

**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, 21st February, 2020 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) Financial Reporting – Quarter 3 2019/20 (Pages 1 - 62)
- (b) DFC Consultation on Regulation of Gambling (Pages 63 - 118)
- (c) Request for revision of public tours of City Hall (Pages 119 - 148)
- (d) NI Water (To Follow)
- (e) George Telford Memorial Grand Lodge Centenary Dinner (Pages 149 - 156)

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

- (a) Motion: Bowel and Breast Cancer Screening - Response from Permanent Secretary (Pages 157 - 162)
- (b) Motion: Irish Unity Referendum - Response from Governments (Pages 163 - 170)
- (c) Northern Ireland Water Refillution Campaign and Water Refill Stations (Pages 171 - 178)
- (d) Motion - Market Gardens and Urban Farming (Pages 179 - 180)
- (e) Motion – Growth Deal (Pages 181 - 182)
- (f) Motion - Belfast Zoo (Pages 183 - 186)
- (g) Proposed approach to enable the strategic consideration of Notices of Motions and Issues Raised in Advance by Members (Pages 187 - 196)
- (h) Motion: Lucy's Law - Response from Minister (Pages 197 - 200)

4. **Belfast Agenda/Strategic Issues**

- (a) City Region Growth Deal – Update (Pages 201 - 246)
- (b) NI Executive Ministerial Engagement (Pages 247 - 322)
- (c) Draft Improvement Objectives 2020/21 (Pages 323 - 334)
- (d) Belfast Healthy Cities (Pages 335 - 338)

5. **Governance**

- (a) APSE Local Government Commission 2030 (Pages 339 - 342)
- (b) Revision to Scheme of Allowances 2020/21 (Pages 343 - 360)

6. **Physical Programme and Asset Management**

- (a) Physical Programme Update (Pages 361 - 368)
- (b) Assets Update (Pages 369 - 374)
- (c) Leisure Transformation Programme Phase 1b – Operational Update (Pages 375 - 382)

7. **Finance, Resources and Procurement**

- (a) Contracts Update (Pages 383 - 388)

8. **Equality and Good Relations**

- (a) Minutes of Shared City Partnership Meeting on 10th February 2020 (Pages 389 - 406)

- (b) PEACE Plus Stakeholder Engagement -Preparing the Peace Plus Programme European Territorial Co-operation 2021-2027 (Pages 407 - 464)

9. **Operational Issues**

- (a) Brexit Committee – Proposed Visit to Belfast and Dublin Ports (Pages 465 - 466)
- (b) Requests for use of the City Hall and the provision of Hospitality (Pages 467 - 470)
- (c) Minutes of Area Working Groups (Pages 471 - 516)
- (d) Minutes of Party Group Leaders Consultative Forum (Pages 517 - 520)
- (e) Minutes of Meeting of Working Group on the Climate Crises (Pages 521 - 524)

10. **Issues raised in advance by Members**

- (a) Flying of the Flag on 19th February to mark the Birthday of the Duke of York - Councillor

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<b>Subject:</b>	Motion : Bowel and Breast Cancer Screening - Response from Permanent Secretary
<b>Date:</b>	21st February, 2020
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Walsh, City Solicitor
<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 response from the Permanent Secretary, Department of Health, to a motion on Bowel and Breast Cancer Screening which was passed by the Council at its meeting on 2nd December.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	The Committee is requested to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>consider the response and take such action thereon as may be determined.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	At the Council meeting on 2nd December, the following motion, which was proposed by Councillor Canavan and seconded by Councillor S. Baker, was passed: <p>“This Council notes that early diagnosis of bowel cancer and breast cancer offers patients the best chance of successful treatment.</p>

	<p>England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland all currently use the more accurate screening test, the Faecal Immunochemical Test (FIT) for bowel cancer and have a lowered age for screening.</p> <p>NHS England is currently trialling breast cancer screening at the lower age of 47 and the upper age of 72.</p> <p>This Council agrees to write to the Permanent Secretary, Department of Health, highlighting the difference in the screening service provision across Britain and Ireland and calling for the extension of the age range for bowel screening and to trial breast cancer screening at a lower age in the North of Ireland.”</p>
3.2	A response has now been received from the Permanent Secretary, a copy of which is attached.
3.3	<p>The Permanent Secretary explains that the Northern Ireland Bowel Cancer Screening Programme currently covers all men and women between the ages of 60 and 74. In relation to the further development of the Programme, the Northern Ireland Screening Committee has recommended a phased approach involving, firstly, the replacement of the Faecal Occult Blood test with the Faecal Immunochemical Test, which has a better performance in terms of participation rates, and, secondly, giving consideration to offering screening from the age of 50. The move to Faecal Immunochemical Testing is due to take place early this year and, once completed, the extension of the age range for bowel screening will be considered. In view of these developments, there is, therefore, no plans to undertake a review of bowel screening at this time.</p>
3.4	<p>The Permanent Secretary then provides details of the Northern Ireland Breast Screening Programme. He explains that, in line with the recommendations of the UK National Screening Committee, women between the ages of 50 and 70 are invited for screening every three years. Those over the age of 70 are able to self-refer every three years by contacting their local screening centre. Breast screening is not, however, offered to women under the age of 50, as their risk of developing breast cancer is deemed to be lower and their mammograms tend to be more difficult to interpret, thereby leading to false positive results, anxiety and unnecessary biopsies. He adds that, in April, 2013, the Northern Ireland Breast Screening Programme assumed responsibility for the surveillance screening of women with a higher risk of breast cancer and that women from the age of 20 upwards were now included in the Programme.</p>

3.5	He goes on to provide details of a National Health Service Breast Screening Programme 'Age X' trial which is running currently in England. The trial, which will conclude in 2026, offers some women an extra screen between the ages of 47 and 49 and another between the ages of 71 and 73, with a view to determining if extending the age range reduces deaths from breast cancer. More than five million women will be selected over the course of the trial to receive additional or usual screening, with such a large number being required to ensure that the research will produce reliable results for informing future screening policy.
3.6	He points out that a major research trial, such as Age X, will not be given approval unless there are enough participants to produce reliable results. Given the number of women in the relevant age groups, a separate research trial for Northern Ireland would not be considered, as it would be unable to produce sufficiently reliable information to inform future policy.
3.7	The Permanent Secretary concludes by stressing that the screening tests do not provide a guarantee that all cancers will be detected early or prevented and that it is important that people are aware of warning signs or symptoms and act promptly by contacting their GP with any concerns.
3.8	<b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b> None associated with this report.
3.9	<b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b> None
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices - Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1 - Response from Permanent Secretary, Department of Health

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



Suzanne Wylie, Chief Executive  
Belfast City Council  
[wylies@belfastcity.gov.uk](mailto:wylies@belfastcity.gov.uk)

Castle Buildings  
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BELFAST, BT4 3SQ

Tel: 02890520559  
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Email: [richard.pengelly@health-ni.gov.uk](mailto:richard.pengelly@health-ni.gov.uk)

Our ref: RP5142  
SGM-0901-2019

Date: 22 January 2020

Dear Ms Wylie

### **Early diagnosis of Bowel and Breast cancer**

Thank you for your letter dated 17th December 2019 about early diagnosis of bowel and breast cancer in Northern Ireland.

The Northern Ireland Bowel Cancer Screening Programme currently covers all men and women from 60 to 74 years of age. In relation to the further development of the Northern Ireland Bowel Cancer Screening Programme, the NI Screening Committee has recommended a phased approach with the first step to replace the Faecal Occult Blood (FOB) test with Faecal Immunochemical Test (FIT) and then giving consideration to extending the age range to offer screening from the age of 50. FIT has a better performance in terms of participation rates compared to the FOB test, probably due to the fact that it requires the participant to take only one sample from a bowel motion rather than the two samples on three different occasions required by the FOB test.

In April 2019, the Department announced that FIT would be adopted by the Northern Ireland Bowel Cancer Screening Programme as the primary screening test for bowel cancer. Implementation is underway, with the move from FOB to FIT due to take place early this year. Once this work has been completed, extension of the age range for bowel screening will be considered.

Given the National Screening Committee recommendations and the above developments, there are no plans for a review of bowel screening at this time.

Through the NI Breast Screening Programme, women aged between 50 and 70 are invited for screening every three years and this is in line with the recommendations of the UK National Screening Committee. Women over the age of 70 are not invited, but are able to self-refer every 3 years and are encouraged to make their own appointment by contacting

their local screening centre. Breast screening is not offered to women under the age of 50 because the risk of breast cancer is lower and women under 50 generally have denser breast tissue which makes their mammograms much more difficult to interpret, which may lead to false positive results, anxiety and unnecessary biopsies.

On 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 the Northern Ireland Breast Screening Programme took on responsibility for the surveillance screening of women at higher risk of breast cancer. Women from the age of 20 upwards are included in the higher risk surveillance screening programme.

The current NHS Breast Screening Programme Age X trial in England is due to run until 2026. The trial is designed to examine the effectiveness of offering some women an extra screen between the ages of 47 and 49, and another between the ages of 71 and 73. The aim of this study is to see if extending the age range of breast screening reduces deaths from breast cancer. It will provide robust evidence to inform further consideration on the most clinically appropriate upper and lower ages for breast screening across the UK. The UK National Screening Committee will review the evidence once the trial has reported and will advise the four UK Health Departments on their recommendations.

It is expected that during the course of Age X trial more than 5 million women will be randomised to receive additional or usual screening. This very large number of participants is required to ensure the research will produce reliable results which will inform future screening policy across the UK. A major research trial such as Age X will not be approved unless it includes enough participants to be able to produce reliable results. Given the number of women in the relevant age groups in Northern Ireland, a research trial here would not be able to produce sufficiently reliable information to inform future policy.

It should be noted that the screening tests do not provide a guarantee that all cancers will be detected early or prevented. No test is 100% reliable, so in the interests of early detection it is important that people are aware of the warning signs or symptoms, and that they act promptly to get anything suspicious checked out by their GP and referred for further assessment if necessary.

I trust you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely



**RICHARD PENGELLY**





<b>Subject:</b>	Motion : Irish Unity Referendum – Response from Governments
<b>Date:</b>	21st February, 2020
<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 responses from the British and Irish Governments to a motion on an Irish Unity Referendum which was passed by the Council at its meeting on 2nd December.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	The Committee is requested to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider the responses and take such action thereon as may be determined.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	At the Council meeting on 2nd December, the following motion was proposed by former Councillor Hargey and seconded by Councillor McLaughlin: <p>“This Council notes with deep concern the hugely damaging, toxic and chaotic politics currently being administered by the Conservative British Government regarding Brexit.</p>

3.2	<p>This City has an ever-growing population of young people who will ultimately have to live with the long term consequences of this British Government's damaging policy of attempting to drag citizens out of the European Union against the wishes of the majority of citizens in Belfast who voted to remain.</p> <p>As a Council, we have a duty to protect all our citizens, young and old, against the policies and hardship that this British government and its allies will bring by dragging them out of the European Union. There is no Brexit that is a good Brexit for the citizens of Belfast or elsewhere in Ireland.</p> <p>This Council must, therefore, investigate alternative solutions to Brexit that seek to protect its citizens from the damaging effects which Brexit will ultimately bring.</p> <p>In seeking alternative solutions to protect Belfast citizens, a referendum on Irish Unity, as enshrined within the terms of the Good Friday Agreement, must be legitimately considered. This is a solution that would protect our citizens from Brexit and is supported by categorical statements from the European Council where, in the event of Irish Unity, the citizens in the north would be returned back into the European Union.</p> <p>The Council calls for the establishment of a New Ireland Forum for the 21st Century, alongside a series of comprehensive Citizens' Assemblies, to examine the practical, social and economic aspects of a New Ireland.</p> <p>The Council believes that winning people to the idea of a unified state will require a vision of a different kind of Ireland, which sees an end to the low tax haven and soaring rents in the South, the complete separation of church and state, an all-island NHS and an end to sectarianism and racism and the communal carve up of resources in the North, where those who live here are welcome here, no matter where they are born, and where the rights of women and the LBGTQ+ communities are respected.</p> <p>The Council agrees to write directly to the Taoiseach and to the British Secretary of State requesting that they clearly specify what would satisfy the requirement, as provided for under the terms of the Good Friday Agreement, to facilitate an Irish Unity referendum."</p> <p>Responses have now been received on behalf of the Secretary of State and the Tánaiste addressing in detail the issues raised within the motion in relation to a unity referendum and Brexit. Copies of the responses are attached.</p>
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3.3	<b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b> None associated with this report.
3.4	<b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b> None
4.0	<b>Appendices - Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1 - Responses from the Secretary of State's and the Tánaiste's office

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## Northern Ireland Office

Ms S Wylie  
Chief Executive  
Belfast City Council  
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[@niopressoffice](https://twitter.com/niopressoffice)

16 January 2020

Dear Ms Wylie,

Thank you for your letter of the 17<sup>th</sup> December to the Secretary of State regarding the issue of a referendum in Northern Ireland on its constitutional future and on the impact to Northern Ireland of the UK's withdrawal from the European Union. I have been asked to reply.

This Government fully recognises and respects the fact that a significant section of society in Northern Ireland legitimately regards itself as Irish and aspires to a united Ireland. The Belfast Agreement itself allows for people living in Northern Ireland to identify as British, Irish or both. This Government's clear preference is for Northern Ireland to remain part of the United Kingdom. We have always made clear that, in accordance with the 1998 Agreement, it is for the people of Northern Ireland to decide and we will always back their democratic wishes.

It remains the Secretary of State's view that a majority of the people of Northern Ireland continue to support Northern Ireland's place in the United Kingdom and that this is unlikely to change for at least the foreseeable future. The circumstances set out in the Belfast Agreement that require the Secretary of State to hold a referendum on Irish unification are therefore not satisfied.

Turning to the concerns you have expressed regarding the UK's exit from the EU and the impact on Northern Ireland, the new deal we have agreed with the EU has a special arrangement for Northern Ireland, reflecting the unique circumstances there.

The Protocol sets out the relationship that Northern Ireland, and the rest of the UK in relation to Northern Ireland, will have with the EU at the end of the transition period in December 2020. It avoids a hard border on the island of Ireland, maintains north-south cooperation, and protects the Belfast Agreement. Northern Ireland will have access to the Single Market, but can also be part of UK trade deals negotiated around the world. Crucially, this arrangement will be underpinned by the principle of democratic consent.

This Government has been clear that the result of the 2016 referendum must be respected and as such we will leave the EU on 31 January 2020 as one United Kingdom, with a deal that protects Northern Ireland's constitutional status as part of the UK.

Yours sincerely,

Matthew Ellesmere  
Political Strategy and Implementation Team

Oifig an Tánaiste  
Aire Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála  
Office of the Tánaiste  
Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade



Ms. Suzanne Wylie  
Chief Executive  
Belfast City Council  
City Hall  
Belfast BT1 5GS

27 January 2020

Our Reference: DFAT-TO-00604-2019  
Your Ref: SW/c

Dear Ms. Wylie,

The Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Mr. Simon Coveney T.D., has asked me to refer to your correspondence of 17 December to the Taoiseach which he conveyed to the Tánaiste for attention.

The Tánaiste has asked me to thank you for this correspondence conveying details of the resolution adopted by Belfast City Council on 2 December 2019 regarding the impacts of Brexit and call for a New Ireland Forum for the 21st century.

The full implementation of the Good Friday Agreement and subsequent agreements is a priority for the Government. The approach of the Government in relation to Irish unity is of course guided by Article 3 of the Constitution, as amended by the people in 1998.

Under the Good Friday Agreement, the Irish and British Governments “recognise the legitimacy of whatever choice is freely exercised by a majority of the people of Northern Ireland with regard to its status, whether they prefer to continue to support the Union with Britain or a sovereign united Ireland” and should such a choice be made in the future, it will be a binding obligation on both Governments to introduce and support in their respective Parliaments legislation to give effect to that wish.

The holding of a referendum in this jurisdiction is connected with the calling of a border poll, under the terms of the Good Friday Agreement, in Northern Ireland. Under the Good Friday Agreement, the Secretary of State shall exercise this power “if at any time it appears likely...that a majority of those voting would express a wish that Northern Ireland should cease to be part of the United Kingdom and form part of a united Ireland”.



In the event of a future referendum within the consent provisions of the Good Friday Agreement, the Government has confirmed that it would make all necessary preparations in accordance with the terms of the Constitution and the principles and procedures of the Agreement.

It is recognised that the course of Brexit in recent years has led to more civic discussion and engagement, North and South, about constitutional change as provided for under the Good Friday Agreement.

The Taoiseach has stated that the Government will continue to listen to and engage with the views of everyone on this island, both on rights issues and on the constitutional future that they wish to see for Northern Ireland – whether nationalist, unionist or neither.

These are extremely important issues which naturally require very careful and serious consideration and the Government will continue to engage and reflect on them.

In the near term, the Government is focused on securing ratification and implementation of the Withdrawal Agreement to allow for an ordered Brexit, including a smooth transition period; preparing for the next phase of Brexit negotiations dealing with the future EU-UK relationship; ensuring the sustained and effective functioning of the devolved institutions and the North South Ministerial Council and ensuring the protection of the Good Friday Agreement and the achievements of the Peace Process, as the UK leaves the EU.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Clare Brosnan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Clare Brosnan  
Private Secretary





<b>Subject:</b>	Northern Ireland Water Refillution Campaign and Water Refill Stations
<b>Date:</b>	21 <sup>st</sup> February 2020
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Nigel Grimshaw, Strategic Director of City & Neighbourhood Services
<b>Contact Officers:</b>	Ryan Black, Director of Neighbourhood Services Stephen Leonard, Neighbourhood Services Manager, City & Neighbourhood 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	Committee is asked to consider a request from Northern Ireland Water for the Council to engage with them in relation to the Northern Ireland Water Refillution Campaign.
1.2	Committee is also asked to note the update re the Notice of Motion, raised by Councillor McMullan and seconded by Councillor McReynolds in regards to examining the feasibility of installing Water refill points across the Council Estate.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	Committee is asked to; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Consider the request from Northern Ireland Water and to approve that officers engage with them in relation to Belfast City Council participating in this scheme.</li> </ul>

	<p>(ii) Note that a recommendation to add 'Installation of Water Refill Points in Council Assets' as a Stage 1 – Emerging Project onto the Capital Programme is contained within the Physical Programme Update report which is also on the agenda for consideration by Members today at Item 6</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<p><b><u>REFILLOUTION CAMPAIGN</u></b></p> <p>Members are advised of a request from Northern Ireland Water in relation to the 'Refilloution' Campaign. This request compliments previous discussions on water refill points and would encourage members of the public to refill a reusable bottle with tap water rather than buy single use plastics.</p>
3.2	<p>Over the last year, Northern Ireland Water has engaged with Northern Ireland Councils, including Belfast City Council, to partner with them on helping reduce plastic pollution. Northern Ireland Water launched its 'Refillution,' Campaign on 19th June to coincide with a National Day of Action.</p>
3.3	<p>The 'Refillution' Campaign is aimed at encouraging people to refill a reusable bottle with tap water and buy less single use plastic bottles.</p>
3.4	<p>Ards and North Down Borough Council became the first Council area to partner with Northern Ireland Water in May 2019. A number of businesses in the Borough, around 70, have signed up to 'Refillution' where the public can refill their reusable water bottles for free, from shops or cafés that are supporting the campaign.</p>
3.5	<p>Northern Ireland Water provides the business with a number of window stickers, posters and bottles as part of a 'Toolkit.' There are also opportunities for joint press and shared articles in the Council Magazine.</p>
3.6	<p>Eight of the other Councils also supported the NI Water launch on 19<sup>th</sup> June. Northern Ireland Water have requested that the Belfast City Council meet with them to look at how this scheme can be introduced into the City.</p>
3.7	<p><b><u>WATER REFILL STATIONS</u></b></p>
3.8	<p>Members will recall the notice of motion brought forward by Cllr McMullan, seconded by Cllr McReynolds at the August meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee:</p>

3.9	<p><i>“This Council recognises the over reliance on single use plastic water bottles. It notes innovative solutions to tackle this issue and support sustainable living, for example, the water refill stations recently installed by Mayo County Council.</i></p> <p><i>The Council agrees to the installation of water bottle refill stations across the Council Estate. This aims to help encourage a growing culture of using personal, reusable bottles to tackle single-use plastic use.”</i></p> <p><i>The motion had, in accordance with Standing Order 13(f), been referred without discussion to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.</i></p> <p><i>Councillor McMullan had referred to the facility within Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park as being an excellent example of a water refill point and requested that other potential Council locations and models be identified and costings provided”.</i></p> <p>In furtherance of the above NOM, given the infrastructure and asset implications the proposal would need to be taken through Council's agreed physical programme development process, and added as a Stage 1 Emerging project on the Capital Programme, in order to be worked up further. Members are asked to note that this is on the Physical Programme report for consideration by Members at today's meeting.</p>
3.10	<p><u>Financial &amp; Human Resource Implications</u></p> <p>If Members wish to see additional drinking fountains / units across the Council estate then this would need to be considered as part of the emerging list within the capital programme (see Physical Programmes update report, Item 6).</p>
3.11	<p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u></p> <p>There are no known implications.</p>
3.12	<p><u>Equality, Good Relations or Rural Needs Implications</u></p> <p>There are no known implications.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	<p>Appendix 1: Letter from Northern Ireland Water</p> <p>Appendix 2: Audit of existing provision</p>

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**Northern Ireland Water**

Westland House  
Old Westland Road  
Belfast  
BT14 6TE  
[www.niwater.com](http://www.niwater.com)



Tel: 0345 3006461

Ms Siobhan Toland  
Assistant Director Neighbourhood Services,  
Belfast City Council

Your Ref:

Date: 25<sup>th</sup> June 2019

Dear Ms Toland,

**NI Water's Refillution Campaign**

Over the last year, Northern Ireland Water has engaged with all of our Councils including Belfast City Council, to partner with us on helping reduce plastic pollution. NI Water launched its 'Refillution,' campaign on the 19<sup>th</sup> June to coincide with a National Day of Action.

The 'Refillution' campaign is aimed at encouraging people to refill a reusable bottle with tap water and buy less single use plastic bottles. The alarming number of single use plastic bottles ending up in our seas is a global problem that everyone needs to address.

Ards and North Down Council became the first Council area to partner with us in May. A number of businesses in the Borough, around 70, have signed up to 'Refillution' where the public can refill their reusable water bottles for free, from shops or cafés that are supporting the campaign. NI Water provides the business with a number of window stickers, posters and bottles as part of a 'Toolkit.' There are also opportunities for joint press, and shared articles in the Council Magazine.

Eight of the other Councils also supported our launch on the 19<sup>th</sup> of June.

We would be very keen for Belfast City council to support 'Refillution' and to partner with NI Water in the months ahead.

If you are interested in hearing more details about the campaign, I would be happy to give you a short presentation outlining more details and the benefits for the Council area and its constituents.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "A. Halpenny".

**ANGELA HALPENNY**

**Head of Environmental Regulation**

<b>Leisure Centres</b>	Total number of Water Dispensers
Ballysillan	3
Belvoir	3
Brook	3
Better Gym Connswater	2
Better Gym Belfast	1
Falls	1
Girdwood	2
Grove	2
Loughside	0
Lisnasharragh	3
Ozone	2
Olympia	3
Shankill	4
Whiterock	1
<b>Community Centres</b>	Water Dispensers
Suffolk	1
Finaghy	1
Morton	1
Sandy Row	1
Donegal Pass	1

The Markets	1
Highfield	1
Hammer	1
Glen Road	1
Horn Drive	1
Cregagh	1
Tullycarnet	1
Concorde	1
Woodvale	1
Inverary	1
Dee St	1
Knocknagoney	1
Ligoneil	1
North Queen Street	1
<b>Parks Sites</b>	Drinking fountains
Ormeau Park	2
Woodvale	1
Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon	1





<b>Subject:</b>	Motion - Market Gardens and Urban Farming
<b>Date:</b>	21 <sup>st</sup> February, 2020
<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 Market Gardens and Urban Farming, which was referred to the Committee by the Council at its meeting on 3 <sup>rd</sup> February.
<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 if the proposal is agreed a report on how this would be facilitated, resourced and managed will be brought back.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p>At the Council meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> February, the following motion was proposed by Councillor de Faoite and seconded by Councillor McKeown:</p> <p><i>"This Council:</i></p>

	<p>i. <i>notes the objectives of the Growing Communities Strategy 2012 – 2022, which include supporting environmental sustainability and the development of the social economy;</i></p> <p>ii. <i>recognises that, as society continues to care more about how food is produced, processed and transported, market gardens and urban farming are increasingly popular alternatives for climate-conscious consumers;</i></p> <p>iii. <i>further recognises that market gardens and urban farming align closely with the three pillars of sustainable development: they contribute to production; they boost social integration; and they improve our environment and general health;</i></p> <p>iv. <i>acknowledges that market gardens and urban farming can play a positive role in supporting the development of environmental and agricultural education at all levels; and</i></p> <p>v. <i>resolves to work with all relevant partners to establish an urban farm for community use and market garden development on an existing site within the Belfast City Council land bank, using revenue raised by the disposal of other sites.”</i></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 associated with this report.</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>	Motion – Growth Deal
<b>Date:</b>	21 <sup>st</sup> February, 2020
<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 a Growth Deal, which was referred to the Committee by the Council at its meeting on 3 <sup>rd</sup> February.
<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 if the proposal is agreed a report on how this would be facilitated, resourced and managed will be brought back.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p>At the Council meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> February, the following motion was proposed by Councillor Beattie and seconded by Councillor Garrett:</p> <p><i>“This Council agrees to task officers to prepare an initial report on developing a new growth deal for the city of Belfast.</i></p>

	<p><i>The Belfast Agenda recognises and builds on our City's achievements. Our success in economic growth is making a vital contribution to the broader economy. We are a significant employer of people living in and outside the city. However, for Belfast to achieve its ambitions, it needs to work in partnership with the Executive.</i></p> <p><i>One potential avenue for this growth deal could be the regional rate. If the Council was to work in conjunction with the Department of Finance and secure an additional 2% from the regional rate, it would derive an additional £30 million in revenue.</i></p> <p><i>Two of the potential sectors to benefit from this additional growth fund could be in the building of much needed public housing or the renewable energy market in the form of an offshore wind farm. Currently, there are no offshore wind farms in the North of Ireland. These two potential options both conform to the Belfast Agenda and the draft Programme for Government. They are sustainable projects which would ensure a steady return to this Council over many years."</i></p> <p>In accordance with Standing Order 13(f), the motion was referred without debate to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.</p>
3.2	<p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
3.3	<p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p> <p>None</p>
4.0	<p><b>Appendices - Documents Attached</b></p>
	<p>None</p>



<b>Subject:</b>	Motion – Belfast Zoo
<b>Date:</b>	21 <sup>st</sup> February, 2020
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Walsh, City Solicitor
<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 Belfast Zoo, which was referred to the Committee by the Council at its meeting on 3 <sup>rd</sup> February.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is requested to consider the motion and if the proposal is agreed, to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Refer matter for initial party group briefings, focusing on Zoo operations and management;</li> <li>(ii) Invite Members to participate in a site visit to Belfast Zoo;</li> <li>(iii) Bring a report back to the committee on how the motion could be facilitated, resourced and managed.</li> </ul>

3.0	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	At the Council meeting on 3 <sup>rd</sup> February, the following motion was proposed by Councillor Maskey and seconded by Councillor Murphy:
3.2	<i>“This Council agrees to an ambitious plan to transform Belfast Zoo into a world-class visitor attraction by 2025. The display of caged animals in enclosures is wrong and unethical, it doesn’t mirror in any way their natural habitat and has no place in modern society.</i>
3.3	<i>The ratepayers of this City have to subsidise the zoo to the sum of £2.5 million per year. The savings from the Zoo site could provide substantial funding for the much-needed regeneration of the City, create jobs, opportunities and attract more visitors. The five-year transitional period will enable the Council to safely return animals to their natural habitats in a carefully crafted phased approach.</i>
3.4	<i>Furthermore, the Council will retain on-site an animal conservation programme for indigenous animals. The five years will also enable the Council to consult with trade unions, staff and residents of the City through direct engagement and consultation. The Council will commit to securing all jobs currently on the Zoo site, with the options of retraining and redeployment. This will create an opportunity for the Council to develop the site, create jobs and to promote the City ethically.”</i>
3.5	<p>In accordance with Standing Order 13(f), the motion was referred without debate to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.</p> <p>The proposer of the motion has indicated that he wishes to amend the notice of motion into the following form:</p> <p><i>“The council agrees to undertake a feasibility study with a view to producing an ambitious plan to transform Belfast Zoo into a world-class visitor attraction by 2025. The display of caged animals in enclosures doesn’t mirror in any way their natural habitat and has no place in modern society.</i></p> <p><i>The five year transitional period will enable the council to explore how best to facilitate the most ethical, safe and appropriate future environment for the animals which are currently housed at the zoo.</i></p> <p><i>The ratepayers of the city have to subsidise the zoo to the tune of £2.5 million annually. The feasibility study will consider if the savings could be re-invested in the site to create a world class visitor attraction. The study should include the feasibility of incorporating a conservation facility and programme for indigenous animals. In doing so the council will seek to commit to securing all jobs currently at the Zoo site with the options of retraining and redeployment if required. The feasibility study to inform the transformation plan would include consultation with staff, trade unions and the residents of the city.”</i></p>
3.6	<p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
3.7	<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

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Subject:	Proposed approach to enable the strategic consideration of Notices of Motions and Issues Raised in Advance by Members
Date:	22 November 2019
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor
Contact Officer:	Sarah Williams, Governance & Compliance Manager; Christine Robinson, Strategic Policy & Partnership 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	<p>The purpose of this report is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to seek approval for a proposed approach to monitoring and tracking of Notices of Motion and Issues Raised in Advance by Members</li> </ul>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	<p>It is recommended that Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approve the proposed approach to enable the strategic consideration of Notices of Motion and Issues Raised in Advance by Members within the Council's corporate planning and policy frameworks.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider whether they would like to amend Standing Order 13 so that that Notices of Motion which fall within the remit of a Committee are automatically referred to the relevant committee for consideration without appearing on the Council agenda</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<p><u>Background</u></p> <p>Members will be aware that under Standing Order 13(l) (set out in full in Appendix 1) no Notice of Motion seeking to commit the Council to expenditure not previously agreed through the Committee process will be considered but shall instead stand referred to the appropriate Committee for consideration and report.</p>
3.2	<p>Since 2016, the Council has agreed over 250 Notices of Motion and Issues Raised in Advance by Members, of which around 95 are yet to be considered in terms of their resource implications, with an average of 12 being agreed at Council each month.</p>
3.3	<p>The Council has a four-year Corporate Plan with agreed Committee Plans and budgets set during the Revenue Estimates process in the February before the new financial year. . A process is needed to ensure that issues being raised by Members can be fully considered in order to incorporate them into the Council's corporate planning and policy process and subsequently lead to implementation and realisation of the members / committee ambition.</p>
3.4	<p>This report proposes a process, in line with the Standing Orders, to ensure that the motion / issues raised in advance are considered in full by the appropriate Committee and advice is provided to Members by officers on the timing, options and costs associated with implementation.</p>
3.5	<p>This approach is recommended in respect of meeting our legal and financial responsibilities in ensuring a balanced budget. A corporate planning process is fundamental to achieving a balanced budget and achieving those objectives which the Council has corporately and democratically endorsed as priorities for the district and the organisation.</p>
3.6	<p><b>Incorporating Notice of Motions into the corporate planning process</b></p> <p>At present, any notices of motion that are agreed in year and have resource implications can only be implemented where an identified underspend exists or at a direct opportunity cost to staff-time allocated against an existing corporate workstream. This also impacts on staff who may be diverted from other planned work being undertaken.</p>

	<p>Members will be aware that a six monthly progress update of the corporate plan will be brought to SP&amp;R committee – and once a year this will result in the development of a one-year update of the corporate plan. Alongside this, both the CG&amp;R and P&amp;C Committees complete committee planning workshops. This in turn enables resources to be realigned and highlight the potential areas for growth in the revenue estimating process.</p> <p>Recognising the strategic importance of a range of issues raised through notices of motion, it is proposed that notices of motions will be considered as part of this annual corporate and committee planning process. Officers from the Strategic Hub and across the policy network will work to ensure that key themes or issues are ‘pulled through’ into this discussion; considered fully in terms of resource requirements; and subsequently reflected in the council’s planning and delivery processes.</p>
3.7	<p><b>Process of Managing Motions / Issues</b></p> <p>It is proposed that a three-stage process (see Appendix 2) is introduced for the consideration of notices/issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Stage 1:</b> Report taken to refer Notice of Motion to Committee or the issue is raised by member in advance at Committee as per the usual process (Notices of Motion will have a revised cover report outlining that the motion will follow this new process (and indicating if it will commit Council to additional expenditure (as outlined in paragraph 3.1 above)).</li> </ul> <p>If the committee rejects the motion or issue, then no further action will be taken. If the Committee request a further report, the notice of motion or issue will be assigned to a lead department.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Stage 2: Initial Scoping Report</b> will subsequently be brought to relevant committee, ideally within three months, which will detail the range of options for initial consideration of the motion, for example it could reference (depending on the nature of the motion / issue): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Immediate implementation</li> <li>○ Set out initial policy or best practice considerations</li> <li>○ Add into an existing programme of work as already agreed in the Corporate Plan and Committee Plans</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Request approval and funding to carry out a scoping exercise to determine the potential strategic, financial, legal or resource implications of the issue</li> <li>○ Recommendations on the timing of Stage 3 Report to committee</li> </ul> <p>• <b>Stage 3: Options Report</b> depending on the outcome of Stage 2, this stage would involve the development of more detailed policy considerations - where the motion / issue would be considered in terms of its priority, options for implementation, legal and resource implications, strategic fit, monetary and non-monetary benefits, sources of funding, longer term financial planning etc. The recommendation of this stage would be presented to the relevant committee.</p> <p>If the above approach is adopted, guidance will be issued to officers to ensure that the process is consistently applied and that reports are to a high standard. This will also provide members with the assurance that all motions/issues are fully considered.</p>
3.8	<p><b>Existing Notices / Issues</b></p> <p>It is proposed that the current notices/issues database is fully reviewed in light in the above. Officers are currently working on this and a progress update on Notices of Motion will be brought to Committee in March or April.</p>
3.9	<p><b>Reporting to Members</b></p> <p>Following the review of current notices of motion/issues a quarterly progress report on notices/issues will be brought to each Committee. SP&amp;R will receive an update on all Notices of Motion.</p>
3.10	<p><b>Feedback from Party Group Briefings</b></p> <p>Members should be assured that this process will not prevent flexibility in the Council being able to deal with urgent matters. The Standing Orders have provision for dealing with matters of urgency.</p>
3.11	<p><b>Standing Orders</b></p> <p>Members may wish to consider if they would like to amend Standing Order 13: Notices of Motion so that Notices of Motion which fall within the remit of a Committee are automatically referred to the relevant committee for consideration without appearing on the Council agenda. At present around half of the notices of motion are referred to committee.</p>

3.12	<u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u> <p>There are potentially significant resource implications for departments assigned to carry out the scoping of potential strategic, financial or resources implications of individual notices/issues.</p>
3.13	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> <p>The equality, good relations and rural needs implications of each notice/issue would need to be assessed.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
4.1	<p>Appendix 1 - Standing Order 13 (I)</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Overview of proposed process</p>

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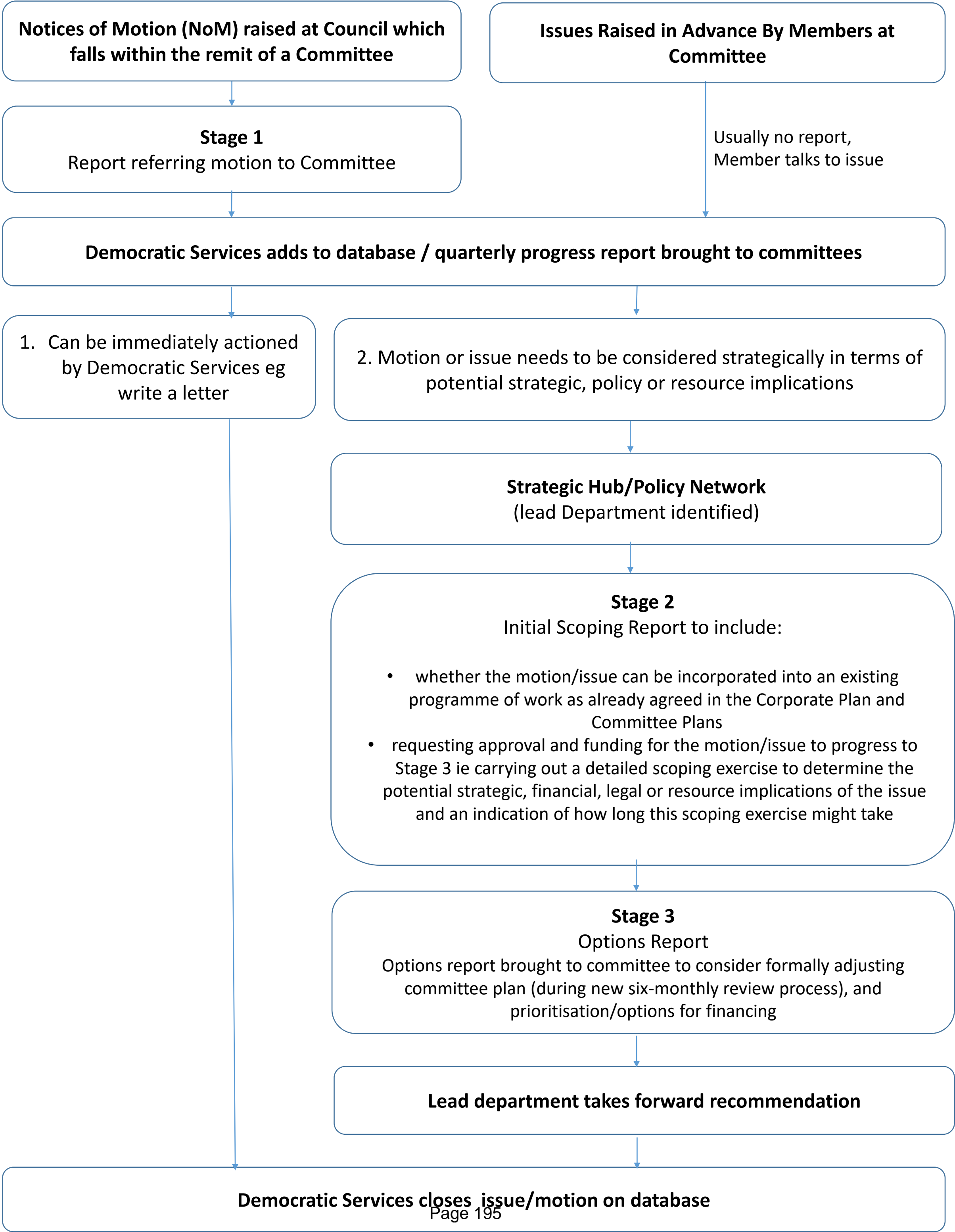
## **Appendix 1 – Standing Order 13(l)**

No notice of motion seeking to commit the Council to expenditure not previously agreed through the Committee process will be considered but shall instead stand referred to the appropriate Committee for consideration and report. This standing order will not apply with the Lord Mayor, in consultation with the Chief Executive, rules that the matter is one of emergency or is otherwise of such urgency that it would be impracticable or prejudicial to the Council's interests to require compliance. In this case, a report outlining specific details of the purpose of such expenditure and the budget from which the expenditure would be drawn from shall be put before Members.

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Process for strategic consideration of Notices of Motion within Council’s corporate planning and policy frameworks – DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION



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<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Motion : Lucy's Law – Response from Minister</b>
<b>Date:</b>	21st February, 2020
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Mr. J. Walsh, City Solicitor
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Mr. J. 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 response from the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs to a motion on Lucy's Law which was passed by the Council at its meeting on 6th January.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	The Committee is requested to consider the response and take such action thereon as may be determined.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p>At the Council meeting on 6th January, the following motion, which was proposed by Councillor Flynn and seconded by Alderman Rodgers, was passed:</p> <p>“This Council recognises the important work carried out by local animal charities, including the Dogs Trust, which recently suspended its adoption service over the holiday period to highlight the fact that dogs are for life and not just for Christmas.</p> <p>The Council notes with concern that unethical breeders and profit-driven third party commercial traders of young animals has led to an industry rife with serious neglect</p>

	<p>and abuse of animals across the United Kingdom and Ireland and has led to the unnecessary suffering of animals bred in dissolute puppy farms.</p> <p>The Council recognises the successful campaign for the introduction of Lucy's Law in England, which will come into effect from April 2020. This new legislation will ban the sale of puppies and kittens from third parties, ensuring that buyers deal directly with registered breeders.</p> <p>Accordingly, the Council resolves to write to the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs to express its concerns, affirm its support for Lucy's Law and request that preparatory work be undertaken to allow for Lucy's Law to be legislated for in Northern Ireland."</p>
3.2	A response has now been received from the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, a copy of which is attached.
3.3	The Minister explains that his Department is monitoring changes in the legislation in England in relation to amendments to the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018, as a result of the campaign for Lucy's Law. He points out that the new rules, which are due to come into effect in England in April, will mean that puppies and kittens can no longer be sold by a third party seller, such as a pet shop or commercial dealer, unless they have bred the animal themselves. Anyone seeking to buy or adopt a puppy or kitten under six months old must either deal directly with the breeder or an animal rehoming centre.
3.4	The Minister confirms that he intends to monitor the changes being implemented in England, with a view to considering the most appropriate way forward for Northern Ireland. He concludes by stressing his commitment to ensuring that Northern Ireland has high welfare standards and that the wellbeing of pets remains protected.
3.5	<p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
3.6	<p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p> <p>None</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Document Attached</b>
	Response from Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs



Mr Henry Downey  
Democratic Services Section  
Legal and Civic Services Department  
Belfast City Council  
City Hall  
BT1 5GS  
By email: [democraticservices@belfastcity.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@belfastcity.gov.uk)

Room 438  
Dundonald House  
Upper Newtownards Road  
Ballymiscaw  
Belfast  
BT4 3SB

Telephone: 028 9052 4140  
Email: [private.office@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:private.office@daera-ni.gov.uk)

Your reference: HD/MOH  
Our reference: CORR/1022/2020  
Date: 31 January 2020

Dear Mr Downey

### **Lucy's Law**

Thank you for your letter of 16<sup>th</sup> January 2020, where you have set out Belfast City Council's support for Lucy's Law. The Council has made a request that preparatory work be undertaken to allow for Lucy's Law to be legislated for in Northern Ireland.

My Department is monitoring changes in legislation in England in relation to amendments to the Animal Welfare (Licensing of Activities Involving Animals) (England) Regulations 2018, as a result of the campaign for Lucy's Law. These new rules are due to come into effect in April 2020 and will mean that, in England, puppies and kittens can no longer be sold by a third party seller, such as a pet shop or commercial dealer, unless they have bred the animal themselves. Instead, anyone looking to buy or adopt a puppy or kitten under six months must either deal directly with the breeder or an animal rehoming centre.

I intend to take cognisance of what is happening in England with a view to considering a way forward for Northern Ireland. I remain committed to ensuring that Northern Ireland has high welfare standards and the well-being of pets remains protected.

Yours sincerely

**EDWIN POOTS MLA**  
**Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs**

*A living, working, active landscape valued by everyone.*

If you are deaf or have a hearing difficulty you can  
contact the Department via the Next Generation Text  
Relay Service by dialling 18001 + telephone number.

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<b>Subject:</b>	City Region Growth Deal – update
<b>Date:</b>	February 2020
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Suzanne Wylie, Chief Executive
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Ronan Cregan, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources Emer Husbands, Strategic Performance 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	To update Committee on the progress of the Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD).
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To note the progress in the further development of the BRCD</li> <li>To note the proposed NI Funding and Governance Arrangements and BRCD partner response</li> <li>To note the minutes of the BRCD Council Panel held on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2020.</li> </ul>

3.0	<b>Main report</b>
	<b>Programme Update</b>
3.1	Members will be aware that the BRCD proposition contains 22 projects across Digital, Innovation, Infrastructure and Tourism & Regeneration investment pillars, which will be underpinned by an integrated employability and skills programme.
3.2	Robust Outline Business Cases (OBCs) demonstrating the ability of each project to support the BRCD's stated objectives are required for each project in order to release the BRCD Funding. The main focus of this stage of the process, Phase 2, is therefore the development of the OBCs. Projects are being progressed by individual partners with the guidance and support of Advisory Boards and an update on each investment pillar is provide below.
	Investment Priorities
3.3	<p>Tourism and Regeneration</p> <p>Plans for the development of many of the OBCs within the agreed timeframes have been reviewed by the Advisory Board, which is now receiving monthly updates on the progress of each project. Project teams have confirmed that they are largely on course to produce OBCs between February and May, but there is limited room for slippage if deadlines are to be achieved. To ensure projects align with emerging government strategies and tourism priorities the Advisory Board includes representation from Tourism NI, the Department for the Economy and the Department for Communities. Tourism NI is now examining possible market testing options for projects in order to assess their potential tourism 'appeal' - this will provide important evidence for inclusion in the OBCs. To complement this Tourism Ireland has also offered to produce analysis of the strengths/weaknesses of each project.</p>
3.4	<p>Innovation</p> <p>The Innovation Board is continuing to oversee the development of plans for five global centres of excellence in the digital and creative industries, life and health sciences and advanced manufacturing growth sectors, aligned with the priorities of the UK industrial strategy. Business cases have now been drafted in consultation with government stakeholders. The Board has also been working with the E&amp;S pillar to consider how to ensure the skills will be in place for the jobs emerging as a result of these projects. The challenges of minimising carbon emissions were the subject of a recent workshop and work to consider potential synergies with the digital pillar has also commenced. The Innovation strand continues to be furthest advanced with the completion of the first draft OBCs for the following centres of excellence;</p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Advanced Manufacturing Innovation Centre which will provide high quality innovation support to manufacturing and advanced engineering industry by bringing together early stage research and education delivery (AMIC Campus) together with a new Factory 4.0 facility (AMIC Factory 4.0) that brings multiple industries, sectors and technologies to address major industrial challenges within advanced manufacturing.</li> <li>• A Global Innovation Institute will be an analytics innovation centre, incorporating AI and Machine Learning which builds on the success of the NI cyber ecosystem. It will support the development of a new One Health business cluster in which Northern Ireland will lead the world, and working with key partners, help to anchor the creation of a distinctive Innovation District, from central Belfast extending to Titanic Quarter.</li> <li>• I-Reach an ecosystem for clinical trials and evidenced based decision making in healthcare. It will transform the ability to test new drugs, pathways and societal interventions and determine the redundancy of current practice following the introduction of transformative medicines and practice.</li> </ul> <p>These will now be submitted to UK and NI government departments for consideration and review.</p>
3.5	<p>Digital</p> <p>The Fraunhofer/BABEL Institute, a global leader in digital innovation and smart districts/testbeds, is progressing the development of an implementation plan for the highly ambitious digital pillar. A Digital Advisory Board has been established comprising central and local government, universities and colleges and intends to enhance its membership with additional technical and commercial capability. Technical support is also being commissioned with a view to developing a programme level OBC for this pillar by June 2020. At the same time BABLE will support BRCD Partners to identify and develop proposals for specific and viable digital projects. Examples of international good practice will be used to help inform proposals for regional innovation hubs and testbeds.</p>
3.6	<p>Infrastructure</p> <p>As the Department with responsibility for the delivery of the infrastructure projects, the Department for Infrastructure is leading the Infrastructure investment pillar. The first meeting of the newly established Infrastructure Advisory Board took place in December. The Board includes representation from the BRCD partners with an interest in the three infrastructure projects. OBCs will also be required for these projects to enable the financial strategy and implementation plan to be agreed and it is expected that the OBCs will take account of</p>

3.7	<p>linkages with plans for investment in digital and employability and skills. The infrastructure projects will also play an important role in ensuring improved accessibility to the new jobs created within the Deal.</p> <p>Employability and Skills (E&amp;S)</p> <p>Unlike the other BRCD strands this area of work does not itself have ‘capital projects’ but focuses instead on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Providing support to the capital projects to ensure that they design and develop their projects to create pathways to deliver the skills that will be needed;</li> <li>(b) Developing and applying an agreed approach to social value across the City Deal so that the investments maximise the contribution to the delivery of employability and skills requirements;</li> <li>(c) Integrating and aligning the resources and plans of the partners and government departments to help create an employability and skills pipeline in the growth sectors targeted by the BRCD.</li> </ul> <p>Specialist support is now in place to help support the development of the E&amp;S programme with an initial focus on assisting projects to draw out the skills requirements of the direct and indirect jobs that are being created. Partner organisations are continuing to engage with each other and with our government partners to consider opportunities to develop a more integrated approach to the planning and prioritisation of E&amp;S interventions going forward. A recent workshop identified the scale and scope of employability and skills interventions taking place through the 6 local councils, spanning across employability, educational provision, business support and sectorally focused activities. Opportunities for collaboration and alignment of interventions have been identified and will be explored with councils, colleges, universities, government departments and key sectoral partners in the coming months.</p>
3.8	<p><b>NI Funding and Governance Arrangements</b></p> <p>The BRCD Partners received the NI Funding &amp; Governance Arrangements paper (attached at Appendix 1) which sets out the high-level governance structures that will be applied to all NI City &amp; Growth Deals including the Belfast Region City Deal.</p>
3.9	<p>The arrangements and governance structures proposed have been based on other City Deals and lessons learned across the UK, but have also taken account of the model developed for the Belfast Region City Deal which were developed in advance of this</p>

	document. The document has been developed by NI Civil Service (NICS) in regular consultation with UK Government, through the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). The NICS and UK Government agreed the attached paper prior to it being shared with the Executive Board in December.
3.10	The BRCD Partners considered the proposed arrangements in December 2019 and drafted a proposed response (attached at Appendix 2). The comprehensive response set out areas requiring clarification and requests for amendment/reconsideration by NICS.
3.11	In addition to commenting on a range of specific points of detail, the draft response emphasises the importance of constructive ongoing engagement with the NICS in developing a robust programme that is capable of delivering the ambitions of the BRCD Partners. This response was considered and agreed by the BRCD Council Panel at its meeting on 29 <sup>th</sup> January 2020.
3.12	Members should also note that the Governance and Funding Arrangements was drawn up in advance of the restoration of the Northern Ireland Executive and the BRCD Partners will also seek clarification on what impact, if any, this will now have on future governance arrangements for NI City and Growth Deals.
	<b>BRCD Council Panel</b>
3.13	The BRCD Council Panel provides a joint forum for members from all six councils to meet to jointly discuss issues, progress and benefits of the BRCD. Each council has four members on the Forum and as agreed by this committee the four nominees from BCC are the party group leaders (or their nominees) of the four largest parties.
3.14	The second meeting of the Panel was held in Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council on 29 <sup>th</sup> January 2020. At the meeting the members received an update on the programme of work, considered the proposed NI Funding and Governance Arrangements (as outlined at above), and discussed proposals for future stakeholder engagement, in particular with the restored NI Assembly. A large focus of the meeting was on the Employability and Skills element of the BRCD and the Chief Executive of Belfast Metropolitan College provided a detailed update on work to date as well as an outline of proposals to ensure that the employability and skills challenges were being addressed across the programme. The minutes of the Panel meeting are attached at appendix 3.

	<b><u>Next Steps</u></b>
3.15	Partners will continue to progress the OBC development in line with the predicted timeframe and processes are being put in place to review the OBCS as they emerge with a view to draft OBCs being sent for first consideration to both UK and NI government departments. At this stage no funding is being committed to an individual project as more work is required to understand the finances.
3.16	Communication and engagement continues to be a priority both at a project and programme level and specialist support is being commissioned to support strategic engagement, including both business and political engagement. It is envisaged that this specialised support will be in place by February 2020 and that with the Assembly now back in operation an early priority would be engagement with Ministers and political representatives from across the Belfast Region.
3.17	The BRCD Partners will also continue to liaise with colleagues in NICS to clarify outstanding issues raised in the response to the NI Funding and Governance Framework and commence work on the development of the next set of deal documents, including the financial plan.
	<b><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></b>
3.18	All costs associated with the BRCD are within existing budgets.
	<b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b>
3.19	The Approach taken to develop the City Deal has been subject to independent equality screening and rural proofing and states that; <i>BRCD is inherently inclusive, affording an opportunity for the region to grow in a way that will benefit the economy of Northern Ireland as a whole, thereby enhancing the lives and well-being of its citizens. If during further development of the programme it becomes apparent that there may be an adverse impact on certain groups or communities then the partnership commits to carrying out further Section 75 work and including screening and EQIAs as and when appropriate.'</i>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1 – NI funding and Governance Arrangements Appendix 2 – NI funding and Governance Arrangements – BRCD Response Appendix 3 – Minutes of BRCD Council Panel 29 <sup>th</sup> January 2020

# **NORTHERN IRELAND CITY & GROWTH DEALS: GOVERNANCE AND FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS**

## **SECTION 1 - INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1. The UK and NI departments with responsibility for City and Growth Deals in Northern Ireland, have endorsed the following overarching governance, funding and monitoring arrangements. Its structures, processes and guidance should be followed to by all City/Growth Deal partners. The arrangements set out in this document will be kept under review.
- 1.2. More detailed arrangements specific to each City/Growth Deal will be agreed as part of the Deal documentation which will include a Financial Agreement, Implementation Plan and Monitoring and Evaluation Framework.

## **GOVERNANCE**

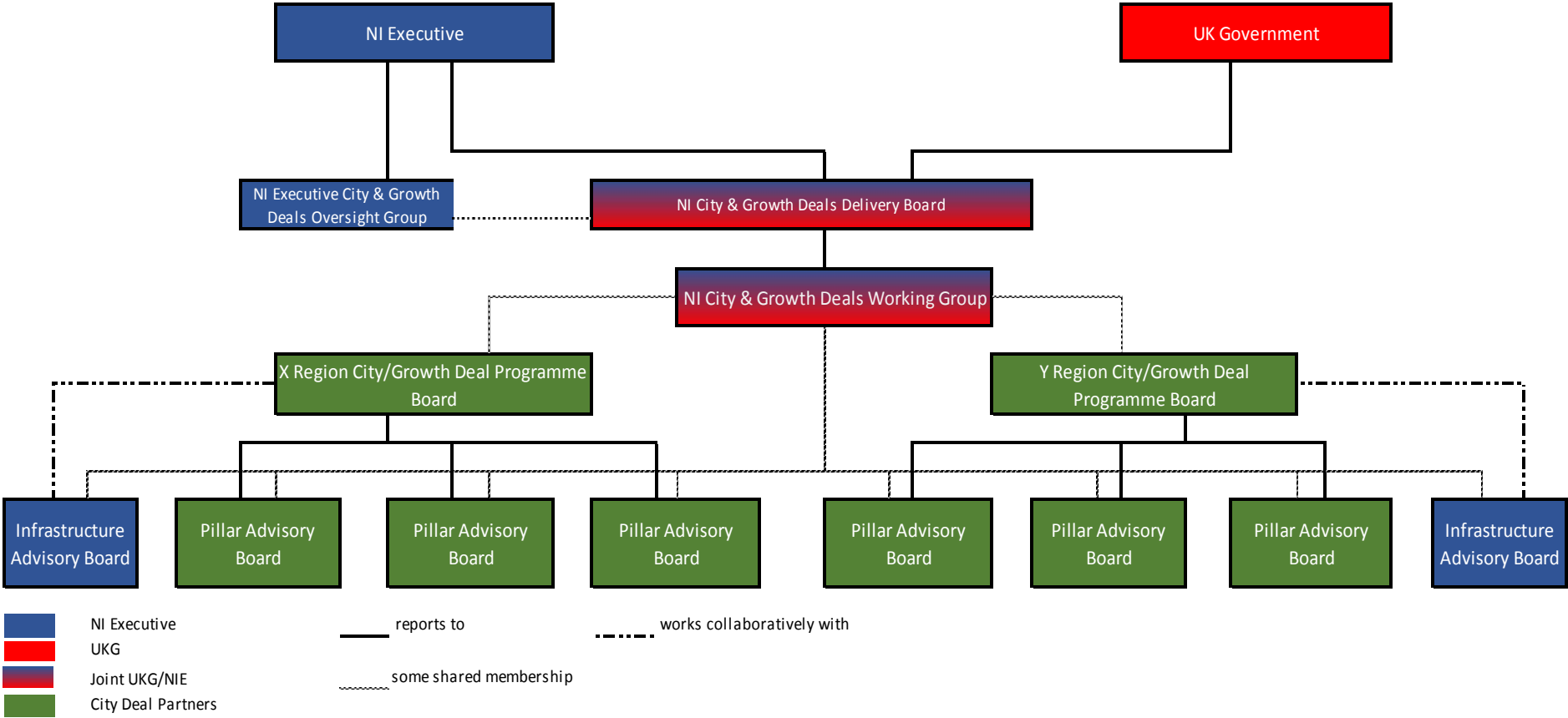
- 1.3. A number of governance structures are required to ensure the successful implementation of individual projects to time, cost and quality - providing the necessary accountability, oversight and management throughout. The governance structures are summarised in Table 2.1, with detail on each group explained at Section 2.
- 1.4. Financial accountability of UK Government, NI Government and local partner funding will be paramount throughout the lifetime of each project's delivery. To ensure that annual profiles are agreed and allocated correctly on the basis of the detail of the business case a number of funding flow procedures are required. These are summarised in Table 3.1 and explained in more detail at Section 3.

## **COMMON ABBREVIATIONS**

Northern Ireland	NI
City and Growth Deal(s)	"Deal(s)"
Heads of Term	HoT
NI Executive City and Growth Deals Oversight Group	"the Oversight Group"
NI City and Growth Region Deals Delivery Board	"the Delivery Board"
NI City and Growth Deals Working Group	"the Working Group"
X Region City and Growth Deal Programme Board	"the X Region Programme Board"
Arm's Length Bodies	ALBs

SECTION 2 - GOVERNANCE

Table 2.1: Governance Structure



## **NI GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE**

### **Northern Ireland City and Growth Deals Delivery Board (“the Delivery Board”)**

2.1 This is part of the overall governance structure for all Northern Ireland City and Growth Deal. It oversees the Deals on behalf of the UK Government and NI Executive.

#### ***Roles***

2.2 The Delivery Board is a joint UK and NI Government Board with responsibility for:

- Considering and providing direction on strategic City/Growth Deal issues as they arise in advance of Heads of Terms being signed.
- Providing assurance and advice to Ministers regarding the progress and delivery of Northern Ireland Deals from the point of signing Heads of Terms.
- The oversight, monitoring and successful implementation of all current Northern Ireland Regional Deals, including the effective monitoring of performance, outcomes, budget, risks and other issues relating to the programme, in accordance with best practice and any recommendations issued by auditors, Northern Ireland Audit Office (NIAO) or the National Audit Office (NAO).
- The appropriate escalation and advice through both Governments should major issues arise.

#### ***Responsibilities***

2.3 Responsibilities will include:

- Considering the strategic alignment of all NI City/Growth Deals to ensure as far as possible that projects are complementary with no undesirable duplication.
- Monitoring and supporting the successful implementation of all NI Deals from the point of signing HoT by assessing delivery against agreed implementation plans.
- Oversee and support the development of programme and project business cases and facilitate Ministerial clearances and approval where relevant. The Delivery Board does not review business cases, rather the Delivery Board is kept informed of progress on project business cases. Where there are challenges in progressing business cases the delivery board should review and where necessary support mitigating actions to unblock the process. UKG Ministerial approval will be limited on the basis that NI Departments (and Ministers if in place) will be ultimately accountable for expenditure and therefore, have final approval on expenditure. More detail on the business case approval process is set out in Section 5.
- Agreeing common Government positions and/or required mitigations to manage developing issues, risks or any slippage to a Deal or specific project.
- Agreeing, subject to expenditure approval, any substitute projects which are submitted by the X Region Programme Board through the accountable department

## ***Functions***

2.4 The Delivery Board will ensure that all Deals in Northern Ireland with HoT agreements in place will develop the appropriate implementation documentation to be agreed by both Northern Ireland Executive and UK Government. This may include but are not limited to:

- an Implementation Plan;
- financial agreement;
- monitoring and evaluation framework;
- Deal governance agreement; and
- communications protocol.



- 2.5 Where either Government has a specific expectation of regional partners as part of the return expected for the Deal investment, respective officials will seek to ensure this is included in the Deal agreement, with Ministers agreeing any relevant proposal. The Delivery Board will take this in to account in future monitoring and evaluation.

### ***Meeting Schedule***

- 2.6 The Delivery Board will meet quarterly to monitor the implementation of current and agreed Deals. Additional ad hoc meetings may be arranged as required. Progress Reports from NI/UKG Deal leads will be tabled and considered at each meeting.
- 2.7 For NI, the working group representative on each Region's Programme Board will act, in a corporate NICS capacity, as the lead co-ordinator for reporting on behalf of NI Departments on each Deal.

