

Public Document Pack

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

21st September, 2022

MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

In addition to those matters previously notified to you, the following items will also be considered at the meeting to be held at 9.30 am on Friday, 23rd September, 2022.

Yours faithfully,

John Walsh

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

2. Restricted Items

- (b) Update on Structures (Pages 1 - 4)
- (c) Cost of Living Payments – Agency and Casual Workers (Pages 5 - 6)
- (d) City Hall Recovery Plan - Update on Progress (Pages 7 - 10)

3. Matters referred back from Council/Motions

- (a) Motion: Elected Member Disability Working Group – Draft Terms of Reference (Pages 11 - 16)
- (b) Motion: GLL and Trades Unions – Response from GLL (Pages 17 - 22)

4. Belfast Agenda/Strategic Issues

- (c) Dual Language Street Signs Policy (Pages 23 - 30)
- (d) Sustain Exchange Climate Business Conference Funding Agreement (Pages 31 - 34)

8. Operational Issues

- (d) City Hall - Design of Carson Tile (Pages 35 - 38)
- (e) Minutes of Meeting of City Hall/City Hall Grounds Installations Working Group (Pages 39 - 46)

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

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Subject:	Motion: Elected Member Disability Working Group – Draft Terms of Reference
Date:	23rd September, 2022
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, Interim City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Sarah Williams, Governance and Compliance Manager;

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to request approval of the draft Terms of Reference for an Elected Member Disability Working Group.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to approve the draft Terms of Reference for a cross-party Elected Member Disability Working Group.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p><u>Background</u></p> <p>Councillor McMullan raised a motion at the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee meeting in June 2020, part of which agreed to:</p> <p>Create a Reference Group for Disabled People. This will provide a forum for Councillors, our Disability Advisory Panel, Council officers, as well as other relevant stakeholders and</p>

	<p>experts from time-to-time, to discuss and progress actions on Belfast City Council's commitment to becoming an accessible city for all by 2035.</p> <p>Unfortunately, due to various resourcing issues there has been a delay in establishing this group.</p>
3.2	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>Disability-Related Work in the Council</p> <p>Disability awareness has increased significantly in recent times, with access and inclusion of disabled people in all aspects of life breaking down stereotypes held by much of society. Societal, health and economic inequalities all demonstrate that, in spite of successful gains, inequalities remains in place. With 1 in 5 people in Belfast having some type of disability and a focus on disability is increasing in the Council.</p> <p>The Council under section 49A of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 ('the Act'), (as amended by the Disability Discrimination (NI) Order 2006) is required to carry out the following functions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promote positive attitudes towards disabled people; and ▪ Encourage participation by disabled people in public life. <p>Every three years, the Council produces a new Disability Action Plan outlining its commitment and what areas of work will be actioned in terms of improving accessibility and inclusion for disabled people. A new Disability Action Plan 2022-25 has been out for consultation and is being brought to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee this month for approval.</p>
3.3	<p>Elected Member Disability Working Group</p> <p>It is proposed that a Working Group for Disabled People is established and resourced by Legal and Civic Services. This will meet quarterly and provide a forum for discussion as well as receive updates on the Council's Disability Action Plan, so that Members are aware of the work in this area and can provide suggestions so that work can be incorporated into existing strategic programmes of work where relevant.</p>

	The Working Group would make recommendations on proposed actions and policy development. These recommendations would then be referred to Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for agreement, as required. The proposed draft Terms of Reference are attached.
	Financial and Resource Implications
3.4	None. Will be met within existing budgets.
	Equality, Good Relations or Rural Needs Implications
3.5	Any new policies will be subject to the Council's equality, good relations and rural needs screening processes.
4.0	Document Attached
	Elected Members' Disability Working Group Draft Terms of Reference

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Draft Terms of Reference for the Elected Member Disability Working Group

Introduction and purpose

A Disability Working Group has been established to provide Members with a forum within which to discuss the progress and implementation of the Belfast City Council Disability Action Plan 2022-2025 and ensure alignment with the Council's Disability Strategy.

Whilst the Working Group will not be a decision-making body, it will be required to report into or make recommendations to the Council's Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on progress against the strategy and associated action plans.

Terms of Reference

The Disability Working Group Terms of Reference are:

- to provide elected Members with a forum to discuss how to promote positive attitudes towards disabled people, and encourage their participation in public life across the Council;
- to monitor the delivery of the commitments set out in the Disability Action Plan;
- to support the development of a Disability Strategy;
- to report on progress or make recommendations to the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee on a regular basis through reports and minutes of meetings.

Membership

- All political party groupings should be represented.
- Each political party grouping should have one representative.

Ways of Working

- The Working Group will decide on arrangements for chairing the meetings.
- The Working Group will meet quarterly or as required.

Governance

The Working Group will be supported by staff within the Council's Legal & Civic Services Department.

The Working Group does not have decision-making powers. Its recommendations, as set out in the minutes of its meetings, will be reported to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee to adopt, amend or reject the recommendation of the Working Group.

