8	<p>Improvements to the Street Ahead zone within the city centre have resulted in the area receiving very little investment in fibre broadband infrastructure. This is due to the extremely high cost of civil works in this area as a consequence of the cost of replacing very expensive granite footpaths.</p>
3.9	<p>Some publically owned ducting assets that have never been used before are available in the City Centre. It is BCC's ambition to attempt to survey and repair these ducts so that they can be offered out to commercial broadband providers to make investment in fibre infrastructure in the City Centre commercially viable. This could potentially enable businesses in this area to avail of full fibre connectivity at a cost effective price which currently is not possible.</p>
3.10	<p>Digital Services has procured a contractor to conduct a survey of the ducting infrastructure. Survey work started in late November 2018 but could not be fully completed due to the impact of the Primark fire which sits over some of the ducting infrastructure. It is hoped that</p>

	the survey can be completed in the next few months to allow planning to begin around how these ducts can be made available to the telecoms marketplace.
	<b>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</b>
3.11	A delivery team has already been established within Digital Services to oversee the implementation of both strands of the BCC LFFN programme outlined above.
3.12	BCC will contribute the support and maintenance costs of £450,000 over the lifetime of the project funded from revenue savings released by ceasing the network links that are currently in operation across the Council's ICT network.
3.13	These savings will also allow the Council to employ an addition network engineer in Digital Services who will be needed to support a more complex and diverse network infrastructure.
3.14	<p>The cost to implement the scheme in its entirety is £9.6million.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BCC has been awarded £8M from DCMS to cover the capital costs of both strands of the LFFN programme</li> <li>• The overall contribution to the scheme from the Council is £1.6million in staff and revenue costs which represents 16% of the BCC LFFN programme costs.</li> <li>• Existing Revenue spend for our current network services will now be used to support the LFFN programme meaning that there will be no revenue growth.</li> </ul>
	<b>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</b>
3.15	None
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	None



<b>Subject:</b>	Commercial and Procurement Services Update
<b>Date:</b>	20 September 2019
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Ronan Cregan, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources and
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Noleen Bohill, Head of Commercial and Procurement Services

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	In May 2018 a report was presented to Strategic Policy and Resources committee setting out the rationale for the review of the BCC Operating Model for Procurement, highlighting the urgent nature of the review, and setting out the broad recommendations. The aim of the review was to recommend how the Council's procurement activity could be better aligned with the objectives of the Belfast Agenda.
1.2	The purpose of this report is to provide officers with an update on the implementation of the recommendations of the review and the establishment of the Council's new Commercial and Procurement Services (CPS) function.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to:

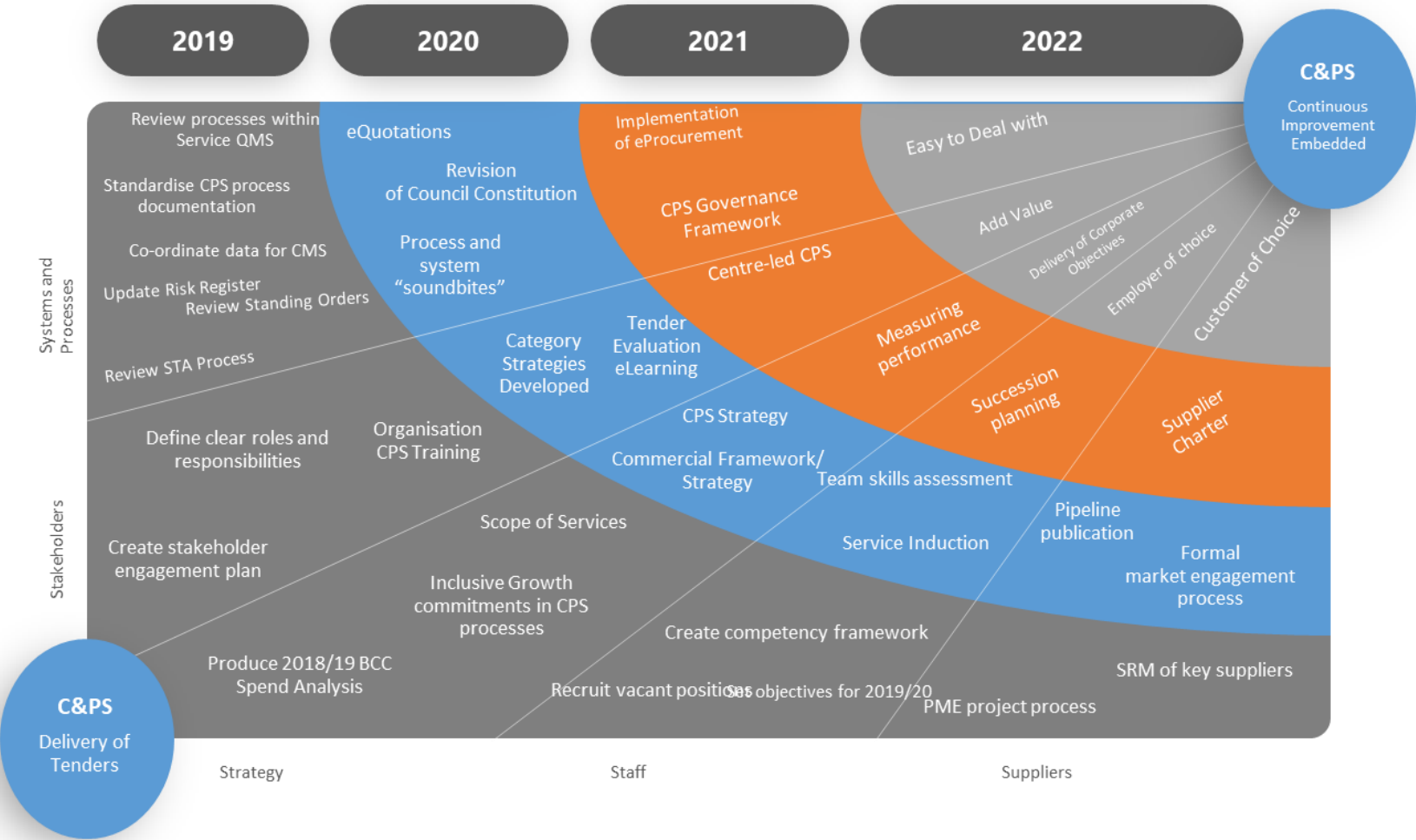


	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Note the activities detailed below which have been undertaken to establish the Council's new Commercial and Procurement Services (CPS) function.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<p><b><u>Restructure of Procurement Function</u></b></p> <p>In line with the recommendations of the review, the procurement function has been restructured so that it is better placed to support the delivery of the Belfast Agenda objectives. After a period of recruitment, we have created a new CPS function, which is led by the new Head of Commercial and Procurement Services and comprises the following operating units:</p> <p><b>Category Management Unit</b> – responsible for ensuring all categories of third-party expenditure are managed effectively and value is maximised throughout the commercial lifecycle.</p> <p><b>Procurement Development Unit</b> – responsible for developing and delivering the commercial and procurement enablers within the function and across the Council (i.e. governance, systems, policy, processes, management information and capability).</p> <p><b>Commercial Unit</b> – responsible for identifying, developing and delivering income generating opportunities across the Council's commercial operations and through third-party relationships and for establishing a commercial and business-like culture.</p>
3.2	<p><b><u>Output based Transformational Roadmap</u></b></p> <p>The CPS Management Team has developed a 3-year Transformation Roadmap for the procurement function, which incorporates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Those recommendations made as part of the review;</li> <li>The council's ambitions for the newly created CPS function; and</li> <li>Additional findings identified by the newly appointed members of the CPS team.</li> </ul> <p>The Transformation Roadmap (Appendix 1) includes a strategic, measurable, time bound and output/outcome focused set of actions/activities.</p>

3.3	<p>The Transformation Roadmap is underpinned by an ambition to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Place commercial (thinking) and procurement (practices) at the heart of the Council's decisions and operations in order to achieve better outcomes and superior value.</li> <li>• Contribute towards meeting the significant financial challenges faced by the Council.</li> <li>• Secure the best value for money by procuring the best possible services on the best terms and by driving efficiencies to deliver cashable and non-cashable benefits.</li> <li>• Support the Council's commercial effectiveness, by embedding a commercial focus and driving commercial benefits from all contracts.</li> </ul>
3.4	<p>Appendix 2 provides details the Year One priorities of the plan. A key priority will be to embed the Council's social value aspirations into procurement processes. A report on a proposed Social Value Procurement Framework and Toolkit will be brought to Committee at a later date for consideration. The new CPS function has a key role to play in maximising income opportunities as part of the Council's efficiency programme. One of the key tasks for the newly recruited Commercial Manager will be to develop a Commercial Framework. This framework will be about identifying, developing and delivering existing and new (and innovative) income generating opportunities across the Council's commercial operations.</p>
	<b>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</b>
3.5	Delivered within existing CPS budget.
	<b>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</b>
3.6	No specific equality or good relations implications.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	<p>Appendix 1: CPS 3-year Transformation Roadmap</p> <p>Appendix 2: Year One priorities</p>

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Appendix 1: CPS 3-year Transformation Roadmap



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## Appendix 2: Year One Priorities

Themes	Year 1 Priorities	Year 1 Outcomes
<b>Strategy</b>	1. Define CPS's scope of services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RACI agreed with key stakeholders.</li> </ul>
	2. Understand and define corporate approach to commercial activity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft Commercial Framework/Strategy prepared.</li> <li>• Revised Terms of Reference agreed for Commercial Panel and Commercial Panel Working Group.</li> </ul>
	3. Embed Council social value aspirations into procurement processes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social Value Procurement Framework and Toolkit developed.</li> </ul>
<b>Systems and Processes</b>	4. Develop Procurement Governance Framework.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• March 2019 audit of QMS successful.</li> </ul>
	5. Coordinate data in preparation for introduction of new Contract Management System.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interim Contract Management System in place.</li> </ul>
<b>Stakeholders</b>	6. Introduce stakeholder engagement plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular meetings established with business support managers.</li> </ul>
	7. Develop commercial and procurement related training for delivery across the organisation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CPS training plan initiated for organisation</li> </ul>
	8. Engage with stakeholders to identify and prioritise income generating opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commercial activities, including income generating opportunities, being reviewed and approved at Commercial Panel.</li> </ul>
<b>Staff</b>	9. Finalise recruitment for CPS team.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vacant posts filled.</li> </ul>
	10. Develop competency framework for CPS staff.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Competency framework developed.</li> <li>• Individual PDP/training plans prepared.</li> <li>• Key training needs addressed.</li> </ul>
<b>Suppliers</b>	11. Initiate pre-market engagement (PME) process.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PME process designed.</li> <li>• 1 x formal PME exercise completed by Category Officers.</li> <li>• Meetings with top 5 key category suppliers completed.</li> </ul>

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<b>Subject:</b>	Contracts Update
<b>Date:</b>	20 September 2019
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Ronan Cregan, Deputy Chief Executive and Director Finance and Resources
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Noleen Bohill, Head of Commercial & Procurement Services

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update members on tenders for approval and recently awarded contracts.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approve the public advertisement and acceptance of tenders <b>Appendix 1, Table 1</b> through the Council's electronic procurement system. Members are advised that these tenders will only be advertised when they have gone through the Council's internal governance process, which includes demonstrating strategic alignment with the Belfast Agenda.</li> <li>• Grant delegated authority to the appropriate Director to award the most economically advantageous tender using pre-agreed criteria.</li> <li>• Agree to accede to Standing Order 55 exceptions in relation to contracts detailed in 3.6 and <b>Appendix 1 Table 2</b></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advise Members of the contracts awarded June to August 2019 inclusive as detailed in <b>Appendix 1 Table 3</b></li> </ul>
3.0	<b>Main report</b>
	<b>Key Issues</b>
3.1	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.
3.2	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.
3.3	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).
3.4	In accordance with Standing Orders these tenders shall comply with the relevant requirements of national legislation and European directives and be overseen by Commercial and Procurement Services.
3.5	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 / Physical Programme Update reports in accordance with the approved stage approval process.
3.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Direct Award Contracts</b></li> </ul> <p>Members are asked to accede to Standing Order 55 exception in relation to contracts for the following and as per Appendix 1 Table 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Following a site inspection by the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria (EAZA) an immediate requirement for a Giraffe Stock was identified. Due to the urgency of the requirement, the Director has recommended that J&amp;G Fencing be appointed using a direct award.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At a meeting on 9th September, which was arranged to discuss the poor performance and agree the 12-month extension of Tender 641- arboriculture services, the Contractor informed the Council that they were not willing to extend the Contract for a further 12 months. This came without notice and there were no previous indications that the Contractor was not willing to extend. Due to the urgency of this requirement and based on working knowledge, the Director has recommended that Clive Richardson Ltd be appointed using a direct award until whilst a formal OJEU procurement exercise is conducted. This will be completed as soon as possible but may take up to 12 months to complete allowing for pre-market engagement, specification development, evaluation and implementation. It is recommended that the STA is awarded for an initial period of 12 months but will also include an option to renew up to a further 12 months in the event that unexpected delays occur in the procurement process e.g. legal challenge.</li> </ul>
3.7	<p><b>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</b></p> <p>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>
3.8	<p><b>Equality or Good Relations Implications</b></p> <p>No specific equality or good relations implications.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices - Documents Attached</b>
	<p>Appendix 1 Schedule of Tenders and Awarded Contracts for Consideration / Notation</p> <p>Table 1 - New tenders</p> <p>Table 2 - Direct Award Contracts (Single Tender Action)</p> <p>Table 3 – Contracts Awarded</p>

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## Appendix 1 - Schedule of Tenders and Contracts Awarded for Consideration/ Notation

**Table 1 - New Tenders**

<b>Title of Tender</b>	<b>Senior Responsible Officer</b>	<b>Proposed contract duration</b>
Tender for collection and recycling of scrap metal including abandoned vehicles	Nigel Grimshaw	Up to 4 years
Tender for the Supply of Electric Panel Vans	Nigel Grimshaw	Up to 1 year
Tender for the Supply of Diesel Panel Vans	Nigel Grimshaw	Up to 1 year
Tender for the supply and delivery of protective gloves	John Walsh	Up to 3 years
Tender for the provision of the Bobbin coffee shop franchise	John Walsh	Up to 3 years
Tender for the catering provision at City Hall functions	John Walsh	Up to 3 years

**Table 2 - Direct Award Contracts (Single Tender Action)**

<b>Title of tender</b>	<b>Supplier</b>	<b>Annual estimate</b>
Giraffe Stock at Belfast Zoo	J&G Fencing	£65,000
Continuity of service of arboriculture services	Clive Richardson Ltd	£700,000

**Table 3 – Contracts Awarded (June to August 2019)**

<b>Title of tender</b>	<b>Successful Supplier</b>	<b>Senior Responsible Officer</b>
T1963 – Delivery of a New Social Enterprise and Cooperative Programme	Work West 301 Glen Road	Alistair Reid
T1953 – Provision of an Employee Counselling Service	Apheideo Associates Regus Business Centre, Forsyth House Cromac Street Belfast BT2 8LA	John Tully
T1954 – Provision of Occupational Health Physician Services	OHRD Ltd Princes House, 44-46 Princes Street Belfast BT1 3FP	John Tully
T1966 – Delivery of a New GCSE Maths and English Revision Support Programme	West Belfast Partnership Board 218-226 Falls Road Belfast BT12 6AH	Alistair Reid
T1979 – Proposals for a Creative Lighting Programme for Christmas 2019	Galaxy Facilities Management Ltd 148 Glen Road Drumquin, Omagh BT78 4RD	Alistair Reid

T1961 – Delivery of a New Student Enterprise Programme	Deidre Fitzpatrick & Associates 64 Garland Hill Belfast BT8 6YL	John Geer
T1916 – Tender for Provision of an Asset Management System	Concerto Support Services Floor 1 & 2 Main Street Frodsham Cheshire WA16 7AB	Alistair Reid
T1922 Tender for the Supply and Delivery of Grounds Maintenance Plant and Equipment (17 Lots)	Mr Andrew Ferguson Broderick Grass Machinery NI Ltd 33A Commercial Way Mallusk BT36 4UB  Mr David Laird Laird Grass Machinery Ltd 275A Middle Road Islandmagee BT40 3TG  Mr Harry Gillespie Cyril Johnston & Co Ltd Ballynahinch Road Belfast BT8 8DJ  Mr Richard Neill Johnston Gilpin & Co Ltd 7b Lisnoe Road Lisburn BT27 5LT  Mr Andy Magowan TBF Thompson (Garvagh) Ltd 6-10 Killyvalley Road Garvagh BT51 5JZ	Nigel Grimshaw
T2002 - Tender for the supply of 8 x Loose Waste Collection Vehicles	NI Trucks Ltd 3 Mallusk Road Newtownabbey BT36 4PP	Nigel Grimshaw
T1910 - Tender for the provision of metal fabrication and welding services under general fleet maintenance (multi lot)	Lakeland Recovery 12 Kinglass Road Macken Enniskillen Co Fermanagh BT92 3FJ  R.D. Mechanical Services Ltd.	Nigel Grimshaw

	Unit 11, McKinney Industrial Estate Newtownabbey Co Antrim BT36 4PX	
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<b>Subject:</b>	Update for Bobbin catering tender
<b>Date:</b>	20 September 2019
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Walsh, City Solicitor / Director of Legal & Civic Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	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 ☐

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	This report purposes an additional service of catering unit in City Hall grounds be included in the Bobbin commercial catering tender.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approve the recommendation made in respect of a self-contained catering/coffee unit on the grounds of City Hall to be included in the Bobbin Tender. The decision asked for at this time is an in principle one and further authority would be sought with further details on the siting, scale and appearance of the unit and operating principles at a later date.</li> </ul>

