

Public Document Pack

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

15th November, 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 a.m. on Friday, 18th November, 2022.

Yours faithfully,

John Walsh

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

3. Matters referred back from Council / Motions

- (a) Motion - Rates Freeze (Pages 1 - 4)

4. Governance

- (c) Renewal of the Scheme of Delegation for Planning (Pages 5 - 28)

5. Belfast Agenda/Strategic Issues

- (d) Smart Belfast Urban Innovation Framework 2022 - 2026 (Pages 29 - 72)
- (e) Response to Consultation on Department of Education's Draft Corporate Plan 2023 – 2028 – Every Child (Pages 73 - 108)

6. Physical Programme and Asset Management

- (b) Update on Physical Programme (Pages 109 - 130)
- (c) Asset Management (Pages 131 - 144)

8. Equality and Good Relations

- (a) Minutes of the Meeting of the Shared City Partnership (Pages 145 - 168)

9. Operational Issues

- (c) Minutes of the Meeting of the City Hall/City Hall Grounds Installations Working Group (Pages 169 - 172)

10. Issues Raised in Advance by Members

- (b) Use of the Ceremony Room, City Hall
(The Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor M. Kelly to raise)



Subject:	Motion – Rates Freeze
Date:	18th November, 2022
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, Interim City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
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
	To bring to Members' attention a motion in relation to a Rates Freeze, part of which the Standards and Business Committee, at its meeting on 25th October, referred to this Committee.
2.0	Recommendation
	The Committee is asked to consider the motion.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The Standards and Business Committee, at its meeting on 25th October, considered the following motion which had been received for submission to the Council on 1st November:</p>

Rates Freeze

“This Council recognises the impact the rising cost of living crisis will have on Council expenditure, and the pressure this will put on our existing budgets to deliver the same high-quality services.

The Council also recognises the crisis we face will demand a heightened and increases response from local government.

At a time when many people are struggling to heat their homes, or put food on the table, the Council and its partner organisations must be adequately equipped to help navigate this crisis and provide the increased support that is needed for those struggling.

During the Covid pandemic, local Councils were allocated a financial package to help them manage the additional pressures the pandemic presented.

The cost-of-living crisis is a crisis on a similar magnitude and will require additional support to be provided to local Councils, to ensure they are adequately equipped to help mitigate the impact of this crisis on communities.

The Council views any effort to increase rates as a response to these financial pressures as counter intuitive. Any move to increase rates during a cost-of-living crisis will only exacerbate problems for working class communities. It would lead to a further hike in already mounting household bills and could force more people into poverty.

The Council acknowledges the need to avoid another rates increase during the cost-of-living crisis.

As a first step toward avoiding this, the Council will write to Stormont Ministers, the Secretary of State, and the Treasury, urging them to support a financial package of additional funding to be allocated to local Councils to help them manage the cost-of-living crisis.

The Council also commits to writing to all other councils across the north, asking them to adopt a similar position of calling for an increase of government support.

This will help to ensure that all Councils are adequately equipped to provide support to communities, to pay fair wages to its employees, and deliver high quality services during the cost-of-living crisis.”

Proposer: Councillor Michael Collins

Seconder: Councillor Matt Collins

3.2	The Interim City Solicitor advised the Standards and Business Committee that those parts of the motion relating to a Council rates freeze were not competent, as setting the rate is a legal obligation and must go through a process.
3.3	<p>Accordingly, the Committee agreed that those paragraphs of the motion, deemed competent, in relation to writing to Stormont Ministers, the Secretary of State and the Treasury, urging them to support a financial package of additional funding to local Councils and writing to all other councils asking them to adopt a similar position, be referred, in the first instance, to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>This motion, if agreed, may have potential equality, good relations and rural needs implications and should be subject to our normal screening process as appropriate.</p>
	Documents Attached
	None

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Subject:	Renewal of the Scheme of Delegation for Planning
Date:	18th November, 2022
Reporting Officer:	Kate Bentley, Director of Planning and Building Control
Contact Officer:	Ed Baker, Planning Manager (Development Management)

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The Council must prepare a Scheme of Delegation for planning which sets out which decisions on Local and minor planning applications are delegated to officers. The current Scheme of Delegation was implemented in January 2020. In accordance with legislation, the Council is required to review the current Scheme of Delegation no more than every 3 years, i.e. it is next due to be reviewed by January, 2023.
1.2	This report essentially proposes to renew the existing Scheme of Delegation, subject to two minor changes, with a view to a more in-depth review at some point in the future.

1.3	The proposed amendments to Scheme of Delegation were noted by the Planning Committee on 18th October with no specific comments made. The Strategic Policy and Resources Committee is asked to agree the amendments to the Scheme as set out in this report. Under the legislation, the Scheme of Delegation must be agreed by the Department for Infrastructure (DfI).
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to approve the two minor changes to the current Scheme of Delegation for Planning with a view to it being sent to the Department for Infrastructure for approval.
3.0	Main Report
	<u>Background</u>
3.1	Section 31 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 requires a council to prepare a Scheme of Delegation which enables a person appointed by the Council to determine applications for Local development, consents, agreements or approvals required by condition. All Major applications must by law be considered by the Planning Committee.
3.2	Article 9 of the Planning (Development Management) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 states that a council must not adopt a Scheme of Delegation until it has been approved by the Department for Infrastructure. Article 11 states that a council must prepare a Scheme of Delegation at intervals of no greater than three years.
3.3	<i>Development Management Practice Note 15: Councils Schemes of Delegation</i> provides Departmental guidance. It advises that the main benefits of delegation are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to enable the Planning Committee to devote its finite time to determining applications that present issues that the Committee are best served to determine; and • delegation of planning applications to officers is critical to affecting the overall performance of the development management process as it helps to ensure that decisions are taken at the most appropriate level, costs are minimised and members have more time to concentrate on the most complex cases.
3.4	The Council first published a Scheme of Delegation in March 2015 ahead of transfer of most planning powers to councils. It was then amended in June 2017 following a review (and

	<table><tr><td>NI Delegation Rate (%)</td><td>91.5%</td><td>91.2%</td><td>92.8%</td><td>N/A</td><td>N/A</td></tr></table>	NI Delegation Rate (%)	91.5%	91.2%	92.8%	N/A	N/A												
NI Delegation Rate (%)	91.5%	91.2%	92.8%	N/A	N/A														
	<p>Table 1: % delegated decisions by year</p> <p>* Unverified</p> <p>The proportion of officer recommendations overturned by the Planning Committee is also substantially lower than the regional average as shown in table 2, below. This is positive indicator of Elected Member confidence in officer decisions in Belfast.</p>																		
3.9	<table><tr><td>Year</td><td>2018/19</td><td>2019/20</td><td>2020/21</td><td>2021/22*</td><td>2022/23**</td></tr><tr><td>BCC Delegation Rate (%)</td><td>2.5%</td><td>2.2%</td><td>3.8%</td><td>N/A</td><td>N/A</td></tr><tr><td>NI Delegation Rate (%)</td><td>11.9%</td><td>11.6%</td><td>13.9%</td><td>N/A</td><td>N/A</td></tr></table> <p>Table 2: % officer recommendations overturned by Committee</p> <p><u>Proposed adjustments to the Scheme of Delegation</u></p>	Year	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22*	2022/23**	BCC Delegation Rate (%)	2.5%	2.2%	3.8%	N/A	N/A	NI Delegation Rate (%)	11.9%	11.6%	13.9%	N/A	N/A
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3.10	<p>It is recommended that the current Scheme of Delegation is renewed subject to two minor modifications set out below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><p>Paragraph 3.8.1 – Procedure for Elected Members referring applications to the Committee. It is recommended that the window for members requesting that an application is referred to the Committee is extended from 21 days to 28 days. Furthermore, that the 28-day period runs not only from the date that the application is advertised in the newspaper but also from the date of Neighbour Notification, whichever is the later.</p><p>Paragraph 3.8.2 – Applications for demolition in a Conservation Area or Area of Townscape Character. It is recommended that this is amended so that only applications for full demolition that are recommended for approval are required to be referred to the Committee. This will allow officers to refuse applications for full demolition under delegated powers.</p>																		

3.11	<p>These changes are shown in the proposed modified Scheme of Delegation at Appendix 1, highlighted yellow for ease of reference. The current adopted Scheme of Delegation is provided at Appendix 2.</p> <p><u>Other Matters</u></p>
3.12	<p>When the Planning Committee previously considered the Scheme of Delegation in December 2019, it sought a comparison of the then proposed changes with the 2015 and 2017 Schemes of Delegated. This is provided again at Appendix 3. The proposed modifications to the current Scheme of Delegation (labelled 2019 at Appendix 3) are summarised at paragraph 3.10 of this report.</p>
3.13	<p>The Planning Committee also previously requested examples of other Schemes of Delegation. Hyperlinks to other examples are provided again below.</p> <p>Derry and Strabane Council (bottom of webpage): https://www.derrystrabane.com/planning</p> <p>Newry, Mourne and Down Council: https://www.newrymournedown.org/media/uploads/planning_scheme_of_delegation.pdf</p> <p>Horsham District Council (pages 37 and 38 of the Council's Constitution): Horsham District Council : Document Constitution of Horsham District Council (moderngov.co.uk)</p>
	Financial and Resource Implications
3.14	<p>The renewal of the current Scheme of Delegation, subject to minor modifications, will enable the Council to continue to determine planning matters in an efficient and cost-effective manner.</p>
	Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment
3.15	<p>No adverse impacts have been identified.</p>
4.0	Documents Attached
	<p>Appendix 1 – Proposed Modified Scheme of Delegation</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Current Adopted Scheme of Delegation (January 2020)</p> <p>Appendix 3 – Comparison of 2015, 2017 and 2019 (current) Schemes of Delegation</p>

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SCHEME OF DELEGATION FOR PLANNING PROPOSED AMENDMENTS OCTOBER 2022

3.8 Strategic Director of Place and Economy

The exercise of the following functions, **in line with relevant Council policies**, is delegated to the Strategic Director of Place and Economy, who may delegate his/her relevant powers to his/her deputies unless otherwise stated, namely Director (Operational) of Economic Development, Director (Operational) of Planning and Building Control and Director (Operational) of City Regeneration and Development:

Planning

3.8.1 An elected Member of the Council may request that an application that relates to a site within their District Electoral Area or within an adjoining District Electoral Area or within the City Centre¹ is referred to the Planning Committee provided that the request is made in writing or by email to Democratic Services within **28 days of either: the date that the application is publicly advertised in the newspaper; or the date of Neighbour Notification, whichever is the later**. The Member shall clearly state their reason/s for requesting referral of the application to the Planning Committee, which must be material planning considerations. The Strategic Director of Place and Economy shall determine whether the reason/s are material planning consideration/s and of sufficient importance for consideration by the Planning Committee. Democratic Services will advise the relevant Member of their decision. If the decision is not to refer the application to the Planning Committee, then the decision shall be delegated to the Strategic Director of Place and Economy. Democratic Services will notify the Member that made the request of the outcome of their request to refer the application to the Planning Committee. Where the application is to be referred to the Planning Committee, Democratic Services will notify all Members. Where an application is referred to the Planning Committee under this provision the planning service shall notify the applicant at least five calendar days before the application is discussed by the Planning Committee.

3.8.2 The functions listed below in relation to the legislation set out in Appendix C and legislation made thereunder for which the Planning Committee has responsibility. The thresholds set out at paragraph 3.8.2 (a) only apply where a representation² has been received which conflicts with the Planning Officer's recommendation. Where no representations have been received that

¹ City Centre as defined by the Draft Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan 2015

² Representation means a consultation response received during the consultation period including, but not limited to, responses from technical consultees, neighbours and the public. Conflict must be related to material planning considerations. Correspondence from an applicant is not deemed to be a Representation.

conflict with the Planning Officer's recommendation, the thresholds do not apply and the decision is delegated to the Strategic Director of Place and Economy.

- (a) determining applications for the following categories of local developments³, including building, engineering and other operations and material changes of use:
 - i. housing schemes up to and including 12 units other than proposals for change of house type on an approved scheme below 50 units;
 - ii. retailing below 500 square metres gross floor space outside the City Centre or District Centres; or below 2,500 square metres gross floor space within the City Centre or District Centres;
 - iii. office space below 5,000 square metres gross floor space;
 - iv. business, light industry, general industry and storage and distribution below 2,500 square metres gross floor space;
 - v. community-related scheme up to 500 square metres gross floor space;
 - vi. recreation and culture below 1,000 square metres gross floor space outside town centres or below 5,000 square metres gross floor space within town centres;
 - vii. hotels and hostels below 30 beds.
- (b) determining applications for landscaping, car parking and minor works ancillary to the main use of the land which they are to be located; works required for the purposes of providing disability access; the erection of smoking shelters etc.;
- (c) determining applications for alterations and extensions to residential property and ancillary and incidental residential development within the curtilage of residential property;
- (d) determining applications for change of use but excluding those relating to student accommodation; and amusement arcades;
- (e) varying **or** removing conditions except when the variation **or** removal relates to, or constitutes, a major development;
- (f) refusing any application, other than an application for major development, where all of the necessary supporting documentation has been reasonably requested but not provided to the Council within 28 days from the date of the request;
- (g) determining applications for discharge of conditions;
- (h) determining applications for a non-material change;
- (i) determining applications for works to, or demolition of, buildings or structures in conservation areas and areas of townscape character, except where it involves full demolition of a main building (excluding buildings which are ancillary or incidental) **and the officer recommendation is to grant demolition consent or planning permission;**
- (j) determining applications for listed building consent, excluding partial or full demolition
- (k) determining applications for the display of advertisements;
- (l) determining applications for certificates of lawful development (existing and proposed);
- (m) determining Pre-Application Notifications;
- (n) exercising the Council's powers in relation to the preservation of trees;

³ The definition of local development is provided for by section 25 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

- (o) the making of a screening opinion or scoping opinion in relation to Environmental Impact Assessment⁴; Strategic Environmental Assessment/Sustainability Appraisal⁵; Habitats Regulations Assessment⁶; and Rural Needs Impact Assessment⁷
- (p) enforcing all regulations and orders made under the said legislation and issuing and serving of notices;
- (q) executing works in default of compliance with any notice or order and in an emergency where empowered by statute and recovering the costs of so doing;
- (r) temporary listing of buildings including the issuing of building preservation notices and listing in urgent cases;
- (s) instituting legal proceedings, in consultation with the City Solicitor, on behalf of the Council;
- (t) authorising officers pursuant to relevant legislation for the purpose of exercising statutory powers;
- (u) lodging representations including objections, in consultation with the City Solicitor, in relation to planning applications where the Council has been notified as part of the statutory process or where the Council's interests are likely to be affected;
- (v) responding to consultations from neighbouring authorities in relation to their Local Development Plan;
- (w) administering statutory registers;
- (x) registering and removing notices and charges in the Statutory Charges Register, in consultation with the City Solicitor;
- (y) conducting of planning related appeals to the Planning Appeals Commission; Public Examinations and other planning related public inquiries;
- (z) responding to planning related consultations from Government Agencies unless the Strategic Director of Place and Economy considers that the consultation raises a significant planning issue for the Council, relates to a matter which is controversial or likely to be of significant public interest.

3.8.3 In relation to planning related Public Examinations, the Strategic Director of Place and Economy may, in consultation with the City Solicitor / Chief Executive where it is considered necessary, carry out the following functions:

- (a) agree minor, typographical or factual changes or modifications to the Council's Local Development Plan Documents; and
- (b) agree changes to the wording (but not the trigger points) of the operational policies which may change the emphasis but not the overall objectives of the policy.

3.8.4 Negotiating financial contributions from developers in respect of those agreements in which the contribution is equal to or less than £30,000.

⁴ Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017

⁵ Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004 (EAPP)

⁶ Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended)

⁷ Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland) 2016

3.8.5 The delegated functions set out above do not apply to the following planning applications:

- (a) Those made by elected members of the Council;
- (b) Those made by Council staff at senior management grade (PO12) or above and all staff in Place and Economy Department and Legal Services;
- (c) Those made by the Council;
- (d) Those in which the Council has an estate;
- (e) Proposals for major development;
- (f) There is an objection from a statutory consultee and the recommendation of the Planning Officer is to approve
- (g) Purpose built student accommodation

3.8.6 All other applications, permissions or provisions of the legislation which are not specifically listed above shall be deemed to be delegated unless otherwise provided for within this Scheme.

3.8.7 Where a function is normally delegated but raises issues which the Strategic or Operational Director believes should be considered by the Committee, that matter will be referred to the Committee.

SCHEME OF DELEGATION FOR PLANNING

APPROVED JANUARY 2020

3.8 Strategic Director of Place and Economy

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- 3.8.2 The functions listed below in relation to the legislation set out in Appendix C and legislation made thereunder for which the Planning Committee has responsibility. The thresholds set out at paragraph 3.8.2 (a) only apply where a representation² has been received which conflicts with the Planning Officer's recommendation. Where no representations have been received that conflict with the Planning Officer's recommendation, the thresholds do not apply and the decision is delegated to the Strategic Director of Place and Economy.

¹ City Centre as defined by the Draft Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan 2015

² Representation means a consultation response received during the consultation period including, but not limited to, responses from technical consultees, neighbours and the public. Conflict must be related to material planning considerations. Correspondence from an applicant is not deemed to be a Representation.