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Subject:	Motion: GLL and Trades Unions – Response from GLL
Date:	23rd September, 2022
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, Chief Executive
Contact Officer:	John Walsh, Chief Executive

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To consider a response from GLL to a motion on GLL and Trades Unions which was passed by the Standards and Business Committee at its meeting on 23rd August.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to note the response and take such action thereon as may be determined.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u> The Standards and Business Committee, at its meeting on 23rd August, agreed to adopt the following motion, which had been proposed by Councillor Ferguson and seconded by Councillor Michael Collins:

	<p>“This Council recognises the importance of collective bargaining in the workplace and the central role of trade unions to this process, as representative voices for workers. Moreover, in a period where very many workers are opting to take industrial action, the Council recognises the right of workers to do so, and the role it can play in winning much needed pay increases during a cost-of-living crisis and while inflation continues to rise.</p> <p>The Council notes that there are ongoing issues in Council leisure centres across our city, which workers and their trade unions have been attempting to resolve. The Council also notes, with disappointment, that GLL does not officially recognise trade unions in Council leisure facilities, denying workers the ability to collectively bargain effectively.</p> <p>This Council agrees that GLL should officially recognise trade unions in Belfast City Council leisure centres and will write to the leadership of the organisation to urge it to do so.</p> <p>The Chief Executive of the Council will also convene a meeting with the relevant trade unions to hear directly about the issues facing workers in our leisure centres and commit to address them with GLL.”</p>
3.2	A response has been received from Mr. G. Kirk, Senior Regional Director of GLL, a copy of which is attached.
3.3	Mr. Kirk begins by explaining that, as a worker owned, charitable social enterprise with an elected worker board, the interests of its people are represented at the highest level within the company. The nature of GLL’S business means that it is organised primarily on a partnership basis and the company has a good record of working closely with Trades Unions in these local environments. He highlights the fact that the Trades Union forum in Belfast works particularly well, with both GLL’s management and the Trades Unions being able to raise issues and discuss collectively, in order to reach a favourable conclusion for both parties. This arrangement has, he points out, worked very well for the past seven years and has created very strong partnership working and outputs for staff under this model. GLL does not, therefore, see any reason for this to change.

3.3	<p>He goes on to state that there is strong evidence in the outputs across the City, within staffing teams, that reinforces how successful the social enterprise partnership between the Council and GLL has been. There have been over 200 GLL promotions in recent years, which demonstrates an inward focus on staff and excellent delivery of learning and development opportunities. All of GLL's staff received an average 4% pay increase in April 2022, in recognition of the current cost of living challenges which many face. In partnership with the Council, there have been seventeen leisure employment academies, resulting in over 100 local people gaining training and then employment within leisure centres. Alongside this, GLL has employed six graduates for its successful Trainee Manager programme, thereby ensuring succession planning for its future leisure leaders. GLL also opened a customer service centre in Belfast twelve months ago, creating 60 new jobs for local people and a further 25 new staff will be employed when Templemore Baths open in October, 2022.</p>
3.4	<p>Mr. Kirk adds that GLL notes that, while at times there can be challenges, there is a healthy partnership created through the Trades Union forum, allowing items to be resolved through collaborative working. He concludes by stating that GLL looks forward to future staffing success in the year ahead and will address any issues that arise from the planned meetings.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
4.0	Document Attached
	Response from Senior Regional Director, GLL.

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Date; 21st September 2022

Email (Carolyn Donnelly DonnellyCarolyn@BelfastCity.gov.uk)

Dear Carolyn,

Many thanks for sharing with GLL the motion that was adopted at the Business and standards committee in August 2022, please the GLL response below;

As a worker owned, charitable social enterprise with an elected worker board, the interests of our people are represented at the highest level within the company. The nature of our business means that we are organised primarily on a partnership basis, and GLL has a good record of working closely with trade unions in these local environments. The Trade union forum in Belfast works particularly well with both GLL management and the trade unions being able to raise issues and discuss collectively, in order to reach a favorable conclusion for both parties. This set-up has worked very well for the past 7 years and created very strong partnership working and outputs for our staff under this model, therefore we do not see any reason for this to change.

There is strong evidence in the outputs across the city within our staffing teams that reinforce how successful the social enterprise partnership between Belfast City Council and GLL has been. There have been over 200 promotions in recent years showing an inward focus on our staff and excellent delivery of learning and development opportunities. All of our staff received an average 4% pay increase in April 2022 recognising the current cost of living challenges for many of our employees. In partnership with BCC there have been 17 leisure employment academies resulting in over 100 local people gaining training and then employment within our centres. Alongside this we have employed six graduates who have joined our successful Trainee Manager programme which ensures succession planning for our future leisure leaders. GLL opened up a customer service centre in Belfast just 12 months ago creating 60 new jobs for local people in the city, and we will see a further 25 new staff employed in the city when we open up Templemore Baths in October 2022.

GLL note that while at times there can be challenges, there is a healthy partnership created through the trade union forum allowing items to be resolved through collaborative working. We look forward to future staffing success in the year ahead and will address any items that come from the planned meetings.

