

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



**Belfast  
City Council**

25th March, 2022

**MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in hybrid format on Monday, 28th March, 2022 at 10.00 a.m., for the transaction of the business noted below.

You are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN WALSH

Chief Executive

**AGENDA:**

**1. Routine Matters**

- (a) Apologies
- (b) Minutes
- (c) Declarations of Interest

**2. Restricted Items**

- (a) Motion - Pay Rise for Leisure Workers (Pages 1 - 2)
- (b) Bonfire and Cultural Expression Approach 2022 (Pages 3 - 8)
- (c) Update on Organisational Reviews and Change Programme (Pages 9 - 16)
- (d) Employees on Temporary Contracts (Pages 17 - 32)
- (e) Review of Leisure Governance and Active Belfast Limited Board (Pages 33 - 62)
- (f) Alleygates – Phase 5 (Pages 63 - 90)

- (g) Update on Key Funding Streams (Pages 91 - 124)
- (h) Update on Physical Programme (Pages 125 - 130)
- (i) Update on Organisational Structures (Pages 131 - 132)
- (j) Request for the use of a Council Park (Pages 133 - 136)
- (k) Extension of Off-Street Parking Enforcement Services (Pages 137 - 144)
- (l) Draft Plan Strategy (dPS) – Required Amendments and Adoption (Pages 145 - 412)
- (m) Social Value Procurement Policy (Pages 413 - 462)

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

- (a) Motion - Belfast Citywide Tribunal Service (Pages 463 - 464)

### **4. Governance**

- (a) Revisions to the Scheme of Allowances 2022-23 (Pages 465 - 480)

### **5. Belfast Agenda/Strategic Issues**

- (a) Recruitment and Selection of New Chief Executive (Pages 481 - 484)
- (b) Belfast Residents' Survey (Pages 485 - 506)
- (c) Response to Consultation on Infrastructure 2050 - Draft Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland (Pages 507 - 540)
- (d) Review of Belfast Agenda – Update on Action Planning (Pages 541 - 566)
- (e) Update on Belfast Poverty Commission (Pages 567 - 572)
- (f) PEACE PLUS Programme (Pages 573 - 580)
- (g) City Co-operation on Achieving Net Zero (Pages 581 - 584)
- (h) Draft Corporate Delivery Plan 2022-23 (Pages 585 - 622)
- (i) Ukraine Refugee Scheme (Pages 623 - 626)
- (j) UK - Republic of Korea Innovation Twins Programme (Pages 627 - 634)
- (k) UEFA Conference League Final 2023 (Pages 635 - 642)

### **6. Physical Programme and Asset Management**

- (a) Asset Management (Pages 643 - 652)
- (b) Update on Area Working Groups (Pages 653 - 708)

## **7. Finance, Procurement and Performance**

- (a) Requests for Funding (Pages 709 - 728)
- (b) Update on Contracts (Pages 729 - 736)
- (c) CIPFA Prudential Code Capital Strategy and Treasury Management Indicators 2022-23 (Pages 737 - 756)

## **8. Equality and Good Relations**

- (a) Minutes of Meeting of Shared City Partnership (Pages 757 - 794)
- (b) Equality and Diversity: Equality Screening and Rural Needs Outcome Report – Quarter 3 2021-22 (Pages 795 - 804)
- (c) Annual Day of Reflection (Pages 805 - 806)
- (d) Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee (Pages 807 - 810)

## **9. Operational Issues**

- (a) Update on Pest Control Service (Pages 811 - 814)
- (b) Minutes of Meeting of Party Group Leaders' Consultative Forum (Pages 815 - 822)
- (c) Minutes of Meeting of Active Belfast Limited Board (Pages 823 - 832)
- (d) Minutes of Meeting of Social Policy Working Group (Pages 833 - 844)
- (e) Requests for use of the City Hall and the Provision of Hospitality (Pages 845 - 850)
- (f) Requests for the use of the City Hall Grounds (Pages 851 - 854)
- (g) Minutes of Meeting of Audit and Risk Panel (Pages 855 - 880)
- (h) Minutes of Meeting of City Hall/City Hall Grounds Installations Working Group (Pages 881 - 888)
- (i) Minutes of Meeting of Language Strategy Working Group (Pages 889 - 890)
- (j) Minutes of Meeting of Customer Focus Task and Finish Working Group (Pages 891 - 894)

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

- (a) Illumination of Belfast Castle - The Samaritans (Pages 895 - 896)





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<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Motion – Belfast Citywide Tribunal Service</b>
<b>Date:</b>	25th March, 2022
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Walsh, Chief Executive
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
	To bring to Members' attention a motion in relation to the Belfast Citywide Tribunal Service, which the Standards and Business Committee, at its meeting on 22nd February, referred to this Committee.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
	The Committee is asked to consider the motion.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
	<b><u>Key Issues</u></b>
3.1	The Standards and Business Committee, at its meeting on 22nd February, considered a report providing details of the motions which had been received for consideration by the Council on 1st March.

In accordance with Standing Order 37(h), the following motion, which had been proposed by Councillor Ferguson and seconded by Councillor Matt Collins, was referred directly to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for consideration.

### **Belfast Citywide Tribunal Service**

This Council notes with concern that the Belfast Citywide Tribunal service once again faces a lack of funding, putting staff jobs and a vital service at risk.

Additionally, the Council is deeply disappointed that the Department for Communities has failed to provide core funding for this service, despite the impact this will have on workers and working-class communities in particular.

Given the vast amount of successful tribunal appeals, the Council recognises that there is an onus on the Executive to fund a tribunal service which is capable of addressing the flawed welfare system.

However, given that core funding is not forthcoming and the upcoming election leaves uncertainty about future funding, the Council agrees that measures should be taken to ensure the service can stay open for the next year.

Accordingly, the Council agrees to fund the Tribunal services an amount of £342,278, from its reserves if necessary, to maintain the service and stave off redundancies.

### **Financial and Resource Implications**

The motion calls upon the Council to allocate £342,278 to the Tribunal Service.

### **Equality or Good Relations Implications**

All potential equality, good relations and rural needs implications will be taken into consideration.

<b>4.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	None





<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Revisions to the Scheme of Allowances 2022-23</b>
<b>Date:</b>	25th March, 2021
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Walsh, Chief Executive
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	To seek approval to increase the maximum rate of Dependant's Carers' Allowance in line with the National Living Wage for 2022-23.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	The Committee is recommended to approve the increase to the maximum rate of Dependents' Carers' Allowance as set out in the report, with effect from 1st April, 2022.

<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1.1	The Department for Communities determines the maximum hourly rates of Dependant's Carers' Allowance for both standard care and specialised care. The rate for standard care is based on the hourly National Living Wage for age 25+, which will increase on 1st April, 2022 from the current rate of £8.91 per hour to £9.50 per hour. The rate for specialised care is double the rate for standard care. In addition, the Department for Communities sets the maximum monthly amounts for standard care and specialised care, capped at the equivalent of 52 hours per month.
3.1.2	<p>Accordingly, in line with the increase in the National Living Wage, the Committee is requested to agree to the amendments to the Scheme of Allowances as follows:</p> <p><u>“(iv) Dependants’ Carers’ Allowance</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Standard Care</i>            £9.50 per hour limited to £494.00 per month</li> <li>• <i>Specialist Care</i>        £19.00 per hour limited to £988.00 per month”</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p>
3.1.3	<p>The increase to the maximum rates of each of the allowances has already been considered and can be met through existing budgets.</p> <p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p>
3.1.4	There are not any Good Relations, Equality or Rural Needs issues associate with this report.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Document Attached</b>
	Scheme of Allowances 2022-23



# **Scheme of Allowances**

## **Payable to Councillors 2022/2023**

Revised April, 2022

This Scheme is made under Part 3 of the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 and the Local Government (Payments to Councillors) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019 and will take effect from 1st April, 2022.

### **Councillors' allowances**

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

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

- (i) Basic Allowance
- (ii) Special Responsibility Allowance
- (iii) Civic Dignitaries Allowance
- (iv) Dependants' Carers' Allowance
- (v) District Policing and Community Safety Partnership Allowances (DPCSP)
- (vi) Renunciations
- (vii) Disqualification or Suspension of a Councillor

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

- (i) Travel
- (ii) Subsistence

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

Information regarding other provisions for Councillors is also included:

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

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

(a) Allowances

(i) Basic Allowances

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

The maximum annual allowance with effect from 1st April, 2020 is £15,486 payable monthly.

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

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

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

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

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

## (ii) Special Responsibility Allowances

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

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

- The Council agreed a special responsibility allowance threshold of £117,774 which may be paid to holders of positions of responsibility. No more than 50% of the Councillors can receive a special responsibility payment and no individual member can receive more than one special responsibility payment.

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

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

Rates of Special Responsibility Allowances with effect from 1st September, 2021 are:

Position	Committee	Allowance
<b>Chairperson's Allowance</b>	Strategic Policy and Resources	£5,460
	City Growth and Regeneration	£5,460
	People and Communities	£5,460
	Licensing	£5,460
	Planning	£5,460
	Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall	£2,730
	Brexit Committee	£5,460
	Standards Committee	£5,460

**Scheme of Allowances 2020/2021**

<b>Deputy Chairperson's Allowance</b>	Strategic Policy and Resources	£2,730
	City Growth and Regeneration	£2,730
	People and Communities	£2,730
	Licensing	£2,730
	Planning	£2,730
	Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall	£1,365
	Brexit Committee	£2,730
	Standards Committee	£2,730

<b>Position</b>	<b>Party</b>	<b>Allowance</b>
<b>Party Group Leader</b>	Sinn Fein (18 Members)	£6,383.70
	DUP (15 Members)	£5,897.25
	Alliance (10 Members)	£5,086.50
	SDLP (6 Members)	£4,438
	GREEN (4 Members)	£4,114
	PBPA (3 Members)	£3,951
	UUP (2 Members)	£3,789
	PUP (2 Members)	£3,789
<b>Deputy Party Group Leader</b>	Sinn Fein	£3,150
	DUP	£3,150
	Alliance	£3,150
	SDLP	£3,150
<b>Party Secretary</b>	Sinn Fein	£3,150
	DUP	£3,150

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

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

payable to the councillor concerned should the final adjudication of the Commissioner for Standards exonerate the councillor concerned.

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

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

(iii) Civic Dignitaries Allowance

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

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

The entitlements, per annum, are:-

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

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

#### (iv) Dependants' Carers' Allowance

Any Member who is the main carer of a dependant, where care is required to enable that Member to perform an Approved Duty (see page 9), may claim Dependent Carers' Allowance (DCA). The rate for Standard Care is based on the hourly national living wage for age 25 or over, and the rate for Specialised Care is double the rate for Standard Care. The rates from 1st April, 2022 are:

- Standard Care £9.50 per hour limited to £494.00 per month
- Specialist Care £19.00 per hour limited to £988.00 per month

A dependant is defined as:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### (vi) Renunciations

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



(vii) Disqualification or Suspension of a Councillor

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

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

**Disqualification**

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

**Suspension**

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

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

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

**(i) Travel**

- Motor Mileage Claims**

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

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

Travel claims may be made through Democratic Services and it is a matter for each individual Councillor to ensure that the details contained in any claim are accurate and only include actual expenditure for which they are entitled to make a claim.

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

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

	Motor Cars				Pedal Cycle	Motor Cycle (all engine capacities)
	450-999cc	1000-1199cc	1199 + cc	Electric Car		
0-8,500 miles	46.9p	52.2p	65.0p	45.0p	20p	24p
After 8,500 miles	13.7p	14.4p	16.4p	25.0p		
Passenger rate	5.0p					

- Public Transport**

Expenditure on public transport in relation to attending approved duties can be claimed back only when accompanied by proof of purchase. Any journeys made using public transport should be noted separately in any travel expenses claim.

**(ii) Subsistence**

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

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

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

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

***Within the UK***

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

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

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

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

***Outside the UK***

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

## Approved Duties

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

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

Or

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

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

## Tax

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

## Councillors' Pension Scheme

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

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

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

### (c) Additional Information

#### (i) IT /Phone Package

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

Councillors IT Package currently consists of the following:

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

- **Tablet PC**

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

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

- **Mobile Telephone costs**

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

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

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

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

## **Hands free mobile phone equipment**

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

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

- **Home Telephone**

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

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

- **Broadband Internet Access**

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

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

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

- **Electronic Minutes System**

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

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

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

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

(ii) **Councillors' Support Services**

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

- **Members' Common Room**

The Members' Common Room is located at the reception area of the City Hall, adjacent to the Committee Rooms. Individual mail boxes and a kitchen are available for Councillors' use.

- **Party Rooms**

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

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

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

- **Correspondence**

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

After typing, letters will be left in the Councillor's mailbox in the Members' Common Room or can be posted to the addressee.

- **Post**

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

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

Circularised mail will not be accepted.

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

Postal facilities are not available for party political issues.

- **Message and Inquiry Service**

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

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

- **Council Stationery**

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

- **Civic Gifts**

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

- **Research and Information Service**

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

- **Receiving Constituents**

Councillors may make arrangements to receive constituents or visitors in their party room if space is available. Councillors may also request to book a committee room to meet with a group of up to 3 visitors. Visitors will not be permitted access to party rooms or the committee rooms unless accompanied by a Councillor.

- **Car parking**

Councillors have 24 hour access to the City Hall car park. A pass for display in Councillors' vehicles will be provided by Democratic Services.

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





<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Recruitment and Selection of New Chief Executive</b>
<b>Date:</b>	25th March 2022
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Christine Sheridan, Head of Human Resources

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	To provide Members with an overview of the selection process which resulted in the appointment of Mr. John Walsh, City Solicitor and Director of Legal and Civic Services, to the post of Belfast City Council's Chief Executive, with effect from 21st March 2022.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to note the contents of this report.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	To ensure impartiality, the recruitment and selection process for the post of Chief Executive was administered by the Local Government Staff Commission for N.I. and a professional executive search company, GatenbySanderson, was commissioned to generate as wide an applicant pool as possible.

3.2	All short-listing and interviewing panel members (and their substitute nominees) were trained in non-discriminatory recruitment and selection techniques by the LGSC for N.I.
3.3	Advertisement: The post was publicly advertised on 6th January in a wide range of recruitment and social media: Belfast Telegraph, Irish News, Newsletter, the Municipal Journal, the Guardian Online alongside a social media high impact campaign using Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn etc. The closing date for receipt of applications was 28th January and 15 application forms were received.
3.4	The Stage 1 short-listing meeting took place on 8th February. The short-listing panel comprised: Councillors Groogan (Green Party); Beattie (Sinn Fein); Bunting (DUP); along with the Chairperson of the LGSC, Bumper Graham; and the LGSC Director of Corporate Services, Helen Hall. The purpose of this meeting was to assess the information submitted by the candidates in their application forms against the criteria as set out in the employee specification for the post in terms of qualifications and experience. Following consideration, the short-listing panel shortlisted 10 candidates to progress to the preliminary interview stage of the selection process.
3.5	The preliminary interviews were conducted by GatenbySanderson week commencing 14th February. The Stage 2 shortlisting meeting took place on 22nd February and following consideration of the candidates' performance at the preliminary interviews, 7 candidates progressed to the next stage of the selection process, the assessment centre.
3.6	AS Associates ran the assessment centre on 2nd March, with 4 applicants short-listed to attend the final stage of the selection process, the final interviews.
3.7	The final interviews with presentation took place in-person in City Hall on 15 March 2022. The interviewing panel comprised: Councillors Groogan (Green Party); Beattie (Sinn Fein); Bunting (DUP); McDonough-Brown (Alliance); and Heading (SDLP); along with the Chairperson of the LGSC, Bumper Graham; and the LGSC Director of Corporate Services, Helen Hall. Two external Professional Assessors were in attendance to advise the interviewing panel: Liam Hannaway (retired Chief Executive of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council) and Paul Orders (Chief Executive of Cardiff Council). Following the interviews, the interviewing panel recommended Mr. John Walsh for appointment. There was no named reserve candidate.

3.8	<b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b> None associated with this report
3.9	<b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment</u></b> None associated with this report
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	None

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<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Belfast Residents' Survey</b>
<b>Date:</b>	25th March 2022
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy
<b>Contact Officers:</b>	Patricia Flynn, Strategic Policy & Planning Officer

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To update the Committee on the key findings from the Belfast Resident'' Survey and to outline how the data will be used and reported.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to note the report.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
3.1	<p><b>Background</b></p> <p>Every two years, the Council commissions consultants to carry out an independent survey of residents. The survey provides statistically reliable, perception data based on a representative sample of Belfast residents (aged 16 and over) and is used to inform strategic planning and performance management at the city (Belfast Agenda) and organisational level. Normally</p>

	<p>conducted face-to-face, this year's survey was carried out by telephone due to Covid restrictions. Following a quotation exercise, we appointed Social Market Research (SMR) to carry out the survey on our behalf. They interviewed 1504 people between 15<sup>th</sup> November and 12<sup>th</sup> December, with quotas applied to ensure those completing the survey were representative of the population of Belfast (by age, gender, social class and geographical area).</p> <p><b>Trend Data</b></p>
3.2	<p>On the whole, the results for 2021 are positive (see Appendices 1 and 2). In 2019, satisfaction with council and life in Belfast dipped, a trend replicated across the rest of the UK. This year, our results have improved on 2019 and are now generally on a par, and in some places better than the 2017 results. For most of the council indicators we have reversed the downward trend in satisfaction and approval ratings, whereas this has continued in English council areas (as per the LGA benchmark).</p>
3.3	<p>The Committee is asked to note that overall satisfaction with Belfast and local area remains lower than in 2017 (85% now compared to 91% in 2017), though still higher when compared to other local authorities. Some data has fallen, such as views on whether all people can lead healthy lives or live life to the full, whether they feel listened to and whether they feel safe in the city centre at night. This data will be used to inform improvement activities of council and the Belfast Agenda.</p> <p><b>Key Results</b></p>
3.4	<p>Overall satisfaction with Belfast and local area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>85%</b> of those surveyed were satisfied with <b>Belfast</b> as a place to live</li> <li>• <b>85%</b> of those surveyed were satisfied with their <b>local area</b> as a place to live</li> </ul>
3.5	<p>When asked about <b>Living in Belfast</b>, more than three quarters of those surveyed agreed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Belfast was a good place to visit - <b>90%</b></li> <li>• People are friendly, caring and compassionate - <b>88%</b></li> <li>• Belfast had good infrastructure (<b>83%</b>) and was easy to get about (<b>85%</b>)</li> <li>• The city centre was vibrant and attractive, with lots going on - <b>80%</b></li> <li>• Belfast is a welcoming safe, fair and inclusive city for all - <b>79%</b></li> <li>• Older people are treated with respect and dignity -<b>76%</b></li> <li>• People can live life to the full - <b>75%</b></li> </ul>

3.6

However, respondents were less likely to agree that Belfast:

- Is an environmentally friendly city - **73%**
- Where everyone benefits from a thriving and prosperous city - **65%**
- Everyone fulfils their potential - **52%**
- Everyone experiences good health and wellbeing - **51%**
- Just over half of those surveyed (**56%**) said they felt safe in the city centre after dark

3.7

### ***Priorities for Belfast***

When asked to select their most important priority for Belfast overall, *health and wellbeing* emerged as the highest priority followed by a stronger economy and employment and skills:

Health and wellbeing	26%
A stronger economy	13%
Employment and skills (jobs)	13%
Reducing poverty	12%
Improving local communities and neighbourhoods	11%

3.8

### ***My Local Area***

When asked about their **Local Area**, at least three quarters of those surveyed agreed their area:

- Was safe **96%** (during the day) and **86%** (after dark)
- They could access all the services they needed - **85%**
- Was seen as welcoming to others - **82%**
- Had a strong sense of community - **82%** and was a place where people worked together to improve things - **80%**
- Was clean and attractive - **80% and**
- Had good quality parks and green space - **78%**
- Had parks and green space that were safe - **76%**
- **They could** access job and training opportunities - **76%**

3.9

However, respondents were less likely to agree that their local area was a place where:

- People from different racial and ethnic backgrounds got on well together - **72%**
- People from different religions and political backgrounds got on well together - **67%**

3.10	<p>When asked unprompted, to specify what <b>one</b> thing would most improve the quality of life in their local area, the most frequently mentioned individual issues were:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>All good, don't know or can't think of anything</td><td>25%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Community safety</td><td>17%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Cleanliness</td><td>8%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Jobs / wages</td><td>5%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Children &amp; Young people</td><td>4%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Housing</td><td>4%</td></tr> </table>	All good, don't know or can't think of anything	25%	Community safety	17%	Cleanliness	8%	Jobs / wages	5%	Children & Young people	4%	Housing	4%
All good, don't know or can't think of anything	25%												
Community safety	17%												
Cleanliness	8%												
Jobs / wages	5%												
Children & Young people	4%												
Housing	4%												
3.11	<p>Respondent came up with an extensive list of issues, which we have grouped under 5 broad headings. Appendix 1 provides more detail on the type and relative importance of each of the issues raised under these themes.</p> <p><b><i>Belfast City Council</i></b></p>												
3.12	<p>When asked about Belfast City Council, around three quarters (<b>76%</b>) were <b>satisfied with the council overall</b> up from 65% in 2019. And at least three quarters agreed that we:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make Belfast a better place to live - <b>80%</b></li> <li>• Keeps resident very well or fairly well informed - <b>78%</b></li> <li>• Responds to the needs of local residents – <b>77%</b></li> </ul>												
3.13	<p>And around two thirds or more agreed that we:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide good customer service- <b>73%</b> (up from 62% in 2019)</li> <li>• Show good leadership for the City - <b>72%</b> (up from 62% in 2019)</li> </ul>												
3.14	<p>Although the primary aim of the survey is to provide statistical information (quantitative data), respondents who stated that they were dissatisfied with council were asked why they had said this. 93 comments were provided, many of whom cited Covid-19 and in some way:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 24 comments about covid and its impact on access to council services, the impact on cleanliness and pest control or concerns about the lack of enforcement;</li> <li>• 12 residents felt the council could listen more to local residents; some felt they did not have a voice or weren't respected and that council be more responsiveness to local residents' needs;</li> </ul>												



- 12 residents felt that the council was not doing enough in their local area, with some suggesting that their area has been neglected;
- 8 references to crime and anti-social behaviour;
- 8 comments relating to lack of communication or information;
- 7 felt council was not doing enough to support poorer and vulnerable residents;
- A smaller number cited cleanliness issues (5); felt more could be done to promote recycling and the green environment (4) or that we took too long to act (2); and
- 5 residents felt that we 'could just do more' and 3 said they can't see or don't know what we do. 3 comments did not relate directly to council e.g., housing and healthcare.

### 3.15 **Benchmarking our results**

In previous years, we have benchmarked our results against other UK cities, but due to covid or budgetary constraints benchmark data is either no longer available or has been delayed. Bristol and Cardiff have recently completed resident surveys, which we will benchmark against once this data becomes available. Available comparisons against Glasgow City Council and local council averages as measured by the Local Government Association are provided below. When comparing Belfast with these benchmarks, our results are significantly higher:

	<b>Glasgow</b>	<b>LGA Average</b>	<b><i>Belfast</i></b>
		<b>2021</b>	<b>2021</b>
Overall satisfaction with local area		78%	↗ 85%
Overall satisfaction council	48%	56%	↗ 76%
Value for money	33%	43%	↗ 64%
Keeps informed	39%	57%	↗ 78%
Responsiveness (Listens and acts)		52%	↗ 77%
Trust	42%	57%	↗ 63%
Feels safe in local area - during the day		92%	↗ 96%
Feels safe in local area - after dark		71%	↗ 86%
Satisfaction with response to pandemic	50%		↗ 78%

### 3.16 **Resident Survey – Analysing the Results:**

On the whole, these results are positive and encouragingly for Belfast, and in particular the council:

- Significant increases in satisfaction with Belfast City Council. Many of the 2017 survey results were high, whereas the 2019 results were exceptionally low, a trend also replicated

	<p>across the UK. However, our results for 2021 are generally on a par, and in some places better than the 2017 results. See appendix 2 for these trend statistics set out in graphical format.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Perceptions of council in terms of reputation and trust has improved (up by 16% and 10%) with the majority of respondents (78%) indicating that we responded well or very well to the covid-19 pandemic.</li> <li>• The percentage of people who felt that people in Belfast were friendly, caring and compassionate increased significantly, up from 80% to 88%. As did those who felt that Belfast was a good place to visit, up from 82% to 90%.</li> <li>• Significant increase in percentage of people who felt Belfast was safe, fair and inclusive, and that local areas were welcoming to others. However, perceptions in relation to people from different religious and racial backgrounds 'getting on' with each other were still the lowest rated local area indicators, with only two thirds agreeing that people from different religious and political backgrounds got on well, down slightly from 2019.</li> </ul>
3.17	<p>However, although these results are positive and compare quite favourably to other council areas, it is noted that levels of dissatisfaction have increased compared to previous years. This is in contrast to 2019, where despite local government approval ratings falling, both in Belfast and across the UK, our levels of dissatisfaction did not increase significantly. Instead, more respondents voiced a neutral opinion than in previous years. Whilst these results show that we have been able to move people back into the satisfied band, the increase in dissatisfaction suggests that there is a small but increasing proportion of residents who have shown dissatisfaction.</p>
3.18	<p>Other findings to note include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The percentage of people who agreed that people in Belfast 'lead healthy lives' and can 'fulfil their potential' fell (down by 7% and 9% respectively). The proportion of those disagreeing also rose. Only around half of residents agreed with these statements whilst almost a third (32%) disagreed that everyone experiences good health and wellbeing (up from a fifth in 2019), and almost a quarter (24%) disagreed that everyone fulfils their potential (also up from around a fifth in 2019).</li> <li>• This was reflected in people's opinion regarding the city's priorities with a quarter of respondents (26%) selecting 'health and wellbeing' as their number one priority, making it the highest-ranking priority for Belfast.</li> <li>• Significant increase in the number of people feeling less safe at night, especially in the city center (up to 25% from 9%). Perception of safety during the day remained high and fairly constant.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The number of people who have sought advice for debt or financial problems remained constant (approx. 1 in 10 respondents), and although the percentage of respondents who report using a food bank is relatively low, that percentage has doubled - up from 4% in 2019 to 8% in 2021.</li> </ul> <p><b>Impact of Covid-19</b></p> <p>3.19 Whilst it is unclear as to the full impact of covid-19, these results point to a correlation between perceptions, behaviours and covid. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase in perceptions of people being caring and compassion;</li> <li>Increase in those disagreeing that everyone experiences good health and wellbeing;</li> <li>Reduction in volunteering and participation in local groups and community activities (although 4% did indicate that they do more volunteering now);</li> <li>Whilst 23% said they would be more likely to use public transport during the next 6 months, 28% said they would be less likely;</li> <li>Increase in use of foodbanks;</li> <li>Perceptions of wellbeing generally remained constant, although there were slight falls in reported satisfaction with mental / emotional wellbeing; financial situation and living accommodation; and</li> <li>People have equally reported being 'more' and 'less' active as a result of covid; Further analysis might shed more light on physical activity levels by age and reported physical activity in due course, which might correlate with research undertaken by Age UK that indicated older people have become less active during covid. Currently, the results do seem to indicate a general increase in walking for leisure.</li> </ul> <p><b>Next Steps</b></p> <p>3.20 The results from the resident survey play a key part in helping to track progress against key outcomes within the "Belfast Agenda". These results will also be used to inform the ongoing review and action planning process of the Belfast Agenda, corporate plan and other council strategies, particularly where figures indicate room for improvement. Information relating to the city centre, safety and physical and active travel for example will be shared with relevant operational sections and strategic programmes.</p> <p>3.21 Further detailed analysis of the survey data is currently underway. This includes an analysis by area (North, South East and West) and by other demographic characteristics including age and social class. An initial analysis by gender indicates that, with the exception of safety at night particularly in the city centre, there is no or limited statistical difference in perceptions based on gender. Area based results will be brought to the Area Working Groups in due course. Relevant</p>
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	<p>results will also be shared with, for example, the Healthy Aging Strategic Partnership and Belfast Community Safety Partnership. Benchmark data will be added as it becomes available. Relevant survey data (in the form of performance indicators) will be included within the Council Improvement Plan, year-end performance assessment report for the Local Government Auditor and our corporate plan.</p>
3.22	<p>Currently this survey is repeated every 2 years, but with the introduction of the Your Say Belfast platform, we may trial the survey through this platform later this year. The reliability of this method will be determined by response rates and, whilst it may not be as statistically representative nor provide accurate trend data for certain analysis (such as by age or area), it could provide interim citywide data to inform progress and annual performance data.</p>
	<p><b><u>Resources Implications</u></b></p>
3.23	<p>There are no resource implications contained in this report.</p>
	<p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p>
3.24	<p>There are no equality implications contained in this report. However, the information obtained will help inform our good relations work and audit of inequalities.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	<p>Appendix 1 – Residents’ Survey Results (with trend and benchmark data)</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Residents’ Survey Trends: Key Statistics</p>

## Resident Survey Results 2021

## SECTION A: Living in Belfast

Overall satisfaction with Belfast:	2017		2019		2021	
	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied
<b>Resident satisfaction with Belfast as a place to live</b>	91%	1%	86%	3%	85%	5%

<i>To what extent do you agree or disagree that Belfast is a city where?</i>	2017		2019		2021	
	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree
People are friendly, caring and compassionate	86%	4%	80%	6%	88%	4%
People can live life to the full	84%	4%	78%	7%	75%	13%
Older people are treated with respect and dignity	73%	10%	70%	12%	76%	12%
Where everyone benefits from a thriving and prosperous city	-	-	65%	14%	65%	17%
Everyone fulfils their potential	-	-	61%	18%	52%	24%
Where everyone experiences good health and wellbeing	-	-	58%	19%	51%	32%
<i>To what extent do you agree or disagree that Belfast..?</i>						
Is a good place to visit	92%	3%	82%	5%	90%	2%
City centre is vibrant and attractive, with lots going on	87%	3%	81%	5%	80%	8%
Is a well-connected city with good infrastructure*	85%	5%	79%	6%	n/a	n/a
Is easy to get about					85%	8%
Has good infrastructure					83%	7%
Is an environmentally friendly city that protects and values its natural resources	80%	4%	74%	7%	73%	11%
Is a welcoming safe, fair and inclusive city for all	82%	6%	66%	12%	79%	9%

\*This question has been reworded as residents struggled to understand what they were being asked

## Priorities for Belfast

Thinking about Belfast overall, please tell me which is the most important.

Health and wellbeing	26.4%
A stronger economy	13.1%
Employment and skills (jobs)	12.6%
Reducing poverty	11.9%
Improving local communities and neighbourhoods	11.3%
Education	7.4%
Housing	5.4%
Community and race relations	3.8%
Climate change	3.6%
Improving the city centre	2.0%
Transport	0.9%
Something else	1.6%

**Belfast City Centre:** Over the next 6 months, how often do you think you will visit Belfast City Centre for work, shopping, going out etc.? [new]

	<i>During day</i>	<i>At night / evenings</i>
Daily or most days	26%	13%
Weekly	28%	21%
At least monthly	33%	38%
Occasionally	9%	18%
Never	4%	11%
Reasons for not visiting city centre to follow		

## Your Local Area

	2017		2019		2021	
	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied
Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with your <b>local area</b> as a place to live?	91%	2%	84%	3%	85%	5%

<i>Thinking specifically about <b>the area where you live</b>, please indicate to what extent you agree or disagree with each of the following statements about your local area:</i>	2017		2019		2021	
	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree
Is clean and attractive	82%	9%	80%	6%	80%	12%
Has good quality parks and green space	82%	9%	78%	6%	78%	11%
Has parks and green spaces that are safe	80%	8%	74%	8%	76%	10%
Is seen as welcoming to others?	84%	6%	74%	7%	82%	6%
Has a strong sense of community	87%	5%	78%	5%	82%	7%
<i>Is a place where:</i>						
People work together to improve things	87%	5%	78%	5%	80%	8%
People from different religions and political backgrounds get on well together	79%	7%	69%	10%	67%	15%
People from different racial and ethnic backgrounds get on well together	79%	7%	70%	9%	72%	9%
I can access all the services I need	85%	5%	81%	5%	85%	7%
I can access job and training opportunities	76%	8%	73%	7%	76%	7%

	2017		2019		2021	
	Safe	Unsafe	Safe	Unsafe	Safe	Unsafe
How safe or unsafe do you feel when outside <b>during the day...</b>						
• In your own home			92%	2%	99%	1%
• In your local area	94%	2%	92%	2%	96%	2%
• In Belfast city centre	91%	2%	86%	2%	83%	5%
How safe or unsafe do you feel when outside <b>after dark...</b>						
• In your own home			85%	2%	97%	2%
• In your local area	82%	9%	85%	2%	86%	9%
• In Belfast city centre	66%	12%	68%	9%	56%	25%

What **one** thing would most improve the quality of life in your local area? (Open text responses)

By type:

Social Wellbeing	35%
Environmental Wellbeing	23%
Council and Local Amenities	8%
Economic Wellbeing (includes poverty/cost of living)	7%
Miscellaneous	1%
All good, don't know or can't think of anything	25%

By subcategory and total responses received:

Community safety	17%
Cleanliness	8%
Jobs / wages	5%
Children & Young people	4%
Housing	4%

This can be further categorised as follows. (Note: the percentages below are based on broad type headings and not on overall comments)

<b><i>Social Wellbeing</i></b>		<b><i>Environmental Wellbeing</i></b>		<b><i>Economic Wellbeing</i></b>	
Community Safety	47%	Cleanliness	36%	Jobs and wages	88%
Health / Covid	15%	Bins	15%	Poverty	24%
Children & Young People	12%	Public Transport	14%	Business	9%
Housing	12%	Roads / Traffic	12%	<b><i>Amenities</i></b>	
Good Relations	6%	Road Safety	6%	Parks	32%
Community Development	5%	Pavements	4%	General	24%
Education	2%	Green / sustainable	4%	Shops	21%
Disabilities	1%	Cycling	3%	Leisure / gyms	15%
		Pollution	3%	Broadband	4%
		Regeneration	3%	Events	3%

Note: this coding is approximate, as some residents mentioned more than issue, or an issue could have been categorised in more than one place. For example, a number of residents specifically mentioned jobs for young people under; this has been coded under “jobs” rather than young people.



## Community Planning

	2014		2017		2019		2021	
	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree
Local agencies and service providers in Belfast work well together for the benefit of local people	-	-	76%	4%	64%	8%	70%	8%
I am able to have a say on how services are run, what the priorities are or where investment is needed ( in my local area)	43%	33%	51%	16%	60%	13%	56%	23%

## Belfast City Council

	2014		2017		2019		2021	
	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied
<b>Overall satisfaction with Belfast City Council</b>	65%	9%	78%	4%	65%	4%	76%	6%

Council Performance:	2014		2017		2019		2021	
	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree
Makes Belfast a better place to live	63%	10%	81%	4%	71%	7%	80%	6%
Consults with and listens to the views of local residents	52%	17%	68%	9%	63%	10%	63%	15%
Shows good leadership for the City	57%	8%	74%	8%	62%	11%	72%	9%
Provides good customer service	-	-	71%	5%	62%	8%	73%	6%
Provides value for money					57%	11%	64%	12%

**Note:** Satisfaction levels with local government across the UK generally fell in 2019. At that time, the Belfast levels of dissatisfaction did not increase significantly.

Rating in terms of:	2017		2019		2021	
	+	-	+	-	+	-
<b>Keeps residents informed about the services it provides</b>	87%	2%	75%	3%	78%	16%
<b>Responds to the needs of local residents</b>					77%	17%
<b>Trustworthiness</b>	63%	5%	53%	13%	63%	9%
<b>Reputation</b>	67%	5%	53%	13%	69%	7%

<b>Covid Response</b>	<b>Very well / Well</b>	<b>Not very / Not at all well</b>
How do you feel the Council has responded to the challenges of providing service during the pandemic?	78%	10%

**Communications – new for 2021:**

<b>Council Website</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
In the last 12 months have you visited the Council's website	36%	64%
Were you able to find the information you were looking for?	97%	3%
	<b>Satisfied</b>	<b>Dissatisfied</b>
Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied were you with the Council's website?	94%	2%
<b>City Matters</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
Do you recall ever receiving the 'City Matters' magazine?	77%	23%
Have you read (or skim through) the Council's 'City Matters' magazine?	84%	17%
<b>Social Media</b>	<b>Positive</b>	<b>Negative</b>
How would you rate your interaction with the council on social media?	76%	3%

\*86% of those surveyed did not use social media to engage with council. Facebook and Twitter were used most frequently – 11% and 5% respectively. Smaller numbers used Instagram (0.7%) with You Tube, LinkedIn and Flickr attracting 0.3% usage.

Looking to the future, what is the **best way** for the Council to communicate with you? *(select only one)*

Council newsletter / leaflets / flyers / magazine	57%	Press (local papers and radio)	10%
Social media (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter etc.)	16%	Email	5%
Websites	10%	Events / workshops / consultations	1%

\*Older people (those aged 60+) preferred traditional / written material: 76% compared to 51% of those aged 25-59 and 35% of those aged 24 and under. Whilst younger people's preferred method of communication was through social media with 38% favouring this method compared to a fifth (20%) of 25-59 year-olds and only 3 % of older people, it is also worth noting that at least a third of younger people still preferred traditional formats such as newsletters, leaflets and magazines.

## Wellbeing Outcomes

### Wellbeing Index

<i>% respondents satisfied with life (those scoring 7 &amp; above on a scale 0 – 10)</i>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2021</b>
Your life nowadays	88%	84%	85%
Your physical health	84%	78%	81%
Your mental / emotional well-being	86%	82%	79%
Your financial situation	77%	76%	75%
Your living accommodation	88%	85%	82%
Your current job or your employment prospects	n/a	75%	72%

### Poverty and Debt: In the last twelve months have you...?

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2021</b>
Sought advice for debt or financial problems	10%	9%
Used a food bank	4%	8%

### Loneliness [New]:

	<b><i>Often / always</i></b>	<b><i>Some of the time</i></b>	<b><i>Occasionally</i></b>	<b><i>Hardly ever</i></b>	<b><i>Never</i></b>
How often do you feel lonely?	3%	16%	18%	36%	27%
Do you feel you have enough people who you feel comfortable with to ask for help at any time?	40%	41%	13%	5%	1%

**Volunteering and community activity:**

	Have you undertaken any work or activities on a voluntary basis in the last 12 months?			When asked is covid had made a difference to your attitude or ability to undertake voluntary work@ - 89% said it made no difference - 7% had to stop or limit what they normally did - 4% said they did more volunteering now
	<b>Yes - Regularly</b>	<b>Yes - Occasionally</b>	<b>No</b>	
<b>2017</b>	5%	12%	83%	
<b>2019</b>	6%	15%	80%	
<b>2021</b>	4%	9%	87%	

	Do you regularly take part in any local groups or community activities?		
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Pre- covid but not now</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>2017</b>	13%		
<b>2019</b>	24%		76%
<b>2021</b>	14%	9%	77%

**Use of council amenities:**

<i>Typically, how often would you use:</i>				
	<b>At least weekly</b>	<b>At least monthly</b>	<b>Less often</b>	<b>Never / Don't use</b>
Park or open space	38%	24%	22%	16%
Pitch or sportsground	12%	20%	32%	37%
Leisure centre	10%	26%	32%	32%
Community centre	5%	10%	42%	43%
<i>How often would you or others in your household use playgrounds:</i>				
Playground	19%	13%	18%	50%

## Physical activity:

Average hours spent doing at least moderate physical activity:

	2019	2021
At least 3 hours per week	64%	71%
2 hours or less per week	36%	29%
Zero hours	15%	10%

Since the pandemic, do you think you have become more active, less active or has your physical activity level stayed the same?

<i>More active</i>	<i>Less active</i>	<i>Stayed the same</i>
26%	27%	48%

When asked if they think they needed to be or would like to be more physically active, 41% said yes and 59% said no. The top 3 reasons why people were not more physically active:

Not enough time	32%
Lack of motivation	20%
Poor health or physical limitations	13%

## Active Travel:

Which method of travel do you use most frequently for the following journeys?

	Car, Van or Motorcycle		Public Transport		Cycling		Walking		'Wheelers'		Not applicable	
	2019	2021	2019	2021	2019	2021	2019	2021	2019	2021	2019	2021
Work/Study	59%	52%	13%	16%	2%	2%	4%	5%	-	0.3%	21%	26%
Leisure activities*	72%	38%	17%	16%	3%	4%	9%	19%	-	0.4%	-	23%

\*changed wording between 2019 and 2021:

Modes of travel into the city centre was not asked in 2019. However, in 2021 public transport was the most popular method of travel when visiting the city centre (46%) followed closely by car (44%).

Over the next 6 months, are you more or less likely to use...

	<i><b>More likely</b></i>	<i><b>Less Likely</b></i>	<i><b>About the same</b></i>
Car, Van or Motorcycle	28%	24%	48%
Public Transport	23%	28%	49%
Cycling	6%	48%	46%
Walking	21%	18%	61%

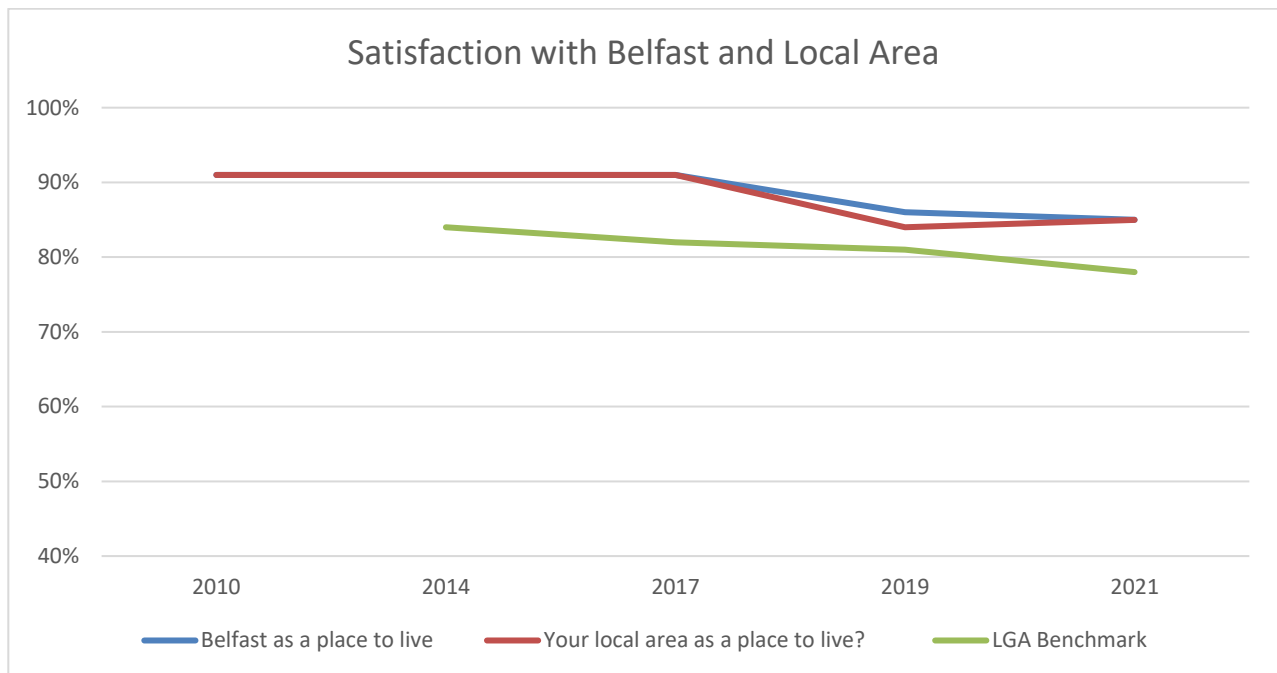
**Climate Change:** How important or unimportant is climate change to you? [new]

<i><b>Very important</b></i>	<i><b>Somewhat important</b></i>	<i><b>Not important</b></i>	<i><b>Don't believe in it</b></i>
44%	44%	10%	2%

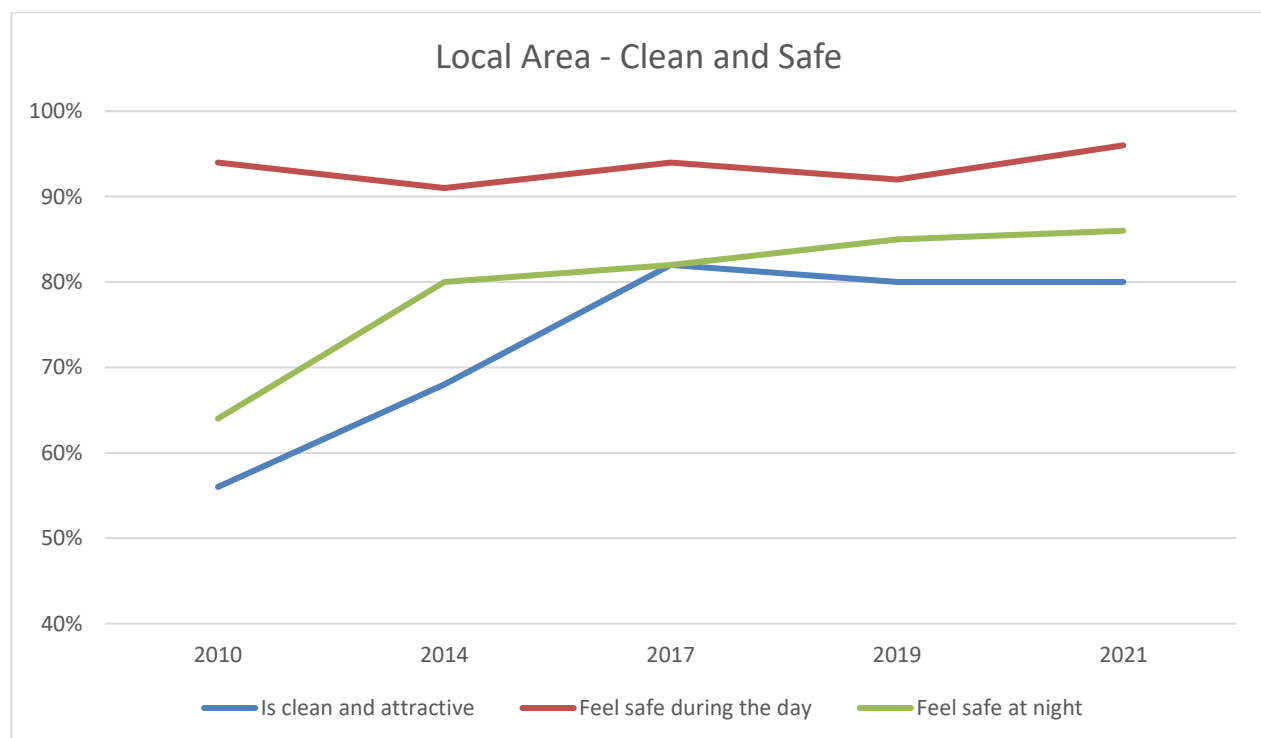
During the last 6 months have you taken any of the following actions to help prevent climate change?

Recycled more	62%
Reduced my plastic or other waste	43%
Discussed climate change with friends or family	22%
Walked, cycled or taken public transport instead of using a car	16%
Changed my eating habits	13%
Attended an event or demonstration	5%
Other (when asked to specify actions related to reducing energy consumption, purchasing electric/hybrid cars, eco- friendly products or watched documentaries or You Tube on the subject)	2%
Not taken any of these actions	19%

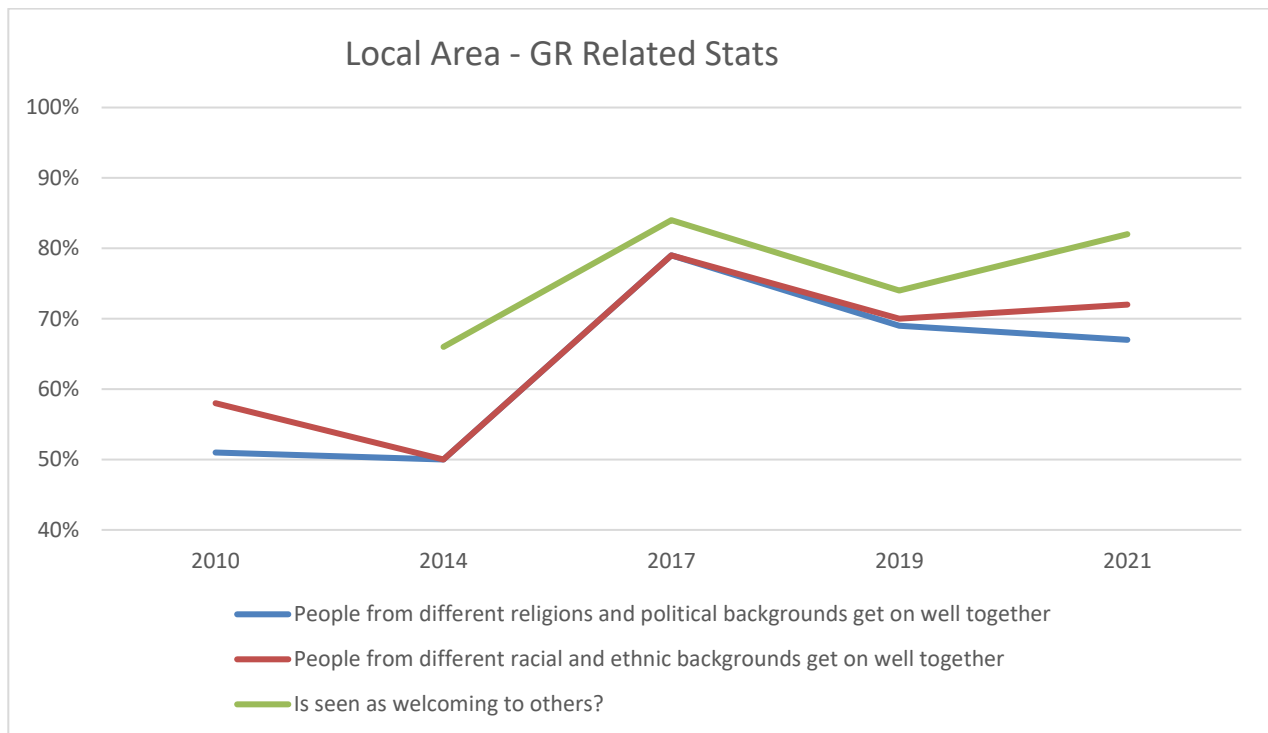
## Belfast



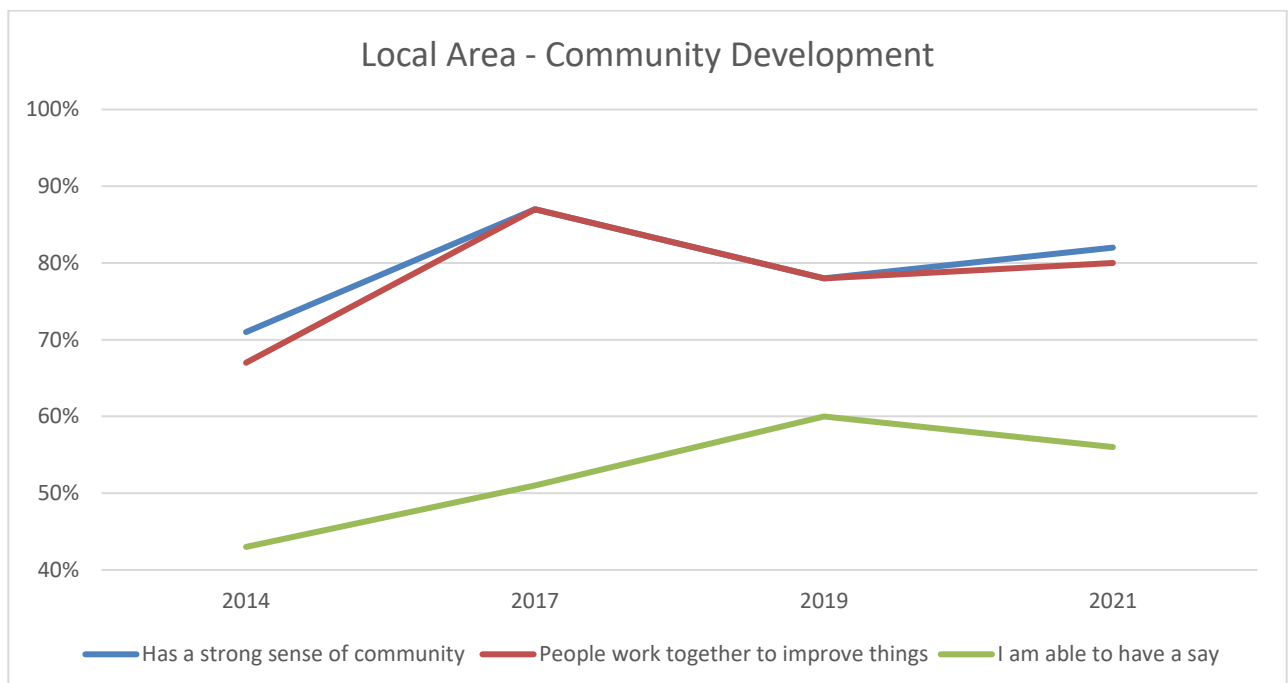
## Local Area – Clean and Safe



## Local Area – GR Related Statistics

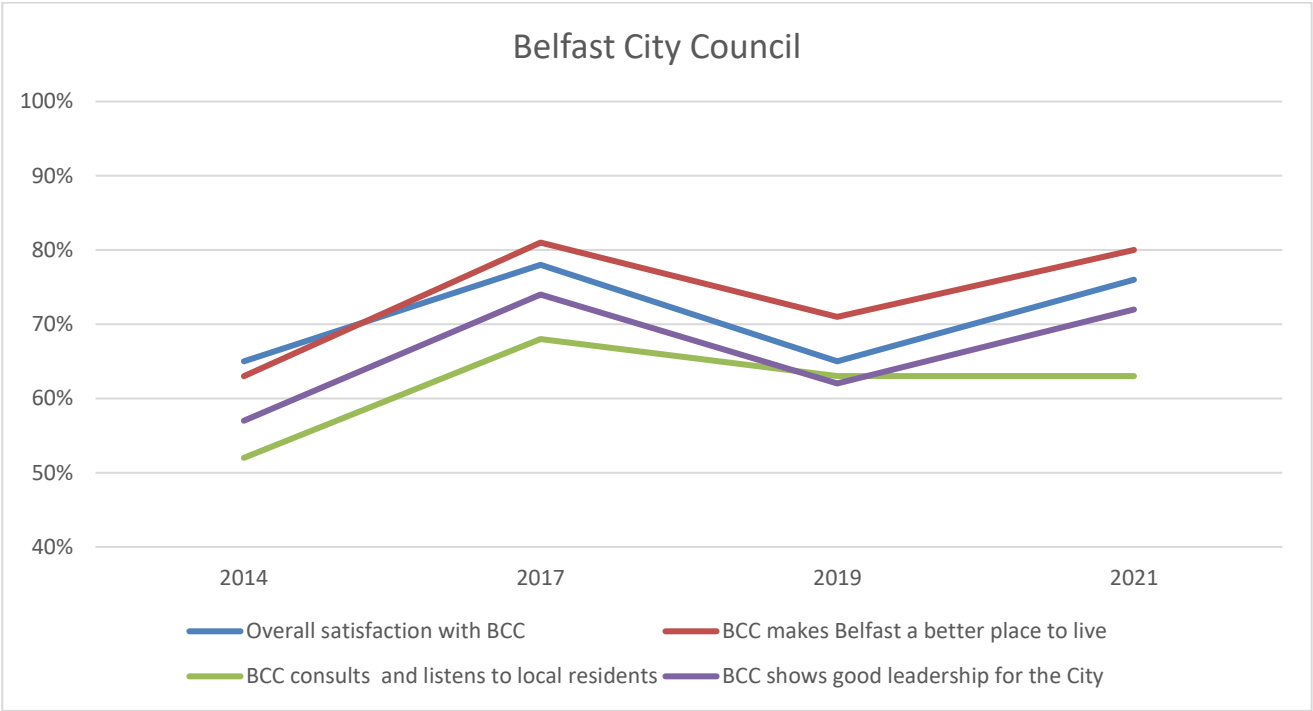


## Local Area – Community Development





Belfast City Council



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<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Response to Consultation on Infrastructure 2050 - Draft Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland</b>
<b>Date:</b>	25th March, 2022
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Geoff Dickson, Strategic Policy Lead Officer Claire Sullivan, Strategic Planning & Policy Officer

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	The purpose of this report is to make the Committee aware of the consultation on Infrastructure 2050 - Draft Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland and to seek its approval of the Council's draft response.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to consider the draft response and approve its submission, subject to any comments or amendment provided.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u> Members are advised that 'Infrastructure 2050 - Draft Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland' was published in January for consultation, with the closing date for responses being 20th April, 2022. A copy of the draft strategy can be accessed <a href="#">here</a> .

3.2	Within the draft strategy, the vision for infrastructure is that 'it will enable everyone to lead a healthy, productive and fulfilling life, and that it will support sustainable economic development and protect our environment'.
3.3	The strategy sets out how the Executive will achieve this vision. It provides a clear framework for planning and prioritising infrastructure investment, defining the outcomes required of that investment and setting out the mechanisms, including greater collaboration that will ensure its efficient and effective delivery.
3.4	<p>The draft also sets out the five key investment objectives which are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. decarbonise our economy and society;</li> <li>2. strengthen and protect our essential services;</li> <li>3. build a strong, connected and competitive region;</li> <li>4. enhance our communities and places; and</li> <li>5. maximise the benefits from new technology and innovation.</li> </ol>
3.5	Officers have collated a draft response to the consultation, which is attached to this report. Within the response specific comments have been made, relating to key areas including the lack of waste infrastructure, mitigating and adapting to global climate change and the historic underinvestment. The response also highlights the issues around dealing with wastewater and the need for investment in wastewater infrastructure and how the current underinvestment is impacting on the development of housing and other businesses within the city.
3.6	<p>Throughout the response reference has been made to key documents including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Belfast Agenda;</li> <li>• Belfast City Centre Regeneration &amp; Investment Strategy;</li> <li>• A Bolder Vision;</li> <li>• Innovation and Inclusive Growth Commission: 'Reset for Growth' Report;</li> <li>• High Street Task Force; and</li> <li>• Council responses to the draft Green Growth Strategy and the Draft Environment Strategy.</li> </ul>

3.7	Members are also reminded that the Council submitted a response to a call for evidence (February 2021) that was used in the development of the draft strategy. Officers have cross referenced this response with the submission previously made and have added relevant points to the draft consultation response.
3.8	<p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>There are no implications associated with this report.</p>
3.9	<p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p> <p>There are no implications associated with this report.</p>
3.10	An equality screening and rural needs assessment have been undertaken on the draft strategy and this is available on the ISNI website.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Document Attached</b>
	Draft Council response

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## COUNCIL RESPONSE

### INFRASTRUCTURE 2050

### DRAFT INVESTMENT STRATEGY FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

### CONSULTATION

Question		Y/N	Comment
1	Do you agree with our vision for infrastructure? If not, what would you change?	Y	<p>The Vision for Belfast under the City's Community Plan, The Belfast Agenda is that Belfast will be a city re-imagined and resurgent. A great place to live and work for everyone. This includes enabling access to opportunity, underpinned by inclusive growth for Belfast to be a city:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• where everyone benefits from a thriving and prosperous economy</li><li>• that is vibrant, attractive, connected and environmentally sustainable</li><li>• where everyone experiences good health and wellbeing</li><li>• where everyone fulfils their potential</li></ul> <p>The Vision for Belfast and the Executive's vision for infrastructure both align, however Council would highlight the pressing need to address infrastructure deficiencies which are currently impacting on the regeneration, development and investment of Belfast and which if not urgently addressed will further impact on the City's and Region's growth ambitions. Current development in the planning system and the regeneration of the city centre is being impacted. The Belfast Agenda's growth ambition around increasing the residential population cannot be met without significant and immediate investment in Water Infrastructure. The Strategy's vision refers to "Future Development" its not simply development in the future but development and regeneration now that is being affected for example delays and issues with city centre planned redevelopment and the knock on effect this is having on perceptions of particular areas of the city centre which are battling already difficult trading conditions.</p>

			<p>We would also recommend the inclusion of the adjective ‘environmentally sustainable’ or climate resilient infrastructure. An amended Vision would, therefore, read:</p> <p>We have <b>environmentally sustainable</b> infrastructure that enables everyone to lead a healthy, productive and fulfilling life; that supports sustainable economic development and protects our environment.</p>
2	Do you agree with our assessment of the challenges that we will face with our infrastructure over the next 30 years? If you disagree, why? And what do you think are the challenges and why?	Y	<p>The challenges identified include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the immediate need to respond to the climate emergency and achieve net zero</li> <li>• the changing requirements of an ageing population</li> <li>• our evolving trading relationships with our neighbours in Europe and elsewhere</li> <li>• the speed of technological innovation and the increasing risks to cyber-security</li> <li>• the need to invest both capital and resource funding to address historic underinvestment in our current infrastructure</li> <li>• the need to innovate at pace and develop our approach to delivery.</li> </ul> <p>We believe that the challenges are accurately articulated and reflect the need to move at pace to address the backlog of infrastructure investment over the last 3 decades but would have concern that the scale of the problems seems to have been seriously downplayed.</p> <p>We would also like to take the opportunity to reiterate the points we made around challenges and opportunities in the Call for Evidence process (Feb 2021):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Challenge - limited public finances. Current infrastructure investment estimates for the last 10 years exceed the projected spend for the next 10 years. The NI public sector faces significant challenges delivering against its major capital projects portfolio.</li> <li>• Challenge – Transitioning to net-zero requires design considerations which will increase the overall capital costs.</li> <li>• Opportunity – the council is keen to explore and identify potentially new financial mechanisms and vehicles which could be utilised to deliver critical city infrastructure projects.</li> <li>• Challenge - A lack of joined up thinking around infrastructure investment and the need for consensus/planning on how one part of infrastructure investment ‘fits’ with other parts of the economy.</li> </ul>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Challenge – the NI Planning system does not allow for a streamlined process which in turn puts off development and means we are not competitive as a place to invest in, compared to the remainder of the UK.</li> <li>• Challenge – An OECD report suggests that short-term considerations can exert too great an influence on infrastructure investment decisions which can lead to an over-reliance on narrow, sectoral plans at the expense of cross-network integration.</li> <li>• Opportunity - Northern Ireland has emerged as a world-leading cyber security, data analytics and FinTech hub; and Belfast is Europe's leading FDI destination for new software development. (fDi Markets FT 2020) Prioritising digital infrastructure presents an opportunity to solidify Belfast's position as a world leader in these fields attracting increased levels of FDI.</li> <li>• Opportunity - Continued investment in transport infrastructure provides an opportunity to change travel behaviours and reduce the dependency on cars; reducing congestion; improving public health and improving air quality.</li> </ul> <p>We have included specific comments below relating to key areas including the lack of waste infrastructure, mitigating and adapting to global climate change and the historic underinvestment.</p> <p><b><u>Waste</u></b></p> <p>We believe that addressing the lack of waste infrastructure within Northern Ireland would have the benefit, to varying degrees, of addressing each of these challenges and also the requirements as outlined on p 10 of the draft document.</p> <p>We understand that the DAERA Environment Minister has expressed his opinion on the matter of waste infrastructure and had advised that there is currently a lack of waste infrastructure within Northern Ireland.</p> <p>Again, (on Page 16) there is a stark omission of reference to how much investment has been made in waste infrastructure to date. It is our view that this area needs significant investment to enable the players in this market to deliver sustainable solutions and green jobs. By way of comparison the Welsh government has provided significant funding in this regard to deliver these benefits.</p> <p>Page 18, notes our "Changing Population". More housing, smaller sized households, an increase in population size and people living for longer will all have a significant impact on the amount of waste produced. The bigger the impact, the greater the need for appropriate waste infrastructure to meet the increasing demands. More</p>
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		<p>waste produced will also require more waste collections and transport of materials to treatment facilities, resulting in more vehicles on our roads.</p> <p>Our changing population will potentially result in a greater environmental impact and a larger carbon footprint. We need to rethink how we use resources and to keep products in circulation for longer.</p> <p>On the section on technology (page 18), we note the current DEFRA/DAERA consultation on the digital tracking of waste and we would highlight the need for the appropriate infrastructure in place to support the new technology, staff, sites and vehicles to meet the requirements of a mandatory digital tracking system for waste.</p> <p><b><u>Climate</u></b></p> <p>Mitigating and adapting to global climate change will be defining challenge over the 30year period of the Investment Strategy. But priority must be given to acting quickly and decisively in the next decade to decarbonise the heat, power and transport networks.</p> <p>Since launching this infrastructure consultation, the NI Government has launched a new Energy Strategy the Path to Net Zero Energy which has set a long- term vision of a net zero carbon and affordable energy. It is imperative that these 2 strategies are integrated and overlap.</p> <p>Within the Energy strategy 3 new efficiency targets have been set by 2030. These targets set a powerful base for developing a net zero carbon infrastructure and must guide the low carbon investment They are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Energy efficiency – deliver 25% energy savings from buildings</li> <li>(2) Renewables – 70% electricity consumed must come from renewables by 2030</li> <li>(3) Green Economy – Double the size of the low carbon and renewable business sector from £1billion to £2billion</li> </ol> <p>Since the consultation has been launched, the NI Government has also indicated that Climate Change Act will have a net zero greenhouse gas target by 2050, this is a more ambitious target than proposed previously and provides the springboard to scale up the mass decarbonisation of the power heat and transport sectors.</p> <p>While recognition of the environmental crisis is welcome and in line with the Council’s commitment to become carbon neutral (<a href="https://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/climate-change#:~:text=build%20resilience%20to%20flooding%20and,to%20reduce%20their%20carbon%20footprints">https://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/climate-change#:~:text=build%20resilience%20to%20flooding%20and,to%20reduce%20their%20carbon%20footprints</a>); the paper does not seem to fully appreciate the link to other issues, and hence how significant they are.</p>
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		<p>In particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water processing: we know that DFI are working hard to address issues with water processing through their 'Living with Water' programme, and aware of the problems in Belfast, having presented to our City Growth Committee. However, the report appears to contain a single line on the significance of this: "[lack of water treatment] is now acting as a brake on the planned development of the new homes and businesses we need." None of the Executive's plans for expanding the economy or improving residents' quality of life can be achieved without substantial efforts to improve water treatment.</li> </ul> <p>Energy provision: concerns over the closure of NI Powerplants, the ongoing issues with Russian gas, unexpectedly low wind generation and the all-island need to consider purchasing emergency energy;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>all suggest that energy is a crisis that has already started. And this is before the major move towards electrification of transport. Despite this, the report only makes mild reference to "invest[ing] in our electricity-generating capacity" and seems to imply that most of the issue will be addressed through future buildings being more energy efficient, smart sensors and the north-south interconnectors. These are all good things but do not seem to offer the drastic fixes that are required.</li> <li>Budget: of most concern is the report's lack of reference to how infrastructure investment will be funded. Where money is referenced it is misleading (investment is £800 per person per year not £8k as implied) or of extreme concern. Current road maintenance backlogs are in excess of £1bn (NIAO 2019), and the Health Estate has backlogs of £1.2bn (DoH 2021). <b><i>E.G., maintenance backlogs in just two depts. are in excess of the current total annual investment in infrastructure.</i></b> Additionally, it is not stated how much EU money was used for investment over the last 10 years, what expectations are for the new Shared Prosperity Fund, nor how additional funds will be raised to cover backlogs and new ambitions other than "an assessment of all other sources of public finance..." and "potential private finance..."</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Infrastructure</u></b></p> <p>There is a need to ensure that the resourcing deficit with required water / wastewater infrastructure including exploration of the potential for alternative funding models, is urgently addressed to ensure this does not prohibit current and future development, in particular housing development. Council through the consultation on the Housing Supply Strategy have highlighted the need to demonstrate that there is a clear route map to show how</p>
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			<p>the housing growth ambitions can be facilitated in terms of all the requisite infrastructure requirements and particularly in relation to the wastewater infrastructure. Page 8 paragraph –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pressure on water infrastructure is a problem now not in the medium term.</li> <li>• Page 9 on the strategy, Key points – include water infrastructure to key points.</li> <li>• There are currently a number of policy, financial and structural challenges to delivery of placemaking regeneration schemes via public /private partnerships and this is significantly impacting on the ability to delivery of regenerative housing at scale. Council would propose that a Task Group be set up to undertake a sharp, short, and focused review of these challenges and the mechanisms to overcome. This is critical to understand and deliver on optimal ways of working and delivery vehicles that involve the public sector working with the private sector and funders to bring forward appropriate housing development opportunities in a more agile way. This would ensure the required processes, delivery vehicles, funding and supporting infrastructure are aligned to deliver agreed outcomes to provide for appropriate housing development at scale whilst ensuring proper integrated placemaking.</li> <li>• Regarding ‘our approach to delivery’, Belfast, and NI, needs a programme of infrastructure investment that is coordinated across sectors and infrastructure types, responds to change, is both sustainable and resilient, and can be delivered in good time, at a reasonable cost. It will be critical to recognise the inter-dependencies and potential efficiencies of planning investment to meet the challenges identified and avoid treating each as a separate strand. Further clarity would be welcomed on the role of the NI Infrastructure Commission in this context.</li> </ul>
3	Do you agree that these five key investment objectives address the challenges? If not, what would you consider to be the key investment objectives?	Y	<p>The five key investment objectives are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. decarbonise our economy and society</li> <li>2. strengthen and protect our essential services</li> <li>3. build a strong, connected and competitive region</li> <li>4. enhance our communities and places</li> <li>5. maximise the benefits from new technology and innovation.</li> </ol> <p>Belfast City Council agrees with the key investment objectives as outlined. However, as implied in our previous response, without substantially strengthening our essential services in an environmentally sustainable way, perhaps by taking advantage of new technology it will be extremely difficult to make any meaningful long-term improvements for our communities and in our competitiveness.</p>

			<p>We would also draw your attention to the response that has been provided for the previous question, as there is overlap particularly in relation to the comments around Living with Water and the investment required in water infrastructure.</p> <p>As previously noted, there is a need for integrated planning and investment across these objectives, rather than operating in ‘silos’. Clarity regarding the role of the NI Infrastructure commission would be welcomed.</p> <p>We have also made comments in our response to question 4 around ‘A bolder Vision’ that relate to this question.</p> <p>We believe that the content on page 23 would benefit from greater clarity if it was amended as laid out in bold below.</p> <p>Paragraph 2 – In 2020 for example, less than 1% of <b>newly registered /purchased</b> vehicles are electrically powered, compared to nearly 25% in the Netherlands and 74% in Norway.</p> <p>Paragraph 3 – We have a strong record in the development of renewable energy. Around 42% of our <b>electricity or electrical energy was generated from renewable sources.</b></p> <p>Paragraph 3 – Most properties need to be linked to the <b>gas</b> grid and we must decarbonise the system using bio-gas or natural gas blended with hydrogen.</p>
4	Are these the investment priority areas we need to focus on to decarbonise our economy and society? If not, what are the investment priority areas that will help decarbonise our economy?	Y	<p>The priority areas are well defined and accurate and below we outline some specific comments are concerns we have in relation to the investment priority areas we need to focus on to decarbonise our economy and society.</p> <p><b><u>Waste and the Circular Economy</u></b></p> <p>We note that under the “decarbonisation” objective, although waste is referenced, the process does not cover the “where we need to be” with regards to waste. Our view is that reference should be made to the requirement for adequate waste infrastructure such as waste treatment and reprocessing plants.</p> <p>On page 23, it notes that we have the capacity to reprocess <u>some</u> (not all) of the recycling that we collect. This highlights a gap in Northern Ireland, in that that we cannot reprocess all of the recycling produced and, therefore,</p>

		<p>rely on exportations of potentially valuable material. In order to support a circular economy and a closed loop structure we need serious investment in building the appropriate infrastructure at a local level.</p> <p>On page 23, with reference to the 50% recycling rate in 2020, we note that in the subsequent period, recycling rates have been under significant pressure. Whilst the pandemic may have had a role to play in this impact, there is no doubt that investment in waste infrastructure is necessary to help stimulate and increase recycling rates. Similarly, diversion from landfill requires infrastructure to enable delivery of targets.</p> <p>On page 25, we note the omission of Energy from Waste (EFW) within the “Energy Generation” section and suggest that this be given due consideration.</p> <p>On page 26, we welcome the inclusion of a circular economy (CE) within the Investment Strategy. However, overall, the document reflects a very ‘waste-based’ understanding of the circular economy, as opposed to a resources-based understanding and the need to create a more sustainable pattern of consumption, production and waste.</p> <p>The idea that one principle of the CE is to, ‘implement measures to sequester carbon’, is not a familiar terminology. CE approaches can be useful in reducing carbon emissions but we would regard that as a benefit as opposed to a principle. If the strategy wishes to particularly encourage CE approaches because they reduce carbon emissions that is a separate matter.</p> <p>The ‘infrastructure’ requirements around the CE include concepts such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ education and training on circular design</li> <li>○ policy changes to minimise consumption from non-sustainable sources, encourage long life-times for products, and maximise the capture and recycling of waste products and materials (i.e. to create a more sustainable pattern of consumption, production and waste)</li> <li>○ data on the stocks and flows of products and materials through NI in order to inform the most impactful areas for improvement</li> <li>○ education and support for reuse/ repair/ remanufacturing</li> </ul>
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		<p>Some of the measures in the draft strategy are certainly consistent with the CE e.g. the use of existing building stock and brownfield sites as opposed to new builds and greenfield sites; better public transport and sustainable travel options to reduce the need for cars.</p> <p>On page 28, under “Circular Economy”, consideration could be given to stimulating markets and investing in start-ups focusing on innovation and best practice in resource/waste management.</p> <p>SIB is also producing the NI CE Strategic Framework; it would be important to make sure the draft investment strategy aligns with it.</p> <p>As an aside, it may be worth considering community wealth building approaches such as The Preston Model in developing the investment strategy <a href="https://www.preston.gov.uk/article/1791/The-definitive-guide-to-the-Preston-model">https://www.preston.gov.uk/article/1791/The-definitive-guide-to-the-Preston-model</a>.</p> <p>With respect to the Circular economy, is worth noting that many cities use residual waste streams, ie waste left over which cannot be recycled, as a renewable energy source. The gasification of residual waste can provide valuable renewable heat and renewable electricity which can be injected into district heating systems and electricity networks. This is a viable solution instead of exporting the residual waste outside the region.</p> <p>Final bullet p18 – Delays and lack of certainty over water infrastructure, along with potential increased costs leads to Belfast being a less attractive place to invest than other part of the UK. Belfast is potentially missing out on the opportunity for inward private investment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Draw on Belfast net zero road map</b></li> <li>- <b>Innovation and Inclusive Growth Commission Reset for Growth retrofit recommendations should be referenced</b></li> <li>- <b>Innovation and Inclusive Growth Commission Reset for Growth Renewed Future City key proposition on</b> - Create a connected and animated core city centre through the delivery of key commitments in the Bolder Vision document</li> </ul> <p><b>Belfast Agenda commitments</b> - The vision as set out in the Belfast Agenda, the city’s Community Plan, outlines the City’s ambition to promote the development of sustainable transport, including promoting walking and</p>
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		<p>cycling. The Belfast Agenda set a target for the City to achieve 15% increase in the use of sustainable transport. Council would therefore advocate and promote these modes and investment in the same. Example in current BCC led projects such as roll out of active travel infrastructure. In our ambition to attract 66,000 new residents to the city it is critical that connectivity considerations and alternative travel options can align with these growth ambitions. For example, the development of housing close to existing services may mean shorter, more localised journeys, allowing higher levels of cycling and walking or public transport, therefore reducing dependence upon the car and mitigating negative impacts such as traffic congestion and air pollution. A capacity-building approach alone is neither efficient nor sustainable to address the myriad of pressures facing transportation systems. Consideration of the spatial planning of the urban environment has a direct impact on movement patterns and therefore demand on a city's transport network.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>The Belfast City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy</b> (BCCRIS) identifies creating a green, walkable, cyclable centre and connecting to the city around as two of its eight key policies, recognising that active travel and connectivity are closely aligned to regeneration and development.</li> <li>- Belfast City Council (BCC), the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) and the Department for Communities (DfC) are developing <b>A Bolder Vision</b> for the future of Belfast City Centre. This will inform actions, interventions and a more joined-up approach across planning, transport and regeneration in developing Belfast City Centre as the attractive, accessible, safe and vibrant space central to the partners shared ambitions for Belfast. A Bolder Vision for Belfast involves a fundamental rethink of how streets and places are used to make them attractive, inclusive, accessible, healthy, and vibrant places. The first Phase of the Vision was agreed by Council and endorsed by the DfC and DfI Ministers in 2020. It is underpinned by four Visioning Principles that will drive and shape the city centre, which includes; fundamentally changing the centre of Belfast to prioritise integrated walking, cycling and public transport and end the dominance of the car. These Principles have shaped COVID recovery place-making and active travel interventions in Belfast and have supported modal change. However, this requires a collaborative and holistic approach across a number of stakeholders and partners to deliver strategic connections and improved access between, and into local communities and the city centre. Towards this aim, Belfast City Council and the Department for Infrastructure are working together to deliver a package of sustainable travel interventions that support improved connectivity to the city centre, including cycle parking (covered and secured), active travel hubs that encourage cycling and walking, and have expanded the Belfast Bike Share scheme to link communities to the city centre. Council recognises that people take different types of transport, depending on their circumstances and at times, these may be multi-modal</li> </ul>
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			<p>journeys. The key is that A Bolder Vision is providing safe, sustainable choices for people. A Bolder Vision Phase 2 is currently out for public consultation and is the overarching framework for this initial work and within it there are four Key Moves that groups short and long term interventions in critical parts of the city to create a green, people focused, connected city centre for current and future users. Each of these Key Moves supports connectivity to the city centre and introduces a strategic direction of travel accompanied by short, medium- and longer-term interventions to encourage walking, cycling and wheeling. It is critical that the correct strategy and policy framework, coupled with investment is put in place to deliver on the objectives of the Bolder Vision and other key place-making documents including the DfI Ministers 'Time for Change'. The public sector needs to be more flexible to change and have the correct frameworks and strategic direction in place to ensure effective decision making.</p>
5	Are these the priority areas we need to focus on to strengthen our essential services? If not, what do you think are the investment priorities that will strengthen our essential services?	Y	<p>The priority areas are well defined and accurate and below we outline some specific comments are concerns we have in relation to the investment priority areas we need to focus on to strengthen our essential services.</p> <p>We would highlight the concerns we have previously raised around waste water capacity (q2). Wastewater Capacity: LWWP provides a framework to invest in essential wastewater infrastructure, though the model for funding water infrastructure makes it difficult to future proof the system and allow growth capacity to be built in.</p> <p>We would also refer you back to the previous comments made in q 3&amp;4 re 'A Bolder Vision' document.</p>
6	Are these the investment priority areas we need to focus on to enhance our communities and places? If not, what do you think are the investment priorities that will enhance our communities and places?	Y	<p>The priority areas are well defined and accurate and below we outline some specific comments are concerns we have in relation to the investment priority areas we need to focus on to enhance our communities and places.</p> <p>Pages 36 – 36 Regeneration: Consideration should be given to storage and access requirements with regards to waste, particularly in apartment/high rise type living. Investment must be made in waste infrastructure here – for example in communal waste collection and storage facilities that are not just “bin”/ “receptacle” focused but could include for example vacuum extraction systems (requiring major investment)</p> <p>Investment could also be considered, into the reuse and repair economies within town centres and new ways of incorporating these into the everyday lifestyle of residents – e.g. the development of circular economy/artisan/zero waste type quarters such as those being considered within the Belfast Linen BID.</p>