<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<p><u>Background Information</u></p> <p>The contract for the Bobbin is due to be re-let following the decision of SP&amp;R on the 25 January 2019. The Director of Legal &amp; Civic Services indicated at that meeting that he was exploring opportunities to increase revenue whilst enhancing the customer experience at City Hall. The proposal contained in this report is to establish an outdoor unit for the sale of tea/coffee and refreshments which would fall within those parameters.</p>
3.2	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>Approval is sought for the inclusion of an outdoor self-contained catering unit in the Bobbin tender to offer small scale catering in the grounds of City Hall. This unit would be present during events and busy months of footfall in the grounds (dates pre-agreed with the franchisee and Function Management Unit but not including the annual Christmas and Spring Continental Market).</p>
3.3	<p>This unit would be a welcome addition to the grounds for tourists and locals to avail of tea, coffee and tray bakes whilst enjoying the grounds environment. This self-contained unit would provide revenue to the Council as part of the franchise tender and would be included as part of the contractual arrangement in respect of the Bobbin.</p>
3.4	<p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></p> <p>The cost to the Council would be the provision of amenities for the unit in the grounds – water and electric, however these costs would be managed within the tender agreement.</p>
3.5	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>There are no direct good relations or equality implications arising from this report.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	None



<b>Subject:</b>	Minutes of Shared City Partnership Meeting on 9 <sup>th</sup> September 2019
<b>Date:</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> September 2019
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Nigel Grimshaw, Strategic Director of City & Neighbourhood Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Nicola Lane, Good Relations Manager

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	The purpose of this report is to report to committee on the key issues discussed at the Shared City Partnership meeting held on 9 <sup>th</sup> September 2019.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	<p>That the Strategic Policy &amp; Resources Committee approve the minutes and the recommendations from the Shared City Partnership Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2019 including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To note the contents of the 2019 Bonfire &amp; Cultural Expression Programme report, and include the findings and recommendations within the independent monitoring and evaluation report in any deliberations regarding a framework for an approach to bonfires.</li> <li>To agree to the rescheduling of the Building Positive Relations 4 (BPR4) Belfast and the World study visit to March 2020.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That subject to the Legal Services Section confirming that the Council's Equal Opportunities Policy, in conjunction with Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 and other relevant legislation and policies, was fit for purpose, there was no requirement to adopt a separate definition in this instance, as sufficient protection was afforded to all citizens including those who were Jewish.</li> <li>• That the Chairperson of the Shared City Partnership would meet with Mr. S Jaffe, in response to his request.</li> <li>• In principle, to allocate support costs to assist with storage for donations relating to the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation scheme, including £300 this financial year and £300 the following financial year, subject to the DfC advising why it was unable to cover the costs.</li> <li>• that funding of up to £5,000 be made available for contributions of up to £500 for a maximum of ten groups to deliver the Goodwill Christmas events at interfaces across the City, with authority given to the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services to allocate funding awards;</li> <li>• that a contribution of up to £2,000 from the Good Relations budget be made available to the TASCIT group to develop a programme of Good Relations activity for the proposed Upper North Belfast Confidence Building Forum; and</li> <li>• that the Shared City Partnership would support the ongoing work of TASCIT, through providing facilitated conversations with members and Council staff, and the provision of a room and small scale hospitality as outlined.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The Shared City Partnership (formerly known as the Good Relations Partnership) is a Working Group of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee which consists of Elected members and representatives from various sectors across the city. The minutes from the Partnership are brought before the Committee for approval on a monthly basis.</p>
3.2	<p>The key issues on the agenda at the September 2019 meeting were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update on the Bonfire and Cultural Expression Programme</li> <li>• Peace IV Update</li> <li>• Paper on Anti-Semitism Definition</li> <li>• Request to pay for Storage</li> <li>• Update on Interface Working</li> <li>• Events Update</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update on Provision of English classes</li> </ul> <p>More details regarding the above issues and recommendations are included in the minutes of the meeting attached in appendix 1.</p>
3.3	<u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u> All financial implications are covered through existing budgets
3.4	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> The recommendations of the Partnership promote the work of the Council in promoting good relations and will enhance equality and good relations impacts.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1 - Copy of the minutes of the Shared City Partnership of 9 <sup>th</sup> September 2019.

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## **SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP**

**MONDAY 9th SEPTEMBER, 2019**

### **MEETING OF SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP**

Members present: Councillor Kyle (Chairperson)  
and Councillors M. Kelly,  
Magennis and Verner.

External Members: Mrs. O. Barron, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust;  
Mr. A. Cole, Good Relations, TEO;  
Mr. J. Currie, Community and Voluntary Sector;  
Mr. S. Dallas, Education Authority;  
Mr. J. Donnelly, Community and Voluntary Sector;  
Mrs. J. Hawthorne, Northern Ireland Housing Executive;  
Ms. J. Irwin, Community Relations Council;  
Mr. I. McLaughlin, Community and Voluntary Sector;  
Superintendent K. McMillan, PSNI; and  
Ms. A. M. White, British Red Cross.

In attendance: Miss. N. Lane, Good Relations Manager;  
Mrs. D. McKinney, Programme Manager;  
Mrs. M. Higgins, Senior Good Relations Officer; and  
Mrs. L. McLornan, Democratic Services Officer.

### **Apologies**

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Alderman Rodgers, Councillors Lyons and Smyth, Ms. B. Arthurs, Ms. G. Duggan, M. Y. Hannore, Ms. H. McClay and Mr. M. O'Donnell.

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 5th August, 2019 were taken as read and signed as correct.

### **Declarations of Interest**

Mr. J. Currie and Mr. J. Donnelly declared an interest in item 3, Peace IV Update, in that they were associated with bids in respect of projects and took no part in the discussion.

Mr. I. McLaughlin declared an interest in item 6, Update on Interface Working, in that he was a Member of the TASCIT Working Group and he did not participate in the discussion.

### **Update on the Bonfire and Cultural Expression Programme**

The Chairperson advised the Partnership that Dr. J. Byrne, external consultant, was in attendance to present his findings on the delivery of the Bonfire and Cultural Expression Programme 2019 and he was welcomed to the meeting.

He provided the Partnership with an overview of the findings of the report. He highlighted to the Members that 35 different events were held as part of the Bonfire and Cultural Expression programme 2019, with 10 new sites having participated. The Partnership was advised that bonfires appeared to be decreasing in size and number and that the number of beacons provided through the programme and used on 11th July had increased significantly.

Dr. Byrne advised the Partnership that, despite the media having focussed on bonfire sites which were not participating in the Council's Programme, 2019 had, in fact, been a very successful year for the Programme. He advised the Members that, prior to 8.30pm on 11th July, no sites participating in the Council's programme had any paramilitary displays or tyres on bonfires and that this progress was to be welcomed.

He also confirmed that there had been a 40% decrease in call-outs to the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service on 11th July 2019, in comparison to the previous year.

A number of Members stated that a huge amount of the progress which had been made in relation to bonfires had been community-driven and that it was to be welcomed. The Partnership suggested that officers should consider ways to promote the successes of the 2019 Programme.

The Partnership thanked Dr. Byrne for his presentation and he retired from the meeting.

The Partnership recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it note the contents of the report, and include the findings and recommendations within the independent monitoring and evaluation report in any deliberations regarding a framework for an approach to bonfires.

### **Peace IV Update**

#### **PEACE IV Secretariat**

The Partnership considered the undernoted report:

#### **"2.0 Recommendations**

**The Partnership is requested to recommend to the Strategic Policy & Resources committee that they note the contents of the report.**

#### **3.0 Key Issues**

**3.1 Implementation of the programme is continuing, with 12 out of 14 core projects now mobilised. An overview of the different aspects of programme implementation is outlined in the PEACE IV Programme Dashboard detailed in Appendix I.**

#### **3.2 Governance**

#### **3.3 Shared City Partnership (SCP)**

**Signing of Supplemental Agreement PEACE IV Partnership by new members is progressing.**



### **3.4 Thematic Steering Groups (TSG)**

New members are being identified for the Thematic Steering Groups for Building Positive Relations (BPR) and Children and Young People (CYP) as previously approved by SCP.

### **3.5 Monitoring and Evaluation**

Advice on the revised monitoring and evaluation system has been provided by SEUPB and NISRA. Feedback from delivery agents on the revised process has been positive and it will be rolled out across all projects.

### **3.6 PEACE IV Work Programme – Culture Café**

As part of the wider PEACE IV programme of events, a ‘Culture Café’ programme is currently being developed. The first events will be launched alongside the Good Relations Strategy on 20 September 2019 in Crumlin Road Gaol as part of Good Relations week.

3.7 The events will be delivered in local communities across the city in a café style session and are aimed at celebrating the many different cultures in Belfast. The format and structure of the culture café will challenge people’s views, tackle taboo subjects and engage with hard to reach citizens.

### **3.7 Secretariat Staffing**

Following the resignation of the Project Development Officer in May 2019 and a recent recruitment exercise, Rachel Fulton has been appointed to this role. Rachel’s previous post as PEACE IV Programme Support is currently been advertised.

### **3.8 Financial & Resource Implications**

Claims for Period 19 (May-Jul 19) is progressed for submission to SEUPB by 28 August 2019, forecasted spend for each theme is as follows:

Children and Young People	£148,558.16
Building Positive Relations	£100,971.20
Shared Space and Services	£121,423.15

Expenditure is approximately £77,887 below the forecasted spend target. However this is attributable to invoices not be processed during the period. The spend has been incurred and will be processed in Period 20.

SEUPB has advised that revised Expenditure Targets are to be issued in due course.

### **3.9 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment**

**The draft plan has been equality screened and discussed at the Equality Consultative Forum on 13 May 2015.”**

The Partnership adopted the recommendations.

#### **Children and Young People**

The Programme Manager provided the Partnership with a progress report in respect of the Children and Young People's (CYP) theme of the Peace IV Local Action Plan.

She reminded the Members that all projects within the CYP theme had now been mobilised.

She advised the Members of a number of the challenges which had impacted upon project delivery, and which had resulted in a shortfall in outputs and participant targets. The Partnership was advised that the project delivery agent had implemented some remedial measures to address the issues.

Under CYP1 – Tech Connects, the Programme Manager explained that, over the summer, the project had delivered a programme for 20 young people, aged 11-16 from Clonard Youth Club and Ledley Hall, and included a cross border story telling session in Carlingford and an after school programme with 51 young people, aged 6-10, from Kinderkids and the Vine Centre.

She outlined that the project had also planned a further 2 groups from North and West of the City to commence Tech Camp programmes in September, and that engagement had begun with 4 groups in South and East Belfast for programmes to commence in February 2020.

The Partnership was advised that 6 Primary Schools had signed up for Afterschool Programmes commencing this month, with a further 4 programmes commencing in December 2019. She highlighted that, by December 2019, the project would have 7 new after school clubs established.

Under CYP5 – NIHE Local Area Networks project, she explained that the Northern Ireland Housing Executive had provided additional in-kind resources to aid the delivery of the project to assist with accurate record keeping, monitoring and evaluation.

The Good Relations Manager advised the Partnership that the previous CYP Thematic Project Manager had recently been appointed as the Safer City Co-Ordinator within the Council, and that the recruitment exercise for the post was currently being progressed by Human Resources.

The Partnership noted the update and recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it note the progress as detailed in the report.

## **Shared Spaces and Services**

The Partnership considered the undernoted report:

### **“2.0     Recommendations”**

The Partnership is requested to recommend to the Strategic Policy & Resources committee that they note the contents of the report.

### **3.0     Key Issues**

Implementation of both the Shared Space & Services (SSS) capital and programming element is continuing on a phased basis. The current focus is on Sections 2 and 3 located at Springfield Dam, Springfield Park, Paisley Park and INI sites. Then progression on to Section 4 at Bog Meadows.

### **3.2     Capital Works**

The procurement process for the appointment of a contractor for Springfield Dam is being completed, tender assessment and moderation of the package of works has concluded, with the costs currently being validated.

However, Council cannot proceed to award a tender without planning permission being in place and to that end a validity period of 120 days has been included in the tender.

With regard to the overall Peace IV Scheme the PQQ process has recently completed with the Design Team working towards moderation of submissions to enable progression to ITT (Invitation to Tender) stage.

Two further major planning applications are to be submitted in December 2019 and January 2020 for Section 2 and Section 4 of the route. The PAD meeting in respect of Section 2 & Section 4 proved useful in terms of liaising with Statutory Representatives in attendance but it should be noted that not all statutory bodies were represented in order to facilitate timely conversation/meetings round and planning/environmental concerns.

Going forward the key priorities for the capital aspect of the project are:

- Ongoing site surveys
- Assessment of Peace IV Contractor PQQ returns
- Liaison with DfI to determine agreed programme of works
- Springfield Dam – tender award once planning permission has been achieved
- Concept Design report to be revised to reflect Cupar Way Section (CE02)
- Develop Detailed Design for Section 1

- Develop Detailed Design for Section 2, landscaping plans
- Section 2 Pre Application Notice (PAN) submitted with Community Consultation events planned in support of a planning application
- Re-run Ground Investigation tender based on issues with estimated costs
- Revised Procurement of Section 3 & 4 topographical surveys

### **3.3 Engagement**

#### **Consultation/Publication Information Sessions**

Following a PAD meeting with BCC Planners in relation to Planning Applications for Section 2 (Ballygomartin to Springfield Road (includes INI site) and Section 4 Bog Meadows dates for public consultation/drop in sessions have been confirmed as below. Also refer to Appendix I

The drop-in sessions are advertised in local press and social media and will enable statutory bodies, community groups/organisations and members of the public, to view and input into plans and also identify potential programming opportunities.

#### **Section 2 – Ballygomartin Road to Springfield Road**

Wednesday 4 September – Forthspring Centre - 373-375 Springfield Rd, Belfast BT12 7DG

- 10am to 2pm and 4pm to 8 pm

Thursday 5 September – Farset International - 466 Springfield Rd, Belfast BT12 7DW

- 10am to 2pm and 4pm to 8 pm

#### **Section 4 – Bog Meadows**

Wednesday 6 November – St John's Parish Hall - 444 Falls Rd, Belfast BT12 6EN

- 10am to 2pm and 4pm to 8pm

Thursday 7 November – Park Centre - Donegall Rd, Belfast BT12 6HN

- 10am to 2pm and 4pm to 8pm

### **3.4 Official Launch**

The date of Wednesday 27 November 2019, from 10 am to 12.30, is the provisional date for the official launch of the Peace IV

Reconnecting Open Spaces Project, although this is subject to securing planning approval.

Further details on the event will be confirmed following discussion with all stakeholders. It is likely to take the form of a sod cutting ceremony on site, followed by speeches either on site or in Farset International, which will, provide a backdrop to Springfield Dam for media/press.

It is suggested speakers include Lord Mayor, Chair of SP&R (Alderman Kingston), Chair of Shared City Partnership (Councillor Kyle), Gina McIntyre, Chief Executive of SEUPB.

Members should note the provisional date for the launch and hold in their diaries. Formal invitations will follow in due course.

### **3.5 Branding**

As the project moves towards detailed design and to comply with the Letter of Offer conditions there is need to put in place a consistent approach to branding and supporting message throughout the scheme in line with the principles of shared space. This requires a name to be selected, information panels, light boxes and illumination panels, features signage panels, directional signage and way finders signage to be designed and commissioned.

Information for interpretative panels will be source through ongoing programming work and developed into a format which can be included on panels.

Assistant Project Manager and Project Sponsor are to work with the Corporate Communications Officer to pull together a tender for issue at the end of August/start of September with a view to having a confirmed name and brand identity for the project launch in November. Brand identity proposals are to be considered by the SCP in due course..

### **3.6 Gates at INI/Workman Avenue**

Following a recent meeting between BCC and INI there is agreement that both works will be undertaken in tandem in the form of one works package, procured and managed by INI.

Works to the gate at Workman Avenue may require planning permission and Officers are clarifying the position regarding planning for the proposals to Workman Avenue gates. If planning is required, this will dictate the timeframe for completion of the works.

INI and BCC are working in partnership to ensure an acceptable solution for local communities around provision of an access control system. Once a suitable system has been identified and

planning requirements confirmed further consultation will be undertaken with local residents and key stakeholders.

### **3.7 Programming**

An overview of project progress is outlined in Appendix II – SSS Project Progress.

Following a project initiation meeting, Clonard Monastery Youth Centre has accepted the contract for the Youth Civic Education pilot project targeting young people around the Springfield Dam, Innovation Factory and Invest NI site. Participants will be involved in cross community workshops addressing ASB, sectarianism, racism, mediation, etc. with recruitment of participants underway. The first project update meeting is scheduled for 10 September 19.

An intergenerational programme, targeted at the communities across the open space network is being developed and should be issued early October 2019. This project will focus on local history, identity, culture, etc. with facilitated cross community workshops. This will enable participants to contribute to the development of story-boards / interpretative panels as part of the branding exercise.

Engagement with the community on suitable programmes to animate and use the connected spaces is ongoing.

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

The draft plan has been equality screened and discussed at the Equality Consultative Forum on 13 May 2015.”

The Partnership was advised that Planning Permission remained a risk to the capital aspect. The Programme Manager explained that both SEUPB and CPD were represented on the Capital Project Board and were aware of the issue. She advised the Members that the Council was following up with necessary agencies and planning.

The Partnership adopted the recommendations.

### **Building Positive Relations**

The Programme Manager provided the Partnership with an overview of the 5 projects within the Building Positive Relations theme. She advised the Members that the Peace IV team would continue to work closely with all delivery agents to monitor progress and address challenges as they arose.