Yours sincerely



Gareth Kirk
Senior Regional Director
GLL

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Belfast
City Council

Subject:	Dual Language Street Signs Policy
Date:	23rd September 2022
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, Interim City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officers:	Ian Harper, Building Control Manager

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to seek Committee approval of the final version of the revised Dual Language Street Signs Policy to reflect the decision which it took at its meeting on 17th June, 2022. The final version of the revised policy was discussed at the Party Group Leaders' Consultative Forum on 15 th September, where it was agreed that the policy be presented to the Committee for approval prior to its publication on the Council website.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to approve the final version of the revised Dual Language Street Signs Policy at Appendix 1 to allow for its publication on the Council website.

3.0	Main Report
3.1	The Committee, at its meeting on 17th June, 2022, agreed that the revised Dual Language Streets Signs Policy would be implemented following ratification by the Council at its meeting on 4th July. A copy of the relevant minute is attached at Appendix 2 .
3.2	The SP and R decision was ratified by the Council and the policy is now live. Over 500 requests for dual language street signs under the new policy have been received since the Committee's decision. These have been logged and are being responded to.
3.3	The final version of the revised Policy includes the updated approach to carrying out Equality and Good Relations assessments which was agreed by Committee at its meeting on 17 th June 2022.
3.4	The changes relate primarily to the fact that each application will undergo an 'initial assessment' for any potential adverse impacts on equality, good relations or rural needs, rather than an 'equality screening' in the first instance. This was reported to the SP and R Committee on 17th June 2022 and agreed at that time.
3.5	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> There are no finance or resource implications attached to this report.
3.6	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Implications</u> There are no equality or good relations implications attached to this report.
4.0	Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 – Final version of the Dual Language Street Signs Policy Appendix 2 – Minute of SP and R Committee meeting of 17 th June 2022

Appendix 1

Dual Language Street Signs Policy

1.0 Legislation

The statutory basis for this function is contained within *Article 11 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1995*, which commenced on 15 March 1995. It provides for street naming, street numbering and the provision of street signs. It also gives Councils the discretionary power to erect dual language street signs or secondary nameplates in a language other than English.

2.0 Introduction

The legislation requires the Council, in deciding whether and how to exercise its discretion to erect a street name in a language other than English, to have regard to any views on the matter expressed by the occupiers of premises in that street.

The European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages, to which the U.K. is a signatory, was taken into account when developing this policy, as was guidance published by the UN Special Rapporteur on the practical implementation of language rights of linguistic minorities. The Council's Language Strategy adopted by the Council in May 2018 sets out the Council's commitment to establish a transparent set of principles for promoting, protecting and enhancing the linguistic diversity of the city.

The European Charter establishes an obligation on state signatories not to create barriers in respect of the use of a minority language. The UN Special Rapporteur guidance notes that the threshold where it is reasonable and practical to provide such signs varies between 5 percent and 20 percent of the local population. While this policy applies to all languages, the Council recognises that Irish and Ulster Scots are recognised as minority languages in the European Charter.

For the purposes of this policy "Occupiers" shall be taken to be any person whose name appears in the current Electoral Register plus the owners or tenants in actual possession of commercial premises, but not employees in such premises.

These policy proposals were developed in close consultation with the City Solicitor and Director of Legal and Civic Services and are designed to promote consistent and reasonable responses. However, the policy should not be applied in such a way as to prevent due consideration being given to the particular circumstances of each application. See in particular Section 3(xi) below.

Having regard to the significant resource consequences of administering the implications of the policy, the policy will be reactive in nature. The policy will be managed and implemented based on the resources available and the established annual budget for street signage. The Council reserves the right to pause the processing of applications in the event that resources are not sufficient.

3.0 **Procedure**

The procedures for seeking and assessing the views of Occupiers and the criteria to be applied in deciding whether to erect a street sign in a language other than English are as follows:

- (i) Applications for the erection of a street sign in a language other than English must be made by an Applicant submitting an application form either by post or electronically to Belfast City Council.
- (ii) An application for the erection of a street sign in a language other than English may be made by an 'Applicant' which for purposes of this policy means: (a) an Occupier or Occupiers of the street for which the application is made, (b) an Elected Member of Belfast City Council who represents the District Electoral Area in which the street is located or (c) a developer of a new street. Any application submitted by a developer with regard to a new street will be considered by the Council in accordance with Section 3(xi) of this policy. With regard to streets without any Occupiers, applications for the erection of a street sign in a language other than English may only be made by an Elected Member who represents the District Electoral Area in which the street is located. The Council will have regard to Section 3(xi) of this policy when considering any such application.
- (iii) When an application is received, the Council will canvass by post all Occupiers of that street and seek their views on the request to erect a street sign in a second specified language. Options for a response will be 'Yes', 'No' and 'No Preference'. The Council will note for its records those Occupiers who do not reply. Reply will be by way of a pre-paid envelope and should be returned within one month of receipt.
- (iv) Each survey that is sent out by the Council to the Occupiers of a street for which an application is made will have a unique identifier number. Survey responses received by the Council for that application will be cross-referenced against that unique identifier and will be recorded. The Council may choose to audit certain responses to surveys. These measures are to provide assurance that each Occupier's view is taken into account.
- (v) Applications will be dealt with in the order that they are received.
- (vi) Each application will be subject to an initial assessment for any potential adverse impacts on equality, good relations and rural needs. This assessment will commence when the application is received and where any adverse impacts are identified, that information will be brought to Committee.
- (vii) Where fifteen percent or more of the Occupiers of that street have indicated that they are in favour of the erection of a second language street sign, then such a sign may be erected, subject to the residual discretion of the Council as specified in subsection (xi) below.
- (viii) If the minimum threshold of fifteen percent is not met, the Applicant will be given two weeks to advise the Council of any special circumstances in relation to the application. If such special circumstances relate to the processing of a survey, the Strategic Director of Place and Economy, in conjunction with the City Solicitor and Director of Legal and Civic Services will determine whether such exceptional circumstances exist to refer the matter to Committee. Where exceptional circumstances relate to matters other than the processing of a survey, the matter will be referred to Committee. If there are no special circumstances, the application will end.