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 - iii. office space below 5,000 square metres gross floor space;
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 - v. community-related scheme up to 500 square metres gross floor space;
 - vi. recreation and culture below 1,000 square metres gross floor space outside town centres or below 5,000 square metres gross floor space within town centres;
 - vii. hotels and hostels below 30 beds.
- (b) determining applications for landscaping, car parking and minor works ancillary to the main use of the land which they are to be located; works required for the purposes of providing disability access; the erection of smoking shelters etc.;
- (c) determining applications for alterations and extensions to residential property and ancillary and incidental residential development within the curtilage of residential property;
- (d) determining applications for change of use but excluding those relating to student accommodation; and amusement arcades;
- (e) varying **or** removing conditions except when the variation **or** removal relates to, or constitutes, a major development;
- (f) refusing any application, other than an application for major development, where all of the necessary supporting documentation has been reasonably requested but not provided to the Council within 28 days from the date of the request;
- (g) determining applications for discharge of conditions;
- (h) determining applications for a non-material change;
- (i) determining applications for works to, or demolition of, buildings or structures in conservation areas and areas of townscape character, except where it involves full demolition of a main building (excluding buildings which are ancillary or incidental);
- (j) determining applications for listed building consent, excluding partial or full demolition
- (k) determining applications for the display of advertisements;
- (l) determining applications for certificates of lawful development (existing and proposed);
- (m) determining Pre-Application Notifications;
- (n) exercising the Council's powers in relation to the preservation of trees;

³ The definition of local development is provided for by section 25 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

- (o) the making of a screening opinion or scoping opinion in relation to Environmental Impact Assessment⁴; Strategic Environmental Assessment/Sustainability Appraisal⁵; Habitats Regulations Assessment⁶; and Rural Needs Impact Assessment⁷
- (p) enforcing all regulations and orders made under the said legislation and issuing and serving of notices;
- (q) executing works in default of compliance with any notice or order and in an emergency where empowered by statute and recovering the costs of so doing;
- (r) temporary listing of buildings including the issuing of building preservation notices and listing in urgent cases;
- (s) instituting legal proceedings, in consultation with the City Solicitor, on behalf of the Council;
- (t) authorising officers pursuant to relevant legislation for the purpose of exercising statutory powers;
- (u) lodging representations including objections, in consultation with the City Solicitor, in relation to planning applications where the Council has been notified as part of the statutory process or where the Council's interests are likely to be affected;
- (v) responding to consultations from neighbouring authorities in relation to their Local Development Plan;
- (w) administering statutory registers;
- (x) registering and removing notices and charges in the Statutory Charges Register, in consultation with the City Solicitor;
- (y) conducting of planning related appeals to the Planning Appeals Commission; Public Examinations and other planning related public inquiries;
- (z) responding to planning related consultations from Government Agencies unless the Strategic Director of Place and Economy considers that the consultation raises a significant planning issue for the Council, relates to a matter which is controversial or likely to be of significant public interest.

3.8.3 In relation to planning related Public Examinations, the Strategic Director of Place and Economy may, in consultation with the City Solicitor / Chief Executive where it is considered necessary, carry out the following functions:

- (a) agree minor, typographical or factual changes or modifications to the Council's Local Development Plan Documents; and
- (b) agree changes to the wording (but not the trigger points) of the operational policies which may change the emphasis but not the overall objectives of the policy.

3.8.4 Negotiating financial contributions from developers in respect of those agreements in which the contribution is equal to or less than £30,000.

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⁶ Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended)

⁷ Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland) 2016

- 3.8.5 The delegated functions set out above do not apply to the following planning applications:
- (a) Those made by elected members of the Council;
 - (b) Those made by Council staff at senior management grade (PO12) or above and all staff in Place and Economy Department and Legal Services;
 - (c) Those made by the Council;
 - (d) Those in which the Council has an estate;
 - (e) Proposals for major development;
 - (f) There is an objection from a statutory consultee and the recommendation of the Planning Officer is to approve
 - (g) Purpose built student accommodation
- 3.8.6 All other applications, permissions or provisions of the legislation which are not specifically listed above shall be deemed to be delegated unless otherwise provided for within this Scheme.
- 3.8.7 Where a function is normally delegated but raises issues which the Strategic or Operational Director believes should be considered by the Committee, that matter will be referred to the Committee.

APPENDIX 3 – Summary of Changes to Scheme of Delegation since 2015

Original Scheme of Delegation (2015)	Current Scheme of Delegation (2017)	Proposed Scheme of Delegation (2019)
In Planning Committee Operating Protocol only	<p>3.7.1 An elected Member of the Council may request that an application that relates to a site within their District Electoral Area or within an adjoining District Electoral Area or within the City Centre¹ is referred to the Planning Committee provided that the request is made in writing or by email to Democratic Services within 21 days of the application being publicly advertised. The Member shall clearly state their reason/s for requesting referral of the application to the Planning Committee, which must be material planning considerations. The Strategic Director of Place and Economy and City Solicitor shall determine whether the reason/s are material planning consideration/s and of significant weight to allow the application to be referred to Committee. Democratic Services will advise the relevant Member of their decision. If the decision is not to refer the application to the Planning Committee, then the decision shall be delegated to the Strategic Director of Place and Economy. Democratic Services will notify all Members within the DEA to which the application relates as to the outcome of the request to refer the application to the Planning Committee. Where an application is referred to the Planning Committee under this provision the Planning Service shall notify the applicant and any objector at least five calendar days before the application is discussed by the Planning Committee.</p>	<p>3.8.1 An elected Member of the Council may request that an application that relates to a site within their District Electoral Area or within an adjoining District Electoral Area or within the City Centre² is referred to the Planning Committee provided that the request is made in writing or by email to Democratic Services within 21 days of the application being publicly advertised in the newspaper. The Member shall clearly state their reason/s for requesting referral of the application to the Planning Committee, which must be material planning considerations. The Strategic Director of Place and Economy shall determine whether the reason/s are material planning consideration/s and of sufficient importance for consideration by the Planning Committee. Democratic Services will advise the relevant Member of their decision. If the decision is not to refer the application to the Planning Committee, then the decision shall be delegated to the Strategic Director of Place and Economy. Democratic Services will notify the Member that made the request of the outcome of their request to refer the application to the Planning Committee. Where the application is to be referred to the Planning Committee, Democratic Services will notify all Members. Where an application is referred to the Planning Committee under this provision the planning service shall notify the applicant at least five calendar days before the application is discussed by the Planning Committee</p>

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² City Centre as defined by the **Draft** Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan 2015

Original Scheme of Delegation (2015)	Current Scheme of Delegation (2017)	Proposed Scheme of Delegation (2019)
<p>3.9.1 The functions listed below in relation to the legislation set out in Appendix B and legislation made thereunder for which the Planning Committee has responsibility:</p> <p>(e) determining applications for developments of up to four dwellings;</p>	<p>3.7.2 The functions listed below in relation to the legislation set out in Appendix C and legislation made thereunder for which the Planning Committee has responsibility. The thresholds set out at paragraph 3.8.2 (a) only apply where a representation³ has been received which conflicts with the Planning Officer's recommendation. Where no representations have been received that conflict with the Planning Officer's recommendation, the thresholds do not apply and the decision is delegated to the Strategic Director of Place and Economy.</p> <p>(a) determining applications for the following categories of local developments⁴ , including building, engineering and other operations and material changes of use:</p> <p>i. housing schemes up to and including 12 units other than proposals for change of house type on an approved scheme below 50 units;</p>	<p>No change (now 3.8.2)</p>

³ Representation means a consultation response received during the consultation period including, but not limited to, responses from technical consultees, neighbours and the public. Conflict must be related to material planning considerations. Correspondence from an applicant is not deemed to be a Representation.

⁴ The definition of local development is provided for by section 25 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

Original Scheme of Delegation (2015)	Current Scheme of Delegation (2017)	Proposed Scheme of Delegation (2019)
<p>Not included</p> <p>(a) determining applications for small scale office development (up to 200sq metres);</p> <p>(b) minor alterations and extensions to, residential, community/civic, commercial or industrial premises;</p> <p>(b) minor alterations and extensions to, residential, community/civic, commercial or industrial premises;</p> <p>(b) minor alterations and extensions to, residential, community/civic, commercial or industrial premises;</p> <p>Not included</p>	<p>ii. retailing below 500 square metres gross floor space outside the City Centre or District Centres; or below 2,500 square metres gross floor space within the City Centre or District Centres;</p> <p>iii. office space below 5,000 square metres gross floor space;</p> <p>iv. business, light industry, general industry and storage and distribution below 2,500 square metres gross floor space;</p> <p>v. community-related scheme up to 500 square metres gross floor space;</p> <p>vi. recreation and culture below 1,000 square metres gross floor space outside town centres or below 5,000 square metres gross floor space within town centres;</p> <p>vii. hotels and hostels below 30 beds;</p>	
<p>(c) determining applications for minor works such as works required for the purposes of providing disability access; the erection of smoking shelters etc.;</p>	<p>(b) determining applications for minor works such as works required for the purposes of providing disability access; the erection of smoking shelters etc.;</p>	<p>(b) determining applications for landscaping, car parking and minor works ancillary to the main use of the land which they are to be located; works required for the purposes of providing disability access; the erection of smoking shelters etc.;</p>

Original Scheme of Delegation (2015)	Current Scheme of Delegation (2017)	Proposed Scheme of Delegation (2019)
(d) determining applications for the alteration and extension for residential purposes to existing residential units to include residential garages or sheds within the curtilage of an existing dwelling;	(c) determining applications for alterations and extensions to residential property and ancillary and incidental residential development within the curtilage of residential property;	No change
(j) determining applications for landscaping, car parking and other minor works to the main use of the land on which they are to be located;	(d) determining applications for landscaping, car parking and other minor works to the main use of the land on which they are to be located;	Included in 3.8.2(b)
(g) determining applications for change of use excluding those relating to purpose build student accommodation, houses of multiple occupation, amusement arcades and hot food bars;	(e) determining applications for change of use but excluding those relating to student accommodation; houses in multiple occupation unless the site is located within an HMO node in BMAP; and amusement arcades;	(d) determining applications for change of use but excluding those relating to student accommodation; houses in multiple occupation unless the site is located within an HMO node in BMAP; and amusement arcades;
(o) varying and removing conditions except when the variation and removal relates to, or constitutes, a major development;	(f) varying or removing conditions except when the variation or removal relates to, or constitutes, a major development;	No change (now (e))
(w) deeming as refused, any application where all of the necessary supporting documentation has been reasonably requested but not provided, without	(g) refusing, any application, other than an application for major development, where all of the necessary supporting documentation has been reasonably	No change (now (f))

Original Scheme of Delegation (2015)	Current Scheme of Delegation (2017)	Proposed Scheme of Delegation (2019)
reasonable excuse, to the Council within six weeks from the date of receipt of that application;	requested but not provided to the Council within 28 days from the date of the request;	
Not included	(h) determining applications for discharge of conditions;	No change (now (g))
Not included	(i) determining applications for a non-material change;	No change (now (h))
(h) determining applications for works to buildings or structures in conservation areas and areas of townscape character;	(j) determining applications for works to, or demolition of, buildings or structures in conservation areas and areas of townscape character, except where it involves full demolition of a main building (excluding buildings which are ancillary or incidental);	No change (now (i))
(i) determining applications for listed building consent, excluding demolition;	(k) determining applications for listed building consent, excluding partial or full demolition	No change (now (j))
(u) temporary listing of buildings in urgent cases;	(l) temporary listing of buildings in urgent cases;	(r) temporary listing of buildings including the issuing of building preservation notices and listing in urgent cases
(f) determining applications for the display of advertisements;	(m) determining applications for the display of advertisements;	No change (now (k))

Original Scheme of Delegation (2015)	Current Scheme of Delegation (2017)	Proposed Scheme of Delegation (2019)
(n) issuing and serving certificates of lawful development;	(n) determining applications for certificates of lawful development (existing and proposed);	No change (now (l))
(s) exercising the Council's powers in relation to the preservation of trees;	(o) exercising the Council's powers in relation to the preservation of trees;	No change (now (n))
Not included	(p) determining Pre-Application Notifications;	No change (now (m))
Not included	(q) the making of a screening opinion or scoping opinion under the Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 (or any order legislation re-enacting that legislation with or without modification);	(o) the making of a screening opinion or scoping opinion in relation to Environmental Impact Assessment⁵; Strategic Environmental Assessment/Sustainability Appraisal⁶; Habitats Regulations Assessment⁷; and Rural Needs Impact Assessment⁸
(x) generally enforcing all other statutory powers connected to the exercise of the planning functions which have been conferred upon the Council.	(r) enforcing all regulations and orders made under the said legislation and issuing and serving of notices;	No change (now (p))

⁵ Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017

⁶ Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004 (EAPP)

⁷ Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended)

⁸ Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland) 2016

Original Scheme of Delegation (2015)	Current Scheme of Delegation (2017)	Proposed Scheme of Delegation (2019)
(t) executing works in default of compliance with any notice or order and in an emergency where empowered by statute and recovering the costs of so doing;	(s) executing works in default of compliance with any notice or order and in an emergency where empowered by statute and recovering the costs of so doing;	No change (now (r))
(l) instituting legal proceedings, in consultation with the Town Solicitor, on behalf of the Council;	(t) instituting legal proceedings, in consultation with the City Solicitor, on behalf of the Council;	No change (now (s))
(m) authorising officers pursuant to relevant legislation for the purpose of exercising statutory powers;	(u) authorising officers pursuant to relevant legislation for the purpose of exercising statutory powers;	No change (now (t))
(v) lodging objections, in consultation with the Town Solicitor, in relation to planning applications where the Council has been notified as part of the neighbourhood notification scheme;	(v) lodging representations including objections, in consultation with the City Solicitor, in relation to planning applications where the Council has been notified as part of the neighbourhood notification scheme or where the Council's interests are likely to be affected by the application;	(u) lodging representations including objections, in consultation with the City Solicitor, in relation to planning applications where the Council has been notified as part of the statutory process or where the Council's interests are likely to be affected;
Not included	Not included	(v) responding to consultations from neighbouring authorities in relation to their Local Development Plan;
(q) effecting (but not cancelling or refusing to effect) registrations and maintaining statutory registers;	(w) administering statutory registers;	No change

Original Scheme of Delegation (2015)	Current Scheme of Delegation (2017)	Proposed Scheme of Delegation (2019)
(r) registering notices and charges in the Statutory Charges Register;	(x) registering and removing notices and charges in the Statutory Charges Register, in consultation with the City Solicitor;	No change
Not included	(y) conducting of appeals to the Planning Appeals Commission and planning-related public inquiries;	(y) conducting planning related appeals to the Planning Appeals Commission; Public Examinations and other planning related public inquires;
Not included	Not included	(z) responding to planning related consultations from Government Agencies unless the Strategic Director of Place and Economy considers that the consultation raises a significant planning issue for the Council, relates to a matter which is controversial or likely to be of significant public interest.
Not included	Not included	3.8.3 In relation to planning related Public Examinations, the Strategic Director of Place and Economy may, in consultation with the City Solicitor / Chief Executive where it is considered necessary, carry out the following functions: (a) agree minor, typographical or factual changes or modifications to the

Original Scheme of Delegation (2015)	Current Scheme of Delegation (2017)	Proposed Scheme of Delegation (2019)
		<p>Council's Local Development Plan Documents; and</p> <p>(b) agree changes to the wording (but not the trigger points) of the operational policies which may change the emphasis but not the overall objectives of the policy.</p>
3.9.6 Negotiating contributions from developers subject to obtaining Committee consent in respect of those agreements in which the contribution exceeds £30k.	3.7.3 Negotiating, contributions from developers subject to obtaining Committee consent in respect of those agreements in which the contribution exceeds £30k.	3.8.4 Negotiating financial contributions from developers subject to obtaining Committee consent in respect of those agreements in which the contribution is equal to or less than £30,000.
3.9.7 The delegated functions set out above do not apply to the following planning applications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Those made by elected members; (b) Those made by Council staff; (c) Those made by the Council; (d) Those in which the Council has an interest or estate. 	3.7.4 The delegated functions set out above do not apply to the following planning applications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Those made by elected members of the Council; (b) Those made by Council staff at senior management grade (PO12) or above and all staff in Place and Economy Department and Legal Services; (c) Those made by the Council; (d) Those in which the Council has an estate; (e) Proposals for major development; 	3.8.5 – no change

Original Scheme of Delegation (2015)	Current Scheme of Delegation (2017)	Proposed Scheme of Delegation (2019)
	<p>(f) There is an objection from a statutory consultee and the recommendation of the Planning Officer is to approve</p> <p>(g) Purpose built student accommodation</p>	
3.9.8 All other applications or permissions which are not specifically listed in paragraph 3.9.5 shall be deemed to be delegated unless otherwise provided for within this Scheme.	3.7.5 All other applications or permissions which are not specifically listed in paragraph 3.8.1, and which are not applications for major development shall be deemed to be delegated unless otherwise provided for within this Scheme.	3.8.6 All other applications, permissions or provisions of the legislation which are not specifically listed above shall be deemed to be delegated unless otherwise provided for within this Scheme.
3.9.9 Where a function is normally delegated but raises issues which the Director believes should be considered by the Committee, that application will be referred to the Committee.	3.7.6 Where a function is normally delegated but raises issues which the Strategic or Operational Director believes should be considered by the Committee, that application will be referred to the Committee.	3.8.7 Where a function is normally delegated but raises issues which the Strategic or Operational Director believes should be considered by the Committee, that matter will be referred to the Committee.
3.9.10 The Town Solicitor, in consultation with the Director, may refer a decision back to Committee for reconsideration.	Not included	Not included



Belfast
City Council

STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Subject:	Smart Belfast Urban Innovation Framework 2022 - 2026
Date:	18th November, 2022
Reporting Officer:	Deborah Colville, City Innovation Manager
Contact Officer:	Mark McCann, City Innovation Programme Lead

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To present the refreshed <i>Smart Belfast: Urban Innovation framework</i> , which sets out the objectives and programme of work from 2022 to 2026. This report outlines the purpose of the refreshed framework; the wider conditions necessary to support urban innovation in Belfast; and details of the Smart District and the associated programme of work being led by the Council.
1.2	In addition, the report seeks the Committee's approval for a number of the programme's first initiatives.