		<p>On Page 39, we could incorporate a rethink of city centre toilets. With a changing population, they will inevitably be a requirement for more public conveniences across the city. Investment could be made into upgrading them into multi-functioning sites – e.g. incorporating newsagent kiosks/flower stands at our toilet facilities.</p> <p>Safety and equality considerations must be given to any city centre re-design and accessibility issues should be addressed at every stage. All quiet lanes must have collection of waste and utility vehicles considered at the planning stage rather than post completion.</p> <p>Page 41 – Housing developments must take into account waste storage and access requirements and these need to be future proofed as part of the planning process. We would reference our corporate guidance on this matter (hyperlink)</p> <p>The Council is already closely with DfI and DfC on many of these priority areas through our various initiatives for the High Street, Housing, Active Travel and Public Transport (see Bolder Vision, Green and Blue Infrastructure Plan, Belfast City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy, Future City, Cultural Strategy, and the Belfast Agenda). Consequently, we are in support of these priority areas.</p> <p>However, the Council believes there is scope to increase local level decision making and the ability to introduce local interventions. Hence, as the council has argued before, we would welcome an increase in delegated authority in these areas.</p> <p>Redefine the purpose of our High Streets / urban centres:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the recommendations of the High Street Taskforce need to be costed by DfC and presented as priorities in multi-annual budgeting processes across departments. the scale of commitment demonstrated through the £820 million ‘Future High Streets Fund’ and the £1.6 billion ‘Stronger Towns Fund’ put in place to support the high streets of over 200 towns within England, via councils. Similar investment programmes of scale, centrally funded, have been brought forward in the last 18 months in Wales and Scotland. A similar level of investment or commitment is currently absent in Northern Ireland and consideration needs to be urgently given to a dedicated fund of scale to enable emerging investment plans to be developed in accordance with local community planning, development planning and growth planning priorities for Belfast. This could potentially bring together multi departmental, council and other sources of funding into an aggregate multi-annual</li> </ul>
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			<p>fund. Such a fund could be allocated and administered through councils and subject to all partners (including government departments) working to deliver an agreed solutions / action plans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cities, Towns and Villages – We believe strongly that the Taskforce recommendations for all places with High Streets across NI should feature in its emerging Call for Evidence recommendations. We understand that there needs to be a balance across the region. This is true for cities too. Belfast is everyone’s main city and its important it plays its role as a centre for commerce, culture, tourist attractions, recreation, entertainment, learning and employment. Its core centre area needs to be reimagined entirely to ensure it can continue to perform these important roles for all areas to derive benefit. This will take investment. If Belfast is not supported to thrive then NI will collectively lose out on FDI, tourist spend, small business cluster development, cultural vibrancy etc and we will continue to lose our young people to cities which provide a much more attractive mix in other jurisdictions. This is not simply a matter of saying Belfast is big enough and so will survive. Without investment any growth will be sub-optimal for all of the people across the island and we will continue to suffer from low productivity levels and higher rates of economic inactivity and poverty. The role of Belfast needs to be clearly set out and consider the support needed to strengthen its role in positioning the region for investment and innovation. Belfast City Council, alongside partners, has carried out extensive work, through the Belfast City Centre Regeneration &amp; Investment Strategy, BRCD Programme, Belfast Innovation City, the Renewed Ambition public private partnership, our Future City Centre Programme, Cultural and Tourism Strategies and work to support arterial routes/neighbourhood centres. These all provide a strong platform to support the diversification of the High Street while still ensuring support for our retail and business population. These programmes and policies are supported through extensive research and best practice and require strong leadership and commitment across all our public and private sector partners and the NI Executive particularly in terms of policy, legislation and financing.</li> <li>• There is a need for place-based leadership across NI which brings together key partners, interests and stakeholders with a focus on high streets and significantly better coordination between central and local government, together with a recognition that local government can be best placed to deliver and support local interventions.</li> <li>• Long Term and Holistic Placemaking Approach - Whilst immediate and interim solutions are welcomed it is important to recognise that a long-term and sustained approach is required. The interim support measures brought forward by the Executive, including furlough, rates relief and Revitalisation Funding</li> </ul>
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		<p>helped to stabilise our city/town centres during a period of significant stress. However, we feel that it is critically important now to bring forward an holistic approach to diversifying and strengthening our High Streets, supported under the Programme for Government/Executive Recovery Plan and our collective key strategies and policies and adequately funded, to ensure our city centre and high streets are supported to thrive and most importantly survive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>city centre living is critical to the reimagining and future sustainability of the high street / city centre and should be central to the High Street Task Force recommendations in its CfE report and embedded within Executive funding priorities. Increased City Centre Living is also a key area within the Council's Future City Centre Programme which is charting the way forward for the diversification and sustainability of city centre uses. The Future City Programme is a multi-faceted programme that seeks to bring together a number of strategic initiatives and projects within one overall programme approach to address the issues impacting upon the city centre. It includes projects and interventions across various pillars of work centred on regeneration and connectivity, increased city centre living, investment, inclusive economic and cultural growth.</li> </ul> <p>Promote active travel, prioritising walking, cycling and wheeling for leisure and mobility – see points in question 4 under Belfast city centre regeneration strategy and A Bolder Vision.</p> <p>We would also draw your attention to the Council's response to the DfC consultation on Intermediate Rent policy and model <a href="#">Agenda for City Growth and Regeneration Committee on Wednesday, 8th December, 2021, 5.15 pm (belfastcity.gov.uk)</a> (item 14).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Belfast Agenda seeks to deliver increased social and affordable housing in the city and will measure outcomes through housing supply and housing stress indicators. This included specific targets for the delivery of 1,800 social housing units to 2021 and recognised the need to agree city-wide targets for affordable housing.</li> <li>We welcome that the policies will include significant committed investment and funding streams. The recently published Reset for Growth Report from the Belfast Innovation and Inclusive Growth Commission has found that Belfast presents a unique opportunity to position a significant housing building programme at the heart of its economic recovery plans. The Commission sees this investment in housing stock as having the potential to address a number of economic and social problems. These</li> </ul>
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		<p>findings should be used in support of ensuring significant investment and funding is aligned to delivery plans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council believes that mixed tenure housing is important for Belfast and Northern Ireland. Housing policies within the Belfast LDP draft Plan Strategy seek to “nurture the development of balanced local communities by achieving an appropriate mix of house types, sizes and tenures”, “secure mixed tenure housing developments” and “build strong, inclusive and cohesive communities for people of all backgrounds”. Mixed tenure development is seen as vital in achieving these aspirations and in avoiding many of the problems now associated with large areas of single identity social housing in the City.</li> <li>• The Council believes that housing led regeneration policy contributes to reversing the physical, social, and economic decline of town and city centres. The delivery of homes offers significant opportunities to help achieve balanced communities through well-linked, accessible, inclusive, mixed-tenure neighbourhoods. Combined with creating opportunities for communities to access local employment shopping, leisure and social facilities ensuring that they can live full independent lives in an inclusive, cohesive, and sustainable community. Provision of good quality shared social and community infrastructure is critical for social cohesion and contributes to the creation of lifetime neighbourhoods. Accessibility cannot compromise attractiveness and the Council therefore supports the need for good design.</li> <li>• We recognise that there is a need for a broader range of affordable housing products available to help deliver these ambitions and note the on-going work in relation to the development of an affordable rent policy and model for NI and to explore the scope for private sector leasing. Whilst this work is to be welcomed, it should be noted that progress on practical delivery of mixed tenure development is required now to maximise the potential of existing proposals both within the planning system at present and those recently granted approval. Furthermore, the imminent adoption of the Plan Strategy for Belfast will necessitate the need for workable solutions for mixed tenure development in a far broader range of circumstances in the very near future.</li> <li>• Within this context, as well as ensuring that Housing Associations can fully participate in creating and delivering new housing options across all tenures, consideration should be given as to how private sector developers can better contribute to affordable housing tenures. This is particularly pertinent in a higher density, City Centre context where retaining ownership of rental properties may be central to the</li> </ul>
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			<p>investment models required to ensure developments can be delivered (e.g., Build to Rent). Consideration should be given to enabling the private sector to deliver affordable homes directly, as well as in partnership with Housing Associations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• there is a significant disconnect between the areas in which housing is most needed, most notably within the social and affordable housing sectors. For example, recent delivery shows that the highest rates of housing growth have been seen in Newry, Mourne and Down and the Mid Ulster Districts, whilst the greatest level of need in terms of social housing and the greatest affordability pressures are seen in Belfast and the North West/Derry.</li> <li>• To illustrate this point, there are currently 11,858 people on the social housing waiting list in Belfast, which represents over 27% of the Regional social housing demand. However, the Housing Growth Indicators (HGIs), which are published by the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) to provide a starting point for planning for future housing growth, suggest only 8.7% of new housing should be within Belfast. The Council has therefore undertaken its own work to inform the LDP draft Plan Strategy and have proposed a far more ambitious target of 31,600 new homes to 2035. This again highlights the need for a joined-up policy environment across different Departments of Regional Government, as well as broad alignment at local level.</li> <li>• The Innovation and Inclusive Growth Commission, Reset for Growth Report has found that Belfast presents a unique opportunity to position a significant housing building programme at the heart of its economic recovery plans. The Commission sees this investment in housing stock as having the potential to address a number of economic and social problems.</li> </ul>
7	Are these the investment priority areas we need to focus on to build a strong, competitive and connected region? If not, what do you think are the investment priorities that will help build a strong,	Y	<p>The priority areas are well defined and accurate and below we outline some specific comments are concerns we have in relation to the investment priority areas we need to focus on to build a strong, competitive and connected region.</p> <p>We would reference the potential for seed funding for Eco hubs and Circular Economy hubs. The Circular Economy provides a fantastic opportunity to stimulate green growth and to encourage and build a strong competitive region.</p>

	competitive and connected region?	<p>We note that following the pandemic, more people across Northern Ireland are working from home and this may remain common practice even post recovery. Connectivity across the province needs to be more resilient and accessible to all residents, both in cities and rural areas.</p> <p>City centres may have to re-think the use of office space, where shared spaces and hot-desking become the norm. Again, this provides a wealth of opportunities for creating a circular economy hub within these spaces.</p> <p>Belfast City Council recently conducted a trial, where we wanted to develop a low-cost, low-maintenance scheme to facilitate the reuse of portable electronic devices (laptops, tablets, smartphones) donated by members of the public (householders, not businesses) at its HRCs (Household Recycling Centres). The devices would be distributed to local households in need, generating a community benefit as well as reducing waste. This example of a circular economy project in practice has resulted in environmental benefits while delivering social and / or economic benefits at the same time.</p> <p>It provided a means to offer digital technology and connectivity to those who are often digitally excluded. Our trial, even though relatively small scale, has so far demonstrated benefits in terms of carbon reduction, reuse, circular economy, connectivity and inclusion of older or more vulnerable people. This circular economy practice model has helped create a more sustainable pattern of consumption, production and waste.</p> <p>It would be prudent to include the scale up of investment in electric vehicle charging infrastructure and hydrogen refuelling stations in this section. The emissions from our transport sector are increasing unlike the emissions from our electricity and heat sectors.</p> <p>Unlike the rest of the UK and the ROI there is no Electric Vehicle Strategy for NI. There are no targets for therefore for the uptake of electric vehicles nor the expansion of the public charging network which is a pre-requisite to help the market develop. There are also no plans for taking forward EV charging for the on-street residential market. These issues need to be addressed as a matter of urgency. There is an urgency to act promptly and decisively on transport emissions if we are to cut emissions within the next decade.</p> <p>Similarly, there is a need to promote active travel through encouraging walking and cycling and to develop Greenways and safe cycling routes to encourage behaviour change and offer low carbon travel solutions. We expected to see reference to the various City Region Deals in the region and how they can align and contribute to these priorities.</p>
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			<p>As to the specific priority areas mentioned; Council is very supportive of increased public transport connections, especially to maximise the benefits from Weavers Cross, which better rail and other public transport would provide. And all while potentially reducing environmental emissions. In relation to improve connectivity and public transport network – please also see points in question 4 around A Bolder Vision.</p> <p>The ports (air and sea) are also of major importance to the region and can sometimes be overlooked as a predominantly private sector enterprise. The pandemic impact on travel and the pre-pandemic collapse of FlyBe have shown the need for careful consideration and support of essential transport links with our nearest neighbours in GB and the EU. This affects commerce, investment, inward tourism and our citizens opportunities to connect to the rest of the world.</p> <p>Belfast City Council is committed to working collaboratively with city and regional partners to support the delivery of regeneration projects across the City, and wider city region, with a focus on creating the economic and social infrastructure/assets we need for inclusive sustainable growth. We recognise the important role the built environment can play in delivering social, environmental and economic benefits to the city and wider city region.</p> <p>We would also like to highlight a number of key enablers that would support wider and more impactful sustainable development outcomes across the region.</p> <p>This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Devolution of regeneration and transport powers and associated funding to councils</li> <li>• Leading by example on regeneration and infrastructure investment projects by embedding sustainability and inclusive growth outcomes into the project to ensure that that social, environmental and economic benefits are achieved</li> <li>• Investment in sustainable infrastructure</li> </ul>
8	Are these the investment priority areas we need to focus on to maximise the benefits from emerging	Y	The priority areas are well defined and accurate and below we outline some specific comments are concerns we have in relation to the investment priority areas we need to focus on to maximise the benefits from emerging technologies.



	technologies? If not, what do you think are the investment priorities that will maximise benefits from emerging technologies?		<p>We would suggest developing facilities and technology that support the circular economy for the reuse of materials especially from construction. Also, to consider a digital passport for such materials and tie in with green procurement.</p> <p>It is quite possible that increased reliance on technology will have a bigger pull on our use of electricity and this should be considered within our green energy strategies.</p> <p>Reference should be made to the impact of digitalisation in accelerating the decarbonisation agenda. For example, the use of smart meters and data analytics at both household and industrial levels improve energy efficiency, reduce wastage which ultimately reduces carbon footprint. Digital applications are also transforming grid networks, enabling smart electric vehicle solutions and facilitating direct vehicle to grid charging which is revolutionising the transport sector.</p>
9	How should we prioritise between maintaining or upgrading existing assets and new aspirations?	-	<p>In terms of waste infrastructure, we would comment that the decision should be aligned to the Circular Economy Package and if they support the CE package, then that option should be prioritised, particularly where waste targets and landfill diversion is achieved.</p> <p>From a CE perspective, it is better to upgrade and reuse rather than build new. The decision to maintain and upgrade an asset should be based on a matrix of principles and not just on a cost basis. It could take into account other factors (similar to the “TEEP” model) such as technological, environmental (including CE) and practicable as well as economic considerations.</p> <p>As the report mentions and we have alluded to in our previous responses; some of the existing infrastructure is beyond being maintained and needs to be upgraded. For example, “70% of wastewater treatment works serving only 10% of the population” is clearly an inefficient way to continue.</p> <p>However, due to the concerns around budget already mentioned, we do believe that very careful consideration needs to be given to prioritising investment in terms of long versus short-term gains and the wider societal benefits or, in some cases, societal necessities (environment, water and power).</p>
10	How should we communicate with consultees on projects that	-	<p>There needs to be more open information around costs, impacts and the scale of the issues that already exist. As we mentioned in our response to Question 2, we feel that this report downplays many of the problems and the financial implications. It is clear that difficult decisions will need to be made, especially as we recover from</p>

	present affordability challenges, and thus may require alternative funding and financing to be utilised?		the impacts of the pandemic, and those decisions can only be taken appropriately if there is clear and honest information, that is provided in an understandable way.
11	Do you agree with the proposed prioritisation criteria? If no, then what changes would you suggest?	Y	<p><i>1. Does the proposed investment support the achievement of the objectives of the Programme for Government and the priorities of the Investment Strategy?</i></p> <p><i>2. Will the investment be sustainable and resilient?</i></p> <p><i>3. Is the proposed investment inclusive and equitable/equal?</i></p> <p><i>4. Is the proposed investment affordable?</i></p> <p><i>5. Is the proposed investment prepared for delivery?</i></p> <p>In principle, we agree with the proposed prioritisation criteria, but we would welcome further detail on how these general criteria, and weightings, will apply in practice. We also note that some of the judgement criteria are still at the development stage e.g. “4. Is the proposed investment affordable?” contains questions about developing criteria rather than criteria that can be applied to a project proposal. We would welcome the opportunity to comment on these criteria as they are further developed in the future.</p>
12	What level of engagement should we have with consultees on project milestones and delivery progress once a project has been programmed for delivery?	-	

<b>13</b>	Do you agree that the proposals we have set out will adequately measure progress and impact? If no, then how should we measure progress and impact?	Y	We welcome the move to a longer-term planning framework that is more suitable to multi-year infrastructure projects. Though we would caution about the potential for this to be misused. That is, there will still need to be clear early year targets around deliverables, milestones, and budgets to ensure that projects are not allowed to progress with issues to a point where it becomes too expensive to rectify. We would also suggest that it would be appropriate to have a mechanism to cancel projects that over time are no longer viable such as when assumptions used during the development of the business case are no longer relevant or can be justified.
<b>14</b>	Do you agree that the proposed accountability and oversight structures will support successful delivery? If no, then what other proposals should we consider?	-	
<b>15</b>	Do you agree with the process and the findings of the draft EQIA and Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA)? If no, then please explain why.	-	We do not have any strong views in relation to this question.
<b>16</b>	Are there any other issues or inequalities that have not been highlighted in the draft EQIA or RNIA that you believe need to be noted? If yes, then please explain what they are.	-	We do have anything further to add to the draft EQIA or RNIA.

17	Are there any other comments or suggestions that you think are relevant to help us develop and deliver the Investment Strategy?	-	<p>Belfast City Council welcome the opportunity to respond to this consultation on the Draft Investment Strategy and welcome the commitment to an investment in both existing and new infrastructure. We are keen to stay engaged in this very important area of work, to ensure the economic, regeneration and social sustainability of Belfast and the wider region.</p> <p>We would also like to take this opportunity to reiterate some of the key points that we made in our submission to the Call for Evidence process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All forms of infrastructure investment are necessary for the sustainable economic growth.</li> <li>• Infrastructure investment should be targeted to Belfast to release the greatest economic potential and support inclusive economic development that provides the opportunity to sustainably increase GVA, and the ability of the region to compete internationally.</li> <li>• OECD research suggests that concentrating infrastructure investment in Belfast, would enable the city to become a centres of economic activity that would pull the Northern Ireland region to higher productivity levels.</li> <li>• Infrastructure enables economic growth, builds the connections to markets and opportunities and is a key consideration for inward investors.</li> <li>• Northern Ireland and Belfast has suffered long-term under-investment in infrastructure meaning its current infrastructure is under strain, not keeping pace with population growth and modern requirements.</li> <li>• The city's water, drainage and sewerage infrastructure should be considered a key priority. LWWP has identified that Belfast has the worst drainage infrastructure in NI (over 70% of the NI Water infrastructure is over 50 years old) and a failure to act will have a significant consequence on future development ('No Drains No Cranes').</li> </ul> <p>We would also like to particularly highlight a number of key considerations which we would like to be taken into account as part of this consultation, as summarised below.</p> <p>In terms of wider infrastructure delivery for Belfast and NI, there are a number of challenges:</p>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Governance-</b> in order to facilitate integrated infrastructure planning and delivery, there is a clear need for better cross agency working and communication. The Northern Ireland Infrastructure Commission, with a clear remit and the support of the NI Executive, could bring significant value in developing and delivering on the vision to 2050, helping to broker and break down investment and delivery silos;</li> <li>• <b>Collaboration-</b> there is a need to ensure commitment to a collaborative public - private sector approach to unlocking key challenges with identified major city regeneration schemes, recognising that these will not only contribute to the region's growth ambitions and can act as a catalyst for inclusive economic growth. Council would advocate for optimal stakeholder/delivery vehicles for progression. This includes the need for the Executive and government departments to continue collaboratively working with the Council, public and the private sector to meet the growing and shifting demands of decarbonisation, digitalisation, integration and resilience;</li> <li>• <b>City and Growth Deals-</b> we welcome the recognition of the role of particular investments arising from the City and Growth Deals within the strategy, but would recommend that the strategy recognises more fully the role of City and Growth Deals as a major, joined up, placed based approach, which with the commitment of all partners and both governments, can play a key role in delivering across the investment objectives, including in particular in relation to building a strong, connected and competitive region, enhancing our communities and places, maximising the benefits from new technology and innovation and decarbonising our economy;</li> <li>• <b>Greater public engagement</b> to increase understanding and buy-in to major infrastructure decisions. This includes improving traditional community engagement and participation in the decision-making process to enable those likely to be affected or interested to influence infrastructure planning and delivery, learning lessons from the community planning process;</li> <li>• <b>Data-</b> central to the growing role of digital in infrastructure delivery is the ability of leaders and infrastructure providers to leverage meaningful insights from the billions of pieces of data being generated by users every day. Whilst the use of real-time operational data will transform management of facilities and services, it will also help provide a better evidence base for future investment and planning. Pursuing an ambition to be a leader in open data across infrastructure providers could help to realise these opportunities, informing the work of a future Infrastructure Commission to enable data-driven decision-making regarding investment priorities. Further, if supported by the development of new</li> </ul>
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		<p>capacity and infrastructure, access to such data could also lead to greater control and flexibility for users by underpinning a shift to -intelligent choices across infrastructure sectors, including to support modal shift, low carbon energy provision, water efficiency and more.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <b>Funding &amp; Finance</b> - In our view the recommendations / outcomes from the consultation need to be costed and presented as priorities in multi-annual budgeting processes across departments to deliver an agreed solutions / action plans. The cost of investment is significant, but of at least equal importance is the long-term socioeconomic ‘cost of not’ making such investments. Strategic infrastructure delivery planning, with a long-term horizon, would help reduce the impacts of cyclicalities and stop-start investment. By smoothing out the impact of fixed funding cycles on pipeline delivery and enabling the investigation of options for extending some elements of work beyond current planning periods, transformative investments in infrastructure can be considered alongside more conservative options. Whilst constrained public finances is unlikely to change in future, by comparison institutional investors have huge unmet needs for safe and long-lived investments. A framework in which private investors, ranging from individual citizens to pension funds, can play a much larger role in financing public urban infrastructure investment is viewed by many as the only realistic mechanism to achieving the degree of investment cities need and should be considered as part of infrastructure planning. Council advocate for consideration of how FTC and the Northern Ireland Investment Fund, Levelling Up Funds or other funding can be best utilised or refocused to support infrastructure and regeneration priorities and unlock development and growth ambitions. Of critical importance, particularly where there are viability issues and to underpin proper placemaking, there is a need for funding to facilitate enabling infrastructure for development.         </li> <li> <b>Programme for Government and ‘Building Forward: Consolidated Covid Recovery Plan’</b> – that outcomes are aligned to the draft Programme for Government and the Executive’s Covid Recovery Plan, to ensure deliverability, if they are agreed and implemented as an integrated element of the NI Executive’s priorities.         </li> <li> <b>Cities, Towns and Villages</b> – We understand that there needs to be a balance across the region. This is true for cities too. Belfast is everyone’s main city and its important it plays its role as a centre for commerce, culture, tourist attractions, recreation, entertainment, learning and employment. Its core centre area needs to be reimagined entirely to ensure it can continue to perform these important roles for all areas to derive benefit. This will take investment. If Belfast is not supported to thrive then NI will collectively lose out on FDI, tourist spend, small business cluster development, cultural vibrancy etc and we will continue to lose our young people to cities         </li> </ul>
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		<p>which provide a much more attractive mix in other jurisdictions. This is not simply a matter of saying Belfast is big enough and so will survive. Without investment any growth will be sub-optimal for all of the people across the island and we will continue to suffer from low productivity levels and higher rates of economic inactivity and poverty. The Taskforce needs to set out the role of Belfast and consider the support needed to strengthen its role in positioning the region for investment and innovation. Belfast City Council, alongside partners, has carried out extensive work, through the Belfast City Centre Regeneration &amp; Investment Strategy, BRCD Programme, Belfast Innovation City, the Renewed Ambition public private partnership, our Future City Centre Programme, Cultural and Tourism Strategies and work to support arterial routes/neighbourhood centres. These all provide a strong platform to support the diversification of the High Street while still ensuring support for our retail and business population. These programmes and policies are supported through extensive research and best practice and require strong leadership and commitment across all our public and private sector partners and the NI Executive particularly in terms of policy, legislation and financing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are currently a <b>number of policy, financial and structural challenges to delivery of placemaking housing regeneration schemes via public /private partnerships</b> and this is significantly impacting on the ability to delivery of regenerative housing at scale. Council would propose that a Task Group be set up to undertake a sharp, short, and focused review of these challenges and the mechanisms to overcome. This is critical to understand and deliver on optimal ways of working and delivery vehicles that involve the public sector working with the private sector and funders to bring forward appropriate housing development opportunities in a more agile way. This would ensure the required processes, delivery vehicles, funding and supporting infrastructure are aligned to deliver agreed outcomes to provide for appropriate housing development at scale whilst ensuring proper integrated placemaking.</li> <li>• <b>Infrastructure</b> - There is a need to ensure that the resourcing deficit with required wastewater infrastructure including exploration of the potential for alternative funding models, is urgently addressed to ensure this does not prohibit current and future development. This should include how growth ambitions can be facilitated in terms of all the requisite infrastructure requirements and particularly in relation to the wastewater infrastructure.</li> <li>• <b>Innovation and Inclusive Growth Commission: 'Reset for Growth' Report</b> – highlighted a number of key points which are relevant to the development and delivery of the Housing Supply Strategy and of</li> </ul>
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		<p>particular note are the strong recommendations around the need for structural models to support public-private collaboration and Housing Investment Funds. Relevant extract as below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Renewed Future City – Housing</i>: There are a number of levers required to action the commitments of the Belfast Agenda at the pace and scale necessary to make an impact, which are not currently in place. A number of key gaps have been identified, principally in terms of the structural models required to support public-private collaboration and access to finance to bring forward developments. The Commission propose the establishment of a number of new institutions, namely Strategic Land Partnerships and Housing Investment Funds. The Commission feel that the scale of the task will require further intervention, particularly in stimulating private sector development, including affordable housing provision. For this reason, they suggest that the regional government and the Treasury should consider developing a Housing Investment Fund. This model has been successful in stimulating new housing construction at scale across a range of classes in many UK cities.</li> <li>○ <b>Key Proposition</b>: Create sustainable, vibrant communities in the city centre, delivering 11,500 new homes by 2035. The Commission’s proposals to accelerate delivery include Council, Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) and Department for Communities (DfC) establishing a delivery vehicle to utilise public sector land and undertake land assembly to facilitate new low carbon housing at scale across the city centre. (Note – a Housing Regeneration Group has now been set up under the Community Planning Partnership: City Development Board with BCC, NIHE, LPS and DfC, with a key focus of the group in identifying and utilising public sector lands). Vehicle should also develop housing mix, amenities, and neighbourhood development plan for city core. Target: 11,500 new homes in 10 years. Create new financial instruments including Housing Investment Funds to address market challenges related to risk and yield.</li> <li>● <b>Current Policy and Legislation</b> – in relation to ensuring the appropriate policy frameworks are in place to accelerate regeneration and development, it is understood that there are issues specifically with areas which impact on housing led regeneration and with the current Housing Association Guidelines, which strongly need addressed. Our current understanding would suggest that the following issues need to be addressed:</li> </ul>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Land:</b> These require a housing association to have acquired land ownership prior to award/payment of grant assistance (land purchase, construction). However, where the land is currently in public ownership then there is scope, utilising the Development Brief process, for reflecting this public ownership of land as distinct from privately owned thereby potentially negating the need for the housing association to initially acquire a site. This ties directly into when a housing association would be expected to then pay to acquire publicly owned land and to explore potential for deferred terminal payment or equity ground rent payment approaches which will also assist with de-risking development.</li> <li>○ Delivery of private sector tenure as part of a mixed tenure development is also currently impeded by <b>Article 15</b> of the Housing Order with limitation on delivery of private housing by housing associations to the existing co-ownership model only (i.e., no private sales or rentals). With the desire for city centre development to be delivered across all three housing tenures there is an urgent need to address this policy issue if this objective is to be advanced.</li> <li>○ <b>Barriers:</b> BCC have commented through the Call for Evidence response that the 3 main barriers to delivery of the Housing Supply are Funding, Delivery Vehicles &amp; Land. Delivery of joined up policies and having supported and properly joined up infrastructure, with all 3 having to be overcome to support the development and growth ambitions of the Belfast Agenda, will be required.</li> <li>○ Current lack of a <b>policy on affordable housing</b>, aligned to the revised definition of affordable housing, represents a risk to housing associations developing a business case in absence of affordable housing products.</li> <li>○ Whilst not policy per se – lack of a <b>city centre waiting list</b> impacts on clarity for housing associations on latent demand.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>A Bolder Vision</b> – which has ‘<i>Promote City Centre Living</i>’ as one of its 4 key moves aimed at encouraging city centre living by ensuring the enabling infrastructure is in place to facilitate city centre living with place making at its heart. It highlights the importance of providing greater quality, choice and affordability of accommodation and of critical importance is establishing a city-wide network of people friendly routes and city parks to create and underpin a liveable city centre. Council believes that the delivery of A Bolder Vision priorities via the joint BCC/DfI/DfC approach will be critical to the successful delivery of city centre living. From a Belfast perspective therefore, Council would highlight that the future delivery of A Bolder Vision is intrinsically linked to the HSS and should be embedded within Central Government /Executive priorities.</li> </ul>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>High Street Task Force</b> – city centre living is critical to the reimagining and future sustainability of the high street / city centre and should be central to the High Street Task Force recommendations and embedded within Executive funding priorities. Increased City Centre Living is also a key area within the Council's Future City Centre Programme which is charting the way forward for the diversification and sustainability of city centre uses. The Future City Programme is a multi-faceted programme that seeks to bring together a number of strategic initiatives and projects within one overall programme approach to address the issues impacting upon the city centre. It includes projects and interventions across various pillars of work centred on regeneration and connectivity, increased city centre living, investment, inclusive economic and cultural growth.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Waste</u></b></p> <p>We note that there is no reference at all within the executive summary to deficiencies in the waste infrastructure within Northern Ireland and we emphasise the point that the scale of investment required for waste infrastructure in the region, is greater than ever before.</p> <p>This overarching piece of work needs to financially support the ongoing work around waste legislation, such as the Environment Act, EPR, DRSs, CE etc. If there is not enough turnaround on support for councils, it will prove difficult for councils to deliver on requirements and targets.</p> <p>In terms of the number of strategies, for example green growth, environmental and investment strategies, we would ask where the linkages between them all are and if there is one overarching strategy encompassing them all?</p> <p>This overarching piece of work needs to financially support the ongoing work around waste legislation, such as the Environment Act, EPR, DRSs, CE etc. If there is not enough turnaround on support for councils, it will prove difficult for councils to deliver on requirements and targets.</p> <p>We would also note the lack of a NI wide Waste Management strategy is a major barrier to waste management reviews and decisions.</p> <p>We would reiterate comments that we submitted in response to the Draft Green Growth Strategy and the Draft Environment Strategy. These consultation responses can be found at the following links:</p>
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			<p>Draft Green Growth Strategy - <a href="#">Agenda item - Consultation on Draft Green Growth Strategy for Northern Ireland (belfastcity.gov.uk)</a></p> <p>Draft Environment Strategy - <a href="#">Agenda item - DAERA Environment Strategy consultation response (belfastcity.gov.uk)</a></p> <p>We would conclude by stating that there needs to be major change in the governmental approach to facilitate the development of waste infrastructure. The time scales involved in investment/planning decisions is not conducive to a region which is open for business and direct investment.</p>
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<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Review of Belfast Agenda – Update on Action Planning</b>
<b>Date:</b>	25th March, 2022
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Kevin Heaney, Portfolio Manager Jamie Uprichard, Community Planning Officer

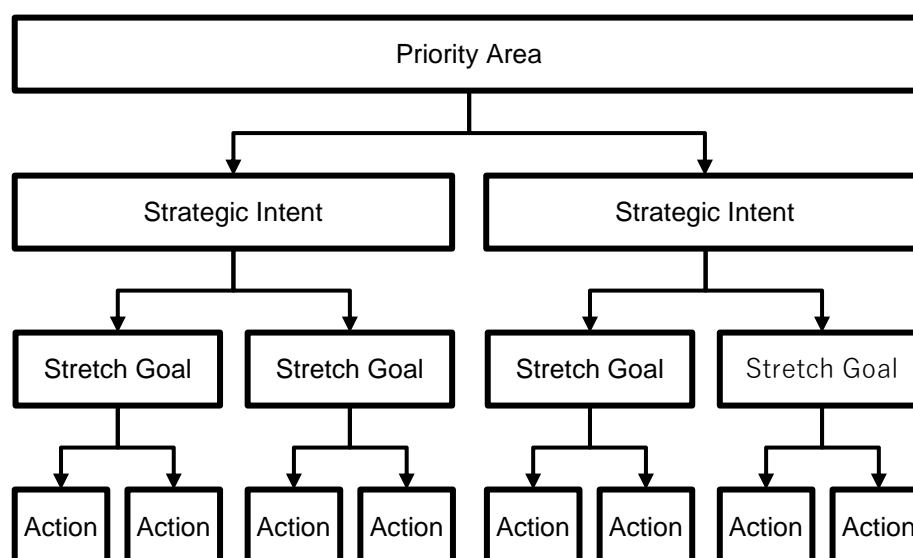
<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on the progress of the Belfast Agenda Review, including the action planning phase and to seek approval of the minutes of the All-Party Working Group on Community Planning of 23rd February.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. note the progress of the development of the refreshed Belfast Agenda Strategy document and supporting four-year Delivery Action Plans as set out in this report;</li> <li>ii. consider and provide comments on the emerging strategic intents and measures of success (stretch goals) as set out in slides 12-22 of Appendix 1;</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>iii. note the proposed next steps and timeline as set out in slide 33 of Appendix 1.</li> <li>iv. note the plans for continued Member engagement, as detailed in section 3.5; and</li> <li>v. approve the minutes of the meeting of the All-Party Working Group on Community Planning of 23rd February, as attached at Appendix 2.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p>In November 2021, members received an update on the emerging findings and recommendations following the initial phase of Belfast Agenda: Continuing the Conversation engagement to inform the refreshed Belfast Agenda (BA) for the period 2022-2026. As reported at the November meeting, there was broad agreement that the existing long-term vision and outcomes of the BA remain relevant, and the proposed priorities for focus were the things that stakeholders and communities believed community planning could help address over the next 4-year period. There had been feedback in relation to how some of the priorities had been framed and the need for them to be easily understood. As a result, some minor changes had been made to the framing of the priority areas such as, changing 'economic recovery' to 'Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Growth'. A summary of the current Belfast Agenda priority framework (which reflects many of the changes) is attached at Appendix 1.</p>
3.2	<p><b><u>Bringing Focus and Commitment to Delivery</u></b></p> <p>Building on the recommendations and consensus reached through Phase I, the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) and council has committed to co-design specific and measurable actions plan(s) which would underpin the priority areas of focus. Subsequently, a small group of core partners (cross-sectoral) has been brought together to help further develop the approach to co-designing each of the priority areas and cross-cutting themes. Each task and finish group were responsible for analysing the range of outputs from phase 1 of the 'Belfast Agenda: Continuing the Conversation' engagement process; assessing relevant strategies, plans and local intelligence (including information received through the call for evidence); feedback from the community and Belfast Agenda Board engagement workshops; online and paper-based survey results; and the current delivery plans of existing Belfast Agenda Boards.</p> <p>Based on this initial analysis, partners prepared a strategic framework to help bring focus and shape the co-designed action plans consisting of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What we are trying to achieve over the next 4 years (<b>strategic intent</b>);</li> <li>2. How will we measure success (<b>stretch goals</b>); and</li> <li>3. How will we realise such success (<b>SMART Action Plan(s)</b>).</li> </ol>

Figure 1 below illustrates this framework and how a structured and informed approach is being implemented with partners to ensure there is a strong thread between each of the priority areas, ambitions, measures of success and importantly the focus for collaborative action.



*Figure 1: strategic framework adopted by partners to bring focus and shape co-designed action plans*

3.3

Output from this initial exercise will inform the next phase of the Continuing the Conversation engagement programme, where we will continue to work with partners and communities to co-design delivery plans. This represents an ongoing and complex process, which requires participation and involvement across sectors and communities at multiple levels, which has resulted in some priorities being more developed than others. The emerging frameworks for each of the priorities are attached as part of the presentation attached at Appendix 1 (slides 12 to 22) which had been discussed with the All-Party Working group on Community Planning when it met on 23rd February. Please note that, since that meeting, the strategic intents and stretch goals have been further developed, particularly the City Development elements following the Board meeting on Friday 11th March. This reflects the dynamic nature of the co-design process which remains a **work in progress**. Members are asked to consider and provide feedback on the emerging frameworks outlined by 1st April 2022 to [communityplanning@belfastcity.gov.uk](mailto:communityplanning@belfastcity.gov.uk). This feedback will then be reflected in future iterations and can be discussed further with members as the strategy is further refined.

3.4

As discussed with the All-Party Working Group, it is proposed that the timeline for developing the refreshed Belfast Agenda strategy document and underpinning delivery plans includes sufficient time for direct and genuine engagement with partners, communities/ communities of

	<p>interest and specific sectors including the business and private sector over April and May 2022. In addition, more formal and intensive consultation activities are planned on the strategy document as well as further engagement to co-design the action plans during May and June 2022. Slide 33 in Appendix 1 outlines the proposed next steps and timeline for this process. It is felt that the timeline will allow for greater input and enable valuable buy-in to the emerging plans.</p>
3.5	<p><b><u>Political Engagement with Elected Members</u></b></p> <p>In addition to the All-Party Working Group on Community Planning on 23rd February, and subsequently the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, it is also intended to bring a similar paper, presentation, and discussions to the Social Policy Working Group in early April. The intention would be to bring a further iteration of the draft strategy and emerging action plans to Committee in April for further consideration, input, and refinement.</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting of the All-Party Working Group on Community Planning meeting of 23rd February are attached at Appendix 2 for approval. It is important to note that the feedback and recommendations from Members at this meeting will be factored into the continued refinement of the BA Refresh.</p>
3.6	<p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>Any financial implications arising from this report will be covered from existing budgets. The review process will continue to involve the participation of all community planning partners, who will need to commit their resources to the review process and the agreed action plans.</p>
3.7	<p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p> <p>It is recommended that the consultation and engagement activities to review the Belfast Agenda will take account of the draft Audit of Inequalities and include specific sessions with targeted harder to reach groups to ensure that equality implications are considered as part of the review process.</p>
4.0	<p><b>Documents Attached</b></p>
	<p><b>Appendix 1</b> - Belfast Agenda Review Overview including emerging Action Planning Frameworks for agreed priorities (updated 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022)</p> <p><b>Appendix 2</b> - Minutes of the meeting of the All-Party Working Group on Community Planning of 23rd February 2022</p>





# All-Party Working Group on Community Planning

Continuing the Conversation to Review the Belfast Agenda


23<sup>rd</sup> February 2022 (Updated 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022)

Supported by




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## Where we left off...



**Vision to 2035**

Belfast will be a city re-imagined and resurgent. A great place to live and work for everyone. Beautiful, well connected and culturally vibrant, it will be a sustainable city shared and loved by all its citizens, free from the legacy of conflict. A compassionate city offering opportunities for everyone. A confident and successful city energising a dynamic and prosperous city region. A magnet for talent and business and admired around the world. A city people dream to visit.

**Outcomes to 2035**

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

**Priority themes 2022-2026**

- Economic recovery
- Employability and skills
- Housing
- Health inequalities
- Climate, resilience and sustainability
- Active and sustainable travel
- Educational attainment
- Community recovery and neighbourhood regeneration

**Cross-cutting themes**

- Inclusive growth
- Children and young people
- Good relations and shared future
- Older people

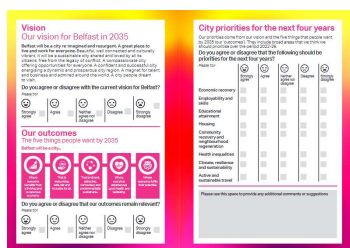
Join the #BelfastConversation at: [yoursay.belfastcity.gov.uk](https://yoursay.belfastcity.gov.uk)

2

## Phase 1: Engagement & Co-design



- 6 participatory workshops
- 130 participants from 63 organisations
- Board workshops / Online platform / social media/ 435 survey responses (online and paper based)
- Utilising local assets (libraries and community centres)



### Target Audience

1	South Belfast Stakeholders
2	Elected Members
3	North Belfast Stakeholders
4	West Belfast Stakeholders
5	East Belfast Stakeholders
6	Communities of Interest

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## We Asked, You Said, We Did...



Participants discussed the need for targets and indicators in order to measure progress against the priorities.



Participants broadly agreed that what economic recovery meant needed to be more accurately defined... focus should be on how inclusive it would be, and how economic inequalities across the city would be addressed.



Participants felt that this was a central and urgent issue that connected to all the other priority themes.

- Agreement that long term vision and outcomes are still relevant
- Public engagement, outcomes, accountability and measuring success emphasized as part of the action planning process
- City Development included as an additional priority area; Connectivity added to Active and Sustainable Travel
- Economic Recovery refocused as **Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Growth**
- Focus being given to interrelated or cross-cutting actions to avoid creation of silos

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## What do the priorities mean for your community? E.g.

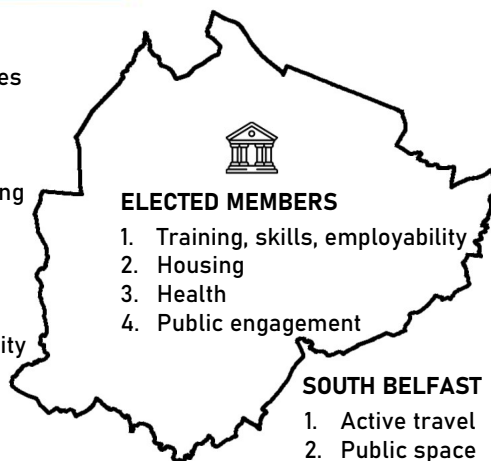


### NORTH BELFAST

1. Access to services
2. Regeneration
3. Mental health
4. Housing
5. Health & Wellbeing

### WEST BELFAST

1. Housing
2. Implementation
3. Outcomes and accountability
4. Public engagement
5. Poverty



### ELECTED MEMBERS

1. Training, skills, employability
2. Housing
3. Health
4. Public engagement

### SOUTH BELFAST

1. Active travel
2. Public space
3. Development, housing and regeneration

### EAST BELFAST

1. Good relations/social cohesion
2. Public engagement
3. Implementation and outcomes
4. Health inequalities
5. Education, skills and employability

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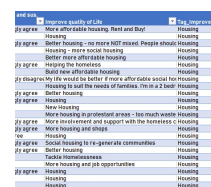
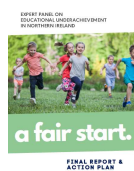
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## Action Planning Process to date

Creating Alignment through to Delivery



- Convening leads identified to form small task and finish group for each priority
- Group tasked with consideration of **inputs** and preparing a starting point for the co-design process



For example: Education Authority, Department of Education and Belfast City Council officials have considered all inputs and drafted proposals based on wider engagement with Educational Inequalities subgroup (Belfast Area Partnerships, QUB, UU and CCMS)

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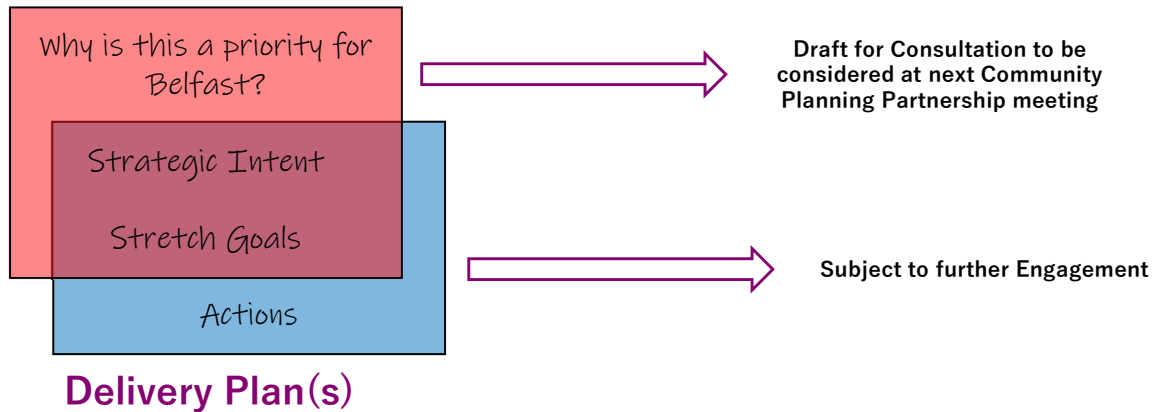
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## Our Commitments and Milestones

Link between strategy document and delivery plans



### Strategy Document (and Easy Read version)



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## Action Planning Process to date

Ensure actions meet agreed guiding principles



✓ Adding clear value	We can achieve <b>significant gains</b> by <b>collaborating</b> across our partnership and sectors in a way we cannot through our existing single agency or thematic 'business as usual'.
✓ Impact for Belfast's people, place, economy	The work we deliver together will be felt in <b>practical ways</b> by <b>individuals, families, communities, residents and businesses</b> in Belfast, delivering <b>tangible outcomes</b> .
✓ With Belfast's Communities	The work we do will fully <b>engage Belfast's residents, communities and businesses</b> , building on their strengths and ensuring their voice is central to planning and delivery. We will work ' <b>with and alongside</b> ' our <b>Communities, not 'To or For'</b> them.
✓ Intelligence led priorities and action	We will focus our collaboration on the things that <b>data, evidence and community insights tell us matter most to Belfast</b> and we will deliver together in ways that <b>evidence tells us will make a real difference</b> .
✓ Resourcing	Delivery will require joint resourcing and effort, (i.e. staff time, services or investment). Should be a <b>leadership commitment to jointly resource</b> the initiative.

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## Action Planning our Agreed Priorities

Creating Alignment through to Delivery



CLIMATE, RESILIENCE  
& SUSTAINABILITY



SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT  
& ACTIVE TRAVEL



HOUSING-LED  
REGENERATION



HEALTH  
INEQUALITIES



FUTURE CITY  
CENTRE

Inclusive growth

Children and young people

Good relations and shared future

Older people



EDUCATIONAL  
INEQUALITIES



EMPLOYABILITY &  
SKILLS



SUSTAINABLE & INCLUSIVE  
ECONOMIC GROWTH



COMMUNITY &  
NEIGHBOURHOOD  
REGENERATION



CITY REGENERATION  
& INVESTMENT

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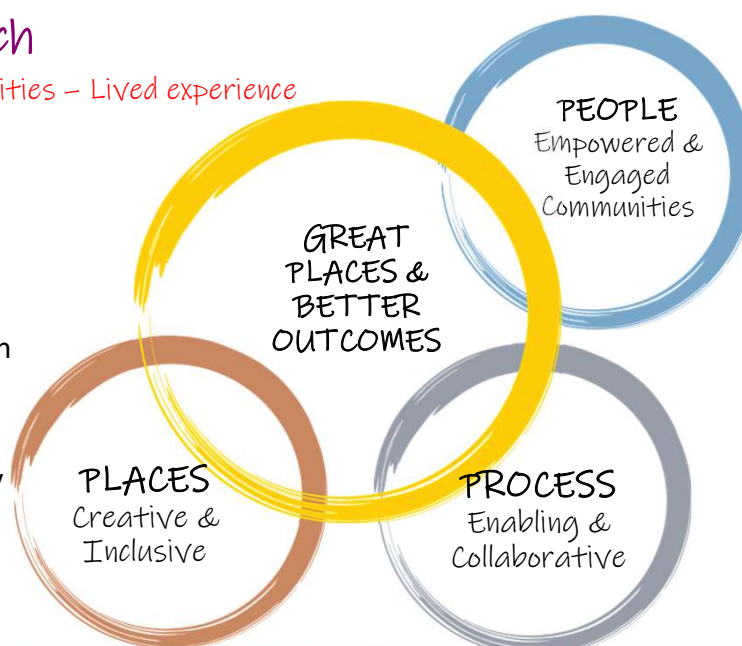
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BEYOND  
STICKY  
NOTES®

## Co-Designed Approach

Ensuring delivering for communities – Lived experience

- Widen voices into the planning and prioritisation process.
- Localised engagement N|S|E|W - Phase 1 and Phase 2
- Increases ownership and connection
- Encourages active participation in solving local problems
- Stimulates innovation and creativity
- Build capability to support delivery.
- Multiple layers of engagement and participation



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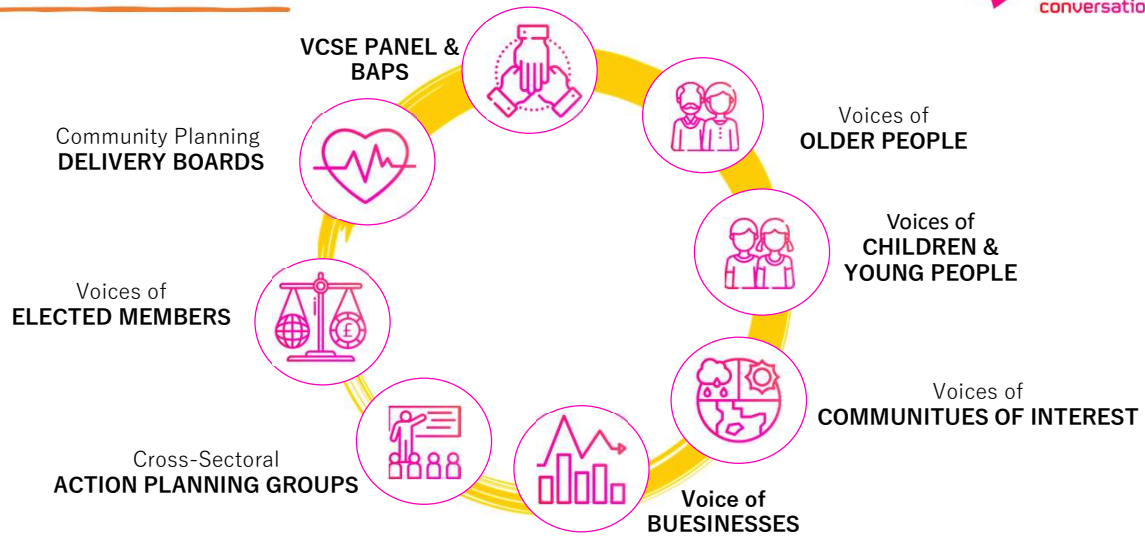
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## Co-Designed Approach

Ensuring delivering for communities – Lived experience

**The Belfast Agenda**  
continuing the conversation



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## Emerging Draft Framework

Enabling the co-design action plans

**The Belfast Agenda**  
continuing the conversation

**WORK  
IN PROGRESS**

PRIORITY



CLIMATE, RESILIENCE &  
SUSTAINABILITY

STRATEGIC INTENT

Support the people of Belfast to transition to an inclusive,  
zero-emissions, climate-resilient economy in a generation

STRETCH GOALS

Reduce carbon  
emissions (scope  
1 and 2) by 66%  
(on 2000 levels)

Increase investment  
in the green  
economy by XX and  
created XX new jobs

XX homes will have  
adopted at least  
one energy  
efficiency measure

Increase the number of battery  
electric vehicles and hydrogen  
fuel cell vehicles in the public  
transport service.

Protect at least 1,770  
homes and businesses  
from tidal and fluvial  
flood risk.

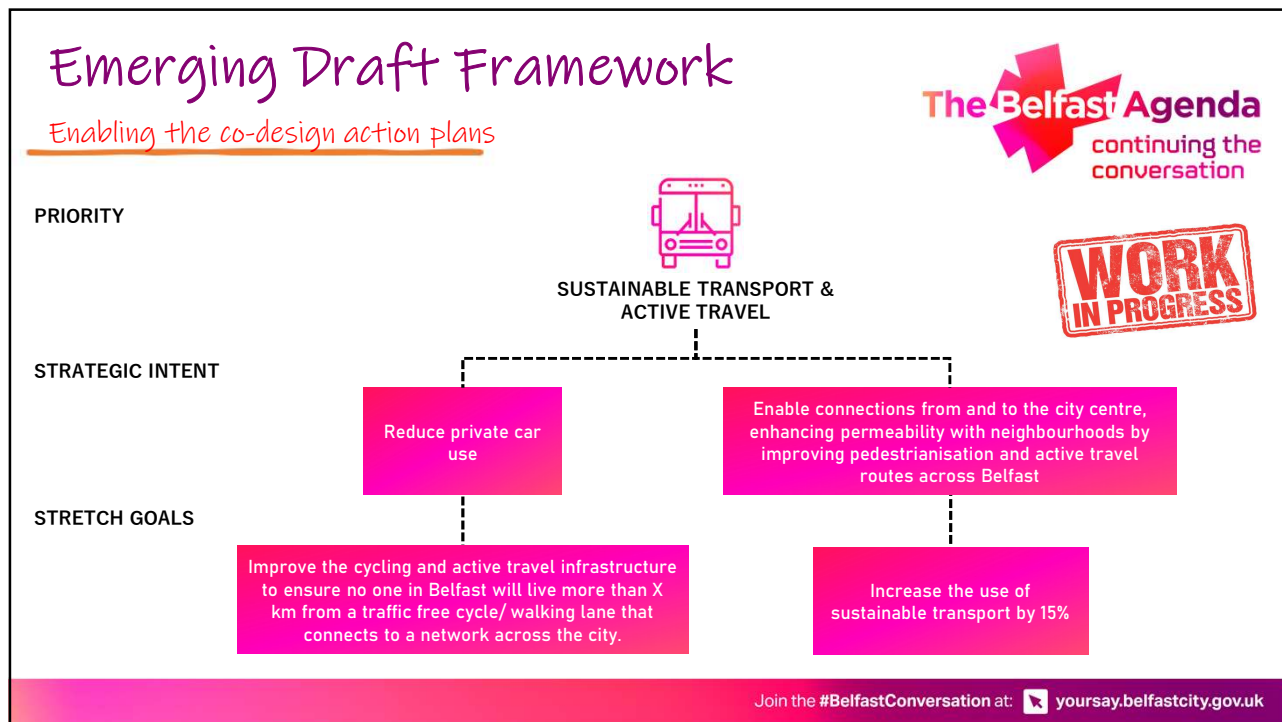
Plant 30,000  
trees to  
improve air  
quality

Reduce residual  
waste sent  
to landfill

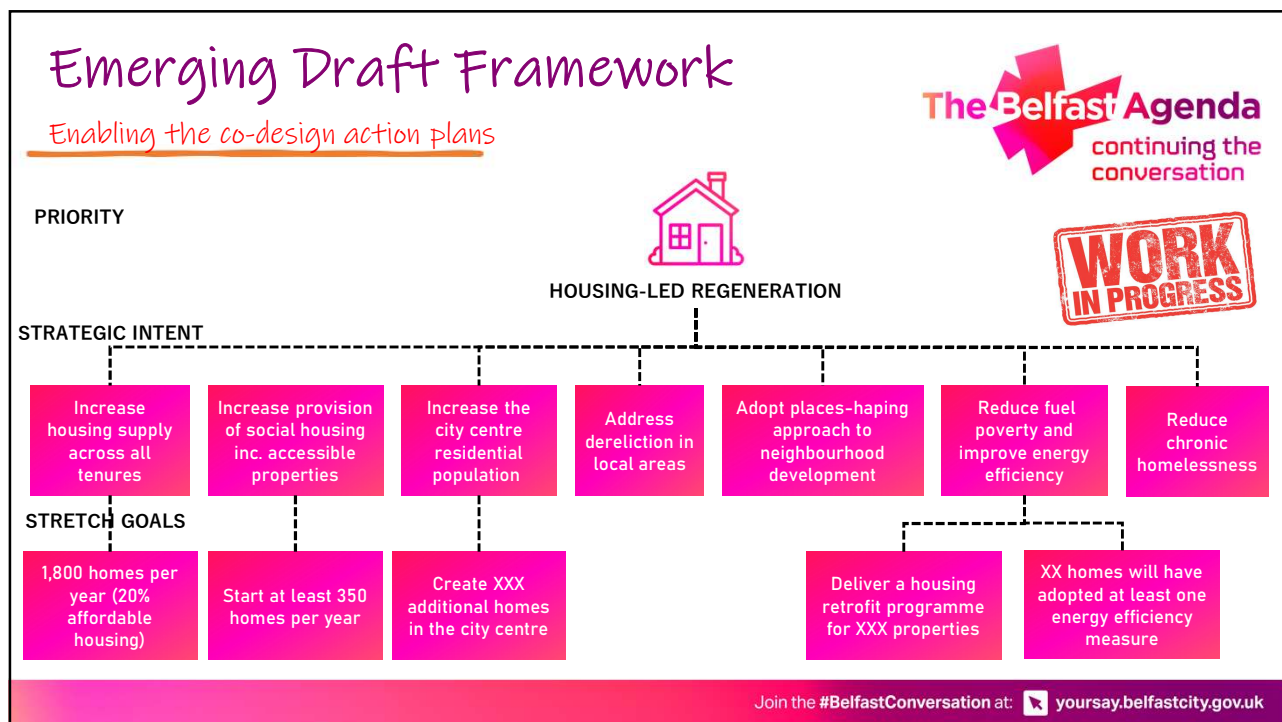
Note: The above framework is a starting point for the co-design process and should be considered a working draft as of 17/02/22

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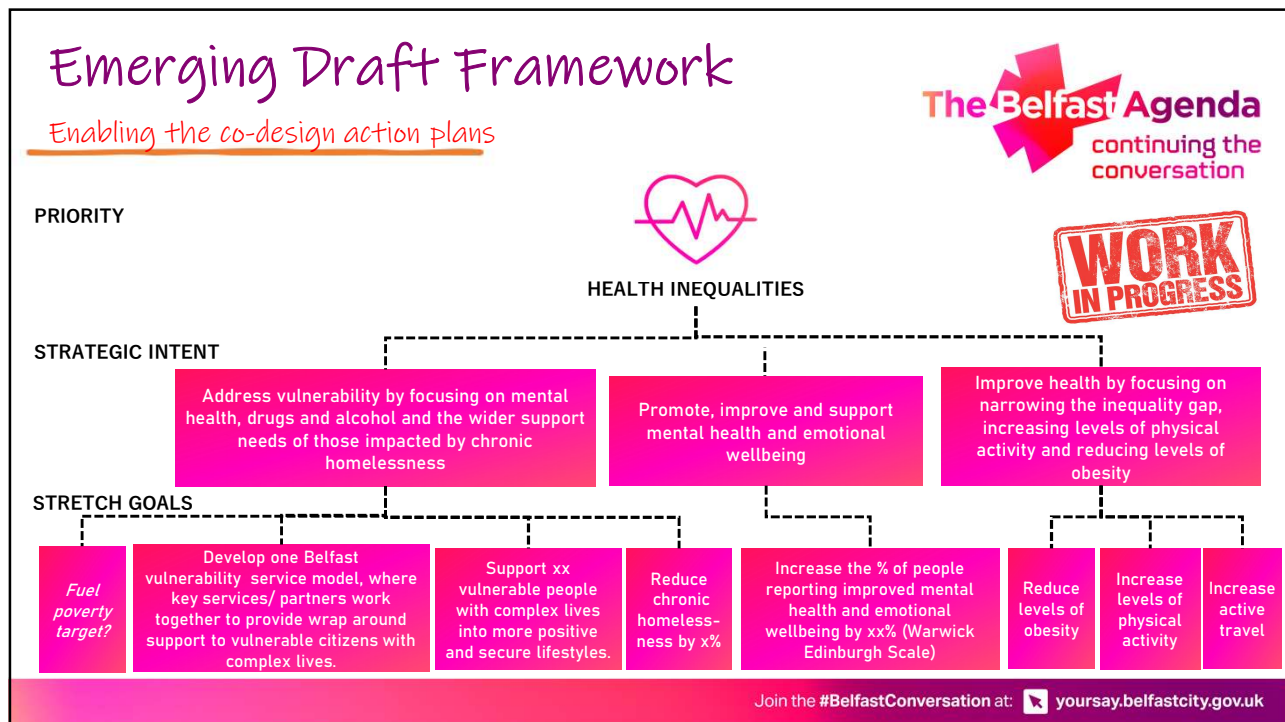
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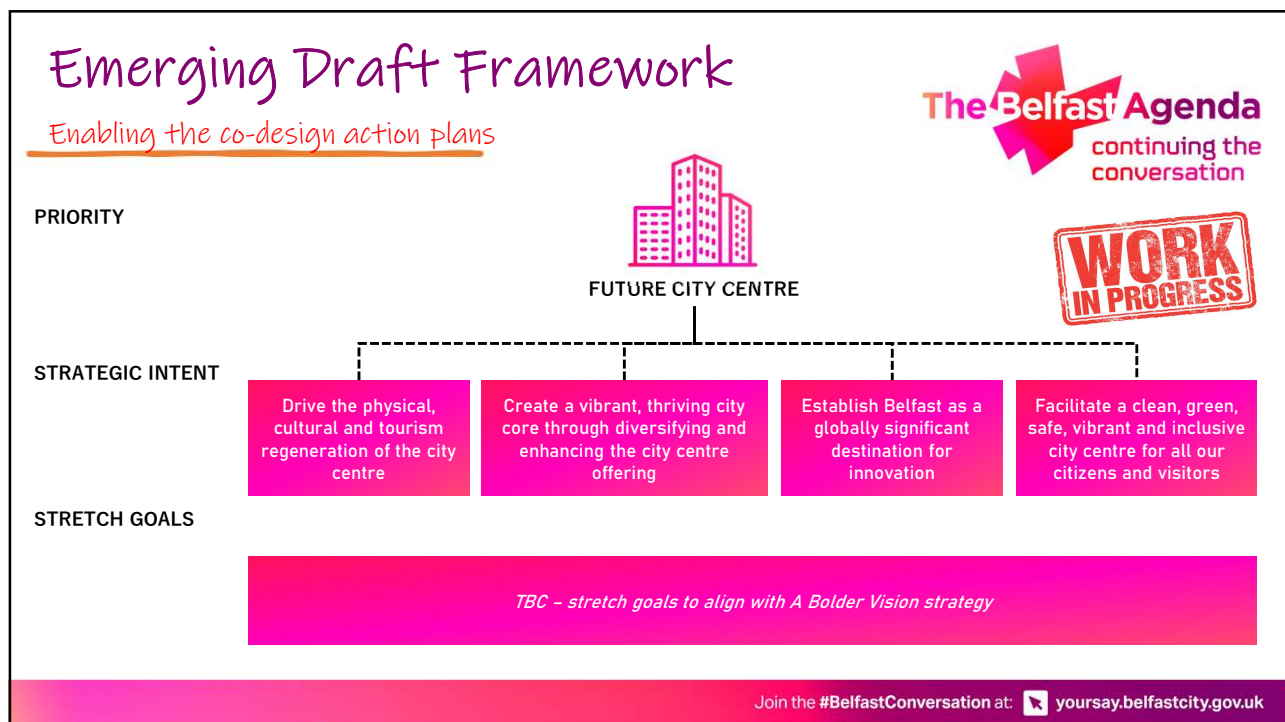
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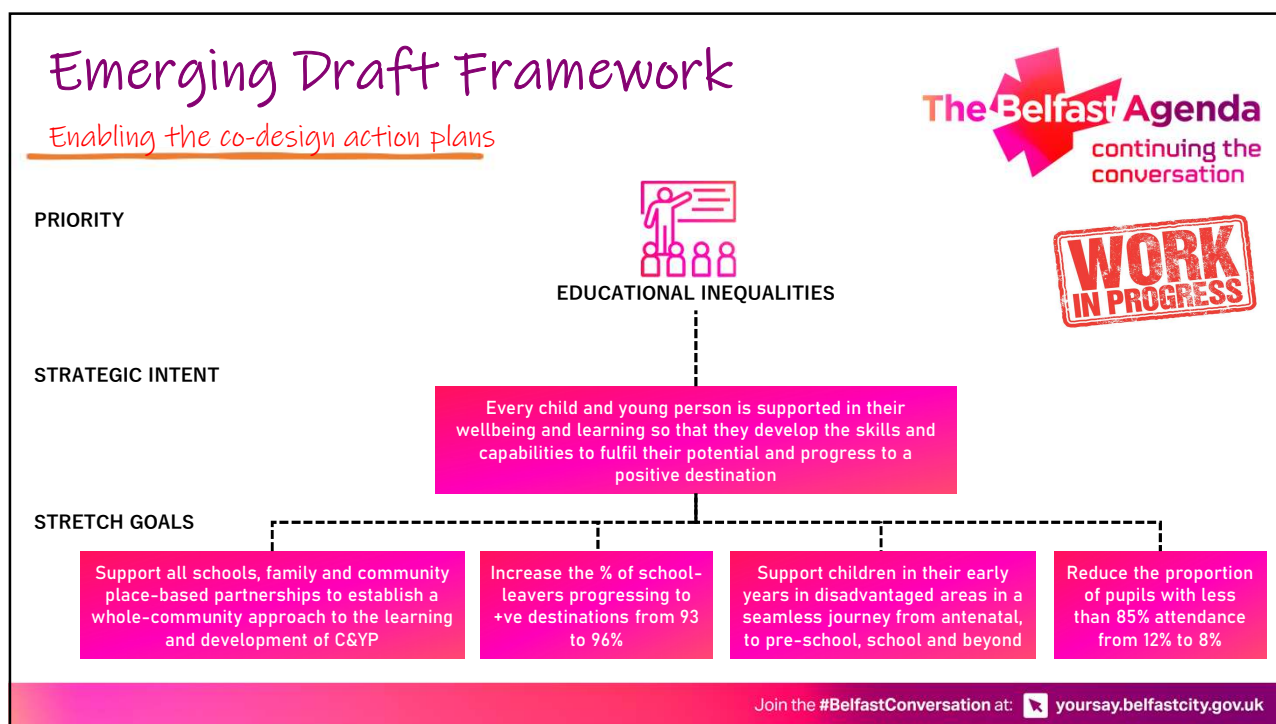


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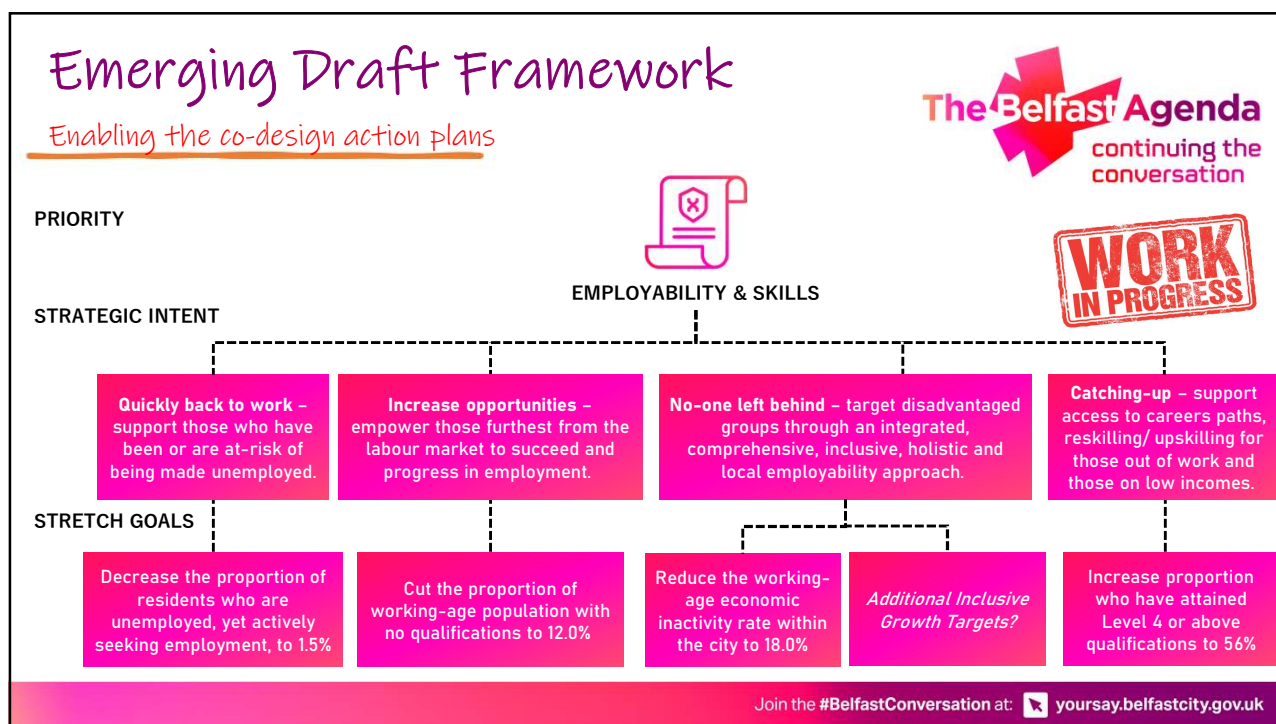


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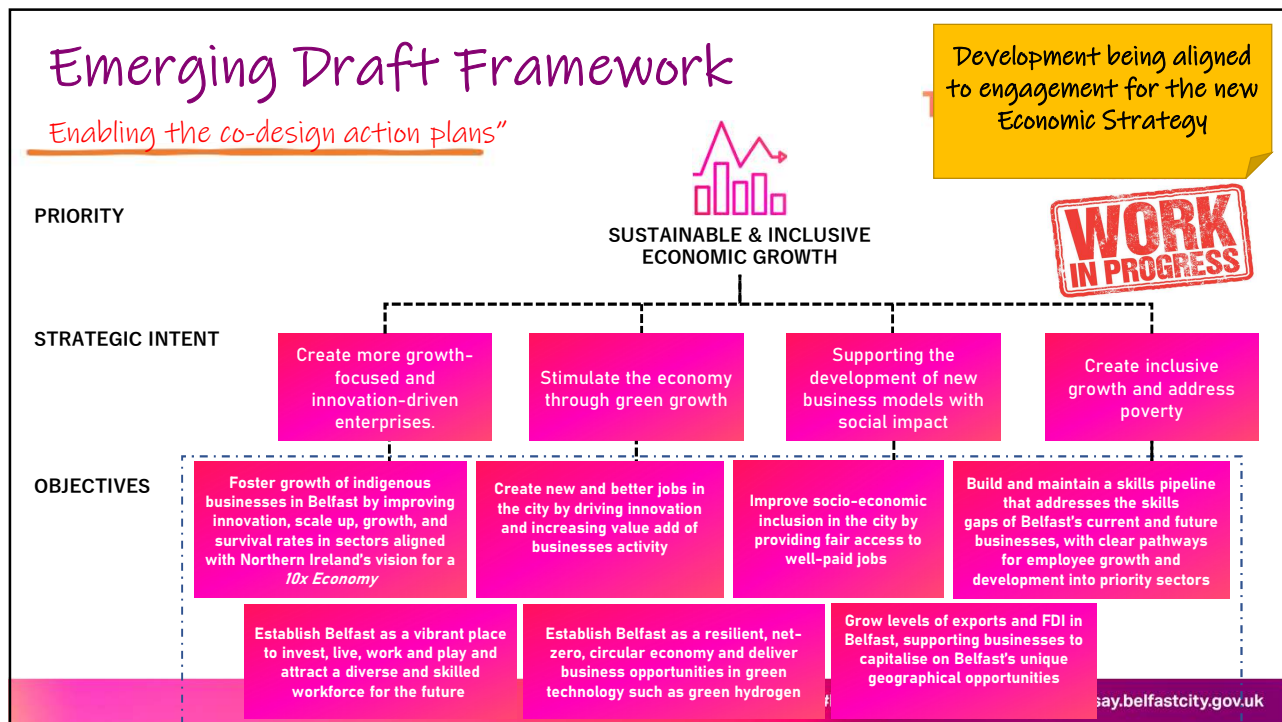




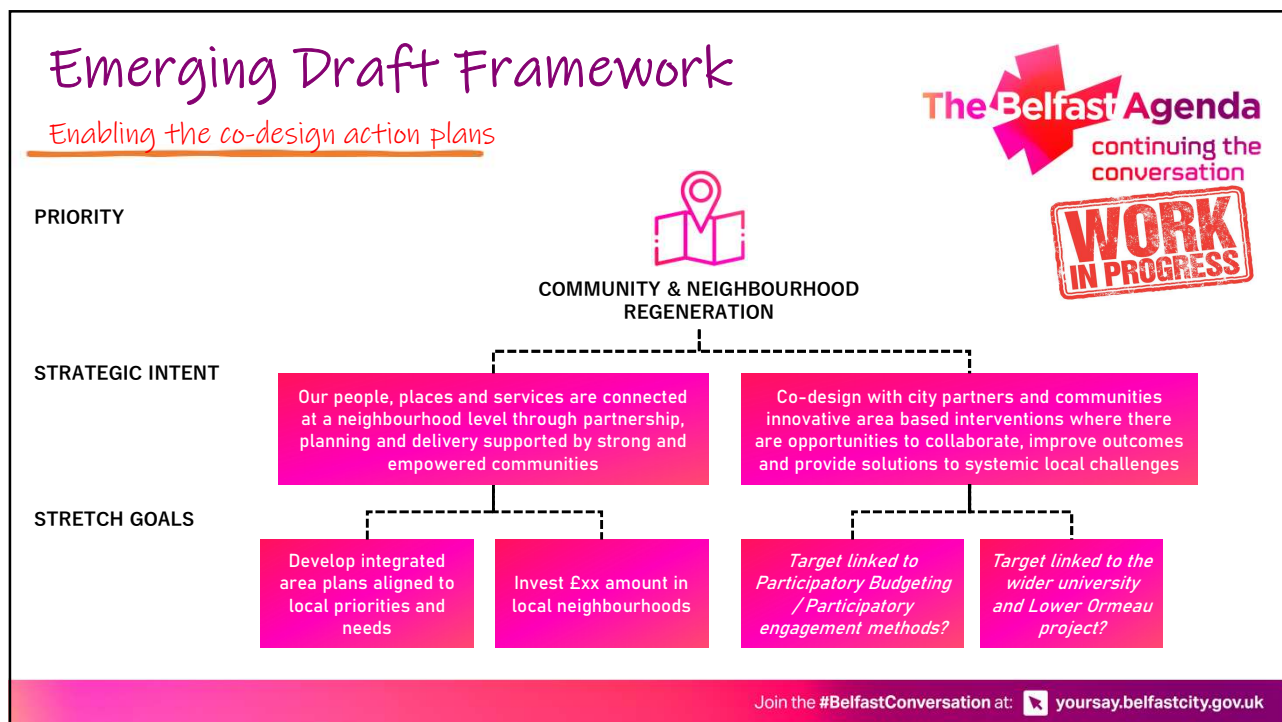
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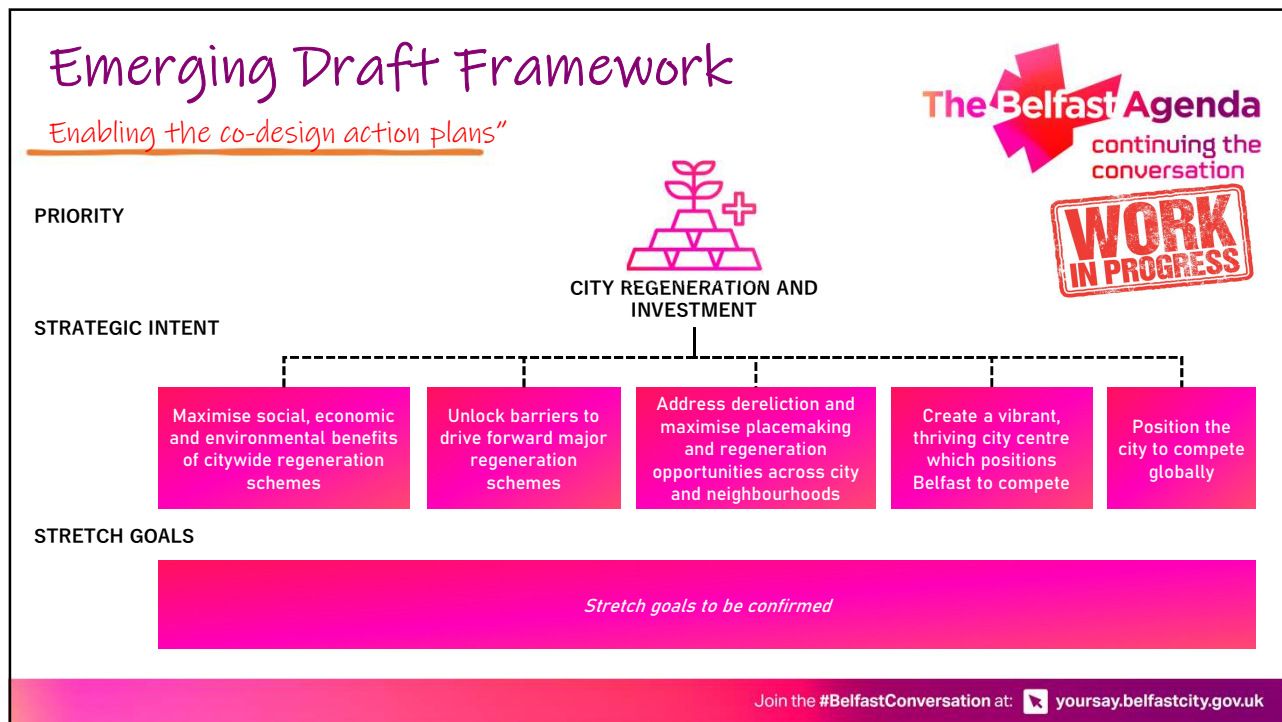
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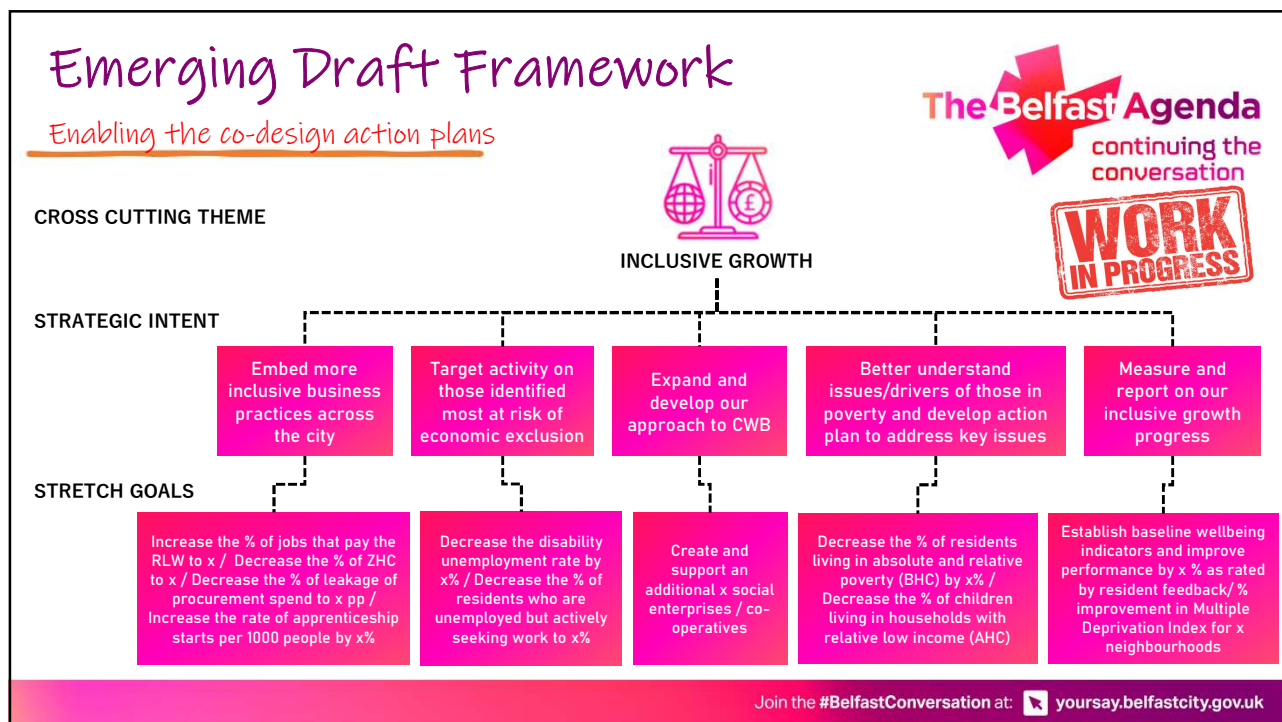
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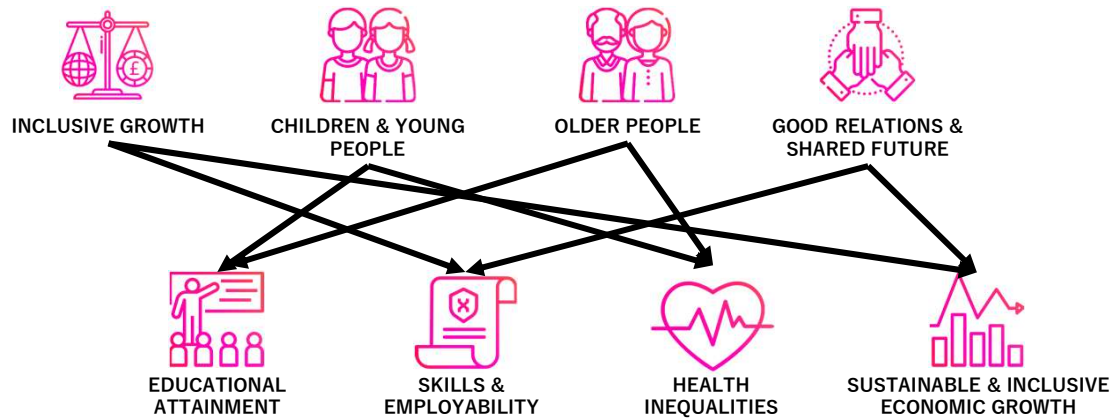


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## Cross Cutting Themes...



