

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



**Belfast
City Council**

23rd September, 2021

MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in the Council Chamber and via Microsoft Teams on Friday, 24th September, 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) Residual Waste Contract Arrangements (Pages 1 - 4)
 - (b) Community Diversionary Festivals Programme (Pages 5 - 10)
 - (c) Recruitment of Senior Posts (Pages 11 - 14)
 - (d) City Regeneration - Institutional Investment Expression of Interest (Pages 15 - 22)
 - (e) City Hall Recovery Plan - Update on Progress (Pages 23 - 30)

- (f) Consultation on Signage - Andersonstown, Lisnasharragh, Olympia and Templemore Leisure Centres – Options Paper (Pages 31 - 118)
- (g) Assets Management (Pages 119 - 136)
- (h) King George V Playing Fields (report to be tabled)
- 3. Matters referred back from Council/Motions
 - (a) Motion - A Changing Places Toilets Policy for Belfast City Council (Pages 137 - 140)
 - (b) Motion - Rights of Nature (Pages 141 - 142)
 - (c) Motion - Bonfire Procedures (Pages 143 - 146)
 - (d) Motion - A Four-Day Working Week (Pages 147 - 148)
 - (e) Quarterly Update on Motions/Issues Raised in Advance (Pages 149 - 170)
- 4. Belfast Agenda/Strategic Issues
 - (a) Local Government Boundary Commissioner – Provisional Recommendations (Pages 171 - 186)
 - (b) France-United Kingdom Local Government Forum (Pages 187 - 188)
 - (c) COP 26 Climate Business Conference Funding Agreement (Pages 189 - 194)
 - (d) Belfast Submission to the Carbon Disclosure Project and Associated Campaigns (Pages 195 - 210)
 - (e) Modern Slavery Act 2015 - Proposed Corporate Action Plan (Pages 211 - 222)
 - (f) Consultation on Draft NI Flood Risk Management Plan 2021-27 - Council Response (Pages 223 - 240)
- 5. Physical Programme and Asset Management
 - (a) Update on Area Working Groups (Pages 241 - 290)
 - (b) Colin Interpretive Heritage Trail (Pages 291 - 294)
 - (c) Update on Physical Programme (Pages 295 - 300)
- 6. Finance, Procurement and Performance
 - (a) Update on Contracts (Pages 301 - 306)
 - (b) Corporate Diaries and Christmas Cards (Pages 307 - 308)
 - (c) Belfast City Council Statement of Accounts 2020-21 (Pages 309 - 450)

- (d) Stall Fees for St George's Market - Request for Further Rent-Free Period (Pages 451 - 454)
- 7. Equality and Good Relations
 - (a) Minutes of the Meeting of the Shared City Partnership (Pages 455 - 480)
 - (b) Language Strategy - Update on Dual Language Street Sign Policy (Pages 481 - 484)
- 8. Operational Issues
 - (a) Response to Consultation on the Justice (Sexual Offences and Trafficking Victims) Bill (Pages 485 - 488)
 - (b) Minutes of the Meeting of the Customer Focus Working Group (Pages 489 - 492)
 - (c) Minutes of the Meeting of the Party Group Leaders' Consultative Forum (Pages 493 - 498)
 - (d) Department of Finance Consultation on Updated Building Control Advice on the fitting of Changing Places Toilets – Council Response (Pages 499 - 526)
 - (e) Minutes of the Meeting of the Audit and Risk Panel (Pages 527 - 550)
 - (f) Minutes of the Meeting of the Working Group on the Climate Crisis (Pages 551 - 556)
 - (g) Requests for Use of the City Hall and the Provision of Hospitality (Pages 557 - 560)
- 9. Issues Raised in Advance by Members
 - (a) Adopt a Kiosk Scheme

(Councillor Garret to propose that the Council participate in the BT 'adopt a kiosk' scheme for the preservation and transformation of unused telephone kiosks)
 - (b) Illumination of the City Hall

(Alderman Kingston to propose that the City Hall be illuminated in an appropriate colour to mark Anti-Slavery Day on 18th October)

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

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Subject:	Motion – A Changing Places Toilets Policy for Belfast City Council
Date:	24th September, 2021
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To bring to Members' attention a motion calling for the introduction of a Changing Places Toilets Policy for Belfast City Council, which was referred to the Committee by the Council at its meeting on 1st September.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is requested to consider the motion and, if adopted, agree that a report on how this would be facilitated, resourced and managed be submitted to a future meeting.

3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The Council, at its meeting on 1st September, considered the following motion which had been proposed by Councillor McMullan and seconded by Councillor Mulholland.</p> <p>“Changing Places are specialised toilet facilities which make public places and spaces accessible and inclusive for everyone, including children, adults and older people with complex needs or mobility issues.</p> <p>Where they are not provided, people are changed on a toilet floor, which is dangerous, unhygienic and undignified. Without them, people may be excluded entirely from certain public spaces.</p> <p>The Council notes its commitment in the Belfast Agenda to deliver an accessible City for all and its unanimous support for a COVID-19 response and recovery inclusive of disabled people, older people and carers in July, 2020.</p> <p>It further recognises the importance of Changing Places toilets in delivering our vision of an accessible and inclusive Belfast.</p> <p>The Council notes that Building Regulations in Northern Ireland only require standard accessible toilets to be provided. Despite discussion to add Changing Places toilets to these regulations, there is currently no requirement for these facilities. As a result of this, Changing Places are not usually provided as a matter of course, even in new buildings.</p> <p>This Council will, therefore, develop a Changing Places toilet facility policy for Belfast City Council, with input from disabled people, older people and carers, to include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council will commit to include a Changing Places facility in every new building in which the public will have access to its services and where public toilet provision is available for others. <li>• The Council will also make every effort to include Changing Places facilities when it extends or extensively refurbishes an existing Council-owned building. These schemes will be considered on a case-by-case basis at the early stages of feasibility/design to establish whether there is an opportunity to install a Changing Places. <li>• It will review where such facilities could be installed on the Council Estate (e.g. playgrounds) and put a plan in place to ensure that all inclusive playgrounds are equipped with such a facility. <li>• It will ensure that organisers of all large-scale public events (e.g. concerts, festivals, family days) with a license from the Council will have a fixed or portable Changing Places unit as part of the design of the event. <li>• Where the Council is organising a large public event, it should be considered if it can take place at a venue that already has a Changing

	<p>Places facility and include a mobile/portable facility, if a permanent Changing Places toilet is not available.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For smaller public events, these should be advertised early and adequately communicated with the option to request access to a Changing Places facility whereupon they can be moved or have a mobile/portable facility provided.”
3.2	<p>In accordance with Standing Order 13(f), the motion was referred without discussion to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p>
3.3	<p>None.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p>
3.4	<p>This motion, if agreed, may have potential equality, good relations and rural needs implications and should be subject to our normal screening process as appropriate.</p>
4.0	Documents Attached
	None

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Subject:	Motion – Rights of Nature
Date:	24th September, 2021
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To bring to Members' attention a motion in relation to Rights of Nature, which was referred to the Committee by the Council at its meeting on 1st September.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is requested to consider the motion and, if adopted, agree that a report on how this would be facilitated, resourced and managed be submitted to a future meeting.

3.0	Main Report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	<p>The Council, at its meeting on 1st September, considered the following motion which had been proposed by Councillor Smyth and seconded by Alderman Copeland.</p> <p>“This Council notes the legal and social movement globally for the ‘Rights of Nature’, which aims to strengthen protections for people, place and planet.</p> <p>It believes that ‘Rights of Nature’ can help inspire an innovative rethinking about how to create regenerative, not extractivist, economies while also making human and other living communities safer, stronger and more resilient.</p> <p>The positive work already being done by Council staff and groups on the climate emergency and biodiversity crises are commendable, but we recognise the need for a rights-based approach to nature.</p> <p>It is proposed that, over the next twelve months, the Council will collaborate with civic society to explore what rights of nature mean for the people and economies of the region and to investigate how Rights of Nature could be expressed in community plans, corporate plans, improvement objectives and other strategic frameworks. In particular, the Council will, in the next twelve months, hold community workshops and work with the local community and stakeholders to draw up a Declaration for the Rights of Nature for the City, to be brought back before the Council for adoption.</p> <p>It is also requested that a report, authored in collaboration and with input from the local community, be brought to the Council in relation to embedding ‘Rights of Nature’ as a keystone concept into the Council’s operational practices, planning processes and long-term decision-making.</p> <p>Mindful of our mutual environmental obligations under the Espoo Convention, we call on all councils in Northern Ireland to also explore ‘Rights of Nature’ for their council areas.”</p>
3.2	<p>In accordance with Standing Order 13(f), the motion was referred without discussion to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p>
3.3	<p>None.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p>
3.4	<p>This motion, if agreed, may have potential equality, good relations and rural needs implications and should be subject to our normal screening process as appropriate.</p>
4.0	Documents Attached
	None



Subject:	Motion – Bonfire Procedures
Date:	24th September, 2021
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To bring to Members' attention a motion in relation to proposed Bonfire Procedures, which was referred to the Committee by the Council at its meeting on 1st September.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is requested to consider the motion and, if adopted, agree that a report on how this would be facilitated, resourced and managed be submitted to a future meeting.

3.0	Main Report
	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>3.1 The Council, at its meeting on 1st September, considered the following motion which had been proposed by Councillor Beattie and seconded by Councillor McLaughlin.</p> <p>“After multiple incidents, including the tragic incident in Ballysillan on 11th July, this Council agrees to remove all bonfire materials from Belfast City Council assets, unless permission has been granted through an application process.</p> <p>A bonfire application must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • permission being requested by a constituted organisation; • a risk assessment provided by the applicant and agreed with the PSNI, Fire Service and landowner (BCC); • Public Liability Insurance; • an Event Management Plan; • a commitment to ensuring that there will be no burning of any toxic materials (e.g. tyres); • an Entertainments Licence; • the demonstration of sufficient consultation with local residents; and • a site cleansing plan. <p>In addition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The display or burning of offensive materials such as flags, emblems, effigies, and posters will not be permitted and a commitment must be provided. Any breaches will impact upon future applications; and • Bonfire Beacons will be preferred, unless an applicant can demonstrate the necessity and safety of a non-structured bonfire. <p>Any failure to follow an open, transparent, robust and successful application procedure for a bonfire will result in the Council requesting the support of the PSNI to provide protection to our contractors for the removal of materials.</p> <p>Applications must be received three months before a planned event.”</p> <p>3.2 In accordance with Standing Order 13(f), the motion was referred without discussion to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>3.3 None</p>

3.4	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>This motion, if agreed, may have potential equality, good relations and rural needs implications and should be subject to our normal screening process as appropriate.</p>
4.0	Documents Attached
	None

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Subject:	Motion – A Four-Day Working Week
Date:	24th September, 2021
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To bring to Members' attention a motion in relation to a Four Day Working Week, which was referred to the Committee by the Council at its meeting on 1st September.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is requested to consider the motion and, if adopted, agree that a report on how this would be facilitated, resourced and managed be submitted to a future meeting.

3.0	Main Report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	<p>The Council, at its meeting on 1st September, considered the following motion which had been proposed by Councillor Garrett and seconded by Councillor Murphy.</p> <p>“Over the course of the Covid-19 pandemic, businesses and workers have re-evaluated and re-assessed the issue of work life balance and productivity.</p> <p>It has been almost 100 years since Trades Unions secured workers the right to a weekend and it is important that, as part of the economic recovery, we consider how we can modernise the working arrangements to the benefit of workers and employers.</p> <p>There are numerous examples from across the world where a four-day working week has been successfully trialled, leading to increases in positivity and an improved work life balance.</p> <p>The latest trial from Iceland has been hailed as an 'overwhelming success', with productivity remaining unchanged or actually going up and the health and wellbeing of workers improving significantly.</p> <p>The Council agrees, therefore, to work alongside Trades Unions and other relevant bodies, to bring forward a plan within twelve months to implement a trial under review within our own Council workforce, based on best international examples and practices elsewhere.</p> <p>The Council agrees also that progress and implementation reports be presented to the Council on a quarterly basis, to support and inform any policies being progressed within the Department for Economy or other relevant bodies elsewhere.”</p>
3.2	<p>In accordance with Standing Order 13(f), the Motion was referred without discussion to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p>
3.3	<p>None</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p>
3.4	<p>This motion, if agreed, may have potential equality, good relations and rural needs implications and should be subject to our normal screening process as appropriate.</p>
4.0	Documents Attached
	None



Subject:	Quarterly Update on Motions/Issues Raised in Advance
Date:	24 th September 2021
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor
Contact Officer:	Geoff Dickson, Strategic Planning & Policy Lead Officer Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on the progress of all motions for which it is responsible.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	It is recommended that the Committee: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • note the updates to all motions that it is responsible for; and • agree to the closure of 30 motions and Issues Raised in Advance, as referenced in the attached appendix and outlined in paragraph 3.8 below.
3.0	Main Report
	<u>Background</u>
3.1	Members will recall that the first update on motions was presented to Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in March 2021.
3.2	This report provides an overview of the progress on those motions and Issues Raised in Advance which remained open following the March 2021 update and new motions that have been approved by the Committee since March 2021.
	Motion Updates
3.5	There are currently 95 active motions and Issues Raised in Advance which the Committee is responsible for. An update on each of these is attached.
	Closure of Motions and Issues Raised in Advance
3.7	At the SP and R Committee meeting on 20 th November, it was agreed that motions could be closed for one of two reasons:

3.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Category 1 - Motions which contained an action that has been completed and recommend they are closed. All motions within this category contained a specific task that has since been complete. It is worth noting that, when Committee agree to action a motion, there are sometimes additional actions agreed alongside the motion. As these are not technically part of the motion, they are taken forward through normal committee decision making processes. The motion can, therefore, be closed, but additional actions related to it will continue to be progressed and reported to the committee. These additional actions are not contained in this report but will be noted in the live database moving forward. Category 2 - Motions have become Council policy and recommend they are closed. These motions did not contain a specific task that could be complete. Instead, they were more strategic in nature and required changes in Council policy and/ or strategy for long term outcomes. Those listed within this category have all been agreed by Committee and are now either Council policy or are currently being implemented through a Council strategy that is managed by a Standing Committee through the corporate planning process. <p>Following an update of those motions and Issues Raised in Advance on the live database, it is recommended that Members approve the following Motions/Issues for closure.</p> <p>Category 1 Recommended Closures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Grey Zone Campaign (Reference Number 10). PCSP procured a 'Talking about Consent' project and advised that this project would include the PSNI's 'No Grey Zone' messaging. Work is ongoing by PCSP regarding talking about consent and the aspect regarding premises could be taken forward once our premises are being used fully post COVID-19. Lead Officer has advised once final meeting has been convened we will report back via PCSPs. The motion can be closed and work taken forward via PCSP partners. Support for People with a Gambling Addiction (Reference Number 53). Letter sent. No responses received. Needle Exchange Facility (Reference Number 100). PHA presented to P&C Committee in June 2021 - this and related issues will be picked up in routine
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briefings on public health issues to Committee on a six monthly basis. It is recommended that this Motion is now closed.

- **Addressing Hate and Intolerance across all our communities** (Reference Number 101). Correspondence sent to TEO in Nov 20 regarding flexibility in funding and consideration of extension to the hate crime categories. Response reported to Shared City Partnership (SCP)/ SP&R Committee in March 21 – S75 is a matter reserved for Westminster and groups included in the hate crime categories can apply for GR funding if meeting T:BUC priorities. A number of projects are being considered through SCP and PCSP regarding Hate Crime, however, a number of projects have been funded through the Community Recovery Fund to reduce isolation among groups which are included in the hate crime legislation.
- **Review of Housing Fitness Standards** (Reference Number 103). Response from Minister for Communities noted by S P and R 23/10/20
- **Free car parking for health workers, patients and visitors** (Reference Number 104). Responses from Minister of Health and Minister for Infrastructure noted by SP and R 23/10/20.
- **Climate Change Act** (Reference Number 105). Response from DAERA Minister noted by SP&R Committee 20/11/20. Climate legislation now in development and BCC will input when appropriate.
- **Moratorium on Licences for Fracking and Exploration of Fossil Fuels** (Reference Number 111). Responses from Minister for the Economy and Minister for Infrastructure noted by SP&R Committee 20/11/20.
- **Funding for the Arts and Creative Industries** (Reference Number 112). Response from Minister for Communities noted by SP and R 20/11/20.
- **Job Retention Scheme** (Reference Number 113). Job Retention Scheme was extended beyond October 31st.
- **Implementation of Care Partner arrangements in Nursing and Care Homes** (Reference Number 128). Response from Minister of Health noted by SP and R 22/1/21.
- **Access to Maternity Wards for Birthing Partners** (Reference Number 129). Response from Minister of Health noted by SP and R 18/12/20.
- **Clean Air Strategy** (Reference Number 132). Response from DAERA Minister noted by SP and R 18/12/20.
- **Invitation to President-elect Biden and Vice President-elect Harris** (Reference Number 134). Letters issued.

- **Disability Strategy** (Reference Number 142). No specific actions for the Council to take forward.
- **Procurement - Employment Academy Framework** (Reference Number 144). Report noted by SP&R Committee in January 2021. A 6-month review of impacts has been programmed in and will be reported to Committee to enable any adjustments to future plans.
- **Health and Social Care Workers: Thank You Payment** (Reference Number 147). Response from Minister of Health to be presented to S P and R 19/3/21.
- **Takeover of Private Healthcare** (Reference Number 158). Response Noted by S P and R 19/3/21.
- **Proposed Bank of Ireland Closures** (Reference Number 166). Letter sent 22/4/21.
- **Support for Sign Languages Act and Addition of Sign Languages to School Curricula** (Reference Number 170). Letter sent 22/4/21.
- **Equality for LGBTQI+ Community** (Reference Number 173). Letter sent 17/05/21. Reported to SPR June 21. - Response noted by Committee.
- **Immediate need to tackle the waiting lists for Diagnosing Autism in Children** (Reference Number 174). Amended and Letter sent 17/05/21. Reported to SPR June 21 - Response noted by Committee.
- **Charges for use of ATMs** (Reference Number 175). Letter sent 17/05/21. Reported to SPR Aug 21 - Response noted by Committee.
- **Motion - Ban Conversion Therapy** (Reference Number 177). Letter sent 17/05/21. Reported to SPR June 21. Response noted by Committee.
- **Private Members Bill to provide Safe Access Zones** (Reference Number 183). No specific actions required from Council in motion.
- **The Employment Rights (NI) Order 1996** (Reference Number 184). No specific actions required from Council in motion.
- **Request to the Irish Government and the UK** (Reference Number 185). Letters sent 2/7/21.
- **Ballymurphy Massacre** (Reference Number 186). No specific actions required from Council in motion.
- **End Child Poverty** (Reference Number 188). No specific actions required from Council in motion.
- **Transfer of Regeneration Powers to Local Authorities** (Reference Number 191). Letters sent 22/7/2021. Joint Response from DfC presented to S P and R 20/8/21.

3.9	Additional information in relation to these motions and Issues Raised in Advance are attached.
3.10	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> There are no additional financial implications required to implement these recommendations.
3.11	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> There are no equality, good relations or rural needs implications contained in this report.
4.0	Document Attached
	Motion Live Database for SP and R Committee

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Notice of Motion – Live Database

Belfast

Ref	Type	Date of Council Meeting	Motion (including hyperlinks)	Proposed by	Referral route	Committee	Agreed actions (agreed decisions from committee/ Council)	Lead officer	Department	Status	Status Update
1	Notice of Motion	03/05/2016	Stained Glass Window – Health Service	Cllr Mullan	Referred to Diversity Working Group	SP&R Cttee	Referred to Diversity Working Group	John Walsh	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	Will be progressed under new Member Steering Group on City Hall / City Hall Grounds
2	Notice of Motion	02/05/2017	Stained Glass Window – 321 Explosives Ordnance Disposal Company	Cllr Graham	Referred to SP&R	SP&R Cttee	Referred to SP&R	J Walsh	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	Will be progressed under new Member Steering Group on City Hall / City Hall Grounds
3	Notice of Motion	01/06/2017	Fire Brigades Union	Cllr McVeigh	Referred to SP&R	SP&R Cttee	Referred to SP&R	John Walsh	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	Will be progressed under new Member Steering Group on City Hall / City Hall Grounds
7	notice of Motion	09/04/2018	Childcare Strategy	Cllr O'Hara	Referred to SP&R	SP&R Cttee		John Tully	City & Organisational Strategy	Ongoing	A child care strategy that is for Belfast alone would not be operational and outside the remit of the Council. DfC have recently announced the development of a suite of Social Inclusion Strategies that aim to address barriers and inequalities in society and to fulfil the commitments in New Decade, New Approach (NDNA) and the Executive's Programme for Government (PfG). Officers have made contact with the department to ensure a regional child care strategy is taken forward. As the PfG progresses, representation will be made to ensure a childcare strategy is taken forward as a priority.

10	notice of Motion	01/11/2018	No Grey Zone Campaign	Cllr Nicholl	To be referred to SP&R	SP&R Cttee		R Black	City & Neighbourhood Services	Recommendation Close	PCSP procured a 'Talking about Consent' project and advised that this project would include the PSNI's 'No Grey Zone' messaging. Work is ongoing by PCSP regarding talking about consent and the aspect regarding premises could be taken forward once our premises are being used fully post COVID-19. Lead Officer has advised once final meeting has been convened we will report back via PCSPs and the Notice of Motion can be closed and work taken forward via PCSP partners.
13	Notice of Motion	03/12/2018	Social Investment Fund	Cllr Attwood	Referred to SP&R	SP&R Cttee		Sinead Grimes	Physical Programmes	Ongoing	<p>To be taken forward through the Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund.</p> <p>Establishment of Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund, applying learning from SIF Audit and ensuring compliance with OBA principles. SP&R Cttee report to be taken forward in Autumn. New physical programmes developed by the Council will demonstrate how the council is embedding the 7 recommendations from SIF.</p>
16	Notice of Motion	04/03/2019	SEND Act and Out of School Hours Provision	Cllr Black	Debated and passed	SP&R Cttee		J Walsh	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	Meeting was delayed due to the 2019 local government elections then the covid-19 pandemic. Currently being arranged via video call.

17	Notice of Motion	04/03/2019	Dog Friendly Properties	Cllr McDonough-Brown	Referred To SP&R	SP&R Cttee		J Walsh	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	<p>To make all council properties 'dog friendly' would be a significant policy change with significant health and safety, hygiene, insurance and liability, and facility upgrade implications.</p> <p>The Council's current policy is that we only allow guide/assisted dogs in to buildings that facilitate the public and to attend events. We have no written policy after that and as such can only say that we currently do not allow dogs that are not guide dogs into our facilities (both staff facilities and public facilities).</p> <p>There are significant Health and Safety implications to assess the risk that a dog may attack a member of staff or a member of the public. The Council would be liable for any such attack if it took place on Council premises.</p> <p>Due to the close proximity of staff working and sharing offices there are no appropriate facilities to house dogs or any animal. At present, the 4 civic buildings do not have the facilities for members of the public and staff to bring animals into these facilities unless it is a guide dog.</p> <p>Given the current challenges to providing safe access to council premises to both staff and the public in light of Covid 19, it is recommended that this issue be parked until such time as council premises return to normal operation post pandemic.</p>
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18	Notice of Motion	04/03/2019	Feasibility Support fund for each AWG	Cllr Walsh	Referred To SP&R	SP&R Cttee		Sinead Grimes	Physical Programmes	Ongoing	<p>Prior to Covid 19, the Department had been working up a framework around a new Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund, and consideration of how we could incorporate feasibility as part of the project proposals development process. But given the unprecedented impact of Covid, this Fund has not progressed until we have a better handle on corporate finances, and subsequent priorities for the city.</p> <p>A framework is being developed around NRF and feasibility support will be incorporated into the project proposal development process.</p>
23	Notice of Motion	01/07/2019	Removal of Banners and Paramilitary Flags in Belfast	Cllr Beattie	Debated and passed	SP&R Cttee		J Walsh	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	Consultation delayed due to Covid-19.
24	Notice of Motion	01/07/2019	Webcasting of Committee Meetings	Cllr Nicholl	Referred to SP&R	SP&R Cttee		J Walsh	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	Report prepared for PLCF then delayed due to Covid-19 pandemic. To be rescheduled when appropriate.
25	Issue Raised in Advance	23/08/2019	Abortion Imagery	Cllr Groogan		SP&R	Motion referred to SP&R	J Walsh	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	<p>Work is ongoing on the development of new city amenities byelaws which would try to address a number of issues in relation to good governance in the city centre including the display of promotional literature or material without a permit from the Council. The Council will need to seek approval for the draft byelaw from the Department for Communities.</p>

34	Notice of Motion	04/11/2019	Unregulated Car Washes	Cllr Newton	Referred to SP&R	SP&R Cttee		J Walsh	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	<p>BCC have no responsibility for regulating or licensing hand car washes and valet services. Responsibility for Health and Safety at such car washes lies with the HSENI.</p> <p>The NI Environment Agency has responsibility for enforcing the requirements of the Water (Northern Ireland) Order 1999. It is an offence under the Water Order to discharge or deposit, whether knowingly or otherwise, any poisonous, noxious or polluting matter so that it enters a waterway or underground stratum.</p> <p>Officers in Legal Services have written to the NIEA requesting any available data on the number of unregulated car washes in Belfast. The NIEA have advised that in line with guidance they would recommend that vehicle washes are connected to the mains sewer where possible. They anticipate such a facility would be available in Belfast. Should a consent be the only solution, a suitable treatment system would be required. The NIEA currently don't have any Vehicle wash sites in Belfast, on their books which hold a consent to discharge.</p> <p>Further enquiries will be made into this issue with NIEA, HSENI and PSNI to see if the relevant data can be sourced from elsewhere.</p>
35	Notice of Motion	02/12/2019	Pridestrian Animation	Cllr Garrett	Referred to SP&R	SP&R Cttee		John Greer	Place & Economy	Ongoing	<p>To be taken forward through Cultural Strategy Implementation Plan. This has been delayed due to COVID19. Officers are currently exploring temporary and permanent animation options.</p>

49	Notice of Motion	03/02/2020	Market Gardens and Urban Farming	Cllr de Faoite	Straight to Committee	SP&R Committee		R Black	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	Further report to be submitted on other future options for the site taking into consideration the proposals in the motion discussed earlier in the meeting on Market Gardens and Urban Farming.
50	Notice of Motion	03/02/2020	Belfast Zoo	Cllr Maskey	Straight to Committee	SP&R Committee		R Black	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	To be considered as part of the wider strategic regeneration of Belfast Zoo, Belfast Castle, Cavehill and the North Foreshore.
51	Notice of Motion	03/02/2020	Growth Deal	Cllr Beattie	Straight to Committee	SP&R Committee		R Cregan	Finance & Resources	Ongoing	To be progressed as resources become available.
52	Notice of Motion	03/02/2020	Menopause Aware	Cllr Michelle Kelly	Debated at Council	SP&R	Passed	J Tully	City & Organisational Strategy	Ongoing	Management side position is being finalised, consultation will commence with TU side and policy agreed at JNCC in October. Policy can go to November Council meeting and launched online thereafter.
53	Notice of Motion	03/02/2020	Support for People with a Gambling Addiction	Cllr Kyle	Debated at Council	SP&R	Passed - letters sent to Ofcom and Dept for Health	J Walsh	Legal & Civic Services	Recommendation Close	Letter sent. No responses received
55	Notice of Motion	03/02/2020	Drug Task Force	Cllr McCusker	Debated at Council	SP&R	Letters to be sent to Ministers for Health, Justice and Communities	J Walsh	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	To be progressed as resources become available.

56	Notice of Motion	03/02/2020	Public Sector Pay	Cllr Matt Collins	Debated at Council	SP&R	Letter to be sent to Minister for Finance	J Walsh	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	To be progressed as resources become available.
67	Notice of Motion	02/03/2020	Review of Hate Crime Legislation in Northern Ireland - Inclusion of Misogyny as a standalone offence	Cllr Groogan	Debated at Council	SP&R Cttee	Council will invite representatives of the Raise Your Voice project to deliver training for Members	J Walsh	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	To be progressed as resources become available.
73	issue Raised in Advance	19/06/2020	Race Equality Champion for Belfast City Council	Cllr Nicholl		SP&R		J Tully	City & Organisational Strategy	Ongoing	Work on going with EDU and Good Relations on the Race Action Plan.
74	issue Raised in Advance	19/06/2020	Disabled People and Older People	Cllr McMullan		SP&R		R Black	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	Points raised to be considered within the context of the Council's Recovery Programme
78	Notice of Motion	01/07/2020	Suicide Awareness Training	Cllr Michelle Kelly	Straight to Committee	SP&R Committee		J Tully	City & Organisational Strategy	Ongoing	Article prepared for Interlink and members portal with link to the training. Going Live week commencing 13 September.
80	Notice of Motion	02/07/2020	Opening our Streets for Everyone	Cllr McKeown	Straight to Committee	SP&R Committee		A Reid	Place & Economy	Ongoing	To be progressed as resources become available.
82	issue Raised in Advance	31/07/2020	Roselawn Cemetery	Cllr McLaughlin		SP&R	Report to come back to Cemeteries and Crematorium Working Group	S Toland	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	Request for additional Equality Assessment to be reviewed – update to be provided to Cemeteries and Crematorium Working Group.

83	issue Raised in Advance	31/07/2020	Frederick Douglass Statue	Cllr Beattie		SP&R	letter to be sent to Department for Communities	J Walsh	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	Will be progressed under new Member Steering Group on City Hall / City Hall Grounds
93	issue Raised in Advance	21/08/2020	Video and Web Streaming of Council Committee Meetings	Cllr McReynolds		SP&R	The Committee also noted that an update report would be submitted to a future Committee with respect to the continuation of live streaming after the pandemic	J Walsh	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	To be progressed as resources become available.
97	Notice of Motion	01/09/2020	National Armed Forces Day	Cllr Pankhurst	Straight to Committee	SP&R Committee		A Reid	Place & Economy	Ongoing	To be progressed as resources become available.
98	Notice of Motion	01/09/2020	Procurement Policy - Living Wage	Cllr Murphy	Straight to Committee	SP&R Committee	Referred to SP&R	J Walsh	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	The Council's Procurement Policy is being updated as part of the overall review of Social Value Procurement - including consideration of the real living wage.
99	Notice of Motion	01/09/2020	Summer Youth Employment Programme	Cllr McLaughlin	Straight to Committee	SP&R Committee		A Reid	Place & Economy	Ongoing	Officers are engaging with the Boston model of summer internships with a view to design a model, resources dependent, for roll-out in summer 2022 (when it is expected that COVID19 labour market disruption will no longer operate as risk factor). This new model will blend with the Youth Support Programme which identifies those most at risk of disengaging from the education system and lower attainment expectations.

100	Notice of Motion	01/09/2020	Needle Exchange Facility	Cllr Smyth	Straight to Committee	SP&R Committee		R Black	City & Neighbourhood Services	Recommendation Close	PHA presented to P&C Committee in June 2021 - this and related issues will be picked up in routine briefings on public health issues to Committee on a six monthly basis. It is recommended that this Motion is now closed.
101	Notice of Motion	01/09/2020	Addressing Hate and Intolerance across all our communities	Cllr O'Hara	Straight to Committee	SP&R Committee		R Black	City & Neighbourhood Services	Recommendation Close	<p>Correspondence sent to TEO in Nov 20 regarding flexibility in funding and consideration of extension to the hate crime categories. Response reported to SCP/SP&R in March 21 – S75 is a matter reserved for Westminster and groups included in the hate crime categories can apply for GR funding if meeting T:BUC priorities.</p> <p>A no of projects are being considered through SCP and PCSP regarding Hate Crime, however, a number of projects have been funded through the Community Recovery Fund to reduce isolation among groups which are included in the hate crime legislation.</p>
102	Notice of Motion	01/09/2020	Universal Basic Income for Northern Ireland	Cllr McReynolds	Debated at Council	SP&R Cttee		A Reid	Place & Economy	Ongoing	<p>Suggest link to Citizens Basic Income NOM (69) - Citizens Basic Income.</p> <p>To be progressed as resources become available.</p>
103	Notice of Motion	01/09/2020	Review of Housing Fitness Standards	Cllr Canavan	Debated at Council	SP&R		A Reid	Place & Economy	Recommendation Close	Response from Minister for Communities noted by S P and R 23/10/20
104	Notice of Motion	01/09/2020	Free car parking for health workers, patients and visitors	Cllr Ferguson	Debated at Council	SP&R		A Reid	Place & Economy	Recommendation Close	Responses from Minister of Health and Minister for Infrastructure noted by SP and R 23/10/20

105	Notice of Motion	01/09/2020	Climate Change Act	CLlr Flynn	Debated at Council	SP&R		J Tully	City & Organisational Strategy	Recommendation Close	Response from DAERA Minister noted by SP&R Committee 20/11/20. Climate legislation now in development and BCC will input when appropriate.
108	issue Raised in Advance	18/09/2020	Application to Ulster History Circle for a blue plaque - Olaudah Equiano	CLlr McMullan		SP&R	report to come back to SP&R Committee	J Walsh	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	To be progressed as resources become available.
111	Notice of Motion	01/10/2020	Moratorium on Licences for Fracking and Exploration of Fossil Fuels	CLlr Baker	Debated at Council	SP&R		J Tully	City & Organisational Strategy	Recommendation Close	Responses from Minister for the Economy and Minister for Infrastructure noted by SP&R Committee 20/11/20.
112	Notice of Motion	01/10/2020	Funding for the Arts and Creative Industries	CLlr Mulholland	Debated at Council	SP&R	Letter to be sent to Minister for Communities	J Walsh	Legal & Civic Services	Recommendation Close	Response from Minister for Communities noted by SP and R 20/11/20
113	Notice of Motion	01/10/2020	Job Retention Scheme	CLlr Heading	Debated at Council	SP&R	Letter to be sent to Minister for Economy	J Walsh	Legal & Civic Services	Recommendation Close	Job Retention Scheme was extended beyond October 31st.
114	Notice of Motion	01/10/2020	Pay Increase for Health Workers	CLlr Michael Collins	Debated at Council	SP&R	The Council will invite local representatives of health and social care trade unions to speak about their pay, staffing demands and the challenges they face working in the health service	J Walsh	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	To be progressed as resources become available.

115	Notice of Motion	01/10/2020	Racism Free Zone	Cllr Canavan	Debated at Council	SP&R		R Black	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	Referred to Shared City Patnership by SP and R - 23/10/20
128	Notice of Motion	02/11/2020	Implementation of Care Partner arrangements in Nursing and Care Homes	Cllr McAteer	Debated at Council	SP&R	Minister Response reported to SP&R on 22/01/21	J Walsh	Legal & Civic Services	Recommendation Close	Response from Minister of Health noted by SP and R 22/1/21
129	Notice of Motion	02/11/2020	Access to Maternity Wards for Birthing Partners	Cllr Tracy Kelly	Debated at Council	SP&R	Minister Response reported to SP&R on 18/12/2020	J Walsh	Legal & Civic Services	Recommendation Close	Response from Minister of Health noted by SP and R 18/12/20
130	Notice of Motion	02/11/2020	Closure of Ulster Bank	Cllr Heading	Debated at Council	SP&R	Letters sent. Awaiting response from	J Walsh	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	Responses from MP's logged Nov 20. Some responses still outstanding - 06/09/21
131	Notice of Motion	02/11/2020	Sealing of the Records of Mother and Baby Homes	Cllr Michael Collins	Debated at Council	SP&R	Letters sent. Awaiting response from Irish Gov. Exec response	J Walsh	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	Response from Irish Gov still outstanding - 06/09/21
132	Notice of Motion	02/11/2020	Clean Air Strategy	Cllr O'Hara	Debated at Council	SP&R	Minster response reported to SP&R on 18/12/2020	J Walsh	Legal & Civic Services	Recommendation Close	Response from DAERA Minister noted by SP and R 18/12/20
134	Notice of Motion	01/12/2020	Invitation to President-elect Biden and Vice President-elect Harris	Cllr McKeown	Debated at Council	SP&R	Letters to be sent to President Biden and Vice President Harris	J Walsh	Legal & Civic Services	Recommendation Close	Letters issued
138	Notice of Motion	07/12/2020	World Environment Day	Cllr Garrett	Straight to Committee	SP&R Committee	Report to come back to SP&R Committee	R Black	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	To be progressed through the Climate Crisis Working Group
139	Notice of Motion	07/12/2020	Establishment of an External Independent Review of Educational Provision	Cllr McReynolds	Debated at Council	SP&R		J Tully	City & Organisational Strategy	Ongoing	To be taken forward as the refresh of the Belfast Agenda commences. Membership to CPP to be reviewed as part of refresh process.

142	Notice of Motion	07/12/2020	Disability Strategy	Cllr McMullan	Debated at Council	SP&R		J Walsh	Legal & Civic Services	Recommendation Close	No specific actions for Council to take forward.
144	issue Raised in Advance	18/12/2020	Procurement - Employment Academy Framework	Cllr Beattie		SP&R		A Reid	Place & Economy	Recommendation Close	Report noted by SP&R Committee in January 2021. A 6 month review of impacts has been programmed in and will be reported to Committee to enable any adjustments to future plans.
147	Notice of Motion	07/01/2021	Health and Social Care Workers: Thank You Payment	Cllr Brooks	Debated at Council	SP&R	reported to SP&R on 19/02/21	J Walsh	Legal & Civic Services	Recommendation Close	Response from Minister of Health to be presented to S P and R 19/3/21
148	Notice of Motion	07/01/2021	Uplift on Universal Credit	Cllr Heading	Debated at Council	SP&R	reported to SP&R on 19/02/21	J Walsh	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	Response from HM Treasury noted by SP and R 19/2/21 - Further letter issued 10/3/21
149	Notice of Motion	07/01/2021	Black Lives Matters Demonstrations	Cllr Matt Collins	Debated at Council	SP&R	reported to SP&R on 19/02/21	J Walsh	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	Referred back to S P and R by Council on 1/3/21 - letters also to be issued
156	Notice of Motion	01/02/2021	Child Poverty Task Force	Cllr McCusker	Debated at Council	SP&R	Response received - Sent to SPR team for	J Walsh	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	Response from Minister for Communities to be presented to S P and R 19/3/21
157	Notice of Motion	01/02/2021	Student Support	Cllr de Faoite	Debated at Council	SP&R	Response received - Sent to SPR team for issue.	J Walsh	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	Letters sent 21/12/20 Response received from Economy Minister- Sent to SPR team for issue 11/02. No response from Economy Minister - 06/09/21
158	Notice of Motion	01/02/2021	Takeover of Private Healthcare	Cllr Ferguson	Debated at Council	SP&R		J Walsh	Legal & Civic Services	Recommendation Close	Response Noted by S P and R 19/3/21
162	Notice of Motion	01/03/2021	Real Living Wage Foundation Accrediation	Cllr McLaughlin	Straight to Committee	SP&R		J Tully	City & Organisational Strategy	Ongoing	Work ongoing as part of the implementation of the inclusive growth strategy.

163	Notice of Motion	01/03/2021	Application Fees in the private rented sector	CLlr Flynn	Debated at Council	SP&R	Council agrees to write to the Minister for Communities and the Minister of Finance, outlining concerns above and pledging council's support for the regulation of the private rented sector.	J Walsh	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	To be progressed as resources become available.
165	Notice of Motion	01/04/2021	Presentation to Shared Island Unit/All-Party Working Group	Councillor Gormley	Debated at Council	SP&R		J Walsh	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	Letter sent 22/4/21
166	Notice of Motion	01/04/2021	Proposed Bank of Ireland Closures	Councillor McAteer	Debated at Council	SP&R		J Walsh	Legal & Civic Services	Recommendation Close	Letter sent 22/4/21
167	Notice of Motion	01/04/2021	Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy - Raise Your Voice Training	Councillor Mulholland	Debated at Council	SP&R		J Walsh	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	To be progressed as resources become available.
168	Notice of Motion	01/04/2021	Legislation to Tackle the Third Party Sale of Pups	Councillor Newton	Debated at Council	SP&R		J Walsh	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	Letters sent 22/4/21
170	Notice of Motion	01/04/2021	Support for Sign Languages Act and Addition of Sign Languages to School Curricula	Councillor McMullan	Debated at Council	SP&R		J Walsh	Legal & Civic Services	Recommendation Close	Letters sent 22/4/21
171	Notice of Motion	01/04/2021	10 Per Cent Pay Increase for Council Workers	Councillor Matt Collins	Debated at Council	SP&R		J Tully	City & Organisational Strategy	Ongoing	Letter sent 22/4/21. Response received and reported to SP&R Committee on 21/5/21. To be discussed at October JNCC.

172	Notice of Motion	01/04/2021	Funding for Citywide Tr	Councillor Ferguson	Debated at Council	SP&R		R Cregan	Finance & Resources	Ongoing	Referred to S P and R Committee Meeting of 23/4/21 and meeting requested with DfC Minister
173	Notice of Motion	04/05/2021	Equality for LGBTQI+ Community	Cllr Maskey	Debated at Council	SP&R		J Walsh	Legal & Civic Services	Recommendation Close	Letter sent 17/05/21. Reported to SPR June 21. - Response noted by Committee.
174	Notice of Motion	04/05/2021	Immediate need to tackle the waitinglists for Diagnosing Autism in Children	Cllr McAteer	Debated at Council	SP&R		J Walsh	Legal & Civic Services	Recommendation Close	Amended and Letter sent 17/05/21. Reported to SPR June 21 - Response noted by Committee.
175	Notice of Motion	04/05/2021	Charges for use of ATMs	Cllr Heading	Debated at Council	SP&R		J Walsh	Legal & Civic Services	Recommendation Close	Letter sent 17/05/21. Reported to SPR Aug 21 - Response noted by Committee.
176	Notice of Motion	04/05/2021	Mater Hospital Services	Cllr Ferguson	Debated at Council	SP&R		J Walsh	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	Amended and Letter sent 17/05/21. Response received from Dr. Jack (28/05/21 Sent to SPR DSO). Outstanding response from R Swann - 06/09/21
177	Notice of Motion	04/05/2021	Motion - Ban Conversion Therapy	Cllr Flynn	Debated at Council	SP&R		J Walsh	Legal & Civic Services	Recommendation Close	Letter sent 17/05/21. Reported to SPR June 21. - Response noted by Committee.
178	Notice of Motion	04/05/2021	Motion - Pay Rise for Public Sector Workers	Cllr Michael Collins	Debated at Council	SP&R		J Walsh	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	Amended and Letter sent 19/05/21. No response received as at 06/09/21
179	Notice of Motion	04/05/2021	Statue of Mary Ann McCracken	Cllr Long	Straight to Committee	SP&R	further in the report later in the meeting on installations in the	J Walsh	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	Committee approved the installation of a statue, the final form of which would be submitted to the Committee in due course for approval, as part of the Capital Programme (12/05/21)
181	Notice of Motion	04/05/2021	War Years Remembered	Cllr Pankhurst	Straight to Committee	SP&R		A Reid	Place & Economy	Ongoing	Needs assessment being progressed.
183	notice of Motion	01/06/2021	Private Members Bill to	Cllr Groogan	Debated at Council	SP&R Committee		J Walsh	Legal & Civic Services	Recommendation Close	No specific actions required from Council in Notice of Motion.
184	Notice of Motion	01/06/2021	The Employment Right	Cllr Lyons	Debated at Council	SP&R Committee		J Walsh	Legal & Civic Services	Recommendation Close	No specific actions required from Council in Notice of Motion.

185	Notice of Motion	01/06/2021	Request to the Irish Govt	Cllr Ferguson	Debated at Council	SP&R Committee	Write to UK and Irish Govts	J Walsh	Legal & Civic Services	Recommendation Close	Letters sent 2/7/21
186	Notice of Motion	01/06/2021	Ballymurphy Massacre	Cllr Corr	Debated at Council	SP&R		J Walsh	Legal & Civic Services	Recommendation Close	No specific actions required from Council in Notice of Motion.
187	Notice of Motion	01/06/2021	Local Government Pension Scheme	Cllr Murphy	Debated at Council	SP&R	Write to NILGOSC	J Walsh	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	Letter sent 2/7/21. Meeting with NILGOSC requested by S P and R 20/8/21
188	Notice of Motion	01/06/2021	End Child Poverty	Cllr Heading	Debated at Council	SP&R		J Walsh	Legal & Civic Services	Recommendation Close	No specific actions required from Council in Notice of Motion.
189	Notice of Motion	01/06/2021	PEACE IV to PEACE PLUS	Cllr Kyle	Debated at Council	SP&R	Write to TEO and SEUPB	J Walsh	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	Letters sent 2/7/21. Response received from SEUPB 20/7/21 - TEO yet to respond
191	Notice of Motion	01/07/2021	Transfer of Regeneration Powers to Local Authorities	Cllr McReynolds	Debated at Council	SP&R	Letters sent	J Walsh	Legal & Civic Services	Recommendation Close	Letters sent 22/7/2021. Joint Response from DfC presented to S P and R 20/8/21
192	Notice of Motion	01/07/2021	Paid Leave for Miscarriage	Cllr M Kelly	Straight to Committee	SP&R		J Tully	City & Organisational Strategy	Ongoing	To be progressed as resources become available.
193	Notice of Motion	01/07/2021	Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee	Cllr Bunting	Straight to Committee	SP&R		R Black	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	To be progressed as resources become available.
194	Notice of Motion	01/07/2021	Marking the Centenary of the Ulster Memorial Tower	Ald Kingston	Straight to Committee	SP&R		J Walsh	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	To be progressed as resources become available.
195	Notice of Motion	01/07/2021	Chat Bench and Tackling Loneliness	Cllr Howard	Straight to Committee	SP&R		S Grimes	Physical Programmes	Ongoing	To be progressed as resources become available.
196	Notice of Motion	01/09/2021	A Changing Places Toilets Policy for Belfast City Council	Cllr McMullan	Straight to Committee	SP&R					To be implemented pending discussion at September SP&R Committee.
197	Notice of Motion	01/09/2021	The Rights of Nature	Cllr Smyth	Straight to Committee	SP&R					To be implemented pending discussion at September SP&R Committee.
198	Notice of Motion	01/09/2021	Bonfire Procedures	Cllr Beattie	Straight to Committee	SP&R					To be implemented pending discussion at September SP&R Committee.

199	Notice of Motion	01/09/2021	Four-Day Working Week	Cllr Garrett	Straight to Committee	SP&R					To be implemented pending discussion at September SP&R Committee.
200	Notice of Motion	01/09/2021	Triple Local Guarantee	Ald Copeland	Debated at Council	SP&R	Write to Chancellor of Exchequer	J Walsh	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	Letter sent 15/09/21
201	Notice of Motion	01/09/2021	NHS Pay	Cllr Matt Collins	Debated at Council	SP&R	Write to Health Minister	J Walsh	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	Letter sent 15/09/21



Belfast
City Council

Subject:	Local Government Boundary Commissioner – Provisional Recommendations
Date:	24th September, 2021
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor and Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officers:	Russell Connelly, Policy, Research and Compliance Officer

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on the Local Government Boundary Commissioner's Provisional Recommendations which are out for public consultation and to seek retrospective approval for the attached Council response which was provisionally approved by Party Leaders Consultative Forum on 16th September. The Commissioner had invited written feedback and suggestions by 21st September.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Note the contents of the attached report - approve retrospectively the response to the Local Government Boundary Commissioner outlined at Appendix 2 (which has been provisionally approved by Party Group Leaders Consultative Forum) on 16th September.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Officers make representations in line with this response on behalf of the Council at the public hearings scheduled for late September / early October
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>Background</p> <p>On 27th July 2021 the Local Government Boundary Commissioner published the Provisional Recommendations for the Review of Local Government Boundaries in Northern Ireland. These Provisional Recommendations will now be the subject of public consultation. The closing date for written feedback and suggestions about these proposals is 21st September 2021.</p> <p>The Commissioner's office has indicated that the process is about independently ensuring electoral equality and fairness across Northern Ireland, with the aim that all the wards within a district should, as far as possible, have a similar number of electors. The Statutory Rules governing the review are set out in the Local Government Act (Northern) Ireland Act 1972, as amended.</p> <p>After the initial consultation period a series of 11 public hearings will be held in each council area facilitated by Assistant Commissioners. The public hearings, which will be subject to public health guidance at that time, will be held in late September and early October. To maximise public participation in the hearings, and to mitigate against any public health restrictions that may be in place, these events will be in a hybrid format allowing for both in person and online participation.</p>
3.2	<p><u>Previous Local Government Boundary Review - 2008</u></p> <p>The previous Local Government Boundary review took place in 2008. At that time the Final Recommendations of the Local Government Boundary Commissioner (Dick Mackenzie) included the placement of the area containing Forestside shopping centre and the Castlereagh Council Civic HQ building within the new Belfast district boundary.</p> <p>However, the NI Executive made amendments to the Final Recommendations which resulted in Forestside and the adjacent Castlereagh Council Civic HQs remaining within the new Lisburn and Castlereagh council area.</p>
3.3	<p>Local Government Boundary Review (2021 – 2022)</p> <p>Provisional Recommendations – Belfast</p> <p>On 27 July the Local Government Boundary Commissioner published the Provisional Recommendations for the Review of Local Government Boundaries in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>District Boundary – Belfast</p> <p>The LG Boundary Commissioner recommends that the district boundary line should remain unchanged.</p>

	<p>Wards</p> <p>The LG Boundary Commissioner recommends that Belfast district should remain comprised of 60 wards. The current electorate per ward (as at 4 January 2021) and proposed new electorate per ward are set out in the table at Appendix 1.</p> <p>There has been some alteration to ward boundaries to satisfy the legislative requirement for each ward within the district to have substantially the same number of electors. There is a total of 230236 electors within the district which averages at 3837 electors per ward and the recommended changes are designed to balance the electorate across the district.</p> <p>The ward boundary changes that have been proposed can be accessed by clicking: Belfast Wards</p>
3.4	<p>Belfast City Council Response (as provisionally approved by Party Group Leaders Consultative Forum on 16th September).</p> <p>Wards</p> <p>In line with previous decisions in relation to the Review of Local Government Boundaries in Northern Ireland, responses to the Commissioners recommendations in relation to ward boundaries will be left to individual parties. Parties are encouraged to examine the table at Appendix 1 and to review the map accessible at the link above.</p> <p>District Boundary</p> <p>Whilst the 2021 review recommends that the district boundary remains unchanged, Members will note that in 2008 the Final Recommendations recommended that the area containing Forestside shopping centre and the Castlereagh Council Civic HQ building should reside within the new Belfast district boundary. However, the Council notes that the NI Executive did in fact amend the Final Recommendations of the Commissioner and included Forestside in the new LCCC district boundary.</p> <p>Given the LG Boundary Commissioner's previous conclusions in respect of the Belfast district boundary, Members are asked to retrospectively approve the Belfast City Council response (attached at Appendix 2) asking the LG Boundary Commissioner to reassess the 2008 Final Recommendations with a view to placing the area containing Forestside within the Belfast district boundary as originally proposed in 2008.</p> <p>The Council would argue that the principles upon which the 2008 recommendations were made and those features which the Commissioner determined to constitute 'readily identifiable boundaries' in respect of this area (namely the A55 Outer Ring Road and the upland topography in this area) have not changed.</p>

	<p>The Council's response also highlights an issue with the district boundary as it pertains to the Harbour ward, and in particular the extension to the harbour which has resulted in part of the harbour infrastructure being outside of the district boundary. The Council would note that there is a further approved extension beyond the currently constructed area shown on the plans and request that the Commissioner, when considering any modification to the district boundary, may wish to take this into account also.</p>
3.5	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>No financial implications attached this report</p>
3.6	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Implications</u></p> <p>No good relations or equality implications attached to this report</p>
4.0	<p>Documents Attached</p>
	<p>Appendix 1 – Table showing current electorate per ward (as at 4 January 2021) and proposed new electorate per ward</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Council response to the Local Government Boundary Commission Provisional Recommendations</p>

Table 3. Belfast

Number of wards – 60	Total electorate - 230236	Average ward size - 3837
Ward name	Current Electorate ³	Proposed Electorate -
Andersonstown	3713	3713
Ardoyne	3665	4018
Ballygomartin	4168	4129
Ballymacarrett	3819	3819
Ballymurphy	3598	3598
Ballysillan	3449	3651
Beechmount	3605	3605
Beersbridge	4076	3611
Bellevue	3672	3672
Belmont	3608	3608
Belvoir	3681	3681
Blackstaff	4398	4209
Bloomfield	3919	3618
Cavehill	3403	3513
Central	5282	4214
Chichester Park	3970	3860
Cliftonville	3896	3896
Clonard	3956	3828
Collin Glen	4089	4089
Connswater	3975	3975
Cregagh	3402	3577
Duncairn	4584	4088
Dunmurry	3878	3878

³ The manual geocoding process described in Chapter 6 results in very small and statistically insignificant differences in the final electorate figures used for the Review, and the figures published by EONI on the enumeration date

Falls	3329	3457
Falls Park	3707	3707
Finaghy	3539	4217
Forth River	3307	3479
Fortwilliam	3393	3876
Garnerville	3553	3553
Gilnahirk	3740	3740
Hillfoot	3630	3630
Innisfayle	3932	3932
Knock	3855	3649
Ladybrook	3728	3927
Lagmore	5070	3986
Legoniel	3974	3772
Malone	3754	4202
Merok	3193	3513
Musgrave	3705	4219
New Lodge	3447	3460
Orangefield	3568	3713
Ormeau	4200	3911
Poleglass	3969	4131
Ravenhill	3399	3688
Rosetta	4028	3853
Sandown	3287	3794
Shandon	4000	4000
Shankill	4415	4086
Shaw's Road	3984	3984
Stewartstown	3644	3644
Stormont	3791	3791

Stranmillis	4391	4184
Sydenham	3732	3732
Turf Lodge	3521	3521
Twinbrook	3475	4198
Upper Malone	3707	4218
Water Works	4307	3954
Windsor	4865	4178
Woodstock	3793	3793
Woodvale	3498	3694

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BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

SUBMISSION

RE

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARIES REVIEW IN
NORTHERN IRELAND**

PROVISIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

(September 2021)

Introduction

This submission in response to the Local Government Boundary Commissioner's Provisional Recommendations 2021-22 is made on behalf of Belfast City Council.

The Commissioner will wish to note that, as with previous decisions in relation to boundaries review in Northern Ireland, the Council have advised individual parties to submit their own responses to the recommendations, particularly in relation to proposed changes to ward boundaries.

The following Council response can be categorised into:

- (i) General Points pertaining to broad issues concerning the Commission's approach to the identification of boundaries; and
- (ii) Specific Points in relation to Belfast.

(i) General Points re Boundary Delimitation

A number of General Points on the approach to boundary delimitation can be distilled under the headings of (a) statutory parameters and (b) additional factors.

Statutory parameters

Please note from the outset that we understand how the Commission has arrived at its recommendations, having regard to the statutory parameters it has to work within. In this respect, we understand that Belfast has to be equipped with a certain number of wards that falls within the range of 55 to 65. We appreciate that the Commission, in the desire to appear even-handed, would have a tendency to advocate the medium of this range, namely the 60 ward figure.

We also accept that a degree of interpretation has to be made in respect of what constitutes readily identifiable boundaries, in terms of the importance attached to physical features on the ground – whether they be man-made (roads, railway lines, etc.) or natural features (rivers, lakes or uplands).

To this end, we recognise that the existing urban footprint and Development Plans, such as the BUAP and Draft BMAP, can act as reference points for deciding what constitutes 'readily identifiable boundaries' for District Council areas. This is because Development Plans define settlement limits and apply land use zonings, particular those relating to green spaces between built areas, which need to be respected when defining boundaries.

Taking on board these points, the Council would refer the Commissioner back to the Final Recommendations from the previous Local Government Boundary

Review in Northern Ireland in 2008 which made clear those features which the Commissioner adjudged to constitute 'readily identifiable boundaries' in the Belfast City Council area. As the Council argued at that time, such 'readily identifiable boundaries' provided support for the principle of expansion of the Belfast Council Area.

Additional Factors

Having stated the above, we would, however, like to make the Commissioner aware of a number of additional factors that may help inform her of the need to facilitate the expansion of Belfast's council area. There are essentially two of these: -

1. Firstly, we are well aware that the definition of Local Government Districts is very much premised on achieving greater efficiency in the delivery of services, in terms of securing better value for money and quality of service.

The definition of such boundaries must allow for the creation of a critical mass of population within the Belfast Council Area upon which to sustain and improve upon efficiency in the delivery of services. We say this for the very good reason that Belfast City Council has a disproportionate number of deprived wards in Northern Ireland.

Following the 2008 review a number of wards of similar socio-economic standing were included within the new Belfast City Council area (Twinbrook and Collin Glen, which are ranked the twentieth and the twenty first most deprived wards), making it even more imperative that the Belfast Local Government District be equipped with an optimum population size and geographical area capable of sustaining and improving services.

2. Secondly, we attach appreciable significance to the Regional Development Strategy for Northern Ireland and its aspirations (under SPG-BMA 1) to create a thriving Belfast Metropolitan Area based on a revitalised City of Belfast. In this regard, we view Belfast as the regional driver of growth in Northern Ireland and all efforts to promote this objective in the form of bolstering its population size should be welcomed. This is especially so when it is considered that, in recent times, Belfast has endured significant population loss to surrounding districts.

(ii) Specific Response in relation to Belfast

Against the background of the general points outlined above, we would like to make the following comments in respect of the existing Belfast City Council district boundary.

Boundary with Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council

The previous Local Government Boundary Review for Northern Ireland - Final Recommendations 2008 included a recommendation to place the Galwally area (including Forestside) within the new Belfast City Council district area. However, as the Commissioner will be aware, the NI Assembly ultimately approved the Final Recommendations with some amendments, one of which included the placement of the Galwally area within the new Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council area. Belfast City Council would contend that this decision by the NI Assembly disregarded the logic governing the need to have regard to the 'readily identifiable boundaries' guidelines and was in contravention of the clear recommendations of the Boundary Commissioner.

This decision, as Belfast City Council argued at the time, amounted to an irrational departure from those features that have helped to shape the delimitation of the District Boundary in this part of Belfast, namely the readily identifiable boundaries of the Outer Ring Road and the upland topography in this area. Indeed, when viewed on a map, it graphically stands out as an aberration in boundary demarcation.

Forestside catchment area

There are different ways to approach the calculation of catchment area figure as it can be done on a spend or population (customer) basis, both of which could be further refined in many ways to take account of the different days, times of travel, population / household composition, socio/economic group.

The Council however believe that that the simple drive time catchment analysis could be utilised as it is based on published data and standard tools.

The appended diagram shows the extent of the catchments generated for 0-5, 5-10, 10-15 and 15-20 minutes. For the table these polygons were used to determine the number of residential properties (using the OSNI Pointer Domestic Address from 27/07/2021).

Drivetime Catchment	Percentage of Pointer Domestic Addresses by Council Area				
	Belfast	Lisburn & Castlereagh	Ards & North Down	Newry, Mourne & Down	Antrim & Newtownabbey
0 - 5 mins	69.6	30.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
0 - 10 mins	84.3	15.6	0.1	0.0	0.0
0 - 15 mins	74.4	19.5	4.8	1.1	0.2
0 - 20 mins	62.7	20.4	8.5	2.5	5.9

There have been no major applications at Forestside that could provide an assessed catchment for the Centre although the Centre was assessed as part

of the Lisburn & Castlereagh Retail Capacity Study 2018. In para 6.5.4 (page 25) of that study the concluding statement is at best a simplification in terms of potential draw from outside *"In the Forestside catchment, it was estimated that 50% of the comparison turnover of the centre came from outside the area; principally from the Belfast suburbs, as the shopping centre is right on the border of the Council area"*. Both the average household size and available income would have to be significantly higher to sustain such a conclusion.

Belfast City Council also notes that the various objections from the former Lisburn and Castlereagh councils to the Final Recommendations in 2008 in respect of this area, (whilst not being deemed sufficient at that time to change the Final Recommendations), which carry less weight now given that i) the majority of LCCC council services have since been transferred to the Island Civic Centre in Lisburn, and ii) a range of new bus routes has been introduced since 2008 (including the Glider service and the proposed Phase 2 of Glider) which extend routes into the Lisburn and Castlereagh district.

The Council would also make a case based on which authority is best placed to manage and address the wider implications of the District Centre's operations, accessibility and servicing. The A55 Outer Ring Road is a significant physical barrier and much of the potential for improvements in accessibility with potential for better integration into the surrounding urban areas would naturally lie with Belfast City Council in relation to the geography of the site and the potential for integration with existing services.

Taking into account each of these points, and the Commissioners previous recommendations, the Council does not agree with the Provisional Recommendation at para 7.3.1 which recommends that the Belfast "district boundary line should remain unchanged".

Belfast City Council would therefore requests that the Local Government Boundary Commissioner reassess the findings of the 2008 Local Government Boundary Review including the "Final Recommendations" report and the "Report of the Assistant Commissioner Sarah Havlin on Belfast City Council district" which clearly recommended that the Galwally area containing Forestside should reside within the Belfast district boundary based on the statutory parameters highlighted above.

District Boundary with regards to the Harbour Ward

The Council also wish to highlight an issue with the district boundary as it pertains to the Harbour ward, and in particular the extension to the harbour which has resulted in part of the harbour infrastructure existing outside of the district boundary (see image below).

Existing Situation (area currently beyond the BCC boundary)



The exercise of powers and responsibilities are normally linked to the LGD geography. This creates an issue for the Council not only in terms of rates but also for enforcement with regards to any event which may happen beyond our line and therefore jurisdiction. The Council would note that there is a further approved extension (planning permission at appendix 1) beyond the currently constructed area shown on the plans – see red line below. The Commissioner when considering any modification to the district boundary may wish to take this into account also.

Example of potential new boundary to encompass the extension of the Harbour



Conclusion

In summary, Belfast City Council does not agree with para 7.3.1 of the Provisional Recommendations report which states that the district boundary line should remain unchanged. The Council would refer to the following two issues in relation to the district boundary.

Galwally Area (including Forestside)

The Council request that the Local Government Boundary Commissioner reassess the findings of the 2008 Local Government Boundary Review including the "Final Recommendations" report and the "Report of the Assistant Commissioner Sarah Havlin on Belfast City Council district" which made clear recommendations that the Galwally area containing Forestside should reside within the Belfast district boundary.

The Council would argue that the principles upon which the 2008 recommendations were made and those features which the Commissioner determined to constitute 'readily identifiable boundaries' in respect of this area (namely the A55 Outer Ring Road and the upland topography in this area) have not changed.

Harbour Area

The Council also wish to highlight the issue with the district boundary as it pertains to the Harbour ward, and in particular the extension to the harbour which has resulted in part of the harbour infrastructure being outside of the district boundary.

The Council would note that there is a further approved extension beyond the currently constructed area shown on the plans. The Commissioner when considering any modification to the district boundary may wish to take this into account also.

John Walsh

City Solicitor

On behalf of Belfast City Council
September 2021

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STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE



Belfast
City Council

Subject:	France – United Kingdom Local Government Forum
Date:	24th September 2021
Reporting Officer:	Suzanne Wylie, Chief Executive
Contact Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor Geoff Dickson, Strategic Policy Lead Officer

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To seek approval for the Council to accept an invitation to attend the France – United Kingdom Local Government Forum, scheduled for 25th – 26th October in Nancy, France.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to approve in-person attendance at the Forum and that attendees be the Chair of the Brexit Committee, the Chair of the Climate Change Working Group and the City Solicitor.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	The city of Nancy, France is hosting the next meeting of the UK – France Local Government Forum on 25th and 26th October. At the moment, the intention is for a physical meeting, but this may change to a hybrid or virtual one closer to the time.

3.2	NILGA is working with the other LGAs, the British Embassy in Paris and the French authorities to develop the programme and is taking initial expressions of interest from NI councils in speaking at the event.
3.3	Day One of the Forum is titled “ Reinvigorating Franco-British cooperation and exchange ” and there are three workshop session, as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Youth Mobility: the future of our relations • How to re-energise our bilateral partnerships? • Protecting the environment: a shared local challenge.
3.4	Day Two of the Forum is titled “ Green Transition: global challenges and local responses ” where local authorities will present their strategies followed by a roundtable discussion titled “Committed for climate: together towards COP26”.
3.5	Given the subject matters, it is recommended that The Chair of the Brexit Committee and the Chair of the Climate Crisis Working Group attend the Forum, accompanied by the City Solicitor, as the Senior Responsible Officer for Brexit.
	Resource and Resource Implications
3.6	Some funding has been agreed between NILGA and Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office. Any additional travel and subsistence costs will be paid for out of existing revenue budgets.
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.7	None arising from this report.
4.0	Documents Attached
	None



Subject:	COP 26 Climate Business Conference Funding Agreement
Date:	24th September, 2021
Reporting Officer:	John Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy
Contact Officer:	Debbie Caldwell, Climate Commissioner Clare McKeown, Sustainable Development Manager

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	This report is to inform the Committee of a proposal by the Management and Leadership Network (MLN) to host a prominent climate business conference 'Sustain Exchange' in Belfast, with up to 400 business leaders, ahead of the COP 26 conference. The report also requests retrospective approval for a funding agreement to be put in place between the Council and the event organiser, with the value of £10,000. The event will be planned to coincide with the arrival of BEIS -sponsored Planetmark's Carbon Battle Bus. Both events will simultaneously promote the <i>Road to Zero</i> and <i>Together for the Planet</i> campaigns.

1.2	Furthermore, in relation to the COP26 programme, which runs from 1 st to 12 th November in Glasgow, permission is being sought for the Chair of the All Party Working Group on the Climate Crisis (Councillor Smyth), and the Chair of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee (Councillor Groogan) to attend events should the opportunity for a delegation to attend arise.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to support this business focused climate conference by retrospectively approving a funding agreement to the value of £10,000 be entered into with the event organiser, a report having previously been submitted to and approved by CMT and Party Group Leaders.
2.2	The Committee is also asked to approve the attendance of the Chair of the All Party Working Group on the Climate Crisis (Councillor Smyth) and the Chair of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee (Councillor Groogan) at events during COP26 in Glasgow, should the opportunity for a delegation to attend arise.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>Background</p> <p>The United Nations COP 26 Climate Summit in Glasgow in November will bring a sharp focus on the role of the business community on delivering on global net zero GHG emissions by 2050. It will also challenge business to radically reduce their environmental impact both directly and indirectly through their supply chains. It is a truly transformative time for businesses as they address climate risks and identify new opportunities in the green economy. The transition is not straightforward. Businesses need help in securing cleaner power, heat and transport solutions. They need help in navigating new markets to find more environmentally sustainable solutions in their supply chain, and they need to do it fast. There has never been a more important time to find specialist help to navigate the transition, and to educate inform and engage by sharing the existing knowledge and exemplar experience of those at the forefront of the transition.</p> <p>Purpose and Format of Event</p>
3.2	<p>The event will be planned to deliver on the objectives above and will connect local business leaders with international thought leaders with those at the forefront of the transition locally.</p> <p>The event will ideally take place as a hybrid event with the Carbon Bus campaign that will bring 100 local leaders (primarily business leaders but also those from the public, NDPB and third sectors) together in-person for a half day with some or all of the event streamed live to a mass (400+) virtual audience of additional local leaders, thus ensuring the message has reach and that partners get a level of profile, amongst the NI business / leadership community, to justify their investment.</p>

3.3	<p>Opening Address and format</p> <p>The opening keynote address will be delivered by an authoritative political or business leader who will focus on the business threat of the climate crisis, the legacy of COP 26 and the imperative of business to act fast, within the next decade to take advantage of the new global and local business opportunities. The keynote speaker will be followed by a carefully selected line-up of local leaders who will be challenged to share their story (exemplar), insights (expert) or support offering (stakeholder).</p> <p>As exemplars these businesses will share their story and associated lessons in an engaging, informative, and entertaining manner. The speakers will encourage and empower other sectoral representative bodies (insurance, banking, hospitality transport and logistics etc) to consider their own climate impact and take the first steps on their 'Race To Zero'.</p>
3.4	<p>Management and Leadership Network Experience</p> <p>Management and Leadership Network (MLN) have previous experience in hosting several large events with 500 + attendees.</p> <p>Virtual summits organised by Management and Leadership Network include:</p> <p>Galvanise NI May 2020 - 1400 Business leaders</p> <p>Re- launch July 2020- 900 business leaders</p> <p>Unlearn 2021 December 2020- 700 business leaders</p> <p>WELL – February 2021 – 1000 business leaders</p> <p>Leadership SuMMit - February 2020 Prior to first lockdown MLN hosted 500 paying business leaders at Titanic Belfast. BCC was a partner on this event which featured world class speakers including Lord David Puttnam at Titanic Belfast. Podiem and MLN's virtual events have been created and delivered in a 3–4-week lead time (and have consistently attracted business leader audiences of 500+).</p> <p>As host, MLN will facilitate the event and invite all speakers to provide their slides in advance so that the idea-sharing session is delivered in a concise, visually impactful and professional manner. This format can be flipped to 100% virtual at short notice should restrictions command.</p> <p>Council will be invited to participate and profile their extensive climate work i.e Mini – Stern Report, and associated Housing and Transport Readiness Assessments, Climate Ambitions Report, Reset Agenda, internal climate mitigation and adaptation plans and /or the work of the Belfast Climate Commission, Resilience and Sustainability Board etc.</p>
3.5	<p>Legacy Platform and Annual Event</p> <p>The conference is an opportunity to highlight and celebrate the activity that is already underway in NI. It is intended that this will become an annual event which positions Belfast as a centre of excellence and activity when it comes to businesses and the Race to Zero. It is the intention of the</p>

	<p>organisers to establish an online platform to share the case studies profiled and others available. The climate challenge will inevitably move further up the political and business agenda as we move through the decade and the pace of change on this issue is fast, so there is a need for annual event for the NI business/leadership community to share knowledge, experience and progress and supporting platforms available all year round to share resources.</p>
3.6	<p>‘Lifting the Rock’ - Branding</p> <p>The conference will be branded with the theme of ‘Lifting the Rock’. It is designed to speak to and encourage participation from those businesses well on their way and those just starting their zero-carbon pathway. It acknowledges the challenges involved in committing to take meaningful action. This ‘planet – saving’ rock will be heavy for most organisations, and there may well be “creepy crawlies” underneath, but better to honestly assess the realities and create a realistic and robust strategy rather than set the rock back down and opt for greenwashing. Podiem will complete a comprehensive evaluation report on the conference.</p>
3.7	<p>Date, Venue and Contingence</p> <p>The total cost of the conference will be £60k. Podiem have already secured some corporate sponsorship for the event from Danske bank and are in advanced conversations with Belfast Harbour along with other corporate partners of MLN (energy companies etc).</p>
3.8	<p>Venue</p> <p>The event will be hosted in a City Centre location (to encourage use of public transport and cycle networks) and this will also allow for the Carbon Bus to be on show at the venue. Should Covid restrictions (due to 3rd wave or variant) rule out any form of in-person gathering then all elements of the event will switch to 100% virtual. This includes profiling and involving the Carbon Bus.</p>
3.9	<p>Partner Contribution and Profile Benefits</p> <p>If the Council chooses to support the conference it would be profiled as an ‘Event Partner’ alongside several other lead event partners. The Council brand would be prominent on all event marketing collateral as well as ‘at-event’. A Council representative would be invited to participate in the event press launch and MLN would be delighted for the Council to deliver a presentation. Council would also promote the conference through its social media and other relevant communication channels.</p>
3.10	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>£10,000 to support this initiative has been allocated from within the existing City and Organisational Strategy budget.</p>

3.11	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>There are no direct equality or good relations/rural needs implications.</p>
4.0	Documents Attached
	None

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Subject:	Belfast submission to the Carbon Disclosure Project and Associated Campaigns
Date:	24 th September, 2021
Reporting Officer:	John Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy
Contact Officer:	Debbie Caldwell, Climate Commissioner Richard McLernon, Project Coordinator

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	The purpose of this report is to invite Members to note that the Council has made a submission to the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) – ICLEI reporting platform, which is a global reporting framework to assess progress against climate ambitions at city level. A number of global climate campaigns require a submission to CDP – ICLEI as a prerequisite to joining – we will explain what each entails and request that Members approve Belfast’s participation in these campaigns. This will support marketing and publicity linked to COP26 (1 st – 12 th November 2021), provide access to networks of good practice, toolkits, and support for Belfast in determining and reaching our city targets.

2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • note that the Council has made the first annual submission through the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) – ICLEI reporting platform. This submission will be assessed by CDP, with feedback and a score provided to the city by the end of 2021, which will inform the submission in 2022. • note that officers will take forward Belfast City Council's participation in a number of global campaigns described in this report, with updates to be provided on an annual basis on the annual CDP – ICLEI submission and campaign progress.
3.0	Main Report
	<u>Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) – ICLEI submission</u>
3.1	<p>In July 2021, the Council made the first annual submission to the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) – ICLEI reporting platform. This was undertaken to support baselining of activity and emissions in Belfast, and to enable full participation by Belfast in global climate action campaigns such as the Race to Zero, which links to COP26, the Race to Resilience, the Global Covenant of Mayors, and the WWF One Planet City competition. All of these campaigns require members to have made a submission through a recognised reporting mechanism, of which CDP – ICLEI is perhaps the most well-known. The survey consisted of 59 questions across the following categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Governance and Data Management - Climate Hazards and Vulnerability - Adaptation - City-wide Emissions - Emissions Reduction - Opportunities - Energy - Transport - Food - Waste - Water Security
3.2	<p>As Belfast has made a submission to CDP – ICLEI, the city is now eligible to participate in a number of global campaigns which are set out below. The benefits of these campaigns are as enablers for local activity, by giving access to good practice, climate finance partnerships, city networks with a focus on climate and reaching net zero. In joining these campaigns Belfast will be</p>

	<p>part of global efforts to reach net zero, which will in turn enhance our reputation and allow us to share our progress both locally and globally. For the last 5 years Belfast has been a member of the Global Resilient Cities Network (previously 100 Resilient Cities) which presented opportunities to access additional funding, participate in peer learning initiatives, and to lever support from experts in a range of areas, most recently enabling Belfast to become part of the Real City Play Coalition.</p>
3.3	<p>Participation in these initiatives will be on the basis that they provide tangible benefits to Belfast and this will be kept under review on an annual basis. Belfast City Council will be active throughout COP26, supporting local activity by young people, business, the arts sector and will use the opportunity to lobby for additional powers and finance to allow progress on our local targets. The Belfast Net Zero Carbon Report and Belfast Resilience Strategy – Ambitions Document form the foundation of our programme of activity, and Members will be aware that Belfast City Council is developing its own Climate Plan at present. We have established city and council governance structures to ensure accountability and collaboration is at the heart of our programme of work – through the Belfast Resilience and Sustainability Board, Belfast Climate Commission, Belfast City Council Climate Plan Programme Board, All Party Working Group on the Climate Crisis and through city initiatives such as the Belfast One Million Trees Programme.</p> <p><u>Cities Race to Zero</u></p>
3.4	<p>This global campaign is bringing together a large coalition of leaders from cities, regions, businesses, investors, and universities who are committing to be net zero by 2050 at the latest. To participate Belfast would have to sign up to the following pledges:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Publicly endorse the following Principles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We recognise the global climate emergency. - We are committed to keeping global heating below the 1.5°Celsius goal of the Paris Agreement. - We are committed to putting inclusive climate action at the centre of all urban decision-making, to create thriving and equitable communities for everyone. - We invite our partners – political leaders, CEOs, trade unions, investors, and civil society – to join us in recognising the global climate emergency and help us deliver on science-based action to overcome it. - Pledge to reach (net)-zero in the 2040s or sooner, or by mid-century at the latest, in line with global efforts to limit warming to 1.5°Celsius.