- (ix) A report on all applications (other than those ended in the circumstances specified in subsection (viii) above) will be brought to Committee for a decision.
- (x) Consideration will to be given to “long streets” where opinion on whether to have a second language street sign may differ between readily identifiable, substantial lengths of the street. In these circumstances, the decision as to the erection of dual language nameplates in certain portions of the street will be made by Committee, exercising its residual discretion and taking into account advice from officers.
- (xi) The Council will retain a residual discretion to decide to erect or not to erect a street sign in a language other than English in certain circumstances. This will be done on a case by case basis. It may be appropriate to depart from the procedures in this policy when there are clear reasons for doing so. This may include taking into account:
 - (a) the views of the Occupiers of the street;
 - (b) the results of the initial assessment for the application, including any identified potential adverse impacts on equality, good relations and rural needs;
 - (c) consideration of the local context of the application;
 - (d) any other Council policies or strategies related to the application; and
 - (e) all material considerations relating to the application.
- (xii) The survey that is sent to Occupiers will include the name of the street as translated into the second language on the relevant application. The Council will make the appropriate arrangements for the translation from English to that second language. The translation will be carried out by an independent, competent body such as the appropriate Language Department at Queen's University or other appropriate, independent and competent institution.
- (xiii) With regard to the design and placing of the street signs the second language sign shall be located immediately below the English sign and the size of lettering shall be smaller than the English version to avoid any risk of confusion to the emergency services.

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**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
Friday, 17th June, 2022**

**B
4103**

**City Hall: Proposed recovery plan –
update on progress**

The Committee noted a report which provided an update in relation to the progress on the City Hall reopening and recovery.

**Dual Language Street Signs Policy
Public Consultation and EQIA**

The Committee considered a report which provided an update on the results of the public consultation to the proposed changes to the council's Dual Language Street Signs Policy and the conclusions reached in the accompanying Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA). A report on the consultation and the EQIA final decision report had been appended to the report.

The Chief Executive reported that the public consultation had opened online on the Your Say Belfast platform on 22nd November 2021 and had closed on 28th February 2022. The survey was available in both the English and Irish languages.

There was a total of 4.4k visits to the consultation page and 1,078 written responses (785 in the English language version and 293 in the Irish language version). Officers had arranged four online public information sessions, which had a total of 4 attendees and each political party on the Council had been offered a briefing session. Information sessions had also been held for stakeholder groups, which included Irish language groups and academia, the Ulster Scots Agency and the Council's Equality Forum, Migrant Forum and Disability Advisory Panel.

The consultation survey had focused on five proposed changes to the Dual Language Street Signs policy. For four of the five questions, respondents had been asked to indicate the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with the proposed changes, and they could comment if they wished. For the remaining proposed change relating to the operation of the Council's residual discretion, respondents were asked to comment. Respondents were also asked to comment on any aspect of the proposed policy that had not been addressed by the preceding questions.

The survey also gave respondents the option to comment on the draft Equality Impact Assessment running concurrently with the consultation and on the draft Rural Needs Impact Assessment.

After discussion, the Committee:

- (i) noted the results of the public consultation and the EQIA; and
- (ii) agreed that the revised Dual Language Streets Signs Policy be implemented following ratification by the Council at its meeting on 4th July.

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Subject:	Sustain Exchange Climate Business Conference Funding Agreement
Date:	23rd September, 2022
Reporting Officer:	Debbie Caldwell, Climate Commissioner
Contact Officer:	Richard McLernon, Climate Programme Manager - City

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To inform Committee of a proposal by the Management and Leadership Network (MLN) to host a prominent climate business conference 'Sustain Exchange' in Belfast with up to 300 business leaders. To request approval for a funding agreement to be put in place between Belfast City Council and the event organiser with the value of £10,000. The event will put the challenges, opportunities and absolute need for positive action associated with climate change, on the agenda for local organisations and leaders. The Management and Leadership Network is a network that provides managers and leaders in Northern Ireland with access to the thinking, insights and