2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. approve the Smart Belfast urban innovation framework 2023 to 2026; 2. approve (subject to a successful award) Belfast City Council's active participation in the Ulster University-led E-Huub bid to EPSRC; 3. note the work under way with Queen's University Belfast and Ulster University on Belfast City Council's partnership on a potential £5m bid to EPSRC's Place-based Innovation Impact award programme in the Smart District; 4. note Nesta's engagement with communities and institutions on proposals for the Citizen Opportunity for Digital Innovation (CODI) programme; 5. note that a Hub-IN project roadmap is due to be published in December which include proposals for a £100,000 Challenge Fund. And the project's contribution of £10,000 to the city's Waterfront Task Group; and 6. approve the appointment of a member of the City Innovation Office to be part of the advisory board to the new Northern Ireland Public Data panel.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>The Smart Belfast urban innovation framework (final draft attached) is designed to stimulate collaborative innovation between the industry, innovative SMEs, academia, government and communities to help grow our economy and achieve our shared ambitions. It is based on the understanding that many of Belfast's complex urban challenges are not readily amenable to traditional public policy interventions but require novel solutions involving the co-operation of many innovation actors. In achieving these goals, the framework seeks to maximise investment opportunities, particularly those represented by the Belfast Region City Deal innovation and digital pillars.</p>
3.2	<p>Following approval by the Committee in December 2021, the City Innovation Team consulted widely on a draft of the framework from January to March 2022. The findings and recommendations from this consultation, and from further engagement with Members and city partners, have now been incorporated into this final draft.</p>
3.3	<p>The final framework is structured around three main elements:</p>
3.4	<p>(i) The first is the Urban Innovation ecosystem. The eight 'pillars' of the ecosystem represent the conditions necessary for innovation to flourish. Belfast already has strengths in many of</p>

	<p>these pillars, but some are at a comparatively formative stage. Responsibility for growing the urban innovation ecosystem is an ongoing and collective effort among many city partners and does not rest exclusively with Belfast City Council. Our analysis of the ecosystem, its pillars, and our recommendations for action, are the basis upon which Belfast City Council will continue to engage with other innovation partners. As such the analysis will inform the Council's position regarding its urban innovation priorities with the likes of Innovation City Belfast, BCRD partners, NI Government Depts and industry.</p>
3.5	<p>(ii) The second element is the specific programme of work that Belfast City Council will lead on over the next four years. We have engaged extensively within council, and externally with city partners, in developing this programme. It is heavily weighted in favour those city strategies to which we believe urban innovation offers significant added value. We have selected initiatives that are important to our innovation partners, particularly in the private sector and our universities and colleges; and that likely to attract funding and co-investment.</p>
3.6	<p>(iii) The last major element of the framework is the Belfast Smart District. What differentiates the new framework from the 2017 edition, is a much greater emphasis on the importance of 'place-making' for urban innovation. The Smart District is very much about grounding urban innovation concepts and initiatives in a 'real-world' environment in which they can be developed, tested, stress-tested, and scaled to success across the wider city. Evidence from most other places (including Dublin, Barcelona, Helsinki, Paris, Copenhagen) has shown that an urban innovation programme that is built within a specific, managed, urban environment can offer significant dividends to both the programme and directly to the city. Belfast city centre offers a rich environment for innovation both in terms of leveraging existing planned investments, and as a place where many of the wider urban challenges are manifest at a more intimate and tractable scale. As such it is a good fit to be the location for Belfast's Smart District.</p>
3.7	<p>The framework describes the geography of the Belfast Smart District, and the tasks that the City Innovation Office needs to accomplish in order to make it a success.</p>
3.8	<p>Finally, for sake of clarity, we have structured the framework around these three separate elements. In practice of course there is no discreet separation – activities will interconnect and reinforce each other. So, for example, the delivery of any one of the programme initiatives will both strengthen the operation of the District while also contributing to the wider ecosystem pillars.</p>

	<p>Resourcing the programme</p> <p>3.9 It is expected that individual programme initiatives will be funded through a mix of co-investment by industry, third-party funding and ‘in-kind’ contributions. An important factor in selecting initiatives is that they can attract funding either directly or through partner co-investment. Indeed, a key objective of the framework is to be a net attractor of innovation investment to Belfast.</p> <p>3.10 A key resource in this regard will be the Belfast Region City Deal. The new framework is designed to maximise opportunities for Belfast to leverage the key investments from the Digital pillar in particular (ie, the £34 million Innovation for Societal Challenge fund programme and £39 million Infrastructure Enabling Fund). An initial example of this approach in action is the £1 million ‘Augment the City’ immersive challenge call which will seek to draw down funding from the Digital Pillar to support digital innovation in relation to the visitor experience in the city centre (while also supporting other city deal partners in developing their own visitor experiences).</p> <p>Early Smart Belfast projects</p> <p>3.11 A number of opportunities have already emerged as a result of early engagement on the framework:</p> <p>Health E-HUUB project</p> <p>3.12 The Council has been asked to become a partner in a proposal being developed by Ulster University and University College London. The project, which is seeking funding from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC), will focus on the discovery, translation & commercialisation of digital health technologies. ‘E-HUUB’ will include a network of partners spanning large industry, digital health SMEs, healthcare providers, charities. The long-term vision is to harness data and digital solutions to provide a ‘digital front door’ that will empower individuals across communities in Belfast to manage their personal health and wellbeing.</p> <p>3.13 If the EPSRC bid is successful, the Council has been asked to provide access to the Smart District environment for trialling and to provide other in-kind support such as facilitating access to communities. The Committee is asked to approve, subject to a successful EPSRC application, Belfast City Council’s active participation in the programme.</p>
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	<p>Place-based Impact Acceleration Account (PBIAA)</p> <p>3.14 The City Innovation Office been engaging with both Queen's University Belfast and Ulster University on a potential Smart District-focused bid to the EPSRC's £25 million Place-based Impact Acceleration Account programme (PBIAA). The PBIAA is a strategic award that provides flexible funding to universities to enable them to drive local impacts from their research. The award is encouraging a focused place-based approach that encourages collaboration on impact between the universities, the local authority and business. It offers an exciting opportunity to drive one or more of the initiatives identified in the Smart Belfast framework.</p> <p>3.15 Applications of up to £5 million must be led by a university, with the closing date of 25 April 2023. The Committee is asked to note that, as part of the Smart Belfast programme, the City Innovation Office will seek agreement with the universities over the coming months on areas of focus that can contribute to the city's policy objectives. If agreed, details on a Belfast focused bid will be brought to Members for approval prior to submission.</p> <p>Citizen Opportunities for Digital Innovation (CODI)</p> <p>3.16 Work has begun on the 'Citizen Opportunities for Digital Innovation' (CODI) programme. The motivating idea behind CODI is that public and city institutions need to do much more to engage with people and communities on what it means to live in a 'digitally enabled city'. It has implications for personal privacy, decision-making, planning, services, and for the future of work. City institutions also need to better support citizen participation in digital innovation initiatives. Evidence for elsewhere demonstrates that digital projects are much more likely to be successful if people are involved in their co-design. CODI also has potential as an 'on-ramp' for some people to move into more formal skills and training.</p> <p>3.17 The Committee is asked to note that the City Innovation Office has commissioned Nesta's renowned Centre for Collective Intelligence Design to work with us on a seven-month pilot. With Nesta, we are talking to stakeholders who are already involved in elements of this work (eg Queen's Community and Place programme, Global Innovation Institute, Markets Development Association, Farset Labs, etc. There are also plans to trial some of the CODI concepts with communities early in 2023. Further details of the work and the proposals for scaling the CODI concept will be shared with Members following this work.</p>
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	Hub of Innovation on the Maritime Mile
3.18	Members will be aware that the City Innovation Office is managing the four-year Horizon 2020 funded Hub of Innovation and Entrepreneurship (HUB IN) project in partnership with the Maritime Belfast Trust. The project, which has attracted over €600,000 to Belfast, aims to transform and regenerate Historic Urban Areas while preserving their unique cultural and social identity. Belfast is one of eight city pilots working on this project and is co-developing new community-focused business models and innovative solutions that will bring together sustainability and cultural heritage.
3.19	The Committee is asked to note that a Hub-IN project roadmap is due to be published in December and will include proposals for a £100,000 Challenge Fund to be launched in early Spring 2023. The project is also contributing £10,000 to the city's Waterfront Task Group to support prototypes that will enhance and preserve heritage and animate the mile.
	Northern Ireland Public Data Panel
3.20	The City Innovation Office has been working with the Administrative Data Research Centre NI and Northern Ireland Trusted Research Environment to help determine the need for a 'public data panel' that would work with citizens to explore the potential for the re-use of health and other data. Recommendations from this work have now been accepted and a Northern Ireland Public Data Panel will now be established by ADRC with funding from SESRC/UKRI.
3.21	The new panel will provide a forum to engage with people on the socially acceptable re-use of public data in research, policymaking, and service provision. This will include the secondary use of health data to enhance diagnostics, therapeutic, medical research and SME growth. The work has informed our approach to the Citizen Opportunities for Digital Innovation (CODI) pilot which has just commenced.
3.22	The Committee is asked to approve the appointment of a staff member from the City Innovation Office to be part of the advisory board for the new Northern Ireland panel.
	Financial and Resource Implications
3.23	Programme development and delivery costs have been identified in the existing City Innovation team budget. As noted in the body of the report individual initiatives will proceed based on a mix of funding and co-investment from partners.
3.24	Resources for activities associated with the Belfast Region City Deal have already been identified within the existing Council City Deal budget.

	Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment
3.25	A public consultation and Equality Screening was carried out as part of the consultation programme on the draft framework. The framework was screened out; however, any significant projects that emerge during the life of the life of the framework will be subject to individual equality screenings.
4.0	Document Attached
	Final draft of the Smart Belfast urban innovation framework

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A woman with dark hair, wearing a yellow ribbed sweater, is looking upwards and to the right while holding a tablet. The background is a blue gradient with various futuristic digital overlays, including icons of a globe, a person, a city, and a network, as well as glowing lines and circles.

SMART Belfast

Belfast Urban Innovation Framework

2022 - 2026



Belfast
City Council



Contents

1. Foreword	4
• Delivering on the ambitions of the city	5
• Endorsements	6
• Belfast's digital innovation strengths	7
2. Contributing to Belfast's ambition	8
• The Belfast Agenda	9
• Belfast Bolder Vision	9
• Belfast Resilience Strategy	9
• Future City Centre programme	10
• Belfast Economic Strategy 2022-2030	10
• Belfast Region City Deal	10
3. Building our urban innovation ecosystem	11
• Collaborative leadership	12
• Urban challenges	12
• A focus on the citizen	13
• A vibrant innovation economy	13
• Data environment	14
• Financing, procurement and adoption	14
• Technology infrastructure	15
• Place-making	15
4. Our programme of work	16
• Citizen Opportunities for Digital Innovation	17
• Maritime Mile Innovation Hub	17
• Amplitude: Wireless Belfast	18
• Urban Innovation for Net Zero	19
• Belfast Urban Data Ecosystem	20
• Growing Healthy Urban Neighbourhoods	21
• Accelerating the SME Innovation Ecosystem	22
• Augment the City	23
• Supporting Advanced Urban Services	23
5. The Belfast Smart District	25
• Belfast Smart District area	26
• Key components of the Belfast Smart District	29
• Building the Belfast Smart District	30
6. City Innovation Office	34

1. Foreword



Digital innovation is having a profound effect on our economy, our city and on our lives. This impact is sometimes obvious, for example, the influence of online retail on traditional 'bricks and mortar' businesses or the way the mobile phone has changed

how we consume our entertainment. And there are times when the impact is less immediately obvious, such as the growing influence of AI algorithms.

As city leaders, we have ambitions to steer Belfast towards a successful and sustainable future, as outlined in our community plan, The Belfast Agenda. We have a responsibility to consider the impact of digital innovation on our city, our citizens and visitors, and on the services we design and deliver. It has vast potential as a force for good to help us deliver on this Agenda. It offers many new opportunities that will have a hugely positive impact on society. But it also has the potential to be disruptive in ways we can't predict.

The Smart Belfast Urban Innovation Framework is an acknowledgement by Belfast City Council that as civic leaders we cannot ignore the impact and potential disruption of digital technology. Indeed,

we have a responsibility to work with our partners from industry, academia and wider society, to harness digital innovation for the common good.

Smart Belfast is about making sure that together we put in place the conditions for collaborative innovation that will maximise the positive impact of technologies in our city. In this new framework we describe the common 'pillars' that we believe Belfast, collectively, must have in place to make this urban innovation ecosystem a reality.

We also set out Belfast City Council's specific contribution to this ecosystem. Our programme of work, to be delivered within our Smart District, is designed to contribute to the city's strategic ambitions and also contribute to these shared ecosystem pillars.

On behalf of Belfast City Council, I would like to acknowledge the many individuals and organisations from across the public, academic, community and private sectors who have contributed to the development of this framework and who continue to make Belfast a truly exciting place to innovate for the future.

At the beating heart of Smart Belfast is collaboration, and we look forward to working with you to deliver on the city's ambitions.

Councillor Emmet McDonough-Brown

Chairperson of Strategic
Policy and Resources Committee
Belfast City Council



Delivering on the ambitions of the city

Smart Belfast is based on the understanding that digital innovation has an increasingly dominant role to play in both urban, social and economic policy. Our ambition is to find ways to harness this innovation to better support Belfast's transformation to a more productive and sustainable city that provides a rich quality of life for our citizens.

First devised in 2017, the Smart Belfast Urban Innovation framework nurtures an environment in which innovators from across industry, academia, the public sector and from our communities can work together to find new ways to address Belfast's major urban and economic challenges.

Smart Belfast is constructed around the concept of 'urban innovation'. Rather than restrict the idea of innovation to a purely economic or business development agenda, we argue that there is an important, mutually beneficial interplay between growing our innovation economy and exploiting digital innovation to address major urban policy issues. These include the city's response to climate change, healthy living, sustainable urban mobility and economic transformation.

Our new framework, which runs to 2026, incorporates many important ideas that have emerged over the past few years, not least of which has been learning from society's response to the global pandemic.

We have also sought to find ways to maximise the opportunities offered by the £120 million Belfast Region City Deal digital investments that are planned for the coming decade. Our new approach acknowledges the exciting potential of new initiatives such as the Innovation City Belfast partnership.

Our refreshed framework puts much greater emphasis on the importance of place and place-making to urban innovation - an approach that has resulted in the Council's commitment to a Smart District right in the heart of the city.

Urban innovation is a collective effort. Belfast City Council can offer a leadership and convening role, but ultimately, partners and communities across the city need to work together to cultivate an urban innovation culture and ecosystem. As such we very much welcome the enthusiasm and support that Smart Belfast has received.

City Innovation Office
Belfast City Council

Smart Belfast 2017-21: Key Deliverables

The first Smart Belfast Framework was developed by Belfast City Council's City Innovation Office in 2017. It delivered a range of projects, attracted substantial investment, and influenced the wider conversation about the impact of digital technologies on our city's future.

The City Innovation Office has:

- Leveraged over £10 million of investment.
- Delivered 47 innovation projects.
- Worked with over 200 SMEs and stakeholders.
- Hosted over 30 events with 4,100 participants.
- Attracted \$1 million to establish the Belfast Office for Resilience.
- Built Northern Ireland's first free-to-use Internet of Things network.
- Showcased the best of Belfast at five international tech conferences.
- Developed a £120 million digital investment business case for the Belfast Region City Deal.
- Brought forward recommendations for the establishment of a Belfast Digital Innovation Commissioner.
- Informed the design and initiation of Innovation City Belfast, the innovation partnership of city institutions.
- Worked with Government to establish the Digital Catapult's Immersive Lab NI.
- Established a unique Smart Cities partnership with the South Korean City of Sejong.