### ***Risk Registers***

- 2.8 The Delivery Board will maintain and review at each meeting a risk register. Mitigations will be agreed and their implementation and success monitored by the Delivery Board.
- 2.9 Decisions and actions agreed by the Delivery Board will be recorded in the record of the meeting. Should a decision be required in between meetings, decisions may be made and confirmed in writing by Delivery Board members.
- 2.10 The Delivery Board will escalate issues and risks as required through internal NI/UKG processes and ultimately to Ministers.
- 2.11 The Delivery Board will undertake an Annual Conversation and maintain a profile with the Region Programme Board for each Deal to review the City/ Growth Deal

Annual Reports and discuss implementation progress. Representatives will be invited to meetings as required.

## ***Reporting***

### Quarterly

2.12 The Delivery Board is accountable to both Governments for the successful implementation of each Northern Ireland Deal.

2.13 Following each quarterly meeting the Joint Chairs will agree an update report which will be provided to:

- NICS SRO
- NIO SRO
- MHCLG SRO

2.14 Following approval by the NICS SRO the report will be provided to:

- NICS Board
- NI Executive

### Annually

2.15 A public facing Annual Implementation Progress Report noting the status of implementation of Northern Ireland Deals will be submitted to Ministers on an annual basis, based on the outcome of the Annual Conversations assurance process.

2.16 This will be produced by the Working Group and approved by the Delivery Board and NICS SRO within 3 months of the last annual conversation.

2.17 Ministers may request an annual joint UKG/NI Ministerial forum. The Annual Implementation Progress report must be provided in advance of this forum.

### ***Membership***

#### 2.18 Joint Chair

- NICS - Department of Finance Grade 3
- NIO - Director / Deputy Director of Economic and Domestic Affairs

#### 2.19 Members

- Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
- HM Treasury
- Department for Economy (at least Grade 5 level)
- Department for Communities (at least Grade 5 level )
- Department of Infrastructure (at least Grade 5 level)
- Other UKG/NICS representatives as required

#### 2.20 Secretariat

- NICS (DoF)

2.21 NICS departmental representatives will also be members of NI Executive City and Growth Deals Oversight Group (“the Oversight Group”). This will ensure transfer of knowledge and avoid unnecessary duplication of papers.

2.22 Where a department has responsibility for more than one pillar then more than one representative may be appropriate.

## **NI Executive City and Growth Deals Oversight Group (“the Oversight Group”)**

2.23 This is part of the overall governance structure for all Northern Ireland City and Growth Deal. It oversees the Deals on behalf of the NI Executive only.

### ***Roles***

2.24 The Oversight Group has responsibility for oversight of the NI Executive funding provided to each Deal.

### ***Responsibilities***

2.25 These will include:

- recommending the level of NI Executive funding that will be provided to each Pillar, within the constraints of the limit on the total NI funding to be provided. This will be based on engagement with Accountable Body on forecast expenditure profiles for projects in HoTS. DoF will seek Executive approval for this, through the Finance Minister. ;
- agreeing any changes to the original list of projects identified for Executive funding under each Pillar and seeking Executive approval for any changes. All projects will be subject to expenditure approval, with relevant business case documentation provided, before proceeding;
- agreeing, in conjunction with the X Region City and Growth Deal Programme Board, the quantum and profile of funding to be provided by Deal partners for each project to be joint funded by the Executive; and

- Agreeing the quarterly report provided by the Delivery Board and providing this to NICS Board and NI Executive.

### ***Meeting Schedule***

2.26 The Oversight Group will meet quarterly. Where possible meetings will be arranged immediately before or after Delivery Board meetings. Additional ad hoc meetings may be arranged as required.

### ***Membership***

#### 2.27 Chair

- NICS Joint Chair of the Delivery Board (DoF Grade 3)

#### 2.28 Members

- Department for Economy – (at least Grade 5 level)
- Department for Communities (at least Grade 5 level)
- Department of Infrastructure (at least Grade 5 level)
- Other NICS representatives as required

#### 2.29 Secretariat

- NICS (DoF)

2.30 NICS departmental representatives should also be members of NI Executive City and Growth Deals Delivery Board (“the Delivery Board”). This will ensure transfer of knowledge and avoid unnecessary duplication of papers.

2.31 Where a department has responsibility for more than one pillar then more than one representative may be appropriate.

### **Northern Ireland City and Growth Deals Working Group (“the Working Group”)**

2.32 This is part of the overall governance structure for all Northern Ireland City and Growth Deals. It facilitates the oversight of the Deals on behalf of the UK Government and NI Executive.

#### ***Roles***

2.33 The Working Group is a joint UK and NI Government group established to underpin the implementation process for agreed all Northern Ireland Deals.

2.34 The Working Group will meet monthly and will have the responsibility of agreeing the agenda and relevant papers for the Delivery Board, in consultation with the joint chairs.

#### ***Responsibilities***

2.35 The core responsibilities of the Working Group are:

- Monitor the implementation of the Northern Ireland Deals, escalating issues and risks relating to the implementation of Deals to the Delivery Board as required.
- Maintain the risk register for the Delivery Board, updating at least monthly and reporting quarterly to the Delivery Board.
- Making recommendations to the joint chairs of the Delivery Board regarding meeting agendas.
- Providing robust information to inform the decision making of the Delivery Board, including the preparing of both programme level and individual Deal dashboards.

## ***Meeting Schedule***

2.36 The Working Group will meet on a monthly basis for the purpose of monitoring the implementation of each Deal. The frequency of meetings can be altered subject to the agreement of the Delivery Board.

## ***Membership***

### 2.37 Chair

- NICS - Department of Finance (Grade 6)

### 2.38 Members

- NIO
- Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
- Department for Economy (at least Grade 7 level )
- Department for Communities (at least Grade 7 level)
- Department of Infrastructure (at least Grade 7 level)
- Other UKG/NICS representatives as required

### 2.39 Secretariat

- NICS (DoF)

2.40 The NICS departmental representatives will be the departmental representatives on the Pillar Advisory Boards (see paragraph 2.41). Therefore more than one representative may be required from each department. This will ensure that the Working Group is fully apprised of progress on all projects.

2.41 A NICS member of the Working Group will be nominated as the NICS representative on each Deal Programme Board with observer status this representative will act as lead co-ordinator for reporting on behalf of NI

Departments on each deal. More detail on this role is provided at paragraph 2.48.

### **Region City Deal Programme Board (the “Programme Board”)**

2.42 Each City/Growth Deal will establish its own Programme Board with representatives from all Deal partners. It is for each Programme Board to determine its own terms of reference and reporting structures. However, the roles and responsibilities set out below should be considered the minimum requirement.

#### ***Roles***

2.43 The Programme Board will drive the delivery of the Deal programme in accordance with the requirements of the HoT and agreed governance documents. It will be responsible for issue resolution and oversight of stakeholder negotiations and engagement.

#### ***Responsibilities***

2.44 Responsibilities will include:

- approving profiles of expenditure provided to relevant NI Department and DoF for budget planning purposes;
- signing off each business case prior to it being submitted to the relevant NI Department for final expenditure approval; and
- authorising the grant claims being submitted to the relevant NI Department by the Accountable Body.
- Provision of information to the Working Group as required to facilitate reporting to the Delivery Board.

#### ***Meeting Schedule***

2.45 The Programme Board will meet monthly.



## **Membership**

### 2.46 Chair

- Chief Executive of Accountable Body (usually lead council)

### 2.47 Members

- Representatives, at Chief Executive level, of each council partner
- Representatives of University and College partners
- Region City or Growth Deal SRO
- Region City or Growth Deal Programme Management Office (observers)
- NICS – Working Group Member (observer)

## **Role of NICS Representative**

2.48 The NICS representative will have observer status. This means that they will attend Board meetings and may participate in Board discussions but they do not have the ability to vote on matters. The observer may ask questions and provide advice particularly on the NICS view. The observer should inform the Board if they have any concerns with the approach being taken. If the observer has concerns with an approach agreed by the Programme Board they should raise this at the Working Group which will in turn ensure it is raised at the Delivery Board. Any significant issues arising between Delivery Board meetings should be raised in writing to the Working Group which will in turn write to Delivery Board members.

## **Pillar Advisory Boards**

2.49 City/Growth deal partners will establish a number of Pillar Advisory Boards in support of the City/growth Deal for that Region.

## **Roles**

2.50 To drive the development of a coherent set of projects that are capable of supporting the delivery of the Deal partners' ambitions for inclusive economic growth.

2.51 The oversight of the production of Outline and Final Business Cases for projects within that Pillar. Submission of Business Cases to the Programme Board for approval.

### ***Role of Accountable NI Department***

2.52 Representatives from the accountable NI Department will attend as advisers, they will have no voting rights. The accountable NI Department may also appoint advisers from their ALBs where appropriate. The adviser's role will be to support the development of robust projects which deliver value for money. This includes the provision of advice and guidance on the iterative development of business case in line with the Five Case Model Methodology and to ensure broader strategic alignment with Programme for Government.

2.53 In line with the role outlined for observers on the Programme Board, an adviser may ask questions and provide advice particularly on the NICS view. The adviser should inform the Pillar Board if they have any concerns with the approach being taken. If the adviser has concerns with an approach agreed by the Pillar Board they should raise this at the Working Group which will in turn ensure it is raised at the Delivery Board.

2.54 The accountable Department will ensure there is appropriate segregation of duties between advisers on Pillar Boards and those responsible for approving expenditure.

### ***Meeting Schedule***

2.55 These Pillar Advisory Boards will meet monthly.

## ***Membership***

### 2.56 Chair

- To be agreed by the X Region programme Board for each Pillar Board

### 2.57 Members

- Council/University reps TBC
- NI Accountable Department (and ALB if appropriate) (Working Group Member)
  - adviser

## **Infrastructure Pillar Advisory Board**

2.58 An Infrastructure Pillar Advisory Board will be established where infrastructure projects included in the Deal are delivered directly by Department for Infrastructure (DfI) rather than Deal partners. A similar model may be established where projects in other Pillars are delivered directly by a NI department.

## ***Roles***

2.59 Accountability for development, delivery and evaluation of major infrastructure projects rest will rest with the Department for Infrastructure. On its behalf, the Infrastructure Pillar Advisory Board will ensure that the approach to advancing individual Deal projects is taken forward in a manner which reflects the collaborative approach taken by the Programme Board. This will, while reflecting the usual NICS governance and accountability arrangements, also ensure that the work to advance the infrastructure projects is fully reflective of the wider objectives of the Deal.

## ***Meeting Schedule***

2.60 This Board will meet monthly.

### ***Membership***

2.61 Chair

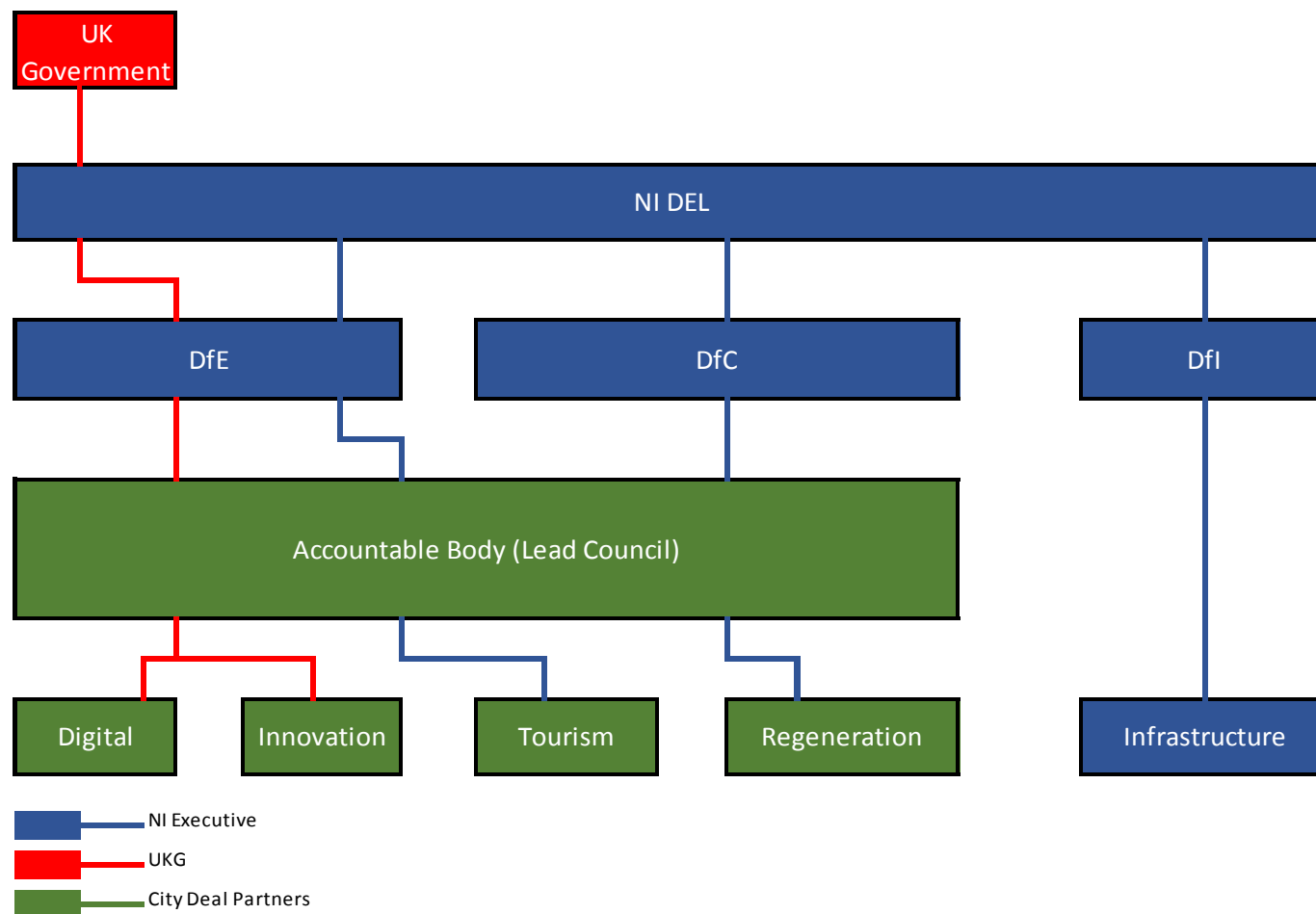
- DfI (SRO for delivery of infrastructure projects)

2.62 Members

- Councils connected with proposed infrastructure projects
- Translink
- One of the Main NI Business Representative Bodies
- DfC
- Employability and Skills Advisory Board

## SECTION 3 – FUNDING

Table 3.1: Central Government Funding Flows (City/Growth Deal partners will also contribute)



## **UK Government Funding**

- 3.1 *In the absence of an Executive, NICS officials cannot commit to managing a pro-rata UK Government (UKG) contribution in this way. However, for the purposes of agreeing funding and governance arrangements, it is assumed that the Northern Ireland Executive will agree this approach.*
- 3.2 UKG will provide funding to NI through an increase to the NI Capital DEL. This will be on an agreed annual profile, usually pro-rata over the life of the Deal. This profile may differ from the spending profile of the Deal projects.
- 3.3 The NI Executive will be responsible for ensuring the full level of UKG funding will be allocated to approved Deal projects over the life of the Deal. DoF will manage this on behalf of the NI Executive, reporting through the Delivery Board.
- 3.4 On an annual basis any over or under requirement against the annual profile will be managed by DoF, as approved by the NI Executive, within the total NI Capital DEL Budget. Annual underspends will not be surrendered to HMT and may be allocated to other Deals or NI departmental expenditure, providing the total level of funding is allocated to each Deal over its lifetime.
- 3.5 DoF will provide HMT with details of actual and forecast expenditure, upon request.
- 3.6 Accountability for UKG City Deal funding is delegated to the Accounting Officer of the NI Department with policy responsibility for the area being funded (the 'accountable' department').
- 3.7 Where a project on the original list is not considered feasible an alternative project, which meets the same VfM requirements, may be substituted. The X Region Programme Board will agree substitute projects before submitting them to the accountable department which will present them to the Delivery Board for approval. The Delivery Board will inform the NI Executive of any change in projects.

### **NI Executive Funding**

- 3.8 *In the absence of an Executive, NICS officials cannot commit to providing match funding. However, for the purposes of agreeing funding and governance arrangements, it is assumed that match funding will be provided by the Northern Ireland Executive.*
- 3.9 The Northern Ireland Executive will include funding for the Deal within its agreed Budget. Subject to the agreement of the Executive, it is envisaged that City/Growth Deals will be prioritised within the Capital DEL budget in a similar manner to the current Flagship projects.
- 3.10 Accountability for NI Executive Deal funding rests with the Accounting Officer of the NI Department with policy responsibility for the area being funded (the 'accountable department').
- 3.11 The Oversight Group will seek NI Executive approval for all projects to be funded by NI Executive. Where a project on the original list is not considered feasible an alternative project, which meets the same VfM requirements, may be substituted. The X Region Programme Board will agree substitute projects before submitting them to the accountable department which will present them to the Delivery Board for approval. Once agreed by the Delivery Board the proposed substitute will go to the Oversight Group which will seek the NI Executive approval, through the Finance Minister.

### **Funding of Projects**

- 3.12 For both UKG and NI Executive funded projects the accountable department will be responsible for making payments to the Accountable Body for each deal. Where appropriate the accountable department may delegate this role to an ALB. The Accountable Body will usually be the lead council. The Accountable Body will be responsible for making payments to deal partners and project promoters.

- 3.13 Each accountable department will be provided with Capital DEL allocation through the NI Budget process. Allocations will be based on the latest expenditure profiles for approved projects and will be ring-fenced so that it may only be used for the City/Growth Deal for which it has been provided.
- 3.14 While the Deal allocation will not form part of the departments 'usual' capital DEL envelope it will reduce the overall level of Capital DEL funding available at a NI Block level for other projects. Deal partners should not assume that funding will be available for additional projects through normal departmental expenditure.
- 3.15 In order to ensure affordability within the overall NI Capital DEL it is essential that Deal partners and accountable departments work closely with DoF to agree expenditure profiles. This will include pro-active management of project commencement and slippage if necessary to minimise spikes in expenditure.
- 3.16 Actual and forecast expenditure must be reviewed on a monthly basis in line with Outturn and Forecast Outturn returns to HM Treasury. This information will be provided to the accountable department by the accountable Body. The accountable department will submit to DoF in line with usual processes.
- 3.17 Departmental allocations will be reviewed and adjusted if necessary during each in-year monitoring round and any subsequent Budget exercises. The accountable department is responsible for requesting any changes to budget allocations. Deal partners and accountable departments must identify any underspends as soon as possible as the surrender of funding late in the financial year may lead to that funding being surrendered to HM Treasury.
- 3.18 An Outline Business Case (OBC) must be approved for each project before the City/Growth Deal document can be agreed. Expenditure, supported by OBCs, will be approved by the accountable department, and where necessary any ALB, with the normal DoF delegations applying. Where a project is funded by the UK Government the accountable department must receive assurance from



the relevant Whitehall department(s) that it is content with the business case. The business case must include forecast annual expenditure profiles.

- 3.19 If an accountable department requires a Full Business Case (FBC) for a project, this must be submitted and expenditure approved by the accountable department, and where relevant its ALB, before funding is released to Deal partners for that project. DoF does not normally require sight of FBCs. Similarly the FBC will not be shared with Whitehall departments unless explicitly requested. More information on the Business Case process is set out in Section 5.
- 3.20 In specific circumstances it may be possible to release funding following OBC stage but before the FBC is submitted. For example if expenditure on early preparatory costs such as design costs is required to inform the FBC. This should be agreed with the accountable department
- 3.21 A grant offer letter will be signed between the accountable NI Department, or where relevant it's ALB, and the Accountable Body, usually the lead Council, setting out the required terms and provisions to ensure funding is applied as expected. The Accountable Body will be responsible for ensuring funding is used in line with the conditions set out in the grant offer letter.
- 3.22 The accountable department will make payments to the Accountable Body for all Deal projects. Depending on the nature of the costs payments may either be made in advance, where costs are steady from one period to another, or in arrears based on actual costs. This appropriate approach should be agreed with the accountable department. The Accountable Body will be responsible for vouching expenditure and providing any assurances required by the accountable department.
- 3.23 Further detail on the management of funding flows between the accountable department and the Accountable Body, will be set out in the finance agreement specific to each City/Growth Deal.

- 3.24 At the end of the project any underspends on funding accessed will be repaid to the accountable department who will in turn surrender the funding to DoF.
- 3.25 The funding provided by central government under the City/Growth Deal is limited to the amount agreed in the Heads of Terms. Any project overspends will not be funded by the UK Government or the Northern Ireland Executive.
- 3.26 The Accountable Body will be responsible for ensuring compliance with all legal requirements, including, but not limited to, those relating to procurement and State Aid regulations. The Accountable Body will provide the accountable department with their assessment of any legal, procurement or State Aid issues when submitting the OBC.

## **SECTION 4 - ROLE OF UK/ NICS DEPARTMENTS & ACCOUNTABLE BODY**

- 4.1 The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) will be a signatory to any NI City/Growth Deal and is responsible from a UK Government perspective for ensuring robust governance and accountability arrangements are in place.
- 4.2 The NIO will co-chair the Delivery Board alongside DoF and will be represented on the Working Group. NIO is responsible for reporting to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on progress.
- 4.3 The Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) , as the UK government department with policy responsibility for City/Growth deals, will be responsible for co-ordinating the views of relevant Whitehall departments on any UK Government funded projects. Based on the views of relevant Whitehall departments MHCLG will provide assurance to the accountable department that the UK government is content with the business case for any project receiving UK government funding. This will include technical assurance where appropriate. MHCLG will be represented on the Delivery Board and Working Group.

### **Department of Finance**

- 4.4 DoF is responsible for ensuring robust governance and accountability arrangements are developed and for seeking the agreement of the Delivery Board to these.
- 4.5 DoF is responsible for managing the overall funding flows to the each Deal. Thus DoF is responsible for ensuring funding, both UKG and NI, is provided to the accountable NI Department in line with agreed profiles for each Deal. This will be handled through the NI Budget and in-year monitoring processes, with Executive approval being obtained through these processes.
- 4.6 DoF must also ensure that the full level of UKG funding is allocated to the Deal over the life of the Deal.

- 4.7 Unless otherwise agreed, the usual DoF delegations will apply for Deal projects. DoF will have its usual approval role for projects outside these delegations.
- 4.8 DoF will work with NI Departments to help ensure that NI processes do not result in any undue delays to the business case process. The time taken to process business cases will, of course, depend on the quality of information provided.

#### **Accountable Department**

- 4.9 The department with policy responsibility will be the accountable department for the provision of both UKG and NI Deal funding to the Accountable Body. Both UKG and NI deal funding will be included in the accountable departments Budget allocation. Where relevant the accountable department may choose to work through an Arm's Length Body. However, the departmental Accounting Officer will retain overall accountability
- 4.10 This includes approval of expenditure, underpinned by business cases, and ensuring appropriate governance and accountability mechanism are in place.
- 4.11 Departments will work with DoF to help ensure that NI processes do not result in any undue delays to the business case process. The time taken to process business cases will, of course, depend on the quality of information provided.

#### **Accountable Body**

- 4.12 Unless otherwise agreed, the lead council in each region will act as the Accountable Body for the Region City /Growth Deal. The Accountable Body, which will be identified in the signed City /Growth Deal document, will be responsible for the implementation and management of the financial procedures for the Deal.

The X Region Programme Board will provide assurance to the accountable department when business cases are submitted for expenditure approval. This will include assurance that the business cases are fit for purpose, proposals are technicality and financially viable and meet value for money requirements. The X Region Programme Board may ask the Accountable Body to assess the business cases and provide it with these assurances

- 4.13 All grant funding from central Government will be channelled through the Accountable Body, with the exception of projects delivered directly by NI departments..
- 4.14 The Accountable Body will have the authority to hold others to account should projects present a risk to the overall programme.
- 4.15 A grant offer letter signed between the accountable NI department and the Accountable Body will set out the required terms and provisions to ensure funding is applied as expected.
- 4.16 These terms and provisions will be replicated in separate agreements between the Accountable Body and regional partners with any additional specific requirements necessary for the fulfilment of the Accountable Body role also clearly set out.
- 4.17 The grant offer letter will also specify roles of Accountable Body and accountable NI department in vouching expenditure to ensure no unnecessary duplication of work to minimise the administrative burden.
- 4.18 A Financial Agreement between the UK Government, NI Executive and Accountable Body will set out the specific arrangements for each Deal.

## **SECTION 5 - BUSINESS CASE APPROVAL PROCESS**

5.1 The accountable NI department will be responsible for the approval of expenditure for all projects. The department should consider the strategic alignment of all NI City/Growth Deals to ensure as far as possible that projects are complementary with no undesirable duplication. However, the department should also be cognisant of the policy intent behind City/Growth Deals and recognise that the funding provided is for projects falling within the geographical area for each agreed Deal.

### **Deal Business Casework Model**

5.2 To ensure a consistent approach across departments and to share best practice it is proposed that casework model is adopted for all Deal business cases.

5.3 The department with lead responsibility (lead department) for the policy addressed in the business case, usually the accountable NI Department, is responsible for approval of the expenditure. Normal DoF delegations will apply.

5.4 Where a proposal covers two or more policy areas the policy departments will agree a lead department, based where possible on the proportion of the funding relating to policy area. The lead department will be responsible for co-ordinating the views of other departments and for overall approval of the expenditure. Other departments will provide policy advice and assurances as required. If necessary a Memorandum of Understanding may be agreed between the relevant departments.

5.5 The lead department should convene and chair a casework committee to review the business case. The lead department may ask the Accountable Body to lead the presentation of the proposal to the Casework Committee.

- 5.6 A dedicated group of officials from the lead departments should be identified as potential casework panel members to consider and recommend Deal business cases to the Accountable Officer.
- 5.7 The lead department will call upon these potential panel members as required. Where delegations require DoF approval, DoF Supply officials should have an enhanced scrutiny role over and above DoF's normal observer role as part of the casework panel. DoF will not however contribute to any casework panel recommendation to the lead Department Accounting Officer. DoF's enhanced role on the casework panel does not remove the requirement for lead Department Accounting Officer approval to be secured before formal submission to DoF for final approval.
- 5.8 This process should reduce the time required for DoF scrutiny as it is expected that most issues will have been addressed during the casework process. Supply will also prioritise City/ Growth Deal expenditure approvals. These steps will expedite the process.
- 5.9 In addition Accountable departments are encouraged to keep delegated limits for City Deal projects under close review. Supply will consider any request for increased delegations in this area if sufficient justification for any increase in delegation is provided by the accountable department.
- 5.10 DoF may be invited to sit on other panels as required.
- 5.11 This should result in a streamlined, consistent approach to all Deals.

### **UKG Funded Projects**

- 5.12 Ultimate approval rests with the accountable NI Department due to the release of UKG funding through the NI Block Grant. Normal DoF delegations apply.
- 5.13 The accountable NI department must take account of the views of the relevant Whitehall department(s). This will be co-ordinated through MHCLG which will

provide assurance that the UK Government is content with the business case for each project receiving UKG funding.

5.14 Both the accountable NI Department and MHCLG must be content before approval is granted.. Any disputes will be brought to the Delivery Board for consideration.

5.15 If the Delivery Board determines that approval should be granted but the accountable department is not content then the matter will be brought to the Oversight Group which will consider whether the issue is cross-cutting. If it is considered cross cutting then the Oversight Group will ask the Finance Minister to write to the Executive asking it to consider the matter. The Executive will decide whether or not the project should proceed. If the matter is not considered cross cutting then the final decision rest with the Minister of the accountable department.

5.16 In order to streamline and expedite the process as far as possible, for UKG funded projects, the Accountable Body should submit business cases to accountable NI department and UK Government for review contemporaneously.

5.17 MHCLG will commission views from the relevant Whitehall Departments and share any comments with the accountable NI Department to aid its formal consideration and approval of expenditure.

5.18 It is essential that Deal projects are not unduly delayed because of the NI business case process.

5.19 To expedite consideration the Accountable Body should provide a schedule of business case submissions. This will allow NI Departments to plan appropriately and will be shared with MHCLG for the same purpose.

5.20 NICS Departments and DoF, as necessary, should prioritise the scrutiny and approval of Deal proposals.



## **Draft Business Case Approval Process – UKG and NI Funded Projects**

### **The Delivery Board**

- 5.21 Determines the level of NI Executive Funding to be allocated to each Pillar based on information from relevant NI Departments and Region Programme Board. This will be submitted to the NI Executive for approval.

### **Pillar Advisory Board**

- 5.22 Responsible for direction and development of business case. Submits business case to Region Programme Board for approval.

### **X Region Programme Board**

- 5.23 Approves business case for submission to NI lead department and for UKG funded project to MHCLG.
- 5.24 Business case should be sent to NI Department, MHCLG and copied to DoF.

### **Lead Department**

- 5.25 Accounting Officer Responsible for approving individual expenditure proposals, underpinned by business cases.
- 5.26 Will convene a Deals Casework Committee (“Committee”).
- 5.27 DoF to attend that Committee as approval delegations dictate. DoF to have enhanced status on casework rather than observer status to expedite process. DoF will not however contribute to any casework panel recommendation to the lead Department Accounting Officer. DoF’s enhanced role on the casework

panel does not remove the requirement for lead Department Accounting Officer approval to be secured before formal submission to DoF for final approval.

5.28 For UKG funded projects, views of relevant Whitehall department(s) must be considered. These will be coordinated through MHCLG. MHCLG will inform lead NI Department if they are content to approve.

5.29 Notifies the Delivery Board, Region Programme Board and the Pillar Advisory Board when expenditure is approved.

## **NI City and Growth Deals: Governance and Funding Arrangements – Response from BRCD Partners**

This document sets out a response to the Northern Ireland City & Growth Deals: Governance and Funding Arrangements paper shared with the Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD) Partners in December 2019.

General		<p>City Deals are based on a collaborative approach from across government to the creation and development of robust projects that deliver for the region.</p> <p>In that context the new governance arrangements would mean a change in membership from NI Civil Service (NICS) on the BRCD structures. Colleagues from the NICS on the BRCD Board have made an important contribution to the development of the deal and it is vital in maintaining momentum and collective commitment that the direct contribution of the NICS to the development of the deal is retained. The BRCD Board will wish to continue discussions in relation to how best this can be achieved.</p> <p>The governance and funding document has a very specific focus, but may benefit from an introductory section on the nature and purpose of City Deals.</p>
Section 2	NI Governance	<p>The BRCD Partners wish to clarify whether, in the context of the collaborative model of city deals, there is scope for the Accountable Body to sit as an observer on some of the NI-wide governance structures?</p> <p>The BRCD Partners wish to stress the importance of pre-Deal efforts within NICS to be in supporting/engaging on the development and appraisal of high quality projects that deliver the BRCD objectives. The new governance structures will add greatest value following the development of Outline Business Cases (OBCs) and after agreement of the Deal Document.</p>
2.25	Funding Splits	<p>Section 2.25 states that the Oversight Group would be “recommending the level of NI Executive funding that will be provided to each Pillar”.</p> <p>The BRCD Partners have previously agreed principles around an approach on reducing the ask to £350m relating to the innovation &amp; digital pillars and would wish to have strong involvement in any discussion and recommendation in decisions across all pillars, in line with the agreed vision and objectives of the BRCD. For example, Tourism and Regeneration is a key growth sector for the BRCD. A significant level of investment from local government is being allocated to Tourism and Regeneration projects and this should be an important consideration when deciding on the split between tourism and regeneration and infrastructure.</p> <p>In addition, at Para 5.21, it states that the Delivery Board determines</p>

		the level of funding to be allocated to each Department. Could the Department of Finance (DoF) please clarify the respective roles of the Executive Board, the Delivery Board and the Oversight Group in determining levels of funding?
2.25	Funding Profiles	Section 2.25 states that “the Accountable Body” will provide “forecast expenditure profiles” for approval. As this will be prior to Deal Document agreement, should this be replaced with “the BRCD Programme Office”?
2.3	Delivery Board	<p>Para 2.3 states that the Delivery Board “ensure as far as possible that projects are complementary and with no undesirable duplication”.</p> <p>Para 5.1 (which deals with a similar role for Accountable Departments) provides additional language as follows:</p> <p><i>“However, the department should also be cognisant of the policy intent behind City/Growth Deals and recognise that the funding provided is for projects falling within the geographical area for each agreed Deal.”</i></p> <p>Could this language be added to the Delivery Board role language at Para 2.3? The Executive Board believe it is important to remember the ‘placemaking’ basis of City Deals.</p>
2.4	Deal Documentation	The Partners recommend the establishment of a joint group to start work on the development of Deal implementation documentation.
2.44	Business Case ‘sign-off’ – Executive Board	<p>Para 2.44 states that a responsibility of the Executive Board is to ‘sign-off’ business cases prior to them being submitted to the relevant NI Department.</p> <p>In addition, Section 4.12 of latest paper reads:</p> <p><i>“The X Region Programme Board will provide assurance to the accountable department when business cases are submitted for expenditure approval. This will include assurance that the business cases are fit for purpose, proposals are technicality and financially viable and meet value for money requirements. The X Region Programme Board may ask the Accountable Body to assess the business cases and provide it with these assurances”</i></p> <p>The Programme Office will continue to engage with the Department of Finance in relation to the different stages of decision making on business cases and the role of the Executive Board. This should follow the approach applied in other City Deals, an approach that was confirmed during recent discussions with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and, as discussed at the recent meeting of the Executive Board in relation to the innovation projects, the initial consideration of business cases</p>

		<p>will result in a decision as to whether business cases can go forward for review by the NI and UK Governments.</p> <p>Requiring the Board to authorise grant claims which will already have been approved by the Accountable Body adds an unnecessary layer of bureaucracy.</p>
Section 3	Profiling	<p>In previous discussions with the Department, it has been indicated that they will work flexibly and provide capital funding profiles matching profiles based on the OBC Financial Cases, in so far as is possible, to inform the Financial Plan &amp; Agreement. They have also confirmed that this can and will be an iterative process, constantly being refreshed to reflect timing need.</p> <p>NICS have confirmed that the profile between NI Funding and UK Funding does not necessarily need to be the same. They have further added that whilst UKG funding comes to DoF over 15 years, it does not need to flow from DoF on same basis and is likely to come over a shorter time period.</p> <p>Can the Department please confirm that this is the case?</p>
3.7/3.11	Alternative Projects	<p>The current language used re alternative projects in proposed arrangements '<u>same VfM requirements</u>' needs to be discussed.</p> <p>The BRCD Partners have discussed principles around revising projects and they are wider than 'same VfM requirements'.</p> <p>Could the language be amended from 'same VfM requirements' to 'same City Deal requirements' or "which meets the same objectives and has been considered in accordance with the agreed OBC process".</p>
3.12	ALB Funding	<p>Para states "Where appropriate the accountable department may delegate this (funding) role to an ALB".</p> <p>It has been indicated verbally that post-approval funds flow would be as streamlined as possible.</p> <p>Para 3.12 indicates that an ALB could be used.</p> <p>Could it be confirmed that the preferred approach is to reduce the number of bodies involved in funding flow? For example, can the Department state that Tourism NI and Invest NI would not be involved in the funding flow for tourism and for innovation projects respectively, due to the potential level of complexity and delay that it adds? The Board would welcome the opportunity to discuss further the funding flows with the view of minimising cash flow costs.</p>

3.14	Reduction of funding outside BRCD	The BRCD Partners consider that in relation to the final sentence, the impact of the City Deal on capital DEL depends on other budgetary decisions and that this is really a matter for the Executive and question the need for its inclusion within this document.
3.18	OBCs	Given the delivery period of the Deal is ten years, is it realistic to require, "An OBC must be approved for each project before the City/Growth Deal document can be agreed"?
3.20	Early Release of Funds & Capitalisation	NICS have previously agreed that they would provide a high-level principles paper by way of guidance around the early release of funds and capitalisation policy. Could the Department please provide us with confirmation as to when this paper will be provided?
3.21	Pillar-level Flexibility – Grant offer letters	<p>The BRCD Partners believe it is imperative that the Accountable Body has appropriate flexibility to manage the City deal funding flows which are subject to the Grant offer letters (and particularly given the labour-intensive role assumed by Accountable Body at 3.22)</p> <p>Previous discussions have indicated that this flexibility would be in the way of budgetary flexibility <b>on a pillar level</b> (including potentially combining innovation and digital as these would both be through the same NI Department). We understand that this will be subject of the Financial Plan &amp; Agreement – but can we get confirmation now that this will be the approach?</p>
3.25	Under / Overspends	Further discussion is required on the management of under / overspends at both project and pillar levels.
4.11	Delays in Approval	<p>The BRCD Partners request the following language is added at the end of Para 4.11:</p> <p><i>"including through the early engagement by Departments on individual projects through a workshop approach"</i></p>
4.12	Accountable Body	<p>Could the Department please confirm the timing of the establishment of the 'Accountable Body'. Our understanding is that this will commence at the point of Deal Document signing.</p> <p>"The X Region Programme Board may ask the Accountable Body to assess the business cases and provide it with these assurances." It should be noted that the Accountable Body will not exist at the time OBCs are submitted.</p>
Section 5	Business Case Approval	It would be helpful to have further clarity on the assessment process to be used in relation to innovation projects, for example, in relation to innovation projects, whether Invest NI will be used, and whether Invest NI will employ technical appraisers/ consultants. With MHCLG doing likewise in seeking UK advice there is the potential for duplication.

5.5	Accountable Body presentations	<p>Section 5.5 states that:</p> <p>“The lead department should convene and chair a casework committee to review the business case. The lead department may ask the Accountable Body to lead the presentation of the proposal to the Casework Committee”</p> <p>It is our expectation that the presentation of specific project proposals to a Casework Committee would be done by project sponsors and that these would also be done in advance of the Deal Document being signed and therefore in advance of an Accountable Body being in place. Could the Department please consider amending this paragraph to reflect this understanding?</p>
5.16	Business Case submission	The BRCD Partners believe that this is an error and it should read ‘Executive Board’ instead of Accountable Body.
General	Grant Offer letters	The current paper does not cover the Letters of Offer/ Grant Letter content in any detail and it would be useful to have an indication of how this would sit alongside a monitoring and evaluation framework for the Deal. While it may seem early to consider, this can be a major source of delays. The Programme Management Office, with the support of the Finance Directors group, will commence liaison with DoF on this issue.

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## BRCD Council Panel

<b>Subject:</b>	Minutes of Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD) Council Panel
<b>Date:</b>	1:00 pm, 29 January 2020
<b>Councillors in attendance:</b>	<p>Alderman Mark Cosgrove – Antrim &amp; Newtownabbey Borough Council (Chair)</p> <p>Alderman Phillip Brett – Antrim &amp; Newtownabbey Borough Council</p> <p>Councillor Stephen Ross – Antrim &amp; Newtownabbey Borough Council</p> <p>Councillor Robert Adair – Ards &amp; North Down Borough Council</p> <p>Alderman Alan McDowell – Ards &amp; North Down Borough Council</p> <p>Councillor Richard Smart – Ards &amp; North Down Borough Council</p> <p>Councillor Stephen Dunlop – Ards &amp; North Down Borough Council</p> <p>Alderman Brian Kingston – Belfast City Council</p> <p>Councillor Eric Hanvey -Belfast City Council</p> <p>Councillor Uel Mackin – Lisburn &amp; Castlereagh City Council</p> <p>Councillor Sorche Eastwood – Lisburn &amp; Castlereagh City Council</p> <p>Alderman Billy Ashe MBE – Mid &amp; East Antrim Borough Council</p> <p>Councillor Timothy Gaston – Mid &amp; East Antrim Borough Council</p> <p>Alderman Audrey Wales MBE -Mid &amp; East Antrim Borough Council</p> <p>Councillor Robert Logan – Mid &amp; East Antrim Borough Council</p> <p>Councillor Charlie Casey – Newry, Mourne &amp; Down District Council</p> <p>Councillor Robert Burgess – Newry, Mourne &amp; Down District Council</p> <p>Councillor Pete Byrne – Newry, Mourne &amp; Down District Council</p>
<b>Apologies:</b>	<p>Councillor Glenn Finlay – Antrim &amp; Newtownabbey Borough Council</p> <p>Councillor Ciaran Beattie – Belfast City Council</p> <p>Councillor Carl Whyte – Belfast City Council</p> <p>Alderman Allan Ewart MBE – Lisburn &amp; Castlereagh City Council</p> <p>Alderman Amanda Grehan – Lisburn &amp; Castlereagh City Council</p> <p>Alderman Michael Henderson – Lisburn &amp; Castlereagh City Council</p> <p>Councillor Robin Stewart – Mid &amp; East Antrim Borough Council</p> <p>Councillor Willie Clarke – Newry, Mourne &amp; Down District Council</p>
<b>Officers:</b>	<p>Marie-Thérèse McGivern – Chief Executive Belfast Met</p> <p>Jacqui Dixon – Chief Executive, Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council</p> <p>Majella McAlister – Director of Economic Development and Planning, Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council</p> <p>Stephen Reid – Chief Executive, Ards and North Down Borough Council</p> <p>Suzanne Wylie – Chief Executive, Belfast City Council</p> <p>Ronan Cregan – Deputy Chief Executive, Belfast City Council</p> <p>Damien Martin – BRCD Programme Director, Belfast City Council</p> <p>Padraic Murphy – Programme Co-ordinator, Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council</p> <p>Anne Donaghy – Chief Executive, Mid and East Antrim Borough Council</p> <p>Marie Ward – Chief Executive, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council</p> <p>Amanda Smyth – Head of Regeneration and Business Development, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council</p> <p>Emer Husbands – BRCD Programme Office</p> <p>Ruth Rea – BRCD Programme Office</p> <p>Theresa Slevin – BRCD Programme Office</p> <p>Lorraine Beggs – BRCD Programme Office</p>

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>
1.1	Alderman Cosgrove welcomed the members of the BRCD Council Panel to the meeting and outlined the agenda.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Apologies</b>
2.1	Apologies were received from: Councillor Glenn Finlay (Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council), Councillors Ciaran Beattie & Carl Whyte (Belfast City Council), Aldermen Allan Ewart MBE, Amanda Grehan & Michael Henderson (Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council), Councillor Robin Stewart (Mid & East Antrim Borough Council) and Councillor Willie Clarke (Newry, Mourne & Down District Council).
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>
3.1	Alderman Cosgrove asked Councillors to declare if they had any interests to declare in relation to the agenda. No interests were declared.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Minutes of Previous Meeting</b>
4.1	Alderman Cosgrove noted that Cllr Gaston had requested that the minutes were updated to reflect that Cllr Gaston had raised a concern in relation to the representation of councillors on the Executive Board. Proposed – Cllr Burgess Seconded – Ald Brian Kingston  <b>Members agreed to this amendment to the minutes.</b>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>BRCD Programme Update</b>
5.1	Damien Martin (BRCD Programme Director) provided an update on the progress to date across the BRCD programme namely: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advisory Boards for all pillars now in place.</li> <li>• Outline Business Cases (OBCs) being progressed by all projects.</li> <li>• Innovation projects most advanced and first draft of OBCs expected in February or March.</li> <li>• Engagement ongoing with UK Government and DfE regarding the Digital pillar.</li> <li>• Integration across the pillars within the programme remains challenging, however pillar integration workshops are seeking to address this.</li> </ul> <p>No questions were raised.</p>

<b>6.0</b>	<b>NI City &amp; Growth Deals: Governance and Funding Arrangement</b>
6.1	<p>Jacqui Dixon (Chief Executive Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council) outlined the NI City &amp; Growth Deals: Governance and Funding Arrangement document provided by the NI Civil Service. This document will apply to all NI Deals and is based on other City Deals across the UK and associated lessons learned. It is recognised that further engagement is required to determine how the funding will flow and that the document was drafted prior to the re-establishment of the Executive, and clarity on the potential impact of the restored Executive will be required. The establishment of a Working Group to determine the processes required at implementation stage is proposed. The Board have drafted a response which recognises the positive collaboration with NI Civil servants to date and seeks clarification on a number of points, for Members to consider.</p> <p>Members raised concerns regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the requirement for all OBCs to be approved before the Deal document can be signed and the potential impact on the more advanced projects;</li> <li>the need for a clear decision making process and ensuring the BRCD targets around jobs and GVA are met and considered in the decision making process;</li> <li>visibility of the decisions made at the Executive Board;</li> <li>ensuring that a programme approach is adopted despite the different rates of progress on OBC development and</li> <li>potential issues if the departments priorities don't reflect those of City Deal.</li> </ul> <p>Officers noted that clarity is requested in the draft response around the OBC approval requirement given the 10 year nature of the programme. OBCs will be required to develop the Financial Plan and an indicative budget for each project will be required for the Deal Document, but the OBCs do not necessarily need to be approved for these requirements to be fulfilled. It was acknowledged that the decision making process is challenging given the range of factors which need to be considered, but this is being progressed by the Executive Board, and the previously agreed principles for decision making are being followed. Engagement with government departments has been ongoing, however engagement with Ministers following the Executive return, will be a key focus in the current period in order to secure buy in for City Deal.</p> <p><b>Alderman Cosgrove suggested that the minutes of the Executive Board are shared to ensure visibility of decisions. Members agreed to this recommendation.</b></p>
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Employability and Skills</b>
7.1	<p>Marie-Thérèse McGivern (Chief Executive Belfast Met) led a presentation on the Employability and Skills (E&amp;S) pillar and the work that the Employability and Skills Advisory Board have been undertaking to date. City Deal</p>

	<p>provides an opportunity to collaborate with Partners to develop new ways of working and aligning programmes to create a skills ecosystem with clear pathways to the employment opportunities created, particularly for the most deprived communities, with the aim of achieving real inclusive growth.</p> <p>Members discussed in detail the positive work to date on E&amp;S; the importance of inclusive growth and the challenges in reaching the economically inactive; the requirement to understand how the impact and outcomes will be measured; consideration of a publicity campaign around the economically inactive; the requirement to provide a pipeline of skills; to take a targeted approach to careers guidance, promoting vocational pathways such as apprenticeships and the key role of parents in supporting young people in making career choices.</p>
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Stakeholder Engagement</b>
8.1	<p>Stephen Reid (Chief Executive Ards and North Down Borough Council) outlined the Stakeholder Engagement that has taken place to date. It was acknowledged that engagement during the first phase of the programme was focused on securing the deal and required local and national engagement at a political and government department level. For this phase, the focus is now on developing the individual projects and significant engagement with the private sector and other relevant stakeholders is now ongoing through projects and Advisory Boards. At programme level, specialist support is being commissioned to support strategic engagement, including both business and political engagement and with the Assembly now back in operation an early priority would be engagement with political representatives from across the Belfast Region.</p> <p>Members discussed the proposed approach to political engagement and following a vote, <b>agreed that an engagement session to be held at Stormont with MLAs from the Belfast region should be organised.</b></p>
<b>9.0</b>	<b>Workplan and Schedule of Meetings</b>
	The Workplan and schedule of meetings was agreed.
<b>10.0</b>	<b>Press Release</b>
10.1	<p><b>The BRCD Council Panel agreed the press release in relation to the meeting.</b></p> <p>Proposer – Cllr Smart</p> <p>Seconder – Ald Kingston</p>
<b>11.0</b>	<p><b>Date, time and location of next meeting</b></p> <p><b>Wednesday 29 April at 1 pm</b></p> <p><b>Lisburn &amp; Castlereagh City Council</b></p>



<b>Subject:</b>	NI Executive Ministerial Engagement
<b>Date:</b>	21 February 2020
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Suzanne Wylie, Chief Executive
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Kevin Heaney, Portfolio Manager Christine Robinson, Strategic Policy and Partnership Manager

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an overview of the key proposals set out within the recently published 'New Decade, New Approach' document; and highlighting several specific points for discussion with NI Executive Ministers.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	Members are asked to:
2.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Note the summary of the New Decade, New Approach attached at Appendix 2.</li> <li>(b) Review the proposed discussion points for Ministerial enagemnt, as set out in section 3 below, and identify any additional issues which Members may wish to raise.</li> <li>(c) Note that an agenda and supporting briefing papers will be prepared for each Ministerial meeting based on the list of issues agreed by Members.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<p>Members will be aware that the 'New Decade, New Approach' was published by the British and Irish Governments on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2020 (copy attached at <b>Appendix 1</b>). The document is split into two main parts with a series of sub-commitments set out covering the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priorities of the Restored Executive (pages 6-10)</li> <li>• Northern Ireland Executive Formation Agreement (pages 11-44)</li> <li>• Annex A: specific UK Government commitments to Northern Ireland (pages 45-56)</li> <li>• Annex B: specific Irish Government commitments to Northern Ireland (pages 57-62)</li> </ul>
3.2	A summary of the document is attached at <b>Appendix 2</b> for Members information. Clearly, there are a wide range of positive commitments set out within the deal which will benefit Northern Ireland and it will be important that we gain a full understanding of their potential impact on Belfast. Correspondence has been issued to all NI Executive Ministers seeking meetings with a cross-party delegation to discss specific issues and opportunities for the city.

3.3	<p><b><u>Ministerial discussion points</u></b></p> <p>Given the likely limitation of time secured with Ministers, it will be important that the discussion is focused on key priority areas. To help focus discussion at the meetings, the following areas are proposed for Members consideration and comment.</p>
3.3.1	<p><b>General Comments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joining up the skills issue across Departments</li> <li>• Local government – links to UK policy and funding</li> <li>• Local government – relationships with all island bodies</li> <li>• The importance of place and the role of local government in place-making.</li> <li>• Role of cities as Economic Drivers. Definition of a regionally balanced economy – urban policy</li> <li>• Climate adaptation and mitigation planning at local and regional level including funding strategy</li> <li>• Refresh of Programme for Government - alignment with Belfast Agenda - strengthened relationship between departments and Belfast CC and other Councils. New mechanisms for collaboration, co-design and delivery</li> <li>• City Deal – forerunner to a new local/regional partnership and funding approach</li> <li>• Further devolution agenda</li> <li>• Innovation in public sector</li> <li>• 5G and digital connectivity</li> </ul>
3.3.2	<p><b>The Executive Office</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The importance of local government in supporting achievement of Executive priorities. Refresh of Programme for Government – linkages to Belfast Agenda: NOTE it is recommended that BCC ask for a role in the PfG development process.</li> <li>• The importance of place - strengthened central/ local government relationships – local outcome agreements.</li> <li>• Potential for LGR phase II</li> <li>• BRCD – governance and funding</li> <li>• An understanding of the role of the Office of Identity and Cultural Expression in relation to local government</li> <li>• Dealing with legacy issues such as flags, paramilitaries and bonfires</li> <li>• Emergency Planning – future model for ensuring resilience</li> <li>• Future of Executive funding – SIF, TEUC etc</li> <li>• The Future of Shared Prosperity Funds</li> </ul>
3.3.3	<p><b>Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Role of the new independent EPA</li> <li>• Environment Strategy – relationship with Energy and Climate adaptation and mitigation plans</li> <li>• Climate Act, strategy and funding plan</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ni Waste Strategy and funding plans – potential for a NI Waste Authority &amp; Infrastructure</li> <li>• Air Quality Strategy, interventions and funding plan</li> </ul>
3.3.4	<p><b>Department for Communities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transfer of regeneration functions- further devolution / transfer of assets</li> <li>• Community capacity building – new approaches</li> <li>• Housing in Belfast – joint approaches with BCC. Review of the Private rented sector</li> <li>• Welfare Reform – advice service and tribunal service</li> <li>• Connectivity Study – implementation – future of streets ahead programmes</li> <li>• Areas of special need, e.g. Holylands</li> <li>• Culture, Arts support and funding / future of Arts Council</li> <li>• Poverty Strategy / Social value procurement</li> <li>• BRCD – governance and funding</li> <li>• City Regeneration and Development (including place shaping, DfC regeneration funding – 5 transformation areas and city centre)</li> <li>• Employability and Skills – collaboration and co-financing for the delivery of Employability NI pilot. Civic growth / affordable and joint approach to site development / public assets and maximising the regeneration potential of significant development schemes</li> <li>• Legislative changes (e.g. liquor licensing reform, review of gambling legislation, Local Government Act and supplementary legislation)</li> <li>• Technical aid for communities re planning</li> <li>• Future design of Shared Prosperity Fund</li> <li>• HED Partnership Approach</li> </ul>
3.3.5	<p><b>Department for Economy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Economic Strategy – co-design with local government</li> <li>• The role of the Belfast Innovation and Inclusive Growth Commission</li> <li>• Brexit – support for business – negotiating the future arrangements for services – building the potential of the London – Belfast – Dublin Triangle</li> <li>• Energy Strategy and need for local government involvement of local government</li> <li>• BRCD – governance and funding - Innovation and Digital Plans</li> <li>• Skills Strategy / talent retention – the importance of place in shaping solutions and delivering to local need and growth</li> <li>• Future of further and higher education – Masen Cap</li> <li>• Shared Prosperity Fund / UK Challenge Funds / UK RI</li> <li>• Support for alternative economic models – co-operatives and social enterprises</li> <li>• Tourism – destination Hub, Game of Thrones, community tourism</li> <li>• Sub regional economies</li> <li>• Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor</li> <li>• Inhibitors to Investment</li> </ul>

3.3.6	<b>Department of Education</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Educational Underachievement</li> <li>• Future of schools – local planning and capital investment</li> <li>• Childcare Strategy to support employment</li> <li>• Plans for future of the careers service</li> <li>• Transition to F&amp;H Education / employment</li> </ul>
3.3.7	<b>Department of Finance</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Belfast Region City Deal – governance, funding and streamlining of the approach to business cases. Building on the model of City deals – new partnerships – new financing methods</li> <li>• Non-domestic rates revaluation 2020 – rates reform</li> <li>• Revenue raising powers and initiatives such as tourist tax and rates retention – rates incentive – APD, corporation tax, rate reliefs</li> <li>• Shared Prosperity Fund / UK Challenge Funds</li> <li>• Green Finance</li> <li>• Government office consolidation - next phase / impact on regeneration</li> <li>• Data sharing / open data – evidence bases</li> <li>• Multi annual budget planning – ability for more co-design of programmes</li> </ul>
3.3.8	<b>Department for Health</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reform agenda – future of PHA – future of joint arrangements such as the Belfast Health Development Unit</li> <li>• Mental health/suicide – outreach / interventions / investment</li> <li>• Drugs &amp; Alcohol use – ownership of the issue</li> <li>• Skills shortages – potential for joint solutions</li> </ul>
3.3.9	<b>Department for Infrastructure</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Development Plan – RDS and role of Belfast as regional driver of the local economy – growth ambitions</li> <li>• Planning review – role of Dept / LAs / Role of stat consultees</li> <li>• Role in driving greener and bluer infrastructure (BOSS)</li> <li>• Belfast Region City Deal – DFI project progress</li> <li>• Infrastructure investment and facilitation – water, sustainable transport and 5G</li> <li>• Transport infrastructure – York Street interchange, cycle network, Belfast transport study/plan</li> <li>• Future plans for residents parking schemes</li> <li>• Future role of the harbour/port</li> <li>• City Connectivity – implementation of the vision</li> <li>• Environment/climate adaption and mitigation</li> <li>• Dublin-Belfast fast rail – commitment and urgency to progress</li> <li>• Potential to fund free public transport for under 25yr olds</li> </ul>



3.3.10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintenance priorities &amp; budget</li> </ul> <p><b>Department of Justice</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acceleration of plans associated with Peace Walls</li> <li>• Bonfires/bonfire materials – policy and enforcement</li> <li>• Potential for new regional ASB policy, including potential for increased powers - funding - diversionary activities and interventions</li> <li>• Potential for a new approach to Community policing / wardens</li> <li>• Approaches to tackling drugs</li> <li>• Holylands and wider South Belfast Area.</li> <li>• Review functionality and effectiveness of PCSPs</li> <li>• Troubles related funding in Deal</li> <li>• Anti-abortion imagery being displayed in public places</li> </ul> <p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u> None</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessments</u> None</p>
4.0	<p><b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b></p> <p>Appendix 1 – New Decade, New Approach</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Summary of New Decade, New Deal report</p>

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# New Decade, New Approach



# **New Decade, New Approach**

**January 2020**

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## Context and Responsibilities

1. The Rt Hon Julian Smith CBE MP, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, and Simon Coveney TD, Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, have published this text of a deal to restore devolved government in Northern Ireland.
2. The deal will transform public services and restore public confidence in devolved government and has been tabled at talks at Stormont House for the political parties in Northern Ireland to agree.
3. These talks were convened to restore the institutions created by the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement and, particularly, to restore a functioning Northern Ireland Executive delivering for the people of Northern Ireland on a stable and sustainable basis.
4. The participants throughout these talks were the UK and Irish Governments, each participating in accordance with their respective responsibilities, and the five main Northern Ireland parties.
5. Over several months of discussions, all the issues were extensively explored with the opportunity for each participant to put forward proposals.

**The New Decade, New Approach deal represents a fair and balanced basis upon which to restore the institutions. The commitments of each Government are attached here as annexes for the information of the participants and the public. They are the respective responsibility of each Government, and no agreement is asked or required from the parties for those commitments.**

# **The New Decade, New Approach Deal**

**The following represents the deal which the UK Government and Irish Government are inviting the parties to endorse as a basis for restoring the Executive.**

## Part 1: Priorities of the Restored Executive

*This section records the priorities that the parties would agree for an incoming Executive.*

The parties have agreed on a way forward for a restored Executive to begin the urgent task of strengthening public services and to tackle immediate challenges in key areas such as growing the economy, health, education and housing. A restored Executive brings with it **urgently needed local political oversight and decision-making**. The Executive will bring positive changes in areas that impact greatly on people's lives such as the economy, overcrowded hospitals, struggling schools, housing stress, welfare concerns and mental health. There will be a **multi-year Programme for Government**, underpinned by a **multi-year budget and legislative programme**.

The parties have agreed that the immediate priorities for the restored Executive should be:

> **Transforming our health service** with a long-term funding strategy. The Executive will:

- **immediately settle the ongoing pay dispute;**
- **introduce a new action plan on waiting times; and**
- **deliver reforms on health and social care** as set out in the Bengoa, Delivering Together and Power to People reports.

No-one waiting over a year at 30 September 2019 for outpatient or inpatient assessment/treatment will still be on a waiting list by March 2021.

**The Executive will reconfigure hospital provision to deliver better patient outcomes**, more stable services and sustainable staffing. Improvements will be made in stroke, breast assessment, urgent and emergency care and day case elective care by the end of 2020.

The Executive will also **deliver an extra 900 nursing and midwifery undergraduate places** over three years.

The Executive will consider the scope for changing how waiting times are measured, to reflect the entire patient journey, from referral to treatment, with appropriate targets.

The Executive will publish a **Mental Health Action Plan** within 2 months; a Mental Health Strategy by December 2020; a successor strategy and action plan to the **Strategic Direction for Alcohol and Drugs Phase 2** within 3 months; and a **new strategy and implementation plan on cancer** by December 2020.



The Executive will build capacity in general practice through the ongoing **rollout of Multi Disciplinary teams to cover a further 100,000 patients** by March 2021.

The Executive will provide increased investment to **fully implement service improvements for palliative and end of life care** including enhancing the contribution of hospices; and to increase support for palliative perinatal care.

The Executive will provide **3 funded cycles of IVF treatment**.

The Executive will expand university provision at Magee in line with commitments made by the previous Executive, including through the establishment of a **Graduate Entry Medical School**.

> **Transforming other public services** particularly in education and justice.

The Executive will **urgently resolve the current teachers' industrial dispute**. It will also **address resourcing pressures in schools**, ensuring that every school has a sustainable core budget to deliver quality education.

The Executive will **establish an external, independent review of education provision**, with a focus on securing greater efficiency in delivery costs, raising standards, access to the curriculum for all pupils, and the prospects of moving towards a single education system.

To help build a shared and integrated society, the Executive will **support educating children and young people of different backgrounds together** in the classroom.

The Executive will establish an expert group to examine and propose an action plan to **address links between persistent educational underachievement and socio-economic background**, including the long-standing issues facing working-class, Protestant boys.

The Executive will **deliver a new special educational needs framework** to support young people with special needs to achieve their full potential.

The Executive will **increase police numbers to 7,500**. The Executive will deliver committal reform to help **speed up the criminal justice system**, benefiting victims and witnesses.

The Executive will also address:

- **the findings in recently published reports from Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland, and**

- **the report of Sir John Gillen on the handling of serious sexual offences cases,** and will deliver the necessary changes in case conduct and management.

There will be **further reform of the NI Civil Service.**

**There will be a review of Arm's Length Bodies with a view to their rationalisation.**

**> Investing for the future** to ensure Northern Ireland is equipped to harness opportunities and drive sustainable productivity, including opportunities for future trade as we leave the EU. The economic context has changed considerably in the past three years. **A top priority of the Executive will be to develop a regionally-balanced economy with opportunities for all.**

The Executive will invest strategically in ensuring that NI has the right mix of skills for a thriving economy.

To boost the economy, the Executive will **drive the delivery of essential infrastructure projects**, including York Street Interchange, in order to build a Northern Ireland that is equipped for a prosperous shared future.

The Executive will make it a priority to realise the economic potential offered by City Deals for the Belfast Region and Derry/Londonderry, including through **match capital funding for infrastructure, regeneration and tourism projects**. The Executive will work with the UK Government to develop and deliver the Growth Deals for Mid South West Northern Ireland and Causeway Coast and Glens.

