Public Document Pack

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

18th February, 2021

MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet remotely via Microsoft Teams on Friday, 19th February, 2021 at 9.30 a.m., 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) Draft Consultation Response – DfI Living With Water in Belfast (Pages 1 - 108)

(b) Revenue Estimates and District Rate 2021-22 (Pages 109 - 126)

(c) Finance Update (Pages 127 - 152)

(d) Update on Licence Fees (Pages 153 - 156)

(e) Update on Managing Organisational Capacity and Covid-19 (Pages 157 - 166)

(f) Recruitment of Director (Operational) of Planning and Building Control (Pages 167 - 170)

(g) Destination Hub – Update on Outline Business Case (Pages 171 - 176)

(h) Covid-19 Community Support Funding (Pages 177 - 180)

(i) Bonfire Approach 2021 (Pages 181 - 196)

(j) Brexit and Port Health - Transition Update (Pages 197 - 218)

(k) Independent Investigation relating to the Events at Roselawn Cemetery on 30th June, 2020

(A copy of the investigation report has already been forwarded to Members)

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

(a) Motion: Pay for Student Nurses - Response from Department of Health (Pages 219 - 222)

(b) Motion: Proposed Future Development – Writers' Square – Response from Department for Communities (Pages 223 - 226)

(c) Motion - Black Lives Matter Demonstrations – Response from Police Service of Northern Ireland (Pages 227 - 232)

(d) Motion: Uplift on Universal Credit – Response from HM Treasury (Pages 233 - 238)

(e) Motion - Funding for Palliative and End-of-Life Care - Response from Minister of Health (Pages 239 - 244)

4. Belfast Agenda/Strategic Issues

(a) Update on City Region Growth Deal (Pages 245 - 258)

(b) Update on Customer Focus Programme (Pages 259 - 272)

(c) Working Group on the Climate Crisis - Work Plan 2021-22 (Pages 273 - 308)

(d) Safe City Charter Status (Pages 309 - 314)

(e) Systems Operator NI Consultation on Draft Transmission Development Plan 2020/29 – Council Response (Pages 315 - 446)

(f) Belfast City Council and Fair Trade (Pages 447 - 450)

5. Physical Programme and Asset Management

(a) Asset Management (Pages 451 - 472)

(b) Update on Area Working Groups (Pages 473 - 484)

6. Finance, Resources and Procurement

(a) Update on Contracts (Pages 485 - 490)

7. Equality and Good Relations

(a) Update on Decade of Centenaries Programme 2021 and 80th Anniversary of the Belfast Blitz (Pages 491 - 502)

(b) Northern Ireland Centenary Programme - Repositioning of Royal Chairs (Pages 503 - 508)

(c) Minutes of the Meeting of the Shared City Partnership (Pages 509 - 540)

(d) Equality and Diversity - Quarter 3 Equality Screening and Rural Needs Outcome Report (Pages 541 - 548)

(e) Equality and Diversity - Audit of Inequalities and Equality Action Plan 2021-24 (Pages 549 - 596)

8. Operational Issues

(a) Minutes of the Meeting of the Party Group Leaders' Consultative Forum (Pages 597 - 600)

(b) Requests for Use of the City Hall and the Provision of Hospitality (Pages 601 - 604)

(c) Minutes of the Meeting of the Social Value Working Group (Pages 605 - 610)

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STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Belfast City Council

Subject:	**Motion: Pay for Student Nurses – Response from Department of Health**
Date:	19th February, 2021
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Restricted Reports				
Is this report restricted?	**Yes**		**No**	X
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**	X	**No**	

1.0	**Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues**
1.1	To consider a response on behalf of the Minister of Health to a motion on Pay for Student Nurses, which was passed by the Council at its meeting on 1st December.
2.0	**Recommendation**
2.1	The Committee is requested to consider the response and to take such action thereon as may be determined.
3.0	**Main Report**
3.1	At the Council meeting on 1st December, the following motion, which was proposed by Councillor Groogan and seconded by Councillor O'Hara, was passed: "This Council recognises the efforts of student nurses throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, stepping up to help our NHS cope with the extra pressures put on it by the pandemic and providing invaluable support to qualified nurses in our hospitals.

	This Council also notes that student nurses were paid during the first wave of the pandemic, as they should have been, in recognition of their commitment and work caring for people. This Council believes that student nurses should be paid a fair and proper wage for their work and agrees to write to the Minister of Health stating our support for reinstating the pay to student nurses as a matter of urgency."
3.2	A letter has been received from Mr P. Barbour, Assistant Director, Workforce Policy, on behalf of Minister Swann. A copy of the letter is attached.
3.3	Mr. Barbour refers the Council to the Minister's announcement on 27th January, 2021 of a special recognition payment of £2,000 to all qualifying healthcare students who have been on special pre-registration programmes during the period from 1st October, 2020 to 31st March, 2021. The qualifying courses are, he points out, the nursing and midwifery, Allied Health Professions, Social Work and Physician Associate pre-registration programmes commissioned by his Department from Queen's University and the Ulster University.
	Financial and Resource Implications
3.4	None associated with this report.
	Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment
3.5	None
4.0	**Document Attached**
	Response from Department of Health

BY EMAIL

DonnellyCarolyn@BelfastCity.gov.uk

Department of Health
An Roinn Sláinte
Männystrie O Poustie
www.health-ni.gov.uk

Peter Barbour
Workforce Policy Directorate
Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
Belfast
BT4 3SQ

Tel:
Email: wdu@health-ni.gov.uk

Your Ref:
Our Ref: TOF-0042-2021

Date: 29 January 2021

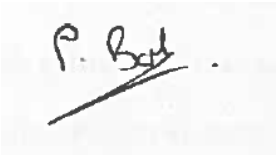
Dear Ms Donnelly

Your letter dated 29 December 2020 to the Health Minister, Robin Swann MLA and has been passed to me for reply.

May I refer you to the Minister's announcement on 27 January 2021 of a special recognition payment of £2,000 to all qualifying healthcare students who have been on specified pre-registration programmes over the period 1 October 2020 to 31 March 2021. The qualifying courses are the nursing and midwifery, AHP, Social Work and Physician Associate pre-registration programmes commissioned by my Department from Queen's University Belfast and the Ulster University.

I hope you find this response helpful.

Yours sincerely



PETER BARBOUR
Assistant Director, Workforce Policy
Department of Health

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STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Belfast City Council

Subject:	**Motion: Proposed Future Development – Writers' Square – Response from Department for Communities**
Date:	19th February, 2021
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Restricted Reports				
Is this report restricted?	**Yes**		**No**	X
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**	X	**No**	

1.0	**Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues**
1.1	To consider a response which has been received on behalf of the Minister for Communities to a motion on the Proposed Future Development of Writers' Square, which was passed by the Council at its meeting on 1st February.
2.0	**Recommendation**
2.1	The Committee is requested to consider the response and to take such action thereon as may be determined.
3.0	**Main Report**
3.1	At the Council meeting on 1st February, the following motion, which was proposed by Councillor Groogan and seconded by Councillor McKeown, was passed: "This Council recognises the significance of Writer's Square to the city of Belfast as a public and civic space and its historical significance. This Council calls upon the Department for Communities to ensure that any development brief relating to Writers'

	Square respects the civic use of the Square as a place facilitating lawful protest and celebration. Further, the Council calls upon the Department to ensure that the setting of St Anne's Cathedral is protected. The Council will write to the Minister for Communities to that effect."
3.2	A letter has been received from Mr. C. Donnelly, Director of Belfast Regeneration Directorate, on behalf of Minister Hargey. A copy of the letter is attached.
3.3	Mr. Donnelly points out that the Minister and her Department has noted the content of the Council's motion and that it will be given further consideration should the Minister decide to proceed with a development brief for the Square.
	Financial and Resource Implications
3.4	None associated with this report.
	Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment
3.5	None
4.0	**Document Attached**
	Response from DfC

Department for
Communities
An Roinn
Pobal
Männystrie o
Communities
www.communities-ni.gov.uk

Belfast Regeneration Directorate
Level 4 | NINE Lanyon Place
Belfast
BT1 3LP
Phone: 028 9082 9274
email:
Ciaran.donnelly@communities-ni.gov.uk

Eilish McGoldrick
Democratic Services Officer
Belfast City Council
Legal and Civic Service Department
Room 123B City Hall
Belfast BT1 5GS

mcgoldricke@belfastcity.gov.uk

DfC Ref: CORR/0304/2021

BCC Ref: EMcG
01.02.2021.WS

Date:11 February 2021

Dear Eilish

Proposed Future Development – Writers' Square, Belfast

Thank you for your letter of 10 February 2021 to the Minister for Communities in which you detail a Motion passed by Belfast City Council on 01 February regarding any future development of Writers' Square. Minister Hargey has asked that I reply on her behalf.

The Minister and the Department has noted the content of this Motion and we will give this further consideration should the Minister decide to proceed with a development brief for the Square.

Yours sincerely

Ciaran Donnelly
Director, Belfast Regeneration Directorate

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STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Belfast City Council

Subject:	**Motion: Black Lives Matter Demonstrations – Response from Police Service of Northern Ireland**
Date:	19th February, 2021
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Restricted Reports				
Is this report restricted?	**Yes**		**No**	X
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**	X	**No**	

1.0	**Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues**
1.1	To consider a response from the Police Service of Northern Ireland to a motion on Black Lives Matter Demonstrations, which was passed by the Council at its meeting on 7th January.
2.0	**Recommendation**
2.1	The Committee is requested to consider the response and to take such action thereon as may be determined.
3.0	**Main Report**
3.1	At the Council meeting on 7th January, the following motion, which was proposed by Councillor Matt Collins and seconded by Councillor Ferguson, was passed: "This Council notes the recent Ombudsman report into the policing of Black Lives Matter demonstrations in Belfast and Derry on 6th June, 2020. The Council notes, in particular, the Ombudsman's conclusions that the PSNI's actions on the day were disproportionate, discriminatory and showed disregard to people's human rights in relation to freedom of expression and freedom of protest and further notes the inappropriate use of the Serious Crimes Act (2007) to caution organisers of the events.

	Accordingly, the Council calls for all penalty notices to be rescinded and prosecutions against Black Lives Matter activists relating to 6th June protests to be abandoned, as the first step toward redress. Furthermore, the Council calls on the PSNI to exercise its discretion to withdraw or rescind the applications made to the courts for registration of the Fixed Penalty Notices. The Council reiterates its support for the Black Lives Matter movement and its call for a real and robust racial equality strategy to help tackle the systemic problem of institutional racism."
3.2	Chief Superintendent Singleton has responded to the motion on behalf of the Chief Constable's office. A copy of that response is attached.
3.3	Chief Superintendent Singleton highlights the ongoing challenges being faced by communities and by the Police Service and points out that the Service has struggled to find the correct balance between upholding the continually changing restrictions and the rights of all individuals in the community. Whilst those restrictions are often a fundamental interference with individual human rights they have, he states, been made morally and legally necessary by the scale of the public health threat posed by Covid-19. The Police Service has, therefore, unsurprisingly, prioritised the Article 2 'Right to Life' under the European Convention on Human Rights over all the rights, except for Article 3. This, it believes, has been in line with both the intention and the spirit of the Coronavirus regulations, as agreed by the Northern Ireland Executive.
3.3	He goes on to state that the Police Service welcomes the support, analysis and challenge contained within the reports of the Northern Ireland Policing Board and of the Police Ombudsman and that, rather than be defensive about any aspects of its approach or the findings in the reports, it is keen to acknowledge shortcomings, admit mistakes and learn lessons. Having carefully considered both reports, the Police Service is, he points out, in a position to accept the vast majority of recommendations. However, it is unable to accept the recommendations relating to the withdrawal of Fixed Penalty Notices and prosecutions, pursuant to its enforcement of Health Protection Regulations.
3.4	Chief Superintendent Singleton points out that the Police Service has been advised that the existing Regulations make no provision for Fixed Penalty Notices to be rescinded either by it or by the Public Prosecution Service. The only mechanism by which an enforceable penalty registered under Regulation 12 can be set aside is by direction of the Magistrates' Court. Those individuals who have been reported to the Public Prosecution Service for suspected breaches of the Regulations will have their cases independently assessed in terms of available evidence and public interest. The Police Service has been advised that, should it interfere with prosecutorial decision-making, it would raise questions around potential breaches of human rights.
3.5	He concludes by pointing out that those recommendations resulting from the Northern Ireland Policing Board and the Police Ombudsman reports which had been accepted by the Police Service would be added to its overview systems and allocated timeframes and responsible owners. The Policing Board and Police Ombudsman would be provided with regular updates as that work progressed. **Financial and Resource Implications** None associated with this report. **Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment** None
4.0	**Document Attached**
	Response from PSNI

Keeping People Safe

BOBBY SINGLETON
CHIEF CONSTABLE'S OFFICE

Our Ref: Com Sec 1602-21
Your Ref: LM.07012021

25 January 2021

Dear Louise,

BLACK LIVES MATTER DEMONSTRATIONS

Thank you for your letter dated 20 January 2021 reference 'Black Lives Matter Demonstrations'.

This continues to be an extraordinary and very challenging period for our communities and, indeed, policing itself. At times, we in policing have struggled to find the right balance in upholding the continually changing restrictions and the rights of all individuals in our community. The restrictions placed upon us all are often a fundamental interference with individual human rights but have been made morally and legally necessary by the scale of the threat to the health of those in our community, in particular the most vulnerable. Perhaps, unsurprisingly, the Police Service has prioritised the Article 2 'Right to Life' under the ECHR over all the rights except for Article 3. This we believe has been in line with both the intention and the spirit of the Coronavirus Regulations agreed by the Executive.

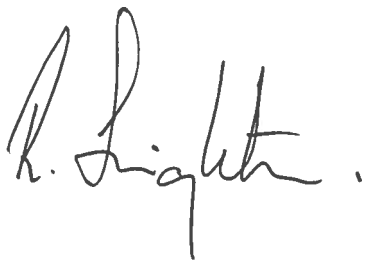
We welcome the support, the analysis and challenge contained within the reports of both the Northern Ireland Policing Board and the Police Ombudsman. We do not seek to be defensive about any aspect of our approach or, indeed, the findings in the reports. We are keen to acknowledge shortcomings, admit mistakes and are determined to learn lessons.

Having carefully considered both reports and their recommendations, the Police Service is in a position to accept the vast majority of recommendations. We have however been unable to accept the report's recommendations relating to the withdrawal and cancellation of the Fixed Penalty Notices and prosecutions pursuant to our enforcement of Health Protection Regulations.

We are advised that existing Regulations make no provision for any Fixed Penalty Notices to be rescinded by the police or by the Public Prosecution Service. The only mechanism by which an enforceable penalty registered under Regulation 12 can be set aside is by direction of the Magistrates' Court.

Those individuals who have been reported to the Public Prosecution Service (PPS) for suspected breaches of the Regulations will have their cases subjected to independent assessment by the PPS in terms of available evidence and public interest. We are further advised that were the Police Service to interfere with prosecutorial decision making this would raise real questions about potential breaches of human rights.

Those recommendations which have been accepted will be added to our overview systems, with timeframes and senior responsible owners. We will, of course, keep both the Ombudsman and the Northern Ireland Policing Board updated as to progress against the recommendations.



BOBBY SINGLETON
Chief Superintendent
for Chief Constable

Louise McLornan
Democratic Services Officer
Belfast City Council
Legal and Civic Services Department
City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS
Via email democraticservices@belfastcity.gov.uk

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STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Belfast City Council

Subject:	**Motion: Uplift on Universal Credit – Response from HM Treasury**
Date:	19th February, 2021
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Restricted Reports				
Is this report restricted?	**Yes**		**No**	X
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**	X	**No**	

1.0	**Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues**
1.1	To consider a response from HM Treasury to a motion relating to Universal Credit, which was passed by the Council at its meeting on 7th January.
2.0	**Recommendation**
2.1	The Committee is requested to consider the response and to take such action thereon as may be determined.
3.0	**Main Report**
3.1	At the Council meeting on 7th January, the following motion, which was proposed by Councillor Heading and seconded by Councillor Lyons, was passed: "This Council recognises the positive impact of the £20 uplift on Universal Credit implemented in April 2020. The Council also recognises that, since March 2020, the unemployment claimant count has doubled to at least 60,000 in Northern Ireland and with a recession expected in the Spring only to worsen the situation for many households. The Chancellor of the Exchequer has failed to provide certainty that the £20 uplift on UC will remain beyond March 2021 meaning many families are potentially facing a loss of £1,040 a year to

	their incomes overnight. Charity Action for Children has warned that more than one in 10 families in the north are already having to choose between paying bills and eating meals. The Council calls on the UK government to put a protective shield around struggling families by ensuring March's Budget makes clear that Universal Credit will not be cut by £20 a week in the spring. Finally, the Council agrees to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer requesting they maintain the £20 uplift on Universal Credit in April 2021 and extending the £20 uplift to all legacy benefits."
3.2	A response has since been received from HM Treasury, on behalf of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. A copy of the response is attached.
3.3	The response explains that the £20 per week in the Universal Credit standard allowance and Working Tax Credit basic element forms just one part of a wide-ranging package of support which the Government has provided to protect people's jobs and references also income support schemes, mortgage holidays, support for renters, a £500 million local authority hardship fund, £500 payments to help those on low income to self-isolate under NHS Test and Trace, a £170 million Covid Winter Grant Scheme and help with utility bills.
3.4	The response goes on to state that, in order to support families who rely on the safety net of the welfare system, the Minimum Income Floor for self-employed Universal Credit claimants has been suspended temporarily and the Local Housing Allowance Rates for Housing Benefit and Universal Credit has been increased to cover the bottom third of local rents. The Government is also spending £7.4 billion on its package of increased welfare support this year.
3.5	It is pointed out that the increase in Universal Credit and Working Tax Credit is aimed specifically at providing significant temporary support to low income families who may have seen their income fall as a result of the immediate impact of the Covid-19 crisis and is due to end in April, 2021.
3.6	It is pointed out also that the Government will, as it has done throughout the current crisis, continue to consider the most appropriate forms of support as the public health and economic situation develops. However, as an illustration, extending the £20 per week increase by a further twelve months would cost over £6 billion, which would be equivalent to adding 1p to the basic rate of income tax and increasing fuel duty by 3p.
3.7	The response concludes by confirming that the Government is, moving forward, focused on supporting people by helping them gain employment and is making up to £30 billion available through the Plan for Jobs initiative. This includes launching the £2 billion Kickstart Scheme to create hundreds of thousands of fully subsidised jobs for young people and investing £8.6 billion in infrastructure, decarbonisation and maintenance jobs to create jobs.

3.8 3.9	**<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u>** None associated with this report. **<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>** None
4.0	**Document Attached**
	Response from HM Treasury

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MC2021/01999

HM Treasury

1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1A 2HQ

Louise McLornan
Democratic Services Officer
Belfast City Council,
Legal and Civic Services Department
City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS

21 January 2021
Case Ref: LM 07012021

Dear Louise,

Thank you for your correspondence dated 19 January, regarding Universal Credit. The Treasury has received unprecedented amounts of correspondence since the start of the coronavirus outbreak in the UK. The Chancellor of the Exchequer has asked me to write to you directly.

The £20 per week increase to the Universal Credit (UC) standard allowance and Working Tax Credit (WTC) basic element forms just one part of a wide-ranging package of support the Government has provided to protect people's jobs and incomes, including income support schemes, mortgage holidays, support for renters, a £500 million local authority hardship fund, £500 payments to help people on low incomes to self-isolate under NHS Test and Trace, a £170 million COVID Winter Grant Scheme, and help with utilities.

To support families who rely on the safety net of the welfare system, we have also temporarily suspended the Minimum Income Floor for self-employed UC claimants, and increased the Local Housing Allowance rates for Housing Benefit and UC to the lowest third of local rents. The Government is spending £7.4 billion on its package of increased welfare support this year.

The increase to UC and WTC is specifically aimed at providing significant temporary support to low income families who may have seen their income fall as a result of the immediate impact of the crisis and is due to end in April 2021.

As the Government has done throughout this crisis, we will continue to consider the most appropriate forms of support as the public health and economic context develop. However, to illustrate, extending the £20 per week increase by a further 12 months would cost over £6 billion, equivalent to adding 1p on the basic rate of income tax plus a 3p increase in fuel duty.

Moving forward, the Government is focused on supporting people by helping them get into work and is making up to £30 billion available through the Plan for Jobs. This includes launching the £2 billion Kickstart Scheme to create hundreds of thousands of fully subsidised jobs for young people, and investing £8.6 billion in infrastructure, decarbonisation and maintenance projects to create jobs.

I hope this is helpful. If you have any questions about this reply, please email public.enquiries@hmtreasury.gov.uk quoting reference MC2021/01999.

Yours sincerely,

L Adams

Correspondence and Enquiry Unit
HM Treasury

STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Belfast City Council

Subject:	**Motion: Funding for Palliative and End-of-Life Care – Response from Minister of Health**
Date:	19th February, 2021
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Restricted Reports				
Is this report restricted?	**Yes**		**No**	X
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**	X	**No**	

1.0	**Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues**
1.1	To consider a response from the Minister of Health to a motion on Funding for Palliative and End-of-Life Care which was passed by the Council at its meeting on 7th December.
2.0	**Recommendation**
2.1	The Committee is requested to consider the response and to take such action thereon as may be determined.
3.0	**Main Report**
3.1	At the Council meeting on 7th December, the following motion, which was proposed by Councillor Whyte and seconded by Councillor Lyons, was passed: "This Council recognises that hospice care is a vitally important part of our care system; considers it necessary that people approaching the end of life, their families and carers get the right care and support where and when they need it; notes that hospice staff deserve recognition for the world-class medical care and emotional support they provide, not just to patients but also to their families; and looks forward to the hospice movement going from strength to strength in years to come.

	Accordingly, the Council agrees to write to the Minister of Health, Robin Swann MLA, calling upon him to ensure fair and transparent funding in line with demand, and continued high quality palliative and end-of-life care."
3.2	A response has been received from the Minister of Health, a copy of which is attached.
3.3	The Minister highlights the valued service which hospices in Northern Ireland provide in caring for and supporting people living with palliative and end-of-life care and those who are important to them. Department of Health officials and their colleagues in the Health and Social Care Board work closely with hospices and are aware of the both the contribution which they make and the challenges they face.
3.4	The Minister, in recognising the financial pressures which hospices are facing, points out that Covid-19 has had an impact across the community and voluntary sector and refers to similar issues across other areas and organisations, where there are also increasing demands for services and associated financial pressures.
3.5	He explains that the Health and Social Care Board has Service Level Agreements in place with each of the hospice providers in Northern Ireland for both inpatient and community based services. Separate arrangements are also in place with Health and Social Care Trusts for hospice night services, as required. The Marie Curie charity also provides a regional out-of-hours service.
3.6	In terms of funding, the Minister states that guidance which was put in place by the Department of Health in 2004 introduced 50/50 funding for agreed adult inpatient hospice services, with effect from 2004/05, and 50% funding for agreed adult community services, with effect from 2005/06. Those arrangements provide for the funding of agreed commissioned services, not a hospice's total running costs.
3.8	He points out that children's hospice services are funded differently to adult services, with separate commissioning and funding arrangements in place for children's palliative care and hospice services. In addition to core funding for children's services, the Department of Health agreed, following the closure of the Horizon West children's hospice, to fund on a 50/50 basis an additional bed in the NI Children's Hospice at Horizon House for three years from 2018/19.
3.9	Since 2018, a Paediatric and Life Limited Service has also been commissioned from the NI Children's Hospice. That service provides a specialist nursing role to support children, families and clinicians in recognising and managing end-of-life needs, as well as access to a dedicated bed in the NI Children's Hospice or in the child's home. Funding of £186,000 for the service was made initially through Confidence and Supply transformation funding. The Department of Health has extended that funding for a further year to ensure the continued delivery of the service by the NI Children's Hospice.
3.10	The Minister goes on to state that, in recognition of the challenges being faced by hospices during the current pandemic, the Health and Social Care Board, with the agreement of his Department, has put in place arrangements to support hospices' cash flow. Those arrangements apply also to contracts between hospices and Health and Social Care Trusts.

	The Health and Social Care Board has also worked closely with hospices around the availability of Personal Protection Equipment, fit testing and access to sanitising equipment and to keep them informed of the broader system approach to responding to Covid-19.
3.11	The Minister welcomes also the additional funding which has been made available to hospices in recognition of the restrictions on fundraising opportunities and retail, as a result of Covid-19, and refers to £6.75m and £7.3m which was allocated to local hospices and the Cancer Fund for Children in May and October, 2020 respectively.
3.12	He explains that the Health and Social Care Board has recently completed a review of adult hospice funding, which identified a total funding shortfall of £867,360 between the 2019/20 funding provided to hospices, when compared against benchmarked costs assessed as part of the review process. That additional funding has been made available to hospices and has been backdated to April, 2019. In October, 2020, the Health and Social Care Board also approved a 4% uplift for 2020/21 to the value of its core contract Service Level Agreements held with hospices in Northern Ireland. The Minister believes that, given that the current funding arrangements date back to 2004, it would be appropriate to review those arrangements in light of the changing context and demographics for palliative care and trusts that hospices engage in this process.
3.13	The Minister concludes by stating that the New Decade New Approach deal includes a commitment to increase investment on palliative and end-of-life care to fully implement service improvements, including enhancing the contribution of hospices, and to increase support for palliative perinatal care. Investment to meet the New Decade New Approach commitment has been captured within his Department's bids for additional funding in the Department of Finance Budget 2021-22 exercise. **Financial and Resource Implications** None associated with this report. **Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment** None
4.0	**Document Attached**
	Response from Minister of Health

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FROM THE MINISTER OF HEALTH

Department of
Health
An Roinn Sláinte
Männystrie O Poustie
www.health-ni.gov.uk

Ms Carolyn Donnelly
Democratic Services Officer
Belfast City Council

DonnellyCarolyn@BelfastCity.gov.uk

Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
BELFAST, BT4 3SQ
Tel: 028 9052 2556
Email: private.office@health-ni.gov.uk

Your Ref: CD 07.12.2020
Our Ref: COR/0041/2021
Date: 20th January 2021

Dear Carolyn,

Thank you for your correspondence of 29 December 2020 in which you advised of the motion passed by Belfast City Council in relation to the care provided by hospices and hospice staff and the Council's call for fair and transparent funding in line with demand and continued high quality palliative and end of life care.

Hospices in Northern Ireland provide a valued service in caring for and supporting people living with palliative and end of life care needs and those who are important to them. Department of Health officials and their colleagues in the Health and Social Care Board (HSCB) work closely with hospices and are aware of both the contribution they make and the challenges they face.

I recognise the financial pressure facing hospices. Unfortunately COVID-19 has impacted across the voluntary and community sector and there are similar issues across other areas and organisations also where there are increasing demands for services and financial pressures arising from this.

The Health and Social Care Board has Service Level Agreements in place with each of the hospice providers in Northern Ireland for both inpatient and community based services. Separate arrangements are also in place with HSC Trusts for hospice nurse night sitting services as required. In addition, Marie Curie also provides a regional out of hours Rapid Response Service.

Funding guidance put in place by the Department in 2004 introduced 50/50 funding for agreed adult inpatient hospice services with effect from 2004/05 and 50% funding for agreed adult community services with effect from 2005/06. These arrangements provide for funding of agreed commissioned services, not a hospice's total running costs.

Children's hospice services are funded differently to adult services and separate commissioning and funding arrangements are in place for children's palliative care and hospice services.

In addition to core funding for children's services, following the closure of the Horizon West children's hospice, my Department agreed to fund an additional bed at the NI Children's Hospice at Horizon House for 3 years from 2018/19 on a 50:50 basis.

Since 2018, a Paediatric and Life Limited Service (PALLs) has also been commissioned from the NI Children's Hospice. The service provides a specialist nursing role to support children, families and clinicians in recognising and managing end of life needs as well as access to a dedicated bed in the NI Children's Hospice or in the child's own home. The funding of £186,000 for the PALLS service was made available initially through Confidence and Supply transformation funding. My Department has made this funding available for a further year in 2020/21 to ensure the continued delivery of the service by the NI Children's hospice.

In recognition of challenges faced by hospices during the ongoing pandemic, with the agreement of my Department, the HSCB put arrangements in place to support hospices' cash flow. These arrangements also apply to contracts between the hospices and Health and Social Care Trusts. The Health and Social Care Board has also worked closely with hospices to support the availability of PPE, fit testing and access to sanitising equipment and to keep hospices informed about the broader system approach to responding to COVID-19.

I also welcome the additional funding that has been made available to hospices in recognition of the restrictions on fundraising opportunities and retail as a result of COVID-19. In May 2020, £6.75 million was allocated to local hospices and the Cancer Fund for Children (CFC). On 29 October, further additional funding of £7.3million for hospices and the Cancer Fund for Children was announced and has since been allocated to hospices.

The HSCB has recently completed a review of adult hospice funding, as a result of which a total funding shortfall of £867,360 was identified between the 2019/20 funding provided to hospices when compared against benchmarked costs assessed as part of the review process. This additional funding has been made available to hospices backdated to April 2019.

In October 2020, the Health and Social Care Board approved a 4% uplift for 2020/21 to the value of its core contract Service Level Agreements held with hospices in Northern Ireland.

The current funding arrangements for adult hospices date back to 2004. I believe it is appropriate therefore that consideration be given to reviewing these in light of the changing context and demographics for palliative care and I hope that hospices would engage with this.

New Decade New Approach (NDNA) included a commitment to increase investment in palliative and end of life care 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. Investment to meet the NDNA palliative care commitment has been captured in my Department's bids for additional funding in the Department of Finance Budget 2021-22 Exercise.

I trust this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely

Robin Swann MLA
Minister of Health

STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Belfast City Council

Subject:	**Update on City Region Growth Deal**
Date:	19th February, 2021
Reporting Officer:	Suzanne Wylie, Chief Executive
Contact Officer:	Ronan Cregan, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources

Restricted Reports				
Is this report restricted?	**Yes**		**No**	X
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**	X	**No**	

1.0	**Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues**
1.1	This report is to provide an update to Committee on the progress of the Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD), including an update on the development of Outline Business Cases (OBCs) and progress on agreeing a phased deal with the NI and UK Governments.
1.2	The Committee will also be separately considering a report on the Belfast Destination Hub, Belfast's key project under the tourism and regeneration pillar which outlines the progress made in relation to the Destination Hub Outline Business Case.
2.0	**Recommendations**
2.1	The Committee is asked to note: • the programme overview and the progress that has been made in Outline Business Case (OBC) development for all projects and on the development of an agreed approach with the NI and UK Governments to the delivery of a phased deal; and

	• the update in respect of the BRCD Council Panel and the minutes of the BRCD Council Panel held on 25th November, 2020.
3.0	**Main Report**
	Programme Overview
3.1	In December, the Committee received a detailed update on progress across the programme and were advised that Outline Business Cases (OBCs) were due to be completed for all projects by the end of December. Partners have now passed a major milestone with draft OBCs prepared across all the pillars of Investment. However, as previously reported it is recognised that further revision of OBCs may still be required for projects that are at an earlier stage of development. Formal submission of OBCs to NI and UK Governments will commence in the coming weeks.
	Deal Document and Timeline
3.2	Members were also updated on the ongoing discussions between partners and the NI and UK Governments in relation to agreeing a phased deal. The phased approach recognises the varying states of readiness of projects across the programme, allowing the Deal Documentation to be completed & agreed and phased delivery to commence. This approach has now been agreed in principle by the NI City/Growth Deals Delivery Board. Once the details of the phased deal are agreed with government partners a further update report will be brought back to Members.
3.3	Detailed work is now being progressed with the Department of Finance on the development of the deal document, which is required in order that funding can begin to flow. The document will outline the impact of the City Deal (outcomes, benefits, economic impact) along with a summary of the programme and projects. It will also include an implementation plan, financial plan, governance framework and communications protocol. Proposals for the content of the document are now being developed and will be brought to the Executive Board for further discussion over the coming months.
	Investment Priorities
	Tourism and Regeneration
3.6	Partners have worked intensively to develop a Tourism & Regeneration (T&R) programme that not only supports the delivery of inclusive economic growth but will play a key role in the recovery of the tourism industry and our town and city centres, following the impact of Covid-19. Following extensive OBC development and engagement with partners and Departments the Executive Board has now approved the Tourism and Regeneration programme which recommends seven projects for inclusion in the Deal Document. These are Belfast Destination

	Hub, Bangor Waterfront, Destination Hillsborough, Carrickfergus Regeneration, The Gobbins, Mourne Mountain Gateway and Newry Regeneration. Members should note that these projects are at different stages of development/state of readiness and this will be defined in the deal document.
	Innovation
3.7	The innovation projects have been significantly rescaled and are now in line with the funding available to support this Pillar. OBCs for the Advanced Manufacturing Innovation Centre (AMIC), Global Innovation Institute (GII) and Institute for Research Excellence in Advanced Clinical Healthcare (i-REACH) will now be formally submitted to NI and UK Governments. Initial feedback has now been received from key stakeholders for the revised OBC for the Centre for Digital Healthcare Technology (CDHT) and is being considered. A first draft OBC for the Screen Media & Innovation Lab (SMIL) has now been submitted for review and consideration by the UK and NI Governments following consideration by the Executive Board.
	Digital
3.8	The draft Digital Innovation Programme Business Case and the OBC for i4C digital innovation project have been submitted to NI and UK Government for review and consideration and some initial feedback has been received which is currently being addressed. As previously reported the programme business case will prioritise a flexible 'funds-based' approach with the increased use of Challenge Funds alongside an Infrastructure Enabling fund which will support connectivity and other enabling infrastructure. It will also ensure that innovation support reaches across priority sectors across the region, through investment in Regional Innovation Hubs.
	Infrastructure
3.9	Interim OBCs for the Newry Southern Relief Road and Belfast Rapid Transit Phase 2 have now been reviewed by the Department for Infrastructure Economists. Interim OBCs have been produced for these projects due to the very early stage of their development, in advance of the necessary consultations on route development. Given the early stage of development of Newry Southern Relief Road and Belfast Rapid Transit Phase 2 there are high levels of optimism bias included in their financial cases and this has contributed to the affordability challenges. An OBC has been completed for the Lagan Pedestrian & Cycle Bridge and approved by DoF. Discussions are taking place with the Department for Infrastructure and Department of Finance on proposals for an Infrastructure pillar level budget, which would enable the Lagan Pedestrian and Foot Bridge to progress and enable further development of both the Newry Southern Relief Road and Belfast Rapid Transit projects, whilst additional funding sources continue to be explored.

	Employability and Skills (E&S)
3.10	A draft Employability & Skills Proposition has been created incorporating three core component elements of an Employability & Skills Partnership (including an E&S Hub), a core E&S programme and approach to deliver inclusive growth. Engagement sessions have been ongoing with partners along with key industry stakeholders to review the proposition. Feedback is being addressed and it is anticipated that it will be submitted for approval to the Executive Board in the weeks ahead.
3.11	Simultaneously, work continues on developing and implementing partnership projects in advance of the overall E&S programme. The Committee was updated previously on the Digital Futures programme and since then a range of promotional activities has taken place to engage employers across the region. Equally, developmental work is underway with council partners to develop a new digital transformation programme for businesses. Funding has also been secured through the Department for Economy's Apprenticeship Challenge Fund to undertake developmental work enabling exploratory work to be undertaken within high value sectors on the development of new apprenticeship pathways. Work is underway to explore the need for new apprenticeship pathways aligned to BRCD priority sectors, as well as undertaking research to inform the development of a virtual apprenticeship platform. Delivery of this project is being undertaken by BRCD partners on a cost recovery basis, the larger partner contributor is Belfast Metropolitan College with an allocated funding budget of up to £37,000. The Committee willl be updated as this work progresses.
	BRCD Council Panel
3.12	Members will be aware that the BRCD Council Panel provides a forum for members from all six partner councils to meet to jointly discuss issues, progress and benefits of the BRCD. Each council is represented on the Forum by four members and, as previously agreed by this Committee, the four BCC nominees are the party group leaders (or their nominees) from the four largest parties.
3.13	Virtual meetings of the Panel were held in November 2020 hosted by Mid & East Antrim Borough Council and January 2021 hosted by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (minutes of the November Panel meeting approved at the January meeting are attached. At these meetings, the Panel received detailed updates on progress across the programme and the ongoing discussions between partners and the NI and UK Governments in relation to agreeing a phased deal and a Deal Document. Members also discussed the Tourism & Regeneration programme recommendations at the January meeting. The next meeting will be held on 21st April 2021 and will be hosted by Ards and North Down District Council.

	Next Steps
3.15	The BRCD is now entering a critical stage with formal submission of the most developed projects for consideration to NI and UK Governments. In parallel, detailed work will now be progressed with the Department of Finance on the development of the deal document, based on the agreed approach to the delivery of a phased deal. Work is also ongoing to support profiling, affordability & deliverability across the Deal. The Deal Document will include agreed pillar, and as appropriate, project budgets alongside indicative capital financial profiles and implementation timescales. Strategic engagement with key stakeholders is crucial and engagement with key political and business representatives is due to commence.
	Financial and Resource Implications
3.16	All costs associated with the BRCD are within existing budgets.
	Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment
3.17	The Approach taken to develop the City Deal has been subject to independent equality screening and rural proofing and states that; *'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.'*
4.0	**Document Attached**
	Minutes of the meeting of the BRCD Council Panel of 25th November 2020.

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Belfast Region City Deal

BRCD Council Panel

Subject:	Minutes of Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD) Council Panel
Date:	12:30 pm, 25 November 2020
Councillors in attendance:	Councillor Peter Johnston (Chair) – Mid & East Antrim Borough Council Alderman Mark Cosgrove – Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council Alderman Phillip Brett – Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council Councillor Stephen Ross – Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council Councillor Robert Adair – Ards & North Down Borough Council Alderman Alan McDowell – Ards & North Down Borough Council Councillor Richard Smart – Ards & North Down Borough Council Councillor Stephen Dunlop – Ards & North Down Borough Council Alderman Brian Kingston – Belfast City Council Councillor Carl Whyte – Belfast City Council Councillor Eric Hanvey - Belfast City Council Councillor Sorcha Eastwood – Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Councillor Uel Mackin – Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Alderman Allan Ewart MBE – Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Alderman Michael Henderson – Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Alderman Billy Ashe MBE – Mid & East Antrim Borough Council Councillor Timothy Gaston – Mid & East Antrim Borough Council Councillor Robert Logan – Mid & East Antrim Borough Council Councillor Charlie Casey – Newry, Mourne & Down District Council Councillor Robert Burgess – Newry, Mourne & Down District Council Councillor Pete Byrne – Newry, Mourne & Down District Council Councillor Willie Clarke – Newry, Mourne & Down District Council
Officers:	Anne Donaghy – Chief Executive, Mid and East Antrim Borough Council Jacqui Dixon – Chief Executive, Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council Stephen Reid – Chief Executive, Ards and North Down Borough Council Suzanne Wylie – Chief Executive, Belfast City Council David Burns – Chief Executive, Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Ronan Cregan – Deputy Chief Executive, Belfast City Council Damien Martin – BRCD Programme Director, Belfast City Council Donal Rogan – Director of Service Transformation, Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Susie McCullough – Director Regeneration, Development and Planning, Ards and North Down Borough Council Padraic Murphy – Programme Co-ordinator, Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council Nicola Rowles – Interim Director of Development, Mid and East Antrim Borough Council Amanda Smyth – Head of Regeneration and Business Development, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Stephen Wallace, Ruth Rea, Theresa Slevin – BRCD Programme Office

1.0	**Welcome and Introductions**

1.1	Cllr Peter Johnston welcomed the members of the BRCD Council Panel to the meeting hosted by Mid & East Antrim Borough Council and Anne Donaghy, Chief Executive of Mid & East Antrim Borough Council, outlined the key areas of focus for the meeting.
2.0	**Apologies**
2.1	Apologies were received from: Cllr Glenn Finlay (Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council) Cllr Ronan McLaughlin (Belfast City Council) Alderman Audrey Wales MBE (Mid & East Antrim Borough Council) Cllr Robin Stewart (Mid & East Antrim Borough Council)
3.0	**Declarations of Interest**
3.1	Cllr Johnston asked Councillors if they had any interests to declare in relation to the agenda. No interests were declared.
4.0	**Minutes of Previous Meeting**
4.1	Cllr Johnston asked if the Panel agreed that the minutes of the previous meeting were an accurate reflection of the meeting. Cllr Gaston proposed that the minutes from the last meeting were agreed. Seconded – Cllr Richard Smart. **Members agreed the minutes.**
5.0	**BRCD Programme Update**
5.1	Cllr Peter Johnston and Anne Donaghy outlined to the Panel key points from the programme update. Cllr Johnston asked Members if they had any specific questions on the update. Alderman Ashe observed that all projects are at different states of readiness and asked how the Panel would know when projects would be ready to go. Cllr Gaston asked when an overview would be provided as to the projects proceeding and when they would commence. Damien Martin, BRCD Programme Director, responded to both questions by explaining that the OBC process would now inform the draft Financial and Implementation Plans for the Deal. These draft Plans would set out the projects proceeding as part of the Deal, their individual project budgets, capital profiles, timetables and benefits. However, he also pointed out that once developed with Partners at the Deal level, these plans and profiles would then form part of a collective negotiation with Government, both the NI Executive and the UK Government, before a Deal Document could be signed and funding directed to projects.

	Cllr Gaston raised the importance of understanding the financial plans so that Councils could make informed decisions as part of the rate setting process. Damien Martin explained that once a draft Deal Document was ready, it would be shared with all Partners. Cllr Ewart asked for clarification as to whether a project which was 'ready' to be funded could be held up by other projects which were not yet ready. Cllr Johnston explained that this would be covered in more detail as part of the next item on the agenda and asked if Cllr Ewart was content to await clarification. Cllr Ewart confirmed that he was content. **The Chairperson thanked officers for their work. Members were content to note the papers and the answers provided.**
6.0	**Deal Development**
6.1	Anne Donaghy explained how the Deal would be developed and advised that officers across all Council areas had worked extremely hard until this point, collectively and individually to reach the milestone of the submission of OBCs. Anne Donaghy explained that the Deal Document for the BRCD would require budgets for each pillar to be agreed, as well as individual project budgets and indicative capital profiles. It was explained that OBCs were a crucial piece of information in order to inform this piece of work. Anne Donaghy explained that this was an extremely complex and iterative process given the number of projects and stakeholders and that phasing of the Deal over the 10-year timeframe was essential due to varying degrees of project readiness and other considerations, such as the overall affordability of the Deal, including for NI Executive partners. Anne Donaghy advised that projects would be classified as type A-C depending on the state of readiness / stage of development before consideration by Government Departments. Project type-As would be submitted seeking OBC approval to allow expenditure to be provided for development costs and further procurement. Project Type-Bs were those projects for which further detailed work was required in specific areas, but the project was considered to meet the objectives of the Deal. Project type-Bs would be submitted seeking OBC approval to allow expenditure to be provided for further development costs, with a more detailed OBC2 document required before the project could proceed to procurement of construction contractors. Project Type-Cs would be those where either the project sponsor, BRCD partners or Government funders believe the project does not meet the specific objectives of the BRCD or which, due to deliverability issues, the project could not meet the timescales for the Deal.

	Both Project Type A and B would be included in the BRCD Deal Document with indicative capital profiles and project budgets assigned. Project Type Cs would not be included within the BRCD Deal Document and would no longer form part of the BRCD. Alderman Ashe asked who was going to make decisions around the classifications of projects. Damien Martin explained that project sponsors had been going through an extensive period of engagement with Government Departments and that this process will inform sponsors and BRCD partners in seeking to develop an agreed view with Government Departments- ultimately it would be for Government Departments to approve expenditure and make these decisions. Damien Martin also emphasised that this did not mean that the BRCD would deliver in two distinct phases, but that projects would be submitted and considered on an ongoing basis subject to their state of readiness. Anne Donaghy explained that Departments, in informing their decisions regarding Value for Money through the appraisal process would consider factors such as GVA and jobs – which are key City Deal objectives. Cllr Mackin noted that all OBCs were now nearing completion and asked how this fitted with the phased approach. Anne Donaghy explained that projects which were ready to have expenditure approved by Departments would not be delayed by a phased approach. Cllr Kingston stated that he welcomed that the BRCD had reached this stage and has turned around some of the delays caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. Cllr Kingston sought further clarification on classification of projects and who the Deal Document would have to be approved by. Damien Martin confirmed that the ultimate decision on classification lay with Government Departments, having taking into consideration the views of BRCD partners and explained that the Deal Document was required to be approved by all the partners, the NI Executive and UK Government. Cllr Byrne outlined that he was pleased to see the progress being made and asked whether, if Councils fundamentally disagreed with the decision on phasing/state of readiness, they would have a right to appeal. Damien Martin explained that there will have been a gradual decision making process based months of engagement with Government Departments which should ensure partners are well informed in relation to the likely decision. Cllr Smart also welcomed the progress on the Deal against the backdrop of Covid-19. Cllr Smart asked whether in relation to project scheduling there is a risk that this would be on a first come first served basis and whether, in relation to the Infrastructure pillar, the substantial amount of spend involved created a risk that it would not be spent within the 10-year timeframe for Deal delivery. Anne Donaghy explained that the OBC process will allow Deal partners to consider all projects together as a programme which will inform the Deal Document. Damien Martin concurred and explained that the fact the Deal Document would provide all

	projects with a project budget should avoid the risk of the earliest/most developed projects eating up the budget, but recognised that this was an important issue that would need careful management throughout the delivery of the programme. Damien Martin also recognised the challenges arising from the nature of the Infrastructure projects and their early stage of development and explained that conversations were ongoing with the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) in relation to the projects. Cllr Casey, speaking on behalf of Newry, Mourne & Down Borough Council, recognised the work undertaken by officers in producing the OBCs and asked, if projects were likely to be classified as Project Type Cs, whether partners would be given advance warning to enable them to seek to rectify the projects. Damien Martin explained that the process to determine stage of development/readiness would happen over a number of months and so partners should have time to address feedback and concerns. Anne Donaghy highlighted that Departments and BRCD PMO have been consistently highlighting and providing feedback to partners on their projects. Suzanne Wylie, Chief Executive, Belfast City Council, explained that initially the BRCD Partners would have to negotiate with Government Departments to agree a programme of investment, within the funding envelope available, in order to agree a Deal Document. Following this, projects which achieved expenditure approval from Departments would then be able to receive funding. Cllr Gaston highlighted that in considering scaling across the projects from the £450m budget to the £350m budget now available, the i4c project led by Mid & East Antrim Borough Council had scaled by c.15% and asked for assurances that all Council partners would do everything they could do achieve the requisite scaling across the Deal. Anne Donaghy explained that discussions were ongoing and assured Cllr Gaston that across all Council areas and projects, officers were doing what they could in order to meet the funding envelope for the Deal. Damien Martin further explained that the conversation relating to scale has been ongoing throughout Phase 2 of the BRCD and explained that partners were using the OBC process to identify areas of projects which may be scaled but not significantly impact on benefits. Damien Martin stressed the importance of agreeing a programme of investment which met the funding envelopes available in order to progress the Deal Document and that as part of this process, discussions were ongoing with all partners, including DfI in relation to the Infrastructure pillar budget. Cllr Gaston stated that he appreciated the responses and reiterated the importance of all partners demonstrating scaling across their projects. Cllr Dunlop stated that he appreciated that it was a very complicated and complex programme and asked whether everything was required to be CPD compliant as this could impact on delivery and lead to delays. Damien Martin explained that the BRCD PMO were working with the Department of Finance (DoF) to understand how CPD would be involved and at what stage. Ronan Cregan, BRCD SRO and Deputy Chief Executive, Belfast City Council, explained that sponsors have undertaken significant work to date validating costs to inform OBCs and highlighted that Universities are considered to be Centres of Procurement Expertise.

	However, further work was required with DoF to understand where CPD would be involved. Ronan Cregan also explained that there was opportunity to work with CPD in relation to social value to increase the inclusive growth elements delivered within the Deal. **The Chairperson thanked Anne Donaghy for her explanation of the proposals on deal development and officers for their answers and work to date.** **Members confirmed that they were content with the proposed approach to deal development.**
7.0	**Integrating Inclusive Growth**
7.1	Members were provided with a paper in relation to the approach to inclusive growth within the BRCD, which provided the Panel with an update on: - How the city deal has been designed and projects have been shaped in support of this ambition; - Approach undertaken through the programme office to create a common framework for inclusive growth; - Mechanisms to enable inclusive growth to be delivered through the BRCD Employability & Skills programme and wider collaboration across partners utilising procurement and human resource levers. Cllr Johnston asked if Members had any questions in relation to the paper. No questions were raised. **Members were content to note the paper.**
8.0	**Engagement & Communications**
	Chris Kirkpatrick delivered a brief presentation on the engagement and communication programme underway in support of the BRCD and outlined how, as the milestone of OBC completion was approaching, Deal partners and project sponsors were increasing communications and engagement activity. Chris Kirkpatrick advised that this would be developed further in the coming months through the BRCD Communications Forum and as a result of the strategic engagement programme supported by Weber Shandwick. Cllr Smart asked whether the political engagement event which had been discussed by the Panel previously was still being planned. Damien Martin explained that in the first instance, engagement was planned at Ministerial level but that a collective event at the appropriate time was still being planned. Cllr Casey observed that this had been a very positive and useful meeting.
8.0	**Press Release**

	Cllr Smart proposed that the Press Release for the meeting was agreed. Seconded – Cllr Gaston. **Members agreed the Press Release.**
9.0	**Schedule of Meetings**
9.1	The schedule of meetings was agreed. The next meeting would take place at 12.30pm on 27th January 2021 and would be hosted by Newry, Mourne & Down District Council.
10.0	**AOB**
10.1	None

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STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Belfast City Council

Subject:	**Update on Customer Focus Programme**
Date:	19th February, 2021
Reporting Officer:	Ronan Cregan, Deputy Chief Executive, Director of Finance & Resources
Contact Officer:	Rose Crozier, Customer Focus Programme Director Cormac Quinn, Customer Services Manager

Restricted Reports				
Is this report restricted?	**Yes**		**No**	X
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**	X	**No**	

1.0	**Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues**
1.1	Members are reminded that, in September 2020, the Committee was provided with an update on the Customer Focus Programme which included an update on further activity in support of Covid 19 Recovery and a revised programme plan.
1.2	A further report was presented to the Committee in October 2020 to provide details of the establishment of the Customer Hub and approval was given to proceed with the proposed staffing structure including application of the relevant staff transfer processes and recruitment of required posts.
1.3	This report provides members with an update on the main components of the first phase of the Customer Focus programme to be implemented from 29 March 2021.

2.0	**Recommendations**
2.1	The Committee is requested to note: 1. the update on Phase 1 of the implementation of the Customer Focus programme and specifically the planned start of operation of the new Customer Hub function from 29 March 2021**;** 2. the update on services to be provided for Elected Members as part of Phase 1. This work has been progressing in partnership with the Customer Focus Task and Finish Group for Elected Members; 3. the initial works undertaken to refurbish the reception area of the ground floor of Cecil Ward Building which will form part of the physical Customer Hub; 4. progress with development of missed bins; and 5. progress with provision of enabling infrastructure.
3.0	**Main Report**
	<u>What we will deliver in Phase 1 of the Customer Hub</u>
3.1	The diagram attached at **Appendix 1** sets outs the future blueprint for the Customer hub which was presented at the May and September 2020 Committee meetings. As reported in September 2020, the complexity of the customer programme does not support the implementation of all of its elements at one time. Attached at **Appendix 2** is a reminder of the high level plan previously presented to achieve implementation of the Customer Hub by April 2021.
3.2	The 'go live' date of the Customer Hub has been revised to 29th March 2021. For this phase of the programme, we will have the following in place:
	Customer Hub
3.3	This new function will deal with customer contact for all departments and services, across all channels (online, mobile, telephone, face-to-face, email, and social media). Initially, the hub will manage all customer contact for cleansing/waste and calls currently through the main switchboard and corporate complaints numbers. Work is continuing on the co-design of processes including the handoff from customer hub to services in other departments. The implementation initially will be on a 'wide and thin' basis i.e. a basic level of information and signposting for customers will be provided at the first point of contact for all services across all channels.
3.4	This will provide a platform for on-boarding of services in the future phases beyond April 2021, deepening the information and value at first point of contact as services are designed end to end - thus improving customer experience.

3.5	As reported in October 2020, the customer hub team will grow to up to 20 staff as we on-board services, with 16 staff in post by April 2021. These staff will facilitate all customer contact channels, provide customer support for digital channels and build capability in service performance and analysis, working with departments and the Continuous Improvement team to inform and shape service improvement.
3.6	To achieve this, working closely with the Corporate Human Resources team, a transition plan for staffing and recruitment for the Customer Hub was established and is now nearing completion. Integral to this stage has been the inclusion of staff and Trade Unions in understanding the impact of these changes on current posts and post holders and the plans to transition to the new Customer Hub.
3.7	Work has commenced on training and development of staff who will be in post in time to allow for their training and the building of capacity and support systems and processes for hub operation.
3.8	Members should note that the Customer Hub is being financed by a re-alignment of existing budgets and does not add an additional burden to the ratepayer.
	Elected Members' future blueprint
3.9	The work of the Customer Focus Task and Finish group for Elected Members is continuing with a further workshop scheduled to take place on 24 February 2021. The workshop will facilitate feedback on the products developed and will discuss plans for implementation of phase 1 including members' support and training needs.
3.10	Within the functionality to be provided there will be a dedicated contact channel (telephone and email address) for elected members within the Customer Hub. Additionally we will provide members with information on service delivery so they can be informed of issues earlier, enabling them to be responsive to constituents' queries. Members will also have the ability to track issues they have raised and will have visibility of issues emerging in their areas. A future blueprint for services for elected members can be found at **Appendix 3.**
	Physical Customer Hub
3.11	Since October 2020, plans for the refurbishment of the Ground Floor of Cecil Ward Building as the physical Customer Hub have been developed and progressed. Whilst it is unclear when 'face to face' services will fully resume, the plans include a refurbishment of the reception area as a first phase providing a more welcoming customer interface and acting as the physical focal point for the customer service. This work has provided the opportunity to upgrade digital infrastructure and also to deep clean stonework. We anticipate the first

phase being completed by April 2021. A plan of the new reception area can be found at **Appendix 4.**

Missed Bins

3.12 Aligned to the overall Resources and Fleet transition and improvement programme, we have been focussing on how we can improve issues with missed bins including information flows between Elected Members, customers, staff and managers. A prototype of an app to report missed bins has been developed. A pilot to prove that the technology works involving 10 out of 50 collection squads has been completed. We have assessed the outcomes of the pilot and the plan for phase 1 of Customer Hub from April 2021 is to address issues identified during the pilot and, taking full cognisance of current Council policies and procedures around bin collections, to fully embed the processes and procedures contained within the scope of the pilot. Once this has been achieved a plan will be developed to roll this model out further.

Enabling Infrastructure

3.13 The success of the Customer Focus programme is wholly dependent on the delivery of enabling infrastructure and specific to Customer Hub, the technical infrastructure provided via telephony and systems delivered by Digital Services.

3.14 As evidenced through lockdown and now into recovery our telephone solution is one of the Council's most mission-critical systems. Digital Services completed the upgrade of our telephony solution in September 2020. The upgrade simplifies administration, and enhances security and business continuity. The system upgrade also introduces enhanced features and services which will be required to support modern digital workplace requirements and the integrated telephony features needed for the Customer Focus Programme.

- Contact Centre

  Improves customer experience by ensuring that customer contact from any channel is directed to the right agent with the right skills. It also provides real-time information to improve agent effectiveness.
  - Voice, Chat, SMS, Email, FAX, and AI Chatbots
  - Built-in Call and Screen Recording
  - Built-in Workforce Scheduling

- Customised CRM integration

  Phone and CRM system integration provides visibility of calls made and received, quick access to customer information and the ability to receive and make calls directly within the CRM.
  - Automatically access customer information
  - Pre-populate CRM with customer information
  - Click to dial – call, text or email customers within CRM

	• Softphones Bring all the functionality of a desk phone onto a laptop or mobile phone. This enables the staff working in the Customer Hub to operate remotely or in the office. o make and receive calls on your laptop, mobile phone or desk phone o voicemail integrated with email.
	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u>
3.15	The SP and R Committee agreed in November 2017 that a budget of £500k be set aside for the customer focus project. The operational cost of Customer Hub was reported to October 2020 committee as nil cost to Council and the changes have been reflected in the 2021/2022 budget.
3.16	The cost of refurbishment of the reception area of Ground Floor Cecil Ward Building has been accommodated within the 2020/2021 capital financing budget.
3.17	Staff and Trade Unions have been engaged throughout the programme. As we move to delivery, with Trade Union agreement we have established a sub group of JNCC to facilitate further engagement and consultation on staff implications of the programme in line with agreed HR policies and procedures.
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u>
3.18	Work on the EQIA for the Customer Focus Programme has been completed and the outcome published on our community engagement platform, Citizenspace.
4.0	**Documents Attached**
	Appendix 1 - Customer Focus Draft Future Blueprint Appendix 2 - High level plan showing Key Milestones for implementation Appendix 3 – Blueprint of future services for Elected Members Appendix 4 – Plan of Refurbishment of Reception Area Ground Floor CWB

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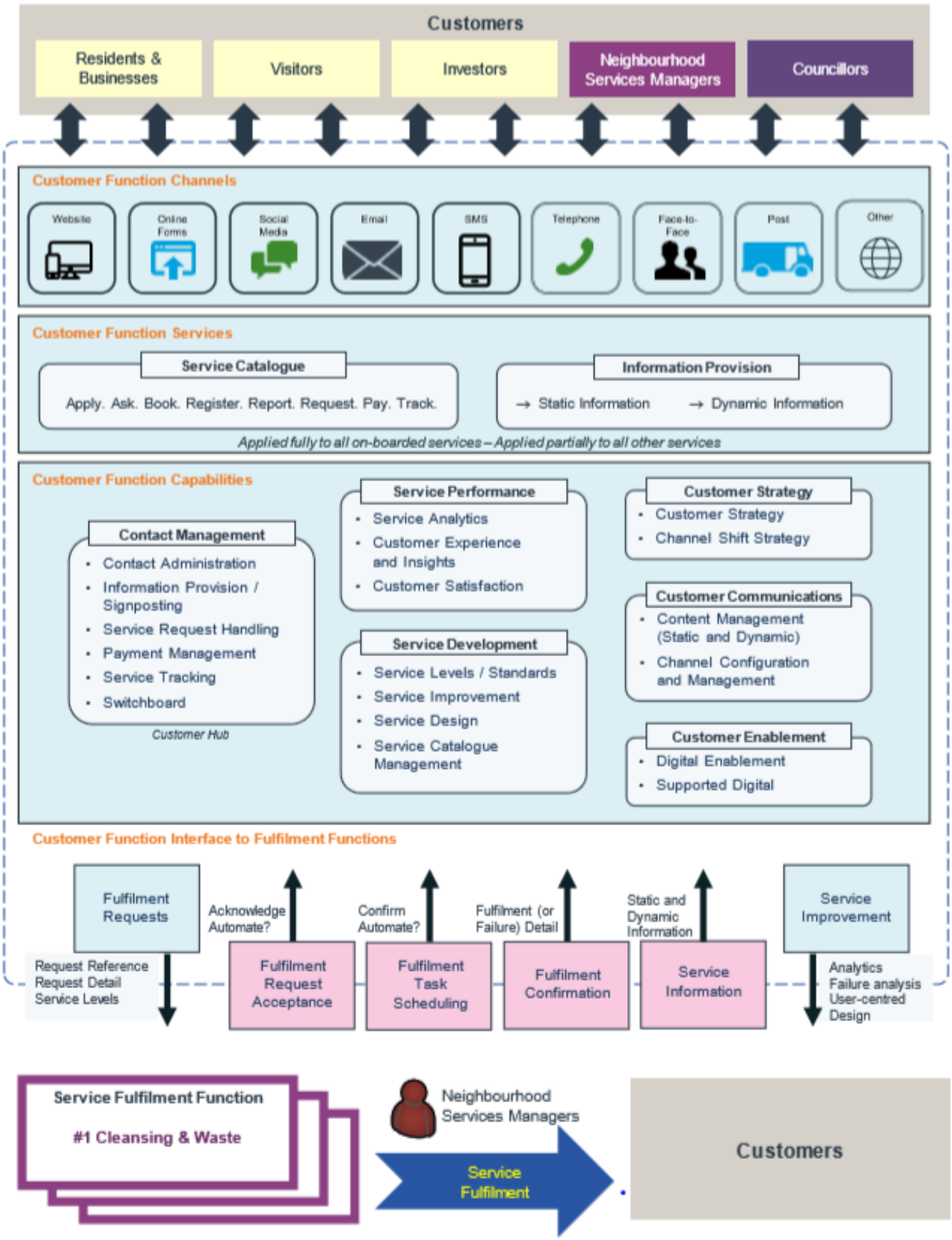
Appendix 1 Blueprint for the new Customer Function



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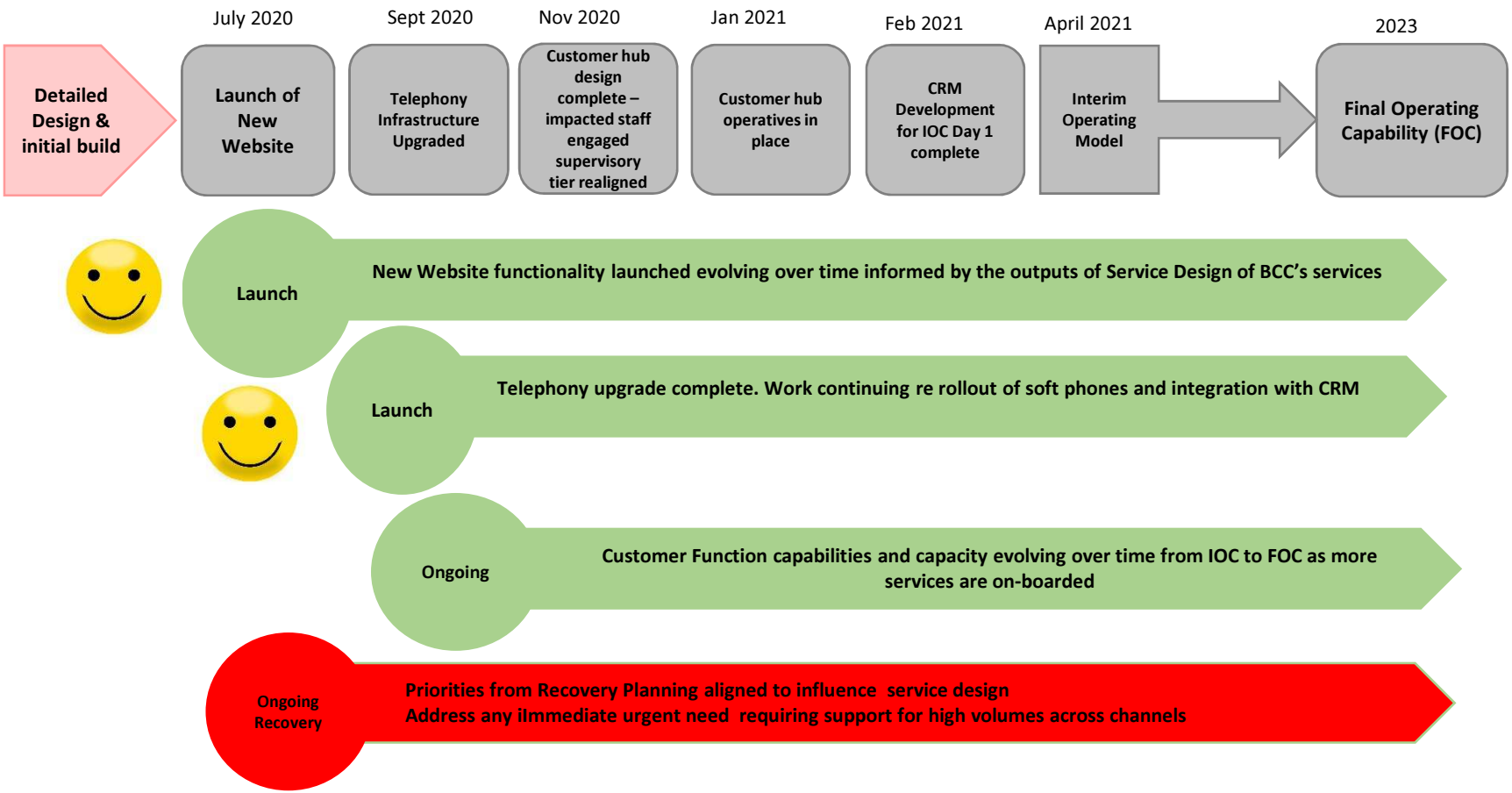
Appendix 2

High Level Implementation Plan



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Customer Programme - Services for Elected Members

Appendix 4

What you Need	INFORMATION	ISSUE MANAGEMENT & RESOLUTION	INSIGHT & INTELLIGENCE
Specfics of Needs	Information you want includes: - Belfast City Council - clarity on council services and who manages them - Calendar of Meetings - Calendar of events - Other agencies and their responsibilties	You want: - To have a trusted point of contact to raise issues with and be confident they will manage the issue and provide updates on the path to resolution. -To be able to see the tracking of your issue to resolution and easily access updates.	Real-time insights & intelligence you want includes: - Current key council-wide issues - Area specific insights - eg missed bins, heatmaps, persistent issues -Dashboards for area
Planned Products to Meet your Needs	**New Website** New website is now live with a better experience in finding information. Developments will continue in line with the customer programme needs. **Members Portal** A new members portal will be designed to provide the information members need.	**Dedicated Member Channels** A dedicated telephone number and email address for Elected Members to Customer Hub will be in place- where trained staff will manage your queries and issues to achieve resolution. A hub knowledge bank and information flows will be developed - Hub staff will have excellent working relationships with colleagues in all departments and services and will know how best to resolve individual queries or issues. **Customer Relationship Management System (CRM)** Microsoft Dynamics platform will be used to develop a CRM to capture and record all contact by members and customers and will record and track all issues right through to resolutions.	**Members Portal** The real-time insights & intelligence you want will be provided through the development of the members portal, sourcing the relevant information from the CRM. Your tailored dashboard will provide both general council top issues, area specific issues and access to the tracking of issues you have raised or that your constituents have raised. You will be able to access your portal via an indivdiual log in on your computer, laptop or mobile phone.
How the products will be developed	**Service Design - Collaboration** All products will be developed through a service design approach which involves the input of all stakeholders - elected members, services, developers. Due to the current Covid-19 situation, workshops may be mostly held virtually and the input channel for elected members will be through the Task and Finsh Group which was set up in 2019 and has all party representation.		
What product can be developed during Phase 1 (September 2020 - April 2021)?	**New Website** New website Phase 1 is already live. As the Customer Hub is formed and information and information flows are developed, the website will develop in line with that. **Members Portal** Development of the members portal will commence in Phase 1 with basic information.	**Dedicated Member Channels** Dedicated telephone and email address will be ready for use in April 2021. Knowledge Bank and information flows will be developed on a wide and thin basis - understanding the basic information regarding services and who to contact for higher level service knowledge. Members will be able to route their issues through the Hub to manage. **Customer Relationship Management System (CRM)** The basics of the CRM will be development during Phase 1 to record member and customer queries and issues. The knowledge bank will have basic service information and FAQs in order for the Hub team to answer basic queries without having to pass on to services, For queries that require the specific service to resolve, the initial information flows from Hub to services will be developed.	**Members Portal** Insights and Intelligence development will commence during Phase 1 at a basic level and will be dependent on the development of the CRM. The richer insight will develop once the deep dives into services occurs, post April 2021 in further phases.