Endorsements



**Professor Greg Clark CBE,
Chair of Connected Places
Catapult**

"Through the original Smart Belfast Framework, place leaders in Belfast demonstrated the tremendous power of civic innovation challenges to spark new solutions in place-based services. Many businesses and citizens have benefitted from this pioneering approach to market engagement and public contracting. Based on that foundation, the city and region has rightly established a reputation as a leading UK hub of innovation. Connected Places Catapult is delighted to have played a part in supporting Belfast on this journey and commends this new iteration of the Framework and all that it promises to do to extend Belfast's place as an engine of innovation and growth."



**Professor Ian Greer,
Chair of Innovation
City Belfast**

"Innovation City Belfast welcomes this urban Innovation Framework which lays down the foundations for industry, academia, communities and public institutions to work together on opportunities for collaborative gain for the city. Such partnerships are essential to support Belfast's ambition to be a globally significant destination for innovation contributing directly to the city's major economic, social and environmental challenges."



**Simon Hamilton,
Chief Executive of Belfast
Chamber of Trade and Commerce**

"I am delighted to support the Smart Belfast Urban Innovation Framework. Belfast Chamber is really interested in how businesses can benefit from the establishment of a Smart District which will provide the opportunity for businesses to trial and test new products and services in real world situations. We welcome the ambition to ensure Belfast businesses have access to the latest technology platforms and advanced wireless infrastructure."



**Patrick Hurley,
Northern Ireland Manager, Royal
Society for Arts, Manufactures
and Commerce:**

"The RSA has been at the heart of social impact for over 260 years, so I am delighted to support Smart Belfast's Urban Innovation Framework. We are particularly excited to see its focus on engaging through citizen participation and city stakeholders from all areas of society. The framework provides a sound foundation for Belfast's innovation and digital transformation."



**Steve Orr,
Chief Executive,
Catalyst**

"I am delighted to offer an endorsement for the Smart Belfast Urban Innovation Framework. It sets out some of the key ingredients to help strengthen Belfast's innovation ecosystem. The challenge approach provides the opportunity for our growing sectoral clusters to respond with relevant solutions to urban problems. The framework acknowledges the importance of citizen participation and ensures that an inclusive approach is at the heart of the digital transformation plans for the city."

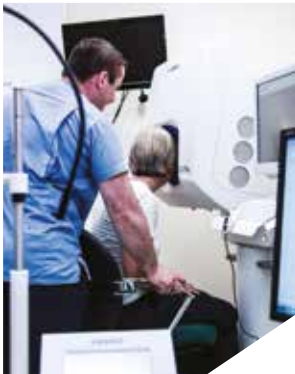
Belfast's digital innovation strengths



Belfast identified as one of the world's top 10 Digital Economies of the Future (the only UK city other than London).



2nd fastest growing knowledge economy region in UK.



#1 international investment location for US cybersecurity development projects.



#1 global destination for financial technology investment.



#1 European destination city for new medical software development projects.



NI best place to work in digital in the UK (by salary to cost of living).



26% of all job openings here in 2019 were in digital technology - the highest in UK.



300% increase in R&D investment by local businesses over the last decade.



10X increase in venture capital funding over the last decade.



Top 20 universities in UK.

2.

Contributing to Belfast's ambition

It is a significant period for Belfast. The city is emerging from the Covid pandemic whilst also facing a cost-of-living crisis. Alongside designing here-and-now responses to these immediate challenges, the city is also developing long term plans that will put in place the investments required to address the challenges generated by the wider global economic transformation and the need to respond to climate change.

Urban innovation has much to offer to help tackle these challenges. They are so significant they will require novel solutions, risk-taking and a commitment to cross-sector collaboration. Urban innovation also has an exciting and necessary contribution to offer in Belfast's transformational journey towards sustainability and global success.

In this section, we outline key plans and strategies where we believe urban innovation has a particularly important role to play.

The Belfast Agenda

First published in 2017, the city's community plan, The Belfast Agenda, has been refreshed with a roadmap for action over the next four years. The Agenda recognises the importance of high-quality places where communities can thrive; and the need to work in partnership to build an inclusive, sustainable, culturally vibrant, healthy and connected city which offers opportunities for all.



Our focus over the next four years are:

- **Our people and communities** - Making life better for all our residents.
- **Our economy** - Creating inclusive and sustainable growth, learning and opportunity.
- **Our place** - Creating a liveable and connected, vibrant and competitive city.
- **Our environment** - Creating a net-zero emissions and climate-resilient city.

Belfast Resilience Strategy

The Resilience Strategy is the city's first climate plan. It sets out 30 transformational programmes to transition Belfast to an inclusive, zero-emissions, climate-resilient economy within a generation. It provides a framework to safeguard Belfast against situations that could threaten its safety and stability over the coming years and helps us deliver our Belfast Agenda priorities.



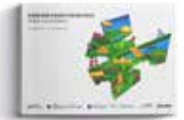
Areas of focus include:

- Climate adaption and mitigation.
- Participation of children and young people.
- Connected, net-zero-emissions economy.

The strategy's companion, the Belfast Net Zero Carbon Roadmap, has set a 2025 target of a 66% reduction in CO2 emissions from their 2000 levels. The roadmap's authors note that this challenging target will require a suite of innovative solutions.

Belfast Bolder Vision

Belfast has developed a shared approach to creating a more attractive, accessible, safe and vibrant city. Developed jointly with the NI Department for Communities and the NI Department for Infrastructure, it reflects that the changes that need to happen to ensure economic and environmental resilience are embedded within the liveability and mobility landscape of Belfast.



The Bolder Vision has identified several 'Key Moves' where partners need to intervene to transform critical parts of the city to create a green, people focused, connected city centre:

- Create a Civic Spine - establish a clearly defined and recognisable north-south civic route to provide safe and accessible movement through the city centre, including car-free streets.
- Reimagine the Inner Ring Road and End Car Dominance - transform the 'inner ring' to reduce physical severance for surrounding communities and become a sustainable mobility corridor.
- Promote City Centre Living - encourage city centre living by providing greater quality, choice and affordability of accommodation. Establish a city-wide network of people friendly routes and city parks.
- Embrace the River Lagan and Waterfront - enhance existing, and create new, riverside attractions to encourage better use of the River Lagan. Strengthen connections between the river and the city centre.

Digital innovation has a significant contribution to make in achieving the Bolder Vision. In particular the Smart District, which will be coterminous with the city centre, offers a rich, unique environment in which to innovate with communities, businesses, universities, colleges and planners.

Future City Centre programme

The programme seeks to address challenges facing Belfast city centre including the changing retail, tourism and hospitality landscape and the need to re-imagine and diversify to future-proof the city centre.



Future City Centre addresses the importance of vitality, the diversification of land, promoting mixed uses, open and green spaces and community infrastructure. Key work strands include:

- Physical regeneration and environmental improvements
- City centre vitality
- Addressing vacancies
- Positioning the city to compete
- Business support and digital innovation
- Policy

Belfast Economic Strategy 2022-2030

This strategy aims to support the sustainable and inclusive growth ambitions for the city. It aligns with the Northern Ireland Department for the Economy's economic vision 'the 10X Economy - Northern Ireland's decade of innovation'.



The strategy focuses on how the city can maximise the return on investments to benefit all our citizens.

It includes a detailed action plan which defines the role of the council and other key stakeholders in driving forward growth in the short, medium, and long-term.

Belfast Region City Deal

A once in a lifetime package of strategic regional investments, the City Deal is designed to foster: 'Inclusive economic growth that delivers more and better jobs, a positive impact on the most deprived communities and a balanced spread of benefits across the region'.



Partners include Belfast City Council, five partner councils, the two local universities and four of the region's further education colleges. Together they are investing in digital innovation, tourism and regeneration, infrastructure and employability and skills.

The 'Smart Belfast' concept has greatly influenced the nature of the digital investments.

Our urban innovation programme has been designed in part to maximise the impact of these investments:

1. A £55m Challenge Fund programme will focus on a range of Missions designed to address the regional Grand Challenges of Artificial Intelligence, Health and Wellbeing and Sustainability and Resilience.
2. A £39.5m Enabling Infrastructure Fund will support the development of the Belfast Smart District and a regional testbed network through investment in world-class digital connectivity and data infrastructure.
3. A network of Regional Innovation Hubs will ensure diffusion of innovation and skills throughout the region, and further build on regional strengths in key sectors such as advanced manufacturing.

3. Building our urban innovation ecosystem

Cities that have been most successful in adopting innovation to support their wider strategic ambitions, have established an enabling environment that encourages a culture of collaboration between many institutions and individuals.

Every city is different, but there are ‘pillars’ that are common to most urban innovation ecosystems. Looking at good practice worldwide and drawing from our own hard-won experience, we have identified a set of pillars that will make Belfast better equipped to develop and deploy novel solutions to complex challenges, while at the same time making our city one of the world’s most attractive locations for innovation investment.

The good news is that Belfast has many of the ingredients of each pillar already in place. In the following section we set out what needs to be done by all partners to grow from this position of strength, to ensure that our city is ready for the challenges of the coming decade.

3.1. Collaborative leadership

Cities that have been most successful in harnessing urban innovation foster an innovation culture within organisations and between organisations. They often set up a strategic partnership to act as a champion for this culture, building collaborations between sectors and across boundaries.

A 'quadruple helix' model brings industry, academia, communities and public institutions together to find opportunities for collaborative gain. They adopt an agile, data-driven, citizen-led approach that is open to experimentation, risk-taking and is highly responsive to rapid change.

Innovation City Belfast, of which Belfast City Council is a founding partner, is building such a partnership to establish Belfast as a globally significant destination for innovation that can directly contribute to the city's major economic, social and environmental challenges.

Key partner tasks

1. Identify and align Belfast's policy priorities with digital innovation opportunities - particularly in relation to urban development and our climate ambitions.
2. Develop an agile delivery vehicle to facilitate public/private co-investment in urban innovation projects.
3. Develop mechanisms to facilitate a citizen co-design approach and provide ethical oversight for digital innovation projects.
4. Support the development of city-level intelligence to aid prioritisation and to measure impact.
5. Create a shared Belfast urban innovation investment proposition that we can proudly promote to the world.

3.2. Urban challenges

A 'challenge' or 'mission'-led approach has been adopted by many governments and institutions across the world. Such an approach recognises the limitations of traditional public policy interventions and procurement in tackling some of the more intractable problems in society. It seeks to use other means to co-opt industry and academia to work with government and communities in co-designing innovative solutions to these challenges, while at the same time using these challenges as a spur for greater public and private sector investment in sustainable innovation and R&D.

Belfast and Northern Ireland have previously adopted elements of this approach - including Smart Belfast, the Department for the Economy's Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI) programme, and the Belfast Region City Deal partnership.

Key partner tasks

1. Build capacity amongst city partners (including the SME sector, public bodies, communities and university research partners) to support participation in challenge-led programmes.
2. Work with city leaders to define specific challenge areas aligned to urban policy priorities - particularly in relation to the city's economic, environmental and societal ambitions.
3. Work with Belfast Region City Deal partners to design and deliver the £34m mission-orientated Innovation for Societal Impact fund.
4. Public bodies to fully harness Northern Ireland's Small Business Research Initiative programme to stimulate innovation in public procurement.

INNOVATION CITY BELFAST

The leaders of seven of the city's key institutions - Belfast City Council, Belfast Harbour, Catalyst, Queen's University Belfast, Ulster University and Belfast Met - with Invest NI as an advisory partner - have formed a partnership to drive a shared digital innovation ambition for the city.

Its key objectives include:

- Influencing regional and UK policy and programmes.

- Attracting substantial new public and private sector investment in innovation.
- Supporting the rapid growth of high potential knowledge economy clusters.
- Supporting a skills agenda that prepares our workforce for the future economy
- Developing place-based innovation ecosystems.
- Maximising the economic and social impact of the Belfast Region City Deal innovation and digital investments.

3.3. A focus on the citizen

The citizen sits at the heart of Belfast's ambitions. In a complex and increasingly data-enabled world, it is important that communities and city institutions can work together to understand the impact of digital technologies on our lives and society, and to build our capacity to utilise these technologies for the benefit of all. The active involvement of individuals and communities is key to identifying urban challenges, and in developing sustainable impactful solutions.

Key partner tasks

1. Deliver an engagement programme to raise awareness of urban innovation, co-design methodologies, and the impact of digital technologies on cities.
2. Design and deliver Citizen Opportunities for Digital Innovation (CODI), a capacity-building programme to create awareness, build capacity and establish processes to support citizen co-design on urban innovation projects.
3. Work with community development and university partners to support place-based urban innovation initiatives.
4. Develop a Belfast-focused shared resource to support current and proposed Living Labs in the city to ensure the design and delivery of a portfolio of collaborative innovation projects in the Smart District.

3.4. A vibrant innovation economy

The engine for digital innovation is a modern, sustainable knowledge economy. Without a critical density of talent, start-ups, entrepreneurs, innovators and engaged industry partners, Belfast would struggle to harness urban innovation.

Fortunately, our city has enviable strengths to draw upon. We are home to a vibrant tech sector, a workforce with world-class educational attainment, and a growing skills pipeline that is responsive to the needs of a modern economy.

We have globally recognised centres of research excellence and strong digital economy clusters in areas such as creative digital, fin tech, cyber security and software development, with emerging clusters in life and health sciences.

Belfast needs to consider more broadly the specific implications of radical technological change on our economy, on businesses, on jobs and its potential to exacerbate economic exclusion.

Key partner tasks

1. Deliver the Belfast Smart District as a testbed environment to accelerate translation research, and the development and adoption of digital and data-driven technologies to tackle urban challenges.
2. Work with partners, including the Skills programme of Belfast Region City Deal and the Belfast Labour Market Partnership, to prepare our citizens, businesses and wider society for the disruption and opportunities associated with digital innovation.
3. Work with Innovation City Belfast on the development of the Belfast Innovation District which aims to support high growth SME clusters that are important to our future economic success.
4. Work with Innovation City Belfast on the design and delivery of an Inclusive Innovation programme to support communities to access and benefit from the success of a growing innovation economy.
5. Develop a shared platform to better engage with SMEs and entrepreneurs, providing targeted support.
6. Work with partners on an insights and impact platform to support the design of interventions, measure their impact, and provide quantitative evidence for investors and funders.
7. Identify and develop models of funding to align societal challenges with cluster growth, research and innovation projects.

3.5. Data environment

Data is a fundamental asset for digital transformation and a key element in driving forward Belfast's innovation economy. The decline in the cost of data collection, storage and analysis, is leading to the generation of huge volumes of data, often referred to as 'big data'.

Such data is the basis for new industries and products, supports world-class research and creates significant competitive advantages. It also plays a major role in understanding and addressing societal challenges and designing new and better public services.

There are existing limitations which prevent Belfast from realising the full potential of our data. These include insufficient analytics capability, a lack of understanding of data as an asset, limited data sharing, poor interoperability and data quality as well as a lack of necessary skills and data literacy, and a sluggish data governance environment. There is also an increasing lack of trust from the public in the collection and use of data.

Key partner tasks

1. Promotion and adoption of a common set of data principles to support urban innovation and the delivery of the Belfast Region City Deal digital programme.
2. Enhance data leadership particularly amongst public sector bodies and community planning partners.
3. Work with Open Data NI and others to encourage the generation, publication and utilisation of open data to address societal challenges.
4. Encourage use of open standards and promote interoperability between urban data systems in the city.
5. Develop and enhance data skills and capability in the public sector and communities.
6. Develop a shared urban data environment for businesses, citizens, academia and the public sector that supports collaborative innovation on urban challenges and the delivery of enhanced public services.
7. Work with partners, UK regulators and relevant networks to create a 'data sandbox' environment to support the novel use of data in the public realm.

3.6. Financing, procurement and adoption

Investment in innovation and research and development (R&D) is a defining characteristic of successful modern economies. It allows companies to adopt new ideas; it provides opportunities for SMEs to take risks and grow; and it supports research in our universities and colleges.

While NI business investment in R&D has grown, it's been from a low base compared to other UK regions. Nesta's 'The Missing £4 billion' report suggests our region has missed out on UK government R&D investment.

Our SMEs have struggled to navigate an overly complex funding landscape. And some have noted that it has been difficult locally to attract funding for their next stage of growth beyond the 'first million pounds'.

The public sector can play an important role as first customer and champion, but the region's public procurement requirements often represent a challenging hurdle for smaller companies.

The lack of access to 'real world' testbed environments also denies companies the opportunity to develop, test and scale solutions, and showcase to potential buyers. This environment is fundamental for de-risking innovation, accelerating adoption and facilitating routes to commercialisation.

Key partner tasks

1. Develop and deliver the £20 million Belfast Region City Deal Digital Innovation Venture Fund.
2. Work with Innovation City Belfast to attract greater UK Government innovation investment.
3. Establish a programme to enhance innovative public procurement and adoption of innovation solutions amongst the city's institutions that also maximises community benefits.
4. Develop a vehicle to facilitate public and private sector co-investment in smart city projects.
5. Develop an 'access to finance' platform to support SMEs, fund designers and public policy managers to reduce administrative burdens and provide clarity of the funding landscape.

3.7 Technology infrastructure

The UK Digital Strategy notes that ‘for businesses to thrive and grow, government needs to create the conditions and set the framework for investment in widespread and up-to-date infrastructure.’

Digital innovation is dependent on the existence of accessible, world-class digital connectivity and data infrastructure that is secure and reliable. Collaborative innovation flourishes best in a technological environment that encourages open systems, open interfaces, open data and the use of open source software.