In relation to BPR1, Cross Community Area Networks, she explained that a revised Partner Agreement and Project Partner Delivery Document had been issued to the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, and that NIHE was currently recruiting project staff.

With regards to BPR3, Transform for Change Project, the Programme Manager advised the Partnership that NICVA and consortium partners were beginning to mobilise the

project with a targeted engagement and recruitment plan underway. The Members were reminded of correspondence which had been issued asking for their involvement in the project

In relation to BPR5, Supporting Connected Communities, the Partnership was advised that a Cultural Festival would be taking place on 17th September in Girdwood, with invitations sent to Members in due course. The Programme Manager also outlined that, in relation to the Traveller and Roma elements of the project, discussions were ongoing to identify a suitable delivery mechanism and project content.

In terms of BPR4, Belfast and the World, she highlighted to the Members that a civic event on Playing together and Playing apart would take place on 17th September at the National Football Stadium, Windsor Park at 7p.m. and that all Members were welcome to attend. She also pointed out that, due to a delay in approvals, it was requested that the Partnership would agree to reschedule the first EU study visit under BPR4 to March 2020. She explained that this would allow two additional cohorts, of up to 80 participants, to have completed the programme which would increase the recruitment pool.

The Partnership noted the update which had been provided and recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it would agree to the rescheduling of the Building Positive Relations 4 (BPR4) Belfast and the World study visit to March 2020.

### **Paper on Anti- Semitism Definition**

The Partnership considered the undernoted report, in conjunction with the accompanying appendices:

#### **1.0 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To update Members on the advice received by the Equality Commission NI and the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission as to whether it would be appropriate for the Council to specifically adopt a definition in respect of one particular group and not other minority groups living in Northern Ireland.**

#### **2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1 The Partnership is asked to consider advice received from the Equality Commission NI and the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission as to whether it would be appropriate for the Council to specifically adopt a definition in respect of one particular group and not other minority groups living in Northern Ireland.**
- 2.2 Subsequently, members are asked to consider if the Council should adopt the definition of ant-Semitism as outlined in the motion to Council in January 2019.**
- 2.3 In addition, the Partnership is asked to advise on the request from Mr S Jaffe from the Northern Ireland Friends of Israel to address the Partnership.**

### **3.0 Main report**

#### **Key Issues**

- 3.1 At the last meeting of the Shared City Partnership in March 2019, members had agreed that consideration of the motion on the definition of anti-Semitism would be deferred to enable officers to obtain advice from the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission and the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland as to whether it would be appropriate for the Council to specifically adopt a definition in respect of one particular group and not other minority groups living in Northern Ireland.
- 3.2 The motion, had been proposed at the Council meeting in January 2019 by Councillor Craig and seconded by Councillor Long under the heading 'Motion – Definition of Anti-Semitism insofar as it relates to the definition of anti-Semitism.
- 3.3 It was requested that the following definition of anti-Semitism be adopted:
- 'Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred towards Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed towards Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.'*
- 3.4 The motion had been subsequently forwarded to the Partnership by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for consideration.
- 3.5 A copy of the definition and the associated examples as published by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance and referred to in the original notice of motion as requested are attached at Appendix 1 for members' information.
- 3.6 This is the definition used by the UK government, Scottish government and the Welsh Assembly. A number of other local councils use it, as do the police, CPS and judiciary. It is also the definition that the Belfast Jewish Community have asked the Council to consider.
- 3.7 Members had considered the proposed wording and the various points for consideration that had been highlighted in a previous report. During discussion, it became apparent that the members felt that this matter should not be considered in isolation and felt that it was important to take into account a range of views on the issue.
- 3.8 The Members had also referred to the request from Mr. S. Jaffe from the Northern Ireland Friends of Israel to address the Partnership.



- 3.9 The Partnership agreed that consideration of the matter would be deferred to enable officers to obtain advice from the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission and the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland as to whether it would be appropriate for the Council to specifically adopt a definition in respect of one particular group and not other minority groups living in Northern Ireland.
- 3.10 Subsequently, a copy of the correspondence from both the Equality Commission of Northern Ireland and the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission is attached for members' attention.
- 3.11 The advice given by ECNI to employers and service providers is based on anti-discrimination laws. These laws do not use or define the term anti-Semitism, but does prohibit discrimination against Jewish people, amongst others, on the grounds of race, religious belief and political opinion in relation to the wide range of activities regulated by the laws including services provided by Councils. Belfast City Councils' equal opportunities policy opposes discrimination on the grounds of race, religious belief and political opinion, therefore it implicitly opposes discrimination against Jewish people, amongst others, on those grounds too.
- 3.12 In addition, the term good relations is not defined in the relevant sections of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 or in the Race Relations NI Order 1997. The Section 75 (2) duties would encompass Jewish people amongst the various religious and racial groups between who the Council is obliged to have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations.
- 3.13 The correspondence from NIHRC reflects that the atrocities of the Holocaust led to the development of the modern human rights framework with the purpose of ensuring that such grave acts and omissions would never occur again. Therefore adopting a human rights based approach to laws, policies, guidance and practices at all levels offers a solid foundation for delivering on this promise.
- 3.14 Anti- Semitism is an issue that engages the right to freedom from racial discrimination and right to freedom of religion. The correspondence outlines the various human rights treaties, along with relevant sections and articles which the UK has ratified and is therefore, bound by the obligations therein.
- 3.15 These include the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD); the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR).
- 3.16 The identified human rights standards are not prescriptive in terms of how these obligations are respected, protected and fulfilled, However, CERD, Article 2 (2) requires that:

*‘State Parties shall, when the circumstances so warrant, take, in the social, economic, cultural and other fields, special and concrete measures to ensure the adequate development and protection of certain racial groups or individuals belonging to them, for the purpose of guaranteeing them the full and equal enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms. These measures shall in no case entail as a consequence the maintenance of unequal or separate rights for different racial groups after the objectives for which they were taken have been achieved.’*

- 3.17 The UN CERD has provided guidance on developing special measures for specific groups including non-citizens, indigenous peoples and persons of African descent. The UN Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief is currently drafting a report specifically on anti-Semitism for the United Nations General Assembly which is due to be published in September 2019.
- 3.18 Both the ECNI & NIHRC advise that the adoption of a particular definition of anti- Semitism is ultimately a matter for the Council. From the ECNI perspective, However, Council would have to consider the implications of adopting a definition for one group in the context of other related Council policies and take into account equality scheme commitments in the relation to the development of any policies including the passing of resolutions that fall within the function of council.
- 3.19 From a human rights perspective, any definition of anti- Semitism should be in line with human rights standards, particularly CERD, Article 2 (2) quoted in 3. There is also nothing to preclude Belfast City Council from developing a similar approach to other forms of discrimination affecting specific groups.
- 3.20 To assist in reaching a decision, NIHRC outline the three key human rights considerations that should be taken in to account:
1. Do the circumstances warrant the creation of a definition?
  2. Is the definition’s purpose to ensure the adequate development and protection of a certain racial group or individuals belonging to that group, and in order to guarantee that group the full and equal enjoyment of human rights and freedoms?
  3. Does the definition in any case, create, as a consequence, the maintenance of unequal or separate rights for different racial groups after the objectives for creating such a definition has been achieved?

The above considerations should be guided by the principles of proportionality and legitimate aim.

- 3.21 Therefore, based on the 2 sets of correspondence, there is nothing to preclude Council from adopting a definition of anti-Semitism but any definition should be in line with Human Rights standards.

Council could also develop a similar approach to other forms of discrimination affecting specific groups.

- 3.22 ECNI has advised that from their point of view, current anti-discrimination laws, which Council adheres to, and the Council's Equal Opportunities policy both implicitly prohibit and oppose discrimination against Jewish people, amongst others, on the grounds of race, religious belief or political opinion.
- 3.23 Taking into account the 3 key considerations prior to reaching a decision as outlined in the NIHRC response in 3.20, Members are asked to consider the following issues:
- Are the current anti-discrimination laws and policies, as outlined in both sets of correspondence, which the Council are bound by adequate to protect Jewish people or individuals belonging to that group and sufficient in ensuring that Jewish people are not discriminated against on the grounds of race, religious belief or political opinion?
  - Do members think that adopting a separate definition for anti-Semitism is required in order to guarantee that Jewish people have the full and equal enjoyment of human rights and freedoms? On the other hand, does existing law and policy ensure this enjoyment is already in place?
  - If the answer is yes to the above two questions, members are asked to consider what would be the purpose of adopting a separate definition.
  - If the answer is no, members are asked to consider would there be a consequence to adopting the definition in terms of unequal or separate rights for different racial groups.
  - How would the adoption of such a definition impact positively on equality and good relations within the City?

Lastly, is the adoption of such a definition been guided by the principles of proportionality and legitimate aim?

- 3.24 In relation to some of the examples given as part of the wider definition of anti-Semitism, Members should note there is a distinction between free political speech and that which may be viewed as discriminatory. The right of freedom of expression is considered to have an elevated status in the context of political debate.
- 3.25 Members consideration of the advice from the received from the Equality Commission NI and the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission as to whether it would be appropriate for the Council to specifically adopt a definition in respect of one particular group and not other minority groups living in Northern Ireland.

- 3.26 In addition, the Partnership is asked to advise on the request from Mr S Jaffe from the Northern Ireland Friends of Israel to address the Partnership.

#### **Financial & Resource Implications**

There are no direct resource implications in terms of staff time or additional costs associated with this request

#### **Equality or Good Relations Implications**

All Council Strategies and policies are screened to look at the impact of such a policy or Strategy on groups listed under Section 75 which includes different religious, political or racial backgrounds. If a policy is deemed to have a potentially negative impact, then the Council must explore mitigating actions to alleviate the negative impact.”

During discussion, Members felt that the current policies and legislation outlined in the report provided sufficient protection for all citizens, including the Jewish community.

Accordingly, the Partnership agreed, subject to the Legal Services Section confirming that the Council’s Equal Opportunities Policy, in conjunction with Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 and other relevant legislation and policies, was fit for purpose, to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that there was no requirement to adopt a separate definition in this instance, as sufficient protection was afforded to all citizens including citizens who were Jewish. The Partnership agreed also that the Chairperson of the Shared City Partnership would meet with Mr. S Jaffe, in response to his request.

#### **Request for Support Costs for the Storing of Donations for the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme**

The Partnership considered the undernoted report:

##### **“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**

- 1.1 To advise members of a request from the Department for Communities, who have written to each of the 11 Councils seeking support costs for the storing of donations in relation to the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme (SVPRS).

##### **2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1 Members are asked to recommend to the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee to allocate support costs to assist with storage for donations relating to the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation scheme, including £300 for this financial year and £300 for the following financial year.

### **3.0 Main report**

- 3.1 Members will be aware that since December 2015 over 1500 individuals have been resettled across Northern Ireland as part of the Syrian Vulnerable Person's relocations scheme (SVPRS).**
- 3.2 The SVPR Scheme resettles displaced refugees who are currently living in camps in countries neighbouring Syria, including Turkey, Jordan and Lebanon. The Scheme is based on need. It prioritises those who cannot be supported effectively in their region of origin: women and children at risk, people in severe need of medical care and survivors of torture and violence.**
- 3.3 The Department for Communities, who are the lead department overseeing the operation of the scheme in Northern Ireland, has written to each of the 11 Councils seeking support costs for the storing of donations in relation to the scheme.**
- 3.4 The regular arrival of the Syrian refugees is still generating expressions of good will from the public. The many donations of food and essential household items are kept at the Storehouse North Down. The Storehouse is an ideal space to collect, hold, sort and distribute the items received, with volunteers from the Kiltonga Christian Centre helping with the sorting and distribution.**
- 3.5 To maintain the space required, Storehouse require financial assistance and as such they are requesting £300 for this financial year and for the following financial year from each of the 11 Councils to meet the storage costs.**

### **Financial & Resource Implications**

**The £600 costs associated with this could be covered within the annual Good Relations Action Plan, 75% of which is recouped by the Executive Office under the District Council's Good Relations Programme.**

### **Equality or Good Relations Implications**

**There are no anticipated negative equality and good relations implications."**

During discussion, a number of Members queried why the Department for Communities (DfC) was not able to cover the cost for the storage from within their own funds.

After further discussion, the Partnership agreed to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, in principle, to allocate support costs to assist with storage for donations relating to the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation scheme, including £300 this financial year and £300 the following financial year, subject to the DfC advising why it was unable to cover the costs.

### **Update on Interface Working**

(Mr. I. McLaughlin declared an interest in this item as he was a Member of the TASCIT Working Group, and he did not participate in the discussion).

The Senior Good Relations Officer provided the Partnership with an update on the current and potential interface projects which were being delivered through the District Council Good Relations Programme.

The Good Relations Manager advised the Partnership that, each year, the Good Relations Unit provided financial support for communities to come together to celebrate at small-scale “Christmas Goodwill” events across the interface. She outlined that provision had been agreed within the current Good Relations Plan for a maximum of 10 events to take place, costing no more than £500 each. She explained that a call for applications would be issued in early October, and, in order to ensure that the successful groups would be advised of a decision in a timely manner, it was requested that the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services be given delegated authority to award the funding. The Members were advised that a report on the funding awards would be brought to the Partnership in due course.

She also outlined that a request for funding had been received from the Twaddell, Ardoyne and Shankill Communities in Transition (TASCIT) for £2,000, to cover meetings, venue hire and hospitality, for the development of a programme of Good Relations activity through the formation of an Upper North Belfast Confidence Building Forum.

The Partnership was also advised that TASCIT had requested Good Relations support in facilitating a number of visits to the Council as part of its “Challenging Conversations” course. The Members were advised that the course would involve dialogue and training sessions across Ardoyne, Woodvale and Glenbryn to explore issues of culture and identity. The Good Relations Manager explained that the only financial costs associated with the request were the provision of a room and small-scale hospitality in the City Hall.

The Partnership noted the update and agreed:

1. that funding of up to £5,000 be made available for contributions of up to £500 for a maximum of ten groups to deliver the Goodwill Christmas events at interfaces across the City, with authority given to the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services to allocate funding awards;
2. that a contribution of up to £2,000 from the Good Relations budget be made available to the TASCIT group to develop a programme of Good Relations activity for the proposed Upper North Belfast Confidence Building Forum; and
3. that the Shared City Partnership would support the ongoing work of TASCIT, through providing facilitated conversations with members and Council staff, and the provision of a room and small scale hospitality as outlined.

### **Events Update**

The Good Relations Manager advised the Partnership that the Launch of the new Good Relations Strategy would take place at 1.30pm, on 20th September, in the Crumlin Road Gaol. She also pointed out that an event was taking place as part of the Decade of Centenaries,

entitled The Spanish Flu Pandemic and its Impact on Belfast, at 6.30pm, on 3rd October at the City Hall. All Members of the Partnership were invited to attend both events.

### **Update on Provision of English Classes**

The Good Relations Manager reminded the Partnership that it had previously received a presentation on the Council's Language Strategy and that Members had raised questions in relation to the provision of English Language classes for new residents to the City, whose first language was not English.

The Partnership had previously requested that officers would liaise with The Executive Office (TEO) and the relevant Department to ascertain their findings in relation to the current provision of English language classes and, if gaps were identified, what options were available to improve the provision.

The Manager explained that the Department for the Economy (DfE) was the policy lead on the delivery of English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL).

She explained that ESOL was delivered through DfE's network of 6 regional FE colleges, which had worked to develop a curriculum for ESOL courses at pre-entry level up to Level 3 in reading, writing, speaking and listening. She advised the Partnership that the colleges had delivered approximately 4,000 ESOL enrolments and committed approximately £3m in resource each academic year. In addition, she explained that the Voluntary and Community Sector also provided ESOL classes.

The Partnership was advised that ESOL provision was free for refugees, asylum seekers and those granted humanitarian protection. The Manager highlighted that numbers participating in the classes had increased considerably since the introduction of the government's Syrian Vulnerable Person's Relocation Scheme (SVPRS). She explained that responsibilities in relation to SVPRS were fulfilled by the administration of Home Office funding, and, to date, approximately £745,000 additional funding had been allocated across 90 projects in both the FE colleges and the voluntary and community sector since 2017/2018, to improve SVPRS participants' integration experience and employability.

The Partnership was advised that co-ordinated use of the community and voluntary provision acted as an important first step towards formal classes which could lead to accreditation and that it played a key role in enabling asylum seekers and refugees the opportunity to develop their language skills and to help with their integration.

The Members were advised that other devolved administrations had highlighted the importance of better strategic links and planning to improve the availability of information on ESOL provision, progression routes from informal learning paths and creating routes for learners with specific vocational needs.

The Manager explained that the ESOL NI website had been launched in June 2018 to raise awareness of the availability of ESOL classes throughout NI and that the website was available in numerous different languages.

The Partnership was advised that the issue of waiting lists was investigated by the Department and it was found that 19 students, 3 of whom were SVPRS, were on waiting lists for any ESOL provision, some of whom were on waiting lists to progress to a higher level.

The Partnership noted the update which had been provided and agreed to send any comments on the report to the Manager.