	experiences of high-achievers and thought-leaders, to support and develop individual managers, companies and our economy.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to support this business focused climate conference by approving a funding agreement to the value of £10,000 be entered into with the event organiser, a report having previously been submitted to and approved by CMT.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>Background</p> <p>The United Nations COP 26 Climate Summit in Glasgow in November 2021 placed a sharp focus on the role of the business community on delivering on global net zero GHG emissions by 2050. It also challenged business to radically reduce their environmental impact both directly and indirectly through their supply chains. The extreme weather experienced across Europe and beyond this summer further evidenced the reality that the effects of climate are being felt now and the need for decisive action from the business and leadership community is now.</p> <p>It is a truly transformative time for businesses as they address climate risks and identify new opportunities in the green economy. The transition is not straightforward. Businesses need help in securing cleaner power, heat and transport solutions. They need help in navigating new markets to find more environmentally sustainable solutions in their supply chain, and they need to do it fast. There has never been a more important time to find specialist help to navigate the transition, and to educate inform and engage by sharing the existing knowledge and exemplar experience of those at the forefront of the transition.</p>
3.2	<p>Purpose and Format of Event</p> <p>The event will be planned to deliver on the objectives above and will connect local business leaders with international thought leaders with those at the forefront of the transition locally. The event is expected to attract some 300 local leaders (primarily business leaders but also those from the public, NDPB and third sectors) and will either be delivered as an in-person-only event or a hybrid event which would see 120 leaders gather in-person with some additional 200 leaders attending the event via a live stream. Both delivery models will ensure the messages, around the importance of positive climate action, have reach and that partners get a level of profile, amongst the NI business / leadership community, to justify their investment.</p>
3.3	<p>Opening Address and Format</p> <p>The opening keynote address will be delivered by two world-renowned authorities on how to achieve 'net zero faster'. They will focus on the business threat of the climate crisis, the legacy of the imperative for businesses and leaders to act fast and meaningfully. The keynote speakers will</p>

	<p>be followed by a carefully selected line-up of local leaders who will be challenged to share their story (exemplar), insights (expert) or support offering (stakeholder).</p> <p>As exemplars these businesses will share their story and associated lessons in an engaging, informative, and entertaining manner. The speakers will encourage and empower other sectoral representative bodies (insurance, banking, hospitality transport and logistics etc) to consider their own climate impact and take the first steps on their pursuit of net zero faster.</p> <p>Management and Leadership Network Experience</p>
3.4	<p>Management and Leadership Network (MLN) have previous experience in hosting several large events with 500 + attendees.</p> <p>Virtual summits organised by Management and Leadership Network include:</p> <p>Galvanise NI May 2020 - 1400 Business leaders</p> <p>Re- launch July 2020- 900 business leaders</p> <p>Unlearn 2021 December 2020- 700 business leaders</p> <p>WELL – February 2021 – 1000 business leaders</p> <p>Leadership Summit - February 2020 Prior to first lockdown MLN hosted 500 paying business leaders at Titanic Belfast. BCC was a partner on this event which featured world class speakers including Lord David Puttnam at Titanic Belfast. Podium and MLN's virtual events have been created and delivered in a 3–4-week lead time (and have consistently attracted business leader audiences of 500+).</p> <p>As host, MLN will facilitate the event and invite all speakers to provide their slides in advance so that the idea-sharing session is delivered in a concise, visually impactful and professional manner. Belfast City Council would once again be invited to participate and profile its extensive climate work i.e Mini – Stern Report, and associated Housing and Transport Readiness Assessments, Climate Ambitions Report, Reset Agenda, internal climate mitigation and adaptation plans and /or the work of the Belfast Climate Commission, Resilience and Sustainability Board etc.</p> <p>Legacy Platform and Annual Event</p>
3.5	<p>The conference is an opportunity to highlight and celebrate the activity that is already underway in Belfast. As the host city it positions Belfast as a centre of excellence and activity when it comes to businesses and getting to net zero faster. The climate challenge will inevitably move further up the political and business agenda as we move through the decade and the pace of change on this issue is fast, so there is a need for annual event for the NI business/leadership community to share knowledge, experience and progress and supporting platforms available all year round to share resources.</p>

3.6	<p>Net Zero Faster - Branding</p> <p>The conference will be branded with the theme of 'Net Zero Faster'. It is deigned to speak to and encourage participation from those businesses well on their way and those just starting their zero-carbon pathway. It acknowledges the challenges involved in committing to take meaningful action and will offer examples, insights and inspiration for individuals, businesses and policy makers. Podiem will complete a comprehensive evaluation report on the conference.</p>
3.7	<p>Date, Venue and Contingence</p> <p>The total cost of the conference will be in excess of £60k. Podiem has already secured some corporate sponsorship for the event from Danske bank and are in advanced conversations with Belfast Harbour along with other corporate partners of MLN (energy companies etc). The date and venue are currently being finalised, with Belfast City Hall a potential venue.</p>
3.8	<p>Venue</p> <p>The event will be hosted in a City Centre location (to encourage use of public transport and cycle networks) that can accommodate both in-person and virtual attendees.</p>
3.9	<p>Partner Contribution and Profile Benefits</p> <p>If the Council chooses to support the conference it would be profiled as an 'Event Partner' alongside several other lead event partners. The Council brand would be prominent on all event marketing collateral as well as 'at-event'. A Council representative would be invited to participate in the event press launch and MLN would be delighted for the Council to deliver a presentation. Council would also promote the conference through its social media and other relevant communication channels.</p>
3.10	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>£10,000 to support this initiative has been allocated from within the existing City and Organisational Strategy budget.</p>
3.11	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>There are no direct equality or good relations/rural needs implications.</p>
4.0	<p>Documents Attached</p>
	<p>None</p>