3.5	<p>II. In advance of COP26, explain what steps will be taken toward achieving net zero, especially in the short- to medium-term. Set an interim target to achieve in the next decade, which reflects a fair share of the 50% global reduction in CO2 by 2030 identified in the IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°Celsius.</p> <p>III. Immediately proceed to planning at least one inclusive and equitable climate action as listed on www.citiesracetozero.org that will help to place your city on a resilient pathway consistent with the 1.5°Celsius objective of the Paris Agreement and begin implementation no later than 2022. Actions are listed in Appendix 1, with an asterix beside those that Belfast has already made progress against.</p> <p>IV. Report progress annually, beginning no later than 2022 to the usual or the recommended reporting platform. The cities 1.5°Celsius target and action commitment(s) should be shared through your regular channels of reporting. If the city has not reported before, the city will be contacted by partners for support.</p> <p>http://www.citiesracetozero.org/</p> <p><u>Race to Resilience</u></p> <p>The Cities Race to Resilience (CRTR) is a strand of the Race to Resilience campaign, focusing on supporting cities to pledge their commitment to building resilience in the face of climate change.</p> <p>Should Belfast sign up to the campaign, the Mayor and/or City Council would have to commit to the following four pledges:</p> <p>I. Integrate climate change adaptation and resilience in all aspects of urban planning and undertake a community-wide climate risk and vulnerability assessment that also includes all vulnerable communities.</p> <p>II. Plan to use available knowledge and scientific evidence, including data and spatial analysis, for decision-making and action, and outline interim targets and milestones as part of a long-term commitment for citywide action.</p> <p>III. Immediately proceed to taking action by committing to at least one of the resilience actions as listed in appendix 1 by COP26. An asterix has been placed beside those which Belfast has already made progress against.</p> <p>IV. Report commitments by COP26 - and progress annually thereafter, to an existing or recommended reporting platform.</p>
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	<p>The list of actions referenced above under pledge 3 is set out in Appendix 2. At least one action would have to be undertaken to permit participation in the campaign.</p> <p>https://citiesracetoresilience.org/</p> <p><u>Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCoM)</u></p> <p>3.6 The Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy is the largest global alliance for city climate leadership, built upon the commitment of over 10,000 cities and local governments.</p> <p>The Carbon Disclosure Report (CDP)-ICLEI Unified Reporting System is one of the officially recognised reporting platforms to GCoM.</p> <p>Signatories commit to develop, implement and report - within the established deadlines, an action plan to reach their targets. More specifically, signatories commit to submit the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A strategy with a long-term vision including mitigation targets and climate adaptation goals (within 2 years after their official adhesion to the Covenant of Mayors). - A Baseline Emission Inventory (BEI), quantifying the energy consumed and therefore the emissions emitted on the signatory's territory (within 2 years). - A Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (RVA), identifying and assessing the climate hazards and vulnerable sectors (within 2 years). - Actions undertaken on mitigation, adaptation and energy poverty. - Monitoring reports on the implementation of actions (every 2 years) and on emissions (every 4 years). <p>https://www.globalcovenantofmayors.org/why-join-us/</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>3.7 There are no financial or resource implications at present.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>3.8 There are no direct equality or good relations/rural needs implications.</p>
4.0	<p>Documents Attached</p> <p>Appendices 1 and 2 - Race to Zero Action List</p>

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Race to Zero - Action List

(at least one to be undertaken)

Create a more inclusive society

- Collect information on the needs of frontline communities (including children, workers in transitioning industries, women, refugees, etc) with respect to climate planning and/or implementation.
- Collect spatial or disaggregated data to inform the design and/or monitor the implementation of climate actions.
- Demonstrate how actions contribute to delivering social and economic benefits, to reducing inequality and to driving a just transition for workers, through carrying out a wider benefits or equity assessments for at least 2 priority city-wide transformative climate actions.
- Take action to develop 15- or 30-minute neighbourhoods (also known as complete neighbourhoods) all throughout the city, where residents are able to meet most of their needs within a short walk or bicycle ride from their homes.

Create Green and Healthy Streets

- Pilot test and procure, with partners as necessary, zero emissions buses by 2025.*
- Expand and improve walking, cycling and integrated transit access and identify potential areas for future zero emission zones by 2025.*
- Procure, with our partners, only zero emission buses from 2025.
- Implement pilot measures that restrict internal combustion engines in parts of the city by 2025 and ensure that a major area of our city is zero emission by 2030.

Reduce Air Pollution and Ensure Clean Air

- Establish baseline levels and set ambitious reduction targets for air pollutants that meet or exceed national commitments. These targets will put us on a path towards meeting World Health Organisation Air Quality Guidelines for particulate matter, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, and sulphur dioxide.
- Develop plan by 2025 to achieve pollution reductions from major sources of pollution within city/under city control and implementing at least one new substantive policy and programme to reduce pollution from top source.
- Before 2025, implement new substantive policies and programmes to address the top causes of air pollution emissions within our city and under our control by 2025.

Develop Zero Carbon Buildings

- Develop a roadmap to achieve net zero carbon new buildings from 2030.*
- Implement pilot efficiency programmes and incentives for building energy efficiency with tools in place that facilitate data access and data analysis (benchmarking) of building energy use by 2025.
- Develop a roadmap to achieve net zero carbon municipal buildings by 2030 and policy approval by 2025 to deliver a commitment to own, occupy and develop net zero carbon municipal assets by 2030.
- Enact regulations and/or planning policy to ensure NEW buildings operate at net zero carbon by 2030.
- Benchmark building energy use in existing buildings and implementing citywide efficiency programmes with an approved roadmap to achieve all net zero carbon buildings by 2050.
- Enact regulations and/or planning policy to ensure ALL buildings operate at net zero carbon by 2050, with a roadmap and interim emissions goals in place in 2025.

Move towards resilient and sustainable energy systems

- Develop a roadmap to achieve 100% clean renewable electricity by 2030 and expand this to 100% renewable energy by 2050.
- Lead by example with municipal renewable energy projects maximising the potential of municipal assets for onsite generation with the aim to cover municipal electricity demand by 100% renewables by 2025.
- Make sure your policies follow the rule of “energy-efficiency” first so take all actions to increase the efficiency of end-use sectors.

- Develop financial support programs to incentivize deployment of building-scale renewables and mandate the use of renewables through building codes, while engaging residents and other stakeholders in the process.
- Incentivize large scale clean energy generation by using your purchasing power and support community energy projects.
- Promote the use of clean energy sources for heating and cooling buildings.

Advance towards Zero Waste

- Progressively phase out organics disposal to landfill and incinerators, i.e. at least 25% by 2025.
- Ensure all operating and closed landfills have landfill gas capture and at least flaring (ideally local landfill gas utilization for power generation) by 2025.
- Ensure all waste generated in the city is being collected and residual waste is disposed of adequately in at least an engineered sanitary landfill.
- Reduce the municipal solid waste generation per capita achieving at least 8% reduction in 2025, with actions like restricting single use materials, and volume based collection fees/incentives like “Pay as you throw”, enroute to 15% reduction by 2030.
- Reduce the amount of municipal solid waste disposed to landfill and incineration by at least 50% compared to 2015 by 2030; and increase the diversion rate away from landfill and incineration to at least 70% by 2030, with actions like scaling up citywide collection with 3-stream segregate waste collection including food/recyclables/residual by 2025

Create Sustainable Food Systems

- Pilot school feeding programs that align to locally relevant Planetary Health Diet by 2025.
- Implement policies/incentives/taxes/bans that halt or prevent the nutrition transition by 2025.
- Regulate or activate programs for food businesses to minimize food related carbon emissions.
- Expand access for all citizens to affordable, plant-based food by 2025.
- Create a food council/board with local stakeholders by 2025.
- Align our food procurement (eg school feeding programs) to planetary health diet by 2030, with at least 50% of procurement expenditure aligned to the planetary health diet by 2025.
- Reduce food loss and waste by 50% from a 2015 baseline by 2030, achieving at least a 25% reduction in food loss and waste by 2025.
- Support an overall increase of healthy plant-based food consumption in our cities by shifting away from unsustainable, unhealthy diets by 2030.

Divest from Fossil Fuels and Invest in a Sustainable Future

- Advocate for fossil-free and sustainable finance by other investors and all levels of government, including by promoting the importance of strong, long-term climate policies and demanding greater transparency.
- Call on our pension funds to divest from fossil fuel companies and increase financial investments in climate solutions to help promote decent jobs and a just and green economy.
- Take all possible steps to divest our city assets from fossil fuel companies and increase our financial investments in climate solutions to help promote decent jobs and a just and green economy.

Move towards Resilient and Sustainable Construction Systems

- Develop a roadmap with local stakeholders to halve embodied emissions in all infrastructure projects by 2030, including new build and major retrofits, and achieve zero emission construction sites by 2030.
- Make sure your policies and actions follow the rule of “existing assets” first to optimize, repurpose and retrofit existing buildings and infrastructure before building new ones.
- Lead by example by specifying low carbon materials and zero emission construction machinery in municipal procurement.
- Reward resource efficient and circular design, use of low carbon materials, and low to zero waste construction sites for all new projects and major retrofit in municipal procurement, planning permissions, policies and processes and building codes.
- Stimulate data transparency and accountability by asking for/requiring Life Cycle Assessments (LCAs) in planning permissions and embedding them into planning policies, processes and building codes.
- Approve net zero emission (operational and embodied) flagship project(s) by 2025 and advocate for regional, national government and/or intergovernmental action on sources outside city control.
- Assess the impact that the choice of materials and construction design will have on your city’s overall resilience to climate impacts (i.e. increasing urban heat island, impermeable surface increasing the risk of flooding, etc.).

Race to Resilience – Action List (at least one to be undertaken)***Buildings***

- Develop a resilience strategy for buildings to ensure they can withstand the impacts of climate hazards ex. preparing buildings for large storm impacts
- Create a publicly accessible inventory of public assets and infrastructure, including hospitals, schools, and university buildings, their condition, exposure to hazards, and maintenance history
- Update construction standards for infrastructure and building, accounting for local hazards and criticality, and enforcement mechanisms in place
- Develop pre-approved contracts for emergency interventions (ex. debris removal) or reconstruction (ex. road repairs) approved, with enhanced standards
- Restrict development in areas that are at risk of climate impacts (ex. Areas at high risk of flooding, forest fires, etc.)
- Initiate consultation processes with communities living in informal settlements in hazardous areas, such as flood plains, in order to begin urban upgrading or co-planned resettlement processes

Digitalization

- Advance digital inclusion to ensure the vulnerable population has proper access to digital infrastructure, connectivity, and knowledge to participate in the digital world*
- Amplify work from home opportunities and universalize the adequate conditions for workers to undertake labor using digital tools
- Strengthen digital commerce with a particular focus on onboarding small and medium businesses and entrepreneurs to build a strong and inclusive local economy
- Promote digital public services, open government practices, and secure data management policies to increase transparency and citizen participation

Energy

- Invest in and plan for resilience of the energy grid and renewable energy assets to ensure continuity of services to the community, including the most vulnerable, all critical urban infrastructure and public assets*

- Invest in decentralized renewable energy sources to enhance access to clean sustainable energy, address energy security, and reduce energy poverty while improving climate resilience
- Provide 100% of my community with access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern renewable and clean energy

Food Systems

- Expand access for all citizens to affordable, nutritious plant-based food by 2025
- Create a food council/board with local stakeholders by 2025
- Align all food procurement (e.g. school feeding programs) to planetary health diet by 2030, with at least 50% of procurement expenditure aligned to the planetary health diet by 2025
- Reduce food loss and waste by 50% from a 2015 baseline by 2030, achieving at least a 25% reduction in food loss and waste by 2025
- Support an overall increase of healthy plant-based food consumption in our cities by shifting away from unsustainable, unhealthy diets by 2030
- Identify and eliminate food deserts (urban areas in which it is difficult to buy affordable or good-quality foods) within the community
- Generate supportive policies for local traders and informal traders
- Create enabling environments for local and regional small-scale and agroecological producers and traders (including informal traders) to access market share, through financial incentives and market access programmes

Governance and Community Engagement

- Establish new and inclusive approaches to governance that embrace a balance between economic and well-being values, co-designing the vision and the choices for a comprehensive strategy that integrates climate, social and health objectives*
- Include social equity quotas in governance processes, to ensure that people of all genders, races, ethnicities, abilities and classes are represented equitably in community and political life, and that their needs can be assured
- Establish & improve mechanisms for community based organisations and community members to contribute to city-scale resilience plans and actions from the beginning to the end of processes*
- Develop financing and governance mechanisms to improve basin level water resilience
- Devolve governance and fiscal responsibility to allow for local entities to drive impactful water resilience interventions

- Designate a city official/advisor to coordinate and undertake resilience projects and to engage with urban stakeholders, for example a Chief Resilience Officer*

Nature Based Solutions

- Commit a tree-planting or creation of green space target by 2025 that supports local biodiversity and is resilient to anticipated climate change*
- Plan for the sustainable management, protection and restoration of coastal areas and ecosystems such as mangroves, seagrasses, flats, tidal marshes
- Dedicate 30-40% of the total built-up city surface to green and permeable spaces which favour protecting and restoring biodiverse and climate resilient ecosystems
- Convert 40-60% of the urban parking space to green and permeable spaces
- Ensure that 70% of the population has free access to a fit for purpose green and blue space within 15 minutes- equitably prioritized to maximize the accessibility and connectivity to nature for the most vulnerable
- Protect soil resources by limiting soil sealing and ensuring that soil characteristics are considered in decisions concerning allocation and use of land
- Invest in and plan for protecting, restoring, and sustainably managing inner, nearby, and faraway forests*
- Increase investment in nature-based solutions and smart low carbon technologies to address water risks i.e. pollution, flooding, drought, leakage etc

Risk and Vulnerability Planning

- Integrate local, gender-sensitive and indigenous knowledge and community-based mapping initiatives in all climate risk analysis to ensure validation and prioritization is informed by impacted communities especially the most vulnerable
- Install early hazard warning systems and emergency management systems (including the identification of the percentage of the population that has access to the systems)
- Identify, monitor, and plan accordingly to anticipate acute shocks and to adapt for addressing chronic stresses*

Social Equity

- Ensure social justice is taken into account when developing climate & resilience strategies, actions and policies in the city, including considerations of social equity in public services delivery, affordability and access*

- Empower leaders amongst marginalised groups and communities to take a lead in disaster scenarios in order to effectively voice the needs of these groups, and to have access to the right platforms in order to do so
- Create strategies to ensure children, the elderly and people with disabilities are accounted for in disaster scenarios, so as to not be disproportionately affected
- Promote gender and/or racial sensitivity training for all civil servants engaged in the development and implementation of resilience strategies, including city officials, civil defence, health care workers, teachers and police officers, promoting values of care, empathy and respect
- Raise awareness about the vulnerability of poor communities and the need for solidarity actions between communities and districts
- Create counselling and emotional wellness programs as well as job-finding and entrepreneurship centres to support local communities as well as climate refugees/migrants to combat trauma and disempowerment. Improving social resilience and social cohesion increases peoples' ability to endure and manage in times of crisis
- Provide more funding and capacity for gender-based violence hotlines and counselling services, particularly during the response and recovery phases which further expose already vulnerable populations as seen during the lockdowns in response to the COVID-19 pandemic

Urban Rural Links

- Consider proximity and complementarity between urban and rural areas in regional strategies, for example natural services, food supply, and cultural activities
- Cooperation programs between municipalities to financially compensate or share duties and benefits of natural resources and their management, for example waste disposal, water basin management, wastewater treatment, etc
- Keep the proportionality and land use ratio between rural/natural & urban areas in the administrative division, boundaries and plans to relate nature to all areas and all scale (incl neighbourhood)
- Adopt education programs or trainings to mainstream the concept of the right to nature and behavioural shift to consider nature as a common good that is respected
- Design urban policies and create enabling environments to ensure the immediate agricultural hinterlands have sustainable access to market share, for example in the form of local market spaces and building relationships with retail

Waste

- Collect all waste generated in the city and ensure residual waste is disposed of adequately in an engineered sanitary landfill, which considers and minimizes impact to surface and groundwater sources
- Provide 100% of my community with access to resilient secure, sustainable and safely managed sanitation services
- Invest in circular economy assessments to repurpose and reduce waste and generate new business opportunities

Water

- Ensure all wastewater is treated (including combined sewage overflows)
- Develop a roadmap to measure and reduce water consumption and leakages, and eliminate pollution
- Aim to achieve collective water security and alignment with national or basin-level water goals by working together with other cities, companies, community associations and water users operating in your watershed to mitigate water-related conflicts linked to water use and pollution
- Monitor and publish future water availability risks and scenarios related to population growth and other risk drivers
- Provide 100% of the community with access to resilient secure, sustainable, and affordable water
- Implement policies that will increase water and sanitation connections, affordability, and reliability of basic services for the most economically and socially vulnerable
- Scale comprehensive upgrading efforts for the water-insecure urban poor communities facing climate risk to ensure resilience of infrastructure investments
- Diversify water sources to account for future climate risks and increase investment in water resource conservation and water demand management
- Shift urban planning to account for hydrologically linked regions sustaining natural water flows and sources
- Develop an urban green infrastructure plan which maps key water retention zones and aquifers in order to preserve key water sources from urban development and pollution

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Subject:	Modern Slavery Act 2015 - Proposed Corporate Action Plan
Date:	24th September, 2021
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor / Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Sarah Williams, Governance and Compliance Manager

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to set out for Committee approval a corporate action plan to meet the obligations of the Modern Slavery Act, 2015, including the updating of the annual Transparency Statement.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> agree to the proposed actions based on the NILGA guidelines, which are to be taken forward by various Departments; and approve the updated annual Transparency Statement.
3.0	Main Report
	Background
3.1	The Modern Slavery Act 2015 aims to address slavery and trafficking by enhancing support and protection for victims, giving law enforcement the tools needed to target today's slave drivers and ensuring perpetrators can be severely punished. It also includes a provision to

	encourage organisations to ensure their supply chains are slavery-free, known as the Transparency in Supply Chains arrangements ("TISC").
3.2	<p>Key Issues</p> <p>The Council has voluntarily published an annual Modern Slavery Transparency in Supply Chains statement on our website since 2015. This sets out what an organisation has done to ensure there is no modern slavery in their supply chains or any part of their business. This year, the annual Transparency Statement has been significantly refreshed by Commercial and Procurement Services to reflect current guidance on its content and layout. An updated version for 20-21 is set out in Appendix 1 and will be published well before the deadline of October 21. Please note that due to business pressures in Governance and Compliance Services the update of last year's statement was delayed.</p>
3.3	In July 2018, the Home Secretary undertook an independent review of the MSA and made recommendations, one of which was to strengthen Section 54 by extending the requirement to publish Modern Slavery Statements to government and the public sector.
3.4	In July 2019, the UK Government launched a consultation on measures to strengthen the TISC arrangements, and recently published its proposals on how it plans to take this work forward. Many of the proposed changes will require legislative change which the UK Government hopes to take forward later in 2021. The proposed changes will see a strengthening of the TISC arrangements for commercial businesses, and will, for the first time, extend them so they apply to the public sector.
3.5	The Northern Ireland Department of Justice conducted a consultation exercise, which closed in May 2021, relating to the extension of the TISC arrangements to the public sector in Northern Ireland.
3.6	In accordance with Section 12 of the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Criminal Justice and Support for Victims) Act (Northern Ireland) 2015, the Department of Justice publishes an annual Modern Slavery Strategy. The most recent Modern Slavery Strategy for 2019-2020 is the third strategy published by the Department of Justice and a consultation on the 2021/22 Modern Slavery Strategy recently took place. The purpose of the strategy is to raise awareness of modern slavery offences and so reduce the threat from, the vulnerability to, and the prevalence of, modern slavery in Northern Ireland.
3.7	In May 2020, NILGA published a guide for Councils with the Northern Ireland Strategic Migration Partnership (NISMP), (a multi-agency, cross-party and cross-departmental body working to reflect the regionally specific needs of Northern Ireland in the development and

	<p>implementation of UK immigration policy). The guide was also produced in partnership with the Department of Justice and the UK Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner. It sets out some actions which councils can take to tackle modern slavery specifically:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide Modern Slavery Awareness Training for all council personnel in public facing services (Lead: Corporate HR / Commercial and Procurement Services / Governance and Compliance Services) 2. Designate a point of contact to report modern slavery concerns and raise awareness of modern slavery among communities (Lead: City and Neighbourhood Services) 3. Establish clear procurement guidelines (Lead: Commercial and Procurement Services) 4. Collaborate with other councils and agencies (Lead: All Directors)
3.8	<p>The suggested actions for councils are attached at Appendix 2, which also includes a summary of the guidance from NILGA and a suggested lead within the Council for each action.</p>
3.9	<p>Reporting</p> <p>Governance and Compliance Services will co-ordinate an annual report on progress to be brought to committee.</p>
3.10	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>This will involve staff from City and Neighbourhood Services, Legal Services, Governance and Compliance Services, Commercial and Procurement Services, Corporate HR and Marketing and Corporate Communications.</p>
3.11	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>Any equality, good relations or rural needs implications will be identified using the council's usual screening process.</p>
4.0	<p>Documents Attached</p>
	<p>Appendix 1 - Draft Modern Slavery Act Transparency Statement 2020 - 2021</p> <p>Appendix 2 - Suggested Actions for councils</p>

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Modern Slavery Act Transparency Statement for the period 01 April 2020 to 31 March 2021

Introduction

The Modern Slavery Act 2015 (the “Act”) places specific responsibilities on organisations to ensure slavery and human trafficking does not exist within their supply chains, and in any part of their own businesses. Organisations need to demonstrate accountability through transparency to protect workers, adults and children from abuse and exploitation.

Belfast City Council is committed to improving practices to prevent slavery and human trafficking. The Council expects suppliers, partners and third parties to adhere to the same values and principles to combat slavery and human trafficking.

This statement is made pursuant to section 54(1) of the Act and constitutes Belfast City Council’s slavery and human trafficking statement for the financial year ending 31st March 2021.

Our structure and our supply chains

The Council is the local authority for the Belfast area with responsibility for a wide range of services including local planning, economic development, tourism, street cleaning and parks, leisure and waste management.

The [Belfast Agenda](#) is the community plan that the whole city is working towards. Our vision is that by 2035 Belfast will be a city

- Where everyone benefits from a thriving and prosperous economy
- That is welcoming, safe, fair and inclusive for all
- That is vibrant, attractive, connected and environmentally sustainable
- Where everyone experiences good health and wellbeing and
- Where everyone fulfils their potential

Our political governance structure is set out below:



Belfast City Council procured goods, works and services from circa 2,400 suppliers during the last financial year with a supply chain mostly based in the UK and Ireland.

The Council has a responsibility to prevent slavery and human trafficking within its supply chain and in any part of the organisation. As the customer, the Council makes clear to our suppliers, and those wishing to do business with us, what is expected of them.

The Council's tender process require all tenderers to provide confirmation that they are compliant with the Act. They are also required to confirm their subcontractors and suppliers comply with the Act.

Our policies in relation to slavery and human trafficking

Belfast City Council have the following policies or procedures in place, related to mitigating the risks of slavery and human trafficking:

Safeguarding

We recognise our responsibility to develop, implement and monitor policies and procedures to safeguard the welfare of children and vulnerable adults. Our child safeguarding procedures are well established; our current focus is on underpinning how we take care of adults and the reporting system.

Equality and Diversity

We are committed to Equality and Diversity and actively seek to eradicate discrimination and inequality when developing services and when goods and or services are provided on the Council's behalf. To this end we have developed an internal toolkit which integrates equality and diversity into everything we do from policy development to service planning and delivery.

We are an Equal Opportunities employer and welcome applications from all sections of the community. We are a Lead Partner and Member of Excellence of Employers for Disability NI with members of our recruitment team being accredited as "Disability Positive". We have a dedicated helpline for any applicants who require reasonable adjustments or whose first language is not English. We appoint strictly on the merit principle and our recruitment processes require the completion of relevant pre-employment checks which include eligibility to work in the UK and the uptake of suitable references, where required.

We operate a job evaluation scheme to ensure all employees are paid fairly and equitably.

Raising Concerns

We encourage workers to raise any concerns that they may have and there are established arrangements in place for handling these. Externally, members of the public and customers can use our [Corporate Complaints Compliments and Comments](#) procedure to report concerns.

Fraud and bribery

We are committed to protecting the public money we look after and to making sure that the opportunity for fraud, bribery or any other financial impropriety is reduced to the lowest possible risk. We have policies and procedures to manage the risk of fraud, bribery and other financial impropriety, including arrangements for prevention and detection as well as arrangements for reporting and investigation.

Code of Conduct

We expect all employees and Councillors to demonstrate the highest standards of conduct and ethical behaviour. We require all Councillors and Senior Managers to submit declaration of interests to record and declare personal and pecuniary interests.

Due diligence in assessing modern slavery risk in operations or supply chains

Belfast City Council's Commercial and Procurement Services team have recently introduced Category Management. A Category Management structure within the team enables greater transparency in the identification of risks associated with modern slavery on a category basis.

Risk Assessment and Management

All new suppliers, for new or extended applicable contracts, are assessed as part of the Council's tendering process to ensure that they meet the requirements of the Act.

We commit to reviewing and updating our contract terms and conditions to ensure that they are compliant with the Act.

The Commercial and Procurement Services team completed CIPS Ethical Procurement training achieving the professional standard of CIPS Corporate Ethics kite mark for the service.

We commit to developing a new safeguarding policy that will go out for consultation in 2021.

Key performance indicators to measure effectiveness of steps being taken

We will communicate this policy to our staff to make them aware of the issue and the Council's obligations.

The Northern Ireland Department of Justice is expected, at some point, to announce guidance on the new duty to report incidences of modern slavery. This may require further training and guidance being issued to staff.

Training on modern slavery and trafficking

The Commercial and Procurement Services team commit to retaining the professional standard of CIPS Corporate Ethics during 2021. Further Council officers involved in procurement activity will also be selected for this training.

This statement was approved by the Corporate Management Team of Belfast City Council on 31st August, 2021.

Signed on behalf of Belfast City Council by:

John Walsh
City Solicitor and Director of Legal and Civic Services
Date:

Policy Control

Organisation	Belfast City Council
Title	Modern Slavery Act Transparency Statement 2020-2021 v. 0.1
Author	Sarah Williams, Governance & Compliance Manager
Owner	John Walsh, City Solicitor
Review date	Annually
Location of document	Website home page
Approved by	Strategic Policy & Resources Committee and ratified at Full Council
Approval date	

SUGGESTED ACTIONS FOR COUNCILS

Appendix 2

Action	NILGA Guidance	Suggested Lead	Estimated deadline
1. Provide Modern Slavery Awareness Training for all council personnel in public facing services.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Department of Justice and the Department of Finance's Construction and Procurement Delivery can advise on TISC (Transparency in Supply Chains) training for public sector and council procurement leads. The guidance provides a list of voluntary and community sector organisations which can advise on modern slavery and provide training. <p>NILGA's suggested next steps for Councils:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver training for public sector procurement leads in respect of transparency in supply chains. Accessing "Train the trainer" sessions for Councils shared by the Department of Justice to provide Councils with the tools to deliver their own inhouse training on Modern Slavery. <i>(The Train the Trainers session will be built into NILGA's Regional Training Programme and further information will follow on an ongoing basis as appropriate).</i> Using Training Materials for Council Staff, available from the Department of Justice and PSNI. <i>(In April 2019, the Department of Justice and the PSNI wrote to all local Council CEOs to offer training materials for staff on modern slavery concerns¹⁵.)</i> 	<p>Commercial and Procurement Services – N Bohill</p> <p>Corporate HR – C Sheridan / Governance & Compliance Services – S Williams</p> <p>External provider to deliver approved training.</p>	March 2023
2. Designate a point of contact to report modern slavery concerns and raise awareness of modern slavery	Councils should designate a lead officer or team who can act as a point of contact and expertise on the issue. Council Community Planning, Good Relations or Policing and Community Partnerships (PCSP) teams are ideally placed to fulfil this role. A Lead Officer from either one of these teams could be nominated as the "go to" person for other officers or council workers who have concerns that modern slavery may be happening in certain businesses or in the community.	<p>City and Neighbourhood Services – R Black</p> <p>Nicola Lane to take the lead on this element of the</p>	March 2023

Action	NILGA Guidance	Suggested Lead	Estimated deadline
among communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A council protocol for reporting suspicions of modern slavery should be developed. Community Planning Partnerships should be harnessed to share information and to raise awareness of modern slavery with communities and the drive to eradicate it. PCSPs are a key council resource in the drive to eradicate modern slavery in Northern Ireland. Intelligence which can be disclosed by the PCSP should be shared with the lead person / team in the council appointed as the “go to” for modern slavery concerns. 	<p>action plan and act as the conduit in terms of Good Relations and PCSP.</p> <p>To be agreed, at the relevant time, how we will embed / promote through the Community Planning Structures, SCP and PCSP/DPCSP's.</p>	
3. Establish clear procurement guidelines	<p>The modern slavery transparency statement required to be published by the Council under Section 54 of the MSA must include the steps the Council has taken during the financial year to ensure that slavery and human trafficking is not taking place in any of its supply chains, and in any part of its own business or; that the organisation has taken no steps in the financial year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transparency in supply chains is a process of continuous improvement. As stipulated in government guidance, the government expects organisations to <i>build</i> on their statements year on year Guidance and resources include: Transparency in Supply Chains etc. A practical guide; Council Transparency Statements Portal; TISCReport Transparency Map; LGA's Tackling Modern Slavery Guide <p>NILGA's suggested next steps for Councils:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Taking account of any further government developments on proposals to extend the scope of Section 54 (TISC). 	Commercial and Procurement Services – N Bohill	Annually

Action	NILGA Guidance	Suggested Lead	Estimated deadline
4. Collaborate with other councils and agencies	<p>Opportunities for collaboration include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All-Council Professional Officers Groups (e.g. the Environmental Health Professional Officers Group, the Local Government Safeguarding Network and the Planning Professional Officers Group); • Cross-council project collaboration (e.g. Arc21); and • Council collaboration with the private sector: e.g. for Economic Development teams to provide guidance to new and existing businesses in their districts on developing modern slavery transparency statements to enhance their competitiveness when bidding for new, or when renewing goods / services contracts. 	All Directors to raise with relevant officers	Immediate

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Subject:	Consultation on Draft NI Flood Risk Management Plan 2021/2027 - Council Response
Date:	24th September, 2021
Reporting Officer:	Alistair Reid, Strategic Director of Place and Economy
Contact Officer:	Richard McLernon, Resilience Project Coordinator Geoff Dickson, Strategic Policy Lead Officer

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To advise submit for the Committee's approval a draft Council response to the Draft NI Flood Risk Management Plan 2021 – 2017 for submission to the Department of Infrastructure.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to approve the draft consultation response and to note that any additional comments will be incorporated in the response.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	The Draft Flood Risk Management Plan states that in recent years, flooding has presented considerable challenges to both people and communities directly affected and to those providing emergency responses. Flooding can have potentially devastating impacts, on human life and

	<p>health, damage to property, pollution to rivers and the sea and severe effects on economic activity, infrastructure and the environment. Flooding is also becoming more frequent and climate projections indicate that changing rainfall patterns, rising sea levels and more severe extreme weather conditions will increase its occurrence in the future.</p>
3.2	<p>Members will be aware that the Council has led on the development of the Belfast Resilience Strategy (December 2020), and has established Belfast Emergency Preparedness Group. In addition Council is currently developing the Belfast City Council Climate Plan, which will address both adaptation and mitigation, and Council is closely aligned with the planning and delivery of the Living with Water Programme.</p>
3.3	<p>The implementation of the Floods Directive, through the first six-year cycle of Flood Risk Management Planning, set out a catchment-based approach to the management of flood risk. It provided a more systematic, holistic and sustainable way of assessing, mapping and planning to manage flood risk than had been done previously. This was initiated in Northern Ireland by a Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment completed in 2011 (PFRA 2011) followed by preparation of Flood Hazard and Risk Maps in 2014. The information from these two stages culminated in the development of objectives and measures under the headings of Prevention, Protection and Preparedness, in the first cycle Flood Risk Management Plans, published in December 2015.</p>
3.4	<p>We are now well into the second cycle of Flood Risk Management Planning, the first stage of which was the Northern Ireland Flood Risk Assessment (NIFRA 2018). Flood Hazard and Risk Mapping was then reviewed and updated in December 2019. Accordingly, the second cycle Draft Flood Risk Management Plan has been issued for public consultation and the Council is now preparing to submit a response.</p>
3.5	<p>The second cycle Plan differs from the first cycle Plans in that there is now a single Plan covering the three River Basin Districts (RBD) for the six years from 2021 until 2027. Surface water flooding has been given greater emphasis because of the predominance of flooding from this source in recent years, and because the NIFRA 2018 indicated that potential damages from surface water flooding could be greater than from other main sources. In preparing this draft Plan the Department of Infrastructure worked in partnership with NI Water, the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) and the Department for the Economy (DfE), to develop a shared understanding of flood risk and to consider and agree roles and responsibilities in managing this risk.</p>

3.6	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> There are no financial or resource implications.
3.7	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> There are no direct equality or good relations/rural needs implications.
4.0	Document Attached
	Draft Council response

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Draft Flood Risk Management Plan 2021-2027 including, the
Strategic Environmental Assessment and
Habitats Regulations Assessment

Consultation Response Form

Responses should be received no later than
Friday 25 June 2021

This Consultation Response Form (CRF) aims to provide you with an opportunity to comment on the draft:

- Flood Risk Management Plan 2021-2027 (FRMP)
- Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and
- Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)

It is intended that through the CRF you will have an opportunity to put forward your comments, to help inform the FRMP, SEA and HRA for Northern Ireland.

The CRF should be considered in conjunction with the consultation document available on the Department's website at the following link:

<https://www.infrastructureni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-draft-flood-risk-management-plan-2021-2027-second-cycle>

Additional copies of both the CRF and the consultation document can be obtained from the Department for Infrastructure:

Email: floods.directive@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Writing to:

Flood Risk Management Plan Consultation Response

Department for Infrastructure

Water and Drainage Policy Division

Room 1-22, Clarence Court

10-18 Adelaide Street

BELFAST

BT2 8GB

Alternative formats of the CRF can also be made available on request and you should forward any such requests using one of the methods detailed above.

Responses should be received no later than **17:00 on Friday 25 June 2021**. All responses received by this date will be considered.

Please note that all responses will be treated as public, and may be published on the Department's website. If you do not want your response to be used in this way, or if you prefer for it to be used anonymously, please indicate this when responding (The Freedom of Information Act 2000 and

Environmental Information Regulations 2004 gives the public a right of access to any information held by a public authority, namely, the Department in this case).

Following consideration of all responses, a report may be published on the Department's website.

Thank you for taking the time to complete this CRF and providing your comments.

I am responding

As individual ☐

On behalf of an organisation ☒

Your Details

Name: Belfast City Council

Postal address (including postcode): BT1 5GS

Email address: mclernonr@belfastcity.gov.uk

Please select from which of the following groups you belong to

- ☐ Individual
- ☐ Individual at perceived flood risk
- ☐ Utilities/Infrastructure provider
- ☐ Business sector
- ☐ Consultant / Contractor
- ☐ Environmental management
- ☐ Academia/Research
- ☐ Farming / Land management
- ☒ Local Government
- ☐ Central Government
- ☐ Leisure / Tourism
- ☐ Manufacturing
- ☐ Transport / Navigation
- ☐ Developer
- ☐ Other (*please specify*)

After the 6 month consultation period we will publish our response document and will let you know what people have said, how we have taken their comments into account and what changes will be made before we publish the final FRMP, SEA and HRA by 22 December 2021.

Freedom of Information Act 2000 – Confidentiality of Consultations

Please note that your response and the responses of others to the consultation may be disclosed on request. The Department can only refuse to disclose information in exceptional circumstances. Before you submit your response please read the paragraphs in the consultation document on the confidentiality of consultations which provide guidance on the legal position about any information given by you in response to this consultation.

Questions on the Draft Flood Risk Management Plan

Question 1

Do you agree that, using the methodology noted, the draft plan highlights the most significant flood risk areas in each of the three River Basin Districts?

☒ **Yes**

☐ **No**

If not, please give your reasons below.

Enter text here

Please add below any additional comments you may wish to make about the methodology.

Enter text here

Question 2

Do you understand and agree with the objectives as described in the draft plan?

☒ **Yes**

☐ **No**

If not, please give your reasons below.

Enter text here

Please add below any additional comments you may wish to make about the objectives.

Welcome the consideration of the impact of Climate Change for the main sources of flooding and the measures to support the objectives of the Water Framework Directive and contribute to the achievement of good ecological potential/status for waterbodies. However consideration of other Directives such as the Habitats and Birds Directives and environmental opportunities

should be taken for example habitat creation or restoration or opportunities to address environmental pressures such as IAS. This is an opportunity to address both climate and biodiversity issues.

Whilst the inclusion of the general objective To protect and enhance the natural environment and cultural heritage is welcome without specific actions and measures there is likely to be limited benefits achieved.

Welcome the inclusion of the opportunity for Natural Flood Management but this needs to be carefully planned collaboratively across stakeholders and adequately resourced.

Question 3

Do you agree that there is the right balance between the social, economic and environmental objectives?

☒ **Yes**

☐ **No**

If not, what could be done to redress the balance? Please give your views below.

Belfast City Council welcomes the opportunity to respond to this strategic consultation, the Draft Flood Risk Management Plan. Long term investment in Flood Risk Management is required to meet the ambition for growth of the City and to alleviate the impacts of climate change.

We support the adoption of an approach to the provision of Flood Risk Management which promotes holistic and integrated solutions that achieve multiple benefits at reduced cost and disruption. Whilst it is recognised that significant investment will be required in more traditional 'hard engineered' infrastructure we welcome the acknowledged contribution that other sustainable measures such as Green & Blue Infrastructure and Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) can deliver. This sustainable approach is supported by both the Local Development Plan (LDP) as set out in the Draft Plan Strategy vision, aims, objectives and policies as well as in the council's Green and Blue Infrastructure Plan, and the Belfast Resilience Strategy.

We welcome the work undertaken to date to address Flood Risk and call for a coordinated, collaborative approach, working with Council where appropriate to ensure a balance between the social, economic and environmental needs of Belfast. Human health should be the foremost

priority however we welcome the focus on economic and environmental objectives and the desire to have a balanced approach.

Under the Environment and Culture objective we support the commitment that the Climate Change flood hazard maps will be updated to take account of the latest IPCC assessment from 2018 (UKCP18) rather than relying on the 2009 data. This is positive given that UKCP18 predicts higher increases in Sea Level Rise than the earlier UKCP09 as the UKCP18 takes into account the potential polar ice sheet melting. The latest CCC advice, is that the UK needs to adapt to a minimum average global temperature rise of between 1.5 and 2°C for the period 2050 – 2100 and consider the risks up to a 4°C warming scenario. In addition, the objective “to consider the impact of Climate Change for the main sources of flooding” could be strengthened “to consider and prepare for the impact of Climate Change for the main sources of flooding. Given the impact and costs associated with localised surface water flooding in Belfast, it may be beneficial to include an explicit objective (under Economic Activity) “to promote the use of sustainable drainage systems to reduce surface water runoff and help reduce pressure on existing drainage network” although it is noted that these measures are included in the measures elsewhere in the report. The report highlights the opportunity to use natural flood management upstream of flood risk areas to hold water back. As well as the benefits, in terms of flood risk, Climate Change adaptation, water quality and Biodiversity, it would also be useful to include the potential for these measures to contribute to carbon sequestration (p37). This is important as it has implications for reducing the costs associated with NI achieving a net zero target. In this respect, the document could include a higher level of ambition by including an objective (under Environment and Cultural Heritage) “to restore naturally functioning wetland and river systems where possible”.

Question 4

Do you agree with the proposed measures identified for each of the Areas of Potential Significant Flood Risk (APSFR)?

☒ **Yes**

☐ **No**

If not, what would you change and why? Please give your views below.

Yes there has been significant engagement with the Living with Water Programme by Belfast City Council and we anticipate playing a major role in the strategic development, local planning, and operational delivery aspects of the programme. We support the plans for flood alleviation measures and use of SUDS and sustainable drainage interventions in areas most at risk and where water can be better managed to prevent flooding in and around Belfast. It must also be noted that until the LWWP is fully implemented, existing partnership engagement remains

critical to plan, respond and recover from the flooding risks which are faced by the City. Such linkages include for example Belfast City Council's Emergency Plan, Belfast Emergency Preparedness Group (Multi-agency Partners) and the Regional Community Resilience Group (Multi-agency Group focused on promoting and supporting resilient communities). The risks posed to Belfast from tidal inundation, particularly in the City Centre are sobering – Belfast Tidal Flood Alleviation Scheme with 8.6km of new flood defences seeks to address this, however the scheme is complex with lots of engagement with different land owners required. This is taking longer to deliver than initially envisaged. This is only one scheme, so in order to implement the LWWP and integrated plan huge emphasis must be placed on delivering a collaborative approach by all partner agencies. In addition we encourage the Flood Risk Management Plan to include costed proposals and identify sources of finance and investment where possible.

Under flood prevention we propose a separate measure in relation to community engagement and involvement on how their actions can help reduce surface water management and alleviate flooding such as rainwater harvesting, green roofs, rain gardens etc but also in terms of land management.

Welcome the inclusion of SUDs but the adoption and future management of SUDs specifically soft SUDs needs to be addressed. The LWWP identified Green spaces principally BCC land for flood attenuation measures but this needs to be carefully designed, consulted upon and resourced.

Agree with the flood alleviation measures being divided into three main areas of prevention, protection and preparedness for Belfast as an Area at Potential Significant Flood Risk. The Department is encouraged to be mindful of work being delivered by Belfast City Council and partnership agencies implementing the Belfast Agenda. A number of these projects are multiple problem solvers which, with a collaborative approach can help mitigate against flooding as identified within the Area at Potential Significant Flood Risk as well as other problems. This draft document broadly aligns with the SPPS (Strategic Planning Policy Statement) and PPS15 (Planning Policy Statement) in terms of Planning but goes further to specifically recognise the multiple benefits of SuDS (Sustainable Urban Drainage Solutions) relating to surface water flooding.

Specifically under 5.1.7.3 Preparedness suggest the wording around community resilience 'this is on hold as flooding has not been experienced in a number of years' is reviewed to reflect that community resilience is continuously reviewed and maintained via the Regional Community Resilience Group. Whilst the demand from communities at risk of flooding does fluxuate based on recent events RCRG members continue to engage and support community resilience recognising the valuable role it plays in education and awareness alongside increased community cohesion.

Under flood preparedness a separate measure is suggested in relation to the broader education of the public. This could include education of all ages (including children) in relation to the hazards from flood water, how their actions can cause flooding in their area or in other areas e.g. paving their driveways and also the potential ways to help themselves such as individual

property protection, having their own emergency plan and knowing whether or not they are at risk.

Question 5

What measures do you think should be given the highest priority to manage the flood risk in your area?

Please explain what they are and why they should be given a high priority?

The Council would note that many of the proposed measures within the consultation impact on Council assets and will require significant collaboration. Council support the ongoing flood alleviation measures and recommend these be reviewed on an ongoing basis to take into consideration new research and projections relating to the impact of the climate emergency. Belfast City Council has worked with a wide range of partners to develop the Belfast Resilience Strategy and structures in the city to address Climate such as the Belfast Climate Commission and the Belfast Resilience and Sustainability Board. We recommend engagement with these bodies as the Flood Risk Management Programme progresses. The Council is working closely with the Department on a number of pilot projects within the Living with Water Programme, and will be playing a key role in terms of delivery moving forwards. For projects to be successful the Council urges that these need to be co-designed with early input from specialists and planned with partners and stakeholders taking account the following important areas:

- Meaningful engagement with local communities including park users, local residents and stakeholders e.g. sports clubs;
- Understand current site usage, feasibility and commerciality;
- Open space typology, functionality and ensuring a balance of local needs;
- Existing natural environment including current ecosystem services benefits and constraints such as Invasive Alien Species (IAS);
- Current and future management and maintenance requirements and costs. Depending on proposals this could include the need for new machinery, additional staff resources and management of increased invasive species; and
- Early ecological input is required to maximise opportunities. We encourage the implementation of natural flood management (NFM) that protects, restores and mimics the natural functioning of rivers and the coastal ecosystems.

Belfast has a paucity of open water and many rivers and streams have been partially or almost fully culverted. The use of NFM will enable the restoration and creation of riverine and coastal habitats which are key priorities to address biodiversity loss.

The LWWP and integrated plan provides a major opportunity to address broader environmental issues but most especially a unique opportunity to contribute to nature recovery in Belfast.

Question 6

Do you see any ways that you or your community can support and contribute to any of the measures set out in the draft Plan to reduce the flood risk?

☒ **Yes**

☐ **No**

If yes, explain what could be done.

Belfast City Council leads on a number of key enabling strategies and initiatives in the city, including the Belfast Agenda, Belfast Resilience Strategy, and the Bolder Vision (in partnership with DFI and DFC). Belfast City Council is responsible for the Local Development Plan and for managing planning applications and development within the city. As such Council is a key partner and will work with relevant partners to ensure Flood Risk is managed effectively through our existing and emerging strategic frameworks.

Belfast City Council has a role to support other responding agencies in dealing with flood emergencies when its residents are directly affected including the coordination of recovery. The Council would seek to provide its resources such as buildings, staff, expertise and equipment to assist where possible. BCC continues to administer the Scheme of the Emergency Financial Assistance on behalf of the Department for Communities for homes that have been 'severely inconvenienced' by flooding.

The Council is also a key partner in engaging with local communities to enhance their preparedness. It raises awareness across the city with a number of community resilience groups established in flooding hot spots. The work is coordinated via the Regional Community Resilience Group.

Belfast City Council (BCC) launched a Green and Blue Infrastructure Plan (GBIP) for Belfast in 2020 which outlines how vegetated areas (the green) and waterways (the blue) can provide a broad range of economic, social and environmental benefits in and around our more urban areas. The GBIP recognises that these natural and semi-natural assets are increasingly seen as 'infrastructure' and like any type of infrastructure, these assets will only continue to provide us with benefits if we actively plan, invest in and manage them to ensure that they are utilised sustainably. To do this, it sets a vision that by 2035, green and blue infrastructure will be strategically planned to enhance ecosystem services that benefit everyone visiting, living and working in Belfast. This now provides a solid foundation for progressing the Living With Water Programme approach across the plan area. Furthermore, there are obvious community cohesion and wellbeing benefits to be derived from investing in the development and expansion of blue and green infrastructure that serve as greenways and open spaces; a catalyst for increased biodiversity, and more active and sustainable travel.

The Council, working alongside key partners, has already demonstrated the success of taking such an approach in terms of the use of urban green areas to prevent flooding through the exemplar £40m Connswater Community Greenway project in the East of the city. East Belfast had a history of severe flooding. The 2007 flood was the largest on record with 340 flooded properties within the catchment of the Loop, Knock and Connswater rivers. Consequently, a number of at risk areas were identified where flood alleviation measures were necessary. In 2006 funding was secured from the Big Lottery's 'Living Landmarks Programme' to develop and build a 9km linear park scheme. It became apparent that construction work for the flood works and the park could be combined. Because both proposals involved works along the same river corridors there were many areas of overlap which allowed the project to be designed in such a way that it created both an enhanced urban asset and provided flood alleviation measures. This joined-up approach minimised disruption to local communities and businesses affected by the works and delivered better value for money. It also meant that the scheme provided 1,700 properties within East Belfast with the national standard of flood protection against fluvial and tidal events.

The Council is already working closely with the Living with Water Programme on a number of projects across the city including pilot projects at Belfast Castle, Ballysillan Playing Fields and the new Forth Meadow Community Greenway project and would welcome the opportunity to work closely with relevant partners to identify other projects in the city which could present opportunities for joint working.

The Plan is Central and Local Government focussed however there is a major opportunity to engage and involve citizens and stakeholders through the management of private assets, buildings and land to reduce or slow surface water for example through rainwater harvesting, retention of natural areas in gardens, planting of hedgerows and trees, creation of open water, permeable paving, green roofs etc.

Soil and land management is also key area to address including soil structure, soil compaction and supporting sustainable agricultural practices. These issues are not confined to rural areas and a collective approach across all stakeholders including business and private individuals is required within an urban context.

Question 7

Are there things you think should be done to improve the co-ordination of river basin and flood risk management planning?

☒ **Yes**

☐ **No**

If yes, explain what could be done.

Ensure Belfast City Council and relevant stakeholders are involved in the strategic development, local planning, operational delivery, monitoring and review of the programme. Engage with key structures including those within the Belfast Community Planning Partnership and in particular those which address the impact of the climate on the city.

Questions on the environmental reports (SEA and HRA)

A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) have been undertaken to consider how the draft Flood Risk Management Plan could affect communities and the wider environment. These reports present the results of these assessments and summarise the effects that are significant for the river basin districts.

Question 8

Do you agree with the conclusions of the environmental reports?

☐ **Yes**

☐ **No**

If not, please explain why.

Enter text here

Question 9

Are there any further significant environmental effects of the draft Plan which you think should be considered?

☒ **Yes**

☐ **No**

If yes, please describe what they are.

The risk of IAS (Invasive and Alien Species) should be considered and addressed within the Plan given the potential to exacerbate flooding and pollution issues in particular sedimentation which is a key issue across Belfast. Aquatic and riverine IAS are a major concern with significant environmental, economic and social repercussion across NI. Unfortunately this is an area which is under resourced and without mechanisms to enable a collaborative approach to address issues such as IAS along entire watercourses. A multi-agency collaborative approach is required with central government co-ordination and resourcing to address these complex issues.

Question 10

Are there further mitigations or opportunities that should be considered for the Plan?

☐ **Yes**

☐ **No**

If yes, please explain.

Enter text here

Please sent the completed form to:

Email: floods.directive@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Post to:

Flood Risk Management Plan Consultation Response

Department for Infrastructure

Water and Drainage Policy Division

Room 1-22, Clarence Court

10-18 Adelaide Street

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Subject:	Update on Area Working Groups
Date:	24th September, 2021
Reporting Officer:	Sinead Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes
Contact Officer:	Shauna Murtagh, Programme Manager

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To present to the Committee the most recent round of AWG minutes for approval.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is requested to approve the most recent AWG minutes (<i>North – 25 Aug, West – 26 Aug, East – 2 Sept, South – 6 Sept</i>), 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 presented to the Strategic Policy and Resources 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.
3.2	The Committee is asked to approve the most recent round of AWG minutes, as attached.
	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u>
3.3	As outlined in the appendix.
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.4	No implications
4.0	Documents Attached
	Minutes of the Area Working Groups meetings of August/September.

North Belfast Area Working Group

Wednesday, 25th August, 2021

NORTH BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Members present: Councillor McCullough (Chairperson);
Councillors Bradley, Cobain, Magee, McAllister;
McCusker, Murphy, O'Hara and Pankhurst and Whyte.

In attendance: Mr. J. Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy;
Ms. A. McGlone, Neighbourhood Integration Manager;
Mr. D. Logan, Project Manager;
Mr. K. Heaney, Portfolio Manager; and
Ms. E. McGoldrick, Democratic Services Officer.

Election of Chairperson

The Area Working Group noted that it was required to elect a Chairperson for the coming year.

Moved by Councillor Cobain,
Seconded by Councillor Pankhurst and

Resolved – that Councillor McCullough be elected to serve as
Chairperson to the North Belfast Area Working Group until 31st May, 2022.

Apologies

An apology for the inability to attend was reported on behalf of Councillor Maskey.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 26th May, 2021 were agreed as an accurate record of proceedings.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Pankhurst declared an interest in relation to item 4. Physical Programme Update, in so far as he was on the Board of the Upper Crumlin Cultural Community Hub.

Presentations

McCracken Cultural Society

The Chairperson welcomed Mr. D. Mac Uait (McCracken Cultural Society), Mr. C. Mackel (ArdMackel Architects), and Ms. F. Carson (Cumann Cultúrtha Mhic Reachtain -

Development Officer) to the meeting to provide an overview of their proposed development of the McCracken Cultural Society on the Antrim Road and their future plans.

The representatives provided a presentation on the community-led organisation and the facility which was founded in 2000 to promote the Irish language and indigenous arts. It was reported that the facility provided classes, workshops and events throughout the year.

Mr. Mac Uait described the different options for the development and highlighted that the initial focus would be to refurbish the ground floor of the building for the development of a Coffee Shop. He explained that the facility would be used to provide youth training and employment and intended to be a self-sustaining social enterprise, together with the community support for the development.

Mr. Mackel informed the Working Group of the long term plans for the building which included a Business Hub, a lift to all floors, refurbishment of existing stairwells and presented illustrations, floor plans and the associated costs of each stage.

During discussion, the representatives explained further the viability of the Coffee Shop and demand for the Business Hub, together with the considered timescales and energy efficiencies of the intended development.

The Chairperson thanked the representatives for their informative presentation and they retired from the meeting.

After discussion, the Working Group noted the information which had been provided.

Refresh of Belfast Agenda - Co-Design Approach

The Director of City and Organisational Strategy reminded the Working Group that it had been four years since the Council had published the Belfast Agenda, the city's first community plan. He advised that the review of the Belfast Agenda had launched in June 2021.

He stated that the aim was to build a society that valued and took care of people of all ages and created a city whereby everyone had the opportunity to reach their full potential. He highlighted the importance of Elected Members and partners informing this work and shaping the focus of the Belfast Agenda for the next four years (2022-2026).

He advised that a co-design approach had been adopted for refreshing the Belfast Agenda. A promotional launch video was played which showed the intended engagement programme to encourage all partners and stakeholders to contribute. The Director explained the timeline for the review process and confirmed that consultation of the draft plan was proposed to take place in Jan – Mar 2022.

The Director provided an overview of an updated Belfast Agenda 'city strategy' document which included the Council's long-term vision and outcomes, population indicators (how success would be measured) and the Council's new 4-year priorities.

He described the proposed 8 priority themes from 2022 – 2026 which included: Economic Recovery; Employability and Skills; Educational Attainment; Housing; Community Recovery and Neighbourhood Regeneration; Health Inequalities; Climate Resilience and Sustainability; and Active and Sustainable Travel. He also highlighted that there were four cross-cutting themes proposed, including Inclusive Growth; Children and Young People; Good Relations and Shared Future; and Older People.

He explained that this would include Underpinning Delivery Action Plans which encompassed actions to deliver the 4-year priorities and would be based on criteria such as:

- Partnership activity providing collaborative gain / not business as usual activity;
- Designed to contribute to the Belfast Agenda outcomes / deliver wellbeing for Belfast residents; and
- Include 'area specific' elements making the 'Belfast Agenda' more meaningful to communities.

The Director provided details of the level of engagement and feedback to date and outlined the forthcoming events scheduled for targeted groups. He highlighted that an Elected Member Workshop had been planned for Friday, 3rd September and encouraged all Members to attend.

He encouraged the Working Group to get involved and help build momentum to continue the Belfast Conversation to help shape Belfast's future. He advised that the supporting survey was available online at yoursay.belfastcity.gov.uk, and proactive promotion of the process was underway via the Council's Social Media Channels and within local community facilities (e.g. Libraries, community centres and leisure centres). He also advised that further information would be sent to Members to disseminate and share with relevant groups.

The Working Group noted the information which had been provided and welcomed the review of the Belfast Agenda.

Future Planning Model: Integrated Care System

Mr. B. Nelson, Co-Director of Public Health, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, provided an overview of the Department of Health's consultation into a proposed new model of planning and managing services through an Integrated Care System.

The Working Group was advised that this was defined as "A collaborative partnership between organisations and individuals with a responsibility for planning, managing, and delivering care, services and interventions to meet the health and wellbeing needs of the local population and which, through taking collective action, deliver improved outcomes for individuals and communities and reduce health inequalities."

The challenges facing the health and social care sector were outlined, as were the social determinants of health, including socioeconomic factors, physical environment, health behaviours, and health care.

The Co-Director explained that the current commissioning system had been found to be overly bureaucratic and lacking in clarity of accountability of decision making, and so with the closure of the Health and Social Care Board, the Local Commissioning Group's would also cease.

He advised that the Health Minister had granted approval for a programme of work to develop an Integrated Care System (ICS) model in NI which would adhere to the principles of delegated local level decision-making and funding (with the exception of specialised services to be planned, managed and delivered regionally), and support an outcomes based approach underpinned by accountability.

The Working Group was presented with the principles and values which underpin the emerging Framework, as well as the proposed 4-tiered model, as set out below, which would adopt a population health needs approach informed by local intelligence:

- Regional Group – regional coordination, oversight and accountability – planning and managing specialist services;
- 5 Area Integrated Partnership Boards (AIPBs) – Local planning and delivery based on identified population needs in the local area in line with the strategic direction;
- Locality Groups - Integrated Care Partnerships (ICPs), GP Federations and Community Pharmacies linking with Community Planning – supporting and delivering interventions at a local level supporting AIPBs; and
- Community Groups – GP Practices, Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDTs), voluntary and community groups and organisations – supporting and delivering interventions at a community level.

The Co-Director presented the proposed membership model for the Area Integrated Partnership Boards (AIPBs), which included involvement beyond the Health and Social Care Trust, including GPs, the Public Health Agency, Community Planning, service users and community and voluntary representatives.

He confirmed that following the consultation period, it was envisioned that the ICS model would be implemented by March/April, 2022, after which it would be reviewed and refreshed as necessary.

During discussion, Members raised the following points for consideration:

- The importance of locality partnerships;
- The need for a consistent approach across regions; and
- The need to revamp and improve mental health service, especially in North Belfast and areas of deprivation.

The Co-Director confirmed that a framework was important to ensure consistency alongside local flexibility.

The Chairperson thanked Mr. Nelson for his presentation and encouraged the Working Group to respond to the consultation.

After discussion, the Working Group noted the information that had been provided.

Forward Planning Emerging Opportunities

The Neighbourhood Integration Manager provided an update on priority areas of work which were underway in relation to the North Area Working Group.

She advised that Community Infrastructure and Capacity Pilot projects were being discussed so that ideas could be submitted to the Group for consideration and a timeline of the work plan would be submitted to the Group.

She advised that Community Infrastructure and Capacity Pilot projects were being proposed, identifying one group in each area of the city that could be supported to develop their capacity. She added that discussions were underway with partners regarding financial

support for the process, and that ideas would be developed and a list of proposals brought to a future meeting for agreement, together with a timeline of the work plan.

In relation to the Alleyway Transformation Programme, she stated that work was ongoing and further updates would be brought to the Working Group and the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in due course to refine and agree the list of priorities. One Member highlighted the urgent need for an Alleygate at Alexandra Park Avenue and the Neighbourhood Integration Manager stated a timeline of work would also be submitted to the Group.

Regarding Peace Plus, the Neighbourhood Integration Manager informed the Group that the project would be continued to be funded by the European Commission with funding being allocated to each Council area. She advised that the SEUPB were researching themes for development with a view to the Council developing a local action plan for consideration in June 22.

During discussion Members raised the importance of a locality focus, capacity building, physical provision in North Belfast for communities to call their own, resources for the BAME communities, timeframes of proposed work being undertaken in the north of the City,

After discussion, the Working Group noted the information and that the Working Group would be informed of the timelines for the Alleyway Transformation Programme and Pilot Projects in due course.

Physical Programme Update

The Project Manager provided an update on the progress of those projects under a range of funding streams including the Capital Programme, the Leisure Transformation Programme, the Local Investment Fund (LIF), the Belfast Investment Fund (BIF), and Social Outcome Fund (SOF).

Local Investment Fund (LIF)

He explained that LIF was a £9m fixed programme of capital investment in non-council neighbourhood assets, over two tranches, with the North being allocated £1.127m under LIF1 and £800,000 under LIF2.

He highlighted that 43 projects in total had received In Principle support under LIF1 and LIF2, of which 34 had been completed; 2 were at delivery stage; 2 were at preconstruction stage and 5 remained at due diligence / initial stages.

He drew Members' attention to the table in the report which provided an overview of progress and actions around the remaining live projects, as follows:

LIF Ref	PROJECT	FUNDING	STAGE	STATUS	ACTION/RECOMMENDATION
NLIF2-14	Star Neighbourhood Centre	£58,467	On Ground	Project on site. Electrical works complete. Work ongoing regarding procurement of contractor for outside space. Artist appointed for mural on exterior wall. Design agreed with group and art piece will be installed at the end of August.	Continue engagement with the group.
NLIF2-22	Sailortown, St. Joseph's Church Refurbishment	£75,000	On Ground	Project is progressing on site. Heaters procured and instalment ongoing. Structural Engineer surveyed the internal roof structure and identified necessary works.	Continued engagement with group.
NLIF066	Wishing Well Project	£40,000	Tender preparation	Project procurement exercise recently concluded. Contractor appointment imminent.	Continued engagement with group.

NLIF2-21	Somme Group – cross community memorial	£21,667	Tender preparation	Progressing through Due Diligence stage. Designs also completed and planning application approved. Ongoing work with Legal Services to get the funding agreement prepared. Some further information being sought.	To be presented again to Due Diligence for sign off. Funding agreement to be progressed once maintenance agreement signed off. Requirement for street works licence to be resolved, work in progress with DfI.
NLIF014	Westland Community Centre - new buildings	£65,000	Due Diligence stage	Project originally agreed for LIF January 2013. Since SIF support was withdrawn in 2019 Westland Community Group are being supported by partners, including UV, NIHE and BCC to build capacity, and provide programming funding support - a funded community worker is now in place. TEO have just confirmed the project has been agreed onto their UV capital pipeline.	Continued engagement with group and UV in regarding to re-scoping of proposal and the now commencing business case development process.
NLIF2-19	Women's Tec	£46,667	Due Diligence stage	Agreed February 2017. Group will be renewing their lease at Skegoniell Primary School. Group still having issues with their lease however they are actively working to resolve this.	Continued engagement with Group in terms of the lease. Project will be taken back to Due Diligence for review.
NLIF2-03	Ardoyne Shankill Health Partnership	£15,000	Due Diligence stage	Agreed in June 2018. Project remains at Due Diligence stage – lease issues to be resolved.	Continued engagement with Group
NLIF2-05	Mercy Primary, Crumlin Road	£15,000	Initial stage	Agreed June 2016 - Reported to SP&R Committee on 19 th June 2020 confirming that information was received from the group and project is progressing. The title deeds for Mercy Primary School have now been received.	Continued engagement with Group. To be presented at the next Due Diligence meeting.
NLIF057	Ardoyne Holy Cross Boxing Club	£66,000	Initial stage	Agreed April 2014 - This project is within the overall UV Phase 2 development of St Gemma's school. The UV Business Case is progressing. The project designs and costs are being developed and an MOU has been developed. TEO has identified a potential funding shortfall and has advised that it is currently reviewing project budgets across the UV Programme, following which consideration will be given to reallocating additional funding to this project.	Continued engagement with Group and with UV AWG has agreed that the Group will come in and present to a future AWG.

Belfast Investment Fund (BIF)

The Project Manager provided a brief overview in relation to the Belfast Investment Fund (BIF) and reminded the Working Group that North Belfast had been allocated £5.5m. He advised that, in North Belfast, 7 projects had received an 'In-Principle' funding commitment under BIF, thereby fully allocating its £5.5m: and 2 projects were on the longer BIF list:

North	Stage 3 - Cancer Lifeline—£650k; Grace Family Centre —£1.6m; Basement Youth Club/ Elim Church Ireland - £1.5m Stage 2- Malgrove- £500k Stage 1 - Marrowbone Park £750k; Cultural Community Hub - £350k, Midland Boxing Club £400k Cliftonville Community Forum, Sunningdale Community Centre - no commitment
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He updated the Working Group on the status of the remaining projects and suggested the following actions be taken forward:

BIF Ref	PROJECT	FUNDING	STAGE	STATUS	ACTION/RECOMMENDATION
BIF06	Grace Family Centre	£1,600,000	Complete	Project completed and was launched in May. The Grace Family Centre café is due to open in September 2021. The project final account is not yet ready and final figure for reallocation will be available in the next quarterly update.	Continue engagement with the group re post monitoring. Final account update to be brought back in the next AWG meeting.
BIF22/34	Basement Youth Club/	£1,500,000	Design stage	£1.5m BIF monies allocated to the project in January 2019 (SP&R Cttee) and work is ongoing with the Department of Education regarding	Continue engagement with the group and stakeholders.

	Elim Church (Old Grove)			their allocated of £500k funding (£2m in total committed at present). A revised Economic Appraisal and Business Planning is ongoing however progress is reliant on feedback from the group involved and to date queries around proposed programming of any new building have not been provided to the consultant team. Due to issues regarding ongoing revenue costs in the original proposal an alternative to the Old Grove site is now being considered and it is expected that the old Basement building (owned by Elim Church) would be the subject of the new project with a demolition and rebuild. If DE continue their support for the scheme (this will be subject to them consideration and sign-off of the new Economic Appraisal) the Council's commitment to the project would reduce. This could release monies for reallocation by the AWG. This is currently being quantified with an update to be brought back to a future AWG meeting.	
BIF15	Malgrove	£500,000	Uncommitted	Business case completed - preferred option accommodates 4 team changing and is estimated cost of £1million (£500k funding deficit remains – avenues to be explored incl. DfC). Design layout reflecting access and parking requirements to be finalised to allow for detailed design and planning application submission (still awaiting response from NIE on option of community transfer of parcel of land for element of parking).	Continue engagement with the group.
BIF45	Midland Boxing Club	£400,000	Emerging - Design Stage	Planning application submitted May 2021. Anticipate planning decision by Oct 2021. Officers are liaising with Northern Ireland Housing Executive to complete the acquisition of land adjacent to club for the extension (on track). Aim to complete tender exercise and appoint contractor by Nov 2021. Initial pre-tender estimates show the project may require further funding (approx. £60k) and project officers are working with group to address this by approaching other funders.	Continue engagement with the group and design team. Recommend that project to be moved to Stage 2- Uncommitted.
BIF41	Marrowbone Millennium Park	£750,000	Emerging	Partnership project with UV. Business Case approved. DfC has confirmed additional funding of £200k. In Nov 2020, additional BIF funding of £250k was re-allocated. Planning has now been approved and Council are awaiting formal letter of offer from UV before progressing procurement.	Continue engagement with the group and stakeholders. Recommend that project to be moved to Stage 2- Uncommitted
BIF43	Cultural Community Hub	£350,000	Emerging	Proposed new cultural hub community facility. Feasibility study and business plan completed. Project will comprise of a 130sqm permanent brick facility on derelict Orange Lodge owned site. As Upper Crumlin Road Cultural Association is recently constituted it is proposed that the County Grand Orange Lodge of Belfast will be project guarantor. Project proposal assessed. Discussed initially at Due Diligence in 19 th August 2021 with no major issues.	Continue engagement with the group and stakeholders. Recommend that project to be moved to Stage 2- Uncommitted

Capital Programme

The Project Manager reminded the Working Group of the 3 stage approval process in place for every project on the Council's Capital Programme, as agreed by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee. He summarised the current status of the live projects for North Belfast as follows:

Project	Status and update
Playground Improvement Programme 2021/2022 (City wide)	Cavehill Adventurous playground works to start in January 2022.
North Foreshore - Development Sites Infrastructure Works	Stage 3 – Committed Project. Electricity infrastructure upgrade currently being progressed
Belfast Zoo – Programme of Works (Works to the Large Cats Enclosure, Sea Lion, etc)	Stage 3 - Committed Project. On ground. Health and safety works and Sea Lion works underway. Tender preparation has also begun for the Large Cats Enclosure, with works anticipated to start by September.
Boodles Dam – Abandonment of the Dam	Stage 3 – Committed Project. Contractor has been appointed and has submitted a Construction Environmental Management Plan to NIEA. Awaiting response from NIEA and hope to be mobilising to site in August/ early September 2021.
Reservoir Safety Programme	Stage 3- Committed Project. Works to Alexandra Park, Waterworks Upper and Waterworks Lower. Integrated Consultancy Team have been appointed. ICT working on designs and preparing planning application
Alleygating Phase 5 – City wide	Stage 3 – Committed Project. Update to be brought to next AWG
LTP - Girdwood Indoor Sports Facility	Stage 2 – Uncommitted Project. Design Team and Business Case consultant now engaged. Currently working through options in partnership with DfC for inclusion in Business Case.
Relocation of Dunbar Link Cleansing Depot	Stage 2 – Uncommitted Project. OBC being worked up

Externally- funded programme

The Project Manager explained that the Council was the delivery partner / agent for a number of government departments on key capital investment programmes, namely, the Executive Office Social Investment Fund (SIF), the Executive Office Urban Villages (UV) Programme, and number of schemes with the Department for Communities Regeneration directorate. He provided the following overview of projects within each programme relevant to North Belfast:

Urban Villages Initiative

Project	Status and update
Marrowbone Millennium Park	<i>As per update under BIF.</i> Partnership project with UV and DfC. The Business Case has been approved. Planning has now been approved and Council are awaiting formal letter of offer from UV.
Ballysillan Playing Fields	Partnership project with UV, DfC and DfI LWWP. Public consultation closed on 1 August. A report on the consultation findings is in the process of being prepared with any final design changes to scheme to be confirmed. The UV Business Case has been approved and a Letter of Offer is now imminent. The Council has received a request for funding from TEO in sum of £100k for contribution towards design fees. TEO have been advised that no funding is currently available at this time.
Beann Mhadagáin Family Centre	Council acting as delivery agent. The Business Case is progressing. UV has identified a potential funding deficit between £300k and £600k. The Project Promoter is exploring options regarding additional funding opportunities. The UV Letter of Offer is dependent upon confirmation of funding and Business Case approval.
Sunningdale Community Centre	Council acting as delivery agent, proposed on Council land. A final draft Business Case has been received and is under review. Council is considering an in-principle agreement to transfer lands. TEO identified a funding deficit in sum

	of £359,318 and following a request for match funding from Council, TEO were advised that no funding is currently available. TEO has indicated that it is currently reviewing project budgets across the UV Programme, following which consideration will be given to reallocating additional funding to this project. Additional funding opportunities are being explored by TEO to support this project.
Ardoyne Youth Enterprises (AYE) Social Enterprise Project:	Council acting as delivery agent. The Business Case is progressing. The project designs and costs are being developed. TEO has identified a potential funding shortfall and has advised that it is currently reviewing project budgets across the UV Programme, following which consideration will be given to reallocating additional funding to this project. Additional funding opportunities are being explored by TEO to support this project.
St Gemma's ABC Trust	<i>As per update under LIF.</i> Partnership project with UV. The Business Case is progressing. The project designs and costs are being developed and an MOU has been developed. TEO has identified a potential funding shortfall and has advised that it is currently reviewing project budgets across the UV Programme, following which consideration will be given to reallocating additional funding to this project. Additional funding opportunities are being explored by TEO to support this project.

He highlighted that Members were asked to note that a request for funding in the sum of £100k had been received from TEO in relation to the Ballysillan Playing Fields project, a copy of the letter received from TEO was attached at Appendix 1. The funding request was to support the funding profile of £5,758,616 (UV £3,958,616, DfI £1,100,000, DfC £700,000).

Peace IV

The following update on Peace IV - Forth Meadow Community Greenway project was provided:

Project	Status and update
Forth Meadow Community Greenway project	On Ground. Contractor on site at Section 1. Planning applications for remaining sections of the scheme with planners. Match funding received from DfI (£750k) and DfC (£500k). Estimated completion of SEUPB programme December 2023.

Department for Communities (DfC) funded projects

The Project Manager provided the following status update on DfC funded projects in North Belfast:

Project	Status and update
Girdwood Indoor Sports Site— ICT	Business Case being developed.
Voice of Young people In Care (VOYPIC) and Include Youth	Refurbishment of 100 Great Patrick St, Belfast to provide a modern, fit for purpose youth space - BCC as delivery agent. Tender returned and currently being assessed.

Living with Water Programme (LWWP)

The Working Group were provided with an update on projects under LWWP:

Project	Status and update
Belfast Castle Estate – SuDS pilot project	Natural flood management scheme based on a sustainable drainage pilot project in the grounds of Belfast Castle. Designs are being finalised and it is anticipated work will commence on site in August 2021.

After discussion, the Working Group noted:

- the physical programme update for North Belfast;
- that the Midland Boxing Club, Marrowbone Millennium Park and Cultural Community Hub BIF projects would be recommended to be move to Stage 2- Uncommitted at the next Strategic Policy and Resources Committee;
- the request for funding from TEO in the sum of £100k in relation to the Ballysillan Playing Fields project; and
- that any underspend from the Grace Family Centre Project would be confirmed at the next meeting and any amount available for reallocation would be brought back to Members for consideration.

Date of Next Meeting

The Working Group noted that the date of the next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, 24th November.

Chairperson

West Belfast Area Working Group

Thursday, 26th August, 2021

WEST BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP
HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Members present: Councillor Corr (Chairperson),
Alderman Kingston; and
Councillors Baker, Beattie, Canavan, Carson
Donnelly, Garrett, Hutchinson, McLaughlin
and Walsh.

In attendance: Mr. J. Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy;
Ms. A. McGlone, Neighbourhood Integration Manager;
Mr. K. Heaney, Portfolio Manager;
Mr. M. Doherty, Project Manager;
Mr. J. Uprichard, Community Planning Officer; and
Ms. K. McCrum, Democratic Services Officer.

Election of Chairperson

The Area Working Group noted that it was required to elect a Chairperson for the coming year.

Moved by Councillor McLaughlin,
Seconded by Councillor Carson and

Resolved – that Councillor Corr be elected to serve as Chairperson to the West Belfast Area Working Group until 31st May, 2022.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported on behalf of Councillors Black, Heading McCabe and Verner.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 27th May were agreed as an accurate record of proceedings.

Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were recorded.

Presentations

Refresh of Belfast Agenda - Co-Design Approach

The Director of City and Organisational Strategy reminded the Working Group that it had been four years since the Council had published the Belfast Agenda, the city's first community plan. He confirmed that the Review of the Belfast Agenda had launched in June,

and that there was a legislative requirement to publish an updated Belfast Agenda by April, 2022.

He advised that the aim was to build a society that values and takes care of people of all ages and to make sure that everyone had the opportunity to reach their full potential, and that this was Members and partners chance to influence the focus in the next four years.

A promotional launch video was played which showed the intended engagement programme to encourage all partners to contribute. The Director explained the timeline for the review process and confirmed that consultation of the draft plan was proposed to take place between January and March 2022.