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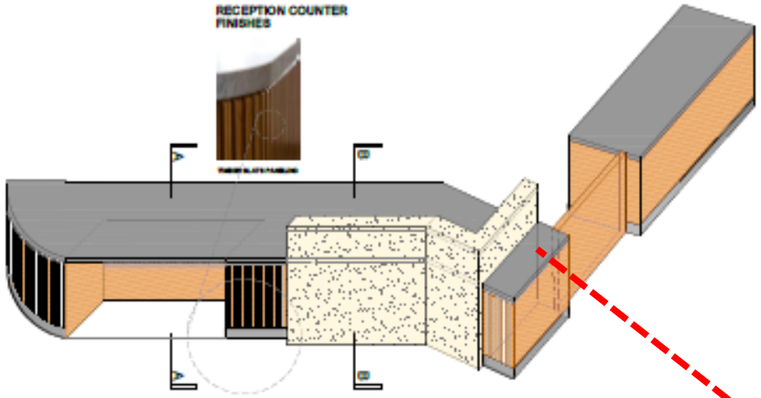
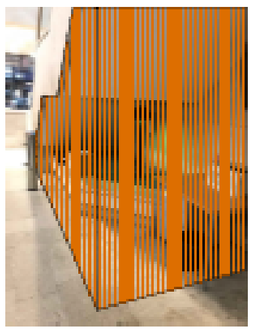
Appendix 4

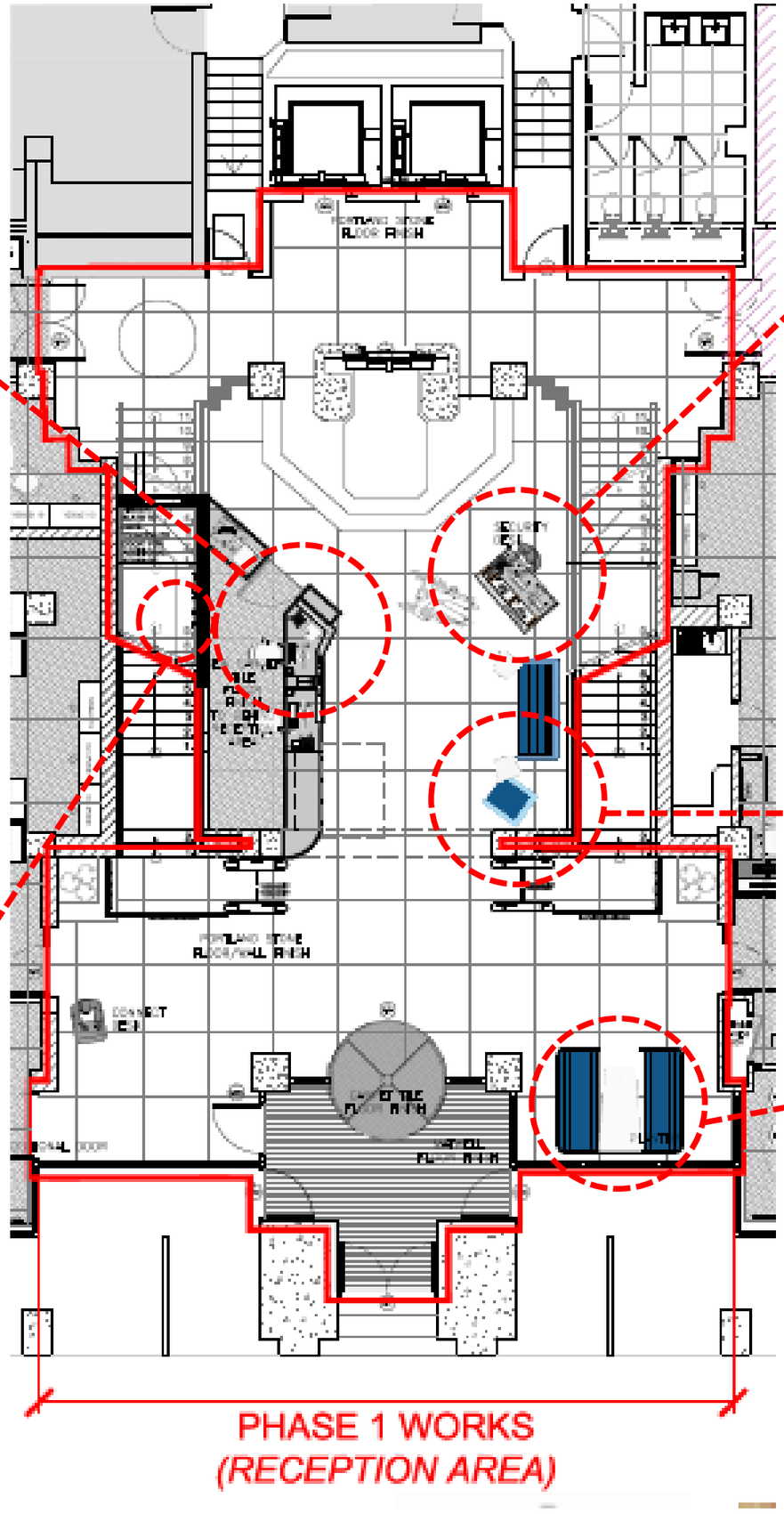


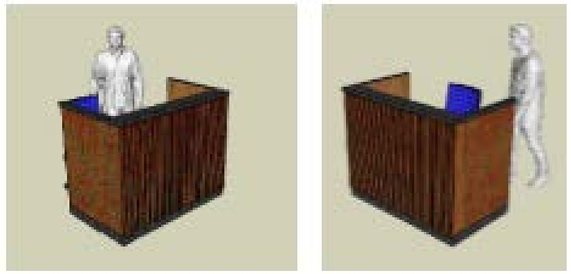
PROPOSED RECEPTION COUNTER 3D ELEVATION
SCALE 1:20

PROPOSED RECEPTION COUNTER 3D IMAGE



PROPOSED TIMBER SLATS
PHOTO SKETCH

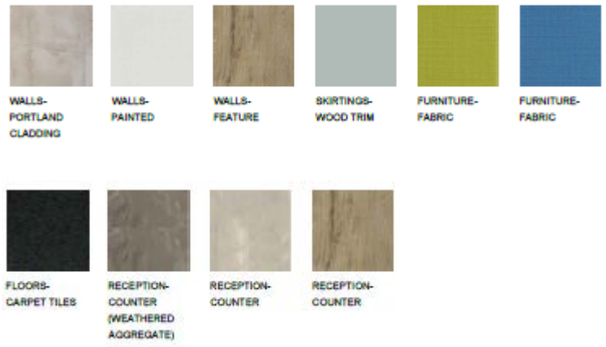




SECURITY POD 3D VIEWS

REFURBISHMENT WORKS

COLOUR PALETTE



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Belfast City Council

STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Subject:	**Working Group on the Climate Crisis - Work Plan 2021/22**
Date:	18th January, 2021
Reporting Officer:	Suzanne Wylie, Chief Executive
Contact Officer:	Richard McLernon, Programme Coordinator

Restricted Reports				
Is this report restricted?	**Yes**		**No**	X
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**	X	**No**	

1.0	**Purpose of Report**
1.1	This report outlines the work plan for the Working Group on the Climate Crisis for this forthcoming financial year 2021/22, for discussion and agreement. As a non-decision making group of Elected Members, this work plan is presented to the SP and R Committee for approval.
2.0	**Recommendations**
	The Committee is asked to agree the priorities recommended by the Working Group within this work plan.
3.0	**Main Report**
3.1	Resilience and Sustainability is a core priority in Belfast City Council's Corporate Plan and therefore the primary focus of the Working Group's work plan for 2021/22 is to ensure progress in the achievement of the objectives set out.

3.2	In the forthcoming financial year, the Working Group will prioritise the following: 1. Overseeing the development of a draft Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Plan for Belfast City Council, for SP&R approval by end of December 2. Working with the Resilience and Sustainability Board to ensure Belfast City Council Priorities in the Belfast Climate Plan are progressed- this will include taking advice from the Belfast Climate Commission as appropriate 3. Ensuring Belfast City Council contributes to progress on climate adaptation and mitigation at a regional level, e.g. through the DAERA Green Growth Task Force 4. Ensuring Belfast City Council plays its part in contributing to the UN Climate Conference in Glasgow in 2021. Further detail on each of these is provided below. *Belfast City Council Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Plan*
3.3	The working group previously agreed that the BCC Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Plan would be developed by June 2021 for approval by SP&R. To date, work is mostly on track, and we have tried to ensure that Covid-19 lockdown has not reduced momentum, as much as possible. The plan will be supported by three separate studies: - A Climate Adaptation Plan, being developed by Climate NI for BCC. Work is ongoing, and on track, and a detailed report will be brought to the All Party Working Group in February to ensure progress continues. - A Sustainability Audit, being developed by KPMG for BCC. Work is ongoing and on track, and a detailed report will be brought to All Party Working Group in March, to ensure progress continues. Working Group members have asked that the review specifically ensure improvements in integration across Council on the issue of sustainability, e.g. more holistic approach to the circular economy and inclusive growth, and considers governance improvements to ensure our approach to sustainability is as effective as possible, - An Energy Review. This work is to be commissioned, and may be delayed due to recruitment of new Climate Commissioner. A further update on progress will be made available as soon as possible.
3.4	It is intended that work on delivery of the Climate Adaptation Plan and implementation of the findings of the Sustainability Review will commence in advance of the summer, to ensure we are ahead of schedule, and therefore any delays to the Energy Review will be mitigated somewhat.

	That will enable us to meet most of the original timetable of June 2021 for the BCC Plan, and any amendments due to the delayed Energy Review will be brought to this committee in the Autumn, well in advance of the end of year.
3.5	Members are aware that the Resilience Assessment and Climate Plan were launched in December 2020, and the city-wide Resilience Board is taking forward delivery of the 30 programmes contained in the document. BCC are responsible for leading several of the programmes (e.g. coordination of One Million Trees), and contributing to delivery of others (e.g. Architects for Change programme). For this reason, the All Party Working Group will receive regular reports from officers, to outline progress (1) with BCC programmes (2) with the wider plan. It may also be useful to have a joint meeting with the co-chairs of the board from time to time to discuss progress.
3.6	A number of structures have been set up at Executive level to coordinate action on (1) climate adaptation (2) climate mitigation (3) green growth. The Resilience Team at BCC work closely with colleagues in various departments to ensure we are contributing to policy and strategy at a regional level. The Working Group will receive regular updates – as a Standing Item- on policy and strategy being developed at a regional level to ensure BCC makes a full contribution.
3.7	At present, BCC officers are preparing a response to DAERA's Discussion Document on a Northern Ireland Climate Change Bill. Due to the limited timeframe for consultation an officer response will be submitted on this occasion. The officer response will be brought to the Working Group in March to be noted and to SP&R Committee in April.
3.8	COP 26- the UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow is a significant moment for cities who are committed to action to tackle climate change. It represents an opportunity to press for government action in this area, to fund areas of priority and to highlight the work taking place in Belfast, to a global audience. However, it is also an opportunity to offer a platform to young people to set out their aspirations for action. In the coming months, in partnership with the Belfast Climate Commission, we will use our engagement platform 'Your Say Belfast' to provide an opportunity for young people in Belfast to make a strong ask of global decision makers in the run up to COP 26. An update on this work, and other work ongoing as part of our existing networks, to influence and contribute to COP 26 will be brought to each meeting of the Working Group. Although the importance of youth and their aspirations for the future of the city are important, we also recognise the importance of engagement with older people and will coordinate a conversation through the G6 group.

	Financial and Resource Implications
3.9	None at present, however future reports will set out emerging financial and resource implications of the above workplan.
	Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment
3.10	None at present.
4.0	**Documents Attached**
	Appendix 1 - Structure Chart for BCC and city-wide work on Climate Change Appendix 2 - Final Climate Plan as launched December 2020

Appendix 1

Structure Chart for BCC and city-wide work on Climate Change

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FUTURE PROOFED CITY BELFAST

AMBITIONS DOCUMENT: A CLIMATE PLAN FOR BELFAST

December 2020

RESILIENT BELFAST

www.belfastcity.gov.uk/resilience

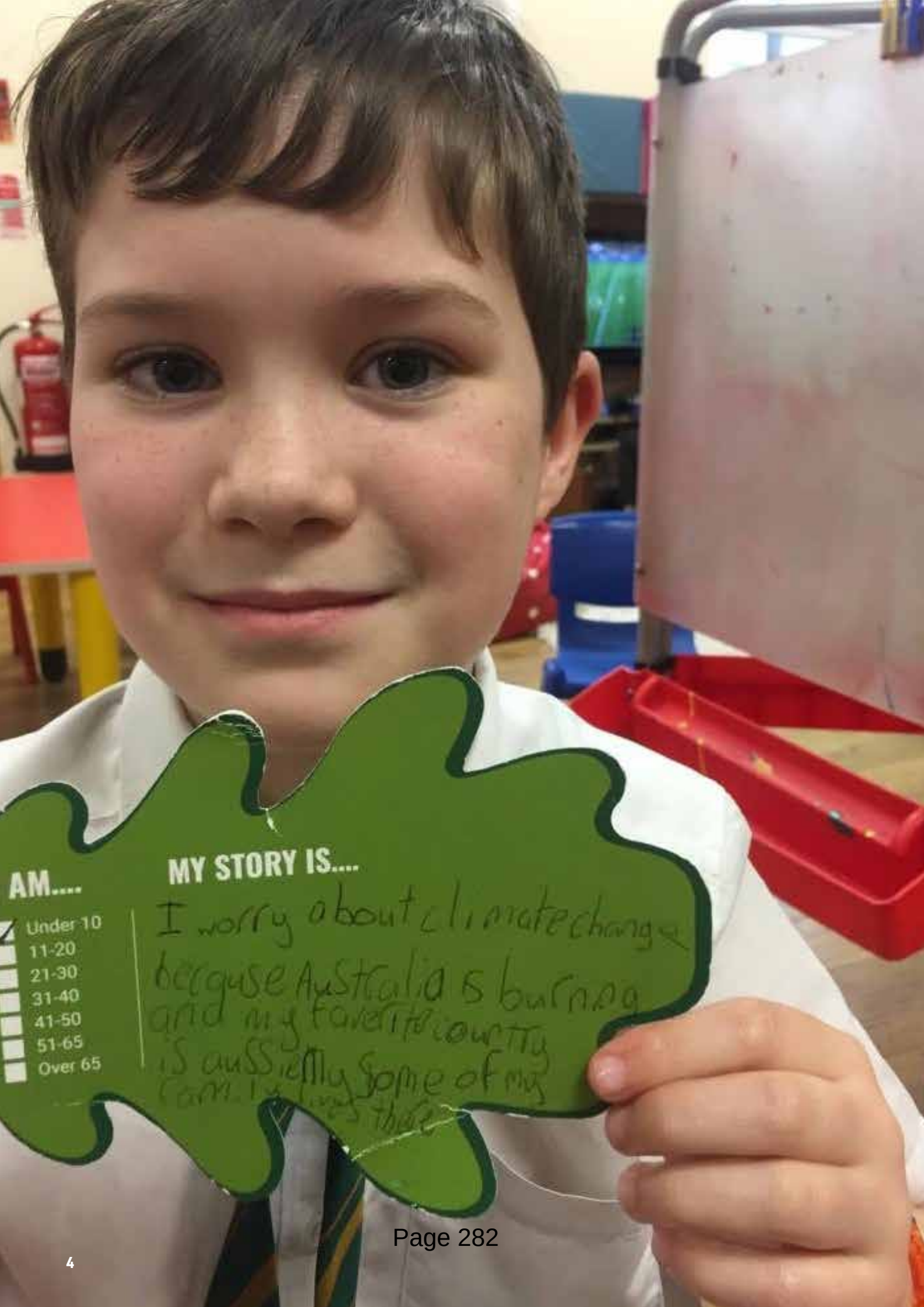
BELFAST DESTINATION HUB

FUTURE PROOFED CITY BELFAST

AMBITIONS DOCUMENT: A CLIMATE PLAN FOR BELFAST

December 2020

RESILIENT BELFAST


AM....
Under 10
11-20
21-30
31-40
41-50
51-65
Over 65
MY STORY IS....
I worry about climate change
because Australia is burning
and my favorite country
is aussie. My some of my
family lives there

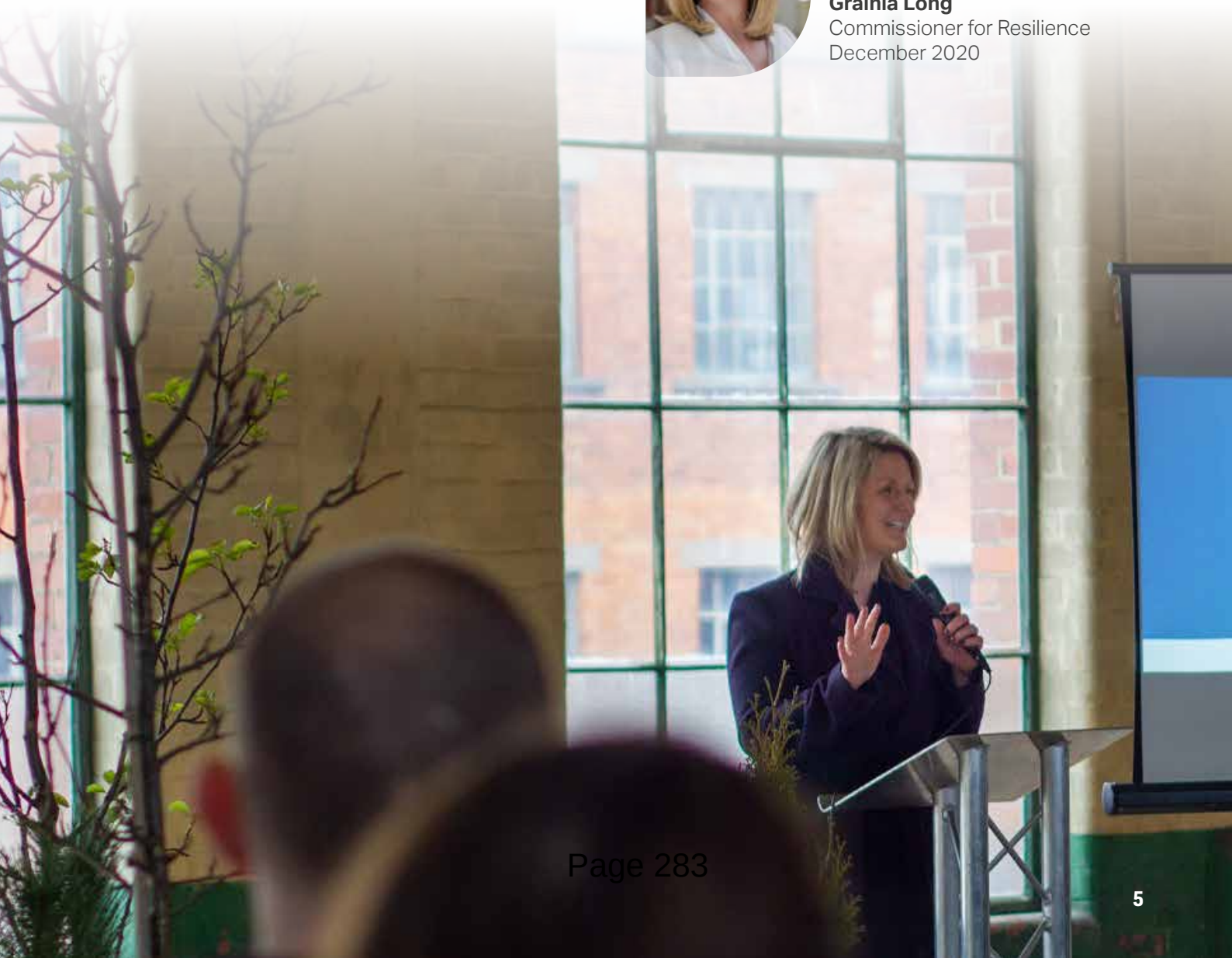
INTRODUCTION

Belfast's Resilience Assessment identified a wide-range of shocks and stresses for the city, improving our knowledge of existing and emerging risks. Coordinated response to these risks is being taken forward by city partners, working collaboratively through the city's Community Planning Partnership Board, and delivering the priorities set out 'Belfast Agenda'.

Public conversation on the draft Resilience Strategy found strong agreement with the shocks and stresses identified. However, there was also consensus that climate change presents acute risks for the city, and that we need a singular focus to prepare Belfast for its effects.

This 'ambitions document' is Belfast's first Climate Plan. It outlines a resilience 'goal' for the city, with a determined focus on climate adaptation, climate mitigation and the green economy. It sets out 30 'transformational programmes'- these are decade-long interventions which will have a positive impact, at scale, across the city. The programmes have been endorsed by the city's Resilience and Sustainability Board, and will be taken forward in a collaborative way by city partners in this decade. We have retained the emphasis on 'multiple problem solvers'- actions that solve several risks at once- and in particular ensuring that children and young people play a central role in climate action in their city.

Grainia Long
Commissioner for Resilience
December 2020



FOREWORD FROM THE OF CHAIR STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Belfast Agenda, the city's community plan, is clear in its purpose- for Belfast to be a sustainable city. Meeting that vision has required the development of this document- the city's first 'climate plan' – a document which sets out a clear goal, to transition Belfast to an 'inclusive, net zero-emissions, climate- resilient economy in a generation'. Across Belfast, partner organisations have not only help identify the risks that face our city but they have also agreed that the ultimate goal for the city should be to **transition to an inclusive, net zero-emissions economy in a generation.**

This is the first time that Belfast has taken an integrated and collaborative approach to the development of a climate plan, and I am particularly pleased at the level of partnership working involved.

I would like to thank all the members of the Resilience and Sustainability Board who have agreed to work together to deliver thirty programmes, at scale, to meet our goal. We all welcome the variety of programmes that have been designed to be **'multiple problem solvers'** and look forward to witnessing the transition of Belfast into a more climate ready city. This plan is a first of many for Belfast and its timing is important for us all to drive the city forward in its green recovery.

Working together will help us to ultimately deliver the goal and enable city partners across all sectors to deliver these ambitious programmes. We are delighted to be involved from the beginning of this project and we are grateful for the commitment of city leaders, communities, organisations, universities and of course our residents who have supported the development of this plan. I believe this document positions Belfast as a city which can demonstrate its commitment to tackling the climate crisis, in the interests of all our residents- today's and tomorrow's.

Councillor Christina Black
Chair
Strategic Policy and
Resources Committee

Belfast
City Council

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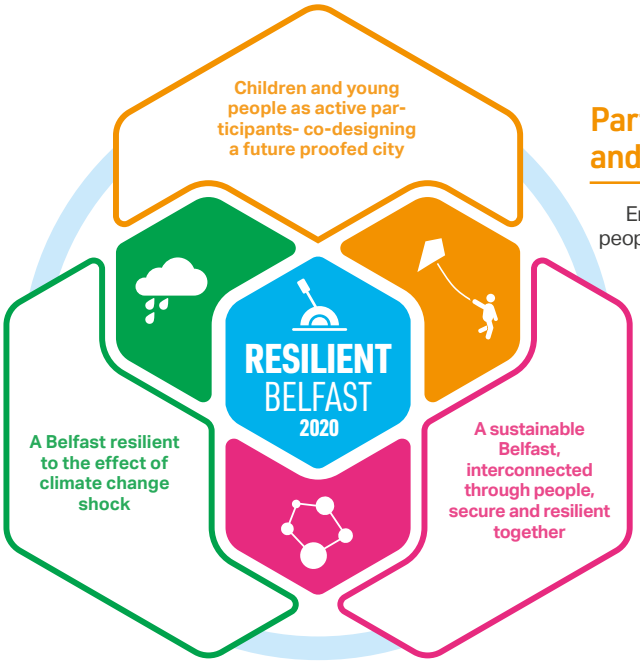
Case study: Connectivity 26



Climate adaptation and mitigation

Adapting to, and mitigating climate change across the city

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Participation of children and young people

Ensuring the city's children and young people co-design plans for a sustainable, climate resilient city, and have every opportunity to participate in delivery

Page: 18

Connected, net zero-emissions economy

Achieving a step change towards zero emissions, in this decade, through well-design and well-funded infrastructure

Page: 23

A BIGG
MES
THAN
WE STAN
FOR
WHAT WE
STAND
ON
IT'S GETTING
HOT IN HERE
SO TAKE OFF ALL
YOUTH

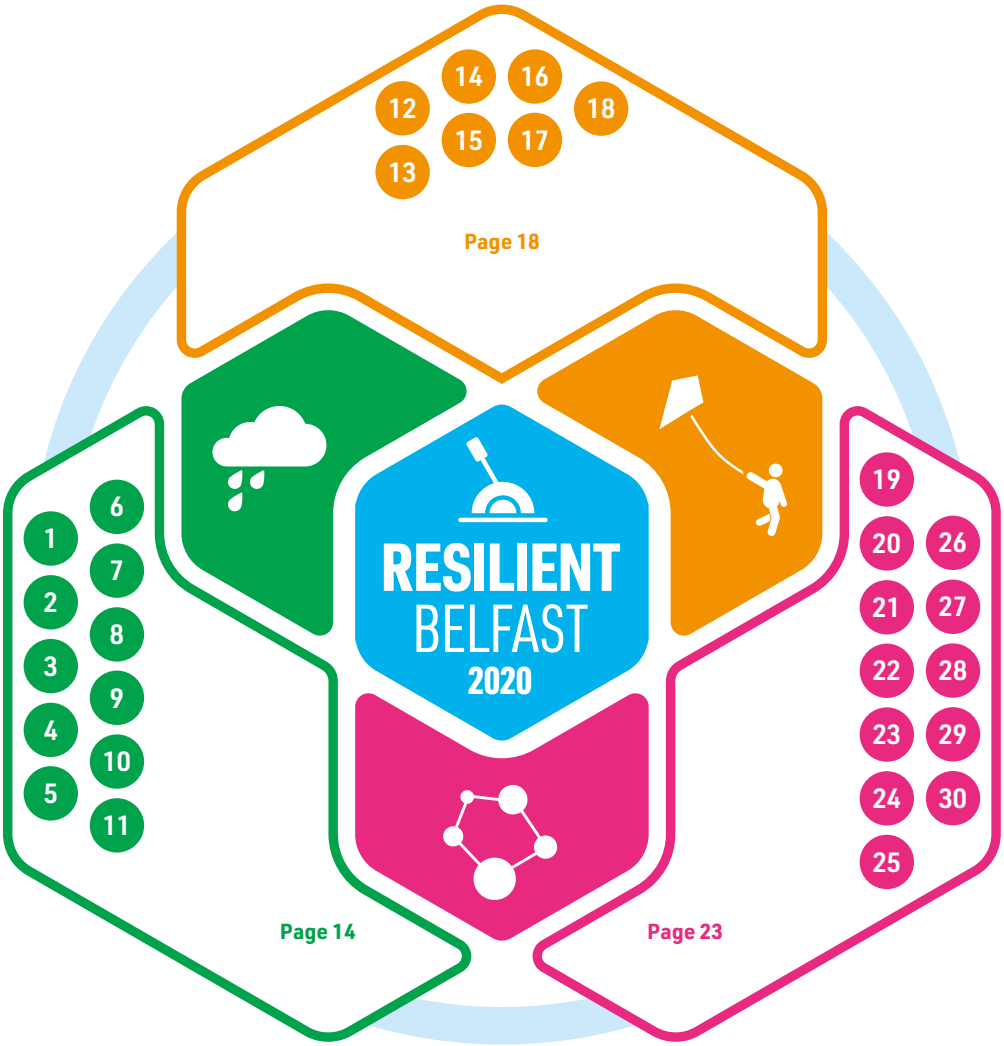
RESILIENCE GOAL

Our goal is to transition Belfast to an inclusive, net zero-emissions, climate resilient economy in a generation.

MULTIPLE PROBLEM SOLVERS

We have identified a series of levers aimed at resolving several risks at once. These 'multiple problem solvers' provide focus and direction towards our transition to an inclusive, net zero emissions climate resilient economy.

MULTIPLE PROBLEM SOLVERS



DELIVERY OF UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Belfast's Resilience Strategy has been informed by, and is aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is an historic global agreement to eradicate extreme poverty, fight inequality and injustice and leave no one behind. Agreed by world leaders at the UN in 2015, the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) succeed the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The SDGs are universal with all signatories - including the UK - expected to contribute to them internationally and deliver them domestically.

Belfast's Resilience Strategy contributes to the delivery of these important global goals.

1 No poverty

2 Zero hunger

3 Good health and well-being

4 Quality education

5 Gender equality

6 Clean water and sanitation

7 Affordable and clean energy

8 Decent work and economic growth

9 Industry, innovation and infrastructure

10 Reduced inequalities

11 Sustainable cities and communities

12 Responsible consumption and production

13 Climate action

14 Life below water

15 Life on land

16 Peace, justice and strong institutions

17 Partnerships for the goals

LEGEND KEY

Area of focus

- Climate action
- Children and young people
- Connected, net zero-emissions economy

Quality of resilience

- Reflective
- Resourceful
- Inclusive
- Integrated
- Robust
- Redundant
- Flexible

Shock or stress

- Infrastructure capacity
- Condition of existing Housing Stock
- UK Exit
- Flooding and extreme weather events
- Cyber resilience
- Public Health
- Economic recovery capacity
- Population change
- Carbon intensive systems
- Housing supply in the city
- Segregation and division
- Climate change
- Poverty and inequality
- Use of prescription drugs
- Mental Ill-health
- Governance and financing of risk

United Nations: Sustainable Development Goal

- No poverty
- Zero hunger
- Good health and well-being
- Quality education
- Gender equality
- Clean water and sanitation
- Affordable and clean energy
- Decent work and economic growth
- Industry, innovation and infrastructure
- Reduced inequalities
- Sustainable cities and communities
- Responsible consumption and production
- Climate action
- Life below water
- Life on land
- Peace, justice and strong institutions
- Partnerships for the goals

CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND MITIGATION

The effects of climate change present the greatest economic, social and environmental risks to the city of Belfast, in this decade and beyond'. The city's future economic growth must therefore be inclusive, sustainable and low-carbon.

> "The economic cost of flooding could be profound. Belfast is 'predicted to be the most economically impacted, with aggregated annual average damages of approximately £16m.'"
>
> NI Flood Risk Assessment, 2018

- Belfast must be 'climate ready' i.e. prepared for changes to the city's weather, to our water, and to our biodiversity arising from climate change. The city must prevent economic shocks arising from climate change, and a widening of inequality due to its effects. It must urgently build community resilience to respond to the impacts of climate change, and ultimately transition to a net zero emissions economy.
- Belfast is facing a climate crisis. A harbour city, and already an area of significant flood risk, our proximity to water and the increasing presence of water in our city as the climate warms is a significant risk. Pockets of poor air pollution and our dependence on cars as a form of transport, coupled with the prevalence of hard infrastructure throughout the city highlight a series of interconnected challenges, which if left unchecked will leave the city exposed.
- Our ability to respond to a changing climate will fundamentally impact on the city's economic prosperity in the years to come. The prevalence of extreme weather events will require additional city resources; the design, development and location of future developments will be impacted by climate events and our attractiveness as a destination to live work and enjoy will all be impacted by our ability to prepare for, respond and absorb climate related shocks and stresses.
- The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) warned in 2018 that cities have twelve years to make rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society in order to limit global warming to 1.5°C. Belfast must heed that warning and make climate resilience an urgent and strategic focus for the entire city.
- Furthermore, our dependence on energy will increase. While immediate energy demand scenarios are currently uncertain due to the impact of COVID-19, the Belfast Mini Stern demonstrates the scale of the city's long-term economic dependence on energy - it predicts that Belfast will spend c.£466 million per year in 2050.' Belfast therefore faces two energy challenges- to decarbonise rapidly while building the city's energy independence. Doing so provides an immense economic return to the city, as set out in the Mini Stern.

> "Belfast is emitting 1.5 million tonnes of carbon a year. At this rate, we will have used up our carbon by 2030."
>
> Belfast Mini Stern

- The 'foundational programmes' endorsed by the city's Resilience and Sustainability Board are strongly informed by the city's 'Mini Stern', by consultation with city partners and with communities, and are intended as a step change in the city's approach to climate adaptation and mitigation.

1 New city-wide structures to collaborate on climate action

Belfast has established two permanent new structures to drive partnership and collaboration to build the city's climate resilience and drive climate action. The Belfast Climate Commission is a 'thinktank' which ensures the right evidence and analysis is available to decision makers. The Resilience and Sustainability Board is a permanent feature of the Community Planning structures for the city. The board is a genuine partnership between agencies and organisations on climate action in Belfast, and over time will ensure integration of systems to increase the city's efficiency and effectiveness.

2 Delivery of Recommendations in Belfast's Mini Stern: A Net Zero Carbon Roadmap for Belfast

Working with Leeds and Edinburgh, Belfast's first Net Zero Carbon Roadmap has been produced, to identify the sources of Scope 1 and 2 emissions, and to set out cost effective and innovative stretch measures needed to reach net zero carbon by 2050. Through the Belfast Climate Commission and the Resilience and Sustainability Board, recommendations within the roadmap will delivered to enable Belfast to reach its goal.

3 Climate change risk assessment

We have commissioned Arup (our 100 Resilient Cities strategic partner) to undertake a high level climate change risk assessment- to provide us with an assessment of the potential impact of climate change on the city's infrastructure. This work has identified significant areas of risk for the city, and areas of focus for climate planning into the future.

4 Belfast City Council Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Plan

Belfast City Council will publish its Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Plan in 2021, based on data from an internal sustainability review, an energy review and the development of climate adaptation priorities. The document will be the first comprehensive and integrated plan by the council on climate adaptation and mitigation.

5 Belfast Harbour - Green Port

Belfast Harbour's ambition is to become one of the 'greenest' ports in the world. Its strategic goals include achieving net zero carbon emissions in Belfast Harbour before 2030, through decarbonisation of our operations and nature based solutions. Its partnership-based action plans will protect and enhance our marine biodiversity and wider environment. With the help of digital innovation, it will help facilitate a circular economy and improve air quality standards throughout its estate. As a socially responsible Green Port, Belfast Harbour's vision is to work with others as a green developer and support our port community, customers and tenants as together we build a sustainable future for all.

6 Queen's University Environmental Solutions Centre

We will explore the feasibility of establishing a city-wide support organisation drawing on the model of Adaptation Scotland to provide advice and support to help public sector, businesses and communities understand what climate change will mean for them, and the best way to plan for its impact. City partners will work collaboratively to support the establishment of an interdisciplinary Environmental Solutions Centre at QUB, a collaboration between academics working on environment and sustainability research. The goal of the centre is to provide solutions to decarbonise economies and radically reduce greenhouse gas emissions to achieve net zero and to provide solutions that reverse the loss of biodiversity worldwide. Queen's has co-designed the centre with key partners in industry, local and regional government and civil society. The centre will focus on data analytics and synthesis and will deliver solutions through co-defined interdisciplinary working groups bringing together stakeholders from across a broad spectrum of relevant partners, and will be a critical asset to the city in its progress to reach net zero.

7 Sustainable District

Belfast Linen Quarter BID, working collaboratively with city partners, will establish the city's first 'Sustainable District' bringing together business, the public sector and the private sector to collaborate and innovate on energy, water and waste efficiency, decarbonisation and sustainable practices, to accelerate the city's transition to a climate-resilient economy.

The vision is to co-create a prosperous, inclusive, climate-resilient district founded on a circular, net zero-carbon economy. Work programmes will include system re-design to develop sustainable products & services; Sustainable waste management; a district-wide green energy contract, to accelerate the move to renewables; New approaches to public realm that reduce car use and increase cycling and walking and a strategy for improved air quality.

8 Belfast Region City Deal

The Digital Innovation Pillar of the Belfast Region City Deal prioritises resilience and sustainability, with a core commitment to triple bottom line delivery in all of its programs taking into account social, economic and environmental sustainability factors. Specific programs will target funding of innovation in energy transition, integrated transport solutions and building technology, in this decade. The Belfast Digital Innovation ambition will also focus on development of platforms such as digital twins, built on committed 5G/ IoT deployments within the city and which coupled with Belfast's leading expertise in cyber and AI technologies, will ensure that our innovation excellence is targeted to ensure our strategic city assets such as housing, energy, transport, water and telecommunications are resilient by design. Opportunities will therefore be sought to invest in enabling infrastructure to meet the city's ambitions while also emphasising skills and business growth at scale.

9 One Million Trees

Inspired by an original idea from the Belfast Metropolitan Residents Group, city partners will plant one million trees across Belfast by 2035. Launched in late 2020, and designed as a major programme to support climate adaptation across the city, it is a collaboration between public, private and voluntary sector partners, and will make a substantial contribution to the DAERA 'Forest of the Future' regional tree planting programme.

10 Local Development Plan: a Critical Lever for Resilience

Belfast's draft Local Development Plan (LDP) provides a robust statutory framework to enable Belfast's transition to an inclusive, net zero emissions, climate-resilient economy. The draft plan provides a 15-year framework to support the city's ambitions, providing the delivery of sustainable development, facilitating growth and allocating sufficient land to meet the needs of the city. Core objectives of the draft LDP include the promotion of a green and active place and building a smart, connected and resilient city. The draft LDP is therefore a critical lever in the delivery of this strategy's objectives.

11 Sustainability and Food

In developing this strategy, we have had insufficient time to look in detail at the city's food needs into the future, however this is a priority for strategy implementation. Working with partners across the city, a workstream examining the climate impacts and opportunities for an ongoing and city wide programme of healthy and sustainable food will be critical to Belfast's resilience.

CASE STUDY: CLIMATE ACTION

Cape Town: water resilience and avoiding day zero

Cape Town made international headlines in 2017 when they faced the prospect of an imminent "Day Zero", a scenario in which the city government would have to turn off the water distribution networks to conserve water, in response to experiencing the driest three-year period since the 1930's. The city's normal recourse was to increase water restrictions but more action was needed.

Capetonians mobilised to take remarkable action. Lawns and water sensitive plants were replaced with less water reliant alternatives. Residents invested in water saving devices such as low-flow taps and shower heads. Community organisations developed their own response strategies. Some corporations went off-grid, turning to groundwater or desalination. The local government worked tirelessly with businesses to share information, hear concerns, plan and became much better at partnering. This collective response would eventually drive down water consumption by over 50%. Day Zero was called off in 2018 and later removed as a possibility for 2019 and again in 2020..

Positively, behaviours have changed permanently as residents' water-saving and efficiency behaviours endured, even as restrictions were gradually lessened. Water consumption is unlikely to ever return to pre-drought levels. Cape Town's achievement is evidence of the positive impact that partnering with residents and stakeholders at all levels can have on a city's governance and operations.

PARTICIPATION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The participation of children and young people in decisions that affects their lives is of critical importance in the design of a sustainable city. Our resilience goal, to transition to an inclusive, net zero emissions, climate-resilient city in a generation is not possible unless we involve children and young people in strategy design, and ensure their participation in its delivery.

We consider this value so important that it is one of three areas of focus, or 'multiple-problem solvers' as we restructure our economy and society, as climate change advances.

In this section, we include several 'foundation programmes' which place children at the centre of decisions on climate adaptation and mitigation in Belfast.

35% of Belfast's population is aged 25 and under. Young people are a major asset for the city, especially given the shocks and stresses outlined earlier, e.g. the risk of population decline, outward migration, and how we build our economic resilience.

A young population provides Belfast with a bright economic future, with a source of future talent. If young people are properly involved in the decisions that affect their lives, they could also help to shape a transformed sustainable economy for the city. Our conversation with children and young people as part of this strategy consultation, found that sustainability and inclusion were key priorities for them, and would frame the choices they take about where to live in the future.

Poor air quality and the prevalence of cars are considered among the biggest barriers to child-friendliness and a key factor affecting independent mobility among children. Less mobility means reduced access to and experience of the city and fewer possibilities to take advantage of the city's opportunities. Designing a sustainable and child-friendly city is also critical to attracting today's skilled and talented workforce to the city, particularly those with children. Cities like Rotterdam and Vancouver have taken ambitious steps to make urban environments attractive to families, retaining skilled workers and driving the local economy.

We have been inspired and encouraged by action taken in New Zealand (particularly Christchurch), in Wales, where there is a strong policy focus on 'Future Generations', and by Medellin in Colombia, which has invested in a Children and Young Persons' 'Unit' in the city government.

A city's design has an immense impact on the health and wellbeing of children. Sustainable healthy cities are also child-friendly cities. Designing a city in the best interests of children is therefore critical to Belfast's resilience.

The physical environment in which children live is a key determinant of their health, behaviour and development. Research and practice from other cities shows that a strategic focus on connectivity - walking, cycling and play - can improve the health and wellbeing of children and young people. Conversely, high-density traffic, poor air quality and a lack of public space can directly discourage people from being physically active, in turn, impacting on their health prospects. Child-centred urban planning is critical to achieving Belfast Agenda priorities on inclusive growth, and importantly to achieving a step change indifferences in life expectancy.

The focus of this strategy, to transition to a net zero emissions city, is also intended to make the city more attractive for children and young people, improving liveability and increasing their social and economic opportunities.

During the formal consultation on this draft strategy, we listened to and considered the views of more than 367 children and young people, and their views have strongly informed the content of our final document.

A snapshot of how young people participated in the process:

- The Commissioner for Resilience met 60 Belfast Youth Forum members.
- 32 young people took part in two online sessions with the Lord Mayor.
- Belfast climate strikers gave talks, came to the kiosk and attended online engagement sessions.
- 40 primary school children engaged through story telling sessions at two after schools clubs.
- 90 young people gave us their #ResilientBelfast stories and pictures.
- 40 children took trees home to plant across the city.
- 87 attendees at a 'Planning Resilient Futures' student conference.
- Resilient discussion with 25 university students.
- 367 young people involved to date.

"A good city is one that is good for its most vulnerable citizens..."

Enrique Peñalosa, (Mayor of Bogotá 1998-2001 and 2016-2019)

Some common themes which emerged were:

- Young people's high levels of anxiety about the potential impacts of climate change on the poorest and most vulnerable communities in Belfast.
- Many children and young people said they felt 'helpless' to the impacts of climate change- that decision makers were not making the crisis a core priority.
- Children's attitudes towards transport are very different to adults – they often do not see owning a car in the future as important or even necessary.
- The value placed by young people on their ability to live in a healthy city - many expressed this as a 'right' and in particular referred to the health impacts of air pollution, which should be made a city priority.
- Many young people emphasised the importance of urgency in delivery of change, saying that not everything has to be perfect before it is done.
- They welcomed the centrality of children and young people to the strategy and the potential for ongoing and meaningful involvement to the future design of climate policy and strategy in the city.
- Many young people felt their knowledge of the climate crisis and what is required is stronger than the decisions makers in the city, and their involvement is necessary to ensure we take the right approach now.
- They cautioned against their involvement being seen as 'tokenistic' and challenged decision makers to demonstrate their commitment by resourcing this work.
- They expressed real concern about other 'shocks and stresses' referred to in the strategy- particularly mental ill-health and digital inequality.

In developing this strategy, we have adopted the seven key principles developed by Arup in its Designing for Urban Childhoods report:

1. The quality of life experienced by urban populations, and particularly by children,will determine our global future.
2. Child-friendly urban planning is a vital part of creating inclusive cities that work better for everyone.
3. Focusing on the needs of children can help act as a unifying theme for the promotion of progressive ideas and ambitious actions.
4. Children's infrastructure can help to enhance the economic value and long-term viability of the urban environment.
5. Providing multifunctional, playable space - beyond the playground - can enable everyday freedoms and create a public realm for all ages to enjoy together.
6. Interventions at the neighbourhood scale offer the greatest potential to create a children's infrastructure network that allows safe and enjoyable journeys.
7. Decision makers should be opportunistic and strategic, and integrate child-friendly thinking into all aspects of city making.

12 A Permanent Platform for Involving Children and Young People on Climate Change

Led by the Belfast Climate Commission, and co-designed by children and young people, we will develop a model for ensuring the participation and involvement of young people, in future climate planning. The model will be developed in 2021, and will initially be developed to ensure their involvement in the UN Climate Conference COP26, but will be used annually to involve children and young people in decisions on the city's future.

13 Quality of urban childhood

Working with partners across the city, Belfast City Council will put in place a series of indicators to measure the quality of 'urban childhood' in Belfast. This will include measuring the amount of time children spend playing outdoors, their level of contact with nature and their ability to get around independently. These will inform decisions by organisations working across Belfast to improve urban childhoods and urban resilience more generally.

14 Ulster University Architects for Change Programme

The 'Architects of Change' programme puts students from Ulster University's School of Architecture and the Built Environment at the heart of developing and delivering a training programme to business leaders across the region. Leading academics will work with students on strategies for smart cities, zero emission definition and delivery aiming to address how gaps in knowledge and skill can be addressed through training.

This training programme will support business leaders to access the relevant knowledge to deliver environmentally, socially sustainable practice within their organisations. Participants will receive mentoring, materials and consultancy from the University to ensure growth beyond the life of the training. Longer term, the project will deliver innovative concepts for design, planning, construction and management of climate resilient, net zero emission buildings and communities. It will help shape Belfast as a smart, green city; improving the health and wellbeing of citizens, users and communities.

15 A Playful City

Belfast City Council will work to establish Belfast as 'A Playful City' by 2023, our designated year of culture, by bringing together the goals within its City Regeneration Strategy, its Cultural Strategy and its Resilience Strategy.

16 City centre public realm play spaces

Working with its city partners, Belfast City Council will invest in a network of city centre public realm play spaces. This should include permanent spaces in the city centre and a network of temporary/ pop-up play spaces across the city. This should include multifunctional use of space and re-use of existing infrastructure such as schoolyards, community hubs and carparks for community activities after hours. Belfast City Council wants to create a colourful, playful city that appeals to people of all ages. Working with city partners, Belfast City Council will build on its development of play spaces and invest in a network of city centre public realm that support diverse, interesting and inclusive family-friendly spaces. This could include permanent spaces in the city centre, embedding incidental play within the public realm and a creating network of pop up play spaces across the city. We will create multi-functional spaces through the re-use of existing infrastructure such as schoolyards, vacant spaces, community hubs and car parks for community activities after hours.

17 Ulster University MSc in Planning and City Resilience

Committed to producing leaders in planning for resilient, inclusive and healthy cities, Ulster University has launched an MSc in Planning and City Resilience. Using the city as a laboratory, studies can explore sustainable development, social and climate justice, inclusive planning and partnerships, and smart interventions.

18 Public transport

To achieve our priorities on climate resilience, city connectivity and urban childhoods, it is recommended that city partners should agree to an ambition to provide all children and young people have access to free public transport in Belfast - by an agreed year in the next decade. In achieving this goal we will enable a number of our objectives.

CASE STUDY: CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Paris: OASIS Schoolyards: battling heat and building resilience

The densest capital in Europe, Paris has only 14.5m² of green space per inhabitant. This increases both the urban heat island effect and the risk of storm water flooding. With space at a premium the city had to consider existing assets it could leverage to tackle its resilience challenges of heat waves, flooding, declining social cohesion, and limited green space.

In 2017, the Paris Resilience Strategy envisioned the renovation of the city's network of 761 schools into green islands or "oases" of cooler temperatures and community solidarity. In 2018, Project OASIS (Openness, Adaptation, Sensitisation, Innovation and Social Ties) brought together twelve city departments to begin a pilot with three schools participating. After extensive engagement with pupils, parents and the education community, renovation work began which included replacing asphalt with porous material, improving storm water drainage, increasing green space, modernizing water management, installing cooling fountains and water sprayers and creating natural and artificial shade structures. The project gained European recognition winning the 2019 Urban Innovation Actions award and a further €5m of EU-co funding.

Paris aims to scale this concept to approximately 700 schools by 2050. The Oases are expected to decrease average surface temperatures by 10%, reduce daytime air temperatures up to 3°C and increase water absorption capacity from 4 to 16mm. These new breathing spaces at the heart of neighbourhoods, designed by users, will improve the living environment, cope with the climate emergency, and reinforce social cohesion.

CONNECTED, NET ZERO-EMISSIONS ECONOMY

Resilient cities are well connected cities. Our vision of Belfast is as an inter-connected city, with secure, resilient infrastructure that meets its economic, social and environmental goals. A city that values sustainable forms of transport.

Connected cities have well-developed networks of people, communities, industries and institutions all working collaboratively towards common goals. Investment in resilient infrastructure is critical to ensuring and enabling inclusive growth - connecting people and communities with markets, and with affordable easy access to high quality jobs and services. Resilient infrastructure is essential for place-making, good relations and building healthy and sustainable cities. Industrial strategy requires reliable, accessible and competitively-priced infrastructure to attract foreign direct investment and to create jobs.

> "It has never been more important for a city-region to be connected and have high levels of connectivity. Investment in infrastructure must facilitate and enable the growth of those businesses and sectors which have the potential to close the productivity gap."

Belfast has made huge strides since the Belfast/ Good Friday agreement towards being a connected city. However, much more progress is required to build 'one city', where our connections reduce our vulnerabilities and strengthen our capacity to withstand risks. The potential to be gained from an 'infrastructure revolution' for the city was highlighted in the Belfast Region Infrastructure Investment Framework - commissioned by the Belfast Region City Deal partners as part of their work to present a case to the UK Treasury for investment in the City Region. The Framework recognised the economic potential to be gained from a step change in investment in key infrastructure classes to boost growth in the region, and in turn enhance economic resilience.

This requires a shift in mindset - so that infrastructure is understood as vital to our economic and social interests, and responsibility for building, maintaining and investing in infrastructure goes beyond central government to a range of partners across the city.

It also requires a transformation in how we move around our city. Car dependency is undermining our resilience- by requiring more and more hard infrastructure that builds our exposure to climate risks rather than reducing them. Belfast must make a strategic shift away from the car as the predominant mode of transport, and this will in turn boost our climate resilience, and make our city a healthier, cleaner more enjoyable Belfast.

> "Strategic city-wide focus on connectivity has the potential to boost Belfast's resilience - its capacity to withstand shocks and adapt to future risks."

The Good Relations Strategy for the city makes similar and important commitments on the need for a genuinely connected city, '...The way we have done things in the past needs to adapt to help us reach the ambitions we have set ourselves in the Belfast Agenda. We need social innovation; changing the way we plan, deliver and consume services and how and where we access them, how we travel within the city, how we educate our young people, how we view and use local spaces, and how we interact with one another across the city. These are all critical to achieving these ambitions.'

This strategy seeks to complement and underpin delivery of the Good Relations Strategy. The following recommendations are aimed at supporting the strategy in practice.

19 Sustainable drainage

Ensuring sustainable drainage is critical to any city's climate resilience. Led by Department of Infrastructure and working with delivery partners across Belfast, the draft Sustainable Drainage Infrastructure Plan is a critical programme of work, to be delivered in this decade and to ensure Belfast has a network of sustainable drainage systems to meet its existing and future growth.

20 A Zero Emissions city bus fleet by 2030

The transition to zero emissions public transport is a priority for the city. Translink, the city's main public transport provider, has an ambitious target to decarbonise its entire Belfast bus fleet by 2030. In addition, Translink plans to target a 50% reduction in GHG emissions, per passenger km, by 2030. Working in partnership with DFI and a range of regional partners, Translink is exploring opportunities to decarbonise rapidly through use of zero and low emissions vehicles and renewable energy.

Translink will procure and place into service 103 zero emission double deck buses consisting of both Hydrogen Fuel Cell and Battery Electric vehicles by the end of 2022. This programme will deliver clean air, environmentally friendly public transport ultimately being powered by sustainably produced hydrogen and electricity.

21 Delivering Belfast's Net Zero Carbon Roadmap: Buildings

Belfast's 'Mini Stern' - the Net Zero Carbon Roadmap for the city identifies buildings and transport as key emitters of carbon. Targetted intervention in housing, to meet the targets set out in the roadmap is necessary. Housing organisations in the city will explore financial options required to meet the targets by 2030 and 2050 respectively, and set interim milestones to report on progress on a five yearly basis.

22 A Bolder Vision for Belfast

A Bolder Vision for Belfast was collaboratively developed by Belfast City Council, Department for Communities and Department for Infrastructure and provides the blueprint for creating a more attractive, accessible, safe and vibrant city centre that will improve economic, societal, health and environmental wellbeing for all. Underpinned by four Visioning Principles it delivers an ambitious and challenging framework for 13 'What Ifs?', transformational projects identified through stakeholder engagement, data and analysis. It is a high-level Vision, requiring change among all stakeholders and citizens, and is intended to inspire potential solutions to shape a dynamic, sustainable and connected 21st century city.

23 Electric vehicle infrastructure

By 2030, in parallel with the city's ambitions to decarbonise the city's bus fleet, Belfast will have delivered a network of electric vehicles to support transition.

24 Investment in existing NIHE stock

Investment solutions to improve NIHE stock will be critical to the city's resilience. It is important that these solutions are part of a wider city-wide approach to decarbonisation and retrofit of existing stock, as is taking place in other cities, with similar resilience challenges.

25 Developing a Hydrogen Eco System

To accelerate the city's transition to a net zero carbon economy, city partners across energy, waste, housing, water and transport will develop a network of hydrogen powered infrastructure in this decade. This will include hydrogen for transport, for logistics and mobility and for buildings.

26 Belfast Destination Hub - A Low Carbon Exemplar for the City

The Destination Hub will be a landmark signature experience in the heart of our city centre that speaks to the essence of this vibrant place. Supported by the Belfast Region City Deal, this major cultural attraction will invite visitors to explore the many stories of the city and its people through an immersive, multi-gallery experience. The Hub will be a cultural beacon for the city, an anchor for the wider Belfast experience and an area of orientation for visitors into Northern Ireland. Importantly, its design will be a bold demonstrator of intent on Belfast's ambitions to be a net zero emissions, climate-resilient city.

27 Sustainable Tourism

Belfast has joined the GDS (Global Destinations Sustainability) Movement, the world's leading benchmarking and performance improvement programme for tourism destinations.

A partnership between Visit Belfast, and Belfast City Council, the city will take part in the GDS Index for the first time in 2020 in order to inform and accelerate sustainable tourism development and bring a co-ordinated focus to the sustainable tourism agenda across the city region.

This is the beginning of Belfast's commitment to build back better; informing the city's vision for sustainable tourism and the future 10 year action plan for tourism in the city region. The end goal is for Belfast become a more regenerative, flourishing and sustainable place to visit, meet and thrive.

28 Training and skills for an inclusive low-carbon economy

Working with its education partners, Belfast City Council will explore the development of a major programme of training and skills for a generation of professionals to lead our transition to an inclusive low-carbon economy. Inspired by the Canadian Academy for Sustainable Innovation, we will aim to set a target to provide thousands of professionals with the skills, knowledge, and experience to manage our move to a sustainable future by 2050.

29 Innovation and Inclusive Growth Commission

The city's Innovation and Inclusive Growth Commission is a collaboration between Belfast City Council, Belfast Harbour, Ulster University and Queen's University. The Commission was established to develop an integrated, inclusive and long-term growth plan for the city. Its recommendations span a decade long-focus on how to build a job-led transition to an inclusive net zero emissions economy.

30 Fuel Poverty

As we transition to a low carbon economy, we are aiming to make the city more energy efficient and energy self-sufficient. We should therefore agree the eradication of fuel poverty as a city-wide ambition.

CASE STUDY: CONNECTED, NET ZERO-EMISSIONS ECONOMY

Melbourne: Melbourne Urban Forest: bringing a city together to enhance its natural assets

With a rapidly growing population anticipated to reach 8million by 2051, metropolitan Melbourne's urban footprint is both expanding outward and becoming denser shrinking the city's green space, intensifying the urban heat island and contributing to flooding and run off during storms.

Resilient Melbourne in partnership with The Nature Conservancy developed a comprehensive urban forestry strategy: Living Melbourne: Our Metropolitan Urban Forest which seeks to ameliorate the shocks and stresses associated with extreme heat, fire and flooding. With the help of private sector engagement to map canopy cover in the city, the Living Melbourne Strategy set a goal of increasing all sub-regional canopy cover levels by 20-30% by 2050. With this goal set, the Resilient Melbourne team along with Melbourne's 32 councils developed a cohesive roadmap for improving biodiversity and urban forest cover.

Implementation of the urban forest strategy, estimated to cost AUS$570M, is expected to bring economic benefits currently valued at AUS$4.95 billion per year, a figure expected to rise as the canopy cover increases.

Nature is an immensely valuable asset for driving urban resilience. Exposure to nature reduces stress and the incidence of mental illness while also strengthening community bonds by providing spaces to congregate and enjoy physical activities thus also addressing public health and social inequality.

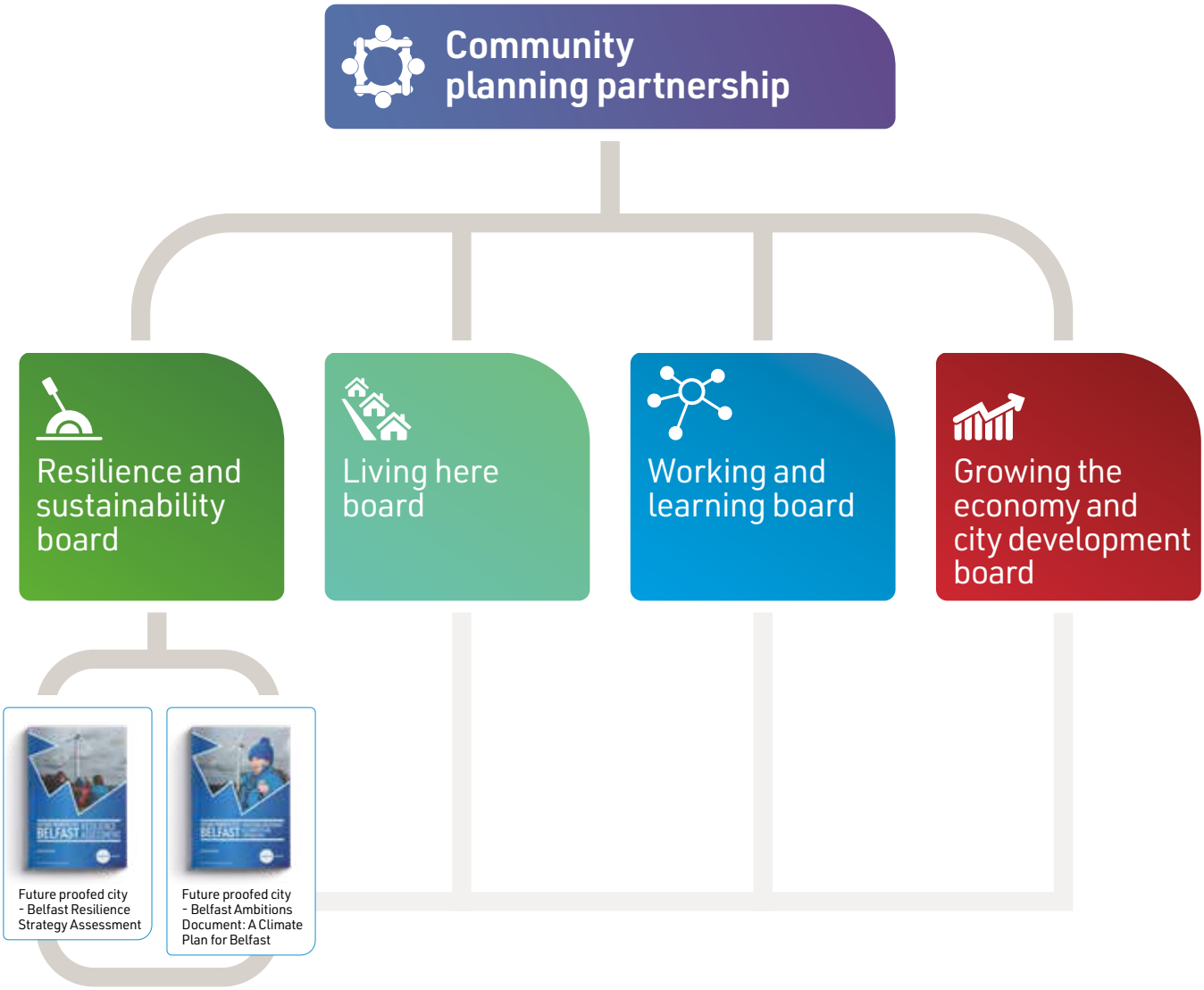
NEXT STEPS

NEXT STEPS

Delivery of our ambitions will be overseen by the Resilience and Sustainability Board, and other Community Planning Partnership Boards, and in doing so will develop relevant delivery and resource plans.