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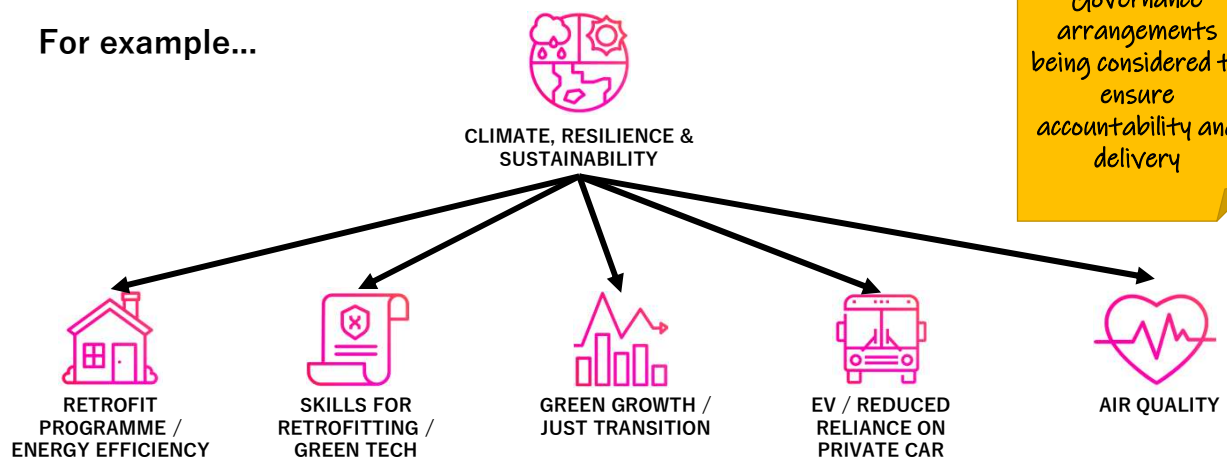
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## Priorities are also cross-cutting

Need further consideration to agree governance arrangements



For example...



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## Belfast Agenda Refresh & Delivery Plan(s)

Example: Educational Inequalities



STRATEGIC INTENT	TARGETS / STRETCH GOALS	ACTIONS
Every young person is supported through their education journey to ensure that upon leaving education they progress into a destination	By 2026 we will increase the percentage of school-leavers progressing into positive destinations from 93 per cent to 96 per cent	1. Develop impactful interventions based on identified need that align with the regional 'Reducing Educational Disadvantage' Programme 2. Implement the most appropriate support mechanisms to enable boys to maximise educational outcomes, in keeping with A Fair Start Report
	By 2026 we will effectively support transitions for children and young people especially those identified as being at risk of underachievement – How can we measure impact and make this a SMART target? (Surestart Hanen Measures and others within FairStart?)	3. Maximise the proportion of children ready to start school through a range of support programmes for children aged 4 and younger and their parents 4. Support young people 'at risk' as they transition through their learning journey 5. Pro-actively provide young people at risk of underachieving with supports to remove barriers to learning, and support them to see the benefits of education through physical and extra-curricular activities. [DN: Suggest merging or cross-referencing Actions 2, 5 and 8 together]
	By 2026 we will have supported 125 primary schools & 25 post-primary schools to deliver School Development Plan priorities that focus on developing parental and community engagement	7. Develop a collaborative community and school approach to support parental engagement and empowerment 8. Support a community approach to education as referenced in Fair Start by developing capacity, skills and expertise within the community [DN: Suggest merging or cross-referencing Actions 2, 5 and 8 together] 9. Engage Area Learning Communities across this city and provide opportunities for citywide collaboration, sharing of best practice and learning

This is what we're seeking to co-design by mid April

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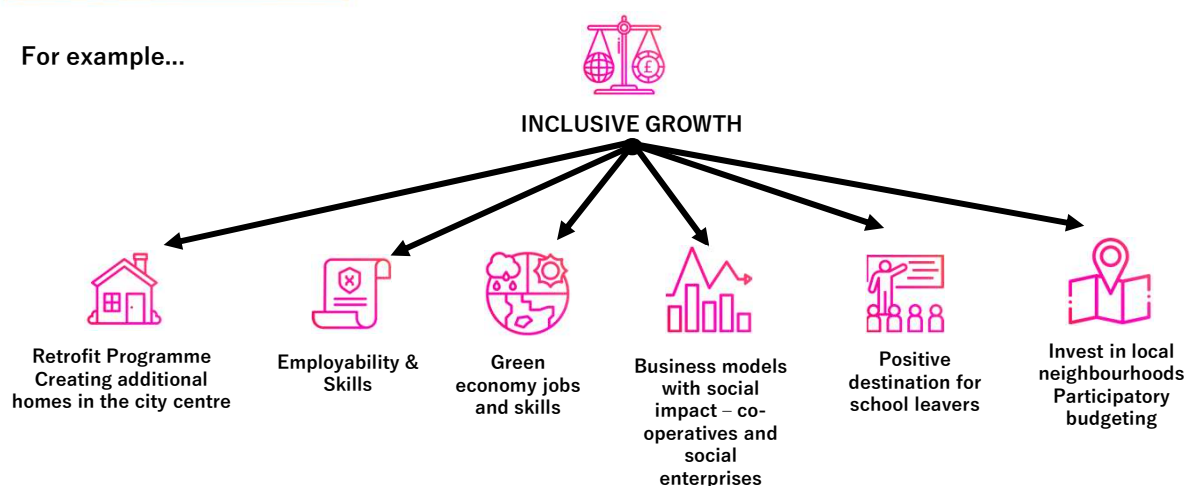
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## Cross-cutting themes: an inclusive growth lens

Need further consideration of governance arrangements and action planning



For example...



Note: The above framework is a starting point for the co-design process and should be considered a working draft as of 17/02/22

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## Inclusive Growth: creating the right conditions

Working together...



Note: The above framework is a starting point for the co-design process and should be considered a working draft as of 17/02/22.

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## Inclusive Growth

Illustrative Actions



### Implement the Belfast Business Promise

- Seek all CPP members to sign up as Supporters with the aim of achieving Membership accreditation within 2 years.
- Additional 50 organisations signed up as Supporters by end of year 1
  - ✓ create more high-quality jobs,
  - ✓ lower levels of poverty,
  - ✓ build stronger healthier communities,
  - ✓ reduce inequality in the workplace and
  - ✓ work towards a more sustainable local economy.

Note: The above framework is a starting point for the co-design process and should be considered a working draft as of 17/02/22.

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## Belfast Business Promise

### Illustrative Actions



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## Inclusive Growth

### Illustrative Actions



**Implement Anchor Institution Commissioning & Procurement Group**

**Further define and focus on specific cohorts**

**Design & Implement Inclusive Growth Decision Making Framework**

**Establish business sector/advisory group**

**Support establishment of Poverty Truth Commission**

**Establish Inclusive Growth Oversight Group**

**Expand and develop our approach to Community Wealth Building**

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## Community Wealth Building



**The Belfast Agenda**  
continuing the conversation

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## Population Indicators

Reviewed in line with the emerging stretch goals

**The Belfast Agenda**  
continuing the conversation

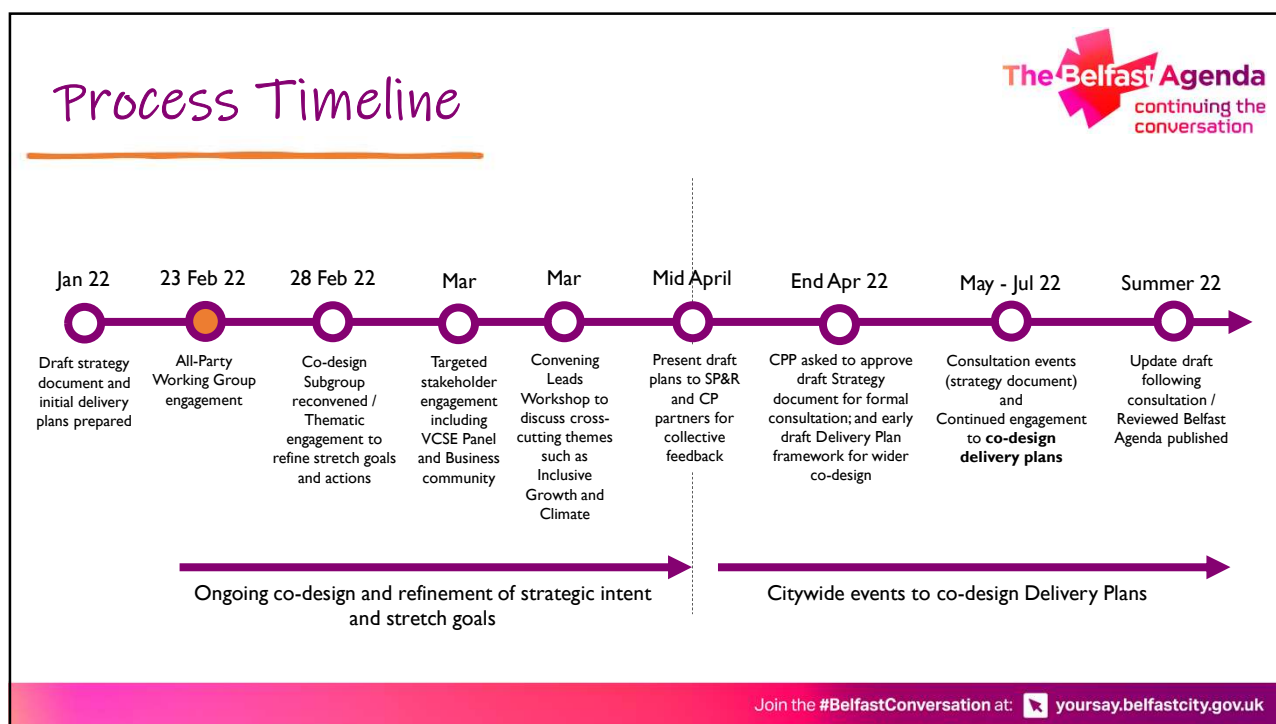
- Currently 51 indicators which measure the contribution towards our 5 outcomes over the long-term
- Framework currently being reviewed, ensuring it is consistent with the current priorities and emerging measures of success
  - Possible new indicators include carbon emissions, biodiversity, proportion of working age population with no qualifications, homelessness...
  - Technical Assessment Process (TAP) used by TEO for PfG also being applied to streamline the 'curves we want to turn'.



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## For Discussion

- Are the emerging stretch goals the correct measures of success?
- Are they ambitious enough?
- Anything missing?
- Further engagement? Party Group Briefings?

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continuing the conversation

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# **Community Planning Working Group**

Wednesday, 23rd February, 2022

## **COMMUNITY PLANNING WORKING GROUP MINUTES HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

Members present: Councillors Verner and O'Hara.

In attendance: Mr. J. Tully, Director of City & Organisational Strategy  
Mr. K. Heaney, Portfolio Manager  
Ms. C. Patterson, Inclusive Growth-Policy & Programme Officer  
Ms. C. Sullivan, Strategic Planning & Policy Officer  
Mr. G. Dickson, Strategic Policy Lead Officer  
Mr. J. Uprichard, Community Planning Officer  
Mr. J. Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer  
Ms. V. Smyth, Democratic Services Officer.

### **Election of Chairperson**

The Working Group agreed that Councillor O'Hara take the Chair for the duration of the meeting.

### **Apologies**

An apology was received from Councillor Hutchinson.

### **Minutes**

As this was the first formal meeting of the Working Group, there were no minutes for approval.

### **Declaration of Interest**

No declarations of interest were recorded.

### **Presentations**

#### **Refresh of Belfast Agenda – Action Planning Update**

The Director of City and Organisational Strategy presented Members with an overview of the refresh of the Belfast Agenda including a recap of the city stakeholder engagement and co-design approach that has been adopted to date. A copy of the All-Party Community Planning presentation was circulated in advance for Members'

consideration. He informed Members that an Economic Strategy was being created alongside the Belfast Agenda.

The Community Planning Officer provided details around the outcomes of participant discussions and how these had shaped the revised plans. He highlighted that Economic Recovery had been refocused as Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Growth and City Development had been included as an additional priority area. He then provided an overview of community priorities and details of the action planning process to date.

The Director of City and Organisational Strategy outlined the commitments and milestones and the link between the strategy document and delivery plans. He advised the Members that an easy-read version of the strategy would be available, as well as a 4-year action plan document. A Draft for Consultation would be considered at the next Community Planning Partnership meeting. He added that leadership commitment to jointly resource the initiative from across the partner organisations would be needed to ensure delivery of ensuing actions.

The Portfolio Manager provided an outline of the following 9 themes along with the priorities, strategic intent and stretch goals contained within the emerging draft framework. He reported that, to date, there had been a good level of true partnership working and commitment to co-design.

1. Climate, Resilience and Sustainability
2. Sustainable Transport and Active Travel
3. Housing-Led Regeneration
4. Health Inequalities
5. City Development
6. Educational Inequalities
7. Employability and Skills
8. Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Growth
9. Community and Neighbourhood Regeneration

The Portfolio Manager advised the Members that the 9 pillars were being looked at with a dual thematic and cross-cutting lens. The action plans in development would map intervention of the 9 priorities and the following 4 cross-cutting priorities:-

1. Inclusive Growth
2. Children and Young People
3. Older People
4. Good Relations and Shared Future

The Community Planning Officer provided an example of what was being sought by co-design in terms of strategic intent by April 2022. He added that the 51 population indicators, which measured the long-term success of community planning, were also under review.

The Director of City and Organisational Strategy referred to a timeline of milestones and noted draft plans would be presented to the Strategic Policy and Resources and Community Planning partners for collective feedback by mid-April which would be followed by citywide remote and face-to-face events to co-design Delivery Plans.

## **Action Planning Framework Discussion**

The Director of City and Organisational Strategy invited Members' comments. Councillor Verner specified the need for children and young people to be a vital cross-cutting priority and for more prominence to be given to future proofing the strategy so that it remained relevant throughout the different phases of their lives. In relation to Education, she highlighted that hard-to-reach areas would require intense and focused work. In terms of Housing, Councillor Verner referred to an intervention titled, the BUILD project, which included a significant piece of work on land availability in the city and asked if there would be an opportunity for this work to be presented to the Housing Led Regeneration Group.

The Director of City and Organisational Strategy thanked Councillor Verner for her input.

The Chairperson stressed the importance of getting data capture right. He suggested a new 'Embedding and Enhancing Citizen Partnership' priority. In response, the Director of City and Organisational Strategy confirmed that conversations were already underway in respect of both points. The Chairperson provided the following thematic input in relation to stretch goals:-

### **Climate**

- Review stretch goals in line with new WHO standards
- Community energy/energy independence stretch goal
- Reduce carbon emissions by 66% by 2025
- Define stretch goal for residual waste in landfill

### **Sustainable Transport and Active Travel**

- Look at cities such as Copenhagen which show what is possible
- Reduce private car use and ownership in the city
- Differentiate between the different modes of sustainable transport and report separately

### **Housing-Led Regeneration**

- Improve stretch goals
- Additional homes to include mix of homes and tenures

### **Employability and Skills**

- Include living wage and good jobs

### **Sustainable & Inclusive Economic Growth**

- Baseline analysis (refer to CLES report)
- Community wealth building
- Local contracts and support for co-operatives and social enterprises

### **City Development**

- Heritage and built environment – Belfast USP

- Sustainable tourism goals
- Community and neighbourhood regeneration

#### Cross-Cutting

- Consider 'Shared City', 'Local Communities' and 'Communities of Interest' rather than 'Good Relations' phrasing

The Chairperson also stated that he would like the opportunity to feedback on the full table of population indicators.

Councillor Verner commented that goals need to be achievable and realistic, and the plan should offer a level playing field for everyone in terms of engagement opportunities. She welcomed the opportunity to feed into this piece of work.

The Director of City and Organisational Strategy thanked Members for their helpful comments which would be fed into the subsequent version of the framework. He asked Members if they would welcome a presentation at Party briefings. The Chairperson and Councillor Verner were both in agreement.

Following discussion the Working Group noted that:

- a Community Planning update would be scheduled at future Party Briefings
- Councillor Verner would forward contact details for BUILD to The Director of City and Organisational Strategy in order for the Operational Director of City Regeneration and Development to organise a presentation from BUILD.

Chairperson



<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Update on Belfast Poverty Commission</b>
<b>Date:</b>	25th March, 2022
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Claire Patterson, Inclusive Growth Policy & Programme Officer

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	To update the Committee on the initial engagement sessions carried out by with the Poverty Truth Network to explore the potential to establish a Belfast Poverty Commission to support the Council's work on Inclusive Growth and Anti-Poverty and to consider next steps.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. agree that officers continue to engage with partners and those engaged in poverty-related initiatives in Belfast to identify how a Poverty Commission could be adapted to work in Belfast and secure buy-in to that approach; and</li> <li>ii. recommend the inclusion of establishing a Belfast Poverty Commission as an identified workstream in the Belfast Agenda to aim to address poverty and tackle</li> </ul>

	inequalities. This approach would require CPP agreement to collectively meet the resourcing requirements for a poverty commission.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The Poverty Truth Network helps cities to determine whether a Poverty Truth Commission would be right for their local area. Poverty Truth Network accompany cities at every stage of their journey from asking '<i>whether a Poverty Truth Commission could happen here</i>' through to the establishment of a commission. The Poverty Truth Network is a registered charity that supports Poverty Truth Commissions and encourages them to work together. Further information is available at: <a href="https://povertytruthnetwork.org/commissions/what-is-a-poverty-truth-commission/">https://povertytruthnetwork.org/commissions/what-is-a-poverty-truth-commission/</a></p>
3.2	<p>Following the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee meeting in December 2021, four initial engagement sessions were organised for the Poverty Truth Network to engage with key stakeholders in January and March 2022. Stakeholders included Members, community planning partners and the VCSE Panel as well as government departments (Department for Communities and the Executive Office). The purpose of these sessions was to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hear the experience from the Poverty Truth Network about what a Poverty Truth Commission is.</li> <li>- Consider if this is an approach that could be adapted for Belfast</li> <li>- Consider whether the timing is right for it and who would need to own/drive it</li> </ul> <p>A separate session was also hosted by NICVA.</p>
3.3	<p>The Committee will recall that a phased approach is supported by the Poverty Truth Network:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Establishment of a start-up group - to host, develop and facilitate the establishment of the Commission.</li> <li>- Recruitment of commissioners – those with lived experience of poverty (15 people), and civic/business commissioners, including the VCSE sector (15 people). These 30 individuals should reflect the demographic make-up of Belfast.</li> <li>- Commission implementation – full commission conversations and issue groups formed.</li> <li>- Closing event for the Commission – to communicate the findings and commit to plans to embed changes.</li> </ul>



	<p>The City may decide to run another Commission in subsequent years, for example, Leeds is now running its third Commission.</p>
3.4	<p>The Belfast Poverty Commission, if established, would be responsible for setting their agenda and their own work. The approach is a 2–3-year commitment, focusing on creating a cultural shift at the level of the individuals and organisations participating as well as at a policy and societal/city level, in terms of changing language and attitudes. It's a deliberate process to build relationships, trust and capacity of those involved in order to understand the issues deeply before moving to solutions and therefore requires the personal commitment of all those who sit on the commission.</p>
3.5	<p>A key commitment in the Belfast Agenda and Council's Inclusive Growth Strategy is to strengthen civic voice and to enable us and our partners to tackle poverty and inequality in the city. A Belfast Poverty Commission would seek to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Strengthen and diversify civic voice.</li> <li>- Build capacity of participants and shared understanding of the issues faced by those living in poverty to inform policy, programmes, service delivery.</li> <li>- Create cultural change at an individual, organisation and city level.</li> </ul>
3.6	<p>Establishing a Belfast Poverty Commission would provide a mechanism for the Council and Community Planning Partnership to design and test a model of engagement to enable individuals who are seldom heard to share their experiences and views on policy/service design issues that are important to them in order to help inform and improve them.</p>
3.7	<p>The following provides a summary of the key points raised in the initial engagement sessions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A Poverty Commission must sit alongside existing structures aligning and enhancing existing work rather than displacing, replacing or adding layers of governance.</li> <li>- It must recognise and connect to the strong, established community networks across the city to ensure the Commission and its work is knitted in.</li> <li>- There is a range of work across the city on poverty-related issues which a Poverty Commission could enhance.</li> <li>- The Commission and its Commissioners must reflect Belfast – the Commission must look and feel like the people of the city</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Organisational commitment is essential to support the commissioners, particularly local 'community commissioners', to develop and fulfil their role on the Commission.</li> <li>- Assurance that there is buy-in, resource and commitment to the process, including the co-design nature of the process.</li> <li>- Build on the experience and learning from Belfast based initiatives as well as the impact that Poverty Commissions have had elsewhere.</li> <li>- It was welcomed that the Commission is a timebound programme, over a 3-year period, as a means of keeping it focused and 'fresh'.</li> </ul>
3.8	<p>The Committee will be aware that the Department for Communities is considering a regional approach to establishing a poverty commission, based on the recommendations in the Report from the Anti-Poverty Strategy Expert Panel. Initial conversations with DfC have indicated that should Belfast go ahead with a Poverty Commission, they would be keen that this informs the regional strategy and approach. Any Belfast Poverty Commission must be positioned to align with these plans as well as the Belfast Community Planning structures, particularly the VCSE Panel.</p>
3.9	<p>Feedback from all the engagement sessions indicated that a significant focus on poverty in the city is now imperative at a strategic and practical level. There was support for the Poverty Commission approach; however further engagement with stakeholders is required to ensure that the approach is owned by partners and that the process is co-designed with partners / stakeholders. The inclusion of a workstream in the refresh of the Belfast Agenda to explore and establish a Belfast Poverty Commission would provide the means to continue the conversations to develop an approach that works for Belfast.</p>
3.10	<p>It is important to note that this process should not detract from the ongoing efforts to tackle poverty and provide practical support to those who are experiencing poverty across the city, for example fuel poverty. However, the Commission will provide a mechanism to support, inform and shape these efforts in the medium and longer term, while also increasing and improving our civic engagement and involvement.</p>
3.11	<p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>Officer time will be required to support the ongoing engagement and development of the approach. The Poverty Truth Network estimate that financial resource of approx. £110,000 is required for three part-time staff members (approx.) to recruit the commissioners and to facilitate and support the Poverty Commission. If included within the Belfast Agenda action</p>

	<p>plan, CPP agreement would be sought to collectively meet the resourcing requirements for the poverty commission.</p> <p>An organisation will also be required to 'host' the commission, acting a base for the staff team and to provide equipment/materials. In-kind support from partners will also be required, for example, provision of meeting space.</p> <p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p>
3.12	<p>The programme to develop a Belfast Poverty Commission will be subject to equality, good relations and rural needs considerations.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	None

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<b>Subject:</b>	<b>PEACE PLUS Programme</b>
<b>Date:</b>	25th March, 2022
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Tully, Director City and Organisational Strategy Rose Crozier, Director City and Neighbourhood Services Department Sinead Grimes, Director Physical Programmes
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Stevie Lavery, Programme Manager

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with an update on the development of the PEACE PLUS programme and on emerging work being undertaken as part of the first investment area that will open <b>1.1. Co-Designed Local Community Peace Action plan for Belfast.</b>
1.2	Approval is also being sought for officers to proceed with the development of a new PEACEPLUS Partnership for Belfast that will oversee the development of the local action plan via SP&R committee and will build on learning from PEACE IV and the governance arrangements through the Shared City Partnership (SCP).

<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. note the report; and</li> <li>ii. agree to the proposed approach for the development a PEACEPLUS partnership for Belfast.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p><b>Background</b></p> <p>The EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation is a unique Structural Funds programme aimed at reinforcing progress towards a peaceful and stable society in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland. Currently, through its Managing Authority, the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB), the European Commission is developing a €1billion PEACE PLUS programme.</p> <p>The overall objective of the PEACE PLUS Programme is to build Peace and Prosperity and ensure that this Programme will leave a lasting and tangible legacy across Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland. The Programme's strategy is to continue to take the opportunities and address the needs arising from the peace process in order to boost economic growth and stimulate social and economic regeneration and secondly, to promote social inclusion, particularly for those at the margins of economic and social life.</p> <p>SEUPB is currently seeking approval from the European Commission for the development of the PEACE PLUS Programme and have submitted a finance agreement to the European Commission as part of the process to receive final approval for the overall programme. The Programme in its totality comprises of six themes, which encompass 22 individual investment areas for possible submissions for investment.</p> <p>An infographic illustrating the main themes of the PEACE PLUS Programme is shown in appendix 1. Further information on the PEACE PLUS Programme including consultation responses is available at:</p> <p><a href="https://www.seupb.eu/PEACEPLUS">https://www.seupb.eu/PEACEPLUS</a></p> <p>The potential for investment within Belfast is significant, due to the scale of the overall programme Senior officers are currently scoping the overall programme to assess where we should consider making submissions across the 22 investment areas. It is likely that some of the investment areas may open in 2022, with others to follow in 2023, not all of them will be suitable for Councils to make submissions, but an initial scope has identified a number of areas where we may lead on delivery.</p>

A corporate approach is required to provide cross Council oversight for delivery of potential investment opportunities for the Council from across PEACEPLUS. A more detailed report will be brought back to members to consider the areas of work in addition to the Local Community PEACEPLUS Action Plan where Council may make a bid for investment.

3.2

### **Co-Designed Local Community Peace Action Plan Investment Area 1.1**

The first investment area likely to open is The Local Community PEACE Action Plans contained within **Theme 1: Building peaceful and thriving communities** of the PEACE PLUS Programme under **Investment Area 1.1. Co-designed Local Community Peace Action Plans** (€110 million budget across 17 local authorities). Following discussions with SEUPB, early indications are that Belfast may be able to make a submission of at least £17million, with this being managed as previous Local PEACE action plans.

The plans will centre on three core themes:

1. Local community regeneration and transformation.
2. Thriving and peaceful communities; and
3. Building respect for all cultural identities.

and are likely to include activities such as;

- youth development programmes;
- health and wellbeing initiatives;
- community regeneration projects;
- redevelopment and reimaging of existing community facilities for shared usage;
- initiatives to build positive relations;
- education and skills development programmes;
- social innovation / enterprise initiatives.

The Managing Authority, SEUPB has indicated that the open call for applications to this programme will be made in Quarter Two 2022 and that the application process may remain open for 3-6 months with the earliest date for open call expected to be April 2022 (though this may not be realistic as no guidance on the expected co-design process has yet been received from SEUPB). It is yet to be confirmed but it is expected that there will be a 6-month window for applications. Members should note that this will be an extremely tight timeframe with significant consultation and engagement required to inform any submission.

**3.3 PEACE PLUS Partnership - Co-designed Local Community Peace Action Plans (priority 1.1)**

It is a requirement that each Local Community Action Plan should comprise of a PEACE PLUS local authority partnership which will oversee the co-design and implementation of a process in their local authority area which will be used to inform the development and delivery of an overarching PEACE Action Plan ensuring alignment with the local Community Plan for the area.

SEUPB previously advised that they will not be overly prescriptive in terms of partnership composition, development process or selection, but rather they encourage that representation should be balanced as far as possible. They advised partnerships should ideally include some of the following:

<b>Pillar 1</b>  Elected Members	<b>Pillar 2</b>  Statutory Partners
<b>Pillar 3</b>  Social Partners -Geographical Community Representatives / Civic Society	<b>Pillar 4</b>  Social Partners - PEACE PLUS Target Groups; S75 / under- represented groups

**3.4 Preferred option**

Council officers have been engaging with SEUPB on a preferred model for the Belfast partnership with the preferred option as follows:

The current Shared City Partnership (SCP) retains oversight of the development and implementation of the future PEACEPLUS Local Action Plan and becomes the PEACEPLUS Partnership.

The key reasons that officers engaged with SEUPB on this model included:

- There was a significant refresh of the SCP recently, which included recruitment of new members from the Community and Voluntary Sector.
- The SCP is a formal working group of the Council that oversees the Good Relations Strategy and Action Plan and PEACE IV Plan via SP and R.
- SCP will continue post PEACEPLUS completion and will have sustainability with capacity to continue to work on Peace and Reconciliation post PEACE funding.
- SCP has representation from across Political parties.
- SCP has a good mixture of elected members, statutory agencies, interested groups and community partners across the four pillars outlined above.



3.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SCP membership currently has clear alignment with community planning partnership members.</li> </ul> <p>Following discussions with SEUPB, it has advised that it is content that the preferred option above is an acceptable model for overseeing the future PEACEPLUS Local Community Action Plan. Officers are seeing approval from members to proceed on this basis.</p> <p><b>External Support</b></p> <p>SEUPB has also given approval to councils to use a maximum of €100,000 on resourcing the development of the local action plan. This expenditure is not additional to any final award that the Council receives, it will be included in the PEACE PLUS Action Plan application and when successful, will form part of the letter of award for reimbursement.</p> <p>There will be significant work required to deliver on these ambitious timelines, which will require additional external support. While we may not maximise the full €100,000 available to assist with the development of the local action plan, we will initially use circa £48,500 (€56,260) to appoint suitably qualified contractors who will be expected to lead on the development, facilitation and submission of the Belfast PEACE PLUS local community PEACE action plan, this investment cannot be used for anything other than 1.1 Development of the Local Community PEACEPLUS Action Plan.</p> <p>This will help develop the systems and processes including the design and facilitation of a consultation and engagement framework and associated local area informal governance to enable Council to submit their Local Community PEACE Action Plan. The successful applicants will be expected to undertake a co-designed approach with members, the local community and stakeholders to develop a prioritisation list for possible projects, develop and draft the action plan for consideration by Council and write the detailed plan and engage with SEUPB on any changes required post submission. As we develop our approach to 1.1, ongoing engagement will take place with members, with updates brought back via SP&amp;R.</p>
3.6	<p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>External support of up to 100,000 euros for the development of 1.1 local action plans can be claimed from any future Letter of Offer from SEUPB but will be included in the final budget allocation.</p>
3.7	<p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p> <p>The plan will be subject to equality screening</p>
4.0	<p><b>Documents attached</b></p>
	<p>PEACEPLUS Investment areas for the overall programme</p>

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Figure 3 Detail of THEMES, INVESTMENT AREAS AND INDICATIVE ACTIVITY



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<b>Subject:</b>	<b>City Co-operation on Achieving Net Zero</b>
<b>Date:</b>	25th March, 2022
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Tully, Strategic Director of City and Organisational Strategy
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Debbie Caldwell, Belfast Climate Commissioner

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To inform the Committee that discussions have taken place between the Lord Mayor of Belfast, the Mayor of Greater Manchester, the Metro Mayor of the Liverpool Region and the Lord Mayor of Dublin, with the aim of increasing cooperation in tackling the climate crisis and achieving net zero.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to approve the draft statement of intent, which will announce an increase in city-to-city officer engagement initially focused around the topic of net zero.

<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	Members will be aware that Belfast participated in a number of sessions during COP26 in Glasgow, with a city delegation attending the UN Climate Change Conference.
3.2	In addition to the global negotiations a number of city-to-city events took place, calling for increased collaboration around topics such as climate finance, energy and achieving a just transition.
3.3	The Council, represented by the Lord Mayor, Councillor Kate Nicholl, played a leading role in many of these engagements and, as a result, there have been follow up discussions with a number of cities including Greater Manchester, Liverpool, and Dublin among others, to explore opportunities to work together on common causes.
3.4	A delegation including the Mayors of Greater Manchester, Liverpool Region and Dublin will meet in Belfast on 30th March where we will showcase the good work being done in Belfast focused on hydrogen.
3.5	The programme will include a school visit, engagement with local businesses, and a workshop where officers from each city will discuss their programme of work and opportunities for collaboration.
3.6	<p>It is proposed that a statement of intent be agreed and made public on 30th March, the content of which is set out below:</p> <p><i>Belfast, Dublin, Liverpool City Region and Greater Manchester, with a collective population of over 5 million, will come together to form a cooperative partnership to develop practical approaches to accelerate the delivery of net-zero commitments in our cities.</i></p> <p><i>Climate change is the greatest challenge facing our nations and our planet. That is why, we have developed ambitious climate agendas to become more equitable, fairer, prosperous and greener cities. Each of us are committed to the protection of our cities, our economies and our people and we are firmly of the view that working together will give us the best chance of realising the benefits of transitioning to a low carbon economy.</i></p> <p><i>To achieve these goals, our cities are committed to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Sharing best practices, knowledge and experience;</i></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Connecting organisations and facilitating R&amp;D, business and investment collaborations; and</i></li> <li>• <i>Coordinating joint participation at events (including the Net Zero Summit in June 2022 and the Green Summit in October 2022) and hosting, where necessary, incoming delegations.</i></li> </ul>
3.7	<p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>There are no financial or resource implications at present.</p>
3.8	<p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p> <p>There are no direct equality or good relations/rural needs implications.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	None

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<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Draft Corporate Delivery Plan 2022/23</b>
<b>Date:</b>	25th March, 2022
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Walsh, Chief Executive John Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Geoff Dickson, Strategic Policy Lead Officer Claire Sullivan, Strategic Planning & Policy Officer

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	The purpose of this report is to present to the Committee the draft 2022/23 Corporate Delivery Plan, a copy of which is attached.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• approve the draft Corporate Annual Delivery Plan for 2022-23; and</li> <li>• note that a six-monthly progress report will be brought to the Committee.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u> <u>Corporate Plan 2020-24</u> At the SP and R Committee meeting on 28th March 2020, a new four-year corporate plan was agreed, in line with the corporate planning process. Due to the COVID pandemic,

	emergency planning procedures were implemented and corporate planning processes were suspended for 2020- 21 to enable resources to be redirected to responding to the emergency response needs of the city.
3.2	To recommence the corporate planning process, an annual Corporate Delivery Plan for 2021-22 was brought to the Committee in June 2021. In advance of 2022-23 commencing, the attached appendix details the draft Corporate Delivery Plan for 2022-23.
3.3	The Corporate Annual Delivery Plan 2022-23 reflects the in-year deliverables against the priorities agreed as part of the four-year corporate plan, plus some additional priorities that have arisen in response to the pandemic. These priorities were discussed with Party Group Leaders at a joint PGL / CMT workshop on 12th January and this version of the document has been updated to reflect the comments received.
3.4	<p>The structure of the delivery plan is themed under the following groupings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our Services;</li> <li>• Economic Recovery;</li> <li>• Community Recovery;</li> <li>• Environmental Recovery;</li> <li>• Strategic Planning Frameworks; and</li> <li>• Organisational Foundations.</li> </ul>
3.5	A series of priorities fall under each theme, each with a number of committed deliverables for 2022-23.
3.6	<p><u>Progress Reports</u></p> <p>Following agreement on the plan, as well as in-year reports on a number of priorities, officers will bring a 6 monthly progress report against all commitments as well as a year-end report.</p>
3.7	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There are no implications associated with this report.</p>
3.8	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>There are no implications associated with this report.</p>
4.0	<b>Document Attached</b>
	Draft 2022/23 Corporate Delivery Plan.

# Corporate Plan 2020 - 24

2022 – 23 Delivery Plan

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**Belfast**  
City Council



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# Introduction

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Following the local government elections in May 2019, Councillors and officers worked collectively to develop a new ambitious 2020-24 Corporate Plan. While we continued to implement our corporate priorities, during the COVID Pandemic the organisation shifted focus to responding to and recovering from the pandemic. This Annual Delivery Plan 2022-23 therefore sets out the areas we need to focus on in the short term to steer the city recovery during the next phase of the pandemic, as well as building the foundations for sustained recovery. The plan is structured as follows:

- Our services;
- Inclusive economic recovery;
- Community recovery;
- Environmental recovery;
- Strategic planning frameworks; and
- Organisational foundations.

Whilst ambitious, this delivery plan is focused on measurable milestones within 2022-23 that will enable progress reports to be brought to Committee on a six monthly basis.

# Our Services

## Key Performance information for Our Services

- Average processing time (weeks) for major planning applications [Statutory PI]
- Average processing time (weeks) for local planning applications [Statutory PI]
- % of Enforcement cases processed within 39 weeks [Statutory PI]

## Key 2022/23 deliverables for each priority

Each priority within the corporate plan has been planned and resourced with in-year milestones to assure delivery is on track. The following list of deliverables will be reported on a six monthly basis to the Committee to demonstrate progress and explain if progress has been delayed.

Strategic Priority	Deliverables (in year)
Frontline Service Delivery	<p><b>Delivering high quality and responsive services to residents across Belfast is the heart of what we do. Throughout 2022-23 we will work to re-open and enhance our delivery across a range of areas.</b></p> <p><b>Areas of focus and improvement:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Continue to deliver the Planning Service Improvement Plan;</li><li>▪ Effective implementation of the new regional Planning IT system;</li><li>▪ Embed the new Intelligent Client Function (management of the contract for the new Planning IT system);</li><li>▪ Continue to lobby for transformation of the NI planning system through engagement with the Department for Infrastructure, councils, statutory consultees, customers and other stakeholders;</li><li>▪ Deliver the Planning Service, managing applications for Major, Local and other developments, including planning enforcement;</li><li>▪ Deliver Building Control services, including licensing and permits for entertainment, street trading, road closures, pavement cafes etc;</li><li>▪ Fully implement the agreed new BC structure to ensure the effective discharge of statutory functions;</li><li>▪ Complete the consultation and EQIA exercises for the Dual Language Street Signs policy, take through committee and implement the final version of a revised policy; and</li><li>▪ Continue to work with the Customer team and CI on alignment with the Customer Hub through the pilot service design exercise, in parallel with the implementation of a replacement IT system (Organisational Foundations below).</li></ul>

<b>Service Recovery</b>	<p><b>In 2022-23 we will:</b></p> <p><b>Activities to support the recovery of the City and services:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to recover and provide high quality responsive services across the city in relation to Open Spaces, Street Cleansing, Waste Collection, City Services,</li> <li>Continue to support our communities to recover from Covid through funding and community support provision and education and awareness programmes;</li> <li>Continue to support the animation of our parks and open spaces through direct and 3rd party provision; and</li> <li>Continue to provide funding support to our Community Voluntary Sector and progress our pilot Community Infrastructure programme.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Port Health</b></p> <p>Senior Responsible Officer: <b>John Walsh/ Siobhan Toland</b></p> <p>Reporting Committee: <b>SP&amp;R Committee</b></p> <p>Board: <b>Port Health Board</b></p>	<p><b>In 2022-23 we will:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Input into planning for new Point of Entry inspection facility / infrastructure;</li> <li>Seek to establish a sustainable funding model to secure permanent adequate funding and resources (including staff) to ensure effective delivery of the Council's legal responsibilities at Belfast Port;</li> <li>Support and facilitate ongoing planning and implementation of necessary protocols and operational activity with competent authorities including FSA, DAERA, DEFRA, and other Ports/Local Council; and</li> <li>Deliver Port Health services for infectious disease control, public health and food safety relating to vessels and premises within Belfast port.</li> </ul>
<p><b>The circular economy and urban waste</b></p> <p>Senior Responsible Officer: <b>Cathy Matthews</b></p> <p>Reporting Committee: <b>People &amp; Communities Committee</b></p> <p>Board: <b>Waste Board</b></p>	<p><b>In 2022-23 we will:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agree a digital/technological solution for waste collections, to integrate the customer experience, improve speed and quality of service and optimise routing and efficiency;</li> <li>Progress the City Kerbside Recycling Collections and Delivery Model through governance and commence planning on the agreed way forward;</li> <li>Complete a review of glass and organic waste collection provision for the city;</li> <li>Develop 'Introduction to the Circular Economy' online guides for householders and businesses;</li> <li>Complete a range of pilots in conjunction with the Climate team to assess their impact on carbon reduction and scalability for the council; and</li> <li>Progress the BCC Fleet Strategy including deployment of interim solutions to reduce emissions across the BCC Fleet.</li> </ul>

# Inclusive Economic Recovery

## Key Performance information for Inclusive Economic Recovery

- Number of jobs promoted through the Go For It programme [Statutory PI]
- Number of business plans developed
- Number of participants/businesses supported
- Number of social enterprises and cooperatives accessing support
- Number of jobs promoted through BCC employment academies
- Number of participants on Employment Academies
- Ringfence 10 posts to the long term unemployed and support applications via 2 employment academies.
- 12 temporary job opportunities created and facilitated

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## Key 2022/23 deliverables for each priority

Each priority within the corporate plan has been planned and resourced with in-year milestones to assure delivery is on track. The following list of deliverables will be reported on a six monthly basis to Committee to demonstrate progress and explain if progress has been delayed.

Strategic Priority	Deliverables (in year)
<b>Belfast Region City Deal</b>  Senior Responsible Officer: <b>Ronan Cregan</b>  Reporting Committee: <b>SP&amp;R Committee</b>  Board: <b>BRCD Board</b>	<b>In 2022-23 we will:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Establish and implement monitoring, performance and evaluation reporting including Benefits realisation;</li> <li>▪ Implement Phase 3 Governance and Resourcing;</li> <li>▪ Resource the Accountable Body, to receive and distribute funding from Accountable Departments to Project Sponsors as per agreed Letters of Offer;</li> <li>▪ Develop and monitor the development of OBCs for the Digital Programme;</li> <li>▪ Establish Employability and Skills resourcing and delivery of the proposition;</li> <li>▪ Develop Phase 3 Stakeholder Communications and Engagement Plan and develop a BRCD standalone web presence; and</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oversee BRCD project delivery.</li> </ul> <p><b>Belfast Stories</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to take forward the project specifically appointing an IDT and EDT and developing the Belfast Stories element; and</li> <li>Complete site acquisition of Belfast Stories.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Cultural Strategy</b></p> <p>Senior Responsible Officer: <b>Strategic Director of Place and Economy</b></p> <p>Reporting Committee: <b>City Growth &amp; Regeneration Committee</b></p> <p>Board: <b>P&amp;E DMT</b></p>	<p><b>In 2022-23 we will:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Progress the 'A City Imagining Plan';</li> <li>Establish a 'City Compact' consisting of a range of partners and a participative forum;</li> <li>Provide grant support to organisations to deliver an annual programme of activities;</li> <li>Launch the 2023 programme and associated communications strategy;</li> <li>Deliver the UNESCO actions and Music Recovery Strategy;</li> <li>Deliver Festival 2022;</li> <li>Deliver interventions in response to the Cultural Infrastructure Audit; and</li> <li>Deliver the Annual Events programme.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Inclusive Growth Strategy</b></p> <p>Senior Responsible Officer: <b>John Tully</b></p> <p>Reporting Committee: <b>SP&amp;R Committee</b></p> <p>Board: <b>Social Policy Working Group</b></p>	<p><b>In 2022-23 we will:</b></p> <p><b>Embedding Inclusive Growth</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a monitoring framework/approach for the delivery of the Inclusive Growth Strategy (aligned to the Belfast Agenda and Performance Management Framework); and</li> <li>Design and implement an Inclusive Growth Decision Making Framework. This framework will test any future major investment decisions to ensure they have considered how they can help those who are economically disadvantaged in the city.</li> </ul> <p><b>Belfast Business Promise</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commence city-wide engagement and public consultation on the draft City Charter;</li> <li>Develop and agree BCC model and resources for implementation and delivery;</li> <li>Publish and formally launch the Belfast Business Promise;</li> <li>Commence sign-up across the city, led by business engagement team; and</li> <li>Launch Belfast Promise brand and comms plan to match work plan.</li> </ul>

	<p><b>Procurement &amp; Commissioning Group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Produce a focused action plan for the delivery of the anchors group; and</li> <li>Expand anchor participation in the Procurement &amp; Commissioning Group.</li> </ul> <p><b>Community Wealth Building</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Produce a focused action plan for the delivery of the anchor institution procurement &amp; Commissioning Group;</li> <li>Align Community Wealth Building approaches to Inclusive Growth;</li> <li>Identify planned recruitment that could support IG and develop plan including suitable ring-fencing of entry level positions and pre-recruitment;</li> <li>Deliver temporary job opportunities to support the DfC Job Start Programme; and</li> <li>Investigate the feasibility of recruiting a number of BCC apprenticeships e.g. digital, customer services.</li> </ul> <p><b>Poverty</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage with key stakeholders to explore the potential to establish a Belfast Poverty Commission, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish a set-up group and recruit facilitation team;</li> <li>Identify Commissioners; and</li> <li>Launch event for a Belfast Poverty Commission.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Living Wage Accreditation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Achieve Living Wage Accreditation by March 2023.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Social Policy</b></p> <p>Senior Responsible Officer: <b>John Walsh</b></p> <p>Reporting Committee: <b>SP&amp;R Committee</b></p> <p>Board:</p>	<p><b>In 2022-23 we will:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To oversee the creation of a robust and ambitious approach for the integration of social value through the Council's procurement processes, with consideration given to financial affordability, legal implications and the maximisation of impact;</li> <li>To develop a Social Value Procurement Framework aligned to the ambitions of the Council through the Belfast Agenda and Inclusive Growth Strategy;</li> <li>To implement the new Social Value Procurement Policy following the completion of a public consultation in December 2021. The new policy seeks to implement social value considerations within our procurement processes and to ensure that the purchase of goods, services and works achieves value for money by making a positive difference to the people and communities in Belfast; and</li> </ul>

<b>Social Policy Working Group</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To move the Community Wealth Building agenda forward, work with City Partners (anchor institutions) with an initial focus on procurement and commissioning.</li> </ul>
<p><b>City Recovery, reopening the city and support for businesses</b></p> <p>Senior Responsible Officer: <b>Cathy Reynolds</b></p> <p>Reporting Committee: <b>CGR Committee</b></p> <p>Board: <b>Recovery Leadership Group</b> <b>City Regeneration &amp; Development Programme Board (CRDPB)</b></p>	<p><b>In 2022-23 we will:</b></p> <p><b>Revitalisation Fund: Physical interventions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deliver the remaining projects under the DfC Covid Recovery Revitalisation Programme.</li> <li>Deliver ongoing support for the business via projects under the Sustaining Vibrant Business Destinations, Vacant to Vibrant Capital Grant Scheme, Future City Centre Programme, Belfast City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy and City Development and Investment, including facilitation of the City Recovery Stakeholder Group and Positioning the City for Investment</li> </ul>
<p><b>City Development and Investment</b></p> <p>Senior Responsible Officer: <b>Cathy Reynolds</b></p> <p>Reporting Committee: <b>CGR Committee</b></p>	<p><b>In 2022-23 we will:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Progress our approach to attracting an Institutional investment partner, and potential delivery vehicles opportunities for identified housing led and mixed use regeneration sites;</li> <li>Provide Council input and strategic direction to major regeneration and development projects;</li> <li>Continue to progress city wide strategic opportunities relating to the use of BCC assets;</li> <li>Progress the future use options for 2 Royal Avenue in line with objectives of the Future City Centre Programme; and</li> <li>Progress the Bolder Vision for Belfast partnership approach for the delivery of infrastructure, connectivity and regeneration placemaking projects across the city centre and into communities.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Reset for Growth Strategy</b></p> <p>Senior Responsible Officer: <b>John Greer</b></p> <p>Reporting Committee: <b>SP&amp;R Committee</b></p> <p>Board: <b>Inclusive Growth Commission</b></p>	<p><b>In 2022-23 we will:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Work with partners to create integrated employment pathways to growth sectors;</li> <li>▪ Continue to advocate for specific R&amp;D funding for Belfast in support of the BRCD investments;</li> <li>▪ Work to establish a new entity to support bring forward priority investments on the Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor; and</li> <li>▪ Work with partners to deliver a unique innovation environment which enables key business clusters of global significance to thrive and deliver a decade of innovation, creating over 5,000 new entrepreneurs by 2025 and quadrupling the number of start-ups that survive and scale.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Digital Innovation Programme</b></p> <p>Senior Responsible Officer: <b>Ronan Cregan</b></p> <p>Reporting Committee: <b>SP&amp;R Committee</b></p> <p>Board: <b>Belfast City Council</b> <b>BCC Digital Innovation Board</b></p>	<p><b>In 2022-23 we will:</b></p> <p><b>Digital pillar of Belfast Region City Deal</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Complete the Advanced Wireless Business Case and submit to BRCD process;</li> <li>▪ Develop Business cases for the Challenge Fund programmes (Grants, loans, Societal Impact);</li> <li>▪ Agree delivery mechanisms and areas of focus for phase 1 challenge programme;</li> <li>▪ Agree governance and processes for delivery of the Digital BRCD related projects; and</li> <li>▪ Develop business case for City Data platform.</li> </ul> <p><b>Support Innovation City Belfast Board</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Continue to provide support for the governance and operational delivery of the partnership;</li> <li>▪ Contribute to the feasibility and development of the Innovation District;</li> <li>▪ Develop the Smart District proposition with ICB partners;</li> <li>▪ Contribute to a regional economic monitor to support inward investment;</li> <li>▪ Contribute to policy-making, research to influence relevant digital innovation strategies;</li> <li>▪ Contribute to joint investment and funding proposals (including Digital Twin and GSirt Reg Tech proposals));</li> <li>▪ Contribute to an agreed Freeport proposition;</li> <li>▪ Deliver the urban data challenge project with AWS; and</li> <li>▪ Delivery of free Data Analytics skills across NI region through AWS Restart programme.</li> </ul> <p><b>Smart Belfast - Urban Innovation programme</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Complete consultation and launch of the new Urban Innovation Framework;</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Design and establish partnerships and operating model for the smart district;</li> <li>▪ Seek partner agreement on joint delivery programmes aligned with Bolder Vision, Future City, Climate &amp; Economic plans;</li> <li>▪ Develop co investment opportunities and agreements to support the delivery of the Belfast Smart District – including international collaboration such as Sejong, South Korea (world leading smart city);</li> <li>▪ Complete Asset Model and carry out opportunity audit;</li> <li>▪ Deliver phase 1 of the Healthy Neighbourhoods programme with focused on healthy aging;</li> <li>▪ Design and deliver Phase 1 of the challenge fund programme; and</li> <li>▪ Develop and deliver Phase 1 of the citizen capacity building programme to support urban innovation (through CODI).</li> </ul> <p><b>Belfast Advanced Wireless programme</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Deliver the one-year Digital Connectivity Infrastructure Accelerator (DCIA) programme;</li> <li>▪ Build agreement with lighthouse application &amp; lighthouse application partners;</li> <li>▪ Agree the geographical of focus for investment and model assets;</li> <li>▪ Develop the vehicle/operating model for delivery;</li> <li>▪ Work with city partners to influence necessary planning, policy and legislative environment;</li> <li>▪ Agree the delivery and ongoing operational model; and</li> <li>▪ Support ongoing wireless innovation projects including attracting UK Government funding.</li> </ul> <p><b>Data for innovation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Develop the City Data Architecture and urban data infrastructure;</li> <li>▪ Develop Council capacity building programme for data-led innovation;</li> <li>▪ Co-design capacity building programme with stakeholders and citizens around data sharing (an element CODE); and</li> <li>▪ Develop ‘common access to finance’ platform to simplify the landscape to support SMEs and funders.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Increase tourism spend through sustainable tourism products</b></p> <p>Senior Responsible Officer: <b>John Greer</b></p> <p>Reporting Committee:</p>	<p><b>In 2022-23 we will:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Start delivery of the 10-year Tourism recovery plan “Make Yourself at Home”;</li> <li>▪ Deliver ‘Experience Belfast’ to support local and neighbourhood tourism via ‘City Connections’ and capacity building programmes;</li> <li>▪ Continue to promote sustainable tourism via the Global Destination Sustainability Index the Green Tourism Accreditation;</li> <li>▪ Launch the Belfast Visitor Experience Framework;</li> <li>▪ Prepare to host the global summit, One Young World in 2023;</li> </ul>

<b>City Growth &amp; Regeneration Committee</b>  Board: <b>P&amp;E DMT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue the delivery of capital projects under the £4m Social Outcomes Fund which was designed to support local tourism projects. Ensuring alignment to Council's wider tourism objectives, inclusive growth, and new social policies;</li> </ul>
<b>Encourage business start-ups and support indigenous business growth</b>  Senior Responsible Officer: <b>John Greer</b>  Reporting Committee: <b>City Growth &amp; Regeneration Committee</b>  Board: <b>P&amp;E DMT</b>	<p><b>In 2022-23 we will:</b></p> <p><b>Provide 'Starting a Business' services:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deliver local business start-up programmes;</li> <li>Support social enterprises and co-operatives;</li> <li>Work with stakeholders to design new provision to develop entrepreneurs and business starts; and</li> <li>Continue working with the other councils to identify future business start-up funding.</li> </ul> <p><b>Provide 'Growing a Business' services:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing delivery of support for existing business growth including Innovation Factory, BREXIT support, procurement and digital;</li> <li>Development and delivery of transformative digital support aligned with BRCD;</li> <li>Development and delivery of support for businesses in high growth sectors including fintech, CDI, cyber, advanced manufacturing etc;</li> <li>Support delivery of the Fintech Action Plan with Fintech NI; and</li> <li>Continue working with the other councils to identify future business growth funding and jointly delivering a Digi Transform programme across the region.</li> </ul>
<b>Promote and market the city internationally</b>  Senior Responsible Officer: <b>Cathy Reynolds</b>  Reporting Committee: <b>City Growth &amp; Regeneration Committee</b>	<p><b>In 2022-23 we will:</b></p> <p><b>Positioning the City to Compete:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop options for institutional investment to augment our growth ambitions for the city;</li> <li>Play a lead role in the Renewed Ambition Programme public/private partnership, participating in a programme of events, active engagement and advocacy to promote inclusive real estate development and investment and addressing barriers to investment;</li> <li>Facilitate investment and development related visits aimed at positioning the city to compete and promote inclusive growth and development for the city;</li> <li>Collate and monitor City Development Tracker and market intelligence; and</li> <li>Maintain and develop the Invest in Belfast website.</li> </ul>

Board: <b>P&amp;E DMT CRDPB</b>	<b>Provide the Investing in Belfast service:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to ensure the investment service align with emerging developments; and</li> <li>Identify city to city connectivity - key locations for strengthened partnership approach.</li> </ul>
<b>Belfast Dublin Economic Corridor</b>  Senior Responsible Officer: <b>John Greer</b>  Reporting Committee: <b>City Growth &amp; Regeneration Committee</b>  Board: <b>P&amp;E DMT</b>	<b>In 2022-23 we will:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue development work arising from Dublin-Belfast corridor programme;</li> <li>Continue to expand governance and engagement activity; and</li> <li>Conclude the development plan and bring forward a prioritised programme of work.</li> </ul>
<b>Future City Centre Programme and Belfast City Centre Regeneration &amp; Investment Strategy</b>  Senior Responsible Officer: <b>Cathy Reynolds</b>  Reporting Committee: <b>CG&amp;R Committee</b>  Board: <b>P&amp;E DMT</b>	<b>In 2022-23 we will:</b>  <b>Continue to progress the Future City Centre Programme and priority areas under the Belfast City Centre Regeneration &amp; Investment Strategy including:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partnership working and engagement with city stakeholders across the public, private and third sectors to include the Community Planning Partnership: City Development Board; City Recovery Stakeholder Group; UU Community Campus Regeneration Forum; the High Street Task Force and relevant developer led fora;</li> <li>Oversee the delivery of the Future City Centre Programme six pillars:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regeneration and connectivity - including City centre living; maximising major developments; reimagining public realm; connectivity and active travel; tactical regeneration etc; and continue to deliver physical regeneration and environmental improvements e.g. the Entries Programme, Cathedral Gardens redevelopment and others. Progress the city centre Vacant to Vibrant Capital Grant pilot to address vacancies;</li> <li>Business and Investment;</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<p><b>City Regeneration and Development Programme Board</b> <b>CPP - City Development Board</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ City Centre Vibrancy;</li> <li>▪ Position the city to compete;</li> <li>▪ Digital innovation; and</li> <li>▪ Clean, green and safe.</li> </ul> <p><b>Belfast City Centre Regeneration &amp; Investment Strategy (BCCRIS)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Continue to progress (with partners) projects and interventions identified within BCCRIS and undertake a review of the priorities within the BCCRIS Action Plan.</li> </ul> <p><b>Regeneration Projects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Lead the Joint Regeneration Group with other partners to prioritise and drive key regeneration initiatives</li> <li>▪ Provide strategic input as appropriate with private and public sector developments via established Regeneration Project Reference Groups;</li> <li>▪ Progress the Greening the City Centre Programme to identify opportunities for improving and developing open spaces, public realm and development projects.</li> <li>▪ Lead on the Community Planning Partnership: City Development Board on the identified priorities of housing led regeneration; connectivity, active and sustainable travel; Future City Centre Programme and city wide regeneration &amp; investment</li> <li>▪ Continue to develop the Cathedral Gardens physical project by creating a multi-use civic space in the city centre; and</li> <li>▪ Delivery of Phase 2 of the Belfast Entries project comprising environmental enhancements in the city centre.</li> </ul> <p><b>Developer Contributions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Monitor and analyse valid planning applications to bring forward projects and infrastructure proposals utilising developer contributions.</li> </ul>
<p><b>City Infrastructure</b></p> <p>Senior Responsible Officer: <b>Cathy Reynolds</b></p> <p>Reporting Committee: <b>CG&amp;R Committee</b></p> <p>Board: <b>City Regeneration and Development Programme Board</b></p>	<p><b>In 2022-23 we will:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Take forward the findings from the Belfast Infrastructure Study;</li> <li>▪ Continue to champion the Council's preferred position for major infrastructure projects; and</li> <li>▪ Continue to represent Council and play a key role on city wide boards facilitating, enabling and influencing major infrastructure development and investment including:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ York Street Interchange;</li> <li>▪ BRT Phase 2;</li> <li>▪ Belfast Streets Ahead; and</li> <li>▪ Weaver's Cross.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



<b>Belfast Hills and North Foreshore</b>  Senior Responsible Officer: <b>John Walsh</b>  Reporting Committee: <b>CG&amp;R Committee</b>  Board: <b>City Regeneration and Development Programme Board</b>	<b>In 2022-23 we will:</b>  <b>North Foreshore</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to progress agreed developments on the North Foreshore site including the £45m major extension to the existing Film Studios working closely with Belfast Harbour Commission and the £180m leisure led development with Giants Park Leisure Limited ensuring that the regeneration opportunities from these project are maximised for the city; and</li> <li>Continue to explore other options for the remaining sites including opportunities in the clean-tech/green sectors.</li> </ul> <b>Belfast Hills (and Zoo)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deliver a major new attraction at the Zoo with the development of a new Lion/Big Cat Enclosure;</li> <li>Progress options for the existing zoo, Belfast Caste and Old Zoo site; and</li> <li>Develop programmes to improve access to the hills. The Connectivity – Access to the Hills programme has been added to the Capital Programme funding stream.</li> </ul>
<b>Belfast Stories</b>  Senior Responsible Officer: <b>John Walsh</b>  Reporting Committee: <b>CG&amp;R Committee</b>  Board: <b>BRCD Board</b>	<b>In 2022-23 we will:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete OBC 1 Departmental Review;</li> <li>Progress the acquisition of the 2 additional smaller properties;</li> <li>Procurement and appointment of IDT / EDT to progress the concept design;</li> <li>Progress the collection of Belfast stories;</li> <li>Continue stakeholder and community engagement including consultation and EQIA;</li> <li>Deliver 2022-23 communication programme;</li> <li>Progress OBC 2 / RIBA 2; and</li> <li>Establish Benefits Framework and monitoring and evaluation system.</li> </ul>
<b>Access, Connectivity, Active and Sustainable Travel</b>	<b>In 2022-23 we will:</b>  <b>Active Travel and Connectivity</b>

<p>Senior Responsible Officer: <b>Cathy Reynolds</b></p> <p>Reporting Committee: <b>CG&amp;R Committee</b></p> <p>Board: <b>CPP: City Development Board</b> <b>City Regeneration &amp; Development Programme Board</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop an overarching programme to coordinate our approach to access, active and sustainable travel and connectivity aligned to corporate priorities across policy; project delivery; programming and partnership working (inc the Community Planning Partnership: City Development Board) and the Bolder Vision for Belfast; development of greenways, Access to the Hills and other initiatives</li> </ul> <p><b>A Bolder Vision for Belfast</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use the stakeholder feedback to finalise, with DfI and DfC, Phase 3 of the Bolder Vision for Belfast to produce a Bolder Vision Strategy and Delivery Plan A;</li> <li>Collaboratively work with DfI and DfC to develop a partnership approach to progress infrastructure, connectivity and regeneration projects through the lens of A Bolder Vision; and</li> <li>Continue to work with key delivery partners to refine scenarios that deliver on the Bolder Vision Key Moves and progress catalyst projects /interventions</li> </ul> <p><b>City Transport Plan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work collaboratively with DfI to ensure the development of an integrated and sustainable city transport plan for the Belfast Metropolitan Area.</li> </ul> <p><b>Belfast Urban Greenways (BUG)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use the public consultation feedback from A Bolder Vision to continue to engage with DfI and other partners to progress options.</li> </ul> <p><b>Sustainable Travel Initiatives</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to implement the various active travel projects currently underway including Active Travel Hubs; Covered &amp; Secured Bicycle Stands; E- Cargo Bikes etc.</li> </ul> <p><b>Belfast Bikes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ongoing management of Belfast Bikes scheme; and</li> <li>Expansion of the Belfast Bikes scheme network.</li> </ul> <p><b>Car Parking Strategy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carry out a refresh of the Car Parking Strategy recommendations and action plans with partners.</li> </ul> <p><b>Access to the Hills/ Connectivity Programme</b></p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Access to the Hills – Develop a plan for enhanced access to the Hills including exploring the creation of further access points into the Hills; and</li> <li>▪ Continue to create a more connected city by using existing and new greenways, urban greenways and existing and enhanced green spaces connecting the North, South, East and West of the city as well as the city centre.</li> </ul>
<b>Educational underachievement</b>  Senior Responsible Officer: <b>John Greer</b>  Reporting Committee: <b>CG&amp;R Committee</b>  Board: <b>P&amp;E DMT</b>	<b>In 2022-23 we will:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Continue to engage in development work with partners/providers to refine support for those young people, most at need, to progress through education and into employment;</li> <li>▪ Provide a Youth Support programme to assist young people to build confidence and develop capabilities to enter and progress on a career pathway;</li> <li>▪ Continue to deliver our GCSE support programme to increase the % attaining grade C and above in English and Maths; and</li> <li>▪ Work with the Department for Education and the Education Authority to explore how the key recommendations of the Fair Start report can be implemented in Belfast.</li> </ul>
<b>Access to employment</b>  Senior Responsible Officer: <b>John Greer</b>  Reporting Committee: <b>CG&amp;R Committee</b>  Board: <b>P&amp;E DMT</b>	<b>In 2022-23 we will:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Deliver Employment Academies in priority sectors;</li> <li>▪ Provide match-funding for ESF projects;</li> <li>▪ Deliver Enterprise Pathway with intensive, person-centred support for those further back in the labour market; and</li> <li>▪ Support job brokerage and career events.</li> </ul>
<b>Upskilling opportunities</b>  Senior Responsible Officer: <b>John Greer</b>  Reporting Committee:	<b>In 2022-23 we will:</b>  <b>Strategic Partnerships</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Deliver the Belfast Employability and Skills Action Plan as part of the Belfast Local Inclusive Labour Market Partnership (BLMP);</li> <li>▪ Continue to ensure employability and skills issues are properly integrated into the Inclusive Growth Charter, Developer Contributions, Social Value Policy; and the BRCD;</li> </ul>

<p><b>CG&amp;R Committee</b></p> <p>Board: <b>P&amp;E DMT</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Build on the 'test and learn' career pathway work for those furthest from labour market in digital and green sectors in support of BRCD and the wider 10x economic vision; and</li> <li>▪ Implement a labour market observatory to review the impact of interventions and inform future investment.</li> </ul>
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# Community Recovery

## Key Performance information for Community Recovery

- Number of projects completed.
- Value of projects completed.
- Value of external funding secured.

## Key 2022/23 deliverables for each priority

Each priority within the corporate plan has been planned and resourced with in-year milestones to assure delivery is on track. The following list of deliverables will be reported on a six monthly basis to Committee to demonstrate progress and explain if progress has been delayed.

Strategic Priority	Deliverables (in year)
<b>Good Relations</b>  Senior Responsible Officer: <b>Director of Neighbourhood Services</b>  Reporting Committee: <b>SP&amp;R Committee</b>  Board: <b>Shared City Partnership</b>	<b>In 2022-23 we will:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Continue to deliver our Good Relations Action plan through our Shared City Partnership;</li> <li>▪ Continued delivery of the PEACE IV Local Action Plan; and</li> <li>▪ Develop and agree organisational priorities under Peace Plus and through community planning partners identify city opportunities under the Peace Plus programme and opportunities for collaboration.</li> </ul> <b>Peace IV</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Continue delivery of the Forth Meadow Community Greenway; and</li> <li>▪ Continue acting as delivery partner for capital projects at Shankill Women's Centre and Blackmountain Shared space.</li> </ul> <b>Urban Villages initiative</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Continue working in partnership with The Executive Office to deliver the good relations programme, Urban Villages initiative; and</li> <li>▪ Complete physical projects including Marrowbone Millennium Park and Colin Valley Football Club.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Neighbourhood Regeneration</b></p> <p>Senior Responsible Officer: <b>Sinead Grimes</b></p> <p>Reporting Committee: <b>Strategic Policy and Resources Committee</b></p> <p>Board: <b>Finance and Oversight Board</b></p>	<p><b>In 2022-23 we will:</b></p> <p><b>Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement the £8m Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund for capital projects under the themes of social economy, environmental sustainability and neighbourhood tourism.</li> </ul> <p><b>Physical Projects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to deliver Alleygates Phase 5 across the city;</li> <li>Continue implementation of the Leisure Transformation Programme including the completion of the £17 million restoration and extension of Templemore Baths;</li> <li>Continue work on Leisure Phase 4 which covers those centres not currently included in the Leisure Transformation Programme;</li> <li>Continue implementation of Local Investment Fund and Belfast Investment Fund programmes in neighbourhoods across the city;</li> <li>Continue delivery of the Playground Improvement Programme;</li> <li>Continue development of Urban Villages and Peace IV projects;</li> <li>Continue development of greenways across the city;</li> <li>Continue to implement our vision for Open Spaces and Streetscene, in improving and developing our parks, open spaces and public realm; and</li> <li>Develop our Belfast Open Spaces Strategy delivery plans.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Community capacity</b></p> <p>Senior Responsible Officer: <b>Director of Neighbourhood Services</b></p> <p>Reporting Committee: <b>People &amp; Communities Committee</b></p> <p>Board: <b>CNS DMT</b></p>	<p><b>In 2022-23 we will:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to provide funding support to our Community Voluntary Sector and progress our pilot Community Infrastructure programme;</li> <li>Continue to support the Police and Community Safety Partnership and District Partnerships as well as established community organisations to identify key issues and deliver programmes based on community needs; and</li> <li>Continue to provide support to deliver community-based programmes and develop relationships with key stakeholders.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Integrated services at a local level</b></p> <p>Senior Responsible Officer: <b>Director of Neighbourhood Services</b></p> <p>Reporting Committee: <b>People &amp; Communities Committee</b></p> <p>Board: <b>Living Here Board</b></p>	<p><b>In 2022-23 we will:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to engage with Community partners through our Community Planning structures.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Leisure transformation</b></p> <p>Senior Responsible Officer: <b>Ronan Cregan</b></p> <p>Reporting Committee: <b>SP&amp;R Committee</b></p> <p>Board: <b>Finance &amp; Oversight Board</b></p>	<p><b>In 2022-23 we will:</b></p> <p><b>Leisure Phase 2b</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complete the £17m restoration of Templemore Baths which has received £5m of support from the Heritage Lottery Fund; and</li> <li>Work with GLL to develop mobilisation plans for the opening of Templemore.</li> </ul> <p><b>Leisure Phase 3</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to progress plans for a new leisure facility at Girdwood in partnership with DfC.</li> </ul> <p><b>Leisure Phase 4</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to work on the development Phase 4 of the Leisure Transformation Programme.</li> </ul> <p><b>Sports Development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to deliver Boxing Strategy Action Plan and Stadia Community Benefits Initiative.</li> </ul> <p><b>GLL/ Active Belfast Ltd</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement recommendations of Active Belfast review.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Maximising housing development and regeneration opportunities</b></p> <p>Senior Responsible Officer: <b>Cathy Reynolds</b></p> <p>Reporting Committee: <b>City Growth &amp; Regeneration Committee</b></p> <p>Board: <b>P&amp;E DMT City Regeneration and Development Programme Board CPP – City Development Board</b></p>	<p><b>In 2022-23 we will:</b></p> <p><b>BCC Housing Led Regeneration Programme</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to bring forward regeneration, and development options for BCC assets in conjunction with wider public and private sectors, to include an assessment of BCC lands; and</li> <li>Work with city wide partners to maximise residential development opportunities jointly working to overcome obstacles to increasing residential development including city centre living.</li> </ul> <p><b>City wide strategic opportunities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue working with relevant public sector bodies to collate public sector land data and undertaking an analysis of public sector lands utilising the LDP Urban Capacity Study and Housing Monitor in order to identify public sector land opportunities for housing; and</li> <li>Continue working with relevant public and private sector bodies to identify potential housing development opportunities and identify and help unblock challenges via the CPP City Development Board (and Housing Led Regeneration Sub group).</li> </ul> <p><b>Strategic City Centre Cluster Sites:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Manage the Development Brief marketing and development process for the INW Northern Cluster;</li> <li>Continue to progress each of the cluster sites (inc placemaking concept plans, planning appraisals etc) at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>INW (Southern);</li> <li>Exchange St/Corporation Street;</li> <li>Ormeau Avenue;</li> <li>Dunbar;</li> <li>Gloucester Street; and</li> <li>Ravenhill.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Progress our approach to attracting an Institutional investment partner, and potential delivery vehicles opportunities for identified housing led and mixed use regeneration sites.</li> </ul> <p><b>City Centre Living Vision:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finalise the City Centre Living vision based on the information collated and analysed and ongoing community engagement.</li> </ul>
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<p>Area Working Groups (with partners)</p> <p><b>Coordination of corporate approach</b></p> <p>Senior Responsible Officer: <b>John Tully</b></p> <p>Reporting Committee: <b>Strategic Policy &amp; Resources Committee</b></p> <p>Board: <b>Living Here Board Area Working Groups</b></p>	<p><b>In 2022-23 we will:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to identify and prioritise local needs as well as support and enhance effective area-based regeneration post pandemic; and</li> <li>Continue to consider the local impact of the wider corporate delivery plan and other key strategic plans like the Belfast Agenda and City Region Deal.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Physical Programme</b></p> <p>Senior Responsible Officer: <b>Sinead Grimes</b></p> <p>Reporting Committee: <b>SP&amp;R Committee</b></p> <p>Board: <b>Finance &amp; Oversight Board</b></p>	<p><b>In 2022-23 we will:</b></p> <p><b>Current Programmes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to deliver a range of projects including the £2.1m upgrade at City Cemetery, the development of a new Lion and Big Cat Enclosure at Belfast Zoo, Boodles Dam, Reservoir Safety Programme and continue to work on major new projects including the £18m new two church crematorium at Roselawn, major waste projects including new waste infrastructure and wider Duncrue masterplan, upgrade of Cathedral Gardens in the city centre, and greenways and connectivity projects which will connect up the North, South, East, West and centre of the city using greenways and green spaces;</li> <li>Continue to develop up the required procurement strategy and procurement delivery for next phase including Integrated Design Team and Exhibition Team for the transformational £100m Belfast Stories and look at options for the design including an International Design Competition;</li> <li>Continue delivery of the £5.1m Forth Meadow Community Greenway connecting North and West Belfast into the city centre, the £6m Shankill Shared Women's centre and £6m Black Mountain Shared Spaces project which are being funded under Peace IV and commence the process of planning for capital projects under Peace Plus;</li> <li>Deliver new facilities under our Belfast Investment Fund including the £7m upgrade and extension of St. Comgall's to provide a state of the art cultural, tourism and social enterprise hub, Phase 2 of the Lagan Gateway project linking the new bridge at Stranmillis up through Annadale to Belvoir Forest and improvements of community school facilities at Lisnasharragh;</li> </ul>

- Complete the Local Investment Fund programme including new changing facilities at Berlin Swifts, a new community garden at the John Murray Lockhouse and upgrades to St. Joseph's Church Sailortown, Wishing Well and St John Bosco Boxing Club;
  - Continue the delivery of capital projects under the £4m Social Outcomes Fund which was designed to support local tourism projects including the Roddy McCorley Heritage Museum, Belfast South Community Resources, and the Eastside Visitor Centre;
  - Continue to deliver over 30 projects on behalf of the other agencies:
    - Executive Office under the Social Investment Fund (£7.9m) and the Urban Villages Initiative (£20m to date) which includes major projects at Ballysillan Playing Fields, Marrowbone Millennium Park and Pitt Park;
    - Working with the Department for Communities to enhance existing physical projects; and
    - Continue working with DfI to deliver with the Living with Water Programme; - e.g. Ballysillan Playing Fields.
  - Continue to liaise with external partners to explore additional funding opportunities which will support current programmes; and
  - Continue development of the city hall statues programme in city hall grounds including Mary Ann McCracken and Winifred Carney.
- New Programmes**
- Rollout the new £8million Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund programme designed to support neighbourhood tourism, social economy, and environmentally sustainable projects at a local level; and
  - Work with Members to develop a new Physical Programme.
- Land Disposal**
- Continue to progress a significant number of projects/land disposals which will facilitate housing and other major developments within the city including the following:
    - Film Studio Extension sites including Studio Ulster and Giants Park Leisure led regeneration;
    - Housing developments at Gasworks Northern Fringe lands, Upper Whiterock Road, Grove and McClure Street to provide on completion 168 housing units; and
    - Disposal of 108 acres of agricultural land at Beechvale Farm.
- Land Acquisition**
- Completion of site assembly for Peace IV projects and Urban Villages, BIF and SOF funded projects.