The Executive will **invest urgently in wastewater infrastructure** which is at or nearing capacity in many places across Northern Ireland, including in Belfast, limiting growth.

The Executive will **bring more big events like The Open Championship to Northern Ireland** - playing to our strengths and boosting our economy. The Executive will also take forward the **reform of licensing laws**.

The Executive will advance with plans to **complete both the Regional and Sub Regional Stadia Programmes, including Casement Park.**

The Executive will **tackle climate change head on** with a strategy to **address the immediate and longer term impacts of climate change.**

The Executive will **introduce legislation and targets for reducing carbon emissions** in line with the Paris Climate Change Accord.

In support of both economic and educational objectives, the Executive will **develop an enhanced approach to careers advice, curriculum, training and apprenticeships** to enhance employability and support economic growth.

> **Delivering a fair and compassionate society** that supports working families and the most vulnerable. The Executive will develop and implement an **Anti-poverty Strategy**.

The parties reaffirm their commitment to **tackling paramilitarism**. Ending the harm done by paramilitarism will be a priority in the new Programme for Government.

There will be a focus within the Programme for Government on **ending sectarianism** and robust supporting strategies and actions will be put in place.

By introducing legislation to reclassify housing associations, **the Executive will enable housing associations to continue building new social housing and intermediate housing**, including the Co-ownership Housing Scheme after March 2020. Housing will be included as a specific priority in the Programme for Government. The Executive will also **enhance investment and agree a target for new social and affordable home starts** and tackle the maintenance backlog for Northern Ireland Housing Executive properties.

The Executive will examine options to **remove historical debt** from the NI Housing Executive and **exclude it from having to pay Corporation Tax**, and set **a long-term trajectory for the rental charges** for NI Housing Executive homes which is sustainable and is affordable to tenants.

The Executive will **extend existing welfare mitigation measures** beyond March 2020, when they are currently due to expire.

The Executive will press on with implementation of a **redress scheme for victims and survivors of historical abuse**, making payments as early as possible.

The Executive will **publish a Childcare Strategy** and identify resources to deliver extended, affordable and high quality provision of early education and care initiatives for families with children aged 3-4.

The loss of a child causes unimaginable pain for families. The Executive will **establish a child funeral fund**, to ease the burden on families suffering acutely.

The Executive will bring about **parity in financial support to victims** of contaminated blood in Northern Ireland with those in England.

#### > **Developing a new Programme for Government**

People and communities will have an opportunity to shape the future Programme for Government and the budget, through citizen engagement and co-design.

The NICS Outcomes Delivery Plan will provide the basis for an Executive work programme of priority actions to be taken in the coming months. The parties recognise that there are a great many challenges facing the restored Executive that will only be addressed in the medium to long term. To address these, the parties are committed to working together immediately to put in place an ambitious Programme for Government firmly focussed on improving prosperity and wellbeing for all. This will reflect new ways of working that ensure the Executive is transparently and collectively accountable to the Assembly and to citizens.

## Part 2: Northern Ireland Executive Formation Agreement

*This section represents the deal that the Parties would agree to restore the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement Institutions.*

### A new approach to government in Northern Ireland

1. This agreement marks a new approach to government in Northern Ireland. **It enables the restoration to full operation of all the institutions of the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement**, including the Executive, the Assembly, the North South Ministerial Council, the British-Irish Council and the British-Irish Intergovernmental Conference. It contains a range of specific proposals to make government better, from changes to the ministerial code through to a new approach to the Petition of Concern. It also contains a commitment to further reform to take account of the outcome of the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) inquiry.
2. This agreement represents a renewed effort by Northern Ireland's political parties to implement the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement and, in signing it, the parties commit with renewed vigour to governing in the best interests of everyone in Northern Ireland.

### *Transparency, accountability and the functioning of the Executive*

3. Ministers and civil servants, including special advisers, each have a part to play in **rebuilding the trust of citizens** in the operation of a future administration. The parties reaffirm their commitment to greater transparency and improved governance arrangements that are aimed at securing and maintaining public confidence. This is particularly important in light of the public inquiry into the RHI scheme.
4. The parties have therefore agreed to an **ambitious package of measures to strengthen transparency and governance arrangements** in the Assembly and Executive in line with international best practice. The Executive will, as a matter of urgency, produce strengthened drafts of the ministerial, civil service and special adviser codes, to be implemented immediately.
5. The measures agreed here include:

- a. making clear the **accountability of Ministers** to the Assembly;
  - b. strengthening **Ministers' responsibility for their special advisers**;
  - c. publishing details of **Ministers' meetings** with external organisations;
  - d. publishing details of **gifts and hospitality received by special advisers**, meetings with external organisations, and pay;
  - e. strengthening requirements for **record-keeping** and the **protections for whistleblowers**;
  - f. establishment of a **fiscal council** which would assess and report on the sustainability of the Executive's finances and spending proposals.
6. The parties also agree to establish a **robust, independent enforcement mechanism** to deal with breaches of the Ministerial Code and related documents.
  7. The Executive will establish a dedicated sub-committee which will consider the findings of the RHI inquiry and propose further reforms, in addition to those in this agreement, to deliver the changes necessary to rebuild public confidence. The parties agree to deliver any such reforms rapidly once the inquiry has reported.
  8. The full detail of these transparency and accountability measures is set out in **Annex A**.

#### *Petition of Concern*

9. The parties have agreed that the use of the **Petition of Concern should be reduced, and returned to its intended purpose**. The parties will publicly commit to tabling or supporting Petitions of Concern only in the most **exceptional circumstances and as a last resort**, having used every other available mechanism.
10. The parties agree to a number of specific changes to how the Petition of Concern will work for the remaining mandate of this Assembly and into the future as detailed in **Annex B**. This will include measures so that a Petition of Concern will not be available where the question before the Assembly relates to a member's conduct as a Minister or MLA and that, in respect of both Executive and Private Members' Bills, the Petition of Concern will apply only after Second Stage. These changes will be given effect in Standing Orders or amendments to the Northern Ireland Act 1998, as appropriate, at the earliest opportunity.
11. Most parties supported wider reform of the Petition of Concern. This mechanism is an important part of the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement safeguards to ensure that

all sections of the community can participate and work together successfully in the operation of the institutions established under the Agreement, and that all sections of the community are protected.

12. The threshold for a Petition of Concern shall remain at 30 MLAs, but a Petition can only be triggered by members from two or more parties. For this purpose, an independent Member is to be treated as a party if that Member was elected on an independent platform.
13. A valid Petition of Concern shall trigger a 14-day period of consideration. After this consideration, if 30 MLAs confirm support for the Petition of Concern, the Assembly can determine the matter in accordance with the cross community consent procedure.

### *Sustainability of the Institutions*

14. The parties agree that a three-year absence of devolved government cannot happen again, and have therefore agreed a package of measures to deliver **more sustainable institutions that are more resilient** and able to continue to function throughout periods of political difficulty.
15. The parties have agreed that the institutions should be reformed on the basis of **good faith, trust, and mutual respect**, and have reaffirmed their **commitment to the principles of power-sharing and cross community protection** contained in the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement.
16. This agreement creates new bodies, including a **Party Leaders' Forum** and **Executive Sub-Committee on Brexit** to improve collaboration and partnership and improve the sustainability of the institutions. It makes arrangements to **strengthen the ability of the parties in Opposition to hold the Executive to account**, including proposals to extend the period of time in which parties can form an Opposition.
17. The parties also agree to introduce reformed measures to **put civic engagement and public consultation at the heart of policy-making**, recognising the vital role that wider society plays in supporting effective and accountable Government.
18. If a period of political tension arises in future which risks a breakdown of the institutions the agreement provides for a longer **24-week period before an Assembly election must be called**. During this period **Ministers will remain in office in a care-taker capacity** to allow for greater continuity of decision-making. Ministers will be required to act within well-defined limits, including as set out in the Ministerial Code and in accordance with the requirement for an Executive Committee to consider any decisions that are significant and controversial or

cross-cutting, and, as appropriate, the restrictions that are in place during a pre-election period. **Assembly Committees will also continue to function** and discharge their important duties.

### *Programme for Government*

19. The parties have agreed the need for a **shared and ambitious strategic vision** for the future, with the aim of **improving lives across Northern Ireland**. That approach must be reflected in an outcomes-based Programme for Government, building on the outcomes from the previous Programme for Government. It must also be a **sustainable basis** upon which the parties in the Executive can **work in partnership**.
20. The parties reaffirm their commitment to the **Declaration of Support contained in the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement and successor agreements**. In doing so, they recognise that the Programme for Government must provide a sustainable basis for the Executive to work together in partnership to serve and deliver for all on the basis of demonstrable and objectively measured need. Reconciliation will be central to the Executive's approach, and there will be a focus on building a united community in a way that has equality and mutual respect to the fore.
21. In addition, the parties agree that the principles and practice of citizen and community engagement and co-design will be a key part of the development and delivery of the Programme for Government and its supporting strategies.
22. The parties have agreed a two-stage approach to establishing a strategic level Programme for Government comprising the **framework of 12 outcomes of societal wellbeing** from the Northern Ireland Civil Service Outcomes Delivery Plan and a **Priorities Plan** consisting of actions for delivery during the remainder of 2019/20.
23. By April 2020, informed by a detailed stakeholder engagement process, the Executive will publish a **new strategic level outcomes-based Programme for Government** aligned to a multi-year budget with a sustained approach to public finances and prioritised investment in infrastructure and public services. The new Programme will be aimed at delivering lasting changes and improvements in key priority areas and will include measures aimed at: removing paramilitarism, ending sectarianism, transforming health and social care, reforming education, ensuring households have access to good quality, affordable and sustainable homes, addressing climate change, creating good jobs and protecting workers' rights.
24. In moving to a better, more prosperous and shared future the parties recognise the need to **address the legacy of the past**. To that end, the parties are committed to



working together and to doing everything possible to heal wounds and eliminate the issues that divide us.

*Rights, language and identity*

25. The parties affirm the need to **respect the freedom of all persons in Northern Ireland to choose, affirm, maintain and develop their national and cultural identity** and to celebrate and express that identity in a manner which takes into account the sensitivities of those with different national or cultural identities and respects the rule of law. They also affirm the need to **encourage and promote reconciliation, tolerance and meaningful dialogue** between those of different national and cultural identities in Northern Ireland with a view to promoting **parity of esteem, mutual respect, understanding and cooperation**. These principles will be reflected in legislation.
26. The First Minister and deputy First Minister, supported by Junior Ministers in The Executive Office, will sponsor and oversee a new framework both recognising and celebrating Northern Ireland's diversity of identities and culture, and accommodating cultural difference.
27. The framework will be underpinned by an affirmation of the birthright of all the people of Northern Ireland to identify themselves and be accepted as Irish or British, or both, as they may so choose, while acknowledging and accommodating those within our community who define themselves as 'other' and those who form our ethnic and newcomer communities. It will comprise:
  - a. An Office of Identity and Cultural Expression to promote cultural pluralism and respect for diversity, build social cohesion and reconciliation and to celebrate and support all aspects of Northern Ireland's rich cultural and linguistic heritage.
  - b. Legislation to create a Commissioner to recognise, support, protect and enhance the development of the Irish language in Northern Ireland and to provide official recognition of the status of the Irish Language in Northern Ireland. The legislation will also repeal the Administration of Justice (Language) Act (Ireland) 1737.
  - c. Legislation to create a further such Commissioner to enhance and develop the language, arts and literature associated with the Ulster Scots / Ulster British tradition and to provide official recognition of the status of the Ulster Scots language in Northern Ireland. The legislation will also place a legal

duty on the Department of Education to encourage and facilitate the use of Ulster Scots in the education system.

- d. The main function of the Irish Language Commissioner will be to protect and enhance the development of the use of the Irish language by public authorities including by providing advice and guidance, and introducing, supporting and monitoring the use of best practice language standards.
  - e. The main function of the further such Commissioner will be to enhance and develop the language, arts and literature associated with the Ulster Scots/ Ulster British tradition in Northern Ireland.
  - f. A central Translation Hub will also be established in the Department of Finance within three months of an agreement, in order to provide language translation services for the 9 Executive Departments, Arm's Length Bodies, Local Government and Public Bodies.
  - g. The Assembly's Standing Orders will also be amended to allow any person to conduct their business before the Assembly or an Assembly Committee through Irish or Ulster Scots. A simultaneous translation system will be made available in the Assembly to ensure that a person without Irish or Ulster Scots is not placed at a disadvantage.
  - h. This legislation - including establishing the Office and both Commissioners - will be established as new dedicated parts of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. This is the legislation which implements the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement and subsequent agreements and establishes the Assembly and Executive in law. The enactment of these new Parts of the Northern Ireland Act will reflect the importance of these issues to people and society in Northern Ireland.
  - i. The Office of Identity will provide funding streams and schemes, including publishing and broadcasting, small grants, events and tourism, exhibition and museum curation, built heritage, cultural education and tourism projects.
28. An Ad-Hoc Assembly Committee will be established to consider the creation of a Bill of Rights that is faithful to the stated intention of the 1998 Agreement in that it contains rights supplementary to those contained in the European Convention on Human Rights (which are currently applicable) and "that reflect the particular circumstances of Northern Ireland"; as well as reflecting the principles of mutual respect for the identity and ethos of both communities and parity of esteem.
29. The full details of the agreement in respect of rights, language and identity are set out in **Annex E**.

## 1. **Annex A: Transparency, accountability and the functioning of the Executive**

1.1. The parties have agreed the following measures. The Executive will, as a matter of urgency, produce strengthened drafts of the relevant codes to be implemented immediately.

- 1.1.1. Making clear the accountability of Ministers to the Assembly and the need for statutory committees to be provided with the information they require to allow them to discharge their role.
- 1.1.2. Strengthening the requirements for the declaration and handling of interests by Ministers with full declaration of interests on appointment to be regularly updated and for relevant interests to be published.
- 1.1.3. Ministers to be responsible for the management, conduct and discipline of their special advisers (to also be included in the Special Adviser Code of Conduct).
- 1.1.4. Enforcement of the Ministerial Code (and other codes) is key to making the Executive more accountable and transparent (options for a process to achieve this is the subject of a separate paper).
- 1.1.5. Make clear the need for the recording of ministerial meetings (to also be included in the Civil Service Code), the attendance of officials at ministerial meetings, and the prompt declaration to the Department of any substantive discussions with external organisations relating to departmental business at which no officials were present.
- 1.1.6. Publish details of meetings with external organisations (and also gifts and hospitality received).
- 1.1.7. Special Adviser Code to include an overarching introduction making clear the critical role special advisers have in supporting Ministers and that they are an important part of the team working closely alongside civil servants to deliver Ministers' priorities.
- 1.1.8. Making clear that Ministers are responsible for the management, conduct and discipline of their special advisers (and that this requirement will be incorporated in the Ministerial Code).

- 1.1.9. Incorporating any changes agreed to the Civil Service Code in the Special Adviser Code.
- 1.1.10. Publishing details of gifts and hospitality received by special advisers, meetings with external organisations, and pay.
- 1.1.11. Include the requirement that while individual civil servants are accountable to their department's Minister, the civil service also has a wider obligation to the Executive as a whole.
- 1.1.12. Include an explicit requirement to maintain accurate records, and that information should be handled as openly and transparently as possible within the legal framework.
- 1.1.13. Make clear that within the civil service there is zero tolerance of harassment, bullying or inappropriate or discriminatory behaviour and that action should be taken to ensure there is a culture where people can speak up about unacceptable behaviour.
- 1.1.14. Strengthening the rules and awareness around whistleblowing / speaking up so that proper consideration is given to both internal and external complaints.
- 1.2. In addition, the parties agree that Ministers are obliged to abide by the provisions of Guidance to Ministers on the Exercise of their Functions and Conduct of Executive Business.
- 1.3. Anyone may make a complaint regarding alleged breaches of ministerial standards or the Ministerial Code. Complaints will only be considered if the complainant provides their name, contact details and sufficient details of the alleged breach to be able to give it full consideration.
- 1.4. Complaints that a Minister has breached the Ministerial Code of Conduct, Guidance to Ministers on the Exercise of their Functions or Conduct of Executive Business will be referred to the Commissioners for Ministerial Standards.
- 1.5. The Commissioners will decide whether a complaint has sufficient merit to be considered, and will decline to investigate a complaint that is frivolous, vexatious, or made in bad faith.

- 1.6. The Commissioners will number three in addition to the Assembly Commissioner for Standards, and will be appointed by the First Minister and deputy First Minister.
- 1.7. The Commissioners may ask for the facts from the Secretary to the Executive to inform their decision as to whether to investigate a complaint.
- 1.8. The Commissioners' decision to investigate or not to investigate, and the grounds for their decision, will be published. There will be strict, published, timeframes to adhere to for each stage of the process.
- 1.9. When the Commissioners investigate a complaint, they will publish the findings of their investigation. Their findings will include whether or not the Minister has been found to have breached the terms of the Code or Guidance, and the relative seriousness of the breach. The findings will not include any recommendation regarding sanctions. This will ultimately be a matter for the relevant Party/Assembly process.
- 1.10. The published report of the Commissioners may provide the grounds upon which others may initiate their own sanctions, including those under s.30 of the NI Act 1998 by which the Assembly can suspend a Minister on the passing of a motion of no confidence supported by 30 MLAs or moved by the First Minister and deputy First Minister acting jointly. The published report may also be taken into consideration by the nominating officer of the Minister's party.
- 1.11. All Ministers and civil servants, including special advisers, will cooperate fully with any investigation by the Commissioners for Ministerial Standards.
- 1.12. The Assembly Committee on Standards and Privileges will be enhanced by the appointment of 3 independent lay members with voting rights.
- 1.13. The Executive will as a matter of priority take forward reviews of civil service reform, including procurement and appointment processes, public appointments and arm's length bodies.

## 2. **Annex B: Petition of Concern**

- 2.1. The parties have agreed that the use of the Petition of Concern should be reduced, and returned to its intended purpose. Alongside agreeing the specific changes below, the parties commit to tabling or supporting Petitions of Concern only in the most exceptional circumstances and as a last resort, having used every other available mechanism. In particular, the First Minister and deputy First Minister will commit not to sign a Petition of Concern in this Assembly mandate.
- 2.2. In addition, the parties agree to the following changes, which will be given effect in Standing Orders or legislation, as appropriate, at the earliest opportunity:
  - 2.2.1. A Petition must be accompanied by a statement of the grounds and rationale upon which it is being tabled and be signed in person at the Bills Office.
  - 2.2.2. The Speaker and the three Deputy Speakers shall not sign a Petition.
  - 2.2.3. The threshold for a Petition of Concern will remain at 30 MLAs, but a Petition can only be triggered by members from two or more parties. For this purpose, an independent Member is to be treated as a party if that Member was elected on an independent platform.
  - 2.2.4. The Petition of Concern will not be available for standards motions under Standing Order 69B, or motions and questions which have no express legal or procedural effect.
  - 2.2.5. In respect of both Executive and Private Members' Bills, the Petition of Concern will apply only after Second Stage.
  - 2.2.6. Ministers and Junior Ministers should not be excluded from signing a Petition, but the parties note that for a Minister or Junior Minister to sign a Petition in respect of a matter that is in accordance with a decision of the Executive would be a breach of the Pledge of Office paragraph (f).
  - 2.2.7. A valid Petition of Concern shall trigger a 14-day period of consideration, including on any reports on whether a measure or proposal for legislation is in conformity with equality requirements, including the ECHR/ Bill of Rights and any advice following on from Assembly Standing Order 30(6) and 85(4). After this consideration, if

30 MLAs confirm support for the Petition of Concern, the Assembly can determine the matter in accordance with the cross community consent procedure.

- 2.3. The provisions of section 13(3) of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 and of Order 60 of Assembly Standing Orders relating to the referral of Bills to the Ad Hoc Committee on Conformity with Equality Requirements should continue to apply.

### 3. **Annex C: Sustainability of the Institutions**

- 3.1. The parties have reaffirmed their commitment to the principles of power-sharing and cross community protection contained in the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement.

#### *Executive Business*

- 3.2. The parties have agreed to return to the institutions on the basis of good faith, mutual respect and trust - underpinned by strong working relationships. The Parties have agreed that effective measures are needed to improve the sustainability of the institutions, to increase public confidence and increase the resilience of the institutions so that they can better withstand political difficulties, challenges and disagreements.
- 3.3. The parties have agreed to adopt a new and strengthened Conduct of Executive Business document. Consistent with the principles and procedures included in the transparency section of this Agreement, breaches of the document will be effectively and proportionately enforced.

#### *Party Leaders' Forum*

- 3.4. A Party Leaders' forum will be established. The forum will be attended by the leaders, or their 'permanent' nominated representative, of the political parties in the Executive. To ensure reasonable continuity of membership, parties will also nominate 'a deputy representative' who will attend when the 'permanent' representative is unable to attend. The forum will meet, as a minimum, once a month. It will be an informal forum that has no Executive decision-making authority. The forum will operate as a safe space for party leaders to discuss ongoing issues and provide early warning of any issues which might cause future political tension and disagreements. The value of the forum will be reviewed by forum members after 6 months.

#### *Brexit*

- 3.5. As a minimum, the Executive will establish a Brexit sub-committee. The sub-committee will be chaired by the First Minister and deputy First Minister (or their nominated Ministerial representatives). The sub-committee will have at least one representative from each party on the Executive. As a matter of urgency the sub-committee will consider Brexit-related issues and will initiate, as soon as is practicable, an assessment of the impact of Brexit on the



institutions and North/South and East/West relationships. The work of the sub-committee should be scrutinised by an Assembly Committee.

### *Opposition*

- 3.6. The Parties have agreed to amend the Assembly Executive and Reform (Assembly Opposition) Act (NI) to provide that a party can enter the Official Opposition under the Act up to two years following the formation of the Executive. The parties have agreed that standing orders should be made to give effect to this within 3 months of the Assembly being reformed.
- 3.7. The parties recognise that additional funding should be made available to parties who form the Opposition. In the context of the agreed programme of measures to enhance the sustainability of the institutions, the relevant Assembly authorities should also commission a review of the adequacy and effectiveness of the Statement of Entitlements for an Official Opposition as set out in the Fresh Start Agreement. An appropriate independent person should be appointed to conduct such a review, and the review should have regard to relevant comparators. This review should be submitted to the relevant Assembly authorities within 6 months of the first meeting of the Assembly. If further resources are deemed appropriate the Assembly Commission should seek additional resources. The review should recommend increased allowances for Opposition parties and should explore the creation of additional funding for the Offices of the Leaders of Opposition parties.

### *Structured Civic Engagement*

- 3.8. The parties recognise the value of structured and flexible engagement with civic society to assist the Government to solve complex policy issues. The Parties have agreed that the existing Compact Civic Advisory Panel should be reformed to include a renewed membership appointed within 6 months by way of a Public Appointments process.
- 3.9. The Parties have agreed that about 1-2 issues will be commissioned per year for civic engagement. The Panel will be invited to propose the most appropriate model of engagement for specific issues, including one Citizens' Assembly a year. The issues will be identified by the Executive. Following consideration of the assigned issues recommendations will be made to the Executive by the Panel.

*Appointment of FM/dFM & Providing continuity of decision making*

- 3.10. The UK Government shall legislate to amend the Northern Ireland Act 1998 to extend the time for the appointment of a First Minister and a deputy First Minister after the resignation of a First Minister or deputy First Minister or after the first meeting of the Assembly following an Assembly election from 7 and 14 days respectively to 6 weeks in each case.
- 3.11. If no First Minister / deputy First Minister appointment has been made within 6 weeks of a resignation of First Minister / deputy First Minister or by the first meeting of the Assembly after an election, and the Assembly has not passed a resolution to dissolve itself under section 32 of the Northern Ireland Act, the parties will have a maximum further 18 weeks to appoint a First Minister / deputy First Minister. During this period the parties will continue to make concerted and determined efforts to agree on the appointment of a First Minister and deputy First Minister and form an Executive. To facilitate this, the Assembly shall meet regularly and at least every six weeks to consider progress. At any time, and in accordance with existing procedures, the Assembly could consider a motion to dissolve itself and call on the Secretary of State to propose a date for an election. However, if no appointment is made by the end of this period then the Secretary of State shall be under a duty to propose a date for an Assembly election as soon as is practicable and in any event for a date which is no later than 12 weeks of the duty arising.
- 3.12. Provision will also be made for Northern Ireland Executive Ministers to remain in office beyond the day of the poll to allow for greater continuity of decision making, until such a time as d'Hondt is run for all Ministerial offices or for a maximum period of 24 weeks beyond the day of the poll, or a maximum of 48 weeks since there has been a functioning Executive in place, whichever is the shorter.
- 3.13. Ministers remaining in office will be required to act at all times within well-defined limits. This is to include the requirement to act in accordance with the Ministerial Code and the requirement for an Executive Committee to consider any decisions that are significant and controversial or cross-cutting and, as appropriate, the restrictions that are in place during a pre-election period. In the absence of a functioning Executive Committee, Ministers will consequently not be able to take decisions which are significant or controversial.

- 3.14. In the case of a First Minister/deputy First Minister resignation, the Assembly and its Committees will continue to exercise their responsibilities until the Assembly is dissolved.
- 3.15. These changes will be given legislative effect consistent with the shared commitment to the principles of power-sharing and cross-community protection contained in the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement and ensuring there is sufficient representation to command cross-community confidence in the Assembly.

#### 4. Annex D: Programme for Government

*The following text, alongside its two annexes, represents a possible outline of a Programme for Government. The parties agree to publish, within two weeks of the restoration of the institutions, the fuller details of an agreed Programme for Government. The parties recognise that the final Programme for Government will need to be agreed by the parties who form the Executive.*

- 4.1. The parties have agreed an approach to the Programme for Government that will set a **shared and ambitious strategic vision** for the future with the aim of improving wellbeing for all – by **tackling disadvantage** and **driving economic growth** on the basis of objective need.
- 4.2. The parties' agreed approach is to build on the outcomes in the previous Programme for Government, adding a new focus on the priorities of: **housing; education; childcare; infrastructure and services, climate change; ending sectarianism; and tackling paramilitarism.**
- 4.3. The parties reaffirm their commitment to the **Declaration of Support contained in the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement and successor agreements.** In doing so, they recognise that the Programme for Government must provide a sustainable basis for the Executive to work together in partnership to serve and deliver for all on the basis of demonstrable and objectively measured need. Reconciliation will be central to the Executive's approach, and there will be a focus on building a united community in a way that has equality and mutual respect to the fore.
- 4.4. The parties acknowledge the importance of **promoting and protecting the rights and identity of individuals** and are agreed that the Executive should seek to build a society that reflects the best international standards of human rights. The parties acknowledge the importance of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission, whose remit is to ensure that government and other public bodies protect the human rights of everyone and help people understand what their rights are and what they can do if they are infringed.
- 4.5. In addition, the parties agree that the principles and practice of **citizen and community engagement and co-design** will be a key part of the development and delivery of the Programme for Government and its supporting strategies. This will empower citizens to secure their own rights

and wellbeing. This will complement – not replace – the right of citizens to challenge through the courts any denial of their lawful rights.

4.6. The Programme for Government will reflect the following principles.

4.6.1. The outcomes-based approach remains the best way to secure sustained improvement in wellbeing and economic growth.

4.6.2. The Programme for Government could be underpinned by key supporting strategies, including the following:

4.6.2.1. Anti-poverty strategy;

4.6.2.2. Economic/Industrial Strategy;

4.6.2.3. Investment Strategy;

4.6.2.4. Energy Strategy;

4.6.2.5. Racial Equality Strategy;

4.6.2.6. Disability Strategy;

4.6.2.7. Gender Strategy;

4.6.2.8. Sexual Orientation Strategy;

4.6.2.9. Active Ageing Strategy;

4.6.2.10. Children and Young People's Strategy;

4.6.2.11. Childcare Strategy;

4.6.2.12. Child Poverty Strategy;

4.6.2.13. Irish Language Strategy; and,

4.6.2.14. Ulster Scots Strategy.

4.6.3. This list is not exhaustive. The parties agree that, within 3 months, a new Executive will publish a comprehensive timetable for the development and delivery of these and other strategies necessary to achieve the outcomes in the Programme for Government.

4.6.4. Investment will be delivered at regional and sub-regional level on the basis of objective need in order to drive inclusive growth.

- 4.6.5. The Programme for Government must be underpinned by a multi-year budget, with a sustainable approach to public finances and prioritised investment in infrastructure and public services. There must be greater transparency, giving people clear information on what will be delivered with taxpayers' and ratepayers' money, and, where the Executive is seeking to raise additional revenue, it must be made clear what service improvements and investments will be funded with the additional money.
- 4.6.6. The parties acknowledge that a significant challenge arises in seeking to tackle the financial burden associated with delivering public services in a divided society. They are agreed that, in developing new policies and, over time, in reviewing existing ones, it will be important that the Executive takes steps to eliminate all such costs. The parties also acknowledge that a significant challenge arises in the delivery of public services with the resource element of the Block grant having been reduced in real terms over the last 10 years.
- 4.6.7. Short-term budgeting will end. Investment will be based on objective need, maximising impact, delivery of best value for money (encompassing all costs and benefits) and affordability, with priority given to the transformation of key services in health, education, housing, and justice.
- 4.6.8. An immediate and significant challenge facing the Executive is in relation to dealing with the impact of Brexit. In recognising the potential for widespread and significant implications across all aspects of social and economic life, the parties are agreed that the first priority for the Executive must be to ensure the best possible outcome for citizens and the economy, reflecting the priorities set out in the letter of August 2016 from the First Minister and deputy First Minister to the Prime Minister.
- 4.6.9. Existing programmes and priorities will be continuously evaluated to identify their impact on outcomes. Those which are no longer relevant or which are not delivering the desired results will be amended or stopped.

- 4.6.10. Engagement with civic society and the principles of co-design and co-production must underpin the development of the Programme for Government, budget and strategies<sup>1</sup>.
- 4.6.11. The parties agree that an Assembly Committee should be established to monitor progress against each of the Programme for Government outcomes and to consider potential measures for achieving improvement. A dedicated Programme for Government monitoring and reporting website will be developed which will allow for full and transparent public reporting.
- 4.6.12. Within its first month of operation, the Executive will publish a legislative programme and indicative timescales which will complement the Programme for Government.
- 4.7. The parties acknowledge that it will take time to address economic and societal challenges that have been present for decades, and they recognise the need to focus on long-term interventions that can bring about real change. In the absence of a functioning Executive, there has been a loss of momentum in public policy which will require a determined effort over many years to raise standards of public service to the levels that will be needed to support the parties' vision of societal wellbeing.
- 4.8. Against that background, the parties have agreed a parallel approach to the Programme for Government that will allow a cross-party Executive to quickly put in place actions to tackle immediate priority issues in a Year 1 work programme while at the same time beginning development of a strategic level programme of the type and scale needed to deliver lasting changes and improvements at a societal level.
- 4.9. The parties have agreed that the outcomes framework from the Outcomes Delivery Plan 2018/19 provides the only realistic basis for the initial (Year 1) Programme, but they also agree that work needs to begin immediately to develop a strategic Programme for 2020 and beyond.
- 4.10. The Year 1 Programme for Government will include the actions and programmes contained in Appendix 1 and will be agreed at the first meeting of the Executive and brought forward for Assembly consideration before the summer recess.
- 4.11. The parties have also identified the longer-term priorities contained in Appendix 2 as essential components for the future strategic level

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<sup>1</sup> As set out in paragraphs 3.8 and 3.9.

Programme. The new Programme and its key supporting strategies (Anti-poverty strategy, Industrial/Economic strategy and Investment strategy) will be underpinned by a budget and be ready for Executive sign-off and endorsement by the end of March 2020.



## 5. **Annex E: Rights, language and identity**

- 5.1. The First Minister and deputy First Minister, supported by Junior Ministers in The Executive Office, will sponsor and oversee a new framework both recognising and celebrating Northern Ireland's diversity of identities and culture and accommodating cultural difference. This framework will be underpinned by the birthright of all the people of Northern Ireland to identify themselves and be accepted as Irish or British, or both, as they may so choose, while fully acknowledging and accommodating those within our community who define themselves as 'other', and those from our ethnic communities and newcomer communities.
- 5.2. The guiding principles of this framework will be set out in legislation, and public authorities must in exercising their functions have due regard to the principles, namely:
  - 5.2.1. the need to respect the freedom of all persons in Northern Ireland to choose, affirm, maintain and develop their national and cultural identity and to celebrate and express that identity in a manner which takes into account the sensitivities of those with different national or cultural identities and respects the rule of law;
  - 5.2.2. the need to encourage and promote reconciliation, tolerance and meaningful dialogue between those of different national and cultural identities in Northern Ireland with a view to promoting parity of esteem, mutual respect, understanding and cooperation. **The Office of Identity and Cultural Expression** (the 'Office') provides the central point for giving effect to these principles and promoting this framework.
- 5.3. The strategic aims of the Office will be:
  - 5.3.1. to promote cultural pluralism and respect for diversity, including Northern Ireland's ethnic, national, linguistic and faith communities;
  - 5.3.2. build social cohesion and reconciliation so that everyone has a sense of belonging;
  - 5.3.3. build capacity and resilience on how we address our unresolved cultural identity issues; and

- 5.3.4. celebrate and support all aspects of Northern Ireland's rich cultural and linguistic heritage, recognising the equal validity and importance of all identities and traditions.
- 5.4. The Office will be established as a statutory body, to which the First Minister and deputy First Minister, acting jointly, will appoint a Director.
- 5.5. In giving effect to the guiding principles the Office will undertake the following functions:
  - 5.5.1. provide guidance to public authorities;
  - 5.5.2. monitor compliance with the duty to have due regard to the principles;
  - 5.5.3. report to the Assembly on compliance;
  - 5.5.4. promote examples of best practice;
  - 5.5.5. commission and publish research and reports in respect of cultural traditions and identities;
  - 5.5.6. in response to requests from either Commissioner, on issues of a challenging nature, undertake independent research, reach balanced findings and make recommendations on matters of concern;
  - 5.5.7. promote public awareness and educational programmes, including guidance on how the rights of a child to learn about their identity and heritage, as well as those of other traditions, will be incorporated into the education sector;
  - 5.5.8. periodically audit public authorities on how they have respected and accommodated the cultural expression of minorities within their area of responsibility;
  - 5.5.9. provide grant aid (capital and revenue) to projects and programmes consistent with its aims set out in paragraph 5.3. The Office will have funding streams and schemes including publishing and broadcasting, small grants, events and tourism, exhibition and museum curation, built heritage, cultural education and tourism projects;
  - 5.5.10. develop close working relationships with the Commission on Flags, Identity, Culture and Tradition (FICT); the Community Relations Council; the work on Together: Building a United Community (T:BUC); the community and voluntary sector; the Department for Communities;

and other stakeholders involved in promoting cultural pluralism and respect for diversity; and

- 5.5.11. provide corporate support/shared services (IT, finance, HR, legal etc.) to both Commissioners (see below).
- 5.6. An Irish Language Commissioner will be appointed to protect and enhance the development of the use of the Irish language by public authorities, including by providing advice and guidance, and introducing, supporting and monitoring the use of best practice language standards.
- 5.7. The Commissioner will be appointed by the First Minister and deputy First Minister as a key element of providing, under statute, official recognition of the status of the Irish language in Northern Ireland.
- 5.8. The main function of the Commissioner will be to protect and enhance the development of the Irish language. The Commissioner will:
  - 5.8.1. prepare, in accordance with guidance from Ministers, best practice standards for the use of the Irish language by public authorities - these standards are to be agreed by the First Minister and deputy First Minister;
  - 5.8.2. provide support to public authorities in connection with those standards;
  - 5.8.3. monitor the performance of public authorities in meeting those standards; and
  - 5.8.4. investigate complaints where a public authority has failed to have due regard to those standards.
- 5.9. The legislation will stipulate that the Commissioner will, prior to introduction, consult on the development of a number of categories and standards. Each public body will be assessed and placed in one of the categories on the basis of set criteria such as the level of interaction with the public, number of employees and established need. There will be a 'sliding scale' of standards within categories dependent on the criteria. The Commissioner will engage with each public body to agree how it can fulfil its requirement under the standards; and each public body will develop an implementation plan.

- 5.10. With specific reference to paragraph 5.8.1 above, guidance issued by Ministers should emphasise the importance of the Commissioner producing best practice standards that:
  - 5.10.1. reflect the guiding principles of the framework as set out in legislation, and serve to promote mutual respect, good relations, understanding and reconciliation;
  - 5.10.2. take account of consultation with public authorities; and
  - 5.10.3. place requirements on public authorities that are reasonable, proportionate and practical.
- 5.11. The guidance will ask the Commissioner, as a first priority, to focus on developing best practice standards that facilitate interaction between Irish language users and public bodies, including but not limited to making information or forms available in Irish where required, enabling widely used public websites to have an Irish Language translation available, and ensuring that public bodies reply in Irish where practical to correspondence in Irish. Public bodies will each continue to make their own decisions on other matters to do with the Irish language.
- 5.12. Best practice standards recommended by the Commissioner, and all subsequent changes to those standards, are to be put for approval to the First Minister and deputy First Minister.
- 5.13. The legislation in respect of Irish language will also include the repeal of the Administration of Justice (Language) Act (Ireland) 1737 and make any necessary statutory provision for births, marriages and deaths to be registrable through Irish, and for wills to be validly made in Irish, as an option and matter for individual choice. Irish and other languages will be facilitated when deemed necessary by the courts. Nothing in the legislation will affect the status of the English Language.
- 5.14. A further such commissioner will be appointed by the First Minister and deputy First Minister to enhance and develop the language, arts and literature associated with the Ulster Scots / Ulster British tradition in Northern Ireland.
- 5.15. The Commissioner's remit will include the areas of education, research, media, cultural activities and facilities and tourism initiatives.
- 5.16. The functions of the Commissioner will be to –

- 5.16.1. increase awareness and visibility of relevant services which are provided by public authorities in Northern Ireland;
  - 5.16.2. provide advice and guidance to public authorities, including where relevant on the effect and implementation, so far as affecting Ulster Scots, of commitments under the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages, the European Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child; and;
  - 5.16.3. investigate complaints where a public authority fails to have due regard to such advice provided by the Commissioner in respect of facilitating the use of Ulster Scots.
- 5.17. With specific reference to 5.16 above, the functions of the Commissioner should be exercised in a way that:
- 5.17.1. reflects the guiding principles of the framework as set out in legislation, and serve to promote mutual respect, good relations, understanding and reconciliation;
  - 5.17.2. takes account of consultation with public authorities;
  - 5.17.3. are reasonable, proportionate and practical.
- 5.18. Both Commissioners will, in discharging their functions, act independently and consistently with the principles set out in paragraph 5.2 above.
- 5.19. The legislation will also include a duty on the Department of Education to encourage and facilitate the use and understanding of Ulster Scots in the education system.
- 5.20. In fulfilling their roles, both Commissioners will work in close cooperation with the Boord o Ulstèr-Scotch, and with Foras na Gaeilge with a view to ensuring complementarity.
- 5.21. Furthermore, provisions for both Irish language and Ulster Scots will be made for the following:
- 5.21.1. a central Translation Hub will be established in the Department of Finance within three months of an agreement, in order to provide language translation services for the 9 Executive Departments, Arm's Length Bodies, Local Government and Public Bodies.

- 5.21.2. the Assembly's Standing Orders will be amended to allow any person to conduct their business before the Assembly or an Assembly Committee through Irish or Ulster Scots. A simultaneous translation system will be made available in the Assembly to ensure that a person without Irish or Ulster Scots is not placed at a disadvantage.
- 5.21.3. under Section 28D of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 the re-established Executive will produce a draft Irish Language Strategy and a draft Ulster Scots Language, Heritage and Culture Strategy for consultations within 6 months. This will include programmes and schemes which will assist in the development of the Irish language and the Ulster Scots language, culture and heritage.
- 5.21.4. however, nothing in legislation or in the functions of the Commissioners shall require any quotas in employment for speakers of any particular language.

### *Processing Legislation*

- 5.22. The parties have agreed to legislate in respect of the core elements of the framework outlined above.
- 5.23. The Northern Ireland Act 1998 – as the core legislative vehicle which implements the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement and subsequent agreements – will be amended by the introduction and enactment of three Bills. Draft Bills will be officially published on the day of the formation of the Executive and presented to the Assembly for consideration within 3 months of the restoration of the institutions, as part of an integrated package of legislation that will pass through the legislative process simultaneously. The three Bills will make provision as follows:
  - **Northern Ireland Act 1998 (Amendment No 1) Bill**  
To make provisions to establish the Office of Identity and Cultural Expression.
  - **Northern Ireland Act 1998 (Amendment No 2) Bill**  
To make provisions for the Irish Language.
  - **Northern Ireland Act 1998 (Amendment No 3) Bill**  
To make provisions to establish a Commissioner to enhance and develop the language, arts and literature associated with the Ulster Scots / Ulster British tradition in Northern Ireland.

- 5.24. The three Bills will share a common framework through linked references in each Bill to the principles set out in paragraph 5.2 above. It is intended that the Bills will be introduced as part of an integrated package of legislation, and accordingly no Bill should be regarded as independent from the other two.
- 5.25. Once enacted by the Assembly, the three Bills will amend the Northern Ireland Act 1998 by inserting the provisions as new, separate Parts. The Irish language provisions will form a new [Part X] of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. The provisions dealing with the second Commissioner will be inserted as [Part Y]; and provisions dealing with the Office for Identity and Cultural Expression as [Part Z].

### *Bill of Rights*

- 5.26. An Ad-Hoc Assembly Committee will be established to consider the creation of a Bill of Rights that is faithful to the stated intention of the 1998 Agreement in that it contains rights supplementary to those contained in the European Convention on Human Rights, which are currently applicable and “that reflect the particular circumstances of Northern Ireland”; as well as reflecting the principles of mutual respect for the identity and ethos of both communities and parity of esteem.
- 5.27. The Ad-Hoc Committee will be assisted in its work by a Panel of five experts appointed jointly by the First Minister and deputy First Minister.
- 5.28. The Panel should initially seek to advise the Ad-Hoc Committee on what constitutes our “particular circumstances” drawing upon, but not bound by, previous work on a Bill of Rights and should review and make recommendations on how the UK’s withdrawal from the EU may impact on our “particular circumstances”.
- 5.29. The terms of reference and timetable of the Committee will be agreed within 30 working days of the restoration of devolution. The establishment of cross party and cross community support will be critical to advancing a Bill of Rights.

### *Sign Language*

- 5.30. A draft framework and policy proposals for legislation on sign language have been consulted on by the Department for Communities. The Parties agree to the process of drafting clauses commencing with a view to introducing a Bill to the Assembly at the early stage.

## **Annex F: Agreement Review and Monitoring**

- 6.1. The parties are very conscious that the integrity and credibility of this Agreement is dependent on its effective and expeditious implementation. Accordingly, progress in implementing the provisions of this Agreement must be actively reviewed and monitored alongside or in coordination with arrangements to monitor the implementation of previous Agreements
- 6.2. There will be a need for Implementation Review Meetings which will include the Northern Ireland Executive's party leaders. There will be quarterly meetings, with the first meeting held before the end of January 2020 at which an Implementation Programme and Timetable will be agreed. The UK Government and the Irish Government will be involved as appropriate in accordance with the three stranded approach.
- 6.3. Quarterly updates on progress on the implementation of the Agreement will be published.



## Appendix 1 - Programme for Government

*This annex supports the possible outline of a Programme for Government set out above. The parties agree to publish, within two weeks of the restoration of the institutions, the fuller details of an agreed Programme for Government. The parties recognise that the final Programme for Government will need to be agreed by the parties who form the Executive.*

### Programme for Government 2019/20 – Priority Actions

1. The focus of the 2019/20 Programme will be on actions and decisions capable of achieving impact in key priority areas. These will include:

#### **Housing**

- i. The Programme for Government outcomes framework will be augmented with a new outcome and indicators to provide specific focus on ensuring every household has access to a good quality, affordable and sustainable home that is appropriate for its needs.
- ii. There will be enhanced investment in new social home starts and the Executive will bring forward legislation which is urgently needed to reclassify Housing Associations as external to the public sector to ensure the continuation of new social house building and the Co-ownership Housing Scheme.
- iii. The Executive will examine options to remove historical debt from the NIHE and exclude it from having to pay Corporation Tax.
- iv. The Executive will agree a long term trajectory for the rental charges of the NIHE. This must be sufficient to support the long term future of the NIHE's social housing stock for future generations of tenants. This must also always provide demonstrably affordable rents to tenants.
- v. Measures will also be introduced including, where necessary, legislation to provide for controls to ensure affordability.

#### **Education**

- vi. A suite of actions that will begin to address resourcing pressures in the education system and deliver quick results in terms of improved efficiency and effectiveness.

- vii. Deliver an enhanced approach to careers advice, curriculum, training and apprenticeships to enhance employability.
- viii. Enhanced strategic focus and supporting actions on educating our children and young people together in the classroom, in order to build a shared and integrated society.
- ix. Establish an expert group to examine the links between persistent educational underachievement and socio-economic background and draw up an action plan for change that will ensure all children and young people, regardless of background, are given the best start in life.
- x. The issues highlighted in the NIAO review of Special Educational Need will be addressed as a priority.

### ***Childcare***

- xi. The Executive will publish a Childcare Strategy and will give immediate priority to developing arrangements to deliver extended, affordable, responsive, high quality provision of early education and care initiatives for families with children aged 3-4.

### ***Investment***

- xii. The Executive will bring forward proposals for the development and expansion of the UU campus at Magee College, including the necessary increase in maximum student numbers to realise the 10,000 student campus target and a Graduate Entry Medical School.
- xiii. Support for City Deal packages for Derry & Strabane and Belfast and the bid being developed by Mid-Ulster; Armagh City; Banbridge and Craigavon; and, Fermanagh and Omagh Councils.
- xiv. Plan to complete both the Regional and Sub Regional Sports Stadia Programmes.

### ***Tackling paramilitarism***

- xv. A targeted and specific focus across government to tackle paramilitarism.

### ***Fair and sustainable welfare reform***

- xvi. A review of welfare mitigation measures will be taken forward as a priority, with any agreed measures in place before March 2020.

### ***Leaner government***

- xvii. Define terms of reference and initiate an efficiency and effectiveness review of all Arm's Length Bodies with the aim of concluding the review and agreeing timescales for implementation within 6 months of the Executive being restored.

### ***Sustainable public finances***

- xviii. Establishment of the Fiscal Council envisaged in the Stormont House and Fresh Start agreements. This will provide independent scrutiny and expert advice to the Executive and the Assembly on fiscal and budgetary matters, with a particular focus on sustainability. The Fiscal Council will also provide independent monitoring and reporting on the Executive's performance in delivering the Programme for Government.
- xix. Review of funding models, to create a more sustainable budget with the flexibility needed to support delivery of high quality, outcomes-focused public services.
- xx. Structures will be put in place that will help deliver timely and fair public sector pay awards.

### ***Policing***

- xxi. A renewed focus will be put on strengthening approaches and supporting mechanisms for policing in the community. This will be complemented with an increase in resources, both human and financial, for the neighbouring policing teams.

### ***Employment Rights***

- xxii. The parties agree that the Executive should commit to becoming a Living Wage employer. They further agree that the Executive should move to ban zero hours contracts and that powers to set minimum wage levels should be made a devolved matter. An Age, Goods and Facilities and Services Bill should also be brought forward by the Executive as basis for ensuring that no one is discriminated against because of their age.

## Appendix 2 - Programme for Government

*This annex supports the possible outline of a Programme for Government set out above. The parties agree to publish, within two weeks of the restoration of the institutions, the fuller details of an agreed Programme for Government. The parties recognise that the final Programme for Government will need to be agreed by the parties who form the Executive.*

### Programme for Government 2020 and beyond – Strategic Priorities

1. The parties support the existing draft framework of 12 outcomes. However, whilst this will be used for an initial Programme for the remainder of 2019/20, it must evolve to reflect the following agreed strategic priorities in developing a longer term Programme for 2020 and beyond. The new Programme for Government will be supported by an Anti-poverty strategy, an Economic/Industrial strategy and an Investment strategy. These three key strategies will be interwoven with the Programme for Government and their delivery will be closely monitored to ensure they achieve the desired impact in these key areas.

#### **Ending paramilitarism**

- i. The parties reaffirm their commitment to tackling paramilitarism. Ending the harm done by paramilitarism will be made a strategic priority in the revised Programme for Government outcomes.

#### **Ending sectarianism**

- ii. There will be an enhanced strategic focus within the Programme for Government on ending sectarianism and robust supporting strategies and actions will be put in place.
- iii. All Parties reaffirm their support for the right to freedom from sectarianism, sectarian harassment and intimidation. The Executive's 'Together Building a United Community' Strategy defines sectarianism as, threatening, abusive or insulting behaviour or attitudes towards a person by reason of that person's religious belief or political opinion; or to an individual as a member of such a group'.
- iv. The TBUC Strategy outlines a vision of 'a united community, based on equality of opportunity, the desirability of good relations and reconciliation - one which is strengthened by its diversity, where cultural expression is celebrated and embraced and where everyone can live, learn, work and socialise together, free from prejudice, hate and intolerance'.

- v. The parties recognise the need to tackle sectarianism, prejudice and hate in seeking to eliminate discrimination. The parties endorse the objectives outlined above and wish to see sectarianism given legal expression as a hate crime. To this end, the parties believe the Executive should formulate and require all public representatives to commit to an anti-sectarian pledge.

### ***Health and social care***

- vi. The programme of transformation agreed by the previous Executive will continue to be a priority. Within this, there will be a greater focus on mental health and well-being.

### ***Education<sup>2</sup>***

- vii. The education system has a diversity of school types, each with its own distinctive ethos and values. However it is not sustainable. The parties acknowledge the progress made in developing new models of sharing, cooperation and integration. There is a desire to build on this as a basis for delivering long term improvements in the quality, equity and sustainability of the system. The parties agree that the Executive will commission and oversee an independent fundamental review with a focus on quality and sustainability. The educational experience and outcomes for children and young people are the most important factors.

### ***Housing***

- viii. Building on the actions in year 1, the parties agree on the need for continued attention and priority to be given to housing within the Programme for Government 2020 and beyond. The specific housing outcome and indicators, which will focus on ensuring every household has access to a good quality, affordable and sustainable home that is appropriate for its needs, will be supported by robust programmes and actions.

### ***Climate Change***

- ix. The parties recognise the need for a coordinated and strategic approach to the challenge of climate change within the Programme for Government. Actions and interventions will be required across a wide range of areas in order to address

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<sup>2</sup> In this document, ‘education’ means education for children and young people in early years, primary, post-primary or further education settings. “Education” includes all aspects of Education including Sectoral Bodies, ETI curriculum, area planning, 14-19 Strategy, Entitlement Framework, teacher training and the interface between Higher Education and Further Education.

both the immediate and longer term impacts of climate change in a fair and just way. To this end:

- The Executive's strategies to reduce carbon emissions will be reviewed in light of the Paris Climate Change Accord and the climate crisis.
- A new Energy Strategy will set ambitious targets and actions for a fair and just transition to a zero carbon society.
- The Executive should bring forward a Climate Change Act to give environmental targets a strong legal underpinning.
- The Executive will establish an Independent Environmental Protection Agency to oversee this work and ensure targets are met.
- The Economic Strategy will support clean and inclusive growth and create jobs as part of a Green New Deal.
- The Executive will create a plan to eliminate plastic pollution.
- RHI will be closed down and replaced by a scheme that effectively cuts carbon emissions.

### ***Workers' Rights***

- x. There will be an enhanced focus within the Programme for Government on creating good jobs and protecting workers rights. The parties agree that access to good jobs, where workers have a voice that provides a level of autonomy, a decent income, security of tenure, satisfying work in the right quantities and decent working conditions, should be integral to public policy given how this contributes to better health and wellbeing by tackling inequalities, building self-efficacy and combating poverty.

# **Annex A: UK Government Commitments to Northern Ireland**

**The following annex represents the commitments that would be made by the UK Government to the restored Executive to support a diverse, prosperous Northern Ireland in the context of an agreement being reached, in line with the Government's ongoing commitment to the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement. This by no means represents the limit of the UK Government's commitment to Northern Ireland. No agreement is asked or required from the parties for these commitments. This annex is the responsibility of the UK Government alone.**

# Annex A: UK Government Commitments to Northern Ireland

*This note sets out commitments that would be made by the UK Government to the restored Executive and to support a diverse, prosperous Northern Ireland in the context of an agreement being reached.*

The UK Government fully respects and is committed to the full implementation of the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement and its successors. The UK Government will always be steadfast in maintaining Northern Ireland's place within the Union in accordance with the democratically expressed wishes of the people of Northern Ireland.

This note sets out commitments made by the UK Government to support a restored Executive and to support a diverse, prosperous Northern Ireland.

## Supporting the institutions

1. The Government is fully committed to all the institutions of the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement, including the Executive, Assembly, North South Ministerial Council and the British-Irish Council. To support the best possible functioning of the institutions, the Government will establish a bi-annual, Cabinet delegation with the Northern Ireland Executive to improve cooperation and collaboration.
2. The Government will keep under review the ongoing operation of the reformed Petition of Concern mechanism. The Government will report every six months on the ongoing operation of the Petition of Concern and will lay a copy of the review before both Houses of Parliament and, before the end of this Assembly mandate, will publish its conclusions on whether further reform is necessary.
3. Annex A sets out areas of additional financial support from the UK Government, and the conditions that would be attached. The precise figures of financial support would be finalised in conjunction with the parties rapidly in the coming days in the context of agreement to restore the Executive and Assembly.

## Strengthening the economy

4. Enhance the assistance from business-supporting UK Government departments in NI, including DIT, working in partnership with Northern Ireland agencies, including InvestNI. This will include supporting the delivery of the Northern Ireland International



Trade plan, establishing a new Trade Advisory Board, appointment of Northern Ireland Trade Ambassadors, and developing a Trade Accelerator Plan and a “Made in NI” campaign.

5. Host an annual meeting of the Board of Trade in Northern Ireland and organise joint Northern Ireland Executive and UK Government trade missions.
6. Promote Northern Ireland as a global cyber security hub, building on its blend of world-class talent, leading forensic science expertise and tech research excellence to achieve 5,000 cyber security professionals in Northern Ireland by 2030.
7. Scope the establishment of a Northern Ireland hub in London - complementing the Invest Northern Ireland London Hub - to provide an increased opportunity for Northern Ireland stakeholder engagement in London. In tandem, explore the creation of a UK Government hub in Northern Ireland to increase the visibility and accessibility of UK Government departments in Northern Ireland.

*Future relationship with the European Union*

8. The UK Government recognises the importance for Northern Ireland of the negotiations with the European Union on a new trading relationship, and on the implementation of the Protocol to the Withdrawal Agreement on Northern Ireland and Ireland. We have already committed to ensuring that there is a New Deal for Northern Ireland as we leave the European Union, maximising trade opportunities and investment. The Government is determined to get the right deal for Northern Ireland and the whole of the United Kingdom, and would welcome close engagement with a restored Executive on Northern Ireland’s priorities in the next phase.
9. In recognition of this, the Government will ensure that representatives from the Northern Ireland Executive are invited to be part of the UK delegation in any meetings of the UK-EU Specialised or Joint Committees discussing Northern Ireland specific matters which are also being attended by the Irish Government as part of the European Union’s delegation.
10. The Government welcomes the consensus reached by all the parties recently on the protections they wish to see for trade between Northern Ireland and Great Britain under the Protocol. The Government is absolutely committed to ensuring that Northern Ireland remains an integral part of the UK internal market, in line with the clear guarantee in the Protocol that Northern Ireland remains in the customs territory of the United Kingdom. To address the issues raised by the parties, we will legislate to guarantee unfettered access for Northern Ireland’s businesses to the whole of the UK internal market, and ensure that this legislation is in force for 1 January 2021. The government will engage in detail with a restored Executive on measures to protect and strengthen the UK internal market.

11. We will aim to negotiate with the European Union additional flexibilities and sensible practical measures across all aspects of the Protocol that are supported by business groups in Northern Ireland and maximise the free flow of trade. The Government commits to ensuring that Northern Ireland's businesses benefit from the UK's new Free Trade Agreements signed with other countries, and to consulting a restored Executive along with the other devolved administrations on our wider trade policy.
12. As part of wider work examining funding options to support preparedness for entering new trading arrangements with the European Union and support for businesses, the Government will engage specifically with the Executive on the unique circumstances of Northern Ireland and the Protocol.

## **Delivering on our commitments**

### *The Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement*

13. The Government has reviewed the consistency of its family migration arrangements, taking into account the letter and spirit of the Belfast Agreement and recognising that the policy should not create incentives for renunciation of British citizenship by those citizens who may wish to retain it.
14. The Government will change the rules governing how the people of Northern Ireland bring their family members to the UK. This change will mean that eligible family members of the people of Northern Ireland will be able to apply for UK immigration status on broadly the same terms as the family members of Irish citizens in the UK.
15. This immigration status will be available to the family members of all the people of Northern Ireland, no matter whether they hold British or Irish citizenship or both, no matter how they identify.

### *The Stormont House Agreement*

16. As part of the Government's wider legislative agenda, the Government will, within 100 days, publish and introduce legislation in the UK Parliament to implement the Stormont House Agreement, to address Northern Ireland legacy issues. The Government will now start an intensive process with the Northern Ireland parties, and the Irish Government as appropriate, to maintain a broad-based consensus on these issues, recognising that any such UK Parliament legislation should have the consent of the NI Assembly.

### *The Fresh Start Agreement*

17. Continue to ensure that PSNI and others are appropriately resourced to deal with terrorism and paramilitary activity, provide funding to ensure the work of the Programme to Tackle Paramilitary Activity, Criminality and Organised Crime can

continue and redouble efforts to address commitments arising from the Fresh Start Panel Report on the Disbandment of Paramilitary Groups in Northern Ireland.

*Our commitments to veterans*

18. Introduce UK-wide legislation to further incorporate the Armed Forces Covenant into law and support full implementation of the Armed Forces Covenant.
19. Appoint a Northern Ireland Veterans' Commissioner to act as an independent point of contact to support and enhance outcomes for veterans in Northern Ireland.
20. Initiate a review of the Aftercare Service in Northern Ireland (ACS) which will consider whether the remit of the ACS should be widened to cover all HM Forces veterans living in Northern Ireland with service-related injuries and conditions.
21. Ensure that the work of the War Memorials Trust who protect and conserve war memorials across the UK is better promoted and understood in Northern Ireland.

## **Promoting Northern Ireland's culture, heritage and society**

22. Work alongside the restored Executive, to mark the centenary of Northern Ireland in 2021 in a spirit of mutual respect, inclusiveness and reconciliation in line with the principles for remembering. This approach to the centenary will provide an opportunity to reflect on the past as well as to build for the future, within NI, across the UK, across the island of Ireland and internationally. We will make available funding to support a number of projects to mark the centenary. This will include facilitating national recognition and international awareness of this significant anniversary, as well as exploring projects such as a Shared History Fund, the restoration of Craigavon House and the Great Ulster Forest.
23. Support discussions with NI Screen to explore how the remit of the Ulster Scots Broadcasting Fund (USBF) and Irish Language Broadcasting Fund (ILBF) can be broadened, and will increase funding for the USBF and ILBF to reflect any broadened remit.
24. Recognise Ulster Scots as a national minority under the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities.
25. Provide funding to establish the Castlereagh Foundation, a fund to support academic research through Universities and other partners to explore identity and the shifting patterns of social identity in Northern Ireland.
26. Provide funding to establish a Culture and Community fund to support expression of identities and progress cultural development in the region and beyond, supporting

various groups in the expression of culture, arts and heritage and community halls and bands.

27. Update the Flags Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2000 to bring the list of designated flag flying days from Northern Ireland government buildings and court-houses into line with the DCMS designated days, meaning the same designated days will be observed in Northern Ireland as in the rest of the UK going forward. This will involve the addition of three designated days.
28. Facilitate the establishment of a connected classroom programme to provide young people in Northern Ireland with the opportunity to connect, engage and collaborate with other young people across the UK as well as a programme of intercultural exchanges for young people between the regions of the UK to support increased cultural connections and understanding of the diversity of identity and culture within the UK.
29. Foster closer ties and better collaborative working across a range of sectors in the UK chiefly tourism, sport and culture. This will mean attracting a portfolio of national and international events, including through developing a proposed UK-Ireland bid for the 2030 FIFA world cup.
30. Facilitate the establishment of a homecoming project, strengthening links and relationships with the Northern Ireland diaspora and alumni across the world to be harnessed to improve the understanding of Northern Ireland and its contribution on the international stage as well as exploring economic opportunities.

## Annex A: UK Government Financial and Economic Commitments to Northern Ireland

In the context of an agreement to restore the Northern Ireland Executive, the UK Government will provide the additional financial support set out in this Annex, subject to the conditions listed.

These commitments apply solely in the event that the Executive is restored through this deal. If the Executive is not restored, the additional support set out here falls away. In that scenario, the UK Government will need to examine what additional revenue raising and other measures are required to balance the Northern Ireland budget.

This Annex sets out the areas that the UK Government's financial commitment will cover, and the conditions that would be attached. The precise figures of financial support would be finalised rapidly in the coming days in the context of a restored Executive and Assembly.