Individual city partners will take responsibility for delivery of key aspects of the strategy's ambitions.

To make contact with the team at Belfast City Council, email resilient@belfastcity.gov.uk



RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY BOARD MEMBERS

action mental health

Belfast City Council

Belfast Harbour

belfast met

Department for Infrastructure
An Roinn Bonneagair
www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Department for the Economy
www.economy-ni.gov.uk

Department of Finance
An Roinn Airgeadais
www.finance-ni.gov.uk

EAST SIDE PARTNERSHIP
INSPIRING BELFAST

GREATER SHANKILL PARTNERSHIP

Housing Executive

HSC Health and Social Care

include YOUTH

Invest Northern Ireland

LINEN QUARTER BID

CIVIL CONTINGENCIES RESILIENCE
Working in partnership to make Northern Ireland Resilient

northern ireland water
Delivering what matters

nicva

Translink

Ulster University

Utility Regulator
ELECTRICITY GAS WATER

visitBelfast

WEST BELFAST PARTNERSHIP
PÁIRTÍOCHT

As part of our commitment to promoting equality of opportunity and good relations, we want to ensure that everyone is able to access the documents we produce. This document is available in different languages and formats and we can provide others on request, please contact: Richard McLernon, Project Coordinator, Commissioner for Resilience on 028 9050 2091.

BCC 1101

With thanks to

RESILIENT CITIES NETWORK

ARUP

USI URBAN SCALE INTERVENTIONS

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Belfast City Council

STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Belfast City Council

Subject:	**Safe City Charter Status**
Date:	19th February, 2021
Reporting Officer:	Ryan Black, Operational Director Neighbourhood Services John Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy
Contact Officer:	Alison Allen, Neighbourhood Manager, City and Neighbourhood Services Christine Sheridan, Head of HR, City and Organisational Strategy

Restricted Reports				
Is this report restricted?	**Yes**		**No**	X
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**	X	**No**	

1.0	**Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**
1.1	At the meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 23rd August 2019, the following Motion on Domestic Violence was passed: "This Council is saddened at the levels of domestic violence in Belfast and recognises that this manifests in many different forms, including emotional and economic abuse. Belfast needs to become a city that has zero tolerance towards domestic violence or abuse – a "Safe City" which is proactive in supporting victims of domestic violence and challenging perpetrators. A Safe City recognises that domestic violence impacts upon many residents, regardless of age, religion, ethnic or cultural background.

	The Council pledges to build on the work already achieved by engaging with relevant partners to support victims of domestic abuse and challenge perpetrators and to update the Belfast City Council Domestic Violence Strategy."
1.2	Onus is a social enterprise organisation offering best practice advice and specialist training on domestic violence and abuse and in January 2020 the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee agreed to work towards the Onus Safe City accreditation. This report outlines action that has been taken by the Council and its partners to support victims of domestic violence and achieve the Onus Safe City status.
2.0	**Recommendation**
2.1	The Committee is asked to note that the Council was awarded Onus Safe City Charter status on 2nd February 2021.
3.0	**Main Report**
	Key Issues
3.1	A Safe Borough / City, is defined by ONUS as a Borough / City that: • promotes zero tolerance to domestic violence or abuse; • recognises that domestic violence or abuse impacts upon many people living or working there, regardless of age, religion, disability, ethnic or cultural background and while the majority of victims are female, domestic violence or abuse can be experienced by men and by people in same sex relationships; and • aims to provide an inclusive means of providing information on the range of organisations available to help anyone affected by domestic violence or abuse.
3.2	At its meeting on 23rd January 2020, the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee agreed to the Council progressing an action plan to attain the Safe Borough / City accreditation. The requirements for a Safe City / Borough accreditation are: 1. the Council has attained Platinum Workplace Charter Status 2. the Council's management and elected representatives have signed and will display the White Ribbon Charter: a personal pledge to never commit, condone or stay silent about domestic violence 3. the Council is demonstrating civic leadership through Safe Place Advocacy

	4. the Council is committed to working in partnership to develop new means of extending Safe Place message 5. the Council is committed to working in partnership with Onus to develop new means of rolling out the various Pathways for Participation to create safer workplaces, churches and communities 6. consideration to be given to how awareness of services for anyone experiencing domestic abuse is prevalent in education, housing and health services **Update on activity to gain Safe City Charter Status.** <u>Platinum Workplace Charter Status</u>
3.3	Continuous review of the Council's Domestic Violence and Abuse in the Workplace policy, development of our Trusted Colleague support framework and the associated communication and training programme are key to Council's annual assessment to retain re-accreditation of the ONUS Workplace Charter (Safe Place) at Platinum level. Following our annual assessment in November 2020, we were successful in retaining our Platinum Workplace Charter Status for another year.
	<u>The White Ribbon Charter</u>
3.4	The White Ribbon Charter is part of the largest male-led Global campaign to end men's violence against women, with a presence in over 60 countries. Within the requirements for Safe City accreditation, is an action that 'Council management and elected members have signed and will display the White Ribbon Charter: a personal pledge to never commit, condone or stay silent about domestic violence'. Annually the White Ribbon Campaign is marked with 16 Days of Action, which run between the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (25th November) until Human Rights Day (10th December). The Council has supported this campaign over a number of years with the display of a White Ribbon on the cobbled area in front of City Hall. The campaign was marked in 2020 in line with Covid restrictions by a socially distanced photograph of the Lord Mayor, the Chief Executive and the Head of HR signing the White Ribbon Charter and an associated internal and external communication campaign to mark the start of the 16 Days of Action.

	Further requirements for a Safe Borough / City
3.5	Council officers, through engagement with ONUS and the Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PSCP), collaborated on the roll out of an extensive programme of Safe Churches training across the city supported and promoted through a range of partners including the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI). Safe Churches is a bespoke pathway that enables churches to recognise and respond to anyone affected by domestic violence or abuse. Once accredited, the churches can offer information on the wide range of support services available to anyone affected by domestic violence or abuse and they possess a range of Safe Place resources to signpost individuals to the appropriate assistance.
3.6	In addition, the Council, through the PCSP, continues to support a range of work linked to the Belfast Area Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse Partnership (BADSVAP), including work to raise awareness of domestic violence and services available for those experiencing domestic violence; such as the series of 'Domestic Violence Raising Awareness Sessions', which took place throughout the latter part of 2020 and early 2021, in each quarter of the city.
3.7	Officers are pleased to advise Members that Belfast has been assessed by ONUS and has met the standard for the criteria at point 3.2 by ONUS. This is a credit to the strong and effective partnership working across all sectors in Belfast.
3.8	Council officers will continue to engage and work with a wide range of partners to build on all the activity cited above, as part of our ongoing commitment to Belfast being recognised as a Safe City and ensure that this accreditation is retained on an annual basis going forward. Plans to communicate and promote the Council's success in attaining this accreditation are currently being developed.
	Financial and Resource Implications
3.9	There are no Financial or Resource implications to the recommendations outlined above.
	Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment
3.10	The work to raise awareness of Domestic Violence and Abuse, and support available, has been progressed through the Women's Steering Group as part of the Council's Gender Action Plan. The revision and development of the Council's Domestic Violence and Abuse

	in the Workplace policy was undertaken with engagement and support from a number of Section 75 groups and supports the Council's wider equality agenda.
4.0	**Documents Attached**
	None

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STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Belfast City Council

Subject:	**Systems Operator NI Consultation on Draft Transmission Development Plan 2020-29 – Council Response**
Date:	19th February 2021
Reporting Officer:	John Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy
Contact Officers:	Richard McLernon, Resilience Project Coordinator Clare McKeown, Sustainable Development Manager

Restricted Reports				
Is this report restricted?	**Yes**		**No**	X
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**	X	**No**	

1.0	**Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues**
1.1	To present to the Committee the BCC officer submission to Systems Operator NI's (SONI) consultation on the draft Transmission Development Plan 2020-29, as set out in Appendix 1.
2.0	**Recommendations**
2.1	The Committee is asked to note the Council's response to the SONI consultation on the draft Transmission Development Plan 2020-29 and endorse the action that further discussions will take place to explore opportunities for collaboration between the Council and SONI Ltd.
3.0	**Main Report**
3.1	The SONI Draft Transmission Plan 2020 – 2029 sets out the future plans for SONI. SONI is the Electricity System Operator for Northern Ireland, its role including the planning and operation of the electricity system, the single electricity wholesale market (all-island) and management of the flows on interconnectors with our neighbours.

3.2	Due to the technical nature of the consultation, an officer response was submitted on 3rd February 2021, which is attached for Members' information. The response highlights the Council's work to develop a Climate Plan, the finalised Belfast Resilience Strategy, ongoing work to develop Electric Vehicle infrastructure, the Local Development Plan, and the role of digital technology and data management.
3.3	The following correspondence has subsequently been received from SONI: "In relation to the *TDPNI* we published our response document to this consultation on our website last week…the TDPNI is currently out for a second consultation by the Utility Regulator until 1st March, and we will include your submission in our response to that consultation; we have issued your response to the Utility Regulator... Further details in relation to the Utility Regulator's consultation are available here: Consultation on SONIs draft 2020-2029 Transmission Development Plan | Utility Regulator (uregni.gov.uk) SONI would be keen to appraise Elected Members of key projects contained in the TDPNI, which are in the Belfast City Council area and is beginning initial key stakeholder briefings on the Belfast Metropolitan Redevelopment Project. SONI is soon to launch a public consultation into the transformations needed in the electricity system to provide a cost-effective, clean and secure electricity supply to consumers in 2030. SONI call this piece of work *'Shaping Our Electricity Future'*. SONI wishes to engage with Belfast City Council in relation to this and consider the feedback from Northern Ireland's councils and members to be a key requirement for the success of this project".
	Financial and Resource Implications
3.4	None associated with this report.
	Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment
3.4	None associated with this report
4.0	**Documents Attached**
	Appendix 1 – BCC response to SONI draft Transmission Development Plan 2020-29 (TDPNI) consultation **Appendix 2** – Draft Transmission Development Plan 2020-29

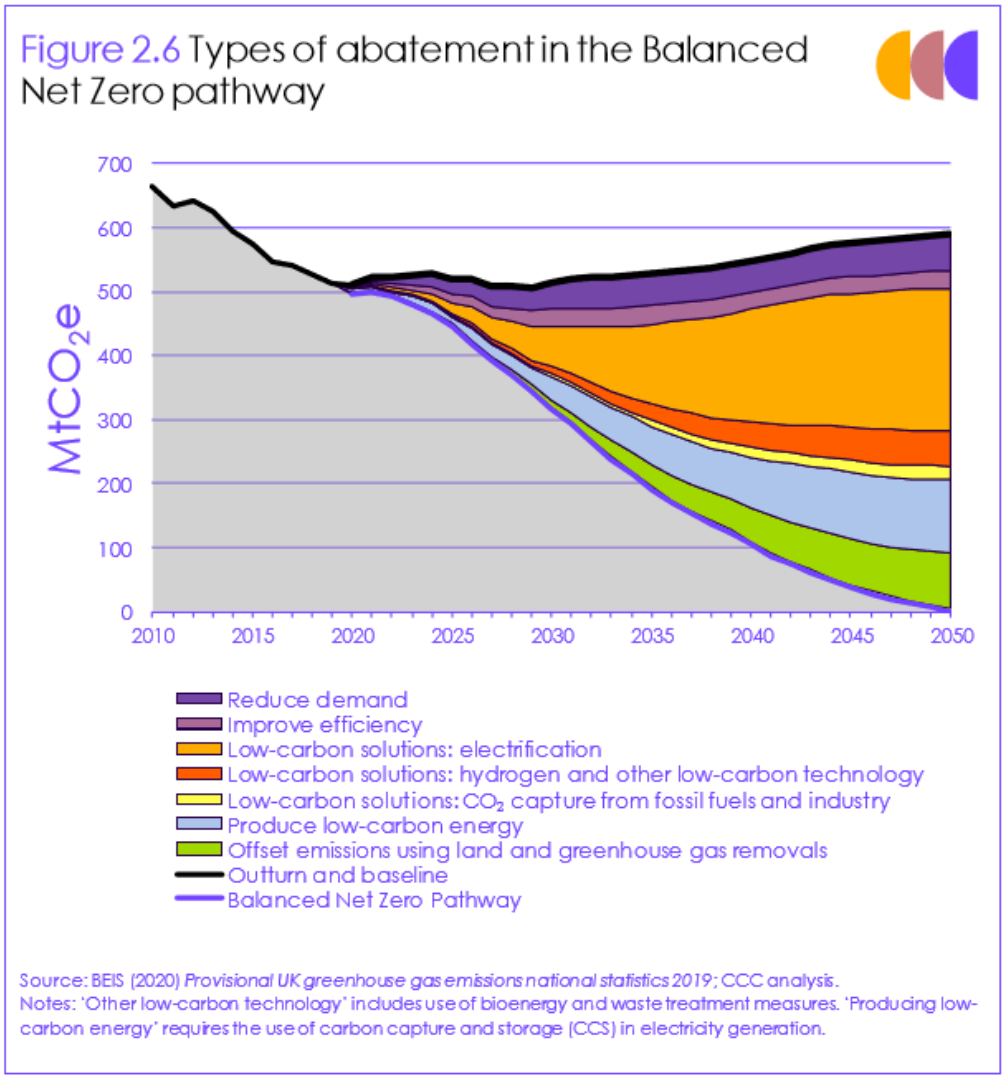
Belfast City Council response to SONI Draft Transmission Development Plan (2020-29) - December 2020.

Belfast City Council welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Draft Transmission Plan from SONI. This Council welcomes SONI's positive and proactive approach in planning ahead to meet the electricity transmission needs in Belfast and the wider region during this decade and beyond given the critical climate change challenge ahead.

Investment in this important infrastructure is key to meeting the governments net zero carbon targets by 2050 and realising the stated ambition of the NI Economy Minister to have at least 70% electricity from renewable sources by 2030. It is also critical for the achievement of the priorities set out in Belfast Agenda, the city's Community Plan, for our wider economic ambitions in this decade, and our goal to transition to an inclusive, climate resilient, zero emissions economy in a generation.

The importance of a smart and efficient grid network is crucial in realising the UK Climate Change Committee pathway goals, as outlined in its 6th Carbon Budget Report. The report highlights the key role that electrification of heating and transport systems will play as key pillars of decarbonisation.

The diagram below from the UK Climate Change Committees 6th Carbon Budget report illustrates the dominant role that electrification will have in future.



This predictable increase in demand for electricity to power clean heating and transport systems from 2020 as illustrated in the graph above, will inevitably place pressure on the existing electricity grid. It is therefore imperative that we have modern, efficient grid which can meet this demand.

Belfast Resilience Strategy

The opportunity to respond comes at an important time as Belfast City Council puts plans in place to address climate adaptation and mitigation issues in the city. In March 2019 Belfast declared a Climate emergency, and in December 2020, Belfast Council and partners in the Resilience and Sustainability Board launched its first City Resilience strategy. The strategy's central goal is to transition Belfast to an inclusive, climate resilient, zero emissions economy in a generation.

The Resilience Strategy examines shocks and stresses which weaken our economy in the long run. The threat from climate change is seen as the biggest single economic and environmental issue to affect the city for a generation. The City must plan a clear pathway for decarbonisation if it is to reduce this threat and benefit from the inevitable economic prosperity of a low carbon transition. Central to the city decarbonisation plan is the work of SONI in the decarbonisation of the grid in Belfast, by providing the capacity to absorb more renewables onto the grid and to manage the system efficiently to provide increase in electricity demand

through the rise in electric vehicle use, heat pumps etc. It is clear that strategic energy planning in cities will become an important economic factor in planning for sustainable city growth as well as a key enabler in reaching the UK Governments net zero carbon emissions target by 2050.

Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure

An efficient and modern grid is particularly important in a city which must provide the capacity to charge a new generation of electric vehicles, if we are to deliver a modal shift away from petrol and diesel vehicles in this decade. The capacity to charge EV's must be available both off- street for those in detached/semi-detached dwellings, and on -street for those living in terraced houses or apartments.

Belfast City Council is currently working with Virgin Media and Liberty Global on a £9.2m Innovate UK funded project, VPACH 2. This project will bring the first generation of commercial, smart, easily accessible EV charging to residential areas in seven UK cities. In the project Virgin Media's existing communications, internet and data management services will be repurposed for EV charging use .The success of the project will partially rely on the capacity of the grid in these areas to provide that electricity, especially during the night.

In this respect we particularly welcome the plan to modernise parts of the grid in the Belfast Metropolitan area, so there is adequate electricity supply. We also welcome the capacity to manage the supply of more renewable energy onto the grid in the city region which is necessary for the long-term sustainable economic growth in the city.

Belfast Mini – Stern Report

In parallel with Resilience Strategy, the Council in partnership with the PCAN (Place Based Climate Action Network) has produced a Mini – Stern report on the economics of decarbonisation in the city. This report, which examines the pathway to decarbonisation dovetails with the SONI objectives in its Corporate Plan and this Draft Transmission Development report. We would welcome further collaboration with SONI as we prepare for subsequent 'Readiness Assessments' on the preparedness of the city to move to cleaner transport technology and address the retrofit of homes to an advanced low carbon standard.

Planning Implications

The Local Development Plan (LDP) for Belfast is currently at the Draft Plan Strategy (dPS) stage and this Council welcomes that SONI broadly supports the LDP's policy approach with regard to essential electricity infrastructure that will support sustainable economic growth within the city. Similarly, from an LDP perspective it can be seen how the strategic objectives and the associated investment drivers set out in the draft TDP will help facilitate the delivery of the LDP's vision, aims and objectives whilst the policies set out in the dPS seek to support the development of sustainable electricity infrastructure and renewable energy development. The LDP team looks forward to building on the early, positive engagement with SONI as we progress towards the development of the Local Policies Plan.
Generally, this necessary electricity transmission infrastructure is very much to be welcomed to support the ongoing growth of this region, but strong environmental safeguards, including Planning, do need to be in place and respected at all stages of the decision-making processes. We welcome the detail given in the report on adherence to relevant environmental regulations e.g SEA, Habitats directive etc.

The role of digital technology and data management

Although there is little reference to the role of data management and digital analytics within the report, we assume that these techniques are used extensively to predict electricity demand and supply. Given the role of ‘big data’ in determining accurate electricity demand and supply the BCC City Innovation team would be keen to share their experience of working with the Citizen Office of Data Analytics, a Belfast City Region Deal programme, which may offer opportunities for collaboration.

Furthermore, we would welcome the opportunity to further discuss our work to develop a Smart District, which aims to identify opportunities to innovate using a regulatory sandbox. It is our intention that this work will accelerate the city’s transition to a zero emissions economy.

There are a range of opportunities for collaboration across both our organisations. I trust this response will lead to further discussions to find opportunity for partnership.

DRAFT Transmission Development Plan Northern Ireland 2020-2029

Disclaimer

While all reasonable care has been taken to prepare this document, we can make no guarantee to the quality, accuracy and completeness of the information herein. We do not accept responsibility for any loss associated with the use of this information. Use of this document and the information it contains is at the user's own risk.

Information in this document does not amount to a recommendation as regards to any possible investment. Before taking a business decision based on the content of this document, we advise that interested parties seek separate and independent opinion in relation to the matters covered by this document.

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DOCUMENT STRUCTURE

The structure of the document is as follows:

The **Abbreviations and Glossary of Terms** provides a glossary of terms used in the document.

The **Executive Summary** gives an overview of the main highlights of the document and presents the plan in summary terms.

Section 1: Introduction: our statutory and legal obligations are introduced. The purpose and context of the Transmission Development Plan Northern Ireland (TDPNI) is outlined.

Section 2: Strategy for Developing the Grid: describes the overall strategy followed when developing the grid and the key strategic considerations when identifying reinforcements.

Section 3: General Approach to Developing the Grid: describes our approach to the network planning process and how we plan the development of the transmission network.

Section 4: Implementation: describes how the strategy for developing the grid will be implemented. This section is based on policies and objectives derived from Section 3.

Section 5: Investment Needs: the drivers of network development are introduced and discussed, as are the needs of the network which result from these drivers. The needs are identified through the application of the transmission development approach discussed in Section 2.

Section 6: Planned Network Developments: summarises the development projects that are currently in progress. These are the transmission projects which solve the network needs identified and discussed in Section 3.

Section 7: Project Description: summarises and categorises the development projects that are currently in progress by location.

Section 8: Summary of Environmental Appraisal Report: summarises the mitigation measures from the Environmental Appraisal Report of the TDPNI 2020-2029.

Appendix A: Project Terms

Appendix B: Planned Network Developments

Appendix C: Northern Ireland Projects in European Plans

Appendix E: References

ABBREVIATIONS and GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Abbreviations

AA	Appropriate Assessment
DSO	Distribution System Operator
EAR	Environmental Appraisal Report
EC	European Commission
ECD	Estimated Completion Date
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
ENTSO-E	European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity
ER	Environmental Report
EU	European Union
GCS	Generation Capacity Statement
GIS	Gas Insulated Switchgear
GW	Gigawatt
HV	High Voltage
HVDC	High Voltage Direct Current
MW	Megawatt
NIE Networks	Northern Ireland Electricity Networks
NIS	Natura Impact Statement

PA	Project Agreement
RegIP	Regional Investment Plan
RES	Renewable Energy Sources
RGNS	Regional Group North Sea
RIDP	Renewable Integration Development Project
SAC	Special Area of Conservation
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SONI	System Operator Northern Ireland
SPA	Special Protection Areas
TAO	Transmission Asset Owner
TDP	Transmission Development Plan
TSO	Transmission System Operator
TSSPS	Transmission System Security and Planning Standards
TYNDP	Ten-Year Network Development Plan
TYTFS	Ten Year Transmission Forecast Statement
Utility Regulator	Utility Regulator for Northern Ireland

Glossary of Terms

Bay	A bay is a connection point to a busbar, and comprises switchgear and measurement equipment.
Busbar	An electrical conductor located in a station that makes a common connection between several circuits.
Capacitor	An item of plant normally used on the electrical network to supply reactive power to loads (generally locally) and thereby support the local area voltage.
Circuit	A line or cable, including associated switchgear, which carries electrical power.
Circuit Breaker	A device used to open a circuit that is carrying electrical current.
Constraint	A change in the output of generators from the market schedule due to transmission network limitations – specifically the overloading of transmission lines, cables and transformers.
Contingency	An unexpected failure or outage of a network component, such as a generation unit, transmission line, transformer or other electrical element.
Coupler	This is a device which can be used to either connect or disconnect sections of busbars. A coupler increases security of supply and flexibility under both fault and maintenance conditions. A coupler can also be known as a Sectionalising Circuit Breaker.

Deep Reinforcement	Refers to network reinforcement additional to the shallow connection that is required to allow a new generator or demand to operate at maximum export or import capacity respectively.
Demand	The amount of electrical power that is consumed by a customer and is measured in Megawatts (MW). In a general sense, the amount of power that must be transported from transmission network connected generation stations to meet all customers' electricity requirements.
Demand-Side Management	The modification of normal demand patterns usually through the use of financial incentives.
Deterministic	The deterministic methodology is often referred to as the N-1 criterion. This means that the system must have sufficient capacity so that in the eventuality of a probable system outage, there are no resulting system problems such as overloading, under-voltage, over-voltage or instability.
Distribution System Operator (DSO)	In the electrical power business, a distribution system operator is the licensed entity responsible for: • operating and ensuring the maintenance and development of the distribution system in a given area (and its interconnections), if necessary and where applicable; and • ensuring the long term ability of the system to

	meet reasonable demands for electrical power. The DSO in Northern Ireland is Northern Ireland Electricity Networks (NIE Networks). NIE Networks is also the asset owner of the Northern Ireland distribution system.
EirGrid	The independent statutory electricity Transmission System Operator in Ireland.
Embedded Generation	Refers to generation that is connected to the distribution network or at a customer's site.
Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS)	A compact form of switchgear where the conductors and circuit breakers are insulated by an inert gas (that is, SF_6).
Generation Dispatch	The configuration of outputs from the connected generation units.
Grid	A network of high voltage lines and cables (275 kV and 110 kV, and in future 400 kV) used to transmit bulk electricity supplies around Northern Ireland. The terms grid, electricity transmission network, and transmission system are used interchangeably in this Development Plan.
Interconnector	The electrical link, facilities and equipment that connect the transmission network of one EU member state to another.

Network Development Driver	A factor, based on national and European energy policy objectives, that influences or "drives" the investment in the transmission network.
Network Development Need	A deficiency or problem on the network which arises as a result of one or a number of network development drivers. Network reinforcement is required to solve a network development need.
Power Flow	The physical flow of electrical power. It is typically measured in Megavolt-Amperes (MVA) which is the product of both 'active' and 'reactive' electrical power. The flow of 'active' power is measured in Megawatts (MW); the flow of 'reactive power' is measured in Megavars (Mvar).
Phase Shifting Transformer (PST)	A type of plant employed on the electrical network to control the flow of active power.
Reactive Compensation	The process of supplying reactive power to the network to compensate for reactive power usage at a point in time.
Reactive Power	Reactive power is that portion of electricity that establishes and sustains the electric and magnetic fields of alternating current equipment. Reactive power is measured in Megavars (Mvar).

Reactor	An item of plant comprising a coil of electrical wire. Depending on its installation and configuration, it is typically employed on the electrical network to either: • limit short circuit levels; or • prevent voltage rise.
Shallow Connection	Shallow Connection means the local connection assets required to connect a customer, or customers, to the transmission network. These types of connections are typically for the specific benefit of that particular customer or group of customers.
SONI	The independent statutory electricity Transmission System Operator in Northern Ireland.
Summer Valley	The annual minimum electrical demand that usually occurs in August. Annual minimum demand is typically 30 % of the winter peak.
Summer Peak	The week-day peak electrical demand value between March and September, inclusive, which is typically 79 % of the winter peak.
Switchgear	A combination of electrical equipment such as disconnects and/or circuit breakers used to isolate equipment in or near an electrical station.
Transformer	An item of electrical equipment that allows electrical power to flow between typically two different voltage levels in an alternating current (AC) power system.

Transmission Losses	A small proportion of energy is lost as heat or light whilst transporting electricity on the transmission network. These losses are known as transmission losses.
Transmission Peak	The peak demand that is transported on the transmission network. The transmission peak includes an estimate of transmission losses.
Transmission System Security and Planning Standards (TSSPS)	The set of standards that the transmission system is designed to meet. The criteria are deterministic as is the norm throughout the world. They set out objective standards which have been found to deliver an acceptable compromise between the cost of development and the transmission service provided.
Transmission Asset Owner (TAO)	In the electrical power business, a transmission asset owner is the entity which owns all of the assets associated with the transmission system, including substations, cables, overhead lines and associated structures. The TAO is responsible for the condition of transmission assets and thus all asset replacement projects. The TAO in Northern Ireland is Northern Ireland Electricity Networks.
Transmission System Operator (TSO)	A transmission system operator is the licensed entity that is responsible for: • operating and ensuring the maintenance and development of the transmission system in a given area (and its interconnections), if necessary and

where applicable; and

- ensuring the long term ability of the system to transmit electrical power from generation plants to transmission connected demand and regional or local electricity distribution operators.

SONI is the TSO for Northern Ireland.

Uprate To increase the capacity or rating of electrical equipment.

Winter Peak This is the maximum annual system demand. It occurs in the period October to February of the following year, inclusive. Thus, for transmission planning purposes the reference to winter 18 covers the period from October 2018 to February 2019. The winter peak figures take account of the impact of projected Demand-Side Management initiatives.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

SONI is the Electricity System Operator for Northern Ireland, we plan and operate the electricity system, the single electricity wholesale market (all-island) and manage the flows on interconnectors with our neighbours.

We ensure that electricity is always available when and where it's needed, every second of every day and for decades to come. We do this in the most cost-effective way possible and in the interests of all electricity users across Northern Ireland. We do so to meet the needs of all consumers, rather than pursue our own commercial interests.

SONI is an independent entity, with no vested interest in the generation or selling of electricity. We don't own the grid infrastructure and have no self interest in adding to it. We work every day with Northern Ireland Electricity Networks who build, own and maintain the grid transmission assets.

SONI is regulated by the Utility Regulator for Northern Ireland who determines our funding.

We play a key role in Northern Ireland's economic development, delivering a safe, secure and efficient electricity supply; which is important for Northern Ireland business and for foreign direct investment. In order to ensure Northern Ireland continues to have a reliable and high quality power supply SONI must continue to upgrade and improve the Northern Ireland transmission grid.

Our New Purpose

SONI's work is not limited to supporting economic benefit for Northern Ireland. The environment and our society are at the heart of what we do and as such, we are committed to delivering a clean energy system as a direct response to the climate crisis.

By strengthening the electricity grid, by connecting green energy projects and through our world leading innovation in managing electricity from renewable schemes, we have made a significant contribution to Northern Ireland meeting its 2020 renewable electricity targets a year in advance of the timeline.

To build on this momentum we need a strong, resilient and flexible transmission grid. By having this we can help deliver the Economy Minister's ambition of at least 70% electricity from renewables by 2030.

Our new corporate strategy outlines our commitment to transforming the power system for future generations[1].

SONI has a unique role to play in making the grid ready for Northern Ireland's low carbon future. This document, The Transmission Development Plan Northern Ireland (TDPNI) 2020-2029 is the blueprint for the development of the transmission network and interconnection over the next ten years.

[1] www.soni.ltd.uk/strategy2025

This ten-year plan presents projects that are expected to meet the operational needs of the transmission network. In addition, future needs that may drive future potential projects are also discussed.

This report has been prepared in accordance with Article 22 of European Directive 72/2009 and Conditions 18 and 40 of the SONI Transmission System Operator Licence.

We welcome your views and encourage your participation in our consultation which runs from 10 November 2020 to 11 December 2020. For more information on how you can give us your feedback please visit www.soni.ltd.uk/the-grid/projects/tdpni/the-project/

Drivers of Transmission Network Development

The development of the Northern Ireland electricity sector is guided by a number of national and European Union (EU) rules and strategic objectives. These objectives guide investment in the Northern Ireland transmission network and are summarised as follows:

- Ensuring the security of electricity supply;
- Ensuring the competitiveness of the economy; and
- Ensuring the long-term sustainability of electricity supply.

In order to achieve these strategic objectives, we must invest in the development and maintenance of the electricity transmission network. Drivers of investment include:

- Securing transmission network supplies;
- Promoting market integration; and

- Facilitating the economic and efficient integration of Renewable Energy Sources (RES) and complementary thermal generation.

As demand or generation changes, or as the transmission network becomes more interconnected with neighbouring transmission networks[2], the flow of electrical energy throughout the transmission network changes. To accommodate these changes in power flows it is often necessary to modify or strengthen the transmission network to ensure performance and reliability levels are upheld. SONI and NIE Networks are obliged to develop an economic, efficient and coordinated transmission system.[3]

In addition, the condition of transmission network assets is a factor. The timely maintenance or replacement of assets is required to provide the necessary level of security of supply. This is the responsibility of NIE Networks.

Reinforcement drivers and needs can be separated into a number of categories:

- Reinforcements required to support changes in, or connection of new generation;
- Reinforcements related to interconnection;
- Reinforcements to facilitate inter-regional power flows
- Investments to address the condition of existing assets; and
- Reinforcements required to support changes in, or connection of new demand

SONI are currently changing the way we develop the grid through the production of 'Tomorrow's Energy Scenarios Northern Ireland' (TESNI)[4], a new approach which

[2] The European electric power transmission networks are interconnected, so as to be able to transmit energy from one country to the other.

[3] The Electricity (Northern Ireland) Order 1992, Article 12

[4] http://www.soni.ltd.uk/newsroom/press-releases/tesni-2020/index.xml

involves developing a range of possible energy scenarios dealing with renewables and the electrification of heat and transport.

In the process of developing the range of energy scenarios, key policy makers, industry experts, and stakeholders are asked how they see the energy landscape changing over time. The final scenarios are published and reviewed every two years. These scenarios will act as an input to our grid development process, aid in the identification of system needs and the practicality and merit of different solutions. The first TESNI was published in 2020 and can be seen on the SONI website[4].

Transmission Network Reinforcements

This development plan considers the 79 projects that are planned. Of this, 43 are NIE Networks asset replacement projects, and 36 are network development projects. Since the TDPNI 2019-2028:

- 1 project has been initiated;
- 2 projects have been cancelled; and
- 4 projects have been reviewed and consolidated into 2 projects.

Details of these projects can be seen in Section 1.7.

The network development projects are shown by region and project category in Table E-1 below.

Table E-1: Summary of Number of Network Development Projects in Progress by Region and Project Category

Network Development Projects by Planning Area				
Project Category	**North and West**	**South-East**	**Projects in Both Areas**	**TOTAL**
New Build	10	6	0	16
Uprate/ Modify	7	7	4	18
Refurbish/ Replace	0	0	0	0
Combination	0	2	0	2
TOTAL	17	15	4	36

As well as the project categories detailed in Table E-1, Appendix B highlights the drivers and needs of each project. Changes to projects including costs are described in Section 7.

Capital Expenditure

SONI's expenditure on transmission development projects due for completion over the period 2020 – 2029 is estimated at £37.3 million, of which £9.9 million has been spent already. This figure is the amount required to bring projects to the point of handover to NIE Networks. The projects are subject to SONI's governance procedures. Estimated TAO costs associated with these projects are £497.2 million. The Utility Regulator will determine the amount that can eventually be recovered from customer and generator tariffs for these projects.

The Utility Regulator has already approved expenditure for asset replacement of £43.3 million for NIE Networks for the period 2017-2024[5]. There are three further asset replacement projects sitting outside this mechanism with indicative costs estimated at £73.4 million[6]. Asset replacement projects currently planned after RP6 are estimated to cost £59.7 million, subject to the Utility Regulator's determination of next NIE Networks price control (RP7). Total estimated asset replacement costs over the ten years covered by this plan are approximately £215 million.

The total estimated cost of all projects described in the TDPNI 2020-2029 is £750 million.

Data Management

Transmission network development is ever-evolving. To allow for comparison of network development projects on a year-on-year basis, data is represented at a fixed point in time – the data freeze date. The data freeze date of TDPNI 2020 is 1 July 2020.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

The TDPNI 2018-2028 was subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment[7] (SEA) and Appropriate Assessment[8] (AA) (see section 3.5.3). An Environmental Appraisal Report (EAR) was carried out on TDPNI 2020-2029 to assess the

[5] See the NIE Networks RP6 final determination: https://www.uregni.gov.uk/nie-networks-rp6. Please note that the costs reported in the RP6 final determination are from 2015-16 and have been adjusted for inflation in this TDPNI for 2020.

[6] Coolkeeragh – Magherafelt 275 kV refurbishment, Ballylumford – Eden 110 kV Refurbishment and Ballylumford 110 kV switchboard replacement

[7] EU Directive (2001/42/EC) Strategic Environmental Assessment is a requirement for certain plans and programmes.

[8] EU Habitats Directive: Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21st May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora

Plan against the adopted SEA statement. This EAR accompanies the TDPNI and the main findings have influenced and are incorporated into the Plan.

1 INTRODUCTION

The Northern Ireland transmission system is a network of 275 kV and 110 kV (and in future 400 kV) high voltage lines and cables. It is the backbone of the power system; efficiently delivering large amounts of power from where it is generated to where it is needed, safely and reliably.

Electricity supply is essential to everyday life and to the local economy, and a reliable electricity network is the means by which we move electricity around Northern Ireland. The development of transmission network infrastructure is, therefore, of strategic importance.

This TDPNI outlines the:

- Drivers of network development;
- Network investment needs; and
- Projects required to address these needs.

1.1 Statutory and Legal Requirements

Regulations that are relevant to planning the transmission network include:

1.1.1 Statutory and Licence Requirements

- The Electricity Order (Northern Ireland) 1992:
  - Article 12.
- The Electricity Safety, Quality and Continuity Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012.
- The Construction (Design and Management) Regulations (NI) 2016.
- SONI's TSO Licence:
  - Condition 18 – Transmission Interface Arrangements

- Condition 20 – Operation of the Transmission System and the System Security and Planning Standards
- Condition 40 – Transmission Development Plan NI

- NIE Networks Transmission Licence:
  - Condition 19 – Developing and Maintaining the Transmission System

1.1.2 European Statutory Requirements

- Regulation (EC) No 714/ 2009 on conditions for access to the network for cross-border exchanges in electricity:
  - Article 4; Article 8 paragraph 3(b); Article 12.
- Directive 2009/ 72/ EC concerning common rules for the internal market in electricity:
  - Paragraphs 1 and 4 of Article 22.
- Directive 2009/ 28/ EC on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources:
  - Paragraph 2 of Article 16.
- Directive 2012/ 27/ EC on energy efficiency:
  - Paragraph 5 of Article 15.

SONI is responsible for the planning and operation of the transmission network within Northern Ireland. We have a licence obligation to produce both a TDPNI annually and to contribute to a European Ten-Year Network Development Plan (TYNDP) every two years.

NIE Networks is responsible for the development and maintenance of the transmission system[9], including asset replacement projects, in accordance with the

[9] NIE Networks Transmission Licence, Condition 19. Available here: https://www.uregni.gov.uk/sites/uregni/files/media-files/NIE%20Transmission%20Licence%20effective%202%20October%202017.pdf

Transmission Interface Arrangements (TIA)[10]. SONI reviews all asset replacement proposals and these are incorporated in this Plan.

1.2 Context of the Plan

This TDPNI covers a period of ten years which, as well as being a statutory requirement under our licence, is in line with the European Network of Transmission System Operators for Electricity's (ENTSO-E) TYNDP. As part of the preparation of the TDPNI, we consult with EirGrid as TSO in Ireland and with NIE Networks in compliance with the licence condition. SONI is obliged to undertake a public consultation on the draft TDPNI. Following feedback received from the public consultation we update the TDPNI, as required, and provide a report to the Utility Regulator on feedback received. We prepare the final version of the TDPNI and submit it to the Utility Regulator for approval. A public consultation on the TDPNI is held by the Utility Regulator for Northern Ireland before approval[11].

This TDPNI, TDPNI 2020-2029, has been assessed against the adopted SEA statement through the accompanying Environmental Appraisal Report (EARA Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) was undertaken on TDPNI 2018-2027 under the provisions of the European Communities Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (SEA Directive) as transposed through the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004 (S.R. 280/2004). A Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) was also prepared (Council Directive 92/43/EEC,

[10] These are described in section 3.3

[11] Directive 2009/28/EC, Article 22, Paragraph 4: *"The regulatory authority shall consult all actual or potential system users on the ten-year network development plan in an open and transparent manner. Persons or undertakings claiming to be potential system users may be required to substantiate such claims. The regulatory authority shall publish the result of the consultation process, in particular possible needs for investments."*

and Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995). The SEA aims to provide a high level of protection for the environment and to promote sustainable development. The SEA and HRA are anticipated to be valid for five years.

The Transmission Asset Owner (TAO), NIE Networks, is responsible for the detailed design and construction of projects. NIE Networks is also responsible for delivering asset replacement projects.

The development of the transmission network involves forecasting future needs. Solutions chosen to address these needs must maintain security and quality of supply within standards, while balancing costs and environmental impacts. The process is flexible to enable the long-term development of the network, and derogations against standards can be obtained in exceptional circumstances.

Considerations that shape the medium and long-term development of the transmission network are outlined below.

1.2.1 All-Island and European Context

Our TSO licence obliges us to carry out transmission planning on a coordinated all-island basis in conjunction with EirGrid. This requirement is met by the System Operator Agreement in place between SONI and EirGrid. Together we now publish All-Island Generation Capacity and Ten Year Transmission Forecast Statements. The aim of coordinated planning is to ensure, as far as possible, that projects developed, particularly in border areas, will benefit the entire island.

European legislation requires all European TSOs to cooperate through ENTSO-E. ENTSO-E has six regional groups that co-ordinate network planning and development at regional level. We are members of the Regional Group North Sea (RGNS), which also includes EirGrid and the TSOs of Belgium, Denmark, France,

Germany, Great Britain, Luxembourg, Netherlands and Norway. One of the duties of RGNS is to produce a Regional Investment Plan (RegIP) every two years. This RegIP together with the other five RegIPs feed into ENTSO-E's Ten Year Network Development Plan (TYNDP).

Projects of pan-European and regional significance[12] are identified in the TDPNI using the following labels: "TYNDP/ TYNDP_Project_No" or "RegIP/ RegIP_Project_No". The most recent final versions of TYNDP[13] and RGNS RegIP[14] were issued in 2018 and 2017 respectively. Northern Ireland projects in European plans are listed in Appendix C.

1.2.2 United Kingdom's Departure from the European Union

The departure of the United Kingdom from the European Union in January 2020 has presented uncertainties for the single electricity market on the island of Ireland.

Regardless of the UK leaving the EU, there will always be many shared benefits of working closely with our nearest neighbours. We aim to maintain a strong relationship between Northern Ireland, Great Britain and Ireland on energy matters. This TDPNI is based on the most up-to-date information available at the freeze date of 01 July 2020. Future TDPNIs will reflect any change in Northern Ireland's relationship with the EU.

1.3 Period Covered by the TDPNI 2020-2029

TDPNI 2020-2029 presents our view of future transmission needs and our plan to develop the network through specific projects to meet these needs over the next

[12] Please see Appendix C for information on what qualifies a project to be of pan-European significance.

[13] TYNDP 2018 can be found here: https://tyndp.entsoe.eu/tyndp2018/

[14] https://docstore.entsoe.eu/Documents/TYNDP%20documents/TYNDP2018/rgip_NS_Full.pdf

ten years. It also includes NIE Networks' view of asset replacement needs on the transmission system, including those provided for through its price control.

It is possible that changes will occur in the need for, scope of, and timing of the listed developments. Similarly, it is likely, given the continuously changing nature of electricity requirements, that new developments will emerge that could impact the plan as presented. These changes will be identified in future studies and accommodated in future TDPNIs. As such, the long-term development of the network is under review on an on-going basis, and at least every year.

This TDPNI presents the projects which are currently being advanced to solve the needs of the transmission network. In addition, future needs that drive future potential projects are also discussed.

1.4 Data Management

Transmission network development is continuously evolving. To help the comparison of network development projects year-on-year, and in the interest of routine reporting, data is represented at a fixed point in time – the data freeze date.

The TDPNI summarises transmission projects applicable as at the data freeze date, 1 July 2020. Future TDPNIs will highlight the changes that have happened since the previous plan.

1.5 Planning Area Categorisation

Power flows on the transmission network are not contained within specific localities. Therefore, from a transmission planning viewpoint, it is more appropriate to represent planning areas that best reflect the conditions and power flows on the transmission network. For this purpose we refer to two planning areas in Northern Ireland:

- The North and West; and
- The South-East.

The regions and planning areas that best reflect the conditions and power flows on the transmission network are illustrated in Figure 1-1 below.

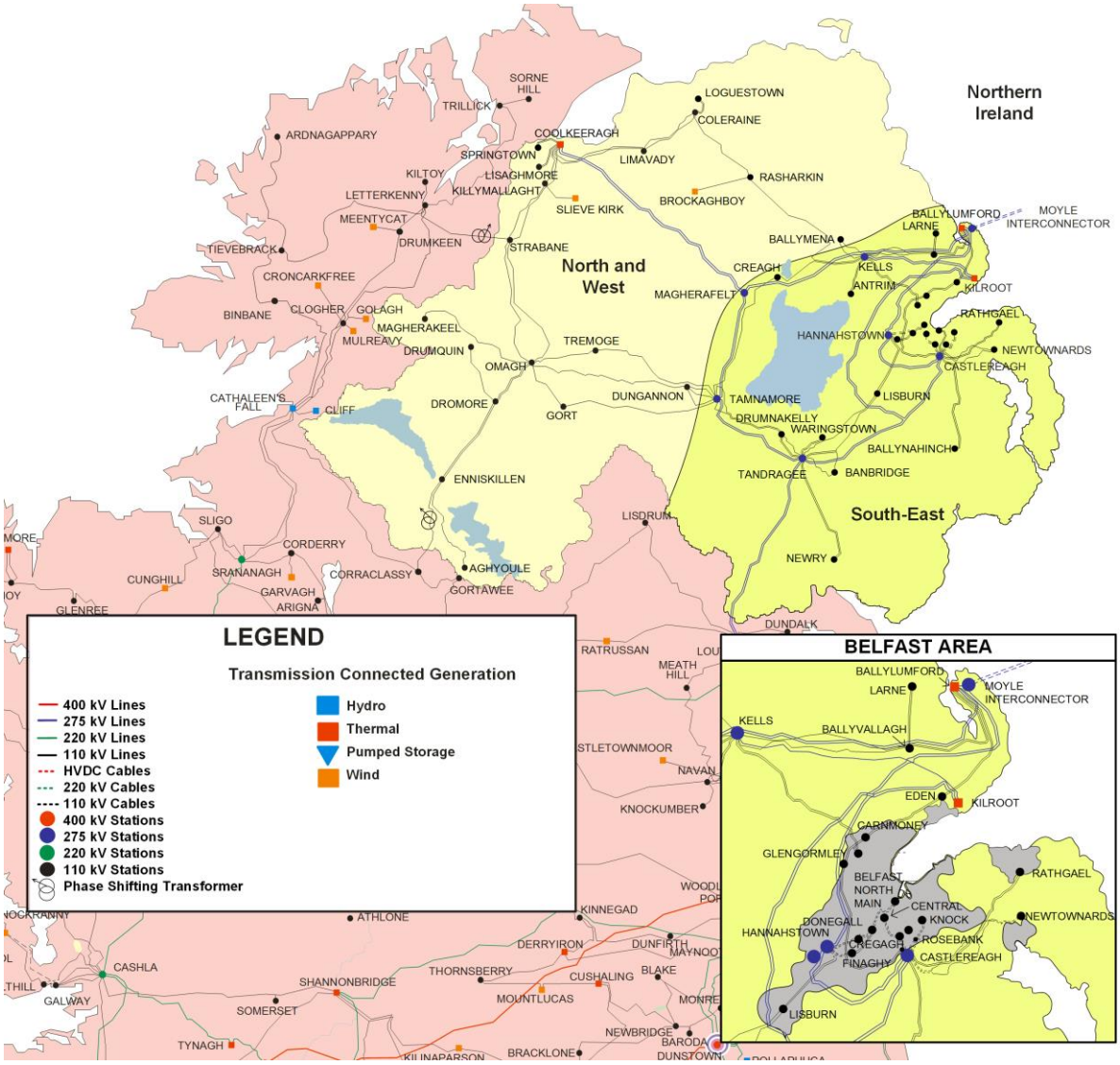

Figure 1-1 Illustration of the Northern Ireland planning areas

1.6 The TDPNI and Other EirGrid Group Publications

SONI and EirGrid are responsible for the publication of a number of statutory documents under their respective TSO licences. Two of these documents (the Generation Capacity Statement and the Ten Year Transmission Forecast Statement) are published on an all-island basis by both TSOs.

The other statutory documents published by both SONI and EirGrid are detailed below. Figure 1-2 shows the relationships between the statutory documents published by SONI.

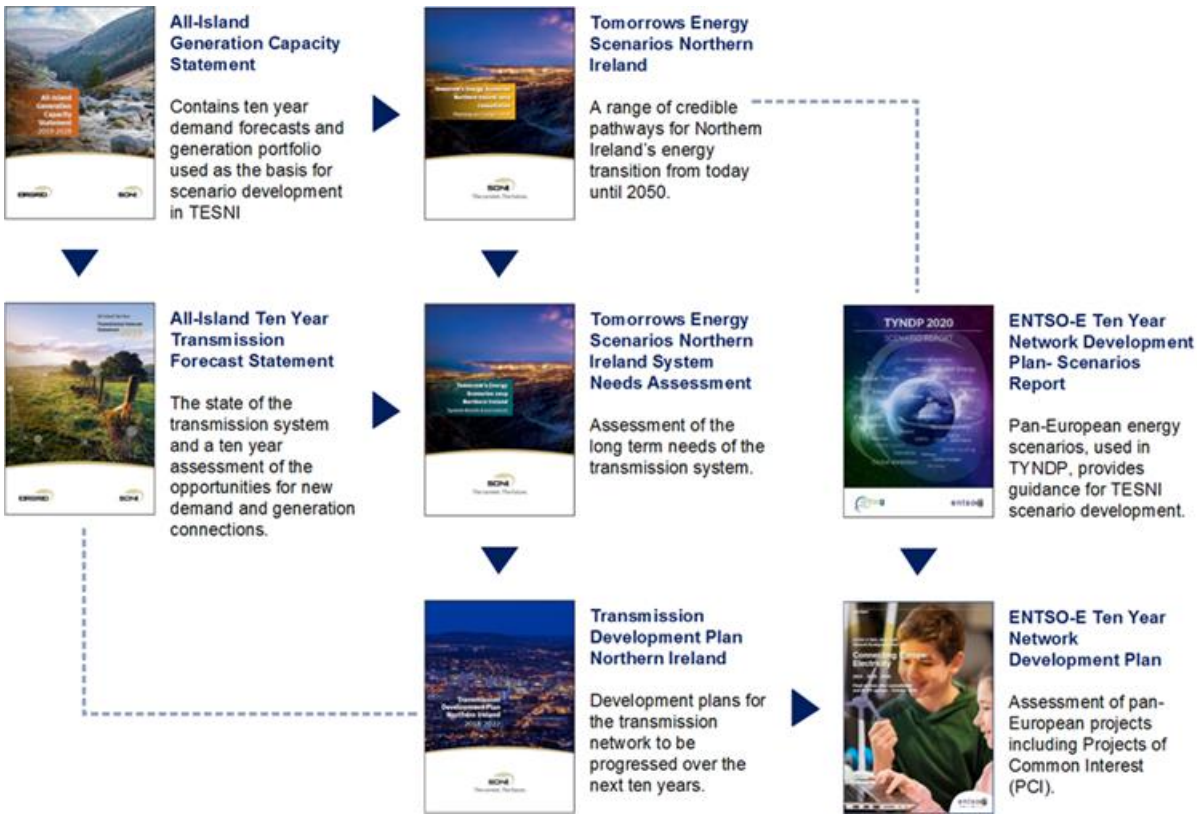

Figure 1-2 The TDPNI in context with other SONI publications

1.6.1 Generation Capacity Statement

The Generation Capacity Statement (GCS) is published annually by SONI and EirGrid. The GCS provides:

- A ten year forecast of electricity demand in Northern Ireland and Ireland;

- Contracted changes to conventional generation;
- Forecasted changes to renewable generation; and
- A ten-year forecast of the generation capacity required to meet demand.

The most recent version of the GCS is Generation Capacity Statement 2020-2029 and is available from the SONI website[15].

1.6.2 Ten Year Transmission Forecast Statement

The Ten Year Transmission Forecast Statement (TYTFS) is published annually by SONI and EirGrid. The TYTFS provides:

- Network models and data of the all-island transmission system;
- Forecast generation capacity and demand growth (taken from the GCS);
- Maximum and minimum fault levels at transmission system stations;
- Predicted transmission system power flows at different points in time; and
- Demand and generation opportunities on the transmission system.

The most recent version of the TYTFS is Ten Year Transmission Forecast Statement 2019 and is available from the SONI website[16].

1.6.3 Transmission Development Plan (Ireland)

The Transmission Development Plan (TDP) for Ireland is published annually by EirGrid. It is the equivalent document to the TDPNI for Ireland and is the plan for the development of the Irish transmission network and interconnection. It covers a ten year period. The TDP presents projects that are needed for the secure

[15] http://www.soni.ltd.uk/media/documents/All-Island-Generation-Capacity-Statement-2020-2029.pdf

[16] http://www.soni.ltd.uk/media/documents/All-Island-Ten-Year-Transmission-Forecast-Statement-2019.pdf

operation of the Irish transmission network. EirGrid and SONI work to co-ordinate the two plans.

The most recent version of the TDP (Ireland) is TDP 2019-2028 and is available from the EirGrid website[17].

1.6.4 Tomorrow's Energy Scenarios Northern Ireland

Tomorrow's Energy Scenarios Northern Ireland (TESNI) was published for the first time in 2020. TESNI considers a range of possible ways that energy usage in Northern Ireland may change into the future. For TESNI 2020 SONI consulted on three credible pathways for the transformation of the power system. Two of these scenarios see Northern Ireland delivering its contribution to the UK's 2050 net-zero emissions target. These scenarios will be used to inform power system studies out to 2040 and will form a key input to future versions of the TDPNI.

Information on TESNI is available from the SONI website[18].

1.6.5 Associated Transmission Reinforcements

Associated Transmission Reinforcements (ATRs) refer to new or upgraded transmission infrastructure. They are associated with a generation project and must be complete to release a generation project's Firm Access Quantity (FAQ) allocation. To achieve firm access up to its Maximum Export Capacity (MEC) value in the Single Electricity Market, the generation project must be connected via its permanent connection as well as its ATRs being complete. Planned ATRs are captured within this TDPNI.

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[17] http://www.eirgridgroup.com/site-files/library/EirGrid/TDP-2019-2028-Final-For-Publication.pdf

[18] http://www.soni.ltd.uk/customer-and-industry/energy-future/

SONI publishes ATR status reports on its website so that generators can track the status of the ATRs associated with their generation project(s). Where the scheduled FAQ date for a generation project changes as a result of a change to the scheduled completion date or the completion of an ATR for that generation project, the customer is notified in writing and the website is updated.

1.7 Changes Since TDPNI 2019-2028

Since the production of TDPNI 2019-2028, a number of SONI projects have had their status or scope changed:

Table 1-1 Project changes since TDPNI 2019-2028

Project	Status
Coolkeeragh – Killymallaght 110 kV Uprate	Combined into 'Coolkeeragh – Killymallaght-Strabane 110 kV Uprate project
Killymallaght – Strabane 110 kV Uprate	
Limavady Transformer Replacement	New project
Carnmoney – Castlereagh 110 kV Circuit Uprate/Reconfiguration	Scope changed; now 'Castlereagh – Hannahstown 110 kV Reinforcement' as part of the *Belfast Metropolitan Redevelopment Project*
Belfast Power Station Connection	Connection offer expired, project cancelled
Castlereagh 275 kV New no. 4 Inter-Bus Transformer	Now part of 'Castlereagh – Hannahstown 110 kV Reinforcement' within the *Belfast Metropolitan Redevelopment Project*
Augmentation of Capacity at Transmission/Distribution Interface	Cancelled, needs anticipated to be met by Limavady Transformer Replacement, Gort 110/33 kV 2nd Transformer, Rasharkin

	Cluster 110/33 kV 2nd Transformer, East Tyrone Reinforcement Project, NW of NI 110 kV Reinforcement

2 STRATEGY FOR DEVELOPING THE GRID

As the TSO for Northern Ireland, we have a statutory duty to ensure the transmission network is able to support all reasonable demands for electricity. In addition, we are required to enter into agreement for connection with parties seeking to connect to the transmission network. This in turn supports economic development in Northern Ireland.

Changes to demand, generation merit order, or to interconnection with neighbouring transmission networks may alter the flow of electrical power throughout the Northern Ireland transmission network. To accommodate these changes in power flows it is often necessary to reinforce the transmission network to ensure adequate performance and reliability levels are maintained and that the cost of constraints is minimised.

The Northern Ireland electricity industry and its development take direction from a number of broad local[19] and European[20] strategic objectives. These objectives

[19] The Strategic Energy Framework can be found here: https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/deti/sef%202010.pdf. Note that the SEF expires in 2020 and there is currently nothing in place beyond this date. The Department for the Economy is currently in the process of developing an energy strategy for NI ,expected to be published in 2021.

[20] http://ec.europa.eu/energy/en/topics/energy-strategy/2030-energy-strategy

guide investment in the Northern Ireland transmission network and are summarised in the legislation[21] which requires SONI to:

- ensure the development and maintenance of an efficient, co-ordinated and economical system of electricity transmission which has the long-term ability to meet reasonable demands for the transmission of electricity; and
- contribute to security of supply through adequate transmission capacity and system reliability; and
- facilitate competition in the supply and generation of electricity

To ensure these objectives are met we must provide on-going and timely reinforcement of the Northern Ireland transmission network.

In the development of the network reinforcements we are led by the following strategy statements:

- Inclusive consultation with local communities and landowners will inform how we plan the development the network;
- All practical technology options will be considered for network development; and
- The network will be optimised to minimise the requirement for new infrastructure to be built.

3 GENERAL APPROACH TO DEVELOPING THE GRID

3.1 Scenario Planning

As TSO, we are obliged to plan the development of a safe, secure, reliable, economical, efficient, and coordinated transmission network that is able to meet all

[21] Article 12, The Electricity (Northern Ireland) Order 1992

reasonable demands for electricity, in accordance with the activities permitted by our licence.

With the increase in the pace of decarbonisation driven by the 2015 Paris Agreement and local and UK-wide targets and legislation, we anticipate a significant change in how energy is used over the coming decades. The form this change will take and the exact role that the electricity transmission system will play is uncertain and so SONI carries out analysis on a range of scenarios of energy usage out to 2040 as part of Tomorrow's Energy Scenarios Northern Ireland (TESNI) which we published for the first time in 2020[22].

This analysis outlines the impact of three potential scenarios on the power system. These scenarios (Modest Progress, Addressing Climate Change, and Accelerated Ambition) consider different paces of decarbonisation, with different levels of government and citizen engagement. Two of these scenarios see Northern Ireland delivering its contribution to the UK's 2050 net-zero emissions target.

We will now use these scenarios to identify future needs of the transmission grid. These needs arise from changes in the usage of the grid, which is influenced by the scale and location of electricity consumption, generation, interconnection and storage. The scenarios will inform the TESNI 2020 System Needs Assessment, to be published later in 2020, which will consider these future needs. This will, in turn, inform future versions of the TDPNI.

When assessing development options to address future potential network needs, we consider the impacts of each possible option on other potential development needs. Sometimes by making more effective use of the existing network, we can delay large investment or avoid the need for additional circuits. In some cases, a

[22] http://www.soni.ltd.uk/customer-and-industry/energy-future/

proposed project may meet more than one development requirement and prove more economic and have less impact on the environment than multiple projects. Where possible, we seek to find single development projects to meet multiple network requirements.

3.2 Planning Standards

We plan the development of the transmission network taking account of the long-term needs and the economics of various development options. The need for development is determined by assessing long-term future network performance against technical standards. To ensure transmission system reliability and security, predicted power flows of the network are compared with the requirements of the Transmission System Security and Planning Standards (TSSPS).

The TSSPS establishes a set of design criteria for the transmission system. This includes setting the minimum level of redundancy that should be incorporated into the design to deal with credible faults and outages. The standard includes checking for any circuits that would be overloaded or where voltages would fall below statutory levels.

SONI assesses the present and future transmission system against these standards and, when breaches are forecast, establishes plans to address these breaches. However, in some limited circumstances it may be more appropriate to seek derogation in the case, such as economic reasons. This derogation would be directed by The Utility Regulator following consultation with SONI and materially affected electricity undertakings, including the TAO and the TSO of Ireland.

3.3 Roles and Responsibilities

There are three parties licensed to participate in the transmission of electricity in Northern Ireland. Northern Ireland Electricity Networks (NIE Networks) is responsible for the development and maintenance of the transmission system in accordance with the Transmission Interface Arrangements (TIA), as mandated by Condition 18 of the SONI licence. SONI holds the Transmission System Operator licence and is responsible for the operation and planning of the transmission system. Moyle Interconnector Limited also holds a transmission licence as the owner of the interconnector to Scotland.

The arrangements between NIE Networks and SONI are governed by the Transmission Interface Arrangements (TIA). The TIA arrangements include responsibilities regarding the preparation of draft asset replacement plans by NIE Networks and the system development plans prepared by SONI. The TIA allows for the ongoing development of an asset replacement and system development investment plan. SONI is responsible for ensuring that asset replacement and system development are integrated into an investment plan.

Some projects included in the investment plan will be well developed whereas others will be conceptual or indicative and therefore more likely to be changed from year to year. The plan is modified regularly as planning assumptions and scenarios are changed.

The investment plan is then circulated between SONI and NIE Networks before becoming a draft Transmission Development Plan Northern Ireland (TDPNI). The

draft TDPNI is subject to public consultation[23] by SONI and consultation and approval by the Utility Regulator.

3.4 SONI's Grid Development Process

The planning of grid development projects by SONI is done under a three part process (see Figure 3-1 below). Asset replacement projects are progressed separately by NIE Networks. The process includes stakeholder and public participation in the development of projects.