# Environmental Recovery

## Key Performance information for Environmental Recovery

- A capacity needs assessment completed by Sep 2022 with at least 100 Council staff and at least 20 Councillors completing climate training with at least 80% reporting enhanced understanding and capability to integrate climate considerations in their work.
- At least 6 Climate Commission meetings and at least 6 meetings of each Working group held and minuted with actions completed for each group.

### Key 2022/23 deliverables for each priority

Each priority within the corporate plan has been planned and resourced with in-year milestones to assure delivery is on track. The following list of deliverables will be reported on a six monthly basis to Committee to demonstrate progress and explain if progress has been delayed.

Strategic Priority	Deliverables (in year)
<b>BCC Climate Adaption &amp; Mitigation</b>  Senior Responsible Officer: <b>John Tully</b>  Reporting Committee: <b>SP&amp;R Committee</b>  Board: <b>Resilience &amp; Sustainability</b>	<b>In 2022-23 we will:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Develop a costed Climate Action Plan with clear, realistic and measurable targets approved by Council aligned to relevant regional and BCC policies and plans eg the updated BCC biodiversity plan, Green growth Strategy, energy Strategy, emerging climate/environment legislation etc;</li> <li>▪ Support the development, screening, scoping, delivery and evaluation of pilot climate projects under the £1m climate fund using an agreed framework;</li> <li>▪ Develop a communications and engagement plan, in conjunction with Marketing and Corporate Communications;</li> <li>▪ Undertake a capacity needs assessment and develop and implement a capacity development plan to enable the mainstreaming of climate considerations into every aspect of council;</li> <li>▪ Monitor and report on progress and compliance with the council's Net Zero, Adaptation and Green Economy objectives and targets, related actions plans and KPI's; and</li> <li>▪ Develop a series of pilot and feasibility projects under the Climate Fund.</li> </ul>

<p><b>City Wide Climate Adaption &amp; Mitigation</b></p> <p>Senior Responsible Officer: <b>John Tully</b></p> <p>Reporting Committee: <b>SP&amp;R Committee</b></p> <p>Board: <b>Resilience &amp; Sustainability Board</b></p>	<p><b>In 2022-23 we will:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Support the development of a local delivery framework for the Energy Strategy and Green Growth Strategy;</li> <li>▪ Develop a costed Belfast Climate Action Plan with clear, realistic and measurable targets approved by the Resilience &amp; Sustainability Board aligned to and contributing to delivery of city and regional strategies such as Green Growth, Energy Strategy, Climate Bill etc;</li> <li>▪ Support and facilitate the development and delivery of a portfolio of investable projects aligned to international best practice and integrating innovative technologies and approaches to accelerate the transition to a green economy; and</li> <li>▪ Develop a comprehensive monitoring, learning and reporting framework to track progress of the City's Resilience Strategy, Climate Action Plan including the delivery of the delivery of the 30 projects in the Resilience Strategy against project milestones, costs and quality requirements with regular progress updates to the Resilience and Sustainability Board.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Improve urban air quality</b></p> <p>Senior Responsible Officer: <b>Siobhan Toland</b></p> <p>Reporting Committee: <b>People &amp; Communities Committee</b></p> <p>Board: <b>Resilience &amp; Sustainability Board</b></p>	<p><b>In 2022-23 we will:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Continue to delivery Air Quality Action Plan 2021 – 2026, including:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Adopt, implement and manage the Belfast City Air Quality Action Plan 2021-2026, to include continued partnership working with Belfast Air Quality Steering Group Members, and the provision of AQAP Progress Reports by 30th June 2022 and 30th June 2023 (or as required by DAERA);</li> <li>▪ Deliver the Detailed Assessment for Fine Particulate Matter (PM2.5) and Nitrogen Dioxide (NO2) for Belfast by March 2023;</li> <li>▪ Deliver air quality projects under the Local Air Quality Management regime to include ambient air quality monitoring and the preparation of annual Progress or Updating and Screening Assessment Reports by 30th June of each year;</li> <li>▪ Develop, submit and administer a Local Air Quality Management grant application to DAERA for the 2022-2023 grant period in accordance with the schedule detailed within the DAERA LAQM Letter of Offer 2022-2023;</li> <li>▪ Manage ambient air quality matters associated with City developments through the provision of air quality consultation responses to the Belfast Planning Service;</li> <li>▪ Continue administration of the industrial Pollution, Prevention and Control regime for Belfast;</li> <li>▪ Continue enforcement within our Smoke Control Areas; and</li> <li>▪ Continue engagement with DAERA concerning development of a Clean Air Strategy for Northern Ireland.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

# Strategic Planning Frameworks

Whilst our focus in 2022-23 is on recovering the city and the organisation, we must also be mindful of the long term ambitions for Belfast that we have aspired to. Significant effort will therefore be put into the long term planning frameworks that shape the economic, social, environmental and physical future of the city – our local development plan, the Belfast Spatial Planning Framework and our community plan, the Belfast Agenda.

## Key 2022/23 deliverables for each priority

Each priority within the corporate plan has been planned and resourced with in-year milestones to assure delivery is on track. The following list of deliverables will be reported on a six monthly basis to Committee to demonstrate progress and explain if progress has been delayed.

Strategic Priority	Deliverables (in year)
<b>Belfast Spatial Planning Framework</b>  Senior Responsible Officer: <b>Kate Bentley</b>  Reporting Committee: <b>Planning Committee</b>  Board: <b>P&amp;E DMT</b>	<b>In 2022/23 we will:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Work through the remaining steps to adoption in accordance with the LDP timetable and feedback from the PAC report;</li> <li>▪ Finalise the SPG to support the adoption of the LDP Plan Strategy, including feedback form public consultation; and</li> <li>▪ Progress the Local Policies Plan (LPP), including initial review of zonings/designations and local area planning issues.</li> </ul>
<b>Build Partnership Working to Deliver the Belfast Agenda</b>  Senior Responsible Officer: <b>John Tully</b>	<b>In 2022/23 we will:</b>  <b>Belfast Agenda Review</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Launch formal consultation on refreshed Belfast Agenda in parallel with further action planning engagement;</li> <li>▪ Communicate a citywide phased engagement programme relating to the review and refresh of the Belfast Agenda;</li> <li>▪ Finalise and publish refreshed Belfast Agenda 2022-26;</li> </ul>

<p>Reporting Committee: <b>SP&amp;R Committee</b></p> <p>Board: <b>Community Planning Partnership</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Develop and agree four-year action plans which underpins the Belfast Agenda; and</li> <li>▪ Establishment of a performance monitoring and reporting framework and process.</li> </ul> <p><b>Belfast Agenda Partnership</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Review and refresh the governance arrangements around the Belfast Community Planning Partnership and associated delivery Boards; and</li> <li>▪ Establish an Innovation Fund to encourage and enable collaborative working through demonstrator projects.</li> </ul> <p><b>VCSE Panel &amp; Network</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Continue to support VCSE Panel;</li> <li>▪ Secure and embed VCSE Panel representation on CPP delivery Boards;</li> <li>▪ Secure sustainable funding model for the VCSE Panel; and</li> <li>▪ Grow the City Wide Network.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Influence Key Regional Programmes and Strategies</b></p> <p>Senior Responsible Officer: <b>John Walsh</b></p> <p>Reporting Committee: <b>SP&amp;R Committee</b></p>	<p><b>In 2022/23 we will:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Represent Belfast in the review of the draft Programme for Government and supporting strategies;</li> <li>▪ Make the case for the further devolution of powers to local government;</li> <li>▪ Seek to ensure greater access to various funding streams;</li> <li>▪ Seek to influence the Community Engagement Framework;</li> <li>▪ High Street Task Force; and</li> <li>▪ Green Growth Forum.</li> </ul>

# Organisational Foundations

## Key Performance information for Organisational Foundations

- 80% of calls answered within 80 secs
- 10% call abandonment
- Customer satisfaction score of 75%
- Quality score 75%
- % Agreed H&S and Fire Safety recommendations implemented - Corporate Total
- % H&S service requests responded to within 5 working days
- % scheduled Fire Risk Assessment Inspections completed
- Number of RIDDOR accidents
- Number of workplace accidents
- Staff Absence Rates (TBC)

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## Key 2022/23 deliverables for each priority

Each priority within the corporate plan has been planned and resourced with in-year milestones to assure delivery is on track. The following list of deliverables will be reported on a six monthly basis to Committee to demonstrate progress and explain if progress has been delayed.

Strategic Priority	Deliverables (in year)
<b>Customer Focus Programme</b>  Senior Responsible Officer: <b>Ronan Cregan</b>  Reporting Committee: <b>SP&amp;R Committee</b>  Board: <b>Customer Focus Board</b>	<b>In 2022/23 we will:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Optimise the Customer Hub operation;</li> <li>▪ Implement Pilot Transition and Transformation of Building Control;</li> <li>▪ Review and revise Transition and Transformation approach based on lessons learned; and</li> <li>▪ Implement Transition of 3 priority services into the Customer Hub in line with capacity and corporate priorities.</li> </ul>
<b>People</b>	<b>In 2022/23 we will:</b>

<p>Senior Responsible Officer: <b>John Tully</b></p> <p>Reporting Committee: <b>SP&amp;R Committee</b></p> <p>Board: <b>COS DMT</b></p>	<p><b>Senior Leadership Development Programme - next phase</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Deliver leadership programme to tier 4 managers.</li> </ul> <p><b>People Strategy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Consult on, finalise and launch people strategy and ATP framework; and</li> <li>▪ Establish People Board.</li> </ul> <p><b>Individual Performance Management</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Implement and review effectiveness of the Individual Performance Management approach at CMT and Tier 3 and cascade to Tier 4.</li> </ul> <p><b>CHR review</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Implement CHR review and introduce a professional supervision framework for HR Dept staff.</li> </ul> <p><b>Strategic Workforce Planning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Establish a practical approach to Strategic Workforce Planning (SWP) and use approach to provide greater clarity on impact of change programmes.</li> </ul> <p><b>Return to office / hybrid working model</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Agree through the Return To Office Joint Working Group processes for returning office-based staff to the office as part of operational recovery; and</li> <li>▪ Agree strategic position on future staff working operating model.</li> </ul> <p><b>Equality and Diversity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Develop and deliver workforce diversity action plans as part of fair work practices.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Data Strategy</b></p> <p>Senior Responsible Officer: <b>Ronan Cregan</b></p> <p>Reporting Committee: <b>SP&amp;R Committee</b></p>	<p><b>In 2022-23 we will:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Research Data Model for corporate data analytics in line with corporate frameworks for Service Design and Efficiency;</li> <li>▪ Develop business case for technology requirements to support corporate Data Model; and</li> <li>▪ Develop approach for corporate address management through Customer Focus programme.</li> </ul>



<p><b>Business Support Review</b></p> <p>Senior Responsible Officer: <b>TBC</b></p> <p>Reporting Committee: <b>SP&amp;R Committee</b></p>	<p><b>In 2022-23 we will:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Explore the possibility of using a recruitment framework to run a Business Support Clerk recruitment campaign;</li> <li>▪ Develop and agree our framework and approach to the Review and Design of our Business Support function;</li> <li>▪ Commission external support, establish governance arrangements to develop a future blueprint by March 2023;</li> <li>▪ Secure resources required to progress review; and</li> <li>▪ Undertake a baseline assessment of Business Support Roles. In short term complete review of vacant posts and fill critical vacancies including senior roles where appropriate.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Continuous Improvement Programme</b></p> <p>Senior Responsible Officer: <b>John Tully</b></p> <p>Reporting Committee: <b>SP&amp;R Committee</b></p> <p>Board: <b>COS DMT</b></p>	<p><b>In 2022-23 we will:</b></p> <p><b>Service Design approach</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Further develop and embed our service design approach to change; and</li> <li>▪ Review and develop project management service provided to rest of organisation.</li> </ul> <p><b>Existing pipeline of service design and reviews</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Progress and complete (in line with project plans) existing pipeline of reviews with particular focus on CNS and Customer Programme;</li> <li>▪ Drive and support resilience and capacity review for CNS senior management including decision making processes, develop a service catalogue and align resources, ways of working, senior management portfolios and accountability model; and</li> <li>▪ Provide project management resource to drive Organisational Recovery.</li> </ul> <p><b>Review of Internal Boards</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Review alignment of internal boards to ensure they are delivering corporate priorities through CMT; and</li> <li>▪ Complete review of governance arrangements across programmes/projects – implement new arrangements.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Performance Management Framework</b></p> <p>Senior Responsible Officer: <b>Ronan Cregan &amp; John Tully</b></p> <p>Reporting Committee:</p>	<p><b>In 2022-23 we will:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Review performance management framework;</li> <li>▪ Procure consultants to review planning and performance framework;</li> <li>▪ Ensure that oversight arrangements are in place to provide assurance on our corporate deliverables at Executive and political levels; and</li> <li>▪ Scope and develop performance dashboards in line with review of the performance management framework.</li> </ul>

<p><b>SP&amp;R Committee</b></p> <p>Board: <b>CMT</b></p>	
<p><b>Business Planning</b></p> <p>Senior Responsible Officer: <b>John Tully</b></p> <p>Reporting Committee: <b>SP&amp;R Committee</b></p> <p>Board: <b>CMT</b></p>	<p><b>In 2022-23 we will:</b></p> <p><b>Business Planning Process</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Review business planning process in parallel with review of performance management framework;</li> <li>▪ Update CMT and Committee on progress against deliverables and performance indicators for 2022/ 23 Corporate Delivery Plan; and</li> <li>▪ Prepare 2023/ 24 Corporate Delivery Plan.</li> </ul> <p><b>EU Succession Funding</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Prepare bidding plans for the Levelling Up Fund, Community Renewal Fund and Shared Prosperity Fund; and</li> <li>▪ Lead on corporate response to Levelling Up White Paper and Shared Prosperity Fund Round 2.</li> </ul> <p><b>Improvement Plan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete Improvement Plan Consultation;</li> <li>• Publish Improvement Plan by end of June 2022; and</li> <li>• Draft Improvement objectives for 2023/ 24 and commence consultation.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Asset Management</b></p> <p>Senior Responsible Officer: <b>Sinead Grimes</b></p> <p>Reporting Committee: <b>SP&amp;R Committee</b></p> <p>Board: <b>CMT</b></p>	<p><b>In 2022-23 we will:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Development of an Asset Management Strategy and Plan;</li> <li>▪ Full implementation of the Asset Management System;</li> <li>▪ Carry out a baseline assessment of all Council assets in terms of current condition;</li> <li>▪ Carry out a review of all current maintenance arrangements in place – Waterfront/Leisure facilities/independently managed community centres; and</li> <li>▪ Continue to proactively manage over 275 lease across the city including the major industrial estates at the Gasworks, Boucher and Duncrue which bring in an annual rental roll of circa £7m per annum.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Medium Term Financial Strategy</b></p> <p>Senior Responsible Officer:</p>	<p><b>In 2022-23 we will:</b></p> <p><b>Efficiency Programme</b></p>

<p><b>Ronan Cregan</b></p> <p>Reporting Committee: <b>SP&amp;R Committee</b></p> <p>Board: <b>F&amp;R DMT</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ In combination with Continuous Improvement develop the 23/24 Efficiency Programme and programme for future years.</li> </ul> <p><b>Development of revised Medium Term Financial Plan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Align financial plan to corporate priorities including Climate, Resilience, Waste, Inclusive Growth, capital programme, innovation including external opportunities;</li> <li>▪ Develop plan for non-recurrent finance 2022/23;</li> <li>▪ Continue to seek additional approaches for raising income; and</li> <li>▪ Develop new capital programme informed by departmental priorities.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Member Development</b></p> <p>Senior Responsible Officer: <b>John Tully</b></p> <p>Reporting Committee: <b>SP&amp;R Committee</b></p> <p>Board: <b>CMT</b></p>	<p><b>In 2022-23 we will:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Seek reaccreditation of the Member Development Charter Plus.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Coll Report</b></p> <p>Senior Responsible Officer: <b>John Walsh</b></p> <p>Reporting Committee: <b>SP&amp;R Committee and Standards and Business Committee</b></p> <p>Board: <b>CMT</b></p>	<p><b>In 2022-23 we will:</b></p> <p>Implement the Council's proposed actions in response to the Coll Report recommendations including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ A strategic workforce planning review of City and Neighbourhood Services is ongoing;</li> <li>▪ An additional leadership module on the Challenge Function and decision making has been developed and delivered as part of the Tier 3 leadership Development Programme and will be further delivered to other levels of management going forward as this development programme is cascaded further across the organisation;</li> <li>▪ Development of an Organisational Crisis Response Protocol; and</li> <li>▪ The new Standards and Business Committee will 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.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Political Governance Arrangements</b></p>	<p><b>In 2022-23 we will:</b></p>	

<p>Senior Responsible Officer: <b>John Walsh</b></p> <p>Reporting Committee: <b>SP&amp;R Committee and Standards and Business Committee</b></p> <p>Board: <b>LCS DMT</b></p>	<p><b>Standards and Business Committee</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Establishment of a Standards and Business Committee and associated workplan to 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; and</li> <li>▪ Commission a suitable provider for the training in a political environment module in 2022 and a short programme will be delivered to relevant managers by June 2022.</li> </ul> <p><b>Remote and Hybrid Meetings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Continue to provide remote meetings as and when required according to Executive guidance; and</li> <li>▪ to provide a hybrid model of remote and in-person committee and council meetings as required.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Equality, Diversity and Inclusion</b></p> <p>Senior Responsible Officer: <b>John Walsh</b></p> <p>Reporting Committee: <b>SP&amp;R Committee</b></p> <p>Board: <b>Equality &amp; Diversity Network</b></p>	<p><b>In 2022-23 we will:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Finalise and implement service review; and</li> <li>▪ Ensure public space is welcoming for all.</li> </ul> <p><b>Language Strategy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Establish a cross-party Members' Language Strategy Working Group to look at language issues and how these are addressed;</li> <li>▪ Establish new internal and external stakeholder fora;</li> <li>▪ To develop an updated action plan for each strand of the Language Strategy including the development of language-related policies and protocols to be considered within the Council's existing budgetary constraints; and</li> <li>▪ Finalise the revised Dual Language Street Signs Policy.</li> </ul> <p><b>Equality</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Develop and implement the Audit of Inequalities and Equality Action Plan; and</li> <li>▪ Implementation of the new five-year Equality Scheme.</li> </ul> <p><b>Disability</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Develop and launch a new Disability Action Plan for 2022-25 by June 2022; and</li> <li>▪ Implementation of Year 1 of the new Disability Action Plan including the completion of an annual report.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Corporate Systems</b></p> <p>Senior Responsible Officer: <b>Ronan Cregan</b></p> <p>Reporting Committee: <b>SP&amp;R Committee</b></p> <p>Board: <b>F&amp;R DMT</b></p>	<p><b>In 2022-23 we will:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Implement the new Finance System;</li> <li>▪ Implement the regional Planning Portal for BCC and support the implementation of the Intelligent Client Function;</li> <li>▪ Continue Phase 2 implementation of the HR &amp; Payroll system;</li> <li>▪ Implement the new Corporate Asset management system;</li> <li>▪ Agree approach to Electronic Document and Records Management implementation following pilots;</li> <li>▪ Development and implementation of the new regional Planning IT system; and</li> <li>▪ Implement the Building Control replacement IT system.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Corporate Health and Safety</b></p> <p>Senior Responsible Officer: <b>John Walsh</b></p> <p>Reporting Committee: <b>SP&amp;R Committee</b></p> <p>Board: <b>Corporate H&amp;S Assurance Board</b></p>	<p><b>In 2022-23 we will:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Secure additional resources to allow regular health and safety work to resume;</li> <li>▪ Implement health and safety IT system; and</li> <li>▪ Provide health and safety advice to support safe recovery of services during organisational recovery programme.</li> </ul>
<p><b>IT Security</b></p> <p>Senior Responsible Officer: <b>Ronan Cregan</b></p> <p>Reporting Committee: <b>SP&amp;R Committee</b></p> <p>Board: <b>F&amp;R DMT</b></p>	<p><b>In 2022-23 we will prioritise:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Enhancing Cyber Security Incident Response through alignment of Emergency, Business Continuity and Cyber Incident Response plans;</li> <li>▪ Improving Cyber Security Awareness;</li> <li>▪ Implementing Cloud Governance and controls;</li> <li>▪ Updating Security policies and standards;</li> <li>▪ Improving automated detection and response; and</li> <li>▪ A new Cyber Security maturity assessment.</li> </ul>

**Contact us:**

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Belfast BT1 5GS



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[@belfastcc](https://twitter.com/belfastcc)



**Belfast**  
City Council



<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Ukraine Refugee Scheme</b>
<b>Date:</b>	25th March, 2022
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Kevin Heaney, Portfolio Manager

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	To update the Committee on the emerging plans to implement the local response to the 'Homes for Ukraine' scheme, which allows UK individuals, charities, community groups and businesses to record their interest in supporting Ukrainians fleeing the war.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the work that is ongoing with The Executive Office, DfC, NIHE and across Local Government to plan for local responses to the Ukrainian Refugee Scheme, which was launched on 14th March; and</li> <li>that this work is progressing at pace, and it may be necessary for the Chief Executive to quickly assign Council resources to the emerging scheme using his delegated authority.</li> </ul>

<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	On 14th March, the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, Michael Gove launched the 'Homes for Ukraine' scheme, which allows UK individuals, charities, community groups and businesses to record their interest in supporting Ukrainians fleeing the war.
3.2	The Homes for Ukraine scheme will allow individuals, charities, community groups and businesses in the UK to bring Ukrainians to safety, including those with no family ties to the UK. Phase One of the scheme will allow sponsors in the UK to nominate a named Ukrainian or a named Ukrainian family to stay with them in their home or in a separate property. The scheme uses a webpage for sponsors to record their interest, with the scheme opening for applications on 18th March.
3.3	The scheme will operate in Northern Ireland and The Executive Office (TEO) plans to strongly encourage expressions of interest in the provision of accommodation from both individuals and organisations. Whilst not all the details have yet been announced by Westminster, TEO is working at pace, making preparations so they can provide sanctuary to Ukrainian refugees.
3.4	Mindful of the pressure on social housing stock, TEO officials are engaging with councils and the voluntary and community sector to find creative ways of bringing suitable accommodation into use and identifying all available capacity. TEO is also in close contact with the Home Office and the Department for Levelling Up, Communities and Housing and with colleagues in other jurisdictions.
	<u>Indicative areas of focus for Local Government</u>
3.5	TEO has stated that partnership working will be central to making the best of this scheme and to maximise the positive impact for refugees more generally. TEO has met with SOLACE and NILGA to identify how a co-design approach might be taken.
3.6	The indicative workstreams that will involve Local Government are likely to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possible design and delivery of Welcome Centres in their local areas, in partnership with public sector organisations and community and voluntary sector. This will include orientation centres, as well as centres with accommodation for short stays. NIHE is also looking at the option of a single regional Welcome Centre.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of local knowledge and information to inform the capacity exercise being led by NI Housing Executive as well as on an ongoing basis.</li> <li>• Communications in liaison with a central comms team that will be established by TEO with Council colleagues.</li> </ul>
3.7	<p><u>Next Steps</u></p> <p>Further co-design meetings will be arranged with agreed points of contacts for each council and there will be further meetings with TEO, DfC and others commencing as soon as possible. SOLACE is represented on the Strategic Planning Group (SPG) chaired by TEO and BCC is represented on the regional planning group for local government. A central comms working group has also been established and BCC is represented in this group. Regular updates on the refugee scheme will be provided to Elected Members as further details emerge.</p>
3.8	<p>The original ambition was to stand Welcome Centres in each council up by end of March 2022 and evolve thereafter. A recent readout from the SPG indicates that NIHE is now considering a single regional Welcome Centre. BCC has established an internal working group and will continue to work with partner organisations as the operating model and role of local government emerges. BCC has requested an ongoing readout of numbers and locations from the on-line sponsor and refugee registration system, which should identify the locations of sponsors where refugees will be based and provide an indication of scale.</p>
3.9	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>BCC costs to support the refugee programme will be estimated as the programme develops. TEO has indicated that councils will need to make use of existing resources as far as possible in the first instance. However, TEO recognises that additional resources may be required as action plans are costed.</p>
3.10	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>The programme to support Ukrainian refugees will be subject to equality, good relations and rural needs considerations.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	None

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<b>Subject:</b>	<b>UK - Republic of Korea Innovation Twins Programme</b>
<b>Date:</b>	25th March, 2022
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Ronan Cregan, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Deborah Colville, City Innovation Manager

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	To seek Committee approval of a Statement of Intent to support ongoing collaboration with the city of Sejong (South Korea). A pre-recording of the signing of the Statement by the Chief Executive will feature as part of a virtual International Showcase Day with Sejong on 30th March, which will mark the culmination of this last phase of the project.
1.2	To provide an update on the virtual international Showcase Day on March 30 <sup>th</sup> and planned agenda.

<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. approve the Statement of Intent - which has been developed with support from key institutions across the city - to progress opportunities for collaboration with the city of Sejong in South Korea; and</li> <li>ii. note the arrangements for a joint city to city virtual international showcase day on March 30th, which will feature a pre-recording of the signing of the Statement of Intent by the Chief Executive.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	At the Committee meeting in November 2021, Members were presented with details of the Council's participation in the ' <i>UK-Republic of Korea Innovation Twins</i> ' programme <sup>1</sup> which was set up by the Connected Places Catapult and funded by BEIS and UKRI.
3.2	The programme aims to build relationships between smart cities with high potential for accelerating long term R and I collaborations and generating opportunities for trade and FDI. Committee has also received regular updates on the programme and has been made aware of the development of a Statement of Intent to support ongoing collaboration and this is now being submitted for approval.
3.3	While not legally binding, the Statement sets out areas of shared interest which will form the basis for ongoing cooperation between Sejong and Belfast. These include smart cities, medtech, cyber security, fintech, academic, educational and cultural cooperation, economic development and opportunities for bilateral trade and investment.
3.4	The Statement of Intent has been developed in conjunction with our colleagues in the city of Sejong in South Korea and with support from Invest NI who are in the process of developing a presence there. It will facilitate opportunities for mutual benefit between both cities and make it possible to unlock further funding from BEIS post March, 2022.
3.5	It has also been discussed with Colin Crooks, the newly appointed UK Ambassador to South Korea. Following a meeting led by the City Innovation team with representatives from Queens University, Ulster University, Health Innovation Research Alliance and QUBIS, Ambassador Crooks has taken the opportunity to table areas of interest detailed in the Statement with the Mayor of Sejong to promote future collaboration.

3.6	With Committee approval, a pre-recording of the signing of the Statement of Intent by the Chief Executive will be shown on March 30th, at a virtual international Showcase Day (organised and funded by Connected Places Catapult) to mark the culmination of the UK innovation twins programme.
3.7	Ian Greer, Vice-chancellor of Queens University and Chair of Innovation City Belfast will provide a keynote speech at the showcase event, setting out the city's innovation ambitions and sector strengths and addressing the benefits of bilateral engagement between Belfast and Sejong, potential outcomes and impact for both cities. Invest NI will outline their role to support international trade and showcase companies currently doing business and who wish to do business in South Korea.
3.8	Deborah Colville will present at the event on the theme of Smart Cities and Belfast Digital Innovation investments and John Greer will attend a panel session to outline how opportunities can be further developed between Belfast and Sejong beyond the current programme.
3.9	Local companies who have received funding (from a total budget of c £100k as part of the Innovation Twins programme) will also have the opportunity to show-case their innovative products or services at the event. Eight companies in total have been successful in their application for funding and will present on a range of products relating to areas such as encouraging recycling behaviour, fitness hubs, virtual tourism, community rewards programmes, last mile delivery, safer cycling, and personal safety.
3.10	There are also opportunities for companies not directly involved in the programme but who wish to explore business/collaboration in Sejong/South Korea to profile their work within a virtual exhibition space.
3.11	Work undertaken to develop an 'Innovative Procurement Playbook' will also feature as part of the event. The Playbook will capture the learning from the full programme and support local councils and public sector bodies across the UK to find better ways to procure more innovative solutions and services. It will also include learning from the delivery of a training programme delivered to local SMEs, and to council officers (who took part in the programme) to build their capacity to engage in challenge-led competitions.

3.12	The training for both officers and for SMEs will provide useful preparation and learning for the council to ensure that we are able to maximise the innovation opportunities offered by the Belfast Region City Deal challenge funds and in particular the Innovation for Societal Impact fund which is in development.
	<b>Financial and Resource Implications</b>
3.13	The programme requires officer time commitment from across the Departments.
	<b>Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment</b>
3.14	None
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	<p>Appendix 1 - Draft Statement of Intent</p> <p>Appendix 2 - Draft Agenda</p>



**Belfast  
City Council**

## **Statement of Intent between Sejong City and Belfast**

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This Statement of Intent is intended to set out areas of shared interest which will form the basis for cooperation between Sejong and Belfast to support their city twinning project as well as other relevant activities.

The cities of Sejong and Belfast wish to explore opportunities for long-term city to city relationships which, inter alia, contribute to shared economic prosperity, enhance bilateral trade and investment and accelerate research and innovation for both cities. Cooperation between both cities will also include the promotion of skills development and job creation in both regions, business growth, market access for participating entities, shared socioeconomic prosperity and lasting research and innovation to address city challenges.

Both cities, working together for the purposes of this Statement of Intent, will consider their cooperation in such particular areas of interest as follow but are not exclusive to:

- smart cities, cyber security, fintech, medtech, regtech, enabling and emerging technologies
- regulatory sandboxes
- research and innovation contributing to mobility, health and wellbeing, advanced manufacturing, net zero, sustainable and resilient cities.
- innovation eco-systems and innovative procurement.
- economic development and diversification.
- start-up and SME support.
- academic, educational and cultural cooperation.
- opportunities for bilateral trade and investment, as appropriate, supported by Invest Northern Ireland

In accordance with the principles of equality and mutual benefit, both cities will explore opportunities to carry out cooperation in various forms to support the areas listed above.

Both cities will conduct regular visits and exchanges to strengthen further their friendly and cooperative relationships and will exchange information on the areas listed above as applicable.

This Statement of Intent is not a legally binding document and will not be deemed to constitute or create any legally binding or enforceable obligations, express or implied.

It will come into effect on the date of signing and will be reviewed on an annual basis.

**Signed on behalf of Sejong City**

Name:

Title:

Date:

**Signed on behalf of Belfast City Council**

Name:

Title:

Date:





**UK – South Korea Innovation Twins – Showcase Event**  
**30 March 2022**

**Agenda**

Session	Presentations	Who?	Timing (approx.)
8:00 am	Welcome Remarks	CPC	5 mins
8:05	<b>Invest In Northern Ireland</b>	Led by Mark Graham Invest NI	20 minutes
Webinar 1 – Showcasing the strengths of NI/Belfast and South Korea/Sejong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to invest In Northern Ireland and Belfast City Council</li> <li>• Industry showcase</li> <li>• Companies doing business in the Republic of Korea</li> </ul>		
	<b>Belfast City Council</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Key innovation projects and investments</li> <li>• Intro by ICB Chair Ian Greer (pre-recorded video)</li> <li>• Deborah Colville to present main presentation</li> </ul>	Deborah Colville Belfast City Council	10 mins
8:36	<b>Break</b>		5 mins
8:43	Sejong / Republic of South Korea <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International initiatives showcase</li> <li>• Sector strengths and successes</li> </ul>	Sejong	30 mins
9:14	Keynote speech from Ian Greer, Belfast's innovation ambitions and sector strengths and addresses the benefits of bilateral engagement between Belfast and Sejong, potential outcomes and impact for both cities	Ian Greer Chair of Innovation City Belfast and Vice Chancellor of QUB	5 mins
9:20	Keynote speech from Sejong	Sejong Rep	5 mins
9:25	Signing of Statement of Intent – pre-recording of signing by Belfast City Council Acting CX and signing by Sejong representative	Ronan Cregan and Sejong Rep	5 mins
9:30	<b>Break</b>		
9:35	Innovation Twins presentation by Rachel Gardner Poole	CPC Chief Operating Officer	5 mins
9:40	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation of key findings from the development of the Belfast and Sejong Innovative Procurement Playbooks</li> <li>• Overview of key learning from SME and Challenge Owner training programmes</li> </ul>	Warren Smith CPC	20 mins
<b>Belfast and Sejong Innovative Procurement Playbook</b>			

<b>10:00</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The 'art of the possible', demos from SMEs involved in the Belfast and Sejong programmes</li> </ul>		30 mins
<b>10:42</b>	<b>Break</b>		5 mins
<b>10:47</b> <b>Webinar 3 – Forward look on city and national bilateral relations</b>	Panel discussion on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>opportunities for collaboration</li> <li>new cities joining the programme</li> <li>funding opportunities</li> </ul> Q&A	Rachel Gardner Pool CPC Chief Operating Officer, Deborah Colville, Sejong Rep, UNDP	30 minutes
<b>11:20</b> <b>Close</b>	Closing remarks from Senior Rep	CPC	5 mins



<b>Subject:</b>	<b>UEFA Conference League Final 2023</b>
<b>Date:</b>	25th March, 2022
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Greer, Director of Economic Development
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Eimear Henry, Senior Manager, Culture and Tourism

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	The purpose of this report is to provide details of a recent request from the Irish Football Association (IFA) for the Council to support its bid for the UEFA Conference League Final 2023 and agree the Council's position in relation to this.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. note the details of the imminent bid by the IFA;</li> <li>ii. consider the request to provide support, as set out in the appendix;</li> <li>iii. note the possible future request for financial support if the bid is successful to host the UEFA Conference League Final 2023 and that such support is not in the medium-term financial planning. Should the IFA be awarded this event, a report will subsequently be brought to Committee outlining resource implications; and</li> <li>iv. authorise officers to engage with the IFA in this development process.</li> </ul>

<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	In August 2021, Belfast hosted the UEFA Super Cup final at the National Stadium. The Council provided support of £200,000 to the IFA for the event, with this being allocated to areas such as City Animation, Fan Mobility and Fan Experience, the Formal Dinner in the City Hall and other City logistics.
3.2	An estimated 12,725 bed nights were created in Belfast, generating £1.12 million for the local accommodation sector. A further £700,000 was spent by attendees while in Northern Ireland for the match. The direct economic impact of the event has been measured at £3.9 million with a total economic impact of over £4 million. The benefits generated by the Super Cup also extend beyond the economic impacts. The match was aired on television and digital media all around the world, attracting an audience of 24.4 million (source: independent socio-economic report commissioned by the IFA). It should also be noted that this event was impacted by the pandemic.
3.3	Council officers have now received a request from the IFA to support its bid for the UEFA Conference League Final 2023. This is a new competition and this bid is for the second year it takes place, the first final will be in Albania in June, 2022. As far as the infrastructure and expectations for the event, they are similar to the UEFA Super Cup Final hosted last year. There is no historical information on the impact of this particular final event.
3.4	To present an understanding of the timelines involved, UEFA's Evaluation phase is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- February/March 2022: Potential site visits by UEFA</li> <li>- April 2022: Evaluation finished</li> <li>- May 2022: Appointment of the Host Association by the UEFA Executive Committee</li> </ul>
3.5	The IFA reached out to the Council for a letter of support as the bid deadline was February. Following the issue of a letter of support from the Lord Mayor, (which did not indicate any financial commitment), UEFA has since requested that the Council sign a 'Host City Authority Undertaking' letter to further confirm support for the bid. UEFA has given the IFA a deadline of 24 <sup>th</sup> March for return. This outlines a number of obligations the host City would have if hosting and has been reviewed by Legal Services. The advice given is that political approval is required prior to the Council agreeing to the terms of the document. This document is included at appendix 1.
3.6	Furthermore, should the bid be successful, it is anticipated that there will be a financial ask - there is, however, no indication as yet of what this might be. The profile of the UEFA Conference League Final 2023 is possibly on a par with that of the Super Cup, and therefore there is the possibility of a similar request for the 2021 event. In addition, officers from the City Events Unit provided significant support to the IFA during the delivery of the Super Cup.

3.7	<p>This potential financial support is not in the medium-term planning. In addition, it should also be noted that 2023 is a year of significant major event activity for Council, including the hosting of One Young World, the staging of the now biennial Maritime Festival signature event and preparation for 2024 Year of Culture, along with annual programme of events and potentially early planning of the Fleadh Cheol. These exiting commitments have been considered within the division's resource planning which did not include provision for this event.</p> <p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p>
3.8	<p>There are currently no resource implications, however, Members should be aware that a request for financial support will follow should IFA be successful in its bid for Belfast to host this event. No provision for financial support has been planned for in financial forecasts. A subsequent report will be taken to Committee.</p> <p><b><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p>
3.9	<p>There are currently no equality and good relations implications.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Document Attached</b>
4.1	<p>IFA Host City Undertaking – Letter of Commitment</p>

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## HostCityAuthorityUndertaking

To: Union des associations européennes de football  
Route de Genève 46  
1260 Nyon 2  
Switzerland  
("UEFA")

Date:

### UEFA Europa Conference League Final 2022 and 2023

Dear Sirs,

I/We the undersigned, being the person duly authorised to undertake obligations on behalf of the *[Insert full legal name of the Host City Authority]* (the "Host City Authority") understand that the *[insert name of the Host Association]* (the "Host Association") is applying to be appointed as the entity responsible for staging and organising the UEFA Europa Conference League Final 2022 and 2023 at the *[Insert name of the Stadium]* in the City of *[Insert name if of the City]* (referred to respectively as "UECL Final Match", the "Stadium" and the "Host City").

If the Host Association is appointed by UEFA and in consideration of the mutual rights and obligations of the parties, this Undertaking constitutes the Host City Authority's acknowledgement and agreement to use its best endeavours to comply, subject to any cost implications,, with the organisational and operational requirements of the Host City Authority for the UECL Final Match and any additional events (if and when applicable), that are attached as Appendix 1 ("Host City Authority Requirements") to this Undertaking and to use its best endeavours to comply fully with all instructions and guidelines given by the Host Association and/or UEFA in relation thereto.

In addition, the Host City Authority hereby represents and undertakes to the Host Association and UEFA that it will use its best endeavours to comply with the following:

1. It shall create an appropriate structure within its organisation to provide full cooperation and assistance to UEFA and the Host Association to ensure the successful and smooth organisation of the UECL Final and the Additional Events (if and when applicable) in the Host City.
2. It supports, without any financial commitment being made, the offer of the Host Association to host the UECL Final Match and any additional events (if and when applicable) and it will continue to fully support and cooperate with the Host Association and UEFA in relation to the preparation, organisation and promotion of the UECL Final Match, and any additional events in the Host City including by making its personnel, ground(s), building(s) and infrastructure(s) available for fulfilling its obligations.
3. It acknowledges that the preparation, organisation and staging of the UECL Final Match and any additional events (if and when applicable) will be classified as a matter of general interest with priority of primary importance within the Host City.

## Host City Authority Undertaking

4. It shall issue to the Host Association and UEFA, in a quick and efficient manner, any and all approvals and consents as may be required in connection with the UECL Final Match and any additional events (if and when applicable) in an expedited fashion, provided that all requirements set by any applicable laws are met. With respect to consents and approvals which do not fall into the Host City Authority's competencies, it agrees to proactively support the Host Association and UEFA in obtaining any and all such consents and approvals.
5. It shall take all necessary and reasonable steps to secure the full support and cooperation of all other relevant Authorities for the successful staging and organisation of the UECL Final Match and any additional events (if and when applicable) in the Host City.
6. It shall not knowingly by any act or omission breach the Host City Authority Requirements nor place the Host Association in breach of its obligations to UEFA with respect to the staging and organisation of the UECL Final Match and any additional events (if and when applicable) in the Host City.
7. It shall indemnify, hold harmless and defend UEFA from and against all liabilities, claims, damages or costs (including reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses) suffered or incurred as a result of a failure by the Host City Authority to perform any of its obligations in relation to the staging and organisation of the UECL Final Match and any additional events (if and when applicable) in the Host City.
8. It shall, upon UEFA's request, grant to UEFA a licence to use its intellectual property for the purpose of the successful staging and organisation of the UECL Final Match.
9. It shall not use any marks, logos or other intellectual property belonging to UEFA in connection with the UEFA Europa Conference League Final 2022 and 2023 and/or the UECL Final Match and/or any additional events (if and when applicable) at any time without the prior written approval of UEFA.

If deemed necessary, the Host City Authority and the Host Association may execute a long-form agreement between them (which cannot be derogating to this Undertaking) in relation to the staging and the organisation of the UECL Final Match and any additional events (if and when applicable) in the Host City. UEFA shall (i) be informed of the intention to conclude such agreement, (ii) have the right to receive such agreement and (iii) be entitled to comment such agreement before its execution.

This letter should not be taken as a financial commitment by Belfast City Council. Should the cost to the Council of continuing to support the UEFA Conference League Final 2022 and 2023 prove, in the reasonable opinion of the Council to be financially prohibitive, the Council shall have the right to withdraw its support, whereupon this letter shall cease to have effect, and the provisions of clause 7 shall not apply.

I/We acknowledge and agree that the terms of this Undertaking shall be considered valid and fully enforceable provided that the Host Association is appointed by UEFA to stage and organise the UEFA Europa Conference League Final 2022 and 2023 and any additional events in the Host City.



## HostCityAuthorityUndertaking

This Undertaking has been signed by a duly authorised signatory:

For Host City Authority:

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*Signature*

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*Name*

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*Title*

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*Date*

Acknowledged by the Host Association:

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*Signature*

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*Name*

# HostCityAuthorityUndertaking

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*Title*

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*Date*



<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Asset Management</b> i) Grant of Cable Easement and Right of Way to NIE Networks Ltd. ii) 2 Royal Avenue – Licence for Hoarding iii) Hit the North Arts Festival 2022
<b>Date:</b>	25th March 2022
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Sinead Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Pamela Davison, Estates Manager

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

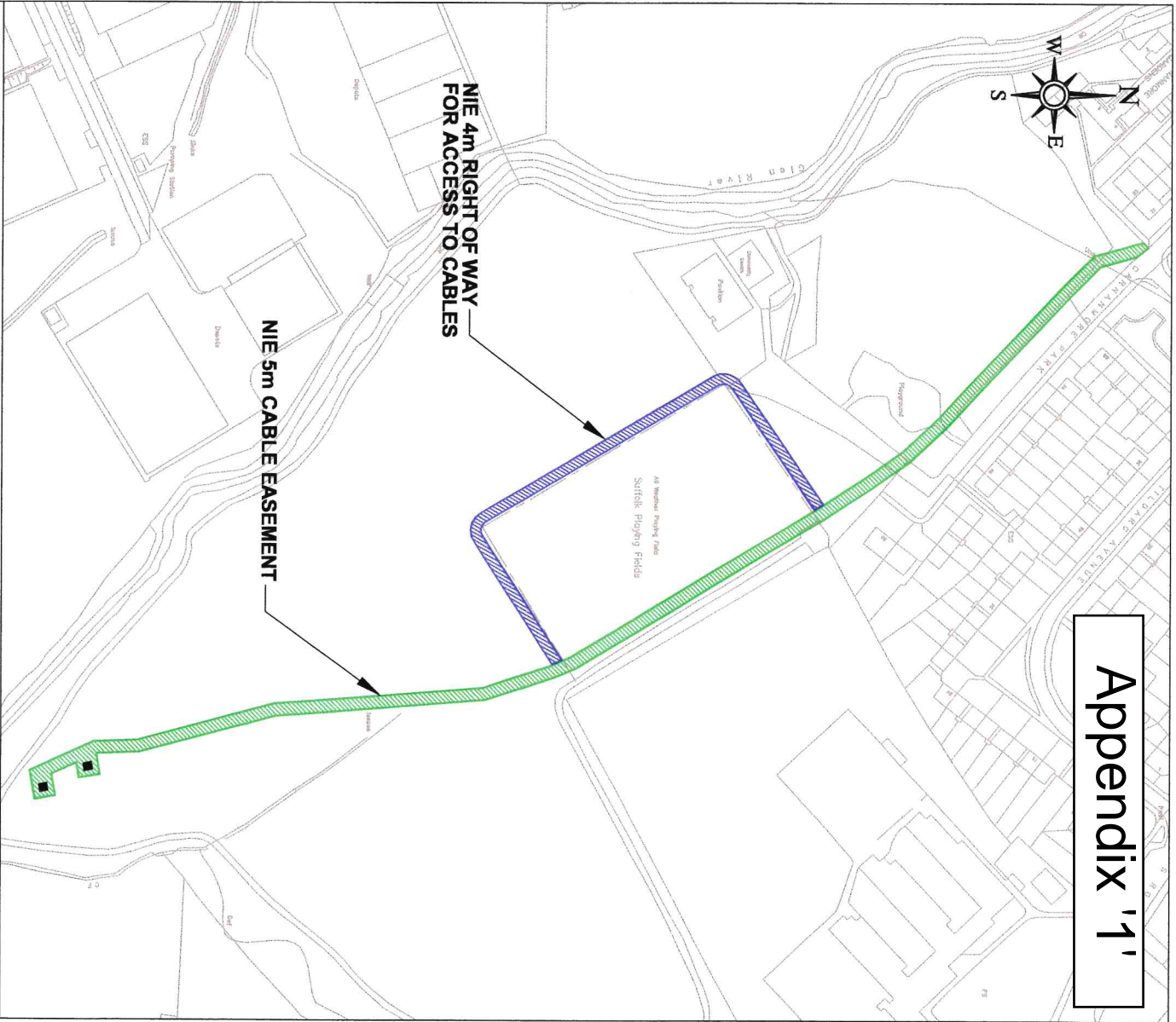
<b>Call-in</b>	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	The purpose of this report is to seek approval from the Committee on asset related disposal, acquisition and estates matters.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <b>i) Grant of Cable Easement and Right of Way to NIE Networks Ltd.</b> - approve the surrender of two cable easements and the grant of a new cable easement and right of way to NIE Networks Ltd.

	<p><b>ii) 2 Royal Avenue – Licence for Hoarding</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- approve a Licence to Bennett (Construction) Ltd to formalise the arrangement for hoarding around Primark which encroaches onto Council land at 2 Royal Avenue</li> </ul> <p><b>iii) Hit the North Arts Festival 2022</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- note the inclusion of Site 10 as part of the Hit the North Festival on 1 May 2022.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p><b>i) Grant of Cable Easement and Right of Way to NIE Networks Ltd.</b></p> <p><b><u>Key Issues</u></b></p> <p>In 1999, the Council granted two cable easements to NIE Networks Ltd to facilitate the laying of underground and overhead cables in the Suffolk Playing Fields. The subsequent construction of a new pavilion by the Council necessitated a re-routing of these cables and revised easements. Please refer to Appendix 1. Legal Services has agreed that the 1999 easements should be surrendered and replaced by a single 5.0-metre-wide cable easement incorporating a 4.0 metre wide Right of Way to provide access. The relocation of the cables has had no detrimental effect on the playing fields and no loss of usage during the re-routing process. The easement shall be for a term of 999-years and subject to a nominal consideration.</p> <p><b><u>Financial and Resources Implications</u></b></p> <p>Legal Services and Estates will complete the Grant of Easement, if approved.</p> <p><b><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
3.2	<p><b>ii) 2 Royal Avenue – Licence for hoarding</b></p> <p><b><u>Key Issues</u></b></p> <p>Bennett (Construction) Ltd. is undertaking the rebuild of the Primark building. To secure its site, it has constructed hoarding around the premises, which encroaches onto Council land at 2 Royal Avenue. The previous owner had not entered into any agreement with the contractor in relation to the hoarding. A Licence Agreement is required to formalise the arrangement for the remainder of the duration of works. The term will be 9 months then month to month thereafter until completion of the works. The Licence will set out terms &amp; conditions for use / reinstatement of the lands and indemnify Council from liabilities. A fee of £445+VAT per month will be payable by the contractor.</p>

	<p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>The Licence Agreement will be prepared and completed if approved by Legal Services and Estates with a monthly fee of £445+VAT to be received.</p> <p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
3.3	<p><b>iii) Hit the North Arts Festival 2022</b></p> <p>Hit the North Arts Festival is a street art festival that seeks to improve vacant spaces in the North Street area and has been running since 2013. The 2022 event culminates in a one-day event to be held on Sunday 1st May featuring both local and international artists. The Council has been approached by Seedhead Arts, the organising body for Hit the North Arts Festival, to request use of an area of land at 'Site 10': Please refer to Appendix 3. Members will be aware Site 10 is the area of land acquired by the Council in the city centre to deliver the landmark Belfast Stories development, Belfast's flagship tourism regeneration project with the Belfast Region City Deal. This request offers an opportunity that could provide additional vibrancy to this site. Specifically, the request is to grant permission to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use a small section of the waste ground within the boundary of Site 10 and animate it with performance, food trucks, seating and live art on May 1st.</li> <li>• Paint some non-listed surfaces on the site (e.g. boundary hoarding, non-listed walls - to be agreed with Officers).</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Financial and Resources Implications</u></b></p> <p>There are no financial implications or liabilities for the Council. Members are asked to note the request. Officers will take steps to put in place the necessary short term Access Agreement with Seedhead Arts under the delegated authority of the Director of Physical Programmes. The agreement will include that artwork designs would not include images of an offensive or contentious nature.</p> <p><b><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
4.0	<p><b>Documents Attached</b></p>
	<p>Appendix 1 – Map showing the proposed cable easement route and right of way.</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Map showing lands at 2 Royal Avenue effected by hoarding.</p> <p>Appendix 3 – Map showing proposed Hit the North Arts Festival 2022 Site.</p>

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Map No. I.G. 146-11ne

Location Plan

Scale 1:2500



SCALE 1:1250

EASEMENT NOTES

- 1A. NIE TO HAVE A 5.0m WIDE CABLE EASEMENT FROM A-B-C-D-E-F-G-H-J-K-A
- 1B. AREA DEFINED BY CABLE EASEMENT PLANTING IS RESTRICTED TO GRASS OR SHALLOW ROOTED GROUND COVER
- 1C. LEGEND



NIE CABLE EASEMENT AREA

EASEMENT AREA:- 2587.75m<sup>2</sup>

RIGHT OF WAY NOTES

- 1A. NIE TO HAVE A 4.0M MINIMUM RIGHT OF WAY FOR ACCESS TO CABLES FROM PUBLIC ROAD PER 1:1250 & 1:2500 LOCATION PLANS
- 1B. LEGEND



NIE RIGHT OF WAY

A	NIE RIGHT OF WAY ADDED		Page 647		Map Nos.	I.G. 146-11ne	Date	08/05/2014	Scale	As Shown
REV	AMENDMENT		INT	DATE	Checked by	J.Campbell	Sheet	A2	Drawing No.	35-6-4
				Approved by						



DRAWING OFFICE DARGAN

Drawn by J.Clerke

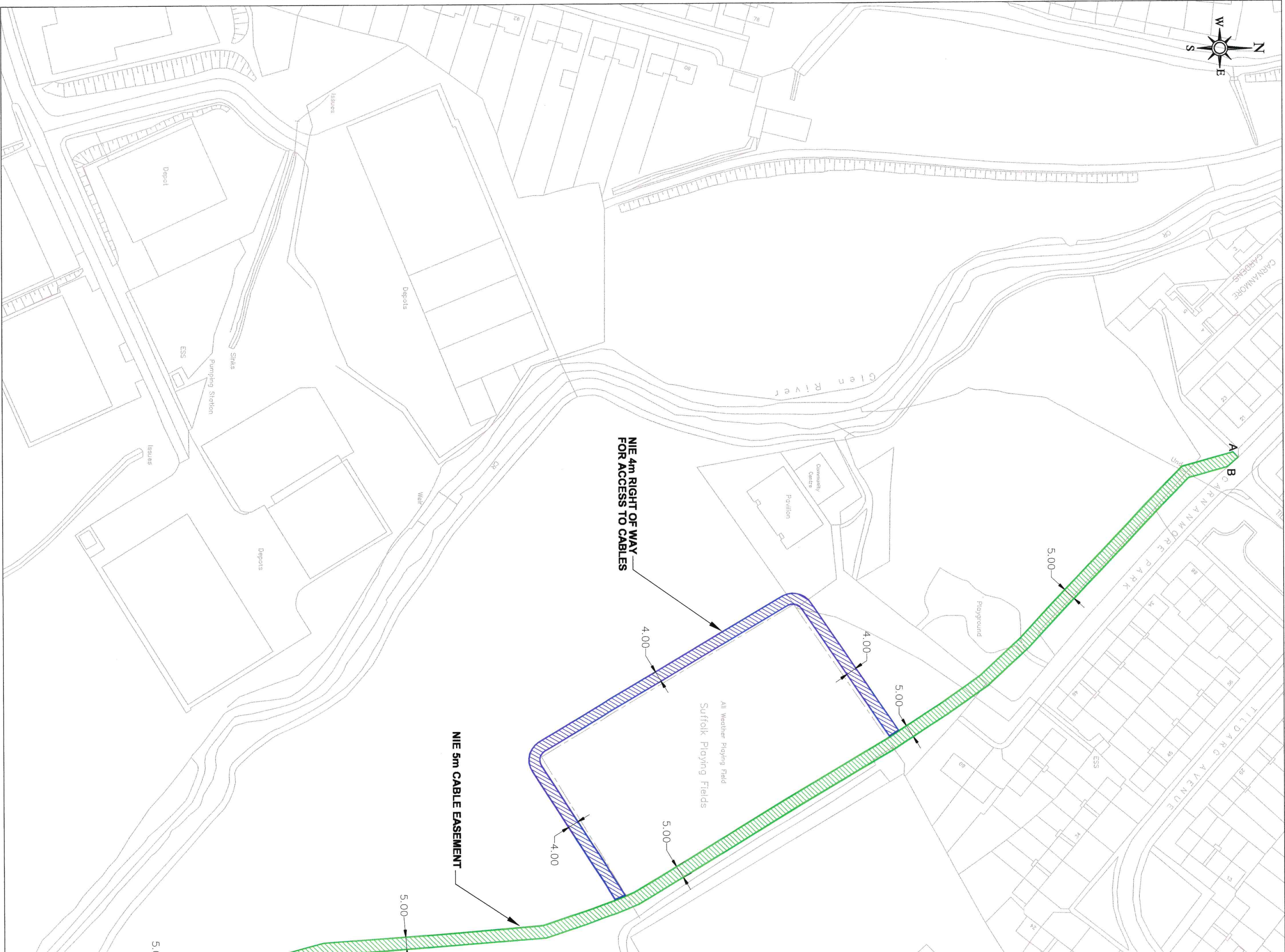
Surveyed by

Cable Easement from Carnamore Park to Tower Positions

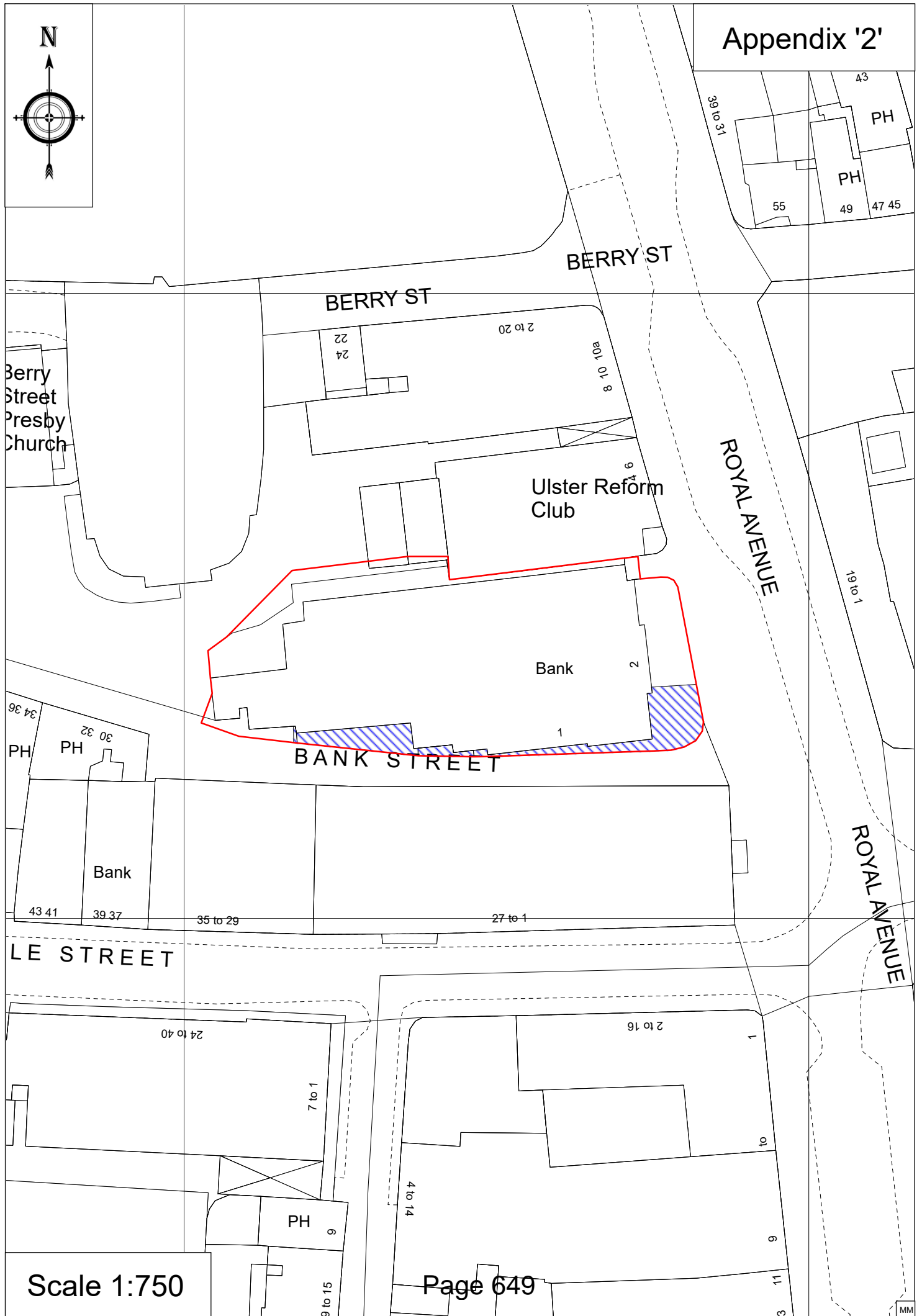
Suffolk Playing Fields Belfast



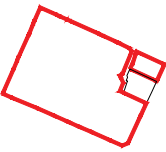
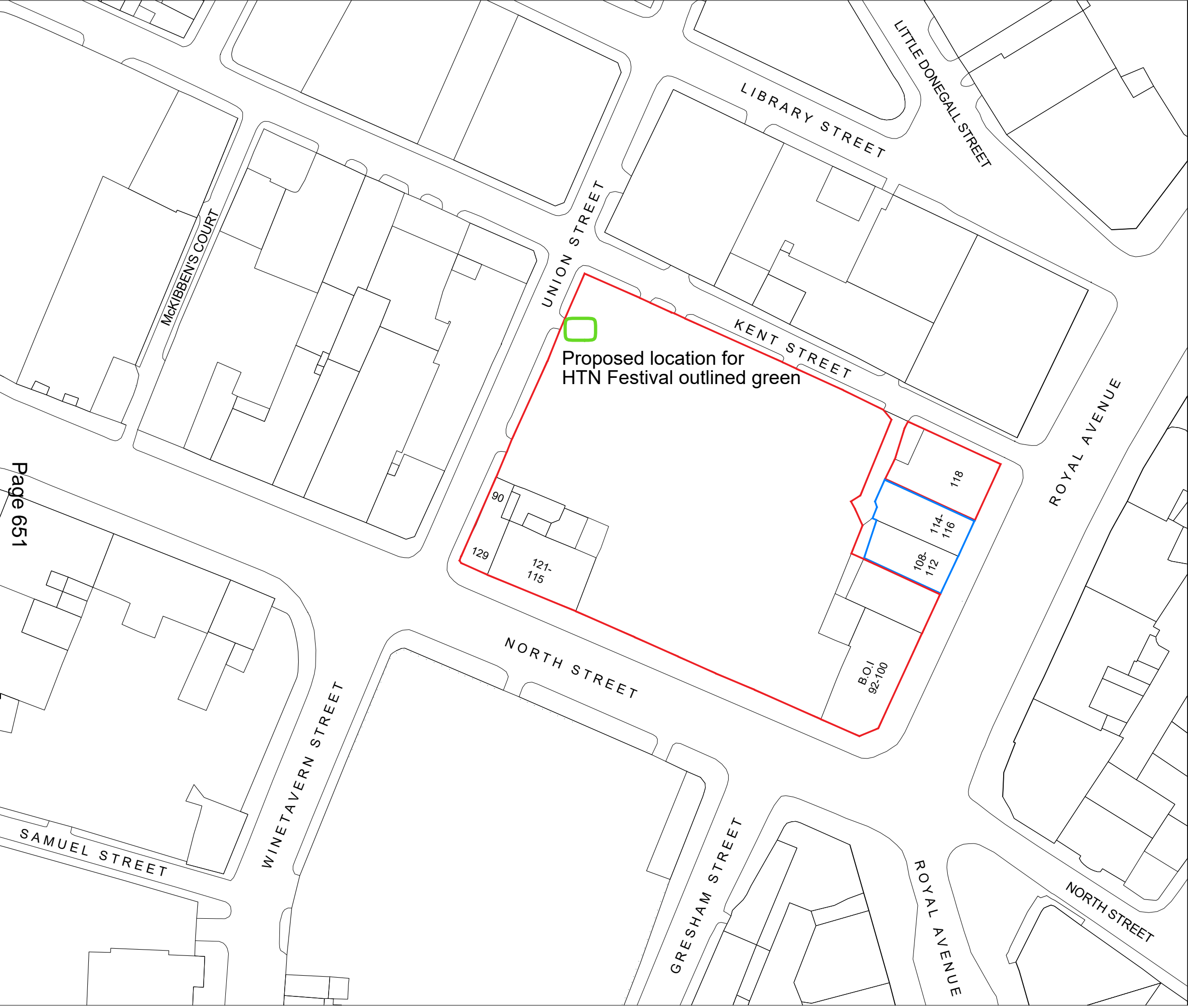
Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey  
map with the permission of the  
Director and Chief Executive  
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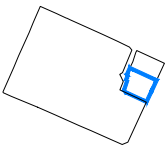




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LAND OWNERSHIP  
BOUNDARY LINE



PROPERTIES NOT  
OWNED

TOTAL AREA WITHIN LAND  
OWNERSHIP BOUNDARY  
(WITHIN RED LINE)

- 4,920 sqm
- 52,955 sqft
- 1.216 Acres

TOTAL BLOCK AREA  
INCLUDING;

- Land within ownership boundary line (in red)
- Properties not owned (in blue)
- Communal Service Lane

- 5,293 sqm
- 56,970 sqft
- 1.464 Acres

# APPENDIX 3

SCALE: 1/1000 @ A4

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<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Update on Area Working Groups</b>
<b>Date:</b>	25th March, 2022
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Sinead Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Shauna Murtagh, Programme Manager

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	To seek the Committee's approval of the minutes of the most recent round of AWG meetings.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. approve the most recent AWG minutes (<i>North – 23rd February, West – 24th February, South – 28th February and East – 3rd March</i>), as attached; and</li> <li>ii. approve the recommendation of the South AWG that £463,015 of the £1.35m which had been ringfenced for Sandy Row area projects (formerly Gilpin's) be allocated to the Arts and Digital Hub, which is being taken in conjunction with Urban Villages</li> </ul>

<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
	<b><u>KEY ISSUES</u></b>
3.1	<p><b>Area Working Group Minutes</b></p> <p>Members agreed, in June 2016, that the Area Working Group minutes would be taken into the SP and R Committee for approval going forward, in line with the Council's commitment to openness and transparency and to ensure a consistent approach with other Member-led Working Groups.</p> <p>The Committee is asked to approve the most recent AWG minutes as attached.</p>
3.2	<p><b>West AWG</b></p> <p>The West AWG agreed to recommend:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>LIF St James' Community Forum</b> - The reallocation of underspend (£16k) from the St James Community Forum project to Davitt's GAC to fund the school link pathways project; and,</li> <li>- <b>BIF Glencairn</b> - The proposed approach of construction of a new community/neighbourhood centre in the Glencairn Estate with Education Authority ownership and management (Option 2) as detailed in the report.</li> </ul> <p><b>South AWG - BIF Arts and Digital Hub (partnership project with Urban Villages)</b></p>
3.3	<p>The South AWG agreed to recommend:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That the Arts and Digital Hub project would be allocated £463,015 of the £1.35m which had been ringfenced for Sandy Row area projects (formerly Gilpins) and that Urban Villages would be advised accordingly.</li> </ul>
3.4	<p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>A total of £463,015 will be allocated to the Arts and Digital Hub project from the £1.34m previously ringfenced for the Sandy Row area under the BIF Programme, leaving a balance of £886,985 for the remaining Sandy Row area projects.</p> <p>A total of £16,000 will be allocated to Davitt's GAC from underspend on the St. James' Community Forum LIF project (WLIF2-10).</p> <p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p>
3.5	None.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	Minutes of the meeting of the four Area Working Groups

# **North Belfast Area Working Group**

Wednesday, 23rd February, 2021

## **NORTH BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

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

In attendance: Ms. S. Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes;  
Ms. K. Gilliland, Neighbourhood Services Manager;  
Ms. N. Mulrine, Regeneration Project Officer;  
Ms. E. McCullough, Neighbourhood Services Integration  
Manager; and  
Ms. C. Donnelly, Democratic Services Officer.

### **Apologies**

No apologies for inability to attend were reported.

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 24th November, 2021 were agreed as an accurate record of proceedings.

### **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were reported.

### **Presentations**

#### **University of Ulster - Mr. Duncan Morrow**

The Chairperson welcomed Mr. Duncan Morrow, Director of Community Engagement, University of Ulster, to the meeting.

Mr. Morrow informed the Working Group that the University of Ulster build programme had remained operational for the majority of the pandemic and had been subject to ongoing monitoring and reporting.

He outlined how the new Belfast Campus had already changed the nature of the area, through placemaking and providing new links to north Belfast and how a collaborative project,

with the Council, was underway to develop a model for tracking community benefits in local areas, particularly those adjacent to the city centre area. He informed the Members that the aim of the project was to monitor medium and long term progress, as regeneration projects are developed and delivered.

He pointed out that the Ulster University had been working towards building collaborative partnerships with sustainable relationships with its local community, through engagement activities which included:

- Educational outreach;
- Community Benefit Framework;
- Neighbourhood Community Forum;
- Belfast Campus Community Safety Group; and
- Great Place North Belfast.

He reported that the Ulster University hoped to work collaboratively, with Belfast City Council, through various projects, to address issues that affect the city centre and north Belfast, which included:

- Educational inequalities;
- Placemaking;
- Inclusive growth;
- Active travel;
- Covid recovery;
- Bolder Vision – Cathedral Gardens;
- Culture and Tourism; and
- City Quay Gardens.

Following several questions from Members of the Working Group, the Chairperson thanked Mr. Morrow for his presentation, and he retired from the meeting.

### **Physical Programmes Update**

The Working Group considered the undernoted 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), Social Outcomes Fund (SOF) and the new Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund (NRF); in addition, the programme covers projects that the Council is delivering in behalf of other agencies. This report outlines the status of projects under the Physical Programme.**

**2. Recommendations**

**Members are asked to note the physical programme update for North Belfast.**



### 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 North being allocated £1.127m under LIF1 and £800,000 under LIF2.

Each LIF project proposal is taken through a Due Diligence process prior to any funding award. The table below outlines funding to date for each tranche, at key stages of the delivery process: 43 projects in total have received In Principle support under LIF1 and LIF2, of which 34 have been completed; 2 are at delivery stage; 2 are at pre-construction stage and 5 remain at due diligence / initial stages. In total, 79% of all LIF North projects have now been completed.

LIF breakdown – North	LIF 1		LIF 2	
Stage/ Description	Projects	Amount/ Value (£)	Projects	Amount/ Value (£)
Number of Projects Completed	22 (88%)	£956,500	12 (67%)	£566,400
Number of Projects On-going Delivery	1(4%)	£40,000	2 (11%)	£133,467
Number of Projects in Pre-construction			1 (6%)	£21,667
Number of Projects in Initial Stage (Due Diligence)	2(8%)	£131,000	3 (17%)	£76,667
<b>Total Number of Approved Projects</b>	<b>25 *</b>	<b>£1,127,500</b>	<b>18 **</b>	<b>£798,201</b>

*\*This includes additional funding for a LIF 2 project, Ballysillan Youth for Christ.*

*\*\* This includes additional funding for two LIF 1 projects, Marrowbone Parochial Hall and Jennymount Church.*

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

LIF Ref	Project	Funding	Stage	Status	Action / recommendation
NLIF066	Wishing Well Project	£40,000	On Ground	Project nearing completion.	Continue engagement with group re final account.
NLIF2-14	Star Neighbourhood Centre	£58,467	On Ground	Project on site. Electrical works complete. Artist appointed for mural on exterior wall. Art piece has been installed. Quotations from supplier for	Continue engagement with the group.

				playground equipment received.	
NLIF2-22	<b>Sailortown, St. Joseph's Church Refurbishment</b>	£75,000	On Ground	Project is progressing on site. Heaters procured and installed. Structural Engineer surveyed the internal roof structure and identified necessary works. Contractor for roof work has been appointed and work started 7 February 2022.	Continued engagement with group.
NLIF2-21	<b>Somme Group – cross community memorial</b>	£21,667	Tender preparation	Progressing through Due Diligence stage. Designs also completed and planning application approved. Ongoing work with Legal Services in order to get the funding agreement prepared. Change of Trustees so details to be included in management and maintenance agreement.	Management and maintenance agreement to be finalised and funding agreement signed off at next DD meeting. Requirement for street works licence to be resolved, work in progress with Dfl.
NLIF014	<b>Westland Community Centre - new buildings</b>	£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 revised community centre scheme has been agreed as a UV capital pipeline project and a business case is progressing.	Continued engagement with group and the Executive Office in regarding to UV business case process and Due Diligence information.
NLIF2-19	<b>Women's Tec</b>	£46,667	Due Diligence stage	Agreed February 2017. Group is renewing their lease at the former Skegoniell Primary School. They have now signed the	Continued engagement with Group in terms of the lease.

				lease and it is with the Education Authority for signature.	
NLIF2-03	<b>Ardoyne Shankill Health Partnership</b>	£15,000	Due Diligence stage	Agreed in June 2018. Project remains at Due Diligence stage – lease issues to be resolved. Officers have had recent contact with the group and the project remains live – the group expect the lease shortly.	Continued engagement with Group.
NLIF057	<b>Ardoyne Holy Cross Boxing Club</b>	£66,000	Due Diligence stage	Agreed April 2014 - This project is within the overall UV development of St Gemma's School - ABC Trust. The Business Case has been approved and a Letter of Offer is expected imminently from the Executive Office under Urban Villages. Complex legal matters are progressing well via legal teams and a tripartite MOU has been developed with the project promoter.	Continued engagement with Group and with UV
NLIF2-05	<b>Mercy Primary, Crumlin Road</b>	£15,000	Due Diligence stage	Agreed June 2016 - Reported to SP&R Committee on 19 <sup>th</sup> June 2020 confirming that information was received from the group and project is progressing. The title deeds for Mercy Primary School have been received and being reviewed by Legal Services.	Continued engagement with Group. To be presented at the future Due Diligence meeting.

#### 4. **Belfast Investment Fund**

Members are reminded BIF is a £28m investment fund for regeneration partnership projects, with a minimum £250k investment from Council BIF – North Belfast was allocated £5.5m. In North Belfast, 7 projects have received an In-Principle funding commitment under BIF, thereby fully allocating its £5.5m: and 2 projects are 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.

Members are asked to note the status update of these projects provided below. The table provides a summary of BIF allocated projects i.e. project stage; project title; and funding allocated.