Urban data platforms, and the open data ecosystems in which they exist, are designed to unlock data to support city services and understanding urban challenges.

Key partner tasks

1. Develop a shared open city architecture for technology to guide adoption and procurement.
2. Work with partners to shape the focus and potential of the £39.5 million Infrastructure Enabling Fund as part of the Belfast Region City Deal.
3. Deliver an advanced wireless investment proposition for the region funded through the Belfast Region City Deal.
4. Develop and deliver a £5 million urban data platform enabling industry, academia and the public sector to generate, manage and analyse data in ways that spur collaboration and open innovation.
5. Deliver the Belfast Smart District as a testbed where new, emerging technologies can demonstrate their potential to address societal challenges and inform future policy and interventions.
6. Support the development of digital twins to enhance the planning and management of urban systems including mobility and energy systems.
7. Incorporate the UK Connected Places Cyber Security Principles into the development of connected places in Belfast.

3.8. Place-making

To fully harness the potential of urban innovation, Belfast needs to take a ‘whole-place’ perspective that recognises the city’s unique historical and geographical characteristics and the role these play in supporting our innovation ambitions.

While innovation strategies often focus on elements such as skills, business development and enabling digital infrastructure, there are also place-based elements that are equally important in the innovation mix. We need to address factors such as the quality of life, housing, mobility, and our cultural and retail offerings. A thriving and creative city is the best place to enable urban innovation to spark.

The development of smart and innovation districts are an important approach for much of this work as they firmly ground innovation within real-world investments, challenges and opportunities. But success depends on their relationship with the wider city and how the benefits and opportunities that accrue in these locations can be accessed by citizens and communities. There are successful examples of such ‘whole place’ approaches in cities across the world including Barcelona, Berlin, Stockholm and Toronto.

Key partner tasks

1. Design and implement the Belfast Smart District to support the future of our city centre and the wider adoption of digital innovation in addressing Belfast’s major urban challenges.
2. Support the delivery of the city’s urban transformation ambitions - including the Bolder Vision, Spatial Plan and the Belfast Agenda by ensuring that opportunities for digital innovation is integrated into these key plans and strategies.
3. Support Innovation City Belfast partners on the development of the Belfast Innovation District in the city’s Titanic Quarter and City Quays area - to stimulate a community of high growth SME clusters built around research excellence that is connected to its local communities and the wider city.

4. Our programme of work

In the previous section we described the shared pillars of urban innovation, and the collective actions that we believe city institutions needs to grow the urban innovation ecosystem. In this section we set out the specific initiatives that Belfast City Council's City Innovation Office are committing to over the next four years.

These initiatives are designed to maximise the impact of urban innovation on Belfast's strategic priorities, while also making our own contribution to the ecosystem's pillars. Each initiative has been identified based on the following criteria:

- The initiative should be 'challenge-led', addressing urban issues where digital innovation can make a significant contribution.
- The initiative should contribute to the urban innovation pillars.
- The initiative should have the potential for replication or scaling across the city and wider region.
- The initiative is likely to require a collaborative, multi-disciplinary approach that can usually attract co-investment.
- The project should demonstrate a route to commercialisation or contribute to the city's wider economic objectives.

Key to urban innovation pillars



- 1 Collaborative leadership
- 2 Urban challenges
- 3 The citizen
- 4 A vibrant innovation economy
- 5 Data environment
- 6 Financing, procurement and adoption
- 7 Technology infrastructure
- 8 Place-making

Citizen Opportunities for Digital Innovation

CODI will explore how we can support our citizens and city innovators to better understand the role and impact of data and digital technologies on urban life, enabling citizens to actively participate in urban innovation to address issues that are important to them and shape the technological enabled city they live in.

CODI will utilise creative and interactive methods to explore topics such as co-design, citizen science, the Internet of Things, AI & data science, privacy, and smart cities. Learning from an initial pilot will inform proposals for a larger, longer term programme that will ensure citizens are at the heart of digital innovation projects within the Smart District and across the city.

Delivering for Belfast



- Enhance citizens' awareness and understanding technology and data-enabled cities.
- Enhance community capacity to actively participate in the co-design of digital innovation to address local and city challenges
- Support potential pathways for individuals to transition to more formal training and education.
- Enable citizens to improve the design of public policy interventions through active involvement in digital innovation projects.

Investment for Belfast



- £70,000 for delivery of the CODI pilot.
- Planned +£1 million business case for a larger scale programme.

Collaborative partners



- Belfast's community development sector
- Belfast's community planning partners
- Belfast Metropolitan College
- Nesta Collective Intelligence unit
- Queen's University
- Ulster University

Pillar contribution



Maritime Mile Innovation Hub

Belfast is working with seven European cities on a four-year programme that seeks to unlock the economic potential of historic urban areas. Together with the Maritime Belfast Trust, the local programme is focused on communities and neighbourhoods connected to Belfast's Maritime Mile.

With €7.9 million funding from Horizon 2020, the programme will support skills and business development activities to create exciting opportunities for local innovative entrepreneurship. It is designed to take advantage of the Maritime Mile's unique cultural and social offerings. Under the name 'Hub-In' - short for Hubs of Innovation - the programme will also explore new models for financing and accelerating local innovative start-ups.

Delivering for Belfast



- Challenge funding invested in local communities to support stimulate innovation and entrepreneurship.
- Enhanced innovation experience along the Maritime Mile.
- Increased footfall, dwell time and local spend.
- Enhanced local community skills in entrepreneurial and digital innovation.
- Develop a bank of transferable knowledge and toolkits for developing local community innovation initiatives across the city.
- Long term knowledge sharing with seven other European cities.

Investment for Belfast



- Over €680,000 invested in the city.
- Tailored technical expertise and advice from international partners.

Collaborative partners



- Connected Places Catapult
- Creative Industries
- European Commission
- Maritime Belfast Trust

Pillar contribution



Amplitude: Wireless Belfast

In the coming decade advanced wireless networks will become the next generation backbone for innovative digital services. They will underpin the future of services in advanced manufacturing, connected health services, film-making, tourism, and retail. It's estimated that wireless enabled services will be worth an additional £43 billion to the UK's economy by 2030. The Amplitude programme will ensure that Belfast is ahead of its UK and Irish competitors in making our city the place for wireless innovation, investment and exploitation.

The programme will bring together world-class initiatives that are already planned or underway in our Smart District, our universities and businesses and demonstrate Belfast's potential as a hub for wireless innovation. The aim is to grow further collaboration, attract additional research and private sector funding, and to encourage faster investment by the mobile industry itself. The programme will particularly focus on supporting easier access to advanced wireless services for our SMEs.

We are also working with planners, asset owners, and NI and UK governments on an action plan to reduce barriers to wireless network deployment. This will include establishing a one-stop-shop for mobile network service providers.

Finally, we are working with local partners to unlock specific locations including public sector assets, university campuses and other high demand areas to offer opportunities for developing innovative commercial models for wireless services.

Delivering for Belfast



- Faster deployment of advanced wireless services supporting enhanced SME innovation, productivity and competitiveness.
- Growth in successful research and SME grant applications.
- Greater access to mobile services across communities struggling for digital access.

Investment for Belfast



- Up to £30 million Belfast Region City Deal investment.
- Estimated £14 million direct economic benefit from proposed Belfast Region City Deal investments.
- Co-investment by industry in innovative wireless research and development.

Collaborative partners



- Belfast Region City Deal
- Digital Catapult UK
- NI Department for the Economy
- Telecoms and networks industry
- Queen's University
- UK Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport
- UK Telecoms Innovation Network (UKTIN)
- UK5G
- Ulster University

Pillar contribution



4 7

Advanced Wireless testbeds



As they roll out over the coming decade, advanced wireless networks will become the connectivity backbone for future digital services and innovations. Belfast has the opportunity right now to deploy small scale 5G testbeds, giving our industries, universities, colleges and SMEs the advantage of important early access to an innovative environment to develop, test and deploy new solutions.

Such testbeds will complement and enhance City Deal investments in areas such as digital twins, advanced manufacturing, immersive tech and connected health. We are working with City Deal partners, the wireless industry, public asset owners and university partners, to plan and deploy a supportive 5G environment that can offer important opportunities to explore inter-operability, open systems, and real-world deployment.

Urban Innovation for Net Zero

Belfast's ambition to achieve carbon net zero by 2050 is a challenging undertaking. It is widely acknowledged that there are few avenues to success that don't feature the radical and widespread adoption of digital innovation.

We are developing a joint programme of work with the council's Climate Team to find ways to stimulate collaborative innovation in areas such as urban mobility and energy production, transmission and management.

Early strands of work are focusing on the use of novel data sources such as urban Internet of Things networks, data analytics and AI to construct better models and insights into the city's existing carbon-dependent systems.

We will contribute directly to the Belfast Bolder Vision by supporting a more rapid shift to public transport and active travel options. This will include exploring micro-mobility solutions and transport alternatives, whilst supporting people to make improved sustainable travel choices. We will be guided across the Smart District by the '15 minute city' concept.

We will build opportunities within the Belfast Smart District to harness the £34 million Innovation for Societal Impact fund to encourage the region's SMEs and universities to work together with the city region on significant net zero challenges.

Delivering for Belfast



- Contribution to a reduction in carbon emissions and improved resilience.
- Enabling citizens to understand their climate impacts and options.
- Better informed climate interventions.
- Supporting the sustainable, and just, energy transition whilst providing opportunities for local SMEs to innovate.
- Improved use of technology for environmental analysis and management.

Investment for Belfast



- Bids to the £34 million Innovation for Societal Impact Fund.
- Collaborative innovation funding from UKRI and elsewhere.
- Collaborative innovation investment from Industry.

Collaborative partners

- Belfast City Council departments
- Belfast Metropolitan College
- Belfast Region City Deal partners
- Met Office
- NI Government departments
- NI Statistics and Research Agency and other data sources
- Private sector organisations
- Queen's University
- Ulster University

Pillar contribution



Belfast Urban Data Ecosystem

Recognising the underlying importance of data to urban systems and the innovation economy, this initiative focuses on those investments and activities necessary to foster a shared urban data ecosystem.

The programme builds on earlier work by Smart Belfast, and later by Belfast Region City Deal partners. It has a number of interconnected strands with privacy, security and open architecture being core characteristics running through our approach.

We will work with Belfast City Council departments to strengthen the organisation's capacity to deliver on its civic leadership role in a data-enabled smart city. And we will work with regional partners to establish a Public Data Panel, the first of its kind in Northern Ireland. This will enhance the public's understanding and direct involvement in the use of data for societal public benefit.

This work will be enhanced by the delivery of Citizen Opportunities for Digital Innovation.

Working with Belfast Region City Deal partners we will determine the specific digital investments required to support Belfast region's urban data ecosystem. Building on previous work with Fraunhofer FOKUS, the study will design a £5 million City Deal business case to provide regional partners with the architecture and platform required to support collaborative data-enabled solutions, products and services.

Alongside these main strands of work, we will continue to deliver innovative opportunities to exploit data to contribute to specific city challenges. This includes challenge-focused hackathons and developing a complex digital twin of the city centre to provide fine-grain, real-time insights into its inter-connected social, environmental, physical and economic systems. The digital twin will be used to support innovation projects including multi-modal mobility, shared asset management, the future of the high street economy, and the growth of high-potential SME clusters.

Delivering for Belfast



- Enhanced data-led public policy making and service design.
- Greater SME access to urban data to unlock new business opportunities.
- Greater awareness and direct involvement by the public in urban data solutions.
- Contribution to key urban challenges associated with net zero targets.
- Greater efficiencies and innovation in the design and delivery of public services.
- Growth in successful research and SME grant applications.

Investment for Belfast



- £100,000 from Belfast Region City Deal to deliver a feasibility study for an urban data platform.
- £5 million for Belfast Region City Deal partners to establish an urban data platform.
- Co-investment by industry partners in innovative data collaborations.



Collaborative partners

- Administrative Data Research Centre NI
- Belfast Region City Deal partners
- Information Commissioners Office
- Nesta
- Northern Ireland Trust Research Centre
- Queen's University
- Ulster University

Pillar contribution

4 5



Growing Healthy Urban Neighbourhoods

Belfast currently struggles with some of the worst health outcomes in the UK. The city is also facing demographic changes, with 40% of its population projected to be over 50 by the mid- 2030s. These represent profound challenges for policy-makers, not only in the design of new health interventions, but also for planning, transport, housing and other urban services.

The Healthy Urban Neighbourhoods programme will collaborate with the city's health sector, businesses, housing providers, community planning partners and universities to maximise the opportunities represented by urban innovation.

Within the Smart District, it is supporting projects that bring together local communities, SMEs that are developing innovative new health products, and university researchers. The approach provides opportunities for SMEs to work directly with end-users, while offering opportunities for individuals to trial new health technologies.

We are working with local universities on joint research funding applications that will extend this approach to include a 'digital health hub' in the Smart District alongside a challenge fund accelerator for health SMEs.

The programme also has ambitions to work with developers and planners to consider the requirements and integration of digital innovation within new housing developments in the city centre.



Delivering for Belfast



- Contribution to tackling loneliness in older people.
- Greater R&D investment by Belfast health SMEs.
- Contribution to the wider societal impact of major health research projects.
- Shaping long term urban capital investments to support health neighbourhoods.

Investment for Belfast



- A proportion of Connected Places Catapult's £2.5 million Homes for Healthy Ageing testbed funding.
- Potential £15 million for digital health hub initiatives.
- A proportion of the £34 million Innovation for Societal Impact Fund.

Collaborative partners



- Age NI
- Belfast Agenda partners
- Belfast City Council departments
- Belfast Region City Deal partners
- Community Development organisations
- Connected Places Catapult
- Health Innovation Research Alliance
- Health SMEs
- Health and Social Care Northern Ireland
- Queen's University
- Ulster University

Pillar contribution



2

Accelerating the SME Innovation ecosystem

At the centre of the Smart Belfast concept is the recognition that Belfast has a significant and growing innovation economy; one which is built upon the ingenuity, skill and hard work of our SMEs, start-ups and founders. Supporting this community, and finding opportunities for collaboration that are mutually beneficial, is key to the success of Smart Belfast.

Specific support for innovative SMEs therefore forms a substantial element of our programme going forward. We have sought to design this in ways that complement the extensive business development work by the Council's own Enterprise & Business Growth team, Invest NI, the Skills programme of the Belfast Region City Deal, and institutions such as Catalyst.

The most substantial strand is the collaboration with other Belfast Region City Deal partners to design and deliver radically new funding programmes that can support SMEs along their life cycle - whilst also ensuring that such programmes have a wider societal impact.

The key intervention is the £34 million Innovation for Societal Impact Fund supported by the Belfast Region City Deal. This fund will use a range of mechanisms, from small to medium sized grants through to more innovative challenge funding calls, to encourage greater investment in R&D by innovative SMEs.

Complementing this will be a £20 million Digital Innovation Venture Fund which will co-invest alongside the private sector in some of the region's most exciting SMEs as they seek to grow into world-class companies.

Alongside these funding mechanisms are a series of other activities including developing new mechanisms for SMEs to navigate the complex public and private funding landscape; developing a shared platform to better engage with SMEs and entrepreneurs, providing more targeted support; using data analytics to allow partners to gain better insights into the potential for cluster and sector growth in our economy; and supporting policy-makers to better measure the impact of their economic development interventions.

Looking beyond the region, we also recognise the attraction of the concept of the Smart District to would-be investors and international collaborators. We will seek to use new and existing networks to build opportunities with cities including Sejong in South Korea, Smart Dublin and over one hundred smart cities worldwide.

Delivering for Belfast



- Growing the number of the city's innovation SMEs.
- Contributing to growth in jobs.
- Increased investment by private sector in R&D.
- Strengthening Belfast as a place for foreign direct investment.

Investment for Belfast



- Proportion of the £20 million for Digital Innovation Venture Fund.
- Proportion of the £34 million Innovation for Societal Impact Fund.

Collaborative partners



- Belfast Metropolitan College
- Belfast Region City Deal
- Digital Catapult UK
- Industry partners
- Innovation City Belfast
- Invest NI

Pillar contribution

4 6



Augment the City

This initiative will bring together industry partners, our universities and the local creative digital sector to re-imagine the city centre experience. It will encourage the creative adoption of advanced wireless networking, cloud computing, and immersive technologies to create and showcase new opportunities for residents and visitors to explore our city's stories, architecture and environment.

At the heart of Augment the City is a challenge fund competition designed to encourage university and local SMEs collaboration and investment.

Delivering for Belfast



- A major new immersive visitor experience in Belfast City Hall.
- Increased investment in R&D in the creative digital SMEs to grow their competitiveness and productivity.
- Proofs of concepts, proto-types, and demos for commercialisation.

Investment for Belfast



The programme is expected to attract over £2 million of investment from the private and public sectors.

Collaborative partners



- Telecoms and cloud industry
- Belfast creative digital sector
- Belfast Region City Deal
- Future Screens NI
- Belfast Stories
- Digital Catapult UK

Pillar contribution



Supporting Advanced Urban Services

We are working directly with Council's departments and other public bodies to build greater innovation capacity, and to co-design interventions to establish advanced urban services for a twenty-first century city.