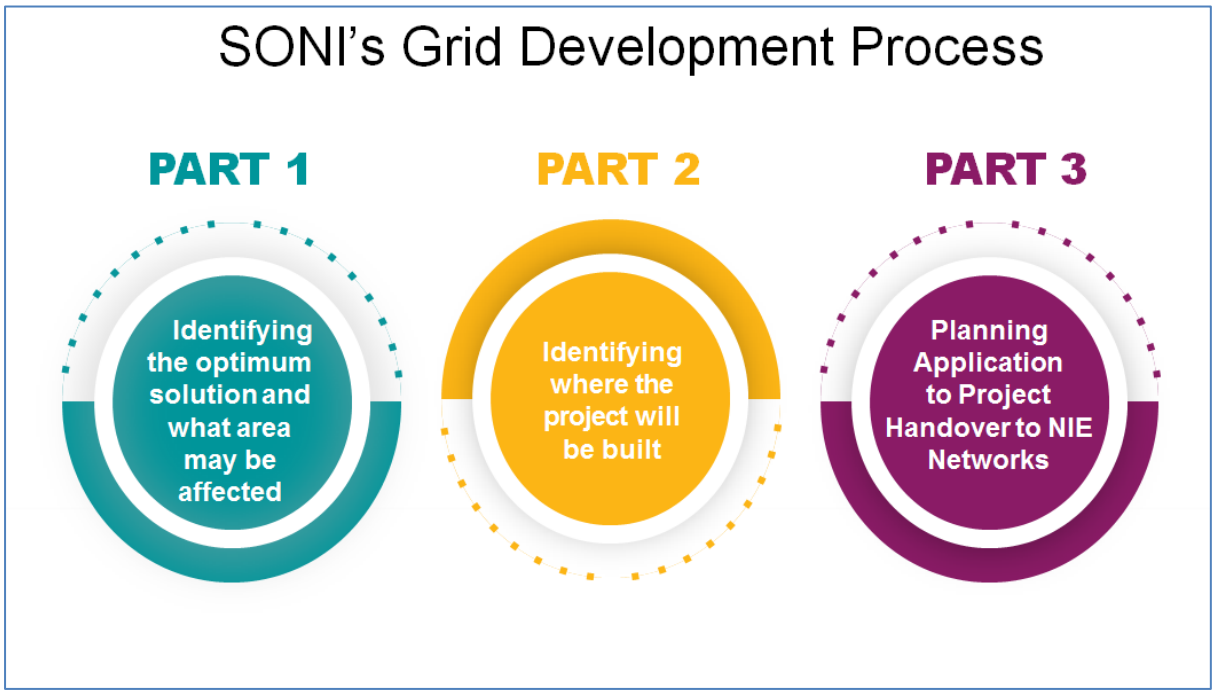

Figure 3-1: SONI's Grid Development Process

Part 1: Planning: Identifying the optimum solution and what area may be affected

When a potential breach of the standards is identified (operationally or through SONI's planning studies, including the Ten Year Transmission Forecast Statement and Tomorrow's Energy Scenarios), SONI will study the potential breach in detail

[23] In parallel with the SEA process

including any other related issues. Consistent with good practice, as set out in the TSSPS, SONI may seek ways that would allow the potential breach to be managed operationally and put into place any changes to operational practice as may be required. For example, SONI can manage potential overloads of the transmission system by constraining the output of generators. In particular given the increased penetration in renewables it is necessary to constrain the output until reinforcement options are assessed and developed. However, in certain cases where that operational mitigation would lead to unacceptable cost or risk for customers, SONI will instigate a project to develop the transmission system.

When we identify the need to develop a transmission project we will consider how best to deliver it. This means looking at a number of solutions and narrowing these down based on their technical viability, deliverability, cost, potential impact on the environment and on those living and working in the general area where the project may be located. This process is conducted in close cooperation with NIE Networks.

The steps in planning are to first identify a long list of options across a range of different technologies. Such options will include the need for any new substations or overhead line and underground cables. In some cases where appropriate the use of flexible AC transmission systems (FACTS) and HVDC will also be considered depending on the need identified. The long list of options will be assessed against multi-criteria analysis including technical implications, asset management issues, and environmental and cost benefit assessments to identify a shorter list of potential options.

SONI will then consider the short list in greater detail, continue to engage with NIE Networks and in some cases engage expert consultants to assist. These studies may include sensitivity studies to assess the performance of the options

against different generation and demand assumptions. The process culminates with a recommendation for a preferred solution and tiering to establish the level of stakeholder engagement and consultation required. Depending on the nature of the project, SONI will seek to engage with key stakeholders before progressing the recommendation further. SONI will consider the stakeholder engagement findings and amend any plans accordingly before progressing further. Wewill also publicise the results of the stakeholder engagement process and further sdecisions.

In parallel with the stakeholder engagement phase, and recognizing that the Utility Regulator is also a key stakeholder, SONI will seek approval for cost recovery through the Utility Regulator and progress the project to the outline design stage. This stage will identify any study areas for identification of new substations or corridors for overhead line and/or cable routes.

Part 2: Outline Design: Identifying where the project will be built

SONI manages the pre-construction outline design of transmission projects once the need has been identified (Part 1 in Figure 3-1). This also includes consultation with the TAO and NIE Networks. The projects can involve the development of new substations, overhead lines or cable circuits operating at 110 kV and above.

SONI is responsible for preparing documentation required to apply for planning consent for the development of the projects - this entails developing the design to the level required for obtaining planning consent including any necessary environmental reports or assessments, and consultations with stakeholders and landowners to obtain the right to gain access and install transmission equipment on their lands.

Part 3: Consents: Planning application to NIE Networks project handover

SONI submits planning applications with the relevant planning authority. SONI is also responsible for submitting any other consent applications that may be required, e.g. Marine Licence, with the relevant consenting authority. The planning authority will make a legally binding decision on the project. It may grant full planning permission, grant permission on the basis that we make changes or refuse permission. SONI is responsible for the acquisition of any wayleaves, easements, access rights, land options, leases and any other legal rights required for the installation of the new infrastructure.

Following receipt of planning and landowner consents the project is handed over to NIE Networks for detailed design. This includes a review of the SONI functional specification (outline design and consents) and preparation of a design specification. Separate preconstruction work for NIE Networks will also include tendering and procurement. Following receipt and review of the design specification from NIE Networks, SONI issues a Transmission Project Instruction and enters into a Project Agreement with NIE Networks. NIE Networks then deliver the project.

3.5 Public Planning and Environmental Considerations

Planning and environmental considerations are integrated into the three part process for grid development. This section details SONI's public planning and environmental responsibilities and how these issues are considered in grid development (See also Section 4).

3.5.1 Public Planning Considerations

SONI is supported by experienced professional planning and ecological consultants. These consultants assist in the development of transmission infrastructure projects

and in other aspects of network development from a planning and environmental perspective.

3.5.2 Environmental Considerations

Environmental considerations are integrated into the functioning of grid development at both the strategic (i.e. plan level) and at the project level.

The requirements for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA- for projects) and Appropriate Assessment (AA) (see below) are transposed into Northern Ireland law in Statutory Rules of Northern Ireland **2017 No. 83** The Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017 and Conservation (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1995 (as amended).

Where necessary applications for statutory consent are accompanied by an Environmental Statement (ES) or an Environmental Report (ER) the need for a statutory ES is informed by way of an EIA Screening report.

Similarly, screening for the need for AA for impacts on sites specifically designated for nature conservation is routinely undertaken for all our grid projects.

3.5.3 Strategic Environmental Assessment

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a systematic process of predicting and evaluating the environmental effects of a proposed plan or programme, in order to ensure that these effects are adequately addressed as early as possible. A SEA is prepared in respect of this transmission development plan. The purpose of the SEA is to ensure that environmental considerations are integrated into the development plan and that to anticipate and avoid, where possible, potential adverse environmental impacts arising from the TDPNI.

The SEA has a five year lifespan, with review and drafting processes for the next SEA beginning in the final year. An SEA was carried out on TDPNI 2018-2027. However, as the preparation of a TDPNI is an annual rolling process, each TDPNI prepared is accompanied by an Environmental Appraisal Report (EAR) which assesses the plan against the provisions of the adopted SEA statement. This process ensures consistency of approach in environmental issues of each TDPNI across the lifespan of the SEA.

A summary of the environmental assessment and mitigation measures of this SEA is presented in Section 8 of this report. The relationship between the TDPNI, SEA and EAR is set out graphically in Figure 3-2 below.

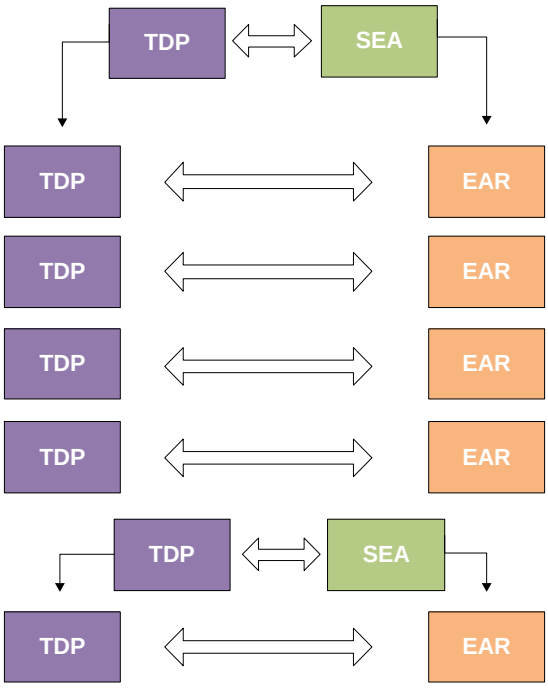

Figure 3-2 Structure for TDPNI, SEA, and associated EARs

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

EIA is the process of examining the environmental effects of projects, from consideration of environmental aspects at design stage to preparation of a non-

statutory Environmental Report, through to preparation of an Environmental Statement (ES). Projects where an ES is mandatory are identified in Annex I of the EIA Directive. This includes transmission of electricity by overhead lines where:

- The voltage is 220 kV or more; and
- The circuit length is more than 15 km.

An ES may be required for sub-threshold development where likely significant impacts on the environment are identified by the relevant planning authority.

The content and scope of the EIS is defined by the EIA Directive; however, detail varies between projects depending on local environmental sensitivities.

Appropriate Assessment (AA)

In accordance with the provisions of the EU Habitats Directive (92/ 43/ EEC), any plan or project not directly connected to a Natura 2000 site (Special Area of Conservation (SAC) or Special Protection Area (SPA), that is likely to have a significant effect on the site, is subject to Appropriate Assessment (AA) of its implications on the site.

The Habitats Directive is implemented via the Conservation (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1995 (as amended) in Northern Ireland.

The Appropriate Assessment process in Northern Ireland is generally referred to as a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). A Screening for Appropriate Assessment is referred to as a Test of Likely Significance (ToLS), with the resultant report being referred to as a ToLS Report.

In Northern Ireland, the HRA process is undertaken by Shared Environmental Services (SES), a centralised body comprising specialist staff that provides expert environmental advice and support to Councils. SONI as project proponent will usually submit a ToLS Report or a HRA Report as part of a bundle of environmental information when seeking planning permission.

4 IMPLEMENTATION: HOW THE STRATEGY FOR DEVELOPING THE GRID WILL BE IMPLEMENTED

In this chapter we set out how our strategy for developing the grid is implemented. SONI is responsible for the inclusion of asset replacement projects in the investment plan and TDPNI, but the delivery of these asset replacement projects (including planning, consents and all detailed assessments) are the responsibility of the TAO, NIE Networks.

SONI's strategy for planning the development of the grid is discussed under the following headings:

- Our approach to the environment;
- Our approach to technology;
- Our approach to project development;
- Our approach to planning and consenting of projects; and
- Our approach to consultation and engagement.

These topics build upon the previous chapter which detailed our general approach to developing the grid. Policies and objectives are set out to assist in delivery of the grid strategy objectives in a sustainable manner.

4.1 Our Approach to the Environment

4.1.1 Introduction

SONI has a legal responsibility to comply with planning law, including all relevant environmental legislation. In practice this means that environmental issues inform the decision making process when it comes to developing the grid in Northern Ireland.

This TDPNI is subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment as outlined in previous sections. (See Chapter 8 for a detailed description of the process.)

Planning and environmental considerations are embedded into every grid development project that SONI undertakes in order to ensure that environmental issues are at the forefront of decision-making. Early involvement in projects allows potential environmental issues to be identified and avoided or managed in the course of project development.

4.1.2 Policies and Objectives

The following environmental policies (ENVP) have been compiled to ensure that SONI has due regard for existing environmental protection legislation and environmental best practice when developing projects.

Environmental objectives (ENVO) have also been developed for a number of environmental topics.

4.1.3 General

It is the policy of SONI:

ENVP1: To promote best environmental practice in the design and appraisal of transmission development projects.

4.1.4 Biodiversity

It is the policy of SONI:

ENVP2: To exercise its functions as a TSO in line with the Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 and the Northern Ireland Biodiversity Strategy (2015) to further the conservation of biodiversity so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions.

ENVP3: To avoid adverse effects on sites designated for nature conservation including, Special Conservation Areas, Special Protection Areas, RAMSAR Sites, Areas of Special Scientific Interest and National Nature Reserves.

ENVP4: To protect NI priority species and habitats and other species protected under legislation in the development of any transmission infrastructure and to preserve key ecological linkage features

It is the objective of SONI:

ENVO1: To prepare and utilise industry specific Ecology Guidelines for the development of Transmission projects. This will ensure a standard approach to ecological impact assessment for transmission projects.

4.1.5 Climate Change

It is the policy of SONI:

ENVP5: To integrate measures related to climate change into grid development, by way of both effective mitigation and adaptation responses, in accordance with available guidance and best practice.

4.1.6 Noise

It is the policy of SONI:

ENVP6: To employ methods on transmission infrastructure which minimise noise emissions in line with best industry practice.

It is the objective of SONI:

ENVO2: To give careful consideration to the siting of transmission infrastructure so as to ensure that noise-sensitive receptors are protected from potential noise emissions.

ENVO3: To seek to preserve and maintain noise quality in accordance with good practice and relevant legislation.

4.1.7 Landscape

It is the policy of SONI:

ENVP7: To have regard to the Northern Ireland Landscape Character Assessment 2000, and the Northern Ireland Seascape Character Assessment in the design and appraisal of its transmission development projects.

It is the objective of SONI:

ENVO4: To protect landscapes through the sustainable planning and design of transmission infrastructure and to have regard to important landscape designations including AONBs and the World Heritage Site.

4.1.8 Cultural Heritage

It is the policy of SONI:

ENVP8: To take reasonable measures to ensure that the special interest of protected structures, including their curtilages and settings, are protected when considering site or route options for the planning of transmission infrastructure.

ENVP9: To protect archaeological material when planning transmission infrastructure, by avoidance or by best practice mitigation measures.

4.1.9 Water

It is the policy of SONI:

ENVP10: That there is no increase in flood risk as a result of transmission development, and to ensure any flood risk to the development is appropriately managed.

ENVP11: To promote the use of sustainable urban drainage systems in any new developments where it is appropriate.

ENVP12: To have regard to Planning Policy Statements and Supplementary Planning Guidance: PPS 15 Planning and Flood Risk Development Control Considerations in the preparation of grid development strategies and plans.

It is the objective of SONI:

ENVO5: That all grid development proposals, and in particular, transmission substation developments, shall carry out, to an appropriate level of detail, a site-specific Flood Risk Assessment that shall demonstrate compliance with all current Guidelines, standards and best practice. The Flood Risk Assessment shall pay particular emphasis to residual flood risks, site-specific mitigation measures, flood-resilient design and construction, and any necessary management measures.

4.1.10 Air Quality

It is the policy of SONI:

ENVP13: To preserve and maintain air quality in accordance with good practice and relevant legislation in the proposed construction of its transmission projects.

ENVP14: To ensure appropriate dust suppression during construction works.

4.1.11 Tourism

It is the policy of SONI:

ENVP15: To consider the potential impact upon tourism in the planning of transmission projects.

It is the objective of SONI:

ENVO6: To identify the nature of tourism in a project area; to consider the cumulative / in combination impact on tourism of a project and to consider short term and long term impacts of grid development projects on tourism as appropriate.

4.1.12 Conclusion

All of the environmental policies and objectives detailed above are assessed against Strategic Environmental Objectives. This is provided in the SEA Environmental Report.

4.2 Our Approach to Technology

4.2.1 Introduction

As outlined in Chapter 2 of this document, the SONI Strategy sets out three strategy statements, two of which directly relate to technology in transmission infrastructure development:

- We will consider all practical technology options; and
- We will optimise the existing grid to minimise the need for new infrastructure.

The use of new technologies can bring a number of advantages, including enhanced operational performance, improved system reliability, shortened construction times and reduced impact on the environment. All of these have the potential to reduce system costs.

We developed a world-leading initiative *"Delivering a Secure, Sustainable Electricity System"* (DS3 programme). The aim of the programme is to meet the challenges of operating the electricity system in a secure manner while achieving the 2020 renewable electricity targets for Northern Ireland. The programme is designed to ensure that we can securely operate the power system with increasing amounts of variable renewable generation over the coming years.

We continue to examine the performance of underground cables and their technical impact on the network, noting their advantage in terms of the potential for reduced visual impact compared with overhead lines. However, this must be balanced against costs as well as the potential impacts on sensitive environmental and ecological areas from what can be significant civil engineering works. We will continue to assess technological developments in this area to ensure the full capability of this technology is available for use on the Northern Ireland grid.

The transmission grid in Northern Ireland, similar to other European and international grids, uses high voltage alternating current (HVAC). Where power is to be transferred over long distances it may be cost effective and technically possible to do so using high voltage direct current (HVDC). Over the last number of years we have continued to examine the performance of HVDC and its technical impact on the network.

Demand Side Management and Response has been used in Northern Ireland for many years, primarily at industrial level. It works by customers reducing their

electricity consumption on request. This helps us to operate the grid more securely.

We are also investigating the use of modular power flow control technologies that may enable us to make better use of the existing transmission network.

In most cases overhead line technology remains the most reliable and least expensive option for developing new circuits.

Over the last number of years, we have learned that the level of uncertainty over the future usage of the grid is increasing. To cater for this, we are changing how we plan the grid. Our new approach involves developing a range of energy scenarios (possible situations or events that impact on energy) called 'Tomorrow's Energy Scenarios Northern Ireland'.

In the process of developing the range of energy scenarios, key policy makers, industry experts, and stakeholders are asked how they see the energy landscape changing over time. The final scenarios are published and reviewed every two years. We will use these scenarios throughout our planning analysis to assess the future needs of the electricity system, and to test the practicality and merits of different options for grid development. These scenarios were first published in 2020 [24] and will serve as an input to our grid development process and consequently future iterations of the TDPNI.

[24] http://www.soni.ltd.uk/customer-and-industry/energy-future/

4.2.2 Policies and Objectives

It is the policy of SONI:

TP1: To promote and facilitate the sustainable development of a high-quality transmission grid to serve the existing and future needs of NI.

TP2: To consider all practical technology options in the development of projects, including maximising use of existing transmission grid.

4.3 Our Approach to Project Development

4.3.1 Introduction

SONI undertakes a number of grid development projects as part of its statutory role in planning the development of and operating the transmission grid.

A focus in the development of our projects is on matters of proper planning and sustainable development. This requires a careful balancing of the technical need and solutions for a project with appropriate and adequate opportunities for public participation in the project development process.

SONI has established an approach to developing grid projects in Northern Ireland. This is a three part process, from the identification of need to develop the grid to the eventual hand over to NIE Networks for construction and operation of a project by SONI. The details of this process can be seen in Section 3.4.

4.3.2 Policies and Objectives

The following policies and objectives have been adopted by SONI in order to ensure an appropriate and sustainable approach to the development of our transmission projects.

It is the policy of SONI:

PDP1: To develop projects in accordance with SONI's *Process for Developing the Grid in Northern Ireland.*

PDP2: To promote sustainable grid development by balancing complex and/or competing technical, economic, environmental, social and deliverability goals and priorities in decision-making.

PDP3: To ensure that grid development is carried out in an economically efficient manner, and seek derogation from the Utility Regulator when this is not possible.

4.4 Our Approach to Planning and Consenting of Projects

4.4.1 Introduction

The SONI licence requires it to plan and operate the transmission system. SONI is also required to carry out these duties in accordance with the TIA. The TIA requires SONI to develop the design of projects to the point where consents are obtained. Our grid developments occur within a planning and environmental context. In this context the focus is on matters of proper planning and sustainable development. Public participation is of key importance alongside the environmental and ecological impact of our projects in order to provide an economic solution for end-users of the network.

4.4.2 Policies and Objectives

The following policies and objectives have been adopted by SONI in order to ensure an appropriate and sustainable approach to the planning and consenting of our transmission projects.

It is the policy of SONI:

PCP1: To have regard to relevant legislation and guidelines in respect of planning and consenting of transmission infrastructure development projects and make provision for any policies for the provision of transmission infrastructure set out in these documents.

PCP2: To have regard to precedent arising from decisions of the Competent Authorities, and of the High Court in Judicial Review of decisions, relating to the planning and consenting of transmission infrastructure development projects.

PCP3: To promote sustainable grid development by balancing complex and/or competing technical, economic and environmental goals and priorities in decision-making.

4.5 Our Approach to Consultation and Engagement

4.5.1 Policies and Objectives

The following policies and objectives have been adopted by SONI in order to ensure an appropriate and sustainable approach to consultation and engagement in the development of our transmission projects.

It is the policy of SONI:

CEP1: To consult and engage with statutory and non-statutory stakeholders including communities, landowners and the general public, at the earliest appropriate stage of a project's development.

CEP2: To recognise and develop the essential role that communities, landowners and other stakeholders play in transmission infrastructure development

and to engage with different stakeholders as appropriate during the life of a grid development project.

CEP3: To ensure consultation and engagement feedback is appropriately considered in decision making.

5 INVESTMENT NEEDS

SONI is responsible for planning and operating an economic, efficient and coordinated electricity transmission network in Northern Ireland. Key to achieving this is a reliable and high-quality electricity infrastructure which powers the Northern Irelan economy and supports investment in the region.[25]

The Strategic Energy Framework (SEF)[26] released in 2010 set out Northern Ireland's energy future. Investment in the transmission system is necessary to enable Northern Ireland's transition to a low carbon energy future. The SEF expires in 2020 and there is currently nothing in place beyond this date, however it is assumed that decarbonisation targets will continue to increase beyond 2020. In 2019, the UK government set a legally binding target of full decarbonisation by 2050 and it is anticipated that future energy policy in Northern Ireland will reflect this. The Department for the Economy is currently engaged in preparing a new Energy Strategy, expected to be completed in 2021 and SONI is engaged in this process. In this regard, the TDPNI is developed to support local government objectives and enable this energy transition.

By facilitating new connections onto the network, reviewing maintenance plans and identifying the future electrical needs of Northern Ireland, SONI can direct and plan investment in the transmission system. This investment will, in turn, secure the electricity supply into the future.

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[25] Grant Thornton: "Powering Northern Ireland A report exploring SONI's role in the economy", October 2016. Available here: http://www.grantthorntonni.com/globalassets/1.-member-firms/ireland/insights/publications/powering-northern-ireland_grant-thornton.pdf

[26] https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/deti/sef%202010.pdf

Note that the SEF expires in 2020 and there is currently nothing in place beyond this date.

5.1 Policy Drivers of Transmission Network Investment

In order to achieve the identified strategic objectives laid out by national and European policies, we must continue to produce investment plans and progress individual projects to develop the electricity transmission network. Specific drivers of investment in transmission network infrastructure are identified and described in the following sections.

5.1.1 Security of Transmission Network

Security of supply generally addresses two separate issues:

- The availability of primary energy resources and ability to generate sufficient electricity to meet demand (which is the responsibility of the UR and the Department for the Economy); and
- The ability of the transmission network to reliably transport electrical energy from the generators, where it is generated, to the demand centres, where it is consumed, as set out in the TSSPS.

The TDPNI is aimed at addressing the security of supply issues that relate to the transmission network.

For this document, security of supply means the ability of the transmission network to transport electrical energy reliably and securely from where it is generated to the demand centres where it is consumed.

5.1.2 Market Integration

With increased market integration, electrical power can flow from areas where it is cheap to produce to areas where it is more highly valued. Therefore the aim is to make European electricity markets more integrated.

The integration of RES and other forms of low carbon generation significantly increases the power exchange opportunities across the region. Differences in national targets combined with varying availabilities of renewable sources across Europe will lead to greater penetration of RES in certain areas compared to others. Therefore, there is a need to reinforce the transmission networks between and within European countries to obtain these economic benefits.

5.1.3 Renewable Energy Sources Integration

Developing renewable energy is an integral part of Northern Ireland's sustainable energy objectives and climate change strategy. In comparison to fossil fuels, RES have lower or no net emissions. RES contribute to the decarbonisation of the energy supply and to the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. They also contribute to energy security being, for the most part, an indigenous energy source. In a period of volatile energy costs RES can also contribute to cost competitiveness by reducing dependence on imported fossil fuels. Currently wind farms are the main sources of renewable electricity generation in Northern Ireland. However, additional forms of renewable energy continue to develop in Northern Ireland with significant increases in solar and biomass generation in recent years. It is expected that additional forms of renewable energy will be further developed e.g. wave and tidal.

In order to fulfil both European and local renewable targets[27], many RES-related projects are expected to be initiated throughout the period of this TDPNI. Many of these projects are located in rural areas where the transmission network is less developed. This places pressure on the electricity transmission network in these

[27] Northern Ireland currently has a non-binding target of 40% electricity consumption to be met by renewable sources by 2020. This was achieved in 2019. New targets are expected to be announced in 2021.

rural areas. Significant challenges will arise in extending and reinforcing the network to connect new RES.

5.2 Technical Drivers for Transmission Network Investment

Technical drivers of transmission network investment include changes in demand, generation and interconnection, inter-regional power flows and changes in asset conditions.

5.2.1 Demand, Generation and Interconnection

Changes in Demand and Generation

Demand growth and the connection of new demand can give rise to higher power flows which may trigger the need to reinforce the network as a result. Closure or reduction in the size of demand facilities can reduce the power flows on lines feeding the load. However, in certain cases where the demand is absorbing local generation and reducing the amount of generation exported from the area, the closure can lead to increased power flows on specific transmission lines.

Our All-Island Generation Capacity Statement 2020 (GCS)[28], available here[29], details the forecast of electricity demand for the years 2020 to 2029. The peak demand in Table 5-1 corresponds to the forecast median transmission system peak demand published in GCS 2020.

[28] It is important to note that the information in the GCS 2020 is based on the best information available at the Time of publication, September 2020.

[29] http://www.soni.ltd.uk/media/documents/All-Island-Generation-Capacity-Statement-2020-2029.pdf

Year	Peak Demand (GW)	Generation Capacity (GW)
2020	1.74	3.21
2021	1.75	3.21
2022	1.76	3.31
2023	1.77	3.48
2024	1.79	3.66
2025	1.80	3.79
2026	1.81	3.79
2027	1.82	3.39
2028	1.83	3.79
2029	1.83	3.79

Table 5-1 Forecast Peak Demand and Generation Capacity over the period 2020 to 2029[30]

Our All-Island Ten Year Transmission Forecast Statement 2019 (TYTFS)[31], available here[32], includes information on how the GCS demand forecast relates to each individual demand centre node over the period covered by this TDPNI.

Because of the relative size of individual generators, changes in generation installations, whether new additions or closures can have a more significant impact

[30] This forecast is based on information presented in GCS 2020. The Moyle interconnector is not included in these figures.

[31] It is important to note that the information in the TYTFS 2019 is based on the best information available at the freeze date, January 2019.

[32] http://www.soni.ltd.uk/media/documents/All-Island-Ten-Year-Transmission-Forecast-Statement-2019.pdf

on power flows than demand. This is equally so in the case of interconnectors which are treated as generators during periods when power is imported.

The addition of new generation capacity requires network development to connect the new generator to the network. This provides a path for electric power flow between the new generator and the transmission network. This is known as the shallow connection. The new generation capacity will inevitably alter the power flows across the network, which has the potential to create overload problems deep into the network. To resolve these overloads we need further reinforcements (known as deep reinforcements) to allow full network access.

The connection of large generators, or groups of generators, combined with the increasingly meshed nature of the transmission network results in lower network impedance and consequently increased short circuit levels. This is a safety issue asunder fault conditions such high short circuit levels may cause catastrophic failure of high voltage equipment. We monitor fault levels on the network and take measures to prevent such conditions occurring. The areas where the network is close to the fault rating of installed equipment, without mitigation, are highlighted on the map in Figure 5-1. Note that mitigation measures will be used to manage fault levels that would otherwise exceed switchgear rating. This may include reconfiguration of the transmission system as necessary until switchgear is replaced or alternative permanent solutions put in place.

Table 5-1 highlights the level of existing generation and projected levels of generation expected to connect over the period of this TDPNI, as detailed in the TYTFS 2019. It is important to note that this figure does not include additional generation that is in the applications queue, but is not contracted as of the freeze date of January 2020, as these generators do not yet have an agreed connection method.

The projected changes in generation are accommodated by the reinforcements included in this TDPNI. This includes the identified future potential projects discussed in Chapter 6.

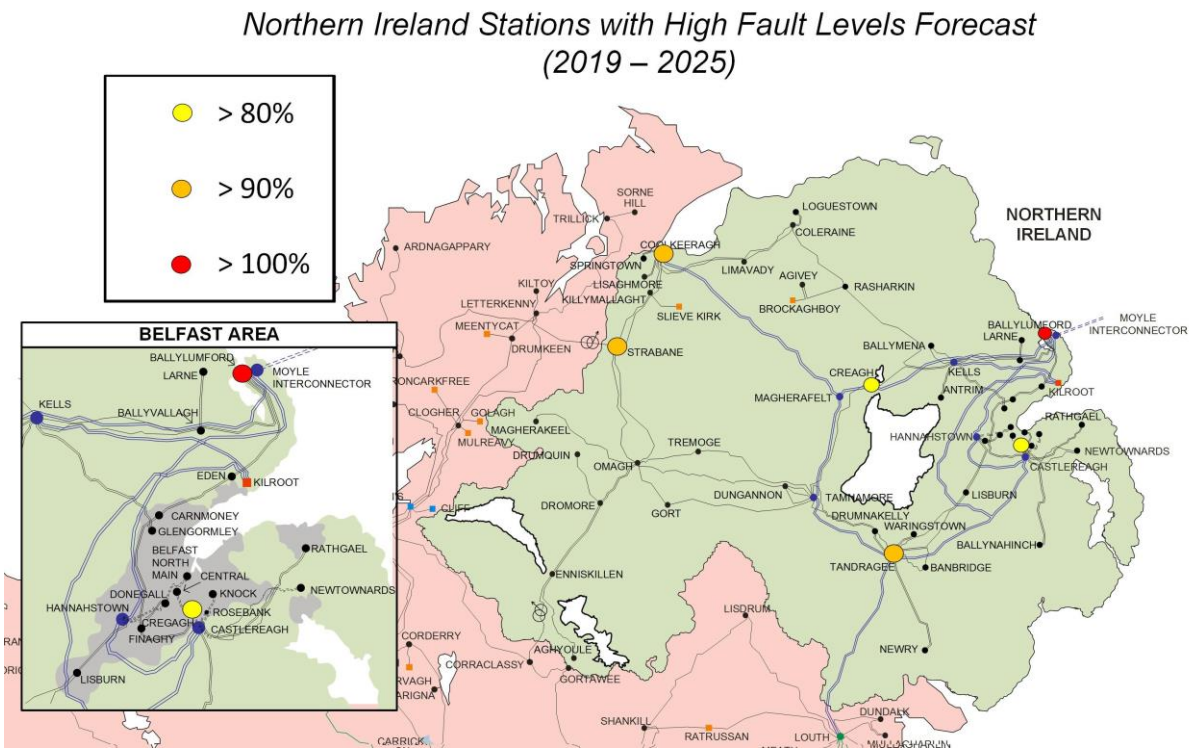


Figure 5-1 Stations with forecast high fault levels, 2019 – 2025 (from TYTFS 2019)

Changes in Northern Ireland's Interconnection

EU policy recognises the economic and technical benefits associated with increased interconnection and therefore seeks to promote interconnection between European transmission systems. Increased interconnection between transmission networks results in a larger energy market. With increased market integration there is greater competition and the potential for prices to be reduced. There is also access to a broader generation base which enhances the networks' security of supply. This can potentially defer the need for additional generation to be constructed to meet security of supply standards or requirements.

The planned second North-South Interconnector between Northern Ireland and Ireland is addressed in this TDPNI.

5.2.2 Changes in Inter-Regional Power Flows

The following factors have the potential to significantly change the flow of electrical power throughout the transmission network. They can drive the need for network reinforcements over the next ten years and beyond:

- Changes in demand;
- Further integration with neighbouring countries; and
- Integration of significant levels of new generation (both conventional and renewable).

There is now a growing need to accommodate a much broader range of plausible and credible flow patterns across the network. This is due to the extent of the likely changes that are envisaged for Northern Ireland, particularly in respect of RES integration. To cater for a broader range of flow patterns greater transmission network flexibility is required.

5.2.3 Changes in Asset Condition

Transmission network assets have a finite lifespan their useful life is impacted by a number of factors. These include:

- The age of the asset;
- Technology type and its propensity for obsolescence;
- Maintenance adequacy and effectiveness;
- Environmental conditions; and
- Utilisation

In order to ensure that security of supply is not compromised, routine condition assessments are carried out by the TAO. These assess the condition of the assets and estimate remaining useful life.

Typically, where assets are considered to have reached the end of their useful life and they continue to be required, assets are:

- Refurbished;
- Replaced on a "like-for-like" basis; or
- Replaced with higher rated equipment to cater for future needs.

6 PLANNED NETWORK DEVELOPMENTS

6.1 Overview of the Plan

This chapter summarises the network development projects that are a result of the transmission network development planning process (outlined in Section 2.4). Projects are described in greater detail in Chapter 7 and Appendix B.

The TDPNI includes a total of 79 projects that are currently in progress. These projects are categorised as either:

- New Build;
- Uprate/Modify;
- Refurbish/Replace related projects; or
- Combination.

New Build projects: are projects that involve the construction of new substations or new circuits. This category also includes projects that involve the installation of new equipment in existing substations.

An example of a new build project is the installation of new transformers or new reactive support devices within existing stations.

Uprate/ Modify projects: are projects that involve the uprating of existing assets. An example of an uprate project is the changing of equipment to increase the capacity of circuits between stations; or busbars within existing stations.

This category also includes projects that involve the modification or reconfiguration of existing assets.

An example of a modification project is the installation of new couplers in existing substations.

Refurbish/ Replace projects: are projects that involve the refurbishment of existing substations or circuits. This category also includes projects that involve the replacement of existing assets. For example the replacement of stations at or close to the end of their useful life or replacement and upgrading of protection in existing stations.

Combination: are projects that involve a combination of any of the three categories above.

Table 6-1 below summarises the 79 active projects into their respective categories.

Table 6-1 Summary of Projects by Category

Project Category	Network Development Projects	Asset Replacement projects
New Build	16	0
Uprate/ Modify	18	2
Refurbish/ Replace	0	40
Combination	2	1
TOTAL	36	43

6.2 Summary of Stage of Projects

Table 6-2 below summarises the number of development projects (not including the 43 asset replacement projects) in each phase of network development[33].

Table 6-2 Number of Development Projects in each stage of development

No. of Development Projects in Each Stage				
Part 1 Planning	**Part 2 Outline Design**	**Part 3 Consents**	**Under Construction**	**TOTAL**
25	1	8	2	36

Figure 6-1 below illustrates the location of the larger network development projects in Parts 1 to 3, excluding the NW of NI large scale Reinforcement project, which are detailed in Figure 6-2. Figure 6-3 shows NIE Networks asset replacement projects.

For those projects in the early stages of the planning process, indicative corridors are shown on the map as a specific solution or line route has not yet been decided on. A full list of projects and their corresponding stage of development is given in Appendix B.

[33] The process of network development is described in section 2. Further information on the stage of the project is available in Appendix A.

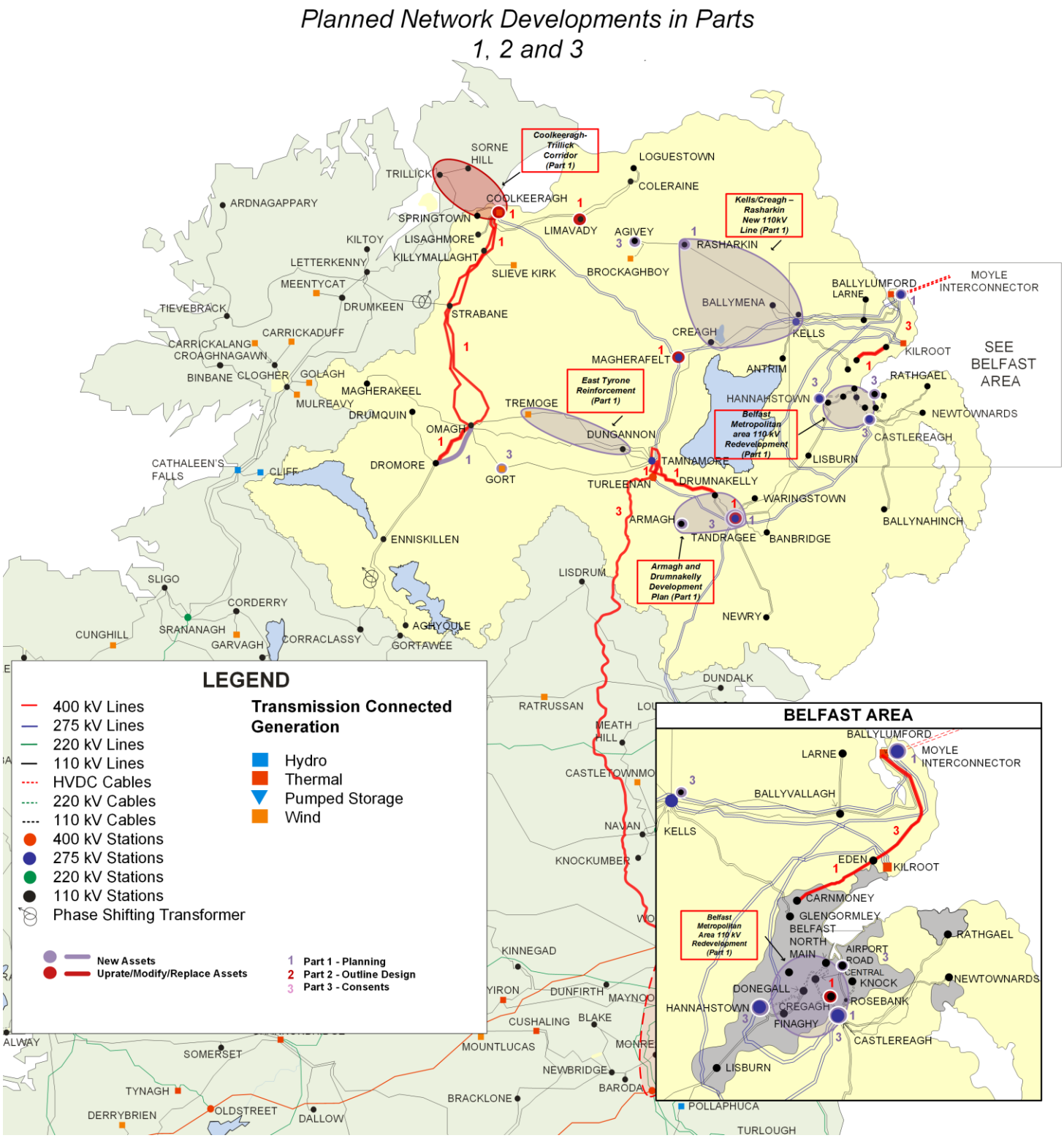


Figure 6-1 Planned Network Developments in Parts 1, 2 and 3 (not including NW of NI Reinforcement)

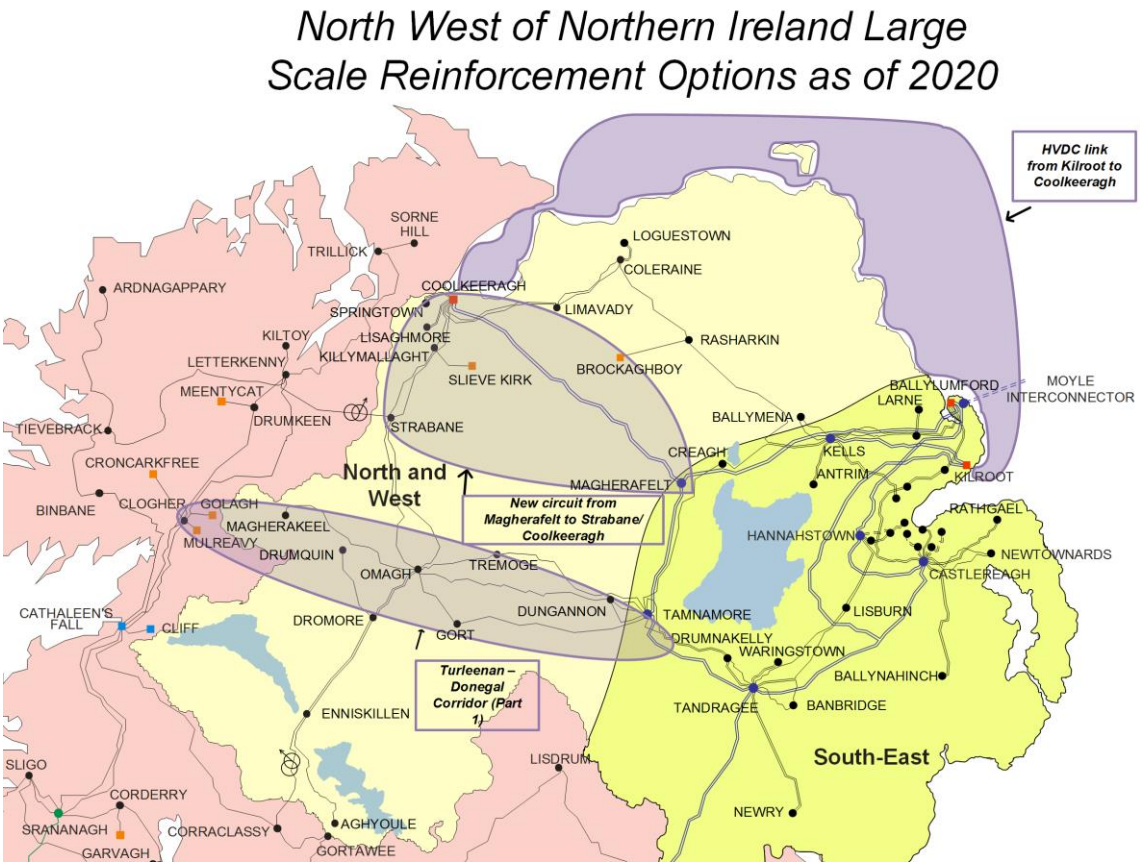


Figure 6-2 North West of NI Large Scale reinforcement – potential options

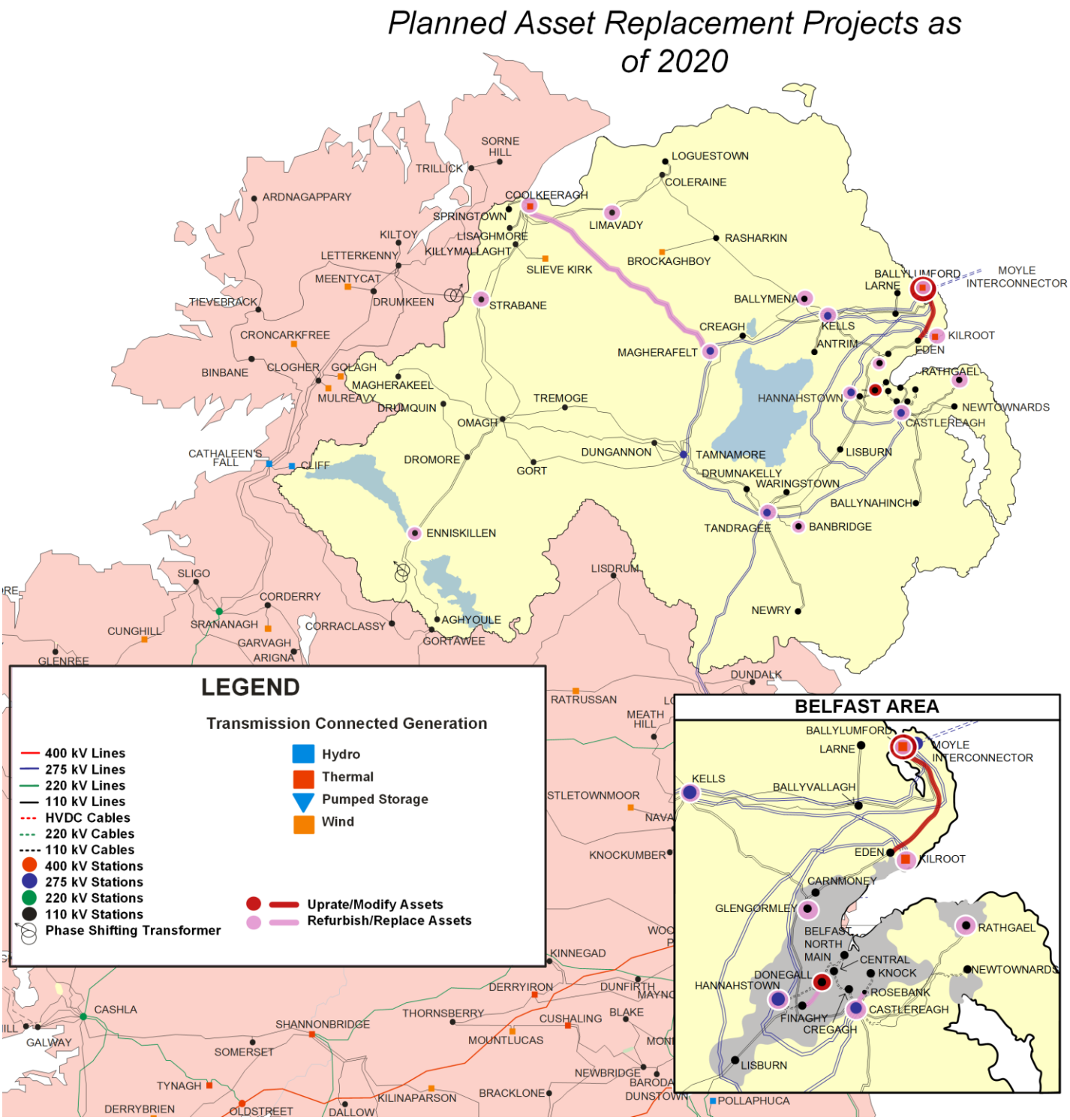


Figure 6-3 Planned NIE Networks asset replacement projects

7 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

7.1 Overview

As described in Chapter 1, planned development projects are categorised on a planning area basis as per Figure 1-1. Asset replacement projects are listed together as these are the responsibility of NIE Networks and are not subject to SONI's grid development process. There are 5 individual projects that are in or have the potential to be in both planning areas. These projects are listed in Table B-1 in Appendix B.

Projects of pan-European and regional significance in, or partly in, Northern Ireland are identified in ENTSO-E's most recent TYNDP and RegIP documents. Such projects are identified in this TDPNI using the following labels: "TYNDP/ TYNDP_Project_No" or "RegIP/ RegIP_Project_No" and are listed in Appendix C.

7.2 Asset Replacement Projects

NIE Networks' asset replacement projects (in both areas) are detailed below. Projects with a completion date beyond 2024 are indicative as they are subject to the outcome of NIE Networks' RP7 price control.

For all projects in RP6, a reference is included in brackets to the sub-project code used by NIE Networks in their RP6 price control submission where applicable. Full details of this, including the original cost estimates, can be seen here on the UR website[34] in Annex O[35] and Annex P[36].

One asset replacement project **(Hannahstown 275 kV Structures, Busbars and Disconnectors Replacement)** has been cancelled since TDPNI 2019-2028.

Ballylumford-Eden 110 kV Circuit Uprate

The driver for this project is security of supply. The conductor on the existing tower line as well as a number of towers and foundations will be replaced due to the condition and age of the existing assets. The conductor will also be uprated to cater for increased demand. The estimated cost of this project has increased from £9.5 million to £15.5 million due to updated costs provided by NIE Networks.

Estimated completion: Winter 2022

Ballylumford 275 kV CVT Replacement (T11o)

The Capacitor Voltage Transformers (CVTs) on a number of 275 kV circuits at

[34] https://www.uregni.gov.uk/publications/nie-networks-td-6th-price-control-final-determination-rp6

[35] https://www.uregni.gov.uk/sites/uregni/files/media-files/Annex%20O%20-%20Assessment%20of%20Network%20Investment%20Direct%20Allowances.pdf

[36] https://www.uregni.gov.uk/sites/uregni/files/media-files/Annex%20P%20-%20Planned%20Network%20Investment%20Volumes%20and%20Allowances.pdf

Ballylumford are to be replaced due to the age and condition of the existing assets. **Completion date: by 2024.**

Ballylumford Switchgear Replacement (T501)

The existing 110 kV switchgear at Ballylumford is to be replaced with a new 110 kV GIS double busbar and the 110 kV circuits diverted accordingly. The need for this project arises from the age, condition and obsolescence of the existing equipment as well as the need for a higher short circuit rating. **Completion date: Winter 2023.**

Ballymena Transformer 3 and 4 Replacement (T14)

The 110/33 kV transformers TX 3 and 4 at Ballymena Main are to be replaced due to the condition of the assets. **Completion date: 2020.**

Castlereagh and Tandragee Capacitor Bank Replacement (NEW)

Capacitor cans at Castlereagh and Tandragee are due for replacement due to age, corrosion and di-electric failure. **Completion date: By 2024.**

Castlereagh Inter-Bus Transformer 3 Replacement

The 275/110 kV 240 MVA interbus transformer IBTx 3 at Castlereagh is to be replaced due to the age and condition of the existing transformer. This was previously scheduled in RP7 but has been brought forward to RP6. **Completion date: By 2024.**

Coolkeeragh - Magherafelt 275 kV Circuits Refurbishment (T502)

The need for this project arises from the condition and rating of the existing conductor on the double circuit tower line, originally installed in the 1960s. Under certain scenarios there is a risk of overloading the existing conductor. The rating of the replacement conductor will be increased to cater for increased generation and will be defined as part of the redesign of the circuit. **Completion date: Winter 2022.**

Donegall Main (North) Transformer Replacement (T14)

The 60 MVA transformer Tx B at Donegall North is to be replaced by a new 90 MVA unit. The need for this arises because of the condition of the asset. The rating of 90 MVA is the standard rating now procured for 110/33 kV transformer applications. **Completion date: 2021.**

Enniskillen Main Transformer 1 and 2 Replacement (T14)

The 110/33 kV transformers TX 1 and 2 are to be replaced due to the condition of the assets. **Completion date: by 2024.**

Glengormley Main Transformer Tx B Replacement (T14)

The 110/33 kV transformer Tx B is to be replaced due to the condition of the asset. **Completion date: 2021.**

Hannahstown 110 kV Disconnectors Replacement (T12r)

The 110 kV disconnectors at Hannahstown are to be replaced due to the condition of the assets. **Completion date: by 2024.**

Hannahstown Inter-Bus Transformer 1 and 2 Replacement (T13)

The 275/110 kV 240 MVA interbus transformers IBTx 1 and 2 at Hannahstown are to be replaced due to the condition of the existing transformers. **Completion date: 2024.**

Kells and Tandragee Shunt Reactor Replacement (T15)

Kells TR1 and Tandragee TR2 shunt reactors are to be replaced due to the age and condition of the existing assets. **Completion date: by 2024.**

Kilroot 275 kV CT Replacement (T11p)

The Current Transformers (CTs) on the 275 kV circuits at Kilroot are to be replaced due to the condition of the existing assets. **Completion date: By 2024.**

Limavady Main 110 kV Refurbishment (T10)

The 110 kV mesh at Limavady Main is to be refurbished due to the condition and rating of the existing assets. **Completion date: by 2024.**

Strabane Main 110 kV Refurbishment (T10)

The 110 kV mesh at Strabane Main is to be refurbished due to the condition of the existing assets. **Completion date: by 2024.**

Tandragee Transformer Replacement (T13)

One of the 275/110 kV transformers (yet to be determined) at Tandragee is to be replaced during RP6 due to the age and condition of the transformer. **Completion date: by 2024**

RP6 275 kV Tower Maintenance (T17)

This project includes maintenance of 275 kV towers and condition assessment of towers and foundations. **Completion date: Before 2024.**

RP6 110 kV Tower and Overhead Line Maintenance (T19)

This project includes conductor replacement on the Castlereagh – Rosebank and Donegall – Finaghy 110 kV circuits, as well as wood pole replacement, tower maintenance and tower and foundation condition assessments elsewhere. **Completion date: Before 2024.**

RP6 110 kV Cable Maintenance (T20)

This project includes 110 kV cable refurbishment, cable flushing and maintenance of ancillaries. **Completion date: Before 2024.**

RP6 110 kV Transmission Protection (T602)

This project includes replacement, maintenance and upgrading of protection at 110 kV substations. **Completion date: Before 2024.**

RP6 275 kV Transmission Protection (T602)

This project includes replacement, maintenance and upgrading of protection at 275 kV substations. **Completion date: Before 2024.**

RP6 22 kV Transmission Protection (T602)

This project includes replacement, maintenance and upgrading of protection relating to 22 kV connected reactors at 275/110 kV stations. **Completion date: Before 2024.**

Miscellaneous RP6 Works (T11a-T11n, T11r, T12d-T12q, T12s, T16, T40)

This includes a number of small, within-station works including asbestos removal, concrete refurbishment, transformer bunding, auxiliary transformer replacement, transformer cooler replacement, 33 kV earthing transformer replacement, bushing replacement, station electrical systems, civil works, painting, earthing transformer replacement, transformer cooler replacement, security upgrades, health and safety upgrades, and provision of spares. This work is to be completed within the RP6 period and thus should be completed **by 2024.**

Banbridge Main Transformer 1, 2, 3 and 4 Replacement

The 110/33kV transformers Tx 1-4 at Banbridge Main are to be replaced due to the age and condition of the existing transformers. **Completion date: After 2024.**

Castlereagh 275 kV Structures, Busbars and Disconnectors Replacement

The 275 kV structures, busbars and disconnectors at Castlereagh are to be replaced due to the age and condition of the existing assets. **Completion date: After 2024.**

Castlereagh Interbus Transformer 1 Replacement

The 275/110 kV 240 MVA interbus transformer IBTx 1 at Castlereagh is to be replaced due to the condition of the asset. This was previously scheduled in RP6 but has been delayed to RP7. **Completion date: After 2024.**

Coolkeeragh 275 kV Structures, Busbars and Disconnectors Replacement

The 275 kV structures, busbars and disconnectors at Coolkeeragh are to be replaced due to the condition of the existing assets. **Completion date: After 2024.**

Coolkeeragh 110 kV Disconnectors Replacement

The 110 kV disconnectors at Coolkeeragh are to be replaced due to the condition of the existing assets. **Completion date: After 2024.**

Hannahstown 275 kV Structures, Busbars and Disconnectors Replacement

The 275 kV structures, busbars and disconnectors at Hannahstown are to be replaced due to the age and condition of the existing assets. **Completion date: after 2024**

Kells and Hannahstown Shunt Reactor Replacement (NEW)

One shunt reactor at each of Hannahstown and Kells is due to be replaced due to the condition and age of the existing assets. **Completion date: After 2024.**

Kells 275 kV Structures, Busbars and Disconnectors Replacement

The 275 kV structures, busbars and disconnectors at Kells are to be replaced due to the condition of the existing assets. **Completion date: After 2024.**

Kells Inter-Bus Transformer Replacement

One of the 275/110 kV 240 MVA interbus transformers at Kells is to be replaced due to the age and condition of the existing transformers. In the meantime noise enclosures will be installed on both transformers. **Completion date: By 2025.**

Magherafelt 275 kV Structures, Busbars and Disconnectors Replacement

The 275 kV structures, busbars and disconnectors at Magherafelt are to be replaced due to the condition of the existing assets. **Completion date: After 2024.**

Rathgael 110 kV Structures and Disconnectors Replacement

The 110 kV structures and disconnectors at Rathgael are to be replaced due to the condition of the existing assets. **Completion date: After 2024.**

Tandragee Transformer Replacement

One of the 275/110 kV transformers (yet to be determined) at Tandragee is to be replaced during RP7 due to the age and condition of the transformer. This project previously referred to replacement of both IBTx 1 and 2. **Completion date: after 2024**

Tandragee 275 kV Structures and Disconnectors Replacement

The 275 kV structures and disconnectors at Hannahstown are to be replaced due to the age and condition of the existing assets. **Completion date: After 2024.**

RP7 275 kV Tower and Overhead Line Maintenance

This project includes maintenance of 275 kV towers and lines and condition assessment of towers and foundations. **Completion date: After 2024.**

RP7 110 kV Tower and Overhead Line Maintenance

This project includes conductor replacement on some 110 kV spans, wood pole replacement, tower maintenance and tower and foundation condition assessments. **Completion date: After 2024.**

RP7 110 kV Cable Maintenance

This project includes 110 kV cable refurbishment, cable flushing and maintenance of ancillaries. **Completion date: After 2024.**

RP7 110 kV Transmission Protection

This project includes replacement, maintenance and upgrading of protection at 110 kV substations. **Completion date: After 2024.**

RP7 275 kV Transmission Protection

This project includes replacement, maintenance and upgrading of protection at 275 kV substations. **Completion date: After 2024.**

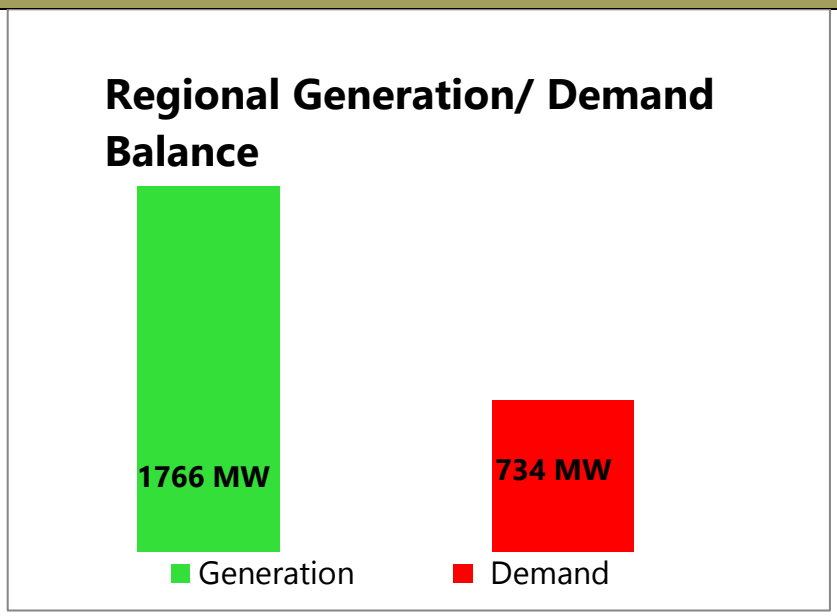
Miscellaneous RP7 Works

This includes a number of small, within-station works including station electrical station upgrades, transformer cooler replacement, transformer bushing replacement, refurbishment of earthing systems, health and safety upgrades, transformer bunding, civil works, and provision of spares. This work is to be completed within the RP7 period and thus should be completed **after 2024.**

7.3 The North and West Planning Area

The North and West Planning Area Overview
The North and West planning area comprises all areas connected to the transmission system north and west of the 275 kV double circuit ring around Lough Neagh and the 275 kV connection with Louth station in Ireland.

2028 Forecast Regional Generation and Demand Balance[37]



Summary of TDPNI Projects

TDPNI project category	No. of Projects
New Build	10
Uprate/ Modify	7
Total	17

Regional Description

[37] The Forecast Regional Generation and Demand Balance is based on peak Demand levels published in GCS 2020, and the Generation figures to be published the TYTFS 2020.

This area is characterised by a significant amount of wind generation connected to the 110 kV network and has more generation than demand. Conventional generation in this area is provided by Coolkeeragh Power Station, connected to the main 275 kV ring by a double circuit spur line which crosses the Sperrin mountains from Magherafelt.

There are two cross-border connections on the 110 kV system, connecting Strabane with Letterkenny in County Donegal and Enniskillen with Corraclassy in County Cavan. Cross-border power flows are managed by power flow controllers (PFCs).

There is limited high capacity 275 kV infrastructure in this area and currently little or no spare capacity for generation on the 110 kV system.

The planning area has considerably more generation than demand.

The excess of generation in the area is set to increase in the coming years. This is due to generators that currently have live connection offers connecting to the transmission and distribution networks.

To cater for the high levels of generation described above network reinforcement is necessary. This will enable the efficient export of generation from this area towards areas with high load, such as the South-East.

There are also reinforcement needs due to local constraints related to a shortage of transmission capacity and voltage support.

The projects described in this section will enable the transmission network to safely accommodate the more diverse power flows which are a result of excess regional generation. This project list is not definitive and will be updated in future TDPs to reflect the changing nature and understanding of the needs of the power system. They will also provide benefits to existing and future users of the transmission network in the planning area and facilitate broad future regional load growth.

The 17 development projects in the North and West planning area are discussed in more detail below as are any changes to the expected completion date from

TDPNI 2019-2028. The status of the network development projects is noted in Appendix B.

Please refer to Figures 6-1 and 6-2 for locational information of planned Network Developments in the North and West Planning Area.

7.3.1 Renewable Generation Cluster Substations

Agivey 110/33 kV Cluster

The driver of this project is RES integration. It is planned to establish a 110/33 kV cluster substation near Garvagh to allow connection of new wind generation. This will be connected to the existing 110 kV Brockaghboy to Rasharkin overhead line. The expected completion date of this project has changed due to delays in obtaining planning permission.

Previous estimated completion: Winter 2020

New estimated completion: Summer 2022

7.3.2 Renewable Integration Developments

Gort 110/33 kV 2nd Transformer

The driver of this project is RES integration and security of supply. A reduction in local demand and increase in small scale generation on the distribution system connected to Omagh Main means that there is a risk of overload from a wind farm connected to this system. This project will involve the installation of a second 110/33 kV transformer at Gort to allow the transfer of a nearby wind farm to Gort from Omagh. The estimated cost of this project has reduced from £1.5 million to £1.3 million due to updated costs from NIE Networks. **Estimated completion: Summer 2022.**

Rasharkin 110/33 kV 2nd Transformer

The driver of this project is RES integration and security of supply. A reduction in

local demand, limited export capability and increase in small scale generation on the distribution system connected to Coleraine Main means that there is a risk of overload. This project will involve the installation of a second 110/33 kV transformer at Rasharkin to allow the transfer of nearby wind farms to Rasharkin from Coleraine. The estimated cost of this project has reduced from £1.5 million to £1.3 million due to updated costs from NIE Networks. The expected connection date has changed due to a need for the Creagh/Kells – Rasharkin reinforcement project to be completed before this project can be implemented.

Previous estimated completion: Summer 2022

New estimated completion: Summer 2026

Coolkeeragh Reactive Compensation

The drivers of this project are security of supply and RES integration. The development of wind generation in the North West of Northern Ireland has resulted in a need for voltage support. The estimated cost of this project has increased from £20.87 million to £21 million due to inflation.

Previous estimated completion date: Winter 2023

New estimated completion: 2025

Coolkeeragh - Magherafelt 275 kV Switchgear

The drivers of this project are RES integration and security of supply. During periods of high generation in the North West, there is a risk that in the event of a double circuit fault on the 275 kV line between Coolkeeragh and Magherafelt its auto-reclose facility would be inhibited. This project involves installing single phase tripping and high speed auto-reclose circuit breakers on these circuits to allow rapid reinstatement following a transient fault and minimise the associated risk.