**Summary of BIF allocated projects**

<b>North</b>	Stage 3 - Cancer Lifeline—£650k; Grace Family Centre —£1.6m; Basement Youth Club/ Elim Church Ireland - £1.5m <i>Stage 2- Malgrove- £500k, Marrowbone Park £750k; Cultural Community Hub - £350k, Midland Boxing Club £400k</i> <i>Stage 1 - Cliftonville Community Forum, Sunningdale Community Centre - no commitment</i>
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BIF Ref	Project	Funding	Stage	Status	Action / recommendation
<b>BIF22/34</b>	<b>Basement Youth Club/ Elim Church (Old Grove)</b>	£1,500,000	Design stage	<p>The updated Economic Appraisal and Business Plan has been sent to the Department of Education. This new proposal would see the demolition and rebuild of the building previously used by Basement Youth Club and owned by Elim Church on Gainsborough Drive.</p> <p>A meeting took place on 07.02.22 with the Minister of Education, local councillors, Elim officials, DE representatives and council officers to progress the project which is currently subject to scrutiny by the Departmental Solicitors Office.</p>	Continue engagement with the group and stakeholders.
<b>BIF15</b>	<b>Malgrove</b>	£500,000	Uncommitted	Business case completed - preferred pavilion option (2017) is for a 4-team changing at estimated cost of £1million. £500k funding deficit remains – avenues	Continue engagement with the group.

				to be explored incl. DfC. Positive response received from NIE re. availability of portion of their land to accommodate element of project carparking requirements - awaiting confirmation of boundary which will inform site design layout.	
<b>BIF45</b>	<b>Midland Boxing Club</b>	£400,000	Uncommitted -Design Stage	Planning permission obtained Dec 2021. Land transfer was approved by council in Feb 2022. Officers in Legal Services are liaising with Northern Ireland Housing Executive to complete the acquisition of land for the extension. Pre-tender estimates show the project may require further funding (approx. £144k) and project officers are working with group to address this, including approaching other funders. Tender package prepared and ready to issue, subject to funding. Aim to bring back to Due Diligence in March.	Continue engagement with the group, design team and funders.
<b>BIF41</b>	<b>Marrowbone Millennium Park</b>	£750,000	Uncommitted – Tender Stage	Partnership project with UV and DfC. A Letter of Offer was agreed in November 2021 and governance structures now in place. NIHE/ Council lease agreement regarding land transfer progressing. Planning has been approved. Procurement of contractor is underway.	Continue engagement with the group and stakeholders.
<b>BIF43</b>	<b>Cultural Community Hub</b>	£350,000	Uncommitted	Proposed new cultural hub community facility.	Continue engagement with

				<p>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. Discussed initially at Due Diligence in August 2021 with no major issues. Legal Services currently reviewing documents and the aim is to bring project to Due Diligence by April 2022.</p>	the group and stakeholders.
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## 5. Capital Programme

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

### *North Belfast – Capital programme overview*

Project	Status and update
<b>Belfast Zoo – Programme of Works (Works to the Large Cats Enclosure, Sea Lion, etc)</b>	Stage 3 - Committed Project. On ground. Sea Lion works complete, H&S works progressing and to be complete in the next 4-6 weeks. New lion enclosure works under discussion.
<b>Boodles Dam – Abandonment of the Dam</b>	Stage 3 – Committed Project. On ground. Contractor is on site and is undertaking works. Planned completion in Spring 2022.
<b>Playground Improvement Programme 2021/2022 (City wide)</b>	Stage 3 – Committed Project. Cavehill Adventurous playground. Works to start on February 2022, completion expected early April 2022.
<b>North Foreshore - Development Sites Infrastructure Works</b>	Stage 3 – Committed Project. On Ground. Update reported to SP&R Committee in February 2022 regarding the Storm Drainage Infrastructure Installation.

<b>Reservoir Safety Programme</b>	Stage 3- Committed Project. Works to Alexandra Park, Waterworks Upper and Waterworks Lower. Consultants appointed and undertaking investigative work to assess the existing condition of the reservoirs and associated structures.
<b>Alleygating Phase 5 – City wide</b>	Stage 3 – Committed Project. Update to be brought to future AWG
<b>LTP - Girdwood Indoor Sports Facility</b>	Stage 2 – Uncommitted Project. Continued development of OBC for new leisure facility. Continued liaison with key stakeholders around options for new facility and overall development of the Girdwood site.
<b>Cathedral Gardens (including Belfast Blitz)</b>	Stage 2 – Uncommitted Project. OBC being worked up
<b>Relocation of Dunbar Link Cleansing Depot</b>	Stage 2 – Uncommitted Project. OBC being worked up
<b>Glencairn Park/ Ligoniel Park Greenway</b>	Stage 2- Uncommitted. OBC to be worked up.
<b>Access to the Hills – connections from Cavehill to Divis Mountain and Black Mountain</b>	Stage 2- Uncommitted. OBC to be worked up.

## 6. **Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund**

Members are reminded that the Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund has recently been launched and is a new £8m capital programme to support capital projects across the city. The fund is now open for Stage 1 applications via an open call process and will close on 12 May 2022. Communications activity is already underway via a variety of tools to promote the fund to as wide an audience as possible.

## 7. **Externally funded programmes**

The Council is the delivery partner for several government department on key capital investment programmes, namely Social Investment Fund (SIF) and Urban Villages (UV) from the Executive Office as well as a number of schemes with DfC. The following is an overview of projects within each programme relevant to North Belfast.

### **Urban Villages Initiative**

The table below shows the status on UV projects in North Belfast – note the UV programme has a defined North Belfast geography (Ardoyne and Greater Ballysillan).

<b>Project</b>	<b>Status and update</b>
<b>Marrowbone Millennium Park (links to BIF programme)</b>	Partnership project with UV and DfC. A Letter of Offer was agreed in November 2021 and governance structures now in place. NIHE/ Council lease agreement regarding land transfer progressing. Planning has been

	approved. Procurement of contractor is underway.
<b>Ballysillan Playing Fields</b>	Partnership project with UV, DfC and DfL Living with Water Programme. A Letter of Offer was agreed in November 2021 and governance structures are now in place. At design stage.
<b>Beann Mhadagáin Family Centre</b>	No Letter of Offer in place. Council is acting as delivery agent. The project has been moved to emerging / feasibility stage as the Project Promoter has paused work to consider governance and capacity. The draft Business Case has identified a potential funding deficit. Any future Letter of Offer is dependent upon confirmation of funding and Business Case approval.
<b>Sunningdale Community Centre</b>	No Letter of Offer in place. Council is acting as delivery agent, proposed on Council land. The Business Case has been approved and a Letter of Offer is expected imminently. TEO has confirmed that the funding gap previously identified will be met via the UV Programme. Sustainability issues that had previously been highlighted have been explored and Council is satisfied these have been resolved. Council is considering an in-principle agreement to transfer lands. The Design Team has been appointed.
<b>Ardoyne Youth Enterprises (AYE) Social Enterprise Project</b>	No Letter of Offer in place. Council is acting as delivery agent. The Business Case is progressing. TEO has identified a potential funding gap and has advised that it is exploring additional funding opportunities to support this project. The project designs and costs are being developed.
<b>St Gemma's ABC Trust (links to LIF programme)</b>	No Letter of Offer in place. Partnership project with UV. The Business Case has been approved and a Letter of Offer is expected imminently. Complex legal matters are progressing well via legal teams and a tripartite MOU has been developed with the project promoter. At design stage.
<b>Westland Community Centre (links to LIF programme)</b>	No Letter of Offer in place. Partnership project with UV. This is an emerging project at feasibility stage and Business Case is progressing.

## **Peace IV**

**Members are asked to note the update on Peace IV - Forth Meadow Community Greenway project.**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Status and update</b>
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<b>Forth Meadow Community Greenway project</b>	<p>On Ground. The project is spilt into five distinct sections:</p> <p><i>Section 1 – Glencairn</i> - Works are well underway at Section 1 with a planned completion of Spring 2022.</p> <p><i>Section 2 – Forth River/ Springfield Road</i> – works scheduled to start this month. <i>Section 3- Falls Park/Whiterock</i> - works are scheduled to start in the next month. <i>Section 4 – Bog Meadows</i> - Planning permission has been secured for Section 4 with works due to commence next month.</p> <p><i>Section 5 – Westlink to City Centre</i> - currently at detailed design stage.</p> <p>Members will be aware that the Council has recently been advised that an application for leave to apply for a judicial review in respect of the planning approval for Section 2 of the works has been lodged with the Courts. Business case submitted to DfI for further funding - decision pending. Estimated completion of SEUPB programme December 2023. Reported to SP&amp;R Committee in February 2022 on the potential negative impact of any delay on the project.</p>
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### **DfC funded projects**

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

Project	Status and update
<b>Girdwood Indoor Sports Site— ICT</b>	Continued development of OBC for new leisure facility. Continued liaison with key stakeholders around options for new facility and overall development of the Girdwood site.
<b>Voice of Young people In Care (VOYPIC) and Include Youth</b>	Council is acting as delivery agent. On Ground. Refurbishment of 100 Great Patrick St, Belfast to provide a modern, fit for purpose youth space. Contractor started on site in January 2022. Funded by DfC and the group.
<b>Ballysillan 3G Pitch (Carpet Replacement)</b>	Tender stage. Replacement of 3G carpet. Match funded by DfC.

### **Living With Water Programme (LWWP)**

**Members are asked to note the update on projects under LWWP.**

Project	Status and update
<b>Belfast Castle Estate – SuDS pilot project</b>	Project recently completed. Natural flood management scheme based on a sustainable drainage pilot project in the grounds of Belfast Castle. “

The Working Group noted the content of the report.

### **Alleygating Scheme Phase 5 - Verbal Update**

The Director of Physical Programmes informed the Members that a report in respect of the Alleygates Scheme had been presented to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, where a number of omissions had been highlighted by Members, and that the Committee had agreed that the long list would be amended to reflect all of the proposals that had been put forward for the scheme, and a report would be brought back to a future meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

Chairperson

# West Belfast Area Working Group

Thursday, 24th February, 2022

## WEST BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Members present: Councillor Corr (Chairperson),  
Alderman Kingston and McCoubrey; and  
Councillors Baker, Beattie, Black, Canavan,  
Donnelly, Garrett, Hutchinson, McCabe and Verner.

In attendance: Mr. S. Leonard, Neighbourhood Services Manager;  
Mr. D. Logan, Project Manager, Physical Programmes;  
Ms. A. McGlone, Neighbourhood Integration Manager;  
Mrs. G. Boyd, Democratic Services Officer; and  
Mrs. S. Steele, Democratic Services Officer.

### **Apologies**

Apologies were reported on behalf of Alderman Carson and Councillor Matt Collins.

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 25th November were agreed as an accurate record of proceedings.

### **Declarations of Interest**

Alderman Kingston declared an interest in relation to item 2b on the agenda, Shankill Mission Hotel, as a Director of the Argyle Business Centre, and left the meeting whilst the item was being considered.

Councillors Corr and Donnelly declared an interest in item 2c, Belfast Celtic, in so far as they either worked for or were associated with Black Mountain Shared Spaces.

### **Presentations**

#### **Proposed approach in regard to requests to address/present to the Working Group**

Following discussion, it was agreed that, where possible, site visits would be convened to view organisations/clubs future proposals as it was felt that such an arrangement would enable the proposal to be considered within the context of the existing facilities.

It was noted that on some occasions it might still be necessary to invite an organisation to present.

### **Presentation by the Shankill Mission**

(Alderman Kingston left the meeting during this part of the meeting)

The Chairperson welcomed to the meeting, Mr. D. McBride, Executive Chairman, representing the Argyle Business Centre (ABC).

Mr. McBride provided the Working Group with a brief background to the ABC and its services. He then drew Members' attention to the ABC's proposal in respect of the Mission Hotel that would be located in the Shankill Road Mission building on the Shankill Road, Belfast.

Mr. McBride took the Members through the details of the presentation. He highlighted his belief that this project was critical to the economic development of the area and that it would help to kickstart regeneration in the area. He also advised that, given the educational underachievement within the area, the Shankill Mission Hotel would promote growth by providing opportunities for skills development through job creation and apprenticeships.

He reviewed the original plan for the hotel and advised that the initial budget had been £8M. He advised also that, to date, £40k had been spent on Risk Elimination but unfortunately, due to Covid, all development had been put on hold. Mr. McBride then set out the next steps for the proposed development of the Shankill Mission. He advised that the Heritage Enterprise grant scheme had re-opened and that they had engaged a consultant for the application for a capital grant and a development grant to assist with the initial staffing funding and support. They had also applied for the Urban Development Grant. However, there was currently a debate in regard to 'double funding', therefore, the application was currently being reviewed. However, as areas of Special Economic Deprivation could override this, they were hopeful that the application would be successful. In addition, they had registered their intent for Peace Plus and had also engaged consultants to assist with the application.

Mr. McBride concluded his presentation by thanking the Members for the opportunity to address the Working Group and he asked them to remain committed to the Shankill Mission Hotel project whilst they awaited confirmation of funding in relation to their 'Peace Plus' funding application.

During discussion a number of the Members referred to the Shankill area and the positive regeneration works that had taken place. They stressed that they were keen not to see the area negatively portrayed as it still had much to offer.

Several of the Members referred to the current significant increase in build costs, and the fact that the projected £750k had not been reviewed in several years. Following discussion, the representative agreed to forward updated projected build costs which would be circulated to the Members.

It was also suggested to the representative that the organisation needed to try and identify other private funding options and a Member specifically drew reference to the Financial Capital Transaction Fund and encouraged Mr. McBride to investigate this fund further.

Several Members noted the update and whilst they acknowledged the problems and delays that the Covid Pandemic had created they advised that the proposal needed to be progressed as a matter of urgency.

The Chairperson thanked Mr. McBride for his presentation, and he left the meeting.

Noted.

### **Presentation by Belfast Celtic**

The Chairperson welcomed to the meeting, Mr. J. Gallon, representing Belfast Celtic CIC.

Mr. Gallon commenced by providing the Working Group with a brief background to Belfast Celtic CIC and its services. He then drew Members' attention to the club's vision for the future:

- to bring Irish League Football back to West Belfast;
- for it to become a community club at the heart of the rapidly growing Glen Road and to offer more than football; and
- to unify the wider "Celtic" family in West Belfast and to develop its growing links to Glasgow Celtic FC.

He then outlined the Club's Redevelopment Proposals as follows:

- state of readiness for Sub Regional Stadia Funding;
- initial planning application submitted December 2013;
- revised application submitted September 2020 (approved May 2021);
- Sport NI Facilities Fund- New WC Provisions (£25k) (Committed);
- IFA Grassroots Facilities Funding Application- Upgrade Carpark (£30k) (Committed); and
- Choice Housing collaboration (£5k) (Committed).

He proceeded to present the Working Group with a summary of the reasons of need for the proposed redevelopment, as follows:

- limitations of current grass pitch; restricted use; Summer season repairs;
- difficulties in accessing other suitable playing facilities locally when required- Demand outstrips supply;
- the potential to host additional local football clubs and teams (early discussions with Belfast Swifts);
- facilities upgrade required to aid progression of Belfast Celtic up through the leagues;
- to facilitate wider community participation and address health and well-being challenges of local communities through the power of participation in sport;
- identification of current and forthcoming Council funding opportunities which align with our ambitions;

- support to lobby other government Departments;
- update on the Council's position on Sub Regional Stadia Funding;
- renegotiation of the Lease with the Council (20 years remaining at present); and
- Seek Council Officer Support to further develop "Celtic Cup" summer tournament in partnership with Glasgow Celtic Football Club.

Following the presentation, it was agreed that:

- officers from the Neighbourhood Services Team and Physical Programmes would identify officer support to liaise with Belfast Celtic to assist with the organisation of a Football Tournament Event; and
- a site visit to the facilities would be convened which would enable the Members to relate to the suggested proposals made during the presentation.

The Chairperson thanked Mr. Gallon for his presentation and he left the meeting.

### **Physical Programmes Update**

The Working Group considered 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), Social Outcomes Fund (SOF) and the new Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund (NRF); in addition, the programme covers projects that the Council is delivering in behalf of other agencies. This report outlines the status of projects under the Physical Programme.**

#### **2. Recommendations**

**Members are asked to**

- **note the physical programmes update for West Belfast;**
- **note the success story on the completed St James Community Forum project and consider the reallocation of underspend LIF monies of up to £16k; and,**
- **note the update on Glencairn Community Project and agree to the proposed approach which involves construction of a new community/neighbourhood centre in the Glencairn Estate with Education Authority ownership and management.**

### 3. Local Investment Fund

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. (LIF 1 – West - £1,127,500 + Shankill £490,000 and LIF 2 - £1,400,000).

Each LIF project proposal is taken through a Due Diligence process prior to any funding award. The table below outlines funding to date for each tranche, at key stages of the delivery process: 49 projects have received In Principle support under LIF1 and LIF2, of which 47 have been completed and 2 projects at delivery stage. In total, 95% of all LIF West projects have now been completed. Further details of these are outlined below.

LIF breakdown – West	LIF 1		LIF 2	
Stage/ Description	Projects	Amount/ Value (£)	Projects	Amount/ Value (£)
Number of Projects Completed	25 (100%)	£1,617,500	22 (92%)	£1,301,788
Number of Projects On-going Delivery			2 (8%)	£98,212
Number of Projects in Pre-construction				
Number of Projects in Initial Stage (Due Diligence)				
<b>Total Number of Approved Projects</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>£1,617,500</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>£1,400,000</b>

The below table is a brief overview of the remaining live projects are shown below.

LIF Ref	Project	LIF Funding	Stage	Status	Action / recommendation
WLIF2-08	Berlin Swifts Football Club	£65,085	On Ground	Work underway to ensure connections (sewer and utilities), meetings with Education Authority to confirm preferred option.	Continue engagement with the groups and project partners.

				Additional funding contribution received from Department of Communities to ensure works can complete.	
<b>WLIF2-04</b>	<b>St John Bosco Boxing Club</b>	£40,000	On Ground	Contractor appointed. Works progressing. Estimated project completion date by May 2022.	Ongoing liaison with Sport NI and group.

#### **St James Community Forum (WLIF2-10)**

Members will note that on September 2015, the AWG agreed to allocate to the St James Community Forum urban farm/allotment project an initial LIF budget of £82,000. On September 2020, the LIF budget was further increased with the additional funding of £50,000, which brought the overall LIF budget to £132,000. During that time, Officers have been engaging with DfC, Groundwork NI and other partners for possible match funding, which was successfully secured. On March 2021, the AWG agreed to reallocate £17,000 of St James Community Forum monies to St John GAC. Both the St James' Community Forum and St John GAC projects have now been completed. The St James' project success story has received extremely positive media and local support. Following the conclusion of the project's final account, there is a LIF amount remaining of £16,191 that is now available for reallocation, leaving a final LIF budget at St James' of £99,000, reduced from £132,000.

Members are asked to note the success story of St James' Community Forum project and consider the reallocation of up to £16,000 monies from the underspend at St James' CF.

#### **4. Belfast Investment Fund**

Members are reminded BIF is a £28m investment fund for regeneration, partnership projects, with a minimum £250k investment. The West AWG had a total allocation of £9m comprising £5.5m from the original allocation, an additional £1.2m which was ring-fenced for projects in the Shankill area when this became part of the West AWG following the Council elections in 2015 and £2.5m which was ringfenced for projects in the Colin area following LGR.



6 projects have received an In-Principle funding commitment under BIF accounting for the full allocation. Each of the 'In Principle' projects are taken through a 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.

***Summary of BIF allocated projects***

<b>West</b>	Stage 3—Davitts GAC—£1m; Raidió Fáilte—£950k; St Comgall's- £3.5m; Colin Glen Forest Park—£2.5m Stage 2—Glencairn Community Project— £700k; St Mary's CBS— no commitment Stage 1— Royal British Legion—£300k; An Sportslann; Suffolk Community Forum; Belfast Hills- Black Mountain Access—no commitment
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**Glencairn Community Project (BIF09)**

In 2016, £700,000 was allocated towards construction of a new multi-functional facility/ neighbourhood centre in Glencairn. The purpose of the centre is to provide a hub for a range of community, sport, health and leisure-based activities to meet the needs of the growing population, improve economic and social prospects and enhance the quality of life for residents of the Glencairn area.

Glencairn Community Project formed as a representative group of the Glencairn community with responsibility for progressing the project. It was the intention that GCP would own and manage the building however without having an existing facility, it has been difficult for the group to demonstrate experience and capability in this regard. The council's Due Diligence panel has recognised the efforts of Glencairn Community Project to seek governance support and undertake training but still have concerns regarding the sustainability of the group to own and manage the building.

While numerous economic appraisals have been prepared which have considered proposals of varying scale and cost, affordability and funding have been recurrent issues which have hindered progress. Subsequent discussions with the Education Authority (EA) have however contributed to securing additional funding (£500,000) and an agreement in principle that EA would partner BCC in a new build facility with space for EA managed activities. Consequently, updated plans for the scheme were produced and costed in 2020.

Work has subsequently been carried out to develop options with the aim of moving the project forward. The following options have been considered:

- Option 1: Shared facility owned and managed by Glencairn Community Project at a capital cost of £1,079,500;

- Option 2: Shared facility owned and managed by Education Authority with Glencairn Community Project becoming anchor tenant for their portion of the building; and
- Option 3: A scaled back version of the facility, potentially a modular build, with the Glencairn Community Project operating the facility.

Officers have engaged with Education Authority, Elected Members and Glencairn Community Project to discuss the opportunities and implications of each option. Based on these discussions, Option 2 emerged as the preferred option. It is considered that Option 2 presents an opportunity to deliver a project of an appropriate scale to meet the needs of both Glencairn Community Project and Education Authority youth provision. Option 2 would also build the leadership and capacity of GCP and allow them to work in partnership to deliver community and youth-based activities. The partnership agreement could make provision for the facility to transfer to community ownership and management after a determined period of time should the capacity be there and conditions right. In addition, the group could become registered with EA and avail of future funding opportunities. The project has been discussed at Due Diligence and subsequently referred to the AWG for further consideration.

Members are asked to note the update on Glencairn Community Project and, following its consideration at Due Diligence, agree to the proposed approach of construction of a new community/neighbourhood centre in the Glencairn Estate with Education Authority ownership and management as outlined in Option 2.

## 5. Social Outcomes Fund

SOF is £4m ringfenced capital investment programme with a focus on local community tourism projects. 5 projects in West Belfast received an In-Principle funding commitment. Similar to LIF and BIF, all projects are subject to Due Diligence process prior to any funding award.

### *SOF – West Belfast projects overview*

<b>West</b>	Stage 3— James Connolly Interpretative centre— £650,000; Rock Centre —£200,000; Belfast Orange Hall Museum- £80,000; Roddy McCorley Museum - £1,350,000 Stage 1— Shankill Mission - £750,000
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An overview of the remaining SOF projects is outlined in the table below -

SOF ref	Project	Funding	Stage	Status	Action /recommendation
SOF05	Roddy McCorley Museum	£1,350,000	On Ground	Development of a modern interpretative museum and existing grounds. Project progressing well. Estimated completion June 2022.	Continue engagement with the group
SOF07	Shankill Mission	£750,000	Initial stage	Development of a social economy training hotel. Initial stage. Overall scheme approx. cost at £7m. Funding is the major issue—no other funding has yet been secured. Group is still working to secure match funding—exploring the Heritage Enterprise Fund (HLF), bank loans and private investments - likely to be a long-term process. Note the current position with the project and continued significant funding gap. <b>Representatives from Argyle Business Centre are in attendance at this AWG meeting to provide a full update on this project.</b>	Note the current position with the project and continued significant funding gap.

## **6. Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund**

Members are reminded that the Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund has recently been launched and is a new £8m capital programme to support capital projects across the city. The fund is now open for Stage 1 applications via an open call process and will close on 12 May 2022. Communications activity is already underway via a variety of tools to promote the fund to as wide an audience as possible.

## **7. Capital Programme**

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

### ***West Belfast – Capital programme overview***

<b>Project</b>	<b>Status and update</b>
<b>City Cemetery – National Lottery Heritage Fund</b>	Stage 3 – Committed, on the ground. Contractor works are progressing well. The new service yard was completed Dec 2020. Work commenced on the visitor centre in January 2021 and is due to be completed in April 2022. With the interpretive fitout of the exhibition and site wide information panels/signs due to be completed in May 2022. In tandem with this the restoration works on several of the site's key assets such as the Centre Steps and Victorian Fountains is well underway. The restoration of the and Mortuary Tower & exterior of Foxes Lodge is completed.
<b>Access to the Hills – connections from Cavehill to Divis Mountain and Black Mountain</b>	Stage 2- Uncommitted. OBC to be worked up.
<b>Black Mountain/ Upper Whiterock Greenway</b>	Stage 2- Uncommitted. OBC to be worked up.
<b>Colin Greenway</b>	Stage 2- Uncommitted. OBC to be worked up.

Members are asked to note the updates provided.

## **8. Externally funded programmes**

The Council is the delivery partner for several government department on key capital investment programmes, namely Social Investment Fund (SIF) and Urban Villages (UV) from the Executive Office as well as a number of schemes with DfC. The following is

an overview of projects within each programme relevant to West Belfast.

### **Urban Villages Initiative**

The table below shows the status on UV projects in West Belfast – note the UV programme has a defined West Belfast geography (Colin area).

<b>Project</b>	<b>Status and update</b>
<b>Páirc Nua Chollann (New Park in Colin)</b>	Council is acting as Delivery Partner. The contractor is on site and construction works are progressing however ongoing issues with the contractor have impacted project delivery dates. Discussions ongoing with Legal Services and UV
<b>Colin Valley Football Club</b>	Council is acting as Delivery Partner. A Letter of Offer was agreed in February 2022. Contractor is appointed and is at mobilisation stage. Planning approval has been granted.
<b>Healthy Living Centre (Sport in the Community (PCA))</b>	Council is acting as Delivery Partner. The Design Team has been appointed and a planning application was presented to Planning Committee in February 2022. The Business Case has been approved and a Letter of Offer is anticipated imminently.
<b>Colin Glen Trust</b>	Letter of Offer not received. Council is acting as Delivery Partner. The project has been moved to emerging / feasibility stage as the Group is exploring options in relation to a funding gap. Given that the draft Business Case has identified a significant funding deficit, the Letter of Offer is dependent upon confirmation of funding and Business Case approval.

### **Social Investment Fund**

Members are asked to note the update on the SIF funded project in West.

<b>Project</b>	<b>Status and update</b>
<b>St. Comgall's (link to BIF programme)</b>	The contractor is on site and works are progressing well. Supply chain issues remain ongoing however are being managed. Completion date Spring 2022.

### **PEACEIV – Capital Projects**

Members are asked to note updates on the capital projects that are related to the PEACEIV Programme;

Project	Status and update
<b>Forth Meadow Community Greenway</b>	<p>On Ground. The project is split into five distinct sections:</p> <p><i>Section 1 – Glencairn</i> - Works are well underway at Section 1 with a planned completion of Spring 2022.</p> <p><i>Section 2 – Forth River/ Springfield Road</i> – works scheduled to start this month.</p> <p><i>Section 3- Falls Park/Whiterock</i> - works are scheduled to start in the next month.</p> <p><i>Section 4 – Bog Meadows</i> - Planning permission has been secured for Section 4 with works due to commence next month.</p> <p><i>Section 5 – Westlink to City Centre</i> - currently at detailed design stage.</p> <p>Members will be aware that the Council has recently been advised that an application for leave to apply for a judicial review in respect of the planning approval for Section 2 of the works has been lodged with the Courts. Business case submitted to DfI for further funding - decision pending. Estimated completion of SEUPB programme December 2023. Reported to SP&amp;R Committee in February 2022 on the potential negative impact of any delay on the project.</p>
<b>Black Mountain Shared Space Project</b>	<p>Design stage. Application submitted to SEUPB for additional funds. Costs continue to be reviewed as the design develops. Full planning application submitted in December 2021. SEUPB have granted the project an extension to September 2023 and the construction programme is still in line with this timeframe.</p>
<b>Shankill Women's Centre</b>	<p>Application submitted to SEUPB for additional funds. ITT returned and tender report prepared, and letter of intent issued to preferred contractor. The Council in February 2022 agreed to cashflow additional funding while application for additional funds from SEUPB are pending enabling Council to proceed with award of contract.</p>

### **DfC funded projects**

**Members are asked to note on projects match funded by Department for Communities which include Páirc Nua Chollann, Berlin Swifts Football Club, Forth Meadow Community Greenway, Black Mountain Shared Space and Whiterock 3G pitch carpet replacement.”**

The Working Group noted the report and agreed:

- to reallocate the underspend from the St James Community Forum project to Davitt's GAC to fund the school link pathways project ; and

- to the proposed approach of construction of a new community /neighbourhood centre in the Glencairn Estate with Education Authority ownership and management (Option 2) as detailed in the report.

### **Alleygates Scheme 5 (verbal Update)**

The Neighbourhood Services Manager provided the Members with an update in respect of the Alleygates Scheme. He advised the Members that the 12-month plan had been presented to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee and it was due to be ratified at the March Council meeting.

The officer undertook to provide a further update at the next meeting of the Area Working Group.

Noted.

### **Alleygate Transformation**

The Members were reminded that, at its last meeting in November, the Working Group had agreed the proposed areas that would benefit from the transformation scheme along with the proposed scoring and ranking matrix for the applications. He reported that the demand for the scheme had been huge with over 80 sites listed and highlighted that the scheme would need considerable resources. He updated that, to date, officers had not been able to assess all the sites as there was not sufficient staffing resources available to do so. In addition, the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) was not contributing any revenue funding towards the scheme, only capital funding. He advised that the Council proposed to allocate a dedicated resource to assess the applications, align the workplan and draw down the money from the DfI. The Working Group was advised that Council officers were scheduled to meet with the DfI the following day to confirm finances for the scheme and he advised that any available funding would be carried forward to the next financial year. The Members were also advised that there had also been discussion regarding progressing the top priority applications, however, it was difficult to move forward on any of the applications without applying the criteria to all of the applications to ensure every application was considered fairly.

Following discussion, a number of the Members raised concerns around unadopted Alleyways and it was subsequently agreed that officers would:

- circulate to the Members of the Working Group the current list of proposed alleygate sites;
- compile a list of the 'unadopted' alleyways that needed to be brought up to standard;
- proceed to gather more information in relation to the alleyway at Beechview; and
- provide further information on how the PSNI categorised ASB for crime statistics (how this information had been gathered and registered for the purposes of the alleygate transformation scheme).

Chairperson





# **South Belfast Area Working Group**

Monday, 28th February, 2022

## **MEETING OF SOUTH BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP**

### **HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

Members present: Councillor Groogan (Chairperson); and  
Councillors Bunting, Gormley, T. Kelly,  
Lyons, McAteer, McKeown and Spratt.

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

### **Apologies**

No apologies were reported.

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 22nd November were approved by the Working Group.

### **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor McKeown declared an interest in relation to the presentation on the Rosario Youth Centre hub proposal, in that he was on the capital project steering group and his son played for Rosario Football Club.

Councillor T. Kelly declared an interest in relation to the presentation on TREE NI and TREECO, on the basis that her husband was employed by the Greater Village Regeneration Trust, which managed the TREE NI project.

### **Request to Present**

The Working Group agreed to receive at a future meeting a presentation from the Chair of the Lagan Valley Regional Park.

### **Presentations**

The Working Group was reminded that, at its meeting on 22nd November, it had agreed to receive a presentation from the following organisations:

## **TREE NI/TREECO**

The Chairperson welcomed to the meeting Ms. S. Bowden, Director of Greater Village Regeneration Trust, which managed the TREE NI project, and Mr. G. Bowden, Programme Co-ordinator.

Ms. Bowden informed the Working Group that TREE NI had been established in 2005 as a Timber Recycling Eco Enterprise. By 2010, it had evolved into a Training Reskilling, Education and Employment provider, in response to emerging needs in the area. Funding had been provided by the former Department for Employment and Learning, the European Social Fund and the Department for Communities and, more recently, through the Social Investment Fund, as the construction hub for South Belfast.

She explained that TREE NI worked primarily with young people between the ages of 16 and 24 who were not in education, employment or training and highlighted its full-time training programme, which focused primarily on enhancing literacy and numeracy, personal development, health and wellbeing and employability. In terms of results, of the eleven young people who had participated in the programme between September, 2020 and June, 2021, seven were now in full-time employment and four had progressed to further or higher education. Fifteen young people were participating in the current programme.

In addition, TREE NI also provided construction-based training at Levels 1 and 2, a ten-week youth summer intervention programme, a vocational school placement scheme, summer intervention programmes and volunteering opportunities, as well as facilitating courses for women's groups and other community organisations. A men's shed project had commenced in July, 2021, with the aim of promoting positive mental health/wellbeing, physical activity and social inclusion amongst participants, whilst developing new skills. She highlighted also TREE NI's cross community and good relations work and pointed out that it was currently involved in a partnership initiative with An Droichead, involving one hundred children.

Ms. Bowden went on to outline the work of TREECO (Training, Reskilling, Education and Employment – Career Opportunities), which had been formally established in 2017, to generate income for TREE NI, in the event of its funding being lost or reduced. TREECO provided a gardening and external maintenance service, including grass cutting, weeding, power washing and fencing. It currently operated with two full-time and two part-time staff, all of whom had progressed through the TREE NI Programme. She then outlined the various contracts which it had secured and referred to a number of prestigious awards which it had attained.

In terms of next steps, she pointed out that TREE NI/TREECO currently operated from a building which was under the ownership of the Department for Communities. A community asset transfer process, which had commenced before the pandemic, was progressing slowly. A recent condition survey report had confirmed that extensive work was required to bring the building up to the necessary standard and this view had been supported in a feasibility study which had been requested separately by TREE NI/TREECO. She outlined the three design concepts which were being proposed and the associated costs and pointed out that the organisations would benefit from having a permanent fit for purpose building, with increased space being available for training and other activities.

She confirmed that representatives from TREE NI would be attending the Council's Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund online information event on the following day and that it was planning to submit an application for funding towards the refurbishment of the building. The proposal would, in her view, meet the objectives of the Regeneration Fund, the Belfast Agenda and the Belfast City Recovery Framework.

Ms. Bowden was thanked by the Chairperson.

### **Rosario Youth Centre**

The Chairperson welcomed to the meeting Ms. N. Robinson, Youth Worker in Charge, Mr. N. Savage, Chairperson of Rosario Youth Centre, and Mr. C. Toland, Chairperson of Ormeau Boxing Club.

Ms. Robinson informed the Working Group that Rosario Youth Centre, which had been built in 1978, currently accommodated Rosario Youth Club, Rosario Football Club and Ormeau Boxing Club. The building was open every day and its current facilities included a reception area, an IT room, office accommodation, a main sports hall, equipment storage rooms, a social area and an outdoor multi-use games area.

She pointed out that the Youth Centre was currently facing a number of challenges, primarily around the limited capabilities of the main sports hall, given the extent of the area required by the Boxing Club, the limited space available to expand membership across the three partner organisations, the need to comply with Disability Discrimination Act, health and safety and child protection requirements and, lastly, the inefficient use of site, as the building was of a single storey.

With that in mind, she drew the Members' attention to the redevelopment plans for the site and the associated costs and confirmed that it would be a collaborative venture involving all three project partners. The outcome would be an extended fit for purpose shared space facility. Planning approval had been secured in March, 2021, a cross-party capital project steering group had been established and been meeting regularly and the Department for Communities' Ministerial team had been briefed.

Moving forward, Ms. Robinson confirmed that the steering group was preparing an application for Building Control approval and that the three partners had met with the Northern Ireland Housing Executive to discuss their ongoing participation in the PEACE IV CCAN project. Further community engagement would take place around the development proposals and a business case and funding applications would be prepared. She pointed out the three project partners made a significant contribution towards achieving the vision for Belfast, as set out in the Belfast Agenda, and concluded by inviting the Working Group to affirm its support for the new hub by recommending that it be considered in the context of emerging Council funding programmes and project development/technical assistance costs.

The deputation was thanked by the Chairperson.

After discussion, the Working Group:

- i. noted the presentations and commended TREE NI/TREECO and Rosario Youth Centre on their work and success to date; and

- ii. agreed that the Director of Physical Projects would draft correspondence, to be signed by the Chairperson and forwarded to Ms. Bowden and Ms. Robinson, firstly, providing details of the Council's new £8m Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund and confirming that officers from the Physical Programmes Unit would be available to provide advice and assist with the application process and, secondly, outlining other external capital funding streams which the organisations would be eligible to apply for.

### **Update on Alleygating and Alleyway Transformation Programmes**

#### **Alleygating Scheme – Phase 5**

The Working Group was reminded that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting on 18th February, had considered a report on Phase 5 of the Council's Alleygating Scheme. The report had recommended that the Committee:

- i. approve an identified 'long list' of possible alleygate locations for North, South, East and West, based upon the framework agreed by the Committee on 21st May 2021; and
- ii. agree to refer each 'long list' of possible alleygate locations to the relevant Area Working Group for prioritisation, based on the available budget of £125,000 for each quadrant of the City.

The Neighbourhood Services Manager reported that the Committee had, in light of omissions which had highlighted by Members, agreed to defer the matter to allow for a full list of location requests to be circulated and a comprehensive list of potential locations to be drafted and agreed. He confirmed that that work had now commenced.

The Working Group noted the information which had been provided.

#### **Alleyway Transformation Programme**

The Working Group was reminded that the People and Communities Committee, at its meeting on 7th September 2021, had approved the delivery of a number of pilot alleyway transformation schemes across the City, with the final area selection, number of pilots and the detail of intervention to be delegated to the Area Working Groups. Funding for the pilots had been committed by the Department for Infrastructure via the Blue/Green Infrastructure Fund.

The Neighbourhood Services Manager reported that, in total, between seventy and eighty potential sites had been identified by Members. However, due to resourcing issues, it had not been possible to process, assess and rank applications. He confirmed that he would be writing shortly to the Department for Infrastructure to request that it agree to carry the funding into the 2022/23 financial year and that, if approved, a dedicated resource would be put in place by the Council to move the process forward.

The Working Group noted the information which had been provided.

## **Update on Physical Programme**

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

### **"1. Introduction**

The Council's Physical Programme covers projects under a range of funding streams including the Capital Programme, the Leisure Transformation Programme, the Local Investment Fund (LIF), the Belfast Investment Fund (BIF), Social Outcomes Fund (SOF) and the new Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund (NRF). It covers also projects that the Council is delivering in behalf of other agencies. This report outlines the status of projects under the Physical Programme.

### **2. Recommendations**

The Working Group is requested to:

- i. note the physical programme update for South Belfast; and
- ii. note the request for funding from TEO in the sum of £463k in relation to the Arts and Digital Hub project

### **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. Further details of these are outlined below.

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		
<b>Total Number of Approved Projects</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>£1,083,600</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>£796,000</b>

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

LIF Ref	PROJECT	FUNDING	STAGE	STATUS	ACTION/ RECOMMENDATION
SLIF2-07	Holylands Area Improvement Initiative	£80,000	Awarded	A contractor has been appointed to undertake these works – challenges remain in terms of supply. There is regular contact with the contractor and community group (QUBA) on the project status.	Continue engagement with the contractor, 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 is linked to Urban Villages programme. Project will be submitted for planning together with the overall development of the John Murray Lockhouse. Business case was approved in August 2021 and the next step is for UV to release a funding offer.	Continued engagement with the group.
SLIF017	Finaghy Bridge	£30,000	Initial stage	DfI Roads are now taking the lead on design and the Council will contribute the LIF funding to DfI.	Continue engagement with DfI Roads.

#### 4. Belfast Investment Fund (BIF)

Members are reminded that 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

<b>South</b>	Stage 3—Lagan Gateway—£2.1m; Lanyon Tunnels—£1.3m; Bredagh GAC—£700k Stage 1— Coffee Culture, Sandy Row Open Space project and BSCR IT Exam Centre project (Arts & Digital Hub) [Sandy Row area projects, formerly Gilpins]— £1.35m Stage 1— <i>Belfast Islamic Centre—no commitment</i>
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<b>Balmoral DEA</b>	Stage 3 - Knockbreda Parish Church Hall—£250k Stage 2— Linfield FC/ Boys Brigade and Belvoir FC—£250k
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BIF Ref	PROJECT	BIF FUNDING	STAGE	STATUS	ACTION/RECOMMENDATION
BIF04	Lagan Gateway	£2.1m	On ground	Phase 1 of the project completed in October 2021. Handover and operation discussions are underway within Council regarding the lock. Design of Phase 2 of the project has started.	Continue engagement with the group and key stakeholders.
BIF19	Bredagh GAC	£700,000	Design stage	Works for the required surveys have been completed. Once the reports are received the team will look at the refurbishment design in more detail and get a cost estimate. This is anticipated to be complete by end of March 2022. Following that step, officers will meet the group to discuss and review the option designs. The outcome will be reported to a future meeting of the SAWG.	Continue engagement with the group.

<b>BIF07</b>	<b>Lanyon Tunnels</b>	£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. A new planning application has been submitted (October 2021). The SIF programme has expired, and Urban Villages have been approached as potential funder in place of SIF. Ongoing discussions with group, DfC and TEO.	Officer engagement with Executive Office as key funder, and key stakeholders.
<b>BIF33</b>	<b>Linfield FC/ Boys Brigade and Belvoir FC</b>	£250,000	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 continues to work on project development including governance arrangements and NIHE tenure agreement – remaining issues on disposal and governance are being addressed by the group and their consultancy support.	Continue engagement with the group.
<b>BIF46</b>	<b>Coffee Culture</b>	£1.35m - total allocation for the Sandy Area projects (formerly Gilpin's)	Stage 1- Emerging	Partnership project with UV. Final Business Case approved and Letter of Offer expected imminently. At design stage and planning application is required. Options in relation to the property purchase have now been resolved and work is ongoing to progress	Continue engagement with the group.



				the legal issues regarding title. Project funding includes: UV £402k, SOF £100k, DfC £100k, BIF funding commitment agreed at SAWG March 2021. <i>Part of Sandy Row Area projects.</i>	
<b>BIF47</b>	<b>Sandy Row Open Space project</b>		Stage 1- Emerging	Work is continuing on the development of a project in the Sand. Initial mtg with group – rescoping project. <i>Part of Sandy Row Area projects.</i>	Continue engagement with the group.
<b>BIF48</b>	<b>Arts and Digital Hub</b> <i>(formerly BSCR IT Exam Centre project)</i>		Stage 1- Emerging	Partnership project with UV. Business Case progressing and is contingent on receiving a confirmation of funding from the Council. Officers continue to work with the UV team and the group to develop up one joint scheme. <i>Part of Sandy Row Area projects.</i>	Continue engagement with the group.

#### **Arts and Digital Hub - Request for Specified Allocation**

In September 2020, Members agreed to support the IT Exam Centre proposal from BSCR on Sandy Row under the Belfast Investment Fund. Members have since noted that the project is now a joint initiative, taking in both the IT Exam Centre proposal as well as the Arts and Digital Hub project being developed by BSCR with Urban Villages. Members will note the corresponding change of project title under BIF to 'Arts and Digital Hub' which incorporates the IT Exam Centre proposal. Members are asked to consider a request from the Urban Villages Initiative for a specific allocation of £463,015 for the Arts & Digital Hub project. Members are asked to note that an allocation for this project would form part of the £1.35m ringfenced for Sandy Row Area projects.

#### **5. Social Outcomes 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
<b>SOF02</b> <b>Coffee Culture</b> <i>UV partnership</i>	£100,000	Partnership project with UV. Final Business Case approved and Letter of Offer expected imminently. At design stage and planning application is required. Options in relation to the property purchase have now been resolved and work is ongoing to progress the legal issues regarding title.  Project funding includes: UV £402k, SOF £100k, DfC £100k, BIF funding commitment agreed at SAWG March 2021.	Continue engagement with the group and key stakeholders.
<b>SOF04</b> <b>Sandy Row Community Forum</b>	£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 early 2022 - supply chain and cost issues have caused significant 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. 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
<b>Playground Improvement Programme 2021/2022 (City wide)</b>	Stage 3 – Committed. Ormeau (Park Road) playground project onsite, completion expected early March 2022.

Alleygating Phase 5 – City wide	Stage 1 - Emerging. Consultation stage
Palm House, Botanic Gardens	Stage 1 - Emerging. Link to Tropical Ravine

## 7. **Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund**

Members are reminded that the Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund has recently been launched and is a new £8m capital programme to support capital projects across the city. The fund is now open for Stage 1 applications via an open call process and will close on 12 May 2022. Communications activity is already underway via a variety of tools to promote the fund to as wide an audience as possible.

## 8. **Externally Funded Programmes**

The Council is the delivery partner for several government department on key capital investment programmes, namely Social Investment Fund (SIF) and Urban Villages (UV) from the Executive Office as well as a number of schemes with DfC. The following is an overview of projects within each programme relevant to South Belfast.

### **Social Investment Fund**

The 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	Project completed on 14 January 2022.
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 Executive Office under SIF and Urban Villages.

### **Urban Villages Initiative**

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

## **UV – South Belfast Projects Overview**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Status and update</b>
<b>Coffee Culture</b> <i>SOF and BIF</i>	Partnership project with UV. Final Business Case approved and Letter of Offer expected imminently. At design stage and planning application is required. Options in relation to the property purchase have been resolved and work is ongoing to progress the legal issues regarding title. BIF funding agreed at SAWG March 2021 (£1.35m ringfenced for Sandy Row Area projects). Match funding anticipated from DfC and Urban Villages.
<b>John Murray Lockhouse—wider development</b>	Partnership project with UV. Business Case approved. Council has commented on a draft Letter of Offer has been and the final Letter of Offer is expected imminently. Design team has been appointed and liaison with Group continues to finalise designs. Complex legal issues regarding land transfers continue to be progressed.
<b>Arts and Digital Hub</b> <i>BIF (formerly IT Exam Centre)</i>	Council acting as delivery agent. Business Case progressing. At design stage. This is a joint project - BIF BSCR IT Exam Centre project – the project is now one proposal on the same site. In March 2021 SAWG agreed to support as Stage 1 emerging under BIF (£1.35m ringfenced for Sandy Row Area projects). The Executive Office has submitted a funding request in sum of £463,015 – see above under BIF updates.
<b>Accidental Theatre (Shaftesbury Square)</b>	Business Case at preliminary stage and progressing.
<b>School of Music Redevelopment</b>	Emerging project at feasibility stage.

## **DfC Funded Projects**

**Outlined below is the status update on a project funded by Department for Communities.**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Status and update</b>
<b>Belfast Islamic Centre</b> <i>- Renovations of Aldersgate House, University Rd</i>	The Council 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 is 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.

### **9. Documents attached**

**None.”**

After discussion, the Working Group:

- i. noted the contents of the report;
- ii. agreed to resume site visits to view ongoing and completed projects within the Physical Programme; and
- iii. agreed to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that the Arts and Digital Hub project be allocated £463,015 of the £1.35m which had been ringfenced for Sandy Row area projects (formerly Gilpin's) and that Urban Villages be advised accordingly.

Chairperson

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# East Belfast Area Working Group

Thursday, 3rd March, 2022

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

Members present: Alderman Sandford (Chairperson),  
The Deputy Lord Mayor (Alderman Haire);  
Aldermen Copeland, Dorrian and Rodgers; and  
Councillors Brooks, de Faoite, Flynn, Hanvey, Howard,  
M. Kelly, Kyle, Long, Mulholland and Newton.

In attendance: Ms. S. Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes;  
Ms. C. Taggart, Neighbourhood Services Manager;  
Ms. P. Conway, Strategic Sites Development Surveyor;  
Mrs. L. McLornan, Democratic Services Officer; and  
Mrs. G. Boyd, Democratic Services Officer.

### **Apologies**

An apology for inability to attend was reported from Councillor Smyth.

### **Minutes**

The Working Group agreed that the minutes of the meeting of 3rd February were an accurate record of proceedings.

### **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were declared

### **Presentation**

#### **Hawarden Tennis Club**

The Chairperson welcomed Mr. S. Garvin and Ms. S. Cooke to the meeting.

Ms. Cooke thanked the Working Group for acceding to their request to present. She commenced her presentation by giving the Working Group an overview of the background to the club:

- it was a small 3 court, family friendly tennis club based in East Belfast;
- it had approximately 250 members from all sections of the community;
- it was formed in 1927;
- membership had increased in the last few years by more than 500% and had managed to thrive during the pandemic;

She continued by advising the Members that the club offered the following services:

- Parent and Child Tots Tennis;
- Full weekly Junior Programme (beginners up to Ulster representatives);
- Junior Club Night
- A varied social calendar for both adult and junior members ;
- A full adult tennis programme ranging from beginner club players to elite training sessions;
- Fun group sessions and weekly cardio sessions;
- they had a large number of members who were representative on both the national and international tennis scene; and
- Indoor facilities included squash court, table tennis, pool table and bar, but that it faced competition from local clubs which offered other indoor facilities.

After school cross-community activities for kids from Strandtown and St Joseph's Primary school, which served as an introduction to the club where they and their families could hopefully, and often did, join as members. They would like to expand the initiative to include Bloomfield Collegiate School in order to attract more teenage girls into the club, as there was evidence of a high dropout rate within tennis.

She then outlined their development plans for the future:

- they were keen to be more 'inclusive' and open doors to the wider community;
- tennis should be accessible to all and there were many adaptations which could be made;
- a review of the current facilities had highlighted a need for a disabled toilet facility on the ground floor – the club had applied for that under 'Sport NI Better Facilities Grant' and had been successful. They wanted to give individuals with disabilities the opportunity to benefit from the physical, social and mental aspects of not only playing sport but from being included and making friends for life within a club environment.
- they were also keen to open up their indoor space to the local community. Prior to Covid they had groups use it for yoga etc. and that was the plan for the future.

She concluded the presentation by explaining their reasons for seeking financial support:

- the condition of the 3 tennis courts was deteriorating which was increasingly becoming a concern and could jeopardise the club's long term future.
- They had taken remedial action over the years but it was looking more likely that they will need to completely replace the surface of each court.
- Initial quotes were in excess of £60,000.
- The club had limited cash reserves which was understandably eroded by operational expenditure to maintain the clubhouse, pay general bills, fees etc.
- They had increased their cash reserves by attracting a large number of new members and fund raising activities. However, those were insufficient to cover the huge one-off cost of having to resurface their courts.

A Member asked if the £60,000 was to resurface the three courts. Mr. Garvin advised the Working Group that it was for all three courts but he explained that £60,000 was an estimate for the resurfacing as they would not know the state of the tarmac beneath.

The Chairperson thanked the Harwarden representatives for their presentation and advised them that the Working Group would be in contact in due course. Ms. Cooke and Mr. Garvin retired from the meeting.

After the representatives had left the meeting, the Members had a brief discussion and agreed that the request would be best discussed at a Special meeting of the Working Group.



The Director of Physical Programmes agreed to identify a date towards the end of March, in conjunction with the Chairperson, on which to hold the meeting.

### **Update on Alleygating and Alleyway and Transformation Programmes - Verbal Update**

#### **Alleygates Scheme Phase 5 (verbal Update)**

The Neighbourhood Services Manager provided the Members with an update in respect of the Alleygate Scheme. She advised the Members that the 12-month plan had been presented to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee and that it was due to be ratified at the March Council meeting.

She stated that Stephen Leonard, the lead officer for this work, would provide an update at the next meeting of the Area Working Group.

Noted.

#### **Alleygate Transformation**

The Neighbourhood Services Manager updated the meeting in relation to the Alleygate Transformation Scheme. She reported that the demand for the scheme had been huge, with over 80 sites listed and highlighted that the scheme would need considerable resources. She updated that, to date, officers had not been able to assess all the sites as there was not sufficient staffing resources available to do so. In addition, the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) was not contributing any revenue funding towards the scheme, only capital funding. She advised that the Council would allocate a dedicated resource to assess the applications, align the workplan and draw down the money from DfI. The Working Group was advised that Council officers had met with DfI to confirm finances for the scheme and had advised that any available funding would be carried forward to the next financial year. The Members were also advised that there had been discussion in regard to progressing the top priority applications, however, it was difficult to move forward on any of the applications without applying the criteria to all the applications to ensure every application was considered fairly.

A Member asked if consideration could be given to an issue with an existing Council alleygate at Parkgate Crescent. There was a significant gap between the hedging and the structural support of the alleygate which was allowing unfettered access and egress from the alley, thus rendering the gate ineffective. The Member asked if it could be remedied either under the alleyway transformation programme or perhaps via maintenance on the existing alleygate stock, as the gap was encouraging Anti-Social behaviour in the alleyway along with a number of other cleansing issues. The Neighbourhood Services Manager agreed to investigate the matter and report back directly to the Member.

Several Members remarked on the delay in progressing the Alleygate Programme. While they recognised the impact of Covid, they wanted it expedited. The Working Group requested that the update report would be submitted to the March Strategic Policy and Resources Committee meeting.

A number of Members noted the aforementioned gaps in the list. The Members asked to see the full list of alleygate requests and that this list be shared with all elected members (rather than just those on Strategic Policy and Resources) to allow them to review and feedback any gaps.

A Member requested that the report include information in relation to the criteria based scoring matrix which was applied to each application. The Members sought clarification to allow them to understand how the high, medium and low ratings were applied and why there

could be discrepancies between, for example, the PSNI rating and the Council rating. A Member used an example of the Jocelyn Street gate, where the PSNI had rated it as medium but the BCC rating was low. The Neighbour Services Manager undertook to provide him with an explanation for the difference.

Further Members also requested the total number of alleygates to be agreed this round.

Noted.

### **Update on the Physical Programme**

The Working Group considered the undernoted 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), Social Outcomes Fund (SOF) and the new Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund (NRF); in addition, the programme covers projects that the Council is delivering in behalf of other agencies. This report outlines the status of projects under the Physical Programme.

#### **2. Recommendations**

Members are asked to:

- Note the physical programme update for East Belfast, and;
- Note that confirmation has been received from Braniel Church that additional funding of £60,000 in relation to the BIF project is being met by the group, allowing the final investment decision to be taken.

#### **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: 19 projects received In Principle support under LIF1 and LIF2, of which 18 have been completed; 1 project remaining at initial stage, the 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 (100%)	£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 (8%)	£15,000
<b>Total Number of Approved Projects</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>£877,500</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>£1,161,589</b>

The table below provides an overview of progress and actions around the remaining live project.

LIF Ref	Project	Funding	Stage	Status	Action / recommendation
<b>ELIF2-17</b>	<b>Lagan Village Youth and Community Association</b>	£15,000	Initial stage	Approved by SP&R Committee in October 2020. DfC funding commitment received of £35,000 and awaiting final confirmation on land transfer. Initial enabling works and site fencing to commence imminently. The transfer of the lease will soon to be completed allowing works to commence, subject to a successful outcome of the group's	Continue engagement with the group.

				application to Alpha funding.	
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### **LIF funding**

Members will recall at their meeting on November 2021, AWG agreed to discuss the remaining funding which is available under LIF and BIF, and the requests received to date for funding support. The table shows the remaining funding under the LIF programme. Members will note that there is no remaining funding under BIF as this is fully allocated at this stage.

Total LIF Allocation (LIF 1 and 2)	Amount Allocated To Date*	Amount Remaining**
<b>£2,327,500</b>	<b>£2,113,089</b>	<b>£230,009</b>

*\*This includes additional funding for BIF TAGIT Boxing Club (£9k) and Braniel Church (£65k).*

*\*\* This includes the reported underspend amount for Walkway Community Centre (£15,598).*

### **4. Belfast Investment Fund**

Members are reminded BIF is a £28m investment fund for regeneration, partnership projects, with a minimum £250,000 investment from Council. 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:**

<b>East</b>	Stage 3—Willowfield—£560k; 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, Tullycarnet Community Support Services—no commitment / on long list
<b>Outer East</b>	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
<b>BIF1 4</b>	<b>H&amp;W Welders Club</b>	£2,370,000	Complete	Project completed.	Continue engagement with the group re post monitoring
<b>BIF1 2</b>	<b>Strand Arts Centre</b>	£1,800,000	Stage 3 – design stage	In November 2021, Members noted the increase in cost estimates following the RIBA Stage 2 Design Report. The total cost estimate is £5,320,000 which includes construction inflation and theatre/cinema specifics. The total project budget exclusive of these items is estimated at £4,657,000. Members agreed to progress to RIBA Stage 3 and submit to Planning, and the Application has since been submitted (January 2022).	Continue engagement with the group.
<b>BIF1 3</b>	<b>Bloomfield Community Association</b>	£440,000	Stage 3 - Committed – In Principle	A new Economic Appraisal/ Business Plan was completed in July 2021. Cost of preferred option is £745,054. Application to DfC for	Continue engagement with the group and partners.

				funding deficit of £305,054 has been prepared and will be submitted once group provide supporting information for application requested.	
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### **Outer East BIF Projects**

<b>BIF Ref</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Funding</b>	<b>Stage</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Action / recommendation</b>
<b>BIF18</b>	<b>TAGIT Boxing Club</b>	£434,000	Stage 3 – Complete	Project completed. Project officially launched on 25 February 2022.	Continue engagement with the group re post monitoring
<b>BIF37</b>	<b>Lisnasharragh Community Schools Project</b>	£398,000	Stage 3- On Ground	Project works at Lisnasharragh PS and Cregagh PS commenced on November 21 and January 22, respectively. Planned completion by April 2022.	Continue engagement with the group/ schools and Education Authority.
<b>BIF25</b>	<b>Branial Church</b>	£390,000	Stage 3 – Tender stage	Tender return over allocated funding amount. EAWG and Branial Church to fund the deficient in the construction budget. Confirmation now received from Branial regarding their funding contribution - see below.	Continue engagement with the group
<b>BIF38</b>	<b>Castlereagh Presbyterian Church</b>	£382,000	Stage 3 – Due Diligence	Costs of works currently estimated at	Continued engagement with group.

				<p>£325,200. Church approval for works now in place. In December Members recommended that additional information be requested from the Church in respect of whether there would be any congregational funding or whether they had investigated other external funding streams; who the end users of the facilities would be; and that a further site visit be arranged to the Church. Officers liaising with group regarding outstanding information.</p>	
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**BIF 25 Braniel Church**

Members will recall at its meeting in February 2022, it was recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that match funding of up to £65,000 be allocated to the Braniel Church project, from the uncommitted allocations within the East area, provided that the Church would agree to commit £60,000 toward the cost of the project and that the Church would confirm that to officers, in writing, by 25 February 2022, and an update would be provided to the East AWG to note that all funding was in place before a final investment decision be taken and the contract awarded.

**Note that confirmation has been received from Braniel Church that additional funding of £60,000 in relation to the BIF project is being met by the group, allowing the final investment decision to be taken.**

## 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
<b>Eastside Visitor Centre</b> <i>Link to UV project</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 completed, and study with UV in final stages of their approval process. In parallel to information collation to take the project through Due Diligence still ongoing.

## 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
<b>Pitches Programme- Blanchflower Playing Fields – New pitch and floodlighting</b>	Stage 3 – Committed. Project completed.
<b>LTP- Avoniel</b>	Stage 3 – Committed. Project completed.
<b>LTP- Templemore- NLHF</b>	Stage 3 – Committed. On Ground. Completion anticipated by summer 2022.
<b>New Crematorium</b>	Stage 3 – Committed – Scheme at tender preparation stage. Design and Planning discussions underway.
<b>Sydenham Greenway</b>	Stage 2- Uncommitted. OBC to be worked up.
<b>Shared Youth and Community Facility Inner East</b>	Stage 1- Emerging. Officers investigating the potential 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, initial mapping exercise complete and with Council officers for review.
<b>Ballymacarrett Area Masterplan</b>	Stage 1- Emerging. Linked to Connswater Community Greenway.  Link to the UV/DfI funded Ballymacarrett Walkway Environmental and Cycling Infrastructure Improvement project.
<b>Playground Improvement Programme 2021/2022 (City wide)</b>	Stage 3 – Committed Project. Clarawood Playground. Works to start in Spring and completion expected end of May 2022.
<b>Alleygating Phase 5 – City wide</b>	Stage 3 – Committed Project. Update to be brought to future AWG

#### 6. Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund

Members are reminded that the Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund has recently been launched and is a new £8m capital programme to support capital projects across the city. The fund is now open for Stage 1 applications via an open call process and will close on 12 May 2022. Communications activity is already underway via a variety of tools to promote the fund to as wide an audience as possible.

#### 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	Status and update
<b>Walkway Community Association</b>	Project is progressing satisfactorily following discussions with the contractor and funder to resolve issues in relation to the escalating costs of supply, contractors delay in ordering key materials and Covid related matters. Minor adjustments to the building façade have been agreed to balance project costs and a planning application was presented to the Planning Committee on 15 February 2022. Estimated completion April 2022.

##### Urban Villages Initiative

Project	Status and update
<b>ProKick Community Gym</b>	Council is acting as Delivery Partner. Programme progressing well with estimated completion date June 2022.
<b>Pop EastSide- Landmark East</b> <i>Link to SOF 'Eastside Visitor Centre'</i>	The project proposal is for the extension of the existing visitor centre at C.S. Lewis Square. Council and UV have agreed that this is a joint project with Pop Eastside (UV). Final draft OBC completed and is in the UV approval process. Council investigating charges against site and UV undertaking a VFM exercise. At design stage.
<b>Pitt Park redevelopment</b> <i>Council asset</i>	This project is on a Council site and the Council is acting as Delivery Partner. The Business Case has been approved. The Letter of Offer is expected imminently. Design stage.
<b>East Belfast Mission Accommodation project</b>	Council is acting as Delivery Partner. The Business Case has been approved. Revised refurbishment options are being explored with the Group and additional funding options are being considered.
<b>Eastside Souk</b>	Emerging project at feasibility stage.
<b>Titanic People Exhibition</b>	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. Following a site visit on 4 November 2021, Members took the decision to withdraw the previously allocated LIF funding. Members stressed their desire to continue to work with the Group to explore alternative funding sources and how the project can link with other projects in the area. The Council is waiting on a detailed project proposal and Business Case from UV. Options in relation to the funding gap are being explored.

#### **DfC funded projects**

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

Project	Status and update
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<b>Prokick Community Gym</b>	On Ground. Link to UV project
<b>Lagan Village Youth and Community Centre</b>	Initial stage. Link to LIF project
<b>Clarawood Play Park</b>	Initial stage. Part of the Playground Improvement Programme. Works to start in Spring and completion expected end of May 2022.”

The Members expressed their thanks to the Director of Physical Programmes and her team for the sterling work that they were doing to progress works through all of the funding streams and the capital programme.

The Working Group noted the contents of the report.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

The Working Group agreed to change the date of its next quarterly meeting, which was due to be held on Thursday, 5th May, which was Polling Day for the upcoming Assembly Elections. It agreed, therefore, that the next quarterly meeting would be held on Monday, 16th May at 5pm.

Chairperson

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<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Requests for Funding</b>
<b>Date:</b>	25th March, 2022
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Ronan Cregan, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Trevor Wallace, Head of Finance

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
<b>1.1</b>	<p>This report asks the Committee to consider the following two requests for funding:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In Appendix 1, Glór na Móna requests the Council to make a one-off financial contribution to secure Irish Medium Youth Services for the 2022/23 financial year.</li> <li>2. In Appendix 2, the Belfast Malone Tornadoes Rugby Football Club asks the Council to make a financial contribution to help secure the team's full participation in only the third <b>International Mixed Ability World Cup Rugby Tournament (IMART)</b> being held this year in Cork between 5th and 10th June, 2022.</li> </ol>

<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to consider the attached requests.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	The Deputy Chief Executive has received two requests for funding, as attached in Appendices 1 and 2.
3.2	In Appendix 1, Glór na Móna is seeking funding to secure Irish Medium Youth Services in the 2022/23 financial year.
3.3	Glór na Móna asks the Council to consider contributing £86,000, following a decision by the Education Authority that there was no budget for the youth club in Upper Springfield.
3.4	It states that the funding will secure five posts and secure Irish Medium Youth Services in the area.
3.5	The request in Appendix 2 is from Malone Tornadoes Rugby Football Club, which is planning to attend the third <b>International Mixed Ability World Cup Rugby Tournament (IMART)</b> being held this in Cork between 5th and 10th June, 2022.
3.6	The Club asks the Council to consider contributing £10,000 towards the estimated overall cost of £30,000 - £35,000. This contribution will help secure the teams full participation in the tournament and will help to cement and further promote mixed ability sport going forward within our communities as a force for good.
3.7	The Committee is asked to consider both requests.
	<b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b>
3.8	<p>The requests fall under the Council's discretionary expenditure policy, however, Members are asked to note that there is no established budget for this.</p> <p>The overall expenditure limit under this policy is £416,328, to date, the Council has approved requests totalling £163,790, details of which are provided in Appendix 3.</p>

3.9	<p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p> <p>None</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	<p>Appendix 1 - Request from Glór na Móna</p> <p>Appendix 2 - Request from Malone Tornadoes Rugby Football Club</p> <p>Appendix 3 - Discretionary Spend to date</p> <p>Appendices 4a and 4b - Framework for Discretionary Spend</p>

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## **Glór na Móna youth funding crisis**

### **Proposal for BCC Support, 25 February 2022**

Established by a group of community activists in 2004 with the modest intention of providing social and educational opportunities for the local Irish-speaking community in the Upper Springfield, Glór na Móna rapidly developed into an ambitious, locally rooted working-class organisation that links the language revival to the community development and regeneration. From 2009, it has pioneered Irish-medium [IM] youth-work, now catering for hundreds of young people each week across the city.

In addition to youth work; Glór na Móna also led the way on community education and regeneration; participatory democracy practices; projects focussing on inter-generational family language transmission and social language use; and local community history and heritage recovery. All our activities utilise the Irish language, the unique community resources and local environmental amenities to challenge socio-economic inequalities by targeting poverty and social exclusion.

Glór na Móna have received specific youth funding from the EA (and previously the BELB) for 12 years. In December 2020, we were given 1-year legacy funding until March 31<sup>st</sup> 2022 as part of an agreement that we would transition into the EA's new funding scheme. Then in November EA presented proposals to the West Belfast Local Area Advisory Forum for a full-time collaborative Irish Medium West Belfast funding specification that received unanimous support from all West Belfast Youth clubs.

However, in January 2022, they informed us that the EA senior management in Youth Service had pulled the proposals and decided that there was no budget for our Youth Club in Upper Springfield. When we asked what alternative arrangements EA had in mind for our young people, they told us to apply for a maximum £2,200 grant for electricity and suggested we ask volunteers to run the club.

This will effectively amount to 98% of our youth project funding of £86,000 which will be removed from April 1st. If implemented, this funding cut will result in the loss of 5 posts, including a Full-Time Youth Leader in charge, a 25-hour worker and 3 x 15 hour part-time workers. This will put our professionally qualified staff out of work and our young people out on the street with no alternative provision. We respectfully request a one-off discretionary fund of £86k to secure our service.

Le mórmheas,

Feargal

Dr Feargal Mac Ionnrachtaigh  
Stiúrthóir Feidhmiúcháin

Glór na Móna  
[www.glornamona.com](http://www.glornamona.com)  
07841101630  
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**[www.glornamona.com](http://www.glornamona.com)**  
[FACEBOOK](#) [TWITTER](#)

Dear Mr Cregan,

*I write raising awareness and in politely seeking, Belfast City Councils' blessing, support, promotion but in particular financial assistance of approximately £10,000 for Belfast's "Malone Tornadoes" in helping to secure the teams full participation in only the third **International Mixed Ability World Cup Rugby Tournament (IMART)** being held this year in Cork, Ireland between the 5<sup>th</sup> June - 10<sup>th</sup> June 2022.*

*Below, I have provided some background and supporting videos/u-tube links around this world event, the Tornadoes development, progress and success in being the first ever mixed ability team from Belfast, indeed Northern Ireland to be represented in this World Tournament.*

#### **THE INTERNATIONAL MIXED ABILITY WORLD CUP RUGBY TOURNAMENT 2022**

*What is IMART? The videos and links tell the story best and here is a little introduction:*

[Changing the World through Mixed Ability - YouTube](#)

***Mixed Ability Rugby is part of IMAS (International Mixed Ability Sport) the driving force in championing the Mixed Ability Model used to break down barriers to participation in sport, promote social inclusion and generate long-term positive change in our communities. The tournament has raised, and will continue to raise, the aspirations of people with physical, mental and learning disabilities - or barriers irrespective of creed, colour, class or ability, bonding people from all walks of life with a mutual respect, camaraderie, and understanding of each other's strengths and frailties***

*The tournament has grown to attract a global audience, demonstrating it is possible to break down the traditional divide of able bodied and disabled sport, and in doing so, giving rise to a host of benefits for all involved and within the communities in which we live..*

*Cork will host **840 players from 28 teams across 15 nations**, including all the Home Nations, Spain, New Zealand and Argentina, a vast and diverse audience including the mainstream rugby community, minority groups, excluded countries, disability and human rights organisations.*

#### **THE BELFAST MALONE TORNADES**

*Who are the Malone Tornadoes and what is mixed ability rugby:*

[Mixed Ability Rugby at Malone RFC - YouTube](#)

*As a cross community club, team we endorse and have implement all the IMAS principles and through the Tornadoes delivering **Real Mixed Ability Rugby and Inclusion In action**.*

*Mixed Ability Rugby has grown organically from a lack of provision for disabled participants or those with "different or differing needs" The Malone Tornadoes (Belfast) are **the first all community Mixed Ability Rugby Team in Northern Ireland**, giving adults over the age of 18 with physical, mental or learning disabilities, the opportunity to participate in rugby football.*

*In the past, when children primarily those with Autism and Dome Syndrome, attending the Newforge Tiggers reached the age of 18, they had to leave that group, but there were no other options or facilities for these young adult players (men or women) their families or guardians. The*

*establishment of The Malone Tornadoes meant those aged 18 and over can now continue playing, developing future life skills, contributing immeasurably to their physical well-being, self-esteem and confidence.*

*The Malone Tornadoes also offers past players, those who have left the game but wish to give something back or anyone who has suffered a serious life-changing injury, the opportunity to play alongside those with and without physical, mental and learning differences and perhaps for the first time, playing in the same 15-a-side rugby game abiding by World Rugby Laws.*

*Mixed ability emphasises regular, frequent, and sustainable activities, self-determination, full membership, in this case of a rugby (sports) club and many opportunities for social interaction.*

*At the Malone Tornadoes, our members can now **play rugby, be part of a team, part of a club and treated the same as all other players and or members.***

### **THE CHALLENGE AND THE OPPORTUNITY**

*Through the combined commitment of our small, enthusiastic group, we have grown the team and made tremendous progress in several areas. Until now, we have funded ourselves, travelling to Cork and Dublin, playing in various games and following further successes, invited to **represent Belfast, Northern Ireland in the 2022 Rugby World Cup!***

*To be part of this International Tournament is simply fantastic and for our team members, **a once in a lifetime** experience and potentially life-changing opportunity.*

*It is also a celebration of rugby, diversity and inclusion, with the week-long event including, round robin games, educational and social events, with all teams battling for 2 Trophies: **The Winners' Cup** and **The Spirit of Mixed Ability Rugby Trophy.***

*This amazing opportunity, however, brings significant challenges for our small administrative and management team. To date, we have never had to finance such an event or promote ourselves within or beyond Northern Ireland and secure such additional support and financial assistance.*

*We are aware Belfast City Council has a long-standing and deep commitment to making a difference to communities and groups across Belfast and support for the Malone Tornadoes would make such an enormous difference to the team and player participation – and in the future help to cement and further promote mixed ability sport going forward within our communities as a force for good.*

*I would very much welcome any opportunity to discuss further, Belfast City Council, endorsing the World Cup, supporting “The Tornadoes” and assistance in helping the **“Tornadoes Ambassadors”** attend the competition in full, in promoting the City of Belfast and post the world cup working with Belfast City Council in raising further awareness and in promoting the club and community Mixed Ability Sport.*

### **SUMMARY of THOUGHTS AND ACTIONS**

- *We are exploring the best social media and creation of appropriate mailing lists in maximising our exposure, promoting The Tornadoes, Belfast and this world event?.*
- *The World Cup Tournament organisers (IMART) have also shared some of their marketing and media programme (see link below)*
- *The last Tournament (2017) attracted 9 TV Stations, 17 radio broadcasts, 78 newspapers and 270 websites.*
- *Advanced audience and media commitment for the delayed 2020 event saw a doubling and indications for 2022 are greater again.*

- We have grown to approximately 40 players/facilitators and are required to select and register a squad of 30 plus cover.
- We have estimated a figure of £30,000 - £35,000 would ensure **our squad's full participation** covering for example: all build up, preparation, pre, during and post-match/tournament events including formal corporate and civic receptions, organised competing team functions, social/media events, both the opening and closing ceremonies.
- Other basic costs, include travel and logistics, all training, playing and non-playing kit, logos/embroidery, coordinated team outfits and uniforms etc.
- There is a discounted package (£350 per head for the week) available to any other family members or supporters wishing to join the squad.
- Early advice in achieving this amount has been to secure: one sponsor or establish a Gold/Silver/Bronze sponsorship package, offering one or more sponsors some form of fair exposure or exclusivity (e.g., logos on kit or pitch side branding etc.)
- Having already motivated and excited our squad, **the fall-out in not gaining sufficient sponsorship/funding would be a massive disappointment and serious mental blow for many, with potentially a token attendance with only a few selected players experiencing such a large sporting event!!**
- A video/recording "The path to the World Cup" following the "Malone Tornadoes to Cork" has also been a recurring suggestion.
- Some next actions - secure a formal meeting with Belfast City Council to discuss and hopefully establish some funding, support, promotion/marketing, finalising our timelines, confirming and registering our final squad selection.
- Communicate the same to all selected players, facilitators, guardians and families etc.
- Promote Belfast and post-World Cup the continued awareness, development and expansion of this facility across our community
- **Promote Belfast as a potential host/ venue for a future Word Cup**

## Links

IMAS: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c-ymxqACojY&authuser=0>

Belfast Malone Tornadoes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KJZK-Xpe9Fk&t=35s&authuser=0>

Belfast Malone Tornadoes promotional and social media video in conjunction with Stephen Ferris and Boost:

[Stephen Ferris on Twitter: "The mixed ability rugby team- The Tornadoes @MaloneRFC were in top form recently. Thanks for having me along, and thanks to all the volunteers like Stewart and Sam who give so much back to the game. @Boost\\_DrinksNI" / Twitter](#)

## Sponsors Pack - Cork 2022



IMART Sponsors for  
Teams Pack.pdf

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### **Appendix 3**

#### Discretionary Spend to Date

<b>SP and R Approval Date</b>	<b>Recipient</b>	<b>Amount</b>
23 April 2021	City Wide Tribunal Service	£128,500
21 May 2021	Polish Heritage Flight Visit	£3,800
20 August 2021	Belfast Youth Cup	£5,000
20 August 2021	Tri-Cities Cup	£2,000
17 December 2021	Belfast Indoor Bowls	£9,490
18 February 2022	Grand Lodge of Ireland	£15,000
<b>Total</b>		<b>£163,790</b>

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<b>Subject:</b>	Discretionary Payments
<b>Date:</b>	17 August 2018
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Ronan Cregan, Deputy Chief Executive & Director of Finance & Resources
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Mark McBride, Head of Finance and Performance

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/> No <input 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 checked="checked" type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To consider a proposed framework for the management of discretionary payment requests which do not fall within existing Council funding schemes.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to agree:  1. The proposed Discretionary Payments Framework detailed in this report.  2. On the basis of recommendation 1 being agreed, to set a discretionary payment limit of £396,600 for the 2018/19 budget.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>

3.1	The Committee is reminded that this report was deferred at the meeting of the 22 June 2018 to allow time for consideration by Party Groups.
	<b>Management of In-Year Under-spends</b>
3.2	Belfast City Council has an annual net expenditure budget of over £155m and inevitably, given the range and complexity of the organisation and the influence of internal and external factors on income and expenditure plans, there will be some areas of underspend and other areas of budget pressure during any financial year. This normally results in an under-spend position which can be re-allocated either during the year or at the year end.
3.3	The major external factor affecting the year end position is the District Rate Finalisation and whether this will result in a surplus for the Council or a clawback by Land and Property Services (LPS).
3.4	The net financial position of the Council and the year-end forecast position is reported to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on a quarterly basis, with decisions on re-allocation of any in-year under-spend being made when the half year forecast is considered at the November Committee and the year-end outturn is considered at the June Committee.
3.5	An in-year underspend provides the opportunity for the reallocation of resources to a non-recurrent purpose. For example allocation to General Reserves, Specified Reserves, a Designated Fund, Non-Recurrent Expenditure or Discretionary Payments. These are briefly explained below
3.6	<b>General Reserves:</b> These reserves are held to provide a short term safeguard against the consequences of general risk facing the Council. To ensure compliance with the Local Government Finance Act NI (2011), the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources must advise the Committee on the adequacy of the level of General Reserves
3.7	<b>Specified Reserves:</b> These are reserves established for a specified purpose for example the Voluntary Redundancy (VR) Reserve which finances the redundancy and actuarial costs of the VR Programme or a reserve for a major event which is built up over a period of time e.g. Tall Ships.
3.8	<b>Non-Recurrent Expenditure:</b> These allocations support the non-recurrent costs of delivering Council priorities without generating a recurring rate impact. For example the Customer Focus Project.
3.9	<b>Designated Funds:</b> These allocations establish or increase capital or revenue funds. The funds are normally held on a cash basis and include an agreed process for public access to these funds. For example the Belfast Investment Fund, the Local Investment Fund or Community Development Grants Programme.

3.10	<b>Discretionary Payments:</b> These are payments agreed by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in response to a request for non-recurrent funding from an external group which does not fall within one of the Council's normal grant or other funding process.
3.11	<b><i>As part of the half year and year end position reporting of the Council to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources will, after considering the level of financial risk, recommend to the Committee the amount of underspend which could be re-allocated, together with areas of priority for such re-allocation and the amount of funding that could be applied to discretionary payments if the committee so wished.</i></b>
3.12	<b><i>The following paragraphs outline a recommended framework for the management of such discretionary payments.</i></b>
	<b>Previous Council Criteria for Discretionary Payments</b>
3.13	Prior to April 2015, Section 37 of the Local Government Finance Act (NI) 2011 and previously Section 115 of the Local Government Act (NI) 1972, provided a framework for the consideration of requests which would bring direct benefit to the council; its district, or any part of its district; the inhabitants of its district, or any part of its district, within an overall annual financial spending limit. The Section 37 powers were repealed with the introduction of the Local Government (NI) Act 2014 and replaced with the wider general power of competence.
3.14	It is important to note that the council does not set an annual discretionary spend budget, however the Section 37 authority was used by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee to consider the application of any overall departmental underspend to discretionary payments, up to the Section 37 limit, and the Policy and Resources Committee, in June 2004, agreed a set of criteria for assessing such requests.
3.15	The criteria agreed by the Policy and Resources Committee on the 18 June 2004 ensured that any payment met the legislative requirement, did not relate to other Committee funding streams and that the nature of the payment request was non-recurrent i.e. related to a specific event, activity or initiative as opposed to general funds or organisation running costs.
3.16	The calculation of the limit on total allocations allowable in any year, was based on a product of the domestic and non-domestic rate as detailed in Section 40 of the Local Government Finance (NI) Act 2011 and is included as Appendix 1.
3.17	Using the rate product calculation (appendix 1) a limit of £396,600 would be applicable for re-allocations from any under-spend arising from the 2018/19 revenue estimates.