Subject:	City Hall: Carson Tile – Proposed Design
Date:	23rd September, 2022
Reporting Officer:	Sinead Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes
Contact Officer:	Kirsten Mullen, Project Sponsor

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to seek the Committee's agreement on the preferred design for the Carson Tile in the Rotunda in the City Hall.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to approve the recommendation from the City Hall/City Hall Grounds Installations Working Group of 31st August on the proposed design for the Carson Tile to be installed in the Rotunda in City Hall as being Option 3, as outlined in 3.3 below

3.0	Main Report
	Carson Tile Background
3.1	In November 2012, the Council received an independent Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) relating to the City Hall and City Hall grounds. This EQIA was carried out in accordance with

	<p>Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 and the Council's Equality Scheme. This EQIA underpinned the decision to relocate memorabilia into the exhibition, allowing it to be seen and understood in a different way. Whilst the relocation of the artefacts and memorabilia from various parts of the City Hall into the exhibition space addressed the issue of the City Hall itself, in terms of the EQIA, the EQIA also applied to the City Hall grounds, in respect of which no steps have been taken to address the report's findings that there is a need to provide a contemporary image of the City, reflective of its vibrancy and diversity.</p>
3.2	<p>At the time when the relocation of memorabilia to the exhibition was agreed, there was, as part of that arrangement, a commemorative tile to be installed marking the place at which Sir Edward Carson stood when he signed the Ulster Covenant. HED approval is required for this and following ongoing discussions with HED it has been agreed that this will take the format of a tile within the Rotunda area. SP&R were updated on this at their meeting on May 2021 and approved approve the installation of a plaque with the final design to be agreed. This was referred to the City Hall Installations Working Group for further consideration. HED have subsequently confirmed that marble is the preferred material for installation.</p>
3.3	<p>The City Hall Installations Working Group has considered three options for the design of the Carson Tile which will be installed within the Rotunda in the City Hall. The designs considered are set out below:</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>PLAIN VERSION</p> <p>WITH EDGE LINES AND 'ULSTER DAY' AS SECOND LINE</p> <p>ADDING HAND/SHIELD ICON FROM COVENANT AS CORNER DETAIL</p> </div>
3.4	<p>Three Members expressed a preference for Option 3 (the design on the far right) while 2 Members expressed a preference for Option 1 and 1 for Option 2.</p> <p>The Committee is, therefore, asked to endorse the recommendation of the City Hall/City Hall Grounds Installations Working Group of 31st August on the proposed design for the Carson Tile as being Option 3. This will enable this to proceed to final design in advance of manufacture and installation.</p>

	<u>Financial and Resources Implications</u>
3.5	Following confirmation of final concept, a detailed design can be produced which will include final costs for manufacture and installation.
	<u>Equality and Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.6	Installation of Carson Tile contribute to meeting the recommendations of the EQIA City Hall and City Hall Grounds in ensuring Council achieves a greater balance in terms of the persons who are depicted or represented within the grounds.
4.0	Documents Attached
	None

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City Hall/City Hall Grounds Installations Working Group

Wednesday, 31st August, 2022

THE CITY HALL/CITY HALL GROUNDS INSTALLATIONS WORKING GROUP MINUTES

HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Members present: Councillors Beattie (Chairperson), Lyons and O'Hara.

In attendance: Ms. S. Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes;
Ms. K. Mullen, Project Sponsor;
Mr. J. Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer;
Ms. V. Smyth, Democratic Services Officer; and
Mrs. G. Boyd, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

There were no apologies received.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 31st May, 2022 were taken as read and signed as correct.

Election of Chairperson

It was proposed by Councillor O'Hara and agreed that Councillor Beattie be appointed as the Chairperson to the Installations Working Group from August, 2022 until the Local Government Elections, scheduled to be held in May 2023.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were recorded.

Stained-Glass Windows

The Director of Physical Programmes provided the Members with background to obtain agreement on the process around the design, procurement and installation of two new stained-glass windows in the City Hall and to confirm the final location. She reported that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting on 20th May, 2022, had agreed:

- (i) That the stained-glass windows in recognition of the Health Service; and the contribution of the LGBT citizens be progressed to Stage 1 – Uncommitted on the Capital Programme: and

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- (ii) To keep the remaining proposals under review.

She advised that, following agreement from the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, officers had explored a number of potential locations in the City Hall where two new stained-glass windows could be located. The preferred location was to the right of the Women's History stained-glass window, located in the North West corridor of City Hall. Previously identified locations such as available windows within the City Hall exhibition were not suitable as it was felt inclusion of stained-glass windows within the exhibition area would detract from the exhibition content in the relevant rooms. Based on previous design, manufacture and installation of stained-glass windows, it was proposed that the commission process be two-stage with selection by way of a two-stage open submission process.

The Director of Physical Programmes asked the Members if they were content with the locations identified. A Member questioned an available window in the Rotunda area as a location for the LGBT window. The Project Sponsor agreed to take a photograph of the window in question which has 3 panels and would provide an update at the next Working Group.