He advised that co-design was a central principle which had been adopted to review the Belfast Agenda and by the end of March 2022, the Council wished to co-design an updated Belfast Agenda.

He provided an overview of an updated Belfast Agenda 'city strategy' document which included the Council's long-term vision and outcomes, population indicators (how success would be measured) and the new 4-year priorities.

He described the 8 priority themes for 2022 – 2026 which included: Economic Recovery; Employability and Skills; Educational Attainment; Housing; Community Recovery and Neighbourhood Regeneration; Health Inequalities; Climate Resilience and Sustainability; and Active and Sustainable Travel. He added that feedback had underlined the need for these themes to be cross-cutting.

He explained that this would include Underpinning Delivery Action Plans which included actions to deliver the 4-year priorities and would be based on criteria such as:

- Partnership activity providing collaborative gain / not business as usual activity;
- Designed to contribute to the Belfast Agenda outcomes / deliver wellbeing for Belfast residents; and
- Include 'area specific' elements making the 'Belfast Agenda' more meaningful to communities.

The Director provided details of the progress of the launch to date and planned engagement events of targeted groups. He highlighted that an Elected Member Workshop had been planned for Friday, 3rd September.

The Director encouraged the Working Group to get involved and continue the Belfast Conversation and help shape Belfast's future. He advised that the survey was online at yoursay.belfastcity.gov.uk and would be advertised via the Council's Social Media Channels and further information would be sent to Members to disseminate and share with relevant groups. He also advised that hard copies of the survey were available at local libraries, community centres and leisure centres.

In response to a question as to how success would be measured, the Director advised that in refining the priorities, it would be important to understand what needed to be monitored. He added that a partnership existed with Queens University to assist with this work, particularly around area-based analysis. The Portfolio Manager confirmed that there was a commitment to publish the supporting Action Plans alongside the Belfast Agenda, which would provide further transparency and accountability.

A Member questioned when the next Statement of Progress would be published and asked if further detail could be provided in the future, in particular, a breakdown of the statistics provided to demonstrate the differences that were being made.

The Director advised that the next Statement of Progress would be produced alongside the Belfast Agenda refresh (November 2021- March 2022), and agreed that further work was needed to develop a supporting outcomes framework to measure success that would enable regular updates to be provided to Elected Members.

The Working Group noted the information provided and welcomed the review of the Belfast Agenda.

Future Planning Model: Integrated Care System

Mr. B. Nelson, Co-Director of Public Health, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, provided an overview of the Department of Health's consultation into a proposed new model of planning and managing services through an Integrated Care System.

The Working Group was advised that this was defined as "A collaborative partnership between organisations and individuals with a responsibility for planning, managing, and delivering care, services and interventions to meet the health and wellbeing needs of the local population and which, through taking collective action, deliver improved outcomes for individuals and communities and reduce health inequalities."

The challenges facing the health and social care sector were outlined, as were the social determinants of health, including socioeconomic factors, physical environment, health behaviours, and health care.

The Co-Director explained that the current commissioning system had been found to be overly bureaucratic and lacking in clarity of accountability of decision making, and so with the closure of the Health and Social Care Board, the Local Commissioning Group's would also cease.

He advised that the Health Minister had granted approval for a programme of work to develop an Integrated Care System (ICS) model in NI which would adhere to the principles of delegated local level decision-making and funding (with the exception of specialised services to be planned, managed and delivered regionally), and support an outcomes based approach underpinned by accountability.

The Working Group was presented with the principles and values which underpinned the emerging Framework, as well as the proposed 4-tiered model, as set out below, which adopted a population health needs approach informed by local intelligence:

- Regional Group – regional coordination, oversight and accountability – planning and managing specialist services;
- 5 Area Integrated Partnership Boards (AIPBs) – Local planning and delivery based on identified population needs in the local area in line with the strategic direction;
- Locality Groups - Integrated Care Partnerships (ICPs), GP Federations and Community Pharmacies linking with Community Planning – supporting and delivering interventions at a local level supporting AIPBs;
- Community Groups – GP Practices, Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDTs), voluntary and community groups and organisations – supporting and delivering interventions at a community level.

The Co-Director presented the proposed membership model for the Area Integrated Partnership Boards (AIPBs), which included involvement beyond the Health and Social Care Trust, including GPs, the Public Health Agency, Community Planning, service users and community and voluntary representatives.

He confirmed that following the consultation period, it was envisioned that the ICS model would be implemented by March/April 2022, after which it would be reviewed and refreshed as necessary.

The Chairperson thanked Mr. Nelson for his presentation, and welcomed the locality approach. He also underlined the importance of ongoing relationships between the ICS model and local Elected Members.

A Member commented on the positive partnership working that had been demonstrated throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, and emphasised the importance of having a strategic direction when setting up new partnerships, with the needs, actions and outcomes clearly articulated. The Co-Director agreed that a framework was important so as to ensure consistency alongside local flexibility.

After discussion, the Working Group noted the information that had been provided.

Request to Present - The Roddy McCorley Historical Society

The Working Group agreed to receive a presentation from the Roddy McCorley Historical Society at the next meeting of the West Belfast Area Working Group. It was noted that the Lagmore Youth Project would also be delivering a presentation at the meeting.

Forward Planning Emerging Opportunities

The Neighbourhood Integration Manager provided an update on priority areas of work within the City and Neighbourhoods Department which, if agreed, would form the focus of the West Belfast Area Working Group in the months ahead.

She advised that Community Infrastructure and Capacity Pilot projects were being proposed, identifying one group in each area of the city that could be supported to develop their capacity. She added that discussions were underway with partners regarding financial support for the process, and that ideas would be developed and a list of proposals brought to a future meeting for agreement.

In relation to the Alleyway Transformation Programme, she stated that work was ongoing in a bid to transform and green alleyways, and that an update would be brought to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee and then to the Area Working Groups in order to refine and agree the list of priorities.

Regarding Peace Plus, the Neighbourhood Integration Manager informed the Group that the project would continue to be funded by the European Commission, however, the content of the programme was yet to be agreed with SEUPB. She explained the proposal that localised action plans would be co-designed with communities, with a view to the Area Working Groups refining the range of interventions, which could include youth development programmes, health and well-being, community regeneration projects, initiatives to build positive relations and social innovation. She confirmed that timeframes were still to be confirmed but it was envisioned that submission of the Plans would be between March and June 2022.

A Member welcomed the Community Infrastructure and Capacity Pilot in light of previous discussions about the number of large scale housing developments under construction where plans existed to include community facilities within them, but no strategies were in place for how this would be managed.

Another Member raised concerns that just one group would be chosen in each area of the city given the need in West Belfast, and asked that a group from the Shankill area be included in the list provided to the Area Working Group.

After discussion, the Working Group noted the updates provided and welcomed further information at the next meeting of the Working Group.

Physical Programmes Update

The Project Manager provided an update on the progress of those projects under a range of funding streams, including the Local Investment Fund (LIF), the Belfast Investment Fund (BIF), Social Outcome Fund (SOF), Capital Programme, and externally funded programmes.

Local Investment Fund (LIF)

He explained that since the last meeting, a number of projects had been completed, and provided an update as follows:

LIF Ref	PROJECT	LIF FUNDING	STAGE	STATUS	ACTION/RECOMMENDATION
WLIF2-10	St James Community Forum	£115,000	Recently completed	Project recently completed in May 2021. Project has received extremely positive media and local support. Final account currently being completed.	Continue engagement with the group re post monitoring. Final account update to be brought in the next AWG meeting.
WLIF2-28	Belfast Orange Hall Clifton Street	£65,000	Recently completed	Building upgrades project recently completed. Link to SOF project.	Continue engagement with the group re post monitoring.
WLIF2-25	Woodvale Cricket Club -	£33,000	Complete	Upgrade to enable the creation of a large upstairs hall. Project fully complete.	Continue engagement with the group re post monitoring.
WLIF2-26	St. Matthew's Parish Church Hall	£35,000	Complete	Building upgrades. Project fully complete.	Continue engagement with the group re post monitoring.
WLIF2-27	West Belfast Orange Hall -	£17,000	Complete	Building upgrades. Project fully complete.	Continue engagement with the group re post monitoring.
WLIF2-30	St. John GAC	£17,000	Complete	Project complete.	Continue engagement with the group re post monitoring.
WLIF2-08	Berlin Swifts Football Club	£65,085	On Ground	Contractor appointed. Works progressing. Estimated project completion date by end of August 2021.	Continue engagement with the groups and project partners.
WLIF2-04	St John Bosco Boxing Club	£40,000	Due Diligence	BCC delivery to be formalised with Sport NI and subject to a Memorandum of Understanding between parties. Planning permission in place. Still awaiting Sport NI info. Project need to be sign off at the next Due Diligence.	Ongoing liaison with Sport NI and group.

Belfast Investment Fund (BIF)

The Project Manager drew attention to the Colin Glen Trust project which was nearing completion and had been successfully received. A further update was provided in relation to the following projects:

BIF Ref	PROJECT	BIF FUNDING	STAGE	STATUS	ACTION/RECOMMENDATION
BIF10	St Comgall's	£3,500,000	On Ground	Project on ground. Estimated completion in January/ February 2022.	Continue engagement with the group.
BIF30	Colin Glen Trust	£2,500,000	On Ground	Project is now largely complete apart from long zipline which is due to complete in August. Toboggan, short zipline, land train, car park and ticket office are now fully operational and site is already experiencing strong visitor numbers. In all, additional funding in excess of £2.5m was levered in to add to Council's original £2.5m investment. Formal launch will be organised for September 2021.	Continue engagement with the group.
BIF09	Glencairn Community Project	£700,00	Uncommitted; Due Diligence stage	Project to be match funded by Education Authority (£500k). Discussed at Due Diligence issues around sustainability. Meeting with Shankill Councillors, Group and EA to develop an options paper with a view to moving the project forward.	Continue engagement with the group and key stakeholders.
BIF29	Greater Shankill Community Council - Royal British Legion	£300,000	Uncommitted; Design stage	Project moved to Stage 2- Uncommitted in March 2021. Project progressing to detailed design. Integrated Design Team appointed to prepare tender documents. Building survey undertaken.	Continue engagement with the group. Project Delivery Team established first meeting week commencing 23 August 2021.

Capital Programme

The current status of the live projects for West Belfast was summarised as follows:

Project	Status and update
Replacement Service Yard – Falls Park/ City Cemetery	Project recently completed. Link to the City Cemetery - National Lottery Heritage Fund project (as per below).
City Cemetery – National Lottery Heritage Fund (formerly HLF)	Stage 3 – Committed, on the ground. Contractor works are progressing well. The new service yard is underway and should be complete by Oct/Nov 2020. It is hoped work will comment on the visitor centre in November and will be completed in Aug/Sept 2021. In tandem with this the restoration works on several of the site's key assets such as the Centre Steps, Victorian Fountains and Mortuary Tower is well underway.
Playground Improvement Programme 2020/21 (City wide)	Stage 3 – Committed. Falls Park and Vere Foster (Moyard) playgrounds recently completed.

Externally Funded Programme

The Project Manager explained that the Council was the delivery partner / agent for a number of government departments on key capital investment programmes, namely, the Executive Office Urban Villages (UV) Programme, the Executive Office Social Investment Fund (SIF), and number of schemes with the Department for Communities Regeneration directorate. He provided the following overview of projects within each programme relevant to West Belfast:

Urban Villages Initiative

Project	Status and update
Páirc Nua Chollann (New Park in Colin)	Ongoing issues with the contractor has impacted project delivery dates. Officers, in conjunction with Legal Services and Urban Villages, are considering future options in relation to the contractor, following which next steps will be identified. Regular communication with the local community remains ongoing and regular meetings are being arranged to update on the current position. Members will be kept up to date with progress.
Healthy Living Centre (Sport in the Community (PCA)	Final Business Case approved by TEO and letter of offer expected imminently.

Colin Glen Trust	Draft Business Case prepared, UV awaiting response from Group regarding funding deficit.
Colin Valley Football Club	Final Business Case approved by TEO and letter of offer expected imminently.

Social Investment Fund

The Project Manager confirmed that works were progressing well at the St. Comgall's site, and drew attention to the update provided within the report:

Project	Status and update
St. Comgall's	Project on ground. Estimated completion in January/ February 2022. Link to BIF project – see above update.

PEACE IV

The following update on the Peace IV capital projects was provided:

Project	Status and update
Springfield Dam & Park	The project was completed and opened to the public in December 2020 This work was part of the Forth Meadow Community Greenway project.
Forth Meadow Community	Planning approvals for remaining sections of the scheme with planners for approval. Letter of Offers from DfI (£750k) and DfC received (£500k). Contractor on site at Section 1. Estimated completion of SEUPB programme December 2023.
Black Mountain Shared Space Project	Design underway. Revised SEUPB LoO for Phase 1 received and IFI LoO (£500k) received for Phase 2 (extension rec'd). Discussions ongoing with DfC and DoJ to bridge gap left by SEUPB for the proposed Phase 2 works. Costs continue to be reviewed as the design develops. Estimated completion of SEUPB programme December 2023.
Shankill Women's Centre	Design underway. PQQ documentation for contractor appointment issued. Costs continue to be reviewed as the design develops. Estimated completion of SEUPB programme December 2023.

Department for Communities (DfC) funded projects

The Project Manager provided the following status update on DfC funded projects in West Belfast:

Project	Status and update
Playground Improvements Programme	Falls Park and Vere Foster (Moyard) playgrounds completed
Grosvenor 3G pitch carpet replacement	Project completed
Grosvenor Centre playpark	Project completed
Willowbank Changing pavilion	Project completed
Old Golf Course Road— remedial works	Project completed
Restoration works at City Cemetery	Project completed
Colin Glen Trust (multiyear)	Project completed
St James Community Forum	Project recently completed. Link to LIF project
Berlin Swifts Football Club	Project on ground. Link to LIF project
Páirc Nua Chollann	Project on ground. Link to UV project (update above)
Forth Meadow Community Greenway	Project on ground. Link to PeaceIV project (update above)
Paisley Park – Phase 2	Project at initial stage

In response to a query as to an official launch date of the Colin Glen Trust project, and involvement of the Lord Mayor, the Project Manager undertook to seek an update from the relevant officers.

The Working Group noted the physical programmes update as provided, alongside the photos of recently completed or underway projects.

Date of Next Meeting

The Working Group noted the date of the next scheduled meeting, Thursday, 25th November, 2021.

Chairperson

East Belfast Area Working Group

Thursday, 2nd September, 2021

MEETING OF EAST BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Members present: Alderman Sandford (Chairperson),
Aldermen Copeland, Dorrian, Haire and Rodgers; and
Councillors De Faoite, Flynn, Hanvey, Howard,
M. Kelly, Kyle, Long, McMullan and Mulholland.

In attendance: Ms. S. Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes;
Mr. J. Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy;
Ms. K. Watters, Neighbourhood Integration Manager;
Mr. K. Heaney, Portfolio Manager;
Ms. P. Conway, Development Surveyor;
Mr. J. Uprichard, Community Planning Officer; and
Ms. K. McCrum, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Councillors Brooks, McReynolds, Newton and Smyth.

Minutes

The Working Group agreed that the minutes of the meeting of 21st June were an accurate record of proceedings.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were recorded.

Presentations

Refresh of Belfast Agenda - Co-Design Approach

The Director of City and Organisational Strategy reminded the Working Group that it had been four years since the Council had published the Belfast Agenda, the city's first community plan. He confirmed that the Review of the Belfast Agenda had launched in June, and that there was a legislative requirement to publish an updated Belfast Agenda by April, 2022.

He advised that the aim was to build a society that values and takes care of people of all ages and to make sure that everyone had the opportunity to reach their full potential. He highlighted the importance of Elected Members and partners informing this work and shaping the focus of the Belfast Agenda for the next four years (2022-2026).

He advised that a co-design approach had been adopted for refreshing the Belfast Agenda. A promotional launch video was played which showed the intended engagement programme to encourage all partners to contribute. The Director explained the timeline for the review process and confirmed that consultation of the draft plan was proposed to take place between January and March 2022.

He provided an overview of an updated Belfast Agenda 'city strategy' document which included the Council's long-term vision and outcomes, population indicators (how success would be measured) and the new 4-year priorities. He added that an easy-read version would be made available also.

He described the proposed 8 priority themes for 2022 – 2026 which included: Economic Recovery; Employability and Skills; Educational Attainment; Housing; Community Recovery and Neighbourhood Regeneration; Health Inequalities; Climate Resilience and Sustainability; and Active and Sustainable Travel. Also highlighted were four proposed cross-cutting themes, including Inclusive Growth, Children and Young People, Good Relations and Shared Future, and Older People.

He explained that this would include Underpinning Delivery Action Plans which included actions to deliver the 4-year priorities and would be based on criteria such as:

- Partnership activity providing collaborative gain / not business as usual activity;
- Designed to contribute to the Belfast Agenda outcomes / deliver wellbeing for Belfast residents; and
- Include 'area specific' elements making the 'Belfast Agenda' more meaningful to communities.

The Director provided details of the level of engagement and feedback to date and outlined the forthcoming events scheduled for targeted groups. He highlighted that an Elected Member Workshop had been planned for Friday, 3rd September and encouraged all Members to attend.

The Director encouraged the Working Group to get involved, help build momentum and continue the Belfast Conversation in order to help shape Belfast's future. He advised that the supporting survey was available online at yoursay.belfastcity.gov.uk and proactive promotion of the process was underway via the Council's Social Media Channels. He added that further information would be sent to the Members to disseminate and share with relevant groups, and that hard copies of the survey were available at local libraries, community centres and leisure centres.

In closing, he drew attention to the connection between this work and that of the Integrated Care System, which was next on the agenda, allowing partners to work together on a number of cross-cutting health issues.

A Member commented that engagement with external groups and organisations had in the past been limited and questioned how active their involvement was in the current process. The Director advised that, whilst the approach to Community Planning in Northern Ireland was still under development, in recent years, it had been gathering momentum and partnership working was active both in terms of human and financial resources across a number of projects.

At the request of a Member, the promotional launch video was circulated to the Working Group to allow further dissemination via social media.

Following discussion, the Working Group noted the information which had been provided.

Future Planning Model: Integrated Care System

Ms. O. Barron, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, provided an overview of the Department of Health's consultation into a proposed new model of planning and managing services through an Integrated Care System.

The Working Group was advised that this was defined as "A collaborative partnership between organisations and individuals with a responsibility for planning, managing, and delivering care, services and interventions to meet the health and wellbeing needs of the local population and which, through taking collective action, deliver improved outcomes for individuals and communities and reduce health inequalities."

The challenges facing the health and social care sector were outlined, as were the social determinants of health, including socioeconomic factors, physical environment, health behaviours, and health care.

She explained that the current commissioning system had been found to be overly bureaucratic and lacking in clarity of accountability of decision making, and so with the closure of the Health and Social Care Board, the Local Commissioning Group's would also cease.

She advised that the Health Minister had granted approval for a programme of work to develop an Integrated Care System (ICS) model in NI which would adhere to the principles of delegated local level decision-making and funding (with the exception of specialised services to be planned, managed and delivered regionally), and support an outcomes based approach underpinned by accountability.

The Working Group was presented with the principles and values which underpinned the emerging Framework, as well as the proposed 4-tiered model, as set out below, which adopted a population health needs approach informed by local intelligence:

- Regional Group – regional coordination, oversight and accountability – planning and managing specialist services;
- 5 Area Integrated Partnership Boards (AIPBs) – Local planning and delivery based on identified population needs in the local area in line with the strategic direction;
- Locality Groups - Integrated Care Partnerships (ICPs), GP Federations and Community Pharmacies linking with Community Planning – supporting and delivering interventions at a local level supporting AIPBs;
- Community Groups – GP Practices, Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDTs), voluntary and community groups and organisations – supporting and delivering interventions at a community level.

The Working Group was then presented with the proposed membership model for the Area Integrated Partnership Boards (AIPBs), which included involvement beyond the Health and Social Care Trust, including GPs, the Public Health Agency, Community Planning, service users and community and voluntary representatives.

Ms. Barron confirmed that following the consultation period, it was envisioned that the ICS model would be implemented by March/April 2022, after which it would be reviewed and refreshed as necessary.

A number of the Members commented upon the high levels of demand within the primary care sector and the knock-on effect at A&E departments, with questions raised about how this approach would tackle the problems that people were experiencing in accessing health care, whilst minimising disruption to the current system.

Ms. Barron advised that, while the Covid-19 pandemic had not caused the problems, it had exacerbated them. She commented upon the pressures being experienced at both primary and secondary care settings, including workforce shortages, and detailed some of the actions underway to improve the situation, such as improved communication and referral systems and the delivery of Urgent Care Centres. She added that the community-based approach of the Integrated Care System was also expected to help address some of the issues.

In response to a query regarding the temporary closure of the out-of-hours GP service at Forester Green Hospital, Ms. Barron confirmed that staffing shortages had led to the consolidation of hours, and that the situation was under review.

After discussion, the Chairperson thanked Ms. Barron for her presentation and the Working Group noted the information that had been provided.

Forward Planning Emerging Opportunities

The Neighbourhood Integration Manager advised that EastSide Partnership was keen to talk to the Working Group about the Connswater Community Greenway and its plans for development of the wider EastSide Greenway. She also asked the Members to advise her of any areas of work that they would like to be presented over the next number of months.

The Working Group agreed that a focused meeting regarding Greenways in East Belfast should be scheduled to encompass this request alongside an update on the Sydenham Greenway, and to discuss their alignment to corporate work regarding city connectivity.

Discussion took place regarding the need to conduct a major review of those capital projects that were now completed, whilst agreeing the direction for East Belfast in the years ahead. The Director of Physical Programmes confirmed that this was one of the ambitions of the Area Planning work being undertaken by the City and Neighbourhood Department, with the aim of aligning capital projects with the Belfast Agenda and area level outcomes.

The Working Group noted that a Special Area Working Group Meeting was scheduled in October to review a number of outstanding Physical Programme projects.

At the request of a Member, the Neighbourhood Integration Manager undertook to contact the East Belfast Community Development Agency in order to seek an update regarding their Youth Practitioners Forum, particularly youth provision types, levels and the challenges being faced.

Physical Programme Update

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 projects under the Physical Programme.

2. Recommendations

Members are asked to:-

- note the physical programme update for East Belfast
- consider the proposed schedule for the BIF/ LIF projects site visits
- note on the update on the proposals for works to the Henry Jones Playing Fields entrance on the Church Road as part of the wider works being undertaken by DFI

3. Local Investment Fund

LIF is a £9m fixed programme of capital investment in non-council neighbourhood assets, over two tranches: LIF 1 (2012-2015) - £5m total funding pot, allocated across each AWG areas; and LIF 2 (2015 -2019) - £4m allocation with the East being allocated £1.127m under LIF1 and £1.2m under LIF2.

Each LIF project proposal is taken through a Due Diligence process prior to any funding award. Table below outlines funding spend to date for each tranche, at key stages of the delivery process: 20 projects received In Principle support under LIF1 and LIF2, of which 18 have been completed; 2 projects at initial stage, Westbourne Presbyterian Church – Titanic People and Lagan Village Youth and Community Association.

LIF breakdown – East	LIF 1		LIF 2	
Stage/ Description	Projects	Amount/ Value (£)	Projects	Amount/ Value (£)
Number of Projects Completed	7 (87%)	£877,500	11 (92%)	£1,146,589
Number of Projects in Delivery				
Number of Projects in Pre-construction				
Number of Projects at Initial Stage (Due Diligence)	1 (13%)	£250,000	1 (8%)	£15,000
Total Number of Approved Projects	8	£1,127,500	12	£1,161,589

The table below provides an overview of progress and actions around the remaining live projects. Members are asked to note the status of the current live LIF projects and the ongoing actions.

LIF REF	PROJECT	FUNDING	STAGE	STATUS	ACTION / RECOMMENDATION
ELIF 002	Westbourne Presbyterian Church – Titanic People	£250,000	Due Diligence stage	Committed in principle September 2012 - Costs for the project have significantly increased since the project was originally proposed some 8 years ago. Group presented at East AWG on 6 May. On 21 June 2021, AWG agreed to undertake a site visit to the BIF/ LIF projects including Westbourne/ Titanic People. <i>Link to UV project – see below.</i>	Site visit to be arranged.
ELIF2-17	Lagan Village Youth and Community Association	£15,000	Initial stage	Approved by SP&R on 23rd October 2020. DfC Letter of Offer (£35k) signed and awaiting final confirmation of land transfer. Initial enabling works and site fencing to commence imminently. Alpha funding application to be submitted.	Continue engagement with the group.

4. **Belfast Investment Fund**

BIF is a £28m investment fund for regeneration, partnership projects, with a minimum £250k investment from Council BIF. In East Belfast 9 projects have received an In-Principle funding commitment under BIF. There are 5 projects on the longer BIF list. Each of the ‘In Principle’ projects are taken through a 3-stage approval process, including a rigorous Due Diligence process before any Funding Agreement is approved and put in place. Table below provides a summary of BIF allocated projects i.e. project stage; project title; and the funding allocated.

Summary of BIF allocated projects:

East	Stage 3—Willowfield—£560k (completed); H&W Welders—£2.37m; Strand—£1.8m; Bloomfield—£440k Stage 2—Lagan Village Youth & Community—no commitment Stage 1—East Belfast Mission; Belmont Bowling Club; Bloomfield Presbyterian Church; St. John’s Orangefield, Church of Ireland—no commitment / on long list
Outer East	Stage 3 —TAGIT- £434k; Braniel—£390k; Hanwood—£396k; Castlereagh Presbyterian Church—£382k; Lisnasharragh Community Schools—£398k

The table below provides an overview of the remaining projects. Members are asked to note the actions and recommendations.

BIF REF	PROJECT	FUNDING	STAGE	STATUS	ACTION / RECOMMENDATION
BIF14	H&W Welders Club	£2,370,000	Stage 3 – on ground	Works on site progressing well. Project due for completion September 2021. Council officers currently liaising with H&W Welders representatives around land	Continue engagement with the group and partners.

				transfer and site operations post completion. Lease details agreed by SP&R Committee on 20 th August.	
BIF12	Strand Arts Centre	£1,800,000	Stage 3 – design stage	<p>Development of revised Stage 1 Design Report for £4.6m preferred option. Match funding from DfC secured in principle, awaiting for committed funding based on the revised design report.</p> <p>The proposed 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.</p> <p>Group presented to AWG in May 2021 and approval from following SP&R received to release £40,000 of allocated BIF to SAC to progress the project to RIBA Stage 2 and update the costs. Will be brought back to AWG in October.</p> <p>On 21 June 2021, AWG agreed to undertake a site visit to the BIF/ LIF projects including SAC.</p>	<p>Continue engagement with the group.</p> <p>Site visit to be arranged.</p>
BIF13	Bloomfield Community Association	£440,000	Stage 3 committed – In Principle	<p>Committed in principle September 2016 with Group given 6-9 months to secure match funding (would have been June 2017). No significant progress for more than 3 years.</p> <p>Discussed at East AWG on Feb 2021 and agreed to update the business case for the project and to undertake discussion with DfC. The revised Economic Appraisal/ Business Plan is complete and is currently being reviewed.</p> <p>On 21 June 2021, AWG agreed to undertake a site visit to the BIF/ LIF projects including Bloomfield CA.</p>	<p>Continue engagement with the group and partners.</p> <p>Site visit to be arranged.</p>

Outer East BIF Projects

BIF REF	PROJECT	FUNDING	STAGE	STATUS	ACTION / RECOMMENDATION
BIF27	Hanwood Project	£396,000	Complete	Project fully complete.	Continue engagement with the group re post monitoring
BIF18	TAGIT Boxing Club	£434,000	Stage 3 – On Ground	On Ground. Works commenced in October 2020. DfC match funded (£150k). Planned completion in 14 September 2021. Additional funding needed approximately £9k for equipment to meet full requirements.	Continue engagement with the group, DfC and partners
BIF25	Braniel Church	£390,000	Stage 3 – Tender stage	Work ongoing with group to progress the scheme. Planning Permission has now been secured LA04/2020/0639/F. Tender package preparations underway in consultation with Design Team and group.	Continue engagement with the group.

BIF37	Lisnasharragh Community Schools Project	£398,000	Stage 3 – Design stage	Project moved to Stage 3 in June 2018. Education Authority will be responsible for delivery and will procure contractor. The EA have recently advised the Council that the tender procurement exercise is now complete but the returns are above the tender estimates. After Value Engineering (VE) has taken place, the preferred tender is approximately £81k over the funding allocated from BIF. Other funding sources are being sought at this time but none secured at present. EA have sought advice from CPD regarding how to cover the construction inflation costs. Awaiting confirmation from EA.	Continue engagement with the group/ schools and Education Authority. Seek additional funding.
BIF38	Castlereagh Presbyterian Church	£382,000	Stage 3 – Due Diligence	Project moved to Stage 3 in March 2018. Project at final Due Diligence stage. Group presented to the AWG in June 2021 on a revised/ scaled back project proposal not dependant on additional funding - to address sustainability and energy efficiency issues with building (external doors, windows roofing, toilets) and its outcomes/benefits. Church approval for works now in place and group collating remaining information required as part of Due Diligence. On 21 June 2021, AWG agreed to undertake a site visit to the BIF/ LIF projects including Castlereagh PC.	Continued engagement with group. Site visit to be arranged.

Members are asked to note that AWG have confirmed in many occasions that the Lagan Village Youth and Community Centre, currently at BIF Stage 2- Uncommitted, is their reserve project and should be considered first if any funding became available through the BIF programme.

BIF/ LIF projects site visits – Members will recall that at their meeting on 21 June 2021, the AWG agreed to undertake a site visit to the BIF/ LIF projects under consideration, namely Castlereagh Presbyterian Church, Bloomfield Community Association, the Strand Cinema and the Westbourne/ Titanic People project in order to familiarise themselves with the projects. In addition, AWG also agreed to visit the Lagan Village Youth Community Association. Given the number of visits to be undertaken it is proposed that these are split over two sessions as outlined below:

- **Tuesday, 21st September (over lunch time) – Westbourne Church/ Titanic People and Strand Arts Centre**
- **Thursday, 23rd September (over lunch time) – Castlereagh PC, Bloomfield CA and Lagan Village Youth and Community Association**

Members are also asked to note that prior to the first COVID lockdown in March 2020 they had agreed to visit King George V Playing Fields, Ballymacarret Recreation Centre and Strandburn Park steps. Members are asked if they wish to still progress these and if agreed it is proposed a separate site visit is arranged for this.

5. Social Outcomes Fund

SOF is £4m ringfenced capital investment programme with a focus on local community tourism projects. There is one project under SOF for East Belfast - Eastside Visitor Centre – with an In-Principle funding commitment. Similar to BIF, all projects are subject to Due Diligence process prior to any funding award.

Project	SOF Award	Status and update
Eastside Visitor Centre <i>Link to UV project – see below</i>	£700,000	The proposal is for the extension of the existing visitor centre at C.S. Lewis Square. Council and UV agreed that this is a joint project with Pop Eastside (UV). Project business case development process now complete and study with UV and in final stages of their approval process. In parallel to information collation to take the project through Due Diligence still being ongoing - preparation has begun to make ready for the procurement of full design team to take the next stage of project forward.

6. Capital Programme

The Capital Programme is the rolling programme of enhancing existing Council assets or building / buying new assets. Members are reminded of the 3-stage approval process in place for every project on council's Capital Programme, as agreed by SP&R Committee. The table below provides an update on current live projects in East Belfast. Members are asked to note the status and update.

East Belfast – Capital programme overview

Project	Status and update
LTP- Avoniel	Stage 3 – Committed. On Ground. Completion anticipated by late Autumn 2021. AWG visited the project site on 5th August 2021.
LTP- Templemore- NLHF	Stage 3 – Committed. On Ground. Completion anticipated by summer 2022. AWG visited the project site on 5th August 2021.
Pitches Programme- Blanchflower Playing Fields – New pitch and floodlighting	Stage 3 – Committed – On Ground. Link with H&W Welders Club- Blanchflower Playing Fields (BIF). Planned completion September 2021.
New Crematorium	Stage 3 - Committed – Design underway.

	Public consultation opened in 9 August until 25 October 2021.
Shared Youth and Community Facility Inner East	Stage 1- Emerging. Officers to work jointly with the EA to develop business case/ plan on a potential youth facility at the council owned Ballymacarrett site. Strategic options study and discussions ongoing.
Ballymacarrett Area Masterplan	Stage 1- Emerging. Linked to Connswater Community Greenway. Link to the UV/DfI funded Ballymacarrett Walkway Environmental and Cycling Infrastructure Improvement project.

Photos of the recent project activities are attached in Appendix 1. When appropriate, as per Covid-19 public health guidance, the Physical Programmes Department is happy to arrange further site visits.

Church Road Footway – BCC site entrance works – Members are asked to note that there is a proposed DfI road enhancement scheme for new pavement and associated works on the Church Road. Part of this encompasses the entrance to the Council’s Henry Jones Playing Fields. Members will be aware that the entrance to Henry Jones currently provides for one vehicle at a time and there is no dedicated pedestrian access. At busy times this can lead to a bottleneck at the entrance and a build-up of traffic on a busy road. In addition, the lack of a dedicated pedestrian access poses a health & safety risk to those on foot or trying to cross the road. The works proposed by DfI provide an ideal opportunity to carry out works to the entrance of Henry Jones to improve vehicular and pedestrian access as this can be aligned to the works being undertaken and will provide a timely and cost-effective way to deal with the current traffic and pedestrian issues at the location. The proposed works to the entrance include – extending the existing entrance to allow for vehicular two-way access and egress, two pedestrian accesses (one either side of the enhanced vehicular entrance), new pedestrian footways linking up with the new footpath works being brought forward by DfI, new entrance gates and realignment of fencing etc. DfI are intending for their improvement works to commence early in the new year and the works to the entrance will link in with this. The scheme design is underway with DfI which will incorporate the BCC design elements.

7. Externally funded programmes

The Council is the delivery partner for a number of government departments on significant capital investment programmes, namely Social Investment Fund (SIF) and the Urban Villages Initiative (UV) funded by the Executive Office, and number of schemes with DfC. The following is an overview of projects within each programme relevant to East Belfast.

Social Investment Fund

Project	Award	Status and update
Walkway Community Association	£1,523,863	Project commenced on site 7 December 2020. Project is due for completion in early 2022. Legal Services is progressing the registration of boundary rectifications via Land Registry, this process is expected to complete in the very near future.

Urban Villages Initiative

Project	Status and update
Eastside Greenway Ballymacarrett	Project completed May 2021.
Pro-Kick Community Gym	Council acting as delivery agent. Project designs completed and tender process being finalised. Planning application approved in May 2021. It is anticipated that contractor will be on site September 2021. Supplemental LoO received from TEO increasing funding allocation by £191k.
Pop EastSide- Landmark East <i>NB partner funder of SOF project 'Eastside Visitor Centre'</i>	The proposal is for the extension of the existing visitor centre at C.S. Lewis Square. Council and UV agreed that this is a joint project with Pop Eastside (UV). Project business case development process now complete and study with UV and in final stages of their approval process. In parallel to information collation to take the project through Due Diligence still being ongoing - preparation has begun to make ready for the procurement of full design team to take the next stage of project forward. Link to SOF project.
Pitt Park redevelopment <i>Council asset</i>	Council acting as delivery agent. Business case completed and approved which includes findings from recent public consultation. LoO expected imminently. Design team appointed.
East Belfast Mission Accommodation project	Council acting as delivery agent. Emerging project. Reduced funding options have been produced and submitted to EBM Board for response. Additional funding options (potentially via DfC) are being explored by the Group. Project designs have been revised and costs updated for inclusion in Business Case which is progressing.
Eastside Souk	Council acting as delivery agent. Emerging project. Revised project scope, design and costs being prepared by Group and consideration being given to different site location. Ongoing discussions progressing between UV and the Group.
Titanic People Exhibition	Partnership project with UV. Emerging project. Design options, surveys and costs have been reviewed and concerns remain regarding building safety, associated costs in making the site secure, viability of the project given available investment and project outcome measures. The Group presented to East AWG in May and it was agreed that the position would be reviewed again in October 2021 when the UV Business Case was prepared. Discussions remain ongoing with the Group and additional funding options are being explored with DfC. The Council is waiting on detailed project proposal and Business Case from UV.

Members are also invited to view the UV Capital area video links from Executive Office on Eastside UV area: [Summary aerial film across all five UV areas](#) and [EastSide Urban Village Capital Aerial film](#)

DfC funded projects

Members are asked to note the update on projects match funded by Department for Communities.

Project	Status and update
Hanwood Centre -roof replacement	Project completed
Eastside Greenway - Ballymacarrett	Project completed
Prokick Community Gym	Project underway. Link to UV project
TAGIT Boxing Club	On Ground. Link to BIF project
Avoniel Leisure Centre	On Ground. Link to Capital Programme project
Blanchflower Improvements	On Ground. Link to Capital Programme project
Lagan Village youth and Community Centre	Initial stage. Link to LIF project

Following consideration of the report, the Working Group agreed to undertake the following site visits:

- Tuesday, 21st September (over lunch time) – Westbourne Church/ Titanic People and Strand Arts Centre;
- Thursday, 23rd September (over lunch time) – Castlereagh PC, Bloomfield CA and Lagan Village Youth and Community Association;
- Date(s) to be arranged - King George V Playing Fields, Ballymacarret Recreation Centre, Strandburn Park steps, TAGIT Boxing Club, H&W Welders Club and Blanchflower Playing Fields Project.

The Working Group also noted the update on the proposals for works to the Henry Jones Playing Fields entrance on the Church Road as part of the wider works being undertaken by DFI, and the wider Physical Programme Update for East Belfast.

Date of Next Meeting

The Working Group agreed that the date of the next meeting would be rescheduled from Monday, 11th October to Thursday 7th October, 2021, with updates provided in relation to the Strand Arts Centre, Bloomfield Community Association, Titanic People and Castlereagh Presbyterian Church projects.

Chairperson

South Belfast Area Working Group

Monday, 6th September, 2021

MEETING OF SOUTH BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP

HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Members present: Councillors Bunting, Gormley, Groogan,
T. Kelly, Lyons, McAteer, McKeown and Spratt.

In attendance: Ms. S. Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes;
Mr. S. Leonard, Neighbourhood Services Manager
(South);
Ms. D. Smith, Neighbourhood Integration Manager; and
Mr. H. Downey, Democratic Services Officer.

Election of Chairperson

The Working Group agreed that Councillor Groogan be elected to serve as Chairperson for the period to end on the date of the annual meeting of the Council in 2022.

(Councillor Groogan in the Chair.)

Apologies

An apology was reported on behalf of Councillor McDonough-Brown.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 24th May were approved, subject to the Declaration of Interest which had been made by Councillor Gormley being amended to reflect that he was not a Council appointee to LORAG.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Gormley declared an interest in relation to the report on the Physical Programme, on the basis that he was a Director of LORAG, which had secured LIF funding for the John Murray Lockhouse project (SLIF2-13).

However, as the report was merely providing an update on LIF projects generally, he was not required to leave the meeting whilst it was being presented.

Councillor McKeown declared an interest in relation to the presentation by the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust representative on the proposed Integrated Care System consultation, on the basis that he was employed by the Public Health Agency, and took no part in the discussion.

Presentations

Refresh of Belfast Agenda - Co-Design Approach

(Mr. J. Uprichard, Community Planning Officer, attended in connection with this item.)

The Community Planning Officer reminded the Working Group that the Council had, in 2017, published the Belfast Agenda, the city's first community plan. The plan set out the long-term ambitions for the City's future, as well as outlining the key priorities for action over the subsequent four years. A statement of progress, covering the first two years of the plan, had been published in 2019.

He reported that a review of the Belfast Agenda had been launched in June, 2021 and that activities had, to date, included a press release, informal drop-in information sessions, the distribution of surveys through libraries, community centres and leisure centres, an online survey and engagement with various stakeholders.

He outlined the various steps in the review process, which would, in February/March 2022, lead to a consultation process being initiated on the new draft plan. An updated Belfast Agenda 'city strategy' document would then be formulated, which would include a long-term vision and outcomes, population indicators, as a measure of success, and new four-year priorities. The new plan would be underpinned by Delivery Action Plans, which would identify specific actions to deliver the four-year priorities and would focus upon, for example, partnership activity providing collaborative gain, contributing to the Belfast Agenda outcomes/delivering wellbeing for Belfast residents and including 'area specific' elements, with a view to making the 'Belfast Agenda' more meaningful to communities.

The Community Planning Officer then provided the Working Group with a brief overview of the vision and outcomes for Belfast to 2035 and pointed out that the following eight priority themes were being proposed for the period from 2022 – 2026:

- Economic Recovery;
- Employability and Skills;
- Educational Attainment;
- Housing;
- Community Recovery and Neighbourhood Regeneration;
- Health Inequalities;
- Climate Resilience and Sustainability; and
- Active and Sustainable Travel.

Four cross-cutting themes were also being proposed, namely, Children and Young People, Good Relations and Shared Future, Inclusive Growth and Older People.

He concluded by stressing that Elected Members would have a key role to play in shaping the City's future and outlined the various ways in which they could become involved in the review process.

The Working Group noted the information which had been provided.

Future Planning Model: Integrated Care System – Belfast Health and Social Care Trust

The Chairperson welcomed to the meeting Mrs. C. Stoops, Director of Planning, Performance and Informatics, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, who was in attendance to provide an overview of the proposed new model of planning and managing services through an Integrated Care System, in the context of the Department of Health's consultation, which was due to end on 17th September.

Mrs. Stoops began by explaining that an Integrated Care System was defined as being “a collaborative partnership between organisations and individuals with a responsibility for planning, managing, and delivering care, services and interventions to meet the health and wellbeing needs of the local population and which, through taking collective action, deliver improved outcomes for individuals and communities and reduce health inequalities.”

She informed the Working Group that the review in 2015 of commissioning arrangements had found the current system to be overly bureaucratic and lacking in clarity of accountability in decision making and she referred to the decision to close the Health and Social Care Board in March 2022 as being the first step in a longer-term transformation. Local Commissioning Groups would also cease to exist.

It was then pointed out that the Minister of Health had granted approval to undertake a programme of work to develop an Integrated Care System model in Northern Ireland, which would adhere to the principles of delegated local level decision-making and funding, with the exception of specialised services (which would be planned, managed and delivered regionally) and would support an outcomes based approach underpinned by accountability.

She drew the Members' attention to the principles and values which would underpin the emerging framework and pointed out that the four-tiered model being proposed would adopt a population health needs approach, which would be informed by local intelligence and be structured as follows:

- A Regional Group – providing oversight, co-ordination and support for the wider model be responsible for the associated governance and accountability functions and the co-ordination of the planning and delivery of regional and specialised services;
- Five Area Integrated Partnership Boards (one per Health and Social Care Trust area) – having overall responsibility for strategic area planning and local delivery to meet local population needs and be guided by a regional strategic outcome framework;
- Locality Groups – covering GP Federations and Integrated Care Partnership areas and aligning with other relevant areas, such as local councils, where possible, and working to deliver interventions and programmes in each locality, as agreed by the Area Integrated Partnership Boards; and
- Community Groups – focusing on individual towns/local districts, GP practices/Multi-Disciplinary Teams (where established) and

community pharmacies, with the potential to align with existing areas such as District Electoral Areas, where possible and appropriate. The exact size and number of communities in each area will be determined by the Area Integrated Partnership Board.

Mrs. Stoops went on to state that the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust would be developing a response to the Department of Health's consultation and stressed the importance of ensuring that it reflected the views of its wide range of stakeholders. Accordingly, she sought the opinion of Members and pointed out that, following the conclusion of the consultation, it was envisaged that the Integrated Care System model would be implemented by March/April, 2022, and be reviewed and refreshed, as necessary, thereafter.

During discussion, a Member welcomed the community planning element within the proposed model and the engagement which had been undertaken with the voluntary and community sectors. The point was made that the Covid-19 pandemic had demonstrated that communities were heavily reliant on health and social care workers and that it was essential to ensure that the emphasis being placed within the model on valuing staff should be fully reflected in future pay awards. It was also suggested that there should be Council representation on any steering groups being established to progress the model.

The Chairperson thanked Mrs Stoops for her presentation and she, in turn, thanked the Members for their comments.

The Working Group noted the presentation and noted also that a draft Council response to the Department of Health consultation would, on the following day, be presented to the People and Communities for consideration and reflect the views which had been expressed across the four Area Working Groups.

Freshers Week 2021

The Neighbourhood Services Manager provided the Working Group with an update on the work which had been undertaken by the Council in the Holylands and surrounding area, in preparation for the arrival of students. He referred to information sharing protocols having been reviewed, an increase in street cleansing provision, the ongoing monitoring of Covid-19 regulations and the continuing engagement with the Police Service of Northern Ireland, the universities and other agencies.

He then went on to outline the resources which the Council had put in place specifically for the freshers' period. He explained that its Safer Neighbourhood Officers, Alcohol Enforcement Officers and South Belfast Anti-Social Behaviours Officers would be highly visible in the area and the Daytime and Night-time Noise services would be operating as normal. Officers from the Building Control and Environmental Health Services would be working with the PSNI's Licensing Officer to monitor licensed premises in the area. Parks Wardens would also be monitoring parks for any build-up of crowds and linking in with officers in the Holylands area. Finally, the Council's social media channels would be used to publicise and provide contact details for all of these services.

The Chairman then welcomed to the meeting Chief Inspector G. Kirkpatrick of the Police Service of Northern Ireland, together with Mr. D. Morrow and Mr. A. Stewart, representing the Ulster University and Queen's University, respectively.

Police Service of Northern Ireland

Chief Inspector Kirkpatrick informed the Working Group that the Police Service was working closely with the Council, the universities and other partners in the run up to the opening of the universities. He explained that the Police Service's operation would run from 12th till 26th September, with one shift operating from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and another partly overlapping shift operating from 5 p.m. till 3 a.m. A minimum of sixteen officers would be involved each day and evidence gathering teams would also be utilised, along with a public order company, if required.

In response to an issue which had been raised by a Member, Chief Inspector Kirkpatrick confirmed that the deployment of additional officers to the Holylands area for two weeks in September would have a corresponding impact upon neighbourhood policing capacity in other parts of South Belfast.

The Neighbourhood Services Manager added that the Council would be monitoring the situation in the Holylands closely over the same period and would either deploy additional staff or direct them elsewhere, depending upon operational requirements.

Queen's University

Mr. Stewart explained that Queen's University had, over the summer months, been liaising with its partners in preparation for the new university term. He pointed out that, whilst the University had not, in recent years, organised a Freshers' Week, it was accepted that there was still the potential for issues to arise. It had, therefore, reviewed the information which it would be sending out to students and each school/faculty would be delivering an induction talk to make students aware of their responsibilities towards the local community. A dedicated officer would be in place to monitor the Holylands and surrounding area and additional staff would be allocated, if required.

University of Ulster

Mr. Morrow confirmed that the University of Ulster had also been working with partner organisations in advance of students returning to or entering university for the first time. He pointed out that, whilst the University would be holding a Freshers' Week, none of the planned activities would be taking place in South Belfast. Nevertheless, staff would be deployed to identify and address any issues which might arise in and around the Holylands area and a complaint management system was in place. Individual and collective messaging would also play an important role.

He concluded by pointing out that he, together with Chief Inspector Kirkpatrick and Mr. Stewart, had, earlier that day, met with the Minister for Communities to discuss the adoption of a more sustained approach for dealing with longstanding issues in the Holylands area and that the Council's Director of Neighbourhood Services had also attended.

In response to a query from a Member, Mr. Morrow and Mr. Stewart each confirmed that the high level of suspensions in the previous year had been due primarily to breaches of the Covid-19 guidelines. They pointed out that, whilst the structures were still in place, it would be more difficult to gather evidence this year and, therefore, their respective universities would not be suspending students at the same rate.

Mr. Stewart then addressed a point which had been raised by that Member around purpose built and privately rented accommodation and stated that an analysis of the factors which had influenced student decisions in choosing one over the other would be undertaken in due course.

Mr. Morrow also addressed issues which had been raised in relation to the personal safety of students, high crime rates and sub-standard accommodation by stating that the universities provided information on mental health support and crime prevention and encouraged students to report any problems with their landlords/accommodation. He also highlighted the fact that a house with three or less tenants was classified as a flat and was not covered by HMO legislation or other formal legislative framework. There was evidence that there were a significant number of flats in the Holylands area, which created difficulties and concerns for tenants, local residents, the universities and other agencies.

Chief Inspector Kirkpatrick added that the Police Service had produced a number of short educational videos on anti-social behaviour, student safety, crime prevention and alcohol and drug abuse, which had been shared with the universities. Officers in the area were also available to provide direct advice, if required.

A Member highlighted the need to move beyond behavioural management towards long-term solutions and welcomed the inter-agency work which was being undertaken at various levels. He then referred to the success of an initiative which had been undertaken by the Council's HMO Unit to force landlords to remove graffiti from their properties, under the terms of the standard licensing conditions. He suggested that the HMO Unit be requested to provide clarification on whether a programme of inspections existed or could be established to deal with other issues, such as the quality of the accommodation, the maintenance of gardens, walls etc., which was also covered under the standard licensing conditions.

The Chairperson thanked Chief Inspector G. Kirkpatrick, Mr. Morrow and Mr. Stewart for their contribution.

The Working Group noted the presentations and noted also that the Neighbourhood Services Manager:

- i. would forward to Members details of the Council's operation over the Freshers' period, including the contact details for those officers from the various Council teams and the Police Service of Northern Ireland who would be leading their respective operations in the Holylands area;
- ii. would circulate to Members the contact details of those officers within the Council dealing with HMO's and private rented properties to enable them to forward on any referrals;
- iii. would bring to the attention of the HMO Unit the issue which had been raised by a Member around the potential for using the standard licensing conditions on HMO licences to deliver further improvement initiatives; and

- iv. would circulate in advance of the next meeting an update on the discussions which had taken place earlier that day with the Minister for Communities.

Request for Additional Enforcement Powers –
Response from DAERA Minister

The Working Group was reminded that, at its meeting on 25th March, it had been provided with an update on the Wider University and Lower Ormeau ILAB process, which had commenced in November, 2020. It had agreed, given the potential difficulties which residents of the Botanic District Electoral Area would be likely to experience once the Covid-19 night time economy restrictions were lifted and beyond, that a letter be forwarded to the Minister for Justice requesting that the Council be given additional enforcement powers around the seizure of alcohol and noise control.

The Working Group, at its meeting on 25th May, had noted the response from the Minister and had agreed that a letter then be forwarded to the Minister for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, highlighting the need for the powers contained within the Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2005 relating to noise control to be strengthened.

It was reported that the Minister, within his response, had pointed out that there were a range of powers available to councils to assist them in addressing concerns around noise nuisance, including fixed penalty notices, abatement notices, seizure of noise-making equipment and prosecution. Those powers were contained within the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 and its extension of The Noise Act 1996 to Northern Ireland.

The Minister had explained that Articles 63 and 65 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 provided councils with the power to deal with noise from premises, including land, which they considered to be prejudicial to health or amount to a statutory nuisance. These powers applied not only to existing noise, but also in instances where noise was expected to occur or reoccur. Where a council was satisfied that a statutory nuisance existed, Articles 63 and 65 required it to serve an abatement notice. That notice may require the noise to be stopped altogether or limited to certain times of the day and must be served on the person responsible for the noise or, if this person cannot be located, the owner or occupier of the premises. A person on whom an abatement notice was served had the right to appeal it within 21 days of being served.

The Minister had gone on to point out that the Noise Act 1996 allowed council officers to issue warning and fixed penalty notices and, in certain circumstances, to seize noisemaking equipment from premises emitting noise between the hours of 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. These powers applied to premises such as dwellings, those with an exhibition or entertainments licence, premises with a licence to sell intoxicating liquor (including an occasional licence) or where meals or refreshments were supplied for consumption on or off the premises, or premises occupied by a registered club. Details of these powers were outlined in the guidance document The Noise Act 1996 – Guidance to District Councils, which had been produced to inform councils of amendments made to the Noise Act 1996 by the introduction of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act.

The Minister had made the point that it was DAERA's view that increasing education on noise prevention was one way of tackling the problem and avoiding costly

enforcement action and that he was keen for councils to continue their efforts to raise noise issues on local agendas. Officials were aware of the good working relationship which existed between the Council and Queens University in addressing noise issues within certain parts of the City and he supported the efforts of all those involved.

He had then referred to the fact that DAERA officials also produced an annual Noise Complaints Statistics Report, which outlined the numbers of complaints, source of noise, action taken and the numbers of complaints which proceeded to prosecution. Whilst he acknowledged the importance of resolving noise-related issues informally and without action, the level of prosecutions was low. This could be a result of the positive work of Council officers in resolving issues amicably or that prosecutions were unwarranted in the vast majority of cases. He urged Council officers to make full use of these powers and other councils, who had not yet adopted the Noise Act 1996 legislation, to consider doing so to assist in dealing with night-noise complaints.

The Minister had concluded by stating that he understood that his officials had been involved in the Anti-Social Behaviour Legislation Review Delivery Group and that Brexit and the COVID-19 pandemic had had a significant impact on business priorities within his Department. At present, the Department felt that appropriate powers were currently in place and, therefore, had no plans to revise the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment legislation. His officials would, however, keep the Council's request in mind and were happy to revisit the issue at a future date.

After discussion, the Working Group:

- i. noted the response from the Minister for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs;
- ii. noted that the Neighbourhood Services Manager would work with the Director of City Services and the City Protection Manager to examine ways in which the Council could increase the effectiveness of the enforcement powers available to it;
- iii. noted that officers would seek clarification from the Department Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs on whether the figures contained within the annual Noise Complaints Statistics Report for all of Belfast could be provided at a local level; and
- iv. noted that it would receive regular updates on the work of the Anti-Social Behaviour Legislation Review Delivery Group.

Forward Planning Emerging Opportunities

Alleyway Transformation Programme

The Neighbourhood Services Manager informed the Members that the Minister for Infrastructure had, in December 2020, written to the eleven councils advising them that funding would be made available through the Blue/Green Infrastructure fund to deliver alleyway transformation initiatives across the eleven council areas.

He explained that a report would, on the following day, be presented to the People and Communities Committee, seeking approval to proceed initially with a pilot

transformation programme, which would involve each of the four Area Working Groups ultimately selecting two locations for inclusion. The learning derived from that initiative would assist in the development of a larger alleyway transformation programme and all eleven councils could then apply for a share of the £1-2 million fund which the Department for Infrastructure was making available.

The Working Group noted the information which had been provided and agreed that a report be submitted to its next meeting providing an update on the delivery of the next phase of the Council's alleygating scheme, including a proposed timeframe.

Peace Plus Programme

The Neighbourhood Integration Manager informed the Members that, whilst the European Union had committed funding to the Peace Plus Programme, the programme content and delivery process had yet to be agreed.

She explained that Theme 1.1 - Building Peaceful and Thriving Communities would be the theme most applicable to councils, although the level of funding available for each council had still to be finalised. Action Plans would be implemented through models, based on local community planning processes, and would focus on a co-design approach with local communities and be centred around the core themes of Community Regeneration and Transformation, Thriving and Peaceful Communities and Celebrating Culture, Diversity and Inclusion. She reviewed the range of interventions which would be delivered under each of those themes and stated that it was anticipated that Local Action Plans would be developed and submitted to the Special European Union Programmes Body for consideration between March and June, 22.

The Working Group noted the information which had been provided.

Capacity Building

The Neighbourhood Integration Manager informed the Working Group that officers were planning to test a new approach for providing support for those communities across the City where infrastructure was deemed to be weak. It was proposed that a mapping exercise be undertaken initially to determine the number of areas which required support. Each Area Working Group would then be presented with the findings for their specific area and be requested to select one pilot area to proceed to targeted intervention.

The Working Group noted the information which had been provided.

Future Presentations

The Working Group agreed, at the request of a Member, to invite representatives of the Lagan Navigation Trust to attend a future meeting to discuss the Lagan Gateway Project and future plans.

Update on Physical Programme

The Director of Physical Programmes submitted for the Working Group's consideration the following report:

"1. Introduction

The Council's Physical Programme covers projects under a range of funding streams including the Capital Programme, the Leisure Transformation Programme, the Local Investment Fund (LIF), the Belfast Investment Fund (BIF), and Social Outcome Fund (SOF); in addition, the programme covers projects that the Council is delivering in behalf of other agencies. This report outlines the status of projects under the Physical Programme Photos of the recent project activities are attached . When appropriate, as per Covid-19 public health guidance, the Physical Programmes Department is happy to arrange site visits.

2. Recommendations

The Working Group is requested to note the physical programme update for South Belfast.

3. Local Investment Fund (LIF)

Members are reminded LIF is a £9m fixed programme of capital investment in non-council neighbourhood assets, over two tranches: LIF 1 (2012-2015) - £5m total funding pot, allocated across each AWG areas; and LIF 2 (2015 -2019) - £4m allocation. Each LIF project proposal is taken through a Due Diligence process prior to any funding award. The table below outlines funding spend to date for each tranche, at key stages of the delivery process: 24 projects received 'In Principle' letters under LIF1 and LIF2, of which 21 have been completed; 1 project at delivery stage, 1 at pre-construction stage and 1 project still at initial stage.

LIF breakdown – South	LIF 1		LIF 2	
<i>Stage/ Description:</i>	<i>No. Projects</i>	<i>Amount (£)</i>	<i>No. Projects</i>	<i>Amount/ (£)</i>
Number of Projects Completed	12 (92%)	£1,053,600	9 (82%)	£676,000
Number of Projects in Delivery			1 (9%)	£80,000
Number of Projects in Pre-construction			1 (9%)	£40,000
Number of Project in Initial Stage (Due Diligence)	1 (8%)	£30,000		
Total Number of Approved Projects	13	£1,083,600	11	£796,000

The table below provides an overview of progress and actions around the remaining live projects – Holylands Area Improvement (£80,000), Finaghy Bridge (£30,000) and John Murray Lockhouse (£40,000). Members are asked to note the status of the current live LIF projects and the ongoing actions.

LIF Ref	PROJECT	LIF FUNDING	STAGE	STATUS	ACTION/ RECOMMENDATION
SLIF2-07	Holylands Area Improvement Initiative	£80,000	On Ground	A contractor has been appointed to undertake these works but was unable to source trees to plant within the growing season due to BREXIT. The trees will be planted in late October 2021. Community group (QUBA) is aware of the project status and proposed way forward.	Continue engagement with the group and partners
SLIF2-13	LORAG - John Murray Lockhouse	£40,000	Design stage	LIF funding will contribute to the development of the community garden. Project through DD and funding agreement has been completed. Project is linked to Urban Villages programme. Group is expecting the UV business case approval and wish to submit the planning application together, with the overall development of the John Murray Lock House. Business case has been approved 11/8/2021 and LoO awaited.	Continued engagement with the group.
SLIF017	Finaghy Bridge	£30,000	Initial stage	Technical feasibility report completed. Number of options identified. Report currently being considered by DFI Roads.	Further engagement with Dfi Roads on potential funding and selection of a preferred project option. Once project scope is confirmed further engagement with group and community will take place and the LIF process can commence.

4. Belfast Investment Fund (BIF)

Members are reminded BIF is a £28m investment fund for regeneration partnership projects, with a minimum £250k investment from Council BIF – South Belfast was allocated £5.5m; with additional £500k ringfenced for new areas (outer South) that had joined the District area under Local Government Reform. In South Belfast, 6 projects received an In-Principle funding commitment, thereby fully allocating its £5.5m, and £500k pot of funding. Each project is taken through a 3-stage approval process, including a rigorous Due Diligence process before any Funding Agreement is approved and put in place.

Summary of BIF allocated projects

South	<p>Stage 3—Lagan Gateway—£2.1m; Lanyon Tunnels—£1.3m; Bredagh GAC- £700k</p> <p>Stage 1— Café Culture, Sandy Row Open Space project and BSCR IT Exam Centre project (Arts & Digital Hub) [Sandy Row area projects, formerly Gilpins]— £1.35m</p> <p><i>Stage 1—Belfast Islamic Centre—no commitment</i></p>
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Balmoral DEA	<p>Stage 3 - Knockbreda Parish Church Hall—£250k</p> <p>Stage 2— Linfield FC/ Boys Brigade and Belvoir FC—£250k</p>
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BIF Ref	PROJECT	BIF FUNDING	STAGE	STATUS	ACTION/ RECOMMENDATION
BIF35	Knockbreda Parish Church Hall	£250k	Complete	Project recently completed	Continue engagement with the group re post monitoring
BIF04	Lagan Gateway	£2.1m	On ground	Project is on site. Due to be completed by September 2021. Ongoing discussion with CNS regarding handover and operation of the lock.	Continue engagement with the group and key stakeholders.
BIF19	Bredagh GAC	£700k	Design stage	Project through Due Diligence. Tender for contractor resulted in prices that were significantly outside available budget. Following engagement with the group it was agreed to investigate the potential for a refurbishment of the existing building rather	Continue engagement with the group.

				than a complete redevelopment. Design team currently investigating feasibility of refurbishment.	
BIF07	Lanyon Tunnels	£1.3m	Stage 3- Committed	Project has been impacted by the JR decision on the adjacent site to the tunnels – the adjacent site is a critical access point for the project, enabling range of connectivity outcomes and benefits (SIF business case dependent on connectivity). SIF programme expired and ongoing discussions with DfC and TEO regarding match funding. As Planning has expired in May 2021 and plans have been amended new planning application will be submitted in autumn 2021.	Officer engagement with TEO as key funder, and key stakeholders.
BIF33	Linfield FC/ Boys Brigade and Belvoir FC	£250k	Stage 3- Committed	BIF funding to progress Phase 1A of larger sports hub project i.e. replacement of Belvoir FC's grass football pitch with associated widening of adjacent road access and resurfacing of existing carpark. Planning consent for wider development agreed early 2020. Project promoter working with NIHE on required tenure related elements of project development as well as required governance arrangements.	Continue engagement with the group.
BIF46	Café Culture -	£1.35m - total allocation for the Sandy Area projects (formerly Gilpins)	Stage 1- Emerging	Urban Villages are progressing the development of the Coffee Culture project – this is a social enterprise project with a training café and three rental apartments above. Any rental from the apartment will support the social enterprise business –this will be a requirement of any funding agreement. £100k has already been agreed in principle to this project under SOF (see below).	Continue engagement with the group.

				Project funding includes: UV £402k, BCC SOF £100k, BIF unspecified funding commitment agreed at SAWG March 2021 and DfC £100k. <i>Part of Sandy Row Area projects (formerly Gilpins).</i>	
BIF47	Sandy Row Open Space project		Stage 1- Emerging	Work is continuing on the development of a pop-up park with space for sensory play. <i>Part of Sandy Row Area projects (formerly Gilpins)</i>	Continue engagement with the group.
BIF48	BSCR IT Exam Centre project (Arts & Digital Hub)		Stage 1- Emerging	Project approved in October 2020. Business Case progressing and approval anticipated by October 2021. Link to UV project. <i>Part of Sandy Row Area projects (formerly Gilpins).</i>	Continue engagement with the group.

Lagan Gateway – Members will recall that on 25th March 2021, the AWG received a detailed update on the Lagan Gateway, including the outlined naming process of the bridge element of the project. Members will be provided with an update on the naming process at the meeting with an update also being brought to the People and Communities Committee on 7th September.

5. Social Outcome Fund

SOF is £4m ringfenced capital investment programme with a focus on local community tourism projects. 3 projects in South Belfast received an In-Principle funding commitment. Similar to LIF and BIF, all projects are subject to Due Diligence process prior to any funding award. Members are asked to note the progress update of each project in Table below.

SOF – South Belfast projects overview

Project	SOF Award	Status and update	Recommendation/ Proposed Action
SOF02 Coffee Culture <i>NB - UV partnership project (£402k)</i>	£100,000	Urban Villages are progressing the development of the Coffee Culture project – this is a social enterprise project with a training café and three rental apartments above. Any rental from the apartment will support the social enterprise business –this will be a requirement of any funding agreement. £100k has already been agreed in principle to this project under SOF.	Continue engagement with the group and key stakeholders.

		Project funding includes: UV £402k, BCC SOF £100k, BIF unspecified funding commitment agreed at SAWG March 2021 and DfC £100k.	
SOF04 Sandy Row Community Forum	£80,000	Development of a Tourism Trail to complement the Transport Hub. Due Diligence complete. The project concept has been developed and costed. Belfast South Community Resources have signed off the project concept. Council will act as delivery agent for the project and will assist in the maintenance of signage as part of the council-wide upkeep of tourism signage. The project is expected on site in October 2021, with supply chain issues causing some delays.	Continue engagement with the group

6. Capital Programme

The Capital Programme is a rolling programme to either enhance existing Council assets or, build / buy new assets or facilities. The table below provides an update on current live projects South Belfast area. Members are asked to note status and update.

South Belfast – Capital Programme Overview

Project	Status and update
Alleygating Phase 4 – City wide	Stage 3 – Committed. Project recently completed
Playground Improvement Programme 2021/2022 (City wide)	Stage 3 – Committed. Ormeau Park playground to be completed in December 2021
Palm House, Botanic Gardens	Stage 1- Emerging. Link to Tropical Ravine
Alleygating Phase 5 – City wide	Stage 1 –Emerging. Consultation stage

7. Externally Funded Programmes

The Council is the Delivery partner / agent for a number of government department on key capital investment programmes, namely TEO Social Investment Fund (SIF), TEO Urban Villages (UV) Programme, and number of schemes with DfC Regeneration Directorate. The following is an overview of projects within each programme relevant to South Belfast.

Social Investment Fund

Table below provides a status update on SIF projects in South Belfast. Officers continue to liaise with TEO officials in relations to these projects.

SIF – South Belfast Projects Overview

Project	Status and update
Mornington Community Project	An initial project meeting was held on 25 May 2021. Contractor on site and work progressing
Lanyon Tunnels	Project has been impacted by the JR decision on the adjacent site to the tunnels – the adjacent site is a critical access point for the project, enabling range of connectivity outcomes and benefits (SIF business case dependent on connectivity). Members are asked to note that discussions are ongoing with the TEO

Urban Villages Initiative

The table below provides a status update on UV projects in South Belfast – note the UV programme has a defined south Belfast geography (Sandy Row; Donegall Pass and Markets).

UV – South Belfast Projects Overview

Project	Status and update
Coffee Culture <i>NB Linked to BCC SOF/ BIF</i>	Partnership project with UV. Final Business Case approved and LoO expected imminently. The Council is presently considering options around building purchase. Project funding includes: UV £402k, BCC SOF £100k, BIF unspecified funding commitment agreed at SAWG March 2021 and DfC £100k.
John Murray Lock House—wider development	Partnership project with UV. Business Case approved and LoO expected imminently. Project funding includes UV £997k and LIF £40k
Arts and Digital Hub (formerly Wee Ruby's Live, Work Studios)	Council acting as delivery agent. Synergies with BIF Exam Centre. Business Case progressing and approval anticipated by October 2021.
School of Music Redevelopment	Emerging project.

Members are also invited to view the UV Capital area video links from Executive Office on South Belfast UV area: [Summary aerial film across all five UV areas](#) and [South Belfast Urban Village Capital Aerial film](#)

DfC Funded Projects

Provided below is the status update on projects funded by the Department for Communities:

Project	Status and update
Belfast Islamic Centre - <i>Renovations of Aldersgate House, University Rd</i>	BCC is the delivery agent for this project. Working in conjunction with BIC and DfC the project has progressed to tender. Unfortunately, the project has not proceeded to award as there are governance issues that are required to be resolved between BIC and DfC. All parties are however committed to the project and funds are in place to undertake the project."

After discussion, the Working Group agreed to note the report.

Chairperson

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Subject:	Colin Interpretive Heritage Trail
Date:	24 September 2021
Reporting Officer:	Siobhan Toland, Director of City Services
Contact Officer:	Alistair Charles, Project Sponsor

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The Council has received a request from the Colin Neighbourhood Partnership (CNP) to place one of the interpretive panels from the planned Colin Heritage Trail within the Council's new park in Colin (Páirc Nua Chollann).
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to note this report and consider the request from CNP to locate Panel 4, which commemorates the life and achievements of Professor Frank Pantridge, within the grounds of the Council's New Park in Colin (Páirc Nua Chollann).
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Colin Neighbourhood Partnership is currently working with the local community to develop a heritage walking trail across the Colin area.

3.2	<p>The trail will include a series of interpretive panels telling the stories of notable landmarks and historical figures from in and around the Colin area.</p> <p>The trail currently includes the following panels, as set out by Colin Neighbourhood Partnership:</p> <p>1. Cloona House</p> <p>The Victorian mansion was the original home of Nicolas Grimshaw, a leading linen manufacturer, and his wife, Eleanor and their family. The house was also home to other notable occupants such as Beatrice Grimshaw (see panel 5) and Alfred Jaffe (older brother of former Lord Mayor Otto Jaffe). During WWII, the house was leased to the MoD and became the home of the General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the British Army in Northern Ireland. Several major military operations were planned in Cloona House. In 1982 the house was sold to the local parish and now serves as a community hub.</p> <p>2. Belle Steele</p> <p>Belle Steele was a courageous Protestant woman who lived in the Colin area in the 18th Century and risked her own life to assist her Catholic neighbours at a time of persecution. At the time Catholic Masses were forbidden and as such were held in secret. At this time Belle became the trusted custodian of the sacred vessels and vestments used by the priest for this secret worship. Tradition records that she kept a small cow horn to summon people to mass and to warn the priest of any advancing 'red coats' (soldiers).</p> <p>3. Teeling's Mill</p> <p>Linen was an important industry in the Colin area with flax widely grown. The mill was developed by Luke Teeling, a successful linen and wine merchant. Luke's sons, Bartholomew and Charles Hamilton both grew up to be revolutionaries and joined the Society of United Irishmen founded by Dublin lawyer, Wolfe Tone. Bartholomew was executed for treason in 1798 and Charles went on to edit the Ulster Magazine, following a long stint in Kilmainham Gaol.</p> <p>4. Frank Partridge</p> <p>After studying medicine at Queens University, Pantrdge joined the Royal Army Medical Corps at the onset of WWII. During the retreat of Johore, Pantridge was wounded and awarded The Military Cross for bravery. Following the subsequent Battle of Singapore, Pantridge was captured and tortured by the Japanese and became a PoW. Forced into slave labour he developed heart disease but was determined not to die in far off Burma.</p>
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In 1945, Pantridge was released following the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Despite being plagued by ill health Pantridge became a consultant cardiologist at the RVH and in 1965, along with Dr John Geddes and Alfred Mawhinney, invented the world's first portable defibrillator, using car batteries to create the current. The portable defibrillator has gone on to save millions of lives across the world earning Pantridge the title, 'The father of emergency medicine'. Remarkably, Pantridge went on to live to the age of 88, dying on Boxing Day, 2004.

5. Beatrice Grimshaw

Beatrice Ethel Grimshaw, explorer, sports woman, record breaker, journalist, travel writer, novelist, coffee and tobacco plantation owner, explorer, photographer, and celebrity of her time, was born 3 February 1870 at Cloona House. Beatrice was the great great grand daughter of the house's original inhabitant, leading linen manufacturer, Nicolas Grimshaw.

After studying at Margaret Byers' Ladies Collegiate College (which later became Victoria College), Beatrice became a journalist in Dublin and converted to Catholicism. A keen cyclist, in the early 1900's Beatrice is reported to have broken the women's world 24 hour cycling record by five hours. Beatrice quickly achieved prominence for her non-fictional travel books and a raft of novels, set in the exotic tropical locations she visited in the South Seas. From 1907 to 1934, she lived in Papua New Guinea, where alongside her writing, she ran a coffee plantation. It was during her 30 years in Papua that Beatrice undertook the majority of her writing, publishing almost 50 books covering fiction, travel writing, and popular romance.

Beatrice's eccentricity and support for Women's rights is evidenced by the following quote; *'Women are not as clever as men- let the equality brigade shriek if they like- but neither are we as stupid'.* Beatrice Grimshaw, 1907.

6. Bobby Sands

Bobby Sands was born in Newtownabbey in 1954 after which his family were relocated to the religiously mixed Rathcoole estate. With the outbreak of the troubles in 1969, Sands was forced to leave his first job in a coach building firm following sectarian threats and the family were forced to relocate to Twinbrook estate. Following the introduction of internment in the early 1970's, Sands joined the Provisional IRA. Following a three year imprisonment in Long Kesh for possession of weapons, Sands became a community activist in Twinbrook and developed the community newsletter, Liberty.

	<p>In 1976 Sands was sentenced to 14 years imprisonment in the Maze prison following an IRA bombing. By this time Sands extensive writing and poetry meant he was viewed as a Republican thinker and propagandist. In 1981 Sands began a second hunger strike in support of prisoners' 'five demands'.</p> <p>As his physical condition deteriorated Sands was dramatically elected to Westminster in a by election for Fermanagh/South Tyrone. However, the British Prime Minister at the time, Margaret Thatcher, continued to refuse any concessions to the prisoners.</p> <p>Bobby Sands died on 5th May 1981, the 66th day of his hunger strike, and it is believed over 100,000 lined the streets of West Belfast during his funeral. Today, in the wake of the peace process, Sands' election is seen at the beginning of a shift by the Irish Republican Movement towards electoral politics and, ultimately, to the ceasefires which led to the Good Friday Agreement.</p>
3.3	Colin Neighbourhood Partnership is requesting that Panel 4, which commemorates the life and achievements of Professor Frank Pantridge and is located within the grounds of the Council's New Park in Colin (Páirc Nua Chollann) close to the Pantridge Road entrance is approved. Members will note that the other proposed panels are within the Colin area and are, therefore, not subject to approval by the Council as they are not located on its land.
	Financial and Resource Implications
3.4	None - installation and maintenance costs will be covered by the CNP.
	Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment
3.5	The Council is not the promoter of the Colin Heritage Trail as a collective entity. No equality, good relations or rural needs implications have been identified for Panel 4 (Professor Frank Pantridge) which is the only panel requested to be on Council land.
4.0	Documents Attached
	None



Subject:	Update on Physical Programme
Date:	24th September 2021
Reporting Officer:	Sinead Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes
Contact Officer:	Shauna Murtagh, Programme Manager

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The Council's Physical Programme currently includes 170 capital projects with investment of £150m+ via a range of internal and external funding streams, together with projects which the Council delivers on behalf of external agencies. This report requests agreement on implementation of procurement processes in relation to the Capital Programme (Fleet Programme) and non-recurrent programme.