	<b>Proposed Discretionary Payment Assessment Criteria</b>
3.18	Under the general power of competence, by virtue of the Part 11 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014, the Council still has the power to make such discretionary payments and it is proposed that the committee reintroduce the previous criteria for such payment as agreed by the Policy and Resources Committee in June 2004.
3.19	<p>These are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the total discretionary payments may not exceed the rate product limit calculated using the formula in Appendix 1 to this report.</li> <li>2. That there are sufficient in year resources available for reallocation to meet the discretionary payment expenditure approved.</li> <li>3. That the application for the discretionary payment links to one or more of the council's corporate priorities.</li> <li>4. That there is direct benefit to be obtained to the council or its district or inhabitants.</li> <li>5. That the activity or initiative in respect of assistance being sought is being promoted by a person or organisation living or operating, or otherwise having a direct connection with the City.</li> <li>6. That the request for a discretionary payment does not relate to an event or initiative which falls within a funding stream established through the remit and statutory power of any other committee of the council (in which case it should be so referred).</li> <li>7. That the request relates to a specific event, activity or initiative as distinct from a request for a contribution to general funds or organisational running costs.</li> <li>8. That the benefit to be obtained will be commensurate with the payment to be made.</li> </ol>
	<b>Next Steps if Criteria are Agreed</b>
3.20	If the above criteria are agreed then information on discretionary payments will be published on the Council website. It will be emphasised that there is no designated fund, but that if in year resources become available for re-allocation then an amount may be set aside by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for discretionary payments and that this will normally be considered at the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in June and November.
3.21	An application form will be developed to be completed by those organisations wishing to submit a funding request which will allow the request to be assessed by officers against the above criteria.

3.22	A Committee report will be presented to the November (Half-Year) and June (Year-End) Committees outlining resources available, if any, up to the limit available for discretionary payments and an summary of applications received which meet the criteria.
	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u>
3.23	There will be no established budget for discretionary payments and therefore these must be funded by re-allocation of in year underspends.
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.24	There are no equality implications with this report.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1 – In Year Re-allocation Limit Calculation

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**Calculation of the Annual Limit on Re-Allocations for Discretionary Payments**

The total re-allocations in any one financial year shall not exceed the aggregate of:

- The product of the rate of 0.0596p in the pound on the rateable value of all hereditaments in a NAV list in the district and
- The product of a rate of 0.00082p in the pound on the rateable capital value of all hereditaments in a capital value list in the district.
- “capital value” means capital value for the purposes of the Rates (Northern Ireland) Order 1977 (NI 28) and shall be construed in accordance with Article 39 of that order.
- “NAV list” has the meaning given by Article 40(1)(a) of the Rates (Northern Ireland Order) 1977

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**Belfast**  
City Council

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Update on Contracts</b>
<b>Date:</b>	25th March, 2022
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Ronan Cregan, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Noleen Bohill, Head of Commercial and Procurement Services

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	<p>The purpose of this report is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to seek the Committee's approval for tenders and Single Tender Actions (STA) over £30,000; and</li> <li>to ask the Committee to note contract modifications to contract term and retrospective Single Tender Actions (STAs)</li> </ul>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>approve the public advertisement of tenders as per Standing Order 37a detailed in Appendix 1 (<b>Table 1</b>)</li> <li>approve the award of STAs in line with Standing Order 55 exceptions as detailed in Appendix 1 (<b>Table 2</b>)</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• approve the modification of the contract as per Standing Order 37a detailed in Appendix 1 (<b>Table 3</b>)</li> <li>• note the award of retrospective STAs in line with Standing Order 55 exceptions as detailed in Appendix 1 (<b>Table 4</b>)</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
	<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 any contract that exceeds the statutory amount (currently £30,000) shall be made under the Corporate Seal. Under Standing Order 51(b) the Corporate Seal can only be affixed when there is a resolution of the Council.
3.3	Standing Order 54 states that every contract shall comply with the relevant requirements of national and European legislation.
	<u>Single Tender Actions (STAs)</u>
3.4	<p>The following STAs are being submitted for approval:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a contract for £45,000, for up to 3 years, awarded to CDR Group for the renewal of support and maintenance for SSA (Spectrum Spatial Analyst) software. SSA is used extensively across the Council. It would be a major exercise to replace or change this product and the cost would be prohibitive. The disruption would impact a broad range of departments across the Council.</li> <li>• a contract for £57,000, for up to 3 years, awarded to CDR Group for the renewal of support and maintenance for MapInfo mapping software. The platform has been extensively used to provide developed functionality and projects. It would be a major exercise to replace or change this product and the cost would be prohibitive.</li> <li>• a contract for £30,000, for up to 1 year, awarded to George Best Belfast City Airport for Belfast City brand advertising at George Best Belfast City Airport. Belfast City Airport is NI's only connection to 3 London airports, key routes regularly used by business passengers and a key channel for one of our key target audiences (investors).</li> </ul>

3.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a contract for £170,000, for up to 3 years, awarded to Simply Zesty UK Ltd for the extension of the design and build contract for ongoing corporate website development and development of additional BCC websites. The current contract extension runs to May 2022 and additional time is required to complete all design and development work of the Councils websites.</li> </ul> <p>The following retrospective STAs were awarded:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a contract for £100,000 (part-funded), for up to 1 month, awarded to The Eden Trust for the delivery of a feasibility study and essential public engagement work for the Urban Forest project at 2 Royal Avenue. Eden Trust have developed the Urban Forest concept including a feasibility study for outdoor installation as part of year of culture in 2024, they own the concept for Urban Forest and this engagement programme and events are an extension of this work.</li> <li>• a contract for £100,000 (fully-funded), for up to 4 months, awarded to Smallworld Music for the requirement for a company to produce and action a detailed and robust Venue Management Plan to cover operational and event needs at 2 Royal Avenue. The original STA for this work was £29,500 this now needs extended as total cost is up to £100,000 to cover all operational staffing fees and maintenance fees until 31st March 2022.</li> <li>• a contract for £54,000 (fully-funded), for up to 1 month, awarded to Portview for the requirement for a company to increase connectivity between the city centre and neighbourhoods through thematically aligned programmes at 2 Royal Avenue. Banana Block at Portview are a named partner within the Service Level Agreement with Tourism NI however as lead partner this is administered by the Council.</li> <li>• a contract for £125,000 (fully-funded), for up to 6 weeks, awarded to Visit Belfast for the development and delivery an extensive Marcomms campaign to support the reopening of the city at 2 Royal Avenue. Visit Belfast are the only contractor who can provide this particular service as the destination marketing organisation for the city they are responsible for delivering a Spring campaign.</li> </ul>
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3.6	<p><b><u>Modification to Contract Term</u></b></p> <p>The following contract terms were modified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a 3 month extension to contract T2084 (b) - Provision of a 'Shared History, Heritage and Identity Content / Narratives for Interpretative Panels on Shared Space Greenway' PEACE IV Programme Services, awarded to Mediation NI. In response to the current outbreak of Coronavirus and due to government restrictions the activity could not take place.</li> <li>• a 3 month extension and additional £20,000 to contract T1710 - Provision of a cleaning service at Belfast Castle, Malone House, The Stables and Lock Keepers Cottage, awarded to Precision Industrial Services. Extension to allow time for a new tender to be awarded. A 4 month extension and additional £20,000 was previously approved Dec 2021.</li> <li>• a 3 month extension and additional £16,000 to contracts T1870 Tender for the Maintenance and Removal of Flower Displays, awarded to Clive Richardson Ltd. Extension requested to current tender by 3 months to allow sufficient time for a new tender to be awarded.</li> </ul>
	<b>Financial and Resource Implications</b>
3.7	The financial resources for these contracts are within approved corporate or departmental budgets.
	<b>Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment</b>
3.8	None
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1 Table 1 - Competitive Tenders Table 2 - Single Tender Actions Table 3 - Modification to Contract Table 4 - Retrospective Single Tender Actions

**Table 1: Competitive Tenders**

<b>Title of Tender</b>	<b>Proposed Contract Duration</b>	<b>Estimated Total Contract Value</b>	<b>SRO</b>	<b>Short description of goods / services</b>
Supply and delivery of steeled wheeled bins, castors and all supporting spare parts	Up to 2 years	£100,000	S Toland / R Crozier	Supply of commercial bins and spare parts for repair
Email filtering solution to help prevent spam, phishing attacks and other malicious email	Up to 3 years	£48,000	R Cregan	To reduce risk of infection or loss of data from malicious email
Provision of legionella monitoring & risk management programme at BCC properties	Up to 5 years	£250,000	S Grimes	Statutory compliance requirement
Design and build of a mobile responsive and accessible website for Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD) and implement a web CMS	Up to 4 years & 3 months	£45,000	R Cregan	There is currently no standalone website for the BRCD programme. The information is currently on a landing page on BCC's website.
T2119 - Supply of bottled and mains-fed water with dispensers across BCC offices and sites	Up to 3 years	£50,000	R Cregan	Supply of bottled and mains-fed water with dispensers across BCC offices and sites. This is a continuing requirement as kitchens throughout Council buildings need to be refurbished to provide safe drinking water and public access areas need to have a supply of water
Multi supplier framework agreement for the provision of marketing services for the Marketing and Corporate Comms Business Area of BCC	Up to 4 years	N/A	J Tully	BCC target a number of audiences with our Marketing and Communication activities: residents, businesses, potential investors, tourists (local and international) and students that come to study in Belfast
In-depth technical research and guidance to help Digital Services advance the initiatives/projects that support execution of the IT strategy	Up to 2 years	£39,600	R Cregan	Use proven reference architecture to develop technology architecture  Receive organisation-specific guidance through calls with analysts

Appendix 1

				<p>Leverage industry best practices to avoid costly mistakes</p> <p>Enables Digital Services to stay current with changing markets and technologies</p>
<p>Multi supplier framework agreement for the provision of technical support, advice and research and economic analysis support service for the Labour Market Partnership, Employability &amp; Skills, Enterprise &amp; Business Growth departments as well as the wider Economic Development division and BRCD</p> <p>Suppliers on the framework will have not have a guarantee of any work</p>	Up to 5 years	Up to £4,000,000	A Reid	<p>The tender will provide technical assistance and economic data analysis as part of an intelligence-led approach, based on robust economic data and strong consultation and research with relevant stakeholders in the city.</p> <p>*Note - approval granted Oct 2021 for 4.5 year at £225k which for Labour Market Partnership only. Requesting increase to 5 years and up to a total value of £4m which includes potential use by other departments in BCC</p>
T2210 - professional congress/conference organiser required for One Young World 2023 conference	Up to 20 months	£2,700,000	A Reid	<p>The contractor will be entitled to a management fee of £250k but will be responsible for managing the overall budget for the event £2.7m.</p> <p>*Note - approval granted Sept 2021 for £175k. Requesting increased to £2.7m. Of this £1m is funding coming from NI Executive to BCC and a further £350,000 from BCC directly with the remaining to be raised from the private sector.</p>
New camera and microphone system for the Committee Rooms	1 off purchase	£49,816	J Walsh	To prepare the Committee Rooms to hold hybrid meetings
Design, provision and management of a meanwhile use at 2 Royal Avenue	Up to 2 years	£1,200,000	A Reid	Agreement to deliver meanwhile use at 2 Royal Avenue until end of temporary planning permission

**Table 2: Single Tender Actions**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Total Value</b>	<b>SRO</b>	<b>Supplier</b>
Renewal of support and maintenance for SSA (Spectrum Spatial Analyst) software	£45,000	R Cregan	CDR Group
Renewal of support and maintenance for MapInfo mapping software	£57,000	R Cregan	CDR Group
Belfast City brand advertising at George Best Belfast City Airport	£30,000	J Tully	George Best Belfast City Airport
Extension of the design and build contract for ongoing corporate website development and development of additional BCC websites	£170,000	R Cregan	Simply Zesty UK Ltd

**Table 3: Modification to Contract**

<b>Title of Contract</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Modification</b>	<b>SRO</b>	<b>Supplier</b>
T2084 (b) Provision of a 'Shared History, Heritage and Identity Content / Narratives for Interpretative Panels on Shared Space Greenway' PEACE IV Programme Services	Up to 16 months	Additional 3 months	S Toland / R Crozier	Mediation NI
T1710 - Provision of a cleaning service at Belfast Castle, Malone House, The Stables and Lock Keepers Cottage	Up 5 years	Additional 3 months and £20,000	S Toland / R Crozier	Precision Industrial Services
T1870 Tender for the Maintenance and Removal of Flower Displays	Up 3 years	Additional 3 months and £16,000	S Toland / R Crozier	Clive Richardson Ltd

**Table 4: Retrospective Single Tender Actions**

<b>Title of Contract</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>SRO</b>	<b>Supplier</b>
Delivery of a feasibility study and essential public engagement work for the Urban Forest project at 2 Royal Avenue (Part funded)	Up to 1 month	£100,000	A Reid	The Eden Trust
Company required to produce and action a detailed and robust Venue Management Plan to cover operational and event needs at 2 Royal Avenue (fully funded)	Up to 4 months	£100,000	A Reid	Smallworld Music
Increase connectivity between the city centre and neighbourhoods through thematically aligned programmes at 2 Royal Avenue (fully funded)	Up to 1 month	£54,000	A Reid	BDA Property Projects Ltd

Appendix 1

Develop and deliver an extensive Marcomms campaign to support the reopening of the city at 2 Royal Avenue (fully funded)	Up to 6 weeks	£125,000	A Reid	Visit Belfast
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<b>Subject:</b>	<b>CIPFA Prudential Code Capital Strategy and Treasury Management Indicators 2022/23</b>
<b>Date:</b>	25th March, 2022
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Ronan Cregan, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Trevor Wallace, Head of Finance

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	The Local Government Finance Act (NI) 2011 and the supporting Prudential and Treasury Codes produced by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), require the Council to consider the affordability and sustainability of capital expenditure decisions through the reporting of prudential and treasury management indicators.
1.2	The Prudential Code requires the Council to produce a Capital Strategy for 2022/23. This report provides information for the Committee on the Capital Strategy, incorporating the prudential indicators for Belfast City Council for the period 2022/23 to 2024/25, and the Council's Treasury Management Strategy for 2022/23.

<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. note the contents of this report and the prudential and treasury management indicators included within the appendices;</li> </ul> <p>and agree:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ii. the Authorised Borrowing Limit for the Council of £147m for 2022/23; and</li> <li>iii. the Treasury Management Strategy for 2022/23, which has been included as Appendix 2 to this report.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p>The Local Government Finance Act (NI) 2011 requires the Council to adopt the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities. In doing so, the Council is required to agree a minimum revenue provision policy annually and to set and monitor a series of Prudential Indicators, the key objectives of which are to ensure that, within a clear framework, the capital investment plans of the council are affordable, prudent and sustainable.</p>
3.2	<p>At the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on the 9 December 2011, Members approved the Council's Treasury Management Policy which is based on the CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice. The Treasury Management Policy requires that a Treasury Management Strategy be presented to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on an annual basis and that it is supported by a mid-year and year end treasury management reports.</p>
3.3	<p>The Capital Strategy, incorporating the prudential indicators, is included as Appendix 1, while the Treasury Management Strategy and treasury management indicators have been included as Appendix 2.</p>
3.4	<p>The comparison of "Gross Borrowing" to "Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) is the main indicator of prudence when considering the proposed capital investment plans of the Council. Estimated gross borrowing should not exceed the CFR for the current year plus two years. The Council's estimated gross borrowing position, illustrated in Table 6, Appendix 1, is comfortably within the CFR in the medium term. The Director of Finance and Resources therefore considers the estimated levels of gross borrowing as being prudent.</p>
3.5	<p>Table 10 (Appendix 1) shows the estimated financing costs for capital expenditure as a percentage of the estimated net revenue stream for the Council, based on the medium</p>

	financial plan. These illustrate that in the medium term, capital financing costs will represent 8.7% of the Council's net running costs. On this basis the Director of Finance and Resources is satisfied that the level of capital expenditure is affordable.
3.6	<p>The Finance Act requires the Council to set an affordable borrowing limit, relating to gross debt. The Prudential Code defines the affordable limit as the "Authorised Borrowing Limit" and gross borrowing must not exceed this limit. Table 8 (Appendix 1) sets out the recommended "Authorised Borrowing Limit" for the Council as being £147m for 2022/23.</p> <p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p>
3.7	<p>As detailed in the report</p> <p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p>
3.8	None
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	<p>Appendix 1 – Capital Strategy Report 2022/23</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Annual Treasury Management Strategy 2022/23</p>

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# Capital Strategy Report 2022/23

## 1. Introduction

This capital strategy report gives a high-level overview of how capital expenditure, capital financing and treasury management activity contribute to the provision of local public services along with an overview of how associated risk is managed and the implications for future financial sustainability.

## 2. Capital Expenditure and Financing

Capital expenditure is where the Council spends money on assets, such as property or vehicles, which will be used for more than one year. In local government this includes spending on assets owned by other bodies, and loans and grants to other bodies enabling them to buy assets. The Council has some limited discretion on what counts as capital expenditure, for example assets costing below £25k are not capitalised and are charged to revenue in year.

In 2022/23, the Council is planning capital expenditure of £37.5m as summarised below:

*Table 1: Prudential Indicator: Estimates of Capital Expenditure in £thousands*

	<b>2021/22 forecast</b>	<b>2022/23 budget</b>	<b>2023/24 budget</b>	<b>2024/25 budget</b>
General Fund services	47,100	37,542	30,988	20,495

The capital expenditure forecast for 2022/23 is still impacted by COVID-19 and continues to be monitored and reviewed, in terms of both project delivery and affordability.

**Governance** – The Council’s Capital Programme is agreed on a yearly basis by the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee in its role as the Council’s investment decision maker. All capital projects must go through a 3-stage approval process and decisions on which projects are added to the Capital Programme and which projects progress are also taken by SP&R Committee. This provides assurance as to the level of financial control and allows Members to properly consider the opportunity costs of approving capital projects. The Physical Programmes Department and Financial Services calculate the financing cost of all proposals, including emerging proposals. As part of the final investment decision it must be confirmed that any project is within the affordability limits of the Council.

All capital expenditure must be financed, either from external sources (government grants and other contributions), the Council’s own resources (revenue, reserves and capital receipts) or debt (borrowing and leasing). The planned financing of the above expenditure is as follows:

*Table 2: Capital financing in £thousands*

	<b>2021/22 forecast</b>	<b>2022/23 budget</b>	<b>2023/24 budget</b>	<b>2024/25 budget</b>
External sources	0	0	0	0
Own resources	34,169	15,230	11,142	8,434
Debt	12,931	22,312	19,846	12,061
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>47,100</b>	<b>37,542</b>	<b>30,988</b>	<b>20,495</b>

Debt is only a temporary source of finance, since loans and leases must be repaid, usually from revenue which is known as minimum revenue provision (MRP).

Alternatively, proceeds from selling capital assets (known as capital receipts) may be used to replace debt finance. Planned MRP is as follows:

*Table 3: Repayment of debt finance in £thousands (MRP)*

	<b>2021/22 forecast</b>	<b>2022/23 budget</b>	<b>2023/24 budget</b>	<b>2024/25 budget</b>
Own resources	8,344	9,727	10,621	11,324

The Council's cumulative outstanding amount of debt finance is measured by the capital financing requirement (CFR). This increases with new debt-financed capital expenditure and reduces with MRP and capital receipts used to repay debt. The CFR is expected to increase by £12.5m during 2022/23. Based on the above figures for expenditure and financing, the Council's estimated CFR is as follows:

*Table 4: Prudential Indicator: Estimates of Capital Financing Requirement in £thousands*

	<b>31.3.2022 forecast</b>	<b>31.3.2023 budget</b>	<b>31.3.2024 budget</b>	<b>31.3.2025 budget</b>
General Fund services	134,904	147,489	156,715	157,451

**Asset Management** – The Council is committed to ensuring that all Capital projects contribute to the strategic direction of the city and continue to be of long term use. The Council is currently in the process of looking at its Asset Management Strategy and is implementing a new Asset Management System to support the strategic objectives of better financial management, information management, planning and performance and asset management

**Asset disposals:** When a capital asset is no longer needed, it may be sold so that the proceeds, known as capital receipts, can be spent on new assets or to repay debt. Repayments of capital grants, loans and investments also generate capital

receipts. The Council plans to receive £4.9m of capital receipts in the coming financial year as follows:

*Table 5: Capital receipts in £thousands*

	<b>2021/22 forecast</b>	<b>2022/23 budget</b>	<b>2023/24 budget</b>	<b>2024/25 budget</b>
Asset sales	£456	£4,946	£5,000	£3,200
Loans repaid	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£456</b>	<b>£4,946</b>	<b>£5,000</b>	<b>£3,200</b>

### **3. Treasury Management**

Treasury management is concerned with keeping sufficient but not excessive cash available to meet the Council's spending needs, while managing the risks involved. Surplus cash is invested until required, while a shortage of cash will be met by borrowing, to avoid excessive credit balances or overdrafts in the bank current account. The Council is typically cash rich in the short-term as revenue income is received before it is spent, but cash poor in the long-term as capital expenditure is incurred before being financed. The revenue cash surpluses are offset against capital cash shortfalls to reduce overall borrowing.

The Council currently has £49m borrowing and due to legacy loans taken at higher rates in the past and transfers of debt under Local Government, the average interest rate of these loans is 7.6%. The council also has £18m treasury investments at an average rate of 0.03%.

**Borrowing strategy:** The Council's main objectives when borrowing are to achieve a low but certain cost of finance while retaining flexibility should plans change in future. These objectives are often conflicting, and the Council therefore seeks to strike a balance between cheap short-term loans (currently available at around 0.92%) and long-term fixed rate loans where the future cost is known but higher (currently 2 to 3%).

Projected levels of the Council's total outstanding debt (which comprises borrowing, leases and transfers from local government reorganisation) are shown below, compared with the capital financing requirement (see above).

*Table 6: Prudential Indicator: Gross Debt and the Capital Financing Requirement in £thousands*

	<b>31.3.2022 forecast</b>	<b>31.3.2023 budget</b>	<b>31.3.2024 budget</b>	<b>31.3.2025 budget</b>
Debt (incl. PFI & leases)	48,992	67,176	78,916	79,540
Capital Financing Requirement	134,904	147,489	156,715	157,451

Statutory guidance is that debt should remain below the capital financing requirement, as can be seen from table 6.

**Liability benchmark:** To compare the Council's actual borrowing against an alternative strategy, a liability benchmark has been calculated showing the lowest risk level of borrowing. This assumes that cash and investment balances are kept to a minimum level of £10m at each year-end. This benchmark is currently £54m and is forecast to rise to £79m over the next three years.

*Table 7: Prudential Indicator: Borrowing and the liability benchmark £thousands*

	<b>31.3.2022 forecast</b>	<b>31.3.2023 budget</b>	<b>31.3.2024 budget</b>	<b>31.3.2025 budget</b>
Outstanding borrowing	48,992	67,176	78,916	79,540
Liability Benchmark	53,892	68,869	77,711	78,911

The table shows that the Council's borrowing is currently below its liability benchmark. The Council is projecting to borrow over the next few years to meet capital expenditure requirements. This external borrowing will align borrowing with the estimated liability benchmark over the next three years.

**Affordable borrowing limit:** The Council is legally obliged to set an affordable borrowing limit (also termed the authorised limit for external debt) each year and to keep it under review. In line with statutory guidance, a lower "operational boundary" is also set as a warning level should debt approach the limit.



*Table 8: Prudential Indicators: Authorised limit and operational boundary for external debt in £thousands*

	<b>2022/23 limit</b>	<b>2023/24 limit</b>	<b>2024/25 limit</b>
Authorised limit – borrowing	147,489	156,715	157,451
Authorised limit – PFI and leases	0	0	0
Authorised limit – total external debt	147,489	156,715	157,451
Operational boundary – borrowing	131,489	140,715	141,451
Operational boundary – PFI and leases	0	0	0
Operational boundary – total external debt	131,489	140,715	141,451

**Investment strategy:** Treasury investments arise from receiving cash before it is paid out again. Investments made for service reasons or for pure financial gain are not generally considered to be part of treasury management.

The Council's policy on treasury investments is to prioritise security and liquidity over yield, that is to focus on minimising risk rather than maximising returns. Cash that is likely to be spent in the near term is invested securely, for example with the government, other local authorities or selected high-quality banks, to minimise the risk of loss. Both near-term and longer-term investments may be held in pooled funds, where an external fund manager makes decisions on which particular investments to buy and the Council may request its money back at short notice.

*Table 9: Treasury management investments in £thousands*

	<b>31.3.2022 forecast</b>	<b>31.3.2023 budget</b>	<b>31.3.2024 budget</b>	<b>31.3.2025 budget</b>
Near-term investments	18,000	16,000	16,000	16,000
Longer-term investments	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18,000</b>	<b>16,000</b>	<b>16,000</b>	<b>16,000</b>

**Governance:** Decisions on treasury management investment and borrowing are made daily and are therefore delegated to the Director of Finance and staff, who must act in line with the treasury management strategy approved by Strategic Policy and Resources Committee (SP&R). Tri-annual reports on treasury management activity are presented to SP&R. The SP&R committee is responsible for scrutinising treasury management decisions.

#### **4. Liabilities**

In addition to debt of £49m detailed above, the Council is making payments to cover its pension fund liability. It has also set aside £4.9m to cover risks of insurance

claims and Landfill Closure. The Council is also at risk of having to pay for its share of the ARC 21 Joint Committee contingent liability but has not put aside any money.

**Governance:** Decisions on incurring new discretionary liabilities are taken by departmental Chief Officers in consultation with the Director of Finance and Resources. The risk of liabilities crystallising and requiring payment is monitored by central finance and reported quarterly to the Director of Finance and Resources. New liabilities exceeding £1m are reported to Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for approval/notification as appropriate.

## 5. Revenue Budget Implications

Although capital expenditure is not charged directly to the revenue budget, interest payable on loans and MRP are charged to revenue, offset by any investment income receivable. The net annual charge is known as financing costs; this is compared to the net revenue stream i.e. the amount funded from the District Rate and general government grants.

*Table 10: Prudential Indicator: Proportion of financing costs to net revenue stream*

	<b>2021/22 forecast</b>	<b>2022/23 budget</b>	<b>2023/24 budget</b>	<b>2024/25 budget</b>
Financing costs (£'000)	9,687	13,570	14,682	15,488
Proportion of net revenue stream	5.7%	7.6%	8.2%	8.7%

**Sustainability:** Due to the very long-term nature of capital expenditure and financing, the revenue budget implications of expenditure incurred in the next few years may extend for up to 50 years into the future. The Director of Finance and Resources is satisfied that the proposed capital programme is prudent, affordable and sustainable due to the processes in place to scrutinise any plans coming forward and are designed to highlight not only the ongoing financing costs but also the recurring running costs to ensure they remain within the affordability limits identified and agreed by the Council.

## 6. Knowledge and Skills

The Council employs professionally qualified and experienced staff in senior positions with responsibility for making capital expenditure, borrowing and investment decisions. For example, the Director of Finance and Resources is a qualified accountant with over 30 years' experience. The Council pays for junior staff to study towards relevant professional qualifications including CIPFA, ACT (treasury), ACCA, etc.

Where Council staff do not have the knowledge and skills required, use is made of external advisers and consultants that are specialists in their field. The Council currently employs Arlingclose Limited as treasury management advisers. This approach is more cost effective than employing such staff directly, and ensures that the Council has access to knowledge and skills commensurate with its risk appetite.

# Annual Treasury Management Strategy 2022/23

## 1. Introduction

Belfast City Council's Treasury Management Policy is based on the Chartered Institute of Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Treasury Management Code of Practice. The policy requires the Director of Finance and Resources to submit an annual Treasury management Strategy to the Council.

This strategy covers the following issues in respect of 2022/23:

- Outlook for interest rates
- Capital Financing Plans
- Establishing the Borrowing Requirement
- Borrowing strategy
- Debt rescheduling
- Investments
- Treasury Management Indicators

## 2. Outlook for Interest Rates

The ongoing impact on the UK from coronavirus, together with higher inflation, higher interest rates, and the country's trade position post-Brexit, will be major influences on the Authority's treasury management strategy for 2022/23.

The Bank of England (BoE) increased Bank Rate to 0.5% in February 2022. The Authority's treasury management adviser Arlingclose is forecasting that BoE Bank Rate will increase in March and May to a peak of 1%. Policymakers will want to maintain inflation fighting credentials given potentially higher inflation ahead, so will continue with interest rate rises; but will also be highly aware of the economic impact from that same high inflation, so may be cautious of hiking rates further than warranted. Given the significant uncertainties ahead, these forecasts will be closely monitored.

## 3. Capital Financing Plans

It is essential that the level of borrowing is considered within the context of the Council's capital expenditure and plans, as is required by the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance.

On 28 February 2022, the Council held £49m of borrowing and £22m of treasury investments.

Forecast changes in these sums are shown in the balance sheet analysis in table 1 overleaf, with the Council planning to increase borrowings over the next three years.

Table 1: Balance sheet summary and forecast

	<b>2021/22 £'000 Estimate</b>	<b>2022/23 £'000 Forecast</b>	<b>2023/24 £'000 Forecast</b>	<b>2024/25 £'000 Forecast</b>
Capital financing requirement (CFR)	134,904	147,489	156,715	157,451
Less: External Borrowing	48,992	67,176	78,916	79,540
Internal Borrowing	85,912	80,313	77,799	77,911
Less: Balance Sheet Resources	91,012	88,620	89,004	88,540
Treasury Investments (new borrowing)	5,100	8,307	11,205	10,629

The underlying need to borrow for capital purposes is measured by the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR), while usable reserves and working capital are the underlying resources available for investment. The Authority's current strategy is to maintain borrowing and investments below their underlying levels, sometimes known as internal borrowing.

The Authority has an increasing CFR due to the capital programme, but minimal investments and may therefore be required to borrow up to £55m over the forecast period.

CIPFA's *Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities* recommends that the Authority's total debt should be lower than its highest forecast CFR over the next three years. Table 1 shows that the Authority expects to comply with this recommendation during 2022/23.

Liability benchmark: To compare the Council's actual borrowing against an alternative strategy, a liability benchmark has been calculated showing the lowest risk level of borrowing. This assumes the same forecasts as table 1 above, but that cash and investment balances are kept to a minimum level of £10m at each year-end to maintain sufficient liquidity but minimise credit risk.

Table 2: Liability Benchmark

	<b>2021/22 £'000 Estimate</b>	<b>2022/23 £'000 Forecast</b>	<b>2023/24 £'000 Forecast</b>	<b>2024/25 £'000 Forecast</b>
Capital financing requirement (CFR)	134,904	147,489	156,715	157,451
Less: Balance Sheet Resources	91,012	88,620	89,004	88,540
Net loans requirement	43,892	58,869	67,711	68,911
Plus: Liquidity allowance	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Liability Benchmark	53,892	68,869	77,711	78,911

The Liability Benchmark is effectively the Net Borrowing Requirement of a local authority plus a liquidity allowance.

CIPFA recommends that the optimum position for external borrowing should be at the level of the Liability Benchmark (i.e., all balance sheet resources should be used to maximise internal borrowing). If the outputs show future periods where external loans are less than the Liability Benchmark, then this indicates a borrowing requirement thus identifying where the authority is exposed to interest rate, liquidity and refinancing risks. Conversely where external loans exceed the Liability Benchmark then this will highlight an overborrowed position which will result in excess cash in the organisation requiring investment thus exposing the authority to credit and reinvestment risks and a potential cost of carry. The Council's external debt is relatively close to the liability benchmark and given the potential increases in the bank rate, the level of debt required is closely monitored to minimise any interest rate risk.

#### **4. Establishing the Borrowing Requirement**

The starting point for ascertaining the appropriate level of borrowing is the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR). The CFR is derived from the Balance Sheet and represents the Council's underlying need to borrow for a capital purpose, as it takes account of all capital expenditure incurred which is resourced from borrowing.

However, in addition to the debt position created by historic capital expenditure met from borrowing, the Council also has significant values of reserves, provisions and balances supported by cash, which reduce the net indebtedness of the Council. These positive cash flows allow the Council to consider utilising this cash to support capital expenditure in lieu of external borrowing.

If external borrowing is higher than the CFR, this indicates borrowing in advance of immediate need (permitted within the Prudential Code) and borrowing below CFR would indicate internal borrowing (i.e. the level of cash used in lieu of external borrowing)

The relatively high levels of reserves and balances on the Council's balance sheet have therefore enabled the Council to benefit from not having to borrow externally to the full extent of the underlying need. However, it cannot be assumed that this position can continue into perpetuity and needs to be given active consideration.

The Authority currently holds £49 million of loans, a decrease of £8 million on the previous year. The balance sheet forecast in table 1 shows that the Authority expects to borrow up to £25m in 2022/23. The Authority may also borrow additional sums to pre-fund future years' requirements, providing this does not exceed the authorised limit for borrowing of £147 million.

## 5. **Borrowing Strategy**

In terms of meeting the external borrowing requirement identified above, one of the most important considerations is the timing, in terms of the potential to save significant interest costs and it is key that this position is proactively managed using all information available to inform decisions. It is essential therefore that the considerations of timing of borrowing form a key element of the borrowing strategy.

It is of course not possible for all borrowing to be undertaken at the lowest rates of interest available, as unforeseen events can significantly alter the path of rates. It is therefore essential that the risks to adverse movements are fully understood and actively managed. One of the key borrowing objectives is to achieve certainty around interest costs, and there is therefore little appetite to undertake variable rate borrowing.

Given the uncertainty around local government funding, the Council's borrowing strategy continues to address the key issue of affordability without compromising the longer-term stability of the debt portfolio. With short-term interest rates currently much lower than long-term rates, it is likely to be more cost effective in the short-term to either use internal resources, or to borrow short-term loans instead. By doing so, the Council is able to reduce net borrowing costs (despite foregone investment income) and reduce overall treasury risk. The benefits of internal / short-term borrowing will be monitored regularly against the potential for incurring additional costs by deferring borrowing into future years when long-term borrowing rates are forecast to rise modestly

It is recognised that whilst the capital expenditure and financing plans will be a driver of borrowing costs, the management of risk is the prime objective of the borrowing strategy and reduction of interest rate risk and refinancing risk within the portfolio is essential.

The Council remains prepared to undertake the potential borrowing ahead of immediate need (up to three years in advance), if it results in a reduction of interest rate risk within the portfolio. The Council recognises that this may temporarily increase investment balances, and increase net interest costs in the short term, and that these factors will form part of the decision making process when the strategy is executed. It would be necessary to demonstrate value for money when making a decision in respect of borrowing in advance of need, therefore it will only be undertaken if there is a strong view that rates may rise.

The Council has previously raised the majority of its long-term borrowing from the Government Loans Fund. The Council may look to borrow any long-term loans from other sources such as banks, pensions and local authorities and may utilise money market brokers to facilitate borrowing from other local authorities for short to medium term borrowing.

## 6. **Debt Rescheduling**

The prime objective of any restructuring is to reduce risk in the portfolio, whether that be interest rate or refinancing risk. Any savings that may be created as a result will be considered in the context of the overall risk profile.

Debt restructuring opportunities will be kept under constant review, however the penalties of premature redemption of loans at higher rates than prevailing interest

rates mean that there may be significant costs associated with this, which will reduce the attractiveness of opportunities.

## 7. Investments

### Annual Investment Strategy

The Council has regard to the Guidance for Local Government Investments for District Councils in Northern Ireland (the Guidance) as cited under Section 25(1) of the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 (the Act) when setting the Investment Strategy. The Department recommends that each local authority produce and publish an Annual Investment Strategy, approved by the Council and revised in year as required. This sets out the Council's policies for managing investments and for giving priority to the security and liquidity of those investments. This investment strategy states which instruments the Council may use for investment purposes, making a distinction between specified and non-specified investments. This strategy also determines limits in respect of their overall levels.

The prime objective of the Council's investment strategy is to ensure prudent investment of surplus funds. The Council's investment priorities are the security of capital, liquidity of investments and, within those objectives, to secure optimum performance. The COVID-19 pandemic had increased the risk that the Bank of England would set its Bank Rate at or below zero, however given the recent Bank of England rate increases, this risk has reduced but will continue to be monitored given continued market uncertainties.

All investments will be made in accordance with the Council's investment policies and prevailing legislation and regulations.

### 7.1 Specified Investments

An investment is a **specified investment** if:

- The investment is denominated in Sterling and all payments or repayments are payable only in Sterling,
- The investment is not a long term investment (i.e. due to be repaid within 12 months of the date in which it was made or one which the Council may require to be repaid within that period),
- The making of the investment is not defined as capital expenditure by virtue of regulation 12 of the Local Government (Capital Finance and Accounting) (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2011; and
- The investment is made with a body which has been awarded a high credit rating, or is made with one of the following:
  - a) The United Kingdom Government;
  - b) A District Council;
  - c) A Local Authority in England and Wales or a similar body in Scotland;

The following categories of investments may be used under the definition of specified investments:

- Short term cash deposits
- Call accounts
- Certificates of Deposit (with maturity dates < 1 year)
- UK Government Gilts
- Treasury Bills

- Money Market Funds

The Council considers a high credit rating for money market funds to be those with a long term Fitch Rating of AAA (or the equivalent highest rating from Standard and Poors or Moodys).

The Council will have regard to all 3 rating agencies and considers a high credit rating for other investments to be as follows:

<b>Fitch Credit Rating</b>	<b>Minimum level</b>
Short Term Rating	F1
Long Term Rating	A

Fitch defines these ratings as follows:

**A: High credit quality.**

'A' ratings denote expectations of low default risk. The capacity for payment of financial commitments is considered strong. This capacity may, nevertheless, be more vulnerable to adverse business or economic conditions than is the case for higher ratings.

**F1: Highest short-term credit quality.**

Indicates the strongest intrinsic capacity for timely payment of financial commitments

## **7.2 Non-specified Investments**

In respect of **non-specified investments**. The following instruments have been identified by the Council.

<b>Category of Non-specified investment</b>
Sterling denominated Foreign Government Securities
Sterling medium term Deposits or Certificates of Deposit
Floating rate Certificates of Deposit
Highly rated Corporate Bonds (including investments in a Corporate Bond Fund)
Sterling Reserve Funds
Index-linked structured deposits
Collateralised deposits
Foreign Currency denominated investments
Deposits with non-rated Building Societies

The Council do not intend on making any investments in the 2022/23 year which meet the definition of non-specified investments and therefore there is no limit set on this within the Investment Strategy.

The CIPFA Code of Practice recommends that the Investment Strategy sets out the maximum period over which investments will be made.

The Director of Finance and Resources recommends that a maximum duration of 2 years should be set, although it is only expected that investments over 12 months will be made in exceptional circumstances.



Regulation 12(1) (d) of the Local Government (Capital Finance and Accounting) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011 states that some categories of investment are defined as Capital Expenditure. This relates to the acquisition of share or loan capital in any body corporate. However, in the event that this expenditure is made as an investment for the prudent management of the Council's financial affairs, it shall not be treated as capital expenditure.

The impact of investing in instruments of this nature are such that, unlike other investment instruments, either capital or revenue resources would have to be applied to this expenditure, and once the investment was sold or matured, the income would be a capital receipt.

The Council do not intend on making any investments which meet the definition of capital expenditure and therefore there is no limit set on this within the Investment Strategy.

### **7.3 Investment Risk**

The prime consideration of risk within investments is the loss of capital invested. Therefore investments will only be made with bodies with a high credit rating defined above. Credit ratings will form the primary driver for assessing credit quality, although it is recognised that this is not the only means of assessing credit quality.

Caution will be exercised in determining the creditworthiness of investment counterparties, even if they meet the minimum criteria above.

In the event that any institutions are at the minimum criteria and are on negative rating watch, monies will not be placed with that organisation until such time that the negative outlook is revised.

Geographical limits will be considered to ensure an appropriate spread of risk. Sovereign ratings will be taken account of when placing funds with institutions outside of the UK.

Credit ratings for existing investment counterparties will be monitored on a monthly basis, as well as immediately before new deposits are placed.

Market intelligence will also be considered before entering into any investments with proposed counterparties meeting the minimum criteria.

### **7.4 Treasury Management Advisers**

The Council currently utilise the services of external advisers, Arlingclose, when determining the credit quality of its investment counterparties. The Council recognise that responsibility for the decision to invest with a counterparty rests with the Council as the principle undertaking the transaction.

Credit ratings will be obtained directly from the rating agencies' websites, and officers will regularly read the financial press for information relevant to the credit-worthiness of counterparties.

### **7.5 Investment Training**

The Council recognises that investments, as well as wider treasury management issues require a high level of specialist knowledge. Officers undertaking the decisions are all qualified accountants with many years of experience. However, the Council recognises the need for officers to be kept up to date with developments and through the annual

appraisal system will identify any training needs to further enhance the current skills base.

In the event of new Officers joining the function, they will be provided with significant on the job training as well as being provided with the opportunity to attend relevant external training courses.

The Council recognises that although there may be costs involved with sending officers to training courses, when these costs are considered in the context of the size of the portfolios being managed, and the amount of the Council's money at risk, investment in training is a worthwhile area of expenditure.

In addition to the training of officers, in order for elected members to provide effective scrutiny of the strategy and to have the knowledge to make informed decisions regarding the strategy, it is also important that training is provided to Members of the Council.

## **7.6 Other Investment Considerations**

The level of investment balances is not specifically targeted in the strategy; it will be a consequence of the net spending plans of the Council, and the level of external borrowing to be undertaken. To date, balances have remained relatively stable over recent years. However, the introduction of the Prudential Code, and the self regulation of borrowing limits and capital financing strategies, may result in higher or lower levels of balances going forwards as the level of external borrowing is given active consideration.

It should also be noted that the investments are largely as a result of the level of reserves and provisions that the Council has at any one point in time. In addition, there is an amount of working capital (excess of creditors over debtors) as well as being a factor of the extent to which investment balances have been used in lieu of external borrowing.

Investment balances are expected to decrease as further investment balances are used in lieu of external borrowing.

The remaining cash balances that will not be used in lieu of external borrowing will primarily exist to manage cash flow volatility within the Council. It is therefore not expected that investments of a long term strategic nature will be made. Instead the duration of new investments will remain relatively short in order to meet liquidity demands.

The Council recognises that a consequence of short dated investments is that it exposes the portfolio to interest rate risk, which would otherwise be reduced if investments were made of a long term nature. The budget for investment income takes a prudent approach to expected returns from investments.

## **8. Treasury Management Indicators**

The CIPFA Treasury Management Code of Practice requires various indicators to be set within the strategy. This section of the report sets these out in the format required by the Code. Whilst they are required to provide boundaries within which the treasury management operations will be managed, it is also important that there is sufficient flexibility to enable officers to react to unforeseen favourable movements in the financial markets which may present beneficial opportunities to the Council.

### 8.21 Interest Rate Exposures

The Council is required to set upper limits for both fixed and variable exposures for the forthcoming years. The purpose of this indicator is to contain the Council's exposure to unfavourable movements in interest rates. The indicators are expressed as Fixed Rate Borrowing less Fixed Rate Investments and Variable Rate Borrowing less Variable Rate Investments. The Council defines variable rate investments as including those instruments maturing within each year, as the replacement of those instruments will be subject to prevailing rates of interest. The following table shows the upper limit of fixed rate exposure and the upper limit of variable rate exposure for the forthcoming three years.

	Estimate 2022/23 £'000	Estimate 2023/24 £'000	Estimate 2024/25 £'000
Upper limit of fixed rate exposure	131,489	140,715	141,451
Upper limit of variable rate exposure	3,945	4,221	4,244

### 8.2 Maturity Structure of Fixed Rate Borrowing

The Council is required to set upper and lower limits of fixed rate borrowing maturing within certain periods, in order to contain the exposure to re-financing risk which may arise if significant proportions of borrowing were maturing within a short period of time. The Council has set the following limits for the forthcoming financial year.

	Lower Limit	Upper Limit
Under 12 months	0.00%	15.00%
12 months – 24 months	0.00%	25.00%
24 months – 5 years	0.00%	48.00%
5 years – 10 years	0.00%	56.00%
10 years and above	0.00%	55.00%

### 8.3 Total Principal Sums invested for periods longer than 364 days

The purpose of this indicator is to contain exposure to the possibility of loss that may arise as a result of the Council having to seek early repayment of sums invested.

The Council would not, through its normal course of investment activities, expect to make investments beyond 12 months. However, there may be exceptional circumstances which may result in investments being made up to 2 years in duration, as is referred to within the Annual Investment Strategy.

	Estimate 2022/23 £2m	Estimate 2023/24 £2m	Estimate 2024/25 £2m
Total principal sums invested for longer than 364 days			

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<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Minutes of Meeting of Shared City Partnership</b>
<b>Date:</b>	25th March, 2022
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Rose Crozier, Director of Neighbourhood Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Nicola Lane, Good Relations Manager

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with an update on the key issues discussed at the Shared City Partnership meeting of 7th March, 2022.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is requested to approve the minutes and the recommendations from the Shared City Partnership Meeting held on 7th March, including:</p> <p><b>PEACE IV</b></p> <p><u>Secretariat</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To delegate authority to the Director of Neighbourhood Services, as SRO for PEACE IV, and also to the Good Relations Manager to agree the business case / mitigations required and to note that a further report will be submitted in April 2022.</li> </ul>

#### Children and Young People

- CYP3 OTRT – agree, in principle, a contract uplift of up to 10% of the contract value, estimated at £20,000, subject to confirmation of costs, availability of funding and SEUPB approval.

#### Shared Spaces and Services

- To accept the recommendations, possible actions and links to existing supported project work contained within the MDL Dialogue and Engagement Project Report.

#### Building Positive Relations

##### BPR5 Roma:

- To extend project delivery until September 2022, this is within the current contract specifications for the Roma project and BCC Letter of Offer.

##### BPR6 St. Comgall's:

- to agree in principle the methodology for content gathering, the style and layout of the templates for the educational resources and exhibition materials; and
- to delegate authority to the Programme Board to agree the content of the final resource for full suite of the educational resources and exhibition materials, which will also be subject to SEUPB approval.

#### **GOOD RELATIONS**

##### Belfast Agenda Refresh and Action Planning

- To note that a supporting action plan will be co-designed with the Shared City Partnership and partners and brought back for consideration in due course.

##### Update on Research on the Experiences of BAME and Traveller Communities

- That the Council uses the underspend of £6,000, identified in the District Council Good Relations programme, to widen the participation of peer researchers, from BAME communities, in the research and to provide a programme of skills development to enhance their capacity.

	<p><u>Anti-sectarianism and Good Relations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to receive a presentation from TEO on its current mapping exercise regarding support for good relations at a future meeting</li> </ul> <p><u>Presentation from the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To receive a presentation from the Belfast Health and Social care Trust on the development of its Good Relations Strategy at a future meeting of the Partnership.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The Shared City Partnership is a Working Group of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee consisting of Elected members and representatives from various sectors across the City. The minutes from the Partnership meeting are brought before the Committee for approval on a monthly basis.</p>
3.2	<p>The key issues on the agenda at the March meeting were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PEACE IV <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ BPR6 St Comgall's – Project Presentation on Educational Resources and Exhibition Materials development</li> <li>➤ Update on PEACE IV Secretariat</li> <li>➤ Update on PEACE IV CYP Theme</li> <li>➤ Update on PEACE IV SSS Theme</li> <li>➤ Update on PEACE IV BPR Theme</li> </ul> </li> <li>Update on PEACE PLUS</li> <li>Belfast Agenda Refresh and Action Planning</li> <li>Update on Research on the Experiences of BAME and Traveller Communities</li> <li>Update on Good Relations Action Plan 21/22</li> <li>Anti-sectarianism and Good Relations</li> <li>Upcoming Events</li> </ul>
3.3	<p>More details regarding the above issues and recommendations are included in the attached minutes.</p>

3.4	<p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>All financial implications are covered through existing budgets.</p>
3.5	<p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p> <p>The recommendations of the Partnership promote the work of the Council in promoting good relations and will enhance equality and good relations impacts.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Document Attached</b>
	Minutes of the meeting of 7th March, 2022



## **SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP**

**MONDAY 7th MARCH, 2022**

### **MEETING OF SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

Members present: Councillors Kyle, Carson and O'Hara.

External Members: Ms. B. Arthurs, Community and Voluntary Sector;  
Ms. J. Irwin, Community Relations Council;  
Mr. I. McLaughlin, Community and Voluntary Sector;  
Superintendent Pollock, PSNI; and  
Ms. A. Tohill, Good Relations, TEO.

In attendance: Mr. S. Lavery, Programme Manager;  
Ms. N. Lane, Good Relations Manager;  
Ms. D. McKinney, PEACE IV Programme Manager;  
Mr. D. Robinson, Good Relations Officer; and  
Mrs. S. Steele, Democratic Services Officer.

#### **Apologies**

Apologies for inability to attend were reported on behalf of Councillor Hutchinson and also from Mr. J. Donnelly, Miss. G. Duggan, Ms. K. Jardine, Ms. G. Mornhinweg, Mr. M. McBride and Ms. Ann Marie White.

#### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 7th February 2022 were taken as read and signed as correct.

#### **Declarations of Interest**

Ms. J. Irwin declared an interest in item 3 (c), namely, Peace IV Updates – update on SSS Theme, in that ArtsEkta received funding from the Community Relations Council of which she was Chief Executive.

Mrs. B. Arthurs declared an interest in item 3 (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.

Ms. A. Tohill declared an interest in Peace IV update reports 3(a) to 3 (d) in that she sat on the SEUPB PEACE IV Steering Group Committee and that as the accountable Department, The Executive Office had committed funding towards the Peace IV Programme.

#### **Membership of Partnership**

The Chairperson welcomed Councillor Carson to his first meeting. He also advised that this was the last meeting for Superintendent Pollock, who was being replaced next month

on the Partnership by Superintendent Amanda Ford, and on behalf of the Partnership he expressed thanks to him for his contribution.

Noted.

### **Red Cross Refugee Briefing Session**

The Chairperson, on behalf of the Partnership, asked that thanks be recorded to Ms. A. M. White for the successful and informative Red Cross Refugee Briefing Session that had been held on Issues Facing Refugees and Asylum Seekers on 22nd February.

It was noted that Ms. A.M. White had kindly agreed to facilitate a 'mop-up' session for those Members who had been unable to attend, and it had also been agreed that other interested parties could be invited to attend this session.

The Members were advised that details would be circulated in due course.

Noted.

### **St Comgall's Project Presentation on Educational Resources and Exhibition Materials Development**

The Chairperson welcomed Mr. R. Crowe, Copius Consulting, Mr. M. Lyons, Redhead Exhibition and Mr. G. McConville, Falls Community Council, to the meeting.

Mr. Crowe and Mr. Lyons with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation provided a progress update on the BPR6 St Comgalls, along with an overview of the principle for the methodology for content gathering and the style and layout of the templates for the educational resources and exhibition materials for use in the St Comgall's exhibition.

The Partnership also considered the undernoted report:

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

**To provide the Shared City Partnership (SCP) with a progress update on the BPR6 St Comgalls project and to seek approval in principle for the methodology for content gathering and the style and layout of the templates for the educational resources and exhibition materials for use in the St Comgall's exhibition.**

#### **2.0 Recommendations**

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

- (i) in principle, the methodology for content gathering, the style and layout of the templates for the educational resources and exhibition materials**
- (ii) To delegate authority to the Programme Board to agree the content of the final resource for full suite of the**

educational resources and exhibition materials, which will also be subject to SEUPB approval.

### **3.0 Main report**

#### **Background**

- 3.1 This report provides context to a presentation to the SCP by PEACE IV delivery partner Copius, and their consortium partners Redhead Exhibition and Falls Community Council.
- 3.2 Members will recall the St Comgalls project was approved in 2019 to utilize underspend within the Building Positive Relations theme. Following a public procurement exercise, Copius Consulting in partnership with Falls Community Council and Redhead Exhibition were appointed to develop a suite of educational resources and exhibition products as part of an outreach and engagement programme.
- 3.3 This project focuses on the delivery of community-based programmes to develop an interpretative exhibition and educational resource packs on the history and experience of living in the Divis/Falls/Shankill area during the conflict through to the peace process.
- 3.4 The exhibition will be displayed in the St Comgalls Community Hub and the educational resource packs will provide added value. Development of St Comgall's is currently underway and will open in spring / summer 2022. In 2023, a new visitor exhibition will open within the complex.

The exhibition entitled 'Conflict, Trouble & Peace 1969-98' will explore life in the Divis and Falls area during The Troubles and interpret what life was like there during this period.

The interpretative exhibition on the history of the site will be researched, developed and designed through community-based programmes.

Key aspects of the exhibition will focus on:

- The building, a history past to present
- Social and economic History of Lower Falls
- Growth up the Falls and its place in Belfast
- The 'claim to fame' element of being from Lower Falls and idea of being from 'Down the road' or 'Up the road'

The exhibition will explore the social, political, economic and cultural fabric of life during this time as shaped and experienced by the community close to St Comgall's and its environs, with

reference also to the wider context of events and developments elsewhere in west Belfast, Belfast, Ireland, the UK and internationally.

The concepts for the wider exhibition have been developed by Falls Community Council in consultation with local historians, interpretive specialists and community sector representatives.

It is proposed that the exhibition will take visitors on a journey through The Troubles as lived and experienced by the community around St Comgall's.

### **3.5 Educational Resources:**

The educational resources will be made up of activity sheets for teachers and pupils and be produced to complement curriculum requirements at key stage 3 and 4 for subjects such as History, English, Geography, Learning for Life and Work, Government & Politics and Personal Development and Mutual Understanding (PDMU).

The development of the activity sheets is part of work being conducted by Redhead Exhibition who have engaged an educational consultant in a programme of best practice research around what other museums and visitor centres are producing for schools. This work will also ensure that the activity sheets have currency for teachers and pupils alike and be curriculum specific as detailed above.

This educational consultant has researched and developed content for 15 worksheets that are representative of what visitors will explore and engage with when visiting the St. Comgall's Visitor Exhibition. These 15 worksheets will form the basis of the education pack made available to teachers and pupils and will be supplemented by other services as part of the overall education package on offer as part of the school visit. The 15 worksheets (examples of which are included in Appendix 1) have been selected from the 26 core content sections of the exhibition narrative as developed by Falls Community Council for the St. Comgall's Visitor Exhibition.

The educational resource content has also been developed using the Community Relations Council's principles created to inform how remembering in a public space is presented, namely,

- (a) Start from the historical facts;
- (b) recognise the implications and consequences of what happened;
- (c) understand that different perceptions and interpretations exist;

- (d) show how events and activities can deepen understanding of the period, and
- (e) all to be seen in the context of an 'inclusive and accepting society.

It should be noted this approach was used as specification for the decade of centenary exhibitions at City Hall and all other decade of centenary public interpretation works.

### **3.6 Exhibition materials:**

The programme exhibition will incorporate wider programme content emerging from engagement activities completed throughout the lifetime of the programme, including for example, programme participant transcripts, shared learning, best practice and study visits etc. This content has been informed by the participants who are from the local Divis/ Falls/ Shankill area and were recruited to the programme on a 50% 50% cross community basis, ensuring the emerging content reflects a mixed perspective.

### **Recommendations:**

- 3.7** Based on the above report and the presentation made to members, it is requested that member note the above approach and agree in principle, the methodology for content gathering, the style and layout of the templates for the educational resources and exhibition materials.

To expediate further delivery of the resource material, it is also request that the Partnership delegate authority to the Programme Board to agree the content of the final resource for full suite of the educational resources and exhibition materials, which will also be subject to SEUPB approval.

### **Financial and Resource Implications**

- 3.8** There are no financial implications as the exhibition materials will be delivered within the current contract award and budget value of the BPR6 projects.

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

- 3.9** 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 Chairperson thanked the representatives for their informative presentation and they left the meeting.

Following a query from a Member, the Programme Manager confirmed that the Members were not being asked to approve the final exhibition without sight but to delegate authority to the Programme Board to agree the final content. The Members were reminded that the SEUPB, as the funding body, would also be approving the content.

The Partnership recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it agree:

- in principle, the methodology for content gathering, the style and layout of the templates for the educational resources and exhibition materials; and
- to delegate authority to the Programme Board to agree the content of the final resource for full suite of the educational resources and exhibition materials and noted that this would be subject to approval of the SEUPB.

### **Peace IV Update Reports**

#### **Secretariat Update**

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 project activity and project modifications to enable delivery was continuing to be closely monitored.

The officer continued that, as previously advised, the Thematic Chairs and the PIV Manager had met in early February 2022 to review project implementation and potential mitigations. The Members were asked to note the following key recommendations and actions that had been agreed by the Programme Board and to note that, where possible, these were being progressed by the PIV Manager:

- the SSS TPM and PP PM to continue to update the Programme Board in the absence of the SSS Thematic Chair. Input relating to issues on the ground to be provided to the TPM and PM through the West NIM;
- any challenges or accountability issues relating to the SSS theme to be highlighted to the PIV Programme Board;
- correspondence to be issued to all high-risk projects, CYP3, CYP5, BPR1 and BPR2 requesting an update implementation plan together with senior management assurance on project implementation;
- further guidance to be sought regarding the steps to be taken to ensure delivery of targets within CYP5;
- noted that all efforts to mobilise the Traveller support / capacity building programme had been exhausted. The market had been tested on numerous occasions and there was no organisation with the resource or capacity to deliver the project. Reallocation of the £66K to be explored;

- comms advice to be sought regarding the steps taken to mobilise the Traveller support/capacity element;
- a report highlighting the issues affecting delivery and risks to Council to be submitted to DMT for escalation; and
- the Chairs agreed there was clear evidence that current market and environmental conditions continued to impact delivery and that the ongoing issues needed be escalated to the Corporate Management Team (CMT) and Senior Officers with a view to meeting Senior Officers within the SEUPB to highlight concerns and discuss the need for flexibility.

The Programme Manager advised that recent discussions with the SEUPB regarding outstanding operational matters had highlighted the need to review the programme at a higher level. She advised that the SEUPB had provided the Council with the opportunity to reconsider delivery based on what could realistically be achieved and the modifications that were necessary at a programme level. The SEUPB had requested that a Business Case be submitted outlining the expected level of delivery, together with any mitigations required to enable Council to have more freedom to manage the programme within wider parameters, rather than those currently available. The SEUPB had indicated that reduced participants/contact hours might result in reductions in the Letter of Offer (LoO), however, any underspend could be reallocated to the capital works within the SSS theme, given the significant increased costs.

The Programme Manager advised that the PIV Team were currently liaising with the Delivery Partners to collate the business case for the SEUPB on what realistically could be delivered within the remaining timeframe. Given the need to urgently progress the business case and to enable consideration of it by the SEUPB Steering Committee at its April meeting, the Partnership agreed to recommend that authority be delegated to the Director of Neighbourhood Services, as the Senior Reporting Officer for PEACE IV, and to the Good Relations Manager to agree the necessary business case and to note that a further report would be submitted to the April meeting of the Shared City Partnership.

The Members also noted that the Programme Board had reviewed the LoO conditions in February 2022 and the specified conditions were either completed or currently being dealt with.

The Jewish Culture Café had been successfully delivered on a virtual basis on 16th February. An evaluation of the event was currently underway. Planning was also underway for the Future Peacebuilders Conference scheduled to be held on 8th March.

The Good Relations Manager highlighted that resource pressures within the PEACE IV team continued, with staff resource difficulties presenting significant risks to the delivery of the Programme given that activity was increasing.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Partnership, thanked the Peace IV Programme Manager and all the Peace IV staff for their ongoing commitment during what continued to be an extremely challenging work environment.

The Members noted that, as previously reported, the total spend of the programme to date up to Period 28 (October 21) was £5,683,940. The SEUPB had now reimbursed all Period 26 claims, with total claims reimbursement to date of £4,783,726. Reimbursement of Period 27 and 28 claims, with a combined value of £954,626, remained outstanding although

verification had commenced. The compilation of claims for Period 29, with an estimated value of £460K, was progressing to be submitted to the SEUPB by 28th February.

The Partnership recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it grant delegated authority to the Director of Neighbourhood Services and the Good Relations Manager to agree the necessary business case/mitigations for submission to the SEUPB and to note that a further report will be submitted to the April meeting of the Partnership.

### **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 and Resources Committee that they note the contents of the report and related appendices and agree the following proposals:

CYP3 OTRT – to agree in principle, a contract uplift of up to 10% of the contract value, estimated at £20,000, subject to confirmation of costs, availability of funding and SEUPB approval

#### **3.0 Main report**

##### **Project Updates**

##### **3.1 CYP 1 – TECH CONNECTS, GIGA Training (Afterschool’s and Digital Arts Academies (Tech Camps) (6-11, 12-16 yr. olds)**

GIGA Training has completed delivery of the mid-term tech camps. Monitoring and Evaluation is currently being assessed to confirm number of completers. GIGA have reassessed the Easter Break programme and is planning to deliver limited programmes to aid achievement of targets, as many sessions have been oversubscribed. The Music/DJ sessions for ages 12-16 (Lot 2) during Mid -Term had little uptake and therefore, GIGA is rescheduling to Easter time. Members should note that planning for summer sessions is also progressing with GIGA currently identifying venues at present, before progressing towards live recruitment. With up to 400 young people taking part to date (47%), GIGA training is confident on delivering the full target of 859 by the end of summer 2022.

##### **CYP 1 – TECH CONNECTS, Belfast Metropolitan College (Digital Insights Programme) (17-24 yr. olds)**

Members should note Belfast Metropolitan College has recruited participants through Hazelwood Integrated College and had



identified challenges in retaining engagement with these young people in an after-school setting. A robust rationale to enable delivery during school hours has been submitted and recently approved by SEUPB. With the delivery agent already achieving 42% of the participant target of 160, there are 6 months remaining to recruit and condense delivery. Monitoring of targets and risk of delivery is continuing to be closely assessed.

### **3.2 CYP 2 - Playing our Part in the City**

Final analysis of monitoring and evaluation data confirms that 610 young people have completed the programme from an initial target of 640. From a target of 100 parents to engage and take part, Council have confirmed that 109 parents have completed the programme. In terms of final performance this is equivalent to over 90% achievement of targets specified within contract and is in line with the Output Indicator Guidance threshold.

Active Communities Network is currently arranging a closure event, with a final short story to be shown and achievements of participants celebrated. Secretariat will seek SCP representation at this event, as well as other remaining closure events under the CYP theme.

### **3.3 CYP3 – On the Right Track – Sports and Personal Change elements**

Members are asked to note the addendum to extend delivery for Active Communities Network is being progressed along with confirmation of the additional costs including management costs, OCN costs and facilitator costs. Members are requested to agree in principle, a contract uplift of up to 10% of the contract value, estimated at £20,000, subject to confirmation of costs, availability of funding and SEUPB approval.

Members should note that the request to include participants who have undertaken OCN training as completed was declined by SEUPB. Members are also reminded of the high risks associated with this project, given that over 1100 participants are to be recruited across 6 months to August 2022. A robust business case for a reduction in targets and further mitigations will be made to SEUPB in due course.

#### **Personal Change**

Extern have fully delivered on the target of 42, as recent monitoring information confirms 43 completers to date. Attendance records confirm all participants have achieved 265 cross community hours and over. All participants have fully completed 7 OCN modules, as well as residential and sporting activities.

The final closure event is planned for Wednesday, March 2nd, 2022 from 6pm to 7.30pm and will be held at the MAC, St Anne's Square, Belfast. Invites were issued on 11 February 2022 via Eventbrite. Members are asked to note if they would like to attend and have

not received an invitation, they should contact the secretariat directly via the contact officer named within this paper. Numbers are limited as all previous participants are being invited to attend the celebration and the venue can only hold a certain number of attendees.

The final payment and report on the project are to be finalised by the secretariat. In addition, Extern will be submitting case studies to evidence the impact of the programme to date.

#### **3.4 CYP 4 – Cooperation Ireland (Young Advocates)**

The target of 80 participants has been achieved with participants having completed 60 hours cross community contact time. Project delivery is progressing with the launch of a final social campaign, which will focus on sexual harassment, through animation created by the Young Advocates. The campaign launch is scheduled to take place in Crumlin Road Gaol on 11 March 2022. Speakers at the launch include the Minister of Justice, the Lord Mayor of Belfast, and the Chair of Shared City Partnership Invitations to members will be issued in due course via Cooperation Ireland.

Further planning for the young people's conference, to take place in April 2022 is progressing. This event will be a mix of a conference and celebration, to mark the final closure event for the project. Morrow Communications will also progress the final short story footage for showcasing at the closure event.

#### **3.5 CYP 5 – NIHE Local Area Network Partner Delivery**

NIHE has now appointed the replacement programme manager. Delivery of project activity is continuing with some networks increasing contact hours.

Recruitment of further groups / participants is a priority with a balance of 757 participants to recruit. Further clarity on the request to use an SLA arrangement with participant groups has been submitted to SEUPB. Members are reminded of the high risk associated with this project and its current Red status in the RAG report.

NIHE has been requested to submit an updated implementation plan together with an assurance of delivery for projects under both CYP and BPR themes.

Further mitigations will also be discussed with NIHE in due course and a business case submitted to SEUPB for consideration.

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

To date costs for the CYP Theme up to Period 26 totaling £1,296,859 has been fully reimbursed by SEUPB. Payment of Claims for Period 27 and Period 28 valued at £198,878 remains outstanding, with Period 27 currently being verified by SEUPB.

**Period 29 covers the Period November to Jan is due for submission in February 2022.**

**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 November 2020.”**

The Partnership recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it note the report and agree, in principle, a contract uplift of up to 10% of the contract value, estimated at £20,000, for the CYP3 On the Right Track project, subject to confirmation of the costs, the availability of funding and the approval of the SEUPB.

**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 and drew the Members' attention to the risks associated with delivery which had been attached as an appendix.

She then referred specifically to the Capital Works at the Forth Meadow Community Greenway.

**PEACE IV Network Scheme – Capital Works** - The works at Section 1, Clarendon / Glencairn, were scheduled for completion in early March 2022. The design team were finalising the signage with maps, names, narratives and points of interest highlighted. Following the PQQ exercise for the public art pieces, which had identified 6 artists, ITTs had been issued to the artists on 11th February, these would be open for 6 weeks (closing Friday, 25th March).

The work at Sections 3 and 4 had been delayed due to weather and were rescheduled to commence late February/early March 2022.

Work at Section 2 to address invasive species and contaminated land has commenced.

The Members were advised that Section 2 was currently subject to a Judicial Review which could result in further delays. The officer highlighted that any delay in terms of the timeline might jeopardize the funding for the project and the risk of financial and reputational implications for the Council. The Strategic Policy and Resources Committee had been updated of this risk at its February meeting and Legal Services solicitors had subsequently written to the Court seeking to expedite the hearing that was scheduled for mid-March 2022.

The officer highlighted that Section 2 was an integral element of the project as there were no alternative options available for this part of the route. If the Council did not deliver Section 2 then full delivery of the Forth Meadow Community Greenway project would not be possible.

**Social Value Clause** – One placement student and one apprentice were currently employed by the contractor who had attended meetings with Falls Community Council and Ulster Wildlife Trust to provide updates. The contractor had also indicated that it would be willing to meet with any local community groups interested in the works.

The delayed start dates for works packages in sections 3 and 4 and the ongoing Judicial Review for Section 2, had impacted on the contractor's ability to fulfil social clause Requirements.

The Members were asked to note that the Social Clause reporting requirements were being added to the agenda for the monthly contractor progress meetings to ensure that all outstanding requirements were met.

- **Programming**

Implementation of the programming aspects was progressing.

- **Shared History, Heritage and Identity Content / Narratives for Shared Space**

The discussion groups continued to be facilitated through Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, with Mediation NI chasing up outstanding Monitoring and Evaluation documentation.

The SEUPB had not yet approved the modification request for an increase to the tolerance for contact hours to 60% (reducing from 12 to 7 hours), however, they had given approval for the inclusion of participants from local schools (170 pupils) and agreed that 40% of the contact hours would be within school hours. To help with this engagement, the project team had enlisted the help of Corrymeela and individuals with youth work experience.

A walkthrough of Section 4 and 5 was being planned to look at possible locations for information panels, this would involve discussion and input from The Ulster Wildlife Trust and St. James Community Farm.

The Members noted that Equality Screening had now been completed on the narratives and information panels and it had been signed off with some mitigating actions. These included trying to ensure that all signage was accessible to people with disabilities and those who spoke other languages. The signed document would be included in the Quarter 3 Equality report to the Strategic and Policy Resources Committee.

- **Shared Space Volunteer Training**

Following completion of training, participants from the first group were now organising cycles / walks by themselves, along with some participants from the second Group. Some of the walk leads were looking at starting to lead their own groups in Section 1 and Falls Park and had asked for information around FMCG branding for possible promotion leaflets. The second group were continuing their training. Following the contract up-lift, Sustrans was now in the process of recruiting extra volunteer participants. As part of further recruitment, Volunteer Now had been making regular use of the building in Springfield Dam for information sessions. Volunteer Now was also looking at involving some of their volunteers in up-coming and planned events / activities with some of the other supported projects (for example, a large public event scheduled for Saturday, 5th March at Springfield Dam).

The Conservation Volunteers continued to recruit participants and had been asked to provide a recruitment and training plan.

All 3 project leads (Sustrans, The Conservation Volunteers and Volunteer Now Enterprise) had been in contact to discuss links and opportunities for collaboration and to avoid any conflict with project delivery.

- **Dialogue and Engagement Project (young people, residents and BME groups)**

MDL had submitted the final Dialogue and Engagement report, which had been reviewed by PEACE IV. The report, along with a summary table of recommendations, possible actions and links to existing supported project work, had been attached as an appendix to the agenda papers.

She explained that the next step was for officers to develop an action plan to address the recommendations and to this end a meeting was being arranged to discuss the recommendations from the MDL report and the North Belfast Youth Area teams report - "Waste 2 Space" as both reports included feedback from young people in relation to FMCG.

The Partnership Members noted that they were content with the recommendations, potential actions and linkages to any existing work.

- **Governance / Management Model**

Programme Board comments on the interim governance report had been collated and submitted to the delivery agent for action. Viatac had undertaken a visit to Belfast from 14th -18th February, this had included a facilitated workshop with key stakeholders at the Innovation Factory and a virtual discussion with Council officers, to discuss an initial draft of a suggested governance structure on 17th February.

Presentation slides that formed the basis of the discussion had been attached as a appendices to the agenda. The draft had been positively received and future workshops would involve both key stakeholders and Council Officers.

- **Youth Engagement and Civic Education**

There had been positive engagement with local youth organisations and links established with local youth / community safety forums, schools, and churches.

16 young people were in the process of being registered, with training commencing in February 2022. The project lead had received interest / commitment from a further 48 young people. As referenced above, a meeting was being arranged with the Delivery Partner and EA North Belfast Youth Area teams to discuss the reports referred.

- **Modular Building**

The modular building was being used regularly by the Volunteer Cycle/Walk Lead participants for use during their training and by Volunteer Now to facilitate Information/Recruitment sessions. It was anticipated that more projects and groups would make use of this venue with the easing of COVID restrictions.

- **SSS Activities and Animation Programme Co-ordinator**

ArtsEkta had provided a draft events/activities plan, showing which activity/event would take place in which section and if it was working in collaboration with other organisations.

Any delays or changes to the completion dates of any sections would require rescheduling and ArtsEkta would be kept updated of any changes.

Ahead of its first public event in Springfield Dam on 5th March, ArtsEkta had held a photolaunch at Springfield Dam on 21st February, the Lord Mayor and the SEUPB had both been in attendance.

The Partnership noted that the SEUPB had reimbursed all Claims up to Period 26 totalling £1,639,342. Claims for Period 27 (£85,411) and Period 28 (£97,387) remained outstanding, although initial verification had progressed, Period 29 claims covering November to January were currently being prepared for submission by the 28th February.

The Partnership recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it note the contents of the report and the RAG Report and accept the recommendations, possible actions and links to existing supported project work contained within the MDL Dialogue and Engagement Project Report.

### **Building Positive Relationships (BPR 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 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 and Resources Committee that they note the contents of the report and related appendices and agree the following proposals:**

- **BPR5 Roma- to extend project delivery until September 2022, this is within the current contract specifications for the Roma project and BCC Letter of Offer.**
- **BPR6 St Comgalls (i) to agree in principle the methodology for content gathering, the style and layout of the templates for the educational resources and exhibition materials. (ii) to delegate authority to the Programme Board to agree the content of the final resource for full suite of the educational resources and exhibition materials, which will also be subject to SEUPB approval.**

#### **3.0 Main report**

##### **Key Issues**

Implementation of the project is ongoing and face to face activity continues to increase although Covid 19 impacts continue to affect elements of delivery and participation. Risks associated with delivery are outlined in Appendix I Risk Tracker and have recently been discussed with SEUPB.

### **3.1 BPR1 – Cross Community Area Networks (CCAN)**

Progress in establishing all 6 CCANs is continuing, with the number of registered participants now increased to 103. The Period 29 quarterly report and supporting documentation has been submitted highlighting an increase in activities across each of the community area networks.

The submitted modification requests to extend the geographical scope for South and North Belfast to and include participants from the BAME community have been approved by SEUPB which is aiding delivery.

The new NIHE Programme Manager is now in post and is progressing implementation of the programme.

A fully revised implementation and delivery plan detailing timeline and objectives remaining across the BPR1 and the NIHE CYP programmes, together with assurances of delivery have been requested from NIHE.

### **3.2 BPR2 – Creative Communities Project**

Delivery with established clusters is progressing. Members should note that following the withdrawal of St. Malachys from the Football Cluster, the artist in residence is exploring alternative options with Rosario suggested as a possible interested group. The other partner, Albert Foundry has 15 participants ready to engage and are eager to progress this cohort and the associated activities. The artist is to provide a full revision of his planned activity and workshop content together with a breakdown of participant numbers.

The East Cluster is keen to condense delivery and progress a planned residential as per STA request which remains with SEUPB for approval.

Members should note that the delivery lead within Creative Communities has been requested to provide a full and revised implementation plan across all delivery areas. As such each cohort will be required to outline the position in full to support the completion of the revised implementation plan. An assurance of delivery of the project from senior management has also been requested.

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

Transformative Leadership Programme:

Recruitment of new cohorts has progressed with 107 participants registered, engaged and participating in the project and 21 participants have completed the ILM level 3 award and support sessions are ongoing.

The PEACE IV team continue to be involved in welcome and project development workshops and 3 scheduled introductions have been delivered across the partners

The action plan for the previous East cluster for the delivery of community workshops / trips has been approved and the Resource Allocation has been signed and procurement for activities has commenced. Two further Action Plans from South Belfast project development workshops are currently being assessed.

NICVA has appointed a new coordinator who is keen to involve participants in a codesign approach to the study and best practice visits and will liaise closely with the project manager to deliver these.

Members should note that the Project Support Officer has resigned, and a requisition has been progressed to the HR to recruit via an agency approach for 6 months.

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

Year 4 groups, comprising of 46 participants have been actively engaging in project activity with some participants recently attending a residential at Ballycastle. Group work was captured by Morrow for the project film.

Planning for the Study visits is progressing and a full itinerary for residentials to Cork and Dublin have been shared. The Study Visits will comprise of 3 days of interaction, travel and facilitated by local experts. Similarly, a further 2, day trips are planned within Northern Ireland to comprise of the Antrim coast and Somme WW1 site which will also be facilitated by local specialists.

A further residential is also being planned in March to address any under delivery for participants which will ensure engagement hours are achieved and any missed learning opportunities are provided and availed of.

In terms of civic events. the development of the Partition play, which is a one-person performance, is continuing. The play will be recorded and then shown at an event, potentially to be held within City Hall pending approvals.

#### **3.5 BPR5 – Supporting Connected Communities - LINCS Project**

Of the 96 core participants, previously reported, 67 participants have completed their engagement hours with a further 28



attending on an ad hoc basis. It is envisaged the remaining 29 participants will achieve the required contact hours by September 2022

A summary of project progress to date is outlined below.

- South Belfast groups engaged in a total 18 sessions / events / workshops with a combined total of 67 contact hours.
- East Belfast groups engaged in a total 23 sessions / events / workshops with a combined total of 94 contact hours.
- North Belfast participants have engaged in 10 sessions / events with 32 contact hours.
- West Belfast participants have engaged in 21 sessions / events with 71 contact hours.

A further Inclusion Forum is scheduled for March and the delivery partner has decided on an online approach due to low attendance at the previous in person Inclusion Forum. The symposium has been rescheduled for early May 2022.

### **3.6 BPR5 – Traveller Project - Supporting Connected Communities**

Delivery of the Genealogy programme of workshops was completed on the 15 February and planning for the exhibition is underway with the exhibition showcase is scheduled for March 2022.