There will be four key elements to the financial package: immediate support to the health service and to address budget pressures; investment to transform public services; turbocharging infrastructure delivery in Northern Ireland; and addressing Northern Ireland's unique circumstances. This investment sits alongside the separate financial package being put forward by the Irish Government.

This financial package will be accompanied by stringent conditions to deliver a greater level of accountability for public spending and ensure the Northern Ireland Executive is building sustainable public services for all the people of Northern Ireland. This includes commitments on reform, independent monitoring and reporting of the Executive's performance, and a role for the UK Government in overseeing implementation of this and previous agreements.

### Providing the Executive with additional support for 2020/21, and addressing the health crisis

*Recognising the unique challenges faced by NI public services in addition to supporting the resolution of the nurses' pay dispute.*

- Providing **additional funding for the Executive in 2020/21** to give the Executive time to place Northern Ireland's finances on a sustainable footing, and address its priorities, such as delivering parity with England and Wales for nurses' pay - bringing an end to the ongoing nurses' pay dispute.

## Transforming Public Services

*Delivering reform in the essential public services of health, education and justice.*

- Investing in **transforming public services**, including:
  - **Health services** - supporting full implementation of the Bengoa review in health, the 'Delivering Together' and 'Power to People' healthcare transformation reports and delivering more care in the community.
  - Improvements and reforms to deliver a **better and more efficient education system** - including through an external, independent review of education provision.
  - **Ensuring faster, fairer justice**, implementing committal reform which will benefit victims and witnesses, and reducing reoffending and delivering safer communities.

## Turbocharging infrastructure

*The Executive will benefit from increased funding for capital infrastructure investment as a result of the UK Government's infrastructure revolution.*

- Infrastructure funding will enable the Executive to invest in a range of potential capital projects such as:
  - Essential sewage investment (Living With Water Programme)
  - 'Better Connecting Dublin and Belfast' strategy
  - A5/A6 roads
  - York Street Interchange
  - Narrow Water bridge
  - Capital and resource funding for the Medical School in Derry/Londonderry, subject to the Northern Ireland Executive's approval of the project.
- The UK Government agrees to financial flexibility to reprofile funding provided as part of the Fresh Start Agreement for shared and integrated education and housing.

## Implementing the Stormont House Agreement

*The Government will provide funding to support the implementation of the Stormont House Agreement proposals on legacy.*

- Funding to support the implementation of the Stormont House Agreement proposals on legacy.

### Addressing Northern Ireland's unique circumstances

*The Government will make funding available for a range of projects aimed at supporting community and reconciliation initiatives to remove barriers, bring the people of Northern Ireland together and build a safer, more secure society in Northern Ireland. This could include areas such as:*

- Additional funding to **support mental health** over three years.
- Additional funding for **tackling paramilitarism**.
- A fund to support a new Executive in **tackling deprivation and improving opportunity**.
- A **Culture and Community fund**
- Funding to support marking **the 2021 centenary and related projects**.
- Support for **languages and broadcasting**.
- Supporting the **armed forces and veterans**, including funding for a new Veteran's Commissioner.
- A **fund to promote the competitiveness of Northern Ireland's economy**, including through trade missions and the GREAT campaign.
- Additional funding to support the **Derry/Londonderry addiction centre**.
- UK Contribution to the **International Fund For Ireland**

## Conditions of the UK Government Financial Commitments in Support of a Restored Northern Ireland Executive

This funding package is accompanied by a number of conditions designed to ensure that UK Government funding contributes to increasing overall fiscal and budgetary sustainability in Northern Ireland's public finances. The funding is dependent on the functioning of the institutions and all funding provided in this financial package will be withdrawn if the institutions collapse.

### *Conditions to promote budgetary, fiscal and political stability:*

- An independent Fiscal Council will be established in Northern Ireland by July 2020. As per the Fresh Start Agreement, the membership and terms of reference of this Council will be agreed with the UK Government. It would:
  - prepare an annual assessment of the Executive's revenue streams and spending proposals and how these allow the Executive to balance their budget; and
  - prepare a further annual report on the sustainability of the Executive's public finances, including the implications of spending policy and the effectiveness of long-term efficiency measures; and
  - have its membership and terms of reference agreed with the UK Government.
- From 2021/22 the Executive will put in place multi-year budgets (minimum 3 years) where the UK Government has provided multi-year funding. The Executive commits to delivering a balanced budget for Northern Ireland and to take steps to put Northern Ireland's finances on a sustainable footing.
- The UK Government will carefully review the findings of the RHI Inquiry Report, and consider its implications for the use of public money in Northern Ireland, accountability, and the wider responsibility of the UK Government to consider the public interest in good governance and public administration.

### *Conditions to promote sustainable public services transformation:*

- There will be regular (quarterly) reviews of UK Government funding provided under this agreement, and implementation of all agreements via a UK Government - NI Executive Joint Board. This will be convened by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and will include the First Minister and deputy First Minister.
- The Joint Board would have as part of its Terms of Reference in particular the oversight of transformation efforts in health, education and justice where these would draw on funding under this agreement (this does not displace other normally-required



approvals). As part of that oversight the Board would keep under review healthcare delivery structures in Northern Ireland, and be able to establish a separate sub-committee to consider health transformation in particular, drawing on external expertise as appropriate. The Board would also consider the effectiveness of infrastructure delivery, including drawing on expertise from the Infrastructure and Projects Authority as appropriate.



# Annex B: Irish Government Commitments

The following annex sets out commitments by the Irish Government in the context of an agreement being reached in support of greater cooperation, connectivity and opportunity North/ South on the island, working in partnership with the Northern Ireland Executive and the UK Government, in line with the Irish Government's ongoing commitment to the Good Friday Agreement. No agreement is asked or required from the parties for these commitments. This annex is the responsibility of the Irish Government alone.

## Annex B: Irish Government Commitments

*This note sets out commitments by the Irish Government in the context of an agreement being reached in support of greater cooperation, connectivity and opportunity North/ South on the island, working in partnership with the Northern Ireland Executive and the UK Government.*

The restoration of the Northern Ireland Executive, Northern Ireland Assembly and the North / South Ministerial Council to operation is a hugely important opportunity to set an ambitious and positive agenda for all the people of Northern Ireland, on the island of Ireland North and South, as well as East-West on these islands.

Overall, this should address:

- Connectivity and infrastructure
- Investment in the North-West and border communities
- Research and Innovation
- Strategic challenges, including Brexit and Climate Change
- Language and Culture
- Reconciliation

The Irish Government will work with the Northern Ireland Executive, through the North / South Ministerial Council, to help deliver projects that will benefit people across the island.

The Government is also ready to participate constructively in discussion on how the British Irish Council can develop its work in the future, in the context of Brexit, taking account of the ongoing work of the BIC Secretariat to consider options in this context.

The Irish Government also remains committed to holding meetings of the British Irish Intergovernmental Conference at regular intervals.

The Irish Government will establish a working group composed of representatives of the North-South Inter-Parliamentary Association as well as the Clerk of the Dáil to consider and make recommendations within six months focussed on developing North / South parliamentary relationships.

## Connectivity and Infrastructure

Specifically, as set out in the National Development Plan, the Government will update and enhance its commitment to jointly funding cross-border investment, once the power-sharing institutions are operational again.

The Government wants to work with the Northern Ireland Executive and the UK Government to achieve greater connectivity on this island – by road, rail and air.

We believe this is an immediate opportunity to move forward quickly together to deliver on plans to complete key infrastructure projects including the A5 and the Ulster Canal connection from Clones to Upper Lough Erne. The Government will deliver on its funding commitments to those projects, including a total of £75 million up to 2022 for the A5.

The Irish Government is supportive of serious and detailed joint consideration through the NSMC of the feasibility of a high-speed rail connection between Belfast, Dublin and Cork, creating a spine of connectivity on the island, which could be progressed as a priority. The Government is also ready to jointly progress consideration of options for the development of the Narrow Water bridge project at the NSMC.

The Irish Government also intends to take forward a review of the potential for Government support to renewed viable air routes from Cork to Belfast and Dublin to Derry, working with the UK Government and Northern Ireland Executive to deliver improved connections as a priority.

We believe there is enormous immediate potential for other projects, including Greenways in border areas, such as the Sligo-Enniskillen Greenway. We are ready to consider a further development funding application to be submitted in January and are committed to taking this project forward to deliver sustainable tourism and other enterprise benefits for the region.

## Investment in the North West and Border Communities

The Irish Government fully recognises the need for further investment and development in border areas.

The Irish Government has introduced a wide range of support programmes for enterprise and the agri-food sector, including the €300 million Brexit Loan Scheme, the €300 million Future Growth Loan Scheme, Enterprise Ireland's Brexit Scorecard, Bord Bia's Brexit Barometer, and InterTradeIreland's Brexit Vouchers. The Government is also continuing preparatory work for Brexit-mitigation actions under Budget 2020 and targeted funding for the sectors most affected in the event of a no deal Brexit.

The Government has also recognised that the North West region is in particular need of strategic investment, and that there is a clear argument for further enhancing cross-border cooperation and connections, to the benefit of all.

The Irish Government welcomes the UK Government's announcement to invest up to £105m in Derry and the North West through the Derry and Strabane City Deal and the Inclusive Future Fund. The Irish Government is committed to exploring opportunities for investment that will further support opportunities to bring greater economic prosperity and social benefits to the wider region.

In this context, the Irish Government welcomes the development of plans for ambitious new higher education provision in Derry. This investment can support more access to third-level education for young people on a cross-border basis, enable further cooperation between third-level institutions in the North West including in research and innovation, and underpin broader economic development and opportunities in the region. The Government is willing in principle to contribute to capital investment to support expanded provision at Ulster University Magee Campus, alongside the commitment made as part of this agreement by the UK Government. We look forward to early discussion at the North South Ministerial Council on taking forward this coordinated investment in order to deliver this vital project for the North West region.

#### - ***North West Strategic Growth Partnership***

The Irish Government remains committed to continuing to support the work of the North West Strategic Growth Partnership and is committed in principle to providing further funding to the North West Development Fund in collaboration with the Northern Ireland Executive.

The Government is ready to continue discussions through the North West Strategic Growth Partnership on key projects for employment and sustainable development in the region, including the Foyle River Gardens Project initiative.

## **Research and Innovation**

We look forward to developing proposals for an enhanced North/South programme of research and innovation, in cooperation with the NI Executive through the NSMC.

The Government would be interested in jointly exploring the feasibility of an all-island research hub, in cooperation with relevant agencies and stakeholders, North and South.

## Strategic Challenges

The Government also believes that the North South Ministerial Council can take forward important action-oriented dialogue in the context of the implications of Brexit, as well as other strategic challenges for these islands, including all-island cooperation and coordination to tackle climate breakdown.

The North South Bodies are a vital part of delivering all-island cooperation as an integral part of the Good Friday Agreement. The Government is ready to immediately resume discussions with the Executive on the next period of corporate planning guidance for the North South Bodies and on necessary resourcing within wider budgetary parameters.

## Language and Culture

The Irish Government welcomes the agreement on a way forward on language and culture issues by the parties in Northern Ireland, to be implemented by the Executive and Assembly as a matter of priority.

The Government remains committed to the work of the North / South language bodies and to the promotion of the Irish language.

In this context, the Government will make provision for additional funding over 3 years with a contribution to the Irish Language Broadcasting Fund, and funding for a promotional programme by An Ciste Infheistíochta Gaeilge to be delivered in partnership with Irish medium community groups, Glór na nGael and the Gaelbhratach Scheme. Funding will also be provided to develop Irish Language Networks.

## Reconciliation

### - *International Fund for Ireland*

In recognition of the particular challenges which Northern Ireland continues to face and the unique capabilities of the International Fund for Ireland (IFI) to work effectively for all communities in Northern Ireland and border counties, the Government is committed in principle to significant new funding for the IFI, working with other partners, to support the delivery of the IFI Strategy 2021-2024.

### - *Reconciliation Fund*

The Government will also maintain the enhanced level of funding for the Reconciliation Fund at €3.7 million per year in support of projects in Northern Ireland and border areas, with a focus on the most hard-to-reach and marginalised communities in terms of economic and social deprivation.

We will also, in cooperation with the Executive, commission a study to identify challenges facing border communities, paying particular attention to the needs of minorities in border counties, and explore options, including establishment of dedicated funding streams, to address gaps in current support.

- ***PEACE PLUS***

Ireland has consistently prioritised the continuation of EU PEACE funding including through ongoing engagement at EU level. We will continue work with our EU partners and the UK Government and Northern Ireland Executive to ensure that the PEACE PLUS programme, building on and continuing the work of both PEACE and INTERREG, will be delivered through the Special EU Programmes Body in support of reconciliation and harnessing the opportunities of our peace for all.

- ***North South School Exchange Programme***

Building on the success of the recent pilot programme of bringing pupils together - from schools North and South of the Border, from Nationalist and Unionist communities, and from the Integrated Schools sector - to meet, discuss issues of mutual concern and visit sites of significant shared historic relevance, we will expand the scheme over the lifetime of the next Government with a target of achieving 100 such cross border engagements per annum within a 5 year programme.

- ***Stormont House Agreement***

The Government affirms its commitment to working with the UK Government to support the establishment of the Stormont House Agreement legacy institutions as a matter of urgency, including by introducing necessary implementing legislation in the Oireachtas, to deal with the legacy of the Troubles and support reconciliation, meeting the legitimate needs and expectations of victims and survivors.



## Appendix 2: SUMMARY PAPER

### The New Decade, New Approach Deal (UK Government and Irish Government)

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The New Decade, New Approach deal, which was published by the British and Irish governments on 9<sup>th</sup> January, sets out a plan of action for a new Executive, which includes a list of priorities and specific commitments from the two governments.

#### Part 1. Priorities of the Restored Executive

- **Transforming our health service** (with a long-term funding strategy)
- **Transforming other public services** (particularly in education and justice)
- **Investing for the future** (to ensure Northern Ireland is equipped to harness opportunities and drive sustainable productivity, including opportunities for future trade as we leave the EU)
- **Delivering a fair and compassionate society** (that supports working families and the most vulnerable)
- **Developing a new Programme for Government**

#### Part 2. NI Executive Formation Agreement

Aimed at enabling the restoration of all the institutions of the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement and making government better, it contains a range of specific proposals including changes to the ministerial code, a new approach to the Petition of Concern and a commitment to further reform to take account of the outcome of the RHI inquiry.

#### Transparency and accountability measures *including:*

- publishing details of Ministers' meetings with external organisations
- measures related to special advisers (financial and meeting transparency)
- improved record-keeping and the protections for whistleblowers
- establishment of a fiscal council which would assess and report

#### Petition of concern *including:*

- The mechanism, which was designed to ensure that all sections of the community are protected and can participate and work together, will return to its intended purpose
- Parties to publicly commit to using it in most exceptional circumstances and as a last resort
- Petition can still be triggered by the support of 30 MLAs, but it needs members from two or more parties (this can include independent MLAs)
- A valid Petition shall trigger a 14-day period of consideration. After this, if 30 MLAs confirm support, the Assembly will determine the matter in accordance with the cross-community consent procedure.

## Appendix 2: **SUMMARY PAPER**

### **Sustainability of the Institutions** *including:*

- Measures aimed at ensuring a 3-year absence of devolved government cannot happen again and/or providing stability if that should happen (a 24-week period before an Assembly election must be called, legislating what will happen if First or Deputy First Minister resigns and for Ministers remaining in office in a care-taker capacity to allow continuity of decision-making within well-defined limits as set out in the Ministerial Code)
- Creating new bodies, including a Party Leaders' Forum and Executive Sub-Committee on Brexit. Party Leaders' Forum established to meet at least once monthly. This will be reviewed after six months
- Measures to put civic engagement and public consultation at the heart of policy-making including reforming the existing Compact Civic Advisory Panel

### **Rights, language and identity** *including*

- An Office of Identity and Cultural Expression "to celebrate and support all aspects of Northern Ireland's rich cultural and linguistic heritage"
- Legislation to create a new Commissioner "to recognise, support, protect and enhance the development of the Irish language in Northern Ireland" including developing best practice standards and guidance
- Legislation to create a new Commissioner "to enhance and develop the language, arts and literature associated with the Ulster Scots / Ulster British tradition"
- The legislation will repeal the Administration of Justice (Language) Act (Ireland) 1737 and provide official recognition of both Irish and Ulster-Scots languages in Northern Ireland
- A central Translation Hub will be established in the Department of Finance within three months of an agreement, to provide language translation services for the Executive Departments, Arm's Length Bodies, **Local Government** and Public Bodies.
- Any person can conduct their business in Irish or Ulster-Scots before the Assembly or one of its committees
- Introducing a Bill on sign language
- An Ad-Hoc Assembly Committee will be established to consider the creation of a Bill of Rights

### **Programme for Government**

- An agreed a two-stage approach to establishing a strategic level Programme for Government - focus on delivery of priorities and actions during the remainder of 2019/20 and development of a longer term programme from 2020 onwards.
- Within two weeks of the restoration of the institutions, publish fuller details of an agreed Programme for Government.
- Publish a new strategic level outcomes-**based Programme for Government** by April 2020 aligned to a multi-year budget.
- Principles and practice of citizen and community engagement and co-design will be a key part of its development and delivery

## Appendix 2: SUMMARY PAPER

### Programme for Government - key areas of focus

Within two weeks of the restoration of the institutions, the Assembly will publish fuller details of [what is likely to be included in] an agreed Programme for Government for 2020 beyond. However, the document indicates that the parties have agreed to build on the 12 outcomes in the previous Programme for Improvement, adding a new focus on:

- Ending paramilitarism
- Ending sectarianism
- Health and Social Care
- Education
- Housing
- Climate change
- Worker's Rights

In addition to those priorities outlined above, the document also identifies the following priority actions for 2019-20:

- Childcare
- Investment
- Fair and sustainable welfare reform
- Leaner government
- Sustainable public finances
- Policing

The Programme for Government could be underpinned by key supporting strategies, including the following:

- |  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| • Anti-poverty strategy                | • Racial Equality Strategy    |
| • Economic/Industrial Strategy         | • Disability Strategy         |
| • Investment Strategy                  | • Gender Strategy             |
| • Energy Strategy                      | • Sexual Orientation Strategy |
| • Children and Young People's Strategy | • Active Ageing Strategy      |
| • Childcare Strategy                   | • Irish Language Strategy     |
| • Child Poverty Strategy               | • Ulster Scots Strategy       |

### Key Commitments

The "New Approach" document runs to 62-page and provides more detail on the mechanisms, priorities and proposed actions. A summary of key priority actions, including commitments by the UK and Irish Governments by thematic area is provided below:

#### 1. Health

- Executive will settle the ongoing pay dispute
- A successor strategy and action plan to the Strategic Direction for Alcohol and Drugs Phase 2 within 3 months; and a new strategy and implementation plan on cancer by December 2020. Additional funding to support the Derry/Londonderry addiction centre

## Appendix 2: **SUMMARY PAPER**

- Reform the health and social care system in line with the Bengoa, Delivering Together and Power to People reports. The previously agreed programme of transformation will continue to be a priority. Within this, there will be a greater focus on mental health and well-being.
- A mental health action plan published within two months, a Mental Health Strategy by December 2020 and additional funding to support mental health over three years.
- Reconfigure hospital provision to deliver better patient outcomes , more stable services and sustainable staffing. Improvements will be made in stroke, breast assessment, urgent and emergency care and day case elective care by the end of 2020.
- Build capacity in general practice through the ongoing rollout of Multi-Disciplinary teams to cover a further 100,000 patients by March 2021.
- A new action plan on waiting times; an extra 900 nursing and midwifery undergraduate places over three years and a new graduate entry medical school in Londonderry

### **2. Education**

- Executive will work to resolve the teachers' industrial action
- Address resourcing pressures in the education system and ensure every school has a sustainable core budget
- External independent review of education provision
- New special educational needs framework
- Expert group to examine links between educational underachievement and socio-economic background, including the long-standing issues facing working-class Protestant boys. And draw up an action plan for change that will ensure all children and young people, regardless of background, are given the best start in life.
- Deliver an enhanced approach to careers advice, curriculum, training and apprenticeships to enhance employability.
- Enhanced strategic focus and support actions on educating children and young people of different backgrounds together in the classroom.

### **3. Housing**

- The PfG outcomes framework will be augmented with a new outcome and indicators to provide specific focus on ensuring every household has access to a good quality, affordable and sustainable home appropriate for its needs.
- Enhanced investment in new social home starts with legislation to reclassify Housing Associations as external to the public sector to ensure the continuation of new social house building and the Co-ownership Housing Scheme.
- Examine options to remove historical debt from the NIHE and exclude it from having to pay Corporation Tax and agree a long term trajectory for the rental charges of the NIHE.

## Appendix 2: **SUMMARY PAPER**

### **4. Supporting People and Workers**

- A review of welfare mitigation measures will be taken forward as a priority, with any agreed measures in place before March 2020. Commitment to extend existing welfare mitigation measures beyond March 2020, when they are due to expire.
- Executive to commit to becoming a Living Wage employer and ban zero hours contracts. Seek to have the power to set minimum wage levels (i.e. should be made a devolved matter).
- Publish a Childcare Strategy and will give immediate priority to developing arrangements to deliver extended, affordable, responsive, high quality provision of early education and care initiatives for families with children aged 3-4.
- Develop and implement an Anti-poverty Strategy.

### **5. Economy**

- A review of welfare mitigation measures will be taken forward as a priority, with any agreed measures in place
- Ensure Northern Ireland is equipped to harness opportunities and drive sustainable productivity, including opportunities for future trade as we leave the EU and developing a regionally-balanced economy with opportunities for all.
- Invest strategically in ensuring that NI has the right mix of skills for a thriving economy.
- UK Government to promote Northern Ireland as a global cyber security hub and to support the delivery of the NI International Trade plan, establishing a new Trade Advisory Board, appointment of Northern Ireland Trade Ambassadors, and developing a Trade Accelerator Plan and a “Made in NI” campaign.

### **6. “Turbocharging “ Infrastructure**

- Support for City Deal packages for Derry & Strabane and Belfast, including through match capital funding for infrastructure, regeneration and tourism projects
- Develop and deliver the Growth Deals for Mid South West NI and Causeway Coast and Glens.
- Invest urgently in wastewater infrastructure which is at or nearing capacity in many places across Northern Ireland, including in Belfast, limiting growth.
- Plan to complete both the Regional and Sub Regional Sports Stadia Programmes, including Casement Park
- Executive to benefit from increased capital infrastructure funding 'as a result of the UK government's infrastructure revolution'. Potential capital projects that could benefit include
  - Essential sewage investment (Living With Water Programme)
  - 'Better Connecting Dublin and Belfast' strategy
  - York Street Interchange

### 7. Climate Change

Tackle climate change head on with a strategy to address the immediate and longer term impacts of climate change, including:

- Introduce legislation and targets for reducing carbon emissions in line with the Paris Climate Change Accord. Strategies to reduce carbon emissions will be reviewed in light of the Paris Climate Change Accord and the climate crisis.
- A new Energy Strategy will set ambitious targets and actions for a fair and just transition to a zero carbon society.
- A Climate Change Act to give environmental targets a strong legal underpinning.
- Establish an Independent Environmental Protection Agency to oversee this work and ensure targets are met.
- The Economic Strategy will support clean and inclusive growth and create jobs as part of a Green New Deal.
- Create a plan to eliminate plastic pollution and close down RHI and replace by a scheme that effectively cuts carbon emissions.

### 8. Policing and Justice

- Increase police numbers to 7,500 and deliver committal reform to help speed up the criminal justice system.
- Reaffirm commitment to tackling paramilitarism - focus within the PfG on ending the harm done by paramilitarism, ending sectarianism and put in place supporting strategies and actions.

### 9. Miscellaneous

- Further reform of the NI Civil Service and review of Arm's Length Bodies with a view to their rationalisation.
- Take forward the reform of licensing laws

### 10. UK government commitments (not already reflected above)

- Additional funding in 2020/21 to help the executive address its priorities, such as pay parity for nurses compared to England and Wales
- Funding for projects which could include mental health provision, tackling paramilitarism and deprivation

## Appendix 2: **SUMMARY PAPER**

- Appoint a Northern Ireland Veterans' Commissioner and introduce UK-wide legislation to further incorporate the Armed Forces Covenant into law
- Relatives of people from Northern Ireland to be able to apply for UK immigration status "on broadly the same terms as the family members of Irish citizens in the UK"
- Scope the establishment of a Northern Ireland hub in London - complementing the Invest Northern Ireland London Hub - and explore the creation of a UK Government hub in Northern Ireland to increase the visibility and accessibility of UK Government departments.

### **11. Irish government pledges**

- Delivering on its commitment to key infrastructure projects, particularly in relation to connectivity and infrastructure, including £75m for the A5 up to 2022
- Serious and detailed joint consideration through the NSMC of the feasibility of a high-speed rail connection between Belfast, Dublin and Cork, creating a spine of connectivity on the island, which could be progressed as a priority.
- Take forward a review of potential support for "renewed viable air routes from Cork to Belfast and Dublin to Derry"
- Provision for additional funding over 3 years with a contribution to the Irish Language Broadcasting Fund, and funding for a promotional programme by An Ciste Infheistíochta Gaeilge to be delivered in partnership
- Develop proposals for an enhanced North/South programme of research and innovation, in cooperation with the NI Executive through the NSMC. And interested in jointly exploring the feasibility of an all-island research hub, in cooperation with relevant agencies and stakeholders, North and South.
- Commitment in principle to significant new funding for the IFI, working with other partners, to support the delivery of the IFI Strategy 2021-2024.
- Maintain the enhanced level of funding for the Reconciliation Fund at €3.7 million per year in support of projects in Northern Ireland and border areas
- Continue work with our EU partners, UK Government and NI Executive to ensure that the PEACE PLUS programme, building on and continuing the work of both PEACE and INTERREG, will be delivered through the Special EU Programmes Body in support of reconciliation and harnessing the opportunities of our peace for all.

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<b>Subject:</b>	Draft Council Improvement Objectives 2020-21
<b>Date:</b>	21 February 2020
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Tully, Director of City & Organisational Strategy
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Christine Robinson, Strategic Policy and Partnership Manager

## Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

☐

No

☒

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

☐  
☐  
☐  
☐

## Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☒

No

☐

1.0	Purpose of Report					
1.1	To present the draft corporate improvement objectives for 2020 - 2021 and to seek Committee approval to issue these for public consultation in line with our statutory obligations.					
2.0	Recommendations					
2.1	<p>Members are asked to consider the draft improvement objectives for 2020-21, and subject to any refinements, to authorise the public consultation required as part of the council's improvement duty. The proposed improvement objectives for 2020-21 are as follows:</p> <table><tr><td>Working &amp; Learning</td></tr><tr><td>We will support people into employment</td></tr><tr><td>Growing the Economy</td></tr><tr><td>We will support investment and business growth in the city</td></tr><tr><td>City Development</td></tr></table>	Working & Learning	We will support people into employment	Growing the Economy	We will support investment and business growth in the city	City Development
Working & Learning						
We will support people into employment						
Growing the Economy						
We will support investment and business growth in the city						
City Development						

	<table><tr><td>We will support the regeneration of the city centre</td></tr><tr><td><b>Living Here</b></td></tr><tr><td>We will support people to lead healthier more active lives by improving the quality of our parks and open spaces and increasing participation in physical activity and sport programmes</td></tr><tr><td><b>Resilience and Sustainability</b></td></tr><tr><td>We will enhance the city’s capacity to respond to shocks and stresses</td></tr><tr><td>We will increase levels of household recycling and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill</td></tr><tr><td><b>Organisational Priorities</b></td></tr><tr><td>We will improve council services and increase customer satisfaction with council</td></tr></table>	We will support the regeneration of the city centre	<b>Living Here</b>	We will support people to lead healthier more active lives by improving the quality of our parks and open spaces and increasing participation in physical activity and sport programmes	<b>Resilience and Sustainability</b>	We will enhance the city’s capacity to respond to shocks and stresses	We will increase levels of household recycling and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill	<b>Organisational Priorities</b>	We will improve council services and increase customer satisfaction with council
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We will increase levels of household recycling and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill									
<b>Organisational Priorities</b>									
We will improve council services and increase customer satisfaction with council									
2.2	More information on the improvement objectives, including indicative actions, is contained in Appendix 1. Subject to feedback from the public consultation, detailed actions, performance targets and alignment to inclusive growth will be developed.								
3.0	<b>Key Issues</b>								
3.1	<b>Background</b> Council has a statutory requirement to produce an annual improvement plan that sets out our improvement objectives for the year ahead. The Improvement objectives and plan does not include everything that council plans to do that year, but instead focuses on a smaller set of key improvement priorities, as informed by resident priorities and evidenced by need.								
3.2	<b>Review and Development of our Improvement Objectives</b> In 2017-18, we aligned our improvement objectives to the key priorities within the Belfast Agenda. The Belfast Agenda is the overarching strategic plan for the city. Developed following extensive engagement and analysis, it articulates the key priorities for the city and provides a robust basis for both our corporate plan and our improvement objectives. As a result of this alignment, our objectives are outcome based and strategic in nature, so although we update the improvement actions on an annual basis, the improvement objectives themselves are likely to remain valid to 2023 (i.e. aligned to the four yearly cycle of the Belfast Agenda planning).								
3.3	Each year however, the council's strategic hub reviews the improvement objectives to determine whether they are still valid and appropriate. For 2020-21, we are recommending that council retains last year’s improvement objectives but includes a new improvement objective related to resilience and sustainability. This reflects the growing importance of this issue and the ongoing work in relation to the City Development priority. It also provides a								

	<p>direct read across against the priorities in our new draft four-year corporate plan. As a result, the existing improvement objective relating to recycling and waste will move from City Development to Resilience and Sustainability. Members should also note that our 'inclusive growth' ambitions have been embedded within the improvement objective actions and associated planning and monitoring process.</p>
3.4	<p>The rationale for the proposed improvement objectives, along with indicative actions for 2020-21, is attached at appendix 1. In developing the improvement objectives and actions, we have taken account of previous and ongoing public and stakeholder consultations, updated performance data and Belfast Agenda programming to assess ongoing need. Feedback from the Local Government Auditor has also informed in terms of our review and development process.</p>
3.5	<p><b>Next Steps</b></p> <p>Although the objectives are aligned to the Belfast Agenda and the extensive engagement that accompanied its development, we are obliged to consult with residents and key stakeholders regarding our annual improvement objectives. Subject to Committee approval, the draft improvement objectives will be issued for public consultation via our on-line platform for a period of 8 weeks with targeted outreach through existing council communication channels.</p>
3.6	<p>Council is legally required to publish its Improvement Plan by 30<sup>th</sup> June each year. A report will be brought to SP&amp;R in May outlining the results of the consultation and any recommended changes; a draft Improvement Plan will also be presented for approval so that a final plan can be published on the council website before the end of June.</p>
3.7	<p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>There are no resource implications arising directly from this report.</p>
3.8	<p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p> <p>There are no equality or rural need implications arising directly from this report.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1 - Draft Council Improvement Objectives 2020 - 21



## Appendix 1

### Draft Council Improvement Objectives 2020-21

Working & Learning			
Improvement Objective	Review and Rationale (for retaining or removing)	Indicative Actions for 2020 - 21	Impact (performance measures)
<p><b>We will support people into employment</b></p>	<p>When we were developing the Belfast Agenda, “jobs and employment” was the top priority for citizens. We therefore established this as an improvement objective in 2017-18. It remains a recurring theme and key priority in all our engagements with local people, and we propose to retain this improvement objective for 2020-21.</p> <p>Government departments (particularly DfC and DfE) retain statutory responsibility for employability and skills development activities. Our improvement objective and its related interventions, therefore, focus on enhancing the effectiveness of activity by aligning supply and demand, and delivery targeted initiatives relating to live job vacancies.</p> <p>Whilst council is delivering many innovative schemes aimed at helping people to access skills and jobs, to make the greatest impact we need to be more joined up to remove barriers to employment and to help realise the potential of Belfast’s people. Therefore, in addition to improving our own skills and employability programmes, we will continue to work with partners in an integrated and strategic way to ensure that, as a city, local people are able to access decent, secure jobs that pay well and provide opportunity for progression and development.</p>	<p>Support inclusive growth by helping residents access employability &amp; skills through the delivery of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to employment package (Employment Academies)</li> <li>• Jobs fairs /careers events</li> <li>• ESF projects by providing match funding</li> <li>• Opportunities from the implementation of developer contributions and social clauses</li> </ul> <p>Support inclusive growth by working with partners to remove barriers to employment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• piloting new approaches, focusing on key target groups</li> <li>• Supporting young people at school to enhance attainment levels, particularly those at risk</li> <li>• Developing the City Deal Employability &amp; Skills programme</li> </ul>	<p>Number of jobs promoted through BCC employment programmes</p> <p>Number of individuals attending job fairs supported by BCC</p> <p>Number of accreditations delivered</p>
Growing the Economy			
Improvement Objective	Review and Rationale (for retaining or removing)	Indicative Actions for 2020 - 21	Impact (performance measures)
<p><b>We will support investment and business growth in the city</b></p>	<p>Attracting investment to Belfast and building a strong local economy that supports jobs and encourages entrepreneurs has been a key priority for local people, as evidenced by our 2017 resident survey, the Belfast Conversation and from other ongoing engagement.</p>	<p>Enable inclusive growth by enhancing how we support local business start-up:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- increasing local awareness of enterprise, including with underrepresented groups</li> <li>- providing programmes to help local people start a business</li> </ul>	<p>Number of jobs promoted through the Go for It Programme (statutory)</p> <p>Number of jobs promoted through BCC business start-up</p>

	<p>A strong and prosperous economy with a healthy and vibrant business sector is vital to for the success and wellbeing of our city and for those who live here. This in turn supports local wealth creation and employment, which allows us to deliver our vision of inclusive growth, where all people share in the success of the city.</p> <p>The recent engagement on our draft Inclusive Growth Strategy has reinforced the importance of sustainable investment and business growth.</p> <p>For the past three years, our improvement objectives have reflected these issues. Therefore, given their continuing importance and the unique challenges and opportunities of the UK's exit from Europe, we are proposing to retain this objective for 2020-21. In addition to the continued focus on innovation and support for businesses, our improvement actions will focus on maximising investment opportunities by promoting Belfast internationally and lobbying on its behalf locally and regionally to secure sustainable investment.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- providing support to social enterprise and co-operative sectors</li> <li>- delivering the Belfast enterprise framework</li> </ul> <p>Build inclusive growth by supporting existing local businesses to grow, become more competitive and ultimately employ more people; by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delivering capacity-building support in key areas</li> <li>• Engaging and supporting businesses in key growth sectors</li> <li>• Providing space for new businesses to start in the Innovation Factory</li> <li>• Identifying support for local businesses in relation to Brexit</li> </ul> <p>Promote and market the city internationally by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Delivering our International Relations work</li> <li>- Participating in national and international initiatives to secure strategic and institutional investment and real estate investment such as MIPIM</li> <li>- Building relationships with key strategic partners in the City of London and along the Belfast Dublin Economic Corridor</li> </ul>	<p>and growth activity (non-statutory activity)</p> <p>Number of participants / businesses supported through business start-up and growth programmes</p>
<b>City Development</b>			
<b>Improvement Objective</b>	<b>Review and Rationale (for retaining or removing)</b>	<b>Indicative Actions for 2020 - 21</b>	<b>Impact (performance measures)</b>
We will support the regeneration of the city centre	<p>During the Belfast Conversation, local people highlighted the importance of a vibrant city centre and its role in rejuvenating Belfast, both socially and economically. Research also underlines the importance of core cities and their impact on regional economies and local wellbeing. As a result, work to regenerate and enhance the city centre, featured strongly in the Belfast Agenda and was included as one of council's improvement objectives. Last year, following the shock and impact of the Bank Buildings fire, we refocused our improvement efforts, focusing on supporting the recovery of the city centre, and using our civic leadership and</p>	<p>Continue to deliver the Local Development Plan by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Complying with the independent examination process</li> <li>- Developing supplementary and associated planning guidance</li> </ul> <p>Progress the City Centre Connectivity Study by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Developing an action plan to outline scenarios and delivery options</li> </ul>	<p>Resident satisfaction with Belfast as a place to live</p> <p>% residents who agree the city centre is vibrant and attractive, with lots going on</p> <p>See also statutory planning indicators</p>

	<p>planning roles to drive joined up and sustainable improvements to the city centre.</p> <p>Whilst significant work has been completed, including a city centre revitalisation programme, we are committed to creating a vibrant, enjoyable and well-connected city centre environment where people want to live and spend time. This is an ongoing improvement objective. We will therefore continue to advocate for our city and work to improve the vitality and liveability of the city centre by developing a fit for purpose and sustainable spatial planning framework and by taking forward various programmes and initiatives to achieve the city centre our residents, businesses and visitors demand.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Undertaking city-wide public consultation</li> <li>- Final agreed Vision</li> </ul> <p>Improve the liveability of the city centre (focus on city centre living) by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Completing the Residential Analysis</li> <li>- Progressing the Inner North West Cluster (Strategic Site Assessment)</li> </ul>	
Living Here			
<b>Improvement Objective</b>	<b>Review and Rationale (for retaining or removing)</b>	<b>Indicative Actions for 2020 - 21</b>	<b>Impact (performance measures)</b>
<p>We will support people to lead healthier more active lives by:</p> <p>a) improving the quality of our parks and open spaces</p> <p>b) increasing participation in sport and physical activity</p>	<p>In our 2017 resident survey, “improving health and wellbeing and addressing health inequalities” was the second highest ranked priority for our citizens. In 2017-18, we therefore set out a broad improvement objective aimed at addressing health inequalities. However, last year in response to public feedback, we refocused the improvement objective on those areas that council could directly influence and the contribution that our services could make.</p> <p>Access to good quality leisure facilities and parks and open spaces is essential to improving people’s health and wellbeing. By focusing our effort on ensuring that our parks and open spaces are attractive, high quality, safe and welcoming, and that our leisure centres, physical activity programmes and initiatives are fit for purpose, we can encourage and enable people to be more active and live healthier lives. Furthermore, by encouraging “active travel” we can also help reduce levels of pollution and help improve overall air quality.</p> <p>This more targeted focus reflects our residents desire to see improvements in local council services. However, statistical data highlights the ongoing and complex health and wellbeing challenges we face as a city. Therefore, through</p>	<p>Improve the quality of our parks and open spaces by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Finalising the open spaces strategy &amp; development of action plan</li> <li>- Maintaining X Green Flag award status for council parks</li> <li>- Commence development of Colin Park</li> </ul> <p>Increase participation in sport and physical activity by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Implementing actions from Every Body Active 2020</li> <li>- Roll out the Support for Sport and Active Belfast grants</li> <li>- Develop and deliver the Stadia Community Benefits initiative</li> <li>- Commence development of a sports development strategy</li> <li>- To be confirmed - Belfast Bikes. Actions subject to party briefings and committee decision in April.</li> </ul> <p>Improve the quality of leisure centres by continuing to deliver the Leisure Transformation Programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Complete Andersonstown Leisure Centre redevelopment</li> </ul>	<p>Number of parks and green spaces with Green Flag accreditation</p> <p>% residents who agree that their local area has good parks and green spaces</p> <p>% of residents using council parks on at least a monthly basis</p> <p>BCC leisure centre throughput</p> <p>% residents who spend at least 150 minutes per week being physical active</p> <p>Number of Belfast bike journeys</p>

	the Belfast Agenda, we will continue to work in collaboration to improve health and wellbeing and to help address health inequalities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Commence Templemore redevelopment</li> <li>- Commence Avoniel Leisure Centre redevelopment</li> <li>- Commence design development for further leisure facility at Girdwood</li> </ul>	
<b>Cross Cutting - Excellent Services</b>			
<b>Improvement Objective</b>	<b>Review and Rationale (for retaining or removing)</b>	<b>Indicative Actions for 2020 - 21</b>	<b>Impact (performance measures)</b>
<b>We will improve council services and increase customer satisfaction with council</b>	<p>Whilst local people were supportive of our city level, strategic improvements, they also told us that they wanted our improvement objectives to relate more directly to improving council services. Last year, we added a new objective that focused specifically on improving council services and increasing satisfaction with council. To help us achieve this we focused on three core areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- neighbourhood working programme</li> <li>- customer care programme</li> <li>- continuous improvement programme</li> </ul> <p>When we consulted local people about this new objective, it received high levels of support. It was clear and that the provision of high quality, customer focused and efficient services was very important. Therefore, we will continue to focus on these improvement areas for 2020-21. The actions within each of the programmes have now been updated to reflect progress made during 2019- 20. Collectively, these actions will help us deliver better services, enhanced customer care and value for money.</p>	<p>Continue to develop our new approach to neighbourhood working:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Design a new model of neighbourhood working with teams that are better integrated, flexible and responsive</li> <li>- Develop a new approach to local regeneration planning across North, South, East and West Belfast</li> </ul> <p>Implement the customer focus programme: The customer focus programme will be implemented incrementally. Phase 1 will include :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- a new customer hub function including specific services for elected members; new telephony system and CRM</li> <li>- information available at first point of contact for all Council services with specific in depth value services for Resources and Fleet</li> <li>- a new council website</li> </ul> <p>Continue to develop and implement the Community &amp; Neighbourhood Services (CNS) Transition and Improvement Programme, focusing on the delivery of the following four priority projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Open Spaces and Streetscene</li> <li>- Regulatory and Enforcement Services</li> <li>- Resources and Fleet Services</li> <li>- Review of Community Provision</li> </ul>	<p>% of residents satisfied with Belfast City Council</p> <p>% of residents who agree that Council provides good customer service</p> <p>% of residents who are satisfied with their local area as a place to live</p>



Resilience and Sustainability (new)			
<i>Improvement Objective</i>	<i>Rationale for establishing as a new priority</i>	<i>Indicative Actions for 2020 - 21</i>	<i>Impact (performance measures)</i>
<b>We will enhance the city's capacity to respond to shocks and stresses</b>	<p>Climate change and resilience is a global concern, receiving worldwide attention. And it is a message that resounds with Belfast, our Elected Members and our residents. Our new Corporate Plan 2019 - 23, has responded to this challenge, drawing out resilience and sustainability into a targeted and bespoke corporate priority.</p> <p>In recognition of the growing importance and momentum, we are proposing to establish this as a new improvement objective for 2020-21.</p> <p>Through our membership of 100 Resilient Cities programme, which requires Belfast to produce a Resilience Strategy, we can help drive a shared approach and practical framework that helps achieve a resilient and sustainable Belfast.</p>	<p>Produce a Belfast Resilience Strategy that identifies the risks and levers for action that will help to future-proof Belfast:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Complete the public consultation programme of area, public and themed engagement</li> <li>- Revise the draft strategy and launch the finalised Belfast Resilience Strategy</li> </ul> <p>Develop and support joined up approaches to addressing resilience, climate change and sustainability within Belfast</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Coordinate the Belfast Resilience and Sustainability Board</li> <li>- Coordinate a planning process to agree the Belfast Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Plan</li> <li>- Coordinate a planning process to agree the Belfast City Council Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Plan</li> <li>- Establish a Belfast City Council Programme Board to oversee the development and implementation of the Belfast City Council Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Plan</li> </ul>	<p>Number of organisations or individuals who contribute to strategy and climate plan development and implementation</p> <p>% of residents who agree that Belfast is environmentally friendly; it protects and values its natural resources</p> <p>% of residents who agree that Belfast is a well-connected city (easy to get about) with excellent infrastructure</p> <p>PIs to be developed through the Climate Mitigation and Adaptation planning process</p>
<b>We will increase levels of household recycling and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill</b>	<p>We established this as a new improvement objective for 2020-21 to reflect the importance of this core service. During 2018, we undertook extensive engagement with residents regarding our current recycling arrangements and it became very clear that this was an important issue for local people. Residents' growing concern about the impacts of waste and pollution on our environment, coupled with the significant investment required to enable positive practice and behaviours, compelled us to prioritise this an improvement objective.</p> <p>Our aim is to provide efficient and effective services, which enable us to meet national recycling targets and protect our environment for generations to come. This requires a strategic approach, focusing on implementing new and</p>	<p>Improve and extend recycling opportunities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop new collection arrangement proposals for dry recyclables: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Evaluation of wheelie box scheme</li> <li>o Development of OBC</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Introduce carpet recycling at Household Recycling</li> <li>- Continue to work with contractors to identify additional opportunities for recycling schemes from waste streams</li> </ul> <p>Change behaviours through policy development, engagement and awareness activity:</p>	<p>Amount of (tonnage) of biodegradable BCC collected waste that is landfilled</p> <p>% of household waste collected that is sent for recycling (including waste prepared for re-use)</p> <p>Amount (tonnage) of BCC collected municipal waste arisings</p>

	<p>innovative approaches and embedding positive behaviours. We are proposing to retain this improvement objective for 2020-21 so that we can continue to meet resident expectations and build in the foundations that we have begun to put in place.</p> <p>Initially, sitting under the Belfast Agenda theme of City Development, this improvement objective now sits under our “new” corporate priority of Resilience and Sustainability. Whilst not strictly a new priority, it represents a refocus with our newly elected councillors drawing out the resilience and sustainability aspects of the City Development priority to improve its profile and enable more targeted attention.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Continue to deliver Phase 2 of food waste campaign to improve brown bin tonnage in local areas</li> <li>– Gain approval and implement waste acceptance policy to increase efficiencies and maintain recycling rates at recycling centres.</li> </ul>	
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## Strategic Alignment

<i>Improvement Objective</i>	<i>Strategic Alignment</i>	
<b>Working &amp; Learning</b>	<b><i>Belfast Agenda Outcome:</i></b>	<b><i>Improvement Duty</i></b>
<b>We will support people into employment</b>	Everyone in Belfast benefits from a thriving and prosperous economy Everyone in Belfast fulfils their potential	Strategic Effectiveness, Fairness, Innovation and Sustainability
<b>Growing the Economy</b>	<b><i>Belfast Agenda Outcome</i></b>	<b><i>Improvement Duty</i></b>
<b>We will support investment and business growth in the city</b>	Everyone in Belfast benefits from a thriving and prosperous economy	Strategic Effectiveness, Fairness, Innovation and Sustainability
<b>City Development</b>	<b><i>Belfast Agenda Outcome</i></b>	<b><i>Improvement Duty</i></b>
<b>We will support the regeneration of the city centre</b>	Belfast is a vibrant, attractive, connected and environmentally sustainable city	Strategic Effectiveness, Efficiency, Innovation and Sustainability
<b>Living Here</b>	<b><i>Belfast Agenda Outcome</i></b>	<b><i>Improvement Duty</i></b>
<b>We will support people to lead healthier more active lives by:</b> a) improving the quality of our parks and open spaces b) increasing participation in sport and physical activity, including walking and cycling	Everyone in Belfast experiences good health & wellbeing	Strategic Effectiveness, Service Quality, Service Availability, Fairness, Efficiency, Innovation and Sustainability
<b>Resilience and Sustainability (new)</b>	<b><i>Belfast Agenda Outcome</i></b>	<b><i>Improvement Duty</i></b>
<b>We will enhance the city's capacity to respond to shocks and stresses</b>	Belfast is a vibrant, attractive, connected and environmentally sustainable city Belfast is a welcoming, safe, fair and inclusive city for all	Strategic Effectiveness, Fairness, Innovation and Sustainability
<b>We will increase levels of household recycling and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill</b>	Belfast is a vibrant, attractive, connected and environmentally sustainable city	Strategic Effectiveness, Service Quality, Fairness, Efficiency, Innovation and Sustainability
<b>Cross Cutting - Excellent Services</b>		<b><i>Improvement Duty</i></b>
<b>We will improve council services and increase customer satisfaction with council</b>	Corporate Plan and organisational priorities	Service Quality, Service Availability, Fairness, Efficiency, Innovation and Sustainability

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Subject:	Belfast Healthy Cities
Date:	21 <sup>st</sup> February 2020
Reporting Officer:	Ryan Black, Director Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Kelly Gilliland, Neighbourhood Services Manager Andrew Steenson, Belfast Health Development Unit

## Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

☐

No

☒

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Some time in the future

Never

☐  
☐  
☐  
☐

## Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☒

No

☐

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	At the meeting of the People and Communities Committee on 4 <sup>th</sup> June 2019, it was agreed that a review be undertaken of the Departments ongoing partnership agreements with a focus on alignment with the Belfast Agenda and value for money. Included within this review was the partnership agreement with Belfast Healthy Cities, who facilitate the city's membership of the WHO European Healthy Cities Network.
1.2	Following the decision of Committee, officers have been engaging with Belfast Healthy Cities and its three other core funding partners, to inform and establish a shared review process, taking account of the potential to enhance alignment of the city's membership to the WHO European Healthy Cities Network, with the ambitions of the Belfast Agenda.

1.3	This report outlines action being taken to review Council's partnership agreement with Belfast Healthy Cities, providing a timeframe for the completion of the review and subsequent next steps, and asks that Members approve a six month extension to the current partnership agreement with Belfast Healthy Cities, to allow for the completion of the review.
<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 content of the report;</li> <li>• Agree to receive a follow up report outlining the outcomes of the review of Council's partnership agreement with Belfast Healthy Cities; and</li> <li>• Agree to extend the current partnership agreement with Belfast Healthy Cities to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>Members approved the completion of an Expression of Interest for Belfast to re-designate as a WHO Healthy City and participate in Phase VII of the WHO European Healthy Cities Network at the meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2018.</p>
3.2	Belfast's membership to the WHO European Healthy Cities Network is facilitated by Belfast Healthy Cities (BHC), an independent partnership organisation, recognised as having charitable status by The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland. Belfast Healthy Cities is governed by a Board of Directors, elected annually and representing the public, university, voluntary and community sectors.
3.3	As part of the partnership agreement with Council in 2019/20, Belfast Healthy Cities have been leading on the development of the city's application for Phase VII of the WHO European Healthy Cities Network, including undertaking action to satisfy each of the 13 requirements for the city's membership. It is envisaged the application for Phase VII will be drafted in the coming months and will be brought before Council in early Summer for approval.
3.4	During Phase VI (2015-19) of the WHO European Healthy Cities Network, the local context in Belfast and the region has shifted, most notably with the introduction of Community Planning and a greater emphasis being placed on outcomes. The city's Community

	<p>Planning Partnership is the key strategic partnership for Council in terms of the ambitions of the Belfast Agenda, including reducing the gap in life expectancy between the most and least deprived communities in Belfast.</p>
3.5	<p>The review of Council's partnership arrangements with Belfast Healthy Cities, is therefore timely in shaping how best the city's membership for Phase VII of the WHO European Healthy Cities Network is aligned with the ambitions of the Belfast Agenda.</p>
3.6	<p>Council are one of four core funders to Belfast Healthy Cities, along with the Public Health Agency (PHA), Belfast Health and Social Care Trust (BHSCT) and Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE). Officers have engaged with the other funding organisations to outline the decision of Council and in the spirit of 'collaborative gain' as set within the Belfast Agenda, it has been agreed to widen the scope of the review of Council's partnership agreement with Belfast Healthy Cities, to also include the agreements of the other core funders.</p>
3.7	<p>A collective specification has been agreed by the four core funding organisations of Belfast Healthy Cities and external, independent support has been secured to undertake a collective 'value for money' review of partnership agreements with Belfast Healthy Cities, taking account of the direct and indirect benefits brought to the city.</p>
3.8	<p>It is envisaged the review will be completed by late May 2020, with a report brought back to the both the People and Communities Committee and Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in June, outlining the outcome of the review, recommended actions and implementation timescales.</p>
3.9	<p>Members are asked to approve an extension of the current partnership agreement with Belfast Healthy Cities, until 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020 to allow for the completion of review, submission of the application for Phase VII of the WHO European Healthy Cities Network and to provide an initial period for transition and implementation of the recommendations.</p>
3.10	<p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></p> <p>Extending the current partnership agreement with Belfast Healthy Cities as recommended, will require the ongoing grant aid of £40,647 for six months. This has been included within the revenue estimates for 2020/21 and does not represent any growth.</p>

3.11	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> There are no Equality or Good Relations Implications and no Rural Needs Assessment required for the recommendations outlined above.
4.0	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	None.





<b>Subject:</b>	APSE Local Government Commission 2030
<b>Date:</b>	21 February 2020
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy
<b>Contact Officers:</b>	Christine Robinson, Strategy, Policy and Partnerships Manage Mark Mulholland, Policy and Performance Analyst

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	Members are asked to note early engagement between officers and APSE as an initial response to APSE's Local Government Commission 2030 inquiry.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is, therefore, asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) note that officers have had early engagement with APSE on this inquiry to highlight headline issues for local government;</li> <li>b) agree that as the independent inquiry progresses that Council will provide a comprehensive corporate response.</li> </ul>

<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	The APSE Local Government Commission is conducting an independent inquiry into the future role of local government across the United Kingdom. The Commission believes that after years of austerity across public services, local government faces a number of wicked policy issues, be it growing inequalities, housing, climate change or public health. At the same time, the organisational landscape of local government has undergone a patchwork reorganisation through City Deals and combined authorities, partnerships and shared services, asset transfers and local authority companies.
3.2	The Commission will consider the future role of local government across the broad themes of stewardship of place; local finance and funding regimes; local government organisation and structures; workforce capacities and roles; local service provision; local democracy and accountability; community leadership, equality and diversity; and centre-local relations.
3.3	To understand and evaluate what these issues mean for the future of our local councils the APSE Local Government Commission will develop an independent analysis of the state of local government in the United Kingdom and focus on its future challenges and emerging role in delivering a New Municipalism. Importantly, the Commission has taken 2030 as its key date on the horizon, signaling its commitment to meet the challenges of climate change and sustainability.
3.4	The Commission will then produce a report, with recommendations, in early 2021, based on its findings from written and oral evidence from interested parties across the UK. The Commission has stated that its recommendations will recognise the multiple, complex and evolving systems that mark the landscape of local government across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.
3.5	<p>Members are invited to note that in terms of early engagement with APSE, officers have indicated that likely key areas of interest for Belfast would include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• enhanced devolution to local government including regeneration, planning, skills investment and planning, and local transport planning;</li> <li>• enhanced local investment powers, to ensure that councils have the fiscal levers to tackle issues at community and city level; and</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the introduction of legislation/measures that strengthen the relationship between central and local government, including a duty to collaborate to provide for responsive and integrated public services delivery at regional, city and community level.</li> </ul>
3.6	<p>As part of the evidence gathering process APSE are hosting a special evidence session for Northern Ireland Local Government to further inform the work of the Commission. This session is being held today and council officers are in attendance. This session is the first face-to-face engagement between APSE and local government and Members will have the opportunity to feed into this work as the inquiry progresses.</p> <p><b><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></b></p>
3.7	<p>None associated with this report.</p> <p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p>
3.8	<p>None associated with this report.</p>
4.0	<p><b><u>Appendices – Documents Attached</u></b></p> <p>None</p>

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<b>Subject:</b>	Revision of the Council's Scheme of Allowances
<b>Date:</b>	21st February, 2020
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Walsh, City Solicitor and 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 an amendment to the Council's Scheme of Allowances, as requested by the Department for Communities, to provide for the withholding of allowances to a Lord Mayor or Deputy Lord Mayor who is disqualified, suspended or partially suspended following an adjudication by the Local Government Commissioner for Standards in relation to a breach of the Northern Ireland Local Government Code of Conduct for Councillors, and a further amendment to increase the maximum rate of Dependant's Carers' Allowance for 2020-2021 in line with the National Living Wage.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	It is recommended that the Committee: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approve the amendments to the Scheme of Allowances as set out in the report.</li> </ul>

<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	The Council is required, under the Local Government (Payments to Councillors) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012, to publish a Scheme of Allowances which sets out the allowances and support services that apply to a Councillor.
3.2	The Committee, at its meeting on 21st June, 2019, revised the Council's Scheme of Allowances to make arrangements to cover what should happen to the payments of a Councillor's Basic Allowance and/or Special Responsibility Allowance if that Councillor is disqualified, suspended or partially suspended following an adjudication by the Local Government Commissioner for Standards in relation to a breach of the Northern Ireland Local Government Code of Conduct for Councillors.
3.3	No arrangements are in place in regard to Civic Allowances should a similar disqualification or suspension be imposed on the Lord mayor or Deputy Lord Mayor.
3.4	However, the Council has received an addendum to circular LG 23/2016 from the Department for Communities requiring the Council to update its Scheme of Allowances in relation to the payment of Civic Allowances to provide that:
3.5	<i>"A Scheme should state that where a Councillor, in accordance with section 59(5) of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014, the part of the Chairperson/Vice Chairperson Allowance payable to the Councillor in respect of the period for which the Councillor is suspended should be withheld."</i>
3.6	Also, the Department for Communities determines the maximum hourly rates of Dependant's Carers' Allowance for both standard care and specialised care. The rate for standard care is based on the hourly National Living Wage for age 25+, which will increase on 1st April, 2020 from the current rate of £8.21 per hour to £8.72 per hour. The rate for specialised care is double the rate for standard care. In addition, the Department for Communities sets the maximum monthly amounts for standard care and specialised care, capped at the equivalent of 52 hours per month.
3.7	As the Council receives its lawful authority to make any payments from the Department under the Payments to Councillors Regulations, then it must abide by any instructions from the Department in relation to those Regulations.

3.8	Accordingly, in line with the guidance issued by the Department regarding Civic Allowances, and the increase in the National Living Wage, the Committee is requested to agree to the amendments to the Scheme of Allowances as follows:
3.9	<p><u><i>“Civic Dignitaries Allowance</i></u></p> <p><i>Where a Lord Mayor or Deputy Lord Mayor is suspended from carrying out the duties of a councillor in accordance with section 59(5) of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014, the part of Civic Allowance payable to the Councillor in respect of the period for which the Councillor is suspended will be withheld.”</i></p> <p>and</p>
3.10	<p><u><i>“Dependants’ Carers’ Allowance</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Standard Care                      £8.72 per hour limited to £453.44 per month</i></li> <li>• <i>Specialist Care                    £17.44 per hour limited to £906.88 per month”</i></li> </ul> <p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p>
3.11	In respect of the revision to the arrangements for Civic Allowances, there would not be any adverse impact on the Council’s budgets. Any individual Councillor who is disqualified, suspended or partially suspended may be affected adversely.
3.12	In respect of the increase to the maximum rate of Dependant’s Carers’ Allowance, this has already been considered and can be met through existing budgets.
	<b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b>
3.13	There are not any Good Relations, Equality or Rural Needs issues associate with this report.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices - Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix – Scheme of Allowances 2020-2021

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## **Scheme of Allowances**

### **Payable to Councillors 2020/2021**

This Scheme is made under Part 3 of the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 and the Local Government (Payments to Councillors) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019 and will take effect from 1st April, 2020.

#### **Councillors' allowances**

Councillors' allowances are governed by statute and provision is made for the following types of payments:

##### **(a) Allowances:**

- (i) Basic Allowance
- (ii) Special Responsibility Allowance
- (iii) Civic Dignitaries Allowance
- (iv) Dependants' Carers' Allowance
- (v) District Policing and Community Safety Partnership Allowances (DPCSP)

##### **(b) Expenses**

- (i) Travel
- (ii) Subsistence

In issuing the payment of allowances to elected members the Council follows the instructions set out by the Department of Environment in 'Guidance on Councillor Allowances' March 2012 and further circular updates.

Information regarding other provisions for Councillors is also included:

##### **(c) Additional Information**

- (i) IT/Phone Package
- (ii) Councillors' Support Services

(a) Allowances

(i) Basic Allowances

A basic allowance is intended to recognise the time commitment of all Councillors, including such inevitable calls on their time as meetings with officers and constituents and approved duties. Basic allowance is also intended to cover incidental costs incurred by Councillors in their official capacity, such as the use of their homes and the cost of any telephone calls, including mobile phone calls.

The maximum annual allowance with effect from 7th May, 2019 is £15,071 payable monthly.

This allowance will be paid in equal monthly instalments via the Council's Payroll and is subject to tax, National Insurance and pension deductions where applicable.

If a Councillor ceases to be a Councillor before the end of his or her term of office, payment of the allowance will cease and a pro rata calculation is made to ensure that the Councillor receives the correct amount of allowance. If necessary, an adjustment for under or over payment may be made to ensure that the final payment is correct, and the Council reserves the right to recover any overpayments of basic allowance.

In circumstances where a councillor is wholly suspended from carrying out the duties of a councillor in accordance with section 59(5) of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014, the whole of the basic allowance payable to the councillor in respect of the period for which the councillor is suspended shall be withheld.

In circumstances where a councillor is wholly suspended from carrying out the duties of a councillor in accordance with section 60(1) (Decisions on Interim Reports) of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014, the whole of the basic allowance payable to the councillor in respect of the period for which the councillor is suspended shall be withheld, subject to the provision that the allowance withheld shall be payable to the councillor concerned should the final adjudication of the Commissioner for Standards exonerate the councillor concerned.

In circumstances where a councillor is partially suspended from carrying out the duties of a councillor in accordance with section 59(5) or section 60(1) of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014, the basic allowance payable to the councillor in respect of the period for which the councillor is partially suspended shall continue.