2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. agree that the necessary procurement processes are initiated for the agreed Fleet Programme for 2021/22 and 2022/23 (see Appendix 1), with contracts to be awarded on the basis of most economically advantageous tenders received and full commitment to deliver; ii. agree that necessary procurement processes (including the invitation of tenders and/or the use of appropriate 'framework' arrangements) be initiated for any non-recurrent projects for 2021/22 and non-recurrent projects under re-allocated reserves as required, with contracts to be awarded on the basis of most economically advantageous tenders received and full commitment to deliver; and iii. note that the Leisure Transformation Programme has been shortlisted for an international award for 'Social project of the year' by the Association of Project Management with the winner to be announced in November.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p><i>Capital Programme - Fleet Programme 2021/22 and 2022/23</i></p> <p>Members will know that the Council needs to run and maintain a substantial fleet in order to deliver its services. There is a rolling allocation of £2.2m towards the Fleet Programme for 2021/22 and £2.2m for 2022/23 under the Capital Programme at Stage 3. Members are asked to note that the Fleet Programme has been developed in conjunction with Council departments and reflects the service needs of the organisation. Members are asked to note that there are ongoing issues caused by the high age profile and condition of the fleet operating well beyond its recommended operational life cycle. Members are asked to note the agreed Fleet Programme for 2021/22 and 2022/23 (see Appendix) and agree that the necessary procurement processes are initiated, with contracts to be awarded on the basis of most economically advantageous tenders received and full commitment to deliver.</p>
3.2	<p><i>Non-recurrent projects 2021/22 and non-recurrent re-allocation funding</i></p> <p>Members will be aware that the incremental nature of the capital programme allows the Council the opportunity to allocate an element of the 2021/22 capital financing budget to finance a number of one-off (non-recurrent) projects within year. It is recommended that this is focused on progressing projects which the Council is required to take forward either from a health and</p>

	<p>safety perspective and/or a legislative perspective. Members will also recall their decision in June 2021 to re-allocate the year-end surplus for 2020/21 to progress emerging projects and essential projects which did not have a recurring budget. These projects are now being developed. This included additional funding towards fleet. Members are asked to agree that necessary procurement processes (including the invitation of tenders and/or the use of appropriate ‘framework’ arrangements) be initiated for any non-recurrent projects for 2021/22 and non-recurrent projects under re-allocated reserves as required, with contracts to be awarded on the basis of most economically advantageous tenders received and full commitment to deliver.</p>
3.3	<p>Leisure Transformation Programme – Finalist, APM Project Management Awards 2021</p> <p>The Leisure Transformation Programme has been shortlisted in the international APM (Association of Project Management) Awards 2021 in the category: ‘Social project of the year’. The category recognises teams whose project demonstrates the most effective use of project management and the greatest benefits and outcomes to end users and communities in projects seeking to address the concerns of 21st century society globally. The winner will be announced on 15 November 2021 at an awards ceremony in London.</p>
3.4	<p>Members are asked to note that the Physical Programmes Department is happy to arrange site visits for Members/ Party Groups to any capital project, with appropriate arrangements in place as required under latest Covid-19 guidance.</p>
3.5	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p><i>Financial</i> – Fleet Replacement Programme– as above</p> <p><i>Resources</i> – Officer time to deliver as required</p>
3.6	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>All capital projects are screened as part of the stage approval process.</p>
4.0	<p>Document Attached</p>
	<p>Fleet Programme 2021/22 and 2022/23</p>

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Appendix 1 - Capital Programme Update – Fleet Programme 2021/22 and 2022/23

The proposed vehicle replacement of fleet assets for 2021/22 is made up as follows:

Item	No.
Lease/Hire of official corporate cars annually on 4yr contract	3
Crew-cab loose waste collection 6.5ton + side and tail lift	4
RCVs 4x2 18ton 4xtrade, 1xopen, 1xbins-lifts.	6
Compact cleaning sweepers 2ton	4
Waste roller packer machines	4
Compact cleaning sweepers 5ton	4
Agri 4x4 tractors with front loaders	2
Agri grass mowers	2
TOTAL	£2,187,951

The proposed vehicle replacement of fleet assets for 2022/23 is made up as follows:

Item	No.
Lease/Hire of official corporate cars annually on 4yr contract	3
Plant - replacement of vehicle 4 poster hoist 10ton	1
Crew-cab loose waste collection 6.5ton + side and tail-lift	6
RCV 6x2 26ton n/truck 2,250mm, rear steer, low level electric bin lifts. Powertrain 320bhp EU6. Payload 10,100kgs.	2
RCV 4x2 18ton n/truck 2250mm, Powertrain 280bhp EU6. Payload 4,873kg. 1 x rear low-level electric bin lift. 2 x commercial rear bin lifts.	3
Compact cleaning sweeper 5ton GVW, Payload 2100kgs, Wheelbase 1820mm, Powertrain (84HP/270Nm).	6
Agri tractors 4x4 with front loader. Engine 90bhp, EU6. Front end hitch brush sweeper/Rear end hitch for trailers.	2
Agri Grass Mower with 4WD on demand transmission. Engine 38hp / Stage 4. 1.5m out-front flail mower. Roll Over Protection System (ROPS)	1
Agri Grass mowers (sit on)	6
Small crew panel vans electric	6
Mule quad waste collect (FIDO)	4
RCV 26ton n/truck rear electric bin lifts	2
RCV 18ton n/truck rear commercial bin lift	1
HGV Box-van + tail lift 7.5ton	3
Crew-cab loose waste collection 6.5ton + side and tail lift	5
TOTAL	£3,171,380*

- * Includes additional non-recurrent funding as agreed in June 2021

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Subject:	Update on Contracts
Date:	24th September, 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 <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	<p>The purpose of this report is to ask the Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to approve tenders and Single Tender Actions (STA) over £30,000; and to note Contract Modifications to Contract Term and retrospective Single Tender Actions (STAs)
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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) approve the modification of the contract as per Standing Order 37a detailed in Appendix 1 (Table 3)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> note the award of retrospective STAs in line with Standing Order 55 exceptions 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 that 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 that any contract which 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.
3.4	<u>Single Tender Actions (STAs)</u> The following STAs are being submitted for approval: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a contract for for £400,000, for up to 4 years, awarded to Manvik Plant & Hire to provide and supply 'Dennis Eagle and Terberg' original equipment manufacturer 'OEM' approved warranty parts/components for specialist refuse collection vehicles and, were related, technical fitting support to comply with OEM warranty, safety terms and operating instructions. Manvik Plant & Hire Ltd are the only OEM approved 'Dennis Eagle and Terberg' agents based in Northern Ireland; and a contract for for £400,000, for up to 4 years, awarded to RD Mechanical Services Ltd to provide and supply 'Holder' and 'Schmidt' original equipment manufacturer 'OEM' approved warranty parts/components for cleaning/sweeping vehicles and, were related, technical fitting support to comply with OEM warranty, safety terms and operating instructions. RD Mechanical Services Ltd are the only OEM approved 'Holder' and 'Schmidt' agents based in Northern Ireland.
3.5	The following retrospective STAs were awarded: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a two-year extension to contract, awarded to C3 Productions Ltd, for T1996 - Co-ordination, Design Development, Fabrication, Installation and Maintenance of Projection Installations on Castle Street. Extension required due to various project

	<p>delivery delays including difficulty gaining landowner agreement for installation and Covid delays including inability of contractor to travel. No additional costs to original project costs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Committee is asked to note retrospectively an increase in value for a quotation, awarded to MMAS/OGU Architects, for the concept, detailed design development, outline costings and project management for extended payment enhancement at Adelaide Street, Belfast. Originally awarded via a quotation exercise with a total cost of £14,710. Due to additional unforeseen work requested by DfI (i.e. additional surveys, drawings and project enhancements) the total contract value is now estimated to be £38,250. Being reported as retrospective STA as value now exceeds £30k. <p><u>Modification to Contract Term</u></p>
3.6	<p>The following contract terms were modified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 3 month extension to contract T1764 for the supply and delivery of general uniforms to stores with suppliers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Antrim Supplies for Lot 1 – Hi-Vis Uniform ➤ Prosafe for Lot 2 - General Uniform, and ➤ Tailored Image for Lot 3 – Uniform accessories. <p>The extension of the contract will allow extra time to complete the re-tender process.</p>
	Financial and Resource Implications
3.7	The financial resources for these contracts are within approved corporate or departmental budgets
	Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment
3.8	None
4.0	Document Attached
	<p>Appendix 1:</p> <p>Table 1 - Competitive Tenders</p> <p>Table 2 - Single Tender Actions</p> <p>Table 3 - Modification to Contract Term</p> <p>Table 4 - Retrospective Single Tender Actions</p>

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Table 1: Competitive Tenders

Title of Tender	Proposed Contract Duration	Estimated Total Contract Value	SRO	Short description of goods / services
Creative Development 2024	Up to 3.5 years	£175,000	A Reid	Seeking external expertise and leadership in the hosting of a large scale cultural programme in Belfast (retender)
Implementation services to assist with the new NIHE hardware	Up to 2 months	£31,052	R Cregan	Includes the build, installation and migration of data and software.
Professional Congress/Conference Organiser required for One Young World 2023 conference in 2023	Up to 20 months	£175,000	A Reid	The total budget for the event is approx. £2.2m. Of this £1m is coming from NI Executive to BCC and a further £350,000 from BCC directly with the remaining to be raised from the private sector. For this type of event the host city procures the services of a PCO (Professional Congress/Conference Organiser). They will be responsible for overall co-ordination and project management.

Table 2: Single Tender Actions

Title	Total Value	SRO	Supplier
To provide and supply 'Dennis Eagle and Terberg' OEM approved warranty parts/components, support and maintenance.	£400,000	C Matthews	Manvik Plant & Hire Ltd
To provide and supply 'Holder' and 'Schmidt' OEM approved warranty parts/components, support and maintenance.	£400,000	C Matthews	RD Mechanical Services Ltd

Table 3: Modification to Contract Term

Title of Contract	Duration	Modification	SRO	Supplier
T1764 - supply and delivery of general uniforms to stores	Up to 4 years	Additional 3 months and £60,000	S Grimes	Antrim Supplies Lot 1 – Hi-Vis Uniform Prosafes Lot 2 - General uniform Tailored Image Lot 3 – Uniform accessories

Table 4: Retrospective Single Tender Actions

Title of Contract	Duration	Value	SRO	Supplier
T1996 - Co-ordination, design development, fabrication, installation and maintenance of projection installations on Castle Street	Up to 2 years	£95,000	A Reid	C3 Productions Ltd
QCRD026 - Concept, detailed design development, outline costings and project management for extended payment enhancement at Adelaide Street, Belfast	Up to 3 months	£38,250	A Reid	MMAS/OGU Architects



Subject:	Corporate Diaries and Christmas Cards
Date:	24 th September, 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 <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To consider whether the Committee wishes to proceed with the purchase of Corporate Diaries and Christmas Cards or allocate the money to a chosen charity.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to consider:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> whether or not it wishes to proceed with the purchase of Corporate Diaries for 2022; whether or not it wishes to proceed with the purchase of Corporate Christmas cards for 2021; and to decide if it does not want to proceed with either or both, that a process be developed and that the estimated costs be donated to a chose charity or charities each year instead.

3.0	Main Report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	<p>The Committee may recall that it had previously agreed the following:</p> <p><i>“That a report be submitted to a future meeting providing information on the savings to be derived from ceasing the production of Members’ corporate diaries and Christmas cards and the process for donating those savings to a chosen local charity each Christmas.”</i></p>
3.2	<p>The costs associated with the purchasing those items the previous year was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corporate Diaries £7,264.80 • Christmas Cards £948.00
3.3	Prior to committing any resources to the developing of a process for donating to charities, it would be preferable to seek direction from the Committee on how it wishes to proceed.
3.4	Accordingly, the Committee is asked to consider the recommendations as set out in paragraph 2.
	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u>
3.5	No additional financial resources as the amount was include in the current budget.
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.6	None associated with this report.
	Documents Attached
	None.



Subject:	Belfast City Council Statement of Accounts 2020/21
Date:	24th September, 2021
Reporting Officer:	Ronan Cregan, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources
Contact Officer:	Trevor Wallace, Head of Finance Helen Lyons, Corporate Finance Manager

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to present to the Committee the Statement of Accounts of the Council, including the Annual Governance Statement, for the period ending 31st March 2021.
1.2	The Statement of Accounts are an important element of the council's overall corporate governance framework as they provide assurance to Members and ratepayers on the stewardship of the council's finances and its financial position.
1.3	The Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2021, as attached, have been prepared in line with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United

	Kingdom 2020/21 based on International Financial Reporting Standards and the Department for Communities Accounts Direction, Circular LG 08/21 dated 11 March 2021 and 24 June 2021.
1.4	I can confirm that the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2021 has been prepared in the form directed by the Department for Communities and, in my opinion, the Statement of Accounts give a true and fair view of the income and expenditure and cash flows for the financial year and the financial position as at the end of the financial year.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • approve the Council's Statement of Accounts and incorporated Annual Governance Statement for the year ended 31 March 2021; and • agree that this report should not be subject to call-in (as indicated above) because it would cause an unreasonable delay which would be prejudicial to the Council's and the public's interests given that the statement of accounts must be published by 30th September 2021.
3.0	Main Report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
	Audit Opinion
3.1	<p>It is the Local government Auditors' opinion that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with relevant legal and statutory requirements and the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2020-21, of the financial position of Belfast City Council as at 31 March 2021 and its income and expenditure for the year then ended; and • the statement of accounts have been properly prepared in accordance with the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and the Department for Communities directions issued thereunder; and • the part of the Remuneration Report to be audited has been properly prepared in accordance with the Department for Communities directions made under the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015; and • the information given in the Narrative Report for the financial year ended 31 March 2021 is consistent with the financial statements.

	Reserves																		
3.2	<p>General Fund</p> <p>The credit balance on the General Fund has increased to £54,924,106 (of which £40,929,092 relates to specified reserves). The movement on the reserves balance is summarised in Table 1 below:</p> <p>Table 1: Summary of Reserves Position</p> <table> <tr> <td>Opening Balance</td><td>£28.7m</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>In year movement in reserves</td><td><u>£ 26.2m</u></td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Closing Balance</td><td>£54.9m</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Specified Reserves at year end</td><td><u>£40.9m</u></td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td></tr> <tr> <td>Balance Available</td><td><u>£14m</u></td></tr> </table>	Opening Balance	£28.7m			In year movement in reserves	<u>£ 26.2m</u>			Closing Balance	£54.9m			Specified Reserves at year end	<u>£40.9m</u>			Balance Available	<u>£14m</u>
Opening Balance	£28.7m																		
In year movement in reserves	<u>£ 26.2m</u>																		
Closing Balance	£54.9m																		
Specified Reserves at year end	<u>£40.9m</u>																		
Balance Available	<u>£14m</u>																		
3.3	<p>Capital Fund £19,296,139</p> <p>The Capital Fund is made up of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belfast Investment Fund (£1,908,136) -created to support key partnership projects to regenerate Belfast and help lever substantial funds from other sources • Local Investment Fund (£1,056,624) to fund smaller local regeneration projects • City Centre Investment Fund (£13,408,897) to support the Belfast City Centre Regeneration Investment Plans • Social Outcomes Fund (£2,922,482) to support City Centre projects which might not generate a direct financial return but would enhance the overall City Centre offer and support the attraction of investment. 																		
3.4	<p>Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund £8,000,000</p> <p>This fund was created from the Belfast Investment Fund, to support neighbourhood regeneration and tourism projects in local neighbourhoods.</p>																		
3.5	<p>Leisure Mobilisation Fund £630,245</p> <p>This fund is to support the Leisure Transformation Programme and will cover programme level costs including communications, engagement and procurement costs.</p>																		
3.6	<p>Capital Receipts Reserve £7,962,458 and Deferred Capital Receipts £342,300</p> <p>These are capital receipts which have originated primarily from the sale of assets and which have not yet been used to finance capital expenditure.</p>																		

3.7	<p>Other Fund Balances and Reserves £1,091,532</p> <p>This relates to the Election Reserve (£379,435) which has been set up to smooth the cost of running council elections, the BWUH Subvention Fund (£436,402) to support national and international organisations in bringing their conferences to Belfast and the BWUH Sinking Fund (£275,695) to support planned maintenance and future capital works at the new exhibition centre.</p>															
3.8	<p>Debt</p> <p>The overall level of trade debtors had increased this year from £4.1m at 31 March 2020 to £5.2m at 31 March 2021. Whilst, the COVID 19 pandemic had an impact on overall debt levels, the main reason is an increase in public authority debt at year end. An analysis of trade debtors, inclusive of VAT, for the last two years is shown below:</p> <p>Table 2 : Analysis of Trade Debtors</p> <table><tr><td></td><td>31 March 2021</td><td>31 March 2020</td></tr><tr><td>Less than three months</td><td>£3,963,319</td><td>£3,239,834</td></tr><tr><td>Three to one year</td><td>£418,307</td><td>£614,739</td></tr><tr><td>More than one year</td><td>£772,373</td><td>£218,298</td></tr><tr><td>Total</td><td>£5,216,999</td><td>£4,072,871</td></tr></table>		31 March 2021	31 March 2020	Less than three months	£3,963,319	£3,239,834	Three to one year	£418,307	£614,739	More than one year	£772,373	£218,298	Total	£5,216,999	£4,072,871
	31 March 2021	31 March 2020														
Less than three months	£3,963,319	£3,239,834														
Three to one year	£418,307	£614,739														
More than one year	£772,373	£218,298														
Total	£5,216,999	£4,072,871														
3.9	<p>Creditors</p> <p>The Department for Communities has set councils a target of paying invoices within 30 days. During the year, the council paid 51,593 invoices totalling £154,605,481.</p>															
	<p>The average time taken to pay creditor invoices was 17 days for the year ended 31 March 2021. The Council paid 39,959 invoices within 10 days, 48,218 invoices within 30 days, and 3,375 invoices outside of 30 days. The council endeavours to process invoices as quickly as possible and has an improvement plan to support this process.</p>															
3.10	<p>Annual Governance Statement (AGS)</p> <p>The Statement of Accounts include Annual Governance Statement (AGS) for the year 2020/21, which has been prepared in line with the Accounts Directive provided by the Department for Communities, NIAO guidance and is consistent with the principles of the CIPFA/SOLACE Framework ‘Delivering Good Governance in Local Government’. Specifically the AGS sets out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• scope of responsibility of the Council in relation to governance• the purpose of the governance framework• the governance framework in place• review of effectiveness of the governance framework• significant governance issues to be disclosed.															

3.11	The AGS is approved by the Chair of the Strategic Policy and Resources, the Chief Executive and the Director of Finance and Resources. It is subject to review by the LGA (NIAO) as part of their annual audit.
3.12	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> None
3.13	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> None
4.0	Documents Attached
	Detailed Statement of Accounts titled "Belfast City Council Statement of Accounts 2021"

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Belfast City Council

Statement of Accounts 2021



Belfast
City Council

BELFAST CITY COUNCIL
Statement of Accounts
For the year ended 31 March 2021

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Narrative Report

Introduction

Organisational overview and external environment

Belfast City Council remains the largest of Northern Ireland's 11 local authorities, serving a population of 345,207 residents, as well as the thousands of people who travel to the city to work, study and visit each day.



With a net budgeted expenditure of £167.3m in 2020/21, Belfast City Council's 2,177 employees, led by 60 councillors across 10 electoral areas, carry out six principal roles:

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

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

The key services delivered by the Council are outlined below under our Operational Model and the key objectives of the Council are outlined below under Strategic Performance. The key deliverables for year ended 31 March 2021 reflect the priorities articulated by local people and relate to the council's functions as both a civic leader and service provider.

Operational Model

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

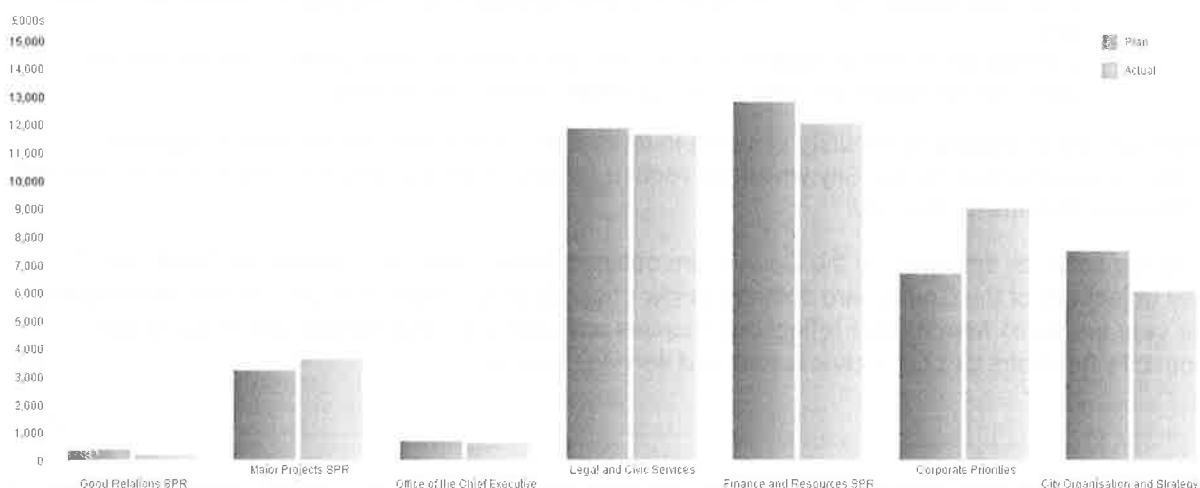
Throughout the year the Council reports to the relevant committees on the financial performance against agreed budget for each committee. The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement shows the accounting cost in the year of providing services in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices,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

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

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

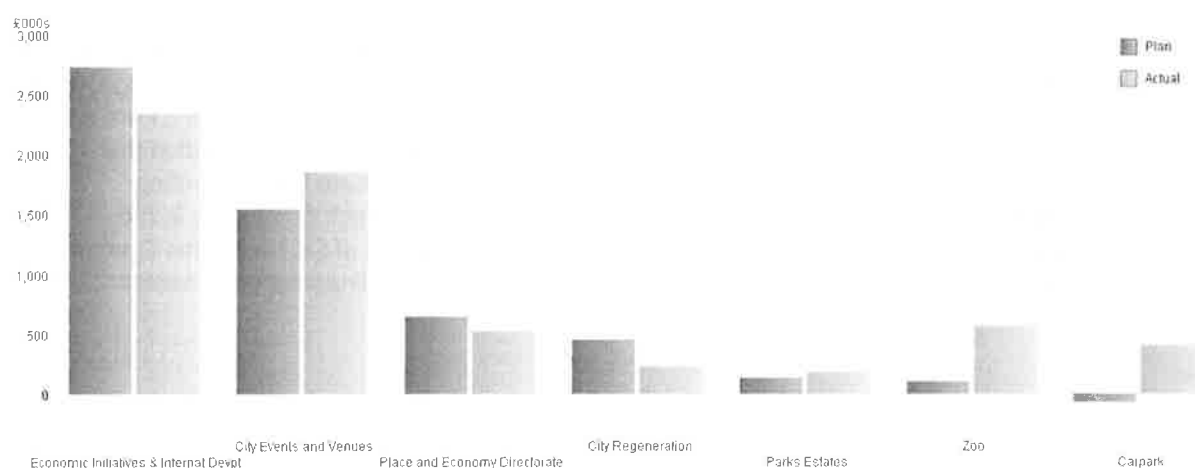
Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

This committee is responsible for setting the strategic direction of the Council through the development of its Corporate Plan and other key corporate and cross cutting strategies and policies. The net expenditure of this committee includes Legal and Civic Services, Finance and Resources, City Organisation Structure and Major Projects and Corporate Priorities with Human Resources and Good Relations. The net expenditure budget for this committee for these services in 2020/21 is £43.1m with actual net expenditure for the year amounting to £43.1m. The graph below outlines the services delivered within this committee and performance against budget. These amounts do not include the accounting adjustments that are required to be included in the net expenditure for this committee in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account. The net expenditure of £40.9m for this Committee includes the accounting adjustments that are required for preparing the financial statements.



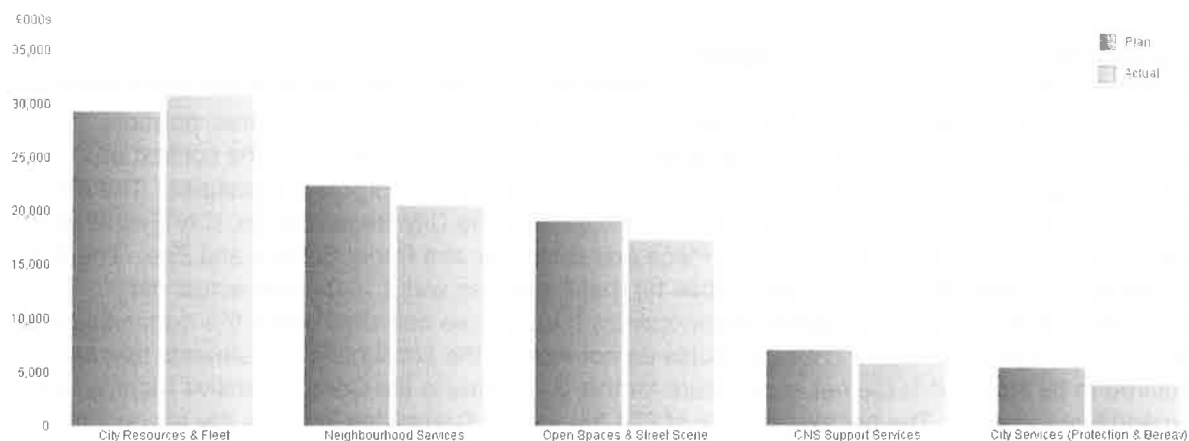
City Growth and Regeneration Committee

This committee is responsible for the development and implementation of strategies, policies, programmes and projects directed to the regeneration and growth of the City in the context of outcomes agreed in the Community and Corporate plans and other corporate strategies. The net expenditure of the committee includes Economic Initiatives and City Regeneration, City Events and Venues including Off-Street Car Parking, Place and Economy and Parks Estates and Zoo. The total budget for net expenditure for this committee for these services was £18.0m and actual net expenditure was £20.4m. The graph below outlines the services delivered within this committee and performance against budget. These amounts do not include the accounting adjustments that are required to be included in the net expenditure for this committee in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account. The net expenditure of £24.8m for this Committee includes the accounting adjustments that are required for preparing the financial statements.



People and Communities Committee

This committee is responsible for the development and implementation of strategies, policies, programmes and projects aimed at improving life at a local level in the context of the outcomes agreed in the community and corporate plans and other corporate strategies. The net expenditure of the committee includes Cleansing, Waste Management and Vehicles, Parks, Cemeteries and Leisure Centres, Environmental Health, Neighbourhood and Development and Community Services. The total budget for net expenditure for this committee for these services was £83.1m and actual net expenditure was £78.0m. The graph below outlines the services delivered within this committee and performance against budget. These amounts do not include the accounting adjustments that are required to be included in the net expenditure for each committee in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account. The net expenditure of £98.2m for this Committee includes the accounting adjustments that are required for preparing the financial statements.



Planning and Licensing

These committees are responsible for delivery of all of the Council's planning functions and policy and legislation in relation to licensing issues. The net expenditure includes Planning and Building Control services. The total budget for net expenditure for this committee for these services was £1.4m and actual net expenditure was £2.3m. The graph below outlines the services delivered within this committee and performance against budget. These amounts do not include the accounting adjustments that are required to be included in the net expenditure for each committee in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account. The net expenditure of £3.1m for this Committee includes the accounting adjustments that are required for preparing the financial statements.



Further information regarding the variances between planned and actual expenditure is included in the individual committee reporting for 2020/21. Total net expenditure budget of £167.3m includes the above services budget of £145.6m and the capital financing budget of £21.7m.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The Covid-19 pandemic had a considerable impact on the Council and was been identified as a significant risk within the Annual Governance Statement for 2020/21 and remains so for 2021/22. The Government's initial lockdown, announced on 20th March 2020, meant that many businesses have been forced to close temporarily significantly impacting on the economy. Furthermore, the Council has had to put considerable resources into ensuring that critical services are delivered during this period and that the most vulnerable in our community are cared for. This comes with additional cost pressures. The lifting of restrictions also came with additional costs to ensure services and buildings were ready to be occupied in line with Regulations and guidance.

The Council reset its Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) in recognition of the impact of the pandemic and the Council's strategic objectives. The Covid-19 crisis meant that the Council had to review what its most critical services were, and which were required to still be operational even during a global pandemic.

Financial Impact

The Council incurred substantial losses across many of its largest streams of income. These include parking, commercial waste, licensing fees, registrars and planning fees. As with any recession, investment income is anticipated to reduce which will create further pressures on the Council's finances. Due to the Council's reliance on fees and charges, rates income and consequently its exposure to the economic cycle, the Council has sought in recent years to build up the general fund balance to ensure the Council is financially resilient in a recession.

In response to the forecasted financial impact the Council implemented a five step Finance Strategy to mitigate the risk of a potential deficit.

1. Secure Financial Support from Central Government
2. Balance the deficit as far as possible through in year savings
3. Use of Balance Sheet Funds
4. Use of Specified Reserves
5. Use of General Reserves.

During the year the Council secured funding from Department for Communities (DfC) totalling £20,585k, Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural affairs (DAERA) totalling £469k and made use of the Job Retention Scheme £1,568k, this along with strict vacancy control measures and stringent expenditure controls meant the council did not need to use steps 3-5 in order to balance the budget for the 2020/21 financing year.

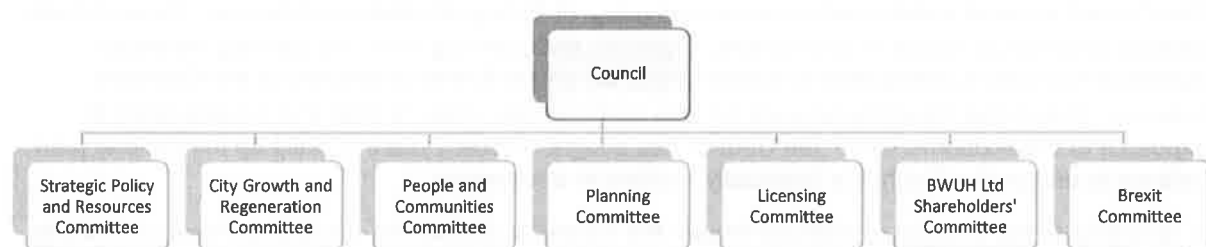
Moving forward

The changing environment and "new normal" in which we find ourselves will require the Council to review the services it provides, its delivery models and the outcomes that are of the highest priority. This will also require the Council to review the structural position of its budget and how that needs to change going forward.

The Council continues to revise and refine recovery plans - this is challenging given the degree of uncertainty regarding the pandemic and the still unknown impact on service provision and resources over time. This requires a high degree of flexibility in managing the resources (financial and workforce), to be able to respond quickly to reopen / reclose services whilst dealing with additional challenges associated with abiding by changing Covid-19 regulations, social distancing and responding to new community and business needs.

Governance

The work of Belfast City Council is overseen by the committee structure outlined below and detailed further in our Governance Statement on pages 15 - 31. This Annual Governance Statement for 2020/21 highlights the Council's governance arrangements during the year and how significant governance issues are being addressed and actions implemented. A programme management framework is in place to manage both revenue and capital streams of activity for the Council. Directors and Members have oversight in accordance with the terms of reference for the relevant Committee as well as finance reports covering all aspects of Council expenditure being presented to Committee on a quarterly basis. The Committee structure, which is based on the full council and seven standing committees is illustrated and described below.



As outlined in the Annual Governance Statement on page 16, in response to Covid-19 the Council altered the normal decision-making processes to ensure that the Council followed Public Health Agency guidance on social distancing and essential travel was followed while maintaining continuity of critical services.

Strategic Performance

The strategic performance of the Council is incorporated in the Belfast City Council's Corporate Plan 2020-24, which includes the Improvement Plan. The Belfast Agenda is published on the Council's website and outlines the Council's ambitions for the City by 2035 as well as the immediate priorities for:

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

The Council outlines its priorities within the Corporate Plan 2020-24 which was agreed in March 2020 just before the Covid-19 pandemic. These priorities cascade from the longer term outcomes identified in the Council's Community Plan (Belfast Agenda). These priorities are based upon extensive external and internal analysis, including key socio-economic data, analysis of the plans and strategies impacting the city and its communities, performance information and political engagement. In addressing the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, a Covid-19 Recovery Plan was agreed that focuses on the medium to long term response and priorities of Belfast that have arisen as a result of the pandemic.

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

These six key objectives are:

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

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

Financial Statements

The Council's financial performance for the year ended 31st March 2021 is as set out in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and its financial position is as set out in the Balance Sheet and Cash Flow Statement.

These financial statements have been prepared in line with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom for the year ended 31st March 2021 (the Code) and the Department for Communities Accounts Direction, Circular LG 08/21. It is the purpose of this foreword to explain, in an easily understandable way, the financial facts in relation to the Council.

This Statement of Accounts explains Belfast City Council's finances during the financial year 2020/21 and its financial position at the end of that year. It follows approved accounting standards and is necessarily technical in parts.

The annual accounts for 2020/21 have been prepared on the assumption that the Council will continue in existence for the foreseeable future. It is not foreseen that the impact of Covid-19 will change this position over the period covered by this report.

Group Accounts

The Code requires Local Authorities to consider all their interests and to prepare a full set of group financial statements where they have material interests in subsidiaries, associates or joint ventures. Belfast City Council have prepared group financial statements for the financial year ended 31 March 2021 to include Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Limited (BWUH) and Belfast City Council's contribution to Beltel LLP in relation to the redevelopment of the Belfast Telegraph Building. The results of Beltel LLP are included in the group financial statements. The results of Belfast Gasworks Management Co Ltd for the year ended 31 March 2021 are not deemed material to Belfast City Council accounts and as such are not included in the group financial statements.

The Movement in Reserves Statement

This Statement, as set out on page 44, shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the Council, analysed into 'usable reserves' (i.e. those that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation) and other reserves. The 'Surplus or (Deficit) on the provision of services' line shows the true economic cost of providing the Council's services, more details of which are shown in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Summary (CIES). These are different from the statutory amounts required to be charged to the General Fund Balance for Local Tax purposes. The 'Net Increase/Decrease before transfers to Earmarked Reserves' line shows the statutory General Fund Balance before any discretionary transfers to or from earmarked reserves undertaken by the Council. The group movement in reserves statement on page 115 includes the reserves of BWUH limited, contributing to an increase of £6.7k on the Group General Fund.

The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

This statement, as set out on page 45, shows the accounting cost in the year of providing services in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices, rather than the amount to be funded from taxation. Councils raise taxation to cover expenditure in accordance with regulations; this may be different from the accounting cost. The taxation position is shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement. The group comprehensive income and expenditure statement on page 116 includes the consolidated income and expenditure of BWUH Ltd.

The Balance Sheet

The Balance Sheet, as set out on page 46, shows the value as at the Balance Sheet date of the Council's assets and liabilities. The net assets of the Council (assets less liabilities) are matched by the reserves held by the Authority. Reserves are reported in two categories. The first category of reserves are usable reserves, i.e. those reserves that the Council may use to provide services, subject to the need to maintain a prudent level of reserves and any statutory limitations on their use (for example the Capital Receipts Reserve that may only be used to fund capital expenditure or repay debt). The second category of reserves are those that the authority is not able to use to provide services. This category of reserves includes reserves that hold unrealised gains and losses (for example the Revaluation Reserve), where amounts would only become available to provide services if the assets are sold; and reserves that hold timing differences shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement line 'Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations'. The group balance sheet on page 117 includes relevant balances for BWUH Ltd and Beltel LLP.

The Cash Flow Statement

The Cash Flow Statement shows the changes in cash and cash equivalents of the Council during the reporting period. The statement shows how the Council generates and uses cash and cash equivalents by classifying cash flows as operating, investing and financing activities. The amount of net cash flows arising from operating activities is a key indicator of the extent to which the operations of the Council are funded by way of taxation and grant income or from the recipients of services provided by the Council. Investing activities represent the extent to which cash outflows have been made for resources which are intended to contribute to the Council's future service delivery. Cash flows arising from financing activities are useful in predicting claims on future cash flows by providers of capital (i.e. borrowing) to the Council. The group cashflow statement on page 118 includes the cash and cash equivalents of BWUH Ltd, Gas Pension Fund and the Council's interests in Beltel LLP.

Expenditure and Funding Analysis

The resourcing of the Council's activities is outlined in the Annual Report, demonstrating the funding available and what services this funding provided for 2020/21.

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

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

Financial performance

For the year ended 31 March 2021, the Council increased its General Fund to £54.9m. The Budget plans form part of the Revenue Estimates and in 2020/21 the total net expenditure budget for the Council was set at £167.3m.

The Council reported £1.7m under spend on service delivery at the year end. Performance against budget for each of the Committees is continuously monitored throughout the year. This performance is reported to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on a quarterly basis, with a monthly finance update on the council position against the initial forecast deficit due to Covid-19. The overall position for the year ended 31 March 2021 is mainly due to measures put in place to restrict spend as

a response to the global pandemic. These included restrictions on recruitment and enhanced expenditure controls.

The Cost of Services on Continuing Operations of £167m as reported in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, also includes the accounting cost of providing services in addition to the amount to be funded from taxation. The total net expenditure reported in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is £2m.

Borrowings

For the 2020/21 year the Council has an authorised borrowing limit of £167m. This is based on the Council's forecast capital expenditure plans over the medium to long term. In conjunction with the Council's Capital Financing Requirement of £130m, this ensures that the Council only borrows for capital purposes. During the year, the Council repaid external loans of £10.7m with Department of Finance. The Council repaid £5m in short term borrowing from another Council. At 31 March 2021, the total amount outstanding on external loans was £57m, of this total £0.2m represents the outstanding debt of the former Belfast Corporation Services which is now the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, and on whose behalf the Council is administering the loans.

Capital Expenditure

Expenditure on capital projects during the year amounted to £21.6m. The most significant expenditure was on: Corporation Street Site £5m; Lagan Gateway Project £2.7m; Blanchflower Playing Fields £1.8m; Colin Play Park £1.7m; Templemore Leisure Centre £1.4m; Springfield Dam £1.2m and Avoniel Leisure Centre £1.2m.

Strategy and Resource allocation

When setting the district rate for 2021/22 consideration was given to the following key financial factors for the Council:

- Externally imposed increases to the Council's pay bill including the nationally negotiated pay awards and employers' pension contributions increases.
- Future revenue running costs resulting from capital investment. The Council's asset base is growing as new schemes become operational and support given to local investment partnerships. These pressures are further exacerbated by the growing cost pressures and risks associated with the maintenance of an ageing estate.
- External economic factors such as Brexit and inflation. The uncertainty around Brexit and levels of government funding make it difficult for services to budget for central government and European funding streams. Inflation is a further external pressure over which the Council has no control.
- Existing priorities including the Waste Plan, City Deal and Physical Programmes. The Council faces significant year on year increases in waste disposal costs as the arc21 residual waste contract and interim arrangements become operational. All City Deals require the councils to make a financial contribution to the delivery of their own capital projects, such as the City's Visitor Attraction and Members agreed to include rate supported funding to help build the City Deal fund for Belfast.
- Emerging priorities including Climate Resilience and Inclusive Growth which require a significant corporate commitment including a recurrent funding stream.
- Efficiency savings of £3.1m for 2020/21 to help offset the impact of the above pressures and strike a district rate below inflation (agreed rate increase for 2021/22 is 1.92%).

The impact of Covid-19 has been significant in 2020/21 and the following measures have been introduced by the Director of Financial Services to ensure the ongoing monitoring and reporting of the key issues.

- An interim Finance Strategy for 2020/21 (approved by SP&R in June 2020) outlining a 5 stage approach to secure the delivery of balanced budget. This included temporary controls on spend including the filling of vacant posts.
- Monthly forecasting by departments
- Monthly finance updates to SP&R on the financial impact of recovery decisions
- Monthly updates to Standing Committees
- Following successful lobbying of government departments by all Northern Ireland Councils and the opportunity to avail of the Job Retention Scheme, Belfast City Council received COVID-19 support totalling £22.6m. Details of the funding received from the various funders is detailed on page 6.

Outlook

The Council is fully aware that it is continuing to operate in a continually challenging environment with the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. The Council is committed to delivering business as usual where possible and will continue with our ambitions for the City under the Belfast Agenda and City Deal. The Council strives to deliver at the highest of standards and these efforts have been recognised in the many awards achieved by the Council in the year ended 31 March 2021, including:

- Shortlisted as Council of the Month by Public Sector Executive Magazine – Belfast Region City Deal team
- Siobhan Toland, Director of City Services awarded MBE
- Leisure Transformation Programme – top in the leisure category for the inaugural Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors Social Impact Awards 2020
- NI Equality & Diversity Gala Awards – BCC Shortlisted
 - Best Gender Initiative
 - Best LGBT Initiative
 - Best Disability Initiative
- NILGA award- Best Enterprise Initiative for City Start Up / Kick Start Programme – Belfast City Council

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

- Smart City Framework – the Council continues to adopt a leadership role to foster innovation working with SMEs and academia on a range of smart city programmes. It continues to attract and leverage funding to support the delivery of these projects from a range of sources including Horizon 2020. It is driving the creation of a world class Smart District and has developed a new strategic city partnership to deliver on the City's digital ambitions. The programme has been instrumental in attracting significant City Deal funding through the development of a digital pillar and associated business case.

- City Deal - the City deal model is the UK Government's innovative strategy for building stronger urban and regional growth via smarter, more localised and growth focused investment decision-making. Confirmation of the NI Executive's match funding of new investment for infrastructure, regeneration, and tourism projects will help the region's economy recover from the effects of Covid-19. There will be overall investment in the Belfast Region City Deal of £850 million, including £150m from the Belfast Region City Deal partners.

The Executive has also agreed to provide up to an additional £100 million for complementary projects where partners can demonstrate a viable capital project which is complementary to the City/Growth Deal proposals.

- The Council continues to progress implementation of the Belfast PEACE IV Local Action Plan having previously secured £14.4m of funding from the European Union's PEACE IV Programme. The PEACE IV Programme is a cross-border initiative designed to support peace and reconciliation in Northern Ireland and the border region. The programme is managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) with match funding provided by The Executive Office in Northern Ireland and the Department of Rural and Community Development in Ireland. All 15 project elements within the PEACE IV Local Action Plan have now been mobilised however the Covid-19 pandemic and the Health Protection Regulations have provided a significant challenge for delivery of projects during 2020. The Council has been liaising closely with the SEUPB and delivery partners to enable project activity in compliance with government restrictions where possible.

The coronavirus pandemic has had a profound impact on all aspects of life in the Belfast City Council area. Through 2021/22 the Council will continue to adopt a pro-active approach to ensure that it responds to the emerging needs of residents and businesses, and has set out an extensive plan 'Belfast: Our Recovery' detailing how it will support communities, businesses and vulnerable people as the city continues to navigate the ongoing challenges presented by Covid-19.

In line with all other councils in Northern Ireland and the wider public sector, Belfast City Council is facing a number of challenges. Public finances are under increasing pressure as a result of both the pandemic, ongoing tightening of government spending agendas, amongst other challenges. Key risks and planned mitigations are included in our Governance Statement on pages 15 to 31.

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

The Council's Responsibilities

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

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

These accounts were approved by the Chief Finance Officer on 28 June 2021.

The Chief Financial Officer's Responsibilities

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

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

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

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

The Chief Financial Officer is also required to:

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

Annual Governance Statement 2020/2021

The Council's Annual Governance Statement (AGS) follows the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the UK 2020/21 and comprises the following sections:

- Scope of responsibility
- The purpose of the governance framework
- The governance framework
- Review of effectiveness
- Update on the significant governance issues that were declared last year
- Significant governance issues for the year-end 2021

Scope of responsibility

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

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

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

The purpose of the governance framework

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

The system of internal control is a significant part of that framework and is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level. It cannot eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives and can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of the Council's policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically.

The governance framework continues to be in place at Belfast City Council for the year ending 31st March 2021 and up to the date of approval of the Annual Governance Statement

and statement of accounts. The following section sets out the key elements of the governance framework.

The governance framework

In response to Covid-19 the Council altered its normal decision-making processes to ensure that it followed Public Health Agency guidance on social distancing and essential travel while maintaining continuity of critical services.

Committee and Council: The committee decision-making process was delegated to the Chief Executive under Standing Order 41 as agreed at a Special Council meeting on 13 March 2020. A process was established where the reports were issued as normal and the views of each party were collated by Democratic Services to enable the Chief Executive to make a decision, based on the levels of democratic support. A Contentious Business Committee, the Party Group Leaders, allowed for discussion of any contentious matters. Committee decision-registers, which continued to be subject to the normal call-in process were published on modern.gov as normal. A 'Procedure for the transaction of business under delegated authority' was agreed with Party Group Leaders.

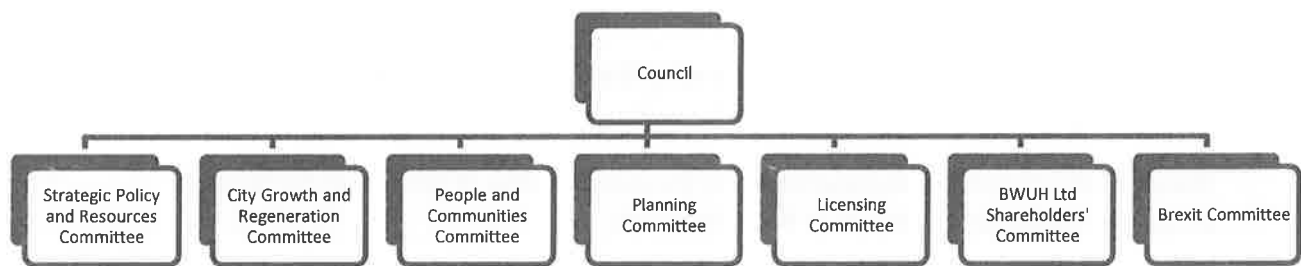
This process was a temporary process with a phased approach being taken to reintroduce committees and Council meetings with a physical annual Council meeting held on Monday 1 June, the first remote Special Council meeting on Monday 8 June, the first remote Strategic Policy & Resources Committee held on Friday 19 June with another remote Council meeting held on 1 July. Council and committee meetings resumed in August 2020 (some special meetings were held in July) and all were held remotely with the chairman and lead officers only located in the City Hall committee room and all other participants on Microsoft Teams.

The process for committee decision making under delegated authority was reintroduced on 4th May 2021 following the expiry of the legislation permitting the hosting of remote meetings from 6th May 2021. This process involves continuing to hold remote committee meeting, with the committee making recommendations to the Chief Executive or appropriate Chief Officer to exercise delegated authority to implement the recommendations.

Planning and Licensing Committee: a separate process was established for the Planning and Licensing Committees where it is considered inappropriate to have party positions on particular applications. Therefore the views of each of the individual committee members was collated by Democratic Services before a decision was taken by the Chief Executive under delegated authority.

Following the amendment to Standing Orders in March 2020, the Council also contacted the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) to seek approval of those delegated arrangements as required by planning legislation. However DfI confirmed that since the changes were to Standing Orders as opposed to the Scheme of Delegation there was no requirement for Departmental approval.

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



On 4 May 2021, council agreed to establish a new Standards and Business Committee (pending) which will: promote, sustain and safeguard the conduct of Councillors within the Council; promote a collaborative working relationship between senior officers and Members; ensure the probity of all the council's proceedings; and review and improve processes in relation to bringing business before the Council, including any review of Standing Orders. Note: The decision to establish the Standards and Business Committee was called in for reconsideration under Section 41(1)a of the 2014 Act. Following consideration by an ad-hoc committee and reconsideration of the decision by full council, the decision to establish the Standards and Business Committee was upheld. The Committee was to be established with effect from 1st September 2021 following changes to Standing Orders. A report was brought to SP&R Committee on 20 August outlining a number of subsequent decisions which were required to be taken to allow for the establishment of the Standards and Business Committee, including agreeing Terms of Reference and changes to Standing Orders. Following this report, the decision to by SP&R Committee to change the Standing Orders was called in for reconsideration and was therefore not approved or adopted by Council. The Standards and Business Committee cannot therefore be established until such time as this most recent call in has been resolved.

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

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

The Strategic Policy and Resources Committee is responsible for setting the strategic direction of the Council through the development of its corporate plan and other key corporate and cross cutting strategies and policies. It will also ensure effective use of resources and value for money for ratepayers, and oversee the Council's relationship with a number of key agencies and partners.

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

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

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

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

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

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

In addition to the Committees listed in the diagrams above there are ten Working Groups established which include the Audit & Risk Panel and four Area Working Groups. In addition there is a Party Leaders' Consultative Forum.

The Audit & Risk Panel provides an independent assurance on the adequacy of the Council's risk management framework and associated control environment. It provides an independent scrutiny of the Council's financial and non-financial performance, which is relied upon by the Council, to the extent that it exposes it to risk and weakens the control environment. The Panel reports to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee. The Audit & Risk Panel met three times during 2020/21. The Panel did not meet in June 2020 as all meetings of working groups were cancelled from mid-March 2020 to August 2020 as part of our organisational response to the impact of Covid-19.

The Council's Code of Governance is based on the seven core principles set out in the CIPFA/SOLACE Framework (2016 edition). How we meet these seven core principles is reviewed and updated annually, and in particular for this year, ensuring that our update reflects Covid-19 related changes to our governance arrangements. A summary of the key elements of our governance framework are set out in the following table:

Our seven principles of good governance

A: Behaving with integrity

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

B: Ensuring openness

- New process for committee decision making under delegated authority during the pandemic
- Council / committee meetings open to the public and agendas / minutes on website
- Belfast Agenda developed via extensive consultation and engagement.
- Corporate plan and annual improvement plan are subject to consultation before agreement
- Statement of Community Involvement for production of the Local Development Plan
- Ongoing consultation and engagement with staff & trade unions
- Corporate communications
- Annual financial report and annual report to Equality Commission published on BCC website
- Partnership / legal agreements with GLL, Active Belfast, arc21, BWUH Ltd, Visit Belfast
- "Your Say" consultation hub
- Working with Belfast Region City Deal partners

C: Defining outcomes

- Belfast: Our Recovery plan
- Belfast Agenda outlines long term economic, social and environmental benefits and is refreshed every 4 years
- Development of a Belfast Region City Deal Investment Plan
- Cultural Strategy
- Corporate plan outlines the annual contribution to the Belfast Agenda
- City centre regeneration & investment strategy
- Physical Investment Programme
- Leisure transformation programme
- Grant funding processes
- Equality Impact Assessments
- Belfast Resilience Strategy – the city's first climate plan

D: Optimising the achievement of outcomes

- Corporate plan aligned to delivery of Belfast Agenda and Belfast: Our Recovery
- Consultation and engagement processes
- Strategic financial management framework in place, including quarterly challenge process.
- Performance management framework
- Regular reports on progress of our performance improvement plan to CMT and SP&R
- Risk management strategy & framework

E: Developing capacity & capability

- Achieving Through People Framework and development of organisational values and behaviours
- Benchmarking activity
- Efficiency programme
- Regular performance monitoring of the delivery of improvement objectives
- Learning and development policy
- Health and wellbeing strategy
- Appraisal scheme in place for Senior Managers
- PDPs for officers and Members
- Member capacity building plan delivered in 2019/20
- Continuing Development Programme in place for the Planning Committee
- Party group briefings

F: Finance, performance and risk management

- Five Step Financial Strategy to address impact of the pandemic
- Strategic financial management framework in place
- Assessment of compliance with the CIPFA Financial Management Code
- Efficiency programme
- Performance management framework
- Financial resilience review
- Risk management strategy
- Corporate risk management framework
- Regular reporting of finance, risk & performance
- Audit and Risk Panel
- Internal audit function / annual internal audit strategy & plan in place
- Recommendations Monitor process
- Data protection policy and procedures
- Corporate Fraud Risk Assessment
- Increased data security controls

G: Transparency, reporting & effective accountability

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

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

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

We have assessed our compliance with the principles of the CIPFA Financial Management Code and have reached the overall conclusion that we are compliant, with improvement identified over better integration of strategic plans and resources and more robust option appraisal. The preparatory work for the 2022/23 revenue estimates and medium term financial plan will include the integration of strategic plans and resources. In addition CIPFA have completed a report on whole life costing and it is anticipated that the recommended training will be rolled out to departments in the 2021/22 financial year.

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

The CIPFA Statement on the Role of the Head of Internal Audit (2019) outlines the five principles that set out the organisation's responsibilities to ensure the Head of Internal Audit (HIA) is able to operate effectively and perform their core duties. The Statement also sets out the core responsibilities of the HIA along with the personal skills and professional standards expected of the HIA. The Head of Audit, Governance and Risk Services (AGRS), and the supporting operational arrangements in place, conform to the five principles set out in the CIPFA Statement. This is demonstrated through a self-assessment exercise undertaken by the Head of AGRS. While the principles state that the HIA should not be responsible for preparing the annual governance report, the arrangements within the council, involve AGRS co-coordinating the preparation of the Annual Governance Statement which is then reviewed and agreed by the Corporate Management Team, Audit Assurance Board and Audit and Risk Panel, before being reviewed by Strategic Policy and Resources committee and signed by the Chair of Strategic Policy & Resources, the Chief Executive and the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources.

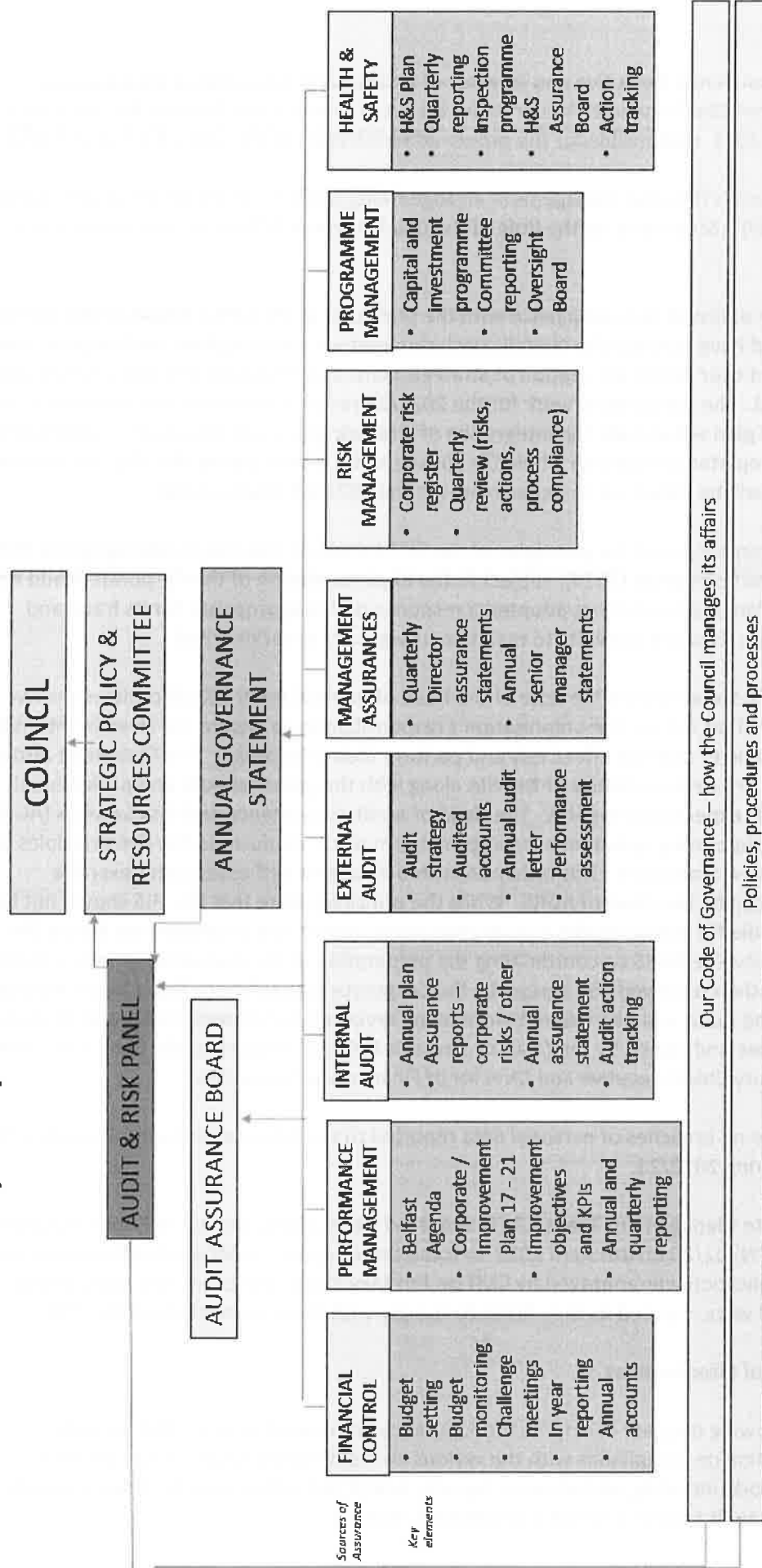
There were no breaches of personal data reported to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) during 2020/21.

Corporate Management Team (CMT) endorsed the guidance set out in Public Procurement Note (PPN) 02/20 on 8th April 2020. In total, three supplier relief applications were received. One application was approved by CMT on 8th May 2020. The other two applications received were rejected as they failed to comply with the requirements of the PPN.

Review of Effectiveness

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

Key Components of the Council's Assurance Framework



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

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

- the annual review and update of the Code of Governance;
- comments or recommendations made by the external auditors during their annual audit; and
- the Head of Audit Governance and Risk Services (AGRS) annual assurance statement for the period ending 2020/21, which gives an opinion on the Council's risk and control environment.

Head of Internal Audit Opinion

An extract from the Head of AGRS Annual Assurance Statement for the period ending 2020/21 is given below:

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

We revised our audit plan in consultation with management during the first few months of the pandemic to ensure that our audit work was focussed on the areas where assurance was most valuable and was timed and conducted in a way that minimised interruption, while complying with government guidelines. Member and management agreement of this revised plan combined with delivery of the majority of this plan, during a time when the organisation was going through a period of unprecedented change, signifies members and managers recognition of the importance of receiving independent assurance over the Council's "new normal" risk, control and governance frameworks and provided me with sufficient evidence to support my assurance statement. As such there is no limitation of scope on my assurance statement.

My opinion is based on completion of audits in the revised audit plan for 20/21; project, programme and other advisory work undertaken; our role in reviewing changes to financial governance arrangements and; quarterly assurance statements from senior management on compliance with risk management and internal control systems.

Specifically my opinion is based on the following:

- evidence from areas subject to detailed internal audit during 2020/2021, in that AGRS has been able to provide positive statements of assurance with the majority of audits falling into the 'some improvement needed' category - the 2nd tier of assurance in the 4-tier model
- 'Real-time' assurance and advisory work including the facilitation of readiness workshops for major programmes and projects and project advice and assurance on the implementation of new IT systems.
- AGRS review of the financial procedures that were amended by management since 18th March 2020 in order to take account of new working practices, policies and risks due to the impact of Covid-19 helped ensure that management were maintaining systems of internal control during the pandemic
- The work that was undertaken to fundamentally review the corporate risk profile of the council taking account of the impact of the pandemic, and the associated processes to assign ownership of these risks, develop the risk mitigation plans and for these risks to be reviewed and reported quarterly.

- The work that was undertaken to review the Corporate Fraud Risk Assessments in the light of Covid-19.
- Quarterly assurances from senior management on the management of key risks and maintenance of internal control systems during the pandemic response and recovery efforts
- the evidence set out in the review of the Council's Code of Governance and Annual Governance Statement regarding the range of key assurance and governance arrangements that the Council has in place to direct / oversee its activities.

However, some weaknesses and areas for improvement have been identified through audit work. These have been reported in detail to the Council's Audit Assurance Board and Audit and Risk Panel during 2020/21 through quarterly progress reports. In addition, I have highlighted, where appropriate, where further action is required to implement agreed audit actions. The key issues I would highlight in this statement are as follows

- While AGRS was able to provide positive statements of assurance in the majority of audits completed in 2020/21, five areas resulted in 'major improvement' assurance levels:
 - Performance Management audit area 2: Performance Management Framework
 - Pitches Strategy 2011 - 2021
 - Property maintenance
 - Government Procurement Cards
 - Gifts and hospitality / conflicts of interest

It is important that the action plans to address these are implemented in as timely a manner as possible.

Looking ahead, the ongoing response to and recovery from the pandemic continues to present risks and affect corporate priorities and organisational capacity and has the potential to also affect the adequacy and effectiveness of risk control and governance arrangements. It is important that; management continue to place importance on maintenance of these risk, control and governance arrangements; that audit recommendations to address control weakness are implemented timely; and that AGRS continue to receive cooperation on delivery of the audit plan throughout 21/22.

Public Sector Internal Audit Standards

I can confirm that the AGRS Service has conformed to Public Sector Internal Audit Standards during 2020/21. A quality assurance and improvement programme is in place including internal review of work, annual assessment against professional standards, quarterly progress and performance reporting to the Assurance Board and Audit & Risk Panel. An external review of AGRS took place in 2017/18 and this confirmed the Service's compliance with professional standards. We are currently preparing for our next external review due to take place in 2022/23.

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

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

Update on the Significant Governance Issues that were declared last year

Five issues were declared last year and all of these continue to be declared as issues in this year's statement.

Significant Governance Issues for the year-end 2021

The significant governance issues for the year-end 2021 were identified through a fundamental review of the risks in the Corporate Risk Register and review of the Directors' Annual Assurance Statements.

The most significant issues for the Council are listed below and include five issues carried over from last year (issues 1 – 5) and two new issues:

1. Financial position
2. Organisational Recovery
3. City and Community Recovery
4. Digital information security
5. The relationship between Elected Members and officers
6. Brexit implementation programme for Port Health
7. Succession planning

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

1. Financial position

The Covid-19 pandemic had a major impact on the 20/21 budget, with key financial risks around; loss of income; cash flow; rates income; debt; job retention scheme and; Covid-19 support. A 5-step Finance Strategy was agreed with Members on an approach to securing the finances of the Council with general reserves only to be used as a last resort. The five-step Finance Strategy comprised:

1. Secure financial support from central government
2. Balance the deficit as far as possible through in year savings
3. Use of balance sheet funds
4. Use of specified reserves
5. Use of general reserves

As a result of stringent financial management controls put in place during 20/21 the council was able to balance its budget without the use of steps 3-5 above.

Due to the pandemic the financial position of the Council continues to be a significant governance issue and the five-step Finance Strategy applied in 20/21 has been extended into 21/22 and will be reviewed quarterly.

In addition to this, members have agreed to the creation of two additional specified reserves to deal with 21/22 Covid costs / income losses and also rate base losses. These reserves are to be financed through a combination of 20/21 year end savings, in-year savings for 21/22 and general reserves, if required.

2. Organisational Recovery

Organisational recovery has presented challenges across the organization and in particular for the City & Neighbourhood Services Department.

City & Neighbourhood Services (C&NS) Department

The C&NS department has experienced a turbulent and challenging year, which has impacted significantly on their Transition and Improvement programme and has meant that the implementation of structural and accountability alignment has been stalled. Resource issues and fatigue within C&NS may also impact on the level and pace of service recovery.

To address this issue, C&NS along with dedicated corporate support from Continuous Improvement, intend to develop an action plan to support the department in streamlining structures and accountability, including portfolio alignments with the appointment of a third operational director and importantly deal with resource shortages and pressure points. In addition, the business planning process will be streamlined and used to agree and manage expectations in terms of deliverables within available resources.

Organisational Recovery

During 20/21 an Organisational Recovery Group was established and was responsible for ensuring that the challenges associated with organisation recovery were managed in a consistent and coordinated way. Challenges include; adherence to the six principles of internal recovery; compliance with health, safety and wellbeing requirements; management of the additional information security risks arising from large scale remote working; management of the financial impact of recovery and realignment of corporate priorities and programmes. This group ensured that there was appropriate reporting to members and fed into the emergency preparedness at NI level.

Organisational recovery continues to be a major programme of work into 2021. Work is underway to refine our overall approach to organisational recovery for this year, with revised Covid-19 Management and Recovery Principles, which will continue to be aligned to the NI Executive Roadmap to Recovery and the current Pathway out of Restrictions. Our recovery will also be shaped by wider Government direction; the roll-out of the vaccination programme; any variant developments, practicalities of managing safe return to the office; the ongoing need to respond to changing restrictions etc. Therefore, our approach will be phased and flexible.

As Covid-19 remains a global pandemic, Covid-19 management (and recovery) will become more of a managed process for the foreseeable future. On this basis, during 2021, we are streamlining our operational recovery governance, coordination and processes as set out below.

The new operational recovery governance and co-ordination involves:

- A smaller Recovery Co-ordination Group will oversee recovery and will replace the previous Operational Recovery Groups
- A Return to Office working group will inform the recovery for office based services / functions.
- Where required, Directors or Recovery Leads will escalate issues to CMT by exception
- Continuous Improvement will maintain a Master Recovery Spreadsheet to record recovery sign-off and capture any issues/ risks/ mitigations that have been escalated or identified.

The new operational recovery process involves the readiness assessment being replaced with a checklist that Departments can use as a guide to continue to operate safely or prepare to operate safely and in a viable form. This includes 'checks' relating to health and safety; cleaning; customers; digital; finance; workforce etc., and requires director sign off. Each department will have a nominated 'Departmental Recovery Link' person to help co-ordination of recovery.

3. City and Community Recovery

City Recovery

The global pandemic continues to significantly affect the Belfast economy and the plans that have been put in place to support economic regeneration in the city.

During 20/21 Council officers have been working closely with partner organisations in the public, private and statutory sectors to understand the scale of the challenge and develop collaborative solutions to mitigate the impact of Covid-19 on the local economy and community, supporting businesses to reopen in a safe way, providing employment opportunities and vibrancy to local communities and city centre. Significant engagement has taken place with relevant government departments involved in the regional response to the pandemic, particularly Department for Communities, Department for Infrastructure and Department for the Economy. While some commitments have been able to progress, such as delivering on the Belfast Bolder Vision, there continues to be a need to re-focus some activities to take account of the impact of Covid-19.

With recovery largely being paused from November 2020 following various restrictions being introduced during the second wave and then followed by the winter lockdown the crisis continues to highlight vulnerabilities within key systems and the structures of our economy and society, however, some benefits will be felt by the city from the behavioural change brought about in response to the crisis (such as less car usage, flexible working arrangements, more community interaction, support for front line workers). It is important that we understand what these are, and how feasible it is to sustain these behaviours over time. Our overall approach to city recovery will be aligned to the NI Executive Roadmap to Recovery and the current Pathway out of Restrictions.

Given the scale, complexity and uncertainty which existed, an internal Recovery Leadership Group had been established, with resources aligned to support and principles in place to guide the development and implementation of a phased and integrated recovery programme 'Respond, Rebuild, Recovery, that adheres to the NI Executive's 5 Step Pathway to Recovery. The recovery plan is focused on four interrelated pillars – economic, social and community, environmental and digital innovation.

Council has been able to secure £4.039m in funding from DfC, DfI and DAERA via the DfC Covid-19 Town Centre Revitalisation Fund to assist with city recovery measures.

The strong commitment by Council to support communities, businesses and vulnerable people during these challenging times is set out in the document "Belfast: Our Recovery." The document seeks to mitigate the immediate and short-term impacts of the pandemic including for example job losses, the need for skilling and re-skilling to access employment opportunities, risks around vulnerable people and social isolation, and providing targeted support. Emphasis is given to how we maximise social value of our own capital investments and grants programme to support recovery, as well as the opportunities presented by our procurement, to promote inclusive growth, support local businesses and supply chains and create local jobs. The document highlights the need for a people and jobs led approach to recovery.

Community Recovery

The need for Council and other partners to work together with local communities to jointly plan and maximise the impact of interventions, services and investments, and to ensure these approaches are tailored to meet local priorities and needs, has never been greater.

During 20/21 we continued to work with our Community / voluntary partners with a focus on ensuring those communities / individuals that had been disproportionately affected by the pandemic are supported to access local community services. The Council continued to develop our area team model and oversaw the delivery of an additional £3m investment into the sector. The investment sustained critical community services around issues such as food support, advice, counselling services etc.

The Council had planned to further enhance our collaborative work with the sector through the commitments made as part of Belfast: Our Recovery. Through this we had planned to engage with city partners and communities, using a co-design approach to develop area community recovery plans, whilst refreshing our area working approach to build confidence, capacity and community resilience across neighbourhoods. Unfortunately as a result of the winter lockdown this work has been significantly impacted and delayed and key outcomes were unable to be achieved. Looking ahead this work will be picked up and further developed during 21/22, subject to further easing of restrictions.

4. Digital Information Security

Digital Information Security will continue to be a significant governance issue and is overseen through the Council's risk management processes by the Council's Corporate Management Team. There has been a major increase in security threats from March 2020, which will continue into the new financial year, as attackers seek to exploit the heightened anxiety of large numbers of home workers worried about the effects of Coronavirus.

Digital Services has already implemented additional controls to deal with the growing threats that have resulted from the Covid-19 pandemic including:

- Two factor authentication across Office365 accounts
- Logons to Office365 accounts have been blocked outside UK and Ireland
- Logons to VPN accounts have been blocked outside UK and Ireland
- Two factor authentication for F5 VPN accounts for all Council staff
- Covid19 themed phishing exercise
- Initial stages of implementing a PKI infrastructure to enhance network access control

Delivering a secure infrastructure is a constantly evolving process and consideration is being given to changing threats and risks which must be aligned to the delivery of the council's goals and objectives. Consequently, after the completion of a refreshed maturity assessment of our current security controls with our contracted external security specialists, a new security strategy and a revised programme of work will be presented to CMT and the Strategic Policy & Resources committee in June 2021.

Digital Services has also arranged a desk based Cyber Incident response exercise with the National Cyber Security Centre, to review our cyber security incident response processes, alongside colleagues from Audit, Governance and Risk services, Marketing and Communications and Emergency Response.

The Digital information Security programme of work will focus on priority areas from the maturity assessment that are most important to enhance the council's Cyber security controls. These areas will include:

- Cyber Security Incident Response
- Identity management
- Cloud Strategy
- Maturity Assessment Priorities

This work will enhance the security controls that are already in place which include:

- Regular vulnerability and penetration testing to determine external vulnerabilities and issues carried out by independent third parties
- Security contract with external security experts
- ICT Infrastructure designed for resilience, redundancy and security in conjunction with contracted security experts
- Business Continuity Plan in place and regularly reviewed
- Key support & maintenance contracts with key suppliers
- Robust change management controls
- Template for response to a major security incident
- Maintaining knowledge of advanced threats
- Regular staff phishing simulation exercises.

5. The relationship between Elected Members and officers

Belfast City Council is a political organisation and as such, this can often present a challenging working environment for officers, one that is particularly unique in public sector in the UK and Ireland. It is important for Elected Members to be cognisant of the organisation's duty of care to all employees while they fulfil their obligations as Elected Members. The legal rights of staff and individual officers must also be recognised. Governance is in place in order for Members and officers to follow due process. Operating outside that agreed governance could have a detrimental impact on relationships; therefore impacting on the effective delivery of the organisation's overall strategy and priorities, and damaging the image and reputation of the organisation. This could also undermine the confidence and morale of staff who, at all times, are required to carry out their duties in an impartial and balanced way, acting in the best interests of the organisation, and offering their expert advice and opinion without any political influence or bias. Staff need to have confidence that any interaction between officers and Elected Members, particularly on sensitive issues, takes place within that agreed governance, and that Members should consider this when making any comments on public forums or in the media.

A new policy incorporating a standards regime and monitoring is being developed to introduce new safeguards and strengthen those that currently exist for the member / officer interface. Senior officers and Party Group Leaders will continue to meet periodically to ensure alignment of objectives and to promote a shared understanding of the working environment.

As part of the Coll Report recommendations the council will undertake to deliver training and awareness of the appropriateness and importance of the challenge function in decision-making and in the delivery of functions. An Organisational Crisis Response Protocol is also being developed to define the roles of both Members and officers during unprecedented crisis scenarios.

A new Standards and Business Committee will be established in August 2021 (pending consideration of the call-in by an ad-hoc committee and reconsideration of the decision by full council). One of the aims of the new Committee will be to promote positive joint working across political groups and between officers and Members. This will be supported by a programme of facilitative leadership training planned to take place with the Party Group Leaders and the Council's Corporate Management Team.

6. Brexit Implementation Programme for Port Health

Whilst the Council does not operate the Port of Belfast, it is responsible for making sure the port meets environmental health standards. The Council's duties include overseeing the import of food into Belfast, including checks on High Risk Food not of Animal Origin and fish and fishery products for human consumption. The Council is also responsible for carrying out inspections on board ships and other vessels to check they comply with food safety and hygiene standards and monitoring the Port of Belfast and George Best Belfast City Airport for infectious disease.

There has been a significant impact on these duties as a result of Brexit and the additional responsibilities resulting from the NI Protocol. Clarification will be required as to the roles and responsibilities of the central Competent Authorities in relation to funding, provision of IT systems and other responsibilities relating to carrying out inspections at Belfast Port.

The Council will also need to secure permanent adequate funding and resources to ensure effective delivery of the Council's responsibilities under the NI Protocol at Belfast Port. This will include a review of the suitability of existing facilities to determine whether they are sufficient to carry out the controls required at Belfast Port pursuant to the NI Protocol.

7. Succession Planning

Bearing in mind the ambitious long-term plans and programmes that are in place for the city and the organisation, including the Belfast Agenda, Belfast: Our Recovery, the Resilience Strategy and the Belfast Region City Deal, it is imperative that there is effective succession planning in place. As we move forward there needs to be a stronger focus on attracting and recruiting a younger diverse pool of talent to the organisation and upskilling our existing talent to have adequate succession plans to fulfil vacancies at all levels including senior management. This action will be taken forward as part of the review and implementation of the People Strategy.

Signed:
Chair Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Signed:
Chief Executive Officer

Signed:
Chief Financial Officer

REMUNERATION REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

INTRODUCTION

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

ALLOWANCE AND REMUNERATION ARRANGEMENTS

COUNCILLORS

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

Guidance and determinations on Councillors' Allowances applicable from 1 April 2020 were issued by the Department for Communities on 3 April (Circular LG 08/2020). Details of the allowances paid to individual councillors are published on council websites.

Following local elections on 2 May 2019, 462 councillors were elected to the 11 new Councils for a four year term. Belfast City Council has 60 elected Members representing 10 District Electoral Areas.

SENIOR EMPLOYEES

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

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

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

ALLOWANCES PAID TO COUNCILLORS

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

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

Allowance	2020/21		2019/20	
	Total Allowances	Number of Councillors	Total Allowances	Number of Councillors
Basic Allowance	927,095	60	898,245	60
Special Responsibility	117,166	46	103,281	49
Lord Mayor Allowance	34,800	1	34,332	1
Deputy Lord Mayor Allowance	6,250	1	6,250	1
PCSP Allowance	8,760	21	10,800	29
High Sheriff's Allowance	6,250	1	6,250	1
Subsistence	-	-	2,098	10
Mileage Allowance	1,683	21	7,249	34
Courses/ Conferences Visits (registration & joining fees)	145	1	8,540	12
Telephone rental	-	-	285	5
Miscellaneous costs	-	-	-	-
Other Travel allowance	-	-	4,705	10
TOTAL ALLOWANCES	1,102,149		1,082,035	

Details of the allowances paid to individual councillors in 2020/21 are published on the council website at www.belfastcity.gov.uk/council/your-council/councillors-allowances

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

Details of the current Councillors can be found on the council website.