Estimated completion: 2024

Coolkeeragh - Killymallaght – Strabane 110 kV Uprate

The drivers for this project are security of supply and RES integration. As a result of increasing growth in renewable generation in the northwest of NI there will be a need to uprate the 110 kV circuits between Coolkeeragh, Killymallaght and Strabane. Previous estimated completion: 2028

New estimated completion: 2027

Coolkeeragh - Trillick New 110 kV Circuit

The drivers for this project are security of supply, RES integration and market integration. A need has been identified to strengthen the electricity network on both sides of the border in the north-west to assist in the integration of renewable power sources. This project will interact with the North West of NI Reinforcement (see below) and the scope of the solution required to be delivered through that project. The estimated cost of this project has increased from £8.9 million to £9.8 million due to inflation and development of the project scope. **Estimated completion: 2027**

Creagh/Kells-Rasharkin New 110 kV Circuit

The drivers of this project are security of supply and RES integration. As a result of increasing growth in renewable generation there will be a need to construct a second 110 kV circuit between either Creagh or Kells and Rasharkin 110/33 kV cluster substation. The estimated cost of this project has increased from £21.8 million to £23.6 million due to inflation and an improved understanding of costs arising from project progress. **Estimated completion: Winter 2026**

Limavady Transformer Replacement (NEW)

The drivers for this project are security of supply and RES integration. As a result of increasing growth in renewable generation in the vicinity of Limavady Main there

is a need to replace the existing 2 x 45 MVA transformers with 2 x 90 MVA units. **Estimated completion: 2023**

North West of NI 110 kV reinforcement

The drivers for this project are security of supply and RES integration. As a result of increasing growth in renewable generation in the northwest and potential for voltage instability there will be a need to reinforce the 110 kV transmission system near Rasharkin, Coleraine, Limavady and the proposed Agivey cluster. As well as likely uprating of the circuits from Coolkeeragh to Limavady, the new circuit options to be investigated as part of this project will include:

- 110 kV circuit from Agivey cluster – Limavady; and
- 110 kV circuit from Coleraine – Rasharkin.

The estimated cost of this project has increased from £30 million to £32 million due to inflation. **Completion expected after 2026**

North West of NI Large-scale Reinforcement

The drivers for this project are security of supply and RES integration. As a result of increasing growth in renewable generation in the west there will be a need to construct a new circuit between the 275 kV system and the 110 kV system electrically close to Coolkeeragh.

A long list of options shall be narrowed down to a short list. A combination of these may be required. The long list of main and supporting options will include the following:

- HVDC link from Kilroot to Coolkeeragh;
- 275 kV or 110 kV circuit from Magherafelt to Coolkeeragh;
- 275 kV or 110 kV circuit from Magherafelt to Strabane (new s/s); and

- Turleenan – Omagh South – Co. Donegal New 275 kV Line.

These can be seen in Figure 6-2. The estimated cost of this project has increased from £170 million to £175 million due to inflation. This cost estimate is based on a 275 kV option and if the HVDC option is taken forward it is likely that this will cost significantly more. **Completion expected after 2026**

Omagh Main - Dromore Uprate

The drivers of this project are facilitation of a connection and RES integration. With the connection of Curraghamulkin cluster substation to Dromore it is necessary to restring the Omagh Main – Dromore tower line with higher capacity conductor. The estimated cost of this project has reduced from £4.4 million to £4.2 million due to updated costs from NIE Networks. **Estimated completion: Summer 2022**

Omagh Main - Dromore Third Circuit

The drivers of this project are security of supply and RES integration. There is expected to be further connections that will result in a need for reinforcement in addition to the planned uprate of these circuits. This project will involve further reinforcement including the option of the construction of a third circuit to alleviate these expected future constraints. The estimated completion date of this project has changed due to reprioritisation of projects within existing resources.

Previous estimated completion: 2028

New estimated completion: 2029

Strabane - Omagh 110 kV Uprate

The drivers of this project are RES integration. With increasing generation in the North West there is a risk of overload of the 110 kV circuits between Strabane and Omagh. This project will involve replacement of the conductor on the existing tower lines with new conductor of a higher rating. The estimated cost of this

project has increased from £5 million to £5.6 million due to inflation and updated costs from NIE Networks. **Estimated completion: 2026**

7.3.3 Load Related and Security of Supply

Coolkeeragh T1 Transformer Cabling Uprate

The driver for this project is security of supply. The increase in wind generation in the north-west of NI has resulted in an increase in power flows at Coolkeeragh. The project is to uprate the 110 kV cabling associated with Transformer 1 in order to accommodate these flows. **Estimated completion: Winter 2021**

East Tyrone Reinforcement Project

The driver for this project is security of supply. The driver of this project is security of supply. NIE Networks and SONI are jointly assessing the level of security of supply on the distribution system supplying Cookstown and the 110/33 kV substation at Dungannon. It is forecast that demand will exceed capacity at the existing Dungannon 110/33 kV substation. In addition there is a particular risk to supplies following a second circuit outage. Options being considered include:

- Installation of a 2nd Transformer at Tremoge as well a further distribution circuitry from Tremoge to Cookstown;
- Construction of a 2nd 110/33 kV substation at Dungannon;
- Establishing a new 110/33 kV substation at Cookstown with new 110 kV circuits from Dungannon, Tremoge or Tamnamore.

The estimated cost of this project has increased from £1.6 million to £1.7 million due to inflation. The estimated completion date of this project has changed due to reprioritisation of projects within existing resources.

Previous estimated completion: Winter 2022

New estimated completion: Winter 2023.

North West Special Protection Scheme Upgrade

The drivers of this project are security of supply and RES integration. This scheme was installed to protect the network in the north-west in the event of faults on the 275 kV network before the large-scale installation of wind generation in the north and west of NI. As wind generation capacity has increased, a need has been identified to replace and upgrade the existing special protection scheme.

The estimated cost of this project has decreased from £0.4 million to £0.3 million due to updated costs from NIE Networks. The estimated completion date of this project has changed due to availability of outages.

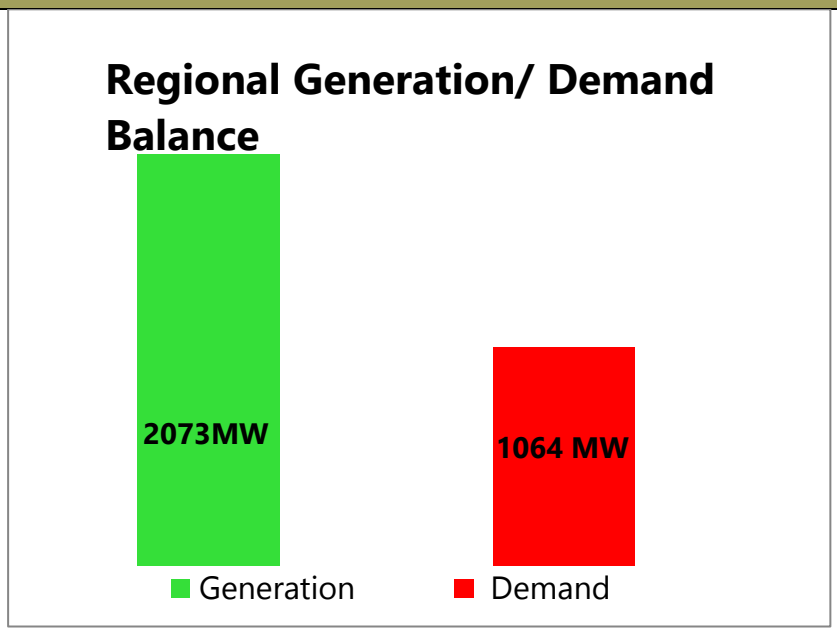
Previous estimated completion: Winter 2019

New estimated completion: Winter 2020.

7.4 The South-East Planning Area

The South-East Planning Area Overview
The South-East planning area comprises all areas within the 275 kV double circuit ring around Lough Neagh, as well as Greater Belfast, South Antrim and County Down.

2028 Forecast Regional Generation and Demand Balance



Summary of TDPNI Projects

TDPNI project category	No. of Projects
New Build	6
Uprate/Modify	7
Combined Uprate/Modify/ Refurbish/Replace	2
Total	15

Regional Description

This area is characterised by its relatively high demand, particularly in the Greater

Belfast area. There are two large conventional power stations; Ballylumford near Larne and Kilroot near Carrickfergus. Wind generation makes up a small proportion of installed capacity.

There is one cross-border connection on the 275 kV system, connecting Tandragee with Louth. The Moyle HVDC interconnector provides a connection between the 275 kV system near Ballylumford with the power system of Great Britain, via Scotland.

There is strong 275 kV infrastructure in this area, with significant spare capacity for generation and demand. In contrast to the North and West area, demand is greater than generation in the South-East.

The development of the transmission network in the area is characterised by the need to meet increasing demand and improve system resilience and flexibility. Investment is required to increase transmission of wind power from the North and West as well as cross-border interconnection.

There are also reinforcement needs due to:

- Local constraints related to a shortage of transmission capacity and voltage support;
- Accommodate further market integration with Ireland.

The projects described in this section will enable the transmission network to safely accommodate the more diverse power flows which are a result of excess regional generation. This project list is not definitive and will be updated in future TDPs to reflect the changing nature and understanding of the needs of the power system. They will also provide benefits to existing and future users of the transmission network in the planning area and facilitate broad future regional load growth.

The 15 development projects in the South-East planning area are discussed in more detail below. The status of the network development projects is noted in Appendix B.

Please refer to Figures 6-1 and 6-2 for locational information of planned Network Developments in the South-East Area in Parts 2 & 3.

7.4.1 Dual Asset Replacement/ Load Related and Security of Supply Projects

Belfast Metropolitan Redevelopment Project

Part 1 - Castlereagh - Hannahstown 110 kV Reinforcement

Formerly known as 'Carnmoney-Castlereagh 110 kV Circuit Uprate/Reconfiguration'. The driver for this project is security of supply. The existing conductor on the Castlereagh – Carnmoney 110 kV double circuit is due for replacement due to the age of the assets. SONI is currently considering options for this work. The preliminary preferred option is to install a 4th interbus transformer at Castlereagh and establish a 110 kV cable connection between Hannahstown and Castlereagh substations through Belfast city centre. This will enable removal of the existing 110 kV double circuit between Carnmoney and Castlereagh. SONI is currently preparing a request for funding for this option, which will be considered by the Utility Regulator. We will undertake full stakeholder engagement as part of our work to finalise the choice of preferred solution and subsequent process to obtain any consents that are required. We anticipate that this will be a phased project and that elements will be completed before the final completion of the project. The estimated cost of this project has increased from £28.5 million to £37.4 million due to inflation and an increase in the scope of the project. The estimated completion date of this project has changed due to the increase in scope.

Previous estimated completion: Winter 2024

New estimated completion: Winter 2028

Part 2 - Eden-Carnmoney 110 kV Circuit Uprate/Reconfiguration

The driver for this project is security of supply. The existing conductor is due for replacement due to the age of the assets. This project may involve reconfiguration of the circuits but the full scope will be determined in due course. The estimated cost of this project has increased from £7.9 million to £22.6 million due to

inflation and an improved understanding of project scope. It is expected that several sections of this circuit will be undergrounded. The estimated completion date of this project has changed due to the change in scope and reprioritisation of projects within existing resources.

Previous estimated completion: Winter 2023

New estimated completion: Winter 2026

7.4.2 Renewable Generation Cluster Substations

Kells 110/33 kV Cluster

The driver of this project is RES integration. It is planned to establish a 110/33 kV cluster substation near to the existing Kells 275/110 kV substation to connect new renewable generation to the transmission system. This will be connected to the existing Kells 110 kV station via an underground cable. The estimated completion date of this project has changed due to a delay in obtaining planning permission.

Previous estimated completion: Winter 2020

New estimated completion: Winter 2023

7.4.3 Renewable Integration Developments

Tamnamore - Turleenan 275 kV Uprate

The drivers of this project are security of supply and RES integration. Pending the establishment of Turleenan substation it is planned to uprate the conductors between Turleenan and Tamnamore 275 kV substation in order to improve inter-region power flow. The estimated cost of this project has increased from £4.3 million to £4.6 million due to inflation and updated costs from NIE Networks. The estimated completion date of this project has changed due to the delay in the completion of the North – South Interconnector project.

Previous estimated completion: Winter 2023

New estimated completion: Winter 2024

7.4.4 Load Related and Security of Supply

Tandragee 275 kV Second Bus Coupling Circuit Breaker

The driver of this project is security of supply. This project is to install a second busbar coupler onto the existing 275 kV double busbar. This project will improve resilience and redundancy of the protection at Tandragee. The estimated completion date of this project has changed due to reprioritisation of projects within existing resources.

Previous estimated completion: Winter 2022

New estimated completion: Winter 2023

Tamnamore - Drumnakelly 110 kV Uprate

The driver of this project is security of supply. These circuits may be subject to overload under high wind generation conditions and are operated out of service. This project is to replace the conductor on these circuits with higher capacity conductor. This will allow these circuits to fully return to service. **Estimated completion: 2027**

Airport Road 110/33 kV substation

The driver of this project is security of supply. It is planned to construct a new 110/33 kV substation in the Belfast Harbour Estate, close to the existing Airport Road 33/6.6 kV substation. The substation will be connected to the existing Rosebank substation via the existing 110 kV tower line (currently operated at 33 kV) from Rosebank to Sydenham Road. The need for this project arises from the increasing load in the Belfast Harbour and city centre area. Planning permission has been received for this substation. The estimated cost of this project has

decreased from £6.8 million to £6.1 million due to an improved understanding of costs arising from project development. **Estimated completion: Winter 2022.**

Castlereagh, Tandragee and Tamnamore Reactors

The driver of this project is security of supply. Further shunt reactors are planned to be installed at Castlereagh, Tandragee and Tamnamore substations in order to improve voltage regulation when the network is lightly loaded. The estimated cost of this project has increased from £3.6 million to £4 million due to inflation and an improved understanding of scope and costs arising from development of the project. **Estimated completion: 2022**

Drumnakelly and Armagh Reinforcement

The driver of this project is security of supply. There is a need to reinforce the distribution system supplying Armagh city and the surrounding area due to increasing demand. It is also forecast that demand will exceed capacity at the existing Drumnakelly 110/33 kV substation. Options being considered include:

- Establishing a new 110/33 kV substation adjacent to the existing Drumnakelly Main along with associated 33 kV reinforcements to the Armagh area; and
- Establishing a new 110/33 kV substation at Armagh with new 110 kV circuits from Tandragee or Drumnakelly.

The estimated cost of this project has increased from £24.9 million to £25.2 million due to inflation.

Estimate completion: 2026

7.4.5 Fault Level Replacements

Castlereagh 110 kV Switchgear Replacement

The driver for this project is safety. Due to increasing fault levels it is planned,

subject to detailed study, to replace 110 kV circuit breakers and current transformers at Castlereagh. The estimated completion of this project has been delayed due to the availability of outages and reprioritisation of projects within existing resources.

Previous estimated completion: Summer 2021

New estimated completion: Summer 2022

Castlereagh - Knock 110 kV Cables Uprate

The driver for this project is safety. The protection on this circuit will be replaced and uprated as well as the cable sealing ends and a section of cabling. This project is necessary due to the fault level exceeding the short circuit rating of the cable under certain conditions. The estimated completion of this project has been delayed due to the availability of outages.

Previous estimated completion: Summer 2020

New estimated completion: Summer 2021

Cregagh Transformer B Realignment and Switchgear Replacement

The driver of this project is security of supply. This project is to replace and uprate the 110 kV switchgear on Tx B at Cregagh and to increase the clearance between the two transformers. This project is needed as there is potential for the fault level to exceed the short circuit rating of the equipment under certain conditions. The estimated completion of this project has been brought forward due to reprioritisation.

Previous estimated completion: after 2024

New estimated **completion: Winter 2022**

Tandragee 110 kV Switchgear Replacement

The driver for this project is safety. Due to increasing fault levels it is planned, subject to detailed study, to replace 110 kV circuit breakers and current transformers at Tandragee. The estimated completion of this project has been delayed due to

the availability of outages and reprioritisation of projects within existing resources. The estimated cost has increased from £3.2 million to £3.3 million due to inflation. Previous estimated completion: Summer 2021

New estimated completion: Summer 2022

7.4.6 Interconnection

North-South Interconnector

The drivers for this project are market integration, security of supply and RES integration. This project involves construction of a new 400 kV circuit from existing Woodland 400 kV station in County Meath (Ireland) to a proposed 400/275 kV station at Turleenan in County Tyrone (Northern Ireland). This project is needed to remove constraints within the single electricity market, improve security of supply and facilitate safe and secure operation of the power system with high renewable penetration levels. The estimated completion of this project has been delayed due to a delay in obtaining planning permission. The estimated cost has increased from £116.3 million to £117.5 million due to inflation. Estimated completion: **Winter 2023**[38]

Moyle 275 kV Reinforcement

The drivers for this project are market integration, security of supply and RES integration. At present, full utilisation of the 500 MW export capability of the Moyle Interconnector is prevented by the potential for network overloads in the event of the loss of the 275 kV double circuit between the Moyle converter station at Ballycronan More and the nearby Ballylumford substation. This project involves works to allow reconfiguration of the connection to Moyle to address this

[38] To be reviewed following recent receipt of planning permission

contingency. It will be subject to cost-benefit analysis before proceeding. The estimated completion of this project has been brought forward due to reprioritisation. The project cost has increased from £4.1 million to £4.7 million due to an improved understanding of project scope.

Previous estimated completion: 2028

New estimated completion: 2024

7.5 Projects in Both Planning Areas

Enhancement to the Low Frequency Load Disconnection Scheme

It is planned to modify existing under-frequency automatic load shedding schemes to prevent tripping of distribution-connected windfarms.

Previous estimated completion: Summer 2022

New estimated completion: 2023

CVT Upgrade for Harmonic Measurement

It is planned to replace Capacitor Voltage Transformers (CVTs) at a number of sites with models capable of power quality monitoring, in order to improve monitoring of power system harmonics. **Estimated completion: Summer 2022**

Filter Tuning/Replacement

The driver of this project is security of supply. With increasing use of cable on the transmission system as well as an increase in non-linear load and generation, harmonic levels on the transmission system are increasing. This project will analyse the requirement for harmonic filters and re-tune/augment these accordingly. The estimated cost of this project has increased from £2.2 million to £2.3 million due to inflation.

Estimated completion: 2025

22 kV Switchgear Uprates

It is planned to uprate the 22 kV switchgear on the tertiary windings of a number of 275/110 kV transformers. The exact number of sites and scope of the work is yet to be determined. The estimated completion of this project has been brought forward due to reprioritisation arising from the Castlereagh, Tandragee and Hannahstown Reactors project.

Previous estimated completion: 2024

New estimated completion: 2022

8 ENVIRONMENTAL APPRAISAL REPORT OF TDPNI 2019-2028

An Environmental Appraisal Report (EAR) has been prepared as an accompanying document to this TDPNI. The purpose of the EAR is to ensure the TDPNI 2020-2029 is in line with committed strategic environmental objectives (SEOs). These objectives were set out in the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) prepared for TDPNI 2018-2027 and integrated into the overall approach to grid development. A series of environmental, planning, social and technical policies and objectives guide sustainable Grid development.

As outlined in the earlier sections, this TDPNI includes 37 reinforcement projects. Of these, 1 project is new to TDPNI 2020 and therefore was not considered in the environmental appraisal carried out for TDPNI 2018-2027 or as part of the SEA process.

This project is examined in the EAR and evaluated against the SEOs. Following the implementation of mitigation measures (where necessary) the SEOs will be achieved.

Therefore we consider TDPNI 2020-2029 to be in accordance with the provisions of the Strategic Environmental Obligations as set out in TDPNI 2018-2027 and associated SEA.

APPENDIX A: PROJECT TERMS

This appendix explains terms that are used to describe projects in the following appendices.

Estimated Completion Date (ECD): the estimates provided are subject to:

- The planning process where applicable;
- The construction progress; and
- Availability of transmission outages and commissioning; and
- May be liable to change.

Project Capex: The anticipated capital expenditure associated with a project, comprising the combined total of the TSO (SONI) and TAO (NIE Networks) costs.

Stage: the stage the project has progressed to on the data freeze date. The SONI approach to project development consists of three parts, namely:

Part 1 – Planning

Part 2 – Outline Design

Part 3 – Consents

Once projects have progressed beyond Part 3, they are handed over to NIE Networks for construction. These projects are marked as **NIE Networks** within the tables below.

Asset replacement projects are carried out by NIE Networks outside SONI's Grid Development Process.

APPENDIX B: PLANNED NETWORK DEVELOPMENTS

This appendix details active TDPNI 2018 projects and their driver(s), need(s), location, stage and ECD, as at the data freeze date 01 January 2018. Projects are categorised by planning area[39]. Also shown are changes in project cost estimates (where applicable) since TDPNI 2019-2028.

Please note the following label:

- "TYNDP/ TYNDP_Project_No" or "RegIP/ RegIP_Project_No" included with a project's title signifies that it is in ENTSO-E's most recent TYNDP or RegIP North Sea. Projects included in the TYNDP are projects of pan-European significance. Projects included in the RegIP North Sea are projects of regional significance. These projects are listed in Appendix C; and
- "*" included with a project's length signifies that the circuit length is an estimate at this time.

[39] Some projects are in, or have the potential to be in, both planning areas.

NIE Networks Asset Replacement Projects

There are 43 projects in NIE Networks' Asset Replacement Plan; these projects are listed in Table B-1 below.

Table B-1 NIE Networks Asset Replacement Projects (43 Projects)

Project Title	Type	km	DRIVERS			NEEDS					Project Capex	Capex Changes since 2019	ECD
			Security of Supply	RES Integration	Market Integration	Inter-Regional Power Flow	Local Constraints	Connection	Inter-connection	Asset Condition			
Ballyumford-Eden 110 kV Circuit Uprate	Refurbish/Replace/Uprate/Modify	15	✓			✓	✓			✓	£15.5M	+£6M	2022
Ballyumford 275 kV CVT Replacement	Refurbish/ Replace	0	✓							✓	£0.16M	-£0.04M	2024
Ballyumford Switchgear Replacement	Uprate/ Modify	0	✓				✓			✓	£17.4M	0	2023
Ballymena Transformer 3 and 4 replacement	Refurbish/ Replace	0	✓							✓	£1.99M	0	2020
Castlereagh and Tandragee Capacitor Bank Replacement (NEW)	Refurbish/ Replace	0	✓							✓	£0.25M	n/a	2024
Castlereagh inter-bus Transformer 3 replacement	Refurbish/ Replace	0	✓							✓	£2.77M	-£0.77M	2024
Coolkeeragh - Magherafelt 275 kV Circuits Refurbishment	Refurbish/ Replace	56	✓			✓				✓	£41M	+£11M	2022
Donegall Main (North) transformer replacement	Uprate/ Modify	0	✓				✓			✓	£1.0M	0	2021
Enniskillen Main Transformer 1 and 2 replacement	Refurbish/ Replace	0	✓							✓	£2.1M	0	2024
Glengormley Main Transformer B Replacement	Refurbish/ Replace	0	✓							✓	£1.2M	0	2021
Hannahstown 110 kV Disconnectors Replacement	Refurbish/ Replace	0	✓							✓	£0.9M	0	2024
Hannahstown inter-bus transformer 1 and 2 replacement	Refurbish/ Replace	0	✓							✓	£5.5M	-£1.5M	2024
Kells and Tandragee Shunt Reactor Replacement	Refurbish/ Replace	0	✓							✓	£1.4M	0	2024
Kilroot 275 kV CT Replacement	Refurbish/ Replace	0	✓							✓	£0.87M	+£0.67M	2024

Project Title	Type	km	DRIVERS			NEEDS					Project Capex	Capex Changes since 2019	ECD
			Security of Supply	RES Integration	Market Integration	Inter-Regional Power Flow	Local Constraints	Connection	Inter-connection	Asset Condition			
Limavady Main 110 kV refurbishment	Refurbish/ Replace	0	✓							✓	£1.47M	0	2024
Strabane Main 110 kV refurbishment	Refurbish/ Replace	0	✓							✓	£2.55M	0	2024
Tandragee Transformer Replacement	Refurbish/ Replace	0	✓							✓	£2.8M	-£4.2M	2024
RP6 275 kV Tower Maintenance	Refurbish/ Replace	0	✓							✓	£7M	-£1.3M[40]	2024
RP6 110 kV Tower and Overhead Line Maintenance	Refurbish/ Replace	-	✓							✓	£7M	-2.4M[43]	2024
RP6 110 kV Cable Maintenance	Refurbish/ Replace	-	✓							✓	£0.7M	-£0.3M[43]	2024
RP6 110 kV Protection	Refurbish/ Replace	0	✓							✓	£1.7M	+£0.3M	2024
RP6 275 kV Protection	Refurbish/ Replace	0	✓							✓	£2.8M	+£0.1M	2024
RP6 22 kV Transmission Protection	Refurbish/ Replace	0	✓							✓	£0.1M	n/a	2024
Miscellaneous RP6 Works	Refurbish/ Replace	0	✓							✓	£3.4M	-£1.4M[43]	2024
Banbridge Main Transformer 1, 2, 3 and 4 replacement	Refurbish/ Replace	0	✓							✓	£2.2M	+0.26M	>2024
Castlereagh 275 kV Structures, Busbars and Disconnectors Replacement	Refurbish/ Replace	0	✓							✓	£10M	+£6.25M	>2024
Castlereagh inter-bus Transformer 1 Replacement	Refurbish/ Replace	0	✓							✓	£2.7M	+£1.4M	>2024

[40] The decrease in these costs partially reflect work that has been carried out since TDPNI 2019-2028

Project Title	Type	km	DRIVERS			NEEDS					Project Capex	Capex Changes since 2019	ECD
			Security of Supply	RES Integration	Market Integration	Inter-Regional Power Flow	Local Constraints	Connection	Inter-connection	Asset Condition			
Coolkeeragh 275 kV Structures, Busbars and Disconnectors Replacement	Refurbish/ Replace	0	✓							✓	£10M	+6.5M	>2024
Coolkeeragh 110 kV Disconnectors Replacement	Refurbish/ Replace	0	✓							✓	£1.3M	0	>2024
Hannahstown 275 kV Structures, Busbars and Disconnectors Replacement	Refurbish/ Replace	0	✓							✓	£6M	+£4.8M	>2024
Kells and Hannahstown Shunt Reactor Replacement	Refurbish/ Replace	0	✓							✓	£1.53M	n/a	>2024
Kells 275 kV Structures, Busbars and Disconnectors Replacement	Refurbish/ Replace	0	✓							✓	£10M	+£6.75M	>2024
Kells inter-bus Transformer Replacement	Refurbish/ Replace	0	✓							✓	£2.8M	n/a	2025
Magherafelt 275 kV Structures, Busbars and Disconnectors Replacement	Refurbish/ Replace	0	✓							✓	£10M	+£6.5M	>2024
Rathgael 110 kV Structures and Disconnectors Replacement	Refurbish/ Replace	0	✓							✓	£0.25M	0	>2024
Tandragee inter-bus Transformer replacement	Refurbish/ Replace	0	✓							✓	£2.7M	-£4.3M	>2024
Tandragee 275 kV Structures and Disconnectors Replacement	Refurbish/ Replace	0	✓							✓	£10M	+£6.5M	>2024
RP7 275 kV Tower and Overhead Line Maintenance	Refurbish/ Replace	0	✓							✓	£8M[41]	0	>2024
RP7 110 kV Tower and Overhead Line Maintenance	Refurbish/ Replace		✓							✓	£9M[39]	0	>2024

[41] These figures are estimates based on RP6

Project Title	Type	km	DRIVERS			NEEDS					Project Capex	Capex Changes since 2019	ECD
			Security of Supply	RES Integration	Market Integration	Inter-Regional Power Flow	Local Constraints	Connection	Inter-connection	Asset Condition			
RP7 110 kV Cable Maintenance	Refurbish/ Replace		✓							✓	£1.4M[39]	+£0.4M	>2024
RP7 110 kV Protection	Refurbish/ Replace	0	✓							✓	£1.4M[39]	0	>2024
RP7 275 kV Protection	Refurbish/ Replace	0	✓							✓	£2.7M[39]	0	>2024
Miscellaneous RP7 works	Refurbish/ Replace	0	✓							✓	£2.7M[39]	-£0.5M	>2024

Projects in the North and West Planning Area

There are 17 development projects in the North and West Planning Area; these projects are listed in Table B-2 below.

Table B-2 Planned Projects in the North and West Planning Area (17 Projects)

Project Title	Type	km	DRIVERS				NEEDS					Stage (Part)	Project Capex	Capex change since 2019	ECD
			New Connection	Security of Supply	RES Integration	Market Integration	Inter-Regional Power Flow	Local Constraints	Connection	Inter-connection	Asset Condition				
Agivey 110/33 kV Cluster	New Build	0	✓		✓				✓			3	n/a[42]	n/a	2022
Gort 110/33 kV 2nd Transformer	New Build	0			✓			✓	✓			3	£1.3M	-£0.2M	2022
Rasharkin Cluster 110/33 kV 2nd Transformer	New Build	0		✓	✓			✓				1	£1.5M	-£0.2M	2025
Coolkeeragh Reactive Compensation	New Build	0		✓	✓		✓	✓				2	£21M	+£0.13M	2025
Coolkeeragh – Killymallaght - Strabane 110 kV Uprate	Uprate/ Modify	15		✓	✓		✓	✓				1	£6.1M	n/a	2027
Coolkeeragh – Magherafelt 275 kV Switchgear	Uprate/ Modify	0		✓	✓		✓					1	£2.1M	0	2024
Coolkeeragh – Trillick new 110 kV Circuit	New Build	16		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				1	£9.8M	+£0.9M	2027

[42] Cluster substation projects are funded according to the NIE Networks "Statement of Charges For Connection to Northern Ireland Electricity Networks' Distribution System" - http://www.nienetworks.co.uk/documents/connections/statement-of-charges

Project Title	Type	km	DRIVERS				NEEDS					Stage (Part)	Project Capex	Capex change since 2019	ECD
			New Connection	Security of Supply	RES Integration	Market Integration	Inter-Regional Power Flow	Local Constraints	Connection	Inter-connection	Asset Condition				
Creagh/Kells-Rasharkin New 110 kV Circuit	New Build	0		✓	✓			✓	✓			1	£23.6M	+£1.8M	2026
Limavady Transformer Replacement (NEW)	Uprate/ Modify	0		✓	✓			✓			✓	1	£2.8M	n/a	2023
North West of NI 110 kV Reinforcement	New Build	-		✓	✓		✓	✓				1	£32M	+£2M	>2026
North West of NI Large-scale Reinforcement	New Build	-		✓	✓		✓	✓				1	£175M	+£5M	>2026
Omagh Main – Dromore Uprate	Uprate/ Modify	9	✓		✓		✓	✓			✓	3	£4.2M	-£0.2M	2022
Omagh Main – Dromore Third Circuit	New Build	9		✓	✓			✓				1	£11.6M	n/a	2029
Strabane – Omagh 110 kV Uprate	Uprate/Modify	36		✓	✓			✓				1	£5.6M	+£0.6M	2026
Coolkeeragh T1 Transformer cabling uprate	Uprate/ Modify	0		✓				✓				1	£0.6M	0	2021
East Tyrone Reinforcement Project	New Build	TBC		✓				✓	✓			1	£1.7M	+£0.1M	2023
North West Special Protection Scheme upgrade	Uprate/ Modify	0		✓	✓			✓				NIE Networks	£0.3M	-£0.1M	2020

Projects in the South-East Planning Area

There are 15 development projects in the South-East Planning Area; these projects are listed in Table B-3 below.

Table B-3 Planned Projects in the South-East Planning Area (15 Projects)

			DRIVERS				NEEDS							
Project Title	Type	km	New Connection	Security of Supply	RES Integration	Market Integration	Inter-Regional Power Flow	Local Constraints	Connection	Inter-connection	Asset Condition	Stage (Part)	Project Capex	Capex Change Since 2019	ECD
Castlereagh – Hannahstown 110 kV Reinforcement [43]	Refurbish/Replace/New Build	25		✓			✓				✓	1	£37.4M	+£8.9M	2028
Eden-Carnmoney 110 kV Circuit Uprate/Reconfiguration	Refurbish/Replace/Uprate/Modify	12		✓			✓				✓	1	£22.6M	+£14.7M	2026

[43] Formerly Castlereagh – Carnmoney 110 kV Circuit Uprate/Reconfiguration

			DRIVERS				NEEDS								
Project Title	Type	km	New Connection	Security of Supply	RES Integration	Market Integration	Inter-Regional Power Flow	Local Constraints	Connection	Inter-connection	Asset Condition	Stage (Part)	Project Capex	Capex Change Since 2019	ECD
Kells 110/33 kV Cluster	New Build	0			✓			✓	✓			3	N/A[44]	N/A	2023
Tamnamore – Turleenan 275 kV Uprate	Uprate/ Modify	5		✓	✓		✓					1	£4.6M	+£0.3M	2024
Tandragee 275 kV second bus coupling circuit breaker	Uprate/ Modify	0		✓			✓	✓				1	£2.1M	0	2023
Tamnamore – Drumnakelly 110 kV Uprate	Uprate/ Modify	22		✓	✓		✓	✓				1	£3.7M	N/A	2027
Airport Road Main 110/33 kV substation	New Build	0		✓				✓	✓			3	£6.1M	-£0.7M	2022
Castlereagh, Tandragee and Tamnamore Reactors	New Build	0		✓				✓				3	£4M	+£0.4M	2022
Drumnakelly and Armagh Reinforcement	New Build	17		✓				✓	✓			1	£25.2M	+£0.3M	2026

[44] Cluster substation projects are funded according to the NIE Networks "Statement of Charges For Connection to Northern Ireland Electricity Networks' Distribution System" – http://www.nienetworks.co.uk/documents/connections/statement-of-charges

			DRIVERS				NEEDS								
Project Title	Type	km	New Connection	Security of Supply	RES Integration	Market Integration	Inter-Regional Power Flow	Local Constraints	Connection	Inter-connection	Asset Condition	Stage (Part)	Project Capex	Capex Change Since 2019	ECD
Castlereagh 110 kV Switchgear replacement	Uprate/ Modify	0		✓				✓				1	£3.9M	+£0.1M	2022
Castlereagh – Knock 110 kV cables uprate	Uprate/ Modify	5		✓				✓			✓	NIE Networks	£1.1M	-£0.1M	2021
Cregagh Transformer B Realignment and Switchgear Replacement	Uprate/ Modify	0		✓				✓			✓	1	£1.3M	0	2022
Tandragee 110 kV Switchgear replacement	Uprate/ Modify	0		✓				✓				1	£3.3M	+£0.1M	2022
North South 400 kV Interconnection Development (TYNDP/ 81)	New Build	137 (34)[45]		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		3	£117.5M[46]	+£1.2M	2023[47]

[45] The total length is 137 km: 103 km in Ireland and 34 km in Northern Ireland

[46] Included in this amount are the costs associated with obtaining planning consent plus the cost of developing the new substation at Turleenan and the cost of looping the existing 275 kV double circuit overhead line into that new substation. The cost increase since 2019 is due to inflation. Final costs may change following NIE Networks procurement.

[47] To be reviewed following recent receipt of planning permission

			DRIVERS				NEEDS								
Project Title	Type	km	New Connection	Security of Supply	RES Integration	Market Integration	Inter-Regional Power Flow	Local Constraints	Connection	Inter-connection	Asset Condition	Stage (Part)	Project Capex	Capex Change Since 2019	ECD
Moyle 275 kV Reinforcement	New Build	1		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		1	£4.7M	+£0.6M	2024

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Projects in Both Planning Areas:

There are 4 development projects that are in multiple Planning Areas; these projects are listed in Table B-4 below.

Table B-4 Planned Projects that are in Both Planning Areas (4 Projects)

Project Title	Type	km	DRIVERS			NEEDS					Stage (Part)	Project Capex	Capex Changes Since 2019	ECD
			Security of Supply	RES Integration	Market Integration	Inter-Regional Power Flow	Local Constraints	Connection	Inter-connection	Asset Condition				
Enhancement to the low frequency load disconnection scheme	Uprate/Modify	0	✓				✓				1	£0.9M	0	2023
CVT Upgrade for Harmonic Measurement	Uprate/Modify	0	✓			✓	✓				3	£1.1M	0	2022
Filter Tuning/Replacement	Uprate/Modify	0	✓			✓	✓		✓		1	£2.3M	+£0.1M	2025
22 kV Switchgear Uprates	Uprate/Modify	0	✓				✓			✓	1	£2.1M	0	2022

APPENDIX C: NORTHERN IRELAND PROJECTS IN EUROPEAN PLANS[48]

How are Northern Ireland transmission projects included in ENTSO-E's TYNDP?

Licensed TSOs, who are members of ENTSO-E, and third party promoters propose transmission projects to ENTSO-E for inclusion in ENTSO-E's TYNDP. If these projects match the project of pan-European significance criteria below, they are included in the TYNDP.

Criteria for Inclusion in TYNDP

A project of pan-European significance is a set of Extra High Voltage assets, matching the following criteria:

- The main equipment is at least 220 kV if it is an AC overhead line or at least 150 kV otherwise and is, at least partially, located in one of the 34 countries represented within ENTSO-E;
- The project increases the grid transfer capability across a network boundary within the ENTSO-E interconnected network[49] or at its borders[50];
- The grid transfer capability increase (expressed in MW) meets at least one of the following minimums:
    - At least 500 MW of additional Net Transfer Capacity; or

[48] For the avoidance of doubt, the term "Northern Ireland Projects in European Plans" refers to Northern Ireland projects in ENTSO-E's TYNDP and RegIP NS and Northern Ireland projects designated Projects of Common Interest.

[49] For example, additional Net Transfer Capacity between two market areas.

[50] That is, increasing the import and/or export capability of ENTSO-E countries in relation to others.

- Connecting or securing output of at least 1 GW/ 1000 km² of generation; or
- Securing load growth for at least 10 years for an area representing consumption greater than 3 TWh/ year.

SONI Projects in TYNDP 2018 and RegIP NS 2015

Table C-1 below lists the Northern Ireland projects we proposed, that are in ENTSO-E's most recent final versions of TYNDP and RegIP NS. These were issued in 2018 and 2015 respectively.

Table C-1 Our projects in European TYNDP 2018

TYNDP No.	Project Title
81	North South 400 kV Interconnection Development
82	Renewable Integration Development Project (RIDP)

Northern Ireland Projects of Common Interest (PCIs)[51]

The EC oversees the designation of Projects of Common Interest (PCI). To be eligible for PCI status, inclusion in the last available TYNDP is an explicit condition. Table C-2 below lists the Northern Ireland Projects of Common Interest.

Table C-2 Northern Ireland Projects of Common Interest

PCI No.	TYNDP No.	Project Title
2.13.1	81	North South 400 kV Interconnection Development
2.13.2	82	Renewable Integration Development Project (RIDP)

Northern Ireland e-Highway 2050 projects

The e-Highway 2050 is a study project funded by the EC aimed at building a development plan for the European transmission network from 2020 to 2050. The development plan supports the EU's overall policy objectives with regard to energy and decarbonising the European economy. Table C-3 below lists the Northern Ireland projects included in the e-Highway 2050 plan.

Table C-3 Northern Ireland projects in e-Highway 2050 plan

TYNDP No.	Project Title
81	North South 400 kV Interconnection Development
82	Renewable Integration Development Project (RIDP)

[51] https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32018R0540&from=EN

How are Northern Ireland and European Plans related?

It is worth highlighting how the TDPNI and the European plans and designations are related. Figure C-1 below illustrates the relationship. All our capital projects, irrespective of size, are described in the TDPNI.

Only high voltage projects that involve a large increase in transmission capacity are included in European plans. Of those only a small number of large cross border projects which increase the import and/ or export capability of ENTSO-E countries are designated Projects of Common Interest.

Figure C-1 Relationship between Northern Ireland and European Plans

APPENDIX D: REFERENCES

Our Published Documents

I. SONI Transmission System Security and Planning Standards, September 2015

II. All Island Ten Year Transmission Forecast Statement 2018-2027

III. All Island Generation Capacity Statement 2019 - 2028

ENTSO-E Published Documents

IV. TYNDP 2018

V. RegIP North Sea, 2017

Local Legislation

VI. The Electricity Order (Northern Ireland) 1992 No. 231

VII. The Electricity Safety, Quality and Continuity Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012

European Legislation

VIII. Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations, 2011

IX. Cross-border Exchanges in Electricity Regulation (EC) No 714/ 2009

X. Environmental Impact Assessment Directive

XI. Habitats Directive

XII. Internal Market in Electricity Directive 2009/ 72/ EC

XIII. Promotion of the Use of Energy from Renewable Resources Directive 2009/ 28/ EC

XIV. Energy Efficiency Directive 2012/ 27/ EC

Utility Regulator Published Documents

XV. TSO Licence granted to SONI

XVI. Transmission Licence granted to NIE Networks

XVII. NIE Networks RP6 Regulatory price Control, Utility Regulator, 2017

Government Published Documents

XVIII. Strategic Energy Framework, 2010

Other Published Documents

XIX. Grant Thornton: "Powering Northern Ireland A report exploring SONI's role in the economy", October 2016

STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Belfast City Council

Subject:	**Belfast City Council and Fairtrade**
Date:	19th February, 2021
Reporting Officer:	Suzanne Wylie, Chief Executive
Contact Officers:	Richard McLernon, Resilience Project Coordinator Clare McKeown, Sustainable Development Manager

Restricted Reports				
Is this report restricted?	**Yes**		**No**	X
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**	X	**No**	

1.0	**Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues**
1.1	To present the Committee with an update on actions that will be undertaken through SOLACE NI to ensure a coordinated approach regarding Fairtrade across the SOLACE NI membership.
2.0	**Recommendations**
2.1	The Committee is asked to note the following actions that have been agreed by SOLACE NI in relation to the Fairtrade Campaign: a) SOLACE NI agreed to further consider and discuss this issue at a future meeting to determine a SOLACE NI view for consideration by each of the eleven councils, to support a more consistent level of council participation with the Fairtrade initiative.

	b) SOLACE NI agreed to share information for their councils in terms of participation with the Fairtrade initiative, through the SOLACE NI Policy Officer for collation, to provide an overview of current relationships between local councils and Fairtrade initiatives.
2.2	Furthermore, Members are asked to agree that a future report will update on the actions undertaken through SOLACE NI.
3.0	**Main Report**
3.1	Belfast City Council originally agreed the Council's approach to the Fairtrade Campaign on 18th February, 2000. The then Policy and Resources Committee adopted the following proposal regarding the War on Want Fair Trade campaign: "It is proposed that, should the Council wish to adopt a policy in relation to Fair Trade products, it be limited to: • specifying the use of tea and coffee products with the Fair Trade mark for Council meetings and civic events; • encouraging the use of Fair Trade tea and coffee by the Council's catering contractors; • encouraging the use of Fair Trade tea and coffee by organisations hosting events in the City Hall; • integrating the issue of fair trade into Belfast City Council's Local Agenda 21 programme through future sustainable development strategies; and • actively promoting awareness of fair trade amongst its employees and the citizens of Belfast through the adoption and promotion of this policy."
3.2	Correspondence has recently been received from the All Party Working Group on Fairtrade, which resulted in a report being taken to SOLACE NI on 5th February 2021 to consider next steps and the development of a more co-ordinated approach to Fairtrade across NI councils. As noted above, SOLACE NI members were presented with the following recommendations, which were agreed: "Members were asked to agree to further consider and discuss this issue at a future meeting to decide if SOLACE NI should adopt a position for the 11 councils to support a more consistent level of council participation with the Fairtrade initiative". Members were asked to share information for their councils in terms of participation with

	the Fairtrade initiative, through the SOLACE NI Policy Officer for collation, to provide an overview of current relationships between local councils and Fairtrade initiatives."
3.4	The recommendations were agreed by SOLACE NI. Members will be provided with an update report at a future meeting, which will set out recommendations and next steps.
	Financial and Resource Implications
3.5	None associated with this report.
	Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment
3.6	None associated with this report
4.0	**Documents Attached**
	None

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Belfast City Council

STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Subject:	**Asset Management** **i)** Whitla Street Car Park – Options Agreement **ii)** Finvoy Street Community Centre – Contractor Compounds **iii)** Knocknagoney Linear Park – Electricity Substation **iv)** Beechvale Farm – Conacre Agreements **v)** Whiterock Leisure and Community Centre- Licence to Sustrans **vi)** Monagh Wood-Easement to Phoenix Natural Gas Limited **vii)** Orangefield Park-Lease to the Department for Infrastructure
Date:	19 February 2021
Reporting Officer:	Sinead Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes
Contact Officer:	Pamela Davison, Estates Team Leader

Restricted Reports				
Is this report restricted?	**Yes**		**No**	x
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**	X	**No**	

1.0	**Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues**
1.1	The purpose of this report is to seek approval from the Committee in respect of asset related disposal, acquisition and Estates matters.
2.0	**Recommendations**

2.1	**Members are asked to -** **i) Whitla Street Car Park – Options Agreement** - approve entering into an options agreement with Translink for the 0.36-acre portion of Whitla Street Car Park which has been approved for disposal to Translink to facilitate the redevelopment of Yorkgate Train Station. **ii) Finvoy Street Community Centre – Contractor Compounds** - approve entering into a licence and a side letter to vary the terms of an existing lease to allow two sites to be used for storage and welfare facilities by the contractor appointed to construct the new Finvoy Street Community Centre. **iii) Knocknagoney Linear Park – Electricity Substation** - approve the disposal of a 21sqm site at Knocknagoney Linear Park to Northern Ireland Electricity (NIE) to facilitate the installation of a new electricity substation. **iv) Beechvale Farm – Conacre Agreements** - approve the renewal of three conacre licences for the growing of crops, grazing and grass cutting on agricultural lands at Beechvale Farm for a licence period from and including 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022. **v) Whiterock Leisure and Community Centre –Licence to Sustrans** - approve the grant of a licence to Sustrans for an initial period of 2 years. **vi) Monagh Wood- Easement to Phoenix Natural Gas Limited** - approve the grant of an easement regarding the siting of gas mains pipework / equipment at Monagh Wood between the Council & Phoenix Natural Gas Limited. **vii) Orangefield Park- Lease to the Department for Infrastructure** - approve entering into a lease agreement with the Department for Infrastructure regarding the siting of a water level alert station & its associated pipework on Council lands at Orangefield Park.
3.0	**Main report**
3.1	**i) Whitla Street Car Park – Options Agreement** **<u>Key Issues</u>** SP&R, at its meeting on 22 January 2021, agreed to dispose of a 0.36-acre portion of Whitla Street Car Park to Translink to be used for their Yorkgate Train Station redevelopment project. Initial negotiations between the Estates Unit and Translink's Estates Surveyor had been conducted subject to Translink gaining planning permission for the site. However, Translink have requested to complete the conveyance during the current financial year 2020/21 and as their planning permission is unlikely to be in place by then, have agreed to

offer the Council first refusal to re-acquire the site in lieu of this condition. Council's Legal Services and those providing legal advice to Translink have recommended that this arrangement is dealt with by way of an options agreement. Subject to Committee approval it has been agreed with Translink that Council will have the option to re-acquire the site at market value or the agreed purchase price of £185,000, whichever is lower, if planning permission is refused or the proposed redevelopment is not completed by 31 March 2023.

Financial and Resources Implications

Staff resources from the Estates Unit and Legal Services will be involved in the completion of the proposed options agreement.

Equality and Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment

None associated with this report.

3.2 **ii) Finvoy Street Community Centre – Contractor Compounds**

Key Issues

SP&R, at its meeting on 23 August 2019, agreed to acquire DFI lands at Finvoy Street to be used along with adjacent Council owned land to facilitate the construction of a new community centre for Walkway Community Association (WCA). The project is being funded by the Social Investment Fund and the land will to be leased to WCA for 50 years. The Council's Project Management Unit are delivering the project and the building contractor who has already commenced works on site has identified two small sites in the vicinity which they would like to use for storage and welfare facilities for the duration of the construction project. Both sites are owned by the Department for Infrastructure (DfI). One is a cleared site which was formally occupied by No 2 Finvoy Street and the other makes up a part of Finvoy Street Community Garden and is held by the Council under a 10-year lease with a restrictive use covenant. The map attached at Appendix 2 shows both sites outlined red, along with the extent of Finvoy Street Community Garden shaded green and the new WCA Community Centre site shaded blue.

The Estates Unit have approached DfI for permission to use both areas and DfI have agreed to licence the site of former No 2 Finvoy Street until 31 January 2022 and enter into a side letter to vary the terms of our existing lease for the land at the community garden to allow use by the contractor up until the same date.

Financial and Resources Implications

Staff resources from the Estates Unit and Legal Services will be involved in the completion of the proposed licence agreement and side letter on suitable terms to be agreed by the Estates Unit. DfI have confirmed that they will grant the licence for a fee of £1.00 if demanded and seek no fee for varying the terms of the lease.

Equality and Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment

None associated with this report.

3.3 **iii) Knocknagoney Linear Park – Electricity Substation**

Key Issues

NIE are currently holding a 42-year lease for a substation site at Knocknagoney Linear Park. The existing substation is outdated. NIE have proposed entering a new lease to allow them to install a new substation on an adjacent plot of land with the addition of a wayleave to allow the removal of the existing overhead power lines and place them under ground. The map attached at Appendix 3 shows the location of the proposed new substation and wayleave locations along with a right of way for maintenance. Terms have been agreed for a new 99-year lease with a premium of £1,500 subject to Committee approval. It is anticipated the new substation will be more secure than the existing apparatus and the removal of the hazardous stays will improve the safety of park users.

Financial and Resources Implications

Staff resources from the Estates Unit and Legal Services will be involved in the completion of the proposed 99 lease and wayleave agreement as soon as practically possible. The Council will receive a premium of £1,500.

Equality and Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment

None associated with this report.

3.4 **iv) Beechvale Farm – Conacre Agreements**

Key Issues

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 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020, with the successful bidders, as follows:

- Mr Chris Johnson (3 fields)
- Mr Denis Foreman (5 fields)
- SH Long Produce Limited (7 fields)

On 21 February 2020, the SP&R Committee approved the renewal of the respective conacre licences to the above parties for the period 1st April 2020 to 31 March 2021. On 21 June 2019, the SP&R Committee approved the proposal to appoint selling agents to dispose of Beechvale Farm. On 21 February 2020, the SP&R Committee agreed to defer the actioning or implementing the decision of 21 June 2019 to market Beechvale Farm for sale to enable a further report to be submitted on other future options for the site taking into consideration the motion agreed earlier in the meeting on Market Gardens and Urban Farming. Due to the

impact of COVID 19 on the market/economic conditions the consideration of future options for Beechvale Farm has been delayed and a report on the options will be presented to the SP&R Committee at a future meeting. Given this delay, it is proposed that the respective conacre licences are renewed with each of the above parties for a further licence period from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 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 the options at Beechvale Farm are considered.

Financial and Resource Implications

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 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022.

Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Impact Assessment

None associated with this report.

3.5 **v) Whiterock Leisure and Community Centre-Licence to Sustrans**

Key Issues

Sustrans is a leading charity encouraging and enabling people to travel by foot, bike, or public transport for more of the journeys made every day. In Northern Ireland Sustrans are working with schools, workplaces, and communities to encourage active travel for everyday journeys. The charity, having a proven track record of successful initiatives across the city including the active transport hub at CS Lewis Square in East Belfast is now keen to promote a number of activities in West Belfast based on Falls Park and are looking for a location for a shipping container for bike storage. The activities to be promoted include :

- Back On Your Bike: increasing the confidence and skill of those who have not been on their bikes for a period of time.
- Better By Bike: providing skills and advice for those who wish to ride their bikes more as part of everyday life.
- Bike Fix Basics: beginners bicycle maintenance skills.
- Led Walks: local community walks organised and led by Sustrans.

The Belfast Health Development Unit is engaging directly with Sustrans with regard to how these activities can be incorporated in planned activity as part of the "Take 5 Steps to Wellbeing" programme. Public Health Authority has provided £5,000 to fund the purchase of a container – the funding must be drawn down by 31s March 2021. A suitable location for the container has been identified in the grounds of Whiterock - on the site of the polytunnel shown on the top left of the picture at Appendix 5. The site is within the council-owned community garden at Whiterock Community Centre. The polytunnel was damaged and has been removed since this photograph was taken leaving that part of the garden clear. The

community centre staff have indicated they would be supportive of the Sustrans initiative at this location. Access will be facilitated during the normal opening hours of the site and in line with programming of activities as above. The container would be the community pick- up point for the bikes with the activities taking place in and around Falls Park.

Financial and Resource Implications

Sustrans will be responsible for all costs associated with supply of the container, obtaining planning permission, obtaining appropriate public liability and contents insurance and for installation, maintenance, and subsequent removal as well as the cost of any reinstatement required. Resources from the Estates Unit and Legal Services will be required to complete the licence if approved.

Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

None associated with this report.

3.6 **vi) Monagh Wood- Easement to Phoenix Natural Gas Limited.**

Key Issues

Phoenix Natural Gas Limited (PNG) had approached the Council seeking retrospective consent for their installation of a gas mains / equipment at the front of BCC lands at Monagh Wood. PNG have advised Estates that they had initially been informed by the Department for Infrastructure (as DRD at the time) that the DFI had owned the land that the gas mains / equipment had been installed on at Monagh Wood. However the landowners are the Council not DFI. PNG have therefore requested retrospective consent from BCC and have stated that they are willing to enter into an easement agreement with BCC to retain the gas mains / equipment in situ on our land. An easement fee of £1,000 was assessed by Estates and agreed with PNG subject to Member's approval. The easement will be for a term of 99 years.

Financial and Resource Implications

The Council will receive an easement fee of £1,000. Staff from Estates Unit and Legal Services will be required to complete the easement.

Equality and Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

None associated with this report

3.7 **vii) Orangefield Park – Lease to the Department for Infrastructure**

Key Issues

The Department for Infrastructure (DfI Rivers) have approached Council seeking a lease agreement for the siting of a water level alert station (also known as a hydrometric recording station) & its associated pipework at Council lands at Orangefield Park. The Council will benefit from early warning of potential flooding which will allow staff to take preventative

	measures to protect the public and park. In the event of termination of the lease, it has been agreed that DfI Rivers will remove all equipment from BCC lands and return the land to its former condition. The lease agreement will permit DfI Rivers staff or its agents to access the site at all reasonable times with the purpose of obtaining recorded data and maintenance of the structure and its contents. The lease will be for a period of 25 years commencing upon the conclusion of installation works. Estates will prepare and issue an access agreement in advance of any such initial installation works commencing on our lands. **Financial and Resource Implications** No rent will be payable by DfI Rivers as the water level alert station will provide Council staff with early warning of potential flooding of parts of Orangefield Park . Staff from Estates Unit and Legal Services will be required to complete the easement. **Equality and Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment** None associated with this report.
4.0	**Documents Attached**
	Appendix 1 – Map showing site at Whitla Street over which Council will hold an options agreement from Translink. **Appendix 2** – Map showing sites at Finvoy Street outlined red required by construction contractor at the new WCA Community Centre for storage and welfare facilities. Finvoy Street Community Garden has been shaded green and the extent of the new WCA Community Centre Site shaded blue. **Appendix 3** – Map showing site to be leased to NIE outlined red at Knocknagoney Linear Park, along with associated wayleave shaded yellow and right of way coloured blue. Knocknagoney Linear Park has been shaded green. **Appendix 4** – Beechvale Farm Site Map **Appendix 5 -** Aerial photograph of proposed location of container at Whiterock **Appendix 6 -** Map showing the route of the gas mains through Monagh Wood in blue together with the proposed service area shown shaded yellow. **Appendix 7 –** Map showing the proposed positioning of the water level alert station at Orangefield Park shaded in yellow and the route of the associated pipework delineated in blue.