## (ii) Special Responsibility Allowances

In addition to Basic Allowance the Council also pays Special Responsibility Allowances to those Councillors it considers to have significant, additional responsibilities over and above the generally accepted duties of a Councillor. These special responsibilities are related to the discharge of the Council's functions.

The maximum rate of Special Responsibility Allowance is determined by the Department for Communities. The division of the Special Responsibility Allowance is based upon the positions held by individual Councillors as agreed.

- The Council agreed a special responsibility allowance threshold of £108,000 which may be paid to holders of positions of responsibility. No more than 50% of the Councillors can receive a special responsibility payment and no individual member can receive more than one special responsibility payment.

Special Responsibility Allowance is paid in equal, monthly instalments. Special Responsibility Allowances are liable for tax, National Insurance and pension deductions where applicable

In the event of a Councillor ceasing to hold an office which entitled him or her to receive a Special Responsibility Allowance before the term of office is completed, payment of the Allowance ceases. If necessary, an adjustment for under or overpayment may have to be made to ensure that the final payment is correct, and the Council reserves the right to recover any overpayments of Special Responsibility Allowance.

Rates of Special Responsibility Allowances with effect from 7th May, 2019 are:

Position	Committee	Allowance
<b>Chairman's Allowance</b>	Strategic Policy and Resources	£5,800
	City Growth and Regeneration	£5,800
	People and Communities	£5,800
	Licensing	£5,800
	Planning	£5,800
	Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall	£2,900
<b>Deputy Chairman's Allowance</b>	Strategic Policy and Resources	£2,900
	City Growth and Regeneration	£2,900
	People and Communities	£2,900
	Licensing	£2,900
	Planning	£2,900
	Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall	£1,450

**Scheme of Allowances 2020/2021**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Party</b>	<b>Allowance</b>
<b>Party Group Leader</b>	Sinn Fein (18 Members)	£5,734.94
	DUP (15 Members)	£5,312.45
	Alliance (10 members)	£4,608.30
	SDLP (6 Members)	£4,044.98
	GREEN (4 Members)	£3,763.32
	PBPA (3 Members)	£3,622.49
	UUP (2 Members)	£3,481.66
	PUP (2 Members)	£3,481.66
<b>Deputy Party Group Leader</b>	Sinn Fein	£2,900
	DUP	£2,900
	Alliance	£2,900
	SDLP	£2,900
<b>Party Secretary</b>	Sinn Fein	£2,900
	DUP	£2,900

In circumstances where a councillor is wholly suspended from carrying out the duties of a councillor in accordance with section 59(5) of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014, the whole of any special responsibility allowance payable to the councillor in respect of the period for which the councillor is suspended shall be withheld.

In circumstances where a councillor is wholly suspended from carrying out the duties of a councillor in accordance with section 60(1) (Decisions on Interim Reports) of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014, the whole of any special responsibility allowance payable to the councillor in respect of the period for which the councillor is suspended shall be withheld, subject to the provision that the allowance withheld shall be payable to the councillor concerned should the final adjudication of the Commissioner for Standards exonerate the councillor concerned.

In circumstances where a councillor is partially suspended from carrying out the duties of a councillor in accordance with section 59(5) of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014, that part of any special responsibility allowance (to which the partial suspension relates) payable to the councillor in respect of the period for which the councillor is partially suspended shall be withheld.

In circumstances where a councillor is partially suspended from carrying out the duties of a councillor in accordance with section 60(1) (Decisions on Interim Reports) of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014, that part of any special responsibility allowance (to which the partial suspension relates) payable to the councillor in respect of the period for which the councillor is partially suspended shall be withheld, subject to the provision that the allowance withheld shall be payable to the councillor concerned should the final adjudication of the Commissioner for Standards exonerate the councillor concerned.

(iii) Civic Dignitaries Allowance

Section 32 of the Finance Act provides that a council may pay to the Civic Dignitaries such allowances as it considers reasonable to meet the expenses of those offices and they should be considered totally separate from SRA arrangements.

The Civic Dignitary Personal Allowances are paid in equal, monthly instalments and are liable for tax, National Insurance and pension deductions where applicable.

The entitlements, per annum, are:-

- Lord Mayor £34,800
- Deputy Lord Mayor £6,250
- High Sherriff £6,250

Where a Lord Mayor or Deputy Lord Mayor is suspended from carrying out the duties of a councillor in accordance with section 59(5) of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014, the part of Civic Allowance payable to the Councillor in respect of the period for which the Councillor is suspended will be withheld.

(iv) Dependants' Carers' Allowance

Any Member who is the main carer of a dependant, where care is required to enable that Member to perform an Approved Duty (see page 9), may claim Dependent Carers' Allowance (DCA). The rate for Standard Care is based on the hourly national living wage for age 25 or over, and the rate for Specialised Care is double the rate for Standard Care. Rates from 1st April, 2020 are:

- Standard Care £8.72 per hour limited to £453.44 per month
- Specialist Care £17.44 per hour limited to £906.88 per month

A dependant is defined as:

- a child under 16 years old;
- a child 16 years old or older, where there is medical / social work evidence that full-time care is required;
- an adult with recognised physical/mental disability where there is medical / social work evidence that full-time care is required; or
- an elderly relative requiring full-time care.

For the purposes of this allowance, a carer is defined as a responsible person over 16 years old who does not normally live with the councillor as part of that household; and is not a parent/guardian of the dependant. A specialist carer is a qualified person who is needed where it is essential to have professional assistance.

Receipts must be obtained from specialist carers and must accompany the claim form and Councillors may claim only once for each occurrence of an approved duty (page 9) and only one Dependants' Carers' Allowance rate is payable, even if there are two or more dependants being cared for.

Councillors must disclose any financial support provided under this allowance when applying for other care services offered by another public body.

This allowance claim may also include the duration of essential travel time, up to a maximum of one hour before the approved duty starts and ending up to one hour after it finishes.

(v) District Policing and Community Safety Partnership Allowances (DPCSP)

This allowance is paid to councillors who are members of the District Policing and Community Safety Partnership. Each councillor is entitled to claim £60 per attendance at each meeting and may claim for up to a maximum of 20 meetings a year. Each member can also claim for mileage for attending each meeting directly from DPCSP.

Chairpersons of each DPCSPs are entitled to claim for an additional 10 meetings per year of the DPCSP. In addition the Chairperson of the 4 DCPSPs also sit on the Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) and are entitled to claim for up to 20 meetings per year of this partnership.

**Renunciations**

Councillors may, if they wish, renounce their entitlement to basic, chairperson, vice chairperson or special responsibility allowances. They can do this by writing to the Chief Executive. A councillor can subsequently withdraw the renunciation. They can also amend a renunciation (for example, to limit it to one kind of allowance only). The withdrawal or amendment cannot have retrospective effect.

**Disqualification or Suspension of a Councillor**

The Local Government Commissioner for Standards may impose sanctions on a Councillor who is found to have breached the Northern Ireland Code of Conduct for Councillors. Such sanction may be imposed at the conclusion of the Commissioner's adjudication process of the alleged breach or at the conclusion of an interim adjudication by the Commissioner.

For the purpose of this Scheme of Allowances, the following action will be taken upon receipt by the Chief Executive of a decision by the Commissioner which results in the disqualification or the suspension of a Councillor.

**Disqualification**

If a Councillor is disqualified, then the payment of all allowances and the provision of all support services outlined in this Scheme will cease with immediate effect from the date of disqualification.

**Suspension**

If a Councillor is wholly suspended for a period, then the payment of all allowances and the provision of all support services outlined in this Scheme will cease with immediate effect from the date of suspension

**(b) Expenses****Travel and Subsistence Allowances**

All claims for travel and subsistence should be submitted within three months. Any claims made outside of this time limit cannot be processed.

**(i) Travel**

- Motor Mileage Claims**

The rates of Travel and Subsistence Allowances, including motor mileage and pedal cycle rates, are reviewed annually by the Department for Communities, following consultation with the Northern Ireland Joint Council for Local Government Services.

Claims can only be made where expenditure is incurred in relation to the Councillors undertaking Approved Duties.

Travel claim forms are prepared and circulated for Councillors' attention at the beginning of each month and include details of Council and Committee meetings attended during the previous month. It is a matter for each individual Councillor to ensure that the details are accurate and amend the claim form to include any other Approved Duties in respect of which they may be entitled to make a travel claim.

In some instances mileage claims may be liable for tax and National Insurance deductions.

The following rates are currently in use, with most Councillors getting the maximum amount of 65.0p per mile:

	<b>Motor Cars</b>				<b>Pedal Cycle</b>	<b>Motor Cycle (all engine capacities)</b>
	<b>450-999cc</b>	<b>1000-1199cc</b>	<b>1199 + cc</b>	<b>Electric Car</b>		
0-8,500 miles	46.9p	52.2p	65.0p	45.0p	20.0p	24.0p
After 8,500 miles	13.7p	14.4p	16.4p	25.0p	20.0p	24.0p
Passenger rate	5.0p					

- Public Transport**

Expenditure on public transport in relation to attending approved duties can be claimed back only when accompanied by proof of purchase. Any journeys made using public transport should be noted on the monthly mileage claim form.

**(ii) Subsistence**

If Councillors attend conferences, courses or undertake visits as representatives of the Council they are entitled to receive appropriate subsistence allowances.

Before a Councillor attends an event, they must obtain Committee approval. Councillors may also attend approved events as part of their Personal Development Plan (PDP).

Any accommodation or travel arrangements for conferences are made directly by the Council.

Councillors should take a careful note and keep receipts for any expenses they incur while they are away on Council business because they may be able to claim for these as part of their subsistence allowances or as incidental expenses. This relates to such things as meals, bus and taxi fares, necessary telephone calls, etc. Purchases of any alcoholic beverages may not be claimed for.

***Within the UK***

The rates for subsistence allowance are determined by the Department for Communities. The following table shows the current rates of subsistence which may be claimed for:

<b>Maximum Subsistence Rates</b>		
	<b>BRITISH ISLES</b>	<b>LONDON</b>
<b>Accommodation Allowance</b>	<b>£100.70</b>	<b>£122.45</b>
<b>Meal Allowance</b>		
Breakfast	£11.50	
Lunch	£13.50	
Tea	£4.70	
Dinner	£20.95	
<b>Total Meal Allowance</b>	<b>£50.65</b>	

Departments will assist Councillors in the completion of claim forms and Councillors should make contact with an appropriate officer immediately upon returning from the conference to give details of additional expenses incurred and to sign the necessary claim forms.

Claims without receipts should rarely happen. However, Councillors must use the 'Lost or Unobtainable Receipt Voucher' to claim reimbursement for expenditure they have incurred when no receipt is available.

***Outside the UK***

For travel outside the British Isles, the Council will pay advanced subsistence at the rate of £75.00 per 24-hour period, or £45 per part 24-hour period.



## Approved Duties

Under the existing Regulations Councillors are entitled to claim expenses in relation to an approved duty. An approved duty may be defined as:-

- (a) attendance at a meeting of the Council or of any of its Committees. Members may only claim travelling allowance for attending Committees to which they have been appointed. A Member, however, may claim mileage allowance for attending a meeting of a Committee to which he or she has not been appointed if he or she is attending at the invitation of the Committee concerned or has been sent by another Committee to state a particular case.

Or

- (b) attendance approved by the Council for the purpose of, or in connection with, the discharge of the functions of the Council:
- attendance by appointed Councillors at meetings of Advisory/Liaison Committees Steering Groups/ Working Groups;
  - attendance at approved conferences, courses, study visits or seminars as a representative of the Council;
  - attendance by appointed Councillors at meetings of PCSP's and DPCSP's;
  - attendance by appointed Councillors at meetings of community centre committees ;
  - attendance on a Council or Committee deputation relevant to the functions of the Council; and
  - attendance by appointed Councillors at meetings of outside bodies only if the functions of the Outside Body relates to the statutory functions of the Council, and where remuneration is not made by the Outside Body to which the Councillor has been appointed.
  - Attendance at training courses or briefing sessions provided by or through the Council

In addition, the Council's Chief Executive can authorise as approved duties certain miscellaneous functions.

## Tax

Useful information on treatment of tax for councillors could be found at Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs website via <https://www.gov.uk/hmrc-internal-manuals/employment-income-manual/eim65900>.

## Councillors' Pension Scheme

Councillors are automatically enrolled in the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers Superannuation Scheme (NILGOSC). The main purpose of the scheme is to provide a pension in retirement for Councillors. The benefits paid under the Scheme are based on length of membership of the Scheme and career average pensionable pay.

The pensionable pay of a councillor consists of the Basic Allowance and Special Responsibility Allowance payments only. The contribution rate depends on how much each Councillor is paid but will be between 5.5% and 7.5% of the pensionable allowances received.

If a Councillor no longer wishes to participate in the pension scheme, or has any queries regarding the scheme, NIGOSC should be contacted directly on 0345 3197 320

### (c) Additional Information

#### (i) IT /Phone Package

Personal computer equipment can be provided by the Council to each Councillor on the basis that the Council owns the equipment and lends it to those Councillors who request it.

Councillors IT Package currently consists of the following:

- Tablet PC
- All-in-one printer (printer, fax and scanner)
- Smartphone, which includes a call, text and data allowance

- **Tablet PC**

Each Councillor is entitled to receive a tablet PC for their duration as a Member of Belfast City Council. The device is provided by the Council to assist Councillors in undertaking their role more effectively. The main benefits are having online access to the council minutes system and other Council and to engage more effectively with constituents.

Where a Councillor has been provided with a tablet PC, hard copies of Council, Committee and Working Group report packs will not be provided.

- **Mobile Telephone costs**

Each Councillor will be offered the use of a mobile phone for the duration they remain a Councillor of Belfast City Council. The device is available for upgrade periodically.

The Council will cover the cost of line rental which includes:

- a. the cost of all phone calls to UK landlines or UK mobile phones whilst within the UK;
- b. the cost of all text messages to UK landlines or UK mobile phones whilst within the UK and
- c. 4GB of data usage per month.

All costs incurred by calls, texts or data usage outside of that detailed above, are met by the Councillor and will be deducted the following month from the Councillor's basic allowance.

### **Hands free mobile phone equipment**

The Council will contribute towards the cost of purchase and installation of hands free mobile phone equipment for use in the Councillors' cars on the following basis:-

- Reimbursement will be made in respect of the costs of installation of the equipment in the Councillor's own private vehicle and shall be subject to the submission of appropriate receipts
- The maximum amount of reimbursement on each occasion to be £250.00.

- **Home Telephone**

The Council may meet the costs of basic monthly/quarterly line rental of the home telephone of each Councillor. Councillors are required to pay the rental cost in the first instance and, having submitted the telephone bill, will then be reimbursed this amount, subject to any tax deductions being applied through the Council's payroll system.

The Department for Communities has determined that the Councillor's Basic Allowance covers incidental expenses involved in being a Councillor, such as the use of a home telephone, it is therefore not possible to reimburse the cost of telephone calls made on a landline.

- **Broadband Internet Access**

In order to encourage Councillors to use the Council's IT system remotely (from home or office), Councillors may claim part of their home broadband internet rental costs (maximum £25 per month).

As with phone line rental reimbursement, Councillors are required to pay the cost of the broadband in the first instance and, having submitted the appropriate bill, will then be reimbursed up to £25.00, subject to any tax deductions being applied through the Council's payroll.

Access to the Council's systems is provided by means of a virtual private network (VPN). Councillors should speak to officers in Democratic Services to arrange to have the VPN set up on their computer.

- **Electronic Minutes System**

The electronic minutes system is accessible on the Council's website as well as the corporate intranet. The purpose of the system is to have a range of information relating to councillors and the Council's decision-making process in one place.

The system allows Councillors and members of the public to:-

- View the schedule of meetings;
- Access agendas, reports and minutes of Council, Committees, and Working Group Meetings; and
- Search for historical decisions.

The system is also used to alert Councillors that Committee summonses, agenda, minutes and reports have been published and, when any amendments or changes have taken place, Councillors can then access electronically.

(ii) **Councillors' Support Services**

The Council provides Councillors with a wide range of support services to assist them in carrying out their work as Councillors. Support services include typing of correspondence, post, message and enquiry services, council stationery, research service, room bookings, Councillors training, travel arrangements, expenses and subsistence payments and general enquiries.

- **Members' Common Room**

The Members' Common Room is located at the reception area of the City Hall, adjacent to the Committee Rooms. Individual mail boxes are located here and fruit, tea and coffee and daily papers are provided for Councillors.

- **Party Rooms**

In addition to the Members' Common Room, the Council provides Party Rooms for each of the main political party groups within the Council. These may be used for meetings, work or discussions with constituents.

All accommodation and facilities provided are for use in connection with Council or constituency business only.

In addition to a conference table, printer, scanner, television, tea/coffee machine and filing space, each Party Room has at least one PC in addition to docking stations for use with the Council provided tablet PCs.

- **Correspondence**

Items for typing may be left with Democratic Services, where a confidential secretarial service is available for letters, reports and all other correspondence related to Council or constituency work.

After typing, letters will be left either in the Councillor's mailbox or posted.

- **Post**

A postal service is available for correspondence which relates to Council or constituency work.

Letters must be addressed to individuals living within the City boundary although letters to public bodies and government Departments with addresses outside the City will also be accepted.

Circularised mail will not be accepted.

Councillors can also be provided with prepaid envelopes for use in their routine correspondence to constituents etc. Please speak to Democratic Services officer to request an allocation of prepaid envelopes.

Postal facilities are not available for party political issues.

- **Message and Inquiry Service**

Democratic Services staff act as a point of contact for all enquiries and telephone messages concerning Councillors from the general public, constituents and Council officers.

The telephones in the party rooms are set to divert to staff on no reply and telephone messages for Councillors will be taken. Urgent messages will be relayed immediately to Councillors, if contact is possible, and other messages will be emailed or left in their mail boxes.

- **Council Stationery**

Personalised headed-paper, compliment slips and business cards with the Council logo will be provided for each Councillor during their term of office. Standard Council stationery items are also available in the Members' Common Room.

- **Civic Gifts**

A limited range of Belfast City Council branded gifts is available for use by Councillors. The gifts are intended for VIP guests to City Hall or for special individuals or groups which a Councillor wishes to recognise. Councillors may also request civic gifts when visiting special individuals or groups when on Council business in other countries. When requesting Civic Gifts, the Councillor must sign a receipt of goods and a database of issued gifts is maintained.

- **Research and Information Service**

Democratic Services staff will be available to assist Councillors in obtaining information and carrying out research on items related to Council and constituency business.

- **Receiving Constituents**

Councillors often make arrangements to receive constituents or visitors. If a Councillor is not in attendance to receive such persons the receptionists will ask them to wait in the reception area at the main entrance hall. Visitors will not be permitted access to party rooms unless accompanied by a Councillor.

- **Car parking**

Councillors have access to the City Hall car park. A pass for display in Councillors' vehicles will be provided by Democratic Services.

Car parking for guests of Councillors is limited. However, if this is required, please contact Democratic Services staff. The visitors' name and the make, model and registration number of the vehicle will be required for the purposes of admittance by Security staff.

- **Restaurant Facilities**

The Atrium Restaurant in the Cecil Ward Building, 4/10 Linenhall Street is available for Councillors to use. Councillors may bring a small number of guests with them when dining in the Restaurant.

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<b>Subject:</b>	Physical Programme Update
<b>Date:</b>	21 <sup>st</sup> February, 2020
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Sinead Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes Ronan Cregan, Deputy Chief Executive
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Michelle Bagnall, Programme 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 Council's Capital programme is a rolling programme of investment which either improves the existing Council facilities or provides new Council facilities. This report seeks approval to move projects to the next stage of project development process, and provides an update on other projects on the capital programme.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is requested to –  <b>Movements under the Capital Programme</b>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Customer Focus Programme – Customer Hub location</i>: agree to move the Customer Hub Location project to a Stage 2 - uncommitted, under the Capital Programme.</li><li>• <i>Water refill points</i> – agree to add as an Emerging Stage 1 project, under the Capital Programme i.e. SOC and scoping to be worked up.</li></ul> <p><b>Project Updates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Fleet Programme - Lord Mayor's Car</i> – note the further detail provided in relation to options for replacement of the Lord Mayor's Car and agree which option is to be progressed – a plug-in hybrid model or a fully electric model</li></ul> <p><b>Issues for consideration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Request for permission</i> –<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) Consider the request from The Executive Office in relation to aerial footage of capital projects on council land (UV Programme).</li><li>b) For Council to conduct aerial footage over council lands re PEACE IV connecting open spaces project.</li></ul></li></ul>									
3.0	<p><b>Main report</b></p> <p><b>Proposed Movements – Capital Programme</b></p> <p>3.1 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. <b>Members are asked to agree to the following movement on the Capital Programme:</b></p> <p>3.2</p> <table><tr><th>Project</th><th>Overview</th><th>Stage</th></tr><tr><td><b>Customer Focus Programme – Customer Hub location</b></td><td>Create a new Customer Hub location (Cecil Ward Building) which has emerged as part of the Customer Focus Programme which has already been agreed by Members</td><td>Move to Stage 2 - uncommitted</td></tr><tr><td><b>Water refill points</b></td><td>Installation of water refill stations across the Council estate</td><td>Add as an Emerging Stage 1 project</td></tr></table> <p><b>Customer Focus Programme – Customer Hub location</b> - A Strategic Outline Case (SOC) has been completed and an Outline Business Case (OBC) will now be worked up on the Customer Hub Location proposal – a capital project within the corporate priority Customer Focus Programme - and presented back through internal governance and Committee approval process.</p>	Project	Overview	Stage	<b>Customer Focus Programme – Customer Hub location</b>	Create a new Customer Hub location (Cecil Ward Building) which has emerged as part of the Customer Focus Programme which has already been agreed by Members	Move to Stage 2 - uncommitted	<b>Water refill points</b>	Installation of water refill stations across the Council estate	Add as an Emerging Stage 1 project
Project	Overview	Stage								
<b>Customer Focus Programme – Customer Hub location</b>	Create a new Customer Hub location (Cecil Ward Building) which has emerged as part of the Customer Focus Programme which has already been agreed by Members	Move to Stage 2 - uncommitted								
<b>Water refill points</b>	Installation of water refill stations across the Council estate	Add as an Emerging Stage 1 project								



**Water refill points** – Members are asked to note that a paper on the ‘Northern Ireland Water Refilloution Campaign & Water Refill Stations’ is also on the agenda for consideration by Committee at its meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> Feb. In terms of the Water Refill Stations this relates to a Notice of Motion that was brought to Council in August 2019 requesting that “*the Council agrees to the installation of water bottle refill stations across the Council Estate. This aims to help encourage a growing culture of using personal, reusable bottles to tackle single-use plastic use.*” This proposal will have capital implications for the Council and it is therefore recommended that this is now added as a Stage 1 – Emerging Project onto the Capital Programme to allow the project and costs to be fully worked up with further detail to be brought back to Committee in due course. In line with all capital projects this will be required to go through the three stage process.

*Fleet Replacement Programme - Replacement of the Lord Mayor’s Car*

- 3.3 At SP&R Committee 17<sup>th</sup> December, Members were advised that the current lease for the Lord Mayor’s vehicle was due to expire this month and it had been proposed that this would be replaced on a new 4 year lease arrangement with a plug-in hybrid vehicle similar to the size and model of current vehicle (BMW 7 Series) but with a combined 99mpg, and cleaner lower emission CO2 levels. It was highlighted at this stage that it was felt this would provide continuity in terms of the standard and reliability of vehicle required, balancing the requirements of duties of the Lord Mayor’s Office, while reflecting a change and recognition of a more sustainable approach to travel. Following further discussion at last month’s SP&R Committee, additional information was requested in relation to electric vehicle options.
- 3.4 The key issue remains around acquiring a replacement vehicle that achieves value for money, offers reliability given the commitments of the Lord Mayor’s Office and fulfils the function of a civic vehicle fit for high profile Office (security of both Lord Mayor and Chain; wide ranging travel needs from short to long distance journeys), while supporting sustainable/green priorities for the Council.
- 3.5 As per previous considerations, looking at the options available the Fleet Unit engaged closely with the Lord Mayor’s Unit to ensure that the requirements, duties and obligations of the Office of the Lord Mayor were taken into consideration. In addition, an exercise was also undertaken in relation to analysing the mileage of the Lord Mayor’s car. The current usage shows an average mileage of 6,000 miles per year, with a typical average daily mileage of 30 miles. Whilst the usage profile is mainly around the city, there is reasonably regular requirement for longer trips, therefore a key requirement is for a long wheel based format which would allow for comfort on longer journeys.

3.6	<p>There are two options that are available – a plug-in hybrid model that allows for electric use on city based journeys with a petrol back-up for longer journeys or an electric only model. As requested by Members, Appendix One provides a comparison of the options available – plug-in hybrid vs electric models. In considering these there are a number of areas which it is worth highlighting for Members attention -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Model</i> - It is not possible to do a direct like for like comparison between the different types of vehicles as there are no fully electric executive saloon four door cars (long wheel based options) available on the market at this time and the plug-in hybrid is the only “green” option available in this type of vehicle. The fully electric models that are currently available are all either Estate or Hatchback models and therefore would be a move away from the traditional type of model of the Lord Mayor’s vehicle towards a smaller type of vehicle</li> <li>• <i>Charging</i> – All models are plug-in models and all will require to be charged. As highlighted at Committee last month officers are currently progressing the installation of a dedicated charging point within the Courtyard of the City Hall. The average full charge for the electric vehicles is approx. 260miles while the plug-in hybrid model will do approx. 30miles on a full charge – both of which adequately cover the typical average daily mileage given that the majority of journeys are city based (meaning the vast majority of journeys can be achieved on electric mode). The average full charge for an electric vehicle may not meet some of the requirements of longer journeys and would require additional secure charging on route.</li> <li>• <i>Costs</i> – Members are asked to note that on average the lease costs for the electric vehicles are lower than the plug-in hybrid model however this is to be expected as they are different types of vehicles with differing specifications. The exception to this being the Tesla model where the lease costs are higher than the plug-in hybrid model. However Members are asked to note that the final lease costs will depend on the model and the final specification.</li> <li>• <i>Delivery lead in time</i> – the delivery lead in time for all of the electric models is approx. 4-6 months while the delivery time for the plug-in hybrid model is approx. 2-3 months.</li> </ul>
3.7	<p><b>On the basis of the above information and the detailed information at Appendix One Members are asked to decide which option in terms of a replacement vehicle that they wish to progress.</b> In considering this Members are asked to note the outcome of previous reports and recommendations to replace the Lord Mayor’s current car with a new plug-in hybrid model given the factors above in terms of reliability and standard of vehicle. If Members decide</p>

that the replacement vehicle should be a fully electric model then it is recommended that the final decision on the type of model is delegated to officers to agree in conjunction with the Lord Mayor's Office, the Fleet Unit and Corporate Procurement Services.

- 3.8 In addition Members are asked to note the lead in time for any new replacement vehicle (4/6 months for an electric model and 2/3 months for a hybrid model). The current lease is due to expire this month and Members are therefore asked if they are happy to agree an extension to the current lease for the Lord Mayor's car (up to a maximum of 6 months). The approx. cost of this will be around £5k.

***Request for permission for aerial footage of specific council sites***

- 3.9 Members are asked to consider a request for permission for aerial footage of specific council sites with request to the two following programmes of work:

*1. The Executive Office (TEO) Urban Villages (UV) Programme* - Members will be aware of TEO UV programme through Council physical programme updates as the delivery partner for UV capital projects across 4 UV areas in Belfast. These four UV areas, including UV council asset projects are:

- North Belfast, Ardoyne and Greater Ballysillan area— Glenbryn playpark; Marrowbone Park; Ballysillan playing fields; Sunningdale community centre
- West Belfast, Colin area –New park in Colin (site to transfer to BCC).
- EastSide area – Short Strand community forum and community centre
- South Belfast, Sandy Row, Donegall Pass and the Markets areas – Sandy Row Playpark; Rev. Robert Bradford park







The Council has received a request from TEO UV Programme team for permission to undertake aerial filming of council sites undergoing capital investment as part of the UV capital programme - the plan is to produce an overarching aerial films of projects in these areas showing fly overs to capture where capital projects have been completed, are underway or will be starting. This will include a number of projects being delivered by Belfast City Council and/or on council land. This filming will show the impact on areas by capturing the physical overview and documenting the delivery and community partner and descriptions of the projects. An approximate timeframe for completion of filming is the end of March. As part of this the Council will request that it is able to use the footage of those projects which are either on Council assets and/or which the Council has delivered.

*2. PEACE IV Connecting Open Spaces project* - This Council project is £3.06m PEACE IV funding to create a network of shared spaces through the creation of some 12km of a pathways/cycleway network that will interlink open space sites stretching from Glencairn to Bog

	<p>Meadows. The project is at development stage, with a number of consultations undertaken and underway, however the project has not yet been formally launched. The Council will be organising a formal launch (anticipated timescale, May 2020), however given the geographic extent of the project, aerial footage of the council sites – Glencairn Park, Woodvale Park and Falls Park - would to be an effective means of showing, through a video, the area that is to be developed. This video is seen as an important communication and awareness raising tool with local communities and stakeholders, as part of the launch arrangements.</p> <p><b>In the absence of an agreed Council Drone Policy, special permission for aerial footage to be taken over Council assets under UV programme (3.11 above) and three parks as per PEACE IV open spaces project (3.13 above), is therefore being formally requested. All necessary licences would be sought from procured suppliers.</b></p>
3.10	<p><b><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p><i>Financial –</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fleet Replacement Programme – Lease of the Lord Mayor’s Car – these costs are covered under the Fleet Replacement Programme (costs are dependent on option to be agreed and subsequent formal procurement process).</li> <li>• Aerial footage of council parks re PEACE IV Connecting open spaces project – associated costs will be drawn from existing project budget.</li> </ul> <p><i>Resources –</i> Officer time as required.</p>
3.11	<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>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1 – Electric Vehicles overview

Overview - Plugin hybrid and all electric vehicle information

NB images are for illustrative purpose and not accurate scale.

MODEL & SPEC	PLUG IN HYBRID	ELECTRIC				
	Saloon	Estate			Hatchback	
Car model	BMW 7 Series	AUDI E-TRON	MERCEDES-BENZ EQC	JAGUAR I-PACE	HYUNDAI IONIQ*	TESLA MODEL S*
						
Trim	745Le xDRive 4dr Auto	230kW 50 Quattro 71kWh Sport 5dr Auto [C+S]	300kW AMG Line 80kWh 5dr Auto	294kW EV400 S 90kWh 5dr Auto	100kW Premium 38kWh 5dr Auto (*Another HYUNDAI IONIQ model is availablty, at higher cost (£25k))	Long Range AWD 5dr Auto (*Another 2 Telsa models are available, at a higher cost (MRP 2019
Release Date	2019	2020	2019	2018	2019	2019
CO2 Emissions Combined	0g/km	0g/km	0g/km	0g/km	0g/km	0g/km
CO2 g/km Emissions	52 g/km					
Insurance Group	50E	49E	50E	49E	16E	
Transmission	Automatic	Automatic	Automatic	Automatic	Automatic	Automatic
Fuel	Petrol/Plugin Elec hybrid	Electric	Electric	Electric	Electric	Electric
Gears	8 speed	1 SPEED	1 SPEED	1 SPEED	1 SPEED	1 SPEED
Drive	Four wheel drive	Four Wheel Drive	Four Wheel Drive	Four Wheel Drive	Front wheel drive	Four Wheel Drive
Body Type	4 Door Saloon	Estate	Estate	Estate	Hatchback	Hatchback
Length (mm)	5260	4901	4761	4682	4470	4979
Width (mm)	1902		1884	1895	1820	1964
Height (mm)	1479		1623	1565	1450	
Luggage Capacity (Seats Up)	420	660	500		350	748
Number of Seats	5	5	5	5	5	5
CHARGE						
Electric maximum range	27miles	204miles	259miles	298miles	124miles	393miles
COSTS						
Annual Least quotations. NB the quotes for the all electric vehicles are unoffical quotes	£9,596.89	£7,920.60	£7,058.52	£7,518.24	£2,697.20	£10,061.88
DELIVERY						
Delivery lead in times	Approx 2/3 months - based on earlier engagement and negotiations.	Minimum 4 months; up to 6 months - note, no engagement or negotiations to date, will be subject to the outcomes of formal quotation and negotiation process.				

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<b>Subject:</b>	<b>i) Beechvale Farm – Conacre Agreements</b> <b>ii) Morton Community Centre – Licence to Streetwise Community Circus CIC</b> <b>iii) Ormeau Golf Club – Lease Renewal</b>
<b>Date:</b>	21 February 2020
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Sinead Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Pamela Davison, Estates Team Leader

<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 from Members to asset related disposal, acquisition and estates matters.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	<b>i) Beechvale Farm – Conacre Agreements</b> Committee is asked to approve the renewal of three conacre licences for the growing of crops, grazing and grass cutting on agricultural lands at Beechvale Farm, Comber for a licence period from and including 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.
	<b>ii) Morton Community Centre – Licence to Streetwise Community Circus CIC</b> Committee is asked to approve the grant of a licence agreement to Streetwise Community Circus CIC for use of premises at Morton Community Centre.

	<p><b>iii) Ormeau Golf Club – Lease Renewal</b></p> <p>Committee is asked to approve the renewal of the lease of c. 137 acres of land at Park Road to the Trustees of Ormeau Golf Club for a term of 25 years from 1 July 2020 at a rent of £14,500 per annum with rent reviews every 5 years. The land is shown outlined in red on the Lease Map attached at Appendix 1.</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<p><b>i) Beechvale Farm – Conacre Agreements</b></p> <p><b><u>Key Issues</u></b></p> <p>Following the open marketing of the c110 acres of agricultural land at Beechvale Farm in early 2019, three conacre licences were entered into for the period from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 with the successful bidders.</p> <p>On 21 June 2019, the SP&amp;R Committee approved the appointment of agents to market Beechvale Farm for sale. Selling agents have now been appointed and draft brochures are being prepared subject to the Estates Unit agreeing the plots of land to be included in the sale and the marketing strategy with the agent.</p> <p>It is proposed that the respective conacre licences are renewed with each of the above parties for a further licence period from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021 under the same terms and conditions and licence fee as the existing conacre licences. The licence fees will mitigate the Council's holding costs until such time as Beechvale Farm is sold.</p> <p><b><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>The three conacre licences of agricultural land at Beechvale Farm will generate total licence fees for the Council of £13,208.15 for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.</p> <p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Impact Assessment</u></b></p> <p>None</p> <p><b>ii) Morton Community Centre – Licence to Streetwise Community Circus CIC</b></p> <p><b><u>Key Issues</u></b></p> <p>Streetwise Community Circus CIC have been using Morton Community Centre under a block booking arrangement for a number of years. The group exclusively occupy a small</p>



office, store and open mezzanine storage area. The Estates Unit has advised that their occupation should be dealt with by way of a licence agreement. The group are willing to enter into a rolling one year licence agreement from 1 April 2020 for the accommodation they occupy, up to a maximum of five years. The Estates Unit have recommended an annual licence fee of £4,530.00 subject to Members' approval.

The group have successfully secured funding for the installation of trapeze within main hall 1 at the Centre. It is intended that the licence agreement if recommended by Strategic Policy and Resources Committee will also cover the installation and future responsibility and liability for the trapeze. Use of main hall 1 will continue to operate under a block booking arrangement as the group will not have exclusive use of this area.

At its meeting on the 4 February 2020 the People & Communities Committee approved the grant of a licence subject to the approval of the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee.

#### **Financial & Resource Implications**

Staff from the Estates Unit and Legal Services will finalise the licence agreement, The Council will receive income of £4,530.00 per annum for the duration of the agreement.

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

None

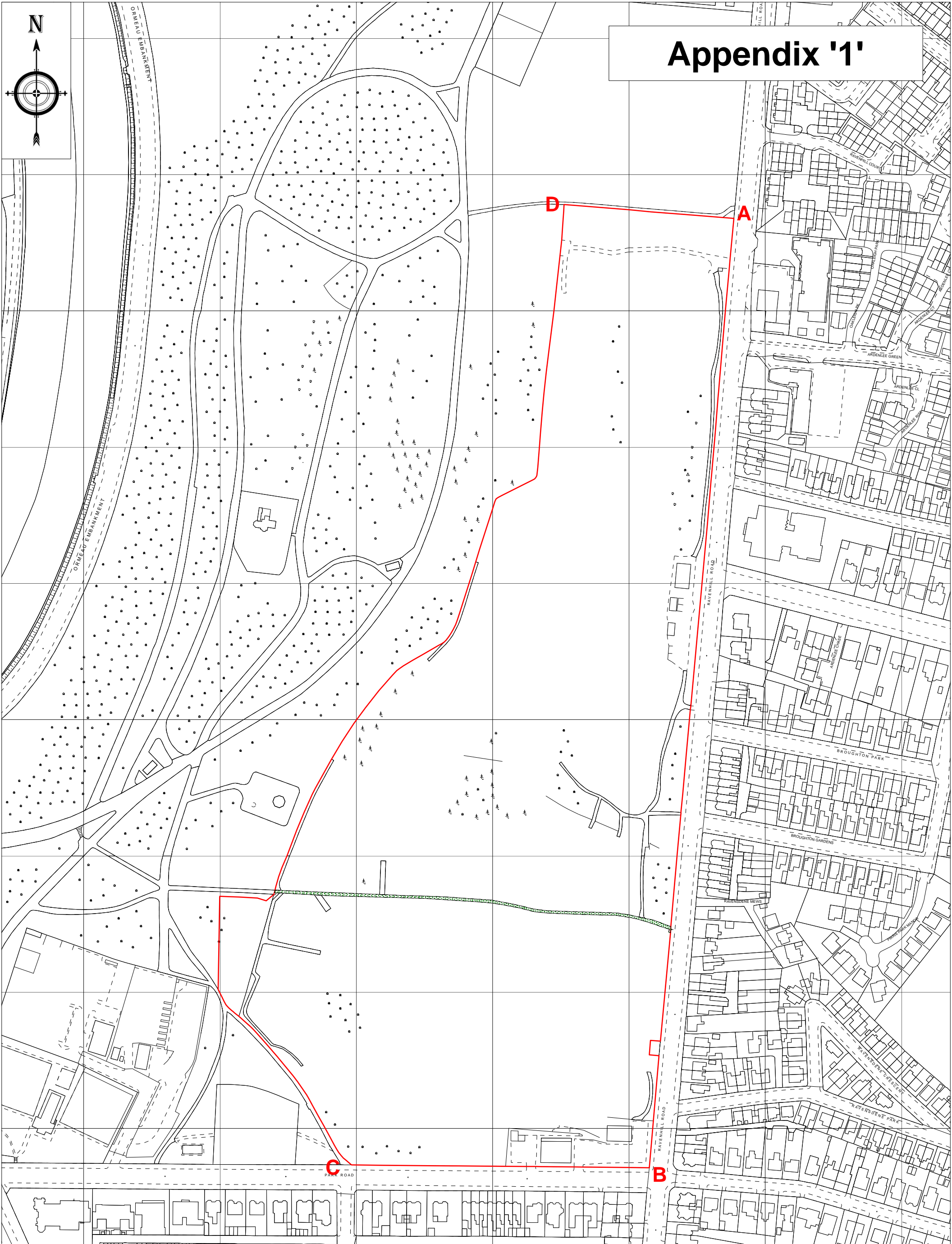
#### **iii) Ormeau Golf Club – Lease Renewal**

#### **Key Issues**

At its meeting on the 3 February 2020 the Council agreed that the portion of the minute in the Assets report of the 24 January 2020 relating to the renewal of the lease for Ormeau Golf Club, Park Road, be taken back to the Committee for further consideration.

Trustees of Ormeau Golf Club currently lease the land shown outlined red on the plan attached at Appendix 1 by way of a Lease dated 8 August 1990 for a term of 30 years from 1 July 1990. The current lease which is due to expire on 1 July 2020 provides the Trustees of Ormeau Golf Club with the option to renew the lease for a further term of 25 years.

	<p>Following a meeting with the Treasurer and the Hon Secretary of Ormeau Golf Club it is proposed to renew the lease on the following terms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Term - 25 years from 1 July 2020</li> <li>• Rent - £14,500 per annum as assessed by Land &amp; Property Services in accordance with the lease terms and reflecting available comparable evidence.</li> <li>• Review - every 5 years</li> <li>• Option to renew – Trustees of Ormeau Golf Club to have the option to renew the lease for a further 25 years from 1 July 2045.</li> <li>• Other terms to be as per the current lease.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>Rent proposed to continue at the current level of £14,500 per annum as agreed by LPS in July 2018.</p> <p><b><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p> <p>None</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	<p><b>Appendix 1</b> - Map showing land at Park Road to be leased to Ormeau Golf Club outlined in red. Pedestrian Public Right of Way pathway shown coloured green.</p>



# Appendix '1'

Based on the Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland map with the permission of the Director & Chief Executive. © Crown Copyright.

MAP REFERRED TO

BELFAST CITY COUNCIL to TRUSTEES ORMEAU GOLF CLUB  
Page 373

Scale 1:2500

Produced by:-

MM

Date:-

Estates Management Unit,  
Belfast City Council,  
Property & Projects Dept.,  
9 Adelaide,  
9-21 Adelaide Street,  
Belfast BT2 8DJ.

18/11/2019

Area 36.96 acres

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<b>Subject:</b>	Leisure Transformation Programme Phase 1b – Operational Update
<b>Date:</b>	21 <sup>st</sup> February 2020
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Nigel Grimshaw, Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Ryan Black, Director of Neighbourhood Services Noel Munnis, Partnership 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 update Members' on the mobilisation and opening of Lisnasharragh and Brook leisure centres and to highlight the successes and challenges to date.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Note the information provided below</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u> The capital build programmes were delivered on time leading to the opening of Lisnasharragh LC on 2 <sup>nd</sup> December and Brook LC on 4 <sup>th</sup> December 2019. Both centres

	operated on the basis of a 'soft opening' for the month of December and moved to full opening hours and programmes from the start of January 2020.
3.2	The centres were formally opened by the Lord Mayor on 8 <sup>th</sup> January (Lisnasharragh) and 17 <sup>th</sup> January (Brook).
3.3	Mobilising staff and resources to open two substantial new centres while simultaneously decommissioning two others ahead of closure (Avoniel LC and Brook AC) was a major undertaking. While the challenges were anticipated and included in the planning process, the actual impact was more difficult to manage than expected, largely due to the unprecedented level of enquiries, membership sales and daily customer footfall.
3.4	Dealing with record user numbers at both centres in the first two months has been compounded by (a) largely new centre teams, (b) a number of building/technology issues and (c) the need to build staff familiarity with the characteristics of brand new facilities.
3.5	Notwithstanding the challenges, both centres have been launched with outstanding successes in many operational, programming and business performance areas. However, there have been a number of operational issues that have required review and remedial actions to be put in place.
	<b>Headline successes:</b>
3.6	<p><b><u>LISNASHARRAGH</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Achieving in excess of 40,000 visits per month. Almost double the next highest recorded monthly footfall recorded at Olympia LC.</li> <li>2. Over 3,200 live pre-paid memberships. More than doubling the transferred total from Avoniel since opening.</li> <li>3. Over 700 GLL swim school members, 13 aquatics clubs with weekly bookings and 16 different schools sending circa 1,500 pupils for swimming lessons every week.</li> <li>4. Highest January sales figure (in excess of 900) on record for GLL in Belfast.</li> <li>5. Group exercise programme with double the number of classes previously delivered in Avoniel plus 14 additional classes recently added in response to attendance and demand.</li> <li>6. 40+ new staff recruited to launch the centre.</li> </ol>

3.7	<p><b><u>BROOK</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Over 1,600 live pre-paid memberships. Grown by over 1,000 since opening. Still growing rapidly and approaching the second largest centre membership totals currently at circa 2,000 in Olympia and Better Gym Connswater.</li> <li>2. Circa 250 GLL Swim School members from zero at the start of December.</li> <li>3. 18 clubs with weekly bookings.</li> <li>4. 7 different schools with weekly bookings.</li> <li>5. 3G pitches (6 X 5-a-side and 2 full size) operating at maximum capacity at peak times.</li> <li>6. Exceptional 'community buy in' through Mind-skills workshops, soccer tournaments pool parties (at maximum capacity), Celebrity football challenge, Family days and future bookings secured for Championship boxing and Wellbeing workshops.</li> <li>7. 20+ new staff recruited to launch the centre.</li> </ol>
3.8	<p>It is fully acknowledged that there have been issues to resolve. Some have been fully resolved, others are in process and we are confident that we are aware of all areas where continual reviews and improvements are required.</p>
	<p><b>Headline challenges:</b></p>
3.9	<p><b><u>LISNASHARRAGH</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Car park capacity is not meeting demand. Some traffic management and safety issues have emerged since opening.  <p>Action taken: The car park capacity is limited by the site footprint. There is currently 60 spaces plus 12 accessible spaces. By the end of February the car park will be completely resurfaced and remarked to include improve speed signage, a 'one way system, speed ramps enhanced signage to improve safety at the entrance and exit gates, parking controls (including physical features to stop parking on bends and planted areas). By adding a few additional spaces into the main car park layout and moving staff car parking to the rear compound we will be able to increase public parking capacity by circa 25%.</p> </li> <li>2. No spa facilities.  <p>Update: The facility mix was approved by Council within the LTP planning process. There is no spa pool, sauna or steam room facilities at Lisnasharragh. Citywide members can access spa facilities at other sites across the city. Spa facilities for East</p> </li> </ol>

Belfast have been included in the approved facility mix for the new Templemore Baths which is due to open in 2022.

3. Cleanliness. Cleaning standards have not been at an acceptable level.  
Action taken: BCC monitoring highlighted this issue. GLL senior management team took immediate action to rectify the problem. These issues were quickly and effectively addressed. Recent unannounced check visits have confirmed considerable improvements. Additional checks will continue on a weekly basis until the Council can be assured that cleaning standards have settled at the expected high level.
4. Pool programme  
Update: Pool programmes have been balanced to cater for a wide range of user groups and different aquatics activities. These include public swimming, GLL swim school, swimming and water polo club training, swimming and water polo competitions, fitness lane swimming, school swimming, diving, scuba diving, canoeing, etc. The view is that the start up programme is balanced, fair and has as worked well. BCC and GLL will continue to monitor demand and the programme will remain under review and will always be subject to change. Following a few construction issues, the diving pool will open for public/casual board sessions at the end of February. These will be published as part of the pool programme.
5. Ticketing and entry control. During the initial few weeks, lengthy queues developed at the reception desk and at the entry gates. Alongside a few minor technical issues the main cause was exceptionally high throughput and unfamiliarity with the system by both staff and customers.  
Action taken: Entry gates, fast pay kiosks, GLL member APP and reception/online bookings are all now fully operational. Front of house staff now have key fobs to remotely activate the gates if problems arise. Customer flows have settled significantly during February and frequent management observation sessions confirm that customers are using the fast entry options. This has significantly speed up access, reduced queues and substantially reduced the number of related complaints received.
6. Communications. A substantial number of complaints were received, particularly during December, in relation to difficulties contacting the centre by phone, poor query



	<p>response times and the provision of accurate and consistent information not being relayed by centre staff.</p> <p>Action taken: These issues have been partly resolved and it is acknowledged that there is still work to be done in this area. There is no single action that can fully resolved these issues. Solutions lie in how a number of different changes are put in place as each in turn will have a positive impact on the overall customer communications experience. Changes to the phone system have been made to provide a divert option for known customer services. The gate system, fast pay kiosks and GLL APP are now fully functioning and have reduced demand on reception to manageable levels. Staff training has been reviewed and a more robust process for disseminating information should address the accuracy and consistency of customer messaging.</p> <p>7. Public WiFi access. Due to technical difficulties, public access WiFi was not available when the centre opened.</p> <p>Update: This has now been resolved and WiFi is now available. A new high speed fibre broadband service is currently being installed across the Council estate. This will further enhance the download speed and coverage when it goes live later in 2020.</p> <p>8. Group exercise class access. A number of complaints were received in relation to the range and number of group exercise classes available. Including the number of customer spaces available.</p> <p>Update: The 'start up' group exercise programme launched in December was always intended to develop and grow. At the start of January, Lisnasharragh had more than double the number of classes previously offered at Avoniel. A further 14 classes have been added during February. It is anticipated that the programme will continue to grow to utilise and justify the three excellent group exercise studios available.</p>
3.10	<p><b><u>BROOK</u></b></p> <p>1. Noise complaints regarding external alarms and announcements. Early morning alarm testing is required within H&amp;S legislation and industry best practice.</p> <p>Action taken: Necessary alarm testing has been moved from 6.45am to 10.00am to avoid noise nuisance for local residents in the early part of the day. Further reductions have been made to the number and type of announcement relayed to</p>

	<p>external areas at the centre. This will remain under review until an acceptable compromise has been reached.</p> <p>2. Public WiFi access. Due to technical difficulties, public access WiFi was not available when the centre opened. Update: As above for Lisnasharragh</p> <p>3. Lights to original (Old Brook) 3G pitch. During the first few Weeks after opening the flood lights to the original 3G pitch were operated from the old building. In addition to this a number of flood light units were cutting out. This was unrelated to the new build. Update: Relocating the control panel to the new building took a little time to design and plan. The lights are now controlled from the new building and the system allows for the lights to be switched on and off without the need for staff to walk 200m to the old building for each booking. The flood light maintenance issue has been investigated and BCC facility maintenance section will be replacing the faulty units.</p> <p>4. IT connectivity issues. Technical teething problems resulted in problems related to accessing membership details, gate access operations and booking platforms. Update: This has now been resolved and the system is fully operational. This has significantly speeded up customer enquiry and sales processes and reduced the number of related complaints received.</p>
3.11	<p><u>Next steps</u></p> <p>Through contract governance systems and performance monitoring programmes already in place, the Council has the processes and means to continue to monitor performance at all BCC leisure facilities. Council officers work closely on a daily basis with GLL. We will continue to independently monitor service outputs and customer feedback and we are confident that as issues arise they will be quickly and effectively addressed.</p>
3.12	<p><u>Communications &amp; Public Relations</u></p> <p>Some of the challenges and issues highlighted above have been circulating on social media and the Council has received some formal complaints. These are being dealt with jointly by GLL and BCC as they arise.</p>

3.13	<u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u> None
3.14	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> None
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	None

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<b>Subject:</b>	Contracts Update
<b>Date:</b>	21 February 2020
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Ronan Cregan, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources
<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"/>
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	<p>The purpose of this report is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>seek approval from members for tenders and STAs over £30,000</li> </ul>
<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 of tenders as per Standing Order 37a detailed in Appendix 1 (<b>Table 1</b>).</li> <li>Approve the award of STAs in line with Standing Order 55 exceptions as detailed in Appendix 1 (<b>Table 2</b>).</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<p><u>Publically Advertised Tenders</u></p> <p>Section 2.5 of the Scheme of Delegation states Chief Officers have delegated authority to authorise a contract for the procurement of goods, services or works over the statutory limit</p>

	<p>of £30,000 following a tender exercise where the council has approved the invitation to tender</p> <p>Standing Order 60(a) states any contract that exceeds the statutory amount (currently £30,000) shall be made under the Corporate Seal. Under Standing Order 51(b) the Corporate Seal can only be affixed when there is a resolution of the Council.</p> <p>Standing Order 54 states that every contract shall comply with the relevant requirements of national and European legislation.</p>
3.2	<p><u>Single Tender Actions (STAs)</u></p>
(a)	<p><u>Rate Relief System for iWorld (NIHE)</u></p> <p>The Council's Digital Services team is contracted to provide ICT services to the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE). These services include the hosting and support of the 'iWorld' Housing Benefit System.</p> <p>Northgate have proprietary rights for the iWorld' Housing Benefit System.</p> <p>The iWorld system is used to administer council tax across the UK; however, as rate relief legislation is unique to Northern Ireland the system has no integrated rate relief model within the system. A workaround, implemented in 2006/7 as a short term fix at the time, requires manual input and resources to manage and is now unsustainable. Northgate will create bespoke solution for the system enable more automated management of an additional 50,000 owner occupier cases, calculate rate relief, make payments and manage under/ over payments and adjustments.</p>
(b)	<p><u>Belfast City brand advertising at George Best Airport</u></p> <p>An excellent opportunity has become available at the George Best Belfast City Airport for the Council to promote the Belfast City brand. Approximately 2.7 million passengers and 1.3million meters and greeters are present at the Airport each year so this advertising opportunity has the potential to reach a vast audience and will have mass appeal.</p>

(c)	<p><u>Professional Services for the Innovation Factory Operator Contract</u></p> <p>The Council has in place a contract with Oxford Innovation for the delivery of the Innovation Factory at Forthriver. Since 2015 KPMG have been contracted to help the Council procure, implement and contract manage the Innovation Factory contract. The current STA agreement with KPMG ended in January 2020 and so a new STA is required to keep KPMG in place to provide limited contract and performance management support until the expiry of the Innovation Factory contract in 2026 given their in depth knowledge and workings of the contract.</p>
(d)	<p><u>Energy Management Services</u></p> <p>The Council currently has in place a STA agreement with Schneider Electric who portfolio manage the purchase of electricity and gas on behalf of the Council. This service allows the Council to best leverage its buying power and purchase the utilities within budgets and best value for money. A STA is required to ensure continuity of service as the Council is now locked into a further period of 12 months until 31st March 2021 in accordance with the current STA terms and conditions. It is the Council's intention to re-tender this requirement by 31st March 2021.</p>
3.3	<p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></p> <p>The financial resources for these contracts are within approved corporate or departmental budgets</p>
3.4	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	<p>Appendix 1</p> <p>Table 1 Publically Advertised Tenders</p> <p>Table 2 Single Tender Actions (STA)</p>

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**Table 1 – Publically Advertised Tenders**

<b>Title of Tender</b>	<b>Senior Responsible Officer</b>	<b>Proposed contract duration</b>
Provision of Arboricultural Services (T2020)	Nigel Grimshaw	Up to 5 years
Delivery of TechConnects – a cross community peace building programme for children & young people using digital technology (T2056)	Nigel Grimshaw/ Ryan Black (SRO)	Up to 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2022
Fleet strategy review	Nigel Grimshaw	Up to 1 year

**Table 2 - Direct Award Contracts (Single Tender Action)**

<b>Title of tender</b>	<b>Supplier</b>	<b>Total Value</b>
Rate Relief System for iWorld (NIHE)	Northgate	£664,750
Belfast City brand advertising at George Best Airport	Belfast City Airport	£45,000
Professional Services for the Innovation Factory Operator Contract	KPMG	£91,000
Energy Management Services	Schneider Electric	£60,000

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<b>Subject:</b>	Minutes of Shared City Partnership Meeting on 10 <sup>th</sup> February 2020
<b>Date:</b>	21 <sup>st</sup> February 2020
<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 10th February 2020.
<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 10<sup>th</sup> February 2020 including:</p> <p><u>PEACE IV Secretariat</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>That an extension request to September 2022 be explored for the Programme subject to approvals and budget availability.</li> </ul>

	<p><u>Peace IV - Children and Young People</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extend the delivery timeframe for CYP1 Tech Connects to March, 2022; and</li> <li>• Reallocate necessary funding (up to £57,000) from the CYP underspend to the CYP1 Tech Connects project.</li> </ul> <p><u>Peace IV - Shared Spaces and Services</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consideration of the Partnership's suggested brand name for the Reconnecting Open Spaces project of 'Forthmeadow' and the brand description of 'Community Greenway' for approval.</li> </ul> <p><u>Good Relations Audit and District Council Good Relations Action Plan 2020/21</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Note the key findings and recommendations outlined in the draft Good Relations Audit 2020 and agreed that these be recommended for approval subject to the above changes;</li> <li>• Note that the audit had raised a range of complementary issues which fell outside of the parameters of the Action Plan and would be considered further by Council in the context of the Good Relations Strategy and Belfast Agenda;</li> <li>• Recommend to the Strategic and Policy Resources Committee that the draft Action Plans 2020/21 and 2021/22 be submitted to The Executive Office (TEO); and</li> <li>• Note that this Action Plan submission is subject to agreement by Council in relation to any estimates setting exercise and also amendments during the assessing and scoring process that would be undertaken by TEO, and that the Council would be notified of any changes to the final approved Action Plans.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The Shared City Partnership is a Working Group of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee which consists of Elected members and representatives from various sectors</p>

	across the city. The minutes from the Partnership are brought before the Committee for approval on a monthly basis.
3.2	<p>The key issues on the agenda at the February meeting were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PEACE IV <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Update on PEACE IV Secretariat</li> <li>➤ Update on PEACE IV CYP</li> <li>➤ Update on PEACE IV SSS</li> <li>➤ Update on PEACE IV BPR</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Good Relations Audit and District Council Good Relations Action Plan 2020/21</li> <li>• Request for Presentations</li> <li>• Forthcoming Events</li> </ul>
3.3	More details regarding the above issues and recommendations are included in the minutes of the meeting attached in appendix 1.
3.4	<p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></p> <p>All financial implications are covered through existing budgets</p>
3.5	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>The recommendations of the Partnership promote the work of the Council in promoting good relations and will enhance equality and good relations impacts.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1 Copy of the minutes of the Shared City Partnership of 10 <sup>th</sup> February 2020.

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## **SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP**

**MONDAY 10th FEBRUARY, 2020**

### **MEETING OF SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP**

Members present: Councillor Kyle (Chairperson);  
The High Sheriff Councillor Verner;  
Alderman Rodgers; and  
Councillors M. Kelly and Smyth.

External Members: Mrs. B. Arthurs, Community and Voluntary Sector;  
Mr. A. Cole, Good Relations, The Executive Office;  
Mr. J. Currie, Community and Voluntary Sector;  
Mr. J. Donnelly, Community and Voluntary Sector;  
Mrs. J. Hawthorne, Northern Ireland Housing Executive;  
Dr. Y. Hanore, NI Inter-Faith Forum;  
Ms. J. Irwin, Community Relations Council;  
Mr. M. O'Donnell, Department for Communities; and

In attendance: Ms. N. Lane, Good Relations Manager;  
Ms. D. McKinney, Programme Manager;  
Ms. A. Allen, Neighbourhood Services Manager; and  
Ms. E. McGoldrick, Democratic Services Officer.

### **Apologies**

Apologies for inability to attend were reported on behalf of Councillor Magennis and Mr. S. Dallas, Ms. G. Duggan, Superintendent K. McMillan, Mr. I. McLaughlin and Ms. A. White.

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 13th January were taken as read and signed as correct.

### **Declarations of Interest**

Mr. Currie and Ms. Arthurs declared an interest in relation to matters under item 3.) Update on PEACE IV, in that they were employed by an organisation which was a partner organisation of the initiative.

In relation to item 3.b) Update on Peace IV - Children and Young People, Mr. Donnelly declared an interest, as he was a Director of Programmes for the Active Communities Network which was delivering the Playing Our Part Project under Peace IV.

Mr. Cole declared an interest in regards to item 4.) Good Relations Audit and District Council Good Relations Action Plan 20/21, in that he was employed by The Executive Office.

### **Presentation - PEACE IV Shared Spaces and Services Branding**

The Partnership was informed that Mr. G. Stewart and Ms. A. McGrath, representing McCadden Design, were in attendance in order to provide an update on the verbal and visual identity of the Shared Spaces and Services Reconnecting Open Spaces project and they were welcomed to the meeting.

The Members were reminded of the need to create an iconic network of shared open spaces which would facilitate reconciliation and interaction between divided communities and would assist also in the provision of a catalyst for social and economic regeneration for local neighbourhoods. The Partnership was informed that, after the presentation by McCadden Design, they would be required to recommend a name and branding design for the project, under item 3. c) PEACE IV Programme - Shared Spaces and Services.

Mr. Stewart presented options for the naming and visual identity of the project. He explained the research and key underpinning concepts of building a brand which included a stakeholder questionnaire and the development of tangible values and benefits. He pointed out that the research which had been undertaken directed the naming and aided the proposed identity of the project. He reminded the Partnership that it had agreed to the positioning statement of 'on common ground' at its meeting in December, 2019. He suggested that the Brand Description be 'Urban Greenway' and highlighted how this might be represented through signage and graphic language, together with a series of illustrations of iconic sites relevant to the route.

He outlined two concepts for the naming of the project and suggested the following four names for consideration:

- Leeway;
- Midway;
- Forthmeadow (a compound name of Forthriver and Bog Meadows); or
- Springcairn (a compound name of Springfield and Glencairn)

The Chairperson of the Partnership thanked Mr. Stewart for his detailed and informative presentation and he departed from the meeting.

During discussion, the Partnership concluded that its preference would be with the name 'Forthmeadow', but felt that the brand description 'Urban Greenway' was not in keeping with the community linkage of the project. The majority of the Members suggested that the use of the word 'Community' in the brand description would also be more appropriate, so that the Project Name and Description branding would read 'Forthmeadow – Community Greenway'.

The Partnership noted the information provided and that the decision for the most appropriate branding option for the Reconnecting Open Spaces project was required under item 3. c) PEACE IV Programme - Shared Spaces and Services Update.

### **Update on PEACE IV**

#### **Peace IV Secretariat**

The Partnership was provided with an update in relation to PEACE IV Local Action Plan which included an overview of the project implementation (copy available [here](#)).