REMUNERATION OF SENIOR EMPLOYEES

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

Table 2 - Table 2: Remuneration (including salary) (audited information)

Officers	2020/21				2019/20			
	Salary (Full year equivalent in brackets where applicable) £'000	Bonus Payments £'000	Benefits in kind £'000	Total £'000	Salary (Full year equivalent in brackets where applicable) £'000	Bonus Payments £'000	Benefits in kind £'000	Total £'000
Chief Executive - Suzanne Wylie	140-145	0	0	140-145	140-145	0	0	140-145
Director of Finance & Resources - Ronan Cregan	115-120	0	0	115-120	110-115	0	0	110-115
Director of Physical Programmes - Gerry Millar*	0	0	0	0	25-30 (105-110)	0	0	25-30 (105-110)
Director of Physical Programmes - Sinead Grimes	90-95	0	0	90-95	80-85	0	0	80-85
Director of City & Neighbourhood Services - Nigel Grimshaw**	45-50 (110-115)	0	0	45-50 (110-115)	105-110	0	0	105-110
City Solicitor - John Walsh	105-110	0	0	105-110	105-110	0	0	105-110
Director of City & Organisational Strategy - John Tully	105-110	0	0	105-110	105-110	0	0	105-110
Strategic Director of Place & Economy - Alistair Reid	105-110	0	0	105-110	100-105	0	0	100-105
Commissioner for Resilience - Grainia Long***	70-75 (85-90)	0	0	70-75 (85-90)	85-90	0	0	85-90

*Director of Physical Programmes Gerry Millar left the post on 30 June 2019

**Director of City & Neighbourhood Services Nigel Grimshaw left the post on 11 September 2020

***Commissioner for Resilience Grainia Long left the post on 31 January 2021

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

The banded remuneration of the highest paid member of the Corporate Management Team in the financial year 2020/21 was £140-145k. This was 5.3 times the median remuneration of the workforce, which was £27,041.

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

	2020/21 £'000	2019/20 £'000
Salary Band of Highest Paid member of the Executive	140-145	140-145
Median Total Remuneration	27.0	23.8
Ratio	5.3	6

In 2020/21, no employees received remuneration in excess of the highest paid member of the Corporate Management Team.

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

Salary

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

Benefits in Kind

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

Exit Packages for staff

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

Table 4: Exit Packages in 2020/21 (audited information)

Severance Package Cost Band	2020/21				2019/20			
	Number of Compulsory Redundancies	Number of Other departures agreed	Total Number of Exit Packages In each Cost Band	Total Cost of Packages In each Cost Band £'000	Number of Compulsory Redundancies	Number of Other departures agreed	Total Number of Exit Packages In each Cost Band	Total Cost of Packages In each Cost Band £'000
£0 - £20,000	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	8
£20,001 - £40,000	0	5	5	161	0	9	9	259
£40,001 - £60,000	0	4	4	206	0	5	5	254
£60,001 - £80,000	0	3	3	224	0	2	2	134
£80,001 - £100,000	0	2	2	181	0	1	1	85
£100,001 - £150,000	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	237
£150,001 - £200,000	0	2	2	354	0	0	0	0
Total	0	16	16	1,128	0	20	20	977

Pension Benefits

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

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

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

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

The ranges for the bands for tiered contribution rates are revised by the Department for Communities in April each year in accordance with the increase applied to a pension in payment. The bands, effective from 1 April 2019, were as follows:

Table 5: Employee Contribution Rates

Band	Range	Employee Contribution Rate
1	£0 - £15,000	5.5%
2	£15,001 - £22,900	5.8%
3	£22,901 - £38,300	6.5%
4	£38,301 - £46,400	6.8%
5	£46,401 - £91,900	8.5%
6	More than £91,900	10.5%

Employers' contribution rates are determined by the fund's actuary every three years at the triennial valuation. Contribution rates for the 2020/21 year were set from the triennial actuarial valuation of the fund as at 31 March 2016. A formal triennial actuarial valuation of the Fund as at 31 March 2019 was carried out in 2019/20 and set the employer contribution rates for the 3 years commencing 1 April 2020 as follows:

Table 6: Employer Contribution Rates

Year	Employer Contribution Rate
1 April 2020 - 31 March 2021	19.5%
1 April 2021 - 31 March 2022	19.5%*
1 April 2022 - 31 March 2023	19.5%*

*The employer contribution rates for 2021/22 and 2022/23 remain under review due to the possible impact of the Covid-19 crisis.

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

Councillors have been able to join the Scheme since May 2011 and therefore have not accrued significant benefits thus far. However, the in-year pension contributions made by the Council for all councillors during 2020/21 was £183,135 (19/20 £184,788).

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

Table 7: Pension Benefits of senior staff in 2020/21 (audited information)

Officers	Accrued Pension and Lump Sum (LS) at pension age as at 31/03/21 £'000	Real Increase in pension and related lump sum at pension age £'000	CETV at 31/03/21 £'000	CETV at 31/03/20 £'000 (restated)	Real increase in CETV £'000
Suzanne Wylie	55-60	0-2.5	1,103	1,031	59
	105-110 (LS)	0-2.5 (LS)			
Ronan Cregan	55-60	2.5-5	1,065	983	65
	90-95 (LS)	0-2.5 (LS)			
Sinead Grimes	25-30	2.5-5	352	301	42
	25-30 (LS)	0-2.5 (LS)			
Nigel Grimshaw	10-15	0-2.5	133	115	12
	0 (LS)	0 (LS)			
John Walsh	40-45	2.5-5	824	764	44
	60-65 (LS)	0-2.5 (LS)			
John Tully	20-25	0-2.5	288	248	28
	0 (LS)	0 (LS)			
Alistair Reid	5-10	0-2.5	90	55	23
	0 (LS)	0 (LS)			
Grainia Long	0-5	0-2.5	46	30	9
	0 (LS)	0 (LS)			

The Cash Equivalent Transfer Value (CETV)

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

Adjustments to 2019/20 CETV

Due to changes to non-Club transfer factors, provided by the Government's Actuary Department during the 2020/21 year, some CETV calculations for the 2019/20 year may have been re-run and provided as the starting input CETV value for the start of the 2020/21 year. This only affects those members who have a Guaranteed Minimum Pension (GMP) held with NILGOSC, or require conversion factors on their 'critical retirement age'.

The real increase in the value of the CETV

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

Chief Executive

Certificate of the Chief Financial Officer

I certify that:

- (a) The Statement of Accounts for the year ended on pages 44 to 130 has been prepared in the form directed by the Department for Communities and under the accounting policies set out on pages 48 to 71 and page 119.
- (b) in my opinion the Statement of Accounts gives a true and fair view of the income and expenditure and cash flows for the financial year and the financial position as at the end of the financial year ending 31st March 2021.

Chief Financial Officer

Date

These accounts were approved by resolution of the Strategic Policy & Resource Committee on 24 September 2021.

Chairperson

Date

Belfast City Council
Movement in Reserves Statement for the year ended 31 March 2021

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

	General Fund Summary	Other Fund Balances and Reserves	Capital Receipts Reserve	Total Usable Reserves	Total Unusable Reserves	Total Council Reserves
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Balance as at 1 April 2019	25,796,988	27,793,772	5,200,457	58,791,217	487,588,834	546,380,051
Movement in reserves during the year						
Surplus/ (Deficit) on the provision of services	(12,487,676)	-	-	(12,487,676)	-	(12,487,676)
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	-	-	-	-	6,663,428	6,663,428
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	(12,487,676)	-	-	(12,487,676)	6,663,428	(5,824,248)
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding under regulations	14,558,904	342,300	4,572,001	19,473,205	(22,498,871)	(3,025,666)
Net Increase before transfers to Statutory and Other Reserves	2,071,228	342,300	4,572,001	6,985,529	(15,835,443)	(8,849,914)
Transfers to / from Statutory and Other Reserves	(856,388)	856,388	-	-	-	-
Other movements	1,680,845	(94,388)	-	1,586,457	(156,902)	1,429,555
Increase/ Decrease in year	2,895,685	1,104,300	4,572,001	8,571,986	(15,992,345)	(7,420,359)
Balance as at 31 March 2020	28,692,673	28,898,072	9,772,458	67,363,203	471,596,489	538,959,692
Movement in reserves during the year						
Surplus/ (Deficit) on the provision of services	(2,013,138)	-	-	(2,013,138)	-	(2,013,138)
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	-	-	-	-	(23,039,364)	(23,039,364)
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	(2,013,138)	-	-	(2,013,138)	(23,039,364)	(25,052,502)
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding under regulations	21,023,201	(1,745,115)	(1,810,000)	17,468,086	(17,594,173)	(126,087)
Net Increase before transfers to Statutory and Other Reserves	19,010,063	(1,745,115)	(1,810,000)	15,454,948	(40,633,537)	(25,178,589)
Transfers to / from Statutory and Other Reserves	(2,207,259)	2,207,259	-	-	-	-
Other movements	9,428,629	-	-	9,428,629	(2,416,000)	7,012,629
Increase In year	26,231,433	462,144	(1,810,000)	24,883,577	(43,049,537)	(18,165,960)
Balance as at 31 March 2021	54,924,106	29,360,216	7,962,458	92,246,780	428,546,951	520,793,731

Belfast City Council
Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for the year ended 31 March 2021

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

Service Expenditure	Notes	2020/21			2019/20		
		Gross Expenditure £	Gross Income £	Net Expenditure £	Gross Expenditure £	Gross Income £	Net Expenditure £
Strategic Policy & Resources	2	72,668,440	(31,739,096)	40,929,344	65,875,784	(13,685,316)	52,190,468
City Growth & Regeneration	2	31,313,623	(6,464,091)	24,849,532	32,164,175	(9,715,544)	22,448,631
People & Communities	2	115,946,789	(17,727,216)	98,219,573	120,253,125	(15,574,828)	104,678,297
Planning & Licensing	2	8,281,185	(5,219,447)	3,061,738	8,145,681	(6,360,679)	1,785,002
Cost of Services on Continuing Operations		228,210,037	(61,149,850)	167,060,187	226,438,765	(45,336,367)	181,102,398
Other Operating Expenditure/ Income	8	774,738	(1,957,505)	(1,182,767)	954,852	(1,192,650)	(237,798)
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	9	14,012,164	(4,835,056)	9,177,108	9,657,481	(10,744,838)	(1,087,357)
(Surplus) or Deficit on Discontinued Operations							
Net Operating Expenditure		242,996,939	(67,942,411)	175,054,528	237,051,098	(57,273,855)	179,777,243
Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income	10	954,293	(173,995,683)	(173,041,390)	1,794,150	(169,083,717)	(167,289,567)
(Surplus)/Deficit on the Provision of Services		243,951,232	(241,938,094)	2,013,138	238,845,248	(226,357,572)	12,487,676
(Surplus)/Deficit on revaluation of non-current assets	11			(3,104,636)			(27,846,428)
Impairment losses on non-current assets charged to the Revaluation Reserve	11						
Surplus/(Deficit) arising on revaluation of available-for-sale financial assets	11						
Remeasurements of the Net Defined Benefit Liability (Asset)	20			26,144,000			21,183,000
Share of Other Comprehensive Expenditure & Income of associates and joint ventures	29						
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure				23,039,364			(6,663,428)
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure				25,052,502			5,824,248

Belfast City Council
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2021

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

	Note	31st March 2021	31st March 2020
		£	Restated £
Fixed Assets	11	783,916,562	789,071,594
Long Term Investments		-	-
Investment in Associates and Joint Ventures	29	3,436,859	3,436,859
Long Term Debtors	15	885,206	439,542
Contract Assets		-	-
Contract Costs		-	-
LONG TERM ASSETS		788,238,627	792,947,995
Short Term Investments		-	-
Inventories	14	298,361	370,474
Short Term Debtors	15	20,702,751	20,851,890
Cash and Cash Equivalents	24	37,932,317	16,728,224
Assets Held for Sale	11	-	1,340,000
Contract Assets	3, 15	275,808	378,981
CURRENT ASSETS		59,209,237	39,669,569
Bank Overdraft	24	-	-
Short Term Borrowing	16	2,000,000	9,739,488
Short Term Creditors	17	38,001,652	32,515,006
Provisions	18	3,040,441	3,131,517
Contract Liabilities	17	-	277,387
CURRENT LIABILITIES		43,042,093	45,663,398
Long Term Creditors	17	30,440	50,386
Provisions	18	1,844,093	1,822,694
Long Term Borrowing	16	55,032,121	62,967,173
Other Long Term Liabilities	20	225,692,942	182,307,942
Donated Assets Account	21	430,000	430,000
Capital Grants Receipts in Advance	21, 22	582,444	416,279
LONG TERM LIABILITIES		283,612,040	247,994,474
NET ASSETS		520,793,731	538,959,692
USABLE RESERVES			
Capital Receipts Reserve	25	7,962,458	9,772,458
Deferred capital receipts	25	342,300	342,300
Capital Fund	25	19,296,139	19,369,748
Leisure Mobilisation Fund	25	630,245	887,800
Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund	25	8,000,000	8,000,000
Other Balances and Reserves	25	1,091,532	298,224
General Fund	25	54,924,106	28,692,673
		92,246,780	67,363,203
UNUSABLE RESERVES			
Capital Adjustment Account	26	480,998,871	476,124,339
Revaluation Reserve	26	175,881,878	179,341,950
Pensions Reserve	26	(225,692,942)	(182,307,942)
Accumulated Absences Account	26	(2,452,610)	(1,363,705)
Provisions Discount Rate Reserve	26	(188,246)	(198,153)
		428,546,951	471,596,489
NET WORTH		520,793,731	538,959,692

Belfast City Council
Cash Flow Statement at 31 March 2021

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

	Note	2020/21	2019/20
		£	£
Net Deficit on the provision of services		(2,013,138)	(12,487,676)
Adjustment for non-cash movements	24	61,547,986	41,007,732
Adjust for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are Investing and financing activities	24	(9,620,198)	(10,200,474)
Net cash flows from operating activities		49,914,650	18,319,582
Cash flows from Investing Activities	24	(13,036,017)	(34,983,455)
Net Cash flows from Financing Activities	24	(15,674,540)	9,817,681
Net increase or decrease in cash and cash equivalents		21,204,093	(6,846,192)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	24	16,728,224	23,574,416
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		37,932,317	16,728,224

Belfast City Council
Notes to the Financial Statements
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

1 Accounting Policies

a General Principles

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Council's transactions for the 2020/21 financial year and its position at the year-end of 31 March 2021. The Council is required to prepare an annual Statement of Accounts in a form directed by the Department for Communities in accordance with regulations 3 (7) and (8) in the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 in accordance with proper accounting practices.

These practices primarily comprise the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2020/21, supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). The accounting convention adopted in the Statement of Accounts is principally historical cost, modified by the revaluation of certain categories of non-current assets and financial instruments.

Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

i) Accruals of Income and Expenditure

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

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

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

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

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

ii) **Cash and Cash Equivalents**

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

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

iii) **Contingent Liabilities**

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

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

iv)

Employee Benefits

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

Termination benefits

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

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

Post Employment Benefits

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

The Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Pension Fund

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

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

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

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

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

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

Within the Cost of Services

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

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

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

Within Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure

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

Within Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure (Remeasurements)

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

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

Within the Movement in Reserves Statement Appropriations

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

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

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

Discretionary Benefits

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

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

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

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

- those that provide evidence of conditions that existed at the end of the reporting period – the Statement of Accounts is adjusted to reflect such events

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

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

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

vi) **Exceptional Items**

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

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

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

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

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

During preparations of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021, an error was identified in the reporting of the balances of the Revaluation Reserve and Capital Adjustment Account, and movements between the two reserves. The correct presentation is shown in Note 31.

Financial Instruments

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

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

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

Financial Assets

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

- amortised cost

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

Financial Assets Measured at Amortised Cost

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

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

Expected Credit Loss Model

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

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

Financial Assets Measured at Fair Value through Profit or Loss

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

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

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

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

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

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

ix) **Foreign Currency Translation**

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

x) **Government Grants and Contributions**

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

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

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

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

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

xi) Inventories & Long Term Contracts

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

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

xii) Overheads and Support Services

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

xiii) Landfill Allowance Scheme

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

xiv) Intangible Assets

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

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

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

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

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

xv) **Investment Property**

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

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

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

xvi) **Leases**

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

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

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

The Council as Lessee - Finance Lease

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

Lease payments are apportioned between:

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

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

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

Operating Leases:

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

The Council as Lessor - Finance Lease

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

Lease rentals receivable are apportioned between:

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

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

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

The Council as Lessor - Operating Lease

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

xvii) **Surplus Assets**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

xix) **Property, Plant and Equipment**

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

Recognition

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

Measurement

Assets are initially measured at cost, comprising:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Valuation

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

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

Impairment

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

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

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

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

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

Depreciation

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

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

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

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

Depreciation is calculated on the following bases:

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

Componentisation

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

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

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

Revaluations

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

xx) **Community Assets**

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

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

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

xxi) **Heritage Assets**

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

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

The Council's collection of Heritage Assets (Works of Art and Civic Items) is reported in the balance sheet at insurance valuation, which is based on market values, or if it is not possible to obtain a valuation, they are maintained at historical cost less any depreciation, amortisation or impairment losses. These insurance valuations based on market values are updated on a periodic basis. Where no cost can be measured reliably, heritage assets are not held at a monetary value and are not reported in the balance sheet. Such assets will continue to be retained by the Council and will form part of its heritage assets collection, and will be reported in summary by way of a note to the financial statements.

Summary information on Heritage Assets has been provided for current financial year along with comparatives for the previous financial year. Detailed information relating to transactions has not been included for prior years as it would not be practical to do so and there is little value added for the users of the accounts.

xxii) **Provisions**

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

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

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

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

xxiii) **Reserves**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

xxvi) **Value Added Tax**

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

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

The Council is required to participate in the Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme. The scheme is currently in the last year of its introductory phase, which ends on 31st March 2014. The Council is required to purchase and surrender allowances, currently retrospectively, on the basis of emissions, i.e. carbon dioxide produced as energy is used. As carbon dioxide is produced (i.e. as energy is used), a liability and an expense are recognised. The liability will be discharged by surrendering allowances. The liability is measured at the best estimate of the expenditure required to meet the obligation, normally at the current market price of the number of allowances required to meet the liability at the reporting date. The cost to the Council is recognised and reported in the costs of the Council's services and is apportioned to services on the basis of energy consumption. There were no costs to be disclosed in 2020-21.

xxviii) **Landfill Exploration and Evaluation**

The Council considers the facts and circumstances to determine whether an exploration and evaluation asset should be recognised in respect of the landfill site including assessment of the amount, timing and certainty of future cash flows under IFRS 6. The Council's landfill site produces gas to generate electricity and the income from this electricity generation is reducing year on year due to environmental and other uncontrollable variables. In 2020-21 the costs of production of gas outweighed the income which resulted net loss of £41k. The Council does not recognise any asset in respect of this gas production as any forecasting or estimating of future income is uncertain. The Council cannot reliably measure or value such an asset under IAS 38.

xxix) **Fair Value Measurement**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

xxx) **Capital Receipts Unapplied**

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

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

At the balance sheet date, the following new standards and amendments to existing standards have been published, but not yet adopted by the Code of Practice for Local Authority Accounting:

- a) Definition of a Business: Amendments to IFRS 3 Business Combinations
- b) Interest Rate Benchmark Reform: Amendments to IFRS 9, IAS 39 and IFRS 7
- c) Interest Rate Benchmark Reform – Phase 2: Amendments to IFRS 9, IAS 39, IFRS 7, IFRS 4 and IFRS 16
- d) On implementation of IFRS 16 for local government, there will be a requirement for Councils that are lessees to recognise most leases on their balance sheet as a right of use assets with corresponding lease liabilities (with exemptions for low value and short term leases)

c Critical Judgements in Applying Accounting Policies

In applying accounting policies set out from 1a above the Council has had to make certain judgements about complex transactions or those involving uncertainty about future events. The critical judgements made in the Statement of Accounts are:

Landfill Provision

The calculation of the necessary financial provision for the capping and aftercare costs for the landfill site depends on a judgement around the appropriate discount rate to be used and the number of years over which these costs need to be provided. The landfill provision figures are sensitive to the assumptions used. The impact of amending the interest rates used to discount this provision has been mitigated through the creation of a Provision Discount Rate Reserve to accommodate fluctuations in the current value of the annual calculation of long term provisions for landfill costs.

d Assumptions Made About the Future and Other Major Sources of Estimation Uncertainty

Pension Liability

Estimation of the net liability to pay pensions depends on a number of complex judgements relating to the discount rate used, the rate at which salaries are projected to increase, changes in retirement ages, mortality rates and expected returns on pension fund assets. A firm of consulting actuaries AON Hewitt is engaged to provide the Council with expert advice about the assumptions to be applied. The pension figures disclosed in these financial statements are sensitive to the assumptions used.

The approximate impact of changing key assumptions on the present value of the funded defined benefit obligation as at 31 March 2021 and the projected service cost for the year ending 31 March 2021 is set out in Note 20.

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a Expenditure and Funding Analysis

The Expenditure and Funding Analysis shows how annual expenditure is used and funded from resources (government grants, rents, and rates) by local authorities in comparison with those resources consumed or earned by authorities in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices. It also shows how this expenditure is allocated for decision making purposes between the council's committees. Income and expenditure accounted for under generally accepted accounting practices is presented more fully in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

	2020/21			2019/20		
	Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund	Adjustments	Net Expenditure In the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund	Adjustments	Net Expenditure In the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Strategic Policy & Resources	35,262,806	(5,666,538)	40,929,344	45,216,695	(6,973,773)	52,190,468
City Growth & Regeneration	19,083,862	(5,765,670)	24,849,532	16,699,905	(5,748,726)	22,448,631
People & Communities	78,045,776	(20,173,797)	98,219,573	81,714,666	(22,963,631)	104,678,297
Planning & Licensing	2,074,011	(987,727)	3,061,738	888,983	(896,019)	1,785,002
Net Cost of Services	134,466,455	(32,593,732)	167,060,187	144,520,249	(36,582,149)	181,102,398
Other Income and Expenditure	(160,697,888)	4,349,161	(165,047,049)	(147,415,934)	21,198,788	(168,614,722)
Surplus or Deficit	(26,231,433)	(28,244,571)	2,013,138	(2,895,685)	(15,383,361)	12,487,676
Opening General Fund			28,692,673			25,796,988
Surplus/(Deficit) on General Fund Balance In Year			26,231,433			2,895,685
Closing General Fund			54,924,106			28,692,673

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b

Note to the Expenditure and Funding Analysis

This note provides a reconciliation of the main adjustments to Net Expenditure Chargeable to the General Fund to arrive at the amounts in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The relevant transfers between reserves are explained in the Movement in Reserves Statement

Adjustments between Funding and Accounting Basis
2020/21

Adjustments from General Fund to arrive at the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Amounts	Adjustments for Capital Purposes	Net Change for the Pension Adjustments	Other Statutory Adjustments	Other non-statutory Adjustments	Total adjustments
	£	£	£	£	£
Strategic Policy & Resources	(3,366,917)	(4,314,811)	(390,664)	2,405,854	(5,666,538)
City Growth & Regeneration	(4,621,195)	(866,617)	(79,264)	(198,594)	(5,765,670)
People & Communities	(14,217,560)	(5,431,020)	(525,217)	-	(20,173,797)
Planning & Licensing	-	(893,968)	(93,759)	-	(987,727)
Net Cost of Services	(22,205,672)	(11,506,416)	(1,088,904)	2,207,260	(32,593,732)
Other Income and Expenditure from the Expenditure and Funding Analysis	17,096,375	(3,318,584)	-	(9,428,630)	4,349,161
Difference between General Fund surplus or deficit and Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	(5,109,297)	(14,825,000)	(1,088,904)	(7,221,370)	(28,244,571)

Adjustments between Funding and Accounting Basis
2019/20

Adjustments from General Fund to arrive at the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Amounts	Adjustments for Capital Purposes	Net Change for the Pension Adjustments	Other Statutory Adjustments	Other non-statutory Adjustments	Total adjustments
	£	£	£	£	£
Strategic Policy & Resources	(3,213,467)	(4,918,654)	48,169	1,110,179	(6,973,773)
City Growth & Regeneration	(4,572,468)	(920,616)	(1,851)	(253,791)	(5,748,726)
People & Communities	(17,087,160)	(5,865,716)	(10,755)	-	(22,963,631)
Planning & Licensing	-	(909,674)	13,655	-	(896,019)
Net Cost of Services	(24,873,095)	(12,614,660)	49,218	856,388	(36,582,149)
Other Income and Expenditure from the Expenditure and Funding Analysis	24,816,973	(1,937,340)	-	(1,680,845)	21,198,788
Difference between General Fund surplus or deficit and Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	(56,122)	(14,552,000)	49,218	(824,457)	(15,383,361)

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

Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

The net expenditure of this committee includes Legal and Civic Services, Finance and Resources, City Organisation Structure and Major Projects and Corporate Priorities with Human Resources and Good Relations.

City Growth and Regeneration Committee

The net expenditure of the committee includes Economic Initiatives and City Regeneration, City Events and Venues including Off-Street Car Parking, Place and Economy and Parks Estates and Zoo.

People and Communities Committee

The net expenditure of the committee includes Cleansing, Waste Management and Vehicles, Parks, Cemeteries and Leisure Centres, Environmental Health, Neighbourhood and Development and Community Services.

Planning and Licensing

The net expenditure includes Planning and Building Control services.

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3 a Expenditure and Income Analysed by Nature

Expenditure		2020/21	2019/20
	Notes	£	£
Employee Benefits Expenses	7	89,144,595	89,672,827
Other Services Expenditure		128,213,934	123,015,131
Support Service Recharges		-	-
Depreciation, Amortisation, Impairment	11	22,205,671	21,084,420
Interest Payments	9	1,586,799	2,038,668
(Gain) on the Disposal of Assets	8	(1,182,767)	(237,798)
Other Expenditure	9	3,983,000	3,272,000
Total Expenditure		243,951,233	238,845,248

Income		2020/21	2019/20
	Notes	£	£
Fees, Charges and other service Income		(64,018,177)	(48,329,017)
Interest and Investment Income	9	(4,835,056)	(10,744,838)
District rate income	10	(161,073,859)	(155,996,334)
Government grants and Contributions	10	(12,011,002)	(11,287,383)
Support Service Income		-	-
Other Income		-	-
Total Income		(241,938,094)	(226,357,572)

Deficit on the Provision of Services		2,013,138	12,487,676
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COVID-19 support received in year totalled £22,622,867 and of this amount £13,449,461 has been included in the total of Fees, Charges and other service income in the table above. The remaining balance of £9,173,406 has been taken to reserves and is included in the 'Other Movements' balance in Note 25g General Fund.

b Revenue from contracts with service recipients

On transition to IFRS 15, there is no impact on the Belfast City Council revenue recognition for contracts with customers.

Amounts included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for contracts with service recipients:

Revenue from contracts with service recipients		2020/21	2019/20
	Notes	£	£
Strategic Policy & Resources		4,673,129	3,932,921
City Growth & Regeneration		1,413,358	3,052,209
People & Communities		2,798,386	975,138
Total included in Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		8,884,873	7,960,268

Revenue from contracts with service recipients includes services such as the provision of IT support, the provision of off street car parking facilities, and the sale of recycle. Income is recognised as the contract obligation is satisfied and received in arrears after each event.

The Council has applied the accounting standard to determine revenue recognition under IFRS 15.

Amounts included in the Balance Sheet for contracts with service recipients:

	31st March 2021	31st March 2020
Notes	£	£
Receivables, which are included in debtors	-	-
Contract Assets	275,808	378,981
Contract Liabilities	-	(277,387)
Other	-	-
Total included in Net Assets	275,808	101,594

4 Adjustments between an Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under Regulations
a Amounts included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement but required by statute to be excluded when determining the Movement on the General Fund Balance for the year:

		2020/21		2019/20	
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Amounts included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement but required by statute to be excluded when determining the Movement on the General Fund Balance for the year:					
Impairments (losses & reversals) of non-current assets		-	-	-	-
Derecognition (other than disposal) of non-current assets	11	-	-	-	-
Revaluation increases/decreases taken to Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	11	7,772,272		1,605,228	
Depreciation charged in the year on non-current assets	11	22,457,761	30,230,033	19,364,089	20,969,317
Net Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	12		-		-
Carrying amount of non current assets sold	11	774,738		4,704,852	
Proceeds from the sale of PP&E, investment property and intangible assets	8, 24	(1,957,505)	(1,182,767)	(4,942,650)	(237,798)
Difference between finance costs calculated on an accounting basis and finance costs calculated in accordance with statutory requirements			-		-
Net charges made for retirement benefits in accordance with IAS 19	20		28,568,000		30,234,000
Direct revenue financing of Capital Expenditure	12,25		(8,358,472)		(7,870,253)
Capital Grants and Donated Assets Receivable and Applied in year	10		(7,662,693)		(5,252,737)
Capital Grants Receivable and Unapplied in year	10		-		(5,087)
Rates Claw-Back Reserve			-		-
Adjustments in relation to Short-term compensated absences	26		1,088,905		5,880
Adjustments in relation to Lessor Arrangements			-		-
Landfill Regulations Reserve Adjustment			-		-
Provisions Discount Rate Reserve Adjustment	26		-		(55,098)
Amounts not included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement but required by statute to be included when determining the Movement on the General Fund Balance for the year					
Statutory Provision for the financing of Capital Investment	26		(7,916,805)		(7,547,320)
Employers contributions payable to the NILGOSC and retirement benefits payable direct to pensioners	20		(13,743,000)		(15,682,000)
			21,023,201		14,558,904

b Net transfers (to)/from statutory and other earmarked reserves:					
	Notes	2020/21 £	2020/21 £	2019/20 £	2019/20 £
Capital Fund					
Interest		-	-	-	-
From Capital		-	-	-	-
Other	25c	(1,671,506)	(1,671,506)	(2,081,597)	(2,081,597)
Leisure Mobilisation Fund					
Interest		-	-	-	-
Other	25d	257,555	257,555	553,902	553,902
Capital Receipts Reserve					
Interest		-	-	-	-
Other	25	-	-	-	-
Other Funds and earmarked reserves					
Interest		(1,135)	-	(3,300)	-
From Other funds		-	-	-	-
Other	25f	(792,173)	(793,308)	674,607	671,307
Unusable reserves					
Capital Adjustment Account		-	-	-	-
			(2,207,259)		(856,388)

5 Cost of Services on Continuing Operations

a General power of competence

Under Section 79 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014, the Council has the power to do anything that individuals generally may do. Councils have the power to do this with or without charge. The power of competence is not limited to benefitting the area or its residents nor is it limited by existing powers.

There was no expenditure under the power of competence during 2020/21 (2019/20 £20k).

b External Audit Fees

The Council has incurred the following costs relating to the annual audit of the Statement of Accounts, certification of grant claims and other services provided by the Councils external auditors.

	2020/21 £	2019/20 £
External Audit Fees	95,000	89,000
National Fraud Initiative	-	-
Performance Improvement work	7,500	7,500
	102,500	96,500

There were no other fees payable in respect of any other services provided by the appointed auditor over and above those described above.

6 Operating and Finance Leases

Council as Lessor

a Finance Leases (Council as lessor)

The Council leases out a number of land and building assets by long term leases with lease terms from 250 to 999 years. The leases for 250 years are on a perpetual basis and it is assumed the leases will be renewed so the economic substance is similar to disposal. The rental income is either nil or 5p per annum. Rent is not normally received on these properties and so future minimum lease income is assumed to be nil.

The present value of lease payments receivable under the finance lease arrangements is recognised as a receivable and included in both short and long term debtors. The difference between the gross amount receivable and the present value of the amounts receivable is recognised as unearned finance income.

No contingent rents were recognised as receivable by the Council.

b Operating Leases (Council as lessor)

The Council, in accordance with its statutory and discretionary responsibilities, leases out property and equipment under operating leases for the following purposes:

- for the provision of community services, such as sports facilities, tourism services and community centres
- for economic development purposes to provide suitable affordable accommodation for small local businesses
- any other purposes

Rental income recognised in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the current year amounts to £4,808,398 (previous year: £6,715,859). No contingent rents were recognised. Due to COVID-19 the council offered tenants a one-off three month rental holiday from April 2020 to June 2020, that resulted in a loss of rental income £1,611,972 in 2020/21 as this income will not be recouped by the Council.

The lease contracts are all non-cancellable and do not include an extension option. The lease terms are between 1 and 125 years. Future minimum lease income is set out below:

	2020/21		2019/20	
	Land and Buildings	Vehicles, Plant and Equipment	Land and Buildings	Vehicles, Plant and Equipment
	£	£	£	£
Minimum lease rentals receivable:				
No later than 1 year	6,161,932		6,121,046	
Later than 1 year and no later than 5 years	21,982,582		21,353,343	
Later than 5 years	399,871,376		419,413,365	
	428,015,889	-	446,887,754	-

The assets leased by the Council to third parties are included in the following categories of Property, Plant and Equipment with carrying values of:

	2020/21		2019/20	
	Land and Buildings	Vehicles, Plant and Equipment	Land and Buildings	Vehicles, Plant and Equipment
	£	£	£	£
Cost	93,650,000	-	96,880,000	-
Accumulated depreciation and impairments at 1 April	-	-	-	-
Depreciation charge for the year	-	-	-	-
Impairments	(185,000)	-	(80,000)	-
Revaluations	(7,839,362)	-	195,103	-
Transfers and reclassifications	99,361	-	404,897	-
Additions	1	-	-	-
Disposals	-	-	(3,750,000)	-
	85,725,000	-	93,650,000	-

Council as Lessee

c Finance Leases (Council as lessee)

The Council has a number of assets of land held by long term leases from 980 to 10,000 years. Rental income is between 1p to £32 per annum, if demanded. Rent is not normally demanded on these properties and therefore future minimum lease payments are assumed to be nil.

The assets acquired under these leases are carried as property, plant and equipment in the Balance Sheet at the following net amounts:

	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£
Other Land and Buildings	659,094	676,789
Vehicles, Plant, Furniture and Equipment	-	-
	659,094	676,789

d Operating Leases (Council as lessee)

The Council is also leasing a number of office buildings with lease terms up to 15 years, land with a lease term of 25 years and vehicles/equipment with a lease term of up to 4 years.

The expenditure charged to services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement during the year in relation to these leases was:

	2020/21		2019/20	
	Land and Buildings	Vehicles, Plant and Equipment	Land and Buildings	Vehicles, Plant and Equipment
	£	£	£	£
Minimum lease payments	288,758	92,509	282,971	144,784
Contingent rentals				
Less: Sublease payments receivable				
	288,758	92,509	282,971	144,784

No sub-lease payments or contingent rent payments were made or received. No sublease income is expected as all assets held under operating lease agreements are used exclusively by the Council.

The future minimum lease payments due under non-cancellable operating leases in future years are set out below:

	31st March 2021		31st March 2020	
	Land and Buildings £	Vehicles, Plant and Equipment £	Land and Buildings £	Vehicles, Plant and Equipment £
Not later than 1 year	294,986	93,572	290,041	143,466
Later than 1 year and no later than 5 years	1,137,536	41,597	941,165	10,474
Later than 5 years	814,919	-	1,272,247	-
	2,247,441	135,169	2,503,453	153,940

7 Employee Costs and Member Allowances

a Staff Costs	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£
Salaries and Wages	68,894,566	69,303,352
Employers NIC	6,640,823	6,617,311
Employers Superannuation	13,609,206	13,752,164
Total staff costs	89,144,595	89,672,827

The above staff costs include the costs of voluntary redundancies in 2020/21. These costs total £1,128,006 (19/20 £977,075) and are disclosed separately in Table 4 of the Remuneration Report. In addition, agency costs during the year amounted to £5,198,526 (2019/20 £5,626,073).

The Council's current contribution rate to NILGOSC scheme is 19.5%.

Average Number of Employees - where FTE represents fulltime equivalent employees

b Average Number of Employees	2020/21	2019/20
	FTE	FTE
Strategic Policy & Resources	626	620
City Growth & Regeneration	142	146
People & Communities	1,131	1,162
Planning & Licensing	131	140
Total Number	2,030	2,068

	2020/21	2019/20
	Actual Numbers	Actual Numbers
Full-time numbers employed	1,872	1,880
Part-time numbers employed	305	331
Total Number	2,177	2,211

c Senior Employees' Remuneration	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£
£50,001 to £60,000	64	62
£60,001 to £70,000	26	22
£70,001 to £80,000	6	6
£80,001 to £90,000	3	6
£90,001 to £100,000	7	5
£100,001 to £110,000	3	4
£110,001 to £120,000	1	1
£120,001 to £130,000	-	-
£130,001 to £140,000	-	-
£140,001 to £150,000	1	1
Total Number	111	107

d Members' Allowances

	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£
Salaries	-	-
Basic Allowance	927,095	898,245
Mayor & Deputy Mayor's Allowance	41,050	40,582
Special Responsibility Allowance	117,166	103,281
High Sheriff's Allowance	6,250	6,250
Mileage	1,683	7,249
Conference & Courses	145	8,540
Travel & Subsistence	-	6,803
Miscellaneous Costs	-	-
PCSP Allowance	8,760	10,800
Telephone Rental	-	285
Total	1,102,149	1,082,035

e Northern Ireland Civil Service Pension Arrangements

As a result of Local Government Reform on 1st April 2015, staff transferred from Central Government to the Council but remain members of the Northern Ireland Civil Service Pension Scheme.

The Northern Ireland Civil Service Pension arrangements are unfunded multi-employer defined benefit schemes but the Department for Communities is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities. The Government Actuary's Department (GAD) is responsible for carrying out scheme valuations. The Actuary reviews employer contributions every four years following the scheme valuation. The 2016 scheme valuation has been finalised. The outcome of this valuation informed contribution rates from April 2019 for both employers and employees.

For 2020-21, employers' contributions of £352,469 (2019-20 £327,779) were payable to the NICS pension arrangements at one of three rates in the range 28.7% to 34.2% of pensionable pay, based on salary bands.

The Government Actuary's Department (GAD) is responsible for carrying out scheme valuations. The Actuary reviews employer contributions every four years following the scheme valuation. The 2016 scheme valuation was completed by GAD in March 2019. The outcome of this valuation was used to set the level of contributions for employers from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2023.

8 Other Operating Income & Expenditure**a Surplus/Deficit on Non-Current Assets (excl Investment Properties)**

	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£
Proceeds from sale	(1,957,505)	(1,192,650)
Carrying amount of non-current assets sold (excl Investment Properties)	774,738	954,852
	(1,182,767)	(237,798)

b Other Operating Income/ Expenditure

	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£
Income	-	-
Expenditure	-	-
	-	-

Other Operating Expenditure	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£
(Surplus) / Deficit on Non Current Assets	(1,182,767)	(237,798)
Other Operating (Income) / Expenditure	-	-
	(1,182,767)	(237,798)

9 Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure**a Interest Payable and Similar Charges**

	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£
Lease/hire purchase interest	-	-
Bank interest	-	-
Government Loan interest	1,536,686	1,974,258
Commercial loan interest	-	-
Other interest	50,113	64,410
	1,586,799	2,038,668

b Interest and Investment Income

	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£
Bank Interest	16,004	142,013
Employee car loan interest	1,041	2,153
NIHE Loan interest receivable	8,478	16,410
Investment income on Fund Balances		
Capital Fund	-	-
Repairs & Renewals Fund	-	-
Election Fund	1,135	3,300
Other Investment income	-	-
	26,658	163,876

c Pensions interest costs and expected return on pensions assets

	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£
Net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset)	3,983,000	3,272,000
	3,983,000	3,272,000

d Surplus/ (Deficit) on trading operations

	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£
Income from trading	-	-
Expenditure	-	-
(Surplus)/Deficit for the year	-	-

e Income, Expenditure and changes in Fair Value of Investment Properties

	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£
Income/Expenditure from Investment Properties:		
Income including rental income	(4,808,398)	(6,715,859)
Expenditure	418,003	596,813
Net income from investment properties	(4,390,395)	(6,119,046)
Surplus/deficit on sale of Investment Properties		
Proceeds from sale	-	(3,750,000)
Carrying amount of investment properties sold	-	3,750,000
(Surplus)/deficit on sale of Investment Properties:	-	-
Changes in Fair Value of Investment Properties	8,024,362	(115,103)
	3,633,967	(6,234,149)

Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	2020/21			2019/20		
	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Interest Payable and Similar Charges	1,586,799	-	1,586,799	2,038,668	-	2,038,668
Interest and Investment Income	-	(26,658)	(26,658)	-	(163,876)	(163,876)
Pensions interest cost	3,983,000	-	3,983,000	3,272,000	-	3,272,000
Surplus/(Deficit) on trading operations	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other investment income	418,003	(4,808,398)	(4,390,395)	4,346,813	(10,465,859)	(6,119,046)
Changes in Fair Value of Investment Properties	8,024,362	-	8,024,362	-	(115,103)	(115,103)
	14,012,164	(4,835,056)	9,177,108	9,657,481	(10,744,838)	(1,087,357)

10 Taxation and Non Specific Grant Income
a Revenue Grants

	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£
General	(4,348,309)	(6,029,559)
Other	-	-
	(4,348,309)	(6,029,559)

b Revenue Grants - Unapplied

	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£
Government & Other Grants - Conditions met and applied in year	-	-
Other	-	-
	-	-

c Capital Grants and Donated Assets - Applied

	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£
Government & Other Grants - Conditions met and applied in year	(7,158,138)	(4,523,587)
Government & Other Grants - Transfer from receipts in advance	(504,555)	(729,150)
Donated Assets - Conditions met	-	-
Donated Assets - Transfer from donated assets creditor	-	-
	(7,662,693)	(5,252,737)

d Capital grants from capital receipts unapplied

	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£
Government & Other Grants - Conditions met and not applied in year	-	-
Capital grants from capital receipts unapplied	-	(5,087)
	-	(5,087)

e District Rates

	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£
Current year	(162,028,152)	(157,796,334)
Clawback - previous year	954,293	1,800,000
Transitional Relief	-	-
Clawback - other years	43,471	(5,850)
	(161,030,388)	(156,002,184)

Taxation and Non Specific Grant Income	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£
District Rate Income	(161,030,388)	(156,002,184)
Revenue Grants	(4,348,309)	(6,029,559)
Capital Grants from capital receipts unapplied	-	(5,087)
Capital Grants and Contributions	(7,662,693)	(5,252,737)
	(173,041,390)	(167,289,567)

Cost or Valuation	Land	Buildings	Infrastructure Assets	Landfill Sites	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment	Community Assets	PP&E Under Construction	Surplus Assets	Total PP&E	Heritage Assets	Assets Held for Resale	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Balance as at 1 April 2020	104,391,303	467,266,524	5,774,607	-	46,505,354	39,249,303	46,248,371	5,539,001	714,974,463	9,192,723	-	724,167,186
Adjustments between cost/value & depreciation/impairment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	22,000	-	22,000
Balance as at 1 April 2020	104,391,303	467,266,524	5,774,607	-	46,505,354	39,249,303	46,248,371	5,539,001	714,974,463	9,214,723	-	724,189,186
Additions	5,045,281	1,209,744	-	-	1,373,233	22,216	13,724,119	-	21,374,593	-	-	21,374,593
Donations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluation increases/ (decreases) to Revaluation Reserve	210,132	(13,343,924)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(13,133,792)	(91,420)	-	(13,225,212)
Revaluation increases/ (decreases) to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	502,724	(682,367)	-	-	-	-	-	50,000	(129,643)	(6,060)	-	(135,703)
Impairment to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Derecognition - Disposals	(81,030)	-	-	-	(1,031,641)	-	-	-	(1,112,671)	-	-	(1,112,671)
Derecognition - Other	-	(110,140)	-	-	(203,434)	(2)	-	(80,000)	(393,576)	-	-	(393,576)
Reclassifications & Transfers	(4,907)	26,249,618	(680,933)	-	1,210,160	2,382,228	(29,384,703)	-	(228,538)	-	-	(228,538)
Reclassified to (+) / from (-) Held for Sale	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	690,000	690,000	-	-	690,000
Balance as at 31 March 2021	110,063,503	480,589,455	5,093,674	-	47,853,672	41,653,745	30,587,787	6,199,001	722,040,837	9,117,243	-	731,158,080

Depreciation and Impairment	Land	Buildings	Infrastructure Assets	Landfill Sites	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment	Community Assets	PP&E Under Construction	Surplus Assets	Total PP&E	Heritage Assets	Assets Held for Resale	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Balance as at 1 April 2020	-	-	705,663	-	26,027,413	2,603,306	-	-	29,336,382	27,261	-	29,363,643
Adjustments between cost/value & depreciation/impairment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance as at 1 April 2020	-	-	705,663	-	26,027,413	2,603,306	-	-	29,336,382	27,261	-	29,363,643
Depreciation Charge	-	16,703,703	169,794	-	3,356,746	1,935,101	-	-	22,165,344	100,672	-	22,265,966
Depreciation written out on Revaluation Reserve	-	(16,238,778)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(16,238,778)	(91,070)	-	(16,329,848)
Depreciation written out on Revaluation taken to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	(378,241)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(378,241)	(9,552)	-	(387,793)
Impairment losses/reversals to Revaluation Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Impairment losses/reversals to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Derecognition - Disposals	-	-	-	-	(987,932)	-	-	-	(987,932)	-	-	(987,932)
Derecognition - Other	-	(5,939)	-	-	(203,434)	-	-	-	(209,373)	-	-	(209,373)
Reclassifications & Transfers Eliminated on reclassification to Held for Sale	-	(3,709)	(83,225)	-	83,225	-	-	-	(3,709)	-	-	(3,709)
Balance as at 31 March 2021	-	77,036	792,232	-	28,276,018	4,538,407	-	-	33,683,692	27,261	-	33,710,953
Balance as at 31 March 2021	110,063,503	480,512,419	4,301,443	-	19,577,655	37,115,338	30,587,787	6,199,001	688,357,145	9,089,982	-	697,447,127

Long - Term Assets - Comparative Year												
Cost or Valuation	Land	Buildings	Infrastructure Assets	Landfill Sites	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment	Community Assets	PP&E Under Construction	Surplus Assets	Total PP&E	Heritage Assets	Assets Held for Resale	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Balance as at 1 April 2019	101,444,001	418,784,515	5,774,607	-	42,744,747	47,025,764	48,154,248	5,689,001	669,616,883	9,158,827	-	678,775,710
Adjustments between cost/value & depreciation/impairment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(164)	-	(164)
Prior year purchase	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance as at 1 April 2019	101,444,001	418,784,515	5,774,607	-	42,744,747	47,025,764	48,154,248	5,689,001	669,616,883	9,158,663	-	678,775,546
Additions	38	701,639	-	-	5,152,118	743,971	37,095,535	10,674	43,703,975	151,994	-	43,855,969
Donations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluation increases/decreases to Revaluation Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	2,546,720	11,560,018	-	-	-	-	-	-	14,106,738	51,758	-	14,158,496
Revaluation increases/ decreases to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	(218,574)	(3,290,973)	-	-	-	(400,302)	-	115,000	(3,794,849)	(265,217)	-	(4,060,066)
Impairment to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Derecognition - Disposals	-	-	-	-	(1,823,708)	(14,000)	-	(540,000)	(2,377,708)	-	-	(2,377,708)
Derecognition - Other	-	(4,149,100)	-	-	-	(21,071)	-	-	(4,170,171)	-	-	(4,170,171)
Reclassifications & Transfers	619,118	43,660,425	-	-	432,197	(8,271,333)	(39,001,412)	1,604,326	(956,679)	95,525	-	(861,154)
Reclassified to(-) / from(+) Held for Sale	-	-	-	-	-	186,274	-	(1,340,000)	(1,153,726)	-	-	(1,153,726)
Balance as at 31 March 2020	104,391,303	467,266,524	5,774,607	-	46,505,354	39,249,303	46,248,371	5,539,001	714,974,463	9,192,723	-	724,167,186

b

Depreciation and Impairment	Land	Buildings	Infrastructure Assets	Landfill Sites	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment	Community Assets	PP&E Under Construction	Surplus Assets	Total PP&E	Heritage Assets	Assets Held for Resale	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Balance as at 1 April 2019	-	-	513,171	-	25,547,939	2,925,228	-	-	28,986,338	133,740	-	29,120,078
Adjustments between cost/value & depreciation/impairment	-	-	-	-	(1,037,101)	-	-	-	(1,037,101)	-	-	(1,037,101)
Balance as at 1 April 2019	-	-	513,171	-	24,510,838	2,925,228	-	-	27,949,237	133,740	-	28,082,977
Depreciation Charge	-	14,166,164	192,492	-	3,019,763	1,713,203	-	-	19,091,622	101,555	-	19,193,177
Depreciation written out on Revaluation Reserve	-	(13,687,932)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(13,687,932)	-	-	(13,687,932)
Depreciation written out on Revaluation taken to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	(2,131,861)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(2,131,861)	(208,034)	-	(2,339,895)
Impairment losses/reversals to Revaluation Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Impairment losses/reversals to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Derecognition - Disposals	-	-	-	-	(1,503,188)	-	-	-	(1,503,188)	-	-	(1,503,188)
Derecognition - Other	-	(374,937)	-	-	-	(6,559)	-	-	(381,496)	-	-	(381,496)
Reclassifications & Transfers	-	2,028,566	-	-	-	(2,028,566)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eliminated on reclassification to Held for Sale	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance as at 31 March 2020	-	-	705,663	-	26,027,413	2,603,306	-	-	29,336,382	27,261	-	29,363,643
Net Book Values												
Balance as at 31 March 2020	104,391,303	467,266,524	5,068,944	-	20,477,941	36,645,997	46,248,371	5,539,001	685,638,081	9,165,462	-	694,803,543
Balance as at 31 March 2021	110,063,503	480,512,419	4,301,443	-	19,577,655	37,115,338	30,587,787	6,199,001	688,357,145	9,089,982	-	697,447,127

Valuations

The land and buildings assets held by the Council were valued originally as at 1 April 1997 by the Valuations and Lands Agency, in accordance with the statements of asset valuation practice and guidance notes of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors. The Council operates a rolling programme for the valuation of its land and building properties, so approximately 25% of these assets are revalued discretely by physical inspection each year, and the remainder are revalued annually by a desktop exercise.

In the 2020/21 year, land and buildings including investment properties were valued as at 31 March 2021. The valuations were carried out by Land and Property Services (LPS), a part of the Department of Finance. The valuations were reported by LPS during the period of the COVID-19 pandemic that was first declared in March 2020, and are made on the basis of "material valuation uncertainty" as per VPS 3 and VPGA 10 of the RICS Global Standards. Consequently, less certainty, and a higher degree of caution, should be attached to these valuations than would normally be the case.

For the avoidance of doubt, this does not mean that the valuations cannot be relied upon. Rather, this 'material valuation uncertainty' declaration has been included to ensure transparency and to provide further insight as to the market context under which the valuation opinion was prepared as at 31 March 2021.

Capital Commitments

A total of 8 capital contracts were entered into during the period:

Project Name	Date	Capital Commitment
New Crematorium	27/07/2020	837,390
Grosvenor 3G Pitch	04/09/2020	138,029
LTP - Templemore	23/09/2020	13,600,000
Peace IV Blackmountain Shared Space	04/11/2020	319,045
Peace IV Shared Womens Centre	24/11/2020	328,000
Girdwood Sports Complex	25/01/2021	767,856
Reservoir Safety Works	17/02/2021	148,315
Peace IV Forth Meadow Greenway	13/03/2021	2,642,765
	Total	18,781,401

Effects of Changes in Estimates

There were no material changes in accounting estimates for property, plant and equipment during the period.

Surplus Assets

Surplus assets are non-current assets that are not being used to deliver services but which do not meet the criteria to be classified as either investment properties or non-current assets held for sale. Assets held for sale are assets which are not being used to deliver services and whose economic value will be realised by disposal, are actively being marketed, and ordinarily are expected to be disposed of within 12 months of the balance sheet date.

Impairment

There were no material impairments to property during the period.

11 c Property, plant and equipment

Depreciation

The useful lives and depreciation rates applied to calculate the depreciation are outlined in Note 1.

d Intangible Assets

Intangible assets relate to landfill closure costs with a net book value of £nil (2019/20: £nil) and a gross cost before amortisation of £16,700k (2019/20: £16,700k); and purchased licensed software and related implementation costs with a net book value of £744k (2019/20: £618k), and a gross costs before amortisation of £3,114k (2019/20: £2,796k).

Intangible Assets	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£
Balance at start of year:		
Gross carrying amounts	19,565,003	19,108,746
Accumulated amortisation	(18,946,952)	(18,776,040)
Net carrying amount at start of year	618,051	332,706
Additions	192,711	-
Amortisation for the period	(191,795)	(170,912)
Reclassification and transfer from WIP	125,467	456,257
Gross carrying amount of assets derecognised in the year	-	(68,887)
Accumulated amortisation on assets derecognised during the year	-	68,887
Net carrying amount at end of year	744,434	618,051
Comprising:		
Gross carrying amounts as previously published	19,883,181	19,565,003
Derecognise intangible assets for the year	-	(68,887)
Gross carrying amounts restated	19,883,181	19,496,116
Accumulated amortisation as previously published	(19,138,747)	(18,946,952)
Derecognise intangible assets for the year	-	68,887
Accumulated amortisation	(19,138,747)	(18,878,065)
Net carrying amount at end of year	744,434	618,051

e Investment Properties

The following items of income and expense have been accounted for in the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement:

Investment Properties	31/03/2021	31/03/2020
	£	£
Rental Income from Investment Activities	4,808,398	6,715,859
Direct Operating expenses arising from investment properties	(418,003)	(596,813)
Net gain/(loss)	4,390,395	6,119,046

Due to COVID-19 the council offered tenants a one-off three month rental holiday from April 2020 to June 2020, that resulted in a loss of rental income £1,611,972 in 2020/21.

The following table summarises the movement in the fair value of investment properties over the year:

Investment Properties	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£
Balance at start of the year	93,650,000	96,880,000
Additions	1	-
Disposals	-	(3,750,000)
Net gains/losses from fair value adjustments	(8,024,362)	115,103
Transfers to/ from inventories	-	254,897
Transfers to/ from property, plant and equipment	103,070	150,000
Other changes	(3,709)	-
Balance at end of the year	85,725,000	93,650,000

Investment Properties are comprised of the following properties, all held at valuation:

Investment Property	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£
Industrial Estates	65,350,000	72,500,000
Commercial Units	20,375,000	21,150,000
Balance at end of the year	85,725,000	93,650,000

Summary of the net book values of non-current assets as reported in the balance sheet

Non-current assets	Total PP&E	Heritage Assets	Investment Properties	Intangible Assets	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£	£
Net Book Value as at 31 March 2020	685,638,082	9,165,463	93,650,000	618,051	789,071,596
Net change in cost or valuation	7,066,374	(75,480)	99,362	318,177	7,408,433
Depreciation and Impairment in the year	(4,347,310)	-	(8,024,362)	(191,795)	(12,563,467)
Net movement for the year	2,719,064	(75,480)	(7,925,000)	126,382	(5,155,034)
Net Book Value as at 31 March 2021	688,357,146	9,089,983	85,725,000	744,433	783,916,562

Fair Value Hierarchy

Details of the Council's Investment Properties and information about the fair value hierarchy as at 31 March 2021 and 2020 are as follows

2020/21 Recurring fair value measurements using:	Quoted Prices in active markets for identical assets (Level 1)	Other significant observable inputs (Level 2)	Significant unobservable inputs (Level 3)	Fair value as at 31st March 2019
	£	£	£	£
Industrial Estates and Commercial Units	-	85,725,000	-	-
Total	-	85,725,000	-	-

2019/20 Recurring fair value measurements using:	Quoted Prices in active markets for identical assets (Level 1)	Other significant observable inputs (Level 2)	Significant unobservable inputs (Level 3)	Fair value as at 31st March 2018
	£	£	£	£
Industrial Estates and Commercial Units	-	93,650,000	-	-
Total	-	93,650,000	-	-

Transfers between levels of the fair value hierarchy

There were no transfers between Levels 1 and 2 during the year.

Investment Properties are considered to have enough uniqueness so they no longer can be compared to similar items that are used for reference in an active market, and are valued using inputs other than quoted prices that are observable. As such, they are valued using Level 2 inputs.

Valuation techniques used to determine Level 2 and 3 Fair Values for Investment Properties

Significant Observable Inputs - Level 2

In 2020/21, all Investment Properties were measured using the same methodology as in 2019/20, and additionally, for industrial estates included within investment properties, an assessment was made of their incomes and expenditures over the preceding rolling 5-year period. The inputs used to value these properties have been classified as Level 2, other significant observable inputs.

Highest and best use of Investment Properties

In estimating the fair value of the Council's Investment Properties, the highest and best use of the properties is their current use, reflecting best estimates of fair value given by current prices on a market for similar property in similar locations.

Valuation Techniques

There has been no change in the valuation techniques used during the year for Investment Properties.

Gains or losses arising from changes in the fair value of the investment properties are recognised in Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services - Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line.

Valuation process for Investment Properties

The fair value of the Council's investment properties is measured at market value as at 31 March 2021. All valuations are carried out by Land and Property Services, in accordance with their methodologies and bases for estimation as set out in the professional standards of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. The Council's valuation experts work closely with Council finance officers reporting directly to the Chief Financial Officer on a regular basis regarding all valuation matters.

In the 2020/21 year, investment property valuations were reported by LPS during the period of the COVID-19 pandemic that was first declared in March 2020, and are made on the basis of "material valuation uncertainty" as per VPS 3 and VPGA 10 of the RICS Global Standards. Consequently, less certainty, and a higher degree of caution, should be attached to these valuations than would normally be the case.

For the avoidance of doubt, this does not mean that the valuations cannot be relied upon. Rather, this 'material valuation uncertainty' declaration has been included to ensure transparency and to provide further insight as to the market context under which the valuation opinion was prepared as at 31 March 2021.

The decrease in valuations of investment property in 2020/21 reflect the yields for the council's properties in the current market conditions.

f Heritage Assets

The Council's collection of heritage assets consists of works of art, civic items, donated works of art, and certain historic buildings and monuments with historical, artistic, scientific, technological, geophysical or environmental qualities that are held and maintained principally for their contribution to knowledge and culture. These assets are reported in the balance sheet at valuation; or at insurance valuation as a proxy for market value; or, if it is not possible to obtain a valuation, they are measured at historic cost less depreciation, amortisation or impairment losses. Insurance valuations are updated on a periodic basis.

Where no cost can be measured accurately for a heritage asset, it is not held on the balance sheet at a monetary value. The item will still be retained in the Council's possession and will form part of its heritage asset collection. There are currently 168 of these items recorded by Belfast City Council.

Heritage assets- additions	31/03/2021	31/03/2020
Tropical Ravine	-	130,992
9 Adelaide Art Collection	-	20,000
Shapes of Home Painting	-	1,000
Botanic Gardens - Palm House (land)	-	1
Botanic Gardens - Tropical Ravine (land)	-	1
Total	-	151,994

The Celtic Myths and Legends Window was recognised as being a heritage asset during 2020/21 at a cost of £22,000. There were no other additions, transfers or disposals of heritage assets during the period.

g Assets Held for Sale

Assets Held for Sale	Current	Non Current	Total
	£	£	£
Cost or Valuation			
Balance as at 1 April 2020	1,340,000	-	1,340,000
Adjustments between cost/value & depreciation/impairment	-	-	-
Transferred from Non-Current Assets during year	-	-	-
Assets Held for Sale Donations	-	-	-
Assets Held for Sale Revaluation increases/decreases to Revaluation	-	-	-
Revaluation increases/decreases taken to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	-	-
Assets Held for Sale Impairment @ Cost to Provision of Services	-	-	-
Derecognition - Disposals	(650,000)	-	(650,000)
Derecognition - Other	-	-	-
Reclassified from Current Assets Held for Sale to non current Assets Held for Sale	-	-	-
Transferred to Property, Plant & Equipment during year	(690,000)	-	(690,000)
Balance as at 31 March 2021	-	-	-
Impairment			
Balance as at 1 April 2020	-	-	-
Adjustments between cost/value & depreciation/impairment	-	-	-
Impairment losses/reversals taken to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	-	-
Derecognition - Disposals	-	-	-
Derecognition - Other	-	-	-
Reclassified from Current Assets Held for Sale to non current Assets Held for Sale	-	-	-
Transferred to Property, Plant & Equipment during year	-	-	-
Balance as at 31 March 2021	-	-	-
Net Book Value			
Balance as at 31 March 2021	-	-	-
Balance as at 31 March 2020	1,340,000	-	1,340,000

During 2020/21, non-current assets with a fair value of £690,000 no longer met the criteria to be recognised as assets held for sale and were reclassified to property, plant and equipment as at 31 March 2021.

The gain on assets classified as held for sale and sold during the year was £1,050,000.

Assets Held for Sale	Current	Non Current	Total
	£	£	£
Cost or Valuation			
Balance as at 1 April 2019	266,607	-	266,607
Adjustments between cost/value & depreciation/impairment	-	-	-
Transferred from Non-Current Assets during year	1,340,000	-	1,340,000
Assets Held for Sale Donations	-	-	-
Assets Held for Sale Revaluation increases/decreases to Revaluation	-	-	-
Revaluation increases/decreases taken to Surplus or Deficit on the	-	-	-
Assets Held for Sale Impairment @ Cost to Provision of Services	-	-	-
Derecognition - Disposals	(80,333)	-	(80,333)
Derecognition - Other	-	-	-
Reclassified from Current Assets Held for Sale to non current Assets Held for	-	-	-
Transferred to Property, Plant & Equipment during year	(186,274)	-	(186,274)
Balance as at 31 March 2020	1,340,000	-	1,340,000
Impairment			
Balance as at 1 April 2019	-	-	-
Adjustments between cost/value & depreciation/impairment	-	-	-
Impairment losses/reversals taken to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	-	-
Derecognition - Disposals	-	-	-
Derecognition - Other	-	-	-
Reclassified from Current Assets Held for Sale to non current Assets Held for	-	-	-
Transferred to Property, Plant & Equipment during year	-	-	-
Balance as at 31 March 2020	-	-	-

Two non-current assets were reclassified to assets held for sale during 2019/20.

The gain on assets classified to held for sale and sold during 2019/20 was £130k

h Fair Value Hierarchy for Surplus Assets

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

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

Details of the Council's surplus assets and information about the fair value hierarchy as at 31 March 2021 and 2020 are as follows:

2020/21 Recurring fair value measurements using:	Quoted Prices in active markets for identical assets (Level 1)	Other significant observable inputs (Level 2)	Significant unobservable inputs (Level 3)	Fair value as at 31st March 2021
	£	£	£	£
Land	-	624,001	-	624,001
Buildings	-	300,000	-	300,000
Land and Buildings combined	-	5,275,000	-	5,275,000
Total	-	6,199,001	-	6,199,001

2019/20 Recurring fair value measurements using:	Quoted Prices in active markets for identical assets (Level 1)	Other significant observable inputs (Level 2)	Significant unobservable inputs (Level 3)	Fair value as at 31st March 2020
	£	£	£	£
Land	-	1,924,001	-	1,924,001
Buildings	-	620,000	-	620,000
Land and Buildings combined	-	2,995,000	-	2,995,000
Total	-	5,539,001	-	5,539,001

Surplus Assets are considered to have enough uniqueness that they no longer can be compared to similar items that are used for reference in an active market, and are valued using inputs other than quoted prices that are observable. As such, they are valued using Level 2 inputs.

Transfers between levels of the fair value hierarchy

There were no transfers between Levels 1 and 2 during the year.

In 2020/21, all Surplus Assets were measured using the same methodology as in 2019/20. The inputs used to value these properties have been classified as Level 2, other significant observable inputs, due to the uniqueness of these properties.

Highest and best use of surplus assets

In estimating the fair value of the Council's surplus assets, the highest and best use of the assets is their current use, reflecting best estimates of fair value given by current prices on a market for similar property in similar locations.

Valuation Techniques

There has been no change in the valuation techniques used during the year for surplus assets.

The fair value of the Council's Surplus Assets is measured at market valuation as at 31 March 2021. All valuations are carried out externally by Land and Property Services, in accordance with the methodologies and bases for estimation set out in the professional standards of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. The Council's valuation experts work closely with finance officers reporting directly to the chief financial officer on a regular basis regarding all valuation matters.

In the 2020/21 year, surplus assets valuations were reported by LPS during the period of the COVID-19 pandemic that was first declared in March 2020, and are made on the basis of "material valuation uncertainty" as per VPS 3 and VPGA 10 of the RICS Global Standards. Consequently, less certainty, and a higher degree of caution, should be attached to these valuations than would normally be the case.

For the avoidance of doubt, this does not mean that the valuations cannot be relied upon. Rather, this 'material valuation uncertainty' declaration has been included to ensure transparency and to provide further insight as to the market context under which the valuation opinion was prepared as at 31 March 2021.

12 Capital Expenditure and Capital Financing

The total amount of capital expenditure incurred in the year is shown in the table below (including the value of assets acquired under finance leases and PFI contracts), together with the resources that have been used to finance it. Where capital expenditure is to be financed in future years by charges to revenue as assets are used by the Council, the expenditure results in an increase in the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), a measure of the capital expenditure incurred historically by the Council that is yet to be financed. The CFR is analysed in the second part of this note.

Capital Expenditure		2020/21	2019/20
		£	£
Opening Capital Financing Requirement		138,181,616	115,001,044
Capital Investment			
Property, Plant and Equipment	11	21,374,593	43,855,969
Investment Properties		1	-
Intangible Assets		192,711	-
Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute		-	-
Investments		-	-
Sources of Finance			
Capital Receipts		(3,750,000)	-
Government Grants and Other Contributions	10	(7,662,693)	(5,257,824)
Transfers from Earmarked Reserves		(1,745,115)	-
Sums set aside from Revenue:			
Direct Revenue Contributions		(8,358,472)	(7,870,253)
Minimum Revenue Provision		(7,916,805)	(7,547,320)
Closing Capital Financing Requirement		130,315,836	138,181,616
Explanation of Movements in Year		2020/21	2019/20
		£	£
Increase/(decrease) in underlying need to borrow		(7,865,780)	23,180,572
Assets acquired under finance leases		-	-
Assets acquired under PFI/PPP contracts		-	-
Increase/(decrease) in Capital Financing Requirement		(7,865,780)	23,180,572

13 Future Capital Commitments

	Gross Cost	Grant Aid	Net Cost
	£	£	£
Schemes underway	92,692,446	10,731,506	81,960,940
Other Commitments	29,589,370	49,370	29,540,000
Total	122,281,816	10,780,876	111,500,940

Total net expenditure of £3,541,015 has been incurred against these projects in the year ended 31 March 2021.

14	Inventories	2020/21	2019/20
		£	£
	Central Stores	298,361	370,474
	Total	298,361	370,474

The cost of inventories written down, recognised as an expense and included in 'services' amounted to £681,327 (19/20 £591,234).

15	Debtors	2020/21	2019/20
a	Long Term Debtors	£	£
	Government Departments	-	-
	Other Councils	-	-
	Public corporations and trading funds	-	-
	Bodies external to general government	-	-
	Employee car loans	34,202	49,664
	Revenue Grants	-	-
	Capital Grants	-	-
	Interest Receivable	-	-
	Capital Debtors	-	-
	Loans and advances	-	-
	Finance lease debtors	-	-
	Trade debtors	772,374	218,298
	NIHE Loans	78,630	171,580
	Other	-	-
	Impairment of loans and receivables	-	-
	Contract Receivables	-	-
	Total Long-Term Debtors	885,206	439,542

b	Short Term Debtors	2020/21	2019/20
		£	£
	Government Departments	2,428,715	856,648
	Other Councils	105,834	229,001
	Public corporations and trading funds	-	-
	Bodies external to general government	-	-
	NIHE loans	92,950	87,280
	Employee car loans	31,457	41,483
	Revenue Grants	5,124,741	5,856,018
	Capital Grants	3,657,464	2,374,703
	Interest Receivable	-	-
	Capital Debtors	-	-
	Value Added Tax	2,032,245	2,524,478
	Prepayments	4,186,916	3,999,514
	Finance lease debtors	-	-
	Other	2,227,407	3,298,710
	Trade receivables	1,634,267	2,389,943
	Impairment loss - Trade receivables	(819,245)	(805,888)
	Contract Receivables	275,808	378,981
	Total Short-Term Debtors	20,978,559	21,230,871

Total Debtors	21,863,765	21,670,413
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Trade debtors, inclusive of VAT, can be analysed by age as follows:

	£
Less than 3 months	3,963,319
Three months to one year	481,307
More than one year	772,374
	5,216,999

16	Borrowings	2020/21	2019/20
a	Short Term Borrowing	£	£
	Loans re-payable within one year	2,000,000	9,739,488
	Finance Lease Principal	-	-
	Total Short Term Borrowing	2,000,000	9,739,488

b Long Term Borrowing		2020/21	2019/20
		£	£
Between 1 and 2 years		1,061,000	4,000,000
Between 2 and 5 years		3,589,529	4,469,327
Between 5 and 10 years		33,664,137	3,500,000
In more than 10 years		16,717,455	50,997,846
Government Loans Fund		55,032,121	62,967,173
Total Borrowing		57,032,121	72,706,661

17	Creditors		
a	Short Term Creditors	2020/21	2019/20
		£	£
	Government Departments	1,589,519	1,585,600
	Other Councils	1,018	4,040
	Public corporations and trading funds	-	-
	Bodies external to general government	-	-
	Rates clawback	954,293	1,800,000
	De-rating grant clawback	945,000	-
	Remuneration due to employees	3,638	403,046
	Accumulated Absences	2,452,610	1,363,705
	Loan Interest Payable	244,684	346,162
	Capital Creditors	2,544,712	2,096,936
	Receipts in advance	8,278,015	6,374,183
	Trade creditors	4,170,686	4,801,202
	Creditor Accruals	16,817,477	13,740,133
	Contract Payables	-	277,387
	Total Short Term Creditors	38,001,652	32,792,394

b	Long Term Creditors	2020/21	2019/20
	Other creditors falling due after more than one year	£	£
	Government Departments	-	-
	Other Councils	-	-
	Public corporations and trading funds	-	-
	Bodies external to general government	-	-
	Rates clawback	-	-
	Remuneration due to employees	-	-
	Accumulated Absences	-	-
	Receipts in advance	-	-
	Trade creditors	-	-
	Other	30,440	50,386
	Contract Payables	-	-
	Total Long Term Creditors	30,440	50,386
	Total Creditors	38,032,092	32,842,780

c Payment of Invoices

The council has a target, where no other terms are agreed, of paying supplier invoices within 30 days. During the year 20/21 the Council paid 51,593 (19/20 67,810) invoices totalling £154,605,481 (19/20 £182,900,458).

The Council paid:

48,218 invoices within 30 calendar days target (2019/20: 63,385);
39,959 invoices within 10 working days target (2019/20: 50,885); and
3,375 invoices outside of the 30 day target (2019/20: 4,425).

The average number of days taken to pay suppliers during the year was 17 days (2019/20: 10 days).

The Council paid 93% of invoices within the target of 30 days, against the target objective of 90%.

18 Provisions	Balance as at 1 April 2020 £	(Decrease)/Increase in provision during year £	Utilised during year £	Unused amounts reversed £	Interest cost and/or discount rate changes £	Balance as at 31 March 2021 £
Landfill Closure	3,449,001	36,870	(29,354)	-	21,399	3,477,916
Claims Management	1,505,210	(97,792)	(800)	-	-	1,406,618
Total	4,954,211	(60,922)	(30,154)	-	21,399	4,884,534

Current Provisions	3,131,517	(60,922)	(30,154)	-	-	3,040,441
Long Term Provisions	1,822,694	-	-	-	21,399	1,844,093

Total	4,954,211	(60,922)	(30,154)	-	21,399	4,884,534
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Comparative Year

Provisions	Balance as at 1 April 2019 £	Increase in provision during year £	Utilised during year £	Unused amounts reversed £	Interest cost and/or discount rate changes £	Restated Balance as at 31 March 2020 £
Landfill Closure	3,550,409	(26,957)	(52,732)	-	(21,719)	3,449,001
Claims Management	1,133,757	445,220	(73,767)	-	-	1,505,210
Total	4,684,166	418,263	(126,499)	-	(21,719)	4,954,211

Current Provisions	2,894,851	418,263	(126,499)	-	(55,098)	3,131,517
Long Term Provisions	1,789,315	-	-	-	33,379	1,822,694

Total	4,684,166	418,263	(126,499)	-	(21,719)	4,954,211
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Landfill Closure

The financial provision for the capping and annual monitoring costs required to meet the Council's environmental obligations under the NIEA licence has been agreed on a Local Authority Deed. The discount rates applied on the provision are based on PWLB borrowing rates adjusted for inflation which has resulted in a valuation of £3,477,916.

Claims Management

A provision of £1,406,618 has been made in respect of public liability, employer's liability and other claims/legal cases notified but not processed. Adequate insurance arrangements are in place covering the Council's activities as recommended by the Council's Insurance Brokers. The related insurance premiums paid are accounted for in the financial statements. At 31 March 2021, the total liability for legal cases notified but not processed amounted to an estimated maximum liability of £2,650,463.

19 Financial Instruments

Financial Assets as at 31 March 2021

The Council has the following non-current Investments and debtors:

The Council's contribution to Beltel LLP is included in 'Investments in Associates and Joint Ventures' and is disclosed at the original value of the contribution.

The majority of the long term debtor relate to trade debtors as well as balances with NIHE and car loan balances with employees. The relevant credit losses have been calculated and included in the impairment loss balance.

Current financial assets, namely trade debtors, employee car loans and cash balances have been assessed and relevant credit losses calculated. These amounts are included in the impairment loss balance of £819,245 for 2020/21 (19/20 £805,888).

The employee car loan rate is currently 2.2%, in comparison to the HMRC official rate of 2.25%.

Financial Liabilities as at 31 March 2021

The Council is in receipt of loans from the Department of Finance at concessionary interest rates that differ from the prevailing market rates. The fair value of these loans is £63,054,778 (2019-20 £76,353,871).

20 Retirement Benefits

a Participation in the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Pension Fund.

As part of the terms and conditions of employment of its officers and other employees, the Council offers retirement benefits. Although these benefits will not actually be payable until employees retire, the Council has a commitment to make the payments that need to be disclosed at the time that employees earn their future entitlement.

The Council participates in the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Pension Fund administered by the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Superannuation Committee. This is a funded scheme, meaning that the Council and employees pay contributions into a fund, calculated at a level intended to balance the pension's liabilities with investment assets.

b Transactions relating to retirement benefits - Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

The Council recognises the cost of retirement benefits in the Cost of Services on Continuing Operations when they are earned by employees, rather than when the benefits are eventually paid as pensions.

However, the charge the Council is required to make against district rates is based on the cash payable in the year, and the real cost of retirement benefits is reversed out in the adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations line, in the Movement on Reserves Statement.