We will build opportunities to harness the £34 million Innovation for Societal Impact Fund to encourage SMEs across the region to work with our service managers on significant council challenges related to waste, net zero and the future of our city centre.

We are also developing a suite of innovation materials that brings together practical toolkits and playbooks in areas such as innovative public procurement, agile service design, urban data analytics and triple helix collaboration models.

As part of the All Ireland Smart Cities Forum, Mastercard's City Possible, the Global Smart Cities Alliance, and UK Smart Cities Network, Belfast is also able to avail of best practice and model urban innovation policies from across the world.

Delivering for Belfast



- More effective, efficient and enhanced council services.
- More effective routes to procuring innovation.
- Capturing best practice in public service innovation from around the globe.

Investment for Belfast



- A proportion of the £34 million Innovation for Societal Impact Fund.
- Collaborative innovation funding from Innovate UK and elsewhere.
- Collaborative innovation investment from industry.

Collaborative partners



- All Ireland Smart Cities Forum
- Belfast City Council departments
- Belfast Region City Deal
- National and international smart city partnerships

Pillar contribution





5.

The Belfast Smart District

The physical location for our programme of work is the Belfast Smart District. Co-terminous with the city centre, the District is the place where we will foster the conditions for collaborative innovation focused on Belfast's major urban challenges.

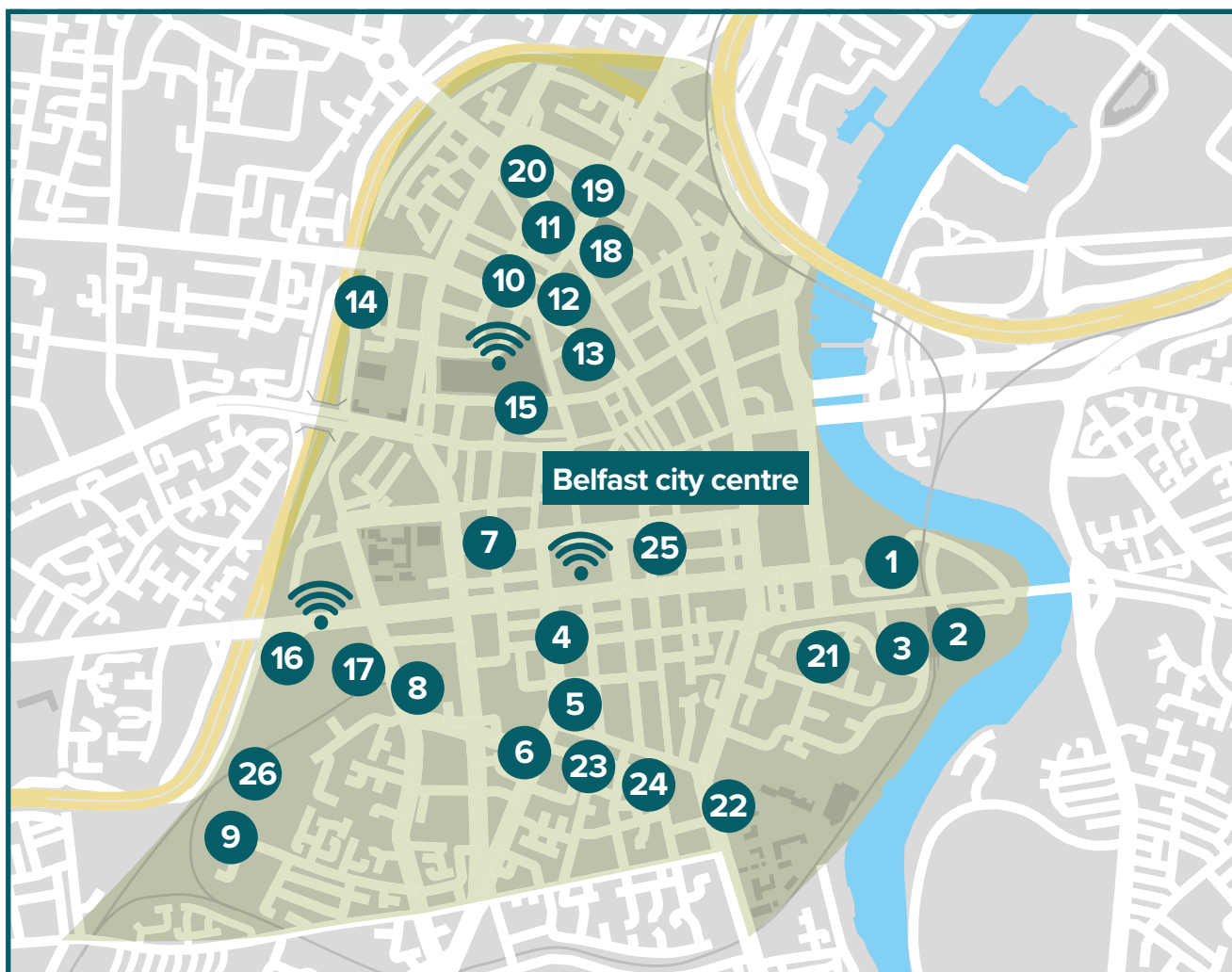
This is the place where we want partners to work with us on novel solutions to these challenges. And, when they succeed, we want to make sure these solutions are scaled or replicated across our city and region.

We are working with partners to leverage their planned investments for the city centre; to grow state of the art connectivity there; to attract public and private innovation funding, and to work with asset owners and public officials to generate opportunities for experimentation, testing, and the development of advanced urban solutions that directly address real-world challenges. Our approach is to make the Smart District the natural home for our innovators and researchers.

The Smart District will be the place where Belfast can demonstrate and showcase its talent and ingenuity to the world.

Belfast Smart District area

Key investments providing a rich environment for the delivery of the Smart Belfast programme.



Corporates

1. BT Ireland Innovation Centre
2. Concentrix
3. Allstate NI
4. EY
5. BBC Northern Ireland
6. Kainos
7. PwC
8. Deloitte
9. Civica

Regeneration schemes

10. Belfast Stories
11. The Sixth
12. Cathedral Gardens
13. Tribeca Belfast
14. Inner North West
15. 2 Royal Avenue
16. Weavers Cross
17. Belfast Transport Hub

Research

18. Ulster University
19. Virtual Production Studio
20. Centre for Digital Health Technologies
21. Homes for Healthy Ageing testbed

Innovation and co-working hubs

22. The Gasworks
23. Ormeau Baths
24. Digital Catapult NI
25. Ulster Bank Entrepreneur Accelerator
26. Farset Labs



Opportunities for wireless connectivity innovation.



Corporates

1. BT Ireland Innovation Centre

A £28m R&D centre with Ulster University, focused on advanced research in IoT, AI, 5G and data analytics.

2. Concentrix

The US business services giant has three offices in Northern Ireland, providing a range of customers experience and digital solutions to a range of sectors across the world.

3. Allstate NI

Northern Ireland's largest IT company employs over 2,400 people and provides expertise in areas such as data, cybersecurity and FinTech.

4. EY

The international consultancy has a significant Belfast practice which is home to its UK and Ireland Delivery Centre.

5. BBC Northern Ireland

As well as operating TV, radio and online broadcasting services, BBC NI is involved in a range of initiatives that support the creative industries sector and skills development in Northern Ireland.

6. Kainos

Providing digital technology solutions for businesses and organisations, Kainos, Northern Ireland's first homegrown FTSE 250 firm, will relocate to its new headquarters at Bankmore Square by 2026.

7. PwC

PwC's Belfast office is its largest regional office outside of London and home to some of its global centres of excellence including a £40m Advanced Research and Engineering Centre.

8. Deloitte

Professional services company Deloitte delivers a range of technology and digital transformation services with expertise in areas such as robotics, cyber security and FinTech.

9. Civica

Based at Weavers Court, Civica delivers digital transformation initiatives for a range of organisations including the public sector.

Regeneration schemes

10. Belfast Stories

A signature £100m cultural visitor destination in the heart of the city featuring: the Belfast Story contemporary visitor experience; the Belfast Film Centre; creative and digital skills spaces; inspirational architecture and civic spaces.

11. The Sixth

Located in the former Belfast Telegraph building, this mixed-use scheme includes 30,000 square metres of commercial space, state-of-the-art workspace, and active ground floor uses such as cafés, restaurants and retail.

12. Cathedral Gardens

A multi-million pound redevelopment will transform this area into a unique world-class public space with an urban forest, public art, interactive audio-visual water and lighting features, outdoor dining areas and a range of play features for children.

13. Tribeca Belfast

A prime 12-acre city centre regeneration scheme, investing £500m to deliver 1.5 million sq ft of residential, office, retail, hospitality and cultural space.

14. Inner North West

A 42 acre city centre site incorporating residential, commercial, retail and leisure, together offering a sustainable and integrated urban living environment.

15. 2 Royal Avenue

A city centre space with a new approach to experiential tourism and culture in the city, hosting a wide variety of events and experiences delivered in partnership with the city's cultural sector.

16. Weavers Cross

A £380m transport led regeneration project which will link a new high-capacity transport hub with mixed-use development opportunities.

17. Belfast Transport Hub

Replacing the existing Europa and Great Victoria Street bus and rail stations, the new Belfast Grand Central Station will be the largest integrated transport facility on the island of Ireland when it opens in 2025.

Research

18. Ulster University

£250m investment in Ulster University's new Belfast campus, delivering a world-class facility to 15,000 students and staff.

19. Virtual Production Studio

The £1.6 million state-of-the-art studio at Ulster University provides access to cutting edge production and VFX facilities which are unique to the island of Ireland.

20. Centre for Digital Health Technologies

A £45m Ulster University centre for digital healthcare and associated living labs in the areas of cardiology, diabetes, respiratory and stroke.

21. Homes for Healthy Ageing testbed

Trialling innovative approaches to healthy ageing, this testbed in the Markets Area is part of the £2.5 million Connected Places Catapult 'Homes for Healthy Ageing' Programme.

Innovation and co-working hubs

22. The Gasworks

Home to the Ormeau Business Park, this entrepreneurial community includes emerging businesses, spin-outs and start-up companies.

23. Ormeau Baths

Originally a Victorian bathhouse, now an award-winning co-working space for some of our brightest and best tech start-ups. Supported by over 20 global partners and home to Ignite NI and Energia.

24. Digital Catapult NI

The NI regional centre of Digital Catapult UK connects industry and academia to build innovative partnerships and helps organisations to adopt advanced digital technologies.

25. Ulster Bank Entrepreneur Accelerator

Based at Ulster Bank's iconic Belfast headquarters, the hub helps businesses access new markets, funding and talent.

26. Farset Labs

A community funded charity, this coworking space provides a hub of creativity, technological experimentation and entrepreneurship.

Key components of a Smart District

1. A challenge rich environment

The district should be a place where innovators can solve problems for the city. It is the laboratory for real-world experimentation, trials and testbeds. It should help bring ideas out of the lab and into the streets. And then onwards for adoption across the entire city and region.



2. Size

The geography needs to be large enough to deliver substantial projects, but not so large that resources for management and delivery are spread too thinly.



3. Opportunity and investment

It must be a place where substantial public and private investments are being planned. And where organisations are already delivering projects and programmes.



4. People

Innovation is all about people. The district needs to be a place where people want to meet, live, work and play. This generates opportunities to share knowledge, exchange ideas and invest together.



5. Innovation actors

The district needs to be close to universities and colleges, SME incubators, and enterprises with a commitment to investing in local innovation.



6. Data and connectivity

The backbone and fundamental resource for digital innovation. State-of-the-art fibre and advanced wireless connectivity should be within the reach of any innovator. A place where huge quantities of data are generated, stored and shared - in ways that are transparent, secure, trusted and accessible.



7. Key transport connections

The Smart District should be at the centre of public and active transport connections, to help foster the exchange of ideas, talent and opportunities.



8. A showcase to the world

The Smart District is our showcase to the world, demonstrating our ability to innovate and build great products and services. And to provide an example of how a city can address the great urban challenges of the 21st century.



Building the Belfast Smart District

A successful Smart District has a number of features that have to be nurtured and developed. Alongside our core programme, the City Innovation Office will be working with partners on each of the following:

1. Build governance and operational capacity

The District requires a quadruple helix partnership, between industry, academia, public bodies and citizens, to set goals, to help define priorities and the project portfolio, and to ensure an approach that maximises the range of opportunities. This group, convened by Belfast City Council, will interconnect with the work of Innovation City Belfast, the Bolder Vision steering group, and others to ensure the District contributes to wider economy and societal goals.

Operationally, the Smart District will be supported by Belfast City Council's City Innovation Office.

Key tasks

1. Establish the Smart District governance and delivery arrangements.
2. Develop detailed operational and resourcing plans.
3. Develop a reporting and insights model to track the impact of the District.
4. Establish an agile operational model to leverage resources from key partners and funders.

2. Telling our story

Strong, engaged partnerships are at the heart of a Smart District. Within Belfast city centre there is an existing innovator community and a complex range of other stakeholders, investors, businesses, universities and colleges, service providers, residents and visitors. Much of the early work in the District involves engaging with these stakeholders on shared opportunities, challenges, and the potential for collaboration.

We also want to share the learning and the successes from our District with the wider city, region and the world. We want the District to be a place where innovators (from large international enterprises to two-person start-ups) want to be.

Key tasks

1. District level engagement programme with stakeholders with a focus on an opportunity audit.
2. Deliver a marketing and communications campaign to share the ambition for the District and its contributory relationship with the city's wider ambition.
3. Work with Invest NI and others to utilise the District in the support of the wider promotion of the city as a place to invest.
4. Build an online learning and playbook resource to support the wider replication and adoption of Smart District successes across the city and region.

3. Establish a sustainable financing model

Belfast City Council has committed a core operational resource for the District. However, longer term sustainability will be dependent on a blend of funding and financing mechanisms. Initially, the core investments will come from the Digital pillar of the Belfast Region City Deal which will make substantial funding available for challenge funds and to support necessary infrastructure investments.

We will also leverage the substantial public and private sector capital investments planned for the city and seek to influence their priorities to enhance the District. For example, other cities have worked with developers to ensure that new builds or street works can facilitate the rapid deployment of fibre and wireless connectivity.

There is also substantial public funding for digital innovation available from UK Research and Innovation, UK Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, Horizon Europe, etc. A functional Smart District becomes a serious attractor for such funding by adding weight to project applications from academia and industry.

Over the longer term, some smart districts have established special purpose vehicles that are able to use a mix of private and public investment to create a self-sustaining smart district programme. Belfast will explore this option.

Key tasks

1. Design opportunities to leverage the £34 million Innovation for Societal Impact Fund.
2. Design opportunities to leverage the £40 million infrastructure Enabling Fund.
3. Opportunity analysis with our partners, particularly our local universities, of forthcoming Government funding opportunities against Smart District objectives.
4. Engagement with District investors (both public and private) on co-investment opportunities.
5. Develop an intelligence hub - for use by all partners including SMEs and public sector to navigate the complexity of the funding landscape.

Funding for innovation

The Smart District will draw upon a range of funding sources, including the Belfast Region City Deal, Innovate UK, UKRI, Horizon Europe and others to drive greater investment in innovation. Support mechanisms will be designed to encourage SMEs, innovators, academia and the public sector to collaborate on smart district challenges - while at the same time supporting innovation along the Translational Research Levels. Complementing existing support, this may include:

- Start-up challenges to help build early-stage innovators' capacity and to support their entry to market. Challenges are broad to attract a wider pool of innovators, with staged funding to funnel and target investment support.
- District-centred prizes bring the District's stakeholders and innovators together to develop solutions and focus more on early stage innovations that need to be tested and developed.
- Spotlight prizes focusing on urban problems that have been neglected. Usually existing solutions to these problems or issues lack nuanced understanding of end users' needs.
- Testbed prizes stimulate innovation in support of policy or regulatory objectives and to inform future policy in the District. These will be of particular interest to city planners and regulators with an interest in deploying innovation across the city.
- Breakthrough prizes are used to create transformative solutions to difficult problems. They are often ambitious projects with tightly-defined goals seeking technological solutions, offering larger funding pots and longer time-frames.
- Scaling prizes scale transformative solutions to achieve wider impact. These typically target a small pool of innovators and set quantifiable targets to reward scaling to kickstart a potential market.
- Small Business Research Initiative - SBRI provides a further mechanism for public sector bodies to explore innovation solutions in a pre-commercial procurement phase. Their aim is to support the development of new solutions not available on the market.

4. Supporting citizen co-design

The role of the citizen is particularly important in the success of urban innovation. The District, and the programme associated with it, cannot be imposed on the citizens who live or work in the city centre. Projects are more effective and better targeted if they are co-designed with the end-user. This co-design approach adopts some techniques from the software industry, but also requires community capacity building and tailored engagement to ensure that projects are trusted and meet the people's needs.

This is not about training in technology or software development. It is about understanding challenge definition, the innovation process, and the opportunities and issues associated with smart city technologies. The approach can act as an 'on-ramp' to more formal skills development and education opportunities for individuals and communities.

Key tasks

1. The design and delivery of the Citizen Opportunities for Digital Innovation (CODI) programme.
2. Work with city partners to develop a shared user-centred methodology to support the design of significant Smart District projects.
3. Create opportunities to inform the wider skills agenda of key partners.