The Programme Manager advised that a range of culture cafes, seminar, workshops and events had been developed as part of the PEACE IV programme workplan, (copy available [here](#)) and further peace building events were being explored.

She explained that the underspend proposals for SSS and BPR themes had been submitted to SEUPB for consideration. Preliminary points of clarification had been discussed and were to be submitted to SEUPB in advance of the SEUPB Steering Committee in January 2020.

She pointed out that SEUPB had confirmed that forecasting spend targets for 2019 were within an acceptable tolerance, as follows:

- Children and Young People (CYP): 89%
- Building Positive Relations (BPR): 91%
- Shared Spaces and Services (SSS): 75%

She advised that detailed forecasting for expenditure to June 2022 had been submitted to SEUPB for consideration and spend targets for 2020 were to be confirmed by SEUPB. She pointed out that, SEUPB had highlighted that the overall spend (£1.6m) across the programme was low (11.5%) and raised concern regarding the achievement of total spend within the timeframe.

She explained that, given the difficulties in mobilising some BPR projects, withdrawal of CYP delivery agent and planning delays for SSS, it was proposed that an extension request to September 2022 was explored, subject to approvals and budget availability.

The Partnership agreed that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee be recommended to note the information contained within the report and approve that an extension request to September 2022 be explored, subject to approvals and budget availability.

### **Update on Peace IV - Children and Young People**

The Partnership considered the following report which provided information on the Children and Young People's theme of the PEACE IV Local Action Plan:

#### **"1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**

**To provide the Shared City Partnership (SCP) with a progress report in respect of the Children and Young People's (CYP) theme of the PEACE IV Local Action Plan.**

#### **2.0 Recommendations**

**The Partnership is requested to recommend to the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee that they note the contents of the report and agree to**

- 1. Extend delivery timeframe for CYP1 to March 2022**
- 2. Reallocate necessary funding (up to £57,000) from the CYP underspend to the CYP1 project.**

### **3.0 Main report**

#### **Key Issues**

- 3.1 Implementation of projects within the Children and Young People theme is continuing. Projects of concern are CYP1 Tech Connects and mobilisation of CYP5 LAN.**

### **3.2 CYP 1 – Tech Connects**

As previously advised, there have been a number of issues affecting delivery of this project resulting in the contracted delivery partner withdrawing from the contract.

A detailed verification of outputs is underway with the delivery agent and final reporting has been requested. Initial indications suggest that participant levels were lower than reported and an outstanding balance of approximately 1,000 participants will need to be include in the re-scope of the project.

- 3.3 In addition, SEUPB has advised that closure of the project should be in accordance with applicable policies and procedures and that:**

- (i) Final payments should be calculated on actual achievement and work completed.**
- (ii) The Delivery Agent to submit a final report outlining results and impacts.**
- (iii) Council to undertake a full verification of all outputs to ensure eligibility**
- (iv) All evidence and back up documentation needs to be retained for inspection.**
- (v) SEUPB will conduct a verification of these outputs**

- 3.4 Legal advice on the termination of the contract based on withdrawal is also progressing.**

In relation to the re-scoped project, discussions with SEUPB indicate that a reduction in participant numbers will not be permitted, on the basis that the project had been assessed for value for money.

Scoping discussions with potential delivery agents have been positive and will help re shape the project.

- 3.5 The re-scoped activity will take into account learning from delivery to date, such as the duration being too long for schools, and seek to maximise the impact of enabling participants to form positive and effective relationships with others. To minimise risk to Council and maximise achievement of targets, it is likely that procurement will be based on lots.**

Initial cost estimates for the re-scoped project suggests costs of £300,090.00 for delivery of all aspects of the project. The current

available budget for project delivery is £243,182.36. Whilst an equipment budget of £58,927.32 is available. SEUPB has advised that reallocation of the CYP underspend would be preferable. As such it is requested that members approve the reallocation of necessary funding (up to £57,000) from the CYP underspend (£129,902.41) to CYP1, subject to necessary approvals.

Given the remaining high targets, it is proposed that members agree to an extension for the delivery of this project to March 2022, which is within the Council's current Letter of Offer period.

**3.6 CYP 2, 3 and 4**

CYP2 Playing our Part, CYP3 – On the Right Track – Sports and Personal Change elements and CYP4 are proceeding as previously reported, with no current issues.

- Participants from CYP3 Personal Change recently celebrated their achievements at Belfast Castle with the 2nd Cohort being recruited.
- Second Cohorts for CYP3 Sport Element are due to begin programmes for Year 2- on going recruitment continuing in order to maintain the rate of attrition.
- Platforms to highlight the campaigns developed by the Young Advocates is being explored, with Cohort 3 beginning with discussions.

**3.7 CYP 5 – NIHE Local Area Network Partner Delivery**

In order to increase delivery, in line with updated implementation plan submitted to Council, a Good Relations Officer has been appointed to the project and has met with CYP Project Manager to discuss progression of implementation/ procurement

**3.8 Financial and Resource Implications**

PEACE IV costs are recoverable from SEUPB, as the funding body, subject to eligibility of expenditure. Costs totalling £460,723.43 have been reimbursed to Council for the CYP theme with verification of £142,180.30 for Claim 20 (Aug-Oct 19) underway. Claims for Period 21 are to be submitted to SEUPB by end February 2020.

**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."

During discussion, the Programme Manager explained further the SEUPB targets and the necessity for the reallocation of funds. She also highlighted the monitoring process of funding recipients.

After discussion, the Partnership agreed to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it notes the contents of the report and agrees to:

- Extend the delivery timeframe for CYP1 to March, 2022; and
- Reallocate necessary funding (up to £57,000) from the CYP underspend to the CYP1 project.

## **Update on Peace IV - Shared Spaces and Services**

The Partnership considered the following report:

### **“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**

To provide the Shared City Partnership (SCP) with a progress report in respect of the Shared Spaces and Services (SSS) theme of the PEACE IV Local Action Plan.

### **2.0 Recommendations**

The Partnership is requested to recommend to the Strategic Policy & Resources committee that they

- (i) note the contents of the report
- (ii) agreed the most appropriate branding option for the Reconnecting Open Spaces project

### **3.0 Main report**

#### **3.1 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 Branding**

McCadden has further the SSS branding options based on feedback from Shared City Partnership in December 2019.

Shared City Partnership is to consider the options presented earlier today by McCadden and recommend the preferred branding option.

#### **3.3 Capital Works**

##### **Springfield Dam**

The contractor has been appointed, all planning conditions have now been fully discharged and the necessary licences are in place.

As such the Contractor is now mobilised and will commence work on 10 February 2020. The duration of works is approximately six to eight months for completion.

Approval for the implementation and management of the social clauses contained within the works contract is being sought from SEUPB

### 3.4 Key Indicative Dates for Peace IV Capital Elements

Item	Date
Commence procurement of Main Contractor	July 2019
Contractor Appointment	June 2020
Section 1 (Glencairn) - Commence works on site. Detailed design complete and planning applications to be submitted for lighting, entrance and signage	July 2020
Section 2 (DfC/INI Site) – Submit Major Planning Application  Detailed design work in final stages and an Invasive Species Management Plan underway.  Planning application submitted for gates at Woodvale Avenue. Both sets of gates will be locked with an alley type gate security key with keys issued in line with the current Council procedure. Hours of opening and closing to be agreed	Feb 2020
Section 2 (DfC/INI Site) - Commence works on site	Sept 2020 – Jan 2021  Subject to planning approval
Section 3 (Springfield/ Falls Park) – Commence works on site As capital delivery is on a phased basis there is no further progress required at present	Sept 2020 – Jan 2021  (may start earlier whilst planning approval for other sections is progressed)
Section 4 (Bog Meadows) – Major Planning Application  Discussions with land owners being progressed regarding management, maintenance and liability issues to be confirmed in advance of a planning application being submitted	April 2020

Section 4 (Bog Meadows) - Commence works on site	Nov 2020 – Mar 2021  Subject to planning approval
Section 5 (Broadway/ Westlink) – Commence works on site	November- April 2020

Wider scheme tender documentation being finalised with a view to issuing documents for Section 1 and Section 2 March 2020.

### 3.5 **Programming**

Engagement with the community on suitable programmes to animate and use the connected spaces is ongoing.

The Youth Civic Engagement project is continuing, with an extended delivery timeframe to 31 March 2020 as approved by the PEACE IV Programme Board in January 2020.

Procurement for Dialogue & Engagement and Inter-generational projects is being progressed.

A cross community Fitness Project with Clonard Neighbourhood Development Partnership has commenced with participants utilising various locations across the shared space network.

Discussions to establish an active travel project and hub, comprising of cycle/walking aspects close to Whiterock Leisure Centre are progressing. Linkages with PHA programmes are being developed.

Community based project ideas and opportunities along the Reconnecting Open Spaces Network are being explored with Ulster Wildlife. These include nature/environmental themed community events and a volunteer training project commencing in summer 2020.

With the assistance of EA, a schools based initiative to promote the project through pupils and their parents is due to commence in March 2020.

### 3.6 **Financial and Resource Implications**

PEACE IV costs are recoverable from SEUPB, as the funding body, subject to eligibility of expenditure.

Costs totalling £409,202.87 have been reimbursed to Council for the SSS theme with verification of £69,756.12 for Claim 20 (Aug-Oct 19) underway. Claims for Period 21 are to be submitted to SEUPB by end February 2020.

Discussions with DfC, DoJ, DfI and TEO regarding wider community benefit and contributions to the project are to be being progressed and prioritised.

### **3.7 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.

Equality screening for the SSS capital build is being progressed through Council's Equality Screening process."

After discussion, the Partnership agreed to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources committee that it notes the contents of the report, and:

- Considers the Partnership's suggested brand name for the Reconnecting Open Spaces project of 'Forthmeadow' and the brand description of 'Community Greenway' for approval.

## **Update on Peace IV - Building Positive Relations**

The Shared City Partnership considered the following report:

### **"1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**

To provide the Shared City Partnership (SCP) with a progress report in respect of the Building Positive Relations (BPR) theme of the PEACE IV Local Action Plan.

### **2.0 Recommendations**

The Partnership is requested to recommend to the Strategic Policy & Resources committee to note the contents of the report

### **3.0 Main report**

#### **3.1 Key Issues**

Implementation of projects within the Building Positive Relations theme is continuing with 4 key projects now mobilised.

#### **3.2 BPR1 – Cross Community Area Networks**

Project Manager and two Good Relations Officers have now been appointed with the remaining posts taking up post at the end of February. An implementation meeting has been arranged to confirm deliverables, timeframes and progress reporting on the project. Early indications suggest that NIHE may be seeking a further extension for project delivery to 30 June 2022. A formal proposal, implementation plan and revised budget has been requested from NIHE.

#### **3.3 BPR2 – Creative Communities Project**

Following an external commissioning exercise for the Artist/Heritage in residence, three clusters will be ready to commence their project with an anticipated 112 participants registering. Three clusters require further project idea facilitated sessions and the remaining two clusters will be established on a thematic basis.

#### **3.4 BPR3 – Transform for Change Project**

It is anticipated that 9 courses will be delivered between Jan- May 2020. 74 participants are currently registered and 57 have submitted expressions of interest awaiting cluster assignment. Securing participation from Council staff, statutory and political sectors remains a key focus. The organisation of local community engagement events, City –wide networking events and a cross border study visit is currently underway.

#### **3.5 BPR4 – Belfast and the World (BATW)**

Year 2 (2019) participant group (20 ppl) will commence in Ligionel at the beginning of February 2020. The two year 3 participant groups have commenced in the Shankill and Ballynafeigh. The Ballynafeigh group will comprise of CNR, PUL and BME participants.

40 participants have been successfully selected to participate on the EU trip to Belgium in late March.

#### **3.6 BPR5 – Supporting Connected Communities - LINCS Projects**

*Alternatives undertook an internal trawl and has been successful in filling the Project Co-Ordinator post. Further discussions are ongoing with the BPR Thematic Manager, the lead delivery agent and project team in relation to the proposed amendment of engagement that was submitted.*

#### **3.7 BPR5 – Traveller and Roma elements of Supporting Connected Communities**

*Public Information Sessions were held on 30 January 2020 which confirmed the content and delivery approach of the proposals. Proposals are being finalised for submission and approval by SEUPB.*

#### **3.8 Financial and Resource Implications**

PEACE IV costs are recoverable from SEUPB, as the funding body, subject to eligibility of expenditure. Costs totalling £409,136.67 have been reimbursed to Council for the BPR theme with verification of £174,352.15 for Claim 20 (Aug-Oct 19) underway. Claims for Period 21 are to be submitted to SEUPB by end February 2020.



### **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.”**

After discussion, during which the need for increased participation amongst community and statutory organisations in some of the projects was emphasised, the Partnership agreed to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it note the information contained within the report.

#### **Good Relations Audit and District Council Good Relations Action Plan 2020/21**

The Partnership was reminded that the Council submitted an annual action plan to the Executive Office (TEO) every year in order to draw down funding for the good relations work of the Council. TEO had requested submission of this year’s action plan by 14th February, 2020 and the plan for 2021/22 by 13th March, 2020.

The Good Relations Manager summarised the findings from the Partnership’s Workshop which took place on 6th February to consider the key audit recommendations and the draft action plan to ensure that it delivered on key identified needs.

She outlined the contents of the draft Action Plans for 2020/21 and 2021/22 (copies available [here](#)). The audit contained a range of 30 recommendations and suggestions on how the Council could shape its Action Plan, considering the issues raised within the audit and aligned with its newly agreed Good Relations Strategy. In addition, the audit had raised a range of complementary issues. The Good Relations Manager explained that these would fall outside the parameters of the Action Plan but were nevertheless crucial issues for the Council and other city-based stakeholders to progress.

She informed the Partnership that all future agreed actions would be developed within the overall context of the Belfast Agenda and its identified priorities and the issues identified in the audit would require further consideration by the Council and other agency partners.

She advised that the recommendations fell into 4 distinct areas:

1. Areas for the Council to consider corporately;
2. Good Relations in Council;
3. City-wide issues that the Council should lead on progressing; and
4. How Belfast City Council should position itself as a regional leader in promoting Good Relations.

She presented the following 30 audit recommendations for consideration:

#### **“Corporate**

- 1. Further shift the language toward a shared city;**
- 2. Focus the language also to ending segregation;**
- 3. The chair of the Shared City Partnership should be invited to the party group leaders’ meetings when discussing issues of relevance to good relations;**
- 4. The Shared City Partnership should be better utilised specially to explore long-term and emerging critical issues and how Council may respond;**

5. ***Council should clarify the value of the Shared City Partnership and chief officers should attend meetings more often;***
6. ***Council should clarify how good relations is manifest within its decision-making structures;***
7. ***Good relations considerations should be integral to emerging policy discussions;***
8. ***Good relations considerations should be enhanced in policy consideration at a corporate and city-wide level, and not confined to an area-based contribution;***
9. ***Develop a good relations programme to engage all elected members; and***
10. ***Develop space for discussion for the group leaders including the chair of the Shared City Partnership.***

#### **Good Relations in Council**

11. ***Rename the grant programme the Shared City Grant programme;***
12. ***By 2021/2022 move to an annual grant aid process;***
13. ***By 2021/2022 move to the possibility of longer-term funding;***
14. ***Establish a seed fund especially for those that feel unable to properly access larger funding;***
15. ***Establish strategic intervention funding in one or two areas of work e.g. removal of interface barriers/"peace walls" helping reduce the proportion of spend on grant aid;***
16. ***By 2021/2022 further review the criteria and process for funding;***
17. ***Develop a new programme of work to engage staff in good relations with particular effort to involve new communities and PUL employees;***
18. ***Further engage with the physical regeneration unit in Council on major capital and other works; and***
19. ***Develop an interface programme through the Shared City Partnership that engages the IFI and other agencies to explore sustainable support in communities to remove interface barriers/"peace walls".***

#### **City Wide Impact**

20. ***Continue to develop existing programmes including working with the relevant partners on bonfire engagement and on the decade of centenaries/50-year anniversaries;***
21. ***The youth forum should be invited to attend the Shared City Partnership;***
22. ***Invite the International Fund for Ireland on to the Shared City Partnership or an interface sub-group;***
23. ***The Shared City Partnership should receive a small budget to facilitate its thinking and research into emerging issues; and***
24. ***The emerging issues the Shared City Partnership should consider include demographic change, interface barrier/"peace wall" removal or why reconciliation and good relations funding has not led to greater attitudinal change.***

#### **Positioning and Promoting**

25. ***Re-brand the good relations programme and resource further promotion of the good relations work the Council undertakes;***
26. ***Continue to expand the meaning of a shared city to include all minority and majority groupings in the section 75 definition;***

- 27. The good relations unit should also be involved in dialogue and process around what a shared city means for all groups beyond the section 75(2) groups even though not a formal part of TEO good relations priorities;**
- 28. Develop a project or intervention to raise the profile of BME civic leaders;**
- 29. All political parties on the Council should be offered opportunity to engage with members of the BME community to explain how the political structures work in Council and within their parties; and**
- 30. Council should not just rebrand and prioritise the promotion of its good relations work within the Council, it should acknowledge and promote the importance of the work it does on these islands and internationally."**

The Good Relations Manager pointed out that the conclusions and recommendations chapter, along with a summary of all the recommendations, had been appended to the report (copy available [here](#)) and that the full document would be submitted to a future meeting for further discussion in due course. She advised that the audit findings would also form part of the overall Implementation Plan for the Good Relations Strategy of which the DCGRP action plan was only one element.

During discussion, Members highlighted that the audit recommendations should align with existing Good Relations work being undertaken outside of the Council and that the language used needed to be clear to avoid duplication of such work.

The following changes to the recommendations were suggested by the Panel:

- 11. Develop a new programme of work to engage staff in good relations with particular effort to involve new communities and PUL employees in good relations work.**
- 19. Bearing in mind existing structures and partnerships, further develop the Interface programme through the Shared City Partnership continuing to engage the relevant agencies to explore sustainable support in communities to remove interface barriers/"peace walls" in Belfast.**
- 22. Invite appropriate funders on to relevant sub-groups of the Partnership.**

After discussion, the Partnership:

- Noted the key findings and recommendations outlined in the draft Good Relations Audit 2020 and agreed that these be recommended for approval, subject to the aforementioned changes;
- Noted that the audit had raised a range of complementary issues which fell outside of the parameters of the Action Plan and would be considered further by Council in the context of the Good Relations Strategy and Belfast Agenda;
- Recommended to the Strategic and Policy Resources Committee that the draft Action Plans 2020/21 and 2021/22 be submitted to The Executive Office (TEO); and
- Noted that this Action Plan submission was subject to agreement by the Council in relation to any estimates setting exercise and also amendments during the assessing and scoring process that would be undertaken by TEO, and that the Council would be notified of any changes to the final approved Action Plans.

### **Request for Presentations**

The Partnership noted the following requests had been received to present at future meetings of the Partnership and agreed that these be acceded to:

- Future City Centre Programme - City Centre Connectivity Study;
- Strategic Director of City and Neighborhoods Department; and
- Belfast Mobility Study.

### **Forthcoming Events**

The Good Relations Manager highlighted the following events in which the Good Relation Unit was involved and to which the Partnership was invited:

- EU Settlement Scheme Drop in information session, City Hall, 12th February, 6.00 p.m. - 8.30 p.m.;
- Visit to Ballynafeigh Orange Hall, 13th February, 10.00 a.m. – 12 noon;
- Visit to Belfast Islamic Centre, 27 February, 11.00 a.m. – 2 p.m.;
- Visit to Clonard Monastery, 11 March, 10 -12 p.m.;
- Islamic Awareness Training 2, 9 and 19th March, 9 – 4 p.m.; and
- An introduction to sexual orientation and gender, 2 April, 10.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.

During discussion, Mr. Currie advised of a Myths and Realities, Race Relations event at the East Belfast Network Centre on 10th March and would send further details of the event to the Good Relations Manager for circulation.

Noted.

Chairperson



<b>Subject:</b>	PEACE Plus Stakeholder Engagement -Preparing the Peace Plus Programme European Territorial Co-operation 2021-2027
<b>Date:</b>	Friday 21 February 2020
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Nigel Grimshaw, Strategic Director ,City and Neighbourhood Services Department
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Alison Allen, Neighbourhood Services Manager 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"/>
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	To inform elected members of the current stakeholder engagement on PEACE Plus Programme 2021 -2027 being undertaken by The Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) and seek approval of the council response to the stakeholder survey. A stakeholder survey forms part of the programme engagement exercise running from the <b>10 December 2019 and has been extended until 17:00 on 28 February 2020</b> . As part of wider engagement SEUPB held stakeholder engagement events including two in Belfast City Hall on 5 February 2020.Council Officers attended both events.
1.2	Peace Plus is a new cross-border programme that will contribute to a more prosperous and stable society in Northern Ireland and the border region of Ireland. It will succeed both of the

	current 2014 -2020 PEACEIV and INTERREG VA Programmes. This new programme represents an exciting opportunity to continue to fund peace building interventions alongside activities which help to make the region a more prosperous, healthier place to live through funding of areas of mutual interest on a cross border basis. Input is welcome from persons or organisations regardless of whether you have been involved in the current or previous PEACE or INTERREG Programmes, or whether this is your first encounter with an SEUPB managed programme.
	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To note the stakeholder engagement currently being undertaken by SEUPB full details of which are outlined in their stakeholder information document at Appendix 1 and approve the Council draft response to the stakeholder survey attached at Appendix 2 of this report.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	SEUPB is one of the six – cross border Bodies set up under the Agreement between the Government of Ireland and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland establishing implementing bodies signed on 8 March 1999 (the British- Irish Agreement of 8 March 1999). SEUPB are responsible for the implementation of the EU's PEACE IV (€270m) and INTERREG VA (€ 283m) Programmes. They also have a sign posting role to promote involvement in the INTERREG VB Transnational and INTERREG VC Interregional Programmes.
3.2	SEUPB have provided a supporting information document to help completing the stakeholder survey which is composed of five sections attached at Appendix A of this report. In summary the draft policy objectives for the 2021-2027 funding period are outlined within as follows;
3.3	<p><b>Policy Objective 1 A SMARTER EUROPE</b> by promoting innovative and smart economic transformation. This Policy Objective focuses on boosting the innovation capacity of the region, the uptake of advanced technology, the growth and competitiveness of the SME sector, and improving digital services.</p>
3.4	<p><b>Policy Objective 2 A GREENER, LOWER CARBON EUROPE</b>, by promoting clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate adaptation, and risk prevention and management.</p> <p>Actions could include:</p>

3.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• measures to improve energy efficiency,</li> <li>• additional renewable energy production capacity,</li> <li>• smart grids for improved energy management,</li> <li>• improved disaster monitoring, warning or response systems,</li> <li>• improved water and waste treatment,</li> <li>• measures to improve biodiversity.</li> </ul> <p><b>Policy Objective 3 A MORE CONNECTED EUROPE</b> by enhancing mobility and regional ICT connectivity. This Policy Objective focuses on improving transport and ICT infrastructure in the region.</p>
3.6	<p><b>Policy Objective 4 A MORE SOCIAL EUROPE</b> implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights in the region. This Policy Objective focuses on improving employment opportunities; increasing access to quality education; reducing marginalisation through improved housing and services; and increasing access to quality health care. Actions on community and social cohesion would also be supported under this Policy Objective. <b>All of the PEACE activities within PEACE PLUS must be within this objective.</b></p>
3.7	<p><b>Policy Objective 5 A EUROPE CLOSER TO ITS CITIZENS</b> by fostering the sustainable and integrated development of urban, rural and coastal areas, and local initiatives in the region. These initiatives can focus on tourism, cultural heritage, community facilities, and security in urban areas.</p> <p><b>Cooperation Programme Document</b></p> <p>Input from the engagement activities, together with other research and reports, will form the basis of the draft Cooperation Programme document. <b>A further statutory public consultation is likely to be held in the Autumn of 2020.</b></p>
3.8	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p><b>Current programmes and future available funding</b></p> <p>Belfast City Council has effectively delivered previous PEACE and INTERREG programmes and currently has successfully through the work of staff and partners mobilised projects under current PEACE IV programme and INTERREG programmes. Current activities include a joint application as an associate partner in an EU INTERREG</p>
3.9	<p>Faster project to bring 73 new electric vehicle rapid chargers to 3 regions if successful.</p>
3.10	<p>In the current 2014-2020 period, the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) manages two cross-border cooperation programmes: the PEACE IV programme (total budget: €270</p>

	<p>million) in Northern Ireland and the Border Counties of Ireland (including Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Louth, Monaghan and Sligo); and the INTERREG VA programme (total budget: €283 million) which includes the same area plus the west of Scotland<sup>3</sup>. The SEUPB has commenced the preparation of a single successor programme for the period 2021 to 2027. This new programme will be called the PEACE PLUS Programme. It is anticipated that the new programme will have the approximate value of more than the current two programmes combined at approximately €650 million.</p>
3.11	<p><b>Programme design and eligible area</b></p> <p>PEACE PLUS is a new cross-border programme that will contribute to a more prosperous and stable society in Northern Ireland and the border region of Ireland. The programme will achieve this by funding peace and reconciliation activities, and by funding activities that contribute to North/South cross-border economic and territorial development of the region. The combination of the PEACE and INTERREG type activities in a single programme is reflected in the name of the programme where “PLUS” represents the inclusion of wider economic, social and environmental activities.</p> <p>The area that the PEACE PLUS Programme funding has been made available for includes Northern Ireland and the Border Counties of Ireland. PEACE and INTERREG activities do currently, and can in the future, involve partners and activity outside the programme area, as long as they are making a contribution to the objectives of the programme and benefit citizens within the programme area.</p>
3.12	<p><b>Administrative and delivery arrangements</b></p> <p>The SEUPB will continue to act as a Managing Authority, operating under the scrutiny of a Programme Monitoring Committee consisting of EU, Member State, Sponsor Department, cross-border and other relevant stakeholders. However, certain changes to current delivery arrangements are foreseen in the draft regulation.</p>
3.13	<p><b>Single Jurisdiction Partnerships</b></p> <p>Both PEACE IV and INTERREG VA are cross-border EU funding programmes designed to forge peace and reconciliation and foster economic development across the region.</p>
3.14	<p>Within PEACE programmes there has always been a specific derogation given to fund projects in a single jurisdiction (although cross-border partnerships are encouraged and much of the PEACE IV programme is implemented on a cross-border basis). Under INTERREG programmes, partnerships must involve organisations from both jurisdictions, with projects co-designed and delivered on a cross-border basis.</p>



3.15	<p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></p> <p>Belfast City Council under the current PEACE IV programme received a funding award as follows;</p> <p>Children and Young People: £3,063,471.23  Building Positive Relations: £6,338,955.80  Shared Space and Services: £5,172,449.12</p> <p>Total Funding Award:           £14,574,876.15</p> <p>For projects currently funded under PEACE IV and INTERREG VA, projects are commonly funded up to 100% of project costs. However, there are also many projects that include a contribution from the partners were they are capable of doing so.</p> <p>In the PEACE PLUS programme the SEUPB will continue to explore arrangements where partners contribute some or all of their match-funding if they are in a position to do so.</p>
3.16	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>There are no equality or good relations or rural needs assessment implications at this point associated with this report.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices - Documents Attached</b>
	<p>Appendix 1 – Stakeholder Engagement Information Document</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Belfast City Council Response to Stakeholder Survey</p>

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Special EU Programmes Body  
Foras Um Chláir Speisialta An AE  
Boord O Owre Ocht UE Projects

# PREPARING THE PEACE PLUS PROGRAMME

European Territorial Co-operation  
2021–2027

## Stakeholder Engagement Information Document

December 2019 to February 2020



Northern Ireland  
Executive

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



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

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## Part 1: Introduction

### 1.1 We want your views!

The Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) is one of the six cross-border Bodies set up under the “Agreement between the Government of Ireland and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland establishing implementing bodies” signed on 8 March 1999 (the British-Irish Agreement of 8 March 1999).

We are responsible for the implementation of the EU’s PEACE IV (€270m) and INTERREG VA (€283m) Programmes. We also have a signposting role to promote involvement in the INTERREG VB Transnational and INTERREG VC Interregional Programmes.

The SEUPB would like your input to the development of a new PEACE PLUS programme; funding activities related to peace and reconciliation and to economic and social development in Northern Ireland and the Border Counties of Ireland<sup>1</sup>.

PEACE PLUS is a new cross-border EU funding programme for the 2021-2027 period, which will succeed both of the current 2014-2020 PEACE IV and INTERREG VA Programmes.

This new programme represents an exciting opportunity to continue to fund peace building interventions alongside activities which help to make the region a more prosperous, healthier place to live through funding areas of mutual interest on a cross-border basis.

Input is welcomed from persons or organisations regardless of whether you have been involved in the current or previous PEACE or INTERREG Programmes, or whether this is your first encounter with an SEUPB managed programme.

The PEACE IV Programme 2014-2020, worth €270 million, is a European Territorial Development programme dedicated to delivering real and lasting change in terms of:

- **Shared Education** initiatives,
- Support for marginalised **Children and Young People**,
- Provision of new **Shared Spaces and Services**,
- **Building Positive Relations** between people from different communities and backgrounds.

The INTERREG VA Programme 2014-2020 is also a European Territorial Development programme, with a total budget of €283 million with funding provided across the following areas:

- **Research & Innovation**,
- **Environmental** initiatives,
- **Sustainable Transport** projects,
- **Health & Social Care**.

Further detail on the type of project activities currently funded can be found through the links in Section 2.6.

<sup>1</sup> Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Louth, Monaghan and Sligo. Organisations from outside the programme area may be funded when the objectives of the project contributes to the programme objectives within the region (for more information see section 2.2).

## 1.2 Overview of engagement activities

This wider stakeholder engagement process will contribute to the preparation of a Cooperation Programme document. This document will set out funding objectives and delivery arrangements for the new PEACE PLUS programme. The survey will run from **10 December 2019** until 17:00 **25 February 2020**, with a summary of views published after completion.

In addition to the survey, other engagement activities include: a programme of engagement events; engagement with representative organisations; and with government departments. Alongside this, a socio-economic analysis of the region will be carried out.

Input from engagement activities, together with other research and reports, will form the basis of the draft Cooperation Programme document. A further statutory public consultation will then be carried out, which will give the public the opportunity to comment on the draft Cooperation Programme, as well as on any other supporting reports and assessments. This statutory consultation is likely to be held in the Autumn of 2020.

The EU regulations that will cover the new programme are at a draft stage, and have yet to be approved by the European Council and European Parliament. The draft regulations may be amended during this process. The overall EU budget has not yet been agreed, therefore the budget allocation to the programme is still to be finalised. However, in order to ensure the timely implementation of any future programmes, the Member States (UK and Ireland) have requested the SEUPB to begin preparations, of which stakeholder engagement activities are a key part. This programme planning will run in parallel with final negotiations on the regulations and budget.

## 1.3 Completing the survey

This pack contains the following key parts:

**Part 1** Introduction and instructions on how to respond.

**Part 2** A summary outline of the PEACE PLUS programme, explaining key features and highlighting changes from the programmes currently managed by the SEUPB.

**Part 3** Survey questions, where you can give your views on the themes and priorities for the new PEACE PLUS programme outlined in Part 2.

**To complete this survey**, you can respond via our online survey, by email, or by post.

### Online Survey

To respond to our survey please follow the link to our online survey platform <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/PEACEPLUS> An organisation or individual should only respond once.

### Email or Post

While responses via our online survey platform is the preferred option, you may wish to respond to the survey by email or by post. If so, you can download the survey from our website <https://seupb.eu/PEACEPLUS> or you can request a hardcopy response document by contacting SEUPB:

[PEACEPLUS@seupb.eu](mailto:PEACEPLUS@seupb.eu)  
00 44 (0) 28 90 266 660

Email responses should be sent to:  
[PEACEPLUS@seupb.eu](mailto:PEACEPLUS@seupb.eu)

Postal responses should be sent to:  
2021 -2027 PEACE PLUS  
Programme Stakeholder  
Engagement  
Special EU Programmes Body  
2 Clarence St West  
Belfast  
BT2 7GP

All responses will receive an official acknowledgement from the SEUPB.

### 1.3.1 Use of responses

The survey requires you to provide your name and postal address. This is for verification purposes only and to prevent multiple responses from the same person or organisation. No anonymous responses will be considered.

The SEUPB will publish a synopsis of the responses. If you are responding on behalf of an organisation we may publish your organisation's name, unless you request otherwise. If you are responding as an individual we may refer to the content of your response but not your name or address, nor will we publish anything which may identify you or other individuals.

Notwithstanding the above, the information you provide in your response, excluding personal information, may be disclosed in accordance with the Freedom of Information Code of Practice applicable to North/South Implementing Bodies. If you want the information that you provide to be treated as confidential, please contact [communications@seupb.eu](mailto:communications@seupb.eu), but be aware that, under the Code of Practice, we cannot guarantee confidentiality.

#### Additional information

You may make more copies of this document without seeking permission.

Documentation is available in Irish on the website <https://seupb.eu/PEACEPLUS>. Documentation in Polish, Arabic or in other languages and accessible formats will be made available on request. If you have questions related to the survey or require any further information or support in accessing this document, please contact us at:

PEACE PLUS Programme  
Special EU Programmes Body  
2 Clarence St West  
Belfast  
BT2 7GP

Email: [PEACEPLUS@seupb.eu](mailto:PEACEPLUS@seupb.eu)  
Tel: 00 44 (0) 28 90 266 660

If you have comments or complaints about the way this survey has been conducted, these should be sent to:

Complaints Officer,  
Special EU Programmes Body  
2 Clarence St West  
Belfast  
BT2 7GP

Email: [feedback@seupb.eu](mailto:feedback@seupb.eu)  
Tel: 00 44 (0) 28 90 266 660



## Part 2: The PEACE PLUS Programme

### 2.1 Background

The cohesion policy (or regional policy) of the European Union provides a framework for financing a wide range of projects and investments with the aim of encouraging economic growth in EU Member States, their regions, and third countries. The policy is reviewed by the EU institutions once every seven years. The next round of programmes will cover the period 2021 - 2027.

In the current 2014-2020 period, the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) manages two cross-border cooperation programmes: the PEACE IV programme (total budget: €270 million) in Northern Ireland and the Border Counties of Ireland (including Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Louth, Monaghan and Sligo); and the INTERREG VA programme (total budget: €283 million) which includes the same area plus the west of Scotland<sup>3</sup>. The SEUPB has commenced the preparation of a single successor programme for the period 2021 to 2027. This new programme will be called the PEACE PLUS Programme. It is anticipated that the new programme will have the approximate value of the current two programmes combined.

In order to ensure that the new PEACE PLUS Programme will be ready for implementation in early 2021, the SEUPB is initiating this planning process based on the regulations that have been published in draft form.

The EU regulations that set out the rules within which the PEACE PLUS Programme must be prepared, agreed and implemented are the following:

- Common Provisions – Proposal for a Regulation COM(2018) 375 and annexes,
- ERDF and Cohesion Funds – Proposal for a Regulation COM(2018) 372 and annexes,

- Specific provisions for territorial cooperation – Proposal for a Regulation COM(2018) 374.

These draft regulations have not been approved and are subject to change. However, as currently drafted, the regulations propose a number of important changes to the way cohesion policy is designed and implemented, which will be referred to below.

### 2.2 Programme design and eligible area

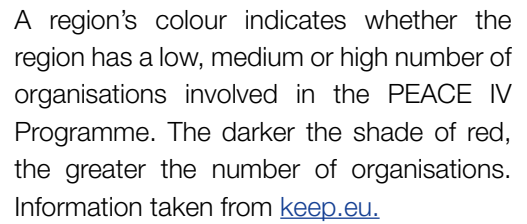
PEACE PLUS is a new cross-border programme that will contribute to a more prosperous and stable society in Northern Ireland and the border region of Ireland. The programme will achieve this by funding peace and reconciliation activities, and by funding activities that contribute to North/South cross-border economic and territorial development of the region<sup>4</sup>. The combination of the PEACE and INTERREG type activities in a single programme is reflected in the name of the programme where “PLUS” represents the inclusion of wider economic, social and environmental activities.

The area that the PEACE PLUS Programme funding has been made available for includes Northern Ireland and the Border Counties of Ireland. PEACE and INTERREG activities do currently, and can in the future, involve partners and activity outside the programme area, as long as they are making a contribution to the objectives of the programme and benefit citizens within the programme area.

<sup>3</sup> Click [here for case studies](#) of the projects funded by the PEACE IV and INTERREG VA Programmes.

<sup>4</sup> Previously funded under INTERREG.

Map 1: Geographic location of partners in PEACE IV



The map displays the British Isles, including Great Britain and Ireland. The four constituent countries are highlighted in different colors: Scotland (red), Northern Ireland (red), Ireland (green), and Great Britain (green). Major cities are labeled, including Inverness, Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, London, Manchester, Liverpool, Leeds, Cambridge, Oxford, Bristol, Cardiff, Cork, Limerick, and Galway. The Isle of Man is also shown.

A region's colour indicates whether the region has a low, medium or high number of organisations involved in the INTERREG VA Programme. The darker the shade of red, the greater the number of organisations. Information taken from [keep.eu](https://keep.eu).

## 2.3 Thematic focus

Although not yet finalised (and therefore subject to change), the draft regulations define the following five Policy Objectives from which programmes should choose themes for investment in the eligible area (for more information, see Section 2.7):

Table 1: Draft Policy Objectives for the 2021-2027 Funding Period

<b>Policy Objective 1</b>	<p><b>A SMARTER EUROPE</b> by promoting innovative and smart economic transformation.</p> <p>This Policy Objective focuses on boosting the innovation capacity of the region, the uptake of advanced technology, the growth and competitiveness of the SME sector, and improving digital services.</p>
<b>Policy Objective 2</b>	<p><b>A GREENER, LOWER CARBON EUROPE</b>, by promoting clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate adaptation, and risk prevention and management.</p> <p>Actions could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• measures to improve energy efficiency,</li> <li>• additional renewable energy production capacity,</li> <li>• smart grids for improved energy management,</li> <li>• improved disaster monitoring, warning or response systems,</li> <li>• improved water and waste treatment,</li> <li>• measures to improve biodiversity.</li> </ul>
<b>Policy Objective 3</b>	<p><b>A MORE CONNECTED EUROPE</b> by enhancing mobility and regional ICT connectivity.</p> <p>This Policy Objective focuses on improving transport and ICT infrastructure in the region.</p>
<b>Policy Objective 4</b>	<p><b>A MORE SOCIAL EUROPE</b> implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights in the region.</p> <p>This Policy Objective focuses on improving employment opportunities; increasing access to quality education; reducing marginalisation through improved housing and services; and increasing access to quality health care. Actions on community and social cohesion would also be supported under this Policy Objective. <b>All of the PEACE activities within PEACE PLUS must be within this objective.</b></p>
<b>Policy Objective 5</b>	<p><b>A EUROPE CLOSER TO ITS CITIZENS</b> by fostering the sustainable and integrated development of urban, rural and coastal areas, and local initiatives in the region.</p> <p>These initiatives can focus on tourism, cultural heritage, community facilities, and security in urban areas.</p>

The process of developing the new PEACE PLUS Programme includes identifying which Policy Objectives are most relevant for promoting peace and reconciliation and for economic and territorial development of Northern Ireland and the Border Counties of Ireland.

In the case of Peace and Reconciliation activities funded by PEACE PLUS, these will be funded under Policy Objective 4.

Figure 1: Policy Objectives that can be funded under PEACE PLUS



## 2.4 Increasing simplification and focus on results

Sound, effective and efficient management of European Regional Development Fund requires appropriate, effective and transparent systems. Management and control systems must ensure the prevention and detection of irregularities, including fraud, and thus reasonable assurance on the regularity of expenditure. Programmes and projects must be accountable and demonstrate value for money, therefore processes must exist to be able to capture results for assessment and communication. At the same time the delivery system should be as simple and streamlined as possible to ensure efficient implementation and the reduction of administrative burden for beneficiaries.

The PEACE IV and INTERREG VA programmes include a number of initiatives to simplify participation in the programmes and to ensure that the results of the programme can be measured and assessed. The draft regulations set out a number of provisions that will enable PEACE PLUS to go even further.

Under the current programmes a number of simplified cost options are already used for payment to projects. The idea of payment via simplified cost options, as opposed to payment of real costs, is to reduce the complexity of reimbursement processes by making payments on the basis of predefined rates.

The main kinds of simplified costs options used by the current programmes are:

- “flat rates” – where costs are calculated through an automatic calculation; and
- “unit costs” – where payments are tied to the delivery of pre-agreed outputs rather than based on the direct costs related to producing the output.

The SEUPB already promotes the use of simplified cost options within the current programmes and wishes to extend the use of simplified costs options. For project partners this will reduce the administrative burden and reduce error rates. In the case of unit costs, this would enable partners to devote more attention to quality of outputs. With unit costs, the evidence that partners need to submit in order to receive reimbursement of expenditure is the evidence of the delivery and quality of the output as opposed to the evidence of the related costs.

## 2.5 Other administrative and delivery arrangements

The SEUPB will continue to act as a Managing Authority, operating under the scrutiny of a Programme Monitoring Committee consisting of EU, Member State, Sponsor Department, cross-border and other relevant stakeholders. However, certain changes to current delivery arrangements are foreseen in the draft regulation.

### Single Jurisdiction Partnerships

Both PEACE IV and INTERREG VA are cross-border EU funding programmes designed to forge peace and reconciliation and foster economic development across the region.

Within PEACE programmes there has always been a specific derogation given to fund projects in a single jurisdiction (although cross-border partnerships are encouraged and much of the PEACE IV programme is implemented on a cross-border basis). Under INTERREG programmes, partnerships must involve organisations from both jurisdictions, with projects co-designed and delivered on a cross-border basis.

PEACE PLUS is a cross-border programme. However, single jurisdiction partnerships (i.e. project partnerships involving organisations from a single country) will continue to be eligible for funding provided they meet the objective of Peace and Reconciliation. Projects addressing wider economic and territorial development challenges (as previously funded under INTERREG VA) will need to involve cross-border partnerships and beneficiaries.

### Project Development Support

For the current programmes, support to potential applicants is available in a number of forms, including through the SEUPB website and through events promoting calls for funding.

The SEUPB would like to consider other ways of providing project development support during the new programming period. Examples of additional support could be:

- Expert assistance supporting project development
- A wider suite of events, including networking events and project development workshops
- Additional materials published online, including manuals and instruction videos
- Lump sum payments for preparation costs.

### Funding Rate

For projects currently funded under PEACE IV and INTERREG VA, projects are commonly funded up to 100% of project costs. However, there are also many projects that include a contribution from the partners where they are capable of doing so.

In the PEACE PLUS programme the SEUPB will continue to explore arrangements where partners contribute some or all of their match-funding if they are in a position to do so.

### 2.6 Useful links

Further information can be found on [our website](#) about the following:

- Citizens' summaries of the current [PEACE IV](#) and [INTERREG VA](#) programmes,
- Information about projects funded by the [PEACE IV](#) and [INTERREG VA](#) programmes,
- Information about evaluations underway concerning the current [programmes](#).
- [Output Indicator Guides for current programmes](#).
- Cooperation Programme documents for the [PEACE IV](#) and [INTERREG VA](#) programmes.



## 2.7 Draft Policy Objectives

As part of the programme design process, programmes must tailor specific objectives to local needs. For funding related to Peace and Reconciliation, specific objectives under Policy Objective 4 will be tailored to focus specifically on Peace activities.

Table 2: Draft Policy Objectives and Specific Objectives for the 2021-2027 Funding Period

PO	Policy objective	Specific objective
1	<b>A SMARTER EUROPE</b> by promoting innovative and smart economic transformation	(i) Enhancing research and innovation capacities and the uptake of advanced technologies.
		(ii) Reaping the benefits of digitisation for citizens, companies and governments.
		(iii) Enhancing growth and competitiveness of SMEs.
		(iv) Developing skills for smart specialisation, industrial transition and entrepreneurship.
2	<b>A GREENER, LOWER CARBON EUROPE</b> by promoting clean and fair energy transition, green and blue investment, the circular economy, climate adaptation and risk prevention and management	(i) Promoting energy efficiency measures.
		(ii) Promoting renewable energy.
		(iii) Developing smart energy systems, grids and storage at local level.
		(iv) Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and disaster resilience.
		(v) Promoting sustainable water management.
		(vi) Promoting the transition to a circular economy.
		(vii) Enhancing biodiversity, green infrastructure in the urban environment, and reducing pollution.
3	<b>A MORE CONNECTED EUROPE</b> by enhancing mobility and regional ICT connectivity	(i) Enhancing digital connectivity.
		(ii) Developing a sustainable, climate resilient, intelligent, secure and intermodal TEN-T.
		(iii) Developing sustainable, climate resilient, intelligent and intermodal national, regional and local mobility, including improved access to trans-European and cross-border mobility.
		(iv) Promoting sustainable multimodal urban mobility.
4	<b>A MORE SOCIAL EUROPE</b> implementing the European Pillar of Social Rights	(i) Enhancing the effectiveness of labour markets and access to quality employment through developing social innovation and infrastructure.
		(ii) Improving access to inclusive and quality services in education, training and lifelong learning through developing infrastructure.
		(iii) Increasing the socio-economic integration of marginalised communities, migrants and disadvantaged groups, through integrated measures including housing and social services.
		(iv) Ensuring equal access to health care through developing infrastructure, including primary care.
5	<b>A EUROPE CLOSER TO ITS CITIZENS</b> by fostering the sustainable and integrated development of urban, rural and coastal areas and local initiatives	(i) Fostering the integrated social, economic and environmental development, cultural heritage and security in urban areas.

## 2.8 Glossary

Table 3: Glossary

<b>Common provisions – Proposal for a Regulation COM(2018) 375 and annexes</b>	This proposed regulation sets out common rules on planning of programmes, thematic objectives, financial management and monitoring and evaluation of programmes. These rules will apply to the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), the European Social Fund (ESF), the Cohesion Fund, the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) and the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF).
<b>Cooperation Programme</b>	The Cooperation Programme is the document codifying programme objectives, results and the types of actions that will receive funding. It describes how these respond to identified challenges and needs of the region. It also sets out arrangements for the management, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the programme.
<b>ERDF</b>	The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) aims to strengthen economic and social cohesion in the European Union by reducing inequalities between its regions. A specific portion of the fund is dedicated to border regions. This is called European Territorial Cooperation or INTERREG.
<b>ERDF and Cohesion Funds – Proposal for a Regulation COM(2018) 372 and annexes</b>	This proposed regulation sets out the rules in relation to the overall goals of cohesion policy and the management and control systems for cohesion policy funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). Funding for the PEACE PLUS Programme will come from ERDF and is therefore subject to the provisions of this Regulation.
<b>Flat rates</b>	Where costs are calculated through an automatic calculation. An example of a Flat Rate in the 2014-2020 programming period is the Flat Rate at which partners claim costs under the Budget Heading: “Office and Administration Costs”. Projects do not claim actual costs related to Office and Administration (photocopying, electricity bills etc.). Instead the value of these costs are automatically calculated as rate at which “Office and Administration Costs” are reimbursed (15% of eligible Staff Costs).
<b>Green and blue infrastructure</b>	Green and blue infrastructure is a strategically planned network of natural and semi-natural areas with other environmental features designed and managed to deliver a wide range of ecosystem services such as water purification, air quality, space for recreation and climate mitigation and adaptation.
<b>ICT</b>	Information and Communication Technology.
<b>Intervention Rate</b>	The percentage of the total project budget financed by ERDF.



<b>Simplified Cost Options</b>	<p>The idea of payment via simplified cost options, as opposed payment of real costs, is to reduce the complexity of reimbursement processes by making payments on the basis of predefined rates.</p> <p>The main kinds of simplified costs options used by the current programmes are: “flat rates” and “unit costs”.</p>
<b>SME</b>	<p>Small and Medium Enterprises. SMEs are defined by the European Commission as having less than 250 persons employed. They should also have an annual turnover of up to EUR 50 million, or a balance sheet total of no more than EUR 43 million.</p>
<b>Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB)</b>	<p>We are one of the six cross-border Bodies set up under the “Agreement between the Government of Ireland and the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland establishing implementing bodies”.</p> <p>The SEUPB is responsible for the implementation of the EU’s PEACE IV (€270m) and INTERREG VA (€283m) Programmes. The SEUPB also has a signposting role to promote involvement in the INTERREG VB Transnational and INTERREG VC Interregional Programmes.</p>
<b>Specific provisions for territorial cooperation – Proposal for a Regulation COM(2018) 374</b>	<p>This proposed regulation sets out the specific programming and reporting arrangements for cross-border, transnational and interregional programmes. It sets out the Policy Objectives, the ERDF, eligibility criteria, financial resources available and criteria for their allocation. It also sets the implementation arrangements, including plans for financial management and control. The PEACE PLUS Programme will be funded as a European Territorial Cooperation Programme and is therefore subject to the provisions of this Regulation.</p>
<b>TEN-T</b>	<p>The TEN-T programme consists of hundreds of projects – defined as studies or works – whose ultimate purpose is to ensure the cohesion, interconnection and interoperability of the trans-European transport network, as well as access to it.</p>
<b>Unit Costs</b>	<p>Where payments are tied to the delivery of pre-agreed outputs rather than based on the direct costs related to producing the output. An example of a Unit Cost in the 2014-2020 programming period is the Unit Cost for SMEs attending a project workshop. Under this Unit Cost, partners can claim a fee for each SME that attends a workshop, rather than the actual costs associated with the workshop.</p>

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Special EU Programmes Body  
Foras Um Chláir Speisialta An AE  
Boord O Owre Ocht UE Projects



Northern Ireland  
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Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland



Special EU Programmes Body  
Foras Um Chláir Speisialta An AE  
Boord O Owre Ocht UE Projects

## **PREPARING THE PEACE PLUS PROGRAMME**

European Territorial Co-operation 2021–2027

### **Stakeholder Engagement Survey – Questions**

December 2019 to February 2020



**Northern Ireland  
Executive**  
[www.northernireland.gov.uk](http://www.northernireland.gov.uk)



**Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland**

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## Survey questions

**The purpose of this survey is to get input from stakeholders on potential funding themes for the PEACE PLUS Programme as well as feedback on delivery options as proposed by the draft regulations.**

PEACE PLUS is a new cross-border programme that will contribute to a more prosperous and stable society in Northern Ireland and the border region of Ireland. The programme will achieve this by funding peace-building activities, and by funding activities that contribute to the cross-border economic and territorial development of the region<sup>1</sup>. The combination of the PEACE and INTERREG type activities in a single programme is reflected in the name of the programme where “PLUS” stands for the inclusion of wider North/South economic, social and environmental activities of mutual interest.

We welcome responses regardless of whether you have been involved in INTERREG or PEACE before. We really appreciate your views.

The survey is composed of 5 sections. We recommend that you read the [“Part 2 of the Stakeholder Engagement Information Document”](#) before responding, as questions will refer to this.

With the exception of Section A, no section is compulsory; please respond to the questions in the other sections where you wish to do so. Please use Section E to make more general comments that you do not feel are covered in the rest of the survey and to attach reports to support your response where you believe this is relevant for the programme development.

Responses are subject to word limits. This is to encourage focused responses and ensure that responses can be effectively analysed by the SEUPB as part of the process to develop the new programme. We recommend that you include evidence to support your responses. For example, you may include links to supporting information as part of your response or you may add attachments in Section E.

## Deadline for response

The engagement process will run from **10 December 2019** until **17:00 on 25 February 2020**. The SEUPB welcomes early responses so that views, ideas and comments can contribute to ongoing developments and debates during the engagement process.

## Other ways to get involved

A number of stakeholder information events have been organised, at which members of the public and other key stakeholders will have the opportunity to express their views on the issues raised in this document. Information on the dates and locations for these meetings is available on the SEUPB’s website at <https://seupb.eu/peaceplus>.

1 Previously funded under INTERREG.

## Use of responses

**This survey requires you to provide your name and postal address. This is for verification purposes only and to prevent multiple responses from the same person or organisation. No anonymous responses will be considered.**

The SEUPB will publish a synopsis of the responses. If you are responding on behalf of an organization, we may publish your organisation's name, unless requested not to below. If you are responding as an individual, we may refer to the content of your response but not your name or address, nor will we publish anything which may identify you or other individuals.

Notwithstanding the above, the information you provide in your response to this survey, excluding personal information, may be disclosed in accordance with the Freedom of Information Code of Practice (North South Implementation Bodies and Tourism Ireland Ltd.). If you want the information that you provide to be treated as confidential, please contact [communications@seupb.eu](mailto:communications@seupb.eu), but be aware that, under the Code of Practice, we cannot guarantee confidentiality.

☒ **I am responding on behalf of my organisation and I do not wish the details of the organisation to be published.**

## A. About you

### Q.A.1 Are you responding on behalf of an organisation or as an individual? \*

Please note, this question is compulsory

#### Organisation

If you chose

- **Organisation:** Please state your name and your organisation's name and address:  
C/o Nigel Grimshaw, Strategic Director  
Belfast City Council City and Neighbourhood Services Department  
The Cecil Ward Building 4-10 Linenhall Street  
Belfast, BT2 8BP.
- **Individual:** Please state your name and address: ( not applicable)

### Q.A.2 Which of the following best describes you? (Select as many as applicable)

- ☒ I am a stakeholder associated with the management of the PEACE or INTERREG programmes
- ☒ I receive or have previously received funding from the PEACE or INTERREG programmes (as a project partner or a subcontracted organisation)
- ☐ I have applied for funding from the PEACE or INTERREG programmes but my application was not accepted
- ☐ I have been a participant or beneficiary of a PEACE or INTERREG funded project
- ☒ I would like to get involved with this PEACE PLUS Programme
- ☐ Other. Please describe: [Click here to enter text.](#)



## **B (1). Thematic focus: Peace-building activities**

The PEACE PLUS programme will contribute to a more peaceful, prosperous and stable society in Northern Ireland and the Border Counties of Ireland<sup>1</sup> by funding:

- **peace and reconciliation activities**, and
- activities that contribute to North/South **economic, social and environmental** development in the region, in areas of mutual interest.

### **Peace-building activities**

PEACE PLUS will fund Peace and Reconciliation under Policy Objective 4 of the draft EU regulation. This allows for funding to be awarded for the following:

- Actions to improve community and social cohesion,
- Improving employment opportunities,
- Increasing access to quality education,
- Reducing marginalisation through improved housing and services,
- Increasing access to quality health care in the region,
- Other peace building activities.

Thinking of the needs in your local area, we want your views on which actions are most relevant for achieving Peace and Reconciliation.

**To help you with your responses you may wish to view case studies** of the existing PEACE initiatives. These can be found here: <https://seupb.eu/case-studies>.

- 1 Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Louth, Monaghan and Sligo. Organisations from outside the programme area may be funded where this contributes to the programme objectives for the eligible region.

**Q.B.1** Below are a list of indicative actions for achieving Peace and Reconciliation. Please rate the relevance of each type of action as a means to achieve Peace and Reconciliation.

	Not at all relevant 1	2	3	4	5	6	Extremel y relevant 7	I don't know
Actions to improve community and social cohesion.	7							
Improving employment opportunities.	7							
Increasing access to quality education.	7							
Reducing marginalisation through improved housing and services.	7							
Increasing access to quality health care in the region.	7							
Other peace building activities.	7							

**Q.B.1i Please explain why you have given the rating above: [Word limit 500 words]**

Our Good Relations Strategy 2019 recognises that following years of conflict, our city has made great progress towards normality. However, despite this, there remain some fundamental key issues that continue to manifest themselves in division between communities, with low levels of trust and high levels of residential, educational, physical and social segregation in many areas. It also recognises the persistent issues around expressions of identity, which often result in community tensions and increased polarisation.

Belfast contains the highest number of interface areas in the region where segregation remains high. Inter-community tensions are reducing but continuing. There are around 85 built interface barriers in Belfast and even since 1994, 10 barriers have been erected and 12 have been heightened, lengthened or extended. Recent findings from consultations undertaken as part of the development of our PEACE IV Plan and our Good Relations Audit indicated that residents living near interfaces or 'peace walls' should be a key target group for engagement on good relations and peace building activities.

Three areas of concern were highlighted:

- environmental fears;
- lack of investment, regeneration or employability; and
- Disproportionate levels of poor health.

The perceived disparity in investment between the most affluent and most deprived communities continues to inhibit sharing and social cohesion. A lack of connectivity and the continued existence of physical barriers extend division across the city at certain points and gateways. The challenge remains that the most funded areas are still the most disadvantaged.

Belfast has also become a much more diverse city, with many people from overseas making Belfast their home. This increased diversity has brought with it many opportunities. However, it also presents

challenges for organisations and businesses to make sure our new communities are included and participate in the economic, civic, social and cultural life of the city. Equality and good relations are key to improving the quality of life for everyone in the city. Our vision is to shape Belfast so that its infrastructure, spaces and services meet the needs and ambitions of all people who live, work, invest, study and visit the city.

Since our last Strategy we have developed the Belfast Agenda, with a renewed emphasis on joining the dots between agencies and communities and a focus on better outcomes for residents. BREXIT has created uncertainty for many. Meanwhile, everyday life in Belfast continues to change as a result of, among other things, digitisation and globalisation.

However, many people within our society still think of Belfast in binary terms – of a society made up of two communities; catholic and protestant. In many ways this binary view and its influence on public service decision-making has accentuated division in our society by duplicating services and hampering the connectivity between people and communities. In the current economic climate, the challenge for civic leadership and public service delivery is the need to avoid binary decision-making which compounds division. This means shifting the dialogue to delivering on the Belfast Agenda in a way that involves people in an innovative city conversation on how services are delivered in a way that can foster sharing and build good relations.

**Belfast (2030) vision (Belfast Agenda conversation)**

'Good relations' is a top priority. People said they would like to see issues addressed including removal of interfaces (or peace walls), concerns around symbols and expressing cultural identity and more shared space.

The following GR themes emerged when respondents were asked "what would you like Belfast to be like in 2030?"

- A peaceful and shared city.
- A welcoming, caring and compassionate city.
- A vibrant and culturally diverse city, where everyone is respected and treated equally.
- A clean, healthy and safe city where everyone has access to good housing, quality green spaces, services and facilities that enable them to be happy, safe and active.

Improved housing reduces marginalisation, helps improve our carbon emissions and reduces household running costs. This is an area of focus in the Belfast Climate Change Commission and draft

resilient cities strategy.

As a council, we could further develop and deliver employment initiatives and influence access to quality education by working with employers and other stakeholders to influence skills development and employability to target young people and up skill others for jobs in our growth sectors - cyber, legal, fintech, Creative industries, Reg Tech, Med Tech etc.

**Q.B.1ii If there are other types of action not covered by the table in Q.B.1 that you think are relevant for achieving Peace and Reconciliation in your local area, please describe them below. [Word limit 1000 words]**

The current Belfast Resilience strategy which is out for consultation states “To put it starkly, Northern Ireland is not prepared for the impacts of climate change. As its capital city, the risks to Belfast are profound.”

Belfast is more vulnerable today because of its lack of preparedness, because of underinvestment in key aspects of its infrastructure, and because of its dependence on carbon. Each of these factors make resilience to climate change more challenging. The divisions in the city - spatial divisions and social ones - weaken its capacity to adapt to and respond to shocks, but importantly also absorb resources that could be spent preparing the city for the future.

The human side - the scale of mental ill-health, the prevalence of prescription drug taking, poverty and inequality across the city - require a particular and sustained focus. Individuals and communities are much more exposed to risk if they are less healthy and do not possess the additional financial capacity to respond when a shock occurs.

Belfast must learn to adapt more quickly to change. It must develop a city-wide collective approach to managing risks and must improve how it plans and acts for the long-term. This strategy contains several proposals to improve the governance and management of risk across the city.

A 2016 NICVA study on income inequality found that ‘it is possible to say that Belfast is the most unequal part of NI, as it has a high proportion of people in the bottom of the income distribution (25%) and a high proportion at the top (18%).’

Coupled with political polarization, inequality erodes a country’s social fabric in an economically damaging way: as cohesion and trust diminish, economic performance is likely to follow.

Climate change represents the biggest medium-term risk to the city of Belfast - to its people and its economy. Given our levels of economic resilience, the scale and nature of spatial division in the city, levels of fuel poverty and deprivation, Belfast’s resilience is dependent on how we prepare. A step change is now required across a range of city partners to develop comprehensive climate adaptation and mitigation.

As the Committee on Climate Change noted, ‘Low income households are particularly susceptible to climate change impacts, though they might also benefit the most from the positive implications of climate change. Northern Ireland has the highest proportion of properties at risk of flooding that are in deprived areas (27%).’ For this reason, it is critical that climate adaptation and mitigation targets are genuinely inclusive and aim to ensure the most vulnerable are protected, and that the economic benefits from decarbonisation are felt by those most impacted by fuel poverty. A core aim of any climate mitigation plan must be a significant reduction, or virtual elimination of fuel poverty.

Furthermore, given the level of interest in the issue of climate change by the city’s children and young people, it is critical that city-wide climate planning is participative and includes their voices and opinions on the future of their city.

However, the legacy of conflict has manifested in division, which continues to directly impact on the city and to undermine its urban resilience. Division between communities remains prevalent with low levels of trust and high levels of residential, educational, physical and social segregation in many areas. Belfast contains the highest number of interface areas in the region where segregation remains high.