The request for quotation for Empowering Young women workshop programme and exhibition was reissued with two submissions being received and currently being assessed. Scoping exercises for the further two workshop programmes are underway with some positive indications of interest. Further engagement and clarity on traveller engagement have been requested.

Discussions on other engagement opportunities are continuing, although it is challenging making direct contact with other potential Traveller participants. A revised implementation plan is currently being developed to provide assurances regarding delivery and targets remaining across the programme including how and when these will be achieved.

SEUPB has been advised of the nil response to the Capacity Building project and the options for reallocation of funding are under consideration.

### **3.7 BPR5 – Roma Project - Supporting Connected Communities**

The Roma Support Hub is continuing to support in excess of 200 referrals during the quarter. Data from the Advice Pro system captured key elements of the nature of advice and guidance sought.

The advocacy training is scheduled to commence on 5 March 2022 and the English language classes across East and South Belfast are commencing in February and March 2022.

5 participants for the Advice training have been identified from the Romanian community. The level of qualification and the duration of this training is being finalised.

Planning of further intercultural events is progressing, with the QFT hosting an event for the Romanian and local community.

A fully revised implementation plan has been provided which is currently being considered.

Members are requested to agree the request from Forward South Partnership to extend project delivery to September 2022, which is within Council's current Letter of Offer timeframe. SEUPB will be updated on this position.

### **3.8 BPR6 – St. Comgalls**

Following the presentation today by the project delivery partner, Copius, members are requested to agree the methodology for content gathering, the style and layout of the templates for the educational resources and exhibition materials.

Members are also requested to delegate authority to the Programme Board to consider and agree the content of the final resources to be used. The resources will also be considered and approved by SEUPB, and a further report will be presented to members in due course.

Workshops, seminars and networking events for youth and adult cohorts continue. The delivery partner has advised the second adult cohort is commencing sessions on 19 February 2022 and the workshops will then be fully recruited. Planning for the seminars is underway with National Identity in Sport and Historical Restoration identified as key topic areas, based on discussions with participants during workshops.

The project has been promoting inclusion in Networking events through partner organisations including: Black Mountain Shared Space, Forthspring, New City Life, Grosvenor, Shankill Women's Centre, although from March 2022, the event will open to public advertisement with associated comms.

Delivery of project activity is slightly behind schedule and a revised implementation plan has been requested to enable the realigning of targets and a possible extension.

Members should note that the overnight Study trip to Wolverhampton Art Gallery is being moved to NI and will include visits to the Tower Museum and Seamus Heaney Homeplace,

subject to SEUPB approval. Other trips to ROI will remain as planned due to relaxed restrictions.

### **3.9 Cinematography Project**

Morrow Communications is continuing to film project activity as opportunities arise. Production of short films for CYP2 and CYP3 Personal Change has progressed, and they are to be showcased at closure events in March 2022.

Further filming / clips in production include Forth Meadow Community Greenway, BPR4 Corrymeela and the CYP4 Young Advocates campaign.

### **3.10 Financial and Resource Implications**

To date costs for the BPR Theme up to Period 26 totalling £1,847,524 has now been fully reimbursed by SEUPB. Payment of Claims for Period 27 and Period 28 valued at £573,231 remains outstanding, with Period 27 currently being verified by SEUPB. Period 29 covering the Period November to January is being prepared for submission on 28 February 2022.

### **3.11 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 to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it adopt the recommendations as outlined at section 2.0 of the report.

## **PEACE PLUS**

The Partnership considered the following report:

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

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on the development of the overall PEACE PLUS programme and specific updates on emerging work being undertaken as part of the first investment area that will open under this programme 1.1. Co-Designed Local Community Peace Action Plan for Belfast.

### **2.0 Recommendations**

That Members note the contents of this report

### **3.0 Main report**

### **3.1 Background**

SEUPB is currently seeking approval from the European Commission for the development of the PEACE PLUS Programme, a €1 billion investment to progress towards a peaceful and stable society in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland. It comprises of six themes, which encompass 22 individual investment areas for possible submissions for investment. An infographic illustrating the main themes of the PEACE PLUS Programme is shown in Appendix 1.

### **3.2 PEACE PLUS Overall Programme update**

The following provides a brief summary of the key information emerging on the development of the overall PEACEPLUS Programme.

#### **Summary**

- SEUPB have submitted a finance agreement to the European Commission as part of the process to receive final approval for the overall programme.
- Local Community Peace Action Plans – will be the first programme to open with the earliest date for an open call expected to be April 2022 (though this may not be realistic as guidance on the expected co-design process, and submission of the plan has not yet been received from SEUPB).
- SEUPB advised that they are moving to a one stage application process, rather than two stages as in previous PEACE Programmes.

Other investment areas (out of the 22) that may open soon after 1.1. include:

- 1.4 Reimagining communities (€75 million available) - To create a more cohesive society through an increased provision of transformative shared spaces and services, which will support and embed peace and reconciliation.
- 3.2 Peace Plus Youth Programme (€47 million available) - To enhance the capacity of children and young people to form positive and effective relationships with others of a different background, develop their confidence and future potential and contribute towards the creation of a more cohesive society.
- 4.3 Victims and Survivors (€25 million available) - To create a more cohesive society through an increased provision of services.

The plans for all investment areas will be centred around three core themes:

1. Community regeneration and transformation;
2. Thriving and peaceful communities; and
3. Celebrating culture, diversity and inclusion.

More information on the overall Programme can be found at the link below:

[Seupb.eu/sites/default/files/styles/PEACE%20PLUS%20PLUS%20Consultation/Peace%20Plus%20](http://Seupb.eu/sites/default/files/styles/PEACE%20PLUS%20PLUS%20Consultation/Peace%20Plus%20)

[Programme%202021-2027%20-%20Programme%20Overview%20Report%20\(Final\).pdf](#)

### **3.3 Co-designed Local Community Peace Action Plans (priority 1.1)**

As with previous PEACE Programmes, one of the key investment areas for Council is the development of a Local Community Peace Action Plan for the city. This programme is under Theme 1: Building Peaceful and Thriving Communities (investment area total funding of €110 million). There is an expectation that Belfast may receive funding of at least £15 million (with a possible increase of up to £17 million or more).

### **3.4 PEACEPLUS Partnership**

It is a requirement that each Action Plan should comprise of a PEACE PLUS local authority partnership which will oversee the co-design and implementation of a process in their local authority area which will be used to inform the development and delivery of an overarching PEACE Action Plan(s) ensuring alignment with the local Community Plan for the area.

The SEUPB have advised that they will not be overly prescriptive in terms of partnership composition, development process or selection, but rather they encourage that representation should be balanced, and as far as possible, should ideally include a range of the following:

<b>Pillar 1</b>  Elected Members	<b>Pillar 2</b>  Statutory Partners
<b>Pillar 3</b>  Social Partners - Geographical Community Representatives / Civic Society	<b>Pillar 4</b>  Social Partners - PEACE PLUS Target Groups; S75 / under- represented groups

Officers have been working with SEUPB appointed consultants (BLU Zebra and Locus Management) to scope possible options on the best partnership model for Belfast.

### **3.5 Resources to support the development of Priority 1.1**

SEUPB have given approval to councils to use a maximum of €100k on resourcing the development of the plan. This expenditure can subsequently be included in the PEACE PLUS Action Plan application and when successful, will form part of the letter of award for reimbursement. Please note, this funding is for 1.1 Development of Local Community Peace action plans only; it cannot be used for other investment areas.

Recently, a draft budget had to be submitted to SEUPB at short notice for this allocation. This was based on the premise that it is subject to change, however, as with other PEACE Action Plans, Council needs support to help us undertake consultation and engagement and submit the bid for an action plan. Therefore, we are going to the market for consultancy support with a budget of 33,108 euros (£28,500).

This will include:

- **Phase one – Co-designed Consultation and Engagement**  
To develop and facilitate a co-design approach to developing the plan and delivering on a consultation and engagement framework.
- **Phase two – Plan Submission**  
The consultants will work with the local partnership, officers, stakeholders and members to develop the content for submission of the plan to SEUPB.
- **Phase 3 Post Submission – Follow up work with SEUPB**  
The successful applicant will act as a first point of contact with SEUPB, answering queries and providing clarification on the initial submission.

Further reports on the progress of this work will be brought back to the SCP. In advance of this, a report on the approach to the oversight of PEACEPLUS will be brought to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for approval.

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

External support for the development of 1.1 local action plans can be claimed from any future Letter of Offer from SEUPB but will be included in the final budget allocation.

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

The Plan will need to be screened for equality and good relations implications along with completion of a rural needs assessment.”

During discussion a Member referred to the co-design and objectives and the need to ensure that the design reflected the objectives of the Peace PLUS Programme.

The Good Relations Manager advised that Officers would take this into consideration prior to it being issued.

The Partnership recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it note the update provided and that updates would be submitted in due course.

### **Belfast Agenda Refresh and Action Planning**

The Partnership considered the following report:

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

**To update the Shared City Partnership (SCP) on the development of the refreshed Belfast Agenda and to ask for feedback and input on the collaborative focus to Good Relations and Shared Future priorities over the next 4 years (2022 -24)**

#### **2.0 Recommendations**

**Members are asked to:**

- i. Consider and offer comment on the emerging priorities for action for Community Planning linked to Good Relations/ Shared Future.**
- ii. Consider the role of the Shared City Partnership in this context and recognise the clear synergies and complementarity in terms of focus and ambitions.**
- iii. Note that a supporting action plan will be co-designed with the Shared City Partnership and partners and brought back for consideration in due course.**

#### **3.0 Main report**

##### **3.1 Background**

**The Local Government Act (NI) 2014 sets out a statutory requirement for the review of community plans by Community Planning Partnerships within four years of its publication. As part of this process, Belfast Community Planning partners have committed to the development of the refreshed Belfast Agenda and supplementary delivery action plans which will provide the strategic focus for the partnership over the next four years (2022 – 26).**

**Whilst the Belfast Agenda – Community Plan provides the collaborative framework for our future city; the action plans will draw out the additionality and collaborative gain to be delivered through the community planning process. Detailed action plans will be co-designed with partners for each of the strategic priorities agreed and will take account and be tested against the principles of community planning (e.g. outcome focused, creates added value and is not business as usual) – see guiding principles outlined in Appendix 1.**

In recognising the long-term focus and ambitions (2035) of the Belfast Agenda and the outcome of the first phase of engagement, it is proposed that the vision and long-term outcomes remain unchanged. Community Planning partners and stakeholders have identified nine strategic priorities to focus on to improve the wellbeing for everyone in Belfast. These include sustainable and inclusive economic growth, employability and skills, educational inequalities, housing-led regeneration, community and neighbourhood regeneration, health inequalities, climate, resilience and sustainability, sustainable transport and active travel and city development).

To help ensure that the different needs of all our citizens and communities are considered, four cross-cutting themes have also been identified, of which Good Relations/ Shared Future is one. These themes 'cut across' all the priorities, with both opportunities for greater collaboration and challenges which need to be considered. Collaborative actions relating to the cross-cutting themes will be developed and embedded within each priority, as well as specific actions which should be taken forward with a standalone focus.

### **3.2 Key Issues**

With regards to areas of strategic intent for Good Relations, we want Belfast to be a city that is welcoming, safe, fair and inclusive for all. To do that we need to address inequalities and ensure that everyone is welcomed and treated with respect and dignity. Our priority through the Belfast Agenda will be to continue to invest in building relationships and outreach across all communities and parts of society to build the respectful and inclusive society that people told us they want; whilst also introducing new mechanisms and support to enable our new residents and communities to contribute to and share in Belfast's success.

Therefore, from the evidence base, we have identified the following areas of work which we believe could be significantly enhanced and progressed through Community Planning:

1. To create a shared and diverse city by ensuring the needs of newcomers and refugees are met and they experience a sense of equality and inclusion; and
2. To enhance Good Relations across the city and build on the progress by supporting joined-up and innovative approaches to the new PEACE PLUS Programme.

It is envisaged that oversight of the first area of work will fall under the work of the SCP given the clear synergies with its remit and focus. In addition, the SCP has oversight of the Inclusive Cities Project and will also link into the actions being co-designed as part of the Council's Race Action Plan.



Members should note that proposals regarding the emerging PEACE PLUS Programme will be brought back to the Shared City Partnership for consideration at a later date.

The focus on the 'needs of newcomers and refugees' has emerged in response to the research undertaken as part of the development of the Good Relations Strategy and Audit, the findings of the Covid research report and the outworking's of the first engagement phase around the refresh of the Belfast Agenda. A series of strategic intents (outlining what we seek to achieve) and possible measures of success have been developed and is attached at Appendix 2. Further work will be undertaken with partners and the Shared City Partnership to co-design supporting actions.

Our focus will be on building stronger foundations with individuals and communities so that those people who are most excluded and experiencing inequalities can share and benefit in the success of the city. Our goal is to build a shared society for all our residents. To do this, we will take a twin -track approach supporting integration and inclusion as well as addressing inequality, disadvantage and discrimination.

As Belfast continues to grow and address those continuing legacies of conflict, shared and inclusive is more than just about the two main communities. How we welcome and support new and minority communities will determine whether Belfast is a diverse and vibrant city where all people can live in peace and as equals. In the 2019 NI Life and Times survey, 30% of respondents thought that there is more racial prejudice in Northern Ireland now compared to 5 years ago. Recorded hate crimes and incidents show little improvement over this period. In the same survey, 65% of respondents felt that we had a duty to provide protection to refugees who are escaping persecution in their home country. However, a much lower proportion (39%) thought that Northern Ireland welcomed refugees. Over the past five years the number of displaced people has increased globally, and whilst not large, the asylum seeking and refugee population is growing in Northern Ireland, with the majority accommodated in the greater Belfast metropolitan area. However, many areas that receive new communities are also those with the highest levels of multiple deprivation, causing further stress to communities who themselves are recovering from division and conflict.

The NI Executive's Racial Equality Strategy 2015 - 2025 recognised the need for a separate Refugee Integration Strategy, to ensure a smooth transition between being an asylum seeker and a refugee and to ensure that refugees can build a new life here and realise their full potential. Over the coming years, we will work collaboratively with our community and statutory partners to develop an effective local intervention plan to support transition and integration of our new communities. The recent consultation on the Refugee Integration Strategy identified 4 high level outcomes:

- Refugees and asylum seekers are valued and respected
- Refugees and asylum seekers are safe and feel secure
- Refugees and asylum seekers exercise their rights and responsibilities
- Refugees and asylum seekers are supported to achieve their full potential

The action plan must also link closely with the outcomes agreed in the Good Relations Strategy and recommendations within the last Good Relations Audit.

This draft emerging action plan was presented to the Living Here Board of the Community Planning Partnership on the 24 January 2022. It is recognised that these areas of work cannot be undertaken by one agency and requires a significant collaborative approach, given that certain parts of the Plan require central government input.

Members are asked to consider the draft emerging priorities for action and offer feedback.

### **3.3 Next Steps**

- i Agreement on the strategic intent aligned to each of the Community Planning priorities including the cross-cutting theme of Good Relations and Shared Future.
- ii Co-design with partners the supporting action plan (March - April 2022).
- iii Wider public engagement and consultation to refine and develop the refreshed Belfast Agenda (2022-2026) and underpinning action plan(s) (May - July 2022).

### **3.4 Financial and Resource Implications**

No implications apart from Officer time at present. However, resources will need to be identified across partners for the supporting action plan.

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

**Any emerging actions will be designed to enhance equality and good relations implications.”**

During discussion several Members highlighted the importance of joined up working in terms of creating opportunities and information sharing and also discussed the need for good communication to ensure that people could see their work and proposals making a difference on the ground.

A Member specifically referred to section 75 vulnerable groups and stressed the need to ensure that no one was left behind, adding that this specific area also needed to be resourced and funded to ensure that progress was achievable.

The Good Relations Manager advised that section 75 groups were being considered to ensure an 'Inclusive Belfast' and that the issue raised was also being considered via the Community Planning Partnership and Living Here Board.

During discussion the TEO representative referred to the British Council's Social Cohesion in Europe report which she felt might be of interest to the Members of the Partnership. She advised that some of the findings might be worth considering whilst developing the approaches to building good relations and she agreed to forward this to the Democratic Services Officer for circulation to the Partnership Members.

The Partnership noted that a supporting action plan would be co-designed with the Shared City Partnership and its Partners and submitted for further consideration in due course.

### **Update on Research into Experiences of BAME and Traveller Communities**

The Good Relations Manager reminded the Partnership that in September, as part of the District Council Good Relations Action Plan, Lucy Michael Research Training (LMRT) had been awarded a contract to undertake research examining the inequalities experienced by Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic and Traveller people residing in Belfast.

As part of the research, LMRT was to engage a small number of people from Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic and Traveller backgrounds in the research, as peer researchers. Following an expression of interest for this aspect of the project, Dr Lucy Michael had received an overwhelming 40 responses from people representing these communities.

Given the interest in the research, and the impact of engaging wider numbers of people from Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic and Traveller communities, in the research, as peer researchers, the Partnership was asked to consider allocating £6,000 of the current underspend, within the District Council Good Relations Budget, to LMRT. This would be used to assist with the development of a skills development and capacity programme that would engage increased numbers of people from BAME communities in the research.

The Good Relations Manager explained to the Members that this new proposal would enable value to be added to the research as it would allow enhanced engagement of participants from BAME communities. It would also provide the peer researchers with a sense of ownership of the research as well as life-long skills delivering training on the following:

- Research ethics and good practice;
- Facilitative leadership;
- Managing data privacy;
- Transcribing interviews; and
- Engaging with statutory bodies in relation to the report findings.

LMRT would be required to provide a report that measured the integration and good relations impact that involvement in the project had on the peer researchers.

The Partnership recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that the Council reallocate the underspend of £6,000, identified in the District Council Good Relations programme, to LMRT to enable it to widen the participation of peer researchers, from BAME communities, in the research and to provide a programme of skills development to enhance capacity.

### **Update on DCGRP Action Plan 2021/2022**

The Good Relations Manager drew the Members' attention to the updated Action Plan that had been attached as an appendix to the agenda. She advised that officers had engaged with the various partners regarding all the projects within the Action Plan.

The officer referred specifically to the previous agenda item and the £6000.00 reallocation.

In addition, she advised that a Good Relations Fact/Information Sheet was also being prepared. She advised that this would provide key information and statistics on Good Relations areas of interest, such as the number of Interface Barriers in Belfast, the Number of Murals, the range of different languages spoken in Belfast, and information on how diversity within the City was being developed. She advised that the Good Relations section regularly received numerous queries regarding such information, and it was felt that a fact/information sheet would be a beneficial resource for local communities, other agencies and other Council Departments.

Noted.

### **Anti-Sectarianism and Good Relations**

The Partnership considered the following report:

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

**To discuss the role of the Partnership in contributing to tackling sectarianism within our respective organisations and within our society.**

#### **2.0 Recommendations**

**That Members note the contents of this report and agree to further discussions on how the Partnership can develop strategies and plans that can effectively address sectarianism within all of our respective organisations and within wider society.**

#### **3.0 Main report**

##### **3.1 Background**

**Members will be aware that the Shared City Partnership has been in existence since the onset of PEACE III funding in 2008. Previously called the Good Relations Partnership, it was a successor to the original body, set up by the Council in 2003, titled the Good Relations Steering Panel.**

**3.2 One of the original aims of the Good Relations Steering Panel was to be a space for quiet conversations on sensitive issues, within a confidential and shared space. Indeed over the years, the Partnership has facilitated many conversations, often with external facilitation, on issues such as sectarianism, racism and has met to discuss outbreaks of violence on occasion. These**

discussions have fed into the Council's programmes and actions in Good Relations.

- 3.3 Following a recent query from a member on whether the Partnership is doing enough to tackle sectarianism within our City, this paper is presented as a suggested starting point to help stimulate a discussion among members.
- 3.4 While the Partnership is only able to make recommendations to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, it does, nevertheless, have a unique role within the Council's structures. It contains a range of people from a wide breadth of statutory, civic, faith and community perspectives, who all possess a leadership role within the City, as well as the full political spectrum within the Council. It has the ability to discuss issues of relevance and importance and can provide direction on many issues.
- 3.5 On the issue of tackling sectarianism, the Partnership, as a collective group, is in a rather unique and special position to challenge our City and Council. As a collective group, it can provide a unique perspective, suggestions, example, leadership and possible programme options.

3.6 **Context**

The Council's Good Relations Strategy rightly highlights sectarianism, racism and prejudice as being issues that hold us back from building good community and race relations in Belfast (GR Strategy; p.15) Under the Civic Leadership outcome within the Strategy, it seeks to *tackle sectarianism, racism, intolerance and disadvantage* (p.16). In seeking to spell out what this means, the Strategy says the following:

- 3.7 *Good relations and equality and promoting equity, diversity and interdependence are the planks of any good relations strategy and reflect government's agreed Together: Building and United Community Strategy and guidance. We must all address issues of inequality, sectarianism, racism and prejudice in all that we do. This includes addressing the physical and community division at interfaces, ensuring and promoting the safety and inclusion of vulnerable groups, tackling public displays of intolerance, sectarianism and racism, addressing hate crime, promoting equality, integration, cultural diversity and an intercultural city, tackling disadvantage and creating and expanding shared spaces and services.*

- 3.8 Further on, on p.22, the Strategy says:

*We must also help to transform contested spaces in our city. There is still extensive residential segregation with accompanying security concerns, crime and visible displays of sectarianism, racism, intolerance and other forms of territorial marking.*

- 3.9 In December 2018, a study ‘Sectarianism in Northern Ireland; A Review’, concluded that: ‘*Sectarianism remains a serious issue in Northern Ireland. Although it has deep roots in the past, it is important to address it now before it also shapes our futures*’.

The study makes a number of conclusions and recommendations, including:

- The issue of sectarianism must be prioritised and elevated to the top of the public agenda alongside the economy
- Sectarianism should be addressed from the centre of government, in a thorough and concerted manner on the basis of clear principles and policies.
- Investing in children and young people from an early age, especially those at risk of falling out of education, would have significant long-term benefits for individuals, communities and society.
- Government should establish a permanent programme to ensure that young people have clear alternatives to involvement with paramilitaries in areas of high paramilitary activity.
- Every child at school should be educated and encouraged to understand that they belong together with others of different backgrounds
- Alongside a focus on educational attainment to give young people opportunities in the labour market, there is a crucial role in connecting youth work with citizenship by engaging young people with values, contention and issues of lawfulness
- There are numerous opportunities within sports and the arts to create conduits for shared experiences and learning, and developing relationships based on performance and participation.
- Efforts to address sectarianism would be enormously helped from a designated communications strategy which could inform, entertain and energise.

- 3.10 The full report can be accessed here: [https://www.ulster.ac.uk/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0016/410227/A-Review-Addressing-Sectarianism-in-Northern-Ireland\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.ulster.ac.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0016/410227/A-Review-Addressing-Sectarianism-in-Northern-Ireland_FINAL.pdf)

- 3.11 Within this report and within what the Council has included in its Good Relations Strategy, it is clear that tackling sectarianism requires a holistic approach and response. This includes:

- Leadership from government, public institutions and business
- Awareness of what sectarianism is and how it is displayed
- Clear principles and policies to address sectarianism
- Maximising education, the labour market, sports and the arts to develop relationships among our citizens

- 3.12 Suggested options for the Council

Belfast City Council, as the Civic Leader for Belfast, can clearly play a central role in tackling sectarianism within the City. The Council has a range of services that could be utilised to contribute to a more holistic approach in addressing sectarianism, such as:

- The Council's Good Relations programme;
- The Council's Youth Council;
- The Council's Economic Development programmes;
- The Council's Sports Development, Culture, Arts, Heritage and Tourism programmes;
- The Council's messaging, media and social media platforms.

3.13 While much of the Council's interventions on Good Relations will have tackling sectarianism as an implicit outcome, most of the Good Relations work is concerned with building positive relations between youth, community and other groups.

3.14 However, if members of the Partnership felt it appropriate, the specific objective of tackling sectarianism could be made more explicit in the Good Relations Action Plan. This could be achieved through the inclusion of specific anti-sectarianism training being offered to funded groups as part of their Good Relations activities.

3.15 In addition, those other Council programmes that bring people together (as listed above) could be better utilised in having anti-sectarianism outcomes embedded within their work. Again, this could be achieved through messaging and programme content that would seek to explore the differences within the various cohorts of people that participate in these programmes as a means of educating people and reducing sectarian attitudes.

3.16 Suggested options for Partnership members

Members of the Partnership may wish to undertake a review of their own programmes and policies in order to assess what more can be done within these settings to tackle sectarianism.

3.17 Following this review of our individual and/or organisational approaches to tackling sectarianism, the Partnership may be better informed to further explore collectively whether the Partnership is doing enough to tackle sectarianism and where appropriate suggest ways in which this could be developed further.

3.18 Officers would suggest that each member may wish to undertake an individual or organisational review and then a focussed meeting could be arranged in May to discuss collectively if there are any gaps and where the partnership can add value to tackling sectarianism.

3.19 Financial and Resource Implications

**Any arising costs associated with any activity would be covered within the annual Good Relations Action Plan, 75% of which is recouped by the Executive Office under the District Council's Good Relations Programme.**

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

**All activity within the Good Relations Action Plan are aligned with one of the four Good Relations Outcomes, which has been screened for equality, good relations and rural needs, and screened out."**

Several Members welcomed the proposed approach but stated that they would be keen to further consider the views and needs of citizens and to build on any progress that had already been made in these areas.

The TEO representative advised that the TEO was currently undertaking a comprehensive mapping exercise, work was ongoing, but she suggested that representatives be invited to present to the Partnership to share the information it had gathered to date.

The Members agreed that in the first instance this would be a useful approach. Several of the Members reiterated their desire to look at the information held by organisations holistically, stressing the need to join up data, resources and statistics with a view to analysing the information to help come up with future strategies and plans that would give way to constructive progress and that would help to effectively address sectarianism.

The Members of the Partnership agreed to receive a presentation from TEO on its current mapping exercise regarding support for good relations at a future meeting and to hold further discussions on how the Shared City Partnership could progress to develop strategies and plans that could effectively address sectarianism within each of the organisations represented and within wider society as a whole.

### **Events Update**

The Good Relations Manager advised the Members of the following events which they were welcome to attend:

**Event: Decade of Centenaries Conference**

**Date:** Wednesday, 23rd March 2022

**Time:** 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

**Format:** Online Webinar

**Registration:** [here](#)

The Members noted that this was the last event for the Decade of Centenaries and thanked the Good Relations Officer for all the hard work that he had put into organising numerous successful events over the period.

**Event: Strategies for addressing Anti-Muslim Hostility**

**Date:** Thursday, 3rd, 10th and 24th March.

**Time:** 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon.



**Format:** Online Zoom

**Registration:** [goodrelations@belfastcity.gov.uk](mailto:goodrelations@belfastcity.gov.uk)

The Members were advised to contact the officer responsible for the event should they require any additional information.

The Good Relations Manager advised that, subsequent to the agenda having been circulated, a request had been made by the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust seeking permission to make a presentation to a future meeting of the Partnership on the development of its Good Relations Strategy.

The Partnership agreed to receive a presentation from the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust at a future meeting.

Chairperson

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<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Equality and Diversity: Equality Screening and Rural Needs Outcome Report – Quarter 3 2021-22</b>
<b>Date:</b>	25th March, 2022
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Walsh, Chief Executive
<b>Contact Officers:</b>	Sarah Williams, Governance and Compliance Manager

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	The purpose of this report is to set out the Quarterly Screening Outcome Report of equality screenings and rural needs impact assessments for Quarter 3 2020-21.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to note the Quarterly Screening Outcome Report, which will be published on the Council's website
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
	<u>Background</u>
3.1	As Members will be aware, the Council has a duty to have, under section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity in relation to the nine equality categories; and</li> <li>• Regard to the desirability of promotion good relations</li> </ul> <p>In addition, under section 1 of the Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland) 2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising policies, strategies and plans, and when designing and delivering public services</li> </ul> <p>To this end, the Council has a process to carry out equality screening and rural needs assessment of new and revised policies. This allows any impacts related to equality of opportunity, good relations or rural needs to be identified and addressed.</p>
3.2	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>An equality screening and rural needs impact assessment template is completed by the relevant officer, in collaboration with the Equality and Diversity Unit. On a regular basis, the Unit collates all completed templates into a screening outcome report and publishes onto the Council's website along with the relevant completed templates. The current screening outcome report for Quarter 3 21-22 is attached.</p>
3.4	<p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>None.</p>
3.5	<p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p> <p>This report contributes to the Council's compliance with section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 and Rural Needs Act 2016.</p>
4.0	<p><b>Document Attached</b></p>
	<p>Screening Outcome Report for Q3 21-22</p>



**Belfast**  
**City Council**

**Equality Screening Outcome Report and Rural Needs Impact  
Assessment**

**October to December 2021**

## Introduction

### Legislation – An Overview

#### Section 75 Statutory Equality Duties

Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 requires the Council, when carrying out its functions in relation to Northern Ireland, to have due regards to the need to promote equality of opportunity between nine categories of persons, namely:

- between persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation;
- between men and women generally;
- between persons with a disability and persons without; and
- between persons with dependants and persons without.

Without prejudice to its obligations above, the council must also have regards to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group.

The Council's Revised Equality Scheme was formally approved by the Equality Commission in March 2021. The revised Scheme outlines how we propose to fulfil our statutory duties under Section 75. Within the Scheme, the council gave a commitment to apply the screening methodology below to all new and revised policies and where necessary and appropriate to subject new policies to further equality impact assessment.

- What is the likely impact of equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy/proposal, for each of the Section 75 equality categories?
- Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within Section 75 equality categories?
- To what extent is the policy/proposal likely to impact on good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?

- Are there opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?

In keeping with the Council's commitments in its Equality Scheme, the Council has applied the above screening criteria to new policies and proposals. Screening identifies policies that are likely to have an impact on equality of opportunity and/or good relations.

Screening identifies the impact of the policy/proposal as major, minor or none.

- If major – an Equality Impact Assessment may be carried out.
- If minor – consider mitigation or alternative policy and screen out.
- If none – screen out and give reasons.
- Ongoing screening – for strategies/policies that are to be put in place through a series of stages – screen at various stages during implementation.

The council also committed within its Revised Equality Scheme to prepare and publish for information regular reports on its screening exercises. This is screening report providing details on all screenings undertaken from the period October to December 2021.

### **Rural Needs Impact Assessments**

The Council also has a statutory duty under the Rural Needs (Northern Ireland) Act 2016 to consider rural needs in the development of new policies, plans or strategies or in any service design/delivery decisions. The Council must therefore engage with rural stakeholders in relation to policy development when it is relevant and appropriate. The Equality and Diversity Unit is responsible for reporting to the Strategic, Policy and Resources Committee and for ensuring that annual reporting returns are submitted to DAERA.

To further promote openness and transparency, there is a link to each completed screening and rural needs impact assessment template on the Council's website.

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

The templates details all policies screened over this period and includes decisions reached.

## **Consultation**

The development of new policies and proposals will be supported by effective engagement processes to ensure that staff, service users and all interested parties are fully involved.

Planning for, and delivering safe and cost effective services requires close collaboration at many levels.

If you have any queries about this document, and its availability in alternative formats (including Braille, disk and audio cassette, and in other languages to meet the needs of those who are not fluent in English) then please contact:

Lisa McKee  
Equality and Diversity Unit  
Belfast City Council  
City Hall  
Belfast  
BT1 5GS

Direct Line 02890 270555  
or 028 90 320202 ext 6310  
email: [equality@belfastcity.gov.uk](mailto:equality@belfastcity.gov.uk) or [McKeeL@belfastcity.gov.uk](mailto:McKeeL@belfastcity.gov.uk)

## **Screening Outcome**

The screening outcomes are outlined in the table below. Three possible outcomes are recorded:

If **Major** – an Equality Impact Assessment may be carried out. **EQIA** - subject to further scrutiny under Section 75 of the NI Act 1998 to determine the impact upon



those directly affected, which in turn will require informal and formal consultation with a wide range of stakeholders.

If **Minor** – consider mitigation or alternative policy and screen out.

If **None** – screen out and give reasons.

### Screening Outcome Options

Major= In

Minor= Out with mitigation

None= Out without mitigation

### Rural Needs Impact Assessment Options

Does the policy, plan, strategy or service design/delivery impact on the social and economic needs of people in rural areas?

### Belfast City Council Equality Screening Outcome Report and Rural Needs Impact Assessment

This report includes published screenings and Rural Needs Impact Assessments for the period October – December 2021. Copies can be found at:

<http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/council/equality/eqia.aspx>

Description of Policy/Proposal	Rural Needs Impact Assessment	ECNI Screening Decision and Contact
Ballysillan Playing Fields – Urban Village Initiative Project	This Project will have no impact on those living in rural areas	Screened Out – No EQIA necessary (no impacts)  Contact: Briege Coyle
DfC Covid 19 Revitalisation Fund – Business Grants	This Fund will have a positive impact on all residents of Belfast	Screened Out – No EQIA necessary (no impacts)  Contact: Lisa Toland
Belfast Air Quality Action Plan 2021-2026	This Plan will have a positive impact on all residents of Belfast	Screened Out – No EQIA necessary (no impacts)  Contact: Alistair Curran

Roselawn Crematorium Development Project	This project will have a positive impact on all residents of Belfast	Screened Out – No EQIA necessary (no impacts) Contact: Sabine Kalke
Supporting Vibrant Business Destinations Pilot Programme	This project will have a positive impact on all residents of Belfast	Screened Out – No EQIA necessary (no impacts) Contact: Jim Edgar
Coronavirus Vaccine Policy	This policy will have no impact on those living in rural areas	Screened Out – Mitigating Actions (minor impacts) Contact: Andrea Anderson
Council Decision to Erect Bilingual External Naming and Internal Directional Signage in Brook Leisure Centre	This decision will have no adverse impact on those living in rural areas	Screened Out – Mitigating Actions (minor impacts) Contact: Sarah Williams
Ten Year Tourism Plan – Make Yourself at Home	This Plan will have a positive impact on all residents of Belfast	Screened Out – Mitigating Actions (minor impacts) Contact: Pier Morrow
Forth Meadow Community Greenway Information Panels	This Project will have no impact on those living in rural areas	Screened Out – Mitigating Actions (minor impacts) Contact: Dermott McGann
Gender Identity and Expression – Guidance and Information for Managers and Staff	This Guidance will have no impact on those living in rural areas	Screened Out – Mitigating Actions (minor impacts) Contact: Catherine Christy
Visual Identifier for Black/Grey Bins	This Project will have no adverse impact on those living in rural areas	Screened Out – Mitigating Actions (minor impacts) Contact: Peadar Doyle
Menopause Policy and Guidance	This Guidance will have no impact on those living in rural areas	Screened Out – Mitigating Actions (minor impacts) Contact: Catherine Christy
Council Decision to Erect Bilingual/Multilingual external naming and Directional Signage in Citywide Leisure Centres	This Decision will have no impact on those living in rural areas	Screened Out – Mitigating Actions (minor impacts) Contact: Sarah Williams

Council Decision to Erect Dual Language Signage at Olympia Leisure Centre	RNIA will be completed at a future date	Screened In – Necessary to conduct a full EQIA Contact: Sarah Williams
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<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Annual Day of Reflection</b>
<b>Date:</b>	25th March, 2022
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Rose Crozier, Director of Neighbourhood Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Nicola Lane, Good Relations Manager David Robinson, Good Relations Officer

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	To seek approval for the Council to hold a Day of Reflection on 21st June 2022 and every year on that date thereafter, to support those who wish to reflect, in order to acknowledge the deep hurt and pain caused by the conflict in and about Northern Ireland.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to agree that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the Council holds a Day of Reflection on 21st June, 2022 and every year on that date thereafter;</li> <li>officers engage and consult with Healing and Remembering regarding the format of the Day of Reflection;</li> <li>the City Hall be illuminated on 21st June, 2022 to mark the Day of Reflection.</li> </ul>

<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	At the Council meeting held on 1 <sup>st</sup> March 2022, Members agreed that the Party Leaders would discuss the potential for holding a day of reflection to acknowledge the deep hurt and pain caused by the conflict in and about Northern Ireland.
3.2	Further to discussions on this subject, Party Group Leaders were content that the Council should host a day of reflection and that this would be a space for quiet reflection for individuals to attend. This would take place within City Hall and would be open to members of the public throughout the day.
3.3	The format for the day could include aspects such as poetry reading, music, quiet time and some form of physical animation.
3.4	Party Group Leaders were in agreement that the most suitable date for a Day of Reflection was 21st June, whereby the Council would participate in the wider Day of Reflection and that officers would engage and consult with Healing Through Remembering who promote the Day.
3.5	Members may also wish to agree that the City Hall be illuminated in appropriate colours to mark the Private Day of Reflection on 21 June 2022. Yellow is the brand colour currently used for the Day of Reflection.
	<b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b>
3.6	The costs envisaged within a Day of Reflection will be borne from within the District Council's Good Relations Action Plan budget.
	<b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></b>
3.7	The aim of the Day of Reflection would be included within the Council's Good Relations Action Plan and as such will be screened for Equality, Good Relations and Rural Needs.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	None



<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee</b>
<b>Date:</b>	25th March 2022
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Walsh, Chief Executive Rose Crozier, Director of City and Neighbourhood Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Stevie Lavery, Programme Manager

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with an update on the funding programme for Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to note the report.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p><b>Background</b></p> <p>Her Majesty The Queen's Platinum Jubilee weekend will take place from Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June, inclusive.</p> <p>At the meeting on 18th February, the Committee agreed to allocate funding of £100,000 for events to take place in local communities across the city over the Platinum Jubilee weekend.</p>

The Committee also agreed to engage the services of the Community Foundation Northern Ireland (CFNI) to administer the fund, which will allocate a maximum of £2,000 for any group / event to take place.

Officers have been engaging with the Community Foundation over the past few weeks to finalise the details of the programme to make sure the funding process is straightforward and open to as many groups as possible. Members have also been providing feedback on a number of important points such as non-constituted groups being able to access the funding.

The programme is now live, with groups able to apply online and attend information sessions to find out more about how to apply, please see the following link for further details <https://communityfoundationni.org/grants/her-majesty-the-queens-platinum-jubilee-fund-for-belfast/>. The following provides an overview of how the programme will be delivered:

### 3.2 Application Timeline:

Stage	Timescale
Open Call	23 March 2022
Close of Applications	11 April 2022
Awards made	W/C 2 May 2022
Delivery	2-5 June 2022

### 3.3 Community Engagement

Venue	Time
Duncairn Community Centre Upper Mervue St, BT15 2J	Tuesday 29 March 1.00 pm
Olympia Leisure Centre Boucher Rd, BT12 6HR	Wednesday, 30 March 10.15 am
Inverary Community Centre Inverary Ave, BT4 1RN	Tuesday, 29 March 11.30 am
Spectrum Centre Café, Shankill Road Belfast	Wednesday, 30 March 6.00 pm
Online via Zoom <a href="https://us06web.zoom.us/j/6086313480">https://us06web.zoom.us/j/6086313480</a> Meeting ID: 608 631 3480	Friday 1 April 11:30 am



	<p>The fund has been advertised via Social media channels and has been published on the Council's and CFNI websites. Any groups who require further information on how to apply can call the CFNI grants team directly on 028 9024 5927.</p>
3.4	<p><b>Multiple 'Umbrella' applications:</b></p> <p>Following discussions with CFNI we have agreed that 'Umbrella' organisations can support applications from community groups who do not have a constitution. However, this will be up to a limit of £6,000 in total applications, with the minimum award per group £500, maximum award per group £2,000. An application for each individual community group must be received.</p> <p>The governance arrangements of the CFNI does not directly support the advancement of religion and/or organisations whose purposes include the advancement of religion. To assist such groups in accessing this funding, organisations with purposes to advance religion, can seek an eligible umbrella organisation who can submit an application for an eligible project on their behalf. Alternatively, they can work with an eligible partner organisation who can act as the lead applicant.</p> <p>Information sessions as outlined above will provide support to groups to enable them to apply or signpost them as appropriate. Council officers will also be supporting community groups, providing information and supporting the application process.</p>
3.5	<p><b>Payment and Verification</b></p> <p>As many of the groups who are accessing this funding, will have limited financial capacity, successful awards will be paid 100% in advance. All successful applicants will have to return project monitoring information, with a sample of applicants subject to full verification and will be asked to submit all relevant receipts of payments made with the funding.</p>
3.6	<p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>An additional Budget of £110,000, which includes the amount required to buy in the services of the Community Foundation, is being allocated from Departmental budgets.</p>
3.7	<p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p> <p>All events will take equality and good relations implications into account.</p>
4.0	<p><b>Documents Attached</b></p>
	<p>None</p>

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<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Update on Pest Control Service</b>
<b>Date:</b>	25th March, 2022
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Siobhan Toland, Director of City Services David Bone, City Services Manager
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Aoife Moody, City Protection Manager

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	As requested at the Council meeting on 10th January 2022, this report provides an update on the recovery of the Pest Control Service and on the proposed improvements for a full resumption of services to pre-Covid levels.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>note the progress made to date on the recovery of the pest control service and support the proposed improvements for full resumption of pest control services across the district; and</li> <li>agree that an operational service review be progressed in 2022/23 that aims to improve the customer experience, streamline processes and improve effectiveness of service delivery, with a report to come back to the Committee.</li> </ul>

<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	Members will be aware of the impact that the pandemic had on our pest control service, with several pest control officers furloughed April-August 2020. During this time, the service continued to deliver the sewer baiting programme across the City and residents were offered advice and information by the Pest Control Manager. The tenants of social housing were advised to contact their housing provider to obtain pest control services.
3.2	The Pest Control service was re-introduced in September 2020, albeit in a limited capacity. Risk assessment were reviewed and various covid control measures to protect our staff implemented, this resulted in a significant reduction in home treatments compared to normal levels that could be carried out. Visits therefore had to be prioritised and restricted to only the most vulnerable and where significant public health issues were identified. The vast majority of visits carried out were external only, with officers providing advice and information by phone.
3.3	In June 2021, internal treatments resumed for rats and mice only, with the support and guidance of Corporate Health and Safety and the Trade Unions in order to support a phased and manageable return. The safety measures introduced impacted on the number of internal treatments that could be completed in a day thus at that's time it was agreed to only carryout treatments in the private rented and owner-occupied sector initially. We continued to refer the tenants of social housing to the Housing Executive and Housing Associations where private contractors facilitated the service. When the service resumed, waiting times averaged 3-5 weeks during the period Jun-Oct 2021.
3.4	In September, the Council's Chief Executive received correspondence from Minister Hargey, Department for Communities raising concerns about its restricted Pest Control services for NI Housing Executive and Housing Associations. Following an update on Pest control services on September 7th to Council members, it was agreed that pest control services would resume to all tenures. It was also requested by members that officers would investigate the establishment of a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with both the NIHE and Housing Associations with a view to the Council recouping the costs for these services.
3.5	A meeting was arranged with the NI Housing Executive to explore the option of an SLA and recouping of costs. The NIHE officers shared their concerns about ensuring equity across all constituents and tenures allowing access to BCC pest control services free of charge.

3.6	The officers expressed the need to ensure their tenants should be entitled to benefit from the Councils free public health pest control services. In light of discussions with the NIHE and taking account of issues of equality for all BCC residents, the issue of cost recovery for the pest control services would need to be considered across all sectors at a future point if at all.
3.7	From September 2021 to date, all stakeholders have availed of the restricted service and waiting times for visits have averaged 4-5 weeks however this peaked at 7-weeks at the beginning of January due to a number of officers self-isolating as a result of the new variant and as a result of demand for services. The current waiting time for an appointment is now 3 weeks. In January, a high-level service review was carried out which identified that the scheduling system was inefficient and offered spare capacity for additional appointments. The scheduling system was amended which resulted in an immediate 1-week reduction in the waiting time.
3.8	For the past number of months, the Pest Control service has not had a full complement of staff, however two open vacancies have now been filled with 1 x officer starting on 21 <sup>st</sup> March and 1 x Operative starting on 1 <sup>st</sup> April. Waiting times are, therefore, expected to further reduce once the personnel have been onboarded. It should be noted that the Pest Control team has remained the same size for several years and has not grown with the population of the district.
3.9	The safety of our staff is paramount and we are continuing to operate with the original Covid restrictions in place. Officers have a list of questions to ask the householder before entering the property and they are required to change their PPE between visits. This system required additional time between each visit compared to the pre-covid levels and this reduces the overall capacity for appointments by around 25%. This Risk Assessment is currently being reviewed with staff and the trade unions with the ambitions of full resumption of pre-covid operations and reducing waiting times further.
3.10	<p>Whilst we have navigated the service through Covid and made operational changes the pest control service was last reviewed in 2005/06 and the operating environment has since changed. Our priorities going forward as part of commissioning an operational review are to provide an exceptional service to all constituents by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resumption of all treatments including fleas, flies, cockroaches.</li> <li>• Review of scheduling system and time slots and the systems used to support this.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of works planning and area / regional approach which will offer further efficiencies.</li> <li>• Monitor waiting times and aim to reduce.</li> <li>• The synergies with the customer hub</li> </ul>
3.11	Longer term, we would be keen to explore the use of mobile workflow management software which will improve the customer experience, offer reductions in our no admission rates, streamline processes and improve efficiencies. A report will be brought back to committee on the findings of the review.
3.12	Finally, as part of the City Services transformation project, Ms. Helen Morrissey has been appointed as the City Protection Manager – Neighbourhood and will oversee the Pest Control function in the new financial year among other functions.
3.13	<p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>There are no additional financial implications associated with this report.</p> <p>With the exception of wasps, the Council continues to provide the service on a free of charge basis. We will commission a review during 2022/23 and the costs for this will be met from the existing City and Neighbourhood Services' revenue budget.</p>
3.14	<p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p> <p>There are no implications associated with this report.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	None

## **Minutes of Party Group Leaders Consultative Forum 16<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

### **Attendance**

#### **Members:**

Councillor Billy Hutchinson  
Councillor Emmet Mc Donough-Brown (for Councillor Nuala McAlister)  
Councillor Donal Lyons  
Councillor Mal O'Hara  
Alderman Brian Kingston  
Councillor Ciaran Beattie  
Alderman Sonia Copeland  
Councillor Fiona Ferguson

**Apologies:** Councillor Nuala McAlister, Councillor Áine Groogan

#### **Officers:**

John Walsh, City Solicitor  
John Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy  
Rose Crozier, Director of City and Neighbourhood Services  
Siobhan Toland, Director of City and Neighbourhood Services  
Christine Sheridan, Head of Human Resources  
Trevor Wallace, Head of Finance  
Emer Husbands, Strategic Performance Manager (secretariat)

### **1. Industrial Action**

The Head of Human Resources provided details of proposed Industrial Action, week commencing 21<sup>st</sup> March, from members of the Unite union in relation to their opposition to the agreed pay award. She reminded Members that the pay award is agreed nationally and therefore the Council has no direct control in pay negotiations. The panel was also updated on possible disruption to services which at this stage is unclear but would be kept under review and regular communication would be provided to members and the public throughout the week. Members asked if a meeting could be held with the trade unions, even at this late stage, to discuss if the strike action could be avoided. Given that this is a regional dispute and affects all local councils as well as NIHE and the Education Authority the City Solicitor agreed to raise it through SOLACE and NILGA.

## **2. Organisational Recovery**

The Director of City and Neighbourhood Services outlined the ongoing plans for organisational recovery, including the prioritisation of frontline services, guidance in relation to social distancing and the phased return to the office. Members were reminded that a joint working group had been progressing the plans for this for a number of months with full consultation with services and trade unions. An updated report will be presented to a future meeting of the SP and R Committee.

## **3. Funding Requests**

The Head of Finance outlined two requests for funding which had been received and will be presented to the March SP and R Committee meeting for consideration. He reminded members that there was no allocated budget for these requests but they do fall under the Council's discretionary spend policy.

## **4. Planning Update**

The City Solicitor informed the panel there were no significant updates in relation to planning that had not been highlighted at the February meeting.

## **5. Queens Platinum Jubilee Funding**

The Director of City and Neighbourhood Services provided an update on the process and timeline for applications for events to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The application process will open next week through the CFNI portal. There will also be a link on the Council Website. The Director will write to party group leaders next week confirming dates for the application process and keep them advised of numbers of applications received. Consideration was asked to be given to maximising the number of applicants receiving the funding.

## **6. AOB**

### **Future Updates**

Requests were made for updates at the next meeting on Enhanced Cultural Funding and the Leisure Transformation Programme.

### **Crisis In Ukraine**

The Director of City and Organisational Strategy informed the Members that the response to supporting refugees from Ukraine was moving at pace and it was likely that council would have to allocate resources at short notice over the coming weeks under delegated



authority. He hoped to get more details in relation to timeframes and possible numbers of refugees in the coming days.

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## **Minutes of Party Group Leaders Consultative Forum 21<sup>st</sup> March 2022**

### **Attendance**

#### **Members:**

Councillor Billy Hutchinson  
Councillor Emmet Mc Donough-Brown (*for Councillor Nuala McAlister*)  
Alderman Brian Kingston  
Councillor Ciaran Beattie  
Alderman Sonia Copeland

**Apologies:** Councillor Fiona Ferguson, Councillor Áine Groogan, Councillor Mal O'Hara, Councillor Donal Lyons

#### **Officers:**

John Walsh, Chief Executive  
Rose Crozier, Director of Neighbourhood Services (for Items 1, 3 & 4)  
Siobhan Toland, Director of City Services (for Item 4)  
Christine Sheridan, Head of Human Resources (for Item 4)  
Nicola Lane, Good Relations Manager (for Item 2)  
Noleen Bohill, Head of Commercial and Procurement Services (for Item 4)  
Michael Denny, Commercial Manager  
Joanne Delaney, Portfolio and Programme Coordinator (secretariat)

### **1. Review of Active Belfast Limited/Governance Arrangements**

The Director of Neighbourhood Services provided an update on the independent review of Active Belfast Limited and the leisure governance model previously agreed by SP and R Committee. She outlined the main elements of the review findings and Members discussed the proposals and recommendations included in the report and the preferred way forward based on the assessment outlined. A report will be considered at March SP and R Committee.

### **2. A Day of Reflection**

Following the motion discussed at February SP and R Committee in relation to Bloody Friday, the Chief Executive provided an update in relation to the Council organising a day of reflection to allow citizens to reflect on the recent conflict and to remember all of the victims of the Troubles in Belfast. The Good Relations Manager referred to a previous report considered by Party Group Leaders on what that might entail, and the principles that would underpin any day of reflection. Following detailed discussion Members agreed that any event organised would be an event to enable people to reflect in a private capacity rather than have civic

participation. The Good Relations Manager to draft up a proposal for Members' consideration based on the issues discussed. It was also agreed that the date aligns with the wider Day of Private Reflection that is coordinated by Healing Through Remembering. A report outlining the proposals will be brought to March SP&R Committee for consideration.

### **3. PEACE PLUS**

The Director of Neighbourhood Services provided an update on the development of the PEACE PLUS programme and outlined for Members the emerging work being undertaken as part of the first investment area that will open. She also set out the recommendations for the proposed governance arrangements. Members discussed the proposed model to enable decisions to be made in a timely manner. Following discussion on the options for the decision making process, Members noted a report will be considered by Members at March SP and R Committee outlining the emerging work and the recommendations for the proposed governance arrangements.

### **4. AOB**

#### **Bonfire and Cultural Expression Approach 2022**

The Director of Neighbourhood Services outlined for Members the proposed overall approach to Bonfires and Cultural Expression for 2022. Members discussed the programme of work and the options outlined that are in line with the approach agreed for 2021. A report will be brought to March SP&R committee for Members' consideration. Some Members raised queries in relation to timelines for the funding streams and the Good Relations Manager provided clarity on the deadlines for applications. A report will be presented to the SP and R Committee in March.

#### **Social Value Procurement Policy**

The Chief Executive outlined the significant amount of work that has been undertaken in developing a proposed Social Value Procurement Policy. The Head of Commercial and Procurement Services updated Members on the development of the policy to date and advised that a copy of the draft policy was considered recently by the Social Policy Working Group. Comments have now been considered and incorporated into the final policy. There was detailed discussion and some concerns highlighted by Members around some of the detail of the policy. It was agreed that Members further consider and feedback any comments they may have to the Head of Commercial and Procurement Services in advance of March SP and R Committee.

### **Industrial Action**

The Head of Human Resources provided an update on the Industrial Action currently taking place. As discussed at the last meeting she reminded members that the pay award is agreed nationally and therefore the council has no direct control in pay negotiations. Members noted the subsequent disruption to some council services, and it was noted that the situation was being closely monitored in order to minimise any impact on residents. It was also noted that there may be further disruption to services as the action continues this week and Members will be kept informed as this progresses.

The Chief Executive advised that he had received correspondence from one of the Political Parties to ask that any Council meetings due to take place this week are rescheduled. He outlined those committee meetings due to take place this week and sought the views of Members. There was consensus that the Chief Executive seek clarity from ICTU and update Members following his correspondence with ICTU.

### **Port Health**

Members discussed in detail the current issues and challenges faced by the Port of Belfast as a result of the recent situation with P&O Ferries. The Director of City Services advised that the situation will be kept under review and that engagement with the other Councils, FSA and DAERA is ongoing. Members will be updated accordingly as the situation evolves.

### **World Down Syndrome Day 2022**

Members noted the City Hall would be illuminated tonight for World Down Syndrome Day.

### **Queens Platinum Jubilee Funding**

Further to the update provided to Members at the Forum meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> March, the Director of Neighbourhood Services provided an update on the application process through the CFNI portal. She outlined some issues in relation to the payment process and support for umbrella groups that need to be confirmed with CFNI. Following confirmation with CFNI, the Director will provide an update to party group leaders with all the details of the fund.

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## **ACTIVE BELFAST LIMITED BOARD**

**Monday, 7th March, 2022**

### **MEETING OF ACTIVE BELFAST LIMITED BOARD**

**(Held remotely via Microsoft Teams)**

#### **Attendees**

- Directors:** Mr. J. McGuigan (Chairperson)  
Councillor Corr  
Councillor McLaughlin  
Councillor McCann  
Mr. C. Morrison  
Mr. P. Boyle  
Mr. K. Ellison and  
Mrs. K. McCullough.
- Officers:** Mr. P. McGrattan, Leisure Development Manager;  
Mr. N. Munnis, Partnership Manager;  
Mr. G. Graham, Democratic Services Assistant.
- GLL:** Mr. J. Michael, Business Manager; and  
Ms. J. Pope, Head of Service.

#### **Apologies**

An apology was reported on behalf of Councillor Newton.

#### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 17th January were approved. It was reported that those minutes had been noted by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 21st January 2022.

#### **Matters Arising (ABLB 17th January 2022)**

The Chairperson welcomed Councillor C. McCann and Mr. C. Morrison as newly appointed Directors to the Board. Mr. Ellison stated that the issue in regard to the graffiti removal at Loughside Recreation Centre had not been addressed and also that he had not received any update from the BCC Head of Corporate HR in relation to queries previously raised about BCC/GLL HR policy alignment. In response, the Partnership Manager agreed to contact the Head of Corporate HR. The Partnership Manager confirmed further that he was aware that the graffiti at Loughside had not been removed and that he was dealing with the delay currently.

#### **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of Interest were reported.

#### **Director attendance statement**

The Board noted that there were no issues to report in terms of non-attendance of Directors at meetings.

### **Proposals for Future Board Meeting Agenda Items**

The Board noted that there were no proposed items for inclusion on the agenda at future meetings of the Board.

### **Six monthly report - BCC Sports Development Unit update**

The Leisure Development Manager provided the Board with an update on the delivery of sports and physical activity programmes following restrictions resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic. The Board was advised that sports development programmes were being restored gradually and that the sports camps had been particularly well received by young people and had been running over the Halloween, Christmas and half term periods. He stated that plans were in place to expand the programme further, as operational restrictions continued to return to normal.

The Board was informed that the Boxing Strategy had been impacted significantly by the Covid pandemic and was, however, continuing to be rolled out under revised operating procedures.

The Board was informed also of the use made of online platforms to provide training for coaches, which had accelerated the qualification of coaches to deliver many of the programmes being offered. The Leisure Development Manager highlighted the fact that some of the physical programmes had been impacted, adversely, by the Covid-19 pandemic, including the cross-country events, which it was hoped would re-commence in 2022-23.

The Board was provided with an update on the development of the Stadium Benefits Initiative, which was a joint enterprise between, DfC, BCC, GAA and the IFA. He stated further that, activities associated with quarters one and two, had been impacted, adversely, by Covid-19 but that online engagement had proved successful in the delivery of a number of coach education courses, including the identification of new development areas which had been used to expand the initiative. He referred to some of the on-line delivery mechanisms such as the use of collaborative working and on-line webinars some of which, including nutritional guidance, had proved very popular.

The Leisure Development Manager provided the Board with further information in regard to the pitches partner agreements under which seven pitches were being managed by third party clubs/organisations. He stated that community assets transfer was at an advanced stage with two clubs namely, Rosario and Clarendon. The Board was advised that work was ongoing with the remaining five clubs being supported in terms of their governance and infrastructure requirements. Board members were informed that the GAA facilities were being utilised well and that a meeting of the GAA joint management board had taken place recently.

In terms of the Support for Sport programme, the Leisure Development Manager reported that the grants application process, attached to the programme, had opened recently and would remain open until the end of March 2022. He provided the Board with a list of the



various funding grants available, under a range of categories, and stated that organisations were being encouraged to apply. In terms of organisational structure, it was reported that two Sports Development Officers would be providing support for clubs throughout the grant application process. The Leisure Development Manager informed the Board further that a tender exercise would be commencing shortly to seek assistance with the design and delivery of the Sports and Physical Activity Strategy. The Board Members were informed that delivery of the strategy would require the creation of a management Board, with input from relevant stakeholders.

In response to a question from a Board member in regard to how it was proposed that Council staff would engage with GLL to promote the grants scheme and maximise uptake, the Leisure Development Manager stated that his team would be engaging with the GLL outreach officers and would be setting up a number of workshops and webinars as a means to promote the scheme and, where appropriate, expanded use of the Councils leisure centres and recreational facilities.

The Board noted the information provided by the Leisure Development Manager and thanked him for the update.

### **2022-23 Q3 KPI Scorecard report**

Mr. J. Michael and Ms. J. Pope (GLL) attended in connection with this item and were welcomed by the Chairperson.

The Business Manager provided the Board with an overview of GLL's performance in regard to the scorecard. He stated that Loughside had remained closed, over the period of the pandemic, and consequently no statistics were available for that facility.

The Board was informed that restrictions, as a result of Covid-19, had impacted negatively on business during the period October – December 2021 and had resulted in a reduction in income, facility utilisation and user numbers. The Board noted that, during December 2021, a reduction in membership numbers had been recorded which the Business Manager stated was a normal and anticipated seasonal trend.

The Business Manager reported that membership had decreased slightly from the previous quarter and that the swim school had recorded a similar reduction in membership numbers. The Board was informed that 2022 to date was showing a considerable recovery in terms of membership, with a target of 20,000 being achieved ahead of schedule. In terms of occupancy, which included main halls, studios and pitches, the Business Manager stated that group exercises had returned to studios which had previously been delivered, during Covid restrictions, in sports halls. He reported that indoor sports activities had risen by 9% and studio occupancy by 5%, while pitch usage remained static over the quarter, with a slight reduction in usage during December 2021. The Board was informed that pitch utilisation was dominated by the 5 pm -10 pm (Monday – Friday) peak slots and that group exercises continued to perform well.

A Board member stated that, while the programmes were both extensive and varied, there was no information contained, within the report, to identify who had instigated the programmes and how the success of the various programmes offered was being monitored and measured. The Board member requested information on how the various programmes

were being targeted to ensure that marginalised and hard to reach groups were being included.

In response to the questions raised by the Board member, the Business Manager reported that the programmes offered consisted of both GLL programmes and those initiated by external bodies utilising the centres and delivered by GLL on their behalf. The Business Manager provided the Board with an extensive list of communication methods used to target its customers and user groups, including the use made of client feedback as a means to measure both the success and satisfaction levels of the programmes offered.

The GLL Head of Service highlighted the extensive range of management information data generated by GLL. She pointed out further that, when introducing new programmes, existing class/customer displacement was a key consideration. The Business Manager stated that GLL continued to engage with community development groups to assess local needs and would be able to produce further detailed information on the usage by particular groups.

The Board noted the information provided by GLL and welcomed the improvement in the statistics on usage following the relaxation of Covid restrictions.

### **Six monthly report - Underrepresented Target Groups**

The Board considered the undernoted report which had been prepared by GLL.

#### **“1.0 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To provide Board members with a progress update on the participation of underrepresented target groups in centres managed by GLL in Belfast from August 2021 to February 2022.**

#### **2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1 That the board considers and formally records receipt of the information presented below.**

#### **3.0 Main Report**

- 3.1 GLL is a leading social enterprise. One of the core priorities of GLL is to ensure full access for all members of the community and encourage regular participation amongst traditionally under represented target groups.**
- 3.2 GLL employ a Regional Business Manager, whose key focus is to drive participation and usage, ensuring more people from every background are regularly and meaningfully engaged and taking part in sport and physical activity. Three Community Sports Officers also support the implementation and review of participation programmes and another staff member is responsible for group exercise.**

- 3.3 Previous targets to increase usage by 2% each year have been reinstated as Covid restrictions have been relaxed and early signs highlight the positive growth across the city. Each month represents opportunities to welcome back more participants that have been impacted by the pandemic and GLL continue to report on usage figures and utilisation to ABL & BCC.
- 3.4 GLL is committed to support community access offering varied opportunities delivered in centres that are accessible, affordable and not inhibiting.
- 3.5 GLL re-invests through the GLL Foundations (Sport and Communities) that provide and sustain support for community cohesion and talented individuals.
- 3.6 GLL sustain a positive contribution to the local economy through investment in a workforce that is diverse, passionate, trained and skilled operating in well-managed, maintained and resourced centres.
- 3.7 53% of Belfast GLL members benefit from concessionary charges thereby helping to remove affordability as a barrier to participation.
- 3.8 People with disabilities
  - 3.8.1 GLL continue to partner with 'Menshed' by offering Girdwood Community Hub and Whiterock where the focus is on improving mental health for men.
  - 3.8.2 GLL have delivered a mental health programme in partnership with Action Mental Health with the aim of having a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of 50 programme participants across the city.
  - 3.8.3 GLL continue to support the social enterprise NOW group in the delivery of a 'Lets Get Fit Now' programme which takes place in Falls Leisure Centre. This programme offers participants with a learning disability the opportunity to participate in tailored fitness classes and gym inductions.
  - 3.8.4 The NOW group are also contributing to the work in Olympia Leisure Centre by running the café provision under their 'Loaf' brand.
  - 3.8.5 Orchardville who support people with learning disability or autism to live, learn and work operate the café spaces at Andersonstown and Grove. They also plan to open at Lisnasharragh in March.
  - 3.8.6 Girdwood Community Hub in partnership with Disability Sport NI provides a dedicated disability sports hub catering for a range of wheelchair-based sports and activities including Wheelchair Basketball, Powerchair Football, Boccia and New Age Curling.

- 3.8.7 Whiterock Leisure Centre supports disability groups in Upper Springfield by offering sports and fun fitness sessions twice a week.
- 3.8.8 Ballysillan Leisure Centre supports the Northern Ireland Powerchair Squad in their preparation for involvement in the World Cup in Australia which will take place in 2023.
- 3.8.9 In January 2022, Ballysillan hosted the Irish FA Powerchair football All Ireland Championships with over 200 participants in attendance.
- 3.8.10 The GLL Sport Foundation in Belfast currently supports 3 disabled and Paralympic athletes. Athletes benefit from financial awards of up to £1,250 which will contribute to their individual coaching, travel, competition and equipment costs.
- 3.8.11 In recent years the GSF programme has supported athletes that have competed at Olympic, Paralympic and Commonwealth Games. Paralympic middle-distance athlete Dr. Michael McKillop is the Ambassador of the programme in Northern Ireland. Michael has successfully won four Paralympic Gold medals and is a role model to all our locally supported athletes.
- 3.8.12 Brook Leisure Centre has a swimming pool specifically designed to cater for those with sensory needs and those with wide range of disabilities. The centre pool runs weekly quiet swims currently attracting approximately 20 to 30 participants in each session.
- 3.8.13 In addition Brook Leisure Centre supports the delivery of Air Venture inclusive sessions which are designed to meet the sensory requirements of participants.
- 3.8.14 GLL have a partnership with Swim Buddies to deliver swimming lessons to those with Autism but it has not been possible to deliver these sessions during the pandemic due to the requirement for coaches to be in the water with participants.

### **3.9 Women and Girls**

- 3.9.1 48.0% of all current Belfast members are female (15,032).
- 3.9.2 In partnership with Irish FA, GLL provide female only football sessions at four centres across the city through the Shooting Stars Programme.
- 3.9.3 GLL have supported Netball NI in the delivery of their social netball programme and are also in discussion about the potential of Lisnasharragh becoming a regular training based for the senior international squad.
- 3.9.4 GLL supports 88 female athletes through the GSF programme (58.3%) to enable them to compete at national and international level in their respective sports.

**3.9.5 GLL works in partnership with WISPA in the delivery of female only classes at Andersonstown, Avoniel, Girdwood and Olympia.**

**3.9.6 Brook Leisure Centre delivers an after schools multisport and fitness programme for girls and also works in partnership with local GAA clubs to deliver a Gaelic for mothers programme.**

### **3.10 Older People**

**3.10.1 13.4% of all current Belfast members are aged 60+**

**3.10.2 Free access for over 60's before 11am Monday to Friday.**

**3.10.3 GLL have a daily programme of activity targeted at and suitable for older people.**

**3.10.4 GLL deliver chronic disease (Cancer & Cardiac) rehabilitation programmes, whilst also supporting and hosting Diabetes and Strength & Balance programmes. Many of the referrals for these interventions are older people.**

**3.10.5 GLL now delivers lower intensity physical activity programming designed to target referrals coming off the rehabilitation programmes and is also suitable for all members for a lower level/low impact workout. In addition to this walking groups have become part of the mainstream group exercise offering so can be accessed by the wider membership and not just those on PARS.**

**3.10.6 In January GLL introduced a number of new active aging mornings across the city. They include activities such as danderball, pickleball, table tennis, boccia and water polo. These are being delivered at Avoniel, Falls, Girdwood, Lisnasharragh, Olympia, Shankill.**

**3.10.7 Strategic partnerships and working groups established around chronic conditions pathways to ensure collaboration with key organisations such as Public Health Agency, Belfast Health & Social Care Trust and charitable partners.**

**3.10.8 Girdwood partners with Chest, Heart and Stroke Association in the offering of weekly low intensity exercise along with arts and crafts.**

**3.10.9 GLL have set a date for the return of Club Games for Friday 30th September 2022. After two years of cancellation, due to the pandemic, the centres are looking forward to this returning. The event will coincide with International Day of Older Persons.**

### **3.11 Families**

**3.11.1 GLL have created a balanced programme of activities across all centres allowing families to participate. GLL have created a basic**

**group exercise offering which permits junior members to exercise with older family members.**

**3.11.2 Junior group exercise class have also been introduced into the group exercise timetable in February 2022.**

**3.11.3 Adult and Child gym sessions have been added across the city which permits children as young as 9 to attend the gym as long as they are accompanied and supervised by a parent.**

**3.11.4 Junior and family products such as water slides, Surf Belfast and the Aqua Play at Andersonstown, Air Venture at Brook and Aqua Splash at Lisnasharragh are all meeting the demands of families, particularly over the weekend and holiday periods.**

**3.11.5 Birthday parties, after being restricted throughout the pandemic, have been reintroduced with all centres offering a wide range of provision including bouncy castles, climbing wall, sports (indoor and outdoor) along with the new products mentioned above.**

**3.11.6 Wet centres provide family fun sessions as part of their weekly programme that includes floats and inflatables.**

**3.11.7 Brook Leisure Centre offers weekly pool parties and family aqua aerobics sessions.**

**3.11.8 The family membership has been offered since August 2021 and to date 124 memberships have been sold which equates to 478 members. This membership option is now being reviewed as the six month testing period has now passed.**

#### **4.0 Decision(s) Required**

**4.1 That the board considers and formally records receipt of the information presented above.”**

The Board noted the information provided by GLL and recorded formally receipt of the report.

#### **GLL KPI targets for following year**

The Business Manager provided the Board with the KPI targets for 2022-23, under the headings of Business, Membership and Occupation. He stated that the targets were essentially a re-setting of baselines following business disruption during the pandemic.

The Board stated that it would be useful to have comparative data presented and was advised of the intention to reintroduce the standard ‘red, amber, green year to date analysis’ from quarter one of 2022/23.

The Board noted the KPI targets, for 2022-23, submitted by GLL.

### **Six monthly review of ABL Companies House returns**

The Partnership Manager reminded the Board of its legal obligation to submit updated returns to Companies House. The Partnership Manager provided the Board with a list of its current Membership stating that a number of vacant positions remained to be filled pending completion of the ongoing governance review. The Partnership Manager confirmed that returns to Companies House were complete and up to date and that new director registrations/resignations, following recent changes to NIPSA TU and elected member representation, would be processed as soon as possible.

### **BCC Review of Leisure Operating Model** **Governance Arrangements update**

The Board noted that the review of the Leisure governance model was on schedule and that the final report would be presented to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on the 25<sup>th</sup> March 2022 with ratification, by the full Council, anticipated at its April meeting, subject to the outcome of Council consideration and that a full report should be available, for presentation to the Board, at its next meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

The Board noted the update provided by the Partnership Manager.

Chairperson

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## Social Policy Working Group

Monday, 28th February, 2022

### MEETING OF THE SOCIAL POLICY WORKING GROUP HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

- Members present: Councillor O'Hara (Chairperson)  
Alderman Copeland; and  
Councillors Bunting and McLaughlin.
- In attendance: Mr. J. Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy;  
Miss S. Grimes, Director of Property and Projects;  
Ms. C. Sheridan, Head of Human Resources;  
Ms. N. Bohill, Head of Commercial and Procurement  
Services;  
Mr. C. Campbell, Divisional Solicitor;  
Ms. S. O'Regan, Employability and Skills Manager;  
Mr. L. Murray, Strategic Category Manager;  
Ms. C. Patterson, Inclusive Growth-Policy and  
Programme Officer;  
Mr. M. Denny, Commercial Manager;  
Ms. C. Hutchinson, Policy and Performance Analyst;  
Ms. R. Rea, Programme Manager;  
Mr. R. Connelly, Policy, Research and Compliance  
Officer;  
Mr. G. Dickson; Strategic Policy Lead Officer;  
Ms. N. Irvine, Enterprise and Business Growth Officer;  
Mr. J. Uprichard, Community Planning Officer;  
Mr. M. Mulholland, Policy Officer; and  
Mr. G. Graham, Democratic Services Assistant.

### **Apologies**

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

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 22nd November were taken as read and signed as correct.

### **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were reported.

### **Action Tracker**

The Working Group noted the update on actions which had been circulated, previously, by the Strategic Policy Lead Officer. The Working Group requested that the action tracker, in regard to future meetings, be included as part of the published agenda pack.

Noted.

### **Procurement and Commissioning Group** **Update – Presentation from CLES**

Mr. S. MacDonald, Associated Director – CLES, attended in connection with this item and was welcomed by the Chairperson.

Mr. MacDonald provided the Working Group with an update on the steps required to explore how procurement and commissioning could support and generate local community wealth. He reported that it was important that wealth was re-directed into the local community economy, in conjunction with the promotion of community ownership and stated further that work, to that end, was continuing in conjunction with the Community Planning Partnership.

The Members were informed that the focus of work, undertaken by CLES, had been concentrated on procurement with particular reference on how public institutions spent their money and how that money could be circulated within the local economy. Mr. MacDonald highlighted the importance of reducing revenue leakage from the local economy, to ensure that local businesses were provided with the support required to expand and provide increased employment opportunities.

Mr. MacDonald referred to the collaborative work which CLES had undertaken with the Council's four anchor organisations, namely the Ulster University, Queens University, Belfast City Council and the South Eastern Trust, in the identification of their spend patterns. He highlighted the need to develop financial reporting mechanisms in order to analyse those spend patterns, which accounted for £443 million annually. The Members were informed that the total spend, attributable to the anchor organisations, accounted for approximately one third of the total Community Planning Partnership spend.

The Working Group was informed that, as part of their commissioning work, CLES had evaluated that spend, in terms of its benefits to the local economy supply chain, and how financial leakage could be reduced for the benefit of the local economy. Mr. MacDonald explained that, of the £443 million spend, the analysis had shown that seventy per cent of that spend had flowed to Northern Ireland based companies and that twenty-eight per cent of that spend, representing £122 million, had flowed to organisations outside the province.

Mr. MacDonald provided further analysis stating that fifteen per cent of the total spend had been provided to the ten per cent of the most deprived wards in Belfast and highlighted the need to examine those businesses which were not within the public sector supply chain. The Members were provided with a regional map highlighting the distribution of spend by the four institutions, in terms of their industrial sectors, which had indicated that the construction industry had absorbed the greatest level of public sector procurement spend in Northern Ireland. He reported that the construction industry

accounted for £60 million per annum, in Northern Ireland, and provided a detailed analysis of company size, in regard to the distribution of that spend.

The Working Group was provided with information on the need to develop an integrated and shared action plan, incorporating the four anchor institutions. Mr. MacDonald highlighted the need to share supply chain intelligence in respect of SME's, which would be useful in terms of the development of appropriate supply chain tenders and specifications and which would benefit potential un-identified local business suppliers. He referred also to the need to target those businesses, located in areas of deprivation, and emphasised the need to reduce the level of financial leakage to maximise the benefits to the local economy.

The Members posed a number of questions which had been generated as a result of the presentation, including the value of the total public sector spend, within the province. The Members requested information on further actions which could be undertaken to influence other public bodies to engage with the commissioning group and support the development of social enterprise initiatives.

In response, Mr. MacDonald confirmed that other public bodies, including the Belfast Health Trust and the Belfast Metropolitan College, had expressed interest in joining the four anchor institutions. The Members were informed that Belfast had a significant number of social economy enterprises, however, he stated that only a small number of those companies were part of the public sector supply chain. Mr. MacDonald suggested that the Council might wish to consider modifications to its tender process and, in so doing, engage with the social economy as a means to make it more aware of public sector finance and remove the barriers which restrict social enterprises from competition for public sector contracts.

A Member suggested that it might be useful to develop a collective procurement strategy for public sector contracts and that segmentation of large contracts, into smaller units, might permit smaller enterprises to enter the market and compete successfully for areas of work within the overall contract. The Director of City and Organisational Strategy in response to a question from a Member on the collation of annual spend data, and its distribution, suggested that it would be appropriate to wait until CLES had finished its research and, at that point, the Members suggestion could be considered as part of a next steps approach.

The Chairperson sought clarification in regard to the level of financial leakage within Northern Ireland as compared to other regions within the U.K. Mr MacDonald responded by stating that the important factor, was the progress made in the reduction in leakage, given that financial leakage was often attributed to local and specific circumstances.

The Working Group noted the information provided and thanked Mr. MacDonald and his CLES associates for the valuable work they had undertaken, and it was

Proposed by Councillor McLaughlin,  
Seconded by Councillor O'Hara, and

Resolved – that CLES be authorised to present its report and findings to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, including Party Group Leaders, to ensure that all Council political representatives were consulted

in regard to the Council's future procurement strategy, subject to the approval of that Committee.

### **Social Value Procurement Policy – Consultation Feedback and Next Steps**

The Head of Commercial and Procurement Services reported that the consultation exercise in regard to the Social Value Procurement Policy had been completed in December 2021 and that the feedback from that exercise was now available and had been included in the reports information pack for consideration. She stated that the Strategic Category Manager would provide the Working Group with an overview of the results extricated from the public consultation process.

The Strategic Category Manager provided the Members with a detailed analysis in respect of a number of key themes contained within the consultation exercise, including the Council's definition of social value and the objectives attributable to that. He reported that the consultation exercise had explored issues such as the inclusion of reserve contracts and the organisational behaviours which the Council required from its suppliers. The Strategic Category Manager reported that views had been sought on the scoring attached to social value and the associated evaluation process, including the potential to reward suppliers who had implemented the real living wage and rejected the use of zero-hours contracts.

The Working Group was informed that seventy responses had been received as a result of undertaking the public consultation exercise and referred to recent developments which had arisen since the draft procurement policy had been approved, by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, in June 2021. The Strategic Category Manager stated that climate change had presented as an emerging issue and that climate issues would require to be factored into the final Social Value Procurement Policy. The Members were informed that suppliers implementing the National Living Wage were being considered for inclusion within the revised procurement policy and that prompt payment of suppliers had now been mandated, by the Department of Finance, for inclusion within public sector contracts.

The Members were provided with a range of recommendations from the results of the public consultation process which, if agreed, would be included with the final social value procurement policy, subject to the approval of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee. The Strategic Category Manager emphasised the importance of monitoring, on an annual basis, the impact of the new social value procurement policy and its benefits. The Working Group was informed of the various themes included as part of the consultation including, amongst other things, the definition of social value which had been amended to include a reference to local communities, the use of resource contracts and social value weighing criteria.

The Working Group was informed that the issue of the minimum value of contract, currently £250,000, should remain unchanged stating that the threshold would be kept under review as part of the annual evaluation process. The Strategic Category Manager referred to the current weighting attributed to goods, services and works and the adjustments under consideration to those weightings from 2023. The Working Group agreed that the current weightings of 10% and 15% respectively should remain unchanged but should be subject to an annual review process.