Chairperson





<b>Subject:</b>	Rural Needs: Annual Monitoring Report 18-19
<b>Date:</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> September 2019
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Walsh, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Stella Gilmartin, Equality & Diversity Officer Lisa McKee, Democratic Services Officer

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of report or summary of main issues</b>
1.1	The purpose of this report is to submit for approval the Council's Rural Needs Annual Monitoring Return to the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) for 2018-2019.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approve the Council's Annual Monitoring Return to (DAERA) for 2018-2019, on a holding basis, subject to ratification by the Council at its meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> October.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<u>Background</u> The Council has a statutory duty under the Rural Needs (NI) Act 2016 to consider rural needs in the development of new policies, plans or strategies or in any service

	design/delivery decisions. The rural population of Belfast is approximately 1,484 people comprising the small settlements of Edenderry, Hannahstown and Loughview.
3.2	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The requirement to monitor and report applied to all Northern Ireland departments and district councils from 1<sup>st</sup> June 2017. The Council is required under section 3(1) of the Act to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compile information on the exercise of its functions under section 1(1) of the Act;</li> <li>• Include that information in their annual report; and</li> <li>• Send that information to DAERA on the Rural Needs Annual Monitoring Return</li> </ul> <p>The Rural Needs Annual Monitoring return relating to the period April 2018 – March 2019 is set out in <b>Appendix 1</b>. The Council currently does not have an annual report. However, a copy of this return, together with the RNIAs mentioned therein will be published on the Council's website.</p>
3.3	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>Officers from across the organisation are involved in completing Rural Needs Impact Assessments and the Equality and Diversity Unit have corporate responsibility for collating this information.</p>
3.4	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>The actions outlined contribute to our legal compliance regarding the implementation of the rural needs duty.</p>
4.0	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1: Rural Needs Annual Monitoring Return

## Appendix 1 - Template for Information to be Compiled

### Information to be compiled by Public Authorities under Section 3(1)(a) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.

(To be completed and included in public authorities' own annual reports and submitted to DAERA for inclusion in the Rural Needs Annual Monitoring Report).

Name of Public Authority:

Reporting Period: April 20  to March 20

The following information should be compiled in respect of each policy, strategy and plan which has been developed, adopted, implemented or revised and each public service which has been designed or delivered by the public authority during the reporting period.

<i><b>Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016<sup>1</sup>.</b></i>	<i><b>The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to<sup>2</sup>.</b></i>	<i><b>Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service<sup>3</sup>.</b></i>
Age Friendly Belfast Plan 2018-2019	Improved Wellbeing Plan	While there was no specific proposals for rural areas, more detailed planning will consider any potential impacts on rural areas as they are progressed
Stadium Community Benefits Initiative	Sports Development	No rural needs were identified
Belfast Inner North West Masterplan	Regeneration Plan	No rural needs were identified
Belfast Regional City Deal	Government Initiative	This is at an early stage and the full impact on rural areas have yet to be finalised

<b><i>Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016<sup>1</sup>.</i></b>	<b><i>The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to<sup>2</sup>.</i></b>	<b><i>Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service<sup>3</sup>.</i></b>
Recruitment Procedures – proposal to consider filling permanent posts by internal trawls	Internal Recruitment Policy	No rural needs were identified
Introduction of a Stacked Wheelie Box Recycling Scheme to Households in Belfast	Waste Recycling Service Redesign	No rural needs were identified
Decision to approve an application by Radius Housing Association for a Dual Language Street Nameplate to be erected in Rose Street, Belfast	Dual Language Street Naming	No rural needs were identified
Development of a Belfast Planning Service Structural Review Voluntary Alignment Process for Staff on NICS Terms and Conditions	Internal staff Process	No rural needs were identified
Language Strategy Action Plan – October 2018 – March 2020	Language Strategy Implementation	No rural needs were identified
Amateur Boxing Strategy for Belfast 2012 – 2022 – additional funding to IABA to deliver action plans for 17/18 and 18/19	Sports Development	No rural needs were identified
Illuminate Project – Colour Wash Facilities on City Hall for International Day of Human Rights (Irish Language)	Facilities Management	No rural needs were identified

<b><i>Description of the activity undertaken by the public authority which is subject to section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016<sup>1</sup>.</i></b>	<b><i>The rural policy area(s) which the activity relates to<sup>2</sup>.</i></b>	<b><i>Describe how the public authority has had due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising the policy, strategy or plan or when designing or delivering the public service<sup>3</sup>.</i></b>
Buddy Scheme – support to staff affected by cancer and other chronic illnesses	Internal staff scheme	No rural needs were identified
New Staff Rotas at Belfast Zoo from April 2019	Internal staff service redesign	No rural needs were identified
Disability Action Plan 2019-2022	Legislative Requirement under Disability Duties	No rural needs were identified
Aquatics Strategy for Belfast 2018-2030	Sports Development	No rural needs were identified
Revised Domestic violence Policy	Internal staff policy	No rural needs were identified
Achieving Through People Framework	Internal staff framework	No rural needs were identified
Belfast Green and Blue Infrastructure Plan	Regeneration Plan	No rural needs were identified
Developer Contributions Framework	Regeneration Framework	No rural needs were identified

Training and awareness of the rural needs duty have been aligned to those processes currently in place for section 75 compliance. We currently report quarterly on this duty to our Corporate Management Team and Strategic Policy and Resources Committee. The Council does not currently have an annual report. However, this return together with RNIAs will be published on our website and can be accessed here: <http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/council/equality/screening-outcome.aspx>

## NOTES

1. This information should normally be contained in section 1B of the RNIA Template completed in respect of the activity.
2. This information should normally be contained in section 2D of the RNIA Template completed in respect of the activity.
3. The information contained in sections 3D, 4A & 5B of the RNIA Template should be considered when completing this section.

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<b>Subject:</b>	ONUS Annual Awards Ceremony 2019
<b>Date:</b>	20 September 2019
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Christine Sheridan, Head of Human Resources

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	The purpose of this report is to seek approval to provide additional hospitality at the Onus 10 <sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Ceremony at the City Hall on 19 November 2019.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agree the provision of additional hospitality at the ONUS 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Ceremony.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
	<u>Key issues</u>
3.1	Onus is a social enterprise organisation offering best practice advice and specialist training on domestic violence and abuse for employers and their staff. The Council has participated in the Onus Workplace Charter since 2013 and last year was presented with the Platinum

	Award (the highest award available). The award involves an annual assessment process to ensure that best practice is sustained.
3.2	<p>The annual award ceremonies are hosted by participating organisations, in most instances other councils, with last year's event hosted by Lisburn and Castlereagh Council. At its meeting in June, SP&amp;R Committee agreed to a request from Onus for the use of the City Hall for this year's award ceremony taking place on 19 November 2019 and the provision of hospitality (tea, coffee and biscuits). Since committee approval in June, Onus has requested the additional provision of a light finger buffet. It is our understanding that such hospitality has been provided at previous awards ceremonies by the host organisation.</p> <p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></p>
3.3	<p>Financial</p> <p>It is anticipated that the associated costs will be approximately £1,400. These costs will be covered by the existing Organisational Development budget.</p>
3.5	<p>Human Resources</p> <p>There are no Human Resources implications.</p>
3.6	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>There are no adverse equality or rural needs implications.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	None





**Belfast**  
City Council

<b>Subject:</b>	Requests for use of the City Hall and the provision of Hospitality
<b>Date:</b>	20 September 2019
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Walsh, City Solicitor / Director of Legal & Civic Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Aisling Milliken, Functions and Exhibition Manager

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
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 6 September 2019 which appear to the Function Management Unit to comply with the criteria previously established by the Committee and are recommended for approval.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approve the recommendations made in respect of applications received up to 6 September 2019 as set out in the attached appendix.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
	<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	<p>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<sup>rd</sup> June 2017 and 23 June 2019.</p> <p><u>Key Issues</u></p>
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 and 2020 are included in order to permit the organisers to commence their event planning and communications activity as early as possible.
3.5	It should be noted that 2 of the applications received have been dealt with by means of the authority delegated by the Committee to the City Solicitor because of the very short timescale involved, and are included in the schedule for information only.
3.6	There is <u>one</u> functions being recommended for use of the once-in-three-years rule in respect of the applications referred to in this report and appendix.
3.7	<p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></p> <p>The implementation of charging for external functions has commenced, in line with the Committee's decisions in the matter.</p>
3.8	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>There are no direct good relations or equality implications arising from this report.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1 - Schedule of Function requests received up to 6 September 2019.

## SEPTEMBER 2019 CITY HALL FUNCTION APPLICATIONS

NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
<b>2019 EVENTS</b>						
Eastside Partnership	11 October 2019	<b>Launch of Eastside Greenways – strategic</b> Plan to build on Connswater Community Greenway to develop links and networks.  Numbers attending – 50	B & D	No (Charity)	Yes, Tea Coffee and Biscuits	<i>Approved by Delegated Authority</i>  Approve No Charge Tea and Coffee Reception
Department for Communities	24 October 2019	<b>NI Civil Service Recognition Awards –</b> celebrate the achievements of individuals, team and projects.  Numbers attending – 250	C	Charge £300	No Hospitality	<i>Approved by Delegated Authority</i>  Approve Charge £300 No hospitality
Du Dance	1 December 2019	<b>Youth Engagement showcase –</b> young people from Belfast, Dungannon and Ballymoney work together in workshops and a performance of Dance for parents.  Numbers attending – 60	C	No (Charity)	No Hospitality	Approve 1 in 3 No Charge No hospitality
Translink	4 December 2019	<b>Long Service Awards –</b> celebrate of employees who have attained 35 years or more service with awards and dinner reception.  Numbers attending – 90	C	Charge £300	No Hospitality	Approve Charge £300 No hospitality
<b>2020 EVENTS</b>						
Boys Brigade	9 April 2020	<b>Queens Badge Celebration –</b> celebration event to present young people with their Queen's Badge Award, the highest award within the Boy's Brigade.  Numbers attending – 450 maximum	C & D	No (Charity)	No hospitality	Approve No Charge No hospitality

## SEPTEMBER 2019 CITY HALL FUNCTION APPLICATIONS

Irish League of Credit Unions	24 April 2020	<b>Irish League of Credit Unions 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference Reception</b> – welcome reception to celebrate 60 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of organization, linked to conference taking place in ICC.  Numbers attending – 250 – 300	A, B & C	No  <i>£300 waived due to links with Visit Belfast</i>	Yes, Wine Reception  <i>(linked to Visit Belfast and celebrating significant anniversary)</i>	Approve No Charge Wine Reception
BACCN NI	13 May 2020	<b>All Ireland Critical Care Pre-Conference Dinner</b> – Welcome reception and dinner as part of 2 day conference taking place in Assembly Buildings.  Numbers attending – 100	A & B	No  <i>£300 waived due to links with Visit Belfast</i>	Yes, Wine Reception  <i>(linked to Visit Belfast)</i>	Approve No Charge Wine Reception
Accelerate	10 June 2020	<b>Conference Dinner</b> – Welcome reception and dinner as part of 5 day conference taking place in Belfast.  Numbers attending – 150	A & B	No  <i>£300 waived due to links with Visit Belfast</i>	Yes, Wine Reception  <i>(linked to Visit Belfast)</i>	Approve No Charge Wine Reception
The Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences	2 September 2020	<b>Welcome Reception</b> - Welcome reception as part of 3 day conference taking place in Belfast.  Numbers attending – 250	A & B	No  <i>£300 waived due to links with Visit Belfast</i>	Yes, Wine Reception  <i>(linked to Visit Belfast)</i>	Approve No Charge Wine Reception
BSPED	12 November 2020	<b>Bioscientifica Conference Dinner</b> – Welcome reception and dinner as part of 3 day conference taking place at the ICC.  Numbers attending – 120	A & B	No (Charity)	Yes, Wine Reception  <i>(linked to Visit Belfast)</i>	Approve No Charge Wine Reception



<b>Subject:</b>	Requests for use of the Council Chamber for two events
<b>Date:</b>	20 September 2019
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Walsh, City Solicitor / Director of Legal & Civic Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	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 ☐

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	<p>To consider a request of the Council Chamber for</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. British Council for Mock Council of European Union on 11 February 2020</li> <li>2. Queens University Student Union for student debate on 4 February 2020</li> </ol>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is recommended to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• approve the application by British Council</li> <li>• approve the application from QUBSU for the use of the Council Chamber</li> </ul>

<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	<p><b><u>British Council request</u></b></p> <p>A request has been received from the British Council for the use of the Council Chamber on 11 February 2020 for its Mock Council of the European Union. The event will be 2 debates for school children, aged 16 – 18 years. This annual event has been running for 14 years.</p>
3.2	<p>The British Council have also requested the use of the Banqueting Hall for lunch for the students. If the Committee is minded to approve the application, then there would be no charge applied for the use of the Banqueting Hall due to the charitable nature of the organisation and this function would meet the criteria for the use of the City Hall agreed by the Committee previously.</p>
	<b><u>Queens Student Union request</u></b>
3.3	<p>A request has been received from the QUB Student Union for the use of the Council Chamber on 4 February 2020 for its monthly meeting if the Student Union Council made up of local and international students. The event will be tabled motions and exact topics to be debated will be provided to Function Management Unit two weeks prior to the event for approval.</p>
3.4	<p>Many of the elected student councillors progress into local politics so QUB Student Union feel the use of the Council Chamber for this meeting would inspire the next generation of civic leaders.</p>
3.5	<p>No other council rooms are required for the delivery of this meeting.</p>
3.6	<p>Members will be aware that Committee approval is required for the use of the Council Chamber by an outside body. Although such approval is rarely sought, the Committee has previously approved both organisations to use the council chamber for similar events.</p>
	<u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u>
3.7	<p>There will be no cost to the Council in approving the requests.</p>
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.8	<p>There are no direct good relations or equality implications arising from this report.</p>

<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	None

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<b>Subject:</b>	Audit & Risk Panel Report and Minutes of meeting of 10 September 2019
<b>Date:</b>	20 September 2019
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Ronan Cregan; Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Claire O'Prey, Head of Audit, Governance and Risk Services (AGRS)

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with a summary of the key issues that were considered and discussed by the Audit & Risk Panel at its September 2019 meeting and present minutes of the last meeting of the Panel for approval.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	That the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee notes the key issues arising at the meeting and approves the minutes of the Audit & Risk Panel of 10 September 2019 at Appendix 1.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<b>Key Issues</b> <u>Northern Ireland Audit Office (NIAO)</u>
3.1.1	The Panel considered the <b>Statement of Accounts</b> of the Council for the year-end 31 March 2019. These accounts are a fundamental part of the Council's overall corporate

	governance framework and provide assurance to Members and ratepayers on the stewardship of the Council's finances and its financial position.
3.1.2	The NIAO Director informed the Panel that their audit of the accounts is almost complete and on the basis of the work completed to date, the Local Government Auditor (LGA) will report on the 2018-19 financial statements with an <b>unqualified audit opinion</b> .
3.1.3	The Panel considered the <b>draft Report to those Charged with Governance for 2018/19</b> , which outlines the system / control issues arising from the NIAO audit. The draft report contained <b>5 recommendations for management action, none of which are priority one (i.e. significant or material in nature)</b> , the recommendations relate to infrastructure assets, valuation of the Gasworks Site, zero net book value of vehicles still in use, retention of documentation re Giant's Park and break even position of the Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd. Management will bring an update to the next meeting of the Panel on their response to these issues.
3.1.4	In addition, the Panel also considered the <b>Local Government Auditor's Report (2019)</b> summarising the results of audit work undertaken in the year to 31 March 2018 in councils across Northern Ireland. The report included general observations / recommendations in a number of areas including, value for money in the use of agency workers, reserves policy, Audit & Risk Panel training, conflict of interest training for Members, conduct of a NI-wide study on Planning, performance improvement, plans to undertake a cost benefit analysis of local government reform, absenteeism, principles for asset management and monitoring of city deals. The Panel received assurances that the recommendations contained in the report had been communicated and were being taken forward by the relevant officers.  <u>Audit and Risk Panel</u>
3.1.5	Members of the Panel play a pivotal role in assisting the Council in continually improving the governance arrangements of the Council. To support members in fulfilling this role, and in line with best practice, the <b>Audit &amp; Risk Panel agreed to hold a half day training session on the morning of Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2019</b> . It is important that Panel members attend this session.
3.1.6	In line with recommended practice the work of the Audit & Risk Panel has been supported by the attendance and input of an external member, Sharon Hetherington. Sharon is a source of expertise on audit and finance related matters, augmenting the skills /

	<p>experience provided by Members. The Panel <b>agreed to extend the contract with the external member</b> for an additional two years, in line with the relevant legal agreement.</p> <p><u>Key reports</u></p>
3.1.7	<p>The Panel noted the <b>progress being made against the annual audit plan</b>, with 12 audits finalised in the period April – August 2019 and agreed to replace the planned audit of waste management with the audit of waste collection.</p>
3.1.8	<p>The Panel considered the <b>20 corporate risks</b> that are considered by management to present the greatest threat to the delivery of our corporate plan and / or compliance with key statutory requirements. The Panel received assurance that AGRS are currently working with each Risk Owner to support them in assessing each risk and developing the necessary mitigation actions. Progress in developing and implementing these corporate risk mitigation plans will be reported to CMT, the Assurance Board and the Audit &amp; Risk Panel.</p>
3.1.9	<p>The Panel received <b>the annual report and policy update in respect of Fraud and Whistleblowing</b> along with a high level update on the number of cases in which the policies have been applied during the 18/19 year. The Panel approved the updated Council policies for fraud and whistleblowing, reflecting recent changes.</p>
3.1.10	<p>The Panel also received quarter 1 reports on corporate health and safety, absence management and performance improvement. The Corporate Health and Safety Manager highlighted to the Panel that corporately the Council was not meeting its target of implementing 80% of agreed health and safety and actions and fire safety actions, which had implementation rates of 29% and 67% respectively.</p>
	<p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></p>
3.2	<p>None</p>
	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p>
3.3	<p>None known at this time.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<p><b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b></p>
	<p>Appendix 1 - Minutes of Audit &amp; Risk Panel 10 September 2019</p>

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# **Audit and Risk Panel**

Tuesday, 10th September, 2019

## **MEETING OF AUDIT AND RISK PANEL**

Members present: Councillor Hussey (Chairperson);  
Councillors Hutchinson and McKeown; and  
Ms S. Hetherington.