The following transactions have been made in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations line, in the Movement on Reserves Statement during the year:

	Note	2020/21 £	2019/20 £
Net cost of services:			
Current service cost		24,228,000	26,101,000
Past service cost/(gain)		357,000	861,000
Gains and losses on settlements or curtailments		-	-
Net operating expenditure:			
Net Interest on net defined benefit Liability (asset)		3,983,000	3,272,000
Total Post-employment Benefits charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services		28,568,000	30,234,000
Movement in Reserves Statement:			
Reversal of net charges made for retirement benefits in accordance with IAS 19 and the Code		(28,568,000)	(30,234,000)
Actual amount charged against the general fund balance for pensions in the year:			
Employers' contributions payable to scheme		13,743,000	15,682,000
Net adjustment to General Fund		(14,825,000)	(14,552,000)

The service cost figures include an allowance for administration expenses of £327k (19/20 £325k).

The impact of the McCloud judgement has been allowed for in these figures with the change in allowance over the period being treated as an experience item through Other Comprehensive Income.

Remeasurements recognised in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	Note	2020/21 £	2019/20 £
Liability gains/(losses) due to change in assumptions		(155,674,000)	15,149,000
Liability gains/(losses) due to demographic changes		-	25,468,000
Liability experience gains/(losses) arising in the year		7,090,000	3,948,000
Actuarial gains/(losses) on plan assets		122,440,000	(65,748,000)
Other		-	-
Total gains/(losses) recognised in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure		(26,144,000)	(21,183,000)

c Assets and liabilities in relation to retirement benefits			
Reconciliation of present value of the scheme liabilities:			
	Note	2020/21 £	2019/20 £
Balance as at 1 April		734,376,000	749,718,000
Current service cost		24,228,000	26,101,000
Interest cost		16,717,000	17,812,000
Contributions by members		4,411,000	4,379,000
Remeasurement (gains) and losses:			
Actuarial gains/losses arising from changes in financial assumptions		155,674,000	(15,149,000)
Actuarial gains/losses arising from demographic changes		-	(25,468,000)
Actuarial gains/losses arising on liabilities from experience		(7,090,000)	(3,948,000)
Other (if applicable)		-	-
Past service costs/(gains)*		357,000	861,000
Losses/(gains) on curtailments		-	-
Liabilities extinguished on settlements		-	-
Estimated unfunded benefits paid		(709,000)	(730,000)
Estimated benefits paid		(19,521,000)	(19,200,000)
Balance as at 31 March		908,443,000	734,376,000

Reconciliation of present value of the scheme assets:			
	Note	2020/21 £	2019/20 £
Balance as at 1 April		554,526,058	605,603,058
Interest Income		12,734,000	14,540,000
Contributions by members		4,411,000	4,379,000
Contributions by employer		13,034,000	14,952,000
Contributions in respect of unfunded benefits		709,000	730,000
Remeasurement gain/(loss)		122,440,000	(65,748,000)
Assets distributed on settlements		-	-
Unfunded benefits paid		(709,000)	(730,000)
Benefits paid		(19,521,000)	(19,200,000)
Balance as at 31 March		687,624,058	554,526,058

Belfast City Council employs a building block approach in determining the rate of return on Fund assets. Historical markets are studied and assets with higher volatility are assumed to generate higher returns consistent with widely accepted capital market principles. The assumed rate of return on each asset class is calculated and the overall expected rate of return on assets so derived by aggregating the expected return for each asset class over the actual asset allocation for the Fund at 31 March 2021.

The actual return on scheme assets in the year was a gain of £135,174k (2019/20 loss of £51,208k).

Fair Value of Plan Assets	2020/21 £	2019/20 £
Equity investments	318,369,939	236,228,134
Bonds	245,481,789	214,601,562
Property	61,198,541	55,452,600
Cash	36,444,075	26,062,722
Other	26,129,714	22,181,040
	687,624,058	554,526,058

The Council's share of the Net Pension Liability (Included in the Balance Sheet):

	2020/21 £	2019/20 £
Fair Value of Employer Assets	687,624,058	554,526,058
Present value of funded defined benefit obligation	(898,471,000)	(724,096,000)
Pension asset/(liability) of Funded Scheme	(210,846,942)	(169,569,942)
Present Value of unfunded defined benefit obligation	(9,972,000)	(10,280,000)
Other movement in the liability (asset) (if applicable)	-	-
Net asset/(liability) arising from the defined benefit obligation	(220,818,942)	(179,849,942)
Amount in the Balance sheet:		
Liabilities	(908,443,000)	(734,376,000)
Assets	687,624,058	554,526,058
Net Asset/(Liability)	(220,818,942)	(179,849,942)

d Scheme History		
Analysis of scheme assets and liabilities	2020/21 £	2019/20 £
Fair Value of Assets in pension scheme	687,624,058	554,526,058
Present Value of Defined Benefit Obligation	(908,443,000)	(734,376,000)
Surplus/(deficit) in the Scheme	(220,818,942)	(179,849,942)
Amount recognised in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure:		
	2020/21 £	2019/20 £
Actuarial gains/(losses)	(26,144,000)	(21,183,000)
Expected Return on Plan Assets	-	-
Increase/(decrease) in irrecoverable surplus from membership fall and other factors	-	-
Remeasurements recognised in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	(26,144,000)	(21,183,000)
Cumulative actuarial gains and losses	(84,490,000)	(58,346,000)
History of experience gains and losses:		
Experience gains and (losses) on assets	122,440,000	(65,748,000)
Experience gains and (losses) on liabilities	7,090,000	3,948,000

The liabilities show the underlying commitments that the authority has in the long run to pay retirement benefits. The total liability of £220,818,942 has a substantial impact on the net worth of the Council as recorded in the Balance Sheet.

However, statutory arrangements for funding the deficit mean that the financial position of the Council remains healthy. The deficit on the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Pension Fund will be made good by increased contributions over the remaining working life of employees, assessed by the scheme actuary.

Analysis of projected amount to be charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for the year to 31 March 2022

	31/03/2022 £	31/03/2022
Projected current cost	34,152,000	88.4%
Net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset)	4,491,000	11.6%
Past service cost	-	0.0%
Gains and losses on settlements or curtailments	-	0.0%
	38,643,000	100.0%

The total contributions expected to be made to the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Pension Fund by the council in the year to 31 March 2022 is £13,983k.

History of experience gains and losses

The actuarial gains/losses identified as movements on the Pensions Reserve 2020/21 can be analysed into the following categories, measured as a percentage of assets or liabilities at 31 March 2021.

	2020/21 %	2019/20 %
Experience (gains and (losses) on Assets	17.81%	-11.86%
Experience gains and (losses) on Liabilities	-0.78%	-0.54%

e Basis for estimating assets and liabilities

Liabilities have been assessed on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method, an estimate of the pensions that will be payable in the future years dependent on assumptions about mortality rates, salary levels, etc. The Council's Fund liabilities have been assessed by Aon Hewitt Limited, an independent firm of actuaries, estimates for the Council Fund being based on data pertaining to the latest full valuation of the scheme as at 31 March 2019.

Pension scheme assumptions:	2020/21	2019/20
	%	%
Mortality assumptions:		
<i>Longevity at 65 current pensioners:</i>	Years	Years
Men	21.9	21.8
Women	25.1	25.0
<i>Longevity at 65 for future pensioners:</i>		
Men	23.3	23.2
Women	26.5	26.4
Inflation/Pension Increase Rate	2.70%	2.00%
Salary Increase Rate	4.20%	3.50%
Discount Rate	2.10%	2.30%
Pension accounts revaluation rate	2.70%	2.00%
Take-up of option to convert annual pension into retirement lump sum:		
Service to April 2009	75%	75%
Service post April 2009	75%	75%

Pension Assumptions Sensitivity Analysis

The pension figures disclosed in these financial statements are sensitive to the assumptions used.

The approximate impact of changing key assumptions on the present value of the funded defined benefit obligation as at 31 March 2021 is set out below.

In each case, only the assumption noted below is altered; all other assumptions remain the same and are summarised in the disclosure above.

Funded Pension Scheme Benefits

Discount Rate Assumption		
Adjustment to discount rate	+0.1%p.a.	-0.1%p.a.
Present value of the total obligation	881,400,000	915,542,000
% change in the present value of the total obligation	-1.90%	1.90%
Projected service cost	33,059,000	35,279,000
Approximate % change in projected service cost	-3.20%	3.30%
Rate of General Increase in Salaries		
Adjustment to salary increase rate	+0.1%p.a.	-0.1%p.a.
Present value of the total obligation	902,065,000	894,877,000
% change in the present value of the total obligation	0.40%	-4.40%
Projected service cost	34,152,000	34,152,000
Approximate % change in projected service cost	0.00%	0.00%
Rate of Increase to Pensions in Payment and Deferred Pension Assumption		
Adjustment to pension increase rate	+0.1%p.a.	-0.1%p.a.
Present value of the total obligation	911,948,000	884,994,000
% change in the present value of the total obligation	1.50%	-1.50%
Projected service cost	35,279,000	33,059,000
Approximate % change in projected service cost	3.30%	-3.20%
Post Retirement Mortality Assumption		
Adjustment to mortality age rating assumption*	- 1 Year	+ 1 Year
Present value of the total obligation	930,816,000	866,126,000
% change in the present value of the total obligation	3.60%	-3.60%
Projected service cost	35,552,000	32,752,000
Approximate % change in projected service cost	4.10%	-4.10%

* A rating of +1 year means that members are assumed to follow the mortality pattern of the base table above for an individual that is 1 year older than that.

f Major categories of plan assets as percentage of total plan assets

The Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Pension Fund's assets consist of the following categories, by proportion of the total assets held:

	31/03/2021	31/03/2020
	%	%
Equity investments	46.30%	42.60%
Government Bonds	23.60%	26.10%
Corporate Bonds	12.10%	12.60%
Property	8.90%	10.00%
Cash	5.30%	4.70%
Other	3.80%	4.00%
Total	100.00%	100.00%

g Northern Ireland Civil Service Pension Arrangements

The Northern Ireland Civil Service Pension arrangements are unfunded multi-employer defined benefit schemes but the Council is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities. The most up to date actuarial valuation was carried out as at 31 March 2016. This valuation is then reviewed by the Scheme Actuary and updated to reflect current conditions and rolled forward to the reporting date of the DoF Superannuation and Other Allowances Resource Accounts as at 31 March 2021.

h Assets and liabilities in relation to retirement benefits of the Gas Pension Fund

Reconciliation of present value of the scheme liabilities:	Note	2020/21 £	2019/20 £
Balance as at 1 April		859,000	1,040,000
Current service cost			-
Interest cost		18,000	23,000
Contributions by members			-
Remeasurement (gains) and losses:			
Actuarial gains/losses arising from changes in financial assumptions		29,000	-
Actuarial gains/losses arising from demographic changes			-
Actuarial gains/losses arising on liabilities from experience		(11,000)	(4,000)
Other (if applicable)			-
Past service costs/(gains)			-
Losses/(gains) on curtailments			-
Liabilities extinguished on settlements			-
Net benefits paid		(178,000)	(200,000)
Balance as at 31 March		717,000	859,000

Reconciliation of present value of the scheme assets:	Note	2020/21 £	2019/20 £
Balance as at 1 April		864,000	1,061,000
Interest Income		18,000	23,000
Contributions by members			
Contributions by employer			
Remeasurement gain/(loss)		(13,000)	(20,000)
Assets distributed on settlements			
Net Benefits paid		(178,000)	(200,000)
Balance as at 31 March		691,000	864,000

Analysis of scheme assets and liabilities	Note	2020/21 £	2019/20 £
Fair Value of Assets in pension scheme		691,000	864,000
Present Value of Defined Benefit Obligation		717,000	859,000
Net Asset/(Liability) recognised on the balance sheet		(26,000)	5,000

Funded Pension Scheme Benefits- Gas Pension Fund Sensitivity Analysis

Discount Rate Assumption		
Adjustment to discount rate	+0.1% p.a.	-0.1% p.a.
Present value of the total obligation	713,000	721,000
% change in the present value of the total obligation	-0.50%	0.50%
Rate of Increase to Pensions in Payment accounts assumption		
Adjustment to pension increase rate	+0.1% p.a.	-0.1% p.a.
Present value of the total obligation	721,000	713,000
% change in the present value of the total obligation	0.50%	-0.50%
Post Retirement Mortality Assumption		
Adjustment to mortality age rating assumption*	-1yr	+1yr
Present value of the total obligation	767,000	688,000
% change in the present value of the total obligation	7.00%	-6.80%

* A rating of +1 year means that members are assumed to follow the mortality pattern of the base table above for an individual that is 1 year older than that.

	Note	2020/21 %	2019/20 %
Government Bonds		17.30%	49.10%
Cash		82.70%	50.90%
Total		100.00%	100.00%

Mortality assumptions:			
Members aged 85 at accounting date		Years	Years
Men		7.3	7.0
Women		8.2	7.8

Inflation/Pension Increase Rate		2.70%	2.10%
Discount Rate		2.10%	2.30%

Gas Pension Fund

The Council's Gas Pension Fund had been established under an agreement between the Council and the Department of Economic Development on 3rd July, 1990. The purpose of the Fund was to provide for the continuation of pension payments to former Gas Department employees and their dependants who were members of various statutory pension schemes. The Gas Pension Fund is maintained to provide for future pension payments to the beneficiaries, the objective being to maintain a fund sufficient to provide all future anticipated payments. No contributions are currently being paid and there are no service members accruing further benefits. Members' benefits are guaranteed by statute. Should the Fund's assets not be sufficient to provide all the benefits, the residual liability for pension payments would fall on Belfast City Council.

The current market value of the Fund at 31 March 2021 is assessed by the Council's actuaries, Aon Hewitt and is disclosed above. The Fund's Financial Statements outlined below do not take account of liabilities to pay pensions and other benefits after 31 March 2021.

At 31 March 2021 there were 23 pensioners left in the Gas Pensions Fund and the balances relating to the Gas Pension Fund are fully consolidated in the Group financial statements.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT	31/03/2021	31/03/2020
	£	£
INCOME:		
Investment Income	6,300	9,866
EXPENDITURE		
Pensions Paid	(172,225)	(194,436)
Administration Expenses	(5,423)	(5,361)
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	(171,348)	(189,931)
NET ASSET MOVEMENTS		
Brought forward balance	709,994	899,929
Unrealised gain	157,791	165,164
Opening Value of Fund	867,785	1,065,093
Add Contribution from City Council		
Add surplus/(deficit) for the year	(171,348)	(189,931)
CHANGE IN MARKET VALUES OF INVESTMENTS		
Realised gain for year	92,870	0
Unrealised gain/(loss) for year	(97,529)	(7,377)
Closing value of fund	691,778	867,785
FINANCED BY:		
UK Index Linked Investments	119,716	424,347
Cash deposits and at bank	571,545	439,628
Debtors	517	3,810
Bank Balance	-	-
Creditors	-	-
Closing value of fund	691,778	867,785

Summary Net Asset/Liability recognised on the Balance Sheet	31/03/2021	31/03/2020
Northern Ireland Local Government Officer's Pension Fund	(220,818,942)	(179,849,942)
Gas Pension Fund	(26,000)	5,000
Belfast Waterfront & Ulster Hall Limited	(4,848,000)	(2,463,000)
Total Net Asset/Liability recognised on the Balance Sheet	(225,692,942)	(182,307,942)

The figures above include a pension liability in respect of Belfast Waterfront & Ulster Hall Limited (BWUH Ltd). BWUH Ltd became a participating employer in the NILGOSC scheme on 1 April 2016. Belfast City Council has agreed to include and disclose the net liability under this scheme up to 31 March 2021 within the net liability total for Belfast City Council.

Allowance for the McCloud Judgement and GMP Indexation / Equalisation

The above amounts include an allowance for additional liabilities arising from the McCloud Judgement and GMP Indexation and Equalisation cases outlined below.

McCloud Judgement

In December 2018 the Court of Appeal ruled in the 'McCloud/Sargeant' judgement that the transitional protection arrangements put in place when the Firefighters' and Judges' pension schemes were reformed were age discriminatory. While the judgement was not in relation to members with Local Government Pension Scheme (NI) benefits it would be reasonable to assume that the Government will seek remedy for all public sector schemes including Local Government Pension Scheme (NI).

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) published its McCloud consultation for the LGPS (England and Wales) on 16 July 2020, setting out proposed changes aimed at removing the unlawful age discrimination in the LGPS. The consultation closed on 8 October 2020, but MHCLG have not yet published its consultation response.

The Current Service Cost includes a prospective allowance for McCloud liabilities of 3.2% of Pensionable Pay over the accounting period.

GMP Indexation and Equalisation

Guaranteed Minimum Pension (GMP) is a portion of pension that is payable to members who were contracted out of the State Second Pension and accrued benefits in the scheme between 6 April 1978 and 5 April 1997. The LGPS (NI) was contracted out. The GMP was intended to approximately replace the State Pension which members were giving up, however the payment terms of GMP are different between men and women, which was a consequence of the state pension itself being unequal at that time. On 26 October 2018 the High Court ruled in the Lloyds Bank case that equalisation for the effect of unequal GMPs is required. The estimated liability has been based on a typical Local Government pension fund to quantify the value of fully indexing GMPs in line with CPI inflation for those reaching State Pension Age after 5 December 2018. This was calculated to be 0.3% of the liabilities / defined benefit obligation.

Allowance has been made for full pension increases to be paid on GMPs to individuals reaching SPA after 6 April 2016. Any increase in liability at this accounting date has been charged through Other Comprehensive Income.

21	Donated Assets Account	Note	2020/21 £	2019/20 £
	Opening balance		430,000	430,001
	Add: new donated assets received (condition of use not met)		-	-
	Less: amounts released to the District Fund - Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account		-	1
			430,000	430,000

Analysis of Donated Assets Account

The balance of the Donated Assets Account represents donations received that have yet to be recognised as income, as they have conditions attached to them, which will require the donated assets to be returned, if conditions are not met. The balances at the year end are as follows:

Donated Assets Account	Note	2020/21 £	2019/20 £
Neil Shawcross "Writers of Belfast" collection		430,000	430,000
		430,000	430,000

Capital Receipts Unapplied	Note	2020/21 £	2019/20 £
Opening balance		111,725	116,812
Add: new capital grants received in advance (condition of use not met)		-	-
Less: amounts released		-	(5,087)
		111,725	111,725

The amount of £250k in capital receipts unapplied relates to the proceeds from a disposal to the NIHE of which £138k has been used to finance a playground.

22	Capital Grants Received in Advance	Note	2020/21 £	2019/20 £
	Opening balance		304,554	901,871
	Add: new capital grants received in advance (condition of use not met)		670,720	159,404
	Less: amounts released to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement other projects		(504,555)	(27,571)
	Less: amounts released to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		-	(729,150)
			470,719	304,554

Analysis of Capital Grants Receipts in Advance Balance

The balance of Capital Grants Receipts in Advance represents grants received that have yet to be recognised as income, as they have conditions attached to them, which will require the grant to be repaid, if conditions are not met. The balances at the year end are as follows:

Capital Grants Receipts in Advance	Note	2020/21 £	2019/20 £
Springfield Dam		-	304,554
Ballymacarrett Greenway		257	-
Forth Meadow		450,000	-
City Cemetery		20,462	-
		470,719	304,554

23 Contingencies

Residential Waste Treatment Project

The arc21 Joint Committee has, with the approval of their Participant Councils, entered into a Contingent Liability Undertaking with the bidding consortium in the procurement for the Residential Waste Treatment Project. Payments made, if any, in accordance with this undertaking will be funded by the Participant Councils.

Landfill Site

The financial provision for the capping and annual monitoring cost of the landfill site, required to meet the Council's environmental obligations under the NIEA licence, has been agreed on a Local Authority Deed and disclosed in Note 18. The remaining area not covered by NIEA licence may require specific capping depending on the future use of this land. The impact of any future capping of this area on the liabilities of Belfast City Council is uncertain and therefore no provision for any such costs has been made.

24 Other cash flow disclosures
a Analysis of Adjustments to Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services

Adjustment to surplus or deficit on the provision of services for noncash movements	Notes	2020/21	2019/20
		£	£
Depreciation	11	22,457,761	19,364,089
Impairment & downward revaluations (& non-sale derecognitions)	11	7,772,272	1,605,228
Amortisation (included with depreciation above)		-	-
(Increase)/Decrease in inventories		72,112	(94,184)
(Increase)/Decrease in Debtors		(206,710)	(4,704,741)
Increase/(decrease) in impairment provision for bad debts		13,357	522,294
Increase/(Decrease) in Creditors		4,100,405	2,689,248
Increase/(Decrease) in Interest Creditors		-	-
Payments to NILGOSC	20	14,825,000	14,552,000
Carrying amount of non-current assets sold	8a, 11e	774,738	4,704,852
AIC/WIP written off to Net Cost of Services		-	-
Contributions to Other Reserves/Provisions		11,739,051	2,368,947
Movement in value of investment properties-included above in Impairment & downward revaluations (& non-sale derecognitions)		-	-
Amounts posted to CIES from Donated Assets Account	21	-	(1)
Contract Costs		-	-
Contract Assets		-	-
Contract Liabilities		-	-
Deferred revenue		-	-
		61,547,986	41,007,732

Adjust for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities	Notes	2020/21	2019/20
		£	£
Purchase of short-term (not considered to be cash equivalents) and long-term investments (includes investments in associates, joint ventures and subsidiaries)		-	-
Proceeds from short-term (not considered to be cash equivalents) and long-term investments (includes investments in associates, joint ventures and subsidiaries)		-	-
Proceeds from the sale of PP&E, investment property and intangible assets		(1,957,505)	(4,942,650)
Capital grants included in "Taxation & non-specific grant income"		(7,662,693)	(5,257,824)
		(9,620,198)	(10,200,474)

b Cash and Cash Equivalents

For the purposes of the cash flow statement, cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand and in bank and short term deposits and investments (considered to be cash equivalents), net of outstanding bank overdrafts. Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period as shown in the statement of cash flows can be reconciled to the related items in the Balance Sheet as follows:

	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£
Cash and Bank balances	2,932,317	8,728,224
Short Term Deposits (considered to be Cash Equivalents)	35,000,000	8,000,000
Short Term Investments (considered to be Cash Equivalents)	-	-
Bank Overdraft	-	-
	37,932,317	16,728,224

The balance previously held within an escrow bank account with the BIG Lottery Fund in relation to the funding of the Connswater Greenway project has now been reduced to nil (19/20 £606,630). This balance was not included in the above total.

c Cash flows from Investing Activities

	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£
Purchase of PP&E, investment property and intangible assets	21,119,529	43,209,670
Purchase of Short Term Investments (not considered to be cash equivalents)	-	-
Purchase of Long Term Investments	-	-
Other Payments for Investing Activities	1,536,686	1,974,259
Proceeds from the sale of PP&E, investment property and intangible assets	(1,957,505)	(4,942,650)
Proceeds from Short Term Investments (not considered to be cash equivalents)	-	-
Proceeds from Long Term Investments	-	-
Capital Grants and Contributions Received	(7,662,693)	(5,257,824)
Other Receipts from Investing Activities	-	-
Net Cash flows from Investing Activities	13,036,017	34,983,455

d Cash flows from Financing Activities

	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£
Cash Receipts from Short and Long Term Borrowing	-	30,000,000
Other Receipts from Financing Activities	-	-
Cash payments for the reduction of the outstanding liability relating to a finance lease and on-Balance Sheet PFI contracts	-	-
Repayment of Short and Long Term Borrowing	(15,674,540)	(20,182,319)
Other payments for Financing Activities	-	-
Net Cash flows from Financing Activities	(15,674,540)	9,817,681

25 Usable Reserves**a Capital Receipts Reserve**

These are capital receipts which have originated primarily from the sale of assets which have not yet been used to finance capital expenditure.

The Capital Receipts Reserve is credited with the proceeds from fixed asset sales and other monies defined by statute as capital receipts. These are originally credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of the gain/loss on disposal and posted out via the Movement in Reserves Statement to the Capital Receipts Reserve. The reserve is written down when resources are applied to finance new capital expenditure or set aside to reduce an authority's capital financing requirement (or used for other purposes permitted by statute).

Capital Receipts Reserve	Notes	31/03/2021	31/03/2020
		£	£
At 1 April		9,772,458	5,200,457
Movement			
Transfers between statutory & other reserves & the General Fund		-	-
Disposal of Non Current Assets/ Capital Sales	8, 9e	1,940,000	4,572,001
Capital Receipts used to finance capital expenditure		(3,750,000)	-
Difference between finance and other costs and income calculated on an accounting basis and finance costs calculated in accordance with statutory requirements		-	-
Other Movements		-	-
At 31 March		7,962,458	9,772,458

b Deferred Capital Receipts Account

The Deferred Capital Receipts Account holds the gains recognised on the disposal of non-current assets but for which cash settlement has yet to take place. Under statutory arrangements, the Council does not treat these gains as usable for financing new capital expenditure until they are backed by cash receipts. When the deferred cash settlement eventually takes place, amounts are transferred to the Capital Receipts Reserve.

Deferred Capital Receipts Account	Notes	31/03/2021	31/03/2020
		£	£
At 1 April		342,300	-
Movement			
Other movements		-	342,300
At 31 March		342,300	342,300

c Capital Fund

This fund is authorised under Section 9 of Part 1 of the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011.

Capital Fund	Notes	31/03/2021	31/03/2020
		£	£
At 1 April		19,369,748	25,288,151
Transfers between statutory & other reserves & the General Fund	4b	1,671,506	2,081,597
Transfer to Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund		-	(8,000,000)
Financing from CCIF		-	-
Transfers between Capital Fund & CAA to finance Capital Expenditure	12	(1,745,115)	-
At 31 March		19,296,139	19,369,748

	£	£
Local Investment Fund	1,056,624	1,171,489
Belfast Investment Fund	1,908,136	723
City Centre Investment Fund	13,408,897	15,154,012
Social Outcomes Fund	2,922,482	3,043,524
Total	19,296,139	19,369,748

The movement and purpose of these funds is outlined below:

Local Investment Fund		31/03/2021	31/03/2020
		£	£
Opening balance		1,171,489	1,425,280
Add: new contributions to fund		-	-
Less: financing drawn down from fund	4b	(114,865)	(253,791)
At 31 March		1,056,624	1,171,489

Local Investment Fund (LIF) is a key part of the Investment Programme that provides funding for smaller initiatives focusing on physical work on buildings or facilities within communities. The balance on this fund as at 31 March 2021 is £1,056,624.

Belfast Investment Fund			31/03/2021	31/03/2020
			£	£
Opening balance			723	5,559,723
Add: new contributions to fund		4b	3,270,000	3,270,000
Less: financing drawn down from fund		4b	(1,362,587)	(829,000)
Less: transfer to Neighbourhood Regeneration fund			-	(8,000,000)
At 31 March			1,908,136	723

There is a balance of £1,908,136 on the Belfast Investment Fund at year end 31 March 2021. This fund was established to support partnership projects across the City.

City Centre Investment Fund			31/03/2021	31/03/2020
			£	£
Opening balance			15,154,012	15,154,012
Add: new contributions to fund			-	-
Less: amounts drawn down from fund			(1,745,115)	-
At 31 March			13,408,897	15,154,012

City Centre Investment Fund (CCIF) is a fund to support the Belfast City Centre Regeneration Investment Plans. The proposed investment principles for the CCIF are as follows:

- the project should make a significant impact on the City Centre economy in terms of "gross value added" and job creation
- the project should make positive and net contribution to the business rates income received by Belfast City Council

Belfast City Council used this fund to support ongoing and potential City Centre regeneration projects. The balance on CCIF at year end 31 March 2021 is £13,408,897.

Social Outcomes Fund			31/03/2021	31/03/2020
			£	£
Opening balance			3,043,524	3,149,136
Add: transfer from Belfast Investment fund			-	-
Less: amounts drawn down from fund		4b	(121,042)	(105,612)
At 31 March			2,922,482	3,043,524

Social Outcomes Fund is set up to support City Centre projects which might not generate a direct financial return but which would enhance the overall City Centre offer and support the attraction of investment into the City Centre. The balance on this fund as at 31 March 2021 is £2,922,482.

d Leisure Mobilisation Fund

This fund is authorised under Section 9 of Part 1 of the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011.

Leisure Mobilisation Fund		Notes	31/03/2021	31/03/2020
			£	£
At 1 April			887,800	1,441,702
Transfers between statutory & other reserves & the General Fund		4b	(257,555)	(553,902)
Transfers between Renewal & Repair Fund & CAA to finance Capital Expenditure		12	-	-
At 31 March			630,245	887,800

The Leisure Mobilisation Fund is a fund to support the Leisure Transformation Programme. This fund will cover programme level costs including communications, engagements and procurement costs.

e Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund

This fund is authorised under Section 9 of Part 1 of the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011.

Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund	Notes	31/03/2021	31/03/2020
		£	£
At 1 April		8,000,000	-
Add: transfer from Belfast Investment Fund		-	8,000,000
Less: amounts drawn down from fund		-	-
At 31 March		8,000,000	8,000,000

The Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund is a fund to support neighbourhood regeneration and tourism projects in local neighbourhoods.

f Other Balances & Reserves

Other Balances & Reserves	Notes	31/03/2021	31/03/2020
		£	£
At 1 April		298,224	1,063,919
Transfers between statutory & other reserves & the General Fund	4b	793,308	(671,307)
Transfer to BWUH Subvention Fund		-	(187,168)
Transfer to BWUH Sinking Fund		-	92,780
At 31 March		1,091,532	298,224

	£	£
Election Fund	379,435	3,300
BWUH Subvention Fund	436,402	135,499
BWUH Sinking Fund	275,695	159,425
Total	1,091,532	298,224

The movement and purpose of these funds is outlined below:

Election Fund			31/03/2021	31/03/2020
			£	£
Opening balance			3,300	674,607
Add: new contributions to fund		4b	376,135	153,300
Less: financing drawn down from fund			-	(824,607)
At 31 March			379,435	3,300

This reserve is used to equalise (smooth) the cost of elections by building up a fund to cover the costs of future elections by making contributions, as and when required, to the reserve.

BWUH Subvention Fund			31/03/2021	31/03/2020
			£	£
Opening balance			135,499	322,667
Add: new contributions to fund			300,903	300,903
Less: amounts drawn down from fund			-	(188,071)
Less: amounts transferred to Sinking Fund			-	(300,000)
At 31 March			436,402	135,499

BWUH Subvention Fund was established to support national and international corporate organisations in bringing their conferences to Belfast.

BWUH Sinking Fund			31/03/2021	31/03/2020
			£	£
Opening balance			159,425	66,645
Add: new contributions to fund			200,000	300,000
Less: amounts drawn down from fund			(83,730)	(207,220)
At 31 March			275,695	159,425

BWUH Sinking Fund is a fund to support planned maintenance and future capital works of the new exhibition centre at Waterfront Hall.

g General Fund

This reserve shows the accounting cost in the year of providing services in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices, rather than the amount to be funded from District Rates. Councils raise rates to cover expenditure in accordance with regulations; this may be different from the accounting cost. The taxation position is shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

General Fund	Notes	2020/21	2019/20
		£	£
At 1 April		28,692,673	25,796,988
Prior year adjustment			
Applied Capital Grants	10, 12	(7,662,693)	(5,257,824)
Unapplied Capital Grants received in year		-	-
Direct Revenue Financing	4, 12	(8,358,472)	(7,870,253)
Depreciation and Impairment adjustment	4	30,230,033	20,969,317
Statutory Provision for financing Capital Investment	4	(7,916,805)	(7,547,320)
Net Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	4, 12	-	-
Surplus/(Deficit) on the Provision of Services	CIES	(2,013,138)	(12,487,676)
Transfers between Statutory and Other Reserves and the General Fund	4	(2,207,259)	(856,388)
Net movements on Pension Reserve	4, 20	14,825,000	14,552,000
Disposal of Fixed Assets/Capital Sales	3, 4, 11, 23	(1,182,767)	(237,798)
Difference between finance and other costs and income calculated on an accounting basis and finance costs calculated in accordance with statutory requirements		1,088,905	(49,218)
Other Movements		9,428,629	1,680,845
At 31 March		54,924,106	28,692,673

This fund represents the surplus of income over expenditure. It can be used to supplement income and unexpected expenditure in future years. Of the £54,924k, £40,929k relates to expenditure committed at the year end (19/20 £28,693k, £15,792k committed).

Other movements of £9,429k includes two amounts received from Department for Communities; £7,075k Covid funding to help alleviate the future impact of Covid-19, and £2,098k Covid Recovery Revitalisation programme grant.

26 Unusable Reserves

a Capital Adjustment Account

The Capital Adjustment Account absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for the consumption of non-current assets and for the acquisition, construction or enhancement of those assets under statutory provisions.

The Account is debited with the cost of acquisition, construction or enhancement as depreciation, impairment losses and amortisations are charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, with reconciling postings from the Revaluation Reserve to convert fair value figures to an historic cost basis.

The account is credited with the amounts set aside by the Council as finance for the costs of acquisition, construction and subsequent costs.

The Account contains accumulated gains and losses on Investment Properties and gains recognised on donated assets that have yet to be consumed by the Council.

The Account also contains revaluation gains accumulated on Property, Plant and Equipment before 1 April 2007, the date that the Revaluation Reserve was created to hold such gains.

During preparations of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021, an error was identified in the presentation the Capital Adjustment Account, and movements between it and the Revaluation Reserve. The balances as at 1 April 2019 and 31 March 2020 and the transactions reported for year ended 31 March 2020 have been restated. A description of the restatement and the financial effect is set out in Note 31.

Capital Adjustment Account	Notes	2020/21	2019/20 Restated
		£	£
At 1 April		476,124,339	470,959,253
Prior year restatement	31		5,649,901
At 1 April (restated)			476,609,154
Applied Capital Grants	10, 12	7,662,693	5,257,824
Unapplied Capital Grants transferred to CAA in year		-	-
Direct Revenue Financing	4, 12	8,358,472	7,870,253
Depreciation & Impairment adjustment	11	(30,230,033)	(20,969,317)
Statutory Provision for financing Capital Investment	4, 12	7,916,805	7,547,320
Net Revenue expenditure funded from Capital under statute	4, 12	-	-
Disposal of Fixed Assets/ Capital Sales	4, 11	(915,233)	(8,493,528)
Capital Receipts used to finance capital expenditure	4, 12	3,750,000	-
Other Movements		6,586,713	8,302,633
Transfers between Capital Fund/Renewal & Repair Fund & CAA to finance capital expenditure	12	1,745,115	-
At 31 March		480,998,871	476,124,339

b Revaluation Reserve

The Revaluation Reserve contains the gains made by the Council arising from increases in the value of its Property, Plant and Equipment and Intangible Assets. The reserve is reduced when assets with accumulated gains are:

- revalued downwards or impaired and the gains are lost
- used in the provision of services and the gains are consumed through depreciation, or
- disposed of and the gains are realised.

The reserve contains only revaluation gains accumulated since 1 April 2008, the date the reserve was created. Accumulated gains arising before that date are consolidated into the balance on the Capital Adjustment Account.

The purpose of this account is to build up a balance based on the revaluation (upwards or downwards) of individual assets. All such revaluations (excluding impairment losses that have been debited to Surplus/(Deficit) on the Provision of Services are mirrored in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure. It is a fundamental principle of this account that it never becomes negative. If an asset was held at current value when derecognised, the balance held on the Revaluation Reserve is written off to the Capital Adjustment Account.

During preparations of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021, an error was identified in the presentation the Revaluation Reserve, and movements between it and the Capital Adjustment Account. The balances as at 1 April 2019 and 31 March 2020 and the transactions reported for year ended 31 March 2020 have been restated. A description of the restatement and the financial effect is set out in Note 31.

Revaluation Reserve	Notes	2020/21	2019/20 Restated
		£	£
At 1 April		179,341,950	164,611,507
Prior year restatement			(5,649,901)
At 1 April (restated)			158,961,606
Revaluation & Impairment	11	3,104,636	27,846,428
Movements from associates & joint ventures			-
Other Movements		(6,564,707)	(7,466,084)
At 31 March		175,881,878	179,341,950

c Pension Reserve

Pension Reserve	Notes	2020/21	2019/20
		£	£
At 1 April		(182,307,942)	(146,360,942)
Net Movements on Pension Reserve	4, 20	(14,825,000)	(14,552,000)
Revaluation & Impairment	20	(26,144,000)	(21,183,000)
Gas pension & BWUH movement		(2,416,000)	(212,000)
At 31 March		(225,692,942)	(182,307,942)

The Pensions Reserve absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for post-employment benefits and for funding benefits in accordance with statutory provisions. The Council accounts for post-employment benefits in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as benefits are earned by employees accruing years of service, updating the liabilities recognised to reflect inflation, changing assumptions and investment returns on any resources set aside to meet the costs

However, statutory arrangements require benefits earned to be financed as the Council makes employer's contributions to pension funds or eventually pays any pensions for which it is directly responsible. The debit balance on the Pensions Reserve therefore shows a substantial shortfall in the benefits earned by past and current employees and the resources the Council has set aside to meet them. The statutory arrangements will ensure that funding will have been set aside by the time the benefits come to be paid.

d Accumulated Absences Account

The Accumulated Absences Account absorbs the differences that would otherwise arise on the General Fund balance from accruing for compensated absences earned but not taken in the year e.g. staff annual leave entitlement carried forward at the end of the financial year. Statutory arrangements are expected to require that the impact on the General Fund is neutralised by transfers to or from this Accumulated Absences Account

Accumulated Absences Account	Notes	31/03/2021	31/03/2020
		£	£
At 1 April		(1,363,705)	(1,357,825)
Difference between finance and other costs and income calculated on an accounting basis and finance costs calculated in accordance with statutory requirements		(1,088,905)	(5,880)
At 31 March		(2,452,610)	(1,363,705)

e Provisions Discount Rate Reserve

The Provisions Discount Rate Reserve covers the arrangement, put in place by the Department under its amendment to the 2017/18 accounts direction (see DfC circular LG 05/2018), to accommodate changes in the current value of the annual calculation of long term provisions for landfill costs, which arises as a result of changes to the interest rates used to discount these provisions and landfill cash flows being increased for inflation.

Provisions Discount Rate Reserve	Notes	31/03/2021	31/03/2020
		£	£
At 1 April		(198,153)	(263,159)
Difference between finance and other costs and income calculated on an accounting basis and finance costs calculated in accordance with statutory requirements		-	55,098
Other Movements		9,907	9,908
At 31 March		(188,246)	(198,153)

27 Significant Trading Operations

The Council considers a trading operation exists where the service it provides is competitive i.e the user always has the choice to use an alternative supplier to the Council and the Council charges the user on a basis other than a straightforward recharge of the Council's costs in supplying the service. The Council uses a variety of charging mechanisms such as quoted lump sums, fixed periodical charges or rates, or a combination of these.

In deciding whether a trading operation is significant the Council takes both financial and non-financial criteria into account.

Financial criteria taken into account in deciding whether trading operations are significant to the Council are:

- the magnitude of each individual trading operation's turnover when compared with the Council's net revenue budget
- the risk of financial loss the Council may be exposed to in providing the service to the user.

Non-financial criteria taken into account in deciding whether trading operations are significant to the Council are:

- the importance of each individual trading operation to demonstrating the achievement of Council targets and improving performance.
- the exposure of the Council to service reputational loss risk by providing the service
- whether the provision of the service is likely to be of interest to the Council's key stakeholders and their needs.

In applying the aforementioned criteria, the Council considers the letting of industrial estates to be a significant trading operation. The income and expenditure associated with these industrial estates is disclosed below;

Industrial Estate Lettings		2020/21	2019/20
		£	£
Rental Income		4,073,565	5,662,183
Rental Expenditure		(107,446)	(130,335)
Net income		3,966,119	5,531,848

These significant trading operations form part of Note 9e to these financial statements.

28 Agency Services

The Council provides administration services to Belfast One BID Ltd, Destination CQ BID Ltd and Belfast Central Business District. These entities pay an administration fee to the Council for these services. This fee amounted to £8,045 (2019/20 £12,316) across the 3 entities.

29 Joint Arrangements

During 2020/21 Belfast City Council did not make a financial contribution to Beltel LLP relating to the redevelopment of the Belfast Telegraph Building (19/20 £nil).

The contribution to LLP is included in the Long term Assets of Belfast City Council. This represents 46% of the net assets of the LLP which is included in Belfast City Council's consolidated balance sheet.

	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£
Long term assets	3,231,429	3,231,429
Current assets	242,435	242,435
Current liabilities	(37,005)	(37,005)
Long term liabilities	-	-
Net Assets	3,436,859	3,436,859

On 1 April 2016, the operations of Waterfront Hall and Ulster Hall were transferred to a company BWUH Limited. Belfast City Council hold the entire share capital of this company, 1 ordinary share at £1 each. Belfast City Council entered into an agreement with BWUH Limited under which the Council pays the company a management fee for the operation of Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall. Payments to and from the company are outlined in Note 30 f.

A Related Party Transaction is a transfer of resources or obligations between related parties, regardless of whether a price is charged. Related Party Transaction exclude transactions with any other entity that is a related party solely because of its economic dependence on the Council or the Government of which it forms part. A related party is one that has the ability to control the other party or exercise significant influence over the other party in making financial and operating decisions. This includes cases where the related party entity and another entity are subject to common control but excludes providers of finance in the course of their normal business with the Council and Trade Unions in the course of their normal dealings with the Council. In addition where the relationship with the Council and the entity is solely that of an Agency (see note 28) these are not deemed to be Related Party Transactions.

Central government has significant influence over the general operations of the council - it is responsible for providing the statutory framework within which the council operates, provides the majority of its funding in the form of grants and prescribes the terms of many of the transactions that the council has with other parties. Grant receipts outstanding at 31 March 2021 are shown in Note 15b.

As part of their duties, Councillors are appointed to represent the Council in a range of other organisations and further details of these arrangements can be found on the Council's website.

Transactions with related parties not disclosed elsewhere in these financial statements are set out below.

Councillors have direct control over the Council's financial and operating policies. In the 2020/21 financial year the Council commissioned £2,807,872 (2019/20 £3,175,796) of works and services from Visit Belfast in which Councillors have an interest. The Council entered into these contracts in full compliance with the Council's standing orders and codes of conduct.

The Council also paid grants of £3,257,804 (2019/20 £1,928,687) to a number of organisations in which Councillors and Council officers had an interest. These grants were made with proper consideration of declaration of interests.

During 2020/21 the Council had expenditure of £464,252 (2019/20 £488,842) to other Councils and income received of £1,042,167 (2019/20 £1,035,750) from other Councils, of which £105,834 (2019/20 £229,001) was outstanding at 31 March 2021. These amounts mainly related to services provided.

The Council also repaid a £5m loan from another Local Authority within the UK during 2020/21, which had been borrowed in 2019/20.

a Other Organisations

	Councillors	2020/21	2019/20
		£	£
Action Cancer	1	2,828	420
Arellian Nursery School	1	2,462	0
Association of Port Health Authorities	1	1,260	124
Belfast City Centre Management Board	2	103,273	207,185
Belfast Community Sports Development Network	1	16,675	0
Belfast Harbour Commissioners	6	52,051	31,482
Belfast Hills Partnership	2	36,900	0
Belfast Metropolitan College	1	5,361	7,878
Belvoir Area Residents' Group	1	1,000	964
Black Mountain Shared Spaces Project	2	1,223	0
Blackie River Centre	2	42,280	22,604
Board of Ulster Orchestra Society Ltd	1	149,283	300,973
Castlereagh FC 82	1	0	170
Cathedral Quarter Trust	2	62,000	99,920
Colin Neighbourhood Partnership	2	52,846	39,430
Colin Safer Neighbourhood Project	1	0	800
Community Food Bank	1	1,000	0
Concorde Community Centre Committee	0	0	600
Cregagh Wanderers Club	1	1,854	11,600
Dee Street Community Centre Committee	0	0	600
Donegall Pass Community Centre Committee	0	2,138	0
Duncairn Community Centre Committee	0	0	600
Duncairn Community Partnership	1	12,796	8,251
Early Years Company Ltd	1	0	28,541
East Side Arts	0	45,407	106,230
Falls Community Council	1	496,296	407,491
Feile an Phobail	1	278,820	0
Glentoran Football Club	1	1,000	0
Grand Opera House Trust	1	31,850	37,034
Greater Shankill Partnership Board	6	157,293	94,622
Greater Village Regeneration Trust	0	20,047	67,327
Groundwork NI	2	2,965	1,842
Impact Training	2	8,820	10,180
Intercomm Ireland Ltd	1	114,814	3,011
Inverary Community Centre Committee	1	0	600

Knocknagoney Community Centre Committee	1	0	759
Lagan Village Youth and Community Group	1	19,308	20,873
Lighthouse (Ireland)	1	0	2,355
Ligoniel Amateur Boxing Club	1	3,460	7,528
Ligoniel Community Centre Committee	1	9,665	600
Ligoniel Improvement Association	1	188,669	0
Linenhall Library Board	1	31,377	38,017
Local Strategic Partnership on Travellers Issues	1	500	0
Lower Ormeau Residents Action Group (LORAG)	1	222,037	0
Lower Shankill Community Association	1	1,620	0
Lyric Theatre Education Advisory Panel	2	77,498	100,000
Mount Vernon Community Development Forum	1	13,000	27,196
MS Society NI	1	675	0
National Association of Councillors	8	3,560	3,560
New Lodge/Duncairn Healthy Living Centre	1	269	0
NI Amenity Council	1	0	2,330
NI Local Government Association	10	88,118	90,740
NI Youth Forum	1	19,990	0
North Belfast Working Mens Club	1	12,020	0
Northern Regional College	1	0	522
Oh Yeah Centre, Belfast	1	85,975	43,865
PIPS Charity	1	2,500	0
Queens University Belfast	1	41,000	21,670
Roden Street Community Development Group	1	105,950	0
Rosario Youth Football Club	1	30,998	0
Royal Society of Ulster Architects	1	0	4,408
Somme Advisory Council	3	1,800	0
St Teresa's Primary School	1	996	0
Stratagem NI Limited	1	24,201	25,638
Ulster-Scots Community Network	1	1,818	400
Upper Andersonstown Community Forum	0	545,062	39,860
Upper Springfield Development Trust	1	20,196	6,884
Visit Belfast	4	2,807,872	3,175,796
Welcome Organisation	1	1,000	0
Woodvale Community Centre Committee	0	0	1,003
At 31 March		6,065,676	5,104,484

b Payments to Community Groups

Belfast City Council made payments to the following Community Groups that have Councillors as part of their committee structure;

	Councillors	2020/21	2019/20
		£	£
East Belfast Partnership Board	8	1,224,289	103,947
North Belfast Partnership Board	1	0	0
South Belfast Partnership Board	4	200,126	21,578
West Belfast Partnership Board	8	175,160	26,131
		1,599,575	151,656

c Joint Committees

Belfast City Council made payments to the following Joint Committees;

	Councillors	2020/21	2019/20
		£	£
Arc 21	3	8,257,440	9,133,672

The origins of arc21 can be traced back to June 1999, when a small number of Council representatives agreed that a joint approach was the best way to deliver an effective waste management strategy for the region. By 2000, 11 Councils had joined together from the eastern Region Waste Management Group, which was eventually renamed arc21.

At present arc21 has successfully been awarded and is managing waste management contracts on behalf of Councils with a value in the region of £200m.

d Active Belfast Limited

Belfast City Council with Active Belfast Limited entered into an agreement with GLL for the provision of leisure services. These financial statements include expenses of £8,500,637 (2019/20 £7,708,057) for the provision of these services in the year ended 31 March 2021.

e Car Loans to Council Officers

The Council makes car loans available to employees who are designated essential car users. The total amount outstanding in respect of car loans to designated employees as at 31 March 2021 was £65,659 (2019/20 £91,147).

f Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Limited

With effect from 1 April 2016 the Council transferred the operations of Belfast Waterfront Hall and Ulster Hall to a new company BWUH Limited with the Council being the sole shareholder in this new company. During 2020/21 the Council invoiced BWUH Ltd for £2,268,141 for expenditure incurred on its behalf and also received invoices from the Company for £4,156,474 mainly for the management fee. At 31 March 2021, £644,870 (2019/20 £424,927) was owed to the company by the Council and £647,035 (2019/20 £796,280) receivable from the company.

g Beltel LLP

During 2020/21, Belfast City Council did not make a financial contribution to Beltel LLP (2019/20 £nil), relating to the redevelopment of the Belfast Telegraph Building (as outlined in Note 29). The Council is represented by two officers on the Management Board of the LLP and Timec 1523 Limited is also represented by two members on the Management Board.

31 Prior Year Restatement

During preparations of the financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021, an error was identified in the reporting of the balances of the Revaluation Reserve and Capital Adjustment Account, and movements between the two reserves.

The assets had been correctly reclassified or eliminated from the fixed asset portion of the balance sheet, and any gains or losses had been reported correctly in the financial statements for the periods reported.

However, the adjustments to the reserves between the Revaluation Reserve and the Capital Adjustment Account were reported incorrectly in the published financial statements, and the adjustments are summarised in the table below.

Small computational errors were also identified and have been corrected.

Three properties were sold between 1 April 2016 and 31 March 2020 that had amounts transferred from the Revaluation Reserve to the Capital Adjustment Account on sale totalling £1.8m.

Seven properties were demolished between 1 April 2016 and 31 March 2020 that had amounts transferred from the Revaluation Reserve to the Capital Adjustment Account on derecognition totalling £5.9m.

An asset was reclassified during 2017-18 to investment property, at which point the Revaluation Reserve balance on that property was transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account: £575k.

The adjustments are set out in summary in the table below.

	PPE sold	PPE demolished	Investment property	Other corrections	Total
Opening restatement prior to 31.3.2019	1,353,982	3,804,686	574,999	-83,765	5,649,901
Restatement for the year to 31.3.2020	423,750	2,106,927	0	52,703	2,583,380
Total	1,777,732	5,911,612	574,999	-31,062	8,233,281

The effects of the representation of the Revaluation Reserve are set out below.

Revaluation Reserve	31/03/2020
	£
At 1 April	164,611,507
Prior year restatement	(5,649,901)
At 1 April (restated)	158,961,606
Revaluation & Impairment	27,846,428
Movements from associates & joint	-
Other Movements	(4,882,704)
Other Movements (additional movement)	(2,583,380)
At 31 March	179,341,950

The effects of the representation of the Capital Adjustment Account are set out below.

Capital Adjustment Account	31/03/2020
	£
At 1 April	470,959,253
Prior year restatement	5,649,901
At 1 April (restated)	476,609,154
Applied Capital Grants	5,257,824
Direct Revenue Financing	7,870,253
Depreciation & Impairment adjustment	(20,969,317)
Statutory Provision for financing Capital	7,547,320
Disposal of Fixed Assets/ Capital Sales	(8,493,528)
Other Movements	5,719,253
Other Movements (additional movement)	2,583,380
At 31 March	476,124,339

Belfast City Council
Group Movement In Reserves Statement for the year ended 31 March 2021

	General Fund Summary £	Other Fund Balances and Reserves £	Capital Receipts Reserve £	Total Usable Reserves £	Total Unusable Reserves £	Total Council Reserves £
Balance as at 1 April 2019	25,803,465	27,793,772	5,200,457	58,797,694	487,588,834	546,386,528
Movement In reserves during the year						
Surplus/ (Deficit) on the provision of services	(13,148,384)	-	-	(13,148,384)	-	(13,148,384)
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	-	-	-	-	6,663,428	6,663,428
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	(13,148,384)	-	-	(13,148,384)	6,663,428	(6,484,956)
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding under regulations	15,168,831	342,300	4,572,001	20,083,132	(22,498,871)	(2,415,739)
Net Increase before transfers to Statutory and Other Reserves	2,020,447	342,300	4,572,001	6,934,748	(15,835,443)	(8,900,695)
Transfers to / from Statutory and Other Reserves	(856,388)	856,388	-	-	-	-
Other movements	1,731,845	(94,388)	-	1,637,457	(156,902)	1,480,555
Increase/ Decrease in year	2,895,904	1,104,300	4,572,001	8,572,205	(15,992,345)	(7,420,140)
Balance as at 31 March 2020	28,699,369	28,898,072	9,772,458	67,369,899	471,596,489	538,966,388
Movement In reserves during the year						
Surplus/ (Deficit) on the provision of services	(2,584,240)	-	-	(2,584,240)	-	(2,584,240)
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	-	-	-	-	(23,039,364)	(23,039,364)
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	(2,584,240)	-	-	(2,584,240)	(23,039,364)	(25,623,604)
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding under regulations	21,541,303	(1,745,115)	(1,810,000)	17,986,188	(17,594,174)	392,014
Net Increase before transfers to Statutory and Other Reserves	18,957,063	(1,745,115)	(1,810,000)	15,401,948	(40,633,538)	(25,231,590)
Transfers to / from Statutory and Other Reserves	(2,207,259)	2,207,259	-	-	-	-
Other movements	9,481,630	-	-	9,481,630	(2,416,000)	7,065,630
Increase In year	26,231,434	462,144	(1,810,000)	24,883,578	(43,049,538)	(18,165,960)
Balance as at 31 March 2021	54,930,803	29,360,216	7,962,458	92,253,477	428,546,951	520,800,428

Belfast City Council
Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for the year ended 31 March 2021

		2020/21			2019/20		
		Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure
Service Expenditure	Notes	£	£	£	£	£	£
Strategic Policy & Resources	2	72,668,440	(31,739,096)	40,929,344	65,875,784	(13,685,316)	52,190,468
City Growth & Regeneration	2	31,034,307	(5,666,673)	25,367,634	37,728,035	(14,669,696)	23,058,339
People & Communities	2	115,946,789	(17,727,216)	98,219,573	120,253,125	(15,574,828)	104,678,297
Planning & Licensing	2	8,281,185	(5,219,447)	3,061,738	8,145,681	(6,360,679)	1,785,002
Cost of Services on Continuing Operations		227,930,721	(60,352,432)	167,578,289	232,002,625	(50,290,519)	181,712,106
Other Operating Expenditure	8	774,738	(1,957,505)	(1,182,767)	954,852	(1,192,650)	(237,798)
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	9	14,065,164	(4,835,056)	9,230,108	9,708,481	(10,744,838)	(1,087,357)
Net Operating Expenditure		242,770,623	(67,144,993)	175,625,630	242,665,958	(62,228,007)	180,386,951
Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income	10	954,293	(173,995,683)	(173,041,390)	1,794,150	(169,083,717)	(167,289,567)
(Surplus)/Deficit on the Provision of Services		243,724,916	(241,140,676)	2,584,240	244,460,108	(231,311,724)	13,148,384
(Surplus)/Deficit on revaluation of non-current assets	11			(3,104,636)			(27,846,428)
Surplus/(Deficit) arising on revaluation of available-for-sale financial assets	11						
Remeasurements of the Net Defined Benefit Liability (Asset)	20			26,144,000			21,183,000
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure				23,039,364			(6,663,428)
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure				25,623,604			6,484,956

Belfast City Council
Group Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2021

	Note	31st March 2021	31st March 2020
		£	£
Fixed Assets		787,679,416	792,859,755
Long Term Investments		120,000	424,000
Investment in Associates and Joint Ventures		-	-
Long Term Debtors		465,206	439,542
Contract Assets		-	-
LONG TERM ASSETS		788,264,622	793,723,297
Short Term Investments		-	-
Inventories		298,361	370,474
Short Term Debtors		21,006,015	21,069,701
Cash and Cash Equivalents		41,870,729	20,516,975
Assets Held for Sale		-	1,340,000
Contract Assets		275,808	378,981
CURRENT ASSETS		63,450,913	43,676,131
Bank Overdraft		-	-
Short Term Borrowing		2,000,000	9,739,488
Short Term Creditors		42,220,388	37,276,256
Provisions		3,040,441	3,131,517
Contract Liabilities		-	277,387
CURRENT LIABILITIES		47,260,829	50,424,648
Long Term Creditors		72,678	64,304
Provisions		1,844,093	1,822,694
Long Term Borrowing		55,032,121	62,967,173
Other Long Term Liabilities		225,692,942	182,307,942
Contract Liabilities		-	-
Donated Assets Account		430,000	430,000
Capital Grants Receipts in Advance		582,444	416,279
LONG TERM LIABILITIES		283,654,278	248,008,392
NET ASSETS		520,800,428	538,966,388
USABLE RESERVES			
Capital Receipts Reserve		7,962,458	9,772,458
Deferred capital receipts		342,300	342,300
Capital Fund		19,296,139	19,369,748
Leisure Mobilisation Fund		630,245	887,800
Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund		8,000,000	8,000,000
Other Balances and Reserves		1,091,532	298,224
General Fund		54,930,803	28,699,369
		92,253,477	67,369,899
UNUSABLE RESERVES			
Capital Adjustment Account		480,998,871	476,124,339
Revaluation Reserve		175,881,878	179,341,950
Pensions Reserve		(225,692,942)	(182,307,942)
Accumulated Absences Account		(2,452,610)	(1,363,705)
Provisions Discount Rate Reserve		(188,246)	(198,153)
		428,546,951	471,596,489
NET WORTH		520,800,428	538,966,388

Belfast City Council
Group Cash Flow Statement at 31 March 2021

	Note	2020/21 £	2019/20 £
Net Deficit on the provision of services		(2,584,240)	(13,148,384)
Adjustment for non-cash movements		62,467,747	42,021,062
Adjust for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities		(9,620,198)	(10,200,474)
Net cash flows from operating activities		50,263,309	18,672,204
Cash flows from Investing Activities		(13,235,014)	(35,838,978)
Net Cash flows from Financing Activities		(15,674,540)	9,817,681
Net Increase or decrease in cash and cash equivalents		21,353,755	(7,349,093)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		20,516,975	27,866,068
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		41,870,730	20,516,975

Belfast City Council
Notes to the Group Financial Statements
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

G1 Group Accounts

The Group Accounting Policies are the same as the Council policies and have not been repeated again in these Notes. The exception to this is in relation to Retirement Benefits which have been treated in BWUH Limited as a defined contribution scheme as the liabilities of the NILGOSC scheme remain with Belfast City Council and have been disclosed in Belfast City Council's financial statements.

Since there are no significant changes to the Consolidated Group Balance Sheet as compared to the Council's Balance Sheet, only those notes affected by group transactions have been included.

G2 Combining Entities

Belfast Waterfront Ulster Hall Limited (BWUH Ltd)

Belfast Waterfront Ulster Hall Limited is a company incorporated under the terms of the Companies Acts to operate the Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall. The Authority is the principal shareholder in the company holding 1 ordinary £1 shares and representing 100% of the issued share capital. Under accounting standards, the Authority has a controlling interest in this company. The financial results for the company have been included in the group accounts as a subsidiary.

Net assets of the company were £6.7k at 31 March 2021. There was no profit/loss on ordinary activities before taxation for the period to 31 March 2021 (19/20 £1.2k). No dividend payments were due to, or received by, the Authority in respect of its investment.

As noted in Note 20, the pension liability of BWUH Limited is included in the pension liability of Belfast City Council.

The latest set of accounts is for the year to 31 March 2021 has an unqualified audit certificate.

BELTEL LLP

For the purposes of economic regeneration as part of the City Centre Regeneration objectives the Council made a financial contribution in the form of a loan totalling £3,436,859 as at year ended 31 March 2021, to Beltel LLP relating to the redevelopment of the Belfast Telegraph building. This contribution represents 46% of the net assets of Beltel LLP which have been included in the Council's group balance sheet and the breakdown of the net assets is included in Note 29 Joint Arrangements.

Gas Pension Fund

The liability of £26,000 in respect of the Gas Pension Fund is disclosed and recognised in Belfast City Council's balance sheet and Note 20 Retirement Benefits disclosures. The Group balance sheet has included the assets and liabilities giving rise to this liability:

	£
Long term assets	119,716
Current assets	572,062
Long term liabilities	717,778
Net liability	26,000

The Council has not consolidated its interests in Active Belfast Limited, Belfast Gasworks Management Co Ltd and Arc21 as the Council's share of these balance sheets is not deemed material to the group accounts at this point in time.

Financial Impact of combination

The effect of the inclusion of the subsidiaries and associates in 2020/21 was to increase the Council's reserves and net assets by £6.7k representing the net asset in the consolidating entities.

G3 Adjustments between an Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under Regulations

Amounts included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement but required by statute to be excluded when determining the Movement on the General Fund Balance for the year:

Notes	2020/21		2019/20	
	£	£	£	£
Amounts included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement but required by statute to be excluded when determining the Movement on the General Fund Balance for the year:				
Impairments (losses & reversals) of non-current assets	-	-	-	-
Derecognition (other than disposal) of non-current assets	-	-	-	-
Revaluation increases/decreases taken to Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	7,772,272		1,605,228	
Depreciation charged in the year on non-current assets funded from capital under statute	22,561,863	30,334,135	19,396,016	21,001,244
Carrying amount of non current assets sold	774,738		4,704,852	
Proceeds from the sale of PP&E, investment property and intangible assets	(1,957,505)	(1,182,767)	(4,942,650)	(237,798)
Difference between finance costs calculated on an accounting basis and finance costs calculated in accordance with statutory requirements		-		-
Net charges made for retirement benefits in accordance with IAS 19		29,366,000		31,257,000
Direct revenue financing of Capital Expenditure		(8,358,472)		(7,870,253)
Capital Grants and Donated Assets Receivable and Applied in year		(7,662,693)		(5,252,737)
Capital Grants Receivable and Unapplied in year		-		(5,087)
Rates Claw-Back Reserve		-		-
Adjustments in relation to Short-term compensated absences		1,088,905		5,880
Adjustments in relation to Lessor Arrangements		-		-
Provisions Discount Rate Reserve Adjustment		-		(55,098)
Amounts not included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement but required by statute to be included when determining the Movement on the General Fund Balance for the year				
Statutory Provision for the financing of Capital Investment		(7,916,805)		(7,547,320)
Employers contributions payable to the NILGOSC and retirement benefits payable direct to pensioners		(14,127,000)		(16,127,000)
		21,541,303		15,168,831

Belfast City Council
Notes to the Group Financial Statements
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

G4 Fixed Assets

Cost or Valuation	Land	Buildings	Infrastructure Assets	Landfill Sites	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment	Community Assets	PP&E Under Construction	Surplus Assets	Total PP&E	Heritage Assets	Assets Held for Resale	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Balance as at 1 April 2020	104,391,303	467,266,524	5,774,607	-	47,071,058	39,249,303	46,248,371	5,539,001	715,540,167	9,192,723	-	724,732,890
Adjustments between cost/value & depreciation/impairment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance as at 1 April 2020	104,391,303	467,266,524	5,774,607	-	47,071,058	39,249,303	46,248,371	5,539,001	715,540,167	9,214,723	-	724,754,890
Additions	5,045,281	1,209,744	-	-	1,452,210	22,216	13,724,119	-	21,453,570	-	-	21,453,570
Donations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluation Increases/ (decreases) to Revaluation Reserve	210,132	(13,343,924)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(13,133,792)	(91,420)	-	(13,225,212)
Revaluation Increases/ (decreases) to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	502,724	(682,367)	-	-	-	-	-	50,000	(129,643)	(6,060)	-	(135,703)
Impairment to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Derecognition - Disposals	(81,030)	-	-	-	(1,031,641)	-	-	-	(1,112,671)	-	-	(1,112,671)
Derecognition - Other	-	(110,140)	-	-	(203,434)	(2)	-	(80,000)	(393,576)	-	-	(393,576)
Reclassifications & Transfers	(4,907)	26,249,618	(680,933)	-	1,210,160	2,382,227	(29,384,703)	-	(228,538)	-	-	(228,538)
Reclassified To(-) / From(+) Held for Sale	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	690,000	690,000	-	-	690,000
Balance as at 31 March 2021	110,063,503	480,589,455	5,093,674	-	48,498,353	41,653,744	30,587,787	6,199,001	722,685,517	9,117,243	-	731,802,760

Depreciation and Impairment	Land	Buildings	Infrastructure Assets	Landfill Sites	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment	Community Assets	PP&E Under Construction	Surplus Assets	Total PP&E	Heritage Assets	Assets Held for Resale	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Balance as at 1 April 2020	-	-	705,663	-	26,119,025	2,603,306	-	-	29,427,994	27,261	-	29,455,255
Adjustments between cost/value & depreciation/impairment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance as at 1 April 2020	-	-	705,663	-	26,119,025	2,603,306	-	-	29,427,994	27,261	-	29,455,255
Depreciation Charge	-	16,703,703	169,794	-	3,450,905	1,935,101	-	-	22,259,503	100,622	-	22,360,125
Depreciation written out on Revaluation Reserve	-	(16,238,778)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(16,238,778)	(91,070)	-	(16,329,848)
Depreciation written out on Revaluation taken to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	(378,241)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(378,241)	(9,552)	-	(387,793)
Impairment losses/reversals to Revaluation Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Impairment losses/reversals to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Derecognition - Disposals	-	-	-	-	(987,932)	-	-	-	(987,932)	-	-	(987,932)
Derecognition - Other	-	(5,939)	-	-	(203,434)	-	-	-	(209,373)	-	-	(209,373)
Reclassifications & Transfers	-	(3,709)	(83,225)	-	83,225	-	-	-	(3,709)	-	-	(3,709)
Eliminated on reclassification to Held for Sale	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance as at 31 March 2021	-	77,036	792,232	-	28,461,789	4,538,407	-	-	33,869,464	27,261	-	33,896,725
Net Book Values												
Balance as at 31 March 2021	110,063,503	480,512,419	4,301,442	-	20,036,564	37,115,337	30,587,787	6,199,001	688,816,053	9,089,982	-	697,906,035

Cost or Valuation	Land	Buildings	Infrastructure Assets	Landfill Sites	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment	Community Assets	PP&E Under Construction	Surplus Assets	Total PP&E	Heritage Assets	Assets Held for Resale	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Balance as at 1 April 2019	101,444,001	418,784,515	5,774,607	-	43,193,148	47,025,764	48,154,248	5,689,001	670,065,284	9,158,827	-	679,224,111
Adjustments between cost/value & depreciation/impairment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(164)	-	(164)
Prior Period adjustment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance as at 1 April 2019	101,444,001	418,784,515	5,774,607	-	43,193,148	47,025,764	48,154,248	5,689,001	670,065,284	9,158,663	-	679,223,947
Additions (Note 11)	38	701,639	-	-	5,567,641	743,971	37,095,535	10,674	44,119,498	151,994	-	44,271,492
Donations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluation	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Increases/decreases to Revaluation Reserve	2,546,720	11,560,018	-	-	-	-	-	-	14,106,738	51,758	-	14,158,496
Revaluation Increases/decreases to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	(218,574)	(3,290,973)	-	-	-	(400,302)	-	115,000	(3,794,849)	(265,217)	-	(4,060,066)
Impairment to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Derecognition - Disposals	-	-	-	-	(2,121,928)	(14,000)	-	(540,000)	(2,675,928)	-	-	(2,675,928)
Derecognition - Other	-	(4,149,100)	-	-	-	(21,071)	-	-	(4,170,171)	-	-	(4,170,171)
Reclassifications & Transfers	619,118	43,660,425	-	-	432,197	(8,271,333)	(39,001,412)	1,604,326	(956,679)	95,525	-	(861,154)
Reclassified to (+) / from (+) Held for Sale	-	-	-	-	-	186,274	-	(1,340,000)	(1,153,726)	-	-	(1,153,726)
Balance as at 31 March 2020	104,391,303	467,266,524	5,774,607	-	47,071,058	39,249,303	46,248,371	5,539,001	715,540,167	9,192,723	-	724,732,890

b

Depreciation and Impairment	Land	Buildings	Infrastructure Assets	Landfill Sites	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment	Community Assets (Restated)	PP&E Under Construction	Surplus Assets	Total PP&E	Heritage Assets	Assets Held for Resale	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Balance as at 1 April 2019	-	-	513,171	-	25,617,567	2,925,228	-	-	29,055,966	133,740	-	29,189,706
Adjustments between cost/value & depreciation/impairment	-	-	-	-	(1,037,101)	-	-	-	(1,037,101)	-	-	(1,037,101)
Balance as at 1 April 2019	-	-	513,171	-	24,580,466	2,925,228	-	-	28,018,865	133,740	-	28,152,605
Depreciation Charge	-	14,166,164	192,492	-	3,041,747	1,713,203	-	-	19,113,606	101,555	-	19,215,161
Revaluation Reserve	-	(13,687,932)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(13,687,932)	-	-	(13,687,932)
Depreciation written out on	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluation taken to Surplus or	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Deficit on the Provision of	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Services	-	(2,131,861)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(2,131,861)	(208,034)	-	(2,339,895)
Impairment losses/reversals to	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluation Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Impairment losses/reversals to	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Surplus or Deficit on the Provision	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
of Services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Derecognition - Disposals	-	-	-	-	(1,503,188)	-	-	-	(1,503,188)	-	-	(1,503,188)
Derecognition - Other	-	(374,937)	-	-	-	(6,559)	-	-	(381,496)	-	-	(381,496)
Reclassifications & Transfers	-	2,028,566	-	-	-	(2,028,566)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eliminated on reclassification to	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Held for Sale	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance as at 31 March 2020	-	-	705,663	-	26,119,025	2,603,306	-	-	29,427,994	27,261	-	29,455,255

Net Book Values

Balance as at 31 March 2020	104,391,303	467,266,524	5,068,944	-	20,952,033	36,645,997	46,248,371	5,539,001	686,112,173	9,165,462	-	695,277,635
Balance as at 31 March 2021	110,063,503	480,512,419	4,301,442	-	20,036,564	37,115,337	30,587,787	6,199,001	688,816,053	9,089,982	-	697,906,035

Belfast City Council
Notes to the Group Financial Statements
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

Intangible Assets	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£
Balance at start of year:		
Gross carrying amounts	19,664,433	19,208,176
Accumulated amortisation	18,970,981	18,790,126
Net carrying amount at start of year	693,452	418,050
Additions	-	-
Assets reclassified as held for sale	192,711	-
Revaluation increases or decreases	-	-
Impairment losses recognised or reversed directly in the Revaluation Reserve	-	-
Impairment losses recognised or reversed directly in the Surplus/ Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	-
Amortisation for the period	(201,738)	(180,855)
Other Changes	125,467	456,257
Net carrying amount at end of year	809,892	693,452
Investment Properties	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£
Balance at start of the year	96,888,667	100,111,429
Additions	1	7,238
Disposals	-	(3,750,000)
Net gains/losses from fair value adjustments	(8,024,362)	115,103
Transfers to/ from inventories	-	254,897
Transfers to/ from property, plant and equipment	103,070	150,000
Other changes	(3,909)	-
Balance at end of the year	88,963,467	96,888,667
Investment Property	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£
Industrial Estates	65,350,000	72,500,000
Commercial Units	23,613,467	24,388,667
Balance at end of the year	88,963,467	96,888,667



G5

a	Employee Costs and Member Allowances	
	2020/21	2019/20
Staff Costs	£	£
Salaries and Wages	71,068,873	71,988,563
Employers NIC	6,805,819	6,819,001
Employers Superannuation	13,990,414	14,196,719
Total staff costs	91,865,106	93,004,283

The above staff costs include the costs of voluntary redundancies in 2020/21. These costs total £1,128,006 (19/20 £977,075) and are disclosed separately in Table 4 of the Remuneration Report. In addition, agency costs during the year amounted to £5,198,526 (2019/20 £5,626,073).

The Council's current contribution rate to NILGOSC scheme is 19.5%.

Average Number of Employees - where FTE represents fulltime equivalent employees

b	Average Number of Employees	
	2020/21	2019/20
	FTE	FTE
Strategic Policy & Resources	626	620
City Growth & Regeneration	341	369
People & Communities	1,131	1,162
Planning and Licencing	131	140
Total Number	2,229	2,291

c		
	2020/21	2019/20
	Actual Numbers	Actual Numbers
Full-time numbers employed	1,917	1,927
Part-time numbers employed	336	362
Total Number	2,253	2,289

d	Senior Employees' Remuneration	
	2020/21	2019/20
	£	£
£50,001 to £60,000	64	62
£60,001 to £70,000	26	22
£70,001 to £80,000	6	6
£80,001 to £90,000	3	6
£90,001 to £100,000	7	5
£100,001 to £110,000	3	4
£110,001 to £120,000	1	1
£120,001 to £130,000	-	-
£130,001 to £140,000	-	-
£140,001 to £150,000	1	1
Total Number	111	107

G6 a	Debtors			
	Long Term Debtors		2020/21	2019/20
			£	£
	Government Departments		-	-
	Other Councils		-	-
	Public corporations and trading funds		-	-
	Bodies external to general government		-	-
	Employee car loans		34,202	49,664
	Revenue Grants		-	-
	Capital Grants		-	-
	Interest Receivable		-	-
	Capital Debtors		-	-
	Loans and advances		-	-
	Finance lease debtors		-	-
	Trade debtors		352,374	218,298
	NIHE Loans		78,630	171,580
	Other		-	-
	Impairment of loans and receivables		-	-
	Contract Receivables		-	-
	Total Long-Term Debtors		465,206	439,542
b	Short Term Debtors		2020/21	2019/20
			£	£
	Government Departments		2,428,715	856,648
	Other Councils		105,834	229,001
	Public corporations and trading funds		-	-
	Bodies external to general government		-	-
	NIHE loans		92,950	87,280
	Employee car loans		31,457	41,483
	Revenue Grants		5,124,741	5,856,018
	Capital Grants		3,657,464	2,374,703
	Interest Receivable		-	-
	Capital Debtors		-	-
	Value Added Tax		2,032,245	2,524,478
	Prepayments		4,186,916	3,999,514
	Finance lease debtors		-	-
	Other		2,227,407	3,298,710
	Trade receivables		1,937,531	2,607,754
	Impairment loss - Trade receivables		(819,245)	(805,888)
	Contract Receivables		275,808	378,981
	Total Short-Term Debtors		21,281,823	21,448,682
	Total Debtors		21,747,029	21,888,224

G7	Creditors			
a	Short Term Creditors		2020/21	2019/20
			£	£
	Government Departments		1,589,519	1,585,600
	Other Councils		1,018	4,040
	Public corporations and trading funds		-	-
	Bodies external to general government		-	-
	Rates clawback		954,293	1,800,000
	De-rating grant clawback		945,000	-
	Remuneration due to employees		3,638	403,046
	Accumulated Absences		2,452,610	1,363,705
	Receipts in advance		8,278,015	6,374,183
	Trade creditors		4,170,686	4,801,202
	Loan interest		244,684	346,162
	Capital Creditors		2,544,712	2,096,936
	Creditor Accruals		21,036,213	18,501,382
	Contract Payables		-	277,387
	Total Short Term Creditors		42,220,388	37,553,643
b	Long Term Creditors		2020/21	2019/20
			£	£
	Government Departments		-	-
	Other Councils		-	-
	Public corporations and trading funds		-	-
	Bodies external to general government		-	-
	Rates clawback		-	-
	Remuneration due to employees		-	-
	Accumulated Absences		-	-
	Receipts in advance		-	-
	Trade creditors		-	-
	Other		72,678	64,304
	Contract Payables		-	-
	Total Long Term Creditors		72,678	64,304
	Total Creditors		42,293,066	37,617,947

G8 Other cash flow disclosures
a Analysis of Adjustments to Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services

Adjustment to surplus or deficit on the provision of services for non cash movements			
	Notes	2020/21	2019/20
		£	£
Depreciation		22,561,863	19,396,016
Impairment & downward revaluations (& non-sale derecognitions)		7,772,272	1,605,228
Amortisation (included with depreciation above)		-	-
(Increase)/Decrease in Inventory		72,112	(94,184)
(Increase)/Decrease in Debtors		(127,837)	(3,491,866)
Increase/(decrease) in impairment provision for bad debts		13,357	522,294
Increase/(Decrease) in Creditors		3,586,213	1,059,137
Increase/(Decrease) in Interest Creditors		-	-
Payments to NILGOSC		15,239,000	15,130,000
Carrying amount of non-current assets sold		774,738	4,704,852
AIC/WIP written off to Net Cost of Services		-	-
Contributions to Other Reserves/Provisions		12,576,029	3,189,586
Movement in value of investment properties-included above in Impairment & downward revaluations (& non-sale derecognitions)		-	-
Amounts posted to CIES from Donated Assets Account		-	(1)
Contract Costs		-	-
Contract Assets		-	-
Contract Liabilities		-	-
Deferred revenue		-	-
		62,467,747	42,021,062

Adjust for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities			
	Notes	2020/21	2019/20
		£	£
Purchase of short-term (not considered to be cash equivalents) and long-term investments (includes investments in associates, joint ventures and subsidiaries)		-	-
Proceeds from the sale of PP&E, investment property and intangible assets		(1,957,505)	(4,942,650)
Capital grants included in "Taxation & non-specific grant income"		(7,662,693)	(5,257,824)
		(9,620,198)	(10,200,474)

b Cash and Cash Equivalents

	Notes	2020/21	2019/20
		£	£
Cash and Bank balances		6,870,729	12,516,975
Short Term Deposits (considered to be Cash Equivalents)		35,000,000	8,000,000
Short Term Investments (considered to be Cash Equivalents)		-	-
Bank Overdraft		-	-
		41,870,729	20,516,975

c

Cash flows from Investing Activities		2020/21	2019/20
		£	£
Purchase of PP&E, investment property and intangible assets		21,198,526	43,625,193
Purchase of Short Term Investments (not considered to be cash equivalents)		-	-
Purchase of Long Term Investments		120,000	440,000
Other Payments for Investing Activities		1,536,686	1,974,259
Proceeds from the sale of PP&E, investment property and intangible assets		(1,957,505)	(4,942,650)
Proceeds from Short Term Investments (not considered to be cash equivalents)		-	-
Proceeds from Long Term Investments		-	-
Capital Grants and Contributions Received		(7,662,693)	(5,257,824)
Other Receipts from Investing Activities		-	-
Net Cash flows from Investing Activities		13,235,014	35,838,978

d

Cash flows from Financing Activities		2020/21	2019/20
		£	£
Cash Receipts from Short and Long Term Borrowing		-	30,000,000
Other Receipts from Financing Activities		-	-
Cash payments for the reduction of the outstanding liability		-	-
Repayment of Short and Long Term Borrowing		(15,674,540)	(20,182,319)
Other payments for Financing Activities		-	-
Net Cash flows from Financing Activities		(15,674,540)	9,817,681

Date of authorisation for issue

The Chief Financial Officer authorised these financial statements for issue on September 2021.