5. Enhancing digital and data connectivity

We want to make the Smart District one of the most digitally connected spaces in the world. The aim is to offer easily accessible, ubiquitous, low-cost, low latency, high capacity connectivity, on an architecture that encourages innovation and discourages vendor lock-in and legacy systems.

This is a challenging undertaking in a dense urban environment, but we believe that with necessary private and public sector investments, we can make the District the primary location for digitally connected innovators.

The District is a data-rich environment. Our partners, projects and technologies will generate huge quantities of novel data. Such data becomes an important catalyst for innovation if it can be made available to partners in a safe, transparent and open fashion. Working from a set of agreed data principles, we aim to work with partners to establish a data architecture and urban data platform for the city.

Key tasks

1. Deliver a Belfast Region City Deal business case for investment to support advanced wireless networking across the District.
2. Work with public sector and other partners on a 'Site as a Service' product that ensures relevant physical assets are available for the rapid deployment of connectivity.
3. Deliver a feasibility study and Belfast Region City Deal business case for £5 million investment in an urban data platform for the District and wider region.
4. Develop and adopt a shared technology architecture with partners to support an open architecture that fosters collaboration on open innovation.
5. Work with partners to pilot, showcase and scale wireless connectivity demonstrators in the District.
6. Maximise the investments in Belfast's Local Full Fibre Network (LFFN).

6. Sandbox and testbed environment

The District is the go-to location for universities and businesses to develop proofs of concepts, test proto-types and trial new products and services. It is a place where commercial solutions are deployed and showcased to the city and the world.

To do so, we are working with the universities, businesses, asset owners, regulators, health and safety organisations and others to identify, reduce or remove the barriers that often make such work difficult in the real-world environment. We are also establishing cohorts of engaged end-users who can work with innovators to co-design and participate in the development of new urban solutions.

Key tasks

1. Work with institutions, such as the UK Information Commissioner's Office, Ada Lovelace Institute, Financial Conduct Authority, Health and Safety Executive, university ethics committees and others to develop a supportive urban 'sandbox' environment.
2. Deliver engagement and capacity building programmes to develop citizen cohort groups.
3. Work with public sector partners on a joint barrier-busting resource that will seek to remove unnecessary administrative burdens on innovation projects.

7. Replication, scaling, and showcase

While the District is the initial focus for urban innovation, the longer-term aim is to take the hard-won learning and successes from projects developed in the District and scale or replicate them across the wider city and region. So, for example, if a mobility project is shown to have encouraged greater uptake of active travel in the District, then the project can be adopted by agencies across Belfast. We might also want to showcase this success at a national or international level, particularly if it's associated with a novel solution that can be commercialised by the SME that developed it.

For this to work, we need mechanisms to track and capture details of the project portfolio. We will work with city partners to share learning. We are also establishing promotional channels to ensure that learning and successes are celebrated and showcased across the world.

The 'first customer' is an important role for SMEs that have developed a novel product. Our aim is to work with our public sector partners to encourage innovative procurement of products developed in the District.

Key tasks

1. Put in place a knowledge capture mechanism for District projects that will be available to all stakeholders.
2. Develop an innovative procurement playbook for public sector partners with Connected Places Catapult and Invest NI.
3. Work with Invest NI, Innovation City Belfast and others on a joint marketing plan to showcase the District and the work of its researchers and SMEs.

6. City Innovation Office

The City Innovation Office was established by Belfast City Council to ensure that innovative thinking and approaches are placed at the heart of the strategies and plans for the city.

The Office is made up of experienced innovation brokers and specialists across a range of thematic and policy areas. It works across all of the departments in the Council and drives a range of cross sector collaborative programmes and partnerships.



Get involved

If you would like to get involved in our urban innovation ambitions for Belfast, we're keen to work with you, so let's collaborate to innovate.



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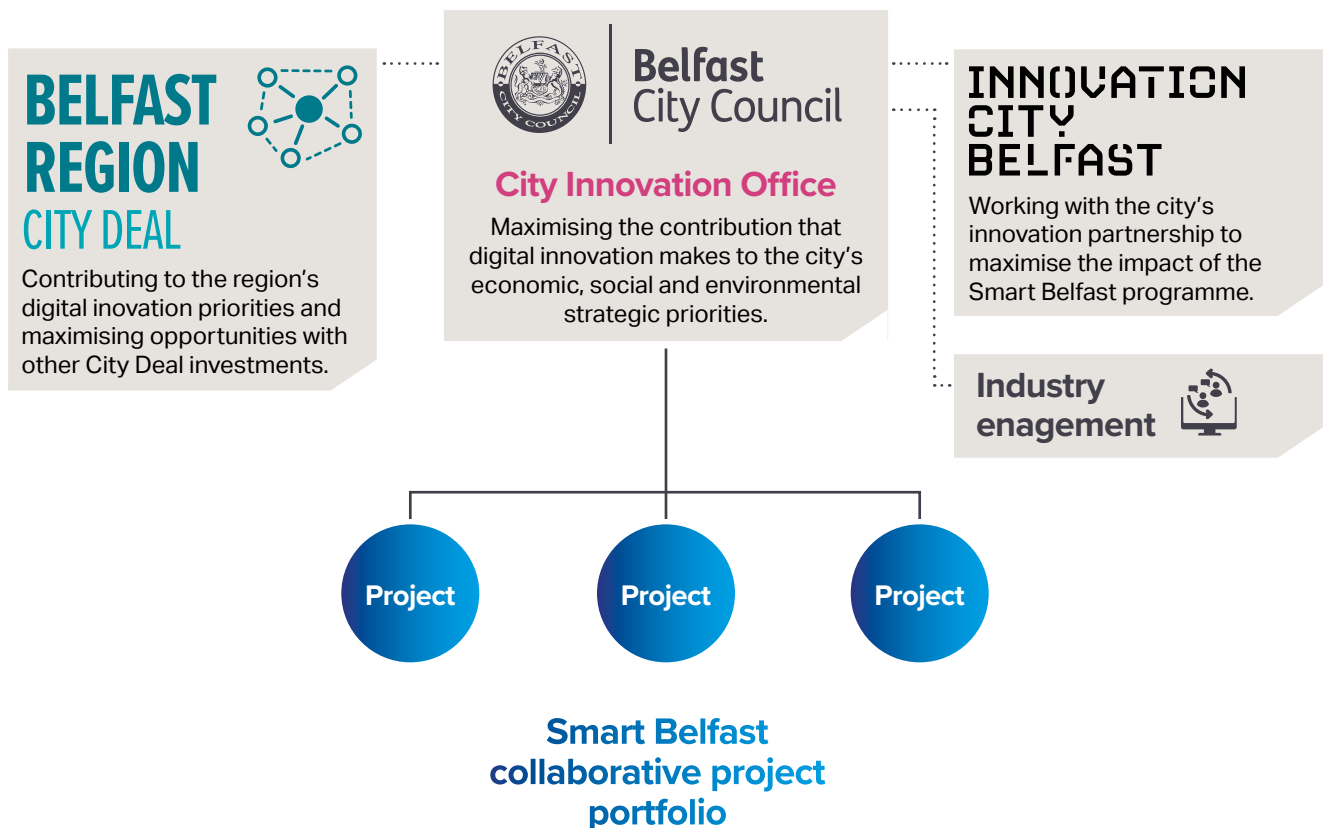


www.smartbelfast.city



[#smartbelfast](https://twitter.com/smartbelfast)

Governance



Key partners

A number of organisations have been important in the development of this framework. They include:

- Belfast Harbour
- Belfast Region City Deal Executive Board
- Catalyst
- Connected Places Catapult
- Digital Catapult NI
- Eindhoven Brainport
- European Network of Living Labs
- Global Institute on Innovation Districts
- Innovation City Belfast
- Institute of Innovation and Public Purpose
- Invest NI
- Nesta
- NI Department for the Economy Innovation Team
- Queen's University Belfast
- Ulster University

Measuring our impact

Working with our innovation partners, we are establishing an evaluation framework that measures the impact of our investments, and the contribution that urban innovation is making to the city's 'missions'.

We are particularly interested in the novel use of digital technology to reduce the reporting burden of SME partners while providing timely, fine grain insights that can inform agile programme design and delivery.

Our approach is building on the work of Innovate UK, and University College London's Institute for Innovation & Public Purpose, and on the Belfast pilot project, 'Measuring the Impact of Public Policy interventions'.

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Belfast
City Council



Subject:	Response to Consultation on Department of Education's Draft Corporate Plan 2023 – 2028 – Every Child
Date:	18th November, 2022
Reporting Officer:	John Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy
Contact Officer:	Kevin Heaney, Head of Inclusive Growth and Anti-poverty Geoff Dickson, Strategic Policy Lead Officer Clare Hutchinson, Strategic Planning and Policy Officer

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to make the Committee aware of the consultation on Department of Education's Draft Corporate Plan 2023 – 2028 – Every Child (Appendix 1) and to seek approval of the Council's draft response.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to consider the draft response and approve its submission, subject to any comments or amendment provided.
3.0	Main Report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	Members are advised that 'Department of Education's Corporate Plan 2023 – 2028 – Every Child was published in September 2022 for consultation and the closing date for responses was 15 th November 2022. Members should note that the Department of Education was unable to extend the deadline for the Council to enable it to be brought to the SP and R

	Committee in advance of submitting. Officers have, therefore, submitted a response on behalf of the Council, stating that it is subject to ratification by the SP and R Committee and the Council.
3.2	Within the draft corporate plan, the vision is that “Every child and young person is happy, learning and ready to succeed”.
3.3	<p>It proposes five Strategic Priorities that will help guide the Department towards achieving this Vision. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Championing all our children and young people and the positive impact of education on all aspects of life • Helping all our children and young people where they need support for their learning and well-being • Inspiring all our children and young people to make a positive contribution to society. • Meeting the learning needs of our children and young people and developing their knowledge and skills, enabling them to fulfil their potential. • Delivering an effective, child-focused, collaborative, high-quality education system.
3.4	<p>It provides a framework for how the Department proposes to achieve its strategic aims and outlines underpinning enablers. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborating – Partnering with our stakeholders to support co-production and achievement of shared outcomes. • Optimising – Prioritising, modernising and making most efficient use of our resources to achieve the greatest impact, including stopping or changing activities that don’t make the difference we want. • Responding – Addressing the long term impacts of the pandemic and other emerging challenges and needs faced by our children and young people and the education workforce. • Engaging – Communicating and consulting with our stakeholders to help shape our future services.

3.5	Officers have collated a draft response to the consultation at Appendix 2. Whilst the response covers a number of issues that the Council has a position on, Members are asked to note the following specific comments that have been made:
3.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As a key partner within the Community Planning Partnership the council welcomes the fact that the proposed corporate vision and values align closely with community planning principles and values. It will be important to reflect the work that the Department of Education does regionally with delivery at a Belfast level, ideally being considered and shaped via existing community planning structures/ infrastructure to ensure the most efficient and effective use of resources.
3.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring participation recognises the participatory role in decision making of children in their schools, in addition to the participation in the broader educational system. We strongly support work around encouraging and supporting all young people to identify their strengths and provide them with the opportunities to develop as individuals and contributors to society.
3.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The importance of using the education setting as a way to develop good emotional health and well-being is something we would like to see brought out more clearly and would encourage this element to be strongly reinforced in the final plan and subsequent programmes of work. In addition, supporting children with special educational needs we see as key as this is something that has come out strongly in our initial citizen/partner engagement workshops as part of our phase 2 engagement of the Belfast Agenda.
3.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We welcome the focus on the promotion of active lifestyles and healthy eating and we would encourage the Department of Education to specifically consider incorporating a focus/actions on the following areas of; developing a more Sustainable Food System throughout schools and the wider education system; adaptation of their physical estate to invest in more green space and running programmes and making changes to their physical estate/infrastructure that enable/support the shift away from car use during the school run.
3.10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are committed to improving the education and social outcomes of all children and welcome the focus on providing additional support for families and children who need it. Putting in place measures to address this is vital to ensure those children who need it can still benefit from the education setting and develop and progress. We

3.11	<p>would encourage the Department of Education to meet with the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sectoral Advisory (VCSE) Panel, who are a key member of our wider Community Planning Partnership infrastructure, to discuss any proposed plans in this area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We welcome the reference to the delivery of the Childcare Strategy and Council officers are committed to engaging with Departments and inputting into this process and advocate the need to accelerate the finalisation and implementation of the regional strategy.
3.12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We welcome the focus on alternative pathways to employment and readiness for employment support and suggest there may be an opportunity to add in a focus on ensuring that there is a greater need to address the barriers some children and young people may face to ensure that the opportunities for education provided are as equitably accessible as possible. This should take account of the fact that children have various learning styles and creating/linking young people to many different types of environments/settings is important when traditional education may not be entirely suited to them/their aspirations. We suggest this may include an increased focus on apprenticeships, Careers Service provision and more opportunities/interventions for young people to develop their confidence and softer skills which are transferable, to prepare them for the increasingly dynamic labour market.
3.13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Within the Community and Neighbourhood Regeneration theme of the Belfast Agenda, there may be opportunities to work collaboratively and enable us to take a joined up approach towards physical investment and asset transfer opportunities should they emerge.
3.14	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There are no implications associated with this report.</p>
3.15	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>There are no implications associated with this report.</p> <p>Members are advised that an equality screening and rural needs assessment have been undertaken on the draft corporate plan and this is available on the Department of Education's website.</p>

4.0	Documents Attached
	<p>Appendix 1 – Department of Education’s Draft Corporate Plan 2023 – 2028 – Every Child</p> <p>Appendix 2 - Draft BCC consultation response</p>

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EVERY CHILD: DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S CORPORATE PLAN 2023-28

Our Vision:

“Every child and young person is happy, learning and ready to succeed”

Our Values:

All in the Department of Education seek to uphold the NICS values of:

- Honesty;
- Integrity;
- Objectivity; and
- Impartiality

Our Strategic Priorities:



In implementing this Corporate Plan the Department will deliver actions and commitments within:

- ■ Children and Young People's Strategy Delivery Plan;
- ■ 'A Fair Start';
- ■ New Decade, New Approach; and
- ■ Covid-19 Recovery Strategy

CHAMPIONING all our children and young people and the positive impact of education on all aspects of life

We want our Department and all our education partners to put children and young people at the core of everything that we do. By 2028 we aspire to:

(a) Put the interests of children and young people first and provide them with a greater voice in shaping their own future

To achieve this, we will:



- Develop a participation network to improve engagement with children and young people to ensure their views are sought when developing and co-designing policy or when making decisions which impact on their educational experience; and
- Work across government to ensure the interests of children and young people and the education sector are at the fore. This will include education representation on NICS-wide groups and working with other departments to align current and future government strategies; and

(b) Develop a properly resourced education system that actively seeks to promote the benefits that education brings to our society

To achieve this, we will:



- Facilitate the completion of the Independent Review of Education and commence implementation of agreed recommendations;
- Build the case for appropriate investment in Education to support the delivery of our education services and improve outcomes for our children and young people;
- Promote intra and cross-departmental working (including opportunities for secondment of school staff) and identify, share and encourage research and best practice to inform policy development and implementation.

HELPING all our children and young people where they need support for their learning and well-being

We want to unite families, communities and educators around a shared vision to nurture healthy, confident children and young people, supported to learn and ready to lead fulfilling lives. By 2028 we aspire to:

a) Ensure every child and young person with additional or Special Educational Needs (SEN) has their needs identified and assessed as early as possible and receives provision which is timely and appropriate.

To achieve this, we will:



- Implement the new SEN policy and legislative Framework in collaboration with our partners and shape future SEN and inclusion policy development through engagement and research;
- Invest in supporting additional educational needs; train more educational psychologists and provide better training on restorative practice in schools; and
- Work with DoH to enhance assessment and support of early years children with SEN and those who are pre-term; and provide joint oversight of services for children with SEN who require therapies and other health support to be delivered in schools;

b) All our children and young people enjoy active lives and healthy minds.

To achieve this, we will:



- Continue to implement the joint DE/DoH "Children and Young People's Emotional Health & Wellbeing in Education Framework";
- Promote active lifestyles and healthy eating, including a review of school nutrition; and
- Address the impact of COVID-19 on children and young people's wellbeing through the Engage Programme and other high quality education interventions.

c) All children and young people from disadvantaged backgrounds are able to participate fully in education, leading to improved learning outcomes.

To achieve this, we will:



- Deliver DE actions in "A Life Deserved - A Strategy for Children Looked After";

HELPING all our children and young people where they need support for their learning and well-being

- Support families who need help with the costs of education and childcare through development of an Executive Childcare Strategy and delivery of accepted recommendations from the reviews of Free School Meals Entitlement (FSME) and school uniform policy; and
- Through the Extended Schools Programme, support work with clusters of local schools and other service providers to provide opportunities outside the normal school day for children and young people to develop and progress.