In attendance: Mr. R. Cregan, Strategic Director of Finance and Resources;  
Mr. J. Walsh, City Solicitor;  
Ms. C. O'Prey, Head of Audit, Governance and Risk  
Services (AGRS);  
Mr. T. Wallace, Head of Finance;  
Ms. C. Sheridan, Head of Human Resources;  
Mr. L. Mulholland, Audit, Governance and Risk  
Services Manager;  
Mr. M. Whitmore, Audit, Governance and Risk  
Services Manager;  
Mrs. E. Eaton, Corporate Health and Safety Manager;  
Ms. H. Lyons, Corporate Finance Manager;  
Mrs. C. Kane, Director, Northern Ireland Audit Office;  
Ms. S. Murphy, Northern Ireland Audit Office; and  
Ms. E. McGoldrick, Democratic Services Officer.

### **Election of Chair**

The Audit and Risk Panel noted that it was required to elect a Chairperson for the coming year.

Moved by Councillor Hutchinson,  
Seconded by Councillor McKeown, and

Resolved – that Councillor Hussey be elected to serve as Chairperson to the Audit and Risk Panel from September, 2019 to June, 2020.

### **Apologies**

Apologies were reported on behalf of Councillor O'Hara.

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 4th March were taken as read and signed as correct.

### **Declarations of Interest**

No Declarations of Interest were reported.

**Audit and Risk Panel,  
Tuesday, 10th September, 2019**

**Future Dates of the Audit and Risk Panel**

The Panel agreed to the following meeting dates and times of the Audit and Risk Panel for the period from October, 2019 to March, 2020:

- Monday, 21 October, 2019 (1/2 Day Training - Morning);
- Tuesday, 3rd December, 2019 at 12.30; and
- Tuesday, 10th March, 2020 at 11.30.

The Panel also noted that it would have a pre-meet, fifteen minutes before the meeting commenced.

**Absence Rates Q/E June 2019**

The Panel considered a report providing information on the absence figures for the first quarter of 2019/2020. The Head of Human Resources reported that sickness absence per employee for that period had been 3.08 days, which meant that the Council was under target (3.17 days) by 0.09 days. She advised that the number of absences which had been classified as long term (20 days or more) during the quarter had been 68.7%, which was an increase compared to the same period last year at 67.43%.

She advised that the number of days lost per full time equivalent was less in quarter one (3.08 days) when compared to quarter four 2018/19 (3.47 days) and there had been a slight improvement in compared to the same period last year (3.11 days).

In relation to Disability Related Absence, approximately 30% of absence (1964.96 days) had been recorded as disability related and 51.5% of disability related absence was being managed as long term.

She confirmed that the Council's Attendance Policy permitted the use of discretion and highlighted circumstances when discretion might be applicable. She reported that, in quarter one, of the 550 employees that were off due to sickness absence, discretion had been applied to 76 of these employees and the average length of absence where discretion had been used was 21.8 days per occurrence.

She informed the Panel that a number of health and wellbeing activities and initiatives were in place to assist with managing attendance at work including:

- Positive Mental Health & Emotional Wellbeing training;
- Stress Awareness for Managers; and
- Mindfulness

She also highlighted that further health and wellbeing initiatives and programmes would be developed as part of the People Strategy.

During discussion, the Head of Human Resources explained further the occupational health service referral process and the monitoring of absence rates across departments.

**Audit and Risk Panel,  
Tuesday, 10th September, 2019**

The Panel noted the information which had been provided.

**Corporate Health and Safety Performance Report**

The Corporate Health and Safety Manager provided the Panel with an update in relation to the Council's Health and Safety performance during the period ending 30th June, 2019. She reviewed the progress which had been achieved in relation to the key performance indicators, where the Council had only fully implemented 29% of the health and safety actions and 60% of the fire actions due at the end of quarter one, which was not satisfactory.

She reported that the number of employee accidents for quarter one was 37, which was seven less than in the last quarter. She reported that the highest number of accidents had been caused by employees being injured through a slip/trip or fall.

The Panel was informed that the number of RIDDOR reportable accidents had increased by 4 from the last quarter, at 14.

The Corporate Health and Safety Manager reported that there had been a decrease in the number of reported Work Related Violence incidents from the last quarter, from 36 to 25 and the majority of which were of verbal abuse, threatening behaviour and 1 incident which involved physical violence.

She advised that there were 29 non-employee accidents during quarter one with 15 accidents due to slip, trip or falls.

Noted.

**Report on Compensation Claim Settlements  
as a Result of Accidents**

The City Solicitor provided an update regarding the compensation claims for 2018/19. He advised that full details on the costs of employer liability, motor insurance and public liability claims for the year 2018/2019 were included in the Appendices along with the figures for the period 2017/2018. He reported that there had been an increase in payments in employer liability claims from £341,321 in 2017/2018 to £406,889 in 2018/2019 which related to an increase in noise induced hearing loss claims. The highest payments were for damages and solicitors fees.

He provided an overview in relation to the Management of claims, and highlighted that the Divisional Solicitor attended the City and Neighbourhoods Departmental Management Team on a six monthly basis to provide an overview on the number of new claims received, the reserves for claims and details of any payments made. Learning points were addressed with the department for communication to the relevant teams. He stated that management of claims were also reviewed by the Council's Health and Safety Assurance Board on a six monthly basis.

He provided an analysis of claims conceded for the relevant period and highlighted that, in respect of employer liability claims, the majority (77%) were settled after

**Audit and Risk Panel,  
Tuesday, 10th September, 2019**

proceedings were issued. Similarly, in the case of public liability claims, the majority (57%) were also settled after proceedings were issued. In the case of motor insurance claims, however, the majority (89%) were settled prior to proceedings being issued.

During discussion, the City Solicitor provided details of the potential reasons for the increase in legal fees and confirmed that this would be examined further.

Noted.

**Audit and Risk Panel Update on Year-End Reports**

The Head of Audit, Governance and Risk Services provided a summary of the various year-end reports that would usually have been considered at the June 2019 meeting and which related to the year-end accounts, which was a separate agenda item.

She explained that there were various important year-end reports that fed into the council's Financial Statements which included the following reports:

- a) The Head of Audit, Governance and Risk Services (AGRS) Annual Assurance Statement;
- b) Review of the Council's Code of Governance;
- c) Draft Annual Governance Statement for the Council for 2019;
- d) Annual self-assessment against the principles contained in the CIPFA; and
- e) Statement on the Role of the Head of Internal Audit.

She advised that, in the absence of an Audit and Risk Panel in June, and in order to ensure that there was proper consideration of these important year-end papers, the Audit Assurance Board had met on 3rd June to review the reports. In addition, an annual report was submitted to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee providing a summary of the key issues that had been considered and discussed by the Audit and Risk Panel during the 2018/19 financial year, the assurances received and the areas requiring attention.

She confirmed that the Draft Annual Governance Statement for 2018/19, which incorporated elements of the year-end reports detailed above, was approved by the Chairperson of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, the Chief Executive and the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources, and was incorporated into the unaudited statement of accounts which had been certified by the Chief Financial Officer by 30th June, 2019. She highlighted that this was subject to review by the Local Government Auditor, as part of the NIAO's annual audit.

During discussion, one Member emphasised the importance of the reports and the necessity for Members of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee to review the documents.

The Panel noted the information which had been provided.



**Northern Ireland Audit Office (NIAO) –  
Financial Statement of Accounts**

The Panel considered the following report which had been prepared by the Financial Accounting Manager and his team:

**“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present to the Audit and Risk Panel, the Statement of Accounts of the Council, including the Annual Governance Statement, for the period ending 31 March 2019.**
- 1.2 The Statement of Accounts are an important element of the council’s overall corporate governance framework as they provide assurance to Members and ratepayers on the stewardship of the council’s finances and its financial position.**
- 1.3 The Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2019, as attached, have been prepared in line with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2018/19 based on International Financial Reporting Standards and the Department for the Communities Accounts Direction, Circular LG 12/19 dated 29 March 2019.**
- 1.4 I can confirm that the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2019 has been prepared in the form directed by the Department for the Communities and in my opinion the Statement of Accounts give a true and fair view of the income and expenditure and cash flows for the financial year and the financial position as at the end of the financial year.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1 The Panel is asked to**
  - Recommend that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee approve the Council’s Statement of Accounts and incorporated Annual Governance Statement for the year ended 31 March 2019.**

**3.0 Main report**

**Key Issues**

### 3.1 Audit Opinion

It is the Local government Auditors' opinion that:

- the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with relevant legal and statutory requirements and the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2018-19, of the financial position of Belfast City Council as at 31 March 2019 and its income and expenditure for the year then ended; and
- the statement of accounts have been properly prepared in accordance with the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and the Department for Communities directions issued thereunder; and
- the part of the Remuneration Report to be audited has been properly prepared in accordance with the Department for Communities directions made under the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015; and
- the information given in the Narrative Report for the financial year ended 31 March 2019 is consistent with the financial statements.

### 3.2 Reserves

#### General Fund

The credit balance on the General Fund has increased to £25,796,988 (of which £12,957,466 relates to specified reserves). The movement on the reserves balance is summarised in Table 1 below:

**Table 1: Summary of Reserves Position**

Opening Balance	£24.4m
In year movement in reserves	<u>£ 1.4m</u>
Closing Balance	£25.8m
Specified Reserves at year end	<u>£13.0m</u>
Balance Available	<u>£12.8m</u>

### 3.3 Capital Fund      £25,288,151

The Capital Fund is made up of the Belfast Investment Fund (£5,559,723). The fund has been created to support key partnership projects to regenerate Belfast and help lever substantial funds from other sources, the Local Investment Fund (£1,425,280) to fund smaller local regeneration projects, the City Centre Investment Fund (£15,154,012) to support the Belfast City Centre Regeneration Investment Plans, the Social Outcomes Fund (£3,149,136) to support City Centre projects which might not generate a direct financial return but would enhance the overall City Centre offer and support and attraction of investment.

**3.4     Leisure Mobilisation Fund     £1,441,702**

This fund is to support the Leisure Transformation Programme and will cover programme level costs including communications, engagement and procurement costs.

**3.5     Capital Receipts Reserve     £5,200,457**

These are capital receipts which have originated primarily from the sale of assets and which have not yet been used to finance capital expenditure.

**3.6     Other Fund Balances and Reserves     £1,063,919**

This relates to the Election Reserve (£674,607) which has been set up to smooth the cost of running council elections, the BWUH Subvention Fund (£322,667) to support national and international organisations in bringing their conferences to Belfast and the BWUH Sinking Fund (£66,645) to support planned maintenance and future capital works at the new exhibition centre.

**3.7     Debt**

The overall level of trade debtors had decreased over the previous 10 years, reducing from £7.5m at 31 March 2009 to £2.5m at 31 March 2019. An analysis of trade debtors, inclusive of VAT, for the last two years is shown below:

	31 March 2019	31 March 2018
Less than three months	£2,131,221	£2,859,979
Three to one year	£128,050	£154,081
More than one year	£285,208	£736,633
<b>Total</b>	<b>£2,544,479</b>	<b>£3,750,693</b>

**3.8 Creditors**

The Department for Communities has set councils a target of paying invoices within 30 days. During the year the council paid 61,520 invoices totalling £163,474,395.

- 3.9** The average time taken to pay creditor invoices was 15 days for the year ended 31 March 2019. The Council paid 39,940 invoices within 10 days, 56,029 invoices within 30 days, and 5,491 invoices outside of 30 days. The council endeavours to process invoices as quickly as possible and has an improvement plan to support this process.

**3.10 Annual Governance Statement (AGS)**

The Statement of Accounts include Annual Governance Statement (AGS) for the year 2018/19, which has been prepared in line with the Accounts Directive provided by the Department for Communities, NIAO guidance and is consistent with the principles of the CIPFA/SOLACE Framework 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government'. Specifically the AGS sets out:

- scope of responsibility of the Council in relation to governance
- the purpose of the governance framework
- the governance framework in place
- review of effectiveness of the governance framework
- significant governance issues to be disclosed.

- 3.11** The AGS is approved by the Chair of the Strategic Policy and Resources, the Chief Executive and the Director of Finance and Resources. It is subject to review by the LGA (NIAO) as part of their annual audit.

**3.12 Financial & Resource Implications**

None

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

None.”

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After discussion, the Panel recommended that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee approve the Council's Statement of Accounts and incorporated Annual Governance Statement for the year ended 31st March, 2019, a copy of which was available on the Council's website.

**Northern Ireland Audit Office (NIAO) –  
Draft Report to those Charged with Governance**

The Panel was advised that the Local Government Auditor had issued, in draft format, her Report to those Charged with Governance for 2018/2019.

The Director of the Northern Ireland Audit Office provided an overview of the draft report, which summarised the system and control issues arising from the Northern Ireland Audit Office's audit of the Council's Financial Statements for 2018/2019. She indicated that the audit had been largely completed and that it was anticipated that the Local Government Auditor would certify the Council's statements with an "unqualified opinion".

She informed the Panel that the Local Government Auditor had identified five areas of priorities and recommendations had been made.

She advised that 'Priority 2' recommendations needed to be reviewed and responded to by management. She outlined the details of the three areas, which related to:

- Infrastructure Assets – To develop an Asset Management Plan and review whether current depreciation policy remained appropriate;
- Valuation of the Gasworks Site – The Council, in consultation with Land and Property Service, review its approach to calculating fair value of investment property assets; and
- Zero Net Book Value of vehicles still in use – A review of the useful economic life and depreciation policy for vehicles was recommended.

She highlighted the 2 'Priority 3' areas for response were:

- Giant's Park, North Foreshore – recommendations for best practice in relation to the process for retaining supporting documentation; and
- Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd – ensure that the company achieved a break even position at year end.

She highlighted audit judgements and adjustments and pointed out that uncorrected misstatements would increase net expenditure by a further £0.2m and decrease net assets by £0.2m. She explained that the Panel should consider whether the unadjusted misstatements, set out in the identified misstatements section, should be corrected.

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During discussion, the Head of Finance suggested that the aforementioned adjustment would not have a material impact on the accounts and, at this stage, would not be advising changing the accounts. He also highlighted that, in relation to the Auditor's recommendations, management had not had the opportunity to provide comments to address these issues, however, these would be presented to the Audit and Risk Panel at its meeting in December, 2019.

After discussion, the Panel agreed to endorse management's reasons for not adjusting misstatements and noted the contents of the draft report to those charged with governance for 2018/2019, a copy of which was available on the Council's website. It also noted that a detailed response to the document would be submitted to a future meeting.

**AGRS Progress Report August 2019**

The Panel considered a report which provided an overview of the specific internal audits which had been carried out for the period between March to August, 2019, by Audit, Governance and Risk Services.

It was highlighted that a number of audits had been completed in the six month period, 3 of which had received an assurance opinion of major improvement, as follows:

- **Capital Programme - Corporate / Strategic Level Issues** - One of the objectives of the Capital Programme was to support the delivery of the Belfast Agenda. It was found that projects within the Capital Programme currently demonstrated alignment with the Belfast Agenda in a fairly general way and that further work was required to:
  - Ensure appropriate alignment between the Belfast Agenda and the various programmes, projects and services around the Council through the establishment and implementation of new governance arrangements for each of the pillars of the Belfast Agenda; and
  - As part of this work, ensure a greater focus on the achievement of Belfast Agenda outcomes and embed new arrangements to ensure that the outcomes associated with programmes and projects around the Council (e.g. Capital Programme, Customer Focus Programme etc.) were properly linked to the Belfast Agenda, and were properly defined / quantified and monitored.

The Strategic Hub had been tasked with addressing these complex corporate-wide issues.

- **Asset Management** - A recent corporate risk workshop had highlighted that the need for effective asset management and maintenance was a key risk area for the Council. The Risk Action Plan had not been substantially updated for a number of years to reflect this risk. Consequently, there was a need for a fundamental review of this risk and the associated mitigations, clarification of roles and responsibilities in relation to asset management and

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maintenance, review of resourcing and financing, development of an Asset Management Strategy.

- **Externally Funded Projects** - It was important to note that responsibility for the ongoing compliance with terms and conditions of funding lay with the relevant Senior Responsible Officer and was not the responsibility of Physical Programmes Department. The key actions were a protocol for formal handover of projects and reporting corporately on the meeting of performance indicators and outcomes as per letters of offer. Given the fact that the council was increasingly becoming the delivery agent for projects funded by other organisations, and that there has been a significant delay in the implementation of corporate level assurance reporting on compliance with post-build terms and conditions, a conclusion of 'major improvement needed to the risk management process' had been given.

It was reported that the Local Development Plan, Continuous Improvement and Organisational Development, Peace IV, Births, Deaths, Marriages and Civil Partnerships, Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd: Finance and Performance, Financial Position of the Council, Building Control, Economic Development, Local Investment Fund all required 'Some Improvement'.

The Panel was informed that that the following audits were in progress:

- Corporate Risk Review – Health and Safety (draft report);
- Corporate Risk Review BWUH – (draft report);
- Corporate Risk Review – Belfast Agenda (fieldwork);
- Organisational Culture – (fieldwork);
- Pitches Strategy – (fieldwork);
- Planning Enforcement – (fieldwork);
- PCSP's – (draft report); and
- Budgetary Control & Financial Reporting (fieldwork).

The Panel was also informed that a number of other pieces of work had been completed in the period, such as AGRS Review of City Centre Recovery, HR/Payroll – implementation of the new system, Visit Belfast follow up on audit actions and Everybody Active 2020 governance statement sign off.

The Panel noted the Progress Report for the period March – August 2019 and the replacement of the planned audit of waste management with waste collection.