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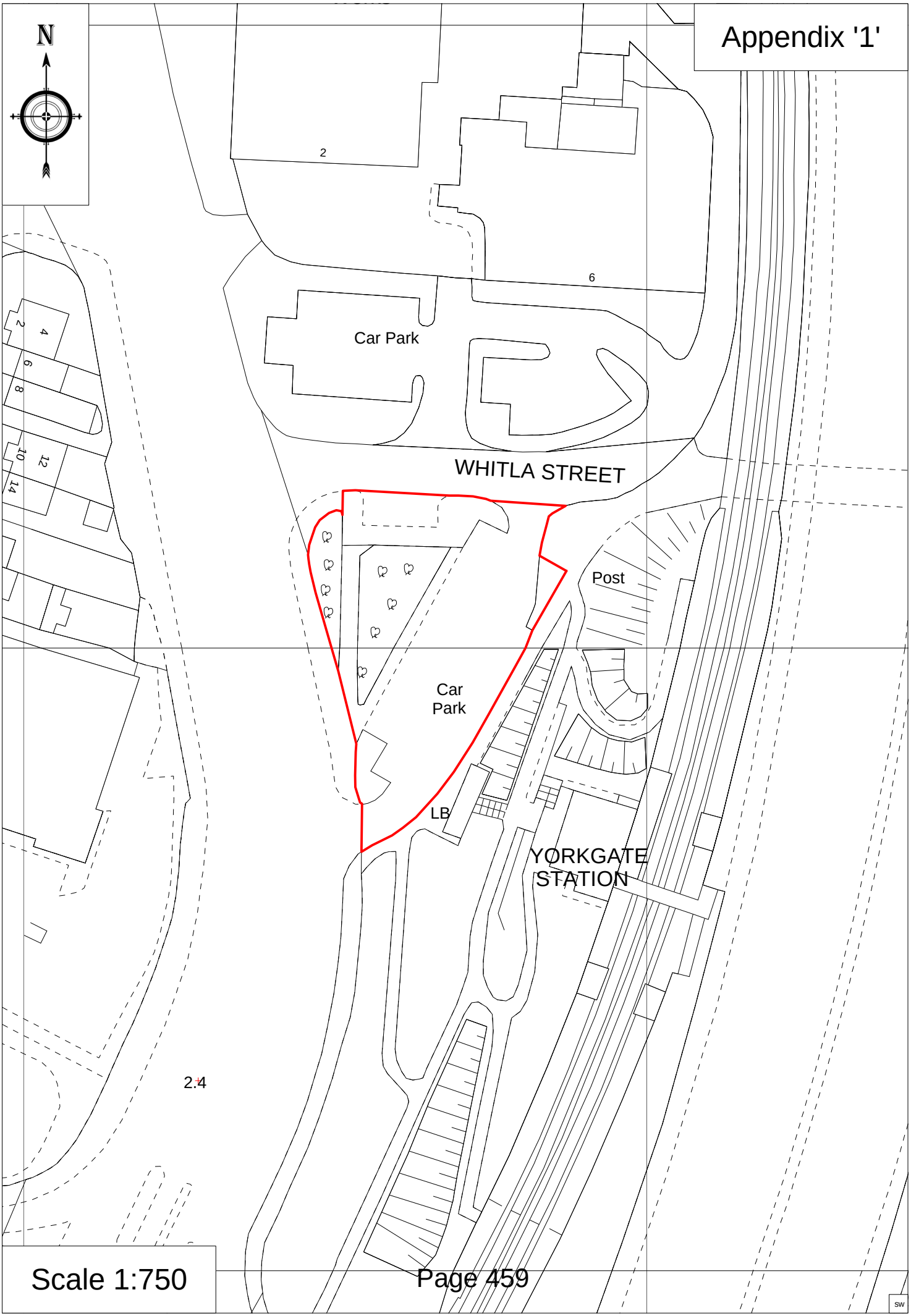
Appendix '1'
N
2
6
Car Park
WHITLA STREET
2
4
6
8
10
12
14
Post
Car
Park
LB
YORKGATE
STATION
2.4
Scale 1:750
SW

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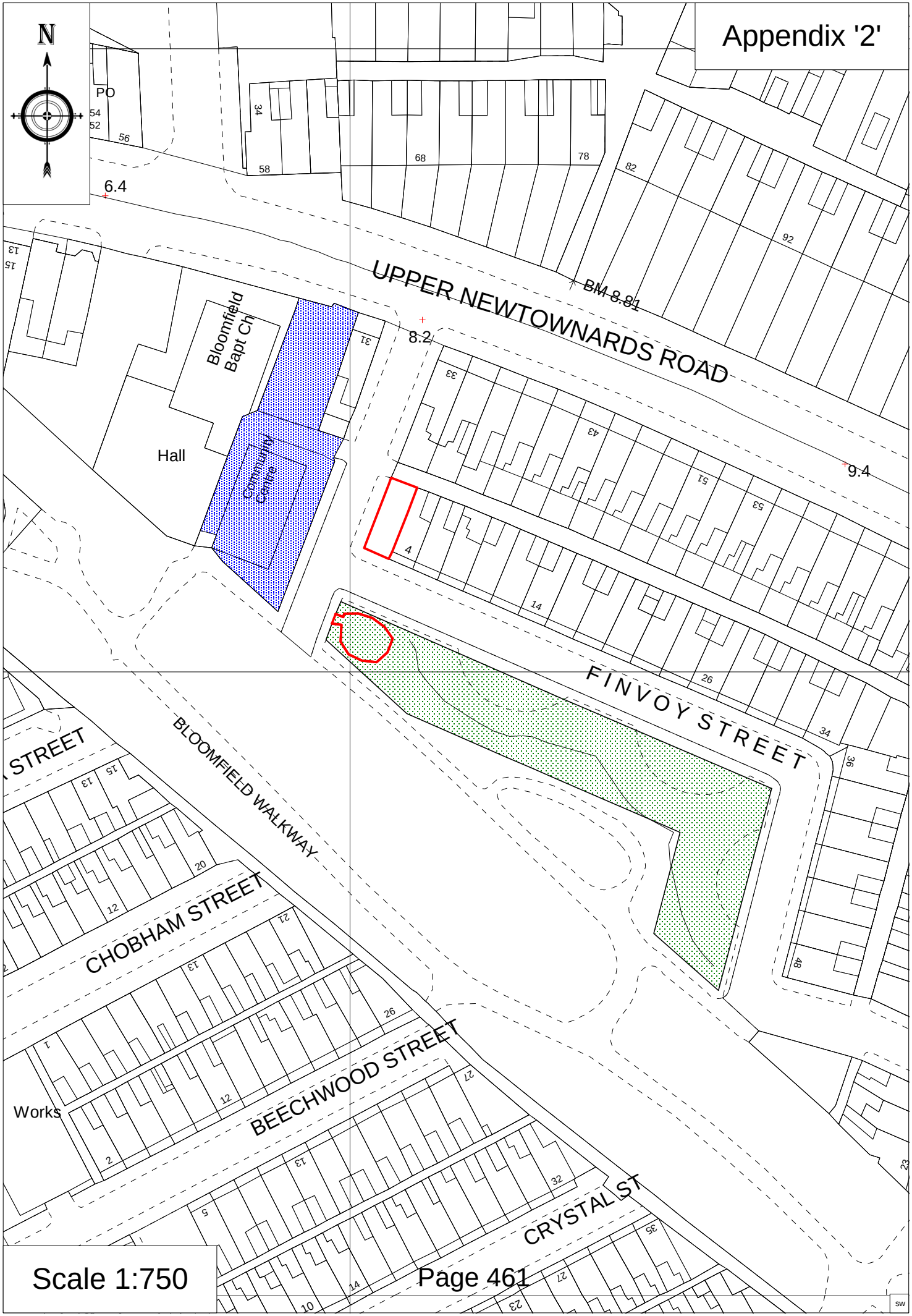
Appendix '2'
N
PO
54
52
56
34
58
68
78
82
92
6.4
UPPER NEWTOWNARDS ROAD
BM 8.81
8.2
9.4
Bloomfield Bapt Ch
Hall
Community Centre
31
33
43
51
53
4
14
26
34
36
48
FINVOY STREET
BLOOMFIELD WALKWAY
STREET
15
13
20
12
21
13
26
1
12
2
27
13
32
5
35
27
23
14
10
CHOBHAM STREET
BEECHWOOD STREET
CRYSTAL ST
Works
Scale 1:750

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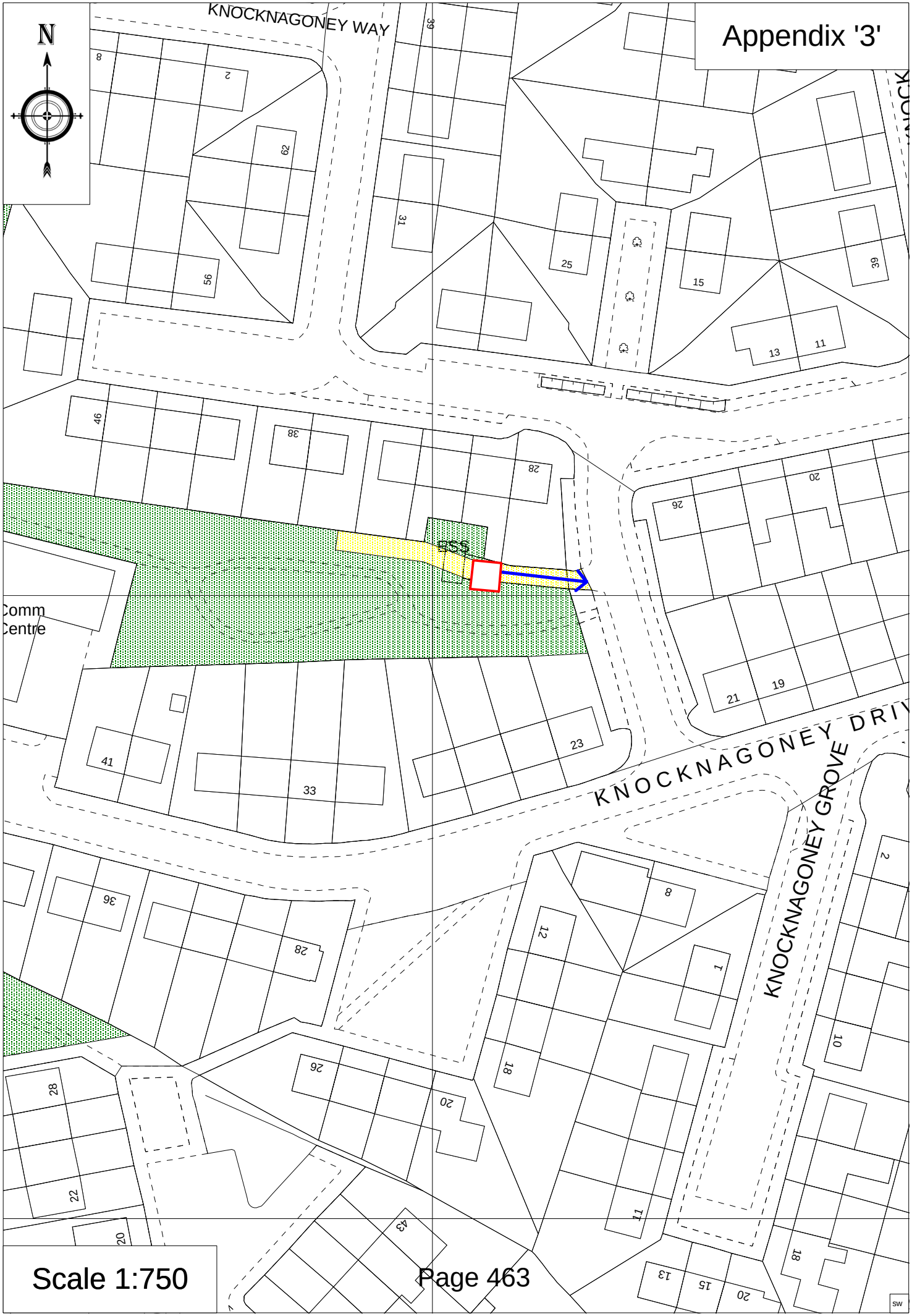
Appendix '3'
N
KNOCKNAGONEY WAY
KNOCKNAGONEY DRIVE
KNOCKNAGONEY GROVE
Comm
Centre
SSS
Scale 1:750

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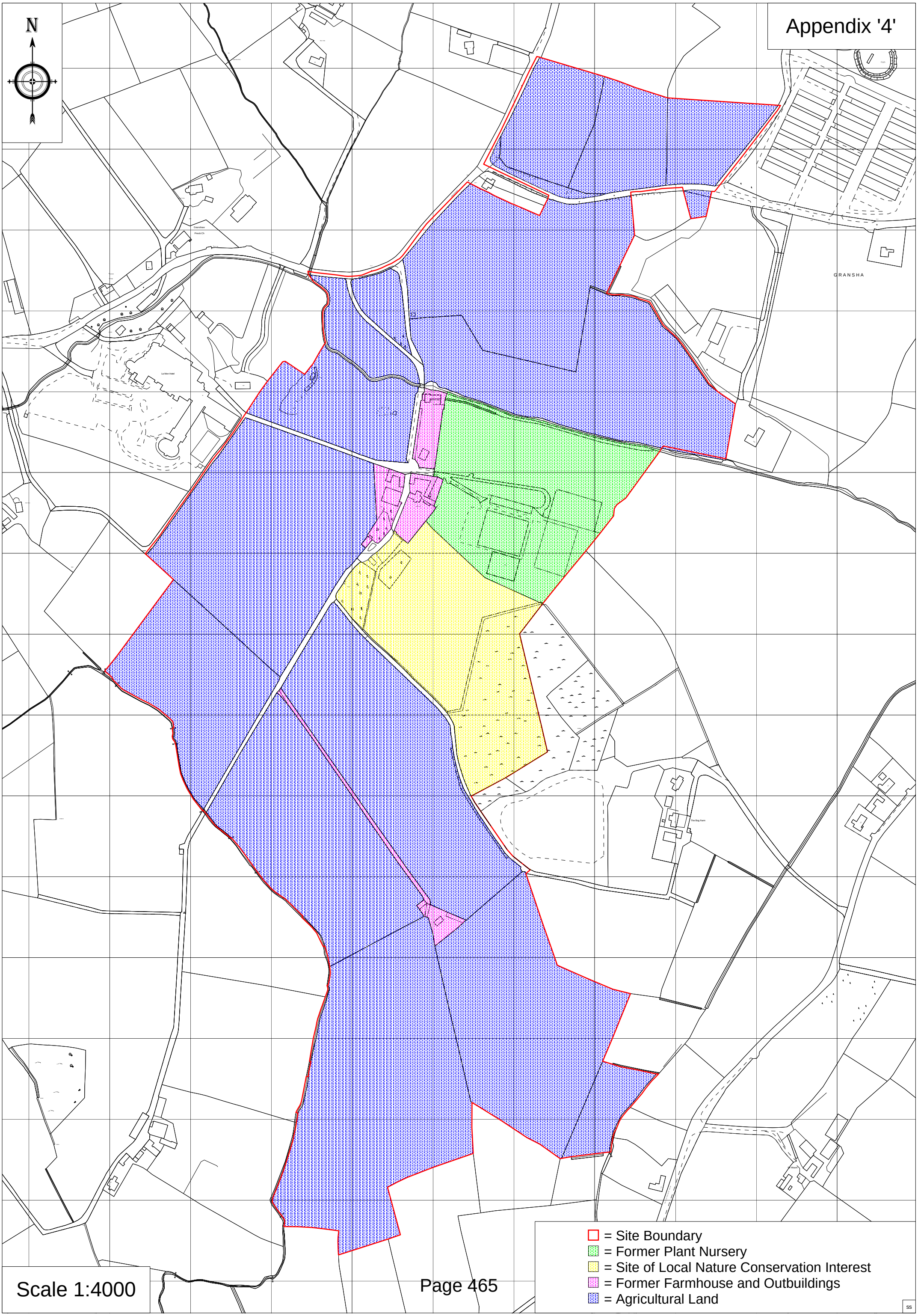
Appendix '4'


N
GRANSHA
= Site Boundary
= Former Plant Nursery
= Site of Local Nature Conservation Interest
= Former Farmhouse and Outbuildings
= Agricultural Land
Scale 1:4000

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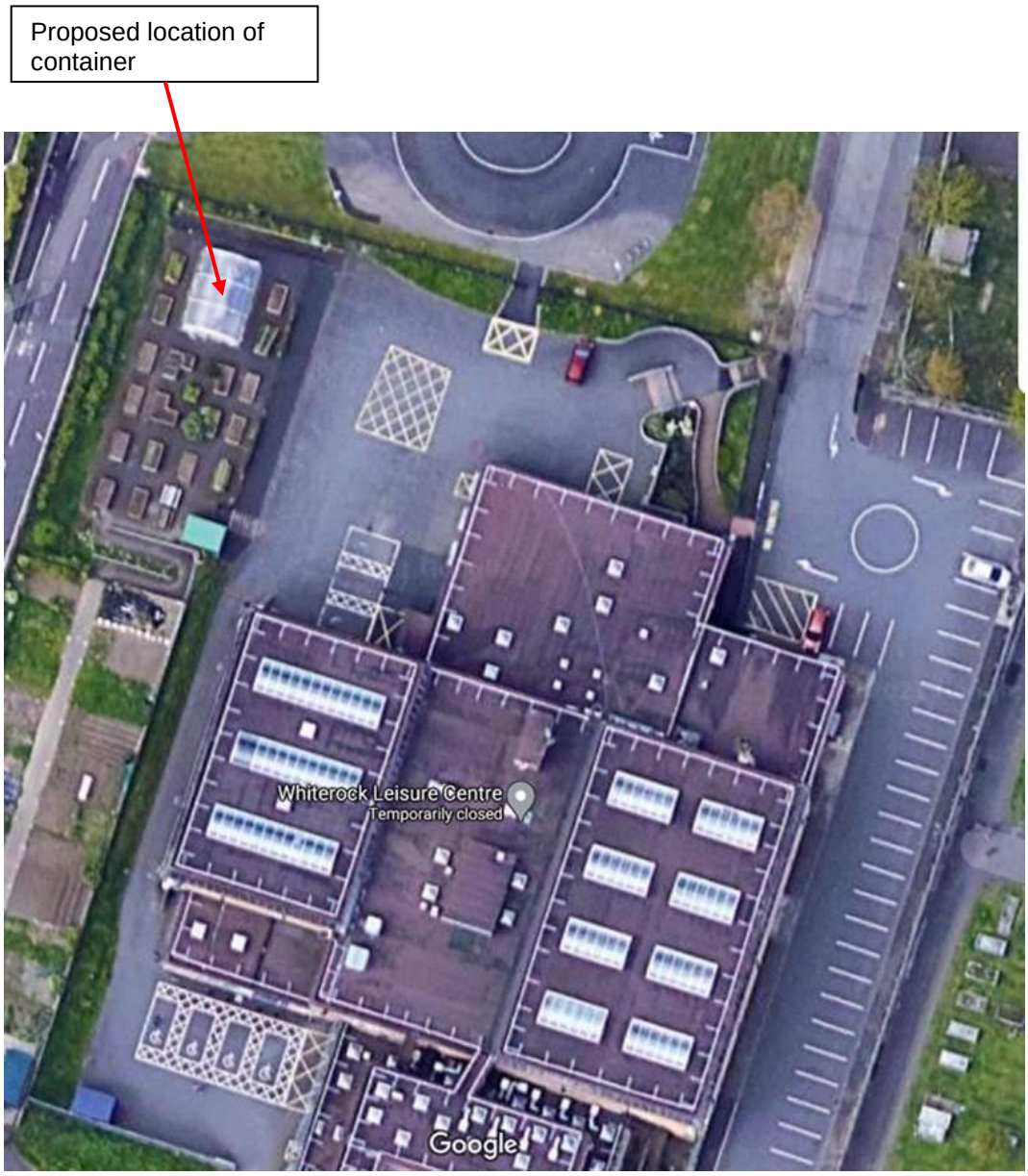
Appendix 5 Proposed Location of Container for Bike Storage at Whiterock Community Garden



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Appendix '6'

Based on the Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland map with the permission of the Director & Chief Executive.
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MAP REFERRED TO

BELFAST CITY COUNCIL and PHOENIX NATURAL GAS LTD

EASEMENT at MONAGH WOOD

Produced by:- MM

Estates Management Unit,
Belfast City Council,
Physical Programmes Dept.,
9 Adelaide,
9-21 Adelaide Street,
Belfast BT2 8DJ.

Date:- 27/01/2021

Scale 1:750

Area - 0.126 acres

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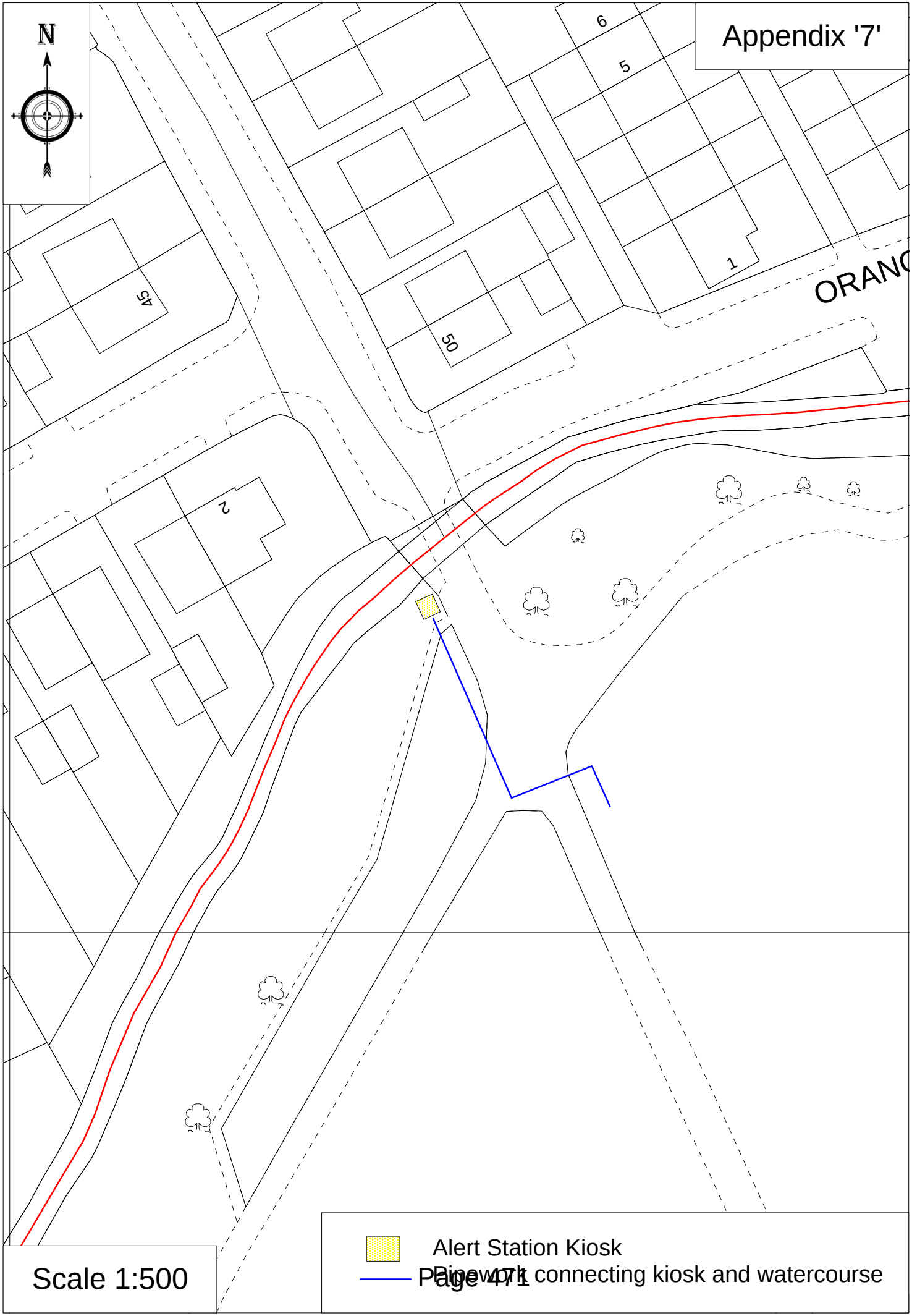
Appendix '7'
N
6
5
1
ORANG
45
50
2
Alert Station Kiosk
Pipework connecting kiosk and watercourse
Scale 1:500

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Belfast City Council

STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Subject:	**Update on Area Working Groups**
Date:	19th February, 2021
Reporting Officer:	Sinead Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes
Contact Officer:	Shauna Murtagh, Programme Manager

Restricted Reports				
Is this report restricted?	**Yes**		**No**	X
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**	X	**No**	

1.0	**Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues**
1.1	To seek the Committee's approval of the minutes of the most recent round of AWGs and any additional recommendations to this Committee arising from the meetings.
2.0	**Recommendation**
2.1	The Committee is asked to – • ***AWG Minutes -*** Approve the most recent round of AWG minutes *(East – 4 February),* as attached.

3.0	**Main Report**
	<u>KEY ISSUES</u> **Area Working Group Minutes**
3.1	Members agreed in June 2016 that the Area Working Group minutes would be taken to the SP and 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. The Committee is asked to approve the most recent round of AWG minutes as attached. The East AWG received a presentation from the Department of Infrastructure (DfI) regarding the proposed Sydenham Greenway and discussed the update on projects under the Physical Programme.
3.2	**<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u>** No implications
3.3	**<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment</u>** No implications
4.0	**Documents Attached**
	Minutes of the Meeting of the East Area Working Group of 4th February.

East Belfast Area Working Group

Thursday, 4th February, 2021

MEETING OF EAST BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP
HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Members present: Alderman Copeland (Chairperson);
Aldermen Haire, Rodgers and Sandford;
The High Sheriff, Councillor Long; and
Councillors Brooks, Flynn, Howard, Hussey, Kyle, McReynolds and Newton.

In attendance: Ms. S. Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes,
Ms. C. Taggart, Neighbourhood Services Manager,
Ms. S. Kalke, Project Sponsor Officer,
Ms. K. Watters, Neighbourhood Services Integration Manager,
Ms. M. Bagnall, Programme Manager,
Ms. C. Persic, Regeneration Project Officer,
Ms. K. McCrum, Democratic Services Officer, and
Mr. G. Graham, Democratic Services Assistant.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Alderman Dorrian and Councillors de Faoite, Hanvey, M. Kelly, McMullan, Mulholland and Smyth.

Minutes

The Working Group agreed that the minutes of the meeting of 5th January were an accurate record of proceedings.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were recorded.

Presentation - Proposed Sydenham Greenway

Mr. J. Hobbs, N.I. Greenway, Ms. C. Bloomfield, Director of Sustrans, and Mr. A. Grieve, Head of Walking and Cycling Unit, Department for Infrastructure (DfI), attended in connection with this item and were welcomed by the Chairperson.

Mr. Hobbs stated that the Sydenham Greenway Plan formed part of a 1000 km network and referred specifically to the proposed link between the existing Belfast Greenway paths network and the proposed link between that network and the North Down Coastal Path, travelling in an eastward direction, towards Hollywood.

He referred to the challenges associated with creating linkages which connected communities along the Greenway cycle path and the fact that the proposed development, along the Sydenham By-Pass, presented considerable challenges in that regard. He referred also to the proposal to extend the Greenway at Inverary Drive and to deal with some of the issues associated with access and commuter parking blight in that area. Mr. Hobbs highlighted collaborative work which could be undertaken to engage with other

external stakeholders, including landowners, such as the Harbour Commissioners in terms of land acquisition, and Ikea in the pursuit of the promotion of cargo bike travel to and from its retail establishment. Mr. Hobbs referred to the interest which had been generated previously, in response to a survey, in regard to the proposed introduction of a park and ride scheme at the Tillysburn roundabout. He stated that the response had been positive and presented an opportunity to incorporate a potential Belfast bike dock station as part of the proposed Sydenham Greenway project.

Ms. C. Bloomfield addressed the Working Group on how Greenways in general and, in particular, the proposed Sydenham Greenway project could contribute towards a green recovery. She referred specifically to the health benefits of active travel in the reduction of, amongst other things, heart disease, including the social, economic and environmental benefits of walking and cycling as opposed to using vehicular transportation. She stated that one of the major impediments, acting as a deterrent to cyclists engaging in that mode of transport, was safety. The Working Group was provided with information on other Greenway success stories and highlighted the Waterford Greenway project, which had facilitated the development of a social corridor along its route. She stated further that the Waterford Greenway project had resulted in the creation of a café culture along its route and had proved a particular attraction for visitors and tourists.

Mr. Grieve informed the Working Group that the current Minister for the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) was supportive of the idea associated with the development of active travel infrastructure and, in so doing, the provision of safe and secure pathways to enable people to become more active and reap the health benefits associated with active travel. The Members were provided with details of the DfI's proposals to develop and extend its Greenways proposals and of the importance in ensuring that communities and destinations were connected. Mr. Grieve stated that the department's priority was to incorporate its development proposal to link with existing retail, community and transport facilities as a means to ensure wide participation in the use of the walking and cycling routes, segregated from vehicular traffic. He stated that a meeting was due to take place between Council officers and DfI representatives, to ascertain how the Sydenham Greenway proposals and the Infrastructure requirements might be progressed. He stated further, that a consultation exercise would be required, prior to agreement being reached on a preferred route in respect of the Greenway. He reported that it was anticipated that, once agreement had been reached with the various stakeholders, including landowners, it was anticipated the construction work would commence on a phased basis.

In response to a number of questions from a Member in relation to funding for the project and of the need to invest in changes to certain recreational facilities and transport links to facilitate the development proposals associated with the Greenway, Mr. Grieve stated that the proposals would not require structural changes to the Sydenham Bypass. He stated also that use could be made of the existing old Tillysburn roundabout to reduce interchange costs and that the Park and Ride facility at Tillysburn would have no direct bearing on the construction of the Greenway. In terms of costs associated with the project, Mr. Grieve stated that the Greenway would be funded from the Department's Blue and Green Infrastructure Fund. He stated also that, because some of the Greenway route would be using existing Council owned land, it was hoped that the Council would be in a position to assist with some of the costs associated with the Greenway proposal.

In response to a further question from a Member on which phases would commence first as part of the development proposal, Mr. Grieve provided an outline of a potential phased approach, associated with the Greenway development proposal, which would be subject to consultation with other relevant stakeholders, including Belfast City Council. A Member raised the issue of lighting and gritting services provided by the department in respect of the proposed Sydenham Greenway and other Greenway routes, including the Comber Greenway. In response, Mr. Grieve stated that the Sydenham

Greenway would be able to utilise existing lighting provision along the majority of its route. He stated that gritting was somewhat problematic in that, given that it was a perennial issue and under discussion currently, the operation of gritting on Greenways was subject to available financial resources. He stated that, in respect of lighting relevant to the Comber Greenway, it was anticipated that a consultation process would commence in the Spring of 2021, with a view to the installation of bat-friendly lighting along the route of that particular Greenway.

He stated also that trunking along the route of the Comber Greenway had been installed previously and, as a consequence, the erection of lighting along the route would have less cost implications than otherwise would have been the case. A Member asked if a consultation had taken place between the Department and Ards and North Down Council in undertaking collaborative work to extend the Greenway into that Council area and what safety issues could be incorporated, within the plans, to ensure the safety of both cyclists and pedestrians. In response, Mr. Grieve stated that Ards and North Down Council were supportive of the proposals on the understanding that linkages outside the Belfast local authority boundary, would be incorporated with the existing Belfast Greenway path of which the development proposals would address those concerns. In terms of safety, Mr. Grieve stated that the Tillysburn roundabout provided for cyclist and pedestrian separation from vehicular traffic and that traffic light sequencing was such that it provided adequate time for both cyclist and pedestrians to cross safely at the various traffic interchanges. A Member referred to the potential link of opening up East Belfast to Hollywood and the wider Ards and North Down area. He stated that he raise with departmental colleagues the issues raised in respect of the rail network, including connections from the George Best, Belfast City Airport to the city centre, for both rail passengers and those opting to cycle to and from the airport to city centre destinations.

A Member requested if it might be possible to secure private sector investment to assist with the costs associated with the development proposals and it was agreed that all options in relation to financing should be looked at.

The Neighbourhood Services Manager stated that her department was working on signage to improve relationships between cyclists, pedestrians and other Greenway users, to ensure that all participants were respectful of using a shared space, for both transport and recreational purposes. She stated that the development of a communication plan, incorporating artwork and animation, was being considered as an option to encourage Greenway users to embrace and develop an understanding of the needs and aspirations of all participants, utilising Greenway cycle paths.

The Area Working Group thanked the participants for their detailed and informative presentation and acknowledged the potential benefits for East Belfast, including the possibility of developing neighbourhood tourism as part of an interconnected Greenway network.

After further debate and after the participants had left the meeting, it was

Moved by The High Sheriff, Councillor Long,
Seconded by Councillor Newton and

Resolved - That the AWG was fully supportive of the proposed project and that development of the Sydenham Greenway should be progressed as a priority initiative and that given the potential benefits of the project in terms of active, green and sustainable transport and connectivity that the Council should consider match-funding for the project if this was required, subject to capital financing and subject to the approval of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee as required in the future. The AWG also agreed to continue to receive updates from DFI/Council officers on the project.

Update on Physical Programme

The Director of Property and Projects submitted the undernoted report in respect of an update on the Council's Physical Programme:

"1. Introduction

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

This report outlines the status of a number of BIF/LIF projects following recent presentations to the AWG in November and correspondence issued to groups as per AWG recommendations.

2. Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- ***LIF: Westbourne Church / Titanic People:* note the update on this project and to agree to invite the group to the next meeting of the AWG to give an update on the project**
- ***BIF: Strand Arts Centre, Bloomfield Community Association Project and Castlereagh Presbyterian Church*: note the updates provided and agree to the commissioning of an updated Economic Appraisal for the Bloomfield Community Association project**

3. Westbourne Church / Titanic People

ELIF002 Westbourne Presbyterian Church – This project received an in-principle commitment of £250,000 on 21 September 2012. Titanic People is currently at *Due Diligence Stage* of the LIF Programme.

Background

The project at Westbourne Church/Titanic People was one of the first LIF projects to gain approval as part of the first phase of the programme in 2012, with the maximum LIF allocation of £250,000. The project proposed the refurbishment and regeneration of Westbourne Church, which is a landmark building on the Lower Newtownards Road and presently in a state of disrepair. The scheme would see the Church developed as a tourist attraction, which would build on the areas links to the building of the Titanic and the fact that many of those working on the ship used the Church for worship and community activities.

Since 2012 a significant amount of work has been completed by the group, Council and partner organisations, however to date progress has been stifled by a number of factors including the projected budget requirement. Originally, the Executive Office (as part of the Social Investment Fund initiative) had developed a business case for the project that proposed a mix of funding from

central government, the NI Tourism Board and the Council. This work resulted in the Executive Office allocating approx. £440,000 to the project under SIF to add to the Council's allocation. A proposed investment from the NI Tourism Board was never formalised and work progressed with a design team supported by SIF.

The design team progressed a detailed design for the proposed scheme that resulted in a cost for all required works of approx. £1.7m with a modern extension costing approx. £0.5m and with associated fees, this would have resulted in a project cost of over £2.2m. This total is well in excess of what had been allocated to the project and as a result, SIF withdrew their funding offer. In October, Members were advised that the Executive Office had recently written to the Council to advise that the Letter of Offer under the SIF programme to the Titanic People Project was being withdrawn due to the escalation in costs. As per the recommendation of the AWG, officers formally wrote to the Westbourne Presbyterian Church – Titanic People project, to seek an update on the plans and to confirm whether they still wished to be part of the LIF programme. The group has since responded to this correspondence to confirm their interest.

Since that time Council officers have continued to engage with potential project partners and expend time, working with the group on issues related to the Council's due diligence requirements. This has resulted in a potential partnership with the Urban Villages (UV) programme at The Executive Office, however even at a scaled back level, making the Church safe and improving the external public realm, (with associated fees) the project is estimated at £1.1m.

The current cost estimate of £1.1m exceeds the potential funding from the Executive Office under Urban Villages and would not deliver a tourism attraction as outlined in the project business case. At present the Council allocation of £250,000 is the only funding secured for the project and it is unlikely that the full £1.1m required to deliver the reduced scheme (if deemed acceptable) will be secured in the near future.

Members are asked to note the update on Titanic People and to consider the ongoing viability of this project. It is recommended that the AWG request the promoters of Titanic People to attend the next meeting of the AWG and provide an update on their project.

4. <u>Strand Arts Centre</u>

BIF12 Strand Arts centre is currently at *Stage 3 – Committed* under the BIF Programme with an allocation of £1.8m. The project was moved to Stage 3 - Committed in October 2016.

In November, the AWG received a presentation from the group and agreed that a report would be submitted to a future meeting on the issues that had been raised in respect of the project, including an update from DfC in relation to when they would make a funding decision.

Match funding from DfC has been secured in principle, a commitment of funding is anticipated on completion of a revised design report for £4.6m preferred option. The revised report is based on a growing demand for more performing arts-related activities and entertainment in Belfast and an element of conservation that needs to be enacted during the design of the refurbished building. The current fit-out and condition of the building significantly restricts the extent and quality of the entertainment services that the Strand can offer as a community asset. Significant investment is required to improve the aesthetics of the building and update the internal design and layout as well as the M+E systems to ensure the building is flexible to the range of potential users. As such, the refurbishment to the Strand Arts Centre will focus on extensive alterations and upgrades to bring the building up to a suitable standard and increased level of accessibility.

Since the last AWG meeting in November several meetings with DfC, ACNI and SAC have taken place. SAC is updating the business case according to requests from the DfC Economist, including a benefits realisation plan, lease arrangements and revenue income calculations; this will be forwarded to the Arts Council NI at the start of February and the Arts Council is submitting a bid to DfC. DfC requested a meeting with BCC to discuss the budget position and outcomes. Officers have submitted the costings and amended drawings to DfC.

On 1 February 2021, BCC Officers met with representatives from DfC and SAC and the following issues were discussed:

- **Funding update – Strand Arts Centre is further developing their funding strategy to address the shortfall in budget; SAC advised they submit the funding strategy to DfC; DfC would like to see Letters of Intent from other potential funders.**
- **Status of ownership/length of lease – the building is owned by a private landowner; currently SAC is paying peppercorn rent however is negotiating a longer term lease with the building owner; the longer term aspiration is to buy the building, however the business case is based on 99 year lease as requested by DfC.**
- **Business case – the final requirements for the Business case were discussed. The Business case will now be submitted to ACNI as IPDSU does not have the required policy background.**

DfC updated on recent meetings with their DSO (who raised the lease, charge and control period queries that were discussed) and Economist. The Departmental Economist was positive about the business case that was submitted to date however stressed that a funding strategy and letters of intent were needed, as DfC only commit to fully funded projects. DfC has advised it is not prepared to provide any Letter of Offer until all funding is in place.

Members are asked to note the update in relation to the Strand Arts Centre Project.

5. **<u>Bloomfield Community Association</u>**

BIF13 Bloomfield Community Association is currently at *Stage 3 – Committed* under the BIF Programme with an allocation of £440,000.

In November 2020, the group presented current proposals and discussed how additional funding for the project will be secured. The Working Group agreed that a report be submitted to a future meeting on the issues that had been raised, including an update from DfC in relation to when they would make a funding decision, and in respect of other possible funding streams for the project.

This project was committed in principle in September 2016, with the aim of sourcing match funding. The groups preferred design option indicates a funding shortfall of approximately £178,000. At present, the project requires an updated business case to be produced in order to formally approach partner funders who could potentially include DfC, The Executive Office, Big Lottery etc. It is recommended that officers proceed with updating the project business case in the coming months and formalise bids to potential funders thereafter.

Council officers have also reopened discussions with DFC on potential match funding for the project. Previous discussions had stalled due to the lack of an Executive at the time. However a meeting is being arranged for the Council, DFC and the Group to progress.

Members are asked to note the update in relation to Bloomfield Community Association and approve the updating of the Business Case for the project.

6. **<u>Castlereagh Presbyterian Church</u>**

BIF38 Castlereagh Presbyterian Church is currently at *Stage 3 – Committed* under the BIF Programme with an allocation of £382,000.

The group gave a presentation to Members in November and the Working Group agreed a report would be submitted to a future meeting in relation to whether the other funding streams raised were viable options, the project outcomes and community benefits and whether the congregation would be fundraising further amounts towards the project.

Castlereagh Presbyterian Church (CPC) are proposing refurbishment and extension works to their Church Hall community facility on Church Road, Belfast, to provide additional space to accommodate demand for increased community programmes and activities, as well as energy efficiency improvements. The proposed works are estimated to cost £559,000 (i.e. £177,000 funding gap) and include: extension of entrance hall (incl. toilet refurbishment) and minor hall; improved insulation and new storage in main hall; improved insulation and new roof in kitchen; and demarcation of parking spaces and pedestrian walkway. CPC deliver a range of community activities/programmes in their facility including: youth club,

parent and toddler group and events for the Indian community. The group has links to three adjacent schools: Leadhill P.S, Loughview Integrated P.S. and Lagan College. The community facility is located towards the edge of Council's boundary, with its users and project's beneficiaries primarily being Belfast residents from the Upper Castlereagh Road catchment area, with demand for community programme/activities increasing further with the 800 house Castlehill Development under construction on Ballygowan Road and further land earmarked for housing on Church Road itself.

The business case highlighted floor-space and energy efficiency issues with the facility and identified the proposed extension and refurbishment project as the preferred solution to address these and meet additional community need by allowing simultaneous use by groups, as well as ensuring the building's long-term sustainability. Project outcomes set out in the project's business plan include: providing a fit for purpose main hall and large room facilities; delivering a range of activities each year engaging the community to accommodate at least 120 children, 90 youths, 100 adults and 100 older people; and delivery of a range of additional youth activities facilitated by the additional space and ability to run simultaneous activities

The group aim to contribute towards the current £177,000 funding gap themselves. CPC have been exploring other funding opportunities and have had a positive response from Garfield Weston Foundation who support organisations working in the areas of Welfare, Youth, Community, Arts, Faith, Environment, Education etc. To make a formal application the project must secure planning consent. The group are also engaging with both DAERA and DfC. The group's intention is to take forward the project as a whole rather than phased delivery.

To allow the project to advance through Due Diligence the group are required to provide a number of internal church approvals (project brief; consent to carry out works; contribution of own funding). Internal governance is complex with the Presbyterian Church's Constitution requiring authorisation by the congregation, the Presbytery and the Linkage Commission. Due to illness and COVID 19 restrictions the necessary meetings have not yet taken place and with the demography of members and varying degrees of computer literacy, virtual meetings has not been an option to date. With the potential lifting of lockdown restrictions in the coming months CFC are confident that the series of meetings required will take place allowing the project to progress.

Members are asked to note the update in relation to the Castlereagh Presbyterian Church Project."

<u>Westbourne Presbyterian Church/Titanic People</u>

The Area Working Group noted the update provided in relation to the Westbourne Presbyterian Church project and the substantial shortfall in funding associated with its completion, allied to the escalation in costs, following an extensive survey of the building. She highlighted that the original match-funding offer from the Executive Office had been withdrawn owing to a lack of progress on the development proposal. She stated that,

despite potential funding being made available by Urban Villages, this funding would not meet the costs associated with the original development proposal.

The Working Group noted the lack of progress in relation to the development proposal and the fact that £250,000 had been ring-fenced by the Council since 2012 towards the cost of the original development proposal.

After discussion, it was

Moved by Councillor Flynn,
Seconded by Alderman Rodgers and

Resolved – that Titanic People be invited to attend the next meeting of the Working Group, with a view to providing an update on their intention to progress with the work outlined in their original development proposal, in respect of Westbourne Presbyterian Church.

Strand Arts Centre

The Director stated, that following discussions with representatives from the Strand Arts Centre (SAC), the Arts Council and the Department for Communities (DfC) in respect of its future development proposal, given that the Council had ring-fenced £1.8 m towards that project in 2016, DfC was in the process of providing an update on its funding strategy to address the gap in their financial resources in order to support the development proposal. The Director stated that progress was being made to secure an extended lease agreement on the premises which was part of the funding requirement.

In response to a question from a Member as to whether finance might be available from the Heritage Lottery Fund (H.L.F.) in support for the development proposal, the Director stated that the building was not listed. She stated that she would enter into discussion with HLF to ascertain whether post Covid-19 recovery resources might be available to assist with the costs associated the development proposal.

After discussion, it was

Moved by Councillor Long,
Seconded by Councillor Newton and

Resolved - that the Strand Arts Centre be invited to the April meeting of the Working Group to provide an update on progress and their funding strategy.

Bloomfield Community Association

The Working Group was reminded of its previous support in respect of this development proposal and the importance that the Members had recognised that the project provided for the local community. The Director explained ,however, that there was a shortfall in funding associated with the project, which had been highlighted in the aforementioned report. The Director requested authority from the AWG to update the business case for the project, given that the original business case had not been updated since 2016. The Director referred to the geographical location of the Community Association which, despite sitting marginally outside the boundary of the Inner-East neighbourhood regeneration area, had made a positive impact, through the delivery of its services, to the inner-east area. She stated that it was her intention to raise that particular issue with DfC and explore the possibility of securing additional resources to address the deficit in funding.

The Working Group agreed that the Director be authorised to update the business case for the project and to undertake discussions with DfC. She agreed also to include the Neighbourhood Manager and her team in any discussions.

Castlereagh Presbyterian Church

The Director reminded the Working Group that £382,000 had been ring-fenced towards its proposed development, which had an estimated a deficit of £177,000 and that, at a previous presentation by that group, the Members had raised questions as to how they aimed to address the funding deficit. The Members requested information in relation to the phasing of the work, associated with the project, and queried whether the group itself intended to provide some of its own financial resources to address the funding deficit.

The Area Working Group, after discussion, noted the potential outcomes associated with the development project and recognised that, to date, no letter of offer had been received by any of the external funders which the group had approached for financial assistance. It was reported that the church group had stated also that they had, as yet, not been in a position to consult with their congregational committee to address some of the issues raised by the Area Working Group.

After discussion it was

Moved by Alderman Rodgers,
Seconded by The High Sheriff, Councillor Long and

Resolved – that members of the Castlereagh Presbyterian Church be invited to the April meeting of AWG to address the issues raised, including providing information on the funding deficit and the benefits to the community upon completion of the project.

Date of Next Meeting

The Working Group agreed that its next meeting would be held on a date, as yet to be agreed, in April, to invite the aforementioned project groups to make representation to the Area Working Group, in terms of addressing their respective funding deficits. The Working Group agreed also that its next scheduled meeting would be held on Thursday, 6th May, 2021 at 5.00 p.m.

Chairperson

STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Belfast City Council

Subject:	**Update on Contracts**
Date:	19th February 2021
Reporting Officer:	Ronan Cregan, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources
Contact Officer:	Noleen Bohill, Head of Commercial and Procurement Services

Restricted Reports				
Is this report restricted?	**Yes**		**No**	X
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**	X	**No**	

1.0	**Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**
1.1	The purpose of this report is to: • seek approval from the Committee for tenders and Single Tender Actions (STA) over £30,000 and to ask the Committee to: • note retrospective Single Tender Actions (STAs) and Contract Modifications under Delegated Authority.
2.0	**Recommendations**
	The Committee is asked to: • Approve the public advertisement of tenders as per Standing Order 37a detailed in Appendix 1 (Table 1) • Approve the award of STAs in line with Standing Order 55 exceptions as detailed in Appendix 1 (Table 2)

	• Note the award of retrospective STAs in line with Standing Order 55 exceptions as detailed in Appendix 1 (Table 3) • Note the modification to contracts in line with the Scheme of Delegation as detailed in Appendix 1 (Table 4)
3.0	**Main Report**
	<u>Competitive Tenders</u>
3.1	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 of £30,000 following a tender exercise where the council has approved the invitation to tender
3.2	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.
3.3	Standing Order 54 states that every contract shall comply with the relevant requirements of national and European legislation.
	<u>Single Tender Actions (STAs)</u>
3.4	The following STAs are being submitted for approval: • A 3 month contract for consultancy services with Deloitte at a cost of £47,000 to provide dedicated programme management resources and capacity to support Brexit Implementation Programme (Port Health). • A 2 month Measured Term Contract for Mechanical Services including callout and repairs with WJM Building Services Ltd at a cost of £100,000. The STA is required due to a lack of available resources within the Property Maintenance unit following the freeze on recruitment and restructuring as part of the Covid-19 recovery. A replacement contract to be advertised in February 2021 The following retrospective STAs were awarded: • A 9 month funded contract awarded to MMAS & OGU Architects at a cost of £60,000 for the appointment of an Integrated Design Team to provide design development services to support Covid19 Revitalisation Programme. The STA is required due to additional unforeseen funding from DfI/ DfC • A 3 month funded contract awarded to Strategem at a cost of £10,000 to provide Strategic Support for the VCSE Panel and associated citywide network to increase

3.5	participation by the third sector within Community Planning. The STA is required due to unforeseen resource pressures in the Strategy, Policy and Partnerships team • An urgent 7 week extension to a contract with Deepa Mann-Kler at a cost of £5,551. The requirement for the extension to the contract, the Provision of Replacement Christmas activity/animation at City Hall, was due to the continuing and changing restrictions imposed by the Covid19 situation. • A 3 month funded contract with Marsh Public Service Solutions at a cost of £9,570 to investigate the applicability / development of Doncaster Council's 'Complex Lives' approach to planning, commissioning and delivering services in tackling mental health, substance misuse and homelessness <u>Modification to Contract term</u> The following contract terms were modified: • An increase in value of £93,000 to an existing contract (the Supply Erection Dismantling and Collection of Marques including Furniture and Supplementary Items for BCC Events (T1866)) due to the underestimation of the demand for events and other non-event related activities within departments
	Financial and Resource Implications
3.6	The financial resources for these contracts are within approved corporate or departmental budgets
	Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment
3.7	None
4.0	**Documents Attached**
	Appendix 1 Table 1 - Competitive Tenders Table 2 - Single Tender Actions Table 3 - Retrospective Single Tender Actions Table 4 - Contract modification under Delegated Authority

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Table 1: Competitive Tenders

Title of Tender	Proposed Contract Duration	Estimated Total Contract Value	SRO	Short description of goods / services
Capacity Building Programme for Belfast's Culture & Tourism sector as part of the 'A City Imagined' Programme	up to 30 months	£175,000	A Reid	Originally approved in December 2020; approval now sought for increase in term and cost by 6mths/ £35,000
Supply and delivery of play equipment	up to 5 years	£1.5m	S Toland / R Black	To procure play equipment for the delivery of the annual Playground Improvement Programme and for the ongoing maintenance of existing playground sites
Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) to complement the Employability Academies and Wider Employability & Skill Interventions Framework Agreement	up to 5 years	£3m	A Reid	The DPS is designed to sufficient flexibility within the delivery of Employability & Skills programmes to take account of: a) Emerging needs where the preferred suppliers within the Framework Agreement do not have capacity to deliver. b) New initiatives and areas of development e.g. Developer Contributions, Local Inclusive Labour Market Partnerships. c) Specialist employability and skills training. d) To test new areas of work as agreed. e) Technical assistance.
Tender to facilitate the development of governance structure, management and operational arrangements for the Forth Meadow Community Greenway	up to 18 months	up to £60,000	S Toland / R Black	The procurement will facilitate a key step in the Greenway's development by engaging with all the relevant community stakeholders and assisting in co-design with those who will be involved and affected.

Table 2: Single Tender Actions

Title of Contract	Duration	Total Value	SRO	Supplier
Provide dedicated programme management resources and capacity to support Brexit implementation programme.	Up to 3 months	£47,000	J Tully	Deloitte

Measure Term Contract for mechanical services including callout and repairs (2-month extension of current contract to ensure continuity of service until new tender competition complete.	Up to 2 months	up to £100,000	S Grimes	WJM Building Services Ltd

Table 3: Retrospective Single Tender Actions

Title of Contract	Duration	Value	SRO	Supplier
Appointment of integrated design team to provide design development services to support Covid19 'Revitalisation programme' (fully funded)	9 months	£60,000	A Reid	MMAS & OGU Architects
Extension to the contract for the provision of replacement activity/animation at City Hall	7 weeks	£5,551	A Reid	Deepa Mann-Kler
Strategic support for the VCSE Panel and associated citywide network to increase participation by the third sector within Community Planning	3 months	Up to £10,000	J Tully	Stratagem
Work to investigate the applicability / development of Doncaster Council's 'Complex Lives' approach within a Belfast context (Funded)	Up to 3 months	£9,570	S Toland / R Black	Marsh Public Service Solutions

Table 4: Contract modification under Delegated Authority

Title of Contract	Contract Modification	SRO	Supplier
Contract for the supply, erection, dismantling and collection of marques including furniture and supplementary items for BCC events (T1866)	1 year extension at a cost of £93,000	A Reid	North Down Marquees

Belfast City Council

STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Subject:	**Update on Decade of Centenaries Programme 2021 and 80th Anniversary of the Belfast Blitz**
Date:	19th February 2021
Reporting Officer:	Ryan Black, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Nicola Lane, Good Relations Manager, Sandra Robinson, Protocol and Public Affairs Manager, Eimear Henry, Senior Manager (Culture and Tourism)

Restricted Reports				
Is this report restricted?	**Yes**		**No**	X
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**	X	**No**	

1.0	**Purpose of Report**
1.1	The purpose of this report is to: - Provide an update on progress concerning the Decade of Centenaries Programme 2021/22, in light of the recent Council decision regarding live events and the need to revise the format of agreed events from February – June 2021 to meet requirements of Covid-19 restrictions; and - outline proposals on how Council can mark the 80th anniversary of the Belfast Blitz on 15th April 2021, in the context of Covid-19 restrictions.

2.0	**Recommendations**
2.1	The Committee is requested to: – note the update on the Decade of Centenaries Programme and provide feedback on the approach to the revised format of events occurring between February – June 2021; and – approve the proposals contained in the report to mark the 80th anniversary of the Belfast Blitz on 15th April 2021 and contribute £1,000 towards the Northern Ireland War Memorial Programme.
3.0	**Main Report**
	<u>Decade of Centenaries Programme</u>
3.1	At the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on the 23rd October 2020, Members agreed the programme for the remainder of the Decade of Centenaries until March 2022.
3.2	Officers have progressed a number of actions in relation to the programme as agreed including a submission of an application requesting £87,700 to the Shared History Fund which is being distributed by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. This application is seeking funding for four of the projects listed in Appendix I; namely: - Drama and animation programme in mid June 2021 - The restoration of the chairs in the Council Chamber, used by the King and Queen on the occasion of the inauguration of the NI Parliament in 1921 - A digitised artefacts and stories project related to 1921 and; - A time capsule project
3.3	It is anticipated that notification of the outcome will be given at the end of February 2021.
3.4	Further to a query from officers, the HLF has advised in writing, without prejudice, that there is no issue should Council commence a procurement process for these 4 projects prior to being notified of the outcome of the application. Therefore, Officers intend to start the process in mid February but will not appoint until Council has received formal written confirmation from HLF as to the result. The specifications have already been drawn up and BCC will advise organisations wishing to bid, that any award will be dependent upon funding. This will allow a maximised timeframe for successful delivery agents to develop quality programmes in advance of May and June as well as minimising the financial risk to Council.
3.5	In parallel with this process, as a result of the ongoing restrictions set by The Executive, the Council at its meeting on 1st February, agreed to suspend live events from January 2021 until August 2021. In addition, Council also agreed to develop an alternative option to deliver an event or exhibition to mark the Centenary of Northern Ireland, to include the use of online

platforms, and noted that other more public events were being planned for the second half of the year, Covid-19 restrictions permitting.

3.6 To this end, Members may wish to note the proposed revised format of activities at Appendix I which can take place as part of the Centenary Programme during February – June 2021 while allowing for the decision of Council regarding live events and taking the Covid-19 restrictions into account.

3.7 Members have previously asked that the labour movement and the development of the women's movement be covered as part of the programme and may wish to note the following:

- Event on 26 March: Panel Discussion on Northern Ireland 100 Years – How has it Gone? – a balanced panel and the issues of the development of the women's movement and labour issues are specific elements that will be covered by panelists
- Drama: this has been designed to include the key themes of the whole of the final phase of the Decade, particularly on the women's movement between 1918 – 1922.
- The digital trail of artefacts, stories and personalities from 1921 will include the stories of local women and trade union issues
- These issues will also form the cornerstone of the final Decade of Centenaries conference in March 2022

Launch of NIO Programme – 14th December 2020

3.8 The Secretary of State launched the NIO plans for the Centenary along with the branding programme – "Our Story in the Making: NI Beyond 100". He advised there will be a programme of events that seek to showcase Northern Ireland on the world stage as an attractive place to live, visit and do business, and to celebrate Northern Ireland's people, businesses, culture, arts, and young talent, reflecting on our past while looking forward to a positive future. A commitment of £3m has been made from the NIO for this purpose though further details are still be made public.
Further information can be found at https://ourstoryinthemaking.com/

External Engagement

3.9 Officers will continue to engage with NIO regarding the development of the programme. Officers have also met with officers from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to discuss respective plans.

80th Anniversary of the Belfast Blitz

Background

3.10 In 2016, Council supported a number of events to mark the 75th anniversary of the Blitz, many of which were undertaken in partnership with the Northern Ireland War Memorial Museum given their expertise and contacts in this area. As part of the Council programme, a talk by the historian Brian Barton was arranged in the Bobbin, and on the same night the names of those who died were scrolled on the big screen in City Hall grounds along with an air siren sounding. A number of plaques marking significant sites impacted by the Blitz were also erected across the City.

Key Issues

3.11 Given the Council decision to suspend live events from January 2021 until August 2021 in light of ongoing restrictions due to the pandemic, the Council will not be able to arrange a suitable live event to mark the anniversary.

3.12 In light of the above approach, officers have sought to explore how the Council could support online engagement and have discussed the possibilities with the NI War Memorial given its expertise, resources and we partnered with the group in 2016.

3.13 The NI War Memorial has advised that it will be undertaking the majority of engagement through virtual means and only if restrictions permit, will the wreath laying at City and Milltown Cemeteries take place with a small number of people in attendance to maintain social distancing.

3.14 It is organising a significant programme for the 80th anniversary year including:

- Laying of wreath at NIWM and on mass graves in Milltown and City Cemeteries. Commemorations recorded on video on 15th April and released on Social Media on 16th April.
- Launch of new memorial page on new NIWM website which will include updated list of casualties based on recent research and photographs of victims
- Online lecture series throughout April
- Promotion of *The War and Me* oral history project to encourage air raid memories.
- Blitz 80 reminiscence pack for care homes

Further contents of the Programme can be found at Appendix 2.

Council Support

3.15 Given that the NIWM are organising such a range of creative activities including online lectures, work with schools, reminiscence projects which will reach a wider audience , Council could take the approach of supporting and promoting the programme in the following ways:

- Pending restrictions, there will be a laying of wreaths at City Cemetery and Milltown Cemeteries on 15th April which is organised by the NI War Museum annually. The Lord Mayor could take part in this ceremony on behalf of Council if small gatherings are permitted.
- Lord Mayor could launch and/or promote the activities being planned around the anniversary.
- The Council's Communications Team could liaise with the NIWM to ensure we promote the events and Lord Mayor could record an appropriate message as part of this promotion.
- The NI War Memorial is planning to deliver reminiscence resource packs to care homes to mark the 80th anniversary. The Council could liaise with the Museum to publicise the activity packs and the Lord Mayor could be involved in some capacity to be determined.
- Officers will explore the possibility of including an air raid siren/searchlight within the programme with the NIWM.

Finance

3.16 The NIWM has indicated that it would be content for the Council to be associated/ involved with the relevant activities. It has advised that it is able to cover the costs of the outlined programme. However, it did indicate that as the organisation is printing all of the resources internally such as the packs for schools and care homes, the costs are significant. Officers would, therefore, suggest that the Council may wish to consider contributing up to £1,000 towards these costs to assist with this as part of the anniversary commemorations which can be covered through existing budgets.

Equality and Good Relations Implications

3.17 The proposed programme of events are open to all and as such have the potential to promote good relations and equality by bringing together people from a wide range of backgrounds. The Decade of Centenary Programme has been considered as part of the District Council Good Relations Action Plan screening process.

Financial and Resource Implications

3.18 An application has been made to the HLF Shared History Fund for £87,700 and other elements of the programme are being funded through existing budgets. This includes £31k from the Decade of Centenaries specified Reserve, approx. £40k from the Events budget and £40,500 from the Good Relations Action Plan budget, 75% of which is funded through The Executive Office.

4.0	**Documents Attached**
	Appendix 1: Revised Format of Events for Decade of Centenaries Programme 2021 Appendix 2: NIWM Programme to Mark the 80th Anniversary of the Blitz – **RESTRICTED**

Appendix 1: Revised Format of Decade of Centenaries Programme 2021

Project	Suggested Format to meet Covid-19 Regulations	Time/Dependencies
Digital recording of the agreed subject of "Violence, conflict, militarisation and displacement in Belfast from 1920 – 1922".	Talks and panel discussion have been recorded by the Nerve Centre to be uploaded onto the Creative Centenaries Website and linked to BCC website.	Virtual Launch to take place week beginning 15th February 2021
Panel to discuss different historical perspectives with prominent facilitator in City Hall on 100 Years – how has it gone?	Panellists and Facilitator being secured – will be an online event allowing public engagement and will also be recorded and maintained as legacy project.	To take place on Friday 26 March 2021
Time Capsule project with Lord Mayor	Pending return of schools, can involve Key Stage 2 asking for suggestions of what could be buried in the time capsule. Subject to restrictions, a photocall could take place with a small number of children in a socially distanced way. Otherwise, a format could be found involving technology and engagement with the children. Could work with creative agency regarding the development of a lesson plan.	Could take place on Friday 30th April to take into account the Civic Event weekend and the Bank holiday. Site for the burial of the time capsule to be confirmed. The costs of this project have been included in the application to the Shared History Fund.
Restoration of the two chairs in the Council Chamber that were used by the King and Queen at the inauguration of the NI Parliament in 1921	Condition surveys have been received and a programme of work required for the chairs has been supplied to the Council. This work can happen irrespective of Covid restrictions and the costs for this work have been included in the application to the Shared History Fund.	It would be hoped that once resources are obtained, this work could commence as soon as possible.

Civic Weekend	Saturday 1st May – 3rd May 2021 – digital events based on previous work on Belfast 400 and additional research – digital exhibition of 100 years of different aspects of life in Belfast digital music event, cookery events using NI produce, poetry, music and guest lectures.	
100km Cycle Challenge – Lord Mayor's Initiative	Could be designed as a challenge where individuals register online and times recorded digitally. Could provide potential routes involving various greenways and parks through the City.	Timeframe to be confirmed with Lord Mayor, bearing in mind the Belfast Half Marathon is taking place on 2 May.
Digital Trail	Development of a 1921 digital trail and stories programme. (Challenging to have a temporary physical artefact collection. A digital trail will leave a legacy project, be viewed by wider and varied audiences and can also be delivered despite covid regulations	Pending outcome of application to SHF – intent to complete by end of May 21
Drama Performance for Young People along with Animated Tours	This was originally to take place in City Hall with delivery of 5 performances. Drama performance/tours could be pushed back until Autumn 21. It can also can recorded and available as an online resource and distributed to schools across Belfast.	Awaiting outcome of SHF application. Intention to have a recorded copy of the drama for distribution
Assembly debate on the decade of centenaries in City Hall – with MLAs.	Approach has been made to the Assembly.	Given restrictions and Council decision, this should be pushed back until the Autumn.
Kings Speech event in Council Chamber	Will require to be a smaller event. Speech could be live streamed from the Council Chamber along with context provided by Dr. Éamon Phoenix. All restrictions will be followed.	Needs to take place on 22 June given the significance of the date to City Hall.

	Creative animated lighting of City Hallon 22 June to be procured.	
War, Treaty and the Craig Collins Pact (Talk and drama evening) in City Hall	Given timeframe, should be able to take place as a live event.	November 21
An exploration of the impact of partition on Northern Nationalists and Ulster Unionists within Cavan, Monaghan and Donegal, In City Hall	Given timeframe, should be able to take place as a live event.	February 2022
End of Decade of Centenaries Conference, in City Hall	Given timeframe, should be able to take place as a live event.	March 2022. Costs or the conference have been included in the application to the Shared History Fund.

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

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STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Belfast City Council

Subject:	**Northern Ireland Centenary Programme - Repositioning of Royal Chairs**
Date:	19th February, 2021
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Aisling Milliken, Functions, Tours and Exhibition Manager

Restricted Reports				
Is this report restricted?	**Yes**		**No**	X
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**	X	**No**	

1.0	**Purpose of Report**
1.1	• To seek approval to relocate the Town Hall Mayoral Chair in the Council chamber to improve the display of this artefact and the newly conserved Royal Chairs. • To seek approval to commission a new brass plaque marking the successful conservation of the chairs and marking their use in historic royal visits and the events of June 1921 at the City Hall. Both requests are linked into the council's NI Centenary Programme 2021.
2.0	**Recommendations**
2.1	The Committee is recommended to; i. approve the request to relocate the Town Hall Mayoral chair to its own feature area and update the area for the two royal chairs; and ii. approve the request to commission a new brass plaque for the royal chairs.

3.0	**Main Report**
	Background
3.1	At present within the Council Chamber a wooden platform against the back wall of the chamber showcases the two royal chairs and Town Hall Mayoral chair. The Mayoral Chair is believed to have been commissioned for the opening of the Town Hall on Victoria Street in 1871 and is a rare example of the Irish arts and craft style.
3.2	The royal chairs were formerly the property of former Lord Mayor Sir Crawford McCullagh and were used at the City Hall by King George V and Queen Mary in 1921 at the official state opening of the new Northern Ireland Parliament and by King George VI and Queen Elizabeth during their coronation tour of 1937. The Council purchased the chairs at auction from the late Sir Crawford's estate in 1950.
3.3	As part of the NI Centenary Programme, specialist conservators have been appointed to stabilise and conserve the condition of these two important artefacts. The cost of the conservation of the two Royal chairs is part of the NI Centenary Programme presented to the Committee in November 2020 and within a funding application to the Shared History Fund.
3.4	At present, City Hall Tour Guides have reported that international visitors to the City Hall are often confused by the current layout and display of these three chairs and it is hoped by separating the Mayoral Chair and pair of Royal Chairs, their respective historical significance and context will be better explained and illustrated to visitors.
	Key Issues
3.5	The City Hall Collections team, once the conversation of the two royal chairs is completed, request permission to move the Town Hall Mayoral chair from its current location against the back wall of the chamber to the left of its current position, creating a separate small plinth on the north side of the chamber below the window; locating the artefact where Members may remember the Covenant table was on display for many years. All artefacts would continue to be cordoned with rope and staunton as they are now to protect the artefacts from damage. *(refer to appendix 1 - photo 1 and 2)*
	Financial and Resource Implications
3.6	A budget for conservation of the two Royal chairs has already been already approved as part of the NI Centenary Programme presented to committee in November 2020 and within a funding application to the Shared History Fund.

3.7	There would be a cost to the Council in approving the request for the procurement of a brass plaque to update the existing plaques. The cost is approximately £1,000 and would be financed from existing operational budgets.
	Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Implications
3.8	There are no direct good relations or equality implications arising from this report.
4.0	**Documents Attached**
	Appendix - Current location of Royal chairs and Town Hall Mayoral chair and options for new placement as part of NI Centenary programme.

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Appendix 1 - Current location of Royal chairs and Mayor chair and options for new placement as part of NI Centenary programme.

Current location of Town Hall Mayoral chair in centre and 2 Royal chairs either side.

Relocating the centre Mayoral chair would enable a greater appreciation of the two royal chairs as a pair and the Town Hall clock to the rear would be better showcased as it is currently blocked from view.

Proposed relocation of the Town Hall Mayoral chair to the north wall of the Chamber.

Placed on a wooden plinth with display signage (where the covenant table was previously located)

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Belfast City Council

STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Subject:	**Minutes of the Meeting of the Shared City Partnership**
Date:	19th February, 2021
Reporting Officer:	Ryan Black, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Nicola Lane, Good Relations Manager

Restricted Reports				
Is this report restricted?	**Yes**		**No**	X
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**	X	**No**	

1.0	**Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**
1.1	The purpose of this report is to report to the Committee on the key issues discussed at the Shared City Partnership meeting held on 8th February.
2.0	**Recommendations**
2.1	The Committee is requested to approve the minutes and the recommendations from the Shared City Partnership Meeting held on 8th February, including: • To seek nominees from the Interfaith Forum and The Executive Office to replace the positions which have recently become vacant. • To agree that a letter be sent to Belfast Multi-Cultural Association on behalf of the Shared City Partnership condemning the arson attack which occurred on 15th January 2021.

	PEACE IV **BPR4 – Belfast and the World** • To agree a further extension to mid-March 2021 to allow for Ligoniel and Ballynafeigh groups to complete; and • 26 contact hours - to be made up of 13 online delivery and 13 hours of self-directed learning using the course materials provided. **Good Relations Action Plan 20/21** • That a follow up event be organised with Professor Waller to explore further the themes discussed at the online seminar on 26th January 2021. • To note the potential for underspend within the Good Relations Action Plan 20/21 due to the current pandemic and subsequent restrictions and that the Chief Executive has written to The Executive Office to ask for an extension to the funding to allow end of year flexibility. **Draft Good Relations Action Plan 21/22** • To agree that that the draft Good Relations Action Plan 2021/22 attached at Appendix 2 be submitted to TEO. • To note that, in order to meet the deadline set by The Executive Office, that the plan will be submitted in draft, subject to approval by the Council at the beginning of March and • To note that this Action Plan submission is subject to amendment during the assessing and scoring process that will be undertaken by TEO. The Council will be notified of any changes in the final approved Action Plans.
3.0	**Main Report**
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u> 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 across the city. The minutes from the Partnership are brought before the Committee for approval on a monthly basis.

3.2	The key issues on the agenda at the January meeting were: • Presentation on Interface Work from International Fund for Ireland - Peace Barriers Project • PEACE IV ➢ Update on PEACE IV Secretariat ➢ Update on PEACE IV CYP Theme ➢ Update on PEACE IV SSS Theme ➢ Update on PEACE IV BPR Theme • Update on Revised Good Relations Plan 21/22 • Good Relations Action Plan 21/22 (Appendix 2)
3.3	More details regarding the above issues and recommendations are included in the minutes of the meeting, attached in Appendix 1.
	Financial and Resource Implications
3.4	All financial implications are covered through existing budgets
	Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment
3.5	The recommendations of the Partnership promote the work of the Council in promoting good relations and will enhance equality and good relations impacts.
4.0	**Documents Attached**
	Appendix 1 - Minutes of the meeting of the Shared City Partnership of 8th February Appendix 2 - Draft Good Relations Action Plan 2021/22

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SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP **Appendix 1**

MONDAY 8th FEBRUARY, 2021

MEETING OF SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP
HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Members present: Councillor Kyle (Chairperson);
Alderman Rodgers; and
Councillors Lyons, Magennis and O'Hara.