Inter-community tensions are reducing but continuing. There are estimated to be around 97 security barriers and forms of defensive architecture across residential areas in Belfast. Many people within our society still think of Belfast in binary terms - of a society made up of two communities; Catholic and Protestant. In many ways this binary view and its influence on public service decision making has accentuated division in our society by duplicating services and hampering the connectivity between people and communities. (GR Strategy). Physical and psychological barriers between communities make travel around parts of the city difficult. This has resulted in people avoiding certain areas perceived to be unsafe.

It is not a coincidence that Belfast's Resilience Strategy and its Good Relations Strategy have both prioritised 'connectedness' as a major problem to be solved. If Belfast is to thrive in the face of unexpected challenges, it must do so as a united, socially cohesive city.

Business support/growth are critical as are skills and employment, work placements, alternative apprenticeships, social innovation and cooperatives.

**Q.B.1iii What are the main challenges and opportunities for greater Peace and Reconciliation (previously addressed under the PEACE programme)?** [Word limit 1000 words]

### **Embedding good relations at the core of the city's new strategies**

In the development of this Strategy, a range of stakeholders shared their views on how they believe it can help achieve the ambitions within the Belfast Agenda. Below is a summary of the key comments and messages from stakeholders.

#### ***Key outcomes that good community and race relations can bring to Belfast***

- Improved economic vitality
- Improved health and wellbeing
- A shared future for all
- More investment
- Better educated population
- Equality, integration and diversity
- More or greater social and labour mobility
- More inclusive spaces
- A sense of belonging to the city
- More intercultural city
- Cost savings - joined up services
- Confident and outward looking
- Entrepreneurial city population
- Improved image
- More visitors and spend
- Reduced fear of crime
- Less civic disturbance

#### ***Important actions that council could undertake to build good community and race relations in Belfast***

#### ***Biggest issues or barriers that hold us back from building good community and race relations in Belfast***

- Lack of integrated education and shared housing
- Poverty and deprivation
- Lack of hope and aspiration
- Spatial segregation
- Legacy of the troubles
- Sectarianism, racism and prejudice
- Lack of ambition and personal aspiration
- Physical barriers
- Political leadership
- Ongoing hard good relations issues
- Duplication of service provision - costs
- Legacy issues - multi-dimensional and deep-rooted issues
- Cultural differences, myths and intolerance
- Lack of understanding of what is culturally acceptable
- Connect area-based planning to citywide planning policy
- Negative media coverage
- Polarised Politics
- Legal limitations of Section 75 legislation
- Perceived injustices

#### ***How good community and race relations can contribute to the delivery of the Belfast Agenda***

- Demonstrate strong political leadership
- Planning policy for shared communities
- Identify and work with agents of reform
- Take a systems-based approach
- Build strong, outward looking, hopeful communities
- Services realigned to needs versus geography
- Evidence, area-based, integrated, preventative, collaborative and challenge focused approach
- Demonstrate the economic case for good relations
- Develop shared spaces
- Drive forward inclusive growth
- Civic conversations
- Youth engagement
- Joined up working - long term funding
- Exploring the diversity of people and identities
- Positive media coverage
- Outcomes approach
- Have a comprehensive Good Relations Strategy
- Promoting a “common good” approach
- A “positive peace and systems thinking” approach
- Work with and upskill communities
- Need critical, evidence focused thinking
- Disrupt old approaches
- Need cross departmental approach
- Collective oversight and a focus on the bigger picture
- Collaborate, collecting and sharing data
- Agree a set of guiding principles
- Embrace change
- Civic conversations and understand differences
- Help with the development of LDP local policies
- Support a shared housing or living agenda
- Define inclusive growth
- Help the social economy to grow and contribute to good relations and inclusive growth

In addition, Belfast has undergone significant demographic and cultural change over the past decade. The scale of recent immigration has changed the map of diversity in Belfast but despite this change, levels of integration are not keeping pace with our city’s growing diversity. The increasing diversity of backgrounds and experiences has raised challenges around how best to support the integration of new communities and how to support capacity within receiving communities to respond to change positively.

The speed and scale of many new communities arriving into sometimes contested neighbourhoods, in Belfast, has presented challenges and anxieties, whether perceived or real, around limited resources, housing, education and the erosion of identity.

Struggles and perceptions around resources often result in hostility towards new groups, perceived to be culturally different. Such feelings are exacerbated by a lack of contact between communities and others by the lack of informed debate and information. Research conducted by Belfast City Council in 2018 highlighted a growing sense of vulnerability felt by people from the Muslim Faith living in Belfast and indeed a rising trend in hate crimes experienced by people from the Muslim community. The negative discourse around migration and a rise in hate has impacted on people’s willingness to mix.

There is a need for sustained contact between members of new and host communities to break down fears and anxieties and lead to greater understanding and meaningful contact.

The Belfast Agenda and community planning aim to improve the connection between all the tiers of Government and wider society, through partnership working, to jointly deliver better outcomes for everyone. The Belfast Agenda identifies long-term priorities for improving the social, economic and environmental well-being of the city and the people who live here.



This brings about a real opportunity for Peace and Reconciliation to work in tandem with the objectives of the Belfast Agenda to bring about structured collaboration and partnerships focused on practical peace and reconciliation outcomes in the context of a wider regeneration agenda.

Peace PLUS represents an opportunity to address the biggest issues and barriers that are holding us back from building good community and race relations in the city.

**Q.B.1iv Please list any ideas for initiatives or projects that could address the challenges/opportunities identified in Q.B.1iii. [Word limit 1000 words]**

Health

- Recognise that Mental Health issues cross all barriers (religion, race, age, gender, social class, etc.) and support projects that address issues such as depression, addiction, isolation, suicide, etc. Mental Health focus on Young People and also most vulnerable age group 35-44.
- Encourage the use of the completed SSS Connected Open Spaces Network with the inclusion of a healthy living element that encourages activity – e.g. walking, cycling, running, at all levels of ability.
- With links to the first point, a community education element that looks at promoting healthy living through diet and lifestyle, e.g.
  - Promoting affordable healthy eating in disadvantaged areas
  - Community led projects that encourage and support local sports clubs to use BCC centres and facilities for fitness/sporting project, ranging from armchair aerobics to encouraging people to come back to a sport/activity.

Education, training and life-long learning

- Training programmes that offer worthwhile work-related qualifications that are recognised by employers and relevant to the current labour market
- Support for adult learners in getting back into education through partnership with the community, schools, colleges, universities, training organisations, etc., providing sign posting services, community based tutoring/support, etc.
- Support of vocational and professional qualifications

Socio-economic integration: marginalised communities, migrants, disadvantaged groups, people at risk of poverty, young people, Roma.

- Marginalised/deprived communities that are not necessarily the “normal” recognised deprived/disadvantaged communities/individuals/groups (e.g. in or around interfaces). For example, rural communities, individuals/groups in the less deprived wards/areas (Clarawood estate in Cherryvalley ward).
- Project targeted at the “the working poor” - not poor enough to be deprived but not wealthy enough to be comfortable.

Labour market, skills development and employment: access to employment, labour mobility



- Continued support of an “Active Travel” type project that will encourage people to move out of their communities to access employment (e.g. use of a local community bike scheme).
- Development of vocational training projects that will offer labour market related qualifications that will give local people access employment opportunities in their local communities (e.g. construction work, health sector, schools, hospitality, etc.)
- Training projects targeted at people currently in employment that offers vocational/professional qualifications that will help them progress within that organisation or sector (e.g. teaching assistants into teaching, carers into social work).

Entrepreneurship: self-employment, business start-up, social enterprises

- Community based and/or accessible facilities that will offer support, guidance and training. For example, business plan writing, financial management, interview / presentation skills, market research, etc.
- Encourage the training and support that will develop individuals as an adaptable product that can meet the needs and requirement of a diverse and ever changing labour market.

Equal and timely access to quality, sustainable and affordable services

- Support of community based facilities that offer affordable at cost services and/or support around education opportunities, employment, generalist advice, legal, health, etc., to groups/individuals.
- Promote a welcome and harmonious approach with these facilities that will encourage marginalised groups/individuals (e.g. isolated individuals, migrant groups, those with mental health issues, etc.).

Building Positive Relations

- Further development of transformative leadership aligns with changing environment/council structures / area working.
- Positive culture expression / promotes experience from other community.
- Project that promotes what we have in common, e.g. history, culture, diversity, etc. with events that have a shared theme or that encourage the community to experience and respect difference.
- Develop and support projects/programmes that recognise that young people, from all community backgrounds, are more accepting of difference and don't necessarily have the same issues as their parents.
- Inclusion of single identity work to address intra community relations and prepare for cross community work.
- Diversity / Inclusion projects due to changing demographics / social make up of areas.
- Initiatives that address segregation and division / encourage usage of existing community assets/focus on assisting the opening up / transformation of interfaces areas.

- Broaden the language around a 'shared' city to take cognisance of contested spaces and the potential positive impacts that could be delivered through major infrastructure projects such as the York St Interchange, PIV-funded Connected open Spaces project and Council's own 5 x identified 'transformational' sites.
- Look at areas with a wider lens – child friendly, meanwhile use, social economy projects.

#### Shared Education

- Continuation of projects/programmes that encourage young people to learn together and respect diversity and difference.
- Projects/programmes that encourage young people to have an influence on how their communities are developed. For example, schools used to promote capital builds and take on board what young people would like for their communities in the future.
- Projects that have less of a separation between school and community, with an emphasis on collaboration and complementarity. For example, sixth form pupils involved in community consultation events or even with their own events.

#### Children and Young People

- Marginalised youth with focus on wellbeing, soft skills development, youth leadership and democracy
- Play based projects / facilities at interface areas
- Skills/Learning Pathways for Young People
- Projects that focus less on PUL/CNR issues and more on what makes young people similar. For example employment, homelessness, climate change/environment, mental health, etc.

#### Dealing with the past; victims and survivors, mental health

- Projects that prioritise mental health needs and not as a secondary issue. Recognition that this is a community need with some areas being epicentres for some of the issues
- Ethical Remembering of historic events / conflict
- Projects that recognise that there are victims and survivors and providing the necessary support, but do not encourage communities to continually open old wounds.
- Initiatives that address segregation and division / encourage usage of existing community assets
- Community Cohesion and cultural identity, including marginalised communities
- Projects that prioritise what brings the communities together, rather than what divides. For example, mental health issues, employment, education, brexit, climate change etc.
- Looking beyond "The Troubles" and the issues that divide communities with a greater emphasis put on what communities share around local history, identity, culture, etc.
- Projects that include / support international best practice to encourage shared learning, experiences and reconciliation from other perspectives.
- Continuation of the support for projects that target communities (geographically and socially) that have become isolated and/or marginalised
- Practical programmes and project interventions which agencies and communities can undertake to become a more inclusive City to newcomers, economic migrants and refugees and asylum

seekers. Increase in hate crime- need for preventative programmes and to address rise in Islamophobia.

**B (2). Thematic focus: North/South economic, social and environmental development of the region**

The PEACE PLUS programme will contribute to a more peaceful, prosperous and stable society in Northern Ireland and the Border Counties of Ireland<sup>2</sup> by funding:

- **peace and reconciliation activities**, and
- activities that contribute to North/South **economic, social and environmental** development in the region in areas of mutual interest.

**Wider economic, social and environmental development of the region**

PEACE PLUS can fund the wider economic, social and environmental development of the region by financing projects under all five Policy Objectives set out in the draft EU regulations. The process for selecting which of these Policy Objectives PEACE PLUS will focus on is still in progress. This is why we would like your views on which Policy Objectives would enable investment with the most impact for the economic, social and environmental development of the region.

**To help you with your responses you may wish to view case studies** of the existing INTERREG initiatives. These can be found here: <https://seupb.eu/case-studies>.

- 
- (2) Cavan, Donegal, Leitrim, Louth, Monaghan and Sligo. Organisations from outside the programme area may be funded where this contributes to the programme objectives for the eligible region.

## Q.B.2 Rate the relevance of Policy Objective 1: A SMARTER EUROPE

(i) Actions under this Policy Objective could include:

- Measures to boost the innovation capacity of the region,
- Measures to increase the uptake of advanced technology,
- Actions to increase the growth and competitiveness of the SME sector,
- Improvements to digital services.

Not at all relevant	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Extremely Relevant
	7							

I don't know

☐

**Q.B.2i Please explain why you have given the rating above:** [Word limit 500 words]

The “measures to increase the uptake of advanced technology” align to the councils focus on our growth sectors cyber, fintech, creative industries, tourism, etc. These are relevant to the whole of the City Deal area and fully aligned to Belfast Agenda and Smart Belfast Framework and a collaborative approach with other stakeholders to bring match funding could be explored.

The Smart Belfast framework is about harnessing innovation, technology and data science to contribute to the success of the Belfast Agenda. The framework outlines proposals which seek to foster conditions for greater collaborative innovations between public, commercial, academic and community organisations in Belfast. Further details are outlined in our Smart Belfast Framework 2017 to 2021 document at <https://smartbelfast.city/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Smart-Cities-Framework.pdf>

### Q.B.3 Rate the relevance of Policy Objective 2: A GREENER, LOWER CARBON EUROPE

(i) Actions under this Policy Objective could include:

- Measures to improve energy efficiency,
- Additional renewable energy production capacity,
- Smart grids for improved energy management,
- Improved disaster monitoring, warning or response systems,
- Improved water and waste treatment,
- Measures to improve biodiversity.

Not at all relevant	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Extremely Relevant
	7							

I don't know

☐

#### Q.B.3i Please explain why you have given the rating above: [Word limit 500 words]

The development of a greener, lower carbon Europe is essential as we move towards a future where we will face growing challenges to infrastructure, economy, and community. A collective approach to developing new infrastructure and skills, and new approaches to how we do business will require both leadership and resources. Belfast has recently declared a climate emergency and has formed structures to drive the transition to a low carbon economy including the Belfast Resilience and Sustainability Board, the Belfast Climate Commission and the Belfast City Council All Party Working Group on the Climate Crisis. Belfast is beginning the process of developing a Belfast Climate Plan which will address mitigation and adaptation. Resourcing the transition process and the implementation of the city and regional plans will be a key factor in determining our success.

Belfast has produced a draft Belfast Resilience Strategy which is currently under consultation. The draft Strategy identifies risks to the city and how we can go about future proofing and protecting the city and its citizens. Climate resilience is a key issue and requires a collaborative approach that is both local and strategic, and resourced accordingly. Support for enhanced green and blue infrastructure, particularly in urban settings would be welcomed, and would align with emerging work streams around climate adaptation.

Research regarding this subject indicates that there is an increased risk that communities in divided and deprived areas will be adversely affected by climate change if they are not supported through the transition in order to avail of opportunities to grow and develop. We recommend support for programmes that will support collaboration and improved social cohesion, creating opportunities to build community resilience and to explore opportunities to develop social enterprise within and across communities in Belfast and in the border region. We encourage support for the development of cross border energy schemes and are particularly keen to see the development of social enterprise schemes in community ownership, private/public/community partnership and to develop all-Ireland solutions that enhance connections and relationships.

The Regional Community Resilience Group is a multi-agency province-wide group focused on developing community resilience. Community resilience plans are produced in conjunction with local communities which address practical measures, and enhanced coordination and communication with people in local areas. The community resilience plan model supports community cohesion and neighbourhood relations. We would welcome support for the development of this infrastructure.





**Q.B.4 Rate the relevance of Policy Objective 3: A MORE CONNECTED EUROPE**

**(i) This Policy Objective focuses on**

improving transport and ICT infrastructure in the eligible region.  
Actions could include improvements to cross-border transport infrastructure.

Not at all relevant	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Extremely Relevant
	7							

I don't know

☐

**Q.B.4i Please explain why you have given the rating above:** [Word limit 500 words]

Improving transport and ICT infrastructure are extremely relevant to Belfast Agenda and City Deal– we wish to see projects to promote/position Belfast as a super-connected city and one of the most connected regions in the EDU.

An improved transport infrastructure, particularly rail infrastructure, is required to support the potential for the Belfast-Dublin economic corridor to improve its function as the main axis of economic development on the island of Ireland, to enhance connectivity and support a growing population.

### Q.B.5 Rate the relevance of Policy Objective 4: A MORE SOCIAL EUROPE

All of the PEACE elements for PEACE PLUS must be set within the context of this objective. However, this objective can also fund activities with a wider scope. **For this question, we would like to know how relevant Policy Objective 4 would be for the wider economic, social and environmental development of the region.** Actions that can be funded under the activities include:

- Actions to improve community and social cohesion,
- Improving employment opportunities,
- Increasing access to quality education,
- Reducing marginalisation through improved housing and services,
- Increasing access to quality health care in the region.

Not at all relevant	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Extremely Relevant
	7							

I don't know ☐

**Q.B.5i Please explain why you have given the rating above.** [Word limit 500 words]

Agree with all of these. Extremely relevant to the Belfast and City Region and link to the Belfast Agenda

Further details are listed below

#### **Belfast Agenda - Belfast's first community plan**

Following an extensive period of engagement and consultation, we published our city's first community plan in November 2017 – the Belfast Agenda.

- [Download the Belfast Agenda document](#) - (PDF - 3.90MB)

The Belfast Agenda was created by a partnership of key city partners, residents and community organisations. It sets out our joint vision and long-term ambitions for Belfast's future, as well as outlining our priorities for action over the next four years.

Belfast has also become a much more diverse city, with many people from overseas making Belfast their home. This increased diversity has brought with it many opportunities. However, it also presents challenges for organisations and businesses to make sure our new communities are included and participate in the economic, civic, social and cultural life of the city. Equality and good relations are key to improving the quality of life for everyone in the city. Our vision is to shape Belfast so that its infrastructure, spaces and services meet the needs and ambitions of all people who live, work, invest, study and visit the city.

## Q.B.6 Rate the relevance of Policy Objective 5: A EUROPE CLOSER TO ITS CITIZENS

(i) Actions under this Policy Objective could include:

- Activities to boost tourism,
- Measures to promote cultural heritage,
- Improving community facilities,
- Measures to improve security.

This Policy Objective covers urban, rural and coastal areas.

Not at all relevant	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Extremely Relevant
	7							

I don't know

☐

**Q.B.6i Please explain why you have given the rating above:** [Word limit 500 words]

The 4 action priorities here are extremely relevant to BCC, Belfast Agenda. Furthermore,

**One of the outcomes set out within our Good Relations Strategy is an intercultural city and respectful cultural expression within the rule of law**

Our cultural and political divisions still pose challenges for the city – manifested in physical barriers, flags, emblems, some murals, parades, protests and territoriality. Developing an environment of peaceful interaction and social stability is crucial to transforming Belfast and sustaining peace and prosperity in the city for our residents. It is essential to attracting new residents, students and investment that will help us prosper and grow and be creative and innovative. As we grow the city and as its population becomes more diverse, the place and value of all cultures and faiths must be affirmed. We recognise that the people of Belfast live out their identity through differing cultural expressions. However, many who live in the city also have a shared identity as residents of Belfast, and we will seek to support activity which promotes this. Diversity is an important aspect of our city's future success, and international experience demonstrates that the cities that are most successful are those that have embraced diversity.

Within our recent history, opposing political identities are expressed and manifest through cultural practices. Public expressions of culture are perceived as reflecting those identities and as such they can be contentious, serving to reinforce division in a particularly emotive way. Addressing the impact of the relationship between political identities and public expressions of culture requires positive and strong leadership, in a way that encourages positive cultural identity and its expression.

While our Strategy acknowledges the positive role that cultural activity plays within our society, we also aim to lead the task of transforming Belfast into a successful, shared society, in which good relations and inclusion can flourish and one where cultural expression can be celebrated and undertaken within a culture of lawfulness. The role of all those in positions of leadership is vital in this task.

We must also recognise that the forthcoming commemorations, unless planned and managed well, could create challenges. We will encourage a re-imagining of their significance and from this could come a sense of optimism associated with the positive potential of public and ethical remembering as a way to promote reconciliation between our communities.

Regarding respectful cultural expression, the Strategy will promote the following:

- The creation of an open, inclusive and mutually respectful society, which seeks to increase and deepen understanding of different and shared cultural identities
- A community in which everyone's public expressions of their cultural identity is respected and respectful
- A shared city where everyone should feel welcome and entitled to express their cultural identity, in a way that respects others and within the rule of law
- A city where the development of each person's cultural identity is seen as contributing to our collective cultural wealth
- To further develop a culture of lawfulness, in which everyone sees the mutual benefits of using public spaces for cultural activity
- Development of the capacity within communities to unlock barriers to participation in cultural activity

**Q.B.7 What are the main challenges and opportunities for the wider economic and territorial development of the programme area (previously addressed under the INTERREG programme)? [Word limit 1000 words]**

The wider challenges and opportunities for the cross border (former Interreg) activities are that

- We need as a whole city, partners and region need to align strategy and policy at national, regional and local levels in this funding round. We should align public, private and all funds to really make an impact in all thematic areas for greater impact
- Supporting cross border trade and addressing barriers to these (addressing potential BREXIT impacts)
- We should explore an InterTradeIreland model of funding, spatial plan for the Belfast-Dublin corridor
- Uncertainty exists over the potential impacts of BREXIT leading to potential deterrents to visitors and international tourists, admin cost burden on small import/export businesses, potential cash flows impacts on businesses claiming back VAT and/or tariffs, potential increase GB and EU supplier prices building passed onto NI businesses, difficulty in attracting /retaining labour both skilled and unskilled, continued long term levels of economic inactivity and % of population with low or no skills or qualifications, continued low productivity, entrepreneurship and innovation levels and income levels, continued reliance on public sector employment.

**Q.B.8 Please list any ideas for initiatives or projects that could address the challenges/opportunities identified in Q.B.7. [Word limit 1000 words]**

Ideas for initiatives or projects that could address the challenges/opportunities

**Local tourism development:** development of tourism products that are reflective of the new narrative for the city, recognising and acknowledging its recent history but working with partners to build a new story that can inspire and challenge, bringing new visitors to Belfast and building on our unique cultural heritage. This new product is likely to take the form of both iconic spaces (including the planned Destination Hub) and more locally-focused tourism products which will tell the stories of people across Belfast in a unique and authentic way. These activities have the potential to meet policy objectives four and five of the draft programme

**North-South economic corridor (including transport infrastructure):** research acknowledges that the Belfast-Dublin economic corridor is the main axis of economic development on the island of Ireland. With a population already in the region of 2 million people, projected to rise to 2.5million by 2040, the corridor has the potential to function much more coherently as an economic corridor than is currently the case. One of the underpinning factors required to support this growth is an improved transport infrastructure – particularly rail infrastructure. A high level business case on enhanced connectivity has indicated the economic return that could be secured from this investment. Further work is needed to build the business case and, subject to approval, secure the resources required to take forward this significant scheme. This activity would support all policy objectives in the draft programme

**Inclusive economic growth:** the eligible area has been adversely affected by the legacy of the conflict. This situation is particularly apparent in the main towns and city centres. Belfast has a

physical legacy of the conflict in the shape of the peace walls. Analysis shows that the areas adjacent to these walls demonstrate the highest levels of economic inactivity, poverty and disadvantage as well as associated health issues including significant instances of mental health problems. While economic growth in many of the urban locations within the eligible area has been relatively strong over the last decade, pockets of challenge remain. A number of Belfast's communities have felt only limited benefit from the economic growth. There is an opportunity to develop targeted employability initiatives, focusing on a number of key locations where the disadvantage is most prevalent. These employability initiatives will be linked to the key growth areas in the city, developing flexible pathways that have support from major employers and that provide individuals with opportunities to access sustainable employment opportunities. This will, in turn, support improvement of economic and social cohesion in these neighbourhoods. This activity would support policy objective four of the draft programme

- **Circular economy:** The circular economy can be broken down into a number of key strands:
  - Designing out waste – around 80% of environmental impacts are created at design stage
  - Keep materials in use for longer – repair, re-use, recycle, business models (lease/servitisation)
  - Working with Natural Systems – nutrient replacement, decomposition as a fuel/energy

Belfast City Council and Queen's University Belfast have recently launched a Climate Commission which will play a key role in place-based climate action necessary to achieve the UK Government's target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions to net-zero by 2050. Development of new approaches to the circular economy will be critical to meeting these targets. There are opportunities to develop a demonstrator project on publicly-owned land in an interface location in west Belfast. This will bring together the Council's recycling facilities with new approaches to developing the circular economy by creating an ecosystem of re-use facilities, driven by social economy providers. It can be supported by academic research and will offer opportunities for employment and skills development for local people. The knowledge and experience gained would be replicable in other locations. This activity would support policy objectives one, two, four and five of the draft programme.

## C. Increasing simplification and focus on results

In the current PEACE and INTERREG programming period, the SEUPB initiated a number of measures to reduce the administrative burden for applicants and to increase the result orientation of the programmes.

The draft regulations contain a number of provisions to further simplify the management and implementation of projects and make them more focused on results. The SEUPB is committed to continuing to address both of these goals and would like your views on which provisions would be most effective.

### Q.C.1i To what extent would the following measures further simplify management and implementation of projects?

*Greater use of flat rates*

(i) Where costs are calculated through an automatic calculation. An example of a Flat Rate in the 2014-2020 programming period is the Flat Rate at which partners claim costs under the Budget Heading: "Office and Administration Costs". Projects do not claim actual costs related to Office and Administration (photocopying, electricity bills etc.). Instead the value of these costs are automatically calculated as 15% of eligible Staff Costs.

Not at all beneficial	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Extremely beneficial
	6							

I don't know ☐

*Greater use of unit costs*

(i) Where payments are tied to the delivery of pre-agreed outputs rather than based on the direct costs related to producing the output. An example of a Unit Cost in the 2014-2020 programming period is the Unit Cost for SMEs attending a project workshop. Under this Unit Cost, partners can claim a fee for each SME that attends a workshop, rather than the actual costs associated with the workshop.

Not at all beneficial	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Extremely beneficial
	4							

I don't know ☐

**Q.C.1ii Please explain why you have given the ratings above.** [Word limit 500 words]

Administrative burden of the current programme remains high with a strong focus on compliance and administrative process as opposed to the outcomes focus.

Flat rates are beneficial in reducing the bureaucracy associated with project overheads and have been a welcome introduction in the current programme. However, the current rate of 15% does not necessarily meet the costs incurred by Lead Partners, in drawing support from wider services such as IT, Comms, HR, Finance, Legal support. As such, the rate should be reviewed.

Unit costs were not used in our PEACE IV delivery, and the use of unit costs would only be beneficial in certain circumstances and not applied across the entire programme. As such, there should be flexibility to adopt either a unit cost rate or actual cost basis for each specific project within a wider Local Action Plan.

Further clarity on how this approach will be applied in order to minimise financial risk to the Lead Partner is required, possibly addressed during the project development phase.

**Q.C.1iii Please detail any measures that would further simplify management and implementation of projects that are not listed above?** [Word limit 500 words]

Allocation of funding on an Outcomes Based Approach based on results. Consider the use of lump sums e.g. £10,000 financial allocation for the achievement of 100 young people who have improved relationships with the other community. A suitable management /change control process outlining appropriate tolerance levels would need to support this approach.

Greater flexibility within the process to amend costs to reflect changes in the market from time of application to contract award needs to be included in programme given that costs can change during this time period.

A simplified interpretation of the Public Contract Regulations applied to the programme would help reduce the threat of ineligible spend.

Clearer guidelines / templates for the application and processing procedures across all aspects of the programme would help reduce the complexity of the programme and provide a level playing field for all applicants.

An adaptive management / change control process to respond to changing / emerging needs. Clear and detailed application process / system as the current EMS system is cumbersome and requires duplicate information. Future programmes should allow for a training period on any new system for grants management.



## D. Other administrative and delivery arrangements

For the current programmes, support to potential applicants is available in a number of forms, including through the SEUPB website and through events promoting calls for funding. The SEUPB would like to consider other ways of providing project development support during the new programming period.

**Q.D.1i** Below is a list of examples of measures that could provide project development support. Using the scale below, please rate how beneficial each of the following examples would be while applying for funding.

	Not at all beneficial 1	2	3	4	5	6	Extremely beneficial 7	I don't know
Expert assistance supporting project development	7							
Events, including networking events and project development workshops	5							
Additional materials published online, including manuals and instruction videos to support the development of projects	5							
Lump sum payments for preparation costs.	7							

**Q.D.1ii Please explain why you have given the ratings above. [Word limit 500 words]**

The application and assessment process for previous programmes was lengthy and cumbersome and support to assist with the development of the project would be beneficial.

Co-ordination of clarification questions from all assessors across all themes / projects is required given that during PEACE IV the same clarification question was asked several times during assessment process.

The current system EMS is cumbersome and has increased and duplicated application information and reporting.

**Q.D.1iii Please detail any measures you can suggest that would be beneficial to potential applicants during Project Development that are not listed above? [Word limit 500 words]**

Clearer guidelines / templates for the application and processing procedures across all aspects of the programme would help reduce the complexity of the programme and provide a level playing field for all applicants.

Suitable training / workshops tailored for each aspect. Workshops to date have combined both Interreg and Peace aspects. As such, some of the content has been not been relevant. Thereby provision of tailored workshops for each aspect / priority would be welcome.

Preliminary feedback session offering guidance and direction also.

A reduction in the timeframe from application to receipt of funding would be beneficial, given that many factors can change in the 2-3 year period of assessment of PEACE IV. Lengthy assessment and approval process has negatively impacted upon delivery timescales.

More of a focus on outcomes rather than compliance and administrative process.

Co-ordination with other PEACE Local Action Plans to reduce overlap / duplication and the opportunity to network and partner with other organisations/ councils would be welcome.

Cooperation/ Information Sharing with other funders and agencies. Provide mentors – i.e. attach successful previous applicants to new applicants to the PEACE PLUS programmes.

**Q.D.2 Should the current arrangements to source match-funding continue, or should some or all of match-funding be provided by the applicant (public or private)? Please explain your answer. If you would consider applying to PEACE PLUS, please state in your answer whether you would be willing to provide some or all match-funding? [Word limit 500 words]**

Building long term peace is a slow and challenging process that requires enduring commitment.

Match funding from the Irish and British Governments is critical to the success of the programme for all applicants. The Northern Ireland peace process is underpinned by the Good Friday Agreement and other further agreements between the two governments.

Whilst peace initiatives can be developed and delivered at a local level, the initiatives are often targeting the most vulnerable groups in society who are affected by disadvantage. Thereby providing free of charge opportunities for building a long term peace is vital.

In addition, public funding, particularly within the voluntary and community sectors, has been severely reduced in recent years which impacts any contribution / match funding by an applicant.

Significant in kind resources to the Programme are also provided by Councils as lead partners, such as line management, administration, HR, Finance Legal and Communications services. Whilst difficult to quantify, it is in effect is a form of match funding.

## E. Other comments

**Q.E.1 Please make any additional comments about a future PEACE PLUS Programme that have not already been included in previous questions.** [Word limit 1000 words]

Belfast City Council Place and Economy Department welcome the breadth of the 5 EU Policy Objectives underpinning the PEACE PLUS programme and the amalgamation of the Peace and Interreg programmes as an opportunity to have a wider, greater impact throughout NI as a region and on a cross-border basis. We would welcome the continuation of local government representation on preparation and monitoring panels and committees. We wish to sustain the growth and success to date resulting from the previous programmes and retain experienced people.

We support the fact that cross-border stakeholders, e.g. universities, chambers of commerce, Innovation Centres etc. can still be project partners as long as the impact is in the eligible region.

Other actions relating to question B.1iv

- Further development of Open Space linkages west to east corridor and Belfast Hills.
- Maximising usage of Council parks, playing fields, greenways.
- Shared Spaces focus on respecting the environment and its biodiversity to ensure that future generations can enjoy healthy life

**Q.E.2 If you know any reports that can inform the future PEACE PLUS programme development, please name the attached reports here and send the documents attached to the same email:**

Belfast City Council have referenced that reports below in their response to this survey.

Belfast Agenda <http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/council/Communityplanning/BelfastAgenda.aspx>

Belfast City Council Good Relations Strategy  
<http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/community/goodrelations/goodrelations-about.aspx>

Belfast Resilience Strategy  
[https://yoursay.belfastcity.gov.uk/chief-executives/rmclbelfast-resilience-strategy/supporting\\_documents/Final%20Version%20Uploaded%20and%20for%20Release.pdf](https://yoursay.belfastcity.gov.uk/chief-executives/rmclbelfast-resilience-strategy/supporting_documents/Final%20Version%20Uploaded%20and%20for%20Release.pdf)

Belfast Cultural Strategy  
<http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/tourism-venues/culture/Cultural-Strategy.aspx>

The Smart Belfast Framework  
<https://smartbelfast.city/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Smart-Cities-Framework.pdf>

In addition the strategies and plans below can help inform the future PEACE PLUS programme development.



Belfast Draft -Inclusive Growth Strategy

[https://yoursay.belfastcity.gov.uk/chief-executives/inclusive-growth-strategy/user\\_uploads/446---inclusive-growth-nov2019-web-final--2.pdf](https://yoursay.belfastcity.gov.uk/chief-executives/inclusive-growth-strategy/user_uploads/446---inclusive-growth-nov2019-web-final--2.pdf)

Belfast City Council Corporate Plan

<http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/council/corporateplan/corporateplan.aspx>

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<b>Subject:</b>	Brexit Committee – Proposed Visit to Belfast and Dublin Ports
<b>Date:</b>	21 <sup>st</sup> February 2020
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Nigel Grimshaw, Strategic Director City & Neighbourhood Services John Walsh, City Solicitor / Director of Legal and Civic Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Damian Connolly, City Protection Manager, City & Neighbourhood Services Claire Sullivan, Policy and Business Development Officer, City & Neighbourhood 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	To approve the expenditure associated with a study visit to the Port Health Unit Facilities in Belfast and Dublin.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider the request from the Brexit Committee to approve expenditure of up to £1,500 to undertake the visit, this will be covered from existing departmental budgets.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u>

3.2	<p>The Brexit Committee, at its meeting on January, agreed to a proposal that the Committee agrees to undertake a study visit to the Port Health Unit Facilities in Belfast and Dublin. The Committee noted that, if possible, both visits should be undertaken on the same day. At that meeting the Committee noted that it did not have a budget and any expenditure agreed by that Committee would have to be approved by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.</p>
3.3	<p>If Committee is minded to approve the budget, a formal request will be made to the relevant authorities to facilitate a visit of the Brexit Committee and accompanying staff to Dublin Port.</p>
3.4	<p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></p> <p>A budget of up to £1,500 to cover transport and subsistence, is required to be approved by the Committee to enable the visit to take place, which will be covered from existing departmental budgets.</p>
3.5	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	<p>None.</p>





**Belfast**  
City Council

<b>Subject:</b>	Requests for use of the City Hall and the provision of Hospitality
<b>Date:</b>	21 February 2020
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Walsh, City Solicitor and Director of Legal and 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 paper, together with the attached appendix, contains the recommended approach in respect of each of the requests by external organisations for access to the City Hall function rooms received up to 10 February 2020 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 10 February 2020 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 24<sup>th</sup> March 2017, 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2017, 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2019 and 25<sup>th</sup> October 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 2020 and 2021 and 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 1 of the applications received has been dealt with by means of the authority delegated by the Committee to the City Solicitor because of the very short timescale involved, and is included in the schedule for information only.
	<u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u>
3.6	The implementation of charging for external functions has commenced, in line with the Committee's decisions in the matter.
	<u>Equality and Good Relations / Rural Needs Implications</u>
3.7	There are no direct good relations, equality or rural needs implications arising from this report.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1 - Schedule of Function requests received up to 10 February 2020.

## FEBRUARY 2020 CITY HALL FUNCTION APPLICATIONS

NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
<b>2020 EVENTS</b>						
European Connected Health Alliance	26 March 2020	<b>NI Connected Health Ecosystem Gathering – Launching the Implementations of XX Report</b> (confidential) – Launch of implementation plan to address health inequalities & support Belfast Agenda to promote a healthy lifestyle for everyone in Belfast.  Numbers attending – 120	C & D	No (Not For Profit)	Yes, Tea Coffee and Biscuits	<i>Approved by Delegated Authority</i>  Approve No Charge Tea and Coffee Reception
Marine Society and Sea Cadets	23 June 2020	<b>My LegaSea Multi-Generational Impact Study Report Launch</b> – launch of impact study highlighting importance of youth work through Sea Cadets.  Numbers attending – 80	C & D	No (Charity)	Yes, Wine Reception	Approve No charge Wine Reception
Belfast Health and Social Care Trust – Family Nurse Partnership	17 September 2020	<b>Family Nurse Partnership Graduation Event</b> – celebratory event to recognise achievements of local service users with the Family Nurse Partnership.  Numbers attending - 100	C & D	Yes - £115  <i>(Public Body)</i>	No hospitality  <i>(Public Body)</i>	Approve, Room charge No hospitality
The Executive Office	17 September 2020	<b>Good Relations Awards Ceremony</b> – celebration event to recognise achievements of local groups working in their community through various funding programmes.  Numbers attending –200	B & C	Yes - £300  <i>(Public Body)</i>	No hospitality  <i>(Public Body)</i>	Approve, Room charge No hospitality
Belfast Health and Social Care Trust – Community Health Nursing	10 October 2020	<b>Celebrating 2020 Year of The Nurse/Midwife Gala Dinner</b> – celebration dinner to mark 2020 Year of the Nurse within Community Health Nursing.  Numbers attending – 300	C	Yes - £300  <i>(Public Body)</i>	No hospitality  <i>(Public Body)</i>	Approve, Room charge No hospitality

## **FEBRUARY 2020 CITY HALL FUNCTION APPLICATIONS**

Irish FA Foundation	19 November 2020	<b>Irish FA/McDonalds Community Football Awards</b> – awards ceremony to recognise achievements of volunteers involved in the Irish FA Foundation.  Numbers attending – 200	C & D	No (Charity)	No hospitality	Approve No charge, No hospitality
Flax Trust	3 December 2020	<b>Flax Trust Inter-Community Schools Choir Award</b> – award ceremony for cross community choirs with aim of eliminating community tensions and religious prejudices.  Numbers attending – 400 - 500	C & D	No (Charity)	No hospitality	Approve No charge, No hospitality
<b>2021 EVENTS</b>						
NSPCC Northern Ireland	13 February 2021	<b>Celebration Ball</b> – celebration event to recognise contributions of local partnerships and individuals who have fundraised for charity.  Numbers attending –300 - 400	C & D	No (Charity)	Yes, Wine Reception	Approve No charge Wine Reception



<b>Subject:</b>	Area Working Update
<b>Date:</b>	21 <sup>st</sup> February 2020
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Nigel Grimshaw, Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services Sinead Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Ryan Black, Director of Neighbourhood 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	To seek Members approval of the minutes of the most recent round of AWGs and any additional recommendation to the SP&R Committee arising from the meetings.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>AWG minutes</b></li> </ul> <p>Approve the most recent round of AWG Minutes (<i>South – 27<sup>th</sup> January, North – 29<sup>th</sup> January, West – 30<sup>th</sup> January and East – 6<sup>th</sup> February</i>) as attached at Appendix 1.</p>

<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
	<p><b><u>KEY ISSUES</u></b></p> <p>3.1 Members agreed in June 2016 that the Area Working Group minutes would be taken into the SP&amp;R Committee for approval going forward in line with the Council's commitment to openness and transparency and to ensure a consistent approach with other Member-led Working Groups. Members are asked to approve the most recent round of AWG Minutes (<i>South – 27<sup>th</sup> January, North – 29<sup>th</sup> January, West – 30<sup>th</sup> January and East – 6<sup>th</sup> February</i>) as attached at Appendix 1.</p> <p>3.3 <u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u>  Financial – £28.2m has been allocated to the BIF programme  Resources – Officer time in working with Groups</p> <p>3.4 <u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>  No implications</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents attached</b>
	Appendix 1 – Minutes of the Area Working Groups

# **North Belfast Area Working Group**

Wednesday, 29th January, 2020

## **NORTH BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP**

Members present: Councillor Maskey (Chairperson);  
Councillors Baker, Cobain, Ferguson,  
Murphy, Magee, McAllister, O'Hara and Whyte.

In attendance: Mr. N. Grimshaw, Director of City and  
Neighbourhood Services;  
Mr. R. Black, Director of Neighbourhood Services;  
Ms. S. Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes; and  
Ms E. McGoldrick, Democratic Services Officer.

### **Election of Chairperson**

The Area Working Group noted that it was required to elect a Chairperson for the coming year.

Moved by Councillor Murphy,  
Seconded by Councillor Magee and

Resolved – that Councillor Maskey be elected to serve as  
Chairperson to the North Belfast Area Working Group until June, 2020.

### **Apologies**

Apologies were reported on behalf of Councillor McCusker.

### **Declaration of Interest**

In relation to item 6) Physical Programme Update, Councillors Maskey and Baker declared an interest in that they worked for or were associated with organisations, which had applied for funding, and they retired from the meeting whilst that item was under consideration.

### **Terms of Reference**

The Committee noted the Terms of Reference for the Area Working Group which had been approved by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 20th September and noted that quarterly meetings had been scheduled, with the option for additional meetings if required.

## **Neighbourhood Regeneration**

The Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services provided an introduction to Neighbourhood Regeneration and described the governance role of the North Area Working Group to support this. He explained the Department's intention to integrate services to solve problems and benefit neighbourhoods, through the use of joined up working and analysis of data.

He tabled a copy of the Belfast Agenda - Statement of Progress, together with North Belfast Area Profile data.

The Director of Neighbourhood Services provided a presentation on Neighbourhood Regeneration and Area Working which included a summary of the following key themes:

- Belfast Agenda and Governance;
- Integrated Service Delivery;
- Capital investment;
- Evidence based decision making;
- Local Development Plan;
- City Regeneration; and
- Economic Development.

He updated the Working Group on a new model of neighbourhood working, to improve services and create better integrated, flexible and responsive team working. He summarised such changes under Open Spaces and Streetscene; City Protection; Community Provision; and Resources and Fleet.

He provided a brief overview of the Physical Programme funding streams and highlighted a map of North Belfast which illustrated the physical project locations.

In relation to the Area Profile data, he stated that the document provided unique local characteristics by harnessing the latest data available. He summarised the data and analysis of crime, education, lone parents, and environmental factors effecting the area and advised that the analysis concluded that the main issues facing North Belfast included:

- Anti-Social Behaviour;
- Mental health;
- Educational underachievement;
- Benefit reliance;
- Unemployment;
- Burglary and theft;
- Pupil suspensions; and
- Physical health and long-term illness.

He informed the working group of how the Local Development Plan and Belfast Agenda were key strategic documents for the future development, economic growth and regeneration of the City and further explained their relevance to the Area Working Group considerations.

He advised that future meetings would incorporate a facilitated workshop, to identify key issues and the potential to explore and focus on particular geographical areas within North Belfast.



During discussion, Members highlighted the need to receive Area Data as soon as possible so that the Councillors could prepare for the planned Workshop.

After discussion, the Working Group noted the update on Neighbourhood Regeneration.

### **Area Specific Issues**

#### **Mountain Biking on Cave Hill**

The Working Group was reminded of the work that had been undertaken and presented to the North Area Working Group during 2018 and 2019 in relation to mountain biking at Cave Hill.

The Director of Neighbourhood Services provided an update on the progress in relation to the actions which had been agreed by the North Area Working Group in March 2019, which included the completion of the Identification and mapping of mountain bike club proposed trails, externally facilitated discussions with residents group and an environmental impact assessment by a consultant.

It was reported that engagement with key stakeholders was ongoing and processes were in place to manage the ongoing use of the site by mountain bikers in the interim period.

The Director of Neighbourhood Services advised that further work was being progressed in terms of developing a 'pilot' route and further updates would be provided in due course.

Noted.

#### **Girdwood**

The Working Group was reminded that, following on from an issue raised by Councillor Dorrian at the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 24th January, in relation to the potential to close of the gates at Girdwood Hub on a more permanent basis (when the Centre itself wasn't open) due to ongoing anti-social behaviour (ASB) in and around the site, it was agreed that a report be submitted to the North Area Working Group for consideration.

The Director of Neighbourhood Services advised Members of the concerns which had been raised in relation to ASB since the Hub had opened in early January 2016. He explained that residents had experienced noise pollution and nuisance/abusive behaviour as well as acts of vandalism to their property and that ASB had also caused disruption to the centre programming and centre staff and users, together with physical damage to the building (for example, broken windows).

He provided an overview of the work which had been done over the past three years by the Site Management Sub-Group of the Forum to try to resolve the issues driving the ongoing ASB which included additional security measures such as additional CCTV and defensive planting. He confirmed that Community Safety-led Responses included Safer Neighbourhood Officers and Anti-Social Behaviour Officers and a Protocol with Education Authority and suggested that potential further developments included the piloting of an ASB Clinic and North Belfast PCSP funding for the deployment of 'on street' workers.

He explained the current process for considering gate closures at Girdwood and advised that the Council was currently drafting a protocol for gate closures at Girdwood which would be tabled at the next Site Management Group for consideration and comment.

He advised that continued engagement and follow up with ASB incidents would take place over the next few months, together with a special agenda youth-focussed meeting of the Forum for mid-February where the Department of Justice and Education Authority would also be invited to attend.

During discussion, Members raised concern in relation to the impact ASB was having on residents of the area and users and staff of Girdwood.

The Working Group noted the information provided and that a further update would be submitted to a future meeting.

### **Physical Programme Update**

(Councillor Magee in the Chair during the LIF status update.)

The Director of Physical Programmes provided an update on the progress of those projects which had been approved by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee under the following Funding Schemes:

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

She explained that LIF was a £9m fixed programme of capital investment in non-council neighbourhood assets, over two tranches, with the North being allocated £1.127m under LIF1 and £800,000 under LIF2.

She outlined funding spend to date for each tranche, at key stages of the delivery process:

<b>Table 1. LIF breakdown - North</b>	<b>LIF 1</b>		<b>LIF 2</b>	
<b>Stage/ Description</b>	<b>Projects</b>	<b>Amount/ Value (£)</b>	<b>Projects</b>	<b>Amount/ Value (£)</b>
Number of Projects Completed	22 (88%)	£956,500	11 (57.5%)	£546,400
Number of Projects On-going Delivery			1 (5.5%)	£20,000
Number of Projects in Pre-construction	2 (8%)	£106,000	2 (11%)	£80,134
Number of Projects in Initial Stage (Due Diligence)	1 (4%)	£65,000	5 (26%)	£151,667
<b>Total Number of Approved Projects</b>	<b>25*</b>	<b>£1,127,500</b>	<b>19**</b>	<b>£798,201</b>

\*This includes additional funding for a LIF 2 project, Ballysillan Youth for Christ.

\*\* This includes additional funding for two LIF 1 projects, Marrowbone Parochial Hall and Jennymount Church.

She highlighted that Appendix 1 provided a detailed overview of progress and actions around the remaining 11 live projects. Of the 7 which were at due-diligence or initial stage, the Director of Physical Programmes suggested the following actions:

<b>PROJECT</b>	<b>FUNDING</b>	<b>STAGE</b>	<b>ACTION/RECOMMENDATION</b>
<b>Westland Community Centre - new buildings</b>	£65,000	Due Diligence stage	Continued engagement with Group
<b>Women's Tec</b>	£31,667	Due Diligence stage	Continued engagement with Group in terms of the lease

<b>Ardoyne Shankill Health Partnership</b>	£15,000	Due Diligence stage	Continued engagement with Group
<b>Ardoyne Holy Cross Boxing Club</b>	£66,000	Initial stage	Continued engagement with Group and with UV
<b>Intercomm, Antrim Road</b>	£75,000	Initial stage	Propose that a letter is sent seeking confirmation if group wish to either withdraw or engage in LIF process and provide the necessary information, by an appropriate deadline with update to be brought to next AWG
<b>Mercy Primary, Crumlin Road</b>	£15,000	Initial stage	Propose that a letter is sent seeking confirmation if group to clarify position, with update to be brought to next AWG
<b>Holy Family Parish Church</b>	£15,000	Initial stage	Propose that a letter is sent seeking confirmation if group wish to either withdraw or engage in LIF process and provide the necessary information, by an appropriate deadline, with update to be brought to next AWG

### ***Belfast Investment Fund (BIF)***

The Director of Physical Programmes provided a brief overview in relation to the Belfast Investment Fund (BIF) and reminded the Working Group that North Belfast had been allocated £5.5m. She advised that, in North Belfast, 7 projects had received an 'In-Principle' funding commitment under BIF, thereby fully allocating its £5.5m: and 2 projects were on the longer BIF list:

<b><i>Summary of BIF allocated projects</i></b>	
<b>North</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stage 3—Cancer Lifeline—£650k; Grace Family Centre —£1.6m</li> <li>• Stage 2- Malgrove- £500k; Old Grove/ Basement Youth Club/ Elim Church Ireland - £1.5m;</li> <li>• Stage 1—Marrowbone Park £500k; Ulster Scots Hub (Braeheid project)- £500k; Cultural Community Hub - £250k</li> <li>• Cliftonville Community Forum, Sunningdale Community Centre - no commitment</li> </ul>

She updated the Working Group on the status of the remaining projects and suggested the following actions be taken forward:

<b>PROJECT</b>	<b>FUNDING</b>	<b>STAGE</b>	<b>ACTION/RECOMMENDATION</b>
<b>Basement Youth Club/ Elim Church (Old Grove)</b>	£1,500,000	Design stage	Continue engagement with the group and DE. Project to be brought back to DD.
<b>Malgrove</b>	£500,000	Uncommitted	Continue engagement with the group. Options being looked at in terms of value engineering etc.
<b>Marrowbone Millennium Park</b>	£500,000	Emerging	Continue with stakeholder engagement, in particular around funding shortfall. Meeting being arranged with UV and DFC
<b>Ulster Scots Hub</b>	£500,000	Emerging	Propose that a letter is sent seeking confirmation if group wish to either withdraw or engage in BIF process and provide the necessary information, by an appropriate deadline with update to be brought to next AWG AWG is asked to note that a similar letter has been sent by UV before Christmas
<b>Cultural Community Hub</b>	£250,000	Emerging	Meeting to be held end of January Update on project to be brought to next AWG.

During discussion, the Director of Physical Programmes advised she would provide feedback on the status of the Rainbow Project raised by Councillor McAllister.

### ***Capital Programme***

The Director of Physical Programmes reminded the Working Group of the 3 stage approval process in place for every project on the Council's Capital Programme, as agreed by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee. She summarised the current status of the live projects for North Belfast as follows:

<b><i>Project</i></b>	<b><i>Status and update</i></b>
North Foreshore - Development Sites Infrastructure Works	Stage 3 – Committed Project. Electricity infrastructure upgrade currently being progressed
Alleygating Phase 4 – City wide	Stage 3 – Committed Project. On Ground
Boodles Dam	Stage 3 – Committed Project. Tender preparation stage
LTP - Girdwood Phase 2	Stage 2 – Uncommitted Project. DfC approved commencement of procurement for IDT.
Belfast Zoo – Programme of Works (Works to the Large Cats Enclosure and the Aviary)	Stage 2- Uncommitted Project. OBC being worked up.

During discussion, the Director of Physical Programmes advised that, in relation to the North Foreshore, she would update Members on the cycling and electricity infrastructure.

### ***Externally- funded programme***

The Director of Physical Programmes explained that the Council was the delivery partner / agent for a number of government departments on key capital investment programmes, namely the Executive Office Social Investment Fund (SIF), the Executive Office Urban Villages (UV) Programme, and number of schemes with the Department for Communities Regeneration directorate. She provided the following overview of projects within each programme relevant to North Belfast:

#### ***SIF – North Belfast projects overview***

<b><i>Project</i></b>	<b><i>Status and update</i></b>
Joanmount Methodist Church	Project completed 18 December 2019.
PIPS Suicide Prevention Ireland	Currently on programme, anticipated completion 14 February 2020.
North Belfast Women's Initiative & Support Project	Project at tender stage, contractor likely to be appointed in February 2020.
Arts for All	Funding withdrawn due to cost implications.

During discussion, the Director of Physical Programmes advised she would provide further information on the Arts for All project to Councillor McAllister.

### *Urban Villages – North Belfast projects overview*

<b>Project</b>	<b>Status and update</b>
John Paul II Youth Club MUGA and Amphitheatre	Project and handover completed. Also received LIF funding.
Sacred Heart Marrowbone	Project on ground. To be completed by end of March 2020. Link to LIF project.
Marrowbone Millennium Park <i>NB Linked to BCC BIF (as per Section 3 update above)</i>	Funding deficit - Letter of Offer pending. Project at consultation stage.
Ballysillan Playing Fields	Letter of Offer pending. Project at consultation stage.

After discussion, the Working Group:

- noted the Physical Programmes update for North Belfast and that officers would arrange site visits to any projects as required;
- noted the LIF and BIF project updates - in particular projects to be written to, seeking confirmation if they wished to remain within the process and, if so, supply the information required within a 3 month deadline;
- noted the SIF update and programme closure on March 2020 and the impact (funding removal) on the Arts for All project; and
- noted that it had been agreed in principle by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in December that £8m was committed to a new Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund and work was being undertaken by officers on the matter to be considered at Party Group briefings in February or March.

Chairperson

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# South Belfast Area Working Group

Monday, 27th January, 2020

## MEETING OF SOUTH BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP

Members present: Councillors Bunting, Gormley, Graham, Groogan, T. Kelly and McKeown.

In attendance: Mr. N. Grimshaw, Director of City and Neighbourhood Services;  
Mr. R. Black, Director of Neighbourhood Services;  
Ms. S. Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes;  
Mr. S. Leonard, Neighbourhood Services Manager (South Belfast); and  
Mr. H. Downey, Democratic Services Officer.

### **Election of Chairperson**

The Working Group was reminded that, since this was the first meeting to have taken place since the Local Government Elections in 2019, it was required to elect a Chairperson.

Accordingly, it was

Moved by Councillor T. Kelly,  
Seconded by Councillor Bunting and

Resolved – That Councillor Graham be elected to serve as Chairperson of the South Belfast Area Working Group for the period to end on the date of the Annual meeting of the Council in June, 2020.

(Councillor Graham in the Chair.)

### **Apologies**

No apologies were reported.

### **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were reported.

### **Terms of Reference**

The Committee noted the Terms of Reference for the Area Working Groups which had been approved by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 20th September.

## **Neighbourhood Regeneration**

The Working Group received a presentation on Neighbourhood Regeneration and Area Working which provided information on:

- Belfast Agenda and Governance;
- Integrated Service Delivery;
- Capital Investment;
- Evidence Based Decision-making;
- Local Development Plan;
- City Regeneration; and
- Economic Development.

The Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhoods provided a brief introduction to the concept of Neighbourhood Regeneration and reviewed the role of the Area Working Groups within the Council's overall governance arrangements.

The Director of Neighbourhood Services drew the Working Group's attention to four initiatives, namely, Open Spaces and Streetscene, City Protection, Community Provision and Resources and Fleet, which were being progressed under the City and Neighbourhood Service's Transition and Improvement Programme, with the aim of integrating service delivery.

He provided a brief overview of the various funding streams associated with the Council's Physical Programme and drew the Members' attention to a map which outlined the location of projects relating specifically to South Belfast.

He provided details on the outcome of a statistical analysis which had been undertaken for South Belfast around crime, housing, education and the environment and confirmed that the main issues facing the area were:

- Anti-Social Behaviour;
- Mental health;
- Drugs and Alcohol Abuse;
- Social Housing
- Educational underachievement;
- Growing Elderly Population;
- Transient Population; and
- Ethnic Diversity.

He reviewed the relevance of the Local Development Plan and the Belfast City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy to the work of the Working Group and, in terms of economic development, pointed out that, whilst the focus would be primarily upon city-wide service delivery, there would be opportunities for flexible approaches to take account of local needs.

In terms of next steps, he confirmed that a facilitated workshop would be held for each Working Group in April, to begin the process of identifying key issues at a wider area level, determining the key elements of neighbourhood regeneration and choosing two or three main priorities.

The Working Group noted the information which had been provided.



### **Update on Physical Programme**

The Director of Physical Programmes submitted for the Working Group's consideration the following report:

**"1. Introduction**

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

**2. Recommendations**

The Working Group is requested to:

- i. note the physical programme update for South Belfast;
- ii. note the update on LIF and BIF projects and current ongoing actions (Sections 3 and 4) and agree to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that BIF funding which had been allocated previously to a project at Gilpins be ringfenced to a project(s) in the Sandy Row area;
- iii. note the SOF update, including the request from TEO - Urban Villages regarding the funding of the Coffee Culture project (Section 5); and
- iv. note the SIF update and the closure of the programme in March, 2020 (Section 7).

**3. Local Investment Fund (LIF)**

LIF is a £9m fixed programme of capital investment in non-Council neighbourhood assets, over two tranches: LIF 1 (2012-2015) - £5m total funding pot, allocated across each AWG areas; and LIF 2 (2015 -2019) - £4m allocation. Each LIF project proposal is taken through a Due Diligence process prior to any funding award.

Table 1 below outlines the funding spend to date for each tranche, at key stages of the delivery process: 24 projects received 'In Principle' letters under LIF1 and LIF2, of which 21 have been completed; 2 are at pre-construction stage and 1 project still at initial stage.

**Table 1**

LIF breakdown - South	LIF 1		LIF 2	
Stage/ Description:	No. Projects	Amount (£)	No. Projects	Amount/ (£)
Number of Projects Completed	12 (92%)	£1,053,600	9 (82%)	£676,000
Number of Projects in Delivery				
Number of Projects in Pre-construction			2 (18%)	£120,000
Number of Project in Initial Stage (Due Diligence)	1 (8%)	£30,000		
<b>Total Number of Approved Projects</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>£1,083,600</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>£796,000</b>

An appendix providing an overview of progress and actions around the remaining 3 live projects, namely, Holylands Area Improvement (£80,000), Finaghy Bridge (£30,000), John Murray Lockhouse (£40,000), has been circulated.

Members are asked to note the status of the current live LIF projects and the ongoing actions.

**4. Belfast Investment Fund (BIF)**

BIF is a £28.2m investment fund for regeneration, partnership projects, with a minimum £250k investment from Council BIF – South Belfast was allocated £5.5m; with additional £500k ringfenced for new areas (outer South) that had joined the District area under Local Government Reform. In South Belfast, 6 projects received an In-Principle funding commitment, thereby fully allocating its £5.5m, and £500k pot of funding. Each project is taken through a 3 stage approval process, including a rigorous Due Diligence process before any Funding Agreement is approved and put in place.

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

The appendix provides a progress overview and update on all projects. Members are asked to note projects that remain a RED RAG status - Lanyon Tunnels project, which also has initial SIF funding but is at risk given the SIF Programme will end March 2020 (see Section 7 below for specific SIF update); and Gilpins, where the original proposal is no longer viable as Gilpins site is now sold.

In relation to these projects Members are asked to note:

- **Gilpins** – that discussions have been ongoing on a wider project within the Sandy Row area regarding the development of a sensory garden/playground. Members are therefore asked to agree that the money which was previously allocated to a project at Gilpins is ringfenced to a project(s) in the Sandy Row area with further details to be brought back to the AWG as required.
- **Lanyon Tunnels** – note that discussions are ongoing with TEO and DFC and that a further update will be provided at the next meeting of the Working Group.

## 5. **Social Outcome Fund**

SOF is £4m ringfenced capital investment programme with a focus on local community tourism projects. 3 projects in South Belfast received an In-Principle funding commitment. Similar to LIF and BIF, all projects are subject to Due Diligence process prior to any funding award.

**Table 2**

<b>Project</b>	<b>SOF Award</b>	<b>Status and update</b>
Assembly Buildings Conference Centre	£90,000	Project completed – new Exhibition and Genealogical Research Space.
Coffee Culture <i>NB - UV partnership project (£402k)</i>	£100,000	Proposal is for a barista type social enterprise cafe that creates a shared space and place that connects the Café, including heritage café and other projects the area. Project is at Business Case development stage, which needs to be completed in order to secure UV funding – a funding shortfall has been identified and formal request from UV to BCC for a further £387k contribution to this project to make up the full amount of the shortfall.

Sandy Row Community Forum	£80,000	Proposal is for the development of a Tourism Trail (with digital element) to complement the Transport Hub - project was been considered in terms of its Due Diligence status, and number of issues raised that need to be resolved (project concept, delivery on site and future maintenance arrangements). Further updates to be reported back to Due Diligence in due course. Ongoing engagement with group.
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Members are asked to note the progress update of each project in Table 2 above, in particular, the current funding shortfall issues with Coffee Culture project. The Director of Physical Programmes has received a Letter from the Urban Villages Programme Director providing an update on the project current status and requesting the Council to look at the funding shortfall of £387,000.

Member are asked to note the position with respect to Coffee Culture and that officers will work in conjunction with UV investigate the potential for addressing the funding shortfall

#### 6. Capital Programme

The Capital Programme is a rolling programme to either enhance existing Council assets or, build / buy new assets or facilities. Members are reminded of the 3 stage approval process in place for every project on council's Capital Programme, as agreed by SP&R Committee. Table 3 below provides an update on current live projects South Belfast area. Members are asked to note current status and update.