**Corporate Risk Management Q/E June 2019**

The Head of AGRS reported that, following a workshop in May with senior management to review the corporate risks, management had agreed 19 corporate risks, with a further corporate risk subsequently identified in relation to a 'no deal' Brexit. The Head of AGRS referred the Panel to the corporate risks set out in the appendix and explained that these corporate risks were considered by management to present the

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greatest threat to the delivery of the corporate plan and / or compliance with key statutory requirements. She confirmed that AGRS were currently working with each Risk Owner to support them in assessing each risk and developing the necessary mitigation actions. As these corporate risk mitigation plans were developed they would be reported into the Corporate Management Team for consideration and sign off before being reported to the Assurance Board and Audit and Risk Panel.

One member had a query regarding safeguarding arrangements at Council leisure centres and the Panel agreed that an update would be submitted to the next meeting for consideration.

The Panel noted the information which had been provided.

**Fraud and Whistleblowing –  
Annual Report and Policy Update**

The Panel considered the Annual Report on the Fraud and Whistleblowing Policy and related arrangements, including the application of the policies during 2018/19.

The AGRS Manager reminded the Panel of the Council's participation in the National Fraud Initiative and explained that the investigations which had been completed to date highlighted 8 new instances or investigations into fraud and financial impropriety, 1 external (substantiated) and 7 internal (1 substantiated).

He highlighted that, in relation to Whistleblowing and Anonymous Concerns, the process had been extended to include anonymous complaints and concerns not formally raised as Public Interest Disclosures but which, nevertheless, required review and potential investigation. During 2018/19, 16 concerns had been received compared with 21 cases received during 2017/18.

At 31st March, 15 of the 16 investigations had been completed with one case ongoing, a disciplinary investigation was ongoing which related to a case that had been opened during 17/18. Of the 15 investigations closed:

- allegations were fully substantiated in 2 cases;
- allegations were partly substantiated in 4 cases;
- allegations were not substantiated in 9 cases; and
- 3 cases had been raised anonymously, 7 from members of the public, 6 were from employees and 1 was referred anonymously via the Northern Ireland Audit Office.

It was reported that, where appropriate, the issues arising from investigations had been followed up, for example through referral to management of cases for consideration under the council's disciplinary procedures or through review and tightening of controls over particular areas.

The Audit, Governance and Risk Services Manager pointed out that a key element of the Council's counter-fraud arrangements was its participation in the National Fraud Initiative which was essentially a data matching exercise that involved comparing sets of



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data against other records held by the same or another body, allowing potentially fraudulent or erroneous payments to be identified, reviewed and, where necessary, investigated. He advised that AGRS, in consultation with Financial Services, had reviewed the majority of matches for the 2018/19 exercise and work was ongoing to review the remaining matches. He highlighted that they were currently liaising with departments to determine if adequate conflict of interest declarations had been made or were required, relating to matches identified. He confirmed that, to date, one duplicate payment had been identified relating to a grant, where £2000 had been paid twice and Financial Services were currently progressing the recoupment of the duplicate payment.

The Audit Panel approved the updated fraud and whistleblowing policies, and noted the updated cases which had been handled in 2018/19, together with the ongoing work in relation to the Corporate Fraud Risk Assessment and the National Fraud Initiative.

**AGRS Terms of Reference / Charter - Annual review**

The Head of Audit, Governance and Risk Services (AGRS) advised the Panel that, in line with good practice, the agreed annual programme of business provided for an annual review of the purpose and terms of reference for Audit, Governance and Risk Services (AGRS). She reported that the purpose and terms of reference of AGRS were important because they set out the purpose, authority, reporting arrangements, access and scope of the internal audit function so that all stakeholders had a clear understanding of the role of the internal audit function, its powers and responsibilities. The Head of AGRS explained that the terms of reference had been updated to refer to more recent legislation and that this didn't impact on the remit of the work of AGRS.

The Panel approved the AGRS terms of reference (copy available on the Council's internal website.)

**Self-assessment against the Public Sector  
Internal Audit Standards**

The Panel considered the undernoted report:

**“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise the Audit & Risk Panel of the self-assessment against the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS) undertaken by AGRS and to provide an update on the action plan arising from the previous external review of AGRS in October 2017.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1 That the Audit & Risk Panel note the self-assessment against the PSIAS undertaken by AGRS and the update on the action plan arising from the previous external review of AGRS in October 2017.**

**3.0    Main report**

- 3.1    The PSIAS require regular internal and external assessments to confirm that the internal audit service (AGRS) is operating to professional standards for internal auditing, thereby giving an assurance to key stakeholders that they can rely on the professionalism of the Service.**

**Internal Assessments**

- 3.2    The PSIAS require ‘periodic self-assessments.... to evaluate conformance with the Definition of Internal Auditing, the Code of Ethics and the Standards.’**
- 3.3    Our detailed self-assessment against the PSIAS is set out at appendix A. In summary, this self-assessment found that we are compliant with the PSIAS.**

**External Assessments**

- 3.4    The PSIAS also stipulate that ‘external assessments must be conducted at least once every five years by a qualified, independent assessor or assessment team from outside the organisation.’**
- 3.5    Following a competitive quotation process overseen and approved by the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources, On Board Training and Consultancy were appointed to undertake an external review of AGRS. The report was issued in October 2017 and was reported to the December 2017 meeting of the Audit and Risk Panel. In summary, On Board concluded that:**
- AGRS conforms to the requirements of the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards**
  - There are a few areas which require action but they do not significantly impact on On Board’s overall opinion**
  - There was strong evidence from their review of the value and contribution that AGRS makes to the Council’s governance, risk management and control environment**
- 3.6    An action plan was also presented, setting out how AGRS would address the recommendations arising from this external review. A progress update on this action plan is at Appendix B and shows that 12 out of 13 actions have been**

**fully implemented. The remaining action regarding monitoring and reporting on the actual number of days spent on audits against the budgeted number of days is in progress and will be re-visited at the training session being organised for October.**

**4.0 Financial & Resource Implications**

**4.1 None**

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

**5.1 None known at this time.”**

The Panel noted the self-assessment against the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards undertaken by Audit, Governance and Risk Services (AGRS) and the update on the action plan arising from the previous external review of AGRS in October, 2017.

**Performance Improvement - 2018-19 Year End Report  
and Arrangements for 2019-2020**

The Director of Finance and Resources provided the Panel with details of the reporting arrangements which were in place to ensure that the Council complied with the performance improvement duty 2018-2019, as laid out in Part 12 of the Local Government (NI) Act 2014 and the associated guidance from the Department for Communities and the NI Audit Office (NIAO). That ‘duty’ sought to measure the performance of councils and the arrangements which were in place to meet with the performance improvements objectives.

The Panel was presented with the year-end corporate Performance Assessment for 2018-19. The Director of Finance and Resources highlighted that this year’s report contained a new section, Section 3 ‘Continuous Improvement’, which had resulted from revised Department for Communities (DfC) Guidance that sought greater detail about emerging issues that lead to organisational improvements. He pointed out that Section 6 contained an overview of the Council’s performance in relation to 7 statutory performance indicators (3 waste, 3 planning and 1 economic development) as required under the Local Government Performance Indicators and Standards Order (2014).

He stated that it also included a list of ‘self-imposed’ indicators which would provide an update on performance against the Performance Indicators listed in last year’s Corporate Improvement Plan. He pointed out that, following a request from DfC, two additional indicators in respect of Absence and Prompt Payments had also been included this year, together with comparative data with the other 10 Councils and trends.

The Director reported that a Performance Assessment had been produced ahead of the September deadline (copy available internally [here](#)), and following the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee meeting in September, the report would be published online subject to the ratification of the Council.

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He confirmed that updates on progress against the 2019-20 Improvement Plan would be presented to the Panel at mid-year and year end in line with our agreed processes.

The Panel approved the year end Performance Assessment and noted the proposed arrangements for 2019-20 and correspondence received from NIAO about those arrangements.

**Local Government Auditor's Report – 2019**

The Head of AGRS reported that the Local Government Auditor was required to produce an annual report which summarised, from an external audit perspective, the key issues which had arisen in all Councils across Northern Ireland. The report, published in June, provided the Local Government Auditor's perspective on the audits of all local councils based on the key messages from audits performed up to 31st March, 2018.

The Chief Local Government Auditor explained that the report had raised a wide variety of issues arising from the audits, which included helpful comparative information with other councils.

The Head of AGRS explained that the report was not specific to Belfast City Council but did include information regarding the Council and comparative information with other councils. The report also included general observations made by the Local Government Auditor in a number of areas including, value for money in the use of agency workers, reserves policy, Audit & Risk Panel training, conflict of interest training for Members, conduct of a NI-wide study on Planning, performance improvement, plans to undertake a cost benefit analysis of local government reform, absenteeism, principles for asset management and monitoring of city deals. The Head of AGRS assured the Panel that these observations and recommendations had been communicated to the relevant managers for information and action.

After discussion, the Panel noted the NIAO report at Appendix A and that AGRS had circulated the report to the relevant officers in the council for information and action.

**Option to Extend the Contract with the Non-Executive Member  
of the Audit and Risk Panel**

It was reported that the contract for the non-executive member of the Panel, Ms. S. Hetherington, had reached the one year review point and the Panel had the option to extend this agreement for an additional two years, in line with the relevant legal agreement.

The Panel agreed to extend the non-executive Members' contract for a further two years.

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**Audit and Risk Panel Annual Training Session**

The Panel noted that Training had been arranged for the morning of 21st October commencing at 9:30am. Further details, such as the location of the Training, would be confirmed with the Panel in due course.

During discussion, one Member reiterated the importance of Audit Training and attendance of all Members at meetings.

After discussion, the Panel noted the information on the training event and agreed that the Director of Finance and Resources would write to Party Group Leaders to highlight meeting attendance at the Audit and Risk Panel.

Chairperson

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## **Minutes of Party Group Leaders Consultative Forum 12 September 2019**

### **Attendance**

#### **Members:**

Alderman Brian Kingston (Chair)  
Councillor Ciaran Beattie  
Councillor George Dorrian  
Councillor Fiona Ferguson  
Councillor Billy Hutchinson  
Councillor Donal Lyons  
Councillor Michael Long  
Councillor Mal O'Hara  
Alderman Jim Rodgers (for Cllr Copeland)

**Apologies:** Councillor Copeland

#### **Officers:**

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

### **1. Leisure Update**

Members were updated on ongoing issues at Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre which was impacting on the overall development of the site. It was agreed that Members of the East Area Working Group together with officers would meet with the contractor and community representatives.

The Director of Finance and Resources also informed the forum that a report would be going to committee on the Leisure Transformation programme and would include in relation to Girdwood recommendations for the Council to act as Delivery Agent as requested by DFC and to appoint an Integrated Consultancy Team to develop concept designs.

### **2. Finance**

#### **Medium Term Financial Plan/Efficiencies**

The Director of Finance and Resources outlined the priorities and work in progress to establish the efficiency agenda and associated targets for 2020/21 – 2022/23, which would be presented to Septembers SP&R committee.

### **3. Area Working Groups**

The Director of City and Neighbourhood Services circulated a revised terms of reference for the area working groups which was going to be discussed at September Committee.

Members asked that, if it was feasible, could some of the area working group meetings take place outside of city hall.

### **4. Innovation and Inclusive Growth Commission** (*Grania Long, Commissioner for Resilience attended for this item*)

The Chief Executive updated the Forum on the first meeting of the Innovation and Inclusive Growth Commission and also outlined to them the proposed future membership which would be presented to SP&R committee. The members highlighted the importance of the inclusive element of the commission and also sought assurances that sustainable growth was also a focus, and that this should be reflected in the membership and engagement process.

### **5. Industrial Relations Framework**

The Chief Executive informed members that a review of the Industrial relations Framework had been undertaken and the report was currently with the trade unions for comment. Further updates would be brought to members following the trade unions response.

### **6. Notices of Motion**

The City Solicitor sought the views of the forum on discussing better ways of dealing with notices of motion given that some members had raised with him the number that were currently being raised at council meetings. He also highlighted the issue of the staff resources that are required to follow up on such a high volume of notices of motion. The panel expressed the importance of being able to raise issues at full council for debate given not all parties were represented on all the committees. They asked to be provided with clear guidance on how issues can be raised by members at a committee and the process for doing this. They also agreed to receive a report on the impact on resources arising from notices of motion.

### **7. Planning Update**

The Chief Executive updated the panel on the live planning applications and informed the panel of the applications that were being presented to the Planning Committee this month. The members requested that a report on the development of the North Foreshore is brought to a future meeting.



**8. AOB**

*Belfast Local Full Fibre Networks Procurement*

The Director of Finance and Resources informed members that the Council had now completed the procurement process to enable them to move ahead with the implementation of the £11.5M Local Full Fibre Networks (LFFN) Programme. The £11.5m was awarded to the council following a successful application to the Department of Culture Media and Sport's (DCMS). Belfast is the first city to complete the full process to go live with the project. An update report will be presented to SP&R committee.

**9. 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversaries** *(David Robinson, Good Relations Unit also attended for this item)*

Kate Turner, Healing Through Remembering joined the meeting and provided an overview on the organisations work in relation to a 'Day of Reflection'.

The members requested party group briefings on the proposals for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversaries of the conflict including a day of reflection.

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## **ACTIVE BELFAST LIMITED BOARD**

**Monday, 9th September, 2019**

### **MEETING OF ACTIVE BELFAST LIMITED BOARD**

**(Held in the Conor Room, City Hall)**

#### **Attendees**

- Directors:** Mr. J. McGuigan (Chairperson)  
Councillor Carson  
Councillor Corr  
Councillor McLaughlin  
Mr. M. Keenan  
Mrs. K. McCullough  
Mr. K. O'Doherty  
Mr. G. Walls.
- Officers:** Mr. R. Black, Director of Neighbourhood Services;  
Mr. N. Munnis, Partnership Manager; and  
Mr. H. Downey, Democratic Services Officer.
- GLL:** Mr. G. Kirk, Regional Director;  
Ms. C. Kursey, Service Modernisation Manager;  
Mr. R. McKenna, Regional Community Sports Manager;  
and  
Ms. J. Pope, Head of Service.

#### **Apologies**

Apologies were reported on behalf of Councillor Newton, Mr. J. Higgins, Mr. C. Kirkwood and Mr. R. Stewart,

#### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 5th August were approved.

#### **Matters Arising**

The Board noted that the Lessons Learned report, which was due to have been presented in August, would be considered later in the meeting.

#### **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were reported.

#### **Director Attendance Statement**

The Partnership Manager confirmed that all Directors had complied with the attendance protocol in terms of the previous three Board meetings.

### **Future Agenda Items**

No agenda items were identified by Directors for future meetings.

### **Advance Discussion on Agenda Items**

The Board agreed to raise with GLL a number of issues relating to the reports being presented on the Quarter 1 2019/20 Performance and Contract Compliance, Tier 2 Performance – Underrepresented Groups and LTP New Product Pricing Proposals.

In response to a query from a Director in relation to Quarter 1 2019/20 Performance and Contract Compliance, the Partnership Manager agreed to provide for the next Board meeting clarification around the conditions of the contract with GLL, specifically relating to financial surplus share arrangements for Better Gym Belfast and Better Gym Connswater.

### **Update on Work of the Sports Development Unit**

The Board was informed that Mr. C. McCann, Leisure Development Manager, was in attendance in order to provide a six-monthly update on the work of the Council's Leisure Development Unit.

The Leisure Development Manager explained that the Unit led on the delivery of an extensive programme of sports development initiatives in support of the Belfast Agenda. He drew the Board's attention to a summary of outputs, covering the period from April till August, for the following initiatives being delivered during 2019/20:

- Belfast Boxing Strategy
- Primary Schools Cross Country
- Stadium Community Benefits Initiative
- Pitches Partner Agreements
- GAA Joint Management Board
- Support for Sport
- Everybody Active - Strand 1
- Everybody Active – Strand 4
- Bike to Work Day

He then addressed a number of issues which had been raised by Directors, including the allocation of grass pitches over the summer months and, having been thanked by the Chairperson, he retired from the meeting.

The Board noted the information which had been provided.

(The GLL representatives joined the meeting at this point.)

### **Quarter 1 2019/20 Performance and Contract Compliance**

Mr. McKenna reported that the current service contract required GLL to provide the Board with written service performance reports on a quarterly basis. Accordingly, he submitted for its consideration the Key Performance Indicators and supporting narrative, on an overall and centre-by-centre basis, for the first quarter of 2019/20, under the four themes of Business, Innovation and Learning, Customer and Operations.

After discussion, the Board acknowledged receipt of the Performance and Contract Compliance report for the first quarter of 2019/20 and noted the information contained therein. It was agreed that information be submitted to its next meeting on 'Your PT', a company which GLL used to provide personal training services, and on the Leisure Employment Academy, which had been established by the Council in partnership with GLL.

### **Tier 2 Performance – PHA Referral Programmes**

Mr. McKenna submitted for the Board's consideration the following report:

#### **"1.0 Purpose of Report**

To provide the Board with an update on the exercise and health referral programmes managed by GLL in Belfast.

#### **2.0 Recommendation**

2.1 The Board is requested to formally record receipt of the report and note the information.

#### **3.0 Main Report**

##### **3.1 Background**

a) GLL currently delivers the following health related contracts and services:

- Healthwise – 12-week exercise referral programme – Commissioned by Belfast Health Development Unit via Belfast City Council. Annual rolling contract value of £88k;
- Cardiac Rehabilitation – 12-week cardiac rehab programme – Commissioned by Belfast Health Development Unit via Belfast City Council. Annual contract value of £38.5k;
- Cancer Rehabilitation – 12-week cancer rehab programme – Commissioned by Belfast Health Development Unit via Belfast City Council. Annual contract value of £25k; and
- Move More Belfast - Commissioned by MacMillan Cancer. Three year contract value of £118k.

b) Programmes provide a 12-week physical activity programme, which adheres to regional standards and guidelines.

c) The above programmes are delivered by a team of dedicated health related exercise professionals. All staff are qualified to a minimum of Level III exercise

referral. GLL currently employs seven dedicated Health staff directly managed by the Regional Community Sports Manager.