External Members: Mrs. B. Arthurs, Community and Voluntary Sector;
Mr. J. Currie. Community and Voluntary Sector;
Mrs. J. Hawthorne, Northern Ireland Housing Executive;
Ms. J. Irwin, Community Relations Council;
Mr. M. McBride, Education Authority;
Mr. I. McLaughlin, Community and Voluntary Sector; and
Superintendent G. Pollock, PSNI.

In attendance: Ms. N. Lane, Good Relations Manager;
Ms. D. McKinney, Programme Manager;
Mrs. C. Donnelly, Democratic Services Officer; and
Mrs. S. Steele, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported on behalf of Councillor M. Kelly, Mr. J. Donnelly, Miss G. Duggan and Mr. P. Mackel.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 11th January, 2021 were taken as read and signed as correct.

Declarations of Interest

Mrs. B. Arthurs declared an interest in item 3 (d), namely, Peace IV Updates – update on BPR Theme in that she is an employee of the Forward South Partnership, which acts as the delivery agent for two of the Peace IV projects, and she left the meeting whilst the agenda item was being considered.

Mr. J. Currie declared an interest in item 4, namely, Update on Good Relations Plan 2020/21, in that he is an employee of the East Belfast Community Development Association, which received funding under the Good Relation Plan.

Membership of Partnership

The Chairperson welcomed Superintendent G. Pollock to his first meeting and on behalf of the Partnership asked that its thanks be conveyed to Superintendent K. McMillan for her contribution.

He also advised that Dr. Hanore and Mr. M. McGinley had resigned from the Partnership and expressed thanks to both of them for their participation and commitment.

The Good Relations Manager advised that nominees would be sought from the Interfaith Forum and The Executive Office to replace the vacant positions.

Noted.

Presentation on Interface Work from International Fund for Ireland - Peace Walls Project

The Partnership was informed that Ms. S. Lorimer, Mr. S. Oliver, Mr. S. Corr, Ms. M. O'Prey and Ms. C. McMillan, representing the International Fund for Ireland - Peace Barriers Programme (PBP), were in attendance in order to provide an update on the IFI Survey Findings of November 2019 – Peace Barriers Project. This had involved working with residents living beside Belfast Peace Barriers.

The representative thanked the Chair for the opportunity to present the findings and commenced by providing an overview of the Programme Areas:

- Black Mountain Shared Space Project (BMSSP)
  UpperSpringfield/Moyard/Springhill/Highfield/Springmartin/
  Ballygomartin and wider area

- Duncairn Community Partnership (DCP)
  Lr Nth Belfast/ Duncairn/Limestone/New Lodge/Tiger's Bay

- Greater Whitewell Comm Surgery (GWCS)
  Shore Rd/Whitewell/ White City areas/Serpentine/Throne

- Imagine Project
  Lower Oldpark/ Cliftonville/ Cliftonpark Ave/Manor St areas

- TASCIT:
  Twaddell/Ardoyne/Upper Ardoyne/ Woodvale/Shankill Communities in Transition Programme

She advised that the respondents to the survey were residents from across twenty-one separate Super Output Areas (SOAs) and she then provided an overview of the breakdown of the demographics and area profiles of the respondents along with the findings.

The Partnership was advised that the PBP was seeking to assist communities to overcome and remove some of the most sensitive and complicated barriers to Peace, with engagement and encouraged dialogue they were trying to help grow support for change to barriers. She then provided an overview of some of the positive engagement work which had resulted in:

- a clear evidence of positive attitudinal change in both communities to barrier removal in all six areas;
- a growing support for immediate change to barriers, with evidence that both communities were open to greater change in the future;
- both communities expressing hope that Peace Barriers would not be an issue for future generations;

- an increased percentage of respondents stating that Barriers had no ‘positives’ with awareness that their retention had negative impacts at both a community and individual level;
- the increased engagement and building of trust between those living on either side of barriers was felt to be having a positive impact, with measurable change in interaction levels.

The Survey findings had indicated that attitudinal change towards peace barrier removal would be enhanced by longer-term regeneration initiatives offering a new ‘normal’ for residents by creating wider community benefits in place of the barriers, for example, Green Spaces or Parks that would be accessible to all. It was further noted that such a transformative change would be contingent on external resources and support being in place which would enable the physical changes to barriers to take place quickly, once community consent had been reached, and Belfast City Council’s role in this, as one of the key stakeholders, was noted.

The Partnership then viewed photos which showed positive examples of barrier removal, including Serpentine Road (BCC-led project which was co-funded by DoJ 2019), Duncairn Gardens/Hillman Court (DoJ led project) and plans for the Regeneration/Removal at the BMSS/Finlay Site.

The Partnership noted the benefits of creating shared spaces and how the use of these spaces helped to build greater cross-community cohesion and confidence. The importance of engaging with the local community was highlighted, especially with individuals and communities that had not previously participated in community development or peace building activities. The representatives referred to the success of the TASCIT (Twaddell Ardoyne Shankill Communities in Transition) and the R-City youth project that had come together for the recent Christmas tree lighting event on the Crumlin Road, with the lights having been switched on by the Lord Mayor.

During discussion the Chairperson referred to the successful progress to date with many of the projects and stated that he would like to see these achievements better promoted to demonstrate that, with dialogue and effort, progress and change was achievable.

Several Members specifically referred to the success of the Black Mountain Shared Space Project and applauded the volume of work already done to progress this initiative. It was noted that there was more work to be done, particularly in relation to linking the area up through the Forth Meadow Community Greenway, the Members stated that they would be keen to see more community engagement with young people.

The representatives concluded their presentation by thanking the Good Relations Officer, Ms. M. Hand for her hard work and commitment to the work and also thanked the Partnership for the opportunity to present on its progress.

The Chairperson of the Partnership thanked the representatives for their detailed and informative presentation and they left the meeting.

The Good Relations Manager advised that the draft Good Relations Action Plan 21/22 which was due to be discussed later in the meeting, had made provision for working with community groups, including those mentioned earlier to support work around interfaces.

Peace IV Updates

Update on Peace IV Secretariat

The PEACE IV Programme Manager provided the Members with an update in respect of the Secretariat activity associated with the implementation of the Peace IV Local Action Plan.

The officer reported that as the Members were already aware the ongoing government restrictions continued to have a severe impact on delivery.

Approval from the SEUPB in regard to the Project Modification requests were ongoing. Further clarification had been sought for modifications to BPR3 and BPR5. The requests for reduction in participant targets had not been approved and the SEUPB had advised that participant targets would be reviewed in Quarter 2, 2021. Difficulties in achieving targets continued to be highlighted to the SEUBP monthly and through quarterly reporting.

The Programme Manager advised that it was reasonably foreseeable that targets, as per the original Belfast Local Action Plan (LAP), were unlikely to be achieved, principally due to the impacts of Covid 19 and the ongoing government restrictions.

The modifications permitted to date by the SEUPB had been relatively minor. To proactively address this issue and also to highlight the risks of contractual obligations and implementation, Senior Management were progressing with a legal opinion. Correspondence would be issued to the SEUPB, as the Managing Authority of the PEACE IV Programme, in due course.

She reported that the PEACE IV Managers Forum, a collective group of PEACE IV Managers from all 17 Local Authorities delivering LAPs, had also highlighted collective concerns regarding implementation of the Programme, including inconsistencies in the approach to modifications, prolonged decision making, delays in reimbursement of claims and disregard for government legislation. The Forum had agreed to highlight these concerns in written correspondence to the SEUPB and to request a blanket extension to the Programme of at least one year. In addition, Local Authority risks were to be discussed collectively through SOLACE. She stated that it was anticipated that this collective approach would prompt the SEUPB and the Accountable Departments to seek appropriate mitigations with the EU Commission.

She also updated that:

- St Comgalls - The SEUPB had approved the award of the contract and final procurement checks had been completed and a meeting with the preferred contractor had taken place.
- Programme Workplan – the draft programme of virtual events was currently being developed.
- Verification and Audit – AGRS was finalising the internal audit report, which would be issued in February 2021.

The Partnership were informed that claims for all aspects of the Programme for Period 24 totalling £710,727 were currently being verified by the SEUPB. Preparation of Claims for Period 25 due for submission on 28th February 2021 were underway. In addition, the forecasting exercise to identify the maximum extension period possible, as well as any

potential underspend was nearing completion. Preliminary indications were that an extension to at least December 2022 was feasible within the current financial allocation.

Noted.

Update on Peace IV – Children and Young People (CYP)

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 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.

3.0 Main report

Project Updates

3.1 CYP 1 – Tech Connects

GIGA Training (Afterschool's & Digital Arts Academies (Tech Camps) (6-16 Yr. Olds) A Digital Arts Academy aimed at participants aged 12-16 (Lot 2) is planned for 15-18 February 2021. The focus is on music production and creating / producing mixes using a variety of cultural forms of music.

The project will launch via a media launch, through press release and social media given that the proposed launch scheduled for January 21 was cancelled due to restrictions.

The delivery partner is reviewing further guidance on school closures given the restriction extension announced on 21 January 21 and is considering the approach to progress Afterschool's clubs, both in the school & community settings.

Belfast Metropolitan College (Digital Insights Programme) (17-24 yr. olds)

Belfast Metropolitan College and their delivery partner Bytes are continuing with targeted recruitment. The virtual programme includes online mentoring support. Cohort 2 completed sessions on 16 & 17 December 2020 and analysis of monitoring and evaluation is being progressed using Registrations & Baseline surveys. Cohort 3 is scheduled to take place 17-18 February 2021 – Eventbrite registration currently live on social media.

The modification to allow for flexible delivery of the Insights programme has been approved by SEUPB, however the level of flexibility will be agreed a case by case basis with the CYP TPM.

3.2 <u>CYP 2 - Playing our Part in the City</u>

SEUPB approval was given to condense the timescale for Active Community Networks to complete year 3 targets , via a compressed delivery method i.e. week long programme or 5 full day Saturday sessions. However due to revised government restrictions, which prevent gatherings, the activity scheduled for the mid-term break in Feb 21 has now been delayed to 5 March 2021.

Members should also note that SEUPB also approved a reduction in contact hours from 44 to 26 hours for young people and from 30 to 24 hours for parents, for participant cohorts impacted by Covid 19.

Discussions with the delivery partner on further modification, to extend delivery for year 3 targets beyond March 21 are ongoing.

3.3 <u>CYP3 – On the Right Track – Sports and Personal Change elements</u>

Participant targets of 1800 remain high risk due to the current government restrictions and the uncertain environment. Sports club closures and differing guidance from sporting governing bodies have also been major barriers in terms of participation. The project has an ambitious 2020 target of 592 to achieve by December 2021 and a further 2022 target of 591 by end of June 2022.

This volume of programme delivery may prove difficult, if restrictions remain for an additional period of time.

The delivery partner is focusing activity on participants undertaking the OCN qualifications rather than the sporting activity given the current restrictions. Mechanisms to facilitate this activity are being explored, initial plans include staggered start times and smaller group sizes in order to comply with social distancing requirements.

<u>Personal Change</u>

Participants involved in activity throughout 2020 are nearing completion, with participants achieving the required contact time of 265 hours. The celebration event planned for January 21 has now been rescheduled to March 21 to enable recognition of participants' achievements throughout this pandemic.

Extern have issued the Personal Change Programme E-Zine for December 2020 and this is embedded on the Extern Personal Change dedicated webpage. This communication contains

information on wide range of good practice in working with young people.

Recruitment of the final cohort, to meet the project target is progressing with virtual home visits to take place with potential participants, The delivery agent currently has 16 referrals with the next cohort due to commence in April 21 and complete in December 21.

3.4 <u>CYP 4 – Cooperation Ireland (Young Advocates)</u>

Project activity has been paused from November 20 due to COVID and the delivery partner had planned to remobilise activity beginning February 21 via a condensed format, utilising longer sessions and day activities in order to meet cross community contact time.

Discussion with Cooperation Ireland on the remobilising of the project are ongoing, and it is likely that the pause on activity will be extended due to the extension of restrictions to March.

The delivery agent had submitted a proposed programme & content delivery to take place during condensed residential activity. However this is to be re-evaluated, based on the current travel restrictions.

However, Cooperation Ireland have been able to utilise the support of their respective partners as well as social media platforms to generate local interest. They are considering working on a short video and will explore using local press where possible. At this stage, participants have been identified by partners with young people yet to be registered for activity.

3.5 <u>CYP 5 – NIHE Local Area Network Partner Delivery</u>

The virtual Launch of the NIHE programmes, both Children & Young People combined with Building Positive Relations is to take place via social media on 11 February 2021. The launch will contain representation from the CEO of SEUPB and the Shared City Partnership Chair. Details on the launch will be issued to all members.

The Digital Inclusion contract has been awarded to Wheelworks and NIHE is conducting an initiation meeting to confirm delivery arrangements.

The procurement document for the Social Justice tender have been approved by SEUPB and will go live via E-tenders NI. It is anticipated that the contract will be awarded in February 2021.

Following a recent pilot using engagement boxes to explore cultural education, a further modification to extend this approach to the remaining 4 networks has been approved by SEUPB. The engagement boxes are delivered to each participants home and

contain good relations focussed arts and crafts activities for participants to complete. Participants then engage and share the learning from the activities through facilitated online sessions.

The specific content of the engagement boxes is be explored by NIHE and will be confirmed through the procurement exercise to secure a provider, which is currently ongoing. Due to the recent extension of government restriction, this innovative approach enables involving isolated / vulnerable participants with lack of access to digital technology."

The Partnership recommended that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee note the contents of the report.

Update on Shared Spaces and Services (SSS) theme

The Programme Manager provided an update on the progress made to date in respect of the SSS theme, within the Peace IV Local Action Plan. She advised that, as with the other projects, the ongoing government restrictions continued to impact the implementation of both the Shared Space and Services (SSS) capital and programming elements.

She referred to a number of capital projects which were being undertaken as part of the initiative, including:

- **Springfield Dam –** the project opened to the public in December 2020 and was being well used by all sections of the community with positive and encouraging feedback being received. The park opening hours were in line with other Council parks 7:30 a.m. to sunset and no reports of anti-social behaviour had been highlighted. Community youth outreach continued through the Forthspring Inter Community Group supplemented by joint patrols by BCC, SNOs and the PSNI. Clonard Monastery Youth Centre had paused outreach work in line with EA's policy on outreach youth provision during current restrictions.

  The latest Government COVID Restrictions had impacted the allocation of the remaining £6,000 Social Clause to schools for biodiversity activity at the Dam site.

- **PEACE IV Network Scheme – Capital Works -** The contract award for the wider network had been approved by the SEUPB. The approved contractor would commence work on site at Section 1 Glencairn in February 2021. Discussions continue with DfC and DFI in relation securing formal commitment of funding for the capital works.

In regard to programming, the Partnership was informed that all aspects of programming were progressing where possible, although COVID related restrictions had resulted in delays.

In regard to the other Programmes:

- **Dialogue and Engagement Project -** the final report had gone to print, with copies due to be received early February 2021. An Action Plan based on the report recommendations and the appropriate

procurement approaches were progressed. Quotation documents for further engagement and facilitation, along with an ITT for the development of a management model were also proceeding. The officer advised that, for the development and success of the Greenway, it was critical that dialogue and engagement aligned with the capital works as each of the sections were developed with the community receiving updates through contact lists and supported projects.

- **Shared History, Heritage and Identity Content / Narratives for Shared Space -** COVID restrictions continued to impact engagement with communities with the delivery partners still focusing on research. Discussions with Physical Programmes to align the research, public engagement and the development of narratives with the capital work had taken place. Virtual discussion sessions were planned for February, subject to the easing of restrictions, on-site sessions would commence in open spaces in March 2021.

- **Shared Space Volunteer Training -** Promotion of the volunteer walk and cycle leaders' projects to attract participants was being finalised and would be issued early February. Online engagement with participants was scheduled for mid-February 2021 and venues for face-to-face delivery in March 2021 was currently being explored, subject to government restrictions. The procurement for Shared Space Ambassadors, Heritage and Nature Guides was progressing and was anticipated it would be advertised via public tender during February 2021.

- **Springfield Dam activities -** All projects and activities would promote the park as shared and inclusive of all and include shared use of the on-site modular building. Projects and activities continued to be developed, however, delivery was on hold due to COVID restrictions.

As requested at last month's meeting, the Programme Manager drew the Partnerships' attention to details in respect of the Council's Social Clause Policy. During discussion a Member thanked the officer for the information and stated that he would liaise further with her to discuss further maximising training and placement opportunities.

The Partnership were advised that, to date, all Peace IV costs had been fully reimbursed by the SEUPB, as the funding body, subject to eligibility expenditure. Details of the Department for Infrastructure contribution to the project was being progressed and confirmation of Department for Communities input was being prioritised.

The Partnership recommended that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee note the contents of the report.

Update on Building Positive Relations - (BPR) theme

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 Building Positive Relations (BPR) theme of the PEACE IV Local Action Plan.

2.0 Recommendations

The Shared City Partnership should note the contents and appendices of the report and consider the following proposals requested below for approval:

BPR 4 Belfast and the World –

- **Further extension to mid-March 2021 to allow for Ligoniel and Ballynafeigh groups to complete;**
- **26 contact hours to be made up of 13 online delivery and 13 hours self-directed learning using course materials provided.**

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

Delivery of project activity is continuing where possible, although government restrictions introduced in December 20 (and changing ever since) impacted the delivery of condensed programmes and residential activity that was scheduled for October / November/ December.

3.1 BPR1 – Cross Community Area Networks

The project team have received positive responses from all key players within the majority of the identified CCAN areas. Internal scoring/evaluation of the one submission received is now complete and is awaiting SEUPB approval prior to appointment. It is anticipated that the Good Relations programme will commence mid-late February. The ITT for the Place Visioning programme is under NIHE internal review and NIHE anticipates commencing public procurement exercise in late March 2021. A Joint virtual launch with the CYP Programme is on schedule for the 11th February.

3.2 BPR2 – Creative Communities Project

The Artist/Heritage residency programme has been interrupted due to recent COVID restrictions. The Woodvale/Ardoyne cluster will pause until March '21 as participants have limited access to online technology. The Shankill/Clonard will continue to deliver on line following the delivery of their photography/selfcare 'Starter Packs' Divis/Lower Shankill, St Malachy's/Albert Foundary FC and Carlise Circus will continue to meet on line with the Steering groups to finalise their project design.

It is anticipated that 3/8 clusters will commence Spring 2021.

Exploratory discussions continue with the LGBTQ+ Thematic cluster in relation to establishing a Steering Group. Ongoing discussions continue with Malone Integrated College representatives with a view to review the situation after March 5th when it is anticipated schools will reopen.

3.3 <u>BPR3 – Transform for Change Project</u>

Year 1 delivery was completed mid – October, with 13 TLP courses delivered across 11 Clusters. 145 participants have completed TLP element with an 86% completion rate.

Year 2 Autumn cohorts completed with 107 participants verified as completed. Spring cohorts (Jan – March 2021) have commenced on 14th January with 100 confirmed learners registered.

Approval for support has been requested from NSM/NIMS for Area Teams to assist in the delivery and progression of project development workshops and ideas for the £4,000 Resource Allocation to the cluster has been requested and yet to be approved.

The organisation of local community engagement events, City – wide networking events and a cross border/UK study visit is currently on hold.

3.4 <u>BPR4 – Belfast and the World (BATW)</u>

Corrymeela continues to work with two live cohorts- Ligoniel (-to make up shortfall from Year 2) and Ballynafeigh. In order to complete programmes and ensure contact hours have been met, the delivery agent had arranged for residentials to take place in late January. However, due to government restrictions they have been unable to take place, despite four attempts.

The Delivery Agent has requested a further extension to allow for the completion of the above cohorts due to additional responsibilities (primarily home schooling). They anticipate both completing their BATW programme by mid- March 2021 via a blended approach (online and postal service) as small group work sessions remain prohibited. This would seem to be a reasonable approach and Members are asked to agree this approach and the extension until March 2021.

The final Year 3 BATW course will be delivered on line and commence mid-February with 20 participants registered. A further two open calls for online delivery will be made in Spring and late Summer ’21 to meet year 4 deliverables.

Due to current restrictions, two Civic led events are currently in planning phase to deliver on line. It is anticipated these will be held

late March and mid-May with the latter marking 1921 through a Play focusing on Partition.

EU Study trips are currently on hold due to COVID restrictions.

3.5 <u>BPR5 – Supporting Connected Communities - LINCS Projects</u>

The delivery agent continues limited project delivery during ever changing restrictions. They are currently planning a schedule of events/workshops for 2021 and have held sessions such as Holocaust Memorial Day and Arts & Cultural workshops in partnership with Artsekta.

Members should note that access to online platforms continues to pose a challenge for this project's target audience and as such core participant numbers have been significantly affected.

Further modification proposal for delivery is currently with SEUPB for consideration.

3.6 <u>BPR5 – Traveller element of Supporting Connected Communities</u>

This project is being managed by Belfast City Council and further to the recent recruitment exercise, an appointment has been made to the position of Traveller Support Officer. It is anticipated that the successful applicant will commence mid – late February 2021.

3.7 <u>BPR5 – Roma elements of Supporting Connected Communities</u>

This project has now been mobilised and is being delivered by Forward South Partnership.

The appointment of the Roma Support Hub Coordinator is now in place with a commencement date of 01/02/2021. Further recruitment exercises will be required for the remaining two posts, Advice worker and Capacity Officer.

<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u>

All BPR project delivery partners are regularly reviewing delivery methods and contractual deliverables which will determine the level and impact of COVID 19 crisis.

<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/</u>
<u>Rural Needs Assessment</u>

The draft plan has been equality screened and discussed at the Equality Consultative Forum on 13 May 2015."

The Partnership agreed that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee be recommended to agree:

- a further extension to mid-March 2021 to allow for Ligoniel and Ballynafeigh groups to complete; and

- 26 contact hours - to be made up of 13 online delivery and 13 hours of self-directed learning using the course materials provided.

Update on Good Relations Plan 2020/21

The Partnership considered the following report:

"1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 Council received a Letter of Offer from The Executive Office (TEO) towards the 20/21 District Council Good Relations Programme (DCGRP) based on the action plan submitted to TEO in February 2020.

1.2 Subsequently, a draft Revised Good Relations Action Plan for 2020/21 was approved by the Council in August 2020 and was noted by the Partnership at its October meeting.

1.3 It was understood by Council and TEO that given the current environment, this would likely be the first of a series of revisions to the Belfast City Council Good Relations Action Plan in line with the direction of travel agreed by Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 19 June 2020 and approved at Full Council on 1 July 2020. Further revisions to the plan will take in to account emerging community need as part of overall community recovery across Belfast and will be brought forward in due course in that context.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1

- **Members are requested to note the contents of the report and recommend to the Strategic Resources and Policy Committee that a follow up event be organised with Professor Waller to explore further the themes discussed at the online seminar on 26th January 2021.**
- **Members are requested to note the potential for underspend within the Good Relations Action Plan 20/21 due to the current pandemic and subsequent restrictions and that the Chief Executive has written to The Executive Office to ask for an extension to the funding to allow end of year flexibility.**

3.0 Main report

Current Position

3.1 Council submits an annual Good Relations Action Plan for consideration by TEO in February of each year; TEO then issues a Letter of Offer based on identified need in each Council area and the level of resource available. A Letter of Offer was received for approximately £570,000 on 15th June 2020. This has provided a

total allocation of approximately £740,000 for the action plan reflecting the level of resource available.

3.2 Members will also be aware that the Partnership endorsed the Council's approach to Community Provision Recovery and agreed that the budgets for Tranche 2 Good Relations Small Grants Scheme and St Patrick's Day be allocated to the ongoing Community Provision Recovery Funding programme.

3.3 Members have also been advised of a number of projects which have been funded through the Plan which were developed in response to community need, assist in addressing social and economic recovery and meet the priorities under T:BUC..

3.4 Officers wish to highlight three projects which are being delivered through the Plan despite the ongoing restrictions which are in place in response to the current Pandemic.

Four Corners Festival:

3.5 In November, Members had agreed to set aside an amount of up to 5k towards a citywide event programme. Members may wish to note that £2,780 has been allocated to the 4 Corners Festival which takes place annually in the first week of February. It features innovative events designed to entice people out of their own corners of the city and into new corners where they encounter new perspectives, ideas and friends. The theme of this years' Festival is 'Breathe' reflecting a desire to breathe hope into our city add fostering creativity and resilience as we respond to the challenges of the pandemic. The Festival has been moved entirely to an online format.

3.6 The Good Relations Action Plan contributed towards the cost of 4 events over the week including :

- **Breathe Out Hope – With John Paul Lederach, Pádraig Ó Tuama & Raquel McKee**
  Sunday 31 January 2021, 19:00
- **Film Night – Rough Justice - Monday 1 February 2021 - 7:30 pm**
- **Catch Your Breath: Resilience Practitioners' Workshop - Sharing notes on how to build inner strength - Tuesday 2 February 2021 - Co-led by Rev Dr Lesley Carroll and David Westerlund**
- **Building Breathing Room for Diversity - 'I can't breathe' - Wednesday, February 3 at 7.30 pm**

Holocaust Memorial Day

3.7 On Tuesday 26th January to mark Holocaust Memorial Day, Council hosted a virtual event attended by the Lord Mayor, and Professor James Waller, Cohen Professor of Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Keene State College, New Hampshire. The

event focused on why the Holocaust matters in today's deeply divided world.

3.8 Professor Waller presented an insightful input reminding participants that as we commemorate the victims of the Holocaust, we are also challenged to recognise the Holocaust as a historical event with contemporary lessons for today's deeply divided world. Professor Waller outlined that commemorating the Holocaust reminds us of the diligence necessary to promote and protect human rights, the deep commitment to nurture inclusive democratic institutions, and the willingness to see our neighbour in the face of 'the other', rather than as a threat. He shared with the participants that commemoration of the past must be followed by responsibility to the present and our shared future. Dr Katy Radford chaired the event and the subsequent question and answer session.

3.9 The event was attended by 100 people and some of the feedback included:

- **I thought this was an important subject and was very ably presented by Prof. Waller.**
- **I thought that how he linked other divided societies with Northern Ireland was really helpful - demonstrating how the holocaust could be replicated in other countries, if the risk factors continue to subtly develop was a revelation to me. Thank you for bringing this event to the public.**
- **I am very grateful to the Good Relations Team in BCC, the Lord Mayor, Prof. Waller and Dr.Katy Radford for marking HMD with this important event and hope that there will be more events like it. I found it very educational and inspiring.**

- **A really informative and clear account that should inform the understanding of the audience from all backgrounds.**

3.10 Given the interest and the relevance to the current political and social climate globally and locally, and Members are asked to agree Officers arrange a follow up event to further the discussion around the 'hard' issues, time permitting before the end of March.

<u>Decade of Centenaries</u>

3.11 Members will recall that as part of our agreed Decade of Centenaries Programme, a large conference was organized for April 2020, titled: 'Violence, Conflict, Militarization and Displacement; Belfast in 1920'. Over 140 people had registered for the conference which unfortunately had to be cancelled as a result of the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic. In autumn last year, we were able to revisit this and the conference has now been completed with all of the planned content captured in an online recorded project.

3.12 **The Nerve Centre undertook all of the recordings of the talks and panel discussion, which will be located on the Council's website and also on the Creative Centenaries website for people to access anywhere. The speakers were Dr. Éamon Phoenix, Jimmy McDermott, Dr. Brian Barton, Liz Gillis and Dr. Alan Parkinson. A panel discussion of all of the speakers was moderated by Deirdre McBride.**

3.13 **Our Decades of Centenaries programme, which has been running since 2011, reflects on significant events in the city's past, through programmes and events, in order to build a shared understanding of history in a way that can build good relations and foster reconciliation.**

Update on Programme Expenditure

3.14 **As advised at the December meeting, the Community Recovery Support Grants Schemes, both micro and medium, closed on 11th and 18th December respectively. Since then, Officers across the City and Neighbourhood Services Department have been assessing and signing off the micro and medium grants and liaising with groups. However as Members will be aware, the additional restrictions regarding activity brought in just before Christmas and subsequent extension of restrictions until 8th March has impacted upon the groups' ability to deliver prior to the end of the financial year. The restrictions have also impacted upon the projects which would have been delivered by Officers or third parties.**

3.15 **Therefore, Members are asked to note that while Officers have sought to deliver activity virtually and have sought to maximise the Programme, there is potential for underspend within the Programme due to the circumstances created by the pandemic.**

3.16 **Members are also asked to note that the Chief Executive has written to the Permanent Secretary of The Executive Office to ask for an extension to the funding to allow for end of year flexibility which would assist in addressing the issue of underspend. Pending a response, a further report will be brought back to Members at a future meeting.**

Financial and Resource Implications

All activity has taken place within existing budgets.

Equality or Good Relations Implications and Rural Needs assessment

Screening and a rural needs assessment has taken place for the Good Relations Strategy. The councils' District Council Good Relations Action Plan is one element of this strategy."

A Member thanked the staff for the Holocaust Memorial Event which she felt was both engaging and relevant and stated that she looked forward to more engagement events as they helped to support the Good Relations outcomes.

The Partnership recommended that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee adopt the recommendations as outlined in the report.

Good Relations Action Plan 2021/22

The Partnership considered the following report:

"1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 Members will be aware that the council submits 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 have requested submission of this years' action plan by 22 February 2020.

Members will be aware that Action Plans are to be based on an audit of good relations issues and need within the Council area. Members will recall that the most recent audit of good relations needs was completed at the end of 2019.

The purpose of this report is to advise of the content of the draft Action Plan for 21/22 and seek approval to forward the Plan to TEO.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1

- **To recommend to the Strategic and Policy Resources Committee that the attached draft Action Plan 2021/22 be submitted to TEO.**
- **To note that in order to meet the deadline set by The Executive Office, that the plan will be submitted in draft, subject to approval by Council at the beginning of March.**
- **Members are also requested to note that this Action Plan submission is subject to amendment during the assessing and scoring process that will be undertaken by TEO. The Council will be notified of any changes in the final approved Action Plans.**

3.0 Main report

3.1 The Good Relations Action plan which is submitted to TEO on an annual basis is designed to outline local responses to locally identified good relations issues. In order to inform development of the action plan, councils are obliged to carry out an audit of local good relations needs every three years.

3.2 Members will recall that the most recent audit of good relations needs was completed at the end of 2019.

3.3 **Members may recall that 19/20 was the first year that councils were awarded indicative three year funding. Action Plans were completed for 2019/20 with Action Plan summaries for 2020/21 and 2021/22. However, due to the current circumstances, the original summaries have been revised to take the impact of the pandemic into account.**

3.4 **TEO have advised that their opening budget position for 21/22 has not yet been confirmed, However, in the absence of confirmation, Officers have drawn up the Plan based on last years allocation of approximately £571,000.**

3.5 **Officers have developed the draft action plans based on the findings of the audit and also on the findings of consultations undertaken with the community and voluntary sector over the past year, as communities respond to the needs presented within their areas. It should be noted that some of the recommendations, particularly in relation to grant aid amendments, cannot be implemented immediately, and that an approach to grant funding for next year has yet to be approved by Council. However, the draft plans do implement some of the recommendations in relation to a realignment of funding towards strategic programmes rather than grant aid.**

3.6 **Officers will engage further with the SCP, elected members and other relevant stakeholders to develop the delivery of strategic pieces of work.**

<u>Planned Intervention</u>

3.7 **In addition, Members may wish to note that previously, the Planned Intervention portion of the Plan would have been funded at 100% from TEO and would have been had its own separate letter of offer up until 2 years ago. However, this year, TEO have advised that they are bringing the funding into line with the rest of the Council Programme and they are requesting that Council provide the customary 25% match funding.**

3.8 **This affords the Partnership the opportunity to decide how these funds should be allocated within the Action Plan.**

3.9 **In recent years, Members will be aware that the number of applicants to this fund has decreased significantly. This is partly due to the prioritization by TEO of their Summer Camps programme and the Education Authority's Intervention programme, which together, receives around £1.5M.**

3.10 **However, a number of recommendations in our last audit would also reflect the need to refocus this element of the Action Plan namely:**

- **A new small seeding grant for those organisations that feel they lack capacity, are systemically disadvantaged or are new to good relations;**

- **Commitment to an annual funding application process and to longer-term (two or three year) grant aid for some of the more impactful applications;**
- **A commitment to strategic funding on issues to be determined by the Shared City Partnership possibly starting at 20% of the existing budget;**
- **Renaming of its grant assistance the shared city grant programme to ensure consistency with the strategic thrust of other Council delivery including on good relations.**
- **Reaffirm the role of the Shared City Partnership, including being part of Council analysis of the issues, needs and threats over a ten-year period;**
- **Provide a budget for the Shared City Partnership to undertake research and analysis for Council;**
- **Undertake strategic intervention with budget on enhancing intervention on the removal of interface barriers/ 'peace walls';**
- **Ensure there continues to be a city-wide, consistent approach to good relations while inputting at local area level.**

3.11 Given the above recommendations, coupled with the approach to community recovery support grants and potential impact of restrictions if in place at that time, Officers would propose that the Planned Intervention Grant Programme cease and instead, the funds be directed to a targeted Strategic Intervention programme distributed on an area basis.

3.12 This would ensure that the approach could be targeted, strategic and proactive and could include work at interface areas or on good relations issues impacting the specific area. Work could take place all year round and not just at certain times of the year. 15k would be allocated to each area with the condition that any project must address good relations issues and one of the T:BUC priorities. This allocation would be discussed at Area Team level meaning there would be complementarity and a coordination of resources. The projects will be agreed by the relevant Good Relations Officer, Neighbourhood Integration Manager and Neighbourhood Services Area Manager, the latter of which will have delegated authority.

3.13 A copy of the draft proposed Action Plan 21/22 was issued with the agenda for Members consideration and approval.

<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u>

The plan will be 75% funded by TEO with the remaining 25% included in the Council's 20/21 budget. The Council has made provision to support Good Relations Activity with an amount which is in excess of the required 25% contribution included in the budget for 20/21. Funding supports a portion of some of the salaries within the Good Relations Unit. The programme bid 21/22

totals £775,903, with an approximate amount of £573k being requested from TEO.

<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications and Rural Needs assessment</u>

Screening and a rural needs assessment has taken place for the Good Relations Strategy, the councils' District Council Good Relations Action Plan is one element of this strategy."

The Partnership recommended that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee adopt the recommendations as outlined in the report.

<u>Issue Raised Verbally at the Meeting – Councillor O'Hara</u>

With the permission of the Chairperson, Councillor O'Hara requested that a letter be forwarded to the Belfast Multicultural Association, on behalf of the Shared City Partnership, to condemn the arson attack which had occurred on 15th January, 2021.

The Partnership agreed that the aforementioned letter would be sent to the Belfast Multicultural Association.

Chairperson

Action Plan Programme Outcome Summary Table 2021/22 (100% Costs) **Appendix 2**

Total budget available: £775,903 Staff costs: £315,903 Programme Costs: £460,000

Code	Key Priority	T:BUC Outcome	Programme Summary	Total Cost	Numbers
BCC1	All 4 themes – projects will be aligned to relevant theme	Relevant indicator for the TBUC theme as indicated for other programmes	Council Community Provision Support Programme. Criteria will reflect focus on the 4 T;BUC themes and will provide opportunities for organisations across Belfast to support participants to engage in activities which promote the TBUC outcomes.	**Total:£75,000**	15 projects with 30 participants – 450 Total: 450 participants
BCC2	Cultural expression	% increase in the number of participants who think the culture and traditions of Catholics, Protestants and minority ethnic people add to the richness and diversity of Northern Ireland society	**St Patrick's Day Celebration grants.** Grants of up to £1,000 are available to support community events which provide the opportunity to learn about and engage with the celebration of Saint Patrick's Day.	**Total: £30,000**	50 projects 30 participants per project – **Total: 1500 participants**
BCC3	Cultural expression	% increase in the number of participants who think the culture and traditions of Catholics, Protestants and minority ethnic people add to the richness and diversity of Northern Ireland society	**Cultural Expression Programme** – to engage with the Protestant/ Unionist/Loyalist community to promote positive cultural expression through support for community events, training and awareness raising programmes and the provision of bonfire beacons.	**Total: £50,000**	**Total:600 participants**

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BCC4	Shared Community	% increase in the number of participants who feel comfortable socialising in a shared space they would not traditionally visit	**Civic Engagement and Learning Programme** Develop programme of events and training on good relations/diversity which can be accessed by staff and elected members. The aim of the programme is to provide relevant skills and knowledge to engage in good relations issues. Implement good relations recommendations and actions emanating from the strategic research on capturing the community response to Covid19 in Belfast. Develop a programme to grow young Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic leaders in the City.	**£5,000** **£10,000** **£10,000** **Total:£25,000**	4 training events – 20 participants at each event Participant numbers cannot be determined at this stage as will not be completed until March 21. 12 participants **Total:92 participants**
BCC5	Shared Community	% increase in the number of participants who feel comfortable socialising in a shared space they would not traditionally visit	**Shared City Programme** **Decade of Centenaries** programme – events that will highlight key anniversaries from 100 years ago. **Diversecity Project** – series of 10 diversecity activities including: visits, events and training opportunities to support the promotion of diversity, to include Cultural Competence training, Islamic Awareness, Living Library Events, Refugee Awareness, visits to Cultural and Faith places and spaces. .	£25,000 £10,000	3 significant events – May Day weekend/22 June – 500 participants 25 participants per event - 250

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			Key Events Programme to mark key dates such as Holocaust Memorial Day, International day of Peace, Refugee Week, Irish Language Week, Community Relations Week.	£5,000 **Total: £40,000**	25 participants at 4 events - 100 **Total:850 participants**
BCC6	Shared Community	% increase in the number of participants who feel comfortable socialising in a shared space they would not traditionally visit	**Inclusion Programme** Develop Programme to support the inclusion and participation of new communities including the work of the **Migrant Forum which meets quarterly.** Completion and launch of the new Refugee Transition Guide Use participation in the Inclusive Cities programme to identify and develop new approaches to support the integration and inclusion of new communities, including developing practice to support new communities to have their voice included in policy and practice. This will involve research into the key inequalities experienced by BAME communities in Belfast including a resource for new communities to host their own discussions into this exercise. Inclusion of tailored events/programmes to build re - engagement and contact opportunities between communities – including neighbourhood celebrations, intercultural encounters/events such as the shared celebration of festivals, animation of parks, spaces and neighbourhoods with a focus on soft good relations projects to promote physical contact, engaging communities through sport, arts, community gardens and cultural events..	£5,000 £5,000 £15,000 £10,000 **Total: £35,000**	30 participants per meeting/programme 120 400 participants Minimum 4 programmes – 50 participants per event – 200 participants **Total: 720 participants**

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BCC7	Safe Community	% increase in the number of participants who feel safe feel safe attending events, activities or facilities in areas associated with a different background	**Shared City Building Relations Programme** Support a pilot intervention that can prevent the escalation of tensions in communities by supporting the orientation and cultural competence of new and host communities building on work with agencies such as NIACRO. Continue partnership working with Faith Matters and Tell MAMA to explore ways of addressing anti-Muslim hate and other forms of hate This will include resourcing for issues identified through relevant groups which focus on vulnerable/interface communities. This can be funnelled through Area Managers, Good Relations Officers and Community Safety Coordinators Development of a cross community Men's Shed project across West Belfast – involves 4 men's sheds projects	£20,000 £10,000 £10,000 £12,000 **Total : 52,000**	100 participants 50 participants 75 participants 40 participants **Total: 265 participants**

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BCC8	Safe Community	% increase in the number of participants who feel safe feel safe attending events, activities or facilities in areas associated with a different background	**Interface Programme** Work with a range of internal and external stakeholders to identify strategic projects that will support the transformation and/or removal of interface barriers. This programme will include support for relationship building between communities in interface areas; contributions towards physical works and programming that will add value to the work of other stakeholders in transforming interface barriers or creating shared spaces/events in interface ***Cross interface Dialogue and Training Programmes:*** • TASCIT –Challenging Conversations programme (20 x participants on a 9 x week programme); • Upper North Belfast Confidence Building Programme (25 people) • Interface-learning/exchange programme for young people in Clonard/mid-Shankill area. Work with up to 15 x young people to develop an exchange programme with other countries experiencing segregation and barriers) • Contribution to continue Belfast Interface Project for Shared Futures Programme • Support to Greater Dunmurry Positive Relations Partnership for further engagement • Identified projects to address inter community tensions in North Belfast ***Support for cross-interface shared space events:*** • TASCIT - Christmas event at Ardoyne Roundabout • DCP – Christmas shared event in Duncairn Gardens (up to 200 x participants): • Shared space Christmas market at Lanark Way • North Belfast Lantern Parade – shared Hallowe'en arts event walking through interfaces areas in North Belfast	£5,000 £9,000 £5,000 £10,000 £10,000 £10,000 £2,500 £2,500 £2,500 £2,500	20 participants 25 participants 15 participants 50 participants 50 participants 100 participants 200 participants 200 participants 200 participants 200 participants

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			Shared Space GR programmes • Greater Whitewell (to complement Council assuming ownership of White City Community Centre in 2020/21): Shared Space programme activities • Black Mountain Shared Space Project (complement PIV capital development): - Christmas Craft market at the interface - 20 x women and 20 x men (cross-community links with Men's Sheds) - Family programme of shared good relations activities: £3k - Women's Cultural Awareness Programme – 5k	£5,000 £8,000 **Total: £71,000**	50 participants 100 participants **Total: 1210 participants**
BCC9	Children & Young people	% increase in the number of participants (young people) who have a more positive attitude towards those from another community background	**Schools intervention programme** This initiative is delivered in partnership with EA and also receives funding from Stena Line. It will support engagement of 9 schools in 20/21 in 4 shared education partnerships across Belfast. The project will develop relationships between pupils and staff in schools which are in different sectors. It will support shared education activity between pupils as well as cross community engagement between parents. This is the 3rd year of a 4 year programme.	£15,000 **Total:£15,000**	200 participants **Total:200 participants**

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BCC 10	Children & Young people	% increase in the number of participants who have a more positive attitude towards those from another community background.	**Strategic Intervention Programme** A targeted, strategic and proactive which include work at interface areas or on good relations issues impacting the areas of North, South, East and West. Work will take place all year round. 15k to be allocated to each area with the condition that it must address good relations issues and at least one of the T:BUC priorities. This allocation would be discussed at Area team level meaning there would be complementarity and a coordination of resources. The projects will be agreed by the relevant Good Relations Officer, Neighbourhood Integration Manager and Neighbourhood Services Manager 8k to be allocated to Thematic Citywide Good Relations Issues as agreed by the Shared City Partnership	£60,000 £8,000 **Total: £60,000**	6 projects with 30 participants per project)participants 2 projects with 30 participants per project **Total: 240 participants**

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Belfast City Council

STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Subject:	**Equality and Diversity: Quarter 3 Equality Screening and Rural Needs Outcome Report**
Date:	19th February, 2021
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor / Director Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officers:	Sarah Williams, Governance & Compliance Manager

Restricted Reports				
Is this report restricted?	**Yes**		**No**	X
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**	X	**No**	

1.0	**Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues**
1.1	The purpose of this report is to set out the Quarterly Screening Outcome Report of equality screenings and rural needs impact assessments for Quarter 3 2020-21
2.0	**Recommendation**
2.1	The Committee is recommended to note the Quarterly Screening Outcome Report which will be published on the Council's website
3.0	**Main report**
3.1	<u>Background</u> As Members will be aware, the Council has a duty to have, under section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998: • Due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity in relation to the nine equality categories; and

	• Regard to the desirability of promotion good relations
3.2	In addition, under section 1 of the Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland) 2016: • Due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising policies, strategies and plans, and when designing and delivering public services
3.3	To this end, the Council has a process to carry out equality screening and rural needs assessment of new and revised policies. This allows any impacts related to equality of opportunity, good relations or rural needs to be identified and addressed.
	Key Issues
3.4	**Quarterly Screening Outcome Report** The Quarter 3 Screening Outcome Report for October to December 2020 is attached. As usual, the Quarterly Screening Outcome Report and Rural Needs Impact Assessment is being brought to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee meeting for notation and will be published on the Council website.
3.5	**Financial and Resource Implications** None.
3.6	**Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment** This report contributes to the Council's compliance with section 75 or the Northern Ireland Act 1998 and Rural Needs Act 2016.
4.0	**Documents Attached**
	Screening Outcome Report for October to December, 2020 - Quarter 3

Belfast City Council

Equality Screening Outcome Report and Rural Needs Impact Assessment

October to December 2020

Introduction

Legislation – An Overview

Section 75 Statutory Equality Duties

Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 requires the Council, when carrying out its functions in relation to Northern Ireland, to have due regards to the need to promote equality of opportunity between nine categories of persons, namely:

- between persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation;
- between men and women generally;
- between persons with a disability and persons without; and
- between persons with dependants and persons without.

Without prejudice to its obligations above, the council must also have regards to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group.

The Council's Revised Equality Scheme was formally approved by the Equality Commission in March 2015. The revised Scheme outlines how we propose to fulfil our statutory duties under Section 75. Within the Scheme, the council gave a commitment to apply the screening methodology below to all new and revised policies and where necessary and appropriate to subject new policies to further equality impact assessment.

- What is the likely impact of equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy/proposal, for each of the Section 75 equality categories?

- Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within Section 75 equality categories?

- To what extent is the policy/proposal likely to impact on good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?

• Are there opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?

In keeping with the Council's commitments in its Equality Scheme, the Council has applied the above screening criteria to new policies and proposals. Screening identifies policies that are likely to have an impact on equality of opportunity and/or good relations.

Screening identifies the impact of the policy/proposal as major, minor or none.

- If major – an Equality Impact Assessment may be carried out.
- If minor – consider mitigation or alternative policy and screen out.
- If none – screen out and give reasons.
- Ongoing screening – for strategies/policies that are to be put in place through a series of stages – screen at various stages during implementation.

The council also committed within its Revised Equality Scheme to prepare and publish for information regular reports on its screening exercises. This is screening report providing details on all screenings undertaken from the period October to December 2020.

Rural Needs Impact Assessments

The Council also has a statutory duty under the Rural Needs (Northern Ireland) Act 2016 to consider rural needs in the development of new policies, plans or strategies or in any service design/delivery decisions. The Council must therefore engage with rural stakeholders in relation to policy development when it is relevant and appropriate. The Equality and Diversity Unit is responsible for reporting to the Strategic, Policy and Resources Committee and for ensuring that annual reporting returns are submitted to DAERA.

To further promote openness and transparency, there is a link to each completed screening and rural needs impact assessment template on the Council's website. www.belfastcity.gov.uk

The templates details all policies screened over this period and includes decisions reached.

Consultation

The development of new policies and proposals will be supported by effective engagement processes to ensure that staff, service users and all interested parties are fully involved.

Planning for, and delivering safe and cost effective services requires close collaboration at many levels.

If you have any queries about this document, and its availability in alternative formats (including Braille, disk and audio cassette, and in other languages to meet the needs of those who are not fluent in English) then please contact:

Bridgeen O'Neill
Equality and Diversity Unit
Belfast City Council
Room 117
City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS

Direct Line (028) 9027 0511
or (028) 9032 0202 Ext 6315
email: equality@belfascity.gov.uk or oneillbridgeen@belfastcity.gov.uk

Screening Outcome

The screening outcomes are outlined in the table below. Three possible outcomes are recorded:

If **Major** – an Equality Impact Assessment may be carried out. **EQIA** - subject to further scrutiny under Section 75 of the NI Act 1998 to determine the impact upon those

directly affected, which in turn will require informal and formal consultation with a wide range of stakeholders.

If **Minor** – consider mitigation or alternative policy and screen out.

If **None** – screen out and give reasons.

Screening Outcome Options

Major= In

Minor= Out with mitigation

None= Out without mitigation

Rural Needs Impact Assessment Options

Does the policy, plan, strategy or service design/delivery impact on the social and economic needs of people in rural areas?

Belfast City Council Equality Screening Outcome Report and Rural Needs Impact Assessment

This report includes published screenings and Rural Needs Impact Assessments for the period October to December 2020. Copies can be found at: http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/council/equality/eqia.aspx

Description of Policy/Proposal	**Rural Needs Impact Assessment**	**ECNI Screening Decision and Contact**
Response to Covid-19 Pandemic		Screened Out – mitigating actions (minor impact). Contact: Lorraine Dennis, Equality & Diversity officer

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STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Belfast City Council

Subject:	**Equality and Diversity: Audit of Inequalities and Equality Action Plan 2021-24**
Date:	19th February, 2021
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor / Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Sarah Williams, Governance and Compliance Manager; Lorraine Dennis, Equality and Diversity Officer

Restricted Reports				
Is this report restricted?	**Yes**		**No**	X
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**	X	**No**	

1.0	**Purpose of report or Summary of main issues**
1.1	The purpose of this report is to submit for approval a draft version of the Audit of Inequalities and Equality Action Plan 2021-24.
2.0	**Recommendations**
2.1	The Committee is asked to approve the draft documents and note the timeline for next steps.
3.0	**Main Report**
3.1	**Background** In addition to the requirements under section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 which requires public authorities to:

	1. **report annually** to the ECNI on the progress of the implementation of its Equality Scheme (revised Scheme ratified by Council in January 2021 and submitted to the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland (ECNI) for legislative approval) 2. carry out a **review of their Equality Scheme every five years** and make any relevant updates (also approved by Council in January 2021) ECNI's revised Section 75 Guide for Public Authorities recommends that public authorities: 3. undertake an **Audit of Inequalities** to identify inequalities across the nine Section 75 categories, relevant to a public authority's functions and 4. use the audit information to develop and implement an **Action Plan** to address inequalities relative to its functions which is recommended to align with the public authority's corporate planning cycle.
3.2	**<u>Key Issues</u>** **Audit of Inequalities** An Audit of Inequalities is to identify inequalities, across the nine Section 75 categories (religious belief, political opinion, race, age, gender, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, people with dependants or without), relevant to a public authority's functions in order to inform the development of an action plan to promote equality of opportunity and good relations. The Audit of Inequalities is intended to produce a more strategic picture of inequalities that a public authority may be in a position to influence, rather than examining inequalities on a policy-by-policy basis, undertaken as part of any screening and equality impact assessment (EQIA) processes.
3.3	**<u>Equality Action Plan</u>** Having carried out an Audit of Inequalities, public authorities should then consider addressing these inequalities in light of what they are already doing and decide whether new actions are required to address the inequalities identified and / or whether building upon or amending existing organisational actions is required. These actions or amended actions should be listed in the authority's Equality Action Plan. The ECNI recommends that these documents align with the public authority's organisational planning cycle. The Equality Action Plan is now designed to make the process of collecting the updates for the Annual Report to the ECNI easier for both EDU and the departments.

3.4	A draft Audit of Inequalities (**Appendix 1**) and Equality Action Plan (**Appendix 2**) have been developed in collaboration with departments over the last six months. They reflect the themes and are aligned to the timescale of the current Corporate Plan 2020-2024. These were approved by the Equality and Diversity Network – Strategic (EDNS) on 3 February 2021.
3.5	**Next steps** These documents are required to be submitted to ECNI within six months of the approval of the Equality Scheme therefore the following timetable is proposed: • March – May: carry out 12-week public consultation • May – June: update documents based on consideration of consultation responses and prepare consultation report • June: submit final documents to SP&R • July: submit approved documents to ECNI •
3.6	**Financial and Resource Implications** This work is covered by existing budgets. Whilst the EDU will lead on this work, officer input from across Departments will be required.
3.7	**Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment** The actions outlined contribute to our legal compliance regarding the promotion of equality and good relations.
4.0	**Documents Attached**
	Appendix 1: Audit of Inequalities Appendix 2: Equality Action Plan 2021-24

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Appendix 1

Belfast City Council

Audit of Inequalities 2021 - DRAFT FOR CONSULTATION

We are committed to making sure that our services and information are available to all parts of the community. If you need this information in an alternative format or language, please contact us at:

Equality & Diversity Unit

Legal & Civic Services

Belfast City Council

City Hall

Belfast

BT1 5GS

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Section 1: Background

1.1 The Legislative Background

Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 provides that:

> (1) A public authority shall in carrying out its functions relating to Northern Ireland have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity-
>
> > (a) between persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation;
> >
> > (b) between men and women generally;
> >
> > (c) between persons with a disability and persons without; and
> >
> > (d) between persons with dependants and persons without
>
> (2) Without prejudice to its obligations under subsection (1), a public authority shall in carrying out its functions relating to Northern Ireland have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group.

While much good work has been achieved in promoting equality of opportunity and good relations, there remains persistent inequalities within our society. Within its guide Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998: A Guide for Public Authorities, the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland (ECNI) recommends that public authorities should undertake an audit of inequalities by systematically reviewing and analysing its services and how these relate to the promotion of equality and good relations. Having identified any inequalities it is recommended that public authorities should set out specific actions to address these in an action plan attached to the public authority's Equality Scheme.

ECNI defines an audit of inequalities as a "systematic review and analysis of inequalities which exist for service users and those affected by a public authority's policies". The purpose of this report is to detail how the Council conducted its audit of inequalities, and to identify some of the key inequalities, which emerged.

1.2 The Strategic Context

The Belfast Agenda
Community planning is a process led by councils working with community planning partners, including other statutory agencies, businesses and local communities, to develop and implement a shared vision and plan for the council area.

Belfast City Council took on responsibility for community planning as part of local government reform in 2015, and Belfast's first community plan, the Belfast Agenda, was launched in 2017. Its long-term aspirations or intended outcomes for the city are:

- Everyone in Belfast benefits from a thriving and prosperous economy
- Belfast is a welcoming, safe, fair and inclusive city for all
- Everyone in Belfast fulfils their potential
- Everyone in Belfast experiences good health and wellbeing
- Belfast is a vibrant, attractive, connected and environmentally sustainable city

The Belfast Agenda is underpinned by values including “A focus on outcomes for people”, “Equality and good relations” and “Inclusiveness, care and compassion”. It recognises the need to “deliver services differently, in a more integrated way that is focused on the needs of people and helps them participate fully in the life of the city.”

The Belfast Agenda’s immediate priority (2017 to 2021) is inclusive growth. Inclusive growth aims to improve the wider outcomes for people in Belfast, regardless of where they were born or where they live, by addressing issues of poverty, economic inactivity, unemployment and underemployment. This will be supported by four pillars or areas of work:

- Growing the economy: a competitive city region economy that creates opportunities for all
- Living here: Great place to live, good houses, excellent local facilities and open spaces, healthy and safe neighbourhoods
- City development: Connected, well planned with the right infrastructure to succeed
- Working and learning: Making sure people have the right skills for the future

1.3 The Corporate Context

The Corporate Plan (2020 to 2024) supports the Belfast Agenda through its themes of:

- Growing the economy
- Living here
- Working and learning
- City development
- Resilience and sustainability
- Cross-cutting priorities, including implementing the Good Relations Strategy and developing and implementing the city’s cultural strategy ‘A City Imagining’

It also introduces a number of organisational capabilities required to deliver excellent service and city leadership. Priorities under organisational capabilities include data development, people development, customer focus, continuous improvement and equality, diversity and inclusion.

Section 2: About Belfast City Council

Belfast City Council is led by 60 elected representatives supported by approximately 2,300 full and part-time staff.

The council is made up of 10 District Electoral Areas and has a budget of *c.*£160 million. Its role can be divided in to three main areas:

- direct service provision
- a representative role
- a consultative role

It does this by:

- the direct provision of a number of services and facilities
- the promotion of the arts, tourism, community and economic development
- the regulation and licensing of certain activities relating to environmental health, consumer protection and public safety
- carrying out a representative role on a number of bodies and boards including the Education Authority and Health and Social Care Board
- carrying out a consultative role in relation to functions conducted by other government bodies and agencies on issues such as regional planning, water, roads and housing
- carrying out an advocacy role for the people of the district

On 1 April 2015, the council took on new or enhanced powers including local planning, community planning and off-street parking. As part of local government reform, a reorganisation of government aimed at modernising and improving services.

To carry out its role and functions, the council performs the following activities (not an exhaustive list):

- the provision and maintenance of facilities for recreational, social and cultural activities including leisure centres, community centres, parks, open spaces, sports and playgrounds and places of entertainment
- street cleansing
- waste collection and disposal
- the provision of burial grounds
- the provision of grants to support arts, community development, good relations, sports development and so on
- the administration and regulation of certain matters relating to the environment, public health and public safety including building control, food safety, statutory nuisance, dangerous buildings, air pollution, noise pollution, dog control, consumer protection and health and safety
- the licensing and regulation of street trading, places of entertainment, amusement centres, sex shops, society lotteries, cinemas and petrol stations
- the making of bye-laws and regulation of same

- a wide range of powers and duties placed on the council by statute.

The council also has a General Power of Competence under Section 79 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014. This power enables the council, in broad terms, to act with similar freedom to an individual unless there is a law to prevent it from doing so. It provides the council with the ability to act in its own interest and to develop innovative approaches to addressing issues in its area.

Section 3: Methodology

A four-stage approach was taken to developing this Audit of Inequalities and Equality Action Plan as follows:

1) Review of the Equality Scheme. The council's Equality Scheme was approved by ECNI in March 2015. A new scheme will be reviewed, revised and submitted to ECNI for approval.

2) Review of evidence including:
   a) statistical baseline data for Section 75 groups in the Belfast City Council district area
   b) Belfast City Council strategies, plans, programmes, policies, complaints, surveys, consultations and a range of completed Section 75 screening templates and any Equality Impact Assessments (EQIA)

3) Review of previous audits and action plans produced by Belfast City Council, other local authorities and other statutory bodies

4) Audit of service areas and functions through consultation with council departments and units. This included a series of workshops and meetings on preparation and design; auditing; prioritisation; and action planning.

Regular progress reports were provided to the City Solicitor and the Governance and Compliance Manager who have responsibility for equality matters across the council.

Key findings of the research are summarised in the next section 'Key Findings'. Through this research, a range of issues were identified. These are outlined in the Profile of Belfast City Council, Audit of Inequalities and Equality Action Plan in the appendices.

The Audit of Inequalities and Equality Action Plan will be reviewed on an annual basis.

The results of this monitoring will be included in the council's Annual Equality Progress Report, which is forwarded to ECNI. Responsibility for monitoring and review of the Equality Action Plan will rest with the relevant officers within council.

Section 4: Key findings

Findings from the Policy Review

The policy review included:

- a desktop review of various Belfast City Council policies, strategies, and plans
- the Council's Equality Scheme
- consultation with departments and units responsible for the design and delivery of those policies, strategies and plans

The Belfast Agenda has at its core the aim of improving the wellbeing of all Belfast citizens. It has the potential to promote equality of opportunity and good relations, tackle and address issues of exclusion and marginalisation and have a positive impact on all Section 75 groups.

The ability to achieve its ambitions, however, will be dependent on greater understanding of inequalities at both programme and operational level. Respondents to consultation on the Belfast Agenda EQIA highlighted the importance of screening at strategic, programme and project-level. This will ensure that all activity has the desired positive impact and does not negatively impact on others.

Respondents to the Belfast Agenda EQIA also suggested that relevant population indicators should not only be tracked in aggregate (for example economic inactivity), but also by Section 75 group (for example economic activity by age and gender). This feedback has informed the format of this audit.

Data development is also an ongoing priority of the Belfast Agenda and Corporate Plan. While using data to identify and address key inequalities is essential, it is not straightforward: there are gaps in evidence or, in some cases, a myriad of information of variable quality than can conflict or compete. Rather, data development is an ongoing process and further work will be required to ensure quality data is available at the most appropriate level. The format of the Audit of Inequalities and its accompanying Equality Action Plan allows for this ongoing development and consideration of new evidence, impacts and developments.

Section 5: Profile of Belfast City Council

According to NISRA Population Estimates **mid-year population estimates for 2018, the population of Belfast local government district is 341,877**, accounting for 18.2 per cent of the population of NI. 99 per cent of those people live in the urban environment, with 4,600 (1.3 per cent) living in rural or mixed urban/rural areas.

The population has increased by 8,006 or 2.4 percent since the 2011 Census (when the usually resident population of Belfast was 333,871).

The Northern Ireland Research and Statistics Agency (NISRA) projects that by 2041, the population of Belfast will be 353,280, an increase of 11,403 people or 3.3 per cent.

The following demographic information is arranged under the nine Section 75 equality categories and provides basic information on the make-up of the Belfast City Council (as extended in 2015 as a result of local government reform).

5.1 Religion

On Census day 2011, 48.8 per cent of the population of Belfast identified as Catholic and 42.5 per cent identified as Protestant. Belfast had **a slightly higher percentage of people identifying as "Other" or "None" religion than the NI average**.

	Religion or religion brought up in: Catholic (%)	Religion or religion brought up in: Protestant and Other Christian (including Christian related) (%)	Religion or religion brought up in: Other religions (%)	Religion or religion brought up in: None (%)
Belfast	48.8	42.5	1.6	7.1
NI	45.1	48.4	0.9	5.6

5.2 Political opinion

After the May 2019 Belfast City Council election, the following parties were elected to the council.

Party	No. of councillors
Sinn Féin	18
Democratic Unionist Party	15
Alliance Party	10
Social, Democratic and Labour Party Green Party	6
Green Party	4
People Before Profit	3
Ulster Unionist Party	2
Progressive Unionist Party	1

5.3 Ethnicity

According to the 2011 Census, **96.7 per cent of the population of Belfast are White**. The main minority ethnic groups were Chinese, Indian and Mixed ethnic group.

	% Belfast	% NI
White	96.7	98.2
Irish Traveller	0.1	0.1
Mixed	0.5	0.3
Indian	0.7	0.3
Pakistani	0.1	0.1
Bangladeshi	0.1	0.03
Other Asian	0.6	0.3
Black Caribbean	0.03	0.02
Black African	0.3	0.1
Other Black	0.1	0.1
Chinese	0.7	0.4
Other ethnic group	0.2	0.1

In addition, migrant workers from the A2 and A8 European Union (EU) Accession countries (Bulgaria, Romania, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia) represented 1.9 per cent of population, with a further 0.7 per cent from other EU countries.

The Census also identified that 4.3 per cent of the Belfast population aged 3 and over did not have English as their main language, which was higher than the NI average of 3.1 per cent. In 2018, the Department for Education identified 3,510 “newcomer” pupils (a newcomer pupil is one who has enrolled in a school but who does not have the satisfactory language skills to participate fully in the school curriculum, and the wider environment, and does not have a language in common with the teacher, whether that is English or Irish) across NI.

While the Census data is the most accurate dataset available on ethnic minorities in NI, in 2021 it is likely to be an under estimation of the ethnic minority population.

5.4 Age

According to NISRA 2018 mid-year population estimates, **Belfast has a relatively young population with 55.7 per cent of the population aged under 40** compared to 51.6 per cent of the NI population.