The Members noted that it was proposed that the installation of two stained glass windows would be moved to Stage 2 - Uncommitted on the Capital Programme to allow procurement to commence with final approval on designs and costs being taken by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee based on recommendations from Installations: City Hall/City Grounds Working Group. This would be subject to planning and listed building consent being obtained and a satisfactory tender being returned. It was recommended that an indicative budget be set to allow for the process to commence in terms of design, fabrication and installation. In line with the three-stage approval process, the Members noted that the final budget would only be agreed upon the receipt of a satisfactory tender.

The Members agreed:

- with the recommendation that the two new stained-glass windows should be located to the righthand side of the Women's History window in the North West corridor of City Hall (*subject to the Project Sponsor obtaining information relating the aforementioned window in the Rotunda area in relation to the LGBT window*).
- to give consideration to which key stakeholder groups should be consulted in relation to the final design for both windows; and
- that the same artist be commissioned for both windows and that procurement be by way of a two-stage open submission process.

Carson Tile

The Director of Physical Programmes reminded the Members that, following discussion at the previous Working Group on 31st May 2022, concept designs for the Carson Tile had been circulated to Party Group Leaders for confirmation of the preferred design. To date, five responses had been received as detailed in the report and responses were outstanding from three remaining parties. The Director of Physical

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Programmes explained that, in order for Officers to proceed to next stages, that is, final design and associated costs, the Members would be required to confirm a position on the preferred concept design.

The Director of Physical Programmes stated that there had been two preferences for Option 1, one for Option 2 and two for Option 3. Therefore, no consensus had been reached. Given this the Director confirmed that she was seeking agreement from Members on the option to be recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee to allow detailed design and final costings to be prepared. At the meeting a further preference was expressed for Option 3 and, given this, it was agreed that this would be the preferred option to be recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for approval in advance of manufacture and installation.

Frederick Douglass

The Director of Physical Programmes provided a progress update and reminded the Members that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting on 23rd October 2020, had received confirmation from the Minister for Communities indicating that she would be content for her Department to partner with Council in erecting a statue in Rosemary Street in remembrance of Frederick Douglass. The Minister had indicated that, should Council establish a steering group to take the project forward, her Department would provide part funding.

The Strategic Policy and Resources Committee at that meeting had granted approval for the Council to establish and lead the Working Group tasked with delivering the project and agreed that it should also consider how the City's wider association with slavery during that period in history could be recognised.

Following ongoing Steering Group meetings and updates provided to the Installations: City Hall/City Hall Grounds Working Group, final procurement documents had been prepared which had been issued via eSourcing NI on 26th August, 2022.

The Director of Physical Programmes explained that this would be a two-stage procurement process, with one artist appointed to undertake the design, installation and manufacture of a statue to Frederick Douglass.

Based on previous experience of commissioning public art pieces, it was expected that the process could take 6 to 9 months, dependent on the project plan submitted by the appointed artist and subject to obtaining the necessary statutory approvals. It was envisaged that the final piece should be installed in Summer 2023. This was caveated by securing all the necessary approvals, that there was no time delay or costs implications of materials selected by the artist for the final piece and that there were no issues/delays with services given the piece will be located in the City Centre.

The Director of Physical Programmes advised that regular updates would be provided to the Installations: City Hall/City Hall Grounds Working Group during this process. As the project moved forward, the Members would be asked to give consideration to the planned public unveiling.

The Members agreed with the recommendations.

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Bereaved Families to Covid NI

The Project Sponsor provided the Members with background to Bereaved Families to Covid in Northern Ireland, a support group for Covid bereaved families. She explained that it was established by the Family of Ruth Burke, Newtownabbey, Co. Antrim who suffered the devastating loss of their mother on March 24th, the first woman to pass away to Covid19 in Northern Ireland. In Strabane, Co. Tyrone, Bredge and Owen Ward would pass away within 12 hours of each other on 16th November 2020. Another family left devastated. The Ward and Burke families like so many others who had lost loved ones during the pandemic had no goodbyes. Traditional funerals were restricted, the norms were suspended. Two families, like thousands linked together by a common loss during the pandemic.

Ciaran Ward (Son of Bredge and Owen) and Brenda Doherty (daughter of Ruth) had come together to discuss ways they could support other families bereaved through Covid19, while honouring the loss of all the families bereaved during the pandemic, whatever the illness. They had established a private Facebook group - Support Group for Covid Bereaved NI, in May, which had 138 members.

The Project Sponsor continued to highlight that those bereaved through Covid19 had faced similar grief, unable to visit hospitals to hold their loved one's hands, comfort them, no wakes, restricted funerals. In some cases, unable to touch/carry the coffin, unable to dress their loved ones in their final clothes. After the funeral was over, they were unable to meet family or friends to comfort each other, tell stories or share in collective grief.

A representative of the Group had contacted the Council to request that it give consideration to:

- I. The erection of a permanent memorial for all of those who lost their life during the Covid pandemic
- II. A permanent location for the Memory Stones of Love; and
- III. Give consideration to hosting the Lost Lace Project in Belfast.