- d) All chronic conditions (cardiac and cancer) pathways are delivered by dedicated staff qualified to Level IV in the relevant chronic condition.
- e) The aim is to promote and increase long-term adherence to physical activity and lifestyle changes designed to improve the physical and mental health of clients who are inactive or sedentary and who are otherwise healthy or who have an existing health condition or other risk factors for disease.
- f) Staff support clients in meeting the Chief Medical Officer physical activity recommendations for adults and older people.
- g) Strategic partnerships and working groups established around chronic conditions pathways to ensure collaboration with key organisations such as Public Health Agency, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust and charitable partners.
- h) The Healthwise programme for the year 2019-2020 is in transition to a new regional model with revised KPI's and annual targets. A new service specification has been developed. The new regional model will be target based with payments for service delivery and contractual compliance. The payment per client has been confirmed by the BH DU as £130 per/client compared to £100 per/client last contractual year. Target for GLL 2019-2020 is 677, the contract will be performance managed throughout the year.

YTD update on all targets, referrals, progress and completions

### 3.2 Table 1 Healthwise KPIs 2018/19 – 2019/20

PROGRAMME	MEASURABLE OBJECTIVE	ANNUAL TARGET	PROGRESS TO DATE				Total
			Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	
			2018-19		2019-20		
Healthwise (Physical Activity referral scheme)	Total number of patients completing the programme (12 week programme)	677	186	158	217		561

- 3.2.1 The new revised key performance indicators are focused on additional contact time with referrals and a group exercise model of delivery. In Q.1 the HW team has delivered 32% of annual targets for referrals completing the programme.

### 3.3 Table 2 Cardiac Rehab KPIs 2018/19 – 2019/20

PROGRAMME	MEASURABLE OBJECTIVE	ANNUAL TARGET	PROGRESS TO DATE				Total
			Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	
			2018-19		2019-20		
Cardiac rehab Level IV	Delivery of Cardiac Rehabilitation Phase IV for clients (12 week programme) completing the programme	192	39	35	45		119

3.3.1 The cardiac programme has had some personal changes in the last 6 months with maternity leave /cover. Referrals are dependent on cardiac nurses and a meeting was held in Q.3 to address the number of patients being referred. In Q.4 and Q.1, we have seen an uplift in referrals from BHCST cardiac nurses reflected in Q.1 completion numbers.

### 3.4 Table 3 Cancer Rehab KPIs 2018/19 – 2019/20

PROGRAMME	MEASURABLE OBJECTIVE	2019/20 ANNUAL TARGET	PROGRESS TO DATE				Total
			Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	
			2018-19		2019-20		
Cancer rehab Level IV	Delivery of Cancer Rehabilitation Phase IV for clients (12 week programme) completing the programme	192	14	27	56		97

3.4.1 The cancer rehab programme started in Q.2 2018-19. Referrals are made through the Move More pathway to the cancer rehab physical activity programme. Completion rates are steadily increasing as the project reaches maturity in its second year of delivery. Q.1 performance indicates contract KPIs will be delivered in 2019/20.

### 3.5 Table 4 'Move More' Belfast KPIs 2018/19 – 2019/20

PROGRAMME	MEASURABLE OBJECTIVE	ANNUAL TARGET	PROGRESS TO DATE				Total
			Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	
			2018-19		2019-20		
'Move More' Belfast MacMillan Cancer	Total number of patients completing the programme including brief intervention	125	30	56	52		138

### **3.6 Year-end Projections**

- Across all health contracts, Q1 and 2018-19 performance indicates GLL are on target to meet the new revised contractual targets.
- Monthly review and performance management meetings are in place to ensure that performance is closely monitored and the required outputs delivered.
- As per contract compliance, monthly and quarterly returns are completed for all commissioners.

### **3.7 Regional Model**

- A new regional exercise referral model has been developed by Public Health Agency for Level III Healthwise programmes. Emphasis remains on shift to providing group based classes, to increase volume and social interaction.
- The specification of Healthwise, including entry criteria, has been revised in the new regional model to focus on particular conditions outside of the current chronic disease pathways.
- A new online GP referral database is currently being rolled out by the PHA. The online GP referral database is part of the new regional model designed to deliver efficiencies in the referral process and enable clients to start programmes quicker.

### **3.8 Issues impacting on Delivery/Performance**

- Currently all contracts commissioned by Belfast Health Development Unit are based on one year rolling contracts. This creates challenges around staff recruitment and retention. It is anticipated that this will be addressed in the new regional model with longer-term contracts providing improved job security and stability of service.
- GLL's access to the new online GP referral database has been delayed due to access and firewall security. This delay will result has resulted in a waiting list of referrals approx. 60 referred online before the online system was accessible for GLL staff."

After discussion, the Board noted the contents of the report.



## **Tier 2 Performance – Underrepresented Groups**

Mr. McKenna submitted for the Board's consideration the following report:

### **“1.0 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To provide the Board with an update on the participation by underrepresented target groups in centres managed by GLL in Belfast.**

### **2.0 Recommendation**

- 2.1 The Board is requested to record receipt of the information presented below and note the information.**

### **3.0 Main Report**

- 3.1 GLL is a leading social enterprise. One of the core priorities of GLL is to ensure full access for all members of the community and encourage regular participation amongst under represented target groups.**
- 3.2 GLL employs a regional community sport manager to drive participation and usage, ensuring that more people from every background are regularly and meaningfully engaged in sport and physical activity. Relevant GLL managers will be in attendance to respond to any questions.**
- 3.3 GLL has set targets based on like for like centres to increase usage by 2% per year. This will be measured via agreed patronage and usage reports that are reported to ABL and BCC.**
- 3.4 GLL is committed to support community access, offering varied opportunities, delivered in centres that are accessible, affordable and not inhibiting.**
- 3.5 GLL re-invests through the GLL Foundations (Sport and Communities) that provide and sustain support for community cohesion and talented individuals.**
- 3.6 GLL sustains a positive contribution to the local economy through investment in a workforce that is diverse, passionate, trained and skilled operating in well-managed, maintained and resourced centres.**
- 3.7 GLL has developed a citywide Sport and Health Development plan that provides a detailed breakdown of how GLL intends to achieve this increase in sport and physical activity participation, whilst also providing additional targets and outcomes. Some of these examples are outlined below:**

**3.8 48% of Belfast GLL members benefit from concessionary entry charges thereby helping to remove affordability as a barrier to participation.**

**3.9 People with disabilities**

- GLL introduced Inclusive membership, a concessionary membership for people with disabilities in 2016;
- GLL currently has 486 Better inclusive members in Belfast. This membership is proactively promoted through disability networks in Belfast and working in partnership with Disability Sport NI;
- GLL has developed working relationships with focus groups and organisations that support disabled access and provision in NI, including Disability Sport NI and created a Disability Hub at Girdwood Community Hub;
- This dedicated disability sports hub caters for a range of wheelchair-based sports and activities including Wheelchair Basketball, Powerchair Football, Boccia and New Age Curling;
- The GLL Sport Foundation in Belfast currently supports 12 disabled and Paralympic athletes. Athletes benefit from financial awards of up to £1,250 which will support their associated travel, competition and equipment costings for 12 months; and
- The GSF programme has supported athletes that have competed at Olympic, Paralympic and Commonwealth Games in recent years. Paralympic middle-distance athlete Dr. Michael McKillop is the Ambassador of the programme in Northern Ireland. Michael has successfully won four Paralympic Gold medals and is a role model to all our locally supported athletes.

**3.10 Women and Girls**

- 46.2% of current Belfast members (pre-paid and Pay and Play combined) are female;
- GLL has developed working relationships with Female Sport Forum and Women in Sport and Physical Activity and organisations that support female access and participation;
- In partnership with WISPA, GLL has developed and implemented women and girls targeted sessions at centres to increase participation.

- GLL has developed the 'Active Women' initiative and support awareness through existing networks;
- Five targeted 'Active Women' programmes have attracted 186 new female members. Incentivised membership is in place for these women graduating from the programme; and
- GLL has appointed Roma Doherty as an internal participation lead for women and girls programmes.

### **3.11 Older People**

- 18.9% of all current Belfast members (pre-paid & P&P combined) are aged 60+;
- Free access for over 60's before 11 a.m. Monday to Friday;
- GLL has developed the annual Club Games Festival for Belfast, with 10 teams competing at this year's third annual Club Games in October, which forms part of Belfast City Council's 'Age Friendly' month;
- GLL has engaged with Age Friendly Belfast, Age NI, Engage with Age, BCC and other relevant organisations to disseminate information to target demographic;
- GLL has a daily programme of activity targeted at and suitable for older people; and
- GLL delivers chronic disease (Cancer and Cardiac) rehabilitation programmes, whilst also supporting and hosting Diabetes and Strength & Balance programmes many of the referrals for these interventions are older people.

### **3.12 Families**

- GLL has created a balanced programme of activities across all centres allowing families to participate;
- GLL offers a varied programme during school holidays to engage and support families including holiday play schemes, kids for a quid, sports camps, and soft play;
- GLL offers a wide range of provision for birthday parties including Bouncy castles, Laser quest, Climbing wall and sports;
- GLL has piloted a 'Family membership' from July 2019 at Olympia LC. This membership is priced at £59 for two adults and two children with additional bolt-ons available."

After discussion, during which McKenna agreed to include within future reports centre specific highlights demonstrating the extent of outreach work in areas of high social deprivation, the Board noted the contents of the report.

### **Leisure Transformation Programme** **Mobilisation – Lessons Learned**

Ms. Kursey submitted for the Board's consideration the following report:

#### **“1.0 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To present the Board with a summary of lessons learned from mobilisation and the opening of Olympia leisure centre.**

#### **2.0 Recommendation**

- 2.1 The Board is requested to note:**

- i. the summary of lessons learned from mobilisation and the opening of Olympia Leisure Centre; and**
- ii. the impact of lessons learned on mobilisation planning for the opening of LTP Phase 1b centres.**

#### **3.0 Main Report**

##### **3.1 Introduction**

- Olympia Leisure Centre is a £21.75 million centre funded by Belfast City Council and Department of Communities. This centre was the first to be opened as part of a £105 million investment in leisure across Belfast. This was also the 1st GLL centre in Belfast to introduce products including Coffee Corner and Spa experience by Better;**
- Building works commenced in January 2015 and the new Olympia Leisure Centre officially opened 24th January 2017. The Old Olympia Leisure Centre closed its doors on 19th December;**
- The goals for the New Olympia is to provide a best in class leisure centre in Belfast combining state of the art technology with health and fitness, Spa product and treatment rooms, and a 'Coffee Corner' offering fair trade products. The new centre aims to create a club feel and a better experience for all customers;**
- The new Olympia Leisure centre sets a benchmark and model for the next phase of new build developments as part of the Leisure Transformation Programme,**

including Andersonstown, Brook, Lisnasharragh, Avoniel and Templemore Baths.

### 3.2 Outputs - First 3 Months

- Olympia successfully opened and launched new products for the City in Better Spa Experience and Coffee Corner.
- There was double the number of prepaid memberships and double the amount of swimming lessons available in the first three months compared to the old centre.
- There was a net growth of 5 new job roles in the new Olympia and continued employment opportunities through growth in pools and sports programmes.

### 3.3 Outputs to Date 2019

The following table shows movement in Olympia's performance:

KPI	2015 – old Olympia	2016 – old Olympia	2017	2018 year end forecast	2019 forecast
Income	£410,248	£ 426,954	£ 929,479	£1,267,506	£1,393,500
Staff / income ratio	153%	158%	78%	67%	65%
Staff costs	£628,570	£674,587	£724,993	£839,855	£916,763
Overtime	£56,787	£40,843	£8,070	£9,000	£6,000
Live members	830	700	1863	2050	2400
Pre-paid yield			£21.50	£22.95	£24.00
Better Swim School	135	138	825	1228	1500
Usage		145,593	233,738	332,000	379,000
Net Promoter Score		-37% Annual User Survey	12% Annual User Survey	50% (Listen 360)	50% (Listen 360)

- Since the opening of Olympia Leisure Centre in 2016, there have been 15 internal promotions from Olympia alone.

### **3.4 Olympia Resourcing and Lessons Learnt**

- Trade Union discussions and negotiations on approach to resourcing and redeployment of the staff in the old Olympia started in August 2016. Negotiations and the time-period involved in reaching agreement with the Trade Unions did have an impact on recruitment for the new centre. This meant that full staffing was not in place until March 2017 and staffing support was required from other centres and regions to keep the centre operational on opening in January and February.

#### **Lessons Learnt**

- For LTP phase 1b, there has been early engagement with Trade Unions and LTP has been a routine agenda item since December 2018. GLL completed a Service Modernisation programme in 2018, which set the benchmark for TUPE staff moving onto GLL contracts and removed barriers for promotion and new centre roles. Staff engagement and 1 to 1 meetings for redeployment of existing staff in centres due to close was started early in February 2019. A Voluntary Redundancy exercise followed shortly. This has helped to give assurances to staff. Recruitment for the three new centres started in May 2019, with the majority of management posts appointed by August 2019. This has allowed for a full focus on front line staff recruitment campaign from September onwards.

### **3.5 Olympia Learning and Organisational Development Programme and Lessons Learnt**

- A mobilisation fund of £20k for a Learning and Development programme for Olympia was agreed. This was used to provide an extensive training programme that was put in place for the old Olympia staff to support them with being successful for the new roles in the new Olympia. This money was also used to launch a Learning and Development scheme for newly appointed team members. At the time of opening, a new approach was needed to ensure there was support for new staff in new roles and that there were clear structures and frameworks for staff to fully adopt a GLL model of operating the new centre.

#### **Lessons Learnt**

- The £20k BCC funding for learning and development was paramount to the success of the team in the new

centre, and this was matched by GLL with a total true cost of £40k.

- Off the back of the success of the Olympia L&D programme, further funding for a Learning and Development scheme for phase1b of LTP has been agreed at a cost of £170,117 split 50/50 GLL and BCC.

### **3.6 Programming and Lessons Learnt**

- Individual and group consultation meetings were held with all aquatics and dry side clubs from the old Olympia Leisure Centre to help support a smooth and successful transition to the new centre. These were held in November and December 2016. A finalised programme was developed for all swimming clubs and the centre management teams were able to facilitate public casual swimming from 6 am – 10 pm in line with the Aquatics strategy which was a first in any Belfast leisure centre.
- The facilitation of 20 hours per week for the BCC Community Services team was programmed in the 'Community Space' and this was done in conjunction with the centres group exercise programme. With only a single studio that has shared use, this has caused restrictions on the group exercise programme at Olympia, however the centre have made use of gym floor classes to supplement the programme along with their dedicated spin studio.

#### **Lessons Learnt**

- Communication with key stakeholders including clubs, staff, TU's, customers BCC Councillors, and BCC capital project demanded significant amounts of time and effort from the Regional Leadership team. In order to provide more resource into this process, the Aquatics Officer at Olympia has been working 2 days per week on the Aquatics programme for the three new wet facilities as part of LTP phase 1b since late 2018 and he has also supported the expression of interest process for club hire and use of pools. Appointing the General Managers earlier in the process has also allowed for the General Managers to support the expression of interest process for the dry side programme.

### **3.7 Pre-sales and Lessons Learnt**

- A dedicated pre-sales team was recruited internally after an expression of interest process. The presales team was based in the old Olympia. Due to the

demobilisation of the old Olympia and requirements for redeployment meetings held at the old Olympia, this was not a fit for purpose location for a pre-sales team.

- A £50k marketing budget was agreed between GLL and BCC. Extensive external traditional marketing as well as a digital marketing campaigns were completed in November 2016 to target the local area. Whilst the pre-sales could have been stronger, the marketing campaign was key to Olympia's early successes. A Q1 2019-20 Olympia has 2,199 pre-paid, 2254 P&P and 1318 swim school members.

#### **Lessons Learnt**

- As part of the pre-sales strategy for LTP phase 1b, alternative locations have been sourced across the city with the main hub for presales based in the city centre next to Better Gym Belfast.
- Further funding for a marketing campaign for phase1b of LTP has been agreed at a cost of £75,000 split 50/50 GLL and BCC. This will support not only pre-sales, but a recruitment campaign to help fill 75 new jobs

### **3.8 Soft Opening and lessons learnt**

- A soft opening / testing period was completed at Olympia LC between 19th December 2016 and 22nd January 2017. During this period, a number of expert leads from GLL supported the mobilisation, especially around new products Spa Experience and Coffee Corner.
- Swimming clubs were able to use the New Olympia LC between 19th December and 2nd January. From 21st December, the General Manager and Partnership team facilitated tours of the new centre for local community groups.
- The Centre team hosted the ABL Board, elected members and Belfast City Council Project team for a come and try it event on 20th December and a staff open day took place on 27th December.
- The Centre ran restricted operating hours during the early part of this testing period and went to full operational hours from 9th January, 2017.

#### **Lessons Learnt**

- The four week testing phase and support from other centres and regions was vital to the successful and smooth opening of the new Olympia. This approach



should be adopted again for the three new centres as part of LTP phase 1b.