***Table 3. South Belfast – Capital Programme Overview***

Project	Status and update
Alleygating Phase 4 – City wide	Stage 3 – Committed. Phase 4A and 4B completed. Phase 4C almost completed.
Playground Refurbishment Programme 2019/2020 (City wide)	Stage 3 – Committed. Preparation on going Ormeau Park Lower playground, Geeragh Community Centre playground and McClure Street playground
Palm House, Botanic Gardens	Stage 1- Emerging. Link to Tropical Ravine

## 7. Externally- Funded Programmes

The Council is the Delivery partner / agent for a number of government departments on key capital investment programmes, namely TEO Social Investment Fund (SIF), TEO Urban Villages (UV) Programme, and number of schemes with DfC Regeneration directorate. The following is an overview of projects within each programme relevant to South Belfast.

### SIF

Table 4 below provides a status update on SIF projects in South Belfast. Members are asked to note that the SIF Programme will end March 2020, which has resulted in a number of capital projects now at risk. Officers continue to liaise with TEO officials, in particular for South Belfast, around Mornington Community project, and Lanyon Tunnels projects.

***Table 4: SIF – South Belfast Projects Overview***

Project	Status and update
South City Resource and Dev't Centre (St. Simon's)	Anticipated completion date of 3rd February, 2020.
Mornington Community Project	Liaison ongoing between BCC design team and HBK Architects to verify the proposed reduced works and whether a planning application will be required for same. Site meeting held on 10 January and further detailed work is ongoing. Recently advised by TEO that funding may be withdrawn however officers working with Group on a reduced funding option.
Lanyon Tunnels	Project has been impacted by the JR decision on the adjacent site to the tunnels – the adjacent site is a critical access point for the project, enabling range of connectivity outcomes and benefits (SIF business case dependent on connectivity). Project may be affected by SIF programme closure timeframe (March 2020). Members are asked to note that discussions are ongoing with the TEO.

### UV capital programme

Table 5 below is the status update on UV projects in South Belfast – note the UV programme has a defined south Belfast geography (Sandy Row; Donegall Pass and Markets).

***NB The Coffee Culture project is linked to the Council's SOF - see Section 5 SOF update.***

**Table 5: UV – South Belfast projects overview**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Status and update</b>
Sandy Row Play Park	Project completed and handed over
Rev Robert Bradford Memorial Park	Project completed and play park opened on December 19. Feedback received from Donegall Pass Community Centre is very positive. Communications event being progressed.
Coffee Culture <i>NB Linked to BCC SOF</i>	Project business case being developed. Potential funding mix includes; UV contribution £302k and BCC SOF- £100k. UV issued a letter to BCC to request additional funding (£387k) to fully fund the current shortfall, as per SOF update."

After discussion, the Working Group adopted the recommendations.

### Area Specific Issues

#### Update on Wider University and Lower Ormeau Area

The Working Group considered the following report:

##### **"1.0 Purpose of Report**

To provide the Working Group with an update on the actions which were agreed by the People and Communities Committee in October 2019 in respect of the Wider University and Lower Ormeau area.

##### **2.0 Background**

The following motion regarding Anti-Social Behaviour in the Holylands and surrounding area was proposed by Councillor Groogan and seconded by Councillor McKeown at the Council meeting on 1st October, 2019.

***'This Council condemns the persistent and serious anti-social behaviour that residents of the Holylands and the surrounding***

***area endure throughout the year due to the high numbers of HMOs that exist there.***

***This Council will review its policy for dealing with all aspects of anti-social behaviour in the Holylands area, particularly around on-street drinking, noise and littering and bring forward an action plan for tackling the ongoing problems experienced in this area.'***

Subsequently, the People and Communities Committee, at its meeting on 29th October, agreed the following actions, which were ratified by the Council on 4th November:

- 1. to designate the Wider University and Lower Ormeau area as a Special Action Area under community planning and to develop a long-term vision and development plan for the area to include a housing plan, a spatial planning approach and a regeneration programme;**
- 2. that the Department for Communities, and other agencies such as SOS Bus and Sure Start, which work with vulnerable communities in the area, be invited to join the ongoing conversation;**
- 3. that the Council writes to the NIHE and to social housing operators regarding the potential of them 'buying back' properties in the area;**
- 4. to write to the VCs of Queens University Belfast and the Ulster University and to the owners of privately-owned Purpose Built Managed Student Accommodation throughout the city to ask them to reduce the price of their accommodation in the city centre to make it more affordable for students;**
- 5. that a report be submitted to a future meeting outlining what enforcement powers were available to agencies for those who were operating a property as an Airbnb without the appropriate certification from the NI Tourist Board; and**
- 6. that a further briefing would be offered on the topic of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs), with all Members to be invited to attend and as part of that it would update members on the impact of re-definition of HMOs, and any effect it has on standards in terms of fire safety and building control regulations**

### **3.0 Key Issues**

Officers have been progressing the actions agreed by the People and Communities Committee in October, with progress updates against each action being provided below:

**To designate the Wider University and Lower Ormeau area as a Special Action Area under community planning and to develop a long-term vision and development plan for the area to include a housing plan, a spatial planning approach and a regeneration programme:**

The particular issues which have arisen in the wider university and lower Ormeau areas over time prompted the formation in 2005 of the Holyland Inter-Agency Group (IAG). This brought together key stakeholders – education providers, government departments, the Council, accommodation providers, student representatives and community representatives – who have sought to promote a joined up approach to tackling the issues and addressing concerns.

Since 2012, the Council and other statutory partners adopted the *Belfast: A Learning City, Holyland and Wider University Area Strategic Study*. Many of the short to medium term recommendations have been achieved, with the long-term ambitions to be reviewed and progressed through the Local Development Plan and Community Planning structures.

The Belfast Agenda sets out our joint city vision and long-term ambitions and outcomes for Belfast's future, as well as outlining our priorities for action every four years. The establishment of community planning governance and infrastructure, coupled with the development of a 'Transformational Places' approach across the City offers a real opportunity to make a sustained impact in the Wider University and Lower Ormeau area, particularly given its proximity to the South Corridor.

This area based approach is about how the Council, partners and local communities work together to tailor projects/interventions within particular neighbourhoods where we believe there are opportunities to maximise synergies and improve outcomes at a local level. The alignment of governance within community planning infrastructure is therefore essential and a revised governance model is in the process of being developed with partners.

To help inform the development of a long-term vision and development plan for the Wider University and Lower Ormeau area, officers have secured the commitment from the Department for Communities and the Department of Finance to hold an Innovation Lab (ILAB).

The ILAB is a 3-day workshop which will be hosted by expert facilitators who will work with a representatives from all key stakeholders to identify local challenges and agree strategic level recommendations on how to best address them. It was envisaged that the ILAB events would take place between January and April 2019, however, the return of the Assembly has resulted in the redeployment of officers within DoF and as such they are currently assessing their capacity to meet this timeline with an update expected in the coming weeks.



Following completion of the ILAB event officers will work with partners to develop an agreed governance model, within the context of existing community planning infrastructure, and an integrated action plan to deliver the strategic recommendations. Two critical elements within this process are:

- a) to ensure that all partners work collaboratively to identify/address issues and deliver the integrated action plan within their own spheres of responsibility; and
- b) the development of a new community involvement model to ensure effective stakeholder involvement in the design and delivery of the emerging programme of work.

In addition to the ILAB event, officers have been working with Queens University Belfast in relation to securing support over a 3-year period from its School of Natural and Built Environment, towards the development of a long term vision and development plan. Work is underway to confirm the scope of this work and to ensure that it aligns with other academic work that has been completed or underway within the Wider University and Lower Ormeau area.

That the Department for Communities and other agencies, such as SOS Bus and Sure Start, which work with vulnerable communities in the area, be invited to join the ongoing conversation

Meetings with statutory and community stakeholders took place in October and December with key updates being as follows:

- general public messages and planning required for peak periods i.e. Halloween, St Patrick's Day etc – Council will continue to work with partners through PACT and other structures to address day-to-day operational issues and prepare for peak periods that have seen a rise in complaints around noise and anti-social behaviour;
- a long term action plan for the area to be developed – the first step in this process is the completion of the ILAB event which will involve all key statutory and community stakeholders within the area;
- while leading community stakeholders have been effectively engaged for some time, securing participation at the citizen level, from what is a largely transient and ethnically diverse population has proven difficult. To try and address this challenge, officers have submitted an expression of interest to the Community Foundation Northern Ireland's (CFNI) Civic

Innovation Programme, seeking to secure up to £50,000 funding to develop new and innovative methods of increasing citizen engagement within the area.

That the Council write to NIHE and to social housing operators regarding the potential of them 'buying back' properties in the area

Officers have written to the NIHE and DFC and Housing Associations have also been contacted in relation to engaging with the Innovation lab.

To write to the VCs of Queens University Belfast and Ulster University and to the owners of privately-owned Purpose Built Managed Student Accommodation throughout the city to ask them to reduce the price of their accommodation in the city centre to make it more affordable for students

Both universities were subsequently written to. QUB has held an initial meeting with Council staff and is keen to engage with members on the pricing structures in place for PBMSA. It is happy to attend a future South Belfast Area Working Group meeting to discuss the issue and has offered a tour of its current facilities. To date, there has been no reply from the Ulster University.

That a report be submitted to a future meeting outlining what enforcement powers were available to agencies for those who were operating a property as an Airbnb without the appropriate certification from the NI Tourist Board

Officers are preparing a follow up paper for the People and Communities Committee meeting in March.

That a further briefing would be offered on the topic of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs), with all Members invited to attend and as part of that it would update members on the impact of re-definition of HMOs, and any effect it has on standards in terms of fire safety and building control regulations.

Officers are preparing a follow up paper for the People and Communities Committee meeting in March.

#### **4.0 Recommendations**

The Working Group is requested to note the content of this report and approve the following next steps:

- i. officers will continue to liaise with the Department of Finance, Department for Communities and key stakeholders in relation to the delivery of the Innovation Lab event;

- ii. **funding through NICF's Civic Innovation Fund will be pursued with a view to developing new and innovative ways of increasing citizen engagement; and**
- iii. **officers will continue to liaise with QUB in relation to securing academic support with the development of a long term vision and development plan."**

After discussion, during which Members welcomed the progress which had been made to date, the Working Group adopted the recommendations.

#### **Next Meeting**

The Working Group noted that its next meeting would take place at 5.00 p.m. on Monday, 27th April.

Chairperson

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# **West Belfast Area Working Group**

Thursday, 30th January, 2020

## **WEST BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP**

Members present: Councillor Corr (Chairperson);  
The High Sheriff of Belfast, Councillor Verner;  
Councillors Beattie, Black, Canavan, Matthew Collins,  
Donnelly, Garrett, Heading, Hutchinson, Kingston,  
Magennis, McLaughlin and Walsh.

In attendance: Mr. N. Grimshaw, Strategic Director of City and  
Neighbourhood Services;  
Mr. R. Black, Director of  
Neighbourhood Services;  
Mrs. A. Allen, Neighbourhood Services Manager;  
Ms. S. Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes;  
Ms. M. Bagnall, Programme Manager;  
Mr. S. Lavery, Programme Manager; and  
Mr. G. Graham, Democratic Services Assistant.

### **Election of Chairperson**

The Area Working Group noted that it was required to elect a Chairperson for the coming year.

Moved by Councillor Beattie,  
Seconded by Councillor Canavan and

Resolved – that Councillor Corr be elected to serve as Chairperson  
to the West Belfast Area Working Group until June, 2020.

### **Apologies**

Apologies were reported on behalf of Alderman McCoubrey and Councillor Michael Collins.

### **Declaration of Interest**

Alderman Kingston declared that he was a member of the Board of Directors in respect of the Argyle Business Centre. Councillor Walsh declared that he was a member of the management board in respect of the James Connolly Interpretative Centre.

### **Terms of Reference**

The Working Group noted the Terms of Reference for the Area Working Groups which had been approved by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 20th September, 2019.

## **Neighbourhood Regeneration Presentation**

The Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services introduced the context of the plan in respect of the Neighbourhood Regeneration and Area Working Plan and the fact that it was a development plan for the city as a whole and captured in essence where the city needed to be in complimenting the themes within the Belfast Agenda.

The Director of Neighbourhood Services provided the Working Group with a detailed presentation of the work involved in regard to the implementation of the Neighbourhood Regeneration and Area Working Plan, incorporating the following key strands:

- Belfast Agenda and Governance
- Integrated Service Delivery
- Capital Investment
- Evidence based decision making
- Local Development Plan
- City Regeneration
- Economic Development

The Director highlighted the need to integrate its services and develop external partnerships in the pursuit of community engagement and Neighbourhood Regeneration. He referred specifically to the City and Neighbourhood Services approach to integrated service delivery including:

- Open Spaces and Streetscene
- City Protection
- Community Provision and
- Resources and Fleet.

The Working Group was provided with a range of specific issues which were relevant to West Belfast, including amongst other things:

- Mental Health
- Drug Dependency
- Anti-Social Behaviour
- Education
- Employment
- Lone Parents
- Unemployment

The Working Group was presented with a detailed Area Profile for West Belfast providing a range of indices including; age profile, morbidity rates and levels of deprivation. The Director referred to the links between Citywide Regeneration and the Council's local development plans. A Member highlighted the importance of the Northern Ireland's Assembly's input and of the need to engage with its M.L.A's. In response the Director of Neighbourhood Services confirmed the Department for Communities (DfC) were aware of the Council's regeneration proposals and appeared to be supportive.

A Member raised the issue of land zoning and of the Area Working Group to input in this area if the objectives within the regeneration plan were to be achieved, In response to a further question, the Director confirmed that no compulsory job losses as part of any efficiency programme would be required and that the Council operated a policy of voluntary redundancy where this was requested.

The Working Group thanked both Directors for their detailed and informative presentation.

### **Update on Physical Programme**

The Director of Physical Programmes submitted the undernoted report, with the exception of appendices, copies of which had been circulated previously to the Members.

#### **1. Introduction**

The Council's Physical Programme covers projects under a range of funding streams including the Capital Programme, the Leisure Transformation Programme, the Local Investment Fund (LIF), the Belfast Investment Fund (BIF), and Social Outcome Fund (SOF); in addition, the programme covers projects that the Council is delivering in behalf of other agencies.

This report outlines the status of projects under the Physical Programme.

#### **2. Local Investment Fund**

LIF is a £9m fixed programme of capital investment in non-council neighbourhood assets, over two tranches: LIF 1 (2012-2015) - £5m total funding pot, allocated across each AWG areas; and LIF 2 (2015 -2019) - £4m allocation. (LIF 1 – West - £1,127,500 + Shankill £490,000 and LIF 2 - £1,200,000)

Each LIF project proposal is taken through a Due Diligence process prior to any funding award. Table 1 below outlines funding spend to date for each tranche, at key stages of the delivery process: 44 projects have received In Principle support under LIF1 and LIF2, of which 41 have been completed; 2 are at pre construction stage and 1 remains at due diligence / initial stage.

Table 1. LIF breakdown - West		LIF 1		LIF 2	
Stage/ Description		Projects	Amount/ Value (£)	Projects	Amount/ Value (£)
Number of Projects Completed		25 (100%)	£1,617,500	16 (84%)	£937,915
Number of Projects On-going Delivery					£75,000
Number of Projects in Pre-construction				2 (11%)	£147,085
Number of Projects in Initial Stage (Due Diligence)				1 (5%)	£40,000
<b>Total Number of Approved Projects</b>		<b>25</b>	<b>£1,617,500</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>£1,200,000</b>

**Of the 3 remaining live projects Members are asked/recommended to (Appendix 1 provides a detailed overview):**

LIF Ref	PROJECT	FUNDING	STAGE	STATUS	ACTION/RECOMMENDATION
WLIF2-08	Berlin Swifts Football Club	£65,085	Design stage	Project through Due Diligence on 21st February 2019, subject to security of tenure conditions. Rental negotiations have now concluded with EA - Funding agreement being	Group are to submit an application to Alpha for shortfall in funding on receipt of funding agreement from Council.

				prepared following receipt and review of lease at December's Due Diligence meeting. Funding shortfall of approximately £15,000	Continue engagement with the Group
WLIF2-10	St James Community Forum	£82,000	Tender preparation	Detailed plans and costs are in place and the project has been tendered for construction. The project has funding allocated by Alpha (Groundwork NI). A reduced scheme is planned to proceed in early 2020 when DfI land transfer issues have been resolved.	Continue engagement with the groups and project partners.
WLIF2-04	St John Bosco Boxing Club	£40,000	Due Diligence	Work is ongoing with St John Bosco ABC and Sport NI. The group have now moved to another part of Conway Mill due to structural issues with their previous location. The group have also requested that the Council take on the delivery of the project providing that arrangements can be formalised with Sport NI - (Sport NI programme coming to an end).	Ongoing liaison with Sport NI and group regarding funding and project delivery. <b>AWG decision required regarding BCC delivery request.</b>

### 3. Belfast Investment Fund

BIF is a £28.2m investment fund for regeneration, partnership projects, with a minimum £250k investment from Council BIF. The West AWG had a total allocation of £9.2m (£5.5m from the original allocation, an additional £1.2m which was ring-fenced for projects in the Shankill area when this became part of the West AWG following the Council elections in 2015 and £2.5m which was ringfenced for projects in the Colin area following LGR.

In six projects have received an In-Principle funding commitment under BIF accounting for the full allocation. Each of the 'In Principle' projects are taken through a three stage approval process, including a rigorous Due Diligence process before any Funding Agreement is approved and put in place. Table 2 below provides a summary of BIF allocated projects ie project title; the Stage it is at; and the funding allocated.

**Table 2 Summary of BIF allocated projects**

<b>West</b>	Stage 3—Davitts GAC—£1m (Completed); Raidió Fáilte—£950k (Completed); St Comgall's- £3.5m; Colin Glen Forest Park—£2.5m Stage 2—Glencairn Community Project— £700k; St Mary's CBS— no commitment Stage 1— Royal British Legion—£500k; An Sportslann; Suffolk Community Forum; Belfast Hills- Black Mountain Access—no commitment
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Appendix 1 provides a progress overview and update on all live BIF projects in West. 2 projects are completed (Davitts and Raidio Failte) with 1 currently on ground (Colin Glen Trust) while works are due to commence in February on St. Comgall's.

In relation to the remaining two BIF projects Members are asked to note the following -

BIF Ref	PROJECT	FUNDING	STAGE	STATUS	ACTION/RECOMMENDATION
BIF09	Glencairn Community Project	£700,00	Due Diligence; and Design stage	Additional funding contribution of up to £500,000 has been confirmed from Education Authority. Designs have been reworked to include the EA's schedule of accommodation requirement, with robust costings currently being determined. Work is underway in terms of ascertaining running costs and determining	Continue engagement with the group. Needs to go back through the DD process



				sustainability once final PTE (pre-tender estimate) costs have been confirmed for the new scheme.	
BIF29	Royal British Legion	£500,000	Due Diligence stage - Emerging project status	Scope of project has changed from original proposal. Lack of information on revised project - project proposal but no costings etc. Group representatives had been scheduled to attend Area Working Group in March to present their revised proposals however they cancelled their attendance. Change in project scope is required to be reported to the Due Diligence group and West AWG.	Propose that a letter is sent seeking confirmation if group wish to continue to engage in BIF process and provide the necessary information, by an appropriate deadline with update to be brought to next AWG, or that the Group are requested to present their revised proposal to the next AWG.

#### 4. Social Outcome Fund

**SOF is £4m ringfenced capital investment programme with a focus on local community tourism projects. 5 projects in West Belfast received an In-Principle funding commitment. Similar to LIF and BIF, all projects are subject to Due Diligence process prior to any funding award.**

***Table 3: SOF – West Belfast projects overview***

<b>West</b>	Stage 3— James Connolly Interpretative centre—£650,000; Rock Centre —£200,000; Belfast Orange Hall Museum- £80,000; Stage 2—Roddy McCorley Museum - £1,350,000 Stage 1— Shankill Mission - £750,000
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**Appendix 1 provides a detailed overview on all SOF projects in West. Two projects are completed (James Connolly Centre and the Rock Centre). An overview of the other projects is outlined in the Table below -**

SOF Ref	PROJECT	FUNDING	STAGE	STATUS	ACTION/RECOMMENDATION
SOF09	Belfast Orange Hall Museum	£80,000	Funding agreement in place; tender stage	Project involves Disability Access to Museum/ Renovation of frontage on the Cultural Corridor. Integrated Design Team has been appointed and procurement process completed - the returned tender price is above budget – £35k shortfall	Discussions underway to try to secure funding deficit. If no additional funding can be secured within this financial year then the Group would like to progress with a phased option and seek to secure additional funding to complete the project going forward
SOF05	Roddy McCorley Museum	£1,350,000	In Principle Letter issued (Due Diligence); Design stage	Development of a modern interpretative museum and existing grounds. Procurement of design team underway; with a view that project will be on site late summer 2020 (subject to completion of Due Diligence process).	Continue engagement with the group
SOF07	Shankill Mission	£750,000	Initial stage	Development of a social economy training hotel. Initial stage. Overall scheme approx. cost at £7m. Funding is the major issue– no other funding has yet been secured. Group is still working to secure match funding- exploring the Heritage Enterprise Fund (HLF), bank loans and private investments - likely to be a long term process.	Note the current position with the project and continued significant funding gap. HLF application due to be submitted in Spring – recommend that regular updates on progress are brought back to the AWG

#### 5. Capital Programme

**The Capital Programme is the rolling programme of enhancing existing Council assets or building / buying new ones. Members**

are reminded of the 3 stage approval process in place for every project on council's Capital Programme, as agreed by Strategic Policy and Resources Committee. Table 3 below provides an update on current live projects North Belfast area. Members are asked to note current status and update.

**Table 4. West Belfast – Capital programme overview**

Project	Status and update
LTP - Andersonstown Regeneration	Stage 3 – Committed. On Ground. On track for construction completion in February with opening in April
Alleygating Phase 4 – City wide	Stage 3 – Committed. On Ground
City Cemetery – National Lottery Heritage Fund (formerly HLF)	Stage 3 – Committed. Tender stage. Appointment of contractor in January and due to start on site in February 2020. Engagement officer recruited and due to start early Feb (3 year post).
Replacement Service Yard – Falls Park/ City Cemetery	Stage 3 – Committed. Tender stage. Planning application in process. Link to the City Cemetery - National Lottery Heritage Fund project.

## **6. Externally-funded programmes**

The Council is the Delivery partner / agent for a number of government department on key capital investment programmes, namely TEO Social Investment Fund (SIF), TEO Urban Villages (UV) Programme, and number of schemes with DfC Regeneration directorate. The following is an overview of projects within each programme relevant to West Belfast.

### **Urban Villages Initiative**

Members are asked to note that Letters of Offer from Urban Villages have been received, for the Council as delivery agent, for the following projects:

Project	Status and update
Colin Allotments& HLC Improvements Project	Project completed.
Footprints Women's Centre	Project completed.
New Park in Colin	Contractor appointed and due to commence on site in January/Feb 2020.

### **Social Investment Fund**

Members are asked to note that a Letters of Offer from the Executive Office under SIF have been received for the following projects:

Project	Status and update
St. Comgall's	Link to BIF project as above. Works due to commence in February.

### **PEACE IV – Capital Projects**

Members are asked to note updates on the capital projects that are related to the PEACE IV Programme:

Project	Status and update
Springfield Dam and Park <i>Link to / first phase of PEACE IV Connecting Open spaces project.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Being funded by DfC</li> <li>Contractor appointed and regular meetings held - project works expected to start in February 2020. Construction schedule approximately 6 to 8 months.</li> </ul>
PEACE IV – Connecting Open Spaces	<p>Design team have been appointed re design of some 12km of pathways/cycle ways from Glencairn Park, Ballygomartin to Springfield Road, Falls Park and Bog Meadows. Project progressing through consultation and design stages. Phases include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Section 1 – Glencairn</i> - Detailed design complete; Planning applications submitted for lighting, entrance and signage</li> <li><i>Section 2 – Ballygomartin to Springfield Road</i> - Detailed design work in final stages</li> <li><i>Section 3 – Falls Park</i> - No further progress required at present</li> <li><i>Section 4 – Bog Meadows</i> - Meeting held with Ulster Wildlife Trust – management, maintenance and liability issues to be confirmed in advance of a planning application being submitted</li> <li><i>Section 5</i> - No further progress required at present</li> </ul> <p><u>Procurement</u> - Wider scheme tender documentation being finalised with a view to letting works to Section 1 and Section 2 March 2020.</p>
Black Mountain Shared Space Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Procurement of design team will commence to work up the detailed designs. First project board meeting end Jan 2020.</li> <li>Officers actively work to secure additional capital funding required for the social enterprise units (£500k confirmed informally by IFI – awaiting LOO). Discussions ongoing with DfC and DoJ.</li> </ul>
Shankill Women's Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Officers are working with SEUPB and group to finalise a pre-commencement report. Procurement of design team underway to work up detailed designs. First project board meeting end Jan 2020.</li> </ul>

## 7. Recommendations

### Members are asked to

- note the Physical Programmes update for West Belfast and that officers are happy to arrange site visits to any projects as required**
- note the updates on the remaining LIF and BIF projects and consider the request to deliver LIF project St John's Bosco Boxing Club**
- note that it has been agreed in principle by Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in December that £8m is committed to a new Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund – work is currently underway by officers and it is envisaged that Party Group briefings will take place in February/March on this.**

The Working Group was reminded that a number of projects, including the Berlin Swifts Football Club and the St James Community Forum had incurred a funding shortfall and that options were being explored currently by officers to offset the funding deficit. A Member expressed concern in regard to delays in the land transfer arrangements by the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) in respect of St James Community Forum Development and the Director of Physical Programmes agreed that she would follow up on the Member's concerns with that Department. The Director reported that, in respect of St John Bosco Boxing Club, Sport N.I. had requested that the Council take delivery of the development proposal and that the Council had agreed to do so.

The Director provided an overview of the projects undertaken currently under the Belfast Investment Fund (BIF), including the Glencairn Community Project and the Royal British Legion. Concern was raised in respect of the change in the application in regard to the Royal British Legion in that they had indicated a requirement to purchase a second building with the requirement of additional capital expenditure. The Working Group agreed with the Director that additional information in respect of their proposal was required and that she would correspond with them to this end and requested that they attend a future meeting of the Working Group to provide additional information in regard to their development proposal.

The Director provided the Working Group with an update on a number of projects undertaken in West Belfast under the Social Outcome Fund (SOF). She stated that discussions were continuing in regard to securing additional funding in respect of the Belfast Orange Hall Museum and of the need to secure substantial additional funding in respect of the Shankill Mission. It was agreed also that, updates on both these projects would be provided at the next meeting of the Working Group. The Members were provided with an outline of progress made to date in respect of the Council's capital programme to enhance its existing assets, including Andersonstown regeneration, Alleygating Phase 4 and the proposed visitor centre at the City Cemetery. The Director agreed to provide the Working Group with a timeline in respect of the work to be undertaken in regard to the construction of the afore-mentioned visitor centre.

The Working Group noted the information which had been provided in regard to work undertaken under the Council's physical programme including the Urban Villages initiative and a range of capital projects undertaken as part of the PEACE1V programme.

### **Area Specific Issues**

#### **Dunville Park**

The Neighbourhood Services Manager referred to the persistent anti-social behaviour in Dunville Park, with particular reference to the 'rocket slide'. She referred to the ongoing costs associated with maintaining a particular piece of equipment and the fact that it was unusable by children for significant periods of time due to ongoing and regular repairs. The Working Group was advised that the equipment would be removed and a suitable alternative replacement sought. A Member raised concerns in regard to the poor lighting in the park as being a contributory factor and for the need to engage with the community outreach as a means to deal with the anti-social elements. A Member raised the issue of animation in the park as a means to encourage greater use of the facilities. The Neighbourhood Services Manager accepted that a more targeted approach was required and that she would bring back proposals to a future meeting of the Working Group on how the use of the park could be encouraged and developed further.

Noted.

#### **Glen Road Portacabin**

The Neighbourhood Services Manager provided the Working Group with an update on the current usage and status of the Glen Road porta-cabin which had been used previously for the delivery of Traveller Services. It was reported that, statutory responsibility for travellers no longer resided with the Council. It was reported also that the Council had entered into a lease agreement with An Munia Tober to provide support for the traveller community and that, since 2018, An Munia Tober was no longer able to deliver its services and consequently relinquished its lease in respect of the porta-cabin. It was reported that the Council currently provided a once a week play service with Toy Box and that the Council did not have a dedicated staff member to manage the facility.

It was reported that more recently, a group called Tome Anosha had expressed a desire to deliver services to the traveller community from the facility but, as yet, remained un-constituted. The Neighbourhood Services Manager reported that the porta-cabin was now in an acceptable state of repair after remedial work had been undertaken but did not meet the standard required for community centre provision. She reported that the Council was unable to enter into an asset management agreement with Tome Anosha despite their ambition to deliver traveller services given that they remained un-constituted. She stated that, in the meantime, the Council had been looking at alternative manned community facilities for that group which, to date, could not be offered exclusively for the use of Tome Anosha.

The Working Group noted the information which had been provided and stressed the importance of the Council working closely with Tome Anosha in providing support and assistance in that group becoming constituted.

### **Paramilitary Attacks Multi-Agency Demonstrator**

The Neighbourhood Services Manager provided the Members with an update on the offer by the Department of Justice (DoJ) to provide funding to Belfast City Council to undertake a multi-agency demonstration project, as the lead organisation, in support of those at risk of paramilitary attacks in West Belfast. It was reported that, previously, the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People had requested that the Council take the lead role in addressing issues associated with paramilitary assaults in the Lower Falls area of West Belfast. The Working Group was informed that a multi-disciplinary task force had been established, with the core objective of agreeing to a process aimed at supporting those at risk of paramilitary attacks and their families. She provided an outline of the key objectives of the initiative, including improving communication between service providers in addition to incorporating the collection of data and statistics to demonstrate the impact of the PSA multi-agency group. The Neighbourhood Services Manager stated that funding for the project was conditional on the Council working with DoJ accredited restorative schemes and that, if the initiative was to prove successful, it was intended that it would be rolled out to other parts of the city.

Noted.

### **Social Innovation – Challenge Programme**

The Neighbourhood Services Manager submitted the undernoted report in respect of the Social Innovation Challenge Programme:

#### **1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**

**To provide Members with an update on the Whiterock Social Innovation Challenge Programme.**

#### **2.0 Recommendations**

**To seek approval to recommend to Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that officers work with elected members and the local community to develop suitable project(s) to be considered for funding as agreed within the original scope of the Social Innovation Challenge Programme.**

#### **3.0 Main report**

##### **Key Issues**

In 2016, Belfast City Council agreed to undertake Locality Planning pilots to test how Community Planning might be applied at the local area level and to help inform future neighbourhood working. One of the areas chosen was within the Whiterock locality of West Belfast;

To support this work, Council also agreed to commission the Young Foundation to work with officers to develop a 'social innovation model.' The term 'social innovation' refers to new ideas or ways of working that aim to fulfil unmet social needs or tackle social problems.

As part of this model, a Challenge Programme was developed with funding available in each locality planning area for up to four projects that can be delivered within the area with a maximum £15,000 per project.

To access this funding local groups involved in the locality planning process worked with the Young Foundation and Council officers to develop potential ideas which received a recommendation for funding, following successfully pitching their ideas to a panel which included members and practitioners working in the field of innovation.

This work was developed as part of our approach to neighbourhood working, which we are now calling Neighbourhood Regeneration, a presentation on this approach will be delivered at the Area Working Groups in January. While, this work, had some successes it has been superseded with a wider programme of work i.e. Neighbourhood Regeneration which will be developed with members over the coming months further developing how we align programmes and services and work in specific geographical locations to improve outcomes for residents.

For the purposes of this report we want to outline to members the current status with regards to funding still available within the Whiterock area and seek authority to work with local community groups and residents to develop ideas which can be considered for funding at the next area working group

### Current Status

Two projects in Whiterock were awarded funding of £15,000 in late 2018 leaving a current balance of £30,000. With the reconfiguration of the Area Working Groups, we are now seeking approval for the Neighbourhood Services Manager to work with local residents, members and community groups to develop suitable ideas to bring back to the area working group to consider funding to be allocated as part of this process, subject to Strategic Policy and Resources approval and Council ratification.

It should be noted that this funding was not awarded through an open call; it was restricted to those projects that involved local residents and were developed by those who have been

involved in the locality planning process and successfully pitched their ideas. While, we do not have the Young Foundation to support this work, officers have continued to engage with those who were involved within the original locality planning work and can follow a similar process to the what was previously delivered to ensure any funding awarded is within the scope of the original programme of work.

Furthermore, as we develop our approach to Neighbourhood Regeneration, it is important that this work is aligned to this emerging process to ensure it is consistent with the transformational approach that the Council is taking with regards to area working. To support this, the Neighbourhood Services Manager West Belfast, will oversee this process and allocate staff resources to support.

### **Next Steps**

Subject to approval at full council, officers will work with members, residents and the local community to develop potential ideas and bring back to the West Area Working Group to seek approval to recommend to Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that suitable project(s) to be considered for funding.

### **Financial and Resource Implications**

Resourcing for this project is already included in budget estimates.

### **Equality or Good Relations Implications**

Equality and good relations implications were considered in relation to the social innovation model.

The Members noted the information provided and agreed that officers should engage with the local community to develop suitable projects which would attract funding and agreed also that a report in support of securing funding under the Social Innovation Challenge Programme would be presented to a future meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

A Member requested that information be provided to a future meeting of the Working Group in respect of the acquisition of land at Mount Eagles.

Noted.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

The Working Group agreed that its next meeting be held on Thursday, 30th April at 4.30 p.m.

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# East Belfast Area Working Group

Thursday, 6th February, 2020

## MEETING OF EAST BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP

Members present: Councillor Smyth (Chairperson);  
Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor McReynolds;  
Aldermen Copeland, Haire, Rodgers  
and Sandford; and  
Councillors Brooks, Dorrian, Flynn, Hanvey,  
Howard, Hussey, M. Kelly, Kyle, Long,  
McMullan and Newton.

In attendance: Mr. N. Grimshaw, Strategic Director of City and  
Neighbourhood Services;  
Mr. R. Black, Director of Neighbourhood Services;  
Ms. S. Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes; and  
Mrs. L. McLornan, Democratic Services Officer.

### **Election of Chairperson**

The Area Working Group was advised that it was required to elect a Chairperson for the coming year.

Moved by Councillor Long,  
Seconded by Councillor Howard and

Resolved – that Councillor Smyth, representing the Green Party, be elected to serve as Chairperson to the East Belfast Area Working Group until June, 2020; and

that the Democratic Unionist Party, the Alliance Party and the Ulster Unionist Party, as the three largest parties on the Working Group, would each nominate a Member to take the role of Chairperson for the following three years.

### **Apologies**

An apology for inability to attend was reported from Councillor Mulholland.

### **Declarations of Interest**

Aldermen Haire and Rodgers, and Councillors Brooks, Dorrian, Flynn, Howard, M. Kelly and McMullan declared an interest in Item 5, Physical Programme Update, in that they were Board Members of the Eastside Partnership.

Councillors Newton and Kyle declared an interest in Item 5, Physical Programme Update, in that they were Board Members of the Lagan Village Youth and Community Centre.

Alderman Sandford declared an interest in Item 5, Physical Programme Update, in so far as he was on the Board of Governors of Cregagh Primary School.

### **Terms of Reference**

The Working Group noted the Terms of Reference for the Area Working Groups, which had been agreed by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 20th September, 2019.

### **Neighbourhood Regeneration**

The Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services provided the Working Group with an overview of how the Area Working Groups would integrate with existing programmes of work and how it related to the overall aims contained within the Belfast Agenda, the Capital Investment Programme, the Local Development Plan and Economic Development.

The Director of Neighbourhood Services explained that the newly integrated Open Spaces and Streetscene was a new model of neighbourhood working which sought to maximise resources, avoid duplication and to make it easier for customers to understand the services that the Council provided.

The Area Working Group was provided with data and research statistics in respect of key issues which affected East Belfast. These included extreme inequality, mental health, dereliction and vandalism, health, Anti-Social Behaviour, educational underachievement and unemployment.

The Members were advised that a facilitated Workshop would take place for each area in April, in order to begin the process of identifying key issues at a wider area level. The Strategic Director advised the Working Group that the Workshop was to help determine the key elements of neighbourhood regeneration and to choose the 2 or 3 key priorities for the east of the City.

A Member stated that sustainability and resilience should be key considerations in determining the future of the City as a whole.

In response to requests from Members, the Working Group agreed that Mr M. Kinhead and Mr. M. Briggs, EastSide Partnership, and Ms. G. Long, Commissioner for Resilience, be invited to attend the East Belfast Workshop in April.

The Working Group noted the update which had been provided.

### **Update on the Physical Programme**

The Director of Physical Programmes provided the Working Group with an overview of the Council's Physical Programme, including the Capital Programme, the Leisure Transformation programme, the Local Investment Fund (LIF), the Belfast

Investment Fund (BIF), the Social Outcome Fund (SOF) and other projects which the Council was delivering on behalf of other agencies.

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

She explained to the Members that LIF was a £9million fixed programme of capital investment in non-Council neighbourhood assets over two tranches. LIF1, from 2012-2015, comprised a total of £5million, with East having been allocated £1.127million. LIF2 comprised a total of £4million, with East having been allocated £1.2million. The Members were advised that each LIF project was taken through a Due Diligence process prior to any funding award.

<b>Table 1. LIF breakdown - East</b>	<b>LIF 1</b>		<b>LIF 2</b>	
<b>Stage/ Description</b>	<b>Projects</b>	<b>Amount/ Value (£)</b>	<b>Projects</b>	<b>Amount/ Value (£)</b>
Number of Projects Completed	7 (87%)	£877,500	11 (92%)	£1,146,589
Number of Projects in On-going Delivery				
Number of Projects in Pre-construction			1 (8%)	£15,000
Number of Projects at Initial Stage (Due Diligence)	1 (13%)	£250,000		
<b>Total Number of Approved Projects</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>£1,127,500</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>£1,161,589</b>

She provided the Working Group with an update on the two LIF projects which were yet to be completed.

In relation to the Westbourne Presbyterian Church – Titanic People project, the Working Group agreed that officers would meet with the group given the recent withdrawal of SIF funding for the project by the Executive Office. In respect of the Dock Titanic Quarter project, the Working group agreed that officers would write to the group advising them that they would be given three months in which to provide the Council with its decision regarding the location of the café. The Members noted that updates in respect of both remaining committed LIF projects would be submitted for consideration at the next meeting.

### **Belfast Investment Fund (BIF)**

The Director explained that BIF was a £28.2million fund for regeneration, partnership projects with a minimum £250,000 investment from the Council. She advised the Working Group that East Belfast had been allocated £5.5million under BIF, with an additional £2million allocated for use in Outer East, which took account of the areas which had been subsumed into the Belfast area under Local Government Reform.

<b>East</b>	<p><b>Stage 3:</b> Willowfield—£560k (completed); H&amp;W Welders—£2.37m; Strand—£1.8m; Bloomfield—£440k</p> <p><b>Stage 2:</b> Lagan Village Youth &amp; Community— <i>(no commitment)</i></p>
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	<b>Stage 1:</b> East Belfast Mission; Belmont Bowling Club; Bloomfield Presbyterian Church; St. John's Orangefield, Church of Ireland— <i>(no commitment / on long list)</i>
<b>Outer East *</b>	<b>Stage 3:</b> TAGIT- £434k; Braniel—£390k; Hanwood—£396k; Castlereagh Presbyterian Church—£382k; Lisnasharragh Community Schools—£398k

The Working Group considered the updates and agreed the following actions for the projects which were at Stage 3:

PROJECT	FUNDING	STAGE	ACTION
<b>H&amp;W Welders Club</b>	£2,370,000	Revised completion date for project is now Apr 2021.	The AWG agreed that officers would continue engagement with the group and partners.
<b>Strand Arts Centre</b>	£1,800,000	Committed in principle in October 2016 (with 2 years to secure match funding; with the option to be extended by a further year – October 2019)  Development of a revised Stage 1 Design Report indicates £4.6m preferred option – the current fit-out and condition of the building significantly restricts the extent and quality of the entertainment services, significant investment is required.  <b>DfC currently considering business case. Have indicated that funding will only match the funding offer from the Council.</b>	The AWG agreed: 1. to undertake a site visit to the Strand; 2. that Council officers would seek a meeting with DfC and with the group in terms of timelines and next steps; and 3. that an update be submitted to a future meeting of the AWG (with a Special meeting to be called if necessary)
<b>Bloomfield Community Association</b>	£440,000	Committed in principle in September 2016 with Group given 6/9 months to secure match funding (would have been June 2017).  No significant progress for more than 3 years. The preferred option leaves a shortfall of £178,000 (as of 2016). Discussions have been had with DfC but, to date, no additional funding has been secured. Discussions with the group ongoing.	The AWG agreed: 1. to undertake a site visit to the BCA; 2. that Council officers would seek a meeting with the group and DfC in terms of timelines and next steps; and 3. that an update be submitted to the next meeting.

The Members were provided with updates on the Outer East BIF projects which were at Stage 3, as follows:

PROJECT	FUNDING	STAGE	ACTION
<b>Hanwood Project</b>	£396,000	Pitch and lighting element has been completed. Roller shutter installs to be completed by February 2020.	The AWG noted that officers would continue to engage with the group.
<b>TAGIT Boxing Club</b>	£434,000	Planning permission approved in November 2019. Contractor procurement had been completed (early January) – project currently £150k over allocated BIF amount (Contractor procurement can be held for 6months). DfC Sports Division have been formally approached to make up the shortfall.	The AWG agreed that: 1. officers would continue to engage with the group; and 2. DfC Sports Division and other funding solutions be explored.
<b>Braniel Church</b>	£390,000	Design work and costings had been completed with a view to submission of a planning application in March 2020, subject to project approval at Due Diligence.	The AWG noted that officers would continue to engage with the group.
<b>Lisnasharragh Community Schools Project</b>	£398,000	The Education Authority had confirmed it would be responsible for project delivery and would procure a contractor. EA had appointed a technical lead to prepare a feasibility study and officers to produce a business plan.	The AWG noted that officers would continue to engage with the group.
<b>Castlereagh Presbyterian Church</b>	£382,000	At final Due Diligence stage, however a funding shortfall remains – the Economic Appraisal preferred option was £559k, which was £177k over BIF allocated amount. The Group was considering reducing the scale of works.	The AWG agreed: 1. that officers would seek a meeting with the group in terms of the timeline around a reduced scale of works; and 2. that an update be submitted to next meeting.

The Director reminded the AWG that, at its meeting on 5th January, 2017, it had agreed that the Lagan Village Youth and Community Centre (LVYCC) was a Stage 2 (uncommitted) project, and that it should be considered first, if any funding became available through the Outer East BIF fund.

During discussion on the Physical Programme, a Member stated that the Working Group should be mindful of the increase in construction costs.

### **Capital Programme**

The Working Group was provided with updates on projects in the Capital Programme in East Belfast, including the newly opened Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre, Alleygating Phase 4, Blanchflower Playing Fields, the New Crematorium, Avoniel and Templemore.

### **Social Outcome Fund**

The Director advised the Working Group that the Social Outcome Fund was a £4million ring-fenced capital investment programme with a focus on local community tourism projects. She advised that there was one project in East Belfast, near the Eastside Visitor Centre/C.S. Lewis Square, with an in-principle funding commitment of £700,000. The Working Group was advised that the Council would be working with Urban Villages on the joint project and that meeting were ongoing with Eastside Partnership to progress, parallel to the Urban Villages' approval process.

The Chairperson thanked the Director of Physical Programmes for the updates which had been provided.

### **Area Specific Issues**

#### **Hollywood Arches Greenway's projects (including Ballymacarrett Area Masterplan)**

(Ms. C. Taggart, Neighbourhood Services Manager – East, attended in connection with the following two items)

The Neighbourhood Services Manager explained that, over the past two years, the Council had been leading an integrated programme of work with partner organisations including Eastside Partnership, Urban Villages, DfI, Education Authority, DfC and Eastside Partnership, to regenerate a number of key stretches of open space along the Comber Greenway, linking to the Hollywood Arches and C. S Lewis Square. These included:

- the Bloomfield Walkway Environmental Improvements Project;
- the Ballymacarrett Walkway Environmental and Cycling Infrastructure Project; and
- BCC lands (Options Site) at Connswater Community Centre /Ballymacarrett Masterplan

### **Bloomfield Walkway**

The Neighbourhood Services Manager provided the details of the planned installation of replacement lighting columns along the Bloomfield Walkway in March 2020, which would see the completion of a total capital investment of £220,000, £190,000 of which had been funded by the DfI, into the stretch of the Greenway between the Ravenscoft Carpark at the Hollywood Arches and the Beersbridge Road.

As agreed by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting in February 2019, she explained that the Council had delivered the project which focused on turning the Walkway into a welcoming and accessible community asset through the introduction of soft landscaping, planting, upgraded link paths into residential streets and a community event/bbq area.

She outlined to the Members that concept drawings for a second phase, focusing on the reconfiguration of Ravenscroft carpark to provide a segregated pathway, had also been developed through engagement with key partners but that funding to progress that phase had not yet been secured.

In order to encourage community ownership funding for the project, an animation programme to the value of £40,000 had been jointly committed to by The Executive Office and the Council. At the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in June 2019, it was agreed that officers would engage with the Inner East Forum to identify and arrange for a suitable community lead to take forward this work. An update would be submitted to a future meeting of the AWG in due course.

### **Ballymacarrett Walkway**

The Members were apprised of the projects which were currently being progressed in relation to the Council-owned Ballymacarrett Walkway, including the Environmental and Cycling Infrastructure Improvements Project, the Island Street Cycling Infrastructure Improvements Project and the Temporary car park at Connswater Community Centre.

The Neighbourhood Services Manager outlined that a £700,000 investment, comprising £590,000 of Urban Villages funding and a £110,000 contribution from DfI Roads under the Belfast Cycling Strategy, would see the introduction of a new 4 metre wide path and improved lighting along the stretch between Connswater Street and Dee Street, as well as improved access paths and soft landscaping to this Council-owned asset. She explained that Urban Villages had committed roughly £25,000 in revenue funding for Eastside Greenway's delivery of a programme of activities to animate the space.

She advised the Working Group that, following on from initial development work with partners and the development of a design concept which would reconfigure Island Street to provide a safe, segregated cycle path linking Ballymacarrett Walkway at Dee Street through to the Titanic Halt station, a commitment of capital investment from DfI Roads and from The Executive Office (via the Urban Villages Programme) had been confirmed in principle. The Members were advised that, as the road schemes fell under DfI Roads remit and were classified as permitted development, it would take forward the works separately and engage with the Council to ensure consistency of design with the Ballymacarrett and Bloomfield Walkway projects.

### **Temporary Car Park at Connswater Community Centre**

The Members were advised that the planned realignment and widening of the Comber Greenway path would see the removal of an area informally used as a car park, adjacent to the Connswater Community Centre. The Neighbourhood Services Manager explained that Council funding for alternative temporary car parking provision had been secured within the fenced off area of waste land adjacent to the centre and was currently the subject of a planning application.

A Member expressed concern regarding the removal of car parking spaces close to the nearby Health Centre, particularly for older people who drove to medical appointments.

In response to Members' requests, the Working Group agreed to undertake a site visit to the area to examine the proposals at first hand. In response to a further Member's query, it was suggested that officers should discuss with the nearby Health Centre that the car park could be limited to a 2 hour maximum as a way of preventing all-day commuter parking in the area.

The Working Group was advised that, at its meeting on 7th March, 2019, it had agreed a preferred option of a high level masterplan for the Council owned lands at Ballymacarrett, which indicated three land use zones. The Neighbourhood Services Manager outlined the details of the three zones, which consisted of a community/children and young people's services zone, a private development zone and a play-park/recreational space.

The Working Group agreed to carry out a site visit to the area in order to examine the parking issues which had been raised.

### **King George V Playing Fields**

The Neighbourhood Services Manager advised the Working Group that the developer of the former Maple Leaf Club site, for 12 social and affordable apartments, had agreed to a Section 76 Agreement. She explained that the financial agreement was to offset the under provision of open space in the development by offering a contribution of £52,000 towards improvements to a local park, namely, King George V Playing Fields.

The Members were provided with the details of the proposed improvement works, which included a new trim trail, Parkgate boundary enhancements and significant tree and shrub planting to the western boundary.

During discussion, a Member queried why the King George V Playing Fields had been chosen. He added that he had previously asked officers in the Planning department if a Section 76 Agreement might be utilised to support improvements to the steps between Strandburn Park and Sydenham Park, but that they had advised that the steps had no relationship with the development, despite being beside it, and could therefore not be considered for improvement under the Section 76 Agreement.

The officers advised the Members that the King George V Playing Fields were the nearest accessible public open space and were approximately 400metres from the Maple Leaf Club site.

A Member added that there had been recent issues with scramblers on the site. A number of Members queried why there would be no fencing or floodlighting as part of the development of the pitch and that it was an important community facility.

The Neighbourhood Services Manager explained that fencing would not be permitted by the owners of the site, Fields in Trust. The Strategic Director added that floodlights were never included in the plans for the site.

In response to a further Member's question regarding upcoming NI Water works at the site, the Director of Physical Programmes advised the Working Group that NI Water would be obligated to leave the site as they found it.



After discussion, during which a number of Members agreed that the steps at Strandburn Park were especially unsafe, the Strategic Director agreed to investigate the ownership and to submit a report to the next meeting of the Working Group in respect of potential remedial action.

In response to a Member's suggestion, the Working Group agreed to add the King George V Playing Fields to the list of site visits to be undertaken.

The Working Group noted:

- the £52,000 developer contribution for the King George V Playing Fields;
- that information sharing with the local community was planned in the coming weeks; and
- that works would be delivered by the City and Neighbourhood Services Landscape Team by way of the Council's existing measured terms contracts.

### **Doctor Pitt Memorial Park**

(Mr. A. Charles, Project Sponsor, attended in connection with this item)

The Working Group was provided with an update on the plans for the proposed redevelopment of the Doctor Pitt Memorial Park under the Urban Villages Programme.

The Project Sponsor explained that the Pitt Park redevelopment EastSide had been classified as a transformational project for the area as part of wider strategic developments at Fraser Pass, Titanic Halt and Ballymacarrett walkway. He explained that the Pitt Park project had been brought forward through an application for funding by the local community partner, the Ballymac Friendship Trust.

The Members were advised that the Programme was a key part of the Executive's Together Building a United Community Strategy, designed to help improve good relations and to help develop thriving places where there had previously been a history of deprivation and community tension.

In response to a Member's question, the Project Sponsor explained that the designs would be going out for public consultation in March and that Members would be advised of the dates in due course.

The Working Group noted the update which had been provided.

### **Correspondence**

#### **Orchardville**

The Working Group noted that a letter had been received from Orchardville, a charity and social enterprise for people with learning disabilities and autism. The Members noted that it had been sent to the former Chair of the Working Group in May, 2019, when the Working Group for the new Council term had not yet been established.

The Members were advised that Orchardville was requesting financial support through the Local Investment Fund (LIF).

In accordance with previous discussions, the Working Group agreed that a letter be sent to Orchardville advising it that the Working Group had just held its inaugural meeting in the new Council term and to advise it of the current situation with LIF and to advise them that the Council had recently agreed to establish a new Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund, the criteria for which was still to be determined.

Chairperson

## **Minutes of Party Group Leaders Consultative Forum 13<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

### **Attendance**

#### **Members:**

Alderman Brian Kingston (Chair)  
Councillor George Dorrian  
Councillor Billy Hutchinson  
Councillor Donal Lyons  
Councillor Mal O'Hara  
Councillor Michael Long  
Councillor Ronan McLaughlin (for Cllr Beattie)

#### **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  
Alistair Reid, Director of Planning and Place  
Sean Dolan, Acting Director City Regeneration and Development (for item 3)  
Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer (for item 7)  
Joanne Delaney, Strategic Performance Manager (secretariat)

Apologies: Councillors Beattie and Ferguson, Alderman Copeland

### **1. Waste Management for 2020 and Engagement with TU's**

The Director of City & Neighbourhood Services provided an update on Waste Management issues and ongoing engagement with Trade Unions. He advised that following these discussions a joint statement from Management and Trade Unions on work patterns and conditions would be issued in due course.

### **2. Finance**

#### **Quarter 3 2019/20**

The Director of Finance and Resources circulated a briefing outlining the 2019-20 Quarter 3 financial position which would be presented to members at the February SP&R Committee. He also advised that an additional 3 requests for funding had been received, these would be included in the report for consideration of the Committee. Members indicated that they would be minded to support some funding for the Tribunal Service but requested that Officers liaise with DfC officials to determine if funding from the Department would become available. It was agreed that a verbal update would be provided to the Committee.

### **3. Strategic Sites Assessment**

The Acting Director of City Regeneration and Development provided the Forum with an update on the ongoing work on the Strategic Site Assessment piece for the INW Northern Cluster and the proposed approach for progressing the engagement strategy and the development agreement process. Meetings with local communities and political representatives are currently ongoing and will be completed prior to a report being brought to CG&R and SP&R Committees in April.

### **4. Substitute Members Policy**

The City Solicitor circulated a discussion paper on a proposed Councillor Substitution Scheme, which would allow for a member from the same party to act as a substitute for the duration of a committee meeting. He advised that such a scheme would need to be further developed and he welcomed feedback from members of the Forum. It was agreed that the City Solicitor would arrange to discuss with the Local Government Policy Division and a more detailed report brought back to a future meeting.

### **5. Process of Managing Notice of Motions**

The City Solicitor circulated an updated proposal on a process for dealing with Notices of Motion. It was noted that Party Group Briefings had been held to discuss the proposals in more detail. A report will now be brought to February SP&R Committee.

### **6. E- Petition**

The City Solicitor circulated a discussion paper relating to a Notice of Motion on an E-Petition Mechanism. The Forum discussed a number of alternative options and it was agreed that the City Solicitor would further explore and bring a report back to a future meeting.

### **7. Webcasting of Committee Meetings**

Members had asked for further details in relation to the costs involved in webcasting Committee meetings, the City Solicitor circulated the report at the meeting and the Senior Democratic Services Officer attended to answer any queries on the indicative costings. Other options were discussed including the option of an upgraded audio system that could potentially bookmark committee items. Members agreed that this is further researched and a report is brought back to a future meeting.

## **8. Update on Party Group Leaders' and Corporate Management Team Planning Day**

The PGL/CMT planning session took place on the 5<sup>th</sup> February and a draft action list for extended meetings of the Forum was circulated for consideration. These extended meetings will be scheduled on a quarterly basis. Issues to be raised at forthcoming Ministerial meetings discussed on the planning day will be circulated to the Forum and a report brought to February SP&R Committee.

## **9. Planning Update**

The Chief Executive updated the Forum on the live planning applications and informed the Forum of the applications that were being presented to the Planning Committee this month and next month.

## **10. AOB**

### **Bonfire Related Issue**

Councillor Dorrian raised an issue in relation to Bonfires. It was agreed that the Director of City & Neighbourhoods services would arrange a meeting with East Belfast Councillors and the bonfire representatives to discuss.

### **Queen's Award for Voluntary Service**

Councillor O' Hara raised a request he had received from Philip McGarry to present to the Forum on the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. The Forum agreed to the request to invite him to a future meeting.

### **Special Meeting – Bi Lingual Leisure Signage**

The Forum noted that a Special meeting was being arranged for Party Group Leaders on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February to discuss Bi Lingual Leisure Signage. It was agreed that a recent Notice of Motion in relation to Irish Language Street Signage Policy would also be added to the agenda.

### **Lord Mayor's event**

Members noted that the Lord Mayor was hosting an event in City Hall on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March, to mark the positive contribution made by community groups in our City. An information leaflet for the event has been circulated to all Members.

### **Meeting – Flags and Banners**

The Chief Executive advised that following a Notice of Motion raised on Flags and Banners a meeting has been arranged for the Party Group Leaders to meet with PSNI and the Department for Infrastructure. The meeting will take place on 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 8.30am and a meeting request will be circulated.

## Working Group on the Climate Crisis

Monday, 10th February, 2020

### MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE CLIMATE CRISIS

Members present: Councillors Ferguson, Hutchinson and Smyth.

In attendance: Ms. C. McKeown, Sustainability Manager;  
Ms. C. Shortt, Policy and Data Analyst; and  
Mr. G. Graham, Democratic Services Assistant.

Also Attended: Ms. G. Long, Commissioner for Resilience.  
(via digital link)

### **Apologies**

Apologies were reported on behalf of the Chairperson, Councillor de Faoite, the Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor McReynolds, and Aldermen Copeland and Spence.

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 13th January, 2020 were taken as read and signed as correct.

### **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were declared.

### **Presentation from Arup on a Climate Change Risk Assessment**

Ms. D. Emerson, Associate Director (ARUP), attended in connection with this item and was welcomed by the Chairperson. She provided the Working Group with an outline of the potential impacts of future climate hazards on the infrastructure systems for Belfast. The Members were given an overview of the potential impacts of a rise in global temperatures of 2.4 c and 4.3 c and how this temperature rise might impact on transport, water systems and agriculture, including food production. She highlighted a number of factors where the city was suffering as a result of climate change and highlighted the opportunities available to the Council as a planning authority to have a positive impact on the city's infrastructure and resilience.

Ms. Emerson outlined the importance of undertaking a climate risk assessment as part of the city's Local Development Plan, including the importance attached to working with key stakeholders in averting a climate emergency. To this end, she identified the need to undertake a comprehensive citywide climate change action plan which had been identified within the Council's draft Resilience Strategy. She referred to the importance of building knowledge and understanding across the city, with particular reference to the interconnectivity of infrastructure systems, including social infrastructure, housing, the natural environment and the economy.

The Working Group thanked Ms. Emerson for her detailed and informative presentation and she departed from the meeting.

### **Electric Vehicle Infrastructure – Existing Pilot Projects**

The Sustainable Development Manager provided the Working Group with an update on the electric vehicle-charging infrastructure in the city and new pilot projects. She reported that the transition to electric vehicles and the environmental impact of such a switch was easier to achieve than, for example, the transition involved with coal or oil fired electric power stations.

She referred to the reduced running costs associated with the switch to electric vehicles, but acknowledged concern raised about the high initial costs associated with the purchase of such vehicles for the majority of households. She referred to the recent government publication entitled 'The Road to Zero' and the development of new concepts in relation to charging and smart electricity.

The Sustainable Development Manager highlighted the proposal to extend the policy of on street charging points for electric vehicles and forging of partnerships with other pioneers including Virgin Media. She referred to the £9.2 million invested in this area by Innovate UK, which involved repurposing Virgin Media on street connections in 7 cities in the UK. She stated that Belfast City Council had observer status in that project. She raised also the issue that the Council had invested in the procurement of a number of electric vehicles to promote its commitment to reducing its carbon footprint.

A Member raised the issue of the need to develop financial incentives to increase the use of electric vehicles and of the need, as part of its green commitment, to address fuel poverty, incorporating a process of retro fitting homes, to reduce heat loss. The Working Group referred to the work undertaken by 'Green New Deal' in the past and requested that the architects of the Green New Deal be invited to attend the next meeting of the Working Group.

### **Car-Free Days**

The Sustainable Development Manager referred to the work which had commenced in regard to the proposal to have a two- day car free period, in the city centre, in September 2020. She informed the group that the Resilience Team was working with the economic development team on proposals to taking the car out of the city for an event in September and a report would be brought back to the APWGCC. In addition to this, a report was due to be presented to the People and Communities Committee in March, 2020 on City Connectivity which would include proposals from several organisations including, DFC and DFI about taking the car out of the city. She stated further that it was proposed to invite Jacobs to a future meeting of the Working Group to provide an outline of the proposals in the Connectivity study.

Noted.

### **Climate Finance – Briefing from the Belfast Climate Commission Roundtable**

The Sustainable Development Manager referred to a Climate Finance workshop which had been hosted recently by Queen's University and the PCAN project attended by Professor Nick Robbins. She reported that the event examined issues such as the role of investment, equity and public and private finance in making the just transition happen. There was a sharp focus on fuel poverty and retrofitting of premises to conserve energy and reduce associated energy costs and create jobs. The Members were advised of a number of proposals associated with the financial benefits accruing from the pursuance of a green agenda and agreed that it wished to receive a briefing, at its next meeting, from representatives of the 'Green New Deal' group.



### **Fracking, Oil and Gas Exploration**

The Working Group considered a proposed Motion, presented by Councillor Smyth, in respect of future fracking, gas and oil exploration, including permitted development rights. The Members, while supportive of the motion, requested that it might be prudent to receive more detailed information on the legal and policy implications associated with adopting the motion. The Member agreed that he would defer consideration of the motion to allow sufficient time for the Commissioner for Resilience to prepare a paper on the policy levers and implications for the Council in support of the motion, which would be presented to a future meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

### **Symposium on Climate Adaptation** **(Dublin, April 2020)**

The Sustainable Development Manager provided the Working Group with information in regard to the Symposium on Climate Adaptation which was due to be held in Dublin, on 27th April, 2020. The Members were informed that the agenda for the Symposium would be distributed, once available, and were requested to inform the officers if they wished to attend, subject to the approval of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

The Working Group that its next meeting would be held on Monday, 16th March at 5.15 p.m.

Chairperson

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