Erection of Permanent Memorial

The Project Sponsor advised that officers had held exploratory meetings with representatives of the Group who had requested that Council give consideration to the erection of a permanent memorial to those who lost their lives during Covid. It had been suggested that this might take the form of a living memorial located in one of Belfast City Council's parks. The Group had suggested:

- A living memorial, centre piece designed artwork, possibly around a fountain (Fountain of Life);
- Trees to signify the loss of life, seen as a lasting symbol of life, giving family and friends a place to visit and feel close the person who has passed away;
- Flowers for seasons, wall of colour eg March daffodils;
- Benches/picnic tables, areas to meet and talk to share experiences; or
- Plaques telling the story of the pandemic

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It was proposed that the memorial tell the story of the pandemic recognising the impact it had on the community of Northern Ireland not only on those families who suffered bereavement due to Covid related illnesses but other families who suffered bereavements during this period but were unable to attend funerals for their relatives and as such go through the grieving process.

The Project Sponsor explained that Members were only requested to provide initial views on the request for the erection of a permanent memorial. The Members noted that at this stage this would be subject to further discussions with Elected Members and Committee approval, subject to budget availability and all necessary due diligence requirements.

Memory Stones of Love

The Project Sponsor informed the Members that The Memory Stones of Love had been on display in the Lord Mayor's Parlour during the previous Lord Mayor's term of office. The group had requested that Council give consideration to hosting the Memory Stones of Love on a permanent basis. She provided additional background to The Memory Stones of Love which had come about as a result of the group wanting to begin to create a memorial for all of those who had lost their lives during the pandemic. It was inspired by Rami's Heart in New Jersey with now over 300 stones representing not only people from across Ireland but with stones from abroad as well.

The Project Sponsor stated that the group advised that they saw the Memory Stones of Love as a beginning of a permanent memorial. They group had commented that it would be good to see that local council districts had acknowledged the lives lost through the pandemic by adding memorials to our towns and cities. In addition, they had hosted an event in Stormont, stating that the response from the MLA's that took time out to see the stones and met with families was positive. They hoped in the near future to see their request for a permanent memorial to honour the lives lost as well as essential/key workers, community groups and volunteers would become a reality.

The Members were asked to provide initial views and thoughts on the request to permanently host the Memory Stones of Love Project.

The Members noted that at this stage this would be subject to further discussions with Elected Members and Committee approval, subject to budget availability and all necessary due diligence requirements.

Lost Lace - Request for Council to Host Exhibition

The Project Sponsor provided the Members with background to 'Lost Lace' which was a commemorative arts project comprising of 10,000 lace roses remembering all those lost to Covid across Ireland. The project had been funded by the Dublin City Arts Office and the Office of Public Works and would be on display in Dublin during October 2022 and Bereaved Families to Covid in Northern Ireland had requested that an invitation to attend be extended to the Lord Mayor of Belfast.

The Project Sponsor advised that, in addition, they had requested that Belfast City Council give consideration to hosting the exhibition in Belfast next year 2023. The group had indicated that there had been no public commemoration held in Northern Ireland and

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suggested that hosting the project could be used to publicly commemorate those whose lives had been impacted by the pandemic and recognise the impact it had on society.

The Members were asked to provide initial views on hosting the Lost Lace commemorative art project.

The Members noted that at this stage this would be subject to further discussions with Elected Members and Committee approval, subject to budget availability and all necessary due diligence requirements.

The Director of Physical Programmes advised the Members that a commitment was not required in this first instance and that the scope of the project needed further exploration.

The Members agreed to give consideration to the erection of a permanent living memorial to those who lost their lives during the Covid pandemic; to give consideration to a location for the permanent location for the display of the Memory Stones of Love; and to give consideration to hosting the Lost Lace commemorative arts project in Belfast in March 2023 on the basis of no commitment by Council at this stage and that all proposals would be subject to budget availability and further due diligence. Officers undertook to provide a further update report to the Working Group in due course.

City Hall Statues

The Director of Physical Programmes provided an update on the progress of the City Hall Statues programme. The Members were reminded that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting on 28th March, 2022, had agreed that City Hall Statues – Winifred Carney and Mary Ann McCracken be moved to Stage 3 – Committed on the Capital Programme and that the necessary procurement processes be initiated, as required with contracts to be awarded on the basis of the most economically advantageous tenders and full commitment to deliver. The Installations: City Hall/City Hall Grounds Working Group, at its meeting on 31 May, 2022, had considered a draft Artist's Brief and agreed to a two-stage procurement process for commissioning one artist to design, manufacture and install both pieces, subject to necessary statutory approvals.

The Members of the Working Group noted that the procurement documents for the installation of the Winifred Carney and Mary Ann McCracken statues would be issued in late September 2022 and that the expected timeline for design, manufacture and installation of the two new statues (subject to necessary statutory approvals being in place). The Members further noted that one artist would be appointed to undertake the design and installation of both the Winifred Carney and the Mary Ann McCracken statues, which would ensure there was complementarity between both pieces. The Members gave consideration to public unveiling arrangements and developing a narrative around each of the new pieces.

A eMmber raised the matter of the timeframe and the public relations promotion to give the project international exposure. The Director of Physical Programmes provided assurance that Corporate Communications would be involved and she provided the rationale around the timeframe which had been timed deliberately in line with other projects.

**City Hall/City Hall Grounds Installations
Working Group**

Date of the Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Installations Working Group was scheduled for 26th October 2022 at 12.00PM.

Chairperson

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