- Due diligence on new products and contractor engagement has started early to ease stress testing of some of the unique products coming to the new centres. The testing period is currently programmed to be over 6 weeks from opening to allow for a four week soft opening period.
- There is not the same requirement to bring expert leads from London to support the introduction of new products some have now been tested and proved to be successful at Olympia LC.

**3.9 LTP Phase 1B centres at Lisnasharragh, Brook and Andersonstown are scheduled to open towards the end of the 2019/20 financial year.”**

The Board noted the contents of the report.

**Leisure Transformation Programme –  
Pricing Proposals for New Products**

Mr. McKenna informed the Board that, under Phase 1b of the Leisure Transformation Programme, new leisure centres at Andersonstown, Brook and Lisnasharragh would be opened between November, 2019 and April, 2020.

He reviewed the new facilities and services being offered for each centre and explained that the associated charges had not been included within the schedule of charges for 2019/20 which had been approved by the Board in October, 2018. He provided an overview of the proposed new product charges and pointed out that they were competitive, had been based upon market research and were consistent with the existing pricing architecture, in terms of differentiating between residents and non-residents of Belfast. Accordingly, he recommended that the Board approve the following schedule of prices relating to the Andersonstown, Brook and Lisnasharragh leisure centres:

**5-a-Side Pitches**

Concession and U-16s	£20 Uncovered pitch
Concession and U-16s	£25 Covered pitch
Full price	£40 Uncovered pitch
Full price	£50 Covered pitch

### Swimming Pools

Pool Hire	
Diving Pool	£45
Confidence Water	£30
Gala set up 1	£120
Gala full set up 2	£150
Main Pool 4 Lane	£45
Sensory Pool	£60
Teaching Pool	£45

### Birthday Parties

All centres per party	£89
Per head for food	£4

### Leisure Water and Inflatables

Andersonstown Leisure Water		
Local programme (child)	£4	
	P&P Resident / Online	Non Resident
Water play park child	£4	£5.20
Full Child	£6	£7.80
Full Adult	£8	£10.40
Full Family	£24	£31.20
*2 adults and 2 children Additional child at £5 30% uplift for non-members and pay in centre Under 5's are free on leisure water		
Brook Inflatable Play		
Child	£5	£6.50
Adult	£8	£10.40

### Surf

Andersonstown Surf		
Surf bolt on	£2 during leisure swims	
	P&P Resident / Online	Non Resident
Child	£10	£13
Adult	£15	£19.50
Private Hire	£150	
Block Booking (Lessons)	£26 monthly pm	

After discussion, the Board approved the proposed charges, as outlined, and:

- i. noted that they would be reviewed on an annual basis, as part of the overall schedule of charges;
- ii. agreed that GLL provide clarification at the next meeting on how the charges for the private hire of Andersonstown Surf and for the use of the sensory pool had been calculated;
- iii. noted that GLL would give consideration to establishing a reduced rate for the private hire of Andersonstown Surf by community groups; and
- iv. agreed that the Leisure Transformation Programme Board examine the feasibility of utilising the Mobilisation Fund to offer those in the City under the age of 16 a Membership card free of charge.

(The GLL representatives left the meeting at this point.)

### **2020 - 2025 Business Plan Review Working Group**

The Board was reminded that, at its meeting on 5th August, it had agreed to the establishment of a Working Group to review the current Active Belfast Business Plan and formulate a new Plan to cover the period from 2020 till 2025.

The Partnership Manager reported that the Chairperson (Mr. McGuigan), together with Mr. Higgins, Mrs. McCullough, Mr. Stewart and Mr. Walls, had since volunteered to serve on the Working Group. He confirmed that it had met on 21st and 29th August and highlighted a number of general principles which had been agreed around the servicing and frequency of meetings and the need to focus on strategic oversight, align clearly with the Belfast Agenda, maximise occupancy/participation and revise performance indicators to more fully reflect health benefits. The following draft section headings for the new business plan had also been agreed:

- Background and Introduction
- Mission and Outcomes
- Service Description
- Market Analysis
- Priorities
- Governance
- Quality and Risk Management
- Resources
- Finance
- Action Plan

He pointed out that the Working Group would meet again on 16th September, with a view to finalising the structure of the document and formulating a development plan to populate the various sections. It would then be presented to the Board on 7th October for consideration and be included as a priority agenda item at the strategic business planning workshop on 13th November. He added that it was envisaged that a draft business plan

would be completed in time to be presented to the Board on 9th December and to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee thereafter.

The Board endorsed the general principles and draft section headings, as proposed by the Business Plan Review Working Group.

### **Aquatics Strategy Action Plan**

The Partnership Manager informed the Board that the Aquatics Strategy, which sought to increase participation in aquatic activity across Belfast, had been launched on 21st August in the Olympia Leisure. He explained that the next step in the process would involve the preparation of an action plan, which would sit alongside the Strategy and set out how the strategic outputs would be delivered. It would include also key outputs and timelines against which progress would be monitored and reported to the Board.

He pointed out that, since the action plan would be largely operational in nature and that he was in contact with GLL staff on a daily basis, it would be make sense for him to draft the plan in close consultation with GLL. That would allow for the action plan to be ready in time for the Board meeting on 9th December and would, in light of the demands already being placed on Directors' time, eliminate the need to establish a Working Group.

The Board granted approval for the Partnership Manager to work with GLL to formulate the draft Aquatics Strategy Action Plan, noted that a draft would be forwarded to Directors for comment as soon as it was available and commended GLL on the success of the event which had been held to launch the Aquatics Strategy.

### **Director Extended Tenure Approval**

The Partnership Manager informed the Board that Mr. McGuigan, Mr. Stewart and Mr. Walls had, in December, 2018, reached the end of their initial three-year term of appointment. He explained that the three Directors had recently provided official confirmation of their intention to remain on the Board for a further three-year term, subject to approval being granted by the Board.

Accordingly, approval was granted for Mr. McGuigan, Mr. Stewart and Mr. Walls to remain on the Board until 14th December, 2021.

### **Other Business**

No additional items of business were raised.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

The Board noted that its next meeting would take place on Monday, 7th October at 4.30 p.m.

Chairperson

## Working Group on the Climate Crisis

Monday, 16th September, 2019

### MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE CLIMATE CRISIS

Members present: Councillors Baker, Ferguson, Hutchinson and Smyth.

In attendance: Ms. G. Long, Commissioner for Resilience;  
Ms. C. McKeown, Sustainable Development Manager;  
Ms. C. Shortt, Policy and Data Analyst;  
Mr R. McLernon, Project Coordinator and  
Mr. G. Graham, Democratic Services Assistant.

#### **Apologies**

Apologies were reported on behalf of the Chairperson, Councillor de Faoite, and Councillor McReynolds and Alderman Copeland.

#### **Vacant Position Chairperson**

In the absence of the Chairperson, the Working Group agreed that Councillor Smyth take up the position of Chairperson for the duration of the meeting.

#### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 12th August, 2019 were taken as read and signed as correct.

#### **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were declared.

#### **Presentation – NI Climate Risk Assessment**

Professor John Barry, Professor of Green Political Economy, Queen's University Belfast, attended in connection with this item and was welcomed by the Chairperson.

Professor Barry provided the Working Group with an outline of the work undertaken by the Place Based Climate Action Network (PCAN), of which Belfast City Council was a partner, including its sources of funding, budget allocation and city project partners. The Working Group was advised that the role of PACT was engagement, impact including the engagement and sharing of knowledge in respect of climate action.

Professor Barry referred to the need for integration of action in respect of climate change and of the need to ensure a multi-agency approach in tackling the associated problems of climate change. He referred specifically to the role of Belfast City Council (BCC) in informing policy in the matter and of taking a lead in ensuring that climate change was placed firmly at the top of the agenda. The Working Group was advised that the target of ensuring zero emissions by the year 2050 was not sufficient to ensure that the most severe impact of climate change was avoided. He suggested that a revised target of zero emissions by 2030 should be adopted.

The Working Group was provided with an outline of the work of the Belfast Climate Commission including, amongst other things, making a positive choice on issues

pertaining to energy, carbon, weather and climate change by working collaboratively with a range of organisations and stakeholders across the city including public, private and third sectors. He referred also to its role in monitoring progress in regard to the city meeting its carbon reduction targets including the assessment of climate-related risks and the assessment of opportunities to affect climate resilience.

The Professor provided the Working Group with a number of key statistics in regard to projected future temperature increases and other climatic variables. This included the projected rises in sea level and the overall impact associated with climate breakdown. The Members were informed of their possible role in averting the impact of climate change by working in partnership with other organisations and by incorporating initiatives through the Belfast Agenda including its local development plans. He referred to the link between energy and spatial planning and of the need to develop improved community engagement to ensure a just transition so that the most vulnerable communities were not adversely affected by approaches to minimise climate change.

The Members were advised of the levers available to the Council to minimise the worst effects of climate change. These levers included a strategic focus on climate resilience and ensuring that the Belfast Region City deal embedded principles of climate resilience by amongst other things the use of technology and improvements to infrastructure including the transportation network.

Several Members referred to their concerns in regard to the lack of investment by central government departments in relation to resources being provided by DfI to deal with investment in water resources, including flooding and associated drainage systems. Concern was raised also by the Members in regard to the lack of alternative and affordable transport within the city to provide for a suitable alternative to the car as a means of transportation. A Member voiced specific concern in regard to the U.K. Government's commitment to honour emission targets, following Brexit, and the possible consequences for the province and island of Ireland as a whole.

The Commissioner for Resilience referred to the recent decision by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that she would bring a report to its December meeting with an outline plan for prioritising adaptation and mitigation measures and would provide an outline in respect of associated implementation costs. She reported also that Mr. C. Conway, representing Translink, had been invited to the next meeting of the Working Group to address the Members' concerns in respect of the city's public transportation system.

The Working Group thanked Professor Barry for his detailed and informative presentation and he retired from the meeting.

### **Presentation – NI Strategic Energy Framework**

Ms. M. Cormacain, SIB Energy Advisor, Department for Enterprise DfE, attended in connection with this item and was welcomed by the Chairperson.

Ms. Cormacain provided the Working Group with an overview of the process to adhere to the emissions targets as contained within the Paris Agreement. She referred to the long term goal to keep global average temperatures increases to below 2c incorporated within a low-carbon agenda. The Energy Advisor referred specifically to the development of a new energy strategy for Northern Ireland and the fact that the province had been successful in meeting its targets for the production of renewable energy. She stated that the United Kingdom target for net zero carbon emissions, enshrined in legislation, was 2050 and referred to the Northern Ireland's economic dependence on oil as a severe impediment to reducing current carbon emissions.

The Working Group was informed of the inter-dependencies between transportation, air quality and health and of the need to adopt a joined-up approach to develop an energy strategy to tackle the problems that contribute to global warming. Ms. Cormacain provided the Working Group with an outline of the targets agreed in respect of a reduction in emissions under the three categories of power, heat and transport, including a range of options under each heading which might be considered to meet the reductions required.

The Energy Advisor reported that it was the intention of DfE to produce a paper outlining a range of options pertaining to a comprehensive energy strategy which would ultimately require ministerial approval. A Member referred to the need to develop the circular economy and of the need to consider the issue of fuel poverty on any policy changes implemented to mitigate against the impact of climate change. The Working Group discussed the possibility of the Council's development of renewable energy on the North Foreshore, including the possibility of re-selling any additional power generated back to the national grid. Other issues discussed by the Working Group included regulations to ensure that all new dwellings met strict standards in terms of insulation and energy efficiency.

On behalf of the Working Group, the Commissioner for Resilience agreed to write to the DfE outlining some of the key principles on climate change measures which it might wish to incorporate within any future consultation paper on climate change.

The Working Group thanked Ms. Cormacain for her informative presentation and she departed from the meeting.

### **Draft Programme of Work**

The Commissioner for Resilience reminded the Working Group that its report to the December meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee would be its major priority, however, alongside this, an outline of a programme of work was proposed. The Working Group was provided with a range of options which, it was proposed would be considered by the Working Group namely:

1. Emergency Planning and preparation for climate related events
2. The Circular Economy and job creation
3. Meeting with The Department for Infrastructure and Translink to reduce car dependency
4. Business Development and Sustainability Challenge
5. Fuel Poverty – NIHE
6. Sustainability Impact as a decision making element
7. Local development plan and Climate Resilience
8. Conference of parties COP26
9. Site Visit to the North Foreshore

The Commissioner for Resilience referred to the importance attached to undertaking a risk assessment in terms of mitigating against those areas of the city and citizens most at risk from climate change. She reported that Ms. C. Carlton and Mr. D. Neill would be addressing the Working Group, at a future meeting, to discuss the Council's Emergency Planning contingencies to deal with the predicted adverse impact

of climate change. She reported also that the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services, or his nominee, would be addressing the Working Group at a future meeting on the Council's development of the Circular Economy. The Commissioner highlighted the importance attached to assessing the impact of the Council's activities with particular reference to the impact those activities had on climate change. The Working Group was reminded that climate change considerations was required to be integrated into the fabric of any proposed Local Development Plans.

In response to a further question in respect of the impact of climate change, the Commissioner reported that much work remained to be completed by the Council in respect of the production of a Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Plan which required to be fully costed. The Members requested that the Commissioner investigate the possibility of having a climate change countdown clock erected in the City Hall as a means to focus attention on the urgent need to meet agreed climate change targets, subject to the approval of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

The Working Group requested that the Commissioner produce a report to investigate the possibility of the Council holding a conference to highlight the threat posed by climate change, including the actions taken by the Council to influence government policy to reduce its impact and manage the consequences associated with the declaration of a climate change emergency. She stated that the proposed conference would include an invitation to all relevant stakeholders at which the Lord Mayor would be asked to address the Conference, subject to his availability, and the approval of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

The Working Group agreed further that it would be making a recommendation to the September meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that a climate emergency be declared. While that Committee had accepted that much more work was required to prioritise actions on a fully costed basis, however, given the urgency of the situation, it was important that the Working Group show its commitment to the issue. The Commissioner agreed that she would liaise with the Council's Corporate Communications team in relation to the Working Group's discussion in the matter.

#### **Progress with Belfast Mini-Stern Report**

The Sustainable Development Manager reported that the Council was on track in regard to the mini-stern review and that the necessary resources for delivery had been agreed.

Noted.

#### **Progress on Belfast Climate Risk Report**

The Sustainable Development Manager provided the Members with an update on the Climate risk report.

Noted.

#### **Report on PCAN – Application Proposal for Spring 2020 Mini Conference**

The Sustainable Development Manager referred to the work undertaken as part of the PCAN initiative which had an allocated fund across several cities for the lifetime of the project of £400,000. She reported that an application had been made by the Council for £15,000 to provide for a mini conference, a series of quarterly lectures and a youth event.



### **Sustainable NI Working Group**

The Sustainable Development Manager reported that Sustainable NI had requested that two Members from the Working Group be appointed to sit on the Sustainable NI Working Group which would meet on a quarterly basis.

The Working Group considered the request and agreed that it be represented on the Working Group by Councillors Smyth and Ferguson and that the representatives be permitted to alternate to provide that any Member from the Working Group be permitted to replace the appointed Members, should they be unable to attend, subject to the approval of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

The Working Group agreed that its next meeting would be held on Monday, 21st October at 4.30 p.m.

Chairperson

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<b>Subject:</b>	Council Declaration of a Climate Emergency
<b>Date</b>	20 September 2019
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Grainia Long, Commissioner for Resilience
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Clare McKeown, Sustainable Development Manager

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
	Following SP&R discussion in August, to consider next steps towards declaring a Climate Emergency.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
<b>2.1</b>	That SP&R considers the actions which should be undertaken in advance of Belfast being in a position to declare a Climate Emergency.
<b>2.2</b>	To consider the recommendation of the All-Party Group on the Climate Crisis that Council should immediately declare a Climate Emergency.

<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report / key issues</b>
3.1	The August meeting of Strategic Policy & Resources Committee agreed to refer a previous motion to declare a climate emergency to the All-Party Working Group on the Climate Crisis. The Committee also agreed that a report be submitted to its monthly meeting in September, setting out proposed actions to be undertaken in advance of Belfast being in a position to declare a Climate Emergency, with the aim of that being before the end of 2019.
3.2	On 16 <sup>th</sup> September, the All Party Working Group on the Climate Crisis met, and discussed its programme of work and the steps it will take in the coming months to better understand the scale and nature of climate risks for Belfast. It agreed that it would work to produce a substantive report to SP&R by December, which would set out with as much detail as possible a programme of work on climate resilience.
3.3	<p>The December report will be informed by the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conclusion of the 'Mini Stern' – an economic analysis of CO2 reductions for the city</li> <li>- Conclusion of a high level risk assessment of the city's infrastructure and the impact of various climate related scenarios</li> <li>- Ongoing learning from cities such as Leeds, Manchester and Glasgow in developing a methodology for assessment of climate risks and a mitigation and adaptation strategy</li> <li>- An appraisal of the costs associated with developing a climate adaptation and mitigation plan as part of the annual estimates process</li> </ul>
3.4	This work has been commissioned as part of the ongoing development of the city's Resilience Strategy.
3.5	The All Party Working Group also discussed the matter of whether it should recommend to SP&R to declare a Climate Emergency as soon as possible. It recognised that there is merit in waiting to conclude the work outlined above. However, in the context of a range of recent national and global reports that point to clear and persistent risks to the city arising from climate change, the Working Group felt it should reflect the urgency of the climate crisis, and as other local councils have done, should declare a climate emergency forthwith.

3.6	The Working Group reiterated its commitment to undertake the actions outlined in 3.3
3.7	<u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u> There are no financial and resource implications at this time. The final report presented in December will include indicative costings as described above.
3.8	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> There are no Equality or Good Relations/ Rural Needs Assessment implications at this point.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	None

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