	% of population			
	0-15 years	16-39 years	40-64 years	65+ years
Belfast	19.9	35.8	29.6	14.6
NI	20.9	30.7	31.9	16.3

NISRA projects that by 2041, people under 40 will make up 51.3 per cent of the population, but that the 65+ age bracket will be the fastest growing, comprising 72,245 people or 20.4 per cent of the Belfast population.

5.5 Marital status

On Census day 2011, **a higher proportion of Belfast residents aged 16 and over were single, separated, divorced or widowed than the NI resident population.** 22.2 per cent of people also lived alone, which was the highest rate across NI where the average was 16.8 per cent.

0.1 per cent or 353 residents were in civil partnerships, almost a third of all such partnerships in NI at that time. This is likely to be higher in 2021

	% of population	
Marital status	Belfast	NI
Single	45.3	36.1
Married	35.6	47.6
Civil partnership	0.13	0.09
Separated	5.4	4.0
Divorced/civil partnership dissolved	6.2	5.5
Widowed/Surviving civil partner	7.5	6.8

5.6 Sexual orientation

There are currently no or limited statistics that monitor the sexual orientation of the population in NI. The 2018 NI Life and Times found that 94 per cent of respondents identified as “heterosexual or ‘straight’”; 1 per cent as “’gay’ or ‘lesbian’ (homosexual)”; 1 per cent as “bisexual”’ and 1 per cent as “Other” (3 per cent declined to answer). A **commonly used estimate of LGBTQ+ people in the UK, accepted by Stonewall UK, is 5 to 7 per cent of the population**.

5.7 Gender

According to NISRA 2018 mid-year population estimates, **the population of Belfast by gender is broadly even**, although there is a higher proportion of older females (59.3 per cent of the over 65 population are female).

	% of population				
	All ages	0-15 years	16-39 years	40-64 years	65+ years
Male	48.5	10.2	17.7	14.3	6.3
Female	51.5	9.7	18.1	15.3	8.4

5.8 Disability

The 2011 Census asked people to what extent a long-term health problem or disability (that is, which has lasted or is expected to last for at least 12 months) limits their day-to-day activities. At 25.9 per cent, **Belfast has a higher proportion of people with a limiting health condition or disability than the general NI population** (20.7 per cent).

	% Belfast population	% NI population
Day-to-day activities limited a lot	14.4	11.9
Day-to-day activities limited a little	11.5	8.8
Day-to-day activities not limited	76.5	79.3

5.9 Dependants

The 2011 Census defines a “dependent child” is defined as a person aged under 16 or young person aged 16 to 18 who is a full-time student and living in a family with a parent or grandparent.

The 2011 Census showed that **28.6 per cent of households in Belfast included a dependent child compared to 33.9 per cent of households across NI**. Historical Census data shows that the proportion of households with dependent children in both NI and Belfast has been in decline since 1981.

The Belfast City Council 2014 Residents Survey reported that **32.3 per cent of the population have dependents or caring responsibilities**.

In Belfast in 2018, 15,550 people or 4.5 per cent of the population claimed Carer’s Allowance. (Carer’s Allowance is a non-contributory benefit for people who look after a severely disabled person for at least 35 hours a week.) This was higher than the NI average of 3.9 per cent. Most claimants were female: 62.9 per cent compared to 37.9 per cent male.

5.10 Belfast City Council Staff

As at February 2021 the council’s workforce comprised (as far as staff disclosed their identities):

- 50.2 per cent were from a Protestant community background and 45.4 per cent from a Catholic community background
- 99.1 per cent were from a White ethnic group and 0.9 percent from another ethnic group
- 0.5 per cent were aged 16 to 24; 11.2 aged 25 to 34; 26.8 aged 35 to 44; 29.6 aged 45 to 54; 29.6 aged 55 to 65; and 2.3 per cent aged over 65
- 52.2 per cent were married; 34.3 per cent single; and 6.6 per cent co-habiting. The remainder were civil partner, divorced, partner, separated and widowed
- 96.9 per cent identified as heterosexual and 3.1 per cent as gay/lesbian/bisexual/other
- 62.2 per cent were male and 37.8 per cent female
- 5.3 per cent were disabled and 94.7 per cent non-disabled
- 40.5 per cent had dependants or caring responsibilities

Section 6 Auditing Inequalities Data

6.1 Access to council services

Evidence from recent Belfast City Council surveys suggests that **younger people tend to be less involved in council consultation** and engagement. For example, 2 per cent of respondents to a 2019 council survey were under 24 compared to 61 per cent who were aged 25 to 59.

There have also been difficulties securing sufficient **responses from people from ethnic minority communities** to ensure the data is statistically reliable.

According to the council's Consultative Forum, **people with caring responsibilities may find it difficult to take part in engagement opportunities**, and the council's draft Putting You First strategy notes that people with dependants may prefer to carry out business digitally due to demands on their time.

However, digital solutions do not work for everyone: Age-friendly Belfast found that **51 per cent of people aged 65 and over in Belfast have never accessed the internet**.

Putting You First also notes increasing challenges due to **language barriers and cultural differences** as the council's customer base becomes more diverse.

6.2 Education

Our population is highly qualified. According to the Labour Force Survey, in 2018, 38.9 per cent of Belfast's working age population (that is, people aged 16 to 64 inclusive) had a higher-level qualification (degree-level and above) compared to 34.9 per cent of the NI population.

However, **there are also more people of working-age with no qualifications** – 16.9 per cent in Belfast compared to the NI average of 14.7 per cent.

There are a number of inequalities within these statistics. In 2017, ECNI's Education Inequalities report found that:

- **Some equality groups experience bullying** (including minority ethnic students, trans pupils, students with same sex attraction; disabled pupils with a disability; and students with a Statement of Educational Need (SEN))
- **Males have lower levels of attainment than females**
- There is **persistent underachievement of school leavers entitled to free school meals, particularly Protestants males**
- **Underachievement of working class Protestants, particularly males**
- **Students with a disability or SEN have lower attainment levels**
- **Roma and Traveller pupils have the lowest levels of attainment**

According to the Labour Force Survey Religion Report, in 2017, 37 per cent of working-age economically active Protestants and 39 per cent of working-age economically active Catholics had a higher-level qualification. This is an increase from 2015 for both groups when the respective figures were 32 per cent and 37 per cent.

The proportion of economically active Protestants with no formal qualifications was 12 per cent and 11 per cent for Catholics in 2017.

The Department of Education's Qualifications and Destinations of Northern Ireland School Leavers 2017/18 identified that while 71.4 per cent of Catholics and 69.7 per cent of Protestants leave school with at least five GCSEs A* to C including English and Maths, at 56.3 per cent, Catholic school-leavers are considerably more likely to attain three A levels (grades A* to E) than Protestant (50.3). However, female pupils consistently out-perform male, with Protestant males least likely to attain A levels (41.8) or GCSEs (64.2) to the same standard.

75.2 per cent of Catholic school leavers and 77.9 per cent of Protestant went on to further or higher education, although again there is a marked difference according to gender (83.3 per cent of female school leavers compared to 70.3 per cent of males).

Attainment of A levels by ethnicity is relatively consistent at 52.4 per cent for ethnic minority[1] school leavers and 53.4 for White school leavers. However, there is a more pronounced difference at GCSE at 65.4 and 70.8 per cent respectively.

The main exception is Traveller children: ECNI's 2018 briefing on Travellers states that between just over half and 8 out of 10 Traveller children leave school with no GCSEs.

83.7 per cent of school leavers from ethnic minority communities went on to further or higher education compared to 76.4 per cent of White school leavers.

The Labour Force Survey for October to December 2019 found that disabled people are less likely to be qualified above GCSE and more likely to have no qualifications than the general population.

Highest level of qualification	Without a disability (%)	With a disability (%)
Degree or equivalent	30.3	14.6
Other higher	10.5	9.0
A Level or equivalent	24.7	18.4
GCSE or equivalent	20.9	22.2
Other	4.3	6.9
No qualification	9.3	28.8

[1] Including Travellers

6.3 The Economy

Enterprise

According to the Inter-department Business Register, there were 10,705 businesses in Belfast in 2018, accounting for 14.0 per cent of businesses in NI.

According to the Global Enterprise Monitor, **female entrepreneurship in NI is considerably lower than male entrepreneurship** and the UK average (7 per cent). In 2017, 7.9 per cent of NI males reported that they were intending to start a business in the next three years compared to 2.3 per cent of females.

The latest Labour Force Survey reports that for the period October to December 2019, 15.3 per cent or 134,000 of those aged over 16 in employment were self-employed. More males (22.4 per cent) than females (7.6) were self-employed. **People aged 45 to 59 were more likely to be self-employed** (41.2), while those aged 16 to 29 (9.5 per cent) and 60 and over (15 per cent) were least likely. 32.8 per cent of self-employed people had a higher-level qualification, while 11.9 per cent had no qualification.

It may be that men with a higher-level qualification aged 45 to 54 are more likely to benefit from enterprise programmes. However, more data is required to determine whether and how different Section 75 groups are being affected in relation to enterprise.

Employment

The latest Labour Force Survey estimates that between October and December 2019, the **NI unemployment rate was 2.4 per cent – one of the lowest on record**, below the UK average of 3.8 per cent and ROI average of 4.8 per cent. The employment rate was 72.4 per cent and the economic inactivity rate,[2] 25.8 per cent (above the UK average of 20.5, but significantly reduced from 27.2 per cent in 2018).

Labour Force Survey figures are available for Belfast between January and December 2018. Accordingly, **Belfast has lower employment at 64.7 per cent and higher economic in activity at 32.7 per cent** (second only to Derry and Strabane at 34.1).

In its 2018 report on Key Inequalities in Employment, ECNI identified persistent inequalities in employment spanning 2007 and 2016:

- There is a **persistent employment gap between people with and without disabilities**
- **Women experience a lower employment rate and a higher economic inactivity rate when they have dependants**
- **Lone parents with dependants and carers experience barriers to employment**
- **Irish Travellers are less likely to be in employment** than all other ethnic groups
- **Those aged 18 to 24 years have higher unemployment rates** than those aged 25 years and older

[2] Including students ,who, according to the Labour Force Survey, made up 22.7 per cent of this group between October and December 2019.

- **Those aged 50 to 64 years are less likely to be in employment and more likely to be economically inactive** than those aged 25 to 49
- **Women, lone parents with dependants and carers** providing less than 49 hours of care **are more likely to be in part-time work**
- **Women experience industrial segregation** (under-represented in industries associated with Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)
- **Women and lone parents experience occupational segregation** (underrepresented in higher-status occupations and overrepresented in lower status occupations)
- **Migrant workers, particularly those from Eastern European countries, are subject to industrial and occupational segregation**
- **Migrant workers and refugees face multiple barriers to employment** such as lack of recognition for qualifications, language proficiency and uncertainty among employers about migrant workers' "right to work"
- **Migrant workers are vulnerable to exploitation**
- **Prejudicial attitudes** are experienced by disabled people, women, Trans people, LGBTQ+ people, people from minority ethnic groups, migrant workers and those of different religious belief

Religion

The Labour Force Survey Religion Report 2017 considers data relating to the Belfast socio-economic territory (Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics or NUTS 3).[3] It shows that 42 per cent of the working-age population of Belfast NUTS 3 was Protestant and 58 per cent, Catholic. **69 per cent of working-age Protestants and 66 per cent of Catholics were economically active.** While there were relatively small decreases in working-age Protestant economic activity since 1995, working-age Catholic economic activity increased from 53 per cent.

Among Protestants of working age in Belfast NUTS 3, the employment rate in 2017 was 67 per cent, and among Catholics, 62 per cent. This is a slight increase for Protestants since 1995, and a considerable increase from 44 per cent in 1995 for Catholics.[4]

Race

The 2011 Census showed that **59 per cent of people aged 16 to 74 from an ethnic minority background were employed, which was slightly higher than the whole population** (57.6 per cent) at that time. 69 per cent of people from the Traveller community were economically inactive.

In 2015, the Northern Ireland Council for Ethnic Minorities identified a number of **barriers to employment for people from ethnic minority groups**, including:

- Recognition of qualifications

[3] In 2018, the Executive Office published analysis of 2016 statistics at local government district level. This report is available at www.executiveoffice- ni.gov.uk/publications/labour-force-survey-religion-report-2016-local-government-district- bulletin.

[4] There has also been a change in the percentage of the community who report as being Protestant (-14 per cent) and Catholic (+3 per cent) over the same period.

- Work experience and voluntary work overseas being discounted
- The importance placed on references from NI employers
- Language proficiency
- The reliance on job application forms (something that many people are unused to)
- Employment agencies have no capacity to translate documentation needed to support applications

Gender
According to the Labour Force Survey statistics for January to December 2018, **63.7 per cent of females and 65.8 per cent of men were in employment**. Over the same period, 34.7 per cent of females were economically inactive compared to 30.7 per cent of males.

Going against the trend in England, Scotland and Wales, hourly earnings (excluding overtime) from the (provisional) 2019 Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE) show the **gender pay gap for full-time employees in NI at 2.9 per cent in favour of females** – that is 37p more per hour for full-time females than full-time males (£13.13 compared to £12.76). 2019 was the tenth year where full-time females in NI earned at least as much as full-time males on average.

However, considering all employees, **regardless of working pattern, female hourly pay is below male pay on average** – £12.30 for males and £11.06 for females. **This is due to the higher proportion of females working part-time** – 30.1 per cent of females compared to 22.8 per cent of men according to Labour Force Survey statistics for January to March 2019.

ASHE data also show that **earnings are also differently impacted by age and gender**. Female earnings increase with age up to the 40 to 49 age group, while earnings for males increase with age until the 50 to 59 age group.

There are a number of frequently cited explanations for the gender differential in employment including:

- disproportionate responsibility for childcare and unpaid caring
- sectors predominated by female employees, such as retail and care, tend to be low paid
- part-time jobs are more likely to be low paid and on a casual or atypical contract
- choice. According to NISRA's Women in Northern Ireland 2018, almost three quarters (74 per cent) of female employees working part-time stated that the reason was because they "Didn't want full-time work". However, the reasons for not wanting a full-time job may be due to particular barriers to participation in the labour market that women face.
- perception that when female-generated income is being spent on childcare, paid work may not be seen as worthwhile

There is currently limited data in relation to employment among the transgender community. However, research points to prejudice and hostility in the workplace and trans people are less likely to be open about their gender identity, which may affect how people participate in and sustain employment.

Age
ECNI's analysis of historical Labour Force Survey in its Key Inequalities in Employment publication found that at nearly all time points, **young people aged 18 to 24 had the highest rates of unemployment**. Young men in particular experience higher unemployment. Youth unemployment can be associated with lifelong problems such as worklessness, poverty, lower average life satisfaction and ill health.

Older people aged 50 to 64 also experience age-related inequalities in relation to participation in employment. This age group is less likely to be in employment and more likely to be economically inactive than those aged 25 to 49. Economic inactivity may be linked to the rising retirement age, long-term sickness or the provision of unpaid care.

According to the latest Labour Force survey, between October and December 2018, 55.7 per cent of young people aged 16 to 24 and 64.2 per cent of people aged 50 to 64 were in employment compared to 72.4 per cent across the whole NI population.

Disability
Disabled people are much less likely to be employed. According to the Labour Force Survey, between October and December 2019, 37.7 per cent of disabled people in NI were in employment and 60.9 per cent were economically inactive compared to 81.7 and 16.4 per cent of the non-disabled population.

Belfast's disability-related benefit claimant level has historically been above the NI average, and while changes to welfare reform make trend analysis more difficult, this is likely to continue. According to Department for Communities (DfC) experimental statistics, at November 2019, there were 32,000 Personal Independence Payment claims, accounting for 23 per cent of claims across NI.

Employment among disabled people is strikingly lower in Belfast and NI than in other parts of the UK. According to the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) in 2018, 42 per cent of disabled people in Scotland, 47 per cent in Wales and 50 per cent in England were in employment. Furthermore, JRF reported that **27 per cent of disabled people in NI are in poverty compared to 19 per cent of non-disabled people.**

In 2016 Disability Action identified key challenges facing disabled people participating in and sustaining work including access to reasonable adjustments; fears over sickness absence; pressure to work beyond their capacity; poor communication with employers; and stress in the workplace.

Dependants
According to the Labour Force Survey for July to September 2018, **economic activity for women with and without dependent children varies with age.**

	Economic activity %	
Age of female	Dependent children	No dependent children
16-24	-	79.6
25-34	73.1	93.1
35-49	80.1	76.2
50-64	71.8	59.1
Total	76.1	67.5

According to the 2011 Census, in just over half (50.7 per cent) of lone parent households, the parent is not in employment; in 32.9 per cent, the parent works part-time; and in 16.3 per cent, full-time. **Lone parent households are considered at greater risk of economic disadvantage**, and affordable childcare is an important consideration to support women and lone parents' participation in employment.

Inclusive growth
The Inclusive Growth Strategy identifies four cohorts that will be targeted to benefit from inclusive growth activity. These are:

- Workless residents
- Residents with low skills levels
- In work, low earning individuals
- Young people not in education, employment and training

Many Section 75 groups are likely to be reflected in these cohorts. For example, women are more likely to be in part-time and lower-paid jobs than men, and disabled people are more likely to be economically inactive than the general population.

6.3 Health and wellbeing

According to NISRA's Life Expectancy at birth 2015–17 statistics, **Belfast has the lowest life expectancy in** NI for both males (75.6 years) and females (81.0 years). (The NI life expectancy for the same period is 78.5 for males and 82.3 for females.) The gap between male and female life expectancy is also largest in Belfast – 5.2 years in favour of females compared to 3.9 in favour of females across NI.

While, in general, **the population is living longer, this is often with long-term health conditions.** Health and Wellbeing 2026: Delivering Together estimates that by 2026, for the first time in NI there will be more over 65s than under 16s. NISRA projects that by 2041 in Belfast, 20.4 per cent of the population will be aged 65+, including 3.3 per cent "very elderly" aged 85+, an increase of 4,229 people or 58.2 per cent.

Not surprisingly, **older people are more likely to experience long-term health problems.** In Belfast on Census day 2011, 13.3 per cent of people aged 85 and over reported that no limiting health problems or disabilities compared to 92.7 per cent of young people aged 15 to 24.

	0-14 years	15-24	25-44	45-64	65-84	85+
Day-to-day activities limited a lot	2.1%	3.3%	7.5%	22.5 %	37.0 %	62.5 %
Day-to-day activities limited a little	3.7%	4.0%	6.3%	12.0 %	23.9 %	24.1 %
Day-to-day activities not limited	93.1%	92.7 %	86.2 %	65.5 %	39.0 %	13.3 %

Women are also more likely to experience long-term health problems. On Census day 2011, almost a quarter of women in Belfast, compared to 1 in 5 men, reported a disability or a long-term health problem that affects their day-to-day activities.

Across NI, **ethnic minority groups** including Asian (90 per cent), Black (90.4 per cent) or Mixed (92.6 per cent) **reported considerably higher rates of good or very good health** than the White population (79.3 per cent). The only exception was the Traveller ethnic group: only 66.3 per cent reported that they were in good or very good health.

It is generally excepted that factors causing certain diseases and ill health are more prevalent among certain ethnic groups. The Census also identified, for example, that diabetes is more prevalent in Asian and Black ethnic groups compared to the general NI population.

According to the Rainbow Project, **young LGBTQ+ people are 5 times more likely to be medicated for depression, 2.5 times more likely to self-harm and 3 times more likely to attempt suicide** than their heterosexual counterparts.

Loneliness
Belfast also has the second highest rate (after Ards and North Down) of older people aged 65+ living in alone: 12.0 per cent compared to 11.1 across NI. **Lone person households, in particular lone pensioner and lone parent households, are more likely to experience poverty.**

According to the Age-friendly Belfast Plan 2018–21, one in five older people in Belfast do not have any close friends. This is higher for men (22 per cent compared to 16 per cent for women) and for those in the oldest age group. **Loneliness is a high risk factor for poor physical and mental health.**

Arts engagement
According to DfC, **87 per cent of adults and 96 per cent of children (aged 4 to 15) engaged with arts** in 2018/19. Overall, **engagement declines with age**, reducing to 72 per cent of those aged 65 and over engaging.

Women were slightly more likely to engage than men (90 per cent compared to 84 per cent).

People from no religious background (93 per cent) were more likely to engage than people from a Catholic (86 per cent) or Protestant (87 per cent) background.

Widowed people (68 per cent), disabled people (76 per cent) and people without dependants were all less likely to engage than the general population.

However, engagement varies substantially according to the type of activity. For example, literature and visual arts tend to attract an older audience while film and outdoor events attract younger audiences.

4.8 per cent of activity funded by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland targeted people from the LGBTQ+ community, although there is little data to demonstrate actual engagement.

Sports participation
According to DfC, **56 per cent of adults participated in sport in 2018/19. 87 per cent of children also participated in sport outside of school.**

Females aged 16 and over were less likely to have taken part in sport at least once within the last year (49 per cent) than males (62 per cent).

Disabled people are also less likely to participate in sport with 65 per cent of those aged 16 and over taking part at least once in the last year (35 per cent) compared to 64 per cent of non-disabled adults.

During the development of the Leisure Transformation Programme, Belfast City Council consulted with disabled people, who identified challenges including transport, cost, class structure, fear of taking part, lack of physical adaptions, staffing and staff awareness and lack of information.

Sport participation also declines with age among adults. Those aged 45 and over were less likely to have participated in any sport within the last year (41 per cent) than younger adults aged 16 to 44 years (71 per cent). Consultation with older people during the Leisure Transformation Programme identified challenges including lack of age-appropriate activity; staff training; facilities include private changing areas; cost; and marketing.

6.4 Positive relations

Between July and June 2019, the PSNI recorded **1,292 hate crimes and incidents** in NI comprising:

- 281 sectarian incidents and 190 sectarian crimes, an increase of 14 and 32 respectively on the previous 12 months
- 128 homophobic incidents and 83 homophobic crimes, an increase of 9 and 11 respectively on the previous 12 months
- 468 racist incidents, an increase of 2 on the previous 12 months
- 261 racist crimes, which was 13 fewer than the previous 12 months

The 2014 Belfast City Council residents' survey showed that **people aged over 60 felt more unsafe after dark in their local area** (15.7 per cent) than the general population (10.6 per cent). 22.7 per cent of residents over 60 also felt unsafe in the city centre after dark compared to 18.1 per cent of all residents.[5]

[5] Cited in the Belfast Agenda EQIA

According to the 2018 NI Life and Times:

- 83 per cent of men and 86 per cent of women never felt threatened or harassed
- 85 per cent of Catholics, 88 per cent of Protestants and 75 per cent of people with no religion never felt threatened or harassed.
- Young people aged 18 to 24 were the least likely never to feel threatened or harassed (69 per cent), and older people aged 65 and over, the most likely (94 per cent).

During the Belfast Conversation – engagement with citizens to design the Belfast Agenda – **good relations, including removal of interfaces, concerns around symbols and expressing cultural identity and more shared space, emerged as a top priority**.

According to the Belfast Interface Project, there are **97 interfaces in Belfast**, the highest in any NI local government district. Consultation with Belfast residents on the Good Relations Strategy and Belfast PEACE IV Plan indicated that residents living near interfaces should be a key target group for good relations and peace-building activities.

As Belfast has become more diverse, there are opportunities and challenges to ensuring that new communities are included and participate in economic, civic, social and cultural life.

According to the 2018 NI Life and Times, 82 per cent of adults aged 18 and over "always" "**respect others no matter what their sexual orientation**"; 13 per cent respect others "most of the time"; 3 per cent "sometimes"; and 1 per cent "none of the time".

According to Age-friendly Belfast, **a quarter of older people in Belfast feel that they are not treated with respect and dignity.**

6.6 Key emerging issues for Belfast City Council

This Audit of Inequalities has identified a range of emerging inequalities and issues. The Equality Action Plan identifies how we as a council will address these issues through our various departments, services and programmes. Some of these issues are addressed as a collaborative approach with other key city stakeholders. In utilising the data available we also acknowledge the data gaps in some areas of Council functions and we will also take action to address these gaps.

The Equality Action Plan is an approach to addressing the key inequalities identified. Covid 19 has impacted on our work considerably, due regard to the promotion of equality has been embedded in the initial response phase and this will continue through rebuild in to recovery. We have highlighted a number of inequalities we wish to address in this four year Equality Action plan. Please refer to the separate document *Equality Action Plan 2021-24* for our complete actions to address inequalities identified.

- Women with dependents, people with disabilities, people who may face multiple barriers (lack of childcare, qualifications, access to training, employment support) and are more likely to be unemployed and/or need new skills to remain or enter the workforce than the general working age population.
- Disabled people are much less likely to be employed
- Disabled people face barriers to communication and engagement processes

- Disabled people continue to face barriers to cultural activities
- Not all people value diversity
- Older people live in a safer environment that encourages walkability and active ageing, supports services and transport and provides for housing needs
- Older people are more socially, culturally and technologically isolated
- Older people face barriers to access a range of recreational services required to sustain their physical and mental health
- Older people are more financially insecure
- Older long term unemployed, NEETs and people with disabilities, lack qualifications and are more likely to be unemployed and need additional support to enter the workforce than the general working age population.
- To increase our understanding of the end user and outcome based on a geospatial data and ensure the council targets programme support at those most in need.
- Formulation of policy recommendations in programme delivery, which will have a positive impact on equality.
- To support young people most at risk of dropping out of school or not in education, employment and/or training.
- Address educational underachievement and reduce the attainment gap for young people in our schools.
- Individuals and groups such as females and the economically inactive have the lowest levels of engagement in business start-up activities.
- To tackle economic inactivity in the city's deprived geographical areas and for disadvantaged groups, by providing access to opportunities via enterprise routes.
- More effective partnership working between public, private and voluntary sectors to plan to develop an age-friendly city
- Older people live in a safer environment that encourages walkability and active ageing, supports services and transport and provides for housing needs
- Older people have barriers to access to a range of recreational services required to sustain their physical and mental health
- Older people are more financially insecure
- Many across our community provision do not have the technology or the skills to access our services online.

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Appendix 2

Belfast City Council

Equality Action Plan 2021-24

DRAFT FOR CONSULTATION

We are committed to making sure that our services and information are available to all parts of the community. If you need this information in an alternative format or language, please contact us at:

Equality & Diversity Unit Legal & Civic Services Belfast City Council City Hall Belfast BT1 5GS

Telephone: 028 90270511 Freephone: 0800 0855 412 Text phone: 028 90270405

Email: equality@belfastcity.gov.uk

What is the Equality Action Plan?

This Equality Action Plan runs from 2021 until 2024, it is a corporate level document which outlines how we will promote equality and diversity in our ambitions to create a city in which people love to live, learn, invest, work and visit. It also contributes to our compliance with Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

What other documents is the Equality Action Plan linked to?

1. The Equality Action Plan is developed from some of the information in the **Audit of Inequalities,** which is a systematic approach to identify inequalities, across the nine Section 75 categories (religious belief, political opinion, race, age, gender, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, people with dependants or without), which are relevant to a public authority's functions.

2. The Equality Action Plan contains some of the key priorities from our Corporate Plan, which will have the biggest impact on inequalities. Our Corporate Plan is a reflection of what people in Belfast have told us they want and the type of leadership they feel the city needs. It takes the priorities of the Belfast Agenda, the Community Plan, and sets out the ways in which the council will deliver these to grow a sustainable, inclusive economy and equitable society. To fulfil our responsibilities, our Corporate Plan not only ensures we deliver the day to day services which the people of Belfast rely upon; we stretch ourselves through a series of strategic priorities to ensure we positively affect the lives of everyone in Belfast

How are the actions in the Equality Action Plan categorised?

Actions are categorised according to the Corporate Plan priority they contribute to. Each action includes a timescale for delivery, a performance indicator and the name of the department responsible for delivery. We will report on these actions annually.

1. Growing an inclusive economy

We will work to create an inclusive, resilient economy through creating good, sustainable jobs.

A thriving urban economy is a key foundation to achieving many of the outcomes in the Belfast Agenda. Not only can a successful economy generate the wealth required to grow local businesses, generate jobs and offer routes out of poverty for struggling families, it is also the main source of revenue for the city's public services, programmes and interventions.

Ref No	Actions	Timescale	Performance Indicator	Departmental Responsibility
1.1	Access to Employment work package - Deliver employment academies in sectors focused on workforce demand (Logistics, Social Care, Child Care, Public Sector), removing barriers to people furthest removed from the labour market to enter into or return to employment and/or advance in employment. (Annual programme)	2021-24	Percentage participating in Employment Academies. / Percentage into employment (NB reviewed at key checkpoints within the year as the state of play within the labour market becomes clearer)	Place & Economy
1.2	Support five training and skills development projects via the European Social Fund (in partnership with TEO), targeting those who are long-term unemployed, younger people not in education, employment or training and people with disabilities.	2021-24	No. of participants achieving positive outcomes	Place & Economy
1.3	Develop a GIS monitoring approach to systematically assist programme development to continue to tackle inequalities in access to the labour market.	2021-24	Effective monitoring mechanism established to better understand inequalities, and the needs of S75 groupings. / Improve quality and quantity of monitoring information to support policy making on Employability and Skills (retrospective measure)	Place & Economy

Ref No	Actions	Timescale	Performance Indicator	Departmental Responsibility
1.4	Working with partners and stakeholders across the city to put in place an (enterprise framework) action plan which supports long term ambitions to increase the number of business start-ups, including targeting workless residents, females and young people - and any under-represented groups	2021-24	Increase in % participants from under-represented groups on enterprise awareness initiatives. / No. of business starts.	Place & Economy
1.5	Understand the barrier to employment to support employability skills and capacity building programme for disabled people and those from ethnic minority groups.	2021-22	Use insights to inform programme design	Place & Economy
1.6	Deliver the Access and Inclusion Programme of capital enhancement projects to encourage engagement with culture, arts and heritage experiences (subject to funding)	2021-24	Number of small capital enhancement projects delivered	Place & Economy
1.7	Develop schemes to support higher participation and representation at cultural events by disabled people such as gig buddies	2021-24	No. of events supported by Gig Buddies	Place & Economy
1.8	Deliver A City Imagining projects targeting LGBTQ+ groups, ethnic minority and new comer communities, disabled people, older people, schools and multi-lingual communities	2021-24	No. of participants	Place & Economy
1.9	Development, publication and full public consultation of draft Social Value Policy	2021-22	Publication of finalised policy and guidance	Cross - departmental

2. Working and learning

BCC will work to ensure people are appropriately skilled for the jobs created in the city.

Education is the foundation for a better life, not only in facilitating future employment and providing access to a fulfilling adult life, but also as a major contributor to a person's wellbeing and to shaping lifelong health. Working with our partners, we will bring forward a work programme which supports the inclusive growth ambitions of the Council with a focus on addressing barriers to progression

Ref No	Actions	Timescale	Performance Indicator	Departmental Responsibility
2.1	Focus on young people by delivering the Youth Support Programme targeting young people between 14- 24 years at risk or disengaged from formal education or training/employment.	2021-24	Percentage participating in positive outcomes in education, training and employment	Place & Economy

3. Living here

Our city and neighbourhoods are vibrant, resilient and safe places where people choose to live, work and spend time being more healthy and active.

In our recent residents survey, 86% of respondents were satisfied with Belfast as a place to live. We want everyone to be satisfied. We want to deliver a high quality of life for everyone. In doing so, we must deliver and plan effective public spaces and conserve our natural environment so it can be accessed and enjoyed.

Ref No	Actions	Timescale	Performance Indicator	Departmental Responsibility
3.1	Deliver the Age-friendly Belfast Plan 2018-2021 assess achievements, identify challenges and develop a new Age-friendly Belfast plan 2022-2025	2021	Measure outcomes framework, consult with older people and stakeholder, review baseline information; 2022 develop new plan and begin to deliver	City & Neighbourhood Services
3.2	Finalise and implement the Belfast Open Spaces Strategy	2021	To be determined as part of the action plan development.	City & Neighbourhood Services
3.3	Develop a Sport and Physical Activity Strategy	2021	To be determined as part of the action plan development.	City & Neighbourhood Services
3.4	Implement the programme of development of playgrounds across the city to further improve accessibility (following consultation with disability groups in early 2021).	2021	To be determined following consultation with disability groups.	City & Neighbourhood Services
3.5	Achieve Onus Safe City status and retain platinum-level status	2021	Re-accreditation of Onus Workplace Charter-Platinum level / Safe City Status Achieved	Cross - departmental

Ref No	Actions	Timescale	Performance Indicator	Departmental Responsibility
3.6	Review and implement the council's Toilet Provision Strategy to improve the accessibility of toilets and maintain and promote the Changing Places toilet facility	2021-24	Report on the review of existing process and the number of stakeholder organisations engaged for 19/20. Increase in choice of available Changing Places facilities across the city over the next 24 months.	City & Neighbourhood Services
3.7	Development of the new crematorium and our intention to acquire additional burial land, particularly for the north and west of the city.	These are medium to long term projects and time scales will be determined as the projects are developed	To be determined as the projects develop.	City & Neighbourhood Services
3.8	Develop a co-design approach to engage communities in Social & Community Recovery planning.	To be determined as the approach is developed	To be determined as the approach is developed.	City & Neighbourhood Services
3.9	Cultural mapping and understanding barriers (research and engagement) to support the delivery of capacity building programme (with tailored strands inc S75)	2021-24	Publish research document	Place & Economy

Ref No	Actions	Timescale	Performance Indicator	Departmental Responsibility
3.10	Create an Audience Panel that contains a range of voices including those underrepresented in cultural engagement (proactively recruit those whose voices are not heard as often)	2021-24	4 focus group meetings held with Audience Panel per annum	Place & Economy
3.11	To develop and deliver the next phases of the City Centre Connectivity Study (CCCS) ie to create a green, walkable, cyclable network of connected streets and places will improve the health and wellbeing for all, revitalise the city's economy and restore a sense of collective pride in the centre of Belfast among the communities within and around it.	2021-24	To be determined as part of the development of the next phases of the Study, which will include public consultation and Equality Screening exercise.	Place & Economy

4. Cross-cutting

Our cross-cutting priorities will have a multitude of social, economic and environmental benefits for the city.

These priorities include once in a lifetime opportunities to fundamentally change the city, culturally, physically and economically and help achieve the big ambitions of the Belfast Agenda.

Ref No	Actions	Timescale	Performance Indicator	Departmental Responsibility
4.1	Design, implement and pilot an Inclusive Growth Decisions Making Framework	2021-24	The BCC inclusive growth decision-making framework is agreed and rolled out.	City & Organisational Strategy
4.2	Co-design an Inclusive Growth City Charter in collaboration with our city partners which encourages/ offers recognition for those organisations who adopt business practices as employers, procurers or in the delivery of services which have been proven to create more inclusive economic growth	2021-24	A draft charter is finalised and publicly consulted on by April 2021. / A final charter programme is launched and a range of businesses sign up by April 2022. / The charter actions/initiatives acknowledge the additional barriers many groups of citizens face in employment and are designed to mitigate against these barriers. / A number of city partners/employers adopt more inclusive growth business practices. / There is an increase of awareness around the benefits of inclusive growth business practices amongst employers across Belfast, with sharing of best practice. / Economic growth opportunities across the city are more accessible to all residents.	City & Organisational Strategy
4.3	Design and deliver the Shared Spaces programme	2022-23	Delivery of physical programme under the PIV Shared Spaces and Services Theme	City & Neighbourhood Services
4.4	Build relationships across communities to increase confidence using and developing shared spaces and services	2021-24	% increase in the no of participants who feel safe attending event, activities, and facilities in areas associated with a different background.	City & Neighbourhood Services

Ref No	Actions	Timescale	Performance Indicator	Departmental Responsibility
4.5	Help address issues of demarcation and division including flags, murals and other symbols	2021-24	Delivery of actions within BCC Good Relations Plan working towards a Shared City vision.	City & Neighbourhood Services
4.6	Design and deliver the Interfaces programme	2021-24	% increase in the no of participants who feel safe attending event, activities, and facilities in areas associated with a different background. / Contributions towards physical works and programming that encourage attitudinal change and an even greater sense of belonging and social value.	Cross - departmental
4.7	Encourage a re-imagining of the cultural significance of upcoming commemorations under the Decade of Centenaries	2022-23	Development of a Decade of Centenaries Programme based on the DOC principles on Shared perspectives. / % increase in the number of participants who feel comfortable socialising in a shared space they would not normally visit	City & Neighbourhood Services
4.8	Encourage cultural expression to be celebrated and undertaken within a culture of lawfulness	2021-24	% increase in the number of participants who think the culture and traditions of Catholics, Protestants and minority ethnic people add to the richness of and diversity of Northern Ireland society.	City & Neighbourhood Services
4.9	Development, publication and full public consultation of draft Local Policies Plan (LPP) [to include an Equality Impact Assessment, as well as a Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environmental Appraisal and a Rural Needs Impact Assessment]	2021-23	Publication of finalised policies following independent examination	Place & Economy
4.10	Development, publication and full public consultation on Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) topic areas	2021-23	Publication of finalised range of SPG policies	Place & Economy

Ref No	Actions	Timescale	Performance Indicator	Departmental Responsibility
4.11	Build the capacity of disengaged and marginalised citizens and community leaders and changemakers to engage	2021-23	No. of engagement projects undertaken in collaboration with pre-engagement through the VCSE panel	City & Organisational Strategy
4.12	Produce a consultation and engagement toolkit for officers and provide ongoing advice and capacity building	2021-24	% of residents who agree that council consults with and listens to the views of local residents (survey in 2021 and 2023	City & Organisational Strategy
4.13	Work with community planning partners to improve how data is accessed and utilised to ensure the Belfast Agenda process understands and takes action to address inequalities	2021-24	Belfast Agenda Dashboard updated. / Consultation and engagement gives all people equal opportunity to participate	
4.14	Promoting Inclusive Growth (IG) through the Belfast Region City Deal Action 1 (over 10 years) Develop clear and robust arrangements to monitor how well actions to promote IG through the BRCD are delivering. This will help us to report on progress at both a geographical and on a priority group basis to improve understanding of what types of interventions and policy changes work best in which circumstances and for which groups.	2021-24	Monitoring and Evaluation Arrangements in place and communicated to partners	Finance & Resources
4.15	Promoting Inclusive Growth (IG) through the Belfast Region City Deal Action 2 (over 10 years) Deliver new and better jobs to the BRCD region and support the region's economic recovery efforts. This will be done in the context of IG and will include programmes and interventions to enable all groups, particularly those furthest from the labour market, to avail of the opportunities emerging through the capital investment.	2021-24	Establish an Employability and Skills programme to support the ambitions of the BRCD	Finance & Resources
4.16	Develop, roll out and deliver new physical programme: £8m Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund, through an open call process. The Fund will focus upon a number of key thematic areas and reflect the priorities agreed within the City Recovery Framework: environmental/sustainable projects, neighbourhood tourism and social enterprise.	2021-24	Number of projects completed, number of consultation exercises encompassing Section 75 groups	Physical Programmes

Ref No	Actions	Timescale	Performance Indicator	Departmental Responsibility
4.17	Delivery of Physical Programme including £180m Capital Programme for council assets. Also management, development and delivery of externally funded programmes such as the Executive Office's flagship good relations programme Urban Villages, approx £46m.	2021-24	Number of projects completed, number of consultation exercises encompassing Section 75 groups	Physical Programmes
4.18	Deliver Pandemic Recovery Plan	2021-23	Developed understanding of impact of Covid 19 on existing inequalities	Cross - departmental

5. Our organisational priorities

As our city becomes more ambitious so must we.

To do this, we can only succeed with the wholehearted support and enthusiastic contribution of our staff. To harness this energy they need to feel valued and understand how they contribute. As an organisation, if we want to perform these capabilities to the best of our abilities we must continuously look to improve how we do things. We have therefore agreed priorities that will help us improve our capability. For example, in order to provide the best customer experience possible we have developed a customer focus programme that will enhance the experience felt by all our customers.

Ref No	Actions	Timescale	Performance Indicator	Departmental Responsibility
5.1	Ensure that the council communicates effectively with its citizens, using assistive technology and maintaining standards such as Plain English and Web Content Accessibility Guidelines AA standards	2021-24	Website to provide assistive technology and follow new and current Plain English and Web Content Accessibility Guidelines AA Standards.	Cross-departmental
5.2	Develop a new Customer Hub designed around customer needs	2021-24	New professional customer hub designed and implemented.Customer satisfaction with the HUB service.	Finance & Resources
5.3	Ensure that digital platforms benefit all customers and stakeholders, including through training and provision of computer facilities for public use	2021-24	Customers will have access to a point –of- service supported on-line resource within the hub and community centres. Number of customers moving to digital channels	Finance & Resources
5.4	Improve engagement with customers across all S75 categories	2021-24	% of issues understood impacting on different groups of people leading to a better-informed decision-making process and improved customer service	Cross-departmental
5.5	Provide accessible channels of communication to reflect diverse customers' needs	2021-24	Greater opportunities for two-way communication using a range of customer feedback tools and measures. An accessible online service Translated documents of interest available on request	Cross-departmental

Ref No	Actions	Timescale	Performance Indicator	Departmental Responsibility
5.6	Deliver Disability Action Plan 2019-22 updating actions and developing a new action plan utilising key learning in relation to 'Encouraging the participation of disabled people in public life' and 'Promoting positive attitudes towards Disabled People'	2021-22	Analyse feedback and develop an action plan to improve disability initiatives, where appropriate	Legal & Civic Services
5.7	Develop and deliver Gender, Disability, LGBTQ+ and Minority and Inclusion workforce diversity action plans	2021-24	Activity in plans agreed, resourced and delivered.	City & Organisational Strategy
5.8	Improve participation in employment among those furthest from the labour market through ring-fenced entry-level posts (where possible), pre-recruitment training programmes, work experience, guaranteed interview scheme and reasonable adjustments	2021-24	Job opportunities ring fenced to the long term unemployed and targeted pre recruitment and training	City & Organisational Strategy
5.9	Encourage participation of disabled people in the workforce, Sign Language Users Forum and Disability Staff Network (DA)	2021-24	Three disability staff network meetings held each year	City & Organisational Strategy
5.10	Encourage participation of LGBT+ people in the workforce and LGBT+ staff network 'Proud'	2021-24	Improved promotion of our commitment to equality and diversity both internally and externally	Cross-departmental
5.11	Encourage participation of all staff in the workplace	2021-24	Hold event/ workshop for both male/ female staff to jointly explore/ discuss diversity and gender issues and identify any areas/ issues to be addressed.	Cross-departmental
5.12	Review and amend workforce monitoring form	2021-24	Monitoring form reviewed and revised to capture additional information including: · reasonable adjustments required by applicants as part of the recruitment and selection process; Gender identity; Sexual orientation	City & Organisational Strategy
5.13	Carry out a voluntary monitoring exercise for all staff	2021-24	Voluntary monitoring exercise conducted and up to date information available	City & Organisational Strategy

Ref No	Actions	Timescale	Performance Indicator	Departmental Responsibility
5.14	Work to achieve Diversity Charter Mark Silver Award	2021-24	Silver Diversity Charter Mark Achieved	City & Organisational Strategy
5.15	Develop opportunities for Equality and Diversity Champions both at SMT and Elected Member level	2021-24	Equality and Diversity Champions appointed	Cross-departmental
5.16	Continue to deliver a suite of equality and diversity awareness training to all staff including diversity, general disability awareness , targeted disability awareness , bi and trans awareness training (classroom based and on -line)	2021-24	No/ of sessions delivered; Training evaluation indicators: Quality of training; Increased understanding; Increase in skills levels	City & Organisational Strategy
5.17	Strategic Leaders and Elected members attend leadership equality training	2021-24	No/ of sessions delivered; Training evaluation indicators: Quality of training; Increased understanding; Increase in skills levels	Cross-departmental
5.18	Review participation in council's new engagement framework to identify participation gaps or areas for improvement	2021	Participation rates by gender, age, disability, race and community background. (Registrations on new platform). / Assess seldom heard or other s.75 participation rates as applicable. / Consultation and engagement gives all people equal opportunity to participate	City & Organisational Strategy
5.19	Research best practice and assess council's engagement and participation of young people and develop best practice guidance for council officers	2021	Production of guidance and case studies. / Evidence of improved or innovative approaches to engaging young people. / % of young people who agree that council consults with and listens to the views of local residents (survey in 2021 and 2023)	City & Organisational Strategy
5.20	Support platforms, networks and forums, such as the Older People's Forum, Disability Advisory Panel and Migrant Workers' Forum, that widen engagement, targeting in particular those most at risk of being "seldom heard"	2021-24	% attendance at each meeting from cross section of organisations/individuals; % of staff/members who understand purpose of these networks and forums and find it useful; Effective feedback mechanism established, and used by members	Cross-departmental

Ref No	Actions	Timescale	Performance Indicator	Departmental Responsibility
5.21	Use our engagement platform to encourage and build capacity within communities to engage with council using dialogue and qualitative mechanisms	2021-23	No. of standing panels. / No. of project specific panels and forums. / No. and type of panels involving targeted Section 75 or seldom heard groups (per year)	Cross-departmental
5.22	Deliver Equality Scheme Implementation Plan	2021-24	Annual compliance report to EDNS / No. of complaints	Legal & Civic Services
5.23	Deliver Rural Needs Action Plan	2021-24	Annual compliance report to EDNS / No. of complaints	Legal & Civic Services
5.24	Effective Leadership in S75 demonstrated through the Equality and Diversity Network	2021-24	At least 3 meetings of both Operational and Strategic levels of the Equality and Diversity Network. / Completed audit of S75 processes.	Legal & Civic Services
5.25	Explore development of baseline of equality related information for use by staff in all aspects of the council business	2022-24	Information of relevant equality data communicated to all staff available to all staff. / Access to equality data sets	Cross-departmental
5.26	Deliver Language Strategy 2019-23 and related action plans	2021-23	Analyse feedback and develop an action plans as appropriate	Legal & Civic Services

Minutes of Party Group Leaders Consultative Forum
11th February 2021

Attendance

Members:
Councillor Christina Black (Chair)
Councillor Billy Hutchinson
Councillor Peter McReynolds (for Cllr Nuala McAlister)
Councillor Donal Lyons
Councillor Anthony Flynn (for Cllr Mal O'Hara)
Alderman Brian Kingston
Alderman Sonia Copeland
Councillor Matthew Collins (for Councillor Fiona Ferguson)
Councillor Ciaran Beattie
Councillor Dale Pankhurst (Joined the meeting for Alderman Kingston)

Officers:
Suzanne Wylie, Chief Executive
Ronan Cregan, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources
John Walsh, City Solicitor
Siobhan Toland, Director of City Services (Item 3)
Nicola Lane, Good Relations Manager (for Item 4)
Sinead Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes (for item 5)
Joanne Delaney, Portfolio and Programme Coordinator (secretariat)

1. Covid 19 Implications

The Chief Executive provided an update on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on council services. Members discussed the ongoing response to the tightened restrictions and noted that the focus continues be on sustaining critical and vital services, workforce planning, and addressing any service re-prioritisation as required. The NI Executive Office is due to review the current restrictions on 18 February. Following the review by the Executive Office any changes to restrictions will be assessed along with potential impact on operational provision, Members will be updated accordingly. Members also discussed proposals for the suspension of requests to hold third party events on or within BCC assets, such as parks, Belfast Castle, Malone House etc and noted that this will be kept under review. The Chief Executive advised a report will be presented to February SP&R outlining these proposals along with an update on current position.

Members also noted that Inverary Community Centre is currently being used by the Department for Communities Food Pallet scheme and is therefore currently unavailable.

2. Finance Update

The Deputy Chief Executive & Director of Finance and Resources presented to members an update on the rate setting process for 2021/22. He advised that the regulations have now been changed to allow the setting of the district rate by 1 March 2021. The cash limits for People & Communities and the City Growth & Regeneration committees have now been agreed, with the Planning committee due to consider their cash limit on 16 February. A report will then be presented to February SP&R for Members to agree the cash limits for Committees and the level of the District Rate to be set for 2021/22. The report will also outline the impact of the regional and domestic rate to the ratepayer (annual, monthly & weekly) categorised by property type.

The Deputy Chief Executive & Director of Finance and Resources also highlighted that once the district rate is set for next year, there will be a need to review the overall financial strategy of the Council. A further report on the Council's financial strategy will be presented to March SP&R committee.

3. Port Health

Members discussed in detail the current issues and challenges faced by the Port of Belfast as a result of Brexit, specifically in relation to the new inspection responsibilities for Council Port Health staff in making sure the port meets environmental health standards. The City Solicitor outlined that he was currently seeking clarity on legal issues associated with the new requirements. The Chief Executive advised that the Brexit committee (11 February) would be provided with a full update and that it was intended that a report would also be brought to February SP&R committee for members consideration.

Members noted the difficulties currently being experienced by Port Health staff, and a Member asked that acknowledgement of support was expressed to these staff, the Director of City Services to pass this on to the relevant staff.

4. Decade of Centenaries

Members noted the update on the Council's Decade of Centenaries programme 2017- 2022 which was developed in line with the set of principles previously agreed by Council. The Good Relations Manager provided an overview of the proposed revisions for the Council event schedule given current restrictions. Some additional suggestions were requested by Members, the Good Relations Manager, where possible to incorporate into the report to February SP&R committee for Members consideration. Members also discussed requests

for illuminating City Hall on specified dates in June to mark the Northern Ireland Centenary, Good Relations manager to consider alternative options including possibility of animation.

The Good Relations Manager also outlined options as to how Council could mark the 80th Anniversary of the Belfast Blitz on 15th April in the context of Covid-19 restrictions. She advised that the NI War Memorial are organising a significant programme for the 80th anniversary predominantly via virtual means. it was agreed the Council take the approach of supporting and promoting the NI War Memorial programme with a contribution up to £1,000 made from existing Good Relations budgets. A Member made some suggestions for other options to mark the anniversary and the Good Relations Manager to consider if feasible.

5. Living with Water Programme Consultation

The Chief Executive updated Members on the proposed draft response to the Strategic Drainage Infrastructure Plan (SDIP) which will be considered by February SP&R committee. Members noted that NI Water and representatives from the Living with Water Programme board have been invited to present to February SP&R Committee. The City Solicitor and the Director of Physical Programmes outlined for Members the content of the draft response and emphasised the importance of long term investment in drainage and waste water infrastructure in order to meet the ambition for growth of the City and to alleviate the impacts of climate change. Members noted the comprehensive response.

6. 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 in February. She also advised that the Planning Appeals Commission (PAC) Independent Examination (IE) hearing sessions in relation to the Belfast Local Development Plan draft Plan Strategy 2035 were progressing well with completion due in the coming months.

7. AOB

Council Licences - Fee Update

As requested at January SP&R committee Members noted a report would be brought to February SP&R Committee to address the issues raised as to whether, alongside support could the Rent Relief Fund equally apply to licence holders who are normally charged fees. Recent correspondence from the Department for Communities will also be included in the report.

However it transpires that waivers have already been rolled out.

Bonfire Approach 2021

The Chief Executive advised the Forum that the programmes of work associated with bonfires would need to commence shortly in order to consider approach given that restrictions may continue for some time. Members discussed some options of how this may progress and stressed the need for early community engagement. A report will be brought to February SP&R committee with potential options for Members consideration around the reallocation of money to support cultural expression. Some Members raised queries in relation to summer schemes and possible proposals for alternatives in line with restriction guidelines at that time, this will also be considered and a report brought to a future SP&R meeting.

Investigation Timeframes

Councillor McReynolds raised a question in relation to the timeframe for the independent investigation being carried out by Peter Coll QC. Members noted that a special PGL's meeting would be arranged imminently.

Belfast City Council

STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Subject:	**Requests for Use of the City Hall and the Provision of Hospitality**
Date:	19th February, 2021
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor and Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Aisling Milliken, Functions and Exhibition Manager

Restricted Reports				
Is this report restricted?	**Yes**		**No**	X
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**	X	**No**	

1.0	**Purpose of Report**
1.1	This report, together with the attached appendix, sets out the recommended approach in respect of each of the requests by external organisations for access to the City Hall function rooms received up to 5th February 2021 which appear to the Function Management Unit to comply with the criteria previously established by the Committee and are, therefore, recommended for approval.
2.0	**Recommendation**
2.1	The Committee is requested to approve the recommendations made in respect of applications received up to 5th February 2021, as set out in the attached appendix.
3.0	**Main Report**
3.1	<u>Background Information</u> Members will be aware that the Committee, at its meeting of 6th January 2017, agreed to modify the criteria governing access to the City Hall function rooms for external organisations.

3.2	The Committee also agreed to the implementation of room-hire charges for some categories of function, and also revised the approach to the provision of civic hospitality for functions on foot of the agreed efficiency programme. Some further modifications to this approach were agreed at the Committee's meetings of 24th March 2017, 23rd June 2017, 23rd June 2019 and 25th October 2019.
	Key Issues
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 attached schedule covers two applications for functions, scheduled for 2021. However, approval is provisional and function date to be approved in due course, pending NI Executive and Council approval to reinstate functions in the City Hall.
	COVID implications
3.5	In managing and delivering future functions, liaison with and guidance for organisers will be provided by officers to ensure compliance with any relevant social distancing guidelines at the time of their function. Committee approval for their function to take place in the City Hall is recommended on the basis of their compliance to this caveat and what is permissible and feasible in City Hall function rooms.
	Financial and Resource Implications
3.6	The implementation of charging for external functions has commenced, in line with the Committee's decisions in the matter.
	Equality and Good Relations / Rural Needs Implications
3.7	There are no direct good relations, equality or rural needs implications arising from this report.
4.0	**Document Attached**
	Schedule of Function requests received up to 5th February, 2021.

City Hall Function Applications – February 2021

NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
2021 EVENTS						
Belfast Health and Social Care Trust	November 2021 *Dependent on City Hall recovery and COVID guidelines*	**Belfast Trust Chairman's Awards 2019** – Awards ceremony to recognise the contributions and achievements of the staff in the Belfast Trust. Numbers attending – 300 ** Numbers and room layout will be reviewed and revised in line with COVID19 social distancing guidelines at the time of this event.*	C	Yes - £825	No hospitality	Approve Charge £825 No hospitality
County Grand Orange Lodge of Belfast	On Date to be agreed within 2021 *Dependent on City Hall recovery and COVID guidelines*	**Celebration Dinner of Centenary of Northern Ireland–** A dinner to celebrate the 100 years since the creation of Northern Ireland. Numbers attending – 300 ** Numbers and room layout will be reviewed and revised in line with COVID19 social distancing guidelines at the time of this event.*	C	Yes - £825	Yes, Wine Reception	Approve No charge Wine Reception

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Social Value Working Group

Friday, 29th January, 2021

INAUGURAL MEETING OF SOCIAL VALUE
WORKING GROUP

HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Members present: The High Sheriff (Councillor Long); and
Councillors Beattie, Heading and O'Hara.

In attendance: Mr. J. Walsh, City Solicitor;
Mr. J. Greer, Director of Development;
Ms. N. Bohill, Head of Commercial and Procurement Services;
Mrs. L. Toland, Senior Manager, Economy;
Mr. C. Campbell, Divisional Solicitor;
Ms. C. Robinson, Strategy Policy and Partnership Manager;
Mr. L. Murray, Strategic Category Manager;
Mr. J. Uprichard, Community Planning Officer; and
Mr. H. Downey, Democratic Services Officer.

Election of Chairperson

The Working Group agreed that Councillor O'Hara be elected to serve as Chairperson for the period to end on the date of the Annual Meeting of the Council in 2021.

(Councillor O'Hara in the Chair)

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported on behalf of Alderman Copeland and Councillor Kyle.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Terms of Reference

The City Solicitor informed the Members that the Social Value Working Group, which had been established in response to a motion which had been passed by the Council in January 2019, would be responsible for making recommendations to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on the development and implementation of a Social Value Procurement Framework. The Framework would be aligned to the ambitions of the Council, as set out in the Belfast Agenda and the Inclusive Growth Strategy.

He reported that the following draft Terms of Reference had been formulated for approval by the Working Group:

- to oversee the creation of a robust and ambitious approach for the integration of social value through the Councils procurement processes, with consideration given to financial affordability, legal implications and the maximisation of impact;

- to develop a Social Value Procurement Framework aligned to the ambitions of the Council through the Belfast Agenda and Inclusive Growth Strategy;

- to support the approval and adoption of the framework through council channels, engagement with external stakeholders and a formal public consultation process;

- to approve and monitor delivery of an implementation plan for the adopted approach with consideration given to staffing resources, and effective mechanisms are in place to integrate, manage and measure social value impact; and

- to report on progress to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on a regular basis through reports and the minutes of meetings.

During discussion, the Working Group suggested that the Terms of Reference be amended to reflect the need:

- for the Council to work closely with anchor organisations in developing its social value procurement framework and to secure their sign up to it;

- to demonstrate further ambition by including community wealth building/inclusive growth within the remit of the Working Group, with a view to moving towards more progressive models of procurement;

- for the Working Group to link into and lead other related work streams being delivered at a corporate level; and

- to increase capacity building for the social enterprise/co-operative sector to enable them to participate fully in the Council's procurement process moving forward.

The City Solicitor pointed out that the initial Terms of Reference had been drafted in the context of the Council motion and suggested that they be revised to reflect the additional points outlined above and circulated for consideration in advance of the next meeting of the Working Group.

The Working Group endorsed the suggestion.

Social Value Workshop

Background

The Head of Commercial and Procurement Services provided the Working Group with a presentation on social value, which, in the context of the Council and in line with wider public sector opinion, was defined as being:

> *"the additional benefit to the community from the procurement process which is over and above the direct purchasing of goods, services and works, including economic, environmental and social well-being that can be delivered to a local area."*

She reported that, in 2019/20, the Council had spent around £120 million on goods, works and services, which had provided a boost to the local economy by supporting businesses and the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector, generating employment opportunities and creating additional spend. However, given this significant level of annual expenditure, the Council had long recognised that more needed to be done to deliver social value benefits through the overall procurement process.

She reminded the Members that, in 2016, the Council had introduced a social clause policy, which had committed it to assessing all tenders over £250,000, to examine the potential for securing social value returns through the introduction of social clauses. In 2019 it had been agreed, given the limitations of the policy, that it should be reviewed to provide for greater alignment with the 'Buy Social' approach which had been adopted by Central Government departments in 2017. Accordingly, a cross-Departmental officer working group had been established and had been tasked with developing a new policy and associated procedures in order to maximise the social value return from the Council's procurement spend. The group had, as part of that work, reviewed and benchmarked a number of emerging approaches to social value delivery via procurement in other councils and Government Departments, details of which were provided within the presentation.

Opportunities and Constraints

The Head of Commercial and Procurement Services informed the Members that the officer working group had also taken into consideration a number of other relevant factors, such as the current legislative framework, economic climate and local developments. She pointed out that the Council had a number of obligations under procurement law, which had to be considered when determining the social value aspirations which could be delivered through procurement and provided a summary of those. Members also needed to be aware of the fact that Article 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1992 imposed certain restrictions on the Council, in that it could not consider certain non-commercial matters when procuring, which could act as a barrier to some of its aspirations.

The Divisional Solicitor provided further detail around the legislative framework and the potential implications for the procurement process and addressed a number of points which had been raised by Members.

The Head of Commercial and Procurement Services went on to highlight the significant impact which the ongoing Covid-19 restrictions were having upon the majority of businesses in Belfast and stressed the need for the Council to adopt, in the short term,

a balanced approach to the obligations which it placed on them through the tendering process, to maximise their recovery from the pandemic.

She then highlighted the following developments locally, which could impact upon the Council's approach to delivering social value in the months ahead:

- the restructuring of the Procurement Board, with a strong emphasis being placed on security of supply and social value;

- the potential introduction of a Public Services (Social Value) Act for Northern Ireland, which would most likely mandate all public sector organisations in Northern Ireland to consider social value in their procurement exercises;

- the publication by the Cabinet Office of a Procurement Policy Note in relation to "Reserving Below Threshold Procurements", which, although not extended to Northern Ireland, which occupied a special position in relation to goods by virtue of the Northern Ireland protocol, made for interesting reading in terms of the potential direction of travel for public procurement in England and Wales; and

- CPD NI was working on a new procurement guidance note which was likely to instruct all Departments, to which the Northern Ireland public procurement policy applied, excluding local councils, to consider social value in procurement exercises and for evaluation criteria to include scored social value award criteria. However, it was likely that this would only apply to larger value tenders i.e. in excess of £500k.

She concluded this part of the presentation by asking the Working Group to note that there was some uncertainty at present for Northern Ireland Contracting Authorities' obligations under procurement law, post-Brexit, and in line with the NI protocols. It was expected that this would become clearer in the coming weeks, as various guidance documents were issued and clarified.

Considerations - New Approach to Social Value

The Head of Commercial and Procurement Services then drew the Working Group's attention the following range of issues which needed to be taken into consideration as a new and enhanced social value policy was developed by the Council:

- to increase the use of Reserved Contracts as part of the procurement process in order to better support the local Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise sector;

- Social Value Weighting - to ensure that social value represents a meaningful element of the evaluation criteria and award outcome;

- Organisational Behaviours - the procurement process can be used to select/shortlist suppliers who have policies, procedures and working practices which aligned with the Council's organisational

behaviours, provided that these minimum standards 'known as Selection Criteria' were compliant with the legislative framework. The officer working group had been considering a range of these organisational behaviours to include in the new social value policy and supporting toolkit. These included:

- Ethical Procurement and Fair Treatment of the Supply Chain
- HR Policies and Procedures and
- Environmental Policies and Procedures.

- As part of the evaluation criteria, suppliers would be able to offer a number of social value initiatives which they would be committing to deliver under the contract within their tender response, referred to as 'Award Criteria'. Award criteria should be clear and objective and again be compliant with the legislative framework.

  The officer working group have been considering a range of potential social value initiatives, which could be considered as award criteria and which are aligned to the Belfast Agenda outcomes. These fall into the following broad categories:

  - Employment Opportunities
  - Initiatives to support Employability
  - Initiatives to support Social Opportunities and
  - Environmental Opportunities

She then presented three case studies, with different assessment scenarios and outcomes for the Working Group's consideration.

Next Steps

- Members were invited to consider the presentation and background paper in detail with their Party colleagues;
- the Social Value Working Group would be reconvened in mid-February to consider various issues in greater detail (more than one session may be required);
- officers would expand engagement with other stakeholders to test the emerging approach prior to more substantial public consultation;
- the new Social Value Policy would be presented to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for approval;

- contract management arrangements would be finalised, including in-house training and guidance and supplier engagement; and

- there would be a phased implementation and identification of pilot tenders.

The Working Group noted the presentation and agreed that:

i. details of the outcome of an earlier baseline analysis of the benefits which had been derived by local communities from the Council's current procurement process be submitted to its next meeting;

ii. a report on the implications of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1992 and other legislation relevant to the new social value framework be submitted to its next meeting;

iii. consideration be given to giving additional weighting to social value in the assessment process and reviewing it on an annual basis;

iv. award criteria should be used to target areas of deprivation and address zero hours contracts and the Real Living Wage;

v. a measure of the Council's impact on social value should be established in order to demonstrate real change;

vi. the Council should seek, where possible, to procure local goods to cut carbon emissions associated with the importation and transportation of goods; and

vii. Members should ask their respective Political Parties to lobby for the implementation of a Social Value Act as a matter of priority.

Chairperson