Subject:	Stall Fees for St George's Market - Request for Further Rent-Free Period
Date:	24th September, 2021
Reporting Officer:	John Greer, Director of Economic Development
Contact Officer:	Clodagh Cassin, Markets Development Manager

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	<p>The purpose of this report is to update members on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a request from traders at St George's Market for a four-week rent free period due to continuing COVID-19 restrictions; and the financial implications of any decision to waive the stall fees for a further four-week period.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to consider this request from St. George's Market traders to waive stall fees at St George's Market for a further four weeks from 1st October 2021, with an associated loss of income of £31,000, based on current rent figures for the market.</p>

3.0	Main Report
3.1	Members will be aware that St George's Market was closed to the public due to COVID-19 on a number of occasions over the last eighteen months; most recently between December 2020 and April 2021.
3.2	Taking account of the difficulties faced by the traders during the previous periods of lockdown and subsequent limited re-opening, the Council agreed a rent-free period for St George's Market traders from July 2020 to December 2020. This resulted in a loss of income of £233k to the Council. Members also agreed a further 12-week rent-free period from the end of December 2020. As the market went into lockdown following this decision, this rent-free period commenced when the market re-opened on 19 April 2021. This meant that the traders at St George's Market did not pay daily rent for their pitches until 9 July 2021. This 12-week rent-free period has meant a further loss of income to the Council of £143k.
3.3	Following the July 2021 re-opening, the capacity in the market was limited in order to comply with the Northern Ireland Executive's social distancing requirements for retail premises. This meant that no more than 350 visitors at a time could access the market. Staff had to manage the capacity by putting in place queuing arrangements and actively managing the social distancing requirements within the market. As a result, visitor numbers were around 40% of pre-COVID-19 figures. Given the reduction in capacity, the traders at St George's Market expressed a concern about their ability to generate income. As a result, they made a request for the Council to consider a further rent-free period of four weeks. In the interim, traders have been paying rent on their stalls in line with the existing fee rates.
3.4	Since the initial request was made by the traders, Government guidance on social distancing has changed. This means that the current capacity in the market building at any one time has increased from 350 to 550 visitors. Since this expanded capacity has been in operation, footfall numbers in the market have increased. However, like all retail outlets, some restrictions remain both in market capacity and also in our ability to offer the full "market experience" in terms of live music performances and other animation. As further announcements are made by the Northern Ireland Executive, we will keep these arrangements under review, and will continue to take advice from the Council's Corporate Health and Safety Unit in terms of implementation and management.
3.5	Members will be aware that, prior to lockdown, work had been undertaken on a development and investment plan for St George's Market. One of the driving factors behind this plan was

	<p>the need to ensure that the market retained its status as a unique asset in the city centre. In light of the challenges currently facing the city centre, attractions such as St George's Market will be more critical than ever in supporting city recovery. However buildings of this nature require ongoing investment and have significant operational overheads, and it is critical that there is an underpinning investment programme to ensure that they continue to offer a quality experience. As the work on the implementation of the development plan moves forward, it is important that consideration is given to managing the costs associated with running the market, including the level of council investment available to support this work.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p>
3.6	<p>A four weeks stall freeze would result in a cost to council of a further £31,000 based on current stall figures of 140 for each market day over the three-day weekend with the current restrictions continuing.</p>
3.7	<p>There is currently no provision in any departmental budget to cover these increased costs</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p>
3.8	<p>No specific equality/good relations implications. No negative impact on rural areas.</p>
4.0	Documents Attached
	None

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Subject:	Minutes of the Meeting of the Shared City Partnership
Date:	24th September, 2021
Reporting Officer:	Ryan Black, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Nicola Lane, Good Relations Manager

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to present to the Committee the key issues discussed at the Shared City Partnership meeting held on 6th September.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is requested to approve the minutes and the recommendations from the Shared City Partnership Meeting held on 6th September 2021 including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To agree the delivery of a Leadership Development Programme to progress the recommendations contained within the COVID research report at a cost of £10k as budgeted in the Good Relations Action Plan 21/22; To agree 'in principle' the Shared History, Heritage and Identity narratives for the Section 1 panels – Clarendon/Glencairn (Appendix 3 of the agenda), for inclusion in the project publication and to delegate authority to the Programme

	<p>Board and Capital Project Board to agree on the locations with a report to be submitted to the October meeting of the Partnership;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To note the updates to the DCGRP Action Plan 21/22; • To note that the North Belfast Friendship Club has been awarded £1,960 to facilitate meetings of the North Belfast Friendship Club through the Strategic Intervention Programme within the DCGRP Action Plan 21/22; • To agree the modifications to the Good Relations Action Plan 21/22 as detailed under the Update on Council's District Good Relations Action Plan 2021/22; and • To assist with cost for the storage of donations relating to the NI Refugee Resettlement Scheme with an award of £300 for 2021/22 and an additional £300 for the 2022/23 financial years.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The Shared City Partnership is a Working Group of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee which consists of Elected members and representatives from various sectors across the city. The minutes from the Partnership are brought before the Committee for approval on a monthly basis.</p>
3.2	<p>The key issues on the agenda at the September meeting were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An update from Workshop on Sectarianism • A presentation from the Education Authority • PEACE IV <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ An update on PEACE IV Secretariat ➤ An update on PEACE IV CYP Theme ➤ An update on PEACE IV SSS Theme ➤ An update on PEACE IV BPR Theme • An update on Covid Research Project • An update on Good Relations Action Plan 21/22 • A request from the NI Refugee Resettlement Consortium
3.3	<p>More details regarding the above issues and recommendations are included in the attached minutes of the meeting.</p>

3.4	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>All financial implications are covered through existing budgets</p>
3.5	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>The recommendations of the Partnership promote the work of the Council in promoting good relations and will enhance equality and good relations impacts.</p>
4.0	Documents Attached
	Minutes of the Shared City Partnership meeting of 6th September.

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SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP

MONDAY 6th SEPTEMBER, 2021

MEETING OF SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Members present: Councillor O'Hara (Deputy Chairperson); and
Alderman Rodgers.

External Members: Ms. B. Arthurs, Community and Voluntary Sector;
Mr. C. Gardner, Good Relations, TEO;
Mrs. J. Hawthorne, Northern Ireland Housing Executive;
Ms. J. Irwin, Community Relations Council;
Ms. K. Jardine, Faith Sector;
Ms. G. Mornhinweg, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust;
Mr. M. McBride, Education Authority;
Mr. I. McLaughlin, Community and Voluntary Sector;
Superintendent G. Pollock, PSNI; and
Ms. A. Roberts, Community and Voluntary Sector.

In attendance: Ms. N. Lane, Good Relations Manager;
Ms. D. McKinney, PEACE IV Programme Manager;
Mrs. K. McCrum, Democratic Services Officer; and
Mrs. S. Steele, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported on behalf of the Chairperson, Councillor Kyle, and Councillor M. Kelly and Mr. J. Donnelly, Miss. G Duggan, Mr. S. Hamilton, Mr. M. O'Donnell and Ms. A. M. White.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 9th August, 2021 were taken as read and signed as correct.

Declarations of Interest

Mrs. B. Arthurs declared an interest in item 4 (d), namely, Peace IV Updates – update on BPR Theme, in that she was an employee of the Forward South Partnership, which acts as the delivery agent for one of the Peace IV projects

Update from Workshop on Sectarianism

The Good Relation Manager drew the Members' attention to the notes from discussions held at the May meeting regarding Sectarianism in the City, where Members had agreed a number areas to be progressed. She reminded the Members that, at the June meeting of the Partnership, it had been agreed that a workshop would be convened to consider the outcomes from the facilitated discussion in more detail. In the interim, as requested, the workshop analysis and priorities had been conveyed to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee and details of the discussion had been referred to the Living Here Board.

As previously agreed, officers were currently liaising with the Youth Service seeking it to present on best practice and to consider a potential project that might help to develop a better understanding of politics for young people.

She reported that in line with the update, the Education Authority had been invited to today's meeting to look further at Best Practice and support that the Youth Services offers young people which could be supported to on a more long-term basis as opposed to crisis intervention. Accordingly, Partnership Member, Mr. Mark McBride, Senior Youth Officer with the Education Authority Youth Service was invited to present.

Noted.

Presentation from Education Authority

Mr. McBride commenced by advising that the Youth Service fell within the directorate of Children and Young People's Services and he outlined that the Priorities for Youth directed that the two strategic aims of youth work within education were as follows:

- To contribute to raising standards for all and closing the performance gap between the highest and lowest achieving young people by providing access to enjoyable, non-formal learning opportunities that help them to develop enhanced social and cognitive skills and overcome barriers to learning; and
- To continue to improve the non-formal learning environment by creating inclusive, participative settings in which the voice and influence of young people are championed, supported and evident in the design, delivery and evaluation of programmes.

He advised that the Youth Service deployed its resources in the following 4 key areas:

- **Universal Provision** (Static Youth Centres);
- **Early Intervention** (Detached Work, PSD Groups, Participation structures, Global Service, Stay Connected);
- **Targeted Intervention** (SPARK, Belong, Youth Volunteer Academy, Learning Together Programme KS4); and
- **Specialist Services** (ENGAGE, FLARE).

He then proceeded to take the Members through the Street Based Youth Work Provision Models which included Mobile Youth Work, Youth Work Outreach, Detached Youth Work, Safety Focused Youth Work and Event or Incident Response Youth Work and provided an overview of how each of these worked operationally on the ground.

In terms of the Feet on the Street Programme, the representative advised that this was a Belfast PCSP funded programme designed to respond to increased levels of anti-social behaviour in identified hotspots across the city. He explained that Youth Units applied to receive provider status by fulfilling the key criteria of:

- Ability to deploy staff in a street setting;
- All staff have received detached training; and
- A proven track record of demonstrating positive outcomes for Children and Young People in a street setting.

At a weekly multi-agency planning meeting for street-based work in Belfast, it was determined by the Senior Youth Officers based on assessed and emerging need where feet

on the street responses were required. All relevant youth units who had nominated the area where work was required would then be offered the opportunity to respond.

The representative concluded by detailing the following four gaps and roles that the Education Authority had identified and where it was felt that the Shared City Partnership could possibly assist:

- The provision of shared and safe outdoor spaces for young people;
- Provision of support in the aftermath of a situation;
- Strength based messaging platforms; and
- Ensuring that the voice of young people was valued.

During discussion the lack of volunteers and capacity to work with young people was highlighted and the stress that this was putting on the entire sector, it was felt that the pandemic had only helped to exacerbate this situation as many volunteers had reassessed their own family situations.

It was also highlighted that the public and press were often very quick to highlight issues where young people had been involved in antisocial/negative behaviour but, sadly, were not a quick to recognise the many positive achievements of young people.

Detailed discussion ensued regarding the possibility of establishing a directory of all funded youth services which it was felt would help to provide a more joined up and cohesive approach and avoid duplication of services. It was acknowledged that such a mapping exercise would be useful, however, both the Education Authority representative and Good Relations Manager highlighted the volume of work in drawing up such a directory. Following further discussion, the Members agreed that the Good Relations Manager would seek initial views from the Living Here Board to see how any such mapping exercise could be progressed.

The Education Authority representative agreed to forward information regarding Youth Service current work and programmes to the Community Relations Council representative who agreed to highlight it during Good Relations Week.

The Partnership noted that, as previously agreed and to ensure that discussions continued, a further facilitated workshop would be convened before the next meeting which would specifically look at the four gaps and roles that the Education Authority had identified where it was felt that the Shared City Partnership could possibly assist.

The Deputy Chairperson thanked the representative for his informative presentation.

Peace IV Update Reports

Update on 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 Members were advised that the Revised Letters of Offer (LoO) to extend the delivery of all three themes to 31st December 2022 had been received and accepted by the Council. The relevant contract addendums to extend the delivery timeframes of delivery partners, as outlined in the Business Recovery Plan and previously agreed by the SCP, were currently being progressed by the Council's Legal Department. On issue of the addendums,

delivery partners would be required to submit revised implementation plans to ensure the achievement of targets and outcomes.

In terms of Project Delivery, project modifications to enable the delivery partners to progress activity were continuing to be considered under delegated authority. Members were therefore requested to note that the modifications, as detailed in the Appendix below, had been agreed by the Programme Board, via written procedure in August 2021.

The officer then provided a brief update regarding the proposed Programme Workplan. She reported that the content for The International Day of Peace event, scheduled to be held on 21st September at Springfield Dam, was currently being finalised. Children and young people were due to contribute within the theme 'Recovering better for an equitable and sustainable world'.

An Italian Culture Café to celebrate the diversity of Belfast was also being scheduled for Good Relations Week.

She reported that recruitment for the Building Positive Relations Thematic Project Manager was progressing with interviews scheduled to be held next week. The Project Development Officer Post was also becoming vacant and would be recruited in due course.

The Partnership was informed that the SEUPB had reimbursed all claims up to and including Period 25 claims totalling £4,214,386.

The Period 26 claims for all themes with a combined value of £569,339 were currently being verified by the SEUPB.

Vouching and verification of Claim Period 27, with an estimated value of £516,496, was progressing for submission to SEUPB by 1st September 2021. The total value of spend in the programme to date was £5,300,222

The Partnership recommended that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee note the contents of the report.

Appendix I

Peace IV Programme Board - 11 August 2021 – Project Modifications

No	Theme	Project	Delivery Partner	Proposal	Recommendation to Board
1	CYP	CYP1: Tech Connects	Belfast Met	Members are asked to consider & approve the inclusion of 16 years/school leaver age in order to increase participation/registrations. This has been considered by SEUPB and noted on SCP papers.	Recommend approval to include this age category. Approval granted already from SEUPB and noted by SCP.
2	CYP	CYP5: Local Area Networks	NIHE	NIHE LAN Programme has faced difficulties reengaging early programme (2018) participants following lapse in	Recommend approval subject to approval from SEUPB.

				engagement due to Covid. They have asked to reclassify some participants who completed early programme residentials from 'Core' to 'Peer' (ie. completed 30 hours) in order to complete out and to recoup costs from these residentials.	
3	BPR	BPR3: TFC	NICVA	In order to progress TFC collaborative projects component of BPR3, PIV wishes to explore options for additional support to be provided by NICVA and partners. This has been discussed with procurement and it fits within NICVA/partners' initial contract spec. PIV seeks approval for delegated authority for Officers to discuss additional support with NICVA and partners, up to 3.5 days per area to progress collaborative projects.	Recommend approval to delegate authority to Officers to discuss additional support with NICVA/ partners.
4	BPR	BPR3: TFC	NICVA	In order to complete out Autumn cohorts, NICVA are seeking approval to accept 21 hours contact time per participant (in place of 30 hours). This has previously been approved for other cohorts also affected by Covid pressures.	Recommend approval, subject to approval from SEUPB
5	BPR	BPR5: Roma	Forward South Partnership	SLA arrangement between Forward South and Advice NI (no legal arrangement with BCC). Discussions with Legal and IG confirm that Schedule of Processing needs to be revised. More information to be submitted by FSP soon (staff absence).	Recommend approval for delegated authority for Officers to liaise directly with Legal, once information is provided by FSP, and advise Board via written procedure.
6	SSS	SSS: Interpretative Panels	Mediation NI	PIV is seeking approval for the Shared History narratives for Section 1 which have been gathered by Mediation NI from local residents, and to agree to	Recommend consideration of the narratives by SCP for approval.

				progress on to SCP for approval.	
7	Secretariat	Secretariat	Secretariat	PIV is seeking approval to continue to review the standing down of Thematic Steering Groups on a monthly basis, due to continuing work pressures	Recommend approval to continue to stand down and review on a monthly basis

Children and Young People (CYP) Update

The Partnership considered the undernoted 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)

Digital Summer camps are progressing with strong participation for each age group as follows:

6-11 Year Olds:	211
12-16 Year Olds:	94
Total	305

Feedback remains positive and daily blogs are updated with content completed by the young people following the group sessions.

Morrow Communications attended each session to collect video content for each age category and complete a video to encourage recruitment as well as capture participants’ journey.

The delivery of further Tech Camps during Halloween school break in October 2021 is currently being planned. This will provide the opportunity to further increase participation and encourage more young people to take part during half term closure.

Belfast Metropolitan College (Digital Insights Programme) (17-24 yr. olds)

Members are advised whilst there have been no further workshops or training sessions in the programme, work has continued to revise the action plan and develop marketing materials for the project.

A new action plan for the project has been developed and work on engagement and recruitment continues with the deliver partner Bytes – workshops are scheduled to commence in September – preparation for this training is underway.

The Delivery Partner continues to reach out to community, statutory and youth groups to raise awareness and have connected with employers to engage current participants as part of the mentoring element of the programme.

3.2 CYP 2 - Playing our Part in the City

Active Communities Network has reported the delivery of Year 3 is fully recruited with both young people and parents. ACN is now progressing towards completion with 80 new participants recruited for the final year 4, from a target of 140. The delivery agent is confident in completing before the end of Dec 21 with a potential celebration event to recognise the achievement of the young people and parents.

Positive feedback from young people participating in the programme has been received with participants saying the opportunity to get outside, get active and meet new friends has made them feel better mentally, have fun and are looking forward to keeping involved. Young people are fully engaged and have provided ideas for sessions, options on activity and using their initiative with games. Young people have benefited greatly by developing their soft skills, as well as stepping outside their comfort zones and building friendships.

3.3 CYP3 – On the Right Track – Sports and Personal Change elements

Engagement with potential clubs to participate in the programme is progressing. The planning and scheduling of dates for activity is moving forward. Recent levels of activity include 47 additional participants recruited from St Galls & Church of Ireland Hockey with 36 current participants from Grove & Phoenix basketball is still continuing to engage and complete hours towards the full contact time. Groups are progressing with day activities for team / capacity building in the absence of cross border residential.

Currently 597 participants are engaged with the programme with a further 19 young leaders involved in training during this period. Therefore, to date 616 participants will have been achieved subject to all completing the training and contact hours. The target of

1800 remains high within the 12 -14 months delivery timeframe remaining, which equates to approx 83 young people per month. This target is ambitious in the current climate as capacity of the clubs is restricted. Lead officer is focusing to recruit as close to 85% of this target which is deemed permitted in line with the Output Indicator Guidance.

Active Communities Network remain as the partner in delivering the OCN & sports leaders training. Schedules are being agreed to fully deliver to clubs based on their availability and locations across the city.

Personal Change

The recognition event for the Year 3 participants cohort took place 25th August at the MAC Belfast with the SCP Chair in attendance to present certificates of achievement.

The final cohort of 15 participants is progressing well with many having completed 40% of the hours via smaller group sizes and one to one mentoring. Members should note that due to challenges around completing residentials due to COVID ,contact hours were reduced from 305- 265, (within the OIG tolerance) and will be closely monitored.

Extern has fully recruited the required participant numbers and have 4 months remaining to deliver project activity, as such the risk remains low. Should any difficulties arise an option to extend delivery to March 2022 can be facilitated.

3.4 CYP 4 – Cooperation Ireland (Young Advocates)

Cooperation Ireland has appointed a new programme manager and 2 new peer mentors to support project delivery.

Community partners (R City, Saints & Holy Trinity YC, and East Belfast Alternatives) were consulted on the revised condensed delivery approach and all partners are engaged and committed to recruitment and participation. Recruitment of participants is now progressing and the procurement of suitable residential centres for participants to attend and complete hours is underway.

Members should note that SEUPB agreed that an 8% (approx. 4 hours) of preparatory work to develop confidence of participant and capacity building on an individual group level to prepare them to move to cross community work. This will only be used if required and not all groups will require these hours in advance of the group work.

Risk associated with this project remains low as remaining 32 participants are to complete activity by April 2022. It is anticipated that delivery of sessions, via a residential approach, should be completed by Dec/ Jan 21, with the social campaign to start in Jan 22.

3.5 CYP 5 – NIHE Local Area Network Partner Delivery

NIHE is currently reviewing their participant groups who had previously committed to the programme. Members should note that approximately 30 participants previously engaged as core participants have now been assigned as peer participants.

The West Belfast 2 Network recently completed 20 hours of digital engagement, as well as a residential & social justice element has also been completed. Digital engagement, delivered by Wheelworks, is progressing with Foster Carers Association, who have committed to additional hours and will be now participating as core participants. The South West Belfast Network comprising of groups in Colin Glen/Finaghy/Taughmonagh are currently participating in digital summer camps.

To date the Secretariat has considered over 20 project modifications to the programme to facilitate flexibility for the groups taking part, with SEUPB approval sought as necessary.

Recruitment remains a concern with challenges in relationships between community groups from across the city. The target of 900 participants with 144 core participants required to complete 200 hours remains a challenge given the level of commitment to one programme.

Members should also note NIHE also experienced challenges with staff shortages and turnover which has now been addressed with new staff in post.

NIHE has is also exploring adopting a new suite of electronic monitoring and evaluation forms and has been liaising with BCC Information Governance team with a view towards codifying the sharing of data between the two organisations.

3.6 Financial and Resource Implications

To date all PEACE IV costs for the CYP Theme up to Period 25 totalling £1,149,364 have been fully reimbursed by SEUPB. The Period 26 claim values at £147,494 is currently being verified by SEUPB.

Claims for Period 27 (1 May – 31 Jul 21) with an estimated value of £104,375 are currently being progressed for submission to SEUPB by 1 September 2021.

3.7 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

The draft plan has been equality screened and discussed at the Equality Consultative Forum on 13 May 2015. The Equality Consultative Forum was further consulted on 18 Nov 2020.”

The Partnership recommended that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee note the contents of the report.

Shared Spaces and Services (SSS) Update

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 implementation of the Shared Space and Services theme was progressing. Whilst Government restrictions and planning approval had impacted upon delivery, the recent easing of the restrictions was helping to progress delivery of both the capital and programming elements of the scheme.

She then referred to several capital projects which were being undertaken as part of the initiative, including:

Springfield Dam - As reported previously, the Council had agreed to the naming of the new bridge in Springfield Dam which would follow the same naming process undertaken for Colin Park. A cross-community panel was currently being finalised and the naming process would be facilitated after the completion of other Council naming processes that were ongoing. The Members were advised that Springfield Dam Park continued to be well used, a series of PEACE IV animation activities, aimed specifically for children from local Summer Schemes and playgroups, had been successfully delivered during July and August.

PEACE IV Network Scheme – Capital Works – The Members were advised that work was progressing well on site. Section 1 was on course to complete in December 2021 / January 2022. As noted earlier in the meeting, agreement of the narratives for the information panels would enable the contractor to finalise the location of panels and to place the order for the signage.

The Members were advised that, following receipt of a planning challenge and upon legal advice, the planning application for Section 2 had been temporarily withdrawn from the August Planning Committee to enable further consideration. In addition, invasive species within Section 2 required treatment, this was being progressed via a temporary licence obtained from the Department for Communities (DfC) to allow for spraying and treatment. Unfortunately, these issues would have an impact on the proposed completion dates for this section.

Several operational issues were being progressed by the Management and Maintenance subgroup meeting, these included: park furniture, opening hours, lighting on/off times, environmental management and management and maintenance costs. Wider discussions with the DfC regarding the site transfer, costs associated with treating invasive species, slope stability, associated maintenance costs and liability were scheduled to be held with the Physical Programmes team during September 2021.

Community engagement on Section 4 was progressing with details of boundary lines with the St. James City Farm being provided, the possibility of site visits was being considered.

Social Value Clause - Implementation of the social value clause associated with McQuillan's contractual requirements was at an early stage. Discussions with McQuillan's, Physical Programme and the Council's Employability and Skills team had been held in August 2021 with the following action points having been agreed:

- McQuillan's to progress apprenticeships and student work placements and update BCC on the status. Interviews for student placements had taken place during August;
- Explore Construction Academies and progress requirements for unpaid trainees and

long term unemployed with the Employability and Skills team (likely to commence in October as Section 2 and 3 works continued);

- Community Engagement Plan, to involve engagement with schools and local community groups to be finalised and submitted to Physical Programmes; and
- A Contractors Sustainability Report to be submitted on a monthly basis.

A Member referred to social clauses and he sought clarification as to how these were calculated and allocated against contracts to ensure that they were commensurate with the value of the contract.

Following discussion, the Programme Manager agreed to liaise with the Physical Programmes Section to clarify the approach the contractor was progressing in terms of community engagement.

The Deputy Chairperson advised that consultation on a revised Council policy on Social Value aimed at maximising community benefit was to open in due course.

Regarding programming, the Partnership was informed that all aspects of programming were progressing where possible.

In regard to the other Programmes:

- **Shared History, Heritage and Identity Content / Narratives for Shared Space**
 - **Draft Panel Narratives – Section 1 Clarendon/Glencairn**

The officer advised that, representatives from the Mediation NI were unable to present on the narratives as had been scheduled, therefore, the Members were asked to agree 'in principle' the Shared History, Heritage and Identity narratives for the Section 1 panels as detailed in Appendix 3 of the agenda and to delegate authority to the Programme Board and Capital Project Board to identify the most suitable narratives in line with the locations of the panels with a report to be submitted to the October meeting of the Partnership.

- **Shared Space Volunteer Training**

Volunteer Now had commenced recruitment of the Shared Space Ambassadors. The assessment and award of the contract for the Volunteer Nature Guides was also progressing. Sustrans continued to deliver face-to-face training for both the Cycle and Walking leads projects and had been able to secure separate support for additional mediation training which would enable all the project participants to avail of the mediation training.

The cycle leads element had a cycle maintenance event scheduled for 7th September in Springfield Dam Park. Sustrans had been liaising with BCC's Age Friendly project in relation to some of the Walk Leads facilitating walks with pensioners' groups.

The officer reported that, unfortunately, no applications had been received to deliver the Volunteer History Guides and options for delivery were currently being considered.

- **Dialogue & Engagement Project (young people, residents and BME groups)**

Phase 1 of engagement had been completed and a residents' survey launched on 19th August via the Council's Engagement HQ platform, the survey would be open until 27th September 2021. Key stakeholders had been made aware of the survey which was also being promoted via social media.

Phase 2 of engagement was scheduled to commence during September with further promotion of the residents' survey, workshops, presentations, and a site visit.

- **Governance / Management Model**

Viatic Limited had accepted and returned the signed contract. Due to holidays there had been no project activity from that previously reported. Activity and engagement was due to recommence during September with stakeholder discussions and a site visit.

- **Youth Engagement and Civic Education**

Following the unsuccessful procurement exercises, feedback, and engagement with youth providers along with FMCG had taken place. Consensus feedback indicated the need to rescope the project as it was felt that no single organisation could deliver the high targets (600 participants) and also that the project targets, both in terms of hours (120 contact hours) and participant numbers (600), were exceptionally high. It was also highlighted that the budget would need to significantly increase. The Members were asked to note that the original targets had been based on a 2-year delivery timeframe, but the timeframe was now 14 months.

On review of the SSS Programming deliverables and budget, a rescope modification request and indicative cost breakdown based on the reduced delivery timeframe had been submitted to the SEUPB for its consideration.

Members were asked to note the following key changes:

- delivery via 4 lots;
- reduced contact hours to 60 hours per participant;
- participant numbers reduced to 400 (100 participants per lot); and
- an increase in budget of £160k (£40k per lot).

- **Springfield Dam Activities**

Following initial problems with the Covid 19 restrictions having affected participation, the Men's Shed programme was now progressing. A group of 6 men (4 CNR and 2 PUL) had been attending regularly and were now halfway through the completion of their Hedge Chairs. Discussions regarding establishing more long-term projects for the Men's Shed would be progressed in due course.

- **Modular Building**

The modular building had been opened to facilitate toilet access during the recent programme activity at the Springfield Dam. The internal process for bookings had been

finalised and bookings were now being managed through Outdoor Leisure. Staff from OSS would open the building as required and carry-out the necessary checks.

The Partnership was advised that claims up to and including Period 25 totalling £1,589,170 had now been fully reimbursed by the SEUPB. The Period 26 claim valued at £50,171 was currently being verified by the SEUPB. Claim 27 (May - July 2021) totalling £85,411 had been submitted on 1st September.

The Partnership agreed to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it note the contents of the report and appendices and agree 'in principle' the Shared History, Heritage and Identity narratives for the Section 1 panels – Clarendon/Glencairn as detailed in Appendix 3 of the agenda, for inclusion in the project publication and to delegate authority to the Programme Board and Capital Project Board to agree on the locations, with a report to be submitted to the October meeting of the Partnership.

Building Positive Relations (BPR) Update

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 Partnership is requested to recommend to the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee that they note the contents of the report and related appendices.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

Face-to -face delivery across all BPR projects is progressing as the easing of restrictions continues. Appendix I and Appendix II provides an overview on project progress and the RAG status for each project.

3.1 BPR1 – Cross Community Area Networks

CCANs across the City have re-engaged following a period of disengagement due to recent community unrest.

Participants from Ligoniel, Longlands, Rathcoole associated with the North Belfast CCAN have actively engaged in Good Relations sessions delivered by the appointed good relations delivery agent, Verbal Arts Centre.

Participants in the southwest Belfast CCAN from Suffolk and Finaghy have registered to the programme and engagement with Colin is ongoing.

Good relations sessions have also been progressing with participants from Black Mountain, Moyard, Springmartin and Highfield, Gort na Mona and Sliabh Dubh who form part of the West Belfast 2 CCAN.

Further good relations sessions with Networks are scheduled for September 2021.

Engagement with groups to establish the West Belfast 1 (Clonard / Mid Shankill), South Belfast and East Belfast Networks are progressing. Approval has been provided for capacity building on an individual group basis with a view to moving to cross community engagement.

In order to accelerate delivery and condense hours, the delivery agent is planning residential activity for each CCAN and a formal modification has been submitted for approval.

The place shaping tender has progressed to final assessment/ award stage and it is hoped the contractor will be in place early September with activity commencing mid-September.

Senior Officers within BCC and NIHE met on 25 August 21 to discuss project progress and ongoing issues. NIHE outlined the need for flexibility to achieve project targets.

A process of senior oversight on a quarterly basis and an escalation process for issues were agreed. NIHE provided a commitment and assurance to deliver both the BPR and CYP projects.

3.2 BPR2 – Creative Communities Project

Delivery of activity by the Artist in Residence is continuing on a face-to-face basis with Woodvale/Ardoyne, Clonard/Mid-Shankill, Divis/Lower Shankill and Football clusters.

The new Ardoyne cluster have had one successful facilitated session and a draft specification for artist in residence is underway.

Discussions with groups involved in the LGBTQ+ cluster are continuing and have been positive and ideas that fit the programme are being explored.

The appointment of the Artist in Residence for the Inner East cluster is being progressed.

As members are aware the artist in residence appointed for the Carlisle Cluster has resigned and a meeting with the steering group to determine a way forward is scheduled for 3 September 2021.

3.3 BPR3 – Transform for Change Project

Transformative Leadership Programme:

Recruitment for Autumn cohorts is progressing for the 7 TLP courses to commence in September 2021, to date approximately 60 EOI across the different courses have been received.

Discussions with NICVA on support for progressing the local project development Action Plans is continuing. Due to the backlog of projects as a result of Covid 19 is likely that NICVA and Partners will support a further 2-3 project development sessions to enable the projects to be delivered. Details on the projects and level of participation is progressing.

3.4 BPR4 – Belfast and the World (BATW)

Final activity for Year 3 participants (online cohort) is progressing and a walking tour to bring the group together is planned for September 2021. Recruitment is underway for the final year cohorts and activity is also expected to commence in September 2021.

Due to resource issues as well as travel restrictions, the delivery of the EU Study trips and / or alternative trips across NI/ROI remains on hold.

3.5 BPR5 – Supporting Connected Communities - LINCS Projects

Cultural workshops have re-commenced across the 4 Neighbourhood Participatory Forums A Cultural Day is taking place in C.S Lewis Square on 24th September from 12 noon to 4pm with a range of cuisine and entertainment. South, West and East groups continue to participate in mainly outdoor activity, with recent trips taking place to Crawfordsburn and Carnfunnock, participation in the activities were 95 adults and children.

3.6 BPR5 – Traveller Project - Supporting Connected Communities

The tender for Traveller support Hub is currently open for submissions and is due to close on 10 September 21.

The 'Lets do Lunch' event has been rescheduled with the Heart Project and Feile an Phobail to take place on 3 September 2021.

Discussions with key agencies that provide Traveller support services is taking place on 2 September with a view to identifying engagement opportunities with the Traveller community.

Ideas and opportunities for Culture and Heritage workshops are continuing to be explored.

3.7 BPR5 – Roma Project - Supporting Connected Communities

The Building Positive Relations programme has commenced although participation is low. The delivery agent continues to work with the local Roma community to promote the programme and the benefits of participation. The Roma Support Hub is active and is taking a monitoring calls through a subcontract arrangement with Advice NI.

Options for the replacement of the OCN language element are currently being explored and the necessary project modification is to be submitted for consideration.

3.8 BPR6 – St. Comgalls

Workshops for young people continue to be successfully delivered online on a weekly basis. The delivery agent is planning the first face to face session in the form of a walking tour for all participants.

Ongoing community tensions have impacted the commence of adult activity, it is envisaged the Adult cohorts will commence in September and plans for a networking event and seminar are underway.

3.9 Financial & Resource Implications

All BPR project delivery partners are regularly reviewing delivery methods and contractual deliverables which will determine the level and impact of COVID 19 crisis.

To date all PEACE IV costs for the BPR Theme, up to Period 25 totalling £1,475,851 have been fully eligible and reimbursed by SEUPB. The Period 26 Claim for £371,673 is still being verified by SEUPB.

Claim 27 (May-July 21) totalling £326,709 is currently being compiled for submission on 1 September 2021.

3.10 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

The draft plan has been equality screened and discussed at the Equality Consultative Forum on 13 May 2015. The Equality Consultative Forum was further consulted on 18 November 2020.”

The Partnership recommended that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee note the contents of the report.

Update on Covid Research Project

The Good Relations Manager referred to the June meeting of the Partnership where a report and presentation had been given in respect of the research into the Council’s response

to COVID-19 during the first lockdown. At that meeting, it had been agreed that a further report would be submitted to a future meeting of the Partnership to give the Members the opportunity to consider what areas they might wish to prioritise within the next steps section of the report, taking into account that £10,000 had been set aside within the Good Relations Action Plan 2021/22.

The officer advised that the issue of leadership within communities had been heavily highlighted throughout the research and linked strongly with other recommendations in the report, namely:

- Investment in community infrastructure;
- Integrating services at a local level;
- Building on the tacit knowledge, skills and capacity of all players; and
- Developing co-design and co-production of services.

One of the main thrusts of the research had been a recognition that there needed to be an effort to add to the pool of local volunteers, in order to support those who had stepped up by supporting residents during the pandemic through the delivery (across community boundaries) of food parcels, medication and other resources. Furthermore, there had also been recognition of the need to develop a new generation of similar leaders who would have the ability, cross-community networks and commitment to fulfil those tasks that had been undertaken by local volunteers during the first lockdown.

The Members were advised that it was therefore being proposed that an appropriate leadership development programme would be sourced that would aim to develop and deliver new leaders within communities.

The Partnership recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it agree to the delivery of a Leadership Development Programme to progress the recommendations contained within the COVID research report.

Update on Council's District Good Relations Action Plan 2021/22

The Partnership considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

To update the SCP on delivery of the District Council Good Relations Plan (DCGRP) 2021/22.

2.0 Recommendations

Members are asked to note the updates to the DCGRP Action Plan 21/22 contained in Appendix 1.

Members are asked to note that the North Belfast Friendship Club has been awarded £1,960 to facilitate meetings of the North Belfast Friendship Club through the Strategic Intervention Programme within the DCGRP Action Plan.

3.0 Main report – Project Details

3.1 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. The draft Action Plan 21/22 was approved by Council via the Partnership in February 21 and was submitted by the deadline of 22 February 2021.

- 3.2 A Letter of Offer for the District Council Good Relations Programme 21/22 was subsequently received in awarding an amount of £571,893.27 with the Council required to provide match funding of at least £190,631.09. From the funding supplied by TEO, £374,205 must be allocated towards Programme costs.
- 3.3 A copy of the Action Plan with a brief update on progress is attached for Members' information.

For Members to Note:

- 3.4 A number of Letters of Offer have been issued to groups for projects which have been named within the GR Action Plan 2/22 and approved by Council. The majority of these are contained within the BCC8 Programme 'Our Safe Community'
- 3.5 These include:
- Black Mountain Shared Space Programme: £8,000
 - Spectrum Centre: £5,000
 - Belfast Interface Project: £10,000
 - New Lodge Arts: £2,500

Strategic Intervention Fund

- 3.6 Members will also recall that in the Action Plan 21/22 a new targeted Strategic Intervention programme had been introduced with the funds being directed to a distributed on an area basis.
- 3.7 This was to 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 can take place all year round and not just at certain times of the year. 15k has been allocated to each area with the condition that any project must address good relations issues and one of the T:BUC priorities. This allocation is discussed at Area Team level meaning there is complementarity and a coordination of resources. The projects are agreed by the relevant Good Relations Officer, Neighbourhood Integration Manager and Neighbourhood Services Area Manager, the latter of which SCP agreed could be granted delegated authority.
- 3.8 Members are asked to note that under the theme of the DCGRP BCC 10 Strategic Intervention Programme, the following has been allocated:
- 3.9 North Belfast Friendship Club: £1,960 towards the facilitation of meetings in the Duncairn Arts Centre. This project promotes

inclusion and integration and aims to foster social cohesion and demonstrate collective opposition to hate crime in North Belfast. The project sits under the Safe Community theme and T:BUC priority.

- 3.10 The Friendship Club for North Belfast was one of several initiatives developed in response to a spike in hate crime in the area in 2015-16. The project was originally conceived as a conversation club to address the problem of isolation among newcomers to North Belfast due to lack of English language skills. However, it was recognised that the feelings of loneliness and isolation experienced by many migrants (particularly refugees and asylum seekers who are separated from their families, unable to work and have little or no access to transport) are not unlike the feelings experienced by other vulnerable residents in the community. The Club had been meeting in the R City café which is no longer open and therefore, the Club needs support to manage the transition to the new venue, the Duncairn Arts Centre and to facilitate the rebuilding of networks and relationships. This support will cover the period until March 2022.

Financial & Resource Implications

All costs can be covered through the District Council Good Relations Action Plan budget 21/22.

Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

All the projects/programmes have been approved in the DCGRP 2021/22.”

The Good Relations Manager drew the Members’ attention to proposed project modifications which had been circulated immediately prior to the meeting and she took the Members through the detail of the proposed modifications.

The Partnership recommended that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee note the updates to the DCGRP Action Plan 2021/22 and to note that the North Belfast Friendship Club had been awarded £1,960 to facilitate meetings of the North Belfast Friendship Club through the Strategic Intervention Programme within the DCGRP Action Plan and recommend that it agree the modifications as detailed below:

DCGRP Action Plan 2021/22 – Modifications

Programme/Priority	Project /Current budget	Modification	Recommendation
BCC4/Shared Community	Programme to grow BAME leaders in the City – 10k	Add an additional £5k to this project from underspend within the Action Plan – Total cost of project £15k.	SCP to agree that the budget of this programme be increased to 15k with additional 5k being taken from underspend within the Plan.

BCC6/Shared Community	Completion and launch of the new Refugee Transition Guide – 5k	Add an additional 5k to cover launch and training sessions on the new guide for relevant individuals and agencies. This can be reprofiled from the Migrant Forum budget as the group are currently meeting online and from BCC7 as training also taking place online. Note that the last edition was quoted as an example of good practice by the Department of Work & Pensions	SCP agree that an additional 5k be allocated to the Refugee Transition Guide to cover a launch and training sessions on the new guide.
BCC6/Shared Community	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 event – 10k	Given that restrictions etc have prevented certain activities taking place and that we are coming into autumn/winter time – Officers have been approached about 2 shared housing spaces and the need to develop a good relations programme to develop relationships between neighbours and develop the necessary links to support the intended ethos of shared housing. Officers are currently	SCP to agree that up to a maximum of 4k be allocated to each of the 2 shared housing projects subject to a relevant good relations programme being developed and assurance that this was not duplication of funding. Delegated authority to be given to Director.

		exploring the need but would recommend that an allocation of up to a maximum 4k be agree with delegated authority given to the Director.	
BCC7 Shared Community	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- 20k	Given the current needs being presented and increase in no of refuge/asylum seekers that officers engage with relevant agencies to allocate monies to orientation programme and associated support.	SCP to agree that monies be allocated to relevant agency/agencies to provide orientation and support to asylum seekers
BCC7 Shared Community	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	In 20/21 SCP had agreed to allocate £1k towards a Workshop for re – energising the East Belfast Tension Monitoring Forum and producing an Action Plan. This was not able to take place due to health restrictions.	Given the time lag and the need to build on recent events in East Belfast, the group would like to host 2 workshops – SCP to agree that the project be allocated up to £1500 from the 21/22 budget.

Request from NI Refugee Resettlement Consortium

The Partnership was advised that, since December 2015, nearly 2000 individuals had been resettled across Northern Ireland as part of the Vulnerable Person's relocations scheme, now known as the NI Refugee Resettlement Scheme. The scheme had been in operation in Northern Ireland from late 2015, with the arrival of the first Syrian refugees in December of that year. After a pause, due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, resettlement was due to restart in Northern Ireland later in the year.

The Members noted that the arrival of the Syrian refugees had generated a significant expression of goodwill from the NI public with many donations of food and essential household items having been received. The Good Relations Manager advised that, over the last five

years, the Councils had acted collaboratively to contribute to the costs of storing the donations with Kiltonga Christian Centre in Bangor having been identified as an ideal space to collect, hold, sort and distribute the donations that had been received. With resettlement hopefully recommencing, Kiltonga Christian Centre volunteers would again be involved in the arrivals process for new refugees, putting together starter packs, offering support post arrival and providing items which were not provided in their temporary accommodation.

To retain the storage space, the NI Refugee Resettlement Consortium had written to the Council to seeking a donation of £300 towards the operation at Kiltonga Christian Centre. The officer advised that the associated costs could be met from within the annual Good Relations Action Plan (75% of which would be recouped by the Executive Office under the District Council's Good Relations Programme).

Following a query, the Good Relations Manager suggested that a presentation could be made to a future meeting of the Partnership which would seek to provide an overview of the response to the resettlement of refugees and ensuring that its humanitarian responsibilities were being met.

The Partnership recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it assists with cost for the storage of donations relating to the NI Refugee Resettlement Scheme with an award of £300 for 2021/22 and an additional £300 for the 2022/23 financial years.

Recruitment of Staff

Following a query, the Good Relations Manager provided an overview of the number of vacant positions throughout the City and Neighbourhood Services Department. She reported that the Department's recruitment freeze had now been lifted and that recruitment was progressing but noted that it would take time to work through the volume of vacant positions.

In response to a specific query regarding the recruitment of Community Development Officers, the officer undertook to liaise with the Member directly.

Noted.

Chairperson



Subject:	Language Strategy - Update on Dual Language Street Sign Policy
Date:	24th September, 2021
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor / Director of Legal & Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Sarah Williams, Governance and Compliance Manager

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with an update on the Dual Language Street Sign Policy.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is requested to note the report
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p><u>Background</u></p> <p>By way of brief background and as reported previously to the Committee, the Council on 7th January ratified a decision taken by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 23rd October, 2020 to adopt a new policy position in respect of the Dual Language Street Sign Policy.</p>

3.2	<p>(Whilst the initial decision of 23rd October had been called-in, counsel opinion subsequently found that the grounds for call-in had not been satisfied).</p> <p>Following this decision, an officer working group was formed, comprising officers from Governance and Compliance Services, Equality and Diversity Unit, Building Control, Good Relations, Legal Services and Place and Economy Policy who developed a new proposed revised policy incorporating the changes agreed.</p>
3.3	<p>In April 2021, the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee approved this proposed revised policy which incorporated the following key changes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The trigger for a consultation of the occupiers of a street will be an application to the Council by a resident / residents of the street or an Elected Member representing that District Electoral Area, as opposed to an application from anyone, supported by a petition of 1/3 of occupiers. In order for further consideration as to the erection of a second language street sign to take place, the threshold for the percentage of residents responding positively is 15% instead of 2/3; • People not returning a reply are no longer deemed not to be in favour of the application; • Each application will be equality, good relations and rural needs screened; • Members may want to consider whether they will exercise their residual discretion at the point when an application is received and decide as to whether to progress that application to the stage of surveying the street in question or not.
3.4	<p>The following key principles agreed previously were also incorporated into the new policy:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the policy will be used for the promotion of language rights and for the benefit of linguistic communities. 2. That the principles of equality, promoting good relations and respect will underpin the application of the policy in addition to the rights promoted by the policy itself: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on legal advice, each application will be subject to an equality, good relations and rural needs screening;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council retains an overriding residual discretion to take the particular circumstances of each application into account in deciding whether or not a second language street name plate should be erected. In summary, there may be circumstances when notwithstanding the consultation response it may be appropriate to depart from the policy when there are clear reasons for doing so. Guidance will be provided to Members on the factors which should be considered when using this discretion; and • And, as is the case at present, the Council will consider the best approach for any applications relating to long streets. <p>3. That, as with any statutory consultation which the Council is required to undertake, the City Solicitor may intervene if any complaint is made and a basis for that complaint established.</p> <p>4. That any decision relating to the erection of a second nameplate in the City centre (business core) will, in addition to the current policy considerations, be subject to a wider public consultation to reflect the community of users.</p> <p>5. That the policy will cover the corporately designated Gaeltacht Quarter, until such time as a policy which may contain specific proposals in respect of a bilingual strategy have been adopted.</p>
3.5	<p><u>Update</u></p> <p>This revised policy has been screened in for an Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) and during the summer months, a quotation was developed and issued to procure specialist equality support for both the EQIA and the public consultation process. An equality consultant has now been appointed and an initial briefing meeting has taken place. The consultant is currently developing a detailed plan of action on the process required for carrying out the EQIA and aligning this with the public consultation process as well as helping to devise the process for equality-screening each individual application as per legal advice.</p>
3.6	<p>It is envisaged by the equality consultant that the public consultation will be issued in the next 4-6 weeks i.e. by the end of October. It has been recommended by the equality consultant that the consultation is issued for a 14/16-week period due to an overlap with the Christmas holiday period. The equality consultant is also providing advice on what further pre-consultation engagement is required in order to explain the proposed operation of this</p>

	policy in practice. Advice will be also sought from Marketing & Communications for communications support due to the high level of interest when this decision was made at Committee.
3.7	Members will be aware that the Council is in the process of establishing an Elected Member Working Group as well as two external stakeholder engagement fora, for the Irish and Ulster Scots language communities. In preparation for this, an internal officer working group has also been convened. The officer working group is developing an approach to take forward the Language Strategy which can be discussed and agreed by Members. Depending on timings, it is hoped that the results of the public consultation on Dual Language Street Signs can be used to inform the development of these emerging structures.
3.8	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>As agreed previously, given the potential for increased numbers of applications, the Council will deal with no more than 5 in any given month, Processing time could increase however, due to the potential changes to the procedure. If numbers are excessive they will be held in a queue and dealt with in the order in which they have been received. This will also be managed in the context of the existing staffing resource and the established annual budget for street signage. As requested by Members, a report will be submitted to a future meeting outlining the potential for increasing the number of applications which could be processed on a monthly basis, taking into account the new procedure emanating from the revised policy.</p>
3.9	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>The promotion of equality of opportunity and good relations are key principles within which the Language Strategy is delivered. The Language Strategy was subject to the Council's usual screening process.</p>
4.0	Documents Attached
	None



Subject:	Response to Consultation on the Justice (Sexual Offences and Trafficking Victims) Bill
Date:	24th September, 2021
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor / Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officers:	Sarah Williams, Governance and Compliance Manager

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to bring to the Committee's attention The Justice (Sexual Offences and Trafficking Victims) Bill which was introduced into the Assembly on 5th July 2021. A copy of the Bill can be accessed here .
1.2	The Committee Stage of the Bill will commence in September 2021 and the Committee for Justice is seeking comments and/or views on the Bill from interested parties by 24th September. Whilst Council officers have not identified any objections to the Bill nor any evidence that would inform the content of the Bill, it is recommended that the Council submit a brief response recording its support for the provisions of the Bill.

2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • note the attached report summarising the provisions of the Justice (Sexual Offences and Trafficking Victims) Bill; and • approve the attached Council response in paragraph 3.3 below.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p><u>Background</u></p> <p>The Justice (Sexual Offences and Trafficking Victims) Bill gives effect to the Justice Minister's desire to improve the operation and effectiveness of the justice system. At its core are two key aims, which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) to enhance public safety by implementing certain elements of the Report of the Gillen review of serious sexual offence cases and from a review of the law on child sexual exploitation and sexual offences against children; and b) to improve services for victims of trafficking and exploitation.
3.2	<p><u>Summary of Main Provisions</u></p> <p>The main provisions within the Bill include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provisions arising from the Gillen Review of serious sexual offence cases to exclude the public from all serious sexual offence hearings and to introduce anonymity for defendants' pre-charge • Provisions to give effect to the outcome of a review of the law on child sexual exploitation and sexual offences against children to include live streamed images in the definition of exploitation for sexual purposes and to create a new offence of adults masquerading as children online • Provisions to create a new offence of up-skirting and down blousing alongside a number of other sex offence adjustments to ensure the law operates as intended in these areas • Provisions to adjust the modern slavery strategy and improve services for potential victims of slavery and exploitation <p>All of the major components proposed for inclusion in the Bill have been the subject of public consultation exercises while a number of the more technical and procedural improvements were the subject of targeted or specialist consultation.</p>

3.3	<p><u>Council Response</u></p> <p>The Committee for Justice is now seeking comments and/or views on the content of the Bill itself.</p> <p>Officers have not identified any issues with the content of the Bill nor do we have any evidence to submit in relation to the content of the Bill. However, it is proposed that the Council submit the following brief response welcoming the provisions within the Bill.</p> <p><i>“The Council has reviewed the content of the Justice (Sexual Offences and Trafficking Victims) Bill and are supportive of the provisions outlined in the Bill. We particularly welcome the inclusion of live streamed images in the definition of exploitation for sexual purposes and the creation of a new offence of adults masquerading as children online and also welcome the broadening of the definition of the abuse of power definitions, these are long overdue”.</i></p>
3.6	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There are no financial or resource implications</p>
3.7	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>There are no equality, good relations or rural needs assessment implications</p>
4.0	<p>Documents Attached</p>
	<p>None</p>

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Customer Focus Working Group

Wednesday, 8th September, 2021

CUSTOMER FOCUS WORKING GROUP MINUTES HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Members present: Councillor Flynn (Chairperson); and
Alderman Rodgers; and
Councillors Bunting and Hutchinson.

In attendance: Mrs. R. Crozier, Customer Focus Programme Director;
Ms. K. Kennedy, Continuous Improvement Project
Manager (Customer Hub);
Mr. C. Quinn, Customer Services Manager;
Mr. P. O'Brien, Digital Portfolio Manager (Solutions);
Mr. P. Patterson, Digital Development Architect;
Mr. G. McErlane, Digital Development Architect;
Mr. A. McMullan, Democratic Services Assistant; and
Ms K. McCrum, Democratic Services Officer.

Election of Chairperson

The Working Group noted that it was required to elect a Chairperson for the coming year.

Moved by Alderman Rodgers,
Seconded by Councillor Bunting and

Resolved – that Councillor Flynn be elected to serve as Chairperson to the Customer Focus Working Group until 31st May, 2022.

Apologies

No apologies were reported.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 20th May were agreed as an accurate record of proceedings.

Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were reported.

Feedback on the App and Photograph Testing

The Customer Focus Programme Director advised the Working Group that the purpose of the meeting was to obtain feedback on the latest version of the Members' App, which now included the ability to include a photograph with reports, as well as reflect on the blueprint and look at the next steps.

The Digital Development Architect reminded the Working Group that the beta version of the Members' App had been released on 1st August with focused testing sessions held on 17th and 19th August, however, due to summer holidays, testing had been limited. As a result, a 1-page process document had been produced and circulated to the Members, with some further feedback obtained as a result.

The Working Group was presented with the process document whilst a test case was submitted to the App by way of a demonstration. The Digital Development Architect confirmed that there were 2 ways in which to submit a request, either via the main menu or via a quick create button. He added that once a request was categorised, with further details added and then saved, the option to add a photograph would become available. He stated that there was an in-built 30-minute delay between the 2 steps to enable a picture to be uploaded before it was submitted to the Customer Hub. He confirmed that a queuing system was in place for all requests, whether received via the Members' App or via email.

The Members discussed their experience of using the system, with some feeling that the response times were too long and had led to frustration from both Councillors and the public. Others stated that, while they had not used the App extensively, they were pleased with the user experience and response times. A Member suggested that it might take time for these new processes to become established with Elected Members who were used to other methods of communication.

The Customer Focus Programme Director welcomed the feedback which had been provided and reassured the Working Group that staffing resources had stabilised with a full complement of staff now fully trained. She added that meetings had taken place between the Customer Focus team and relevant departments and services to ensure that requests were being dealt with in a timely manner.

She also advised that the Customer Hub was designed to add value to communications between Councillors, the public, and the Council, rather than replace existing relationships. She made reference to feedback that had requested that phone numbers were added to the Members' App to enable direct contact to be made with relevant staff, and stated that further improvements would be made to ensure that the systems were assisting Councillors with their constituency work.

The Customer Services Manager encouraged the Members to contact staff whenever they, or their constituents, experienced problems with the Hub. He advised of imminent changes to the telephony system for customers which would improve their experience, and confirmed that requests were being monitored to ensure that they were being dealt with as efficiently as possible. He also explained that the data from cases was beginning to be used to help teams build up a picture of consistent problems.

Discussion took place regarding the format of certain screens on Apple Phones in comparison to Android phones, and difficulties which had been experienced in closing screens as a result. The Digital Services Team undertook to actively review this issue.

The Chairperson underlined that the Customer Hub's implementation was a process that needed to be worked through with further versions and testing to be welcomed and the Working Group noted the progress that had been made to date.

Phase 2 App Launch schedule for all Elected Members

The Continuous Improvement Project Manager presented the proposed schedule for the roll-out of the latest version of the Members' App, as follows:

- 8th-22nd September; Further testing by the Customer Focus Working Group
- By 23rd September; Feedback to be provided to Digital Services
- End of September; Training video development
- October; Roll out to all Elected Members
- October; Party Group Briefings

The Customer Focus Programme Director advised that this followed the same process as was used during the initial launch, but welcomed suggestions from the Members should they feel that this could be improved upon. She also underlined the importance of feedback on the App to enable the needs of Elected Members to be met.

The Working Group noted the update provided.

Review of the Blueprint

The Continuous Improvement Project Manager presented the Working Group with the Blueprint that had been developed following the initial service design sessions, and asked that the Members review the 3 areas (Information, Issue Management and Resolution, and Insight and Intelligence) in order to highlight any gaps and/or priority areas.

It was agreed that the Information needs remained relevant, and that providing information from other agencies, their responsibilities and relevant contacts should be a key area of focus. Discussion took place regarding how this could be delivered, whether through the Members' Portal or via the App. The Continuous Improvement Project Manager suggested that a specific session on this may be useful in order to explore the most suitable way for this information to be provided, with various solutions to be set out by Digital Services.

With regards to Issue Management and Resolution, she advised that this had been the key focus of the App. The Working Group confirmed that it was content with what had been developed within this section of the programme.

The Working Group was advised that the Insights and Intelligence workstream was in its initial stages, but would continue to progress as data became available and services were educated further about how it could be used for planning and analysis. The Members agreed that this remained an important area of focus.

Next Steps

The Customer Focus Programme Director thanked the Working Group for the feedback that had been provided and asked that any further comments be provided by 23rd September to facilitate the roll out of the next version of the Members' App in early October.

She also advised that dates would soon be issued for Party Group Briefings which would form the next step in the continuing conversation about how the Customer Hub could best serve the needs and priorities of Elected Members, after which a further session would be arranged to define the next steps more clearly, and discuss functionality, accessibility and useability across the various products.

Noted.

Chairperson

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Minutes of Party Group Leaders Consultative Forum 16th September 2021

Attendance

Members:

Councillor Áine Groogan (Chair)
Councillor John Kyle (*for Cllr Billy Hutchinson*)
Councillor Nuala McAlister
Councillor Donal Lyons
Councillor Mal O'Hara
Alderman Brian Kingston
Councillor Ciaran Beattie
Councillor Fiona Ferguson

Apologies: Alderman Sonia Copeland

Officers:

Suzanne Wylie, Chief Executive
Ronan Cregan, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources
John Walsh, City Solicitor
Christine Sheridan, Head of Head of Human Resources (for Item 2)
Alistair Reid, Director of Place and Economy (for Item 6)
Cathy Reynolds, Director City Regeneration & Development (for Item 7)
Ryan Black, Director of Neighbourhood Services (for Items 5 & 7)
Siobhan Toland, Director of City Services (for Item 7)
Joanne Delaney, Portfolio and Programme Coordinator (secretariat)

1. Finance

The Deputy Chief Executive & Director of Finance and Resources outlined for Members details of the council's Statement of Accounts, including the Annual Governance Statement, for the period ending 31 March 2021. The Statement of Accounts are an important element of the council's overall corporate governance framework as they provide assurance to Members and ratepayers on the stewardship of the council's finances and its financial position. A report will go to September SP&R for Members approval in advance of the accounts being published by the 30 September deadline.

2. Resourcing

The Head of Human Resources presented an update on Employee Resourcing as requested by a Member. She advised that whilst recruitment activity was understandably impacted during the lockdown period, it is now continuing at pace. Some Members raised issues in

relation to current challenges in cleansing services and street cleansing. The Director of Neighbourhood Services advised that a report was submitted to September P&C committee, and it was agreed that Neighbourhood Cleansing Services would be presented through the Area Working Groups.

In relation to a query raised by a Member in relation to the Furlough Scheme ending in September, it was noted that all staff on the scheme will have returned to work by end of September. Following discussion Members requested that Employee Resourcing is considered regularly at future meetings.

3. Update on City Region Growth Deal

The Chief Executive provided an update on the Belfast Region City Deal and Members discussed the Infrastructure pillar level budget and the Executive Boards' recommendations that whilst all three infrastructure projects cannot be delivered in full under the funding envelope, a ring fenced sum is set aside to enable a phased approach to BRT 2.

The Deputy Chief Executive & Director of Finance and Resources provided an update on the proposed timeline for approval and signing of the Deal Document for agreement with Government Partners. He advised that approval for the Deal Document and Governance would be required from Partners in October, and a report would be brought to October SP&R for Members consideration. In light of this, the next Council Panel meeting to be hosted by Belfast will be rearranged to meet in early November.

4. Leisure Centre Signage

The City Solicitor referred Members to a report that was previously deferred by SP&R committee in relation to language or languages signage to be used in leisure facilities with a city-wide catchment area. He advised that a report on this would be presented to September SP&R committee for Members consideration.

5. Lagan Gateway Update

The Director of Neighbourhood Services provided members with an update on the Lagan Gateway and outlined the next steps for the project. Following detailed discussion, it was agreed that Members would further consider and discuss at the next meeting of the Party Group Leaders Forum.

6. Planning Update

The Director of Place and Economy updated the Forum on the live planning applications and informed the Forum of applications that were being presented to the Planning Committee in October.

7. AOB

Dog Warden Service

The Director of City Services provided an update on a point of information in relation to the Dog Warden Service, which was noted by Members.

Residual Waste Disposal

The Director of City Services outlined for Members the current status of the Residual Waste Contract and the decisions that Members would need to consider in relation to the contract. She advised a detailed report would be presented to September SP&R committee. There were a number of issues raised in relation to the medium and long term options for the disposal of residual waste and wider issues including the proposed arc21 Residual Waste Treatment Plant. It was agreed that a workshop be held for Members to discuss the issues raised.

Institutional Investment - Expression of Interest

Members discussed institutional investors/strategic development partners and how these have worked in other UK Cities. The City Solicitor discussed the proposal to undertake a soft market testing exercise in order to further explore. Members requested further detail and it was agreed a report would be brought to September SP&R committee. In relation to an issue raised by a Member it was also agreed an update report on the Strategic Sites Assessment (SSA) programme of work will be brought to a future committee meeting.

Community Diversionary Festivals Programme

At the Council meeting in July 2021 it was agreed to allocate funding to a diversionary and festival programme. The Director of Neighbourhood Services provided Members with the detail of the assessment of the most recent application which will be considered at September SP&R committee.

King George V Playing Fields

The Director of Neighbourhood Services provided a briefing for Members on the status of a bonfire currently being built at King George V Playing Fields. He discussed the decisions that would need to be considered by Members and a report outlining these decisions will be considered by September SP&R committee.

Colin Interpretive Heritage Trail

The Director of Neighbourhood Services advised Members that a request had been received from the Colin Neighbourhood Partnership to place an interpretive panel from the planned Colin Heritage Trail within the Council's new park in Colin (Páirc Nua Chollann). He outlined for Members the series of interpretative panels to be included in the heritage trail. A report will be presented to September SP&R committee, Members noted that the decision to be considered at SP&R is only in relation to the panel within the Council's new park.

Submission re Boundary Commission

Councillor's O' Hara and Lyons declared an interest in relation to this item in that they are members of the Belfast Harbour Board. It was noted when the submission is brought to SP&R committee, they will both leave the meeting.

The City Solicitor outlined for Members the proposed submission in response to the Local Government Boundary Commissioner's Provisional Recommendations 2021-22. Following discussion and given the deadline for submissions is 21 September, there was consensus that the response is submitted and will be subject to ratification by September SP&R committee.

St George's Market

The Deputy Chief Executive & Director of Finance and Resources provided an update on the rent-free period for St George's Market previously agreed by Council. He advised that a request to extend the rent-free period for a further four weeks has been received from St. George's Market Traders. Members noted the request and that a report would be presented to September SP&R committee for consideration.

Request for support for COP 26 Climate Business Conference

Further to the update considered by August SP&R Committee on the COP 26 conference and the key areas of work that Belfast would be involved in. The Chief Executive advised Members that a report would be submitted to September SP&R committee seeking support

to host a prominent climate business conference in Belfast ahead of the COP 26 conference which Members noted.

Recent media

Alderman Kingston raised an issue in relation to recent media. The City Solicitor to consider and will update Members accordingly.

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Subject:	Department of Finance Consultation on Updated Building Control Advice on the fitting of Changing Places Toilets – Council Response
Date:	24th September, 2021
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor / Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Sarah Williams, Governance and Compliance Manager Ian Harper, Building Control Manager

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to submit for approval a response to the Department of Finance public consultation regarding updated building control advice on the fitting of Changing Places.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to approve the Council response for submission to the Department of Finance.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<u>Background</u> The Department of Finance opened a public consultation on 28th July on its intention to implement amendments to local Building Regulations technical guidance that would ensure new/relevant large buildings commonly used by the public are fitted with Changing Places

	<p>facilities. The Consultation Proposals for amendment of Technical Booklet Guidance to Part R (Access to and use of buildings) – Changing Places Toilet Provision are attached at Appendix 1. The consultation will close on 20th October, 2021.</p> <p>Changing Places are facilities whereby people with profound and multiple disabilities can avail of toilet and personal hygiene amenities, designed specifically for their needs. Providing these facilities offers those with such conditions, and their carers, the same potential to participate in community and economic activity.</p>
3.2	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>A draft response from the Council to the Department of Finance’s public consultation questionnaire regarding updated building control advice on the fitting of Changing Places Toilets is attached at Appendix 2.</p> <p>The questions are extracted from the online questionnaire which must be completed with the approved response which will be made publicly available, unless we request otherwise.</p> <p>The consultation documents questions are mainly technical in nature, and this is reflected in the response which has been prepared by officers from Building Control, Equality and Diversity, Physical Programme and City and Neighbourhood Services.</p>
3.3	<p>The draft consultation response welcomes the steps being taken to increase inclusion for Changing Places Toilets facilities service users, and their carers sets and that the Council would support a mandatory provision for Changing Places Toilets under Building Regulations. These changes will have a positive impact on increasing access and inclusion in Belfast and are part of welcome dialogue to address barriers which have excluded groups of people from exploring all our city has to offer.</p>
3.4	<p>Following the introduction of similar regulations in England and issues raised regarding the financial challenges to voluntarily including CPT in existing premises , in July of this year, a £30 million fund was launched to encourage the retrospective installation of these facilities in existing premises which did not come under the scope of the new statutory guidance. This funding is to be distributed through Local Authorities. Members may wish to, in addition to responding to this consultation, write a letter to the Minister requesting a similar fund for retrospective installations in existing premises.</p>
3.5	<p>Members will also be aware that a motion regarding Changing Places was referred to the Committee at September’s Council meeting. Following the service review of the Equality and</p>

	Diversity Unit, which is in the process of being implemented, it is planned that there will be more resources to be able to address issues related to disability.
3.6	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>No implications</p>
3.7	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>The response is prepared in line with the Department of Finance's statutory Section 75 duties and the Council is responding as a named consultee.</p>
4.0	Documents Attached
	<p>Appendix 1:</p> <p>Consultation Proposals for amendment of Technical Booklet Guidance to Part R (Access to and use of buildings) – Changing Places Toilet Provision</p> <p>Appendix 2: Draft Council response</p>

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The Building Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012

PUBLIC CONSULTATION DOCUMENT C.2

Consultation Proposals for amendment of Technical Booklet Guidance to Part R (Access to and use of buildings) – Changing Places Toilet Provision

July 2021

(closing date for receipt of responses is Wednesday 20 October 2021)

Contents	Page
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2. Introduction to consultation proposals	7
3. Consultation package – contents and response	10
4. Proposals to Amend Technical Guidance to the Building Regulations (Northern Ireland 2012) – Part R statutory guidance for Changing Places Toilet (CPT) provision	12
5. Annex A: Personal data	15
6. Annex B: Draft TBR Amendment slip	18

AMENDMENTS TO TECHNICAL BOOKLET GUIDANCE TO PART R - CONSULTATION

1. BACKGROUND



Example of a Changing Places Toilet facility.

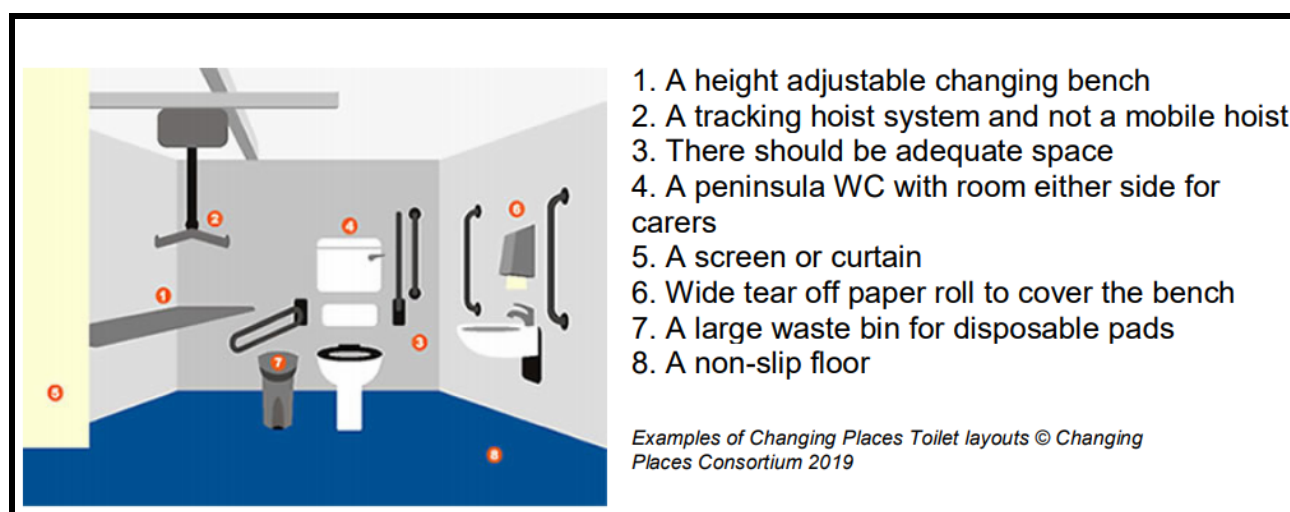
Image from Changing Places Consortium

CHANGING PLACES TOILETS (CPTs)

- 1.1 Changing Places Toilets (CPTs) meet the needs of people with profound and multiple learning disabilities, as well as people with other physical disabilities such as spinal injuries, muscular dystrophy and multiple sclerosis. These toilets provide specific equipment including a height adjustable adult-sized changing table, a tracking hoist system, adequate space for a disabled person and up to two carers, a peninsular WC with room either side and a safe and clean environment including tear off paper to cover the bench, a large waste bin and a non-slip floor. These facilities enable people with complex care needs to take part in everyday activities such as travel, shopping, family days out or attending a sporting event.
- 1.2 A standard-sized CPT facility as set out in BS 8300-2:2018, which is a room with a floor area of 12m² (3m wide and 4m long, with a ceiling height of 2.4m). A room of 3m x 4m gives a rectangular space to allow users and carers to move between each piece of equipment in the toilet.
- 1.3 It is important for a wheelchair user to be able to move in a wheelchair between each item and to have the space for up to two carers, to transfer or hoist the user

from the wheelchair on to the fold down bench or from the wheelchair on to the peninsular toilet, or from the toilet to the adjustable changing bench. These movements between sink, bench and toilet will vary given the size of the adult or child and the size of their wheelchair. Hoists lift (and lower) the user and ease manual handling for the carers. BS 8300 Part 2 new Code of Practice sets out CPT layout and fixtures detail standards.

- 1.4 A network of 42¹ CPT facilities exist across Northern Ireland but there is no current legislative requirements for their provision within buildings. The vast majority of these facilities were installed on a voluntary basis, or as part of ongoing property redevelopment initiatives in the Health Trust Estate.
- 1.5 There are over 1,600 Changing Places toilets across the UK, up from just 140 in 2007. Although the increase in numbers and action by forward looking building owners is to be welcomed, provision is still haphazard, and so we need to go further. This consultation seeks views on options to increase the provision of CPT facilities.



BUILDING REGULATIONS

- 1.6 The Department of Finance has policy responsibility for maintaining the Building Regulations.
- 1.7 The Building Regulations apply to most building work and are made principally to secure the health, safety, welfare and convenience of people in or about buildings, and the conservation of fuel and power, for the protection and enhancement of the environment and promotion of sustainable development.
- 1.8 Building regulations are only applicable at the time that building work takes place. Regulations do not apply retrospectively for existing buildings, because these should comply with the Regulations in force at the time they were built. Building regulations do not impose ongoing management requirements.

¹ As of June 2020 from Changing Place Toilet Map <https://changingplaces.uktoiletmap.org/>

- 1.9 The Regulations set mainly functional requirements and are supported by Technical Booklets giving statutory guidance, including performance standards and design provisions, relating to compliance with specific aspects of the Building Regulations for the more common building situations.
- 1.10 Part R (Access to and use of buildings) of the Building Regulations sets minimum access standards for all new buildings. These requirements are supported by statutory guidance in Technical Booklet R.
- 1.11 Northern Ireland building regulations do not require the provision of toilets for sanitary convenience, beyond that required for a dwelling (regulation 85 of Part P). Section 6 of Technical Booklet R the statutory technical guidance on the provisions for Part R, ensures that when sanitary accommodation and/or associated sanitary facilities are being provided in a building, these are no less available for disabled people than for non-disabled people. Therefore other legislation sets sanitary provision requirement for non-dwellings, where building regulations set the technical standards for those sanitary facilities to be accessible and inclusive.