In terms of a social value pass-mark, it was reported that the results of the consultation exercises had stated a preference pass-mark of between 40%-60%, with a potential increase to 70% in future years as suppliers became more familiar with the tendering process. The Strategic Category Manager stated that it had been recommended to reduce the pass-mark to 50% which again would be subject to review, under the annual evaluation process for goods, supplies and services. He stated that this change would give the supply base sufficient time to adjust to the new social value criteria.

As part of the social value initiatives, the Working Group was informed that, as part of the social value tender process, a number of themes were being considered, including employment initiatives to promote the recruitment of young people, the non-use of zero-hours contracts and the implementation of the real living wage, as part of the tender specification process. The Members were informed that the introduction of the real living wage was a mandatory requirement from 2023, including the non-use of zero-hours contracts. The Strategic Category Manager informed the Working Group that support for businesses would be required in adapting to the new tender specification requirements and that an updated policy, taking on board the suggestions emanating from the public consultation exercise, would be presented to the March meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for consideration. He stated also that it would be necessary to update the tool-kit tender documentation and to provide guidance and training, for suppliers, to assist them in complying with the new tendering specification requirements and for the Council to develop an appropriate contract monitoring programme.

The Working Group, while broadly supportive of the draft Social Value Procurement Policy, raised concerns in regard to some of the weightings and scorings which had been proposed, in terms of the £250,000 contract value, citing that the limited capacity for small business interests to develop the capacity or expertise to compete for such large contracts. The Members suggested that, from 2023/24, consideration should be given to applying social value weighting to contracts in excess of a £3,000 valuation.

The Members referred to the scoring value weighting which the proposed draft procurement policy had indicated should apply to both goods and supplies contracts and services and works contracts and suggested that, from April 2023, the social value weighting should increase by 5%, on an annual basis, over the proceeding three-year period. The Working Group considered the recommendation to reduce the minimum scoring threshold for social value from 70%/75% to 50% and suggested that the threshold be maintained at its current level and that the percentage threshold should, thereafter, be subject to a review prior to the April 2023 commencement date.

The Head of Commercial and Procurement Services highlighted some of her concerns in regard to some of the suggested amendments to the draft policy. She stated that adding a social value requirement to tenders, above the £3,000 threshold, could result in placing a burden on small companies, restricting their access to compete for smaller contracts by placing a burden on the small to medium business supply chain. She stated that the imposition of a social value clause on contracts over a £3,000 valuation could have an adverse impact on those suppliers where the goods and services were required to be delivered on a quick turn-around basis. The Head of Commercial and Procurement Services stated that small companies had not been supportive of a reduction in the social value requirement applying to contracts within the £3,000 -£10,000 threshold.

After further detailed consideration and taking on board the concerns of the Head of Commercial and Procurement Services it was

Proposed by Councillor McLaughlin,  
Seconded by Councillor O'Hara, and

Resolved - that the minimum tender valuation, subject to social value scoring and weighting, be reduced from £250,000 to £30,000 and above from April 2023, subject to an annual review and the approval of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

After discussion, in regard to the social value threshold attached to procurement contracts and following a recommendation within the draft policy, which had recommended that the threshold be reduced from 70%/75% to 50%, it was

Proposed by Councillor McLaughlin,  
Seconded by Councillor O'Hara, and

Resolved - that the minimum scoring threshold be maintained to its original level, vis-a vis, 70/75%, for goods, services and works, subject to the approval of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

### **City Charter Update**

The Director of City and Organisational Strategy provided the Working Group with an update on the work undertaken in the development of the city charter incorporating a framework for the delivery of the Belfast Business Promise. He explained that the business promise consisted of a number of themes which could be used to inform a number of anchor institutions, across the city, and which included, amongst other things, fair wage contracts.

The Director informed the Members that a bid had been placed for resources to fund the project which included staffing and that, upon completion of that phase, confirmation of the roles and the development and of an on-line web platform would be required as part of the implementation phase.

The Working Group noted the information provided by the Director.

### **Real Living Wage Accreditation Update**

The Head of HR provided the Working Group with an update on the progress made, to date, in regard to the Council becoming an accredited real living wage employer which was paid currently by means of a supplement. She referred to contact which had been made with the Living Wage Foundation in an attempt to make contact with other living wage authorities to seek information on how they had progressed implementation of the living wage and to ascertain any issues or barriers they had encountered, particularly in relation to pay structures.

The Head of HR confirmed that a meeting had taken place with Scottish Borders who advised that they had paid the real living wage as a supplement and yet had been accredited by the Living Wage Foundation. She reported that the Living Wage Foundation would be contacted to ascertain the details of this arrangement. The Head of HR explained that Scottish Borders did not follow the NJC national pay agreement and that the Council had asked the Living Wage Foundation to facilitate meetings, with other local authorities which had implemented the NJC national pay agreement and who were an accredited real living wage employer. The Head of HR stated that the Council was

engaging with the Local Government Association in regard to the challenges faced by introducing the real living wage, including the ability of the pay spine to absorb any future increases in the national living wage. To that end, she stated that a number of briefing sessions, facilitated by the Local Government Association, were due to take place in March/April and that the Council would be attending those briefings.

In response to comments made by the Head of HR in regard to the lack of response from the Living Wage Foundation, she stated that the Council had endeavoured to contact other local authorities directly but, to date, this had been unsuccessful. The Head of HR stated that it was her intention to exhaust all efforts to engage with the Living Wage Foundation and to provide the Working Group with a more detailed update in the matter at its next meeting. She requested that, if Members had any direct contacts with other relevant UK authorities, she would be happy to engage with those contacts to gain the information required. The Members stated that they would endeavour to provide any political support to facilitate engagement with relevant UK authorities in order to progress the Council becoming an accredited living wage employer.

The Working Group noted the information provided and thanked the Head of Human Resources for her efforts in the pursuance of Belfast City Council becoming a living wage authority.

### **Agency Workers Update**

The Head of Human Resources submitted the undernoted report in respect of the costs of agency workers to the Council and including the allocation of job types covering the period April - till December 2021.

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

- 1.1 To provide information on the usage and cost of agency assignees from April 2021 to December 2021.**

#### **2.0 Recommendations**

**The Working Group is asked to note the contents of this report.**

#### **3.0 Main report**

- 3.1 At the meeting on 22nd November 2021 the Working Group requested information on the annual cost, to the Council, associated with the recruitment and employment of agency staff. This report provides an overview of agency usage and cost for the current financial year to date (April 2021 to December 2021).**

**Table 1 illustrates the breakdown of agency usage by month from April 21 to December 21.**

**Table 1**

<b>BCC overall agency headcount</b>	
<b>Month</b>	<b>Agency headcount</b>
<b>April 2021</b>	<b>231</b>

3.2

May 2021	237
June 2021	253
July 2021	290
August 2021	292
September 2021	312
October 2021	318
November 2021	311
December 2021	301

Analysis of the agency worker information shows a high level of agency usage in basic entry job roles. The table below shows that on 31st December 2021, six job types accounted for 66% of overall usage.

Job type	Number of agency workers in this job type (FTE) in October	% of total agency usage
General Operative	110	36.5%
Business Support Clerk	30	9.9%
Combined HGV/LGV Driver Loader	23	7.6%
Recycling Operative	17	5.6%
Park Warden	12	3.9%
Park Operative	9	2.9%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>66.4%</b>

### 3.3 General Operative

This post was created as part of the Open Space and Streetscene project. Transfer arrangements for existing staff was completed in October and an internal trawl was advertised in early November, this resulted in 6 permanent appointments being made. An external trawl will be advertised in early April with 25% of the permanent vacancies ringfenced to the long term unemployed, supported by an employment academy approach. This will significantly reduce the number of agency assignees in this basic entry job role and stabilise staffing arrangements.

As well as covering vacancies, agency workers are also used to provide temporary cover, for employees on internal secondments / career break, for temporary projects, e.g. the Glass and Kerbie box trials, for seasonal requirements and as a response to Covid 19. Seasonal general operatives are due to finish at the end of March and this along with the permanent recruitment exercise in April will further reduce the number of agency workers at this grade.



#### **3.4 Business Support Clerks**

The Business Support Clerk post is a basic entry, high turnover job role which historically has always had a high dependency on agency usage. The pausing of the review of business support services, alongside Covid-19 response and recovery work and organisational capacity issues, has contributed to the use of agency workers in this job role. In July 2021, CMT agreed that permanent established business support posts that are permanently vacant, can be recruited on a permanent basis. It is anticipated that a recruitment exercise will take place in April 2022. As above we will ringfence 25% of the vacant posts to the long term unemployed, again supported by an employment academy approach.

#### **3.5 Combined HGV / LGV Driver Loader**

A recent recruitment campaign for Combined LGV/HGV Driver/Loader has now been completed, with 7 appointments made. Several agency workers have been retained pending the completion of medical & pre-employment checks.

The other agency workers are providing temporary cover, e.g.; internal secondments / career breaks, temporary projects, e.g. the Glass and Kerbie box trials, for seasonal requirements and due to Covid 19 response and recovery.

#### **3.6 Recycling operative**

A number of full-time posts are currently being recruited. Agency workers will be retained pending completion of the recruitment exercise. The other agency workers are providing temporary cover for internal secondments / career breaks, and due to Covid 19 response and recovery.

#### **3.7 Park Warden**

This post falls under the City Services review, with recruitment on hold until the review has been completed. There are 6 vacancies being covered. The other agency workers are providing temporary cover for internal secondments / career breaks, and due to Covid 19 response and recovery.

#### **3.8 Ongoing Issues**

While the progress of some structural reviews will help address the ongoing dependency on agency workers, there is a need for a dedicated corporate “gatekeeper” resource to manage, challenge and control agency usage across all departments.

**It has been agreed to facilitate the creation of this post on a temporary basis for 2022/23. The creation of a permanent post will be considered during the estimate process for 2023/24 as part of strategic workforce planning and our efficiency agenda. It is anticipated that this post will be advertised in March 2022.**

#### **4.0 Financial and Resource Implications**

- 4.1 The total cost to the Council for the period April 2021 to December 2021 was £5,025,579. This reduces to £4,084,478 when costs attributed to covid are deducted. The use of agency workers is not an additional financial burden on the Council as the cost is met through vacant posts.**

**The creation of a temporary resource to manage the use of agency workers corporately and manage the agency contract as identified above.**

#### **4.2 Equality or Good Relations Implications**

**Adherence to the compliance framework will help ensure equality of opportunity for all agency workers.”**

In respect of General Operative posts, the Head of HR informed the Members that, a number of permanent appointments had been made in November 2021 and that a further external recruitment campaign, to fill permanent posts, was planned for April, 2022. Furthermore, 25% of the permanent posts would be ringfenced to the long-term unemployed.

The Head of HR stated that it was anticipated that, as a result of a range of recruitment measures, a number of Agency staff employed by the Council, over the next twelve months, would be reduced significantly. She stated that this would be supported by the recruitment of an agency gatekeeper to monitor and regulate the use of agency workers on a departmental basis.

The Working Group was informed that the recruitment of agency staff did not pose an additional financial burden on the Council in that those costs were met from the vacant posts currently within staffing structures. The Head of HR stated that it was important to stabilise the staffing structures and that the measures referred to would make a considerable contribution towards the achievement of that objective.

A Member raised concerns in regard to the costs associated with the use of recruitment agencies to provide the agency and temporary staff cover required to fill short term employment requirements. The Member suggested that it would be useful if a report, highlighting the recruitment costs associated with the employment of agency and temporary staff, be reported to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, on a quarterly basis.

After consideration, it was

Proposed by Councillor McLaughlin,  
Seconded by Councillor O'Hara, and

Resolved - that a report be provided to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, on a quarterly basis, highlighting the costs, to the Council, associated with the recruitment of agency staff in conjunction with reports received currently, by that Committee, on the costs associated with departmental service level reviews and the recruitment of temporary staff. It was proposed further that historical data, on those recruitment costs, be included for the purposes of comparison.

The Head of HR stated that she would prepare a report for the May meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, providing information on the costs associated with the recruitment of agency and permanent staff and including the length of time those temporary/Agency staff had been employed by the Council. In response to a query regarding agency staff being able to apply for internally trawled permanent posts, the Head of HR advised that, in 2018, a protocol to trawl posts internally had been agreed by the Members and the Trade Unions. She stated that the protocol had been extended until March 2022 and it was not the Council's extension to seek a further extension. The Members were informed that it would be her intention to inform the relevant trade unions on the proposition that that all permanent posts be advertised, on an external basis, from April 2022.

#### **Date of Next Meeting**

The Working Group agreed that its next meeting would be held on a date to be agreed, in conjunction with the Chairperson.

Chairperson

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<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Requests for use of the City Hall and the Provision of Hospitality</b>
<b>Date:</b>	25th March, 2022
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Walsh, Chief Executive
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Aisling Milliken, Functions and Exhibition Manager

## Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

☐

No

☒

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

☐  
☐  
☐  
☐

## Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☒

No

☐

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	This report, 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 11th March which are deemed to comply with the criteria previously established by the Committee and are recommended for approval.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to approve the recommendations made in respect of applications received up to 11th March, as set out in the attached appendix.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p><u>Background Information</u></p> <p>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.</p>

3.2	<p>The Committee also agreed to the implementation of room-hire charges for some categories of function revised the approach to the provision of civic hospitality for functions on foot of the agreed efficiency programme. Some further modifications to this approach were agreed at the Committee's meetings of 24th March and 23rd June, and 23rd June and 25th October, 2019.</p> <p><u>Key Issues</u></p>
3.3	<p>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.</p>
3.4	<p>The attached schedule covers 12 applications for functions, scheduled for 2022 and 2023, however, approval is linked to City Hall recovery and functions will be planned in line with NI Executive guidance.</p> <p><u>COVID implications</u></p>
3.5	<p>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.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p>
3.6	<p>The implementation of charging for external functions has commenced, in line with the Committee's decisions in the matter.</p> <p><u>Equality and Good Relations / Rural Needs Implications</u></p>
3.7	<p>There are no direct good relations, equality or rural needs implications arising from this report.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Document Attached</b>
	Schedule of functions

## MARCH 2022 CITY HALL FUNCTION APPLICATIONS

NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
<b>2022 EVENTS</b>						
QUB Secure Connected Intelligence Summit	17 May 2022	<b>Conference Reception and Dinner</b> for guests attending the summit showcasing activities around Global Innovation Institute (GII) in connection with the Belfast Region City Deal.  Numbers attending - 60	A & B	No (waived as linked BCC City Deal)	No hospitality	Approve No Charge No hospitality
SMARTS PR Agency	27 May 2022	<b>BT Staff Recognition Reception</b> – morning reception as part of a day long showcase of Belfast and local venues to reward and recognize key BT staff.  Numbers attending - 150	A & B	Charge (commercial company)	No hospitality	Approve Charge £115 No hospitality
Insurance Institute of Northern Ireland	27 May 2022	<b>Insurance Institute of Northern Ireland Annual Awards Ceremony - presentation</b> of awards and certificates followed by buffet reception  Numbers attending - 150	D	No (Voluntary/ NFP)	No hospitality	Approve No Charge No hospitality 1 in 3 rule
Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce and Industry	24 June 2022	<b>Annual President's Lunch</b> – annual lunch for the NI Chamber of Commerce and Industry to mark economic benefits to the City.  Numbers attending – 400	B	Charge £300	No Hospitality	Approve Charge £300 No hospitality
Clonduff Football Club	25 June 2022	<b>End of Season Awards Ceremony and Buffet</b> Presentation of trophies to children recognising and rewarding their efforts and achievements. Special recognition awards to outstanding members.  Numbers attending – 350	D	No (Voluntary/ NFP)	No hospitality	Approve No Charge No hospitality 1 in 3 rule

## MARCH 2022 CITY HALL FUNCTION APPLICATIONS

Belfast Pride	22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2022	<b>30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Belfast Pride Launch and Pride Awards –</b> LGBT Community awards ceremony. Drinks reception followed by Awards presentation.  Numbers attending – 350	A, C & D	No, (Charity)	Yes, Wine Reception as significant anniversary	Approve No charge Wine Reception <i>or £500 given to their chosen caterer for wine on tables</i>
Belfast One BID	13 & 14 <sup>th</sup> August 2022	<b>Belfast One-Way Edit Fashion Show</b> showcasing city centre retailers	B	Yes £300	No hospitality	Approve Charge £300 No hospitality
Ulster Obstetrics and Gynaecological Society	7 October 2022	<b>70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Dinner</b> to celebrate the BSA promoting highest standard of legal practice.  Numbers attending – 150	C	No (Voluntary/ NFP)	Yes, Wine Reception as significant anniversary	Approve No charge Wine Reception <i>or £500 given to their chosen caterer for wine on tables</i>

### 2023

Holocaust Memorial Day Trust	24 January 2023	<b>Northern Ireland regional ceremony to mark Holocaust Memorial Day 2023</b> - a time for all to remember the millions of people killed in the Holocaust and subsequent genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.. The event is the official Northern Ireland commemoration of the Holocaust.  Numbers attending – 400 - 500	C	No (charity)	No hospitality ( <i>funding provided</i> )	Approve No Charge No hospitality
Association of Breast Surgery	14 May 2023	<b>Conference Welcome Reception</b> for guests attending their 2-day conference taking place in ICC Belfast.  Numbers attending - 200	A & B	No (waived as linked to Visit Belfast)	No hospitality	Approve No Charge No hospitality
AMOSSHE, The Student Services Organisation	6 July 2023	<b>AMOSSHE Gala Reception</b> guests attending their flagship conference taking place in ICC Belfast.	A & B	No (waived as linked to Visit Belfast)	No hospitality	Approve No Charge No hospitality



## MARCH 2022 CITY HALL FUNCTION APPLICATIONS

		Numbers attending - 250				
Stena Line part of Stena Sphere group	22 September 2023	<b>Annual Conference Reception and Dinner</b> for global directors' attending the 3-day conference taking place in ICC Belfast.  Numbers attending - 300	A &B	No (waived as linked to Visit Belfast)	No hospitality	Approve No Charge No hospitality

*\*For all events noted above numbers and room layout will be reviewed and revised in line with COVID19 social distancing guidelines at the time of each event.*

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<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Requests for the use of the City Hall Grounds - May to August 2022</b>
<b>Date:</b>	25 March 2022
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Walsh, Chief Executive
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Aisling Milliken, Functions and Exhibition Manager

## Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision  
After Council Decision  
Sometime in the future  
Never

☐  
☐  
☐  
☐

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes ☒ No ☐

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	<p>To consider the following requests for the use of the City Hall grounds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>25th June 2022 - 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of St John's Cadets</li> <li>16th/17th July 2022 - Belfast One Cinema Screenings</li> <li>6th August 2022 - The National Youth Junior Choir of Northern Ireland performance</li> </ul>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>authorise the use of City Hall grounds on the dates noted above; and</li> <li>authorise the events to take place on the basis of submission of an event management plan and risk assessment to ensure delivery of a safe public events.</li> </ol>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<u>Background Information</u>
3.1.1	Members will be aware that requests for the use of City Hall are normally dealt with under the authority delegated by the Committee to the Director of Legal and Civic Services using

	<p>criteria agreed for this purpose. Occasionally however, it is necessary to place such requests directly before the Committee, and the requests set out below falls into this category.</p>
3.2	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>Several requests have been received for events over the summer period and this report seeks to update members of recovery of functions using the grounds, increasing demand for this venue space. Also due to the larger scale of activities involved it is deemed necessary to seek Committee approval.</p>
3.3	<p><u>The Proposed events</u></p>
3.3.1	<p>The four proposed events would take place on the front lawns only and areas such as the Titanic Garden and Cenotaph will remain open to the public. Access to the City Hall building will not be affected.</p>
3.3.2	<p>The event would be free to enter. In each case, the organisers would be providing all stewarding/marshalling staff &amp; first aiders and would of course have to comply with the usual conditions including indemnities for damage and submission of a formal event-management plan.</p>
3.4	<p><b><u>25 June 2022 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of St John's Cadets</u></b></p> <p>As part of St John's Centenary celebrations, they propose to hold a celebration event for their Year of Youth on Saturday 25 June 2022 in the ground of City Hall. Gazebos will be used to deliver public demonstrations of key first aid skill ranging from CPR and AED to Severe Bleeding and Choking. These sessions would be delivered between 11:00hrs – 16:00hrs by our Youth Team Volunteers. for the public to drop in and find out more about first aid. Access would be required earlier and later in the day for set ups and strip downs.</p>
3.5	<p><b><u>16 and 17 July 2022 Belfast One Cinema Screenings</u></b></p> <p>This event aims to encourage people to experience the city centre shops and hospitality while they are in town. Organisers will be offering attendees information about potential offers provided our business members. Belfast One plan to show 4 films per day. Films early in the day will be aimed at young children and families and later films at a slightly older audience. All films will be rated appropriately. The event will be ticketed and access managed. There will be a big screen and audio equipment and additional entertainment by way of face painting and film props.</p>

3.6	<p><b><u>6 August 2022 The National Youth Junior Choir of Northern Ireland performance</u></b></p> <p>The National Youth Junior Choir of Northern Ireland is a group of approx. 50-60 young singers aged 11-14 from across NI. They plan to do a number of 15-20 minute impromptu performances over one day at iconic venues across Belfast this summer including Titanic Belfast, Ulster Museum and ideally the City Hall. These will be recorded for online video content. The children would be accompanied by a team of music and welfare staff at all times. The music performed would be a mix of secular and sacred choral pieces.</p> <p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>There would be no costs for the council as the various organisers would bear any/all stewarding and equipment costs etc themselves. The utilities costs on the day are of a very minor nature and the normal event support in the form of electrical and water provision in the grounds will be provided.</p> <p>There are no concerns from an asset management point of view, although the organisers would be required to provide the usual insurances, indemnities and obligations.</p> <p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p> <p>There are no direct good relations, equality or rural needs implications arising from this report.</p>
4.0	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	None

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**Belfast**  
City Council

STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES  
COMMITTEE

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Audit and Risk Panel Report and Minutes of Meeting of 8th March 2022</b>
<b>Date:</b>	25th March 2022
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Ronan Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources and Deputy Chief Executive, ext. 6085
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Claire O'Prey, Head of Audit, Governance and Risk Services ext. 4643

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with a summary of the key issues which were discussed by the Audit and Risk Panel at its meeting on 8th March 2022 and to present the minutes of that meeting for approval.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	The Committee is requested to note the key issues arising from the meeting of 8th March and approve the minutes of that meeting.

<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
<b>3.1</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
3.1.1	<p><u>Internal Audit</u></p> <p>The Panel agreed the <b>internal audit strategy and plan for 22/23</b> which will assist the Council in meeting statutory obligations in relation to internal control, risk management and good governance.</p> <p><u>Key Reports</u></p>
3.1.2	<p>The Panel noted the <b>progress being made to deliver the annual audit plan for 21/22</b>, with six audits / reviews finalised in the period. After considering the update on the review of the Asset Management System, the Board requested an update report from management on the progress being made to improve the project management arrangements for their next meeting. Regarding a previous audit of Property Maintenance, the Panel received an update from management on the progress being made to implement the recommendations arising.</p>
3.1.3	<p>The Panel received an update on the annual review and update of the <b>Corporate Fraud Risk Assessment</b> and the completion of the 20/21 National Fraud Initiative.</p>
3.1.4	<p>The Panel considered the <b>corporate risk dashboard</b> 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 of corporate priorities and / or compliance with key statutory requirements. The Panel agreed the wording of the three new <b>Belfast Region City Deal</b> risks around <b>Belfast Stories</b>, the <b>Digital Strand</b> and <b>Programme Management / Accountable Body</b>. The Panel also agreed to close the corporate risk on <b>Neighbourhood Planning</b> and agreed changes to the risk rating for the corporate risks on the council's <b>Financial Position</b> and the <b>Resilience Strategy</b>.</p>
3.1.5	<p>The Panel noted the <b>quarterly assurances provided by members of the corporate management team</b> 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 and an update on work that is underway to improve the <b>council's resilience to a cyber-attack</b>.</p>
3.1.6	<p>The Panel received an update on the progress being made to implement audit recommendations, with 28% of audit recommendations implemented in the period. A further exercise will be undertaken in October / November 2022.</p>
3.1.7	<p>The Panel also received <b>quarter 3 reports on corporate health and safety, absence management and performance improvement</b> and a progress update on the action plan in relation to the report from Peter Coll QC of his independent investigation relating to events at Roselawn Cemetery on 30th June, 2020.</p>



	<u><b>Audit and Risk Panel</b></u>
3.1.8	The Panel agreed its updated terms of reference, which reflects their new role in relation to considering the effectiveness of the recently established <b>Standards and Business Committee</b> as part of the annual governance review.
	<u>Northern Ireland Audit Office (NIAO)</u>
3.1.9	The Panel considered the <b>NIAO Strategy</b> for the audit of the financial statements for 21/22. In addition, the Panel considered the key messages in the Local Government Auditor's Report (LGA) which summarises the results of audit work undertaken in the year to 31 March 2020 in councils across Northern Ireland.
3.1.10	The Panel also considered the Audit and Assessment Reports for both 2020-21 and 2021-22 issued by the LGA which provides an <b>unqualified opinion</b> on the council's performance arrangements and the discharge of performance improvement and reporting duties
	<u><b>Financial and Resource Implications</b></u> None
	<u><b>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</b></u> None known at this time.
	<b>Document Attached</b>
	Minutes of Audit and Risk Panel 8th March 2022

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# Audit and Risk Panel

Tuesday, 8th March, 2022

## MEETING OF AUDIT AND RISK PANEL

### HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Members present: Alderman Rodgers (Chairperson);  
Councillors Hutchinson and O'Hara; and Ms. G. Fahy.

In attendance: Mr. R. Cregan, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of  
Finance and Resources;  
Ms. C. O'Prey, Head of Audit, Governance and Risk  
Services;  
Mr. L. Mulholland, Audit, Governance and Risk  
Services Manager;  
Mr. T. Wallace, Head of Finance;  
Ms. S. Williams, Governance and Compliance Manager;  
and  
Mr. H. Downey, Democratic Services Officer.

Also attended: Ms. C. Kane, Director, Northern Ireland Audit Office.

### **Annual Pre-meeting**

The Audit and Risk Panel met privately with the Director of the Northern Ireland Audit Office before the meeting commenced.

### **Apologies**

No apologies were reported.

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 7th December were taken as read and signed as correct.

### **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were reported.

### **Absence Rates - Quarter 3 2021-22**

(Ms. C. Sheridan, Head of Human Resources, attended in connection with this item.)

The Head of Human Resources submitted for the Panel's consideration the following report:

**“1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues**

**1.1 This report:**

- provides sickness absence data for quarter 3, 2021/22, (April, 2021 to December, 2021);
- compares performance to targets for quarter 3, 2021/22, (April, 2021 to December, 2021);
- compares this year’s performance to the same period last year, (April, 2020 to December, 2020);
- provides an analysis of:
  - the use of discretion between October, 2021 and December, 2021;
  - non-compliance issues between October, 2021 and December, 2021;
  - Disability related absence between April, 2021 and December, 2021;
  - COVID19 Related Absence between April, 2021 and December, 2021; and
  - Stage 4 and final absence hearings between October, 2021 and December. 20201; and
- provides an update on:
  - the review of the Attendance Policy; and
  - DMT reporting and departmental improvement plan progress

**2.0 Recommendation**

**2.1 The Audit Panel is requested to note the contents of this report.**

**3.0 Main Report**

**3.1 Absence Rates**

- At the end of quarter three, sickness absence is 11.68 days, an increase of 4.1 days compared to absence for the same period last year (7.58). Please note that the absence rate for the same period in 2019/20 was 9.83 days. It would be more appropriate

to compare this year with 19/20 figures given the exceptional nature of last year (20/21);

- There has been a decrease in the number of staff with no recorded absence this period (46.87%) compared to the same time last year (68.99%);
- There has been an increase in absence classified as long term (20+ days) this year (17163.31 days) compared to the same time last year (11880.30 days). Please note that long term absence in 2019/20 was 13795.15 days. It would be more appropriate to compare this year with 19/20 figures given the exceptional nature of last year (20/21).

3.2 An analysis of how the Council is performing against the agreed corporate target of a reduction of 9.7% (11.07 days per FTE) has been circulated. The Council's average sickness absence rate at the end of quarter three stands at 11.68 days (this figure further reduces to 9.87 days per FTE when COVID-19 related absences are deducted), against an agreed Corporate target of 8.3 days.

3.3 All absence cases are managed in accordance with the Council's attendance procedure.

The number of days lost per full time equivalent increased in quarter three (4.58 days) when compared to quarter two (3.9 days). The quarterly comparison chart which has been circulated also illustrates an increase of 1.32 days in quarter three absence rate this year (4.58 days) when compared to the same period last year (3.26 days). Please note that the quarterly absence figure in 2019/20 was 3.77 days. It would be more appropriate to compare this quarter with 19/20 figures given the exceptional nature of last year (20/21).

3.4 Reasons for Absence – April to December, 2021

Analysis shows that depression/anxiety/stress and musculo-skeletal continue to be the top two reasons for absence.

**In summary:**

- **Depression, Anxiety, Stress related absence accounted for approximately 32% of all days lost due to sickness absence (7537.46 days)**
- **62% (or 4687.71 days) of these days were attributed to personal stress**
- **Musculo-skeletal related absence accounted for approximately 22% of all days lost due to sickness absence (5228.33 days)**
  - **Almost 92% (or 4792.72 days) of these days were attributable to non-work-related reasons.**

**The use of Discretion (October to December, 2021):**

**3.5 A summary of the use of discretion found as follows:**

**From 1st October to 31st December 2021, 675 employees were off due to sickness absence (accounting for 9198.35 days). Discretion was applied to 84 of these employees (12.4%) and their absence accounted for 2399.5 days (approximately 26% of the total absence for quarter three).**

**The range of reasons for discretion were as follows:**

- **Underlying medical condition / Disability (693.65 days or 29%)**
- **Bereavement (359.09 days or 15%)**
- **COVID-19 (329.15 days or 13.7%)**
- **Hospitalisation**
- **Unresolved ER issues**
- **Emergency domestic responsibilities**
- **Industrial Injury**
- **Surgery and recovery**
- **Maternity**
- **Menopause**

**The average length of absence where discretion was used was 28.6 days per occurrence.**

**Compliance Issues (October to December 2021):**

- 3.6 The following table highlights the number of cases where issues have been discussed with departments during quarter four.

Department	Number of cases
City and Neighbourhood Services	95
City and Organisational Strategy	6
Finance and Resources	1
Legal and Civic Services	28
Physical Programmes	11
Place and Economy	0
Grand Total	141

Examples of issues are as follows:

- Delayed scheduling of stage meetings
- Failure to organise absence review meetings
- Delayed referral to Occupational Health and/or Employee Counselling
- Failure to update actions taken on corporate absence management system (PSE)
- Delays in dealing with other issues such as grievance, discipline, that has impacted on the management of absence
- Lack of a holistic approach to dealing with all issues relating to an employee

Corporate HR is working with the Departments and making recommendations to manage these cases

**Disability Related Absence:**

- 3.7 Disability related absence was also analysed.

In summary:

- Approximately 42.5% of absence (10021.01days) is recorded as disability related
- 28% of disability related was managed as long term
- The use of discretion and reasonable adjustments is considered in such cases

- Employees who reported absence with Depression / Anxiety (32.45%), Heart failure (8.6%) and Osteoarthritis (7.95%) accounted for almost half (48.8%) of all disability related absence days
- Long COVID complications were also recorded as potential disability related absence and accounted for almost 5% of disability related absence

**COVID19 Related Absence:**

- 3.8 The Council was impacted by absence due to COVID-19 during quarter 3.**

A total of 305 employees were recorded as absent due to COVID-19 and this accounted for a total of 3657.44 days/15.5% of the total absence in quarter three.

It is worth noting that COVID-19 related absence in quarter three (1752.45 days), was higher than the total COVID related absence for quarter one and quarter two combined (1917.70 days).

COVID-19 related absence accounts, on average, for almost two days per FTE employee (1.81 days).

**Review of Attendance Policy:**

- 3.9 The Attendance Policy is under review. Consultation commenced with trade unions, however, they objected to the review of the Attendance Policy during COVID-19. CMT agreed to put the consultation on hold for 3 months until the end of June. Consultation recommenced however the trade union have still not engaged in the consultation process given their view that the review should not be done at this time. HR continue to address this matter with the trade union co-ordinators.**

**Stage 4 and Final Absence Hearings:**

- 3.10 A review was undertaken to identify the number of employees who had reached a Stage 4/final absence hearing (FAH) between October 2021 and December 2021.**



In summary:

- 14 employees met the trigger for a Stage4/FAH in quarter three
  - Three employees resigned prior to a Stage4/FAH being scheduled.
  - Discretion was applied to seven of these cases to Stage4/FAH due to an ongoing disciplinary case that was linked to an employee's absence (1), complex long term COVID case (1), serious underlying medical condition (1), work related assault (1) and the requirement for additional medical information (3).
  - Three employees were ill health retired prior to Stage4/FAH being scheduled.
  - One employee attended a Stage 4 / FAH and was dismissed.

In addition to the above fourteen cases, there was a final absence hearing conducted. This additional case was in relation to an employee who had met the trigger prior to October 2021. The employee was subsequently dismissed.

Corporate HR continues to monitor departmental compliance with the attendance policy. Non-compliance issues, in relation to the final stages of the attendance policy, are raised with Departmental senior management when necessary.

**Departmental Improvement Plans:**

- 3.11 All departments returned their respective improvement plans for quarter three. Improvement plans highlighted steps that departments are taking to improve their attendance levels. For example, departments have identified and arranged for managers to attend Stress Awareness training where necessary.

**Absence reporting to DMT:**

- 3.12 All departments returned their respective absence reporting dashboards for quarter three, including statistical data that is required for the dashboard. The reporting of non-compliance issues at DMT meeting needs to be improved.

**4.0     Resource Implications**

**4.1     Directors have been asked to ensure that:**

- **Attendance management continues to be an item on DMT agendas and related matters discussed and appropriate actions taken forward; and**
- **Resources are in place to ensure that adequate monitoring and review is in place at department level.**

**5.0     Equality and Good Relations Implications**

**5.1     Approximately 42.5% of absence (10,021.01days) is recorded as disability related. The use of discretion and reasonable adjustments is considered in such cases.”**

The Panel noted the contents of the report.

**Update on Corporate Health and Safety Performance**

(Ms. E. Eaton, Corporate Health and Safety Manager, attended in connection with this item.)

The Panel was reminded that it was responsible for overseeing the Council's risk, control and governance arrangements for health and safety. In undertaking this function, the Panel provided independent scrutiny of the Council's health and safety performance, with reports being presented to it on a quarterly basis.

Accordingly, the Health and Safety Manager submitted for the Panel's consideration a report on corporate health and safety performance and activities for the quarter ending 31st December, 2021.

She provided, on a Departmental basis, information on the implementation of actions associated with the key performance indicators of health and safety and fire safety and pointed out that, at a corporate level, compliance rates had been 44% and 67% respectively.

In terms of accident/incident reporting, there had, in quarter three, been 18 employee accidents, 14 non-employee accidents, 7 RIDDOR accidents and 14 work related violence incidents, which represented a slight overall increase on the previous quarter.

Health and safety statutory agency enquiries correspondence had been received from the Health and Safety Executive Northern Ireland in relation to an event in Botanic Park, a potential Covid-19 cluster and a statutory examination defect report, all of which had been addressed.

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In relation to Covid-19, the Corporate Health and Safety Unit continued 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 staff and others.

The Corporate Health and Safety Manager stressed that the resource required from the Corporate Health and Safety Unit to support the Council continued to be provided at the expense of a reduction in routine health and safety activity. Work was underway to replace two members of staff who had left the Unit during Quarter 4 and an additional temporary project post was also being recruited.

She concluded by stating that the Panel would, in due course, be provided with an update on the outcome of an investigation by the Police Service of Northern Ireland into a fatality involving a Council vehicle, which had occurred in Quarter 4.

In response to an issue which had been raised by the independent member, the Corporate Health and Safety Manager confirmed that the next report on Corporate Health and Safety Performance would provide information on the length of time in which outstanding high priority actions had been open.

The Panel noted the corporate health and safety performance and activities for the quarter ending 31st December, 2021.

**Audit Governance and Risk Services Progress  
Report – December, 2021 – February, 2022**

The Audit, Governance and Risk Services Manager submitted for the Panel's consideration a report providing an update on the progress which had been made on the delivery of the annual Audit Plan for the period from December, 2021 to February, 2022.

He reported that six audits/reviews had been finalised during that period, namely:

- Payroll (full audit 20/21);
- Payroll (data analytics February – November 2021);
- Procurement and Contract Management;
- Externally Funded Projects;
- Corporate Risk Review – Safeguarding; and
- A Review of Project Management Arrangements for the Asset Management System.

In response to a point which had been raised by Ms. Fahy around the need for the timely implementation of actions resulting from the corporate risk review on safeguarding, the Audit, Governance and Risk Services Manager confirmed that all actions were due to be implemented by September, 2022.

He went on to provide details of the assurance and advisory work which had been undertaken during the period around the SAP Replacement Project, the Customer Focus Programme and the new Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund.

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In terms of progress against the Plan, at the end of February, 90% of assignments had either been completed or were in progress.

He then drew the Panel's attention to a number of reports/guidance documents which had been issued by the Northern Ireland Audit Office during the period in question and confirmed that the key messages from these had been summarised and circulated to relevant managers. A report would, he confirmed, be presented to a future meeting of the Planning Committee in response to the wider issues which had been raised within the Northern Ireland Audit Office's report on Planning in Northern Ireland.

The Audit Governance and Risk Services Manager also provided the Panel with a high-level update on investigations, the work being done on the Council's Corporate Fraud Risk Assessment and the completion of the last National Fraud Initiative exercise and indicative dates for the next exercise.

He concluded by recommending that the Panel note the contents of the report and agree, at the request of management, that, in light of current resource issues and year-end pressures, the audit of the Capital Programme be deferred until the 2022/23 Audit Plan.

The Panel adopted the recommendations.

**Update on Corporate Risk Management –  
Quarter 3 2021/22**

The Head of Audit, Governance and Risk Services submitted for the Panel's consideration the Corporate Risk Dashboard, which summarised the key updates from the risk review for the quarter ending 31st December, 2021. This included the financial position risk, the proposed closure of the risk on neighbourhood area planning, the three new Belfast Region City Deal risks, the Continuous Improvement risk relating to the completion of the pay and grading review, the review and update of the Local Development Plan risk which would take place in the next quarter to take account of the Planning Appeals Commission's findings.

Reference was made also within the Corporate Risk Dashboard to waste management risk, staffing and funding issues impacting on the management of Port Health risk, work underway on the People Strategy, the increased risk rating for the Resilience Strategy, work underway on the Customer Focus Programme risk, asset management risk and the actions which had been completed to help mitigate corporate risks.

The Head of Audit, Governance and Risk Services then updated the Panel on compliance with the Risk Strategy, based upon the assurance statements for the quarter ending 31st December 2021, which had been completed by senior management and outlined the main issues and actions contained therein.

Finally, she provided an update on business continuity management arrangements, with particular reference to the work being undertaken across critical

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services to review and update their Business Continuity Management plans by 31st March, 2022 to cover a cyber-attack scenario.

The Panel noted the information which had been provided.

**Internal Audit Plan for 2022/23**

The Audit, Governance and Risk Services Manager submitted for the Panel's approval the Internal Audit Plan for 2022/23. The Plan set out the role of Audit, Governance and Risk Services as an assurance provider and advisory service which directly assisted the Council in meeting relevant statutory obligations in relation to internal control, risk management and good governance.

The detailed Plan listed the areas which Audit, Governance and Risk Services was planning to audit during 2022/23 and was based on an assessment of audit need, taking into account of a number of risk factors, with the aim being to audit key areas on a cyclical basis. The Plan had been discussed with each Department at quarterly risk and audit meetings and with the Northern Ireland Audit Office.

He went on to explain that the Plan recognised the fact that the Council was facing a number of significant challenges, both in terms of recovery from the pandemic and also significant change at senior management level. To reflect this, the Plan had been designed to support management and would be adjusted to meet the assurance and advisory needs of Members and management as required.

In addition to specific assignments, it also provided for support to the Council in terms of advisory work, project assurance, fraud prevention, detection and investigation, including a continued focus on the corporate fraud risk assessment and participation in the National Fraud Initiative, as well as raising concerns, risk management, business continuity management and corporate governance.

He added that the Plan would be achievable if Audit, Governance and Risk Services were to retain its full complement of staff during the year. However, should unforeseeable demands on resources arise during the year, it would prioritise the completion of high priority assignments. Any requests for deferrals made during the year would be brought to the Audit Assurance Board and the Audit and Risk Panel for consideration.

After discussion, the Panel approved the Internal Audit Plan for 2022/23.

**Northern Ireland Audit Office Audit Strategy 2021/22**

The Director of the Northern Ireland Audit Office reminded the Panel that the Northern Ireland Audit Office produced an Audit Strategy each year, prior to its audit of the Council's financial statements. Accordingly, she drew the Panel's attention to the Strategy document for 2021/22, which outlined the approach to the audit of the 2021/22 financial statements and the performance improvement and assessment audit for 2022/23.

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The Strategy set out:

- how the Audit Office planned to audit the Council's financial statements for the year ending 31st March, 2022, including how significant risks of material misstatement to transactions and balances would be addressed;
- how the Audit Office planned to audit the proper arrangements in place for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of resources for the year ending 31st March 2022;
- how the Audit Office planned to conduct an improvement audit and assessment;
- the planned timetable, fees chargeable and membership of the audit team;
- relevant updates to the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom; and
- matters which the Northern Ireland Audit Office was required to communicate to the Council, under International Standards on auditing, including the scope of the audit, respective responsibilities, and how independence and objectivity would be maintained.

The Panel noted the Northern Ireland Audit Office Audit Strategy for 2021/22, a copy of which is available [here](#).

**Update on Recommendations Monitor**

The Head of Audit, Governance and Risk Services provided the Panel with an update on the implementation of agreed audit actions, following the recent Recommendations Monitoring exercise in January, 2022.

She reported that there had, at the beginning of this exercise, been 303 "outstanding" actions. Audit, Governance and Risk Services had reviewed and, where appropriate, validated the progress that management had made to implement these. It had validated the full implementation of 84 of the 303 actions, resulting in an implementation rate of 28%. This represented a slight improvement on the 25% attained in the previous full monitoring exercise reported in June 2021. Implementation of actions had, she pointed out, been impacted by the pandemic, as had been seen by a fall in implementation rates from 31% in the full monitoring exercise reported in December, 2019 to 17% reported in a limited Covid-19 exercise in December, 2020. The implementation rate for this latest exercise had shown an ongoing improvement, as the Council continued to recover from the impact of the pandemic. It was important, therefore, that this was maintained, particularly considering the extent of organisational change over 2022.

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She went on to outline the effect which the key issues arising from the monitoring exercise, including the impact that the pandemic, staff resource issues and the implementation of IT systems, had had on the capacity to implement audit recommendations in line with previously agreed timeframes.

She then highlighted the fact that a number of audit actions relating to improving project management arrangements for the completion of Phase Two of the HR/ Payroll system, were overdue, which were particularly important, given the number of corporate wide systems being implemented in 2022/23.

In a wider context, audit actions had been implemented and controls strengthened over IT security, organisational structure on the new HR/Payroll system, externally funded physical projects, capital projects, conflicts of interest/gifts and hospitality, the Planning Portal, cemeteries and the crematorium, markets and the Belfast Bikes scheme.

The Head of Audit, Governance and Risk Services went on to highlight three audits, namely, grants, capital programme and performance management, where Audit, Governance and Risk Services had raised corporate/strategic issues, rather than recommendations, to prompt discussion on how these would be addressed and outlined the progress which had been made to date.

She concluded by pointing out that, since many of the outstanding audit actions were due to be fully implemented in 2022/23, it was proposed that Audit, Governance and Risk Services would, in June, 2022, provide Directors with reports on outstanding audit actions for their Departments for review and discussion at their Departmental Management Team meetings. Audit, Governance and Risk Services would undertake a further full validation exercise in October/November 2022, with the outcome to be reported to the Panel in December.

During discussion, a Member expressed concern at the number of posts across the Council which had still to be filled, as alluded to in the report and sought clarification on the reason/s for the delay.

In response, the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources pointed out that the delay could be attributed primarily to Covid-19, ongoing restructuring exercises, the requirement to have three people on an interview panel and the need to undertake an internal trawl in the first instance, all of which were being addressed.

The Panel noted the contents of the report and agreed that the Head of Human Resources would, at its next meeting, provide an update on the progress being made to recruit the posts referred to in the report and on the Council's recruitment process generally, in the context of the information which had been provided by the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources.

**Update on Corporate Fraud Risk Assessment**

The Audit, Governance and Risk Services Manager reminded the Panel that it had, in late 2018, approved the first Corporate Fraud Risk Assessment exercise. Since then, significant work had been undertaken to ensure that the assessment reflected the key

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areas of risk facing the Council and that management and staff were aware of these risks and mitigations required to manage them.

Following the publication, in August 2020, of the Northern Ireland Audit Office's guide on Covid-19 fraud risks, Audit, Governance and Risk Services had, in conjunction with Council Departments, reviewed, re-assessed and updated the Council's Corporate Fraud Risk Assessment.

He reported that, during the last quarter, Audit, Governance and Risk Services had met with Department managers to review the fraud risk assessments, discuss the ongoing impact of Covid-19 on the level of risk and agree any proposed changes to the level of risk. The delivery of fraud risk awareness training to Departments had also been completed.

Feedback from Departments had indicated that there was a recognition of the potential fraud risks facing the Council and that the opportunity to reflect on the control arrangements currently in place was welcomed. The review exercise had, therefore, been effective in terms of raising awareness of fraud risks and the importance of effective controls. Audit, Governance and Risk Services had recommended that Departments keep the assessments under review and carry out a formal review at least annually, which they had agreed to do.

The Audit, Governance and Risk Services Manager went on to point out that the top fraud risks for the Council continued to be:

- cyber fraud/attack
- changes to supplier bank details (bank mandate fraud)
- rates income / evasion (albeit outside Council control)
- grants processed outside of the Central Grants Unit
- funding agreements
- contract management
- planning Agreements/developer contributions and
- creditor payments.

He outlined the main changes resulting from the recent review and update of the corporate fraud risks and drew the Panel's attention to the corporate fraud risk assessment position at February, 2022. The assessment highlighted where risks had increased, decreased or remained the same, as well as the rationale for any changes. During 2021/22, Audit, Governance and Risk Services had supported management in developing fraud risk mitigation plans for eleven of the sixteen fraud risks referred to within the assessment document.

In terms of Audit, Governance and Risk Services' responsibilities/approach, he pointed out that it did not have responsibility for the detection or prevention of fraud, as this was a management responsibility. However, its auditors were alert to the risk of fraud when carrying out audits. Where appropriate, audits were planned to take into account the risk of fraud and included an evaluation of the effectiveness of controls to manage key fraud risks. Any significant issues arising from audits would be communicated to management to enable appropriate action to be taken. Audit, Governance and Risk



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Services would ensure that these issues were considered as part of the corporate fraud risk assessment update.

He added that Audit, Governance and Risk Services would, capacity permitting, during 2022/23, be supporting management in developing fraud risk mitigation plans for the five remaining fraud risks. It would also provide them with advice on how best to use these fraud risk mitigation plans to promote fraud risk awareness in their teams and improve associated control measures and would assist in co-ordinating the annual update on the corporate fraud risk assessment for the Audit Assurance Board and Audit and Risk Panel.

The Audit, Governance and Risk Services Manager concluded by stressing that it was the responsibility of management to ensure that appropriate controls were in place to manage the risk of fraud and to review and update the fraud risk assessment, at least on an annual basis. Management was responsible also for ensuring that the fraud risk assessment was communicated to all relevant staff, to raise awareness of the risks and the importance of consistently applying controls and highlighting any areas of concern.

The Panel noted the information which had been provided.

**Northern Ireland Audit Office - Local  
Government Auditor's Report 2021**

The Director of the Northern Ireland Audit Office reminded the Panel that the Audit Office was required to produce an annual report providing a summary of the key issues which had arisen from audit work across all eleven councils in Northern Ireland. The report for 2021, relating to the 2019/20 financial year, had been published on 21st December, 2021.

She explained that the report included information on the Council, as well as comparative data with other councils, and provided details of observations/recommendations made by the Local Government Auditor on financial performance, good governance, performance improvement, the response to the Covid-19 pandemic and other matters.

The report had set out five areas which were of particular relevance to the Council, namely, medium-term financial planning, income generation, City Deal, IT security and asset management and had included a position statement on the work which was currently underway in each of those areas.

The Panel noted the Local Government Auditor's report for 2021, a copy of which is available [here](#).

**Peter Coll QC Report – Update on Action Plan**

The Panel noted the contents of a report providing a quarterly update on the progress of the agreed actions arising from the recommendations contained within Section 6 of Mr. Peter Coll QC's independent investigation into events at Roselawn Cemetery on 30th June, 2020.

**Update on Audit of Property Maintenance Unit**

(Mr. G. McFall, Property Maintenance Manager, attended in connection with this item.)

The Property Maintenance Manager reminded the Panel that a draft audit report on the Property Maintenance Unit, which had been issued in January, 2021, had contained twelve recommendations and two observations to be progressed. The implementation of the recommendations would be dependent on the following two key elements:

- i. a fit-for-purpose structure to develop solutions in response to the recommendations and the capacity to implement them; and
- ii. a corporate asset management system which would provide inherent solutions to several of the recommendations and assist with others (a fit-for-purpose structure was also required to assist in the implementation of this system).

He informed the Panel that the current Property Maintenance Unit structure had been in existence since 2006 and that, given the changes which had taken place across the Council since then, it was generally accepted that it was no longer fit for purpose. Whilst the unit was operating currently at reduced capacity, due to vacancies and sickness absence, it had been able to fill several vacancies on a temporary basis, via agency staff. That had assisted in keeping the Council's assets operational and legally compliant. The importance of the Property Maintenance function to the Council had been demonstrated by its classification as a critical service during the Covid-19 pandemic.

He then provided the Panel with an update on the work which had been undertaken since its last meeting to address the issues which had been highlighted in the audit.

In terms of the two key elements referred to above, the restructuring of the Property Maintenance Unit had been agreed with the Continuous Improvement Unit as being a key priority, given the Unit's importance to the Council. The restructure was one of two pilot initiatives being undertaken using a new process to arrive at an optimal structure, with the initial phase including engagement sessions with staff and key stakeholders to identify key issues or gaps. Staff had now been fully briefed on the proposed structure and individual and group engagement sessions had also been completed. The process of briefing other key stakeholders, including Council Departments, GLL and the Belfast Waterfront Hall had also concluded. The Continuous Improvement Unit was now compiling the information, with a view to producing a report for consideration by the Director of Physical Programmes and the Property Maintenance Manager.

He reported further that, in relation to the Asset Management System, work was focusing on the completion of the interface between SAP and the new Concerto Asset Management System. The implementation of the various modules within the latter system was dependent upon the successful implementation of this interface, including the Helpdesk and Planned Maintenance Modules. Initial meetings had taken place with

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the team responsible for the replacement of the current financial system, with a view to maximising the functionality between the new asset management and financial systems.

The Property Maintenance Manager then provided details on progress which had been made and/or actions which had been completed in a number of other areas, such as ensuring that procurement processes were commenced well in advance of existing contracts expiring to ensure that continuity of service and value for money were achieved. Procurement planning had been included as a standing agenda item in operations management meetings and was reported upon at monthly operational meetings. In addition, a new Service Level Agreement, which had been agreed with the BWUH Management Team, had been reviewed and signed off by the Legal Services Section and a new Service Level Agreement with GLL was currently under development.

The Panel noted the information which had been provided.

**Audit and Risk Panel/Audit Assurance Board –  
Annual Review of Terms of Reference and  
Programme of Work 2022**

The Head of Audit, Governance and Risk Services advised the Panel that, in line with good practice, the statement of purpose and terms of reference of the Audit and Risk Panel and the Audit Assurance Board were reviewed on an annual basis. These were important in that they set out the role of the Panel and the Board, in the context of the Council's governance structures.

She reported that, following the establishment, in October 2021, of the Standards and Business Committee and with reference to the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's guidance of 2018 for audit committees, the terms of reference for the Audit and Risk Panel had been amended to provide for the inclusion of the following wording: *"to consider the effectiveness of Standards and Business Committee as part of the annual governance review"*.

The terms of reference for the Audit Assurance Board had also been amended to remove reference to the Director of City and Organisational Strategy as being a member of the Board. The Director had initially been included on the Board as an observer but no longer attended these meetings.

The Head of Audit, Governance and Risk Services went on to report that, in accordance with good practice, the quarterly meetings of the Panel had been aligned with an indicative programme of business. That had been designed to ensure that the Panel demonstrably addressed/discharged its roles and responsibilities, as set out in its statement of purpose and terms of reference. An indicative programme of business for 2022 was being presented to the Panel for approval.

The Panel approved the statement of purpose and terms of reference of the Audit and Risk Panel and the Audit Assurance Board, as amended, and approved also the indicative programme of business for 2022.

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In addition, it:

- i. noted that the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources would, at the next meeting of Party Leaders, emphasise the need for each Party's representative on the Audit and Risk Panel to attend meetings on a consistent basis; and
- ii. agreed that a legal opinion be sought on whether a conflict of interest existed for those Members who sat on both the Standards and Business Committee and the Audit and Risk Panel.

**Performance Improvement - Northern Ireland Audit  
Office Performance Assessments**

The Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources informed the Panel that Part 12 of the Local Government (Northern Ireland) Act 2014 placed a duty on the Council to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of its functions. With that in mind, he drew its attention to the following Northern Ireland Audit Office Performance Assessments:

**2019/20**

He reported that, due to ongoing pressures associated with the Covid-19 pandemic, the Northern Ireland Audit Office's audit and assessment of the Council's improvement activity for 2019/20 had only been completed in February, 2021. The final audit report had been issued on 9th December, one year later than usual.

The Local Government Auditor had certified the performance arrangements with a standard, unqualified opinion. The Council had met its requirements under Section 92 of the Local Government (Northern Ireland) Act 2014, in terms of the publication of improvement information and had acted in accordance with the Department for Communities' guidance sufficiently. No recommendations had been made under section 95(2) of the aforementioned Act and no recommendations or proposals had been identified for improvement.

The Panel approved the Northern Ireland Audit Office's report on the Council's improvement activity for 2019/20.

**2021-22**

The Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources reported that the Covid-19 pandemic had delayed the commencement of the Northern Ireland Audit Office's audit and assessment of the Council's improvement activity for 2020/21 until December, 2021. A draft audit report had been forwarded to the Council on 21st February and was now being presented to the Audit and Risk Panel for approval.

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The Local Government Auditor had certified the performance arrangements with an unqualified audit opinion, without modification. The Council had discharged its performance improvement and reporting duties, as set out within the Local Government (Northern Ireland) Act 2014, including its assessment of performance for 2020-21 and its 2021-22 improvement plan, and had acted in accordance with the relevant guidance.

He went on to explain that the Covid-19 pandemic had removed the requirement for the Council to draft a Performance Improvement Plan for 2021-22. In the absence of guidance around the arrangements to be in place for performance assessment, the Performance Unit had compiled a short summary update on the Statutory Performance Indicators and had published its figures by the deadline of 30th September, 2021.

The audit report had acknowledged that the Council had produced a Recovery Plan and that, whilst there had been no obligation to include a year-end assessment of the Plan, it would have been desirable to have had this included in the performance assessment. He pointed out that, although a formal annual update of the Plan had not produced, Members and senior officers had, over the course of the pandemic, been provided with regular weekly and monthly updates on various aspects of the Council's activities to support recovery.

The Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources concluded by pointing out that, for 2021–22, the Council had developed an Improvement Plan, based upon its Recovery Plan. A full update on the Improvement Plan would be produced at year-end, as part of the Annual Performance Assessment and in line with the Local Government Auditor's proposal for Improvement.

The Panel approved the Northern Ireland Audit Office's audit and assessment of the Council's improvement activity for 2020/21.

**Performance Improvement – Q3 Performance 2021- 22/  
Update on Arrangements for 2022-23 Improvement Plan**

The Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources reminded the Panel that Part 12 of the Local Government (Northern Ireland) Act 2014 required councils to agree improvement objectives on an annual basis and to publish them in the form of an Improvement Plan by 30th June.

This year, as the Council transitioned from the impacts of the pandemic, it had once again adapted its improvement objectives in such a way as to provide an appropriate balance between corporate planning and recovery work.

He reported that the strategic structure which had been used in 2021-22 by the Council to explain improvement objectives appeared to have been well received by residents. That format would be retained for the 2022–23 improvement objectives, as it allowed for Covid-19 considerations to be incorporated and for specific improvement to be articulated in a meaningful way for the public.

He reminded the Panel that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting on 18th February, had agreed the following draft improvement objectives for 2022-23 and approved their issue for public consultation, in line with statutory guidance:

**Audit and Risk Panel,  
Tuesday, 8th March, 2022**

<b>Our Services</b>
We will continue to adapt and improve our services
<b>Our Communities</b>
We will work to support our communities, helping them to become stronger, healthier and more resilient
<b>Our Economy</b>
We will work collaboratively to support businesses, jobs and inclusive growth
<b>Our Environment</b>
We will champion climate action; protect the environment and improve the sustainability of Belfast
<b>Our City</b>
We will continue to support our city to recover and innovate in a safe, inclusive and sustainable way

The Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources confirmed that the Council would issue the improvement objectives via its on-line engagement platform, with an eight-week consultation period running from March to April, 2022. During that time, Audit, Governance and Risk Services would work with Departments to develop detailed actions, milestones and performance indicators and would update those, based on public feedback. A final report and draft improvement plan would, in June, be submitted to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for approval and be published thereafter.

He went on to draw the Panel's attention to the Quarter 3 update on progress made against activities contributing to the improvement objectives contained within the Council's 2021-22 Improvement Plan. The update outlined the key milestones, provided a summary of activity under each objective and included the most up to date position in relation to the performance indicators included within the Plan. Progress against all the objectives had, largely, been on target, and an explanation had been provided for those which had been delayed. A further report on progress would be presented to the Panel at the year-end.

He then reported that the Department for Communities had recently launched a consultation on The Local Government (Performance Indicators and Standards) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland), 2022. The consultation outlined proposed changes to how business start-up activity was measured. The Council had drafted an outline response which, on 9th February, had been approved by the City Growth and Regeneration Committee. He added that the Performance Improvement Working Group would continue to have discussions with the Department for Communities and the Northern Ireland Audit Office on performance improvement and the further review of statutory indicators and that the Panel will be updated on the outcome.

**Audit and Risk Panel,  
Tuesday, 8th March, 2022**

**Change of Date of September Meeting**

The Panel acceded to a request from the Northern Ireland Audit Office to move its meeting in September from Tuesday, 6th to Tuesday, 13th, to allow the Audit Office sufficient time to complete its audit of the financial statements. The meeting would, as usual, commence at 12.30 p.m.

**Date of Next Meeting**

The Panel noted that its next meeting would take place on Tuesday, 7th June at 12.30 p.m.

Chairperson

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## **City Hall/City Hall Grounds Installations Working Group**

Wednesday, 16th February, 2022

### **THE CITY HALL/CITY HALL GROUNDS INSTALLATIONS WORKING GROUP MINUTES HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

Members present: Alderman Kingston; and  
Councillors Beattie, Ferguson and O'Hara.

In attendance: Ms. S. Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes;  
Ms. K. Mullen, Project Sponsor; and  
Mr. J. Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer.

#### **Election of Chairperson**

The Working Group agreed that Councillor Beattie take the Chair for the duration of the meeting.

(Councillor Beattie in the Chair.)

#### **Apologies**

No apologies were reported.

#### **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were recorded.

#### **Installations – City Hall/City Hall Grounds Working Group Terms of Reference**

The Director of Physical Programmes reminded the Members that the Strategic Policy Resources Committee, at its meeting on 21st May, 2021 had agreed to the establishment of an All-Party Working Group – Installations: City Hall/City Grounds to consider and agree commissions for future installations in City Hall or City Hall grounds.

A copy of the Terms of Reference for the Working Group had been circulated for the Members' consideration. She advised that the Working Group would be responsible for ensuring that any future installations in City Hall complied with and fulfilled the recommendations set out in the Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) 'Belfast City Hall: Promoting a Good and Harmonious Environment. The Working Group would report to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee to make recommendations and seek approval for investment decisions.

Officers had engaged with a number of external parties to explore their willingness to participate in the Working Group in an advisory capacity.

The Historic Environment Division, Department for Communities (HED) had indicated that it was content to participate in future meetings of the Working Group given the City Hall's Grade 1 Listed Status. Representatives were keen to assist the Council to ensure that any future installations met the necessary statutory requirements. HED had acknowledged the ongoing work to ensure that the City Hall and its grounds were inclusive and reflected the diverse nature of the City.

Following agreement by Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting on 21st May, 2021, on the installation of statues to Mary Ann McCracken and Winifred Carney it was suggested that subject matter experts be invited to participate in the Working Group to inform an artist's brief. Officers had approached the Mary Ann McCracken Foundation who had nominated two representatives to attend the Working Group meetings on an ad hoc basis. Furthermore, it was recommended that Tom Hartley, Local Historian, be approached to provide background to inform an artist's brief for the installation of a statue of Winifred Carney.

The Working Group recommended that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee:

- i. Approve the Terms of Reference for the Installations: City Hall/City Hall Grounds Working Group; and
- ii. Agree the external statutory membership and subject matter expert membership.

### **Purpose Statement**

- **To ensure Belfast City Hall<sup>1</sup> and its grounds are a good and harmonious environment for those who visit and work in the building, while reflecting both the diverse identities of its users and the functions served by the City Hall, whilst acknowledging its prominent role in the civic life and history of Belfast. This is in line with the recommendations of the EQIA 'Belfast City Hall: Promoting a Good and Harmonious Environment.**
- **The underpinning principles being that Council should move towards more balanced and inclusive displays in City Hall and by nature of the EQIA City Hall grounds and that these should be:**
  - **Welcoming**
  - **Attractive**
  - **Interesting**
  - **Representative of the history and heritage of Belfast**
  - **Representative of the diversity of the City**

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<sup>1</sup> NB use of wording City Hall includes reference to both City Hall building and by extension the grounds of City Hall

**The purpose of the Working Group is to:**

- Consider and provide recommendations relating to City Hall and its grounds ensuring these are reflective of the principles set out in the EQIA whilst ensuring compliance with City Hall's status as a Grade 1 Listed Building;
- Make recommendations on any additionality<sup>2</sup> and give assurances to Strategic Policy and Resources Committee with regard to City Hall and its grounds; and
- Take cognisance of any similar works/plans throughout the City to ensure complementarity.

**Role of the Working Group:**

1. Provide input on, and endorsement of, any additionality to City Hall and its grounds, to ensure these align with the EQIA 'Belfast City Hall: Promoting a Good and Harmonious Environment and corporate priorities/objectives;
2. Consider and provide recommendations on any additionality to City Hall, including the escalation of issues to Strategic Policy & Resources Committee;
3. Review and consider outstanding Notices of Motion in relation to installation of stained glass windows in City Hall with a view to taking these forward;
4. Take forward the procurement, design and installation of additional statues in City Hall grounds;
5. Take forward the installation of the Carson tile;
6. Review and consider and take forward the installation of the Municipal Arc;
7. Ensure there is complementarity and appropriate linkages with other planned installations within the City, that is, the Fredrick Douglass statue; and
8. Ensure that any future installations are underpinned by programming and supporting resources.

**Accountability:**

The City Hall Working Group will be accountable to Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for the fulfilment of these Terms of Reference.

All recommendations will be forwarded to Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for approval in line with Council's capital programme approval and investment processes.

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<sup>2</sup> NB additionality includes, statutes, stained glass windows, municipal arc and any other memorabilia

## **Installation of Winifred Carney and Mary Ann McCracken Statues City Hall Grounds**

The Working Group considered the following report:

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

Members will recall that there have been ongoing discussions with regard to a number of issues related to installations and future installations in City Hall grounds following recommendations contained in the City Hall EQIA. In particular to the installation of two statues on the front lawn of City Hall one representing Winifred Carney and the second Mary Ann McCracken.

SP&R at its meeting on 24 January 2020 agreed that the City Hall Statues Project be added as a Stage 1 Emerging Project on the Capital Programme. SP&R at its meeting on 21 May 2021 agreed to the installation of a statue of Winifred Carney, the final form of this statue to be brought back to Committee for approval and that the proposed work be moved to Stage 2 – Uncommitted on the Capital Programme. At that same meeting it was agreed to the installation of a statue of Mary Ann McCracken in the grounds of City Hall, the final form of which would be submitted to the Committee in due course for approval as part of the Capital Programme. The purpose of this report is to update Members on the current status of works and to note that it is proposed to bring these into the SP&R Committee next month to seek approval to move the installation of both statues to Stage 3-Committed on the Capital Programme and to commence the procurement process for the design, manufacture and installation of both statues subject to Committee approval.

### **2.0 Recommendations**

The Members of the Working Group are asked to

- i Note that it is proposed that the installation of the Winifred Carney and Mary Ann McCracken statues are moved to Stage 3 -Committed on the Capital Programme to allow procurement to commence with final approval on designs and costs being taken by Strategic Policy and Resources Committee based on recommendations from Installations: City Hall/City Grounds Working Group. This will be subject to a planning being obtained and a satisfactory tender being returned. An indicative budget has been set to allow for the process to commence in terms of design, fabrication and installation. In line with the three stage approval process Members are asked to

- note that the final budget will only be agreed upon the receipt of a satisfactory tender
- ii Note that one artist be appointed to undertake the design and installation of both Winifred Carney and Mary Ann McCracken to ensure there is complementarity between both pieces
  - iii Consideration be given to participating in the Mary Ann McCracken walking tour and the James Connolly walking tour by way of providing some further background and history of each individual.

### **3.0 Main report**

Discussions have been ongoing at Party Group Leaders in relation to additional statues within City Hall grounds. Following agreement at Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 21 May 2021 it was agreed that this Working Group Installations: City Hall/City Hall grounds be established to take forward the statues project.

A number of meetings have taken place with HED to ascertain if the installation of additional statutory in City Hall grounds would be something which would be acceptable given City Hall's Grade 1 Listed Status in light of the need to secure the necessary planning approvals. HED, in initial conversations, have indicated that they have no objections to the proposal and have agreed to act in an advisory capacity in not only taking the City Hall Statues Project forward but also in relation to all future City Hall installations.

There has been early engagement with the Mary Ann McCracken Foundation who have indicated their support for the installation of a statue and have agreed to provide support in the development of an artist's brief. The Mary Ann McCracken Foundation undertake significant work in promoting the work undertaken by Mary Ann McCracken and recognising the impact she, as an individual, had on the City of Belfast. The Foundation operate regular walking tours where Mary Ann's work and contribution to the City are explored in more detail – the Foundation would like to offer Members the opportunity to participant in a walking tour to give a flavour of the remarkable contribution Mary Ann made and the impact of her work not just in Belfast but on a wider scale. The Mary Ann McCracken walking tour concludes in City Hall grounds so a very fitting tribute to her would be the erection of a statue in the grounds. There is an opportunity to work with the Foundation to ensure Mary Ann's contribution to the City is celebrated and acknowledged through the development of supporting programming.

Winifred Carney's role as a women, as a Trade Unionist representing workers and as an Irish Nationalist and Republican is recognised in the work of the James Connolly

**Museum. The James Connolly heritage trail commences in City Hall grounds so there would be an opportunity to establish a linkage with the walking tour should Members be minded. In terms of background for inclusion in an artist's brief it is suggested that as well as a family member that Tom Hartley, Historian, be invited to participate in the Working Group to inform an artist's brief.**

**Once the artist's brief has been finalised the procurement process can commence. This is a two-stage process, the first being PQQ (pre-qualification questionnaire) process in order to proceed to ITT (invitation to tender) stage. As part of the ITT stage the shortlisted artists are required to produce maquette (a small preliminary model). It is suggested that the Working Group are involved in all steps of the process to select the final designs. Based on similar public art installations it is expected that the fabrication of the final pieces including installation and securing planning can take between 6 to 10 months with a procurement exercise taking approximately 14 weeks.**

#### **Finance and Resource Implications**

**Based on similar public art procurement exercises it is expected that each piece may cost in the region of £150,000. Procurement for public art is slightly different from a normal procurement exercise in that the budget must be specified in order to inform the design and fabrication of the final piece. It is recommended that £300,000 be ringfenced in Council's capital budget for City Hall statues project.**

#### **Human Resources**

**Officer time as required.**

#### **Equality or Good Relations Implications**

**The installation of statues of Winifred Carney and Mary Ann McCracken will contribute to meeting the recommendations of the EQIA in ensuring Council achieves a greater balance in terms of the persons who are depicted or represented within the grounds."**

After discussion, the Working Group adopted the recommendations and commended them to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for approval. The Working Group noted that the Director would explore the incorporation of social value into the procurement process, in line with any procurement policies in place, and if any Members were aware of any other subject matter experts these could be forwarded to the Director for consideration.

### **Carson Tile - Verbal Update**

The Working Group note an update on the Carson Tile which was to be located in the City Hall reception area and that report would be submitted to the next meeting.

### **City Hall Installation Group - Future work programme**

The Working Group agreed to the following future work programme:

<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Items to be discussed</b>
March	Design specifications - Winfred Carney and Mary Ann McCracken statues Stained Glass windows – update on current position and proposed next steps Frederick Douglass statue – update Carson Tile - update
April	Statues - update Arc City Hall Grounds

Chairperson

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## Language Strategy Working Group

Tuesday, 15th March, 2022

### LANGUAGE STRATEGY WORKING GROUP MINUTES HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Members present: Councillors Kyle, McMullan, O'Hara, Spratt and Whyte.

In attendance: Ms. S. Williams, Governance and Compliance Manager;  
Mr. M. Johnston, Language Officer;  
Mr. C. McGuigan, Irish Language Officer;  
Mr. J. Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer;  
Ms. V. Smyth, Democratic Services Officer; and  
Ms. L. McConnell (Interpreter)

#### **Appointment of Chairperson**

The Working Group agreed that Councillor McMullan take the Chair for the duration of the meeting.

#### **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors Ferguson, Hutchinson and Walsh.

#### **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were recorded.

#### **Terms of Reference**

The Governance and Compliance Manager referred to the Terms of Reference for the Language Strategy Working Group as agreed by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in October 2022 and asked if Members were content.

A Member asked for clarity around New Community Languages and the Governance and Compliance Manager clarified that it referred to Newcomer Languages.

In response to a Member's concern around reaching key stakeholders, the Governance and Compliance Manager explained that stakeholder mechanisms would be put in place and would be discussed at future meetings in line with each of the five strands contained within the strategy.

There was further discussion about the changing demographic of Belfast.

The Working Group noted the information which had been provided and the Terms of Reference.

### **Briefing for Members on the Language Strategy**

The Governance and Compliance Manager delivered an overview of the Language Strategy 2018 – 2023, and provided the Members with background into the agreed visions and aims of the strategy which included the following five strands:

- Irish Language
- Ulster-Scots Language
- Sign Language (British and Irish)
- New Communities' Languages
- Languages and Communications for Disabled

The Governance and Compliance Manager outlined the agreed policy and messaging. She provided an overview of events and engagement activities undertaken so far in the context of the strategy and highlighted the challenges ahead.

**Noted.**

### **Language Strategy: proposed approach**

The Governance and Compliance Manager provided Members with a high-level overview of the Draft Language Strategy Action Plan which outlined both short-term and long-term actions for All Languages and each of the five strands.

Following the presentation, the Working Group noted that the Members would review the Action Plan for discussion at the next Working Group meeting.

Chairperson

## Customer Focus Task and Finish Working Group

Thursday, 10th March, 2022

### CUSTOMER FOCUS TASK AND FINISH WORKING GROUP MINUTES HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Members present: Councillors Black, Flynn

In attendance: Mrs. R. Crozier, Customer Focus Programme Director;  
Mr. P. Gribben, Head of Digital Services;  
Ms. C. McCann, Customer Focus Programme Support Assistant;  
Mr. C. Quinn, Customer Services Manager;  
Mr. P. Patterson, Digital Development Architect;  
Mr. G. McErlane, Digital Development Architect;  
Ms. L. Scott, Project Manager, Continuous Improvement  
Ms. C. Donnelly, Democratic Services Officer; and  
Mrs. G. Boyd, Democratic Services Officer.

#### **Apologies**

An apology for inability to attend was reported for Councillor Hutchinson.

#### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 22 February, 2022 were agreed as an accurate record of proceedings.

#### **Declarations of Interest**

No Declarations of Interest were reported.

#### **Outline plan for next phase of development of Elected Members' requirements**

The Customer Services Programme Director advised the Members that the purpose of the meeting was to give Members an update on the effectiveness of the Elected Members' App and to take the Members through the next phase of development for the app. She also advised that she would take the Members through the draft survey and that, whilst she intended to engage with all 60 Members, she wanted the Customer Focus Group's opinion on the first draft.

The Customer Service Manager gave the Members an update on the how many Members were using the app. He advised that to the end of January there had been 1300 requests received, of those 75% were fully completed within 4 days. Each month there

were 36 distinct Members that used the app and 50 out of the 60 Members had used the app across the board.

The Customer Service Manager detailed how the Members recorded their constituency issues. 72% were received by email and 23% used only the app. Social Media was also regularly screened by BCC's social media team to ensure any issues were highlighted, reported and logged with the Hub team. The hub received very few calls recorded, 57 in total in the past year. The requests were mainly about parks, litter and bin collections. The data would be used for service redesign and future intervention.

The Customer Services Programme Director informed the Members that the aim of the survey was to identify further enhancements to the app and if additional support for its use was required. The purpose of the app was to serve the Members in their day-to-day constituency work, so it was important that she heard from them how the app could be improved.

She referred Members to the customer hub blueprint that had included a number of concepts, including a telephone number, a dedicated email and an app to deal with Members' queries. The Customer Service Manager referred to the bin collection information report that was circulated to Members and informed them that further information and dashboards would be circulated to Members in the coming months.

The Group noted the information which had been provided.

#### **Consideration and agreement on content of Elected Members' Survey**

The Customer Service Programme Director introduced the Members to Louise Scott, the Project Manager for the Customer Focus Programme, who would be overseeing further development of the Members' App and the information gathered from the survey. She advised the Members that they had received a draft of the survey in advance of the meeting. The Members discussed the draft and asked the Project Manager to amend a few questions, particularly the question asking if the Members had used the app. The Project Manager said she would consider using branching in the survey so the Member could move to the next section. The Members suggested that it would be worthwhile including a question to ask if Members felt they would benefit from further training on the app. The Project Manager agreed to make the suggested amendments and would recirculate the amended survey to the Working Group. The Customer Service Manager undertook to compile a dashboard from the information gathered through the app to show the Members the type of information they could collect and how the dashboards could be tailored to meet specific information requirements.

The Members were advised that the survey would be sent out after the April Council meeting and would be open for 2 weeks to allow the Members time to respond.

Noted

#### **Next Steps**

The Customer Service Programme Director asked the Members if they could add the Elected Members' survey to their Party Group meetings to help promote the survey and encourage their Members to respond. She thanked the Members for their continued support and agreed to keep the Members updated through these sessions.

Chairperson

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<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Illumination of Belfast Castle – The Samaritans</b>
<b>Date:</b>	25th March, 2022
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Walsh, Chief Executive
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Aisling Milliken, Functions and Exhibitions Manager

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	The purpose of this report is to bring to the Committee's attention a request to illuminate Belfast Castle on the night of 21st December in recognition of the valuable contribution made by the Samaritans organisation.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to consider the request.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
	<b>Background</b>
3.1	The Standards and Business Committee, at its meeting on 22nd February, considered the following motion which had been proposed by Councillor Kyle and seconded by Councillor Lyons:

	<p>“This Council commends and recognises the extraordinary efforts of the Samaritans during the period of Covid-19 and beyond. The ability of the volunteers to react quickly and effectively during the pandemic and to continue to offer support to anyone who needs a listening ear, day or night, 365 days a year, is to be commended.</p> <p>The Council also recognises the mental health challenges facing our society and agrees to illuminate the Belfast Castle in green (Samaritan colours) to mark the Longest Night on 21st December, to show people that the Samaritans are always there for them.”</p>
3.2	<p>The Committee agreed that the element of the motion specifically requesting the illumination of the Belfast Castle on 21st December be referred to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee as an ‘Issue Raised in Advance’. The remainder of the motion, calling upon the Council to commend and recognise the work of the Samaritans, was passed by the Council at its meeting on 1st March.</p>
3.3	<p>The Committee should note that the motion originally requested that the City Hall be illuminated on 21st December. However, the proposer was advised that the building could not be illuminated on or around that date due to the Christmas lighting and, accordingly, agreed to amend his motion to call for Belfast Castle to be illuminated on that date instead.</p> <p><b><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p> <p>The proposal will take equality and good relations implications into account.</p> <p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>There are no direct resource implications in terms of staff time or additional costs associated with this request.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	None