BUILDING REGULATIONS CURRENT POSITION AND BS 8300 CPT DESIGN

- 1.12 The Building Regulations statutory guidance (Technical Booklet R: Access to and use of buildings: October 2012²) already sets out minimum standards for accessible toilets in new buildings used by public/employees. That includes standards for unisex wheelchair-accessible toilets with a corner WC (even in small buildings) and additional provision in larger buildings.
- 1.13 After consultation with MENCAP and other interested groups, Changing Places were referenced for the first time within the Northern Ireland Building Regulations Part R guidance in 2012 under the new Appendix A 'Informative – Facilities for people with profound and multiple learning disabilities' to Technical Booklet R. The Appendix points to information that will assist the designers in their developments, where they have opted to provide such a facility.
- 1.14 Therefore Appendix A is informative guidance as opposed to compliance guidance within Technical Booklet R.
- 1.15 The informative guidance within Appendix A also points to MENCAP for specialist advice or information provided by the Changing Places Campaign website (www.changing-places.org) on how to provide a new Changing Places toilet. It also refers to a British Standard BS 8300, which provides good practice guidance on the design of an accessible and inclusive built environment. This standard was updated in January 2018 and guidance on Changing Places toilets is now in Clause 18.6 (along with supporting Annexes) of the new "BS 8300-2:2018 Design of an accessible and inclusive built environment. Buildings. Code of practice".
- 1.16 The BS 8300-2 guidance includes recommendations on the types of building within which a CPT facility should be considered. This list recognises the benefits of provision in buildings that are open to the public, have a managed environment and

²<https://www.finance-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dfp/Technical-booklet-R-Access-to-and-use-of-buildings-October-2012.pdf>

will generally have consistent opening hours when the facility can be accessed. The list includes examples of buildings visited by the public, commercial premises, buildings associated with the transport network and larger 'destination' buildings.

- 1.17 Interested groups and individuals have asked Government to follow this list and use this as the starting point for statutory provision.

The following extract from BS 8300-2: 2018 (Code of Practice, text is copyright BSI, 2020) illustrates this;

Changing Places toilets should be provided in buildings and complexes such as:

- a) major transport termini or interchanges, e.g. large railway stations and airports;
- b) motorway services;
- c) sport and leisure facilities, including large hotels;
- d) cultural centres, e.g. museums, concert halls and art galleries, and faith centres;
- e) stadia and large auditoria;
- f) large commercial retail premises and shopping centres;
- g) key buildings within town centres, e.g. town halls, civic centres and main public libraries;
- h) educational establishments;
- i) health facilities, such as hospitals, health centres and community practices;
- j) other visitor attractions, such as theme parks, monitored beaches and parks.

- 1.18 Nonetheless the Changing Places information along with the BS 8300 Changing Places design standard referenced in Appendix A, is currently good practice guidance, not a specified standard for compliance within TBR statutory guidance.

2. THE CONSIDERATIONS FOR CPT PROVISION

OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 In this consultation we are seeking to determine through statutory guidance, a standard for CPT provision, to ensure specific new/relevant large buildings commonly used by the public, are fitted with accessible sanitary facilities for people with complex and multiple disabilities – see para 1.1 (in addition to accessible toilet facilities), in a properly targeted proportionate manner and thus enhancing equality and inclusion within the building environment.
- 2.2 The overall objective of the amendment is to update the current advisory guidance on the provision of CPT facilities, changing it into compliance guidance for sanitary accommodation standards, under the existing Part R requirements of building regulations, without imposing disproportionate bureaucracy and costs on building owners, developers or on district councils whose role it is to enforce building regulations.
- 2.3 In June the Finance Minister Conor Murphy asked the Department's Building Standards Branch (BSB) to start work to introduce a requirement into building regulation for the provision of CPT facilities, as soon as possible. This consultation will seek to present proposals on this new provision for public stakeholder engagement. There are a total of six questions in the consultation. Please only answer those that are most relevant and important to you.

PROPOSALS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF CURRENT POSITION

- 2.4 In developing proposals the Department has been in continued liaison with the Technical Policy Division of the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG who are responsible for England's Building Regulations), on their development of a new CPT mandatory standard proposed within their building regulations, whilst being mindful of their Building Act's Primary legislative sanitary appliance requirements. July 2020 saw their publication of an amended guidance document ADM Volume 2 (applicable from January 2021) without the need for specific regulation.
- 2.5 The Department has also considered the development in Scottish Building Standards, of a CPT standard and their determination that provision for CPTs can be made without the need to amend the relevant mandatory standard. October 2019 saw Scottish Building Standards introduction of guidance on the circumstances where a CPT facility should be provided, the form that accommodation should take and the in scope buildings targeted in a proportionate manner. The Department is also mindful of the new CPT facility Scottish Planning legislation 'Town and Country Planning (Changing Places Toilet Facilities) (Scotland) Regulations 2020' (which came into force 20th May 2020).
- 2.6 The 2019 England Changing Places toilet policy Consultation considered the range of in scope new/relevant buildings further, to define the focus in a targeted and proportionate manner. The Consultation has also tested the costs originally derived from research undertaken for previous building regulations reviews, and from the

Scottish Government building Standards CPT Consultation. The England Consultation also determined the need for further ergonomic research to establish whether a smaller 3x3m (9m²) toilet is feasible for a user of modern wheelchairs, two carers and associated equipment to be provided in existing buildings.

- 2.7 The Department's proposals have been informed by the other UK regions in their determination that the provision of CPT facilities, should be set as an accessible sanitary accommodation standard within building regulations statutory guidance, where that guidance defines in scope new/relevant large buildings commonly used by public, setting targets and proportionate triggers for those buildings.
- 2.8 In developing a proposal on a standard for CPT facility provision under the Building Regulations, we have considered (based upon current good practice guidance) where a standard of provision can reasonably be set for new building or where a building undergoes a material change of use. Technical Booklet R sanitary accommodation standards will in addition set standard criteria for CPT facility provision, specifying the types of buildings where facilities would be required as well as size, capacity or other factors which would trigger CPT provision.
- 2.9 In determining the triggers for when a CPT facility would be required, we did not consider it appropriate to set a blanket size trigger for all types of buildings commonly used by the public. A blanket size trigger would not capture the varying types of buildings/developments we think should include CPT facilities.
- 2.10 Therefore, we have used a differentiated approach with a mix of triggers (including size, and capacity) depending on the type of building. Using only a size trigger could exclude certain buildings, which should include CPT facilities. For some buildings such as shopping centres, we consider a size trigger appropriate. In others, such as a cinema or theatre, a seating capacity is a more appropriate trigger to ensure we capture those that will be visited for a certain period of time by larger numbers of people. For a few buildings there is no trigger, so all these types of buildings would be captured – e.g. hospitals, cemetery buildings.
- 2.11 Size of buildings is described by the gross internal area of a building (i.e. the footprint of the building excluding the width of the outside walls but including areas occupied by internal walls, columns and partitions). The length in metres times the width in metres gives the area. The capacity of a building is derived from the combined total of a building's publicly accessible facilities – alternatively the capacity number may be taken as the number of fixed seats provided, where the occupants of the building would normally be seated.
- 2.12 As far as it is possible, we have aimed to use triggers that are measurable by District Council Building Control. Size and capacity are tangible measures for example, and we propose to use these in most cases.
- 2.13 Based on GB Post Consultation conclusions, we consider the subsequent informed list of buildings/developments to be proportionate and practical. In setting size triggers for those in scope buildings/developments, England's Post Consultation wider-catch targeting is proposed;
 - a) for assembly, entertainment & recreation buildings with a capacity for 350 or more people; or a collection of smaller buildings associated with a site used

- for assembly, recreation or entertainment, such as zoos, theme parks and venues for sports and exhibitions, with a capacity of 2000 people or more;
- b) for shopping centres/malls or retail parks with a gross floor area of 30,000m² or more;
- c) for retail premises with a gross floor area of 2500m² or more;
- d) for sport and leisure buildings with a gross floor area over 5000m²;
- e) for hospitals and primary care centres, &;
- f) for cemetery & crematoria buildings.

Similarly, the adjusted listings have informed our proposals in defining assembly, entertainment & recreation buildings, capturing;

- Amusement arcades;
- Art galleries;
- Cinemas;
- Concert halls;
- Conference centres;
- Further education colleges;
- Hotels that provide function, sport or leisure facilities;
- Libraries open to the public;
- Motorway service areas;
- Museums;
- Places of worship;
- Theatres;
- University buildings open to the public.

Or any other buildings or sites as defined by these thresholds, which are open to the public and used for the purpose of assembly, entertainment or recreation.

- 2.14 All transport providers have duties under disability discrimination law in relation to transport infrastructure such as their buildings (and associated facilities such as accessible sanitary accommodation provision). The NI Equality Commission's Code of Practice on the Provision and Use of Transport Vehicles and Code of Practice on Rights of Access, Goods, Facilities, Services and Premises - provide guidance and a full explanation of the legal duties on transport providers. Transport licensing regulators for Railway or Aviation infrastructure, may also set accessible sanitary accommodation requirements as part of the licensing arrangements.
- 2.15 The expectation (in England) would be that transport termini or interchanges with an estimated or actual footfall of at least 10 million per annum would install CPT facilities, where they are newly built or subject to material change of use. Nonetheless the provision of any CPT facility for transport patrons, has primarily to determine if the transport system actually caters for the transport of customers with complex and multiple disabilities... is their vehicle stock designed to safely accommodate specialised wheelchair seated passengers? This service aspect is beyond the scope of building regulations, therefore any associated infrastructure sanitary provisions would have to be determined by the Transport licensing authorities - who determine if the transport carriages are licensed to safely carry specialised wheelchair seated passengers.

3. CONSULTATION PACKAGE – CONTENTS AND RESPONSE

- 3.1 This consultation has been issued by the Department of Finance, which has responsibility for maintaining the Building Regulations for Northern Ireland. This document, together with the other consultation documents, is available online at:

<https://www.finance-ni.gov.uk/consultations>

The consultation documents are:

- Consultation Document
- Regulatory Impact Assessment (Draft for Consultation)
- Technical Booklet R (draft): Access to and use of buildings

- 3.2 We look forward to receiving your comments and views concerning any of the proposals contained in this consultation. We ask you to exercise care and refrain from the inclusion of any potentially defamatory material as it is our intention to publish responses on the Departments website. We will not publish the names or contact details of respondents, but will include the names of organisations responding.

We would encourage you to respond to the consultation using the on-line facility on [Citizen Space](#), accessible via NI Direct.

Your opinions are valuable to us. Thank you for taking the time to read this document and respond.

- 3.3 If you require a hard copy of this consultation document or have any other enquiries please email your request to info.bru@finance-ni.gov.uk or you can write to us at:

Consultation Co-ordinator
Department of Finance
Building Standards Branch
6th Floor
Goodwood House
44 - 58 May Street
Belfast
BT1 4NN

The Department will consider all the responses to this consultation received on or before the closing date, which is 20 October 2021.

Submissions made after this date cannot be considered.

NEXT STEPS IN THE CONSULTATION PROCESS

- 3.4 Where respondents have given permission for their response to be made public, and after we have checked that they do not contain personal information or product names, responses will be made available to the public at <https://www.finance-ni.gov.uk/publications> If you use the consultation hub, citizen space to respond, you will receive a copy of your response via email.
- 3.5 We may also wish to make responses to this consultation available to the Northern Ireland Assembly and for public inspection at the Building Standards Branch office.
- 3.6 Following the closing date, all responses will be analysed and the Department will publish a summary of responses to the consultation.
- 3.7 All information will be handled in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulations.

CONFIDENTIALITY AND DATA MANAGEMENT

- 3.8 If you ask for your response to be regarded as confidential and not to be published, you will be asked to explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential.
- 3.9 Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal data (see Annex A), will be published or disclosed in accordance with the access to information regimes (These are primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), the Data Protection ACT 2018 (DPA), the EU General Data Protection Regulation, and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004. If we receive a request for disclosure of confidential information, we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.
- 3.10 The Department of Finance will process your personal data in accordance with the law and in the majority of circumstances this will mean that your personal data will not be disclosed to third parties. A full privacy notice is included at Annex A.

Are you satisfied that this consultation has followed the Consultation Principles? If not or you have any other observations about how we can improve the process please contact us at info.bru@finance-ni.gov.uk or write to the following address:

Building Standards Branch
Department of Finance
6th Floor
Goodwood House
44 - 58 May Street
Belfast
BT1 4NN

4. PROPOSALS TO AMEND TECHNICAL GUIDANCE TO THE BUILDING REGULATIONS (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2012 –

PART R STATUTORY GUIDANCE STANDARD FOR CHANGING PLACES TOILET (CPT) FACILITIES PROVISION

REGULATIONS

- 4.1 The Department's proposals have been informed by outcomes in other UK regions, where provision for CPTs can be made without the need to amend the relevant regulations - in Northern Ireland Building Regulations, that relevant regulation being regulation 91 'Access and use' for people to have access to, into, within and to use a building and its facilities (in this instance sanitary facilities).
- 4.2 Part R (Access to and Use of Buildings) of the Building Regulations sets minimum access standards for all new buildings. These requirements are supported by statutory guidance in Technical Booklet R. The Technical Booklet sets out performance standards and design provisions - a way in which new building work, or material change of use or extensions to buildings, dwellings and workplaces in most common situations should make reasonable provision for accessibility.
- 4.3 CPT facilities were referenced for the first time within Northern Ireland Building Regulations Part R guidance in 2012 under the new Appendix A "Informative – Facilities for people with profound and multiple learning disabilities" to Technical Booklet R. However Appendix A is informative guidance as opposed to compliance guidance within Technical Booklet R.
- 4.4 Northern Ireland building regulations do not mandate the provision of toilets for sanitary convenience, beyond that required for a dwelling. Sanitary requirements for buildings other than dwellings are set by other legislation, where building regulations set technical standards for those sanitary facilities to be accessible and inclusive, within Section 6 of Technical Booklet R compliance guidance. Therefore regulation amendment is not necessary, rather a standard for CPT facilities provision needs to be included, in addition to the current accessible sanitary provision standards within the statutory guidance.

Q1: Do you support the proposal to introduce criteria for Changing Places Toilets (CPT) facilities provision (in addition to the current accessible sanitary provisions), in certain buildings through building regulations statutory guidance?

TECHNICAL BOOKLET

- 4.5 The Department proposes to amend the statutory guidance in Technical Booklet R on "Sanitary accommodation and associated sanitary facilities in buildings other than dwellings" (Section 6), updating the current accessible and usable performance criteria for accessible sanitary provision standards to include relevant criteria for where a CPT facility should be provided in certain buildings.

4.6 The Department intends to publish a Draft Amendment Slip to Technical Booklet R, with the guidance in the Amendment Slip addressing Section 6, to;

- a) Include a CPT facility provision standard within the accessible sanitary accommodation standards to Part R of the Building Regulations statutory guidance, having removed Appendix A Informative guidance on CPT facilities;
- b) Define in scope new/relevant large buildings commonly used by public, such as shopping centres, retail premises, sports/leisure buildings, hospitals/primary care buildings, cemetery/crematorium buildings and more specifically places of assembly, entertainment and recreation;
- c) Set criteria for the defined in scope buildings, to trigger CPT provision based on variables such as the building function and its people capacity or gross floor area; and
- d) Identify further specialist guidance sources on specific aspects of CPT facility layout and equipment, available from;
 - the Changing Places consortium campaign website;
 - BS 8300-2:2018 Clause 18.6 guidance, diagram 48 as well as Annexes F and G

4.7 The Department welcomes views on the draft Consultation version TBR (also see Annex B Draft Amendment slip) – particularly whether it would be helpful to include any other information.

Q2: Do you agree with the defined in scope/relevant types of large buildings commonly used by the public, where a CPT facility should be provided for a new building or where a building is formed by a material change of use?

Q3: Do you agree with the set criteria (the building function, its people capacity or gross floor area) for the defined in scope/relevant buildings?

Q4: The Department acknowledges that there may be complexities associated with CPT provision in existing buildings undertaking extension or alteration works, but would welcome further views and supporting evidence. Do you agree with the Department on the need for further supporting evidence and can you provide such, regarding CPT retro-fit installation to existing buildings undertaking extension or alteration works?

DRAFT REGULATORY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

4.8 The Department intends to publish a consultation stage DRAFT Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) alongside this consultation paper. In summary:

- a) The impact assesses the proposed inclusion of a CPT facility provision standard in addition to accessible toilet provision, by amendment to the associated Technical Booklet R statutory guidance on “Sanitary

accommodation". It will mean moving the current CPT guidance status from advisory to that of a being a compliance standard – setting criteria and triggers for in scope new/relevant buildings, where a CPT facility should be provided.

- b) The provision standard will specifically define in scope new/relevant large buildings by, listing the targeted types of buildings commonly used by the public (formed by new build or material change of use). The criteria will also set triggers for CPT provision based on variables such as the building function and its people capacity or gross floor area.
- c) The analysis compares the amendment (Option 2) against the option of doing nothing (Option 1).
- d) Option 1 was not considered valid as it would not set a clear compliance standard for CPT provision.
- e) Option 2 may result in an overall cost implication however, this option targets new/relevant large building types, whilst setting clear criteria in a proportionate manner via defined triggers.
- f) It is anticipated at this stage, that there will be a minimal cost impact given that the guidance change is targeted at large new build or material change of use buildings (commonly used by public), where this type of building development is less frequent in Northern Ireland. The current pandemic may also effect the development of these targeted new/relevant buildings.
- g) The amendments apply to relevant large buildings (where building regulations apply) and therefore have an effect on the major developments construction sector, developers, Building Control professionals etc. The Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016 requirements considered, will not be adversely impacted, where building regulations objective in this matter is to make sanitary provision more inclusive, in relevant buildings whether rural or urban based. This policy does not determine the locality for a building or locality for any type of buildings.
- h) The Department does not expect an Environmental Impact from the preferred Option to affect the wider environment outside the relevant buildings, and it will not result in additional greenhouse gases being emitted.
- i) The preferred Option is primarily focussed on improved equality and inclusion, to address a known need within our population/communities. This amendment under Section 75 equality categories (disabled and old people) will have a positive effect on those peoples equality of opportunity. Increasing provision will bring a number of non-monetised social benefits enabling more people with complex care needs to take part in everyday activities – with significant quality of life benefits for both disabled people and their carers.

4.9 The Department welcomes views on the draft RIA – particularly further evidence to inform the analysis/principal assumptions, costs and impacts.

Q5: Do you agree with the analysis/principal assumptions, costs and impacts set out in the Part R consultation stage RIA?

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

4.10 The Department encourages consultees to respond on any aspects of the proposals, therefore the last question is completely open to enable consultees to make suggestions or observations on relevant issues that are not addressed by answering the preceding questions.

Q6: Have you any additional comments on the proposals you wish to provide?

TIMING AND NEXT STEPS

4.11 The Department proposes that these amendments to the Technical Booklet should come into operation some 6 months after the response to public consultation.

Annex A

Personal data

The following is to explain your rights and give you the information you are entitled to under the Data Protection Act 2018.

Note that this section only refers to your personal data (your name address and anything that could be used to identify you personally), not the content of your response to the consultation.

1. The identity of the data controller and contact details of our Data Protection Officer

The Department of Finance (DoF) is the data controller. The Data Protection Officer can be contacted as follows:

**Data Protection Officer
Department of Finance
Room 23, Dundonald House
Upper Newtownards Road
Belfast
BT4 3SB**

Tel: 028 9052 4961

Email: dataprotectionofficer@finance-ni.gov.uk

2. Why we are collecting your personal data

Your personal data is being collected as an essential part of the consultation process, so that we can contact you regarding your response and for statistical purposes. We may also use it to contact you about related matters.

3. Our legal basis for processing your personal data

The Data Protection Act 2018 states that, as a government department, DoF may process personal data as necessary for the effective performance of a task carried out in the public interest. i.e. a consultation. In addition to the statutory requirement in the Building Order to consult on building regulations matters there is an expectation of appropriate public consultation on substantive changes to the Building Regulations.

4. For how long we will keep your personal data, or criteria used to determine the retention period.

Your personal data will be held for two years from the closure of the consultation.

5. Your rights, e.g. access, rectification, erasure

The data we are collecting is your personal data, and you have considerable say over what happens to it. You have the right:

- a. to see what data we have about you
- b. to ask us to stop using your data, but keep it on record
- c. to ask to have all or some of your data deleted or corrected

d. to lodge a complaint with the independent Information Commissioner (ICO) if you think we are not handling your data fairly or in accordance with the law. You can contact the ICO at <https://ico.org.uk/>, or telephone 0303 123 1113.

Annex B

DRAFT TBR AMENDMENT SLIP - PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Contents

Page 3

Appendix A

Delete the title “**Appendix A: Informative – Facilities for people with profound and multiple learning disabilities 77**”

Section 6 Sanitary accommodation and associated sanitary facilities in buildings other than dwellings

Page 51

Sanitary accommodation

Delete the second paragraph to 6.11 and replace with:

“The provision of an enlarged cubicle in a separate sex toilet washroom can benefit ambulant people who have a disability, people with assistance dogs, as well as people with children and people (e.g. those with luggage) who need an enlarged space. In large building developments (see paragraph 6.14A) an enlarged unisex toilet incorporating an adult changing table is desirable. Changing Places toilets, facilities designed for individuals with complex and multiple impairments who may require the help of up to two assistants, should be provided in addition to any wheelchair accessible unisex toilet facilities and baby changing provision (where provided). Further guidance on layout and equipment is available from the Changing Places Consortium campaign website (www.changing-places.org) and by reference to guidance in Clause 18.6, diagram 48 and Annexes F and G of BS 8300-2: 2018.”

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Sanitary accommodation

After paragraph 6.14 insert new paragraph 6.14A:

“6.14A At least one Changing Places toilet should be provided in the following types of building:

- (a) assembly, entertainment and recreation buildings (see Note) with a capacity of 350 people or more; or a collection of smaller buildings associated with a site used for assembly, entertainment and recreation, such as theme parks, zoos and venues for sport and exhibitions, with a capacity of 2000 people or more;
- (b) shopping centres/malls, or retail parks with a gross floor area of 30,000 m² or more;
- (c) retail premises with a gross floor area of 2500 m² or more;
- (d) leisure and sport buildings with a gross floor area of 5000 m² or more;
- (e) hospitals and primary care centres;

(f) cemetery and crematorium buildings. “

Page 52

Sanitary accommodation

After new paragraph 6.14A insert new paragraph Note:

“Note: Assembly, entertainment and recreation buildings can be defined as buildings such as;

- (i) amusement arcades;
- (ii) art galleries;
- (iii) cinemas;
- (iv) concert halls;
- (v) conference centres;
- (vi) further education colleges;
- (vii) hotels that provide function, leisure and sport facilities;
- (viii) libraries open to the public;
- (ix) motorway service areas;
- (x) museums;
- (xi) places of worship;
- (xii) theatres;
- (xiii) university buildings open to the public;

or any other buildings or sites as defined by these thresholds, which are open to the public and used for the purposes of assembly, entertainment or recreation. Capacities should be derived from the combined total of a building’s publicly accessible facilities.

Alternatively, the capacity number may be derived from the number of fixed seats provided, if the occupants of the building will normally be seated. Technical Booklet E provides a method of estimating the capacity of a building where this is not known.”

Appendix A: Informative – Facilities for people with profound and multiple learning disabilities

Page 76

Delete Appendix A Heading.

Delete all associated paragraphs to Appendix A.

Appendix B: Publications referred to

Page 77

After publication **BS 8300: 2009+A1: 2010** insert new publication reference:

“**BS 8300-2: 2018** Design of an accessible and inclusive built environment.
Part 2 Buildings - Code of practice”

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Appendix 2

Response from Belfast City Council to Department of Finance public consultation questionnaire regarding updated building control advice on the fitting of Changing Places Toilets

DRAFT FOR APPROVAL 24 September 2021

The questions below are extracted from the online questionnaire which must be completed with the approved response. Information will be made publicly available, unless we request otherwise, and state a rationale for the information being kept out of the public domain.

The consultation opened on 28 July 2021 and will close on 20 October 2021

Q1 Do you support the proposal to introduce criteria for Changing Places Toilets (CPT) facilities provision (in addition to the current accessible sanitary provisions), in certain buildings through building regulations statutory guidance?

We support the provision of CPT facilities in new buildings and those created by a material change of use for the category of buildings indicated. It is the view of Belfast City Council that a statutory requirement for such a facility would be the best way to ensure maximum provision. Whilst an amendment to technical guidance would be easier for the Department to implement this will allow scope for building owners and their designers to submit justifications for non-provision on the basis of proposed occupancy and detailed use at the design and construction phase. These justifications would have to be considered under the functional regulation which requires 'Reasonable provision'. This may appropriately justify non-provision at the design and construction stage but may not cater for the occupancy and specific use over the life span of the building. Changes to how a building is occupied or used over its lifespan may not re-engage this requirement unless the purpose group of the building changed. In this regard we consider mandatory provision for CPT facilities under Building Regulations to be the preferred option.

In addition, the current guidance contained in Technical Booklet R for accessible toilets is applicable only where toilets are provided for visitors, customers or staff. If no such facilities are provided, then no equivalent accessible facility is required. In terms of how the guidance is written it would appear that a CPT facility is being recommended for compliance irrespective of toilet provision for visitors, customers or staff, however clarity would be required. It would be helpful if the recommendations of paragraph 6.14A as a stand-alone requirement was clearly indicated as independent of paragraph 6.12. For example, the guidance in paragraphs 6.13 and 6.14 would not be applicable unless toilets are provided as per paragraph 6.12. It should be clear and unambiguous that CPT provision in paragraph 6.14A is independent of paragraph 6.12 unlike paragraphs 6.13 and 6.14 if this is the case.

Q2 Do you agree with the defined in scope/relevant types of large buildings commonly used by the public, where a CPT facility should be provided for a new building or where a building is formed by a material change of use?

The scope proposed would appear reasonable and we would have no additional information or evidence to bring in terms of a reduction or increase to scope. However as indicated in Q1 we do consider maximum benefit will be achieved by an amendment to

the regulations to make these facilities mandatory in relevant buildings. Applicants will still have the opportunity to apply for a relaxation or a dispensation of a prescriptive regulation if they have a valid case to make for non-provision. However, provision is likely to more widespread in the relevant scope with a mandatory requirement.

Q3: Do you agree with the set criteria (the building function, its people capacity or gross floor area) for the defined in scope/relevant buildings?

Yes, we would agree with the set criteria and would have no additional information or evidence to bring in terms of changes to this criteria.

Q4: The Department acknowledges that there may be complexities associated with CPT provision in existing buildings undertaking extension or alteration works, but would welcome further views and supporting evidence. Do you agree with the Department on the need for further supporting evidence and can you provide such, regarding CPT retro-fit installation to existing buildings undertaking extension or alteration works?

We have no evidence that would be of assistance in the establishment of triggers or thresholds for extending the provision of this facility to existing buildings. To have maximum impact this is an area which would need to be explored. Threshold combinations have been utilised in other Building Regulations for additional requirements such as floor area of the extension combined with percentage increase in useful floor area of the extended building. However we do not consider that determination of the threshold for application to extensions could be anything other than arbitrary. The application to alterations is likely to be even more problematic with perhaps type/size of the existing development and the estimated cost of alterations being carried out being potential triggers. Extending the recommendations to these categories of work would greatly enhance the provision of CPT facilities in the built environment as opposed to limiting provision to new buildings and those created by material change of use.

Q5: Do you agree with the analysis/principal assumptions, costs and impacts set out in the Part R consultation stage RIA?

Based on our experience of installing Changing Places into a number of premises, we would agree with the information/figures contained within the consultation

Q6: Have you any additional comments on the proposals you wish to provide?

It would be helpful to all industry stakeholders if the technical requirements for a CPT facility was provided in the statutory guidance as opposed to reference to associated documents. This could be reproduced as an additional appendix if necessary.

We welcome the steps being taken to increase inclusion for Changing Places Toilets facilities service users, and their carers. Promoting equality of opportunity is at the heart of the Belfast Agenda, the community plan for the city, and this action will contribute to that aim. In understanding the background to the campaign which has driven this change, there are several relevant points that demonstrate the opportunities we can learn from:

- The campaign for Changing Places Toilets facilities originated in England, gathering momentum with the establishment of a consortium in 2005. They

successfully highlighted the need for such facilities, increasing public awareness and support from big business.

- This consortium has driven through the changes and utilised the findings of organisations such as the Research Institute for Disabled Consumers to highlight the spending power of disabled people, which has become known as the 'purple pound'.
- Statutory guidance under Part M of the Building Regulations in England was amended in 2021 to require CPT facilities in new buildings, and since then the financial challenges to including such facilities voluntarily in existing buildings have been well documented. The Council notes that in July 2021 a £30 million fund was launched to encourage the retrospective installation of these facilities in existing premises which did not come under the scope of the new statutory guidance. This funding is to be distributed through Local Authorities.

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Belfast
City Council

STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Subject:	Minutes of the Meeting of the Audit and Risk Panel
Date:	24th September 2021
Reporting Officer:	Ronan Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources and Deputy Chief Executive
Contact Officer:	Claire O'Prey, Head of Audit, Governance and Risk Services (AGRS)

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with a summary of the key issues which were considered/discussed by the Audit and Risk Panel on 14th September and to present the minutes of that meeting for approval.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is requested to note the key issues arising at the meeting on 14th September and approve the attached minutes of that meeting.
3.0	Main Report
	Key Issues
	<u>Northern Ireland Audit Office (NIAO)</u>
3.1	The Panel considered the Statement of Accounts of the Council for the year-end 31st March, 2021. These accounts are a fundamental part of the councils overall corporate governance framework and provide assurance to Members and ratepayers on the stewardship of the council's finances and its financial position.

3.2	<p>The NIAO Director informed the Panel that their audit of the accounts is almost complete and on the basis of the work completed to date, the Local Government Auditor (LGA) will report on the 2020/21 financial statements with an unqualified audit opinion. The Panel expressed their thanks to the Finance team and the NIAO particularly as the previous audit was only completed in December 2020 due to the pandemic.</p>
3.3	<p>The Panel considered the draft Report to those Charged with Governance for 2020/21, which outlines the system / control issues arising from the NIAO audit. The draft report contained only 1 recommendation for management action, which is priority three (i.e. issue of a minor nature which represents best practice), relating to a cut off issue with invoices. The Panel considered the update provided by the Local Government Auditor, including the uncorrected misstatements identified by the NIAO. After considering materiality, impact on the net position and the amount of work required to update the accounts at this stage, the Panel decided not to correct these misstatements.</p> <p><u>Audit and Risk Panel</u></p>
3.4	<p>In line with recommended practice the work of the Audit & Risk Panel has been supported by the attendance and input of an external member, Geraldine Fahy. Ms Fahy is a source of expertise on audit and finance related matters, augmenting the skills / experience provided by Members. The Panel agreed to extend the contract with the external member for an additional two years, in line with the relevant legal agreement.</p> <p><u>Key reports</u></p>
3.5	<p>The Panel noted the progress being made against the annual audit plan, with four audits finalised in the period July - August 2021 and how there have been a number of requests to defer audits to later in the year. The Panel stressed the need for no further hold ups and asked the Head of AGRS to ensure that delivery of the audit plan stayed on track. Regarding a recent internal audit of compliance with policies on gifts and hospitality and conflict of interest, the Panel received an update from management on the progress being made to implement the recommendations arising. The Panel also received an update on the work being done to investigate matches arising from the National Fraud Initiative.</p>

3.6	The Panel considered the corporate risk dashboard which provided an analysis and update on the progress being made to manage the 24 risks that are considered by management to present the greatest threat to the delivery corporate priorities and / or compliance with key statutory requirements. The Panel agreed the new focus and wording for the corporate risks on the Local Development Plan and Climate Change. The Panel noted the quarterly assurances provided by members of the corporate management team regarding compliance with risk management and internal control processes. The Panel was also provided with a progress update on the review of the business continuity plans for the critical services.
3.7	The Panel received an analysis of the high priority audit recommendations that had not been implemented within the dates initially agreed with management. This analysis examined the reasons for delay and the new timeframes for implementation. The Panel noted that AGRS would review all open audit actions again in January / February 2022.
3.8	In line with best practice, the Panel agreed for AGRS to take forward the development of an assurance map for the corporate risks and key financial systems .
3.9	The Panel was also provided with a progress update on the agreed actions to be taken in relation to the recommendations contained within the report from Peter Coll QC of his independent investigation relating to events at Roselawn Cemetery on 30th June 2020, and confirmed that regular updates on this report will be a standing agenda item for the Panel.
3.10	The Panel also received quarter 1 reports on corporate health and safety, absence management and performance improvement . The Head of Human Resources indicated that she would undertake a deeper examination of the reasons for the increase in our absence rate.
3.11	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> None
3.12	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> None known at this time.
4.0	Document Attached
	Minutes of Audit and Risk Panel meeting of 14th September

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Audit and Risk Panel

Tuesday, 14th September, 2021

REMOTE MEETING OF AUDIT AND RISK PANEL

Members present: Alderman Rodgers;
Councillors, Hanvey,
Hutchinson, O'Hara; and Ms. G. Fahy.

In attendance: Mr. R. Cregan, Strategic Director of Finance and Resources;
Mr. J. Walsh, City Solicitor;
Ms. C. O'Prey, Head of Audit, Governance and Risk
Services (AGRS);
Ms. C. Sheridan, Head of Human Resources;
Mr. M. Whitmore, Audit, Governance and Risk
Services Manager;
Mr. L. Mulholland, Audit, Governance and Risk
Services Manager;
Mr. T. Wallace, Head of Finance;
Ms. H. Lyons, Corporate Finance Manager;
Mrs. E. Eaton, Corporate Health and Safety Manager;
Ms. C. Kane, Director, Northern Ireland Audit Office;
Ms S. Williams, Governance and Compliance Manager
Ms. C. Donnelly, Democratic Services Officer; and
Mrs. L. McLornan, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

An apology for inability to attend was reported for Councillor Carson.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 8th June were taken as read and signed as correct.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Absence Rates - Quarter 1 2021/22

The Panel considered a report providing information on the absence figures for quarter one of the financial year 2021/22. The Head of Human Resources reported that sickness absence for that period had been 3.32 days, which was an increase of 1.31 days compared to absence for the same period last year (2.01). She explained that there had

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been a decrease in the number of staff with no recorded absences and a significant increase in absence classified as long term (20+days) this period in comparison with the same period last year.

The Panel was advised that, when COVID-19 related absences had been deducted from the quarter one figure of 3.32 days, the figure further reduced to 2.93 days against the agreed corporate target for a reduction of 9.7% or 2.77 days per full time employee.

She explained that depression, stress and anxiety equated to 36 % of all days lost due to sickness absence, however, 64% of these absences related to personal stress and that, musculo-skeletal related absence accounted for 19% of all days lost due to sickness absence.

The Head of Human Resources explained that, in quarter one of the 2021/22 financial year, 439 employees were off due to sickness absence, which equated to 6684.35 days and that discretion had been applied to 29 of these employees. The Members were advised that the range of reasons for discretion were as follows:

- Underlying medical condition / Disability (137.72 days or 24.60%);
- Bereavement (116.54 days or 20.81%);
- Unresolved ER issues (70.59 days or 12.61%);
- Personal Stressors;
- Industrial Injury;
- Surgery and recovery; and
- Broken bone(s).

The Panel was advised that there were fortnightly compliance meetings with each department to discuss and address issues such as, delayed scheduling or failure to organise absence review meetings, delayed referral to Occupational Health or Employee Counselling and failure to update actions taken on the corporate absence management system.

The Members were advised that 42.09% of absence had been recorded as disability related, 70.26% of which was managed as long term and the use of discretion had been considered in such cases. She pointed out, however, that long COVID was a new type of absence and was being recorded as potentially disability related, and accounted for 8% of disability related absences in quarter one. In respect of COVID related absence, she advised that 35 employees had been recorded as absent due to COVID-19 and accounted for 11.77% of the total absence figure for quarter one.

With regards to the review of the Council's attendance policy, she explained that the review, which had commenced in 2018, had recommenced following a pause due to the pandemic. She added that Trade Unions had objected to any review of attendance policy during the public health crisis, however, the Corporate Management Team had agreed that the consultation should continue.

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She reported that a number of Stage 4 and Final Absence Hearings had taken place during quarter one, and summarised that:

- 11 employees met the trigger for a Stage4/FAH in quarter one;
- One employee resigned prior to a Stage4/FAH being scheduled;
- Discretion was used not progress five of the cases to Stage4/FAH due to:
 - significant personal stressors (1);
 - complex long term COVID cases (2); and
 - the requirement for additional medical information (2);
- Five employees attended a Stage 4 / FAH;
- Three employees were dismissed; and
- Two employees were re-issued with stage three warnings.

She further advised that, in addition to the above eleven cases, there had been a further two final absence hearings conducted in relation to employees who had met the trigger prior to April 2021.

The Head of Human Resources stated that Corporate HR would continue to monitor departmental compliance with the attendance policy and that non-compliance issues, in relation to the final stages of the attendance policy, would be raised with departmental senior management when necessary.

She further added that she had undertaken a benchmarking exercise with other Councils in Northern Ireland, and she reported that, of the other Councils who had responded, they had all seen a similar trends in absence rates during quarter one.

The Members of the Panel raised some queries regarding the root cause for the increased level of absence and the Head of Human Resources indicated that she would undertake a deeper analysis of the statistics and bring this to a future meeting of the Panel. The Members of the Panel agreed to note the content of the report.

**Update on Corporate Health and Safety
Performance Report**

The Corporate Health and Safety Manager provided the Panel with an update in relation to the Council's Health and Safety Performance during quarter one of the 2021/22 financial year. She reviewed the progress which had been achieved in relation to the key performance indicators by each department.

She pointed out to the Panel that the Council had fully implemented 12% of its health and safety actions and 28% of its fire safety actions which had been due at the end of quarter one, however, she added that it had been expected as this was the normal

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position in the first quarter of a financial year due to few new actions and a number of more challenging actions which would carry over from the previous year.

She reported that employee accidents were 22, an increase of one from the previous quarter. She pointed out that the accidents were mostly attributed to injuries from manual handling and slips trips or falls. She further reported that there had been eight non-employee accidents, a decrease of one from the previous quarter, six of which were injuries as a result of a slip, trip or fall and that whilst RIDDOR accidents had increased by since the previous quarter, work related violence incidents had decreased by three. In relation to the work-related violence and the two incidents involving threatening behaviour, the Panel queried whether the PSNI had been involved. The Corporate H&S Manager indicated that she would report back to the Panel on this matter.

With regards to COVID-19, she reported that the Corporate Health and Safety Unit would continue to support the Council's Recovery Co-ordination Group and individual service managers to comply with evolving government guidance and to ensure the health and safety of Council staff and members of the public.

The Panel agreed to note the content of the report.

**Northern Ireland Audit Office (NIAO) –
Financial Statement of Accounts**

The Members of the Panel considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

The purpose of this report is to present to the Audit and Risk Panel, the Statement of Accounts of the Council, including the Annual Governance Statement, for the period ending 31 March 2021.

The Statement of Accounts are an important element of the council's overall corporate governance framework as they provide assurance to Members and ratepayers on the stewardship of the council's finances and its financial position.

The Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021, as attached, have been prepared in line with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2020/21 based on International Financial Reporting Standards and the Department for the Communities Accounts Direction, Circular LG 08/21 dated 11 March 2021 and 24 June 2021.

I can confirm that the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021 has been prepared in the form directed by the Department for the Communities and in my opinion the

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

2.0 Recommendations

The Panel is asked to recommend that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee approve the Council's Statement of Accounts and incorporated Annual Governance Statement for the year ended 31 March 2021.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

Audit Opinion

It is the Local government Auditors' opinion that:

- the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with relevant legal and statutory requirements and the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2020-21, of the financial position of Belfast City Council as at 31 March 2021 and its income and expenditure for the year then ended; and
- the statement of accounts have been properly prepared in accordance with the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and the Department for Communities directions issued thereunder; and
- the part of the Remuneration Report to be audited has been properly prepared in accordance with the Department for Communities directions made under the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015; and
- the information given in the Narrative Report for the financial year ended 31 March 2021 is consistent with the financial statements.

Reserves

General Fund

The credit balance on the General Fund has increased to £54,924,106 (of which £40,929,092 relates to specified reserves). The movement on the reserves balance is summarised in Table 1 below:

Table 1: Summary of Reserves Position

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Opening Balance	£28.7m
In year movement in reserves	£26.2m
Closing Balance	£54.9m
Specified Reserves at year end	£40.9m
Balance Available	£14 m

Capital Fund £19,296,139

The Capital Fund is made up of the Belfast Investment Fund (£1,908,136). The fund has been created to support key partnership projects to regenerate Belfast and help lever substantial funds from other sources, the Local Investment Fund (£1,056,624) to fund smaller local regeneration projects, the City Centre Investment Fund (£13,408,897) to support the Belfast City Centre Regeneration Investment Plans, the Social Outcomes Fund (£2,922,482) to support City Centre projects which might not generate a direct financial return but would enhance the overall City Centre offer and support and attraction of investment.

Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund £8,000,000

This fund was created from the Belfast Investment Fund, to support neighbourhood regeneration and tourism projects in local neighbourhoods.

Leisure Mobilisation Fund £630,245

This fund is to support the Leisure Transformation Programme and will cover programme level costs including communications, engagement and procurement costs.

Capital Receipts Reserve £7,962,458 and Deferred Capital Receipts £342,300

These are capital receipts which have originated primarily from the sale of assets and which have not yet been used to finance capital expenditure.

Other Fund Balances and Reserves £1,091,532

This relates to the Election Reserve (£379,435) which has been set up to smooth the cost of running council elections, the BWUH Subvention Fund (£436,402) to support national and international organisations in bringing their conferences to Belfast and the BWUH Sinking Fund (£275,695) to support planned maintenance and future capital works at the new exhibition centre.

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Debt

The overall level of trade debtors had been decreasing over the last ten years. Whilst, the COVID 19 pandemic had an impact on overall debt levels which now stand at £5.2m at 31 March 2021 compared to £4m at 31 March 2011, the increase is mainly due to an increase in public authority debt at year end. An analysis of trade debtors, inclusive of VAT, for the last two years is shown below:

	31 March 2021	31 March 2020
Less than three months	£3,963,319	£3,239,834
Three to one year	£481,307	£614,739
More than one year	£772,373	£218,298
Total	£5,216,999	£4,072,871

Creditors

The Department for Communities has set councils a target of paying invoices within 30 days. During the year the council paid 51,593 invoices totalling £154,605,481.

The average time taken to pay creditor invoices was 17 days for the year ended 31 March 2021. The Council paid 39,959 invoices within 10 days, 48,218 invoices within 30 days, and 3,375 invoices outside of 30 days. The council endeavours to process invoices as quickly as possible and has an improvement plan to support this process.

Annual Governance Statement (AGS)

The Statement of Accounts include the Annual Governance Statement (AGS) for the year 2020/21, which has been prepared in line with the Accounts Directive provided by the Department for Communities, NIAO guidance and is consistent with the principles of the CIPFA/SOLACE Framework 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government'. Specifically the AGS sets out:

- scope of responsibility of the Council in relation to governance
- the purpose of the governance framework
- the governance framework in place
- review of effectiveness of the governance framework
- update on the significant governance issues from prior year

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- **significant governance issues to be disclosed for current year**

The AGS is approved by the Chair of the Strategic Policy and Resources, the Chief Executive and the Director of Finance and Resources. It is subject to review by the LGA (NIAO) as part of their annual audit.

Financial & Resource Implications

None

Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

None

The Panel commended the Finance team and the NIAO on the production of the financial accounts and the results of the audit and agreed to recommend that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee approve the Council's Statement of Accounts and incorporated Annual Governance Statement for the year ended 31st March 2021.

**Northern Ireland Audit Office (NIAO) –
Draft report to those charged with governance**

The Members of the Panel reviewed the contents of the NIAO Draft Report to those charged with Governance, which summarised the system and control issues which had arisen during its 2020/21 audit which included recommendations for management action.

Ms. Kane, Director, Northern Ireland Audit Office, pointed out that management had not had the opportunity to provide comments and/or actions to address the issues raised in the Local Government Auditor's report for 2020/21, and that they would be presented to the Panel at its meeting in December.

She reported that the audit was ongoing and was due to be completed after the NIAO received the final signed Statement of Accounts and it was anticipated that the Local Government Auditor would certify the 2020/21 statements with an unqualified opinion. She stated that it was an incredible achievement to both prepare the accounts and complete the audit by the end of September 2021, considering the public health crisis.

She highlighted the comments in the report regarding her correspondence with the Chief Executive in respect of the Summer Community Diversionsary Festival Programme 2021, to receive assurances around how the programme was to be administered.

She pointed out to the Members that the audit had identified one priority three recommendation, that being a cut off issue where she had recommended a review of all

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significant invoices at year end to ensure that they were correctly captured in the statement of accounts. She added that a detailed response to the draft management letter, identifying timescales and responsible officers, would be brought to a future meeting of the Panel.

In response to a question by a Member regarding usable resources, Mr Wallace informed the Panel that the usable reserves have increased significantly, due to the additional COVID-19 response monies which had been received and the impact of some services not being operational for a portion of the previous financial year.

After further discussion, it was
Moved by Councillor Hutchinson,
Seconded by Councillor Hanvey,

That the Members of the Panel agree to note the content of the report and accept the uncorrected misstatements as set out in the draft Report to those charged with Governance.

The Members of the Panel agreed to accept the proposal and it was declared carried.

**AGRS - Progress Report June 2021 –
August 2021**

The Head of Audit, Governance and Risk Services gave the Panel an overview of the work that had been completed in the period and summarised the main findings from the following assurance audits finalised in the period:

- Corporate Risk Review – City Centre Regeneration; Follow-up review of the Zoo action plans;
- Corporate Risk Review – Waste Management and; Belfast Waterfront & Ulster Hall (BWUH) Ltd.

Regarding the two audits of the management of the corporate risks on City Regeneration and Development and Waste Management, the Head of AGRS highlighted that more detailed internal audit of these areas are included in the agreed audit plan for 2021/22.

She provided the Panel with an update on the review of the project management arrangements in place for the Planning Portal, pointing out that the progress being made by the Council's project team was directly reliant on the progress being made by the regional project team.

She also summarised the work that AGRS had undertaken to facilitate a workshop, with the key internal stakeholders, on the Intelligent Client Function (ICF) and how this helped inform the recent decision of the Council to take on responsibility for the ICF.

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The Head of AGRS outlined the following audits that were in progress or the reports that were currently being agreed with management:

- Police and Community Safety Partnerships (PCSPs) (draft report prepared);
- Externally funded projects – compliance with letters of offer (draft report prepared);
- Payroll (draft report prepared);
- Grants (draft report prepared);
- Local Full Fibre Networks (draft report prepared);
- Off Street Car Parking (draft report prepared);
- Procurement and contract management (fieldwork); and
- Fleet management (fieldwork)

She updated the Panel on a number of instances where management had asked for AGRS to delay commencement of audits due to ongoing pressures on their resources as a result of the pandemic, organisational recovery work, business as usual work and approaching deadlines for important programmes and projects, and how AGRS would continue to monitor progress against plan.

She provided the Panel with a high-level summary of whistleblowing/fraud investigations along with the range of work that had been done to increase Fraud Risk Awareness. With regard to the National Fraud Initiative (NFI), the Head of AGRS provided the Panel with a summary of the outcome of the investigation of the matches to date.

Following a number of questions by the Members, the Panel agreed to note the AGRS Progress Report for the period June to August, 2021 and stressed the need for no further delays to delivery of the internal audit plan for the year.

**High Priority Recommendations Monitor –
Update Report**

The AGRS Manager provided the Members of the Panel with an update on the implementation of high priority audit actions and the analysis of the underlying reasons for delays in implementation, following the recent Recommendations Monitoring exercise.

He explained that, at the start of this exercise, there were 68 outstanding (overdue) high priority actions and that 5 of these actions had been closed (either because they were fully implemented or are now no longer applicable). Of the 63 high priority actions that remained outstanding, 38 (or 60%) of these had been partially implemented.

He summarised and provided examples of the five main reasons for delays in implementation as being:

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- ongoing pressures on resources in services and departments, combined with prioritisation of other work;
- actions where implementation of the outstanding actions was dependent on the implementation of a new IT system;
- delays associated with the pandemic (including furlough, absence etc) and ongoing operational recovery;
- actions where implementation was dependent on the development, approval and implementation of a strategy or business plan
- actions where implementation is dependent on the outcome of ongoing departmental or service reviews

In terms of ongoing risk exposure, he noted that these actions were assigned a high priority rating at the time of the audit report, some of which date back some years. While management have accepted the continuing importance of implementing these actions, the level of risk associated with the actions may not necessarily be the same as it was at the time of the audit, either through the passage of time, or because management have in many cases implemented interim measures to help manage the risk until the actions are fully implemented.

He went on to explain as part of this review, AGRS clarified management's expectation for progress towards implementation. This indicated that management expect more than half of the outstanding high priority actions to be implemented within the current financial year, with a further 30% expected to be implemented in the next financial year.

He indicated that AGRS would undertake the next exercise in January/February, and would report to the Assurance Board/ Audit & Risk Panel in March 2022.

The Members of the Panel agreed to note the update on the progress made by management to implement high priority audit recommendations and the analysis of the underlying reasons for delays in implementation.

**Corporate Risk Management Update for
quarter-end June 2021**

The Head of AGRS presented the Members of the Panel with a summary of the key updates from the risk review for the quarter-end June 2021 and updated the Panel on compliance with the Risk Strategy, based on the assurance statements for quarter-end June 2021, completed by senior management. She provided the Audit and Risk Panel also with an update on business continuity management arrangements.

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She directed the Panel to the Corporate Risk Management Dashboard for the quarter-end June 2021 which sets out:

- Corporate risk analytics – risks reviewed, risks by category, risks within risk appetite, risk actions implemented / not yet due / overdue, movement in risk assessment;
- Key corporate risk updates for the quarter; and
- For each corporate risk, a summary of progress made to manage the risk and actions implemented in the quarter

The Head of AGRS provided the Panel with an update on the following corporate risk updates:

- Local Development Plan;
- Climate Change;
- Resilience Strategy; and
- Developing a Data Driven Approach to delivering the Belfast Agenda.

She informed the Members that risks had been assessed except the risks on Climate Change, City Risks / Resilience Strategy and Asset Management and that, the risk on Climate Change had not been assessed due to the Climate Commissioner's proposal that this risk was refocused and, subject to agreement, a new risk action plan would need to be developed and the new risk assessed.

She added that the risk on Resilience Strategy had not been assessed as it required review to reflect the next phase. Regarding Asset Management, due to other higher priorities, the Director of Physical Programmes had been unable to take forward the piece of work that was required to prepare a report for CMT, with an outline plan for improving the management of BCC assets. She further added that a working group would be convened to fully scope what was required, in advance of a formal Asset Management Board being established.

Regarding the Quarterly Assurance Statements on compliance with the risk management strategy, the Head of AGRS explained that these statements, from members of CMT, provided assurance to the Panel on the management of corporate risks, Covid-19 service recovery risk assessments and maintenance of internal controls systems, including temporary expenditure control measures.

She went on to explain that some issues had been raised in these statements along with the action that management intended to take to manage these issues.

In terms of the Business Continuity Management (BCM) update, the Head of AGRS reported that, as at 17th August 2021, all of the 15 critical services, except for Bereavement Services, had reviewed and updated their BCM plans.

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She went on to explain that, in December 2020, the Panel agreed for an additional two services to be added to the list of critical services in the Business Continuity Management Policy, the Customer Hub and Property Maintenance. She explained that AGRS was supporting these services in the development of their business continuity plans and had provided feedback on the draft BCM Plan for the Customer Hub and had offered to provide advice to Property Maintenance.

She also stated that AGRS was supporting Digital Services in running an Incident Response exercise in October, designed around a cyber-attack, which would provide some valuable learning from an emergency response/ business continuity perspective.

The Members of the Panel agreed to note the:

1. Corporate risk management dashboard and update for quarter-end June 2021 including the reframing of the corporate risks regarding the Local Development Plan and Climate Change;
2. Assurances from senior management regarding compliance with the Risk Strategy, based on the assurance statements for quarter-end June 2021; and
3. The current position regarding review and update of the business continuity plans for the critical services to take account of learning from the pandemic.

Assurance Map

The Audit Governance and Risk Services Manager pointed out to the Members that the Council had an Assurance Framework which was underpinned by the three lines model which divided each type of assurance into either management control, corporate oversight or independent assurance. He added that Audit, Governance and Risk Services, as the Council's internal audit function, was responsible for providing independent assurance that the Council's risk management, governance and control processes operate effectively, but that this was only one of multiple sources of assurance.

He advised the Panel that an assurance map was a useful tool that could help the organisation to understand the various assurances that were in place as well as helping the organisation to identify any gaps that might exist, in particular, with regard to key corporate risks and financial systems.

He reported that an assurance map would:

- I. Allow senior management to review and assess the assurances they have in place over the management of corporate risks / operation of key financial processes and to identify any gaps or areas of duplication;
- II. Provide clarity to members and senior management on the range of assurances available and whether they are in line with their assurance requirements / expectations for these corporate risks and key financial processes;

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- III. Enable the Audit & Risk Panel to fulfil their role “to provide independent assurance to those charged with governance (Members and senior management) on the adequacy of the risk management framework and the internal control environment.”;
- IV. Enable the Audit Assurance Board to deliver their main purpose “to oversee the effective operation of the Council’s assurance framework. In doing so, the Board will play a key role in ensuring that the Council’s governance arrangements are fit for purpose and enable the Council to meet its statutory obligations and achieve its objectives.”;
- V. Support the Board / Panel in their consideration of the annual review of the effectiveness of the council’s system of internal control, which is reported in the Annual Governance Statement, and which the Board / Panel recommend to SPAR for approval; and
- VI. Help AGRS to better understand assurance activities across the council and use this information when developing the audit plan thereby allowing AGRS to demonstrate compliance with the International Professional Practices Framework (IPPF) Standard 2050 which requires that the Head of AGRS should “share information, coordinate activities, and consider relying upon the work of other internal and external assurance and consulting service providers to ensure proper coverage and minimise duplication of efforts”. AGRS are due to be assessed by external review against professional audit standards during 2022/23.

He outlined the proposed approach to developing an assurance map and sought agreement for initiating the development of an assurance map, with an initial focus on corporate risks and key financial processes. He added that AGRS would then map out the various sources of assurance for each of the corporate risks and key financial processes and discuss this with management. As part of this work, AGRS would agree a process for ongoing review and update of the assurance map.

The Panel agreed to note the benefits of developing an assurance map for the Council’s corporate risks and key financial systems and agreed that AGRS to take forward this piece of work.

**Update on Conflict of Interest, Gifts
and Hospitality Policy**

The Governance and Compliance Manager advised the Members that a recent internal audit report had indicated that improvements were required to ensure that there was a satisfactory level of compliance with respect to both policies and the procedures required to be followed when registering a conflict of interest or recording acceptance or provision of gifts and/or hospitality. The audit also highlighted the need for all staff to be

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made aware of the policies and to ensure that declarations were made in a consistent manner.

She reported that it was proposed that a single, simplified policy would make it easier for staff to make declarations with respect to both potential conflicts of interest and in the acceptance or provision of gifts and hospitality and that the new policy would not fundamentally change any of the obligations upon staff which would remain derived from existing documentation (including the Code of Conduct for Belfast City Council Officers and the Accounting Manual).

She proposed that the new policy would:

- allow for the policies to be combined and simplified;
- allow for outdated terminology to be replaced and updated;
- provide clearer guidance to staff;
- make it easier for staff to access and complete the various forms attached to the policy;
- make it easier for nominated officers to record and maintain a record of all declarations made; and
- improve overall compliance with the policy.

She advised the Members that a new policy had been drafted and was being consulted upon by JNCC, however, the departmental nominated officers had been instructed to remind all staff of their obligations under the existing policy and complete any outstanding compliance exercises and update the registers accordingly.

She added that following consultation with JNCC, the new policy and timeline for implementation would be brought to the Corporate Management Team for approval.

The Panel agreed to note the content of the report.

Action Plan in Response to Peter Coll QC Report:
Progress Update

The City Solicitor reminded the Panel that in February, 2021, Mr. Peter Coll QC provided his report to the Council on the events surrounding the arrangements for the cremation of Mr. Robert Storey at Roselawn Crematorium on 30th June, 2020.

He outlined to the Members, the proposed action plan in response to Mr. Coll's recommendations, which included:

- Member/Officer communications and decision making;
- Workforce, structures and culture;
- Crisis Management; and
- Improvements to Roselawn Crematorium.

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He advised the Panel that the Members would be provided with further updates over the coming months, as proposed actions were undertaken in response to the recommendations contained within Mr. Coll QC's report.

The Panel noted the progress made to date and that, regular updates on this report would be a standing agenda item for both the Audit Assurance Board and the Audit and Risk Panel.

Performance Improvement – 2019-20 Year End Assessment and Arrangements for 2020-21

The Strategic Director of Finance and Resources asked the Members of the Panel to consider the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

The purpose of this paper is to:

- **Update the Panel on progress to comply with the performance improvement duty as laid in in Part 12 of the Local Government (NI) Act 2014 in relation the 2019-20 Audit;**
- **Update the Panel on the arrangements for 2020-21 and 2021-22**

2.0 Recommendations

The Panel is asked to:

- **Note the update on the 2019-20 Audit in the context of the Covid-19 emergency;**
- **Note the update on the arrangements for 2020-21 and 2021-22**

3.0 Main report

Year End Corporate Performance Assessment

NIAO audit and assessment 2020

As previously reported the Performance Unit within the Finance and Resources Directorate produced a Year End Operational Update for 2019-20 which was considered by the Panel. Subsequently as required the report was published online by the 30 September 2020.

The NIAO audit and assessment of BCC's Improvement activity was completed in February 2021, in the context of the Covid-19 emergency the timeline was shifted. NIAO had previously advised that the proposed deadline for final reports would be March 2021, however final audit reports have still to

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be issued by NIAO. The Panel will be updated once the final report has been received.

BCC Improvement Plan 2021 / 22

SP&R Committee in June agreed, via delegated authority to the Chief Executive to approve the Improvement Plan for 2021/22. The Improvement plan does not include everything that council plans to do that year, but instead focuses on a smaller set of key improvement priorities, as informed by resident priorities and evidenced by need. The Plan for 2021/22 includes six improvement objectives, aligned to the Belfast: Our Recovery plan, these are

Our city
We will support our city to recover by helping to restore the social and cultural vibrancy of our city spaces and places in a safe and sustainable way
Our services
We will take steps to ensure our services adapt and improve in the short and longer term
Our communities
We will work with and support our communities, helping them to become stronger, healthier and more resilient
Our economy
We will work in collaboration with others to protect and create jobs and support people into employment
Our environment
We will take action to protect the environment and improve the sustainability of Belfast
Digital innovation
We will improve digital inclusion and enhance our digital infrastructure to support jobs, our economy, sustainability and wellbeing

The 2021/22 Improvement Plan was subsequently published on the council website by 30th June in order to meet the statutory deadline.

A mid-year report on progress made against activities contributing to the Improvement Objectives contained within our 2021-22 Improvement Plan will be brought to the next Panel meeting in December in line with our agreed processes.

Arrangements for Performance Improvement 2020-21 and 2021-22

Guidance in relation to the format and requirements for the 2020/21 audit is still to be formally agreed and issued. There was no requirement for a Performance Improvement Plan for 2020-21, and guidance on what areas the audit will focus on for that reporting period has still to be issued. In the absence

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of any guidance, the performance unit will compile a short summary update, to include the year end statutory indicators or 2020-21 rather than a full year end update and publish the figures by the 30th September deadline.

The Performance Improvement Working Group, made up of representatives from each of the 11 Councils and chaired by the Chief Executive of M&EA, on behalf of SOLACE NI, continue to have discussions with the Department for Communities and NIAO with regards to performance improvement. The Performance Unit will continue to engage in discussions via the Working Group on moving forward with performance improvement for 2021/22 and the format and requirements for the 2020/21 audits.

Financial & Resource Implications

Audit fees will be calculated on the basis of the time spent by the NIAO on Belfast's audit and as previously advised should be reduced this year to 25%-30% of the previous cost.

Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

None associated with this report.

The Panel agreed to note the update on the 2019-20 Audit in the context of the Covid-19 emergency and the update on the arrangements for 2020-21 and 2021-22.

Non-Executive Member of the Audit and Risk Panel

The Chairperson asked the Non-Executive Member of the Panel, Ms. G. Fahy, to retire from the meeting for the discussion of the report, and she left the meeting while the item was being considered.

The Panel was reminded that, in line with recommended practice, the work of the Audit and Risk Panel had, for a number of years, been supported by the attendance and input of an external Member as a source of expertise on audit and finance related matters, augmenting the skills / experience provided by the Elected Members.

The Chairperson pointed out that the current external Member, Ms Geraldine Fahy, had provided the Elected Members of the Panel with an objective perspective and that her contract commenced in November 2020, initially for one year with possible extension for a further two years and asked the Panel to consider extending the existing agreement to provide the Council with the appropriate continuity of service

The Panel agreed to extend Ms. Fahy's contract for an additional two years.

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Reporting Protocol for Sharing Best Practice

The Head of Audit, Governance and Risk reminded the Panel that, at a workshop in April 2021, the Panel had recognised that it was important for Members and officers to be aware of, and to comply with best practice guidance issued by the Northern Ireland Audit Office (NIAO), CIPFA and other organisations and asked for assurances on the processes around this.

With regard to the reporting protocol process, she advised the Panel that AGRS had an established process in place to help ensure that management were aware of best practice guidance by, reviewing relevant guidance documents, identifying relevant documents and summarising the key points, reviewing any relevant reports received by external organisations and forwarding this information on to relevant management.

She reported that AGRS had provided management with summaries of the following best practice documents and key reports:

Northern Ireland Audit Office

- Capacity and Capability in the Northern Ireland Civil Service
- Addiction services in Northern Ireland
- Governance Issues in Sport Northern Ireland
- Annual report and accounts for The Executive Office, Land & Property Services
- Annual Report and Trust Statement Accounts, Department for Infrastructure and
- Department of Health Annual Report and Accounts

National Audit Office

- Improving broadband
- Achieving net zero
- Lessons learned from Major Programme

Department of Finance

- Programme and project management guidance

Independent inquiry

- Renewable Heating Incentive – Inquiry Report (Summary and recommendations)
- Best Value Report
- Liverpool City Council

She advised the Members that it was proposed that updates on the reporting protocol process would be provided to the Assurance Board and the Audit and Risk Panel via the AGRS quarterly progress report.

The Members of the Panel agreed to note:

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- the process to help ensure management would be aware of best practice guidance issued by the NIAO, CIPFA and other organisations; and
- that future updates on the reporting protocol will be included in our standard AGRS progress reports to the Assurance Board and Audit & Risk Panel.

Chairperson

Working Group on the Climate Crisis

Tuesday, 21st September, 2021

MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP ON THE CLIMATE CRISIS

- Members present: Councillor Smyth (Chairperson);
Alderman Copeland;
Councillors Baker, Bunting, de Faoite, and
Hutchinson.
- In attendance: Ms. D. Caldwell, Climate Commissioner;
Mr. R. McLernon, Resilience Co-ordinator;
Mr. J. McKearney, Project Support Officer; and
Mr. G. Graham, Democratic Services Assistant.
- Also attended: Professor J. Barry, Queens University Belfast; and
Ms. J. Berman, Climate Northern Ireland Manager.

Apologies

No apologies were reported

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 23rd June, 2021 were taken as read and signed as correct.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Introductions and Overview of the All Party Working Group

The Chairperson provided the Members with an overview of the work and issues pertinent to the Working Group and welcomed both officers and the external participants to the meeting. He reminded the Members that the Council had declared a climate emergency in October, 2019 followed by the publication of a Resilience Strategy and Climate Plan in 2020.

He thanked the officers for their work in securing efforts to deal with the climate emergency and, in particular, Councillor de-Faoite for his efforts in making the case for the formulation of a Working Group to raise awareness in regard to Climate Change.

The Chairperson outlined the three strands of the Resilience Strategy, culminating in a delivery plan for the city and highlighted the areas of work which would be required to be addressed, if the Council were to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050. He referred to the threats facing the city if climate change was permitted to continue unabated and of the need to collaborate with other stakeholders, including the local community, to ensure support for the initiatives necessary to achieve the required reduction in carbon emissions.

Introduction to the Belfast Climate Commission

Professor Barry provided the Working Group with an overview of the background, remit and membership of the Belfast Climate Commission. He stated that the Commission formed part of the Place Based Climate Action Network (P.C.A.N.). and was part of a network of Climate Commissions, throughout the U.K, focussed on action to achieve its climate change objectives. The Professor stated that P.C.A.N's mission was to secure public/private/civil society organisations to mobilise finance in order to provide public support and funding for its climate change objectives.

The Members were advised that P.C.A.N. had developed the Belfast Net Zero Road Map and provided an overview of that organisation's structure. He stated that the Climate Commission comprised fourteen core Commissioners, from a range of backgrounds, supported by a number of Working Groups. He referred to the fact finding and statistical formulation work, undertaken by the Commission, to help inform evidence based policy and of the need for leadership to make difficult but informed decisions, if the extreme effects of Climate change were to be avoided.

The Professor stated that while many U.K, authorities had declared climate emergencies, few had followed up with appropriate climate action to mitigate against the potential impact of climate change. The Chairperson, on behalf of the Working Group, asked how the Council might engage with the local community to ensure that ownership of the climate emergency was galvanised. The Professor suggested that academic institutions might play a positive role in that regard and, in so doing, suggested that the relevant issues be broken down into District Electoral Areas (D.E.A's.). He suggested that, by focussing on Local geographical areas, local communities could identify more closely with the climate issues pertinent to their local environment. He suggested that public bodies could make better use of their land by planting more trees including the creation of community gardens, for example, to engage with the public and encourage local communities to embrace climate adaptation measures.

The Members were informed of the physical and psychological benefits of promoting green and blue spaces, including the economic benefits in terms of the creation of green jobs associated with the development of a green economy and a sustainable future. He highlighted the benefits of retro fitting public housing stock which could make a considerable contribution towards the elimination of fuel poverty.

The Working Group noted the information provided by Professor Barry and thanked him for his detailed and informative presentation.

Belfast Net Zero Road-Map

The Climate Commissioner provided the Working Group with a presentation outlining a range of scenarios should global temperatures rise above 1.5 degrees centigrade and the cuts required, in respect of global emissions, to achieve that target. She highlighted the importance of cities in terms of the emissions produced, and why urban authorities had such an important role in delivering policies to tackle climate change. The Commissioner stated that, in terms of our carbon budget allocation, Northern Ireland would exceed its carbon target by 2030.

The Members were informed that the carbon road map had identified the key areas where carbon reduction could make a significant difference and could assist in helping the province reach its 84% reduction target by 2050. The areas identified within the road map

included buildings, industry and transport. The Commissioner stated that the road map highlighted the investments required to achieve the necessary reduction in emissions, including the benefits and financial returns made on those investments. The Working Group was informed that investing in home insulation provided the greatest economic and carbon reduction benefit in terms of its financial and environmental returns.

The Commissioner reported that, the next steps set out in the carbon road map were to develop a comprehensive Climate Action Plan for the City incorporating science-based targets to widen the scope, to include scope three emissions and to report back on a regular basis and progress in achieving carbon reductions against its specified targets. She stated that the Council was endeavouring to secure a budget to support the development of a Carbon Action Plan for the City, in tandem with the Resilience and Sustainability Board and the Climate Commission.

In response to a question from a Member in regard to the retro-fitting by the Housing Executive of its current housing stock, the Commissioner stated that a number of retrofit pilot projects were being undertaken by that organisation and that additional funds had been made available by the Department for the Economy to support vulnerable households to retrofit their homes.

The Working Group noted the information provided by the Climate Commissioner and thanked her for her detailed presentation.

PCAN work on Local Climate Action

Professor Barry provided the Working Group with an overview of the work which had been undertaken, on behalf of the U.K 100 organisation, to assess developments which had taken place, on a U.K basis, to deal with the current climate emergency. He referred specifically to a report which attempted to analyse trends on local climate action initiatives throughout the U.K. and which sought to determine what specific actions had been implemented, successfully, to halt the pending climate emergency,

The Working Group was informed that the research undertaken had revealed that, while three in every four councils across the U.K. had declared a climate emergency, only 62% of those surveyed had initiated climate action plans to deal with that emergency. He stated that, of those councils which had taken action, an emphasis had been placed on climate mitigation, with relatively little resources targeted at climate adaptation measures. He reminded the Working Group that advice on climate mitigation and adaptation measures could be provided by both P.C.A.N. and the Climate Commission to assist with that process. He reinforced the importance of shared learning, on climate change measures, using the experience of other U.K. authorities and climate commissions.

The Professor referred to some of the barriers which research had indicated prevented concerted action to tackle climate change including, amongst other things, resources and a lack of coordination between central, regional and local government. The Members were informed of some potential actions which could be undertaken to finance climate adaptation and mitigation measures, including the raising of financial bonds which could be converted into green bonds, providing a financial return for potential investors.

The Working Group was informed that the task of dealing with climate change required a combined effort, at all levels, and referred to the model of community wealth generation, whereby large public bodies could pool their resources together to achieve significant climate gains. The professor referred specifically to central procurement by organisations citing, by way of example, health and social care trusts, local authorities and academic institutions such as Queen's University. The professor referred to a further piece of research commissioned

by Dr Becky Willis and funded by P.C.A.N. which identified a range of personality traits and leadership skills required to deliver climate action. The research indicated that, in a number of local authorities, including Belfast, there appeared to be a functional gap between stated intent and functional policies to achieve the required climate goals. The research recognised also that local authorities in Northern Ireland did not have the same statutory powers as authorities in Great Britain and, therefore, there existed barriers in regard to the impact that local authorities could have on Climate mitigation and adaptation measures.

The Professor stressed the importance of Northern Ireland developing alternative forms of green energy, given its over reliance on fossil fuels for domestic heating and for the generation of traditional energy, namely electricity. He cited also the high proportion of the population engaged in agriculture and, in particular, beef and dairy production with the associated high levels of methane gas produced from that industry

A Member raised the issue that the majority of statutory powers, involving climate mitigation and adaptation measures, resided with the Northern Ireland Assembly. He referred also to the problem of communicating effectively with the local community to reinforce the fact that the climate emergency impacts directly on citizens everyday lives. The professor, in response, acknowledged the statutory limitation in respect of local government powers, he pointed out however to the electoral mandate of communication, with the local community, in terms of the green economy and future job opportunities associated with developing green industries and initiatives. The Working Group was informed of the planning opportunities available to the Council, in terms of promoting green growth and highlighted specifically the potential to link spatial planning with energy planning.

The Climate Commissioner suggested that, in her opinion, a significant way to make progress in the reduction of emissions could involve data capture, whereby organisations were compelled to publish data on their carbon emissions. She suggested that scope 3 data analysis would assist with that process and referred to the investment opportunities to provide the necessary financial resources to develop a green economy, estimated at £9.6 billion. The Professor informed the Working Group of a number of additional measures which could be developed to encourage the green economy, including pension scheme investments and the creation of a dedicated team within local government, adequately resourced, to place the climate change at the top of the Council's corporate agenda.

The Chairperson requested that a climate training course for Members might prove beneficial. In response, the Climate Commissioner stated that, if there was sufficient support for such a training initiative, she would endeavour to deliver an appropriate training course via the Climate NI initiative.

The Chairperson, on behalf of the Working Group, thanked Professor Barry for his detailed and informative presentation and he departed from the meeting.

Just Transition Committee

The Chairperson requested that, as part of a wider review of future Council Committees and given the importance attached to the declaration of a climate emergency, in consultation with party Group Leaders and Chief officers and subject to the approval of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, that a Just Transition Committee be constituted to deal with the emerging climate emergency.

After consideration, the Working Group agreed unanimously that, subject to the necessary approval, that the Council give consideration to the establishment of a Just Transition Committee to deal effectively with the critical issues associated with climate change.

Date of Next Meeting

The Working Group agreed that its next meeting be held on Wednesday, 6th October at 5:15 pm.

Chairperson

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Subject:	Requests for Use of the City Hall and the Provision of Hospitality
Date:	24th September, 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 ☒

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

☐
☐
☐
☐

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes ☒ No ☐

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	This report, together with the attached appendix, contains the recommended approach in respect of each of the requests by external organisations for access to the City Hall function rooms received up to 10th September, which appear to the Function Management Unit to comply with the criteria previously established by the Committee and are recommended for approval.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to approve the recommendations made in respect of applications received up to 10th September 2021, as set out in the attached appendix.

3.0	Main Report
	<u>Background Information</u>
3.1	Members will be aware that the Committee, at its meeting of 6th January 2017, agreed to modify the criteria governing access to the City Hall function rooms for external organisations.
3.2	The Committee also agreed to the implementation of room-hire charges for some categories of function and also revised the approach to the provision of civic hospitality for functions on foot of the agreed efficiency programme. Some further modifications to this approach were agreed by the Committee on 24 th March 2017, 23 rd June 2017, 23 rd June 2019 and 25 th October 2019.
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.3	The existing revised criteria and scale of charges have been applied to the various requests received and the recommendations herein are offered to the Committee on this basis for approval.
3.4	The schedule attached covers four applications for functions, scheduled for 2021 and 2022 however approval is linked to City Hall recovery and functions will be planned in due course in line with NI Executive guidance.
	<u>COVID implications</u>
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 City Hall is recommended on the basis of their compliance to this caveat and what is permissible and feasible in City Hall function rooms.
	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u>
3.6	The implementation of charging for external functions has commenced, in line with the Committee's decisions in the matter.
	<u>Equality and Good Relations / Rural Needs Implications</u>
3.7	There are no direct good relations, equality or rural needs implications arising from this report.
4.0	Document Attached
	Schedule of Function requests received up to 10th September, 2021.

SEPTEMBER 2021 CITY HALL FUNCTION APPLICATIONS

NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
2021 EVENTS						
Aisling Events	4 November 2021	Belfast International Homecoming Dinner and Award Presentation as part of COP26 themed events in Belfast Numbers attending – 300 <i>* Numbers and room layout will be reviewed and revised in line with COVID19 social distancing guidelines at the time of this event.</i>	A & B	Charge £825	No hospitality	Approve Charge No hospitality
2022 EVENTS						
Society for Cardiothoracic Surgery in GB & Ireland	14 March 2022	SCTS Annual Meeting 2022 Gala dinner As part of their Congress in ICC, Belfast Numbers attending – 150 - <i>* Numbers and room layout will be reviewed and revised in line with COVID19 social distancing guidelines at the time of this event.</i>	A & B	No (charity)	No hospitality	Approve No Charge No hospitality
Microbiology Society	5 April 2022	Microbiology Society Drinks Reception as part of a celebration programme to celebrate 75 th anniversary of the journal and engagement events for microbiologists Numbers attending – 100	A & B	No <i>£825 waived due to links with Visit Belfast</i>	No hospitality	Approve No Charge No hospitality
QUB & Solar Orbiter Workshop	11 September 2022	Conference Welcome Reception for four-day conference taking place at Assembly Building Numbers attending – 250	A & B	No <i>£825 waived due to links with Visit Belfast</i>	No hospitality	Approve No Charge No hospitality

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