INSPIRING all our children and young people to make a positive contribution to society

We want an outward-looking and engaged Department, working in partnership with others, to raise aspirations and develop children and young people to make valuable contributions to society. By 2028 we aspire to:

(a) Encourage more children and young people from different backgrounds to engage together, building societal cohesion and learning to understand, respect and celebrate difference

To achieve this, we will:



- Encourage, facilitate and promote Shared Education through: expansion into Early Years and Youth Sectors, continued support of SE programmes, and progression of the Shared Education Campus (SEC) programme, including the flagship Strule SEC;
- Encourage and facilitate the development of Integrated and Irish-Medium Education;
- Progress programmes in partnership with the voluntary, community and youth sector in support of the Fresh Start Agreement / Tackling Paramilitarism Programme; and
- Support newcomer pupils in overcoming barriers to learning through a revised newcomer policy.

(b) Provide all children and young people with the opportunity, knowledge, skills, experience and support to empower them to make a positive contribution to the economy and society

To achieve this, we will:



- Enhance our readiness for employment support with a particular focus on 14-19 year olds, in conjunction with the Department for Economy, the business community and other partners;
- Support capacity to engage in lifelong learning and promote alternative pathways to learning, including vocational qualifications;
- Contribute to tackling climate change through the development of the school estate and transport; and
- Co-design regional and local youth development plans and work with statutory and voluntary youth work organisations to meet assessed needs of young people and develop personal and social skills.

Meeting the **LEARNING** needs of our children and young people and developing their knowledge and skills, enabling them to fulfil their potential

We want every child to enjoy a high-quality education and learning experience from Early Years to post primary. By 2028 we aspire to:

(a) Provide a fit-for-purpose curriculum that gives equal emphasis to skills and knowledge and empowers all children and young people to achieve their potential and to make informed and responsible decisions throughout their lives.

To achieve this, we will:



- Work closely with all education delivery partners to raise standards through more effective implementation of the Northern Ireland Curriculum and seek to reflect wider societal and environmental issues;
- Design, develop and implement new arrangements for Key Stage assessment in Northern Ireland;
- Review our policy and develop a new strategy and programme to support effective school improvement across our education system;
- Ensure that children and young people with SEN in all educational settings have the support they need to access the curriculum and achieve their learning goals; and
- Use our inspection resources efficiently to promote improvement in the quality of learning; enhancing teaching and achievement across the education system.

(b) Develop an Early Years partnership approach – educators, health providers, parents, families and communities, working together to ensure all children are supported in their early development so they are ready to learn when they reach school age.

To achieve this, we will:



- Work with delivery bodies to establish effective advice and support services for DE funded pre-school settings, and focus attention on target age pre-school education;
- Continue to support disadvantaged pre-school children (0-4 years) and their families through a collaborative approach involving parental engagement; and cooperation with DoH and the charitable, voluntary and community sectors;

- Review our Early Years programmes which target support to children and families facing disadvantage, and collaborate with Health practitioners to support our children's learning and development; and
- Promote learning through play throughout the early years of childhood, including a further resource and capital programme to support outdoor learning.

(c) Reduce the short and longer term impacts of COVID-19 on children and young people's learning, and embed improvements in education delivery arising as a result of the pandemic.

To achieve this, we will:



- Implement the "Reducing Educational Disadvantage" (RED) programme;
- Undertake a system level assessment of learners to ascertain the impact of COVID-19 on educational attainment and identify areas for improvement; and
- Improve access to learning and reduce digital poverty by expanding and accelerating the delivery of digital devices to learners; and support the use of assistive technology.

DELIVERING an effective, child-focused, collaborative, high-quality education system

We want a sustainable education system which is appropriately resourced, works in partnership, invests in its workforce and is committed to excellence and equity. By 2028 we aspire to:

(a) Deliver more modern, sustainable schools and education settings, which are committed to excellence and equity for every learner

To achieve this, we will:



- Introduce a more agile and responsive Area Planning process which will bring forward area-based solutions that create more sustainable education provision (with a focus on more sustainable provision in rural communities);
- Invest in our education estate to provide a high quality learning environment for children and young people through a combination of major works, the School Enhancement Programme and minor works schemes; and
- Develop a new equality scheme and work with partners such as the Equality Commission to embed equality in our policies and governance.

(b) Deliver a highly skilled, motivated and high-functioning education workforce, which is provided with adequate support and training to enable it to meet the needs of every learner and stakeholder it serves

To achieve this, we will:



- Support the learning and development needs of our education workforce and improve its capacity and resilience through implementation of the Learning Leaders strategy and providing more access to health and wellbeing initiatives; and
- Develop and implement a DE People Plan to enhance staff development, internal communications and support hybrid working.

(c) Deliver an efficient education system which works in partnership to meet the needs of children and young people

To achieve this, we will:



- Review DE's organisational structure to ensure our staffing and resources are allocated to the right priorities;
- Enhance our visibility; make information more accessible, provide better signposting of support services, and agree a communications strategy to reduce administrative burden for our schools and ALBs; and

DELIVERING an effective, child-focused, collaborative, high-quality education system

- Replace the General Teaching Council for Northern Ireland; commission regular reviews of each of our ALBs; and work in partnership whilst continuing to maintain good governance and fulfil our statutory obligations.

To help us deliver our Plan we will shape how we work based on the following enablers:

- **Collaborating** - Partnering with all our stakeholders to support co-production and achievement of shared outcomes.
- **Optimising** – Prioritising, modernising and making most efficient use of our resources to achieve the greatest impact, including stopping or changing activities that don't make the difference we want.
- **Responding** – Addressing the long term impacts of the pandemic and other emerging challenges and needs faced by our children and young people and the education workforce.
- **Engaging** – Communicating and consulting with our stakeholders to help shape our future services.

How will we know if we're making a difference?

We will use a range of indicators to gauge impact on our desired outcomes. These will be underpinned by tracking departmental performance measures to what we did, how well we did it and whether anyone is better off; these will be detailed within annual business plans and performance reports.

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**EVERY CHILD: DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION'S DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN
(2023 – 2028)**

CONSULTATION QUESTIONS BOOKLET

INTRODUCTION

The Department of Education is seeking views on its draft 2023-2028 Corporate Plan.

The Corporate Plan will set our strategic focus over the next five years and, working in partnership with stakeholders, it will help us make a difference and improve outcomes for children and young people.

In developing this Plan, we engaged with a wide range of internal and external stakeholders to get their views on how we could best improve these outcomes.

In addition to this, we also considered the wide range of commitments the Department has across strategies such as the Programme for Government draft Outcomes Framework, the Consolidated Covid-19 Recovery Plan, the Children and Young People Strategy, A Fair Start and The New Decade, New Approach.

This work has helped us develop a draft vision, supported by five Strategic Priorities which set out *what* we will aim to do. We also outline *how* we will take forward our work, under four Enabling Priorities. This consultation will ask you how you feel about the draft vision, priorities and strategic direction and give you the opportunity to comment on them.

Vision

Our proposed vision is one which aims to have an outward focus on children and young people, seek to develop skills – academic and otherwise – and also provide broader support for wellbeing and as a foundation for life.

Draft Vision:

Every child and young person is happy, learning and ready to succeed

Draft Strategic Priorities and Enablers:

We propose five Strategic Priorities that will help guide the Department towards achieving this Vision. These are:

- **CHAMPIONING** all our children and young people and the positive impact of education on all aspects of life
- **HELPING** all our children and young people where they need support for their learning and well-being
- **INSPIRING** all our children and young people to make a positive contribution to society.
- **Meeting the LEARNING** needs of our children and young people and developing their knowledge and skills, enabling them to fulfil their potential.
- **DELIVERING** an effective, child-focused, collaborative, high-quality education system.

Underpinning the Strategic Priorities are enablers that describe how the Department will achieve the desired outcomes. These are:

- **COLLABORATING** – Partnering with our stakeholders to support co-production and achievement of shared outcomes.
- **OPTIMISING** – Prioritising, modernising and making most efficient use of our resources to achieve the greatest impact, including stopping or changing activities that don't make the difference we want.
- **RESPONDING** – Addressing the long term impacts of the pandemic and other emerging challenges and needs faced by our children and young people and the education workforce.
- **ENGAGING** – Communicating and consulting with our stakeholders to help shape our future services.

Equality and Rural Screening

As set-out in the Department of Education's Equality Scheme, and in order to comply with the Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland) 2016, the draft Corporate Plan has been subject to an Equality Screening.

The documents indicate that there are no adverse impacts in relation to the policy proposals. As part of this consultation, we welcome any comments on the Equality Screening.

Your views matter:

We want to give everyone with an interest in education the opportunity to have a say and influence the final Corporate Plan. Your feedback will help us focus on what matters most in delivering outcomes for children and young people in Northern Ireland.

1. About You

The Department may make responses available on the website www.education-ni.gov.uk although contact names and addresses will be removed.

Please note that under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) (Annex A) your response may be made available, on request, to the public.

- ☐ If you would prefer your response to remain confidential, please tick this box.
- ☒ If you would like to be alerted when the results of the consultation are published, please tick this box.

Name

Belfast City Council

Email Address

policy@belfastcity.gov.uk

- ☐ I am responding as an individual
- ☐ I am responding on behalf of an organisation/school

If applicable, please provide the name of organisation/school you are responding on behalf of:

Belfast City Council

2. Please tick the box that best describes you as a respondent:

(Required)

- ☐ Board of Governors
- ☐ Member of the public
- ☐ Non-Teaching Staff
- ☐ Organisation

- ☐ Parent/Guardian
- ☐ Political Representative
- ☐ Pupil
- ☐ School Leader
- ☐ Teaching Staff
- ☐ Trade Union representative
- ☐ Voluntary & Community Sector
- ☐ Other (please specify in box below):

3. Please select the category which best represents your sectoral interest (tick all which are appropriate):

- ☐ Controlled
- ☐ Integrated
- ☐ Irish Medium
- ☐ Maintained
- ☐ Voluntary Sector
- ☒ Other/General Interest

4. Please select the category which best represents your interest:

- ☐ Nursery/Pre-school
- ☐ Post-Primary
- ☐ Primary
- ☐ Special
- ☐ Specialist provision primary
- ☐ Specialist provision post primary
- ☐ Youth Service
- ☒ General Interest/Other(please specify in box below):

Belfast City Council – Local Government

Timescales and Submission of Responses

This questionnaire can be completed online until 11.59pm on Tuesday 15 November 2022. If you prefer, you can email or post responses to:

DEcorporateplan@education-ni.gov.uk

or

Education Governance Team
Department of Education
Rathgael House
43 Balloo Road
Rathgill
BANGOR
BT19 7PR

Completing this Questionnaire

This consultation contains a number of statements and questions. You are asked to indicate to what extent you agree or disagree with the statements. There are a series of comment boxes available to provide additional information.

It is advisable to read the accompanying draft Corporate Plan prior to completing this questionnaire.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN CONSULTATION

The next set of questions are directly related to the draft Corporate Plan and Vision for the Department of Education which can be accessed via the following link <https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/consultations/department-educations-draft-2023-2028-corporate-plan>;

5. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the new Department of Education Vision best meets the needs of children and young people?

“Every child and young person is happy, learning and ready to succeed”

- ☐ Strongly Agree
- ☒ Agree
- ☐ Neither Agree nor Disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

Please provide additional comments:

As a key partner within the Community Planning Partnership the council welcomes the fact that the proposed corporate vision and values align closely with community planning principles and values and with various workstreams of the Belfast Agenda and community planning priorities (Children & Young People, Educational Inequalities, Employability & Skills, Community & Neighbourhood Regeneration). It will be important to reflect the work that Department of Education does regionally with delivery at a Belfast level, ideally being considered and shaped via existing community planning structures/ infrastructure.

Some additional points to highlight:

- Historically, formal educational settings have focused on academic achievement. This is still the case in Northern Ireland. While the increase of skills and development of cognitive learning processes is fundamental for a child, the tendency is to focus on one type of intelligence (Intelligence Quotient). We believe that consideration should be given to other related elements that may contribute towards every child being happy, learning and ready to succeed. While happiness is a very subjective concept, there is broad agreement that a huge factor that contributes to it is positive mental health. The efforts to achieve this element of the vision should clearly focus on providing children within the education setting opportunities to develop positive mental health patterns especially when considering the impact that Covid-19 have had. By contributing towards stable mental health in pupils, it is likely that this will have a positive effect on academic achievement.
- In addition some consideration should be given to the fact that there may be a need, in order to achieve this vision, to recognise that for some children and young people there will be additional barriers to succeeding and that these must be taken into account and plans put in place to mitigate some of these barriers.
- Consideration should also be given to how the Department of Education will measure achievement of it's vision and strategic priorities and how learning will be captured. The term success can be very subjective and as laid out in the vision statement it appears to be interlinked with the concept of educational achievement. Perhaps consideration should be given to making more explicit somewhere within the corporate plan of what is meant here by succeeding - such as having an emotional stability in life (EQ), successful social interactions (SQ) and adversity resilience (AQ) etc.

Therefore, whilst we are in broad agreement with the vision statement we would welcome a more child centred, global and ambitious bold statement of intentions where mental health, emotional, social and adversity elements of development are also taken in consideration

6. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the following Strategic Priorities meet the needs of children and young people?

“CHAMPIONING all our children and young people and the positive impact of education on all aspects of life”

- ☐ Strongly Agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neither Agree nor Disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

Please provide additional comments:

As stated earlier the Department of Education is a key member of the Community Planning Partnership. The council would welcome the opportunity to explore opportunities to connect the work being undertaken within this strategic priority with work being taken forward by the Belfast Agenda workstreams focusing on Children & Young People and Educational Inequalities.

The council welcomes the inclusion of a focus on improving engagement with children and young people and taking these views into account when co-designing policy and the commitment to work together closely with other partners to achieve its vision.

One of the strategic intents refers specifically to giving children a say in the decisions that affect them through the establishment of a participation network. While this is extremely important, we feel there is an opportunity to further draw out the fact that the bigger impact on the educational life of a child will be contained in the decisions made in his direct and close environment. In this particular case, schools and classroom settings. The effort made to ensure participation should recognise the participatory role in decision making of children in their schools, in addition to the participation in the broader educational system.

As mentioned in the section above as well as championing the role of education in the lives of children there should also be a focus within the corporate plan on using the education system /opportunity to encourage and support all young people to identify their strengths and provide them with the opportunities to develop as individuals and contributors to society.

“HELPING all our children and young people where they need support for their learning and well-being”

- ☐ Strongly Agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neither Agree nor Disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

Please provide additional comments:

The aspiration of “We want to unite families, communities and educators around a shared vision to nurture healthy, confident children and young people...” resonates with our aspiration to develop a ‘whole community approach’ towards education as outlined in the educational inequalities action plan

The council is very supportive of the fact that this corporate plan has been designed in alignment with the strategic documents as outlined and that specific actions in relation to addressing special educational needs and early years are included.

Focussing on supporting children with special educational needs is something that has come out strongly in our initial citizen/partner engagement workshops as part of phase 2 engagement of the Belfast Agenda. While not in the current educational inequalities action plan it is likely that this will be added based on feedback received and it would be good to work in partnership with the Department of Education and other stakeholders to make sure children with identified needs are provided with all of the support they need to fulfil their potential.

As outlined in the opening comments above we agree with the need for this corporate plan to recognise the importance of using the education setting as a way to develop good emotional health and well-being and would encourage this element to be strongly reinforced in the final plan and subsequent programmes of work.

We welcome the focus on the promotion of active lifestyles and healthy eating and we would encourage the Department of Education to specifically consider incorporating a focus/actions on the following areas:

1) Develop a more Sustainable Food System throughout schools and the wider education system to encourage better diets and develop supply chains that reduce food waste. The Department of Education has an important part to play and there is guidance for schools specifically (<https://www.sustainablefoodplaces.org/campaigns/>)

2) Adaptation of your physical estate to invest in more green space through our Belfast One Million Trees, Living with Water Programme, and implementation of the Green and Blue Infrastructure Plan for Belfast which would aid in reducing air pollution and improve Health and Well-Being.

3) Run programmes and make changes to your physical estate/infrastructure that enable/support the shift away from car use during the school run and encourage more active travel initiatives

We are committed to improving the education and social outcomes of all children and welcome the focus on providing additional support for families and children who need it. Putting in place measures to address this is vital to ensure those children who need it can still benefit from the education setting and develop and progress. This is made even more vital given the current cost of living crisis and we urge the Department of Education to reflect this in any budget allocation and planned programmes of work going forward.

We welcome the reference to the delivery of the Childcare Strategy and council officers are committed to engaging with Departments and inputting into this process and advocate the need to accelerate the finalisation and implementation of the regional strategy.

“INSPIRING all our children and young people to make a positive contribution to society”

- ☐ Strongly Agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neither Agree nor Disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

Please provide additional comments:

As highlighted above the Department of Education is a partner in the Belfast Agenda, and the Resilience Strategy which sits under this, which has a focus on Children and Young People and better connectivity of the city and a focus on developing climate resilience. The Department has a key role to play in enabling a better quality environment in and around its estate, in developing more active travel, key connections, and a greener city. Specific levers for the Department of Education to consider that could be used to deliver sustainable behaviour change and build climate resilience in Belfast have already been highlighted in the response above.

In addition the BCC Climate team has been working with the Department for Education on learning from and replicating the OASIS schoolyards programme in Paris. It's part of our partnership with the Real Play Coalition and Paris under the Resilient Cities Network. See “Strengthening Urban Resilience through Play” report at <https://realplaycoalition.com/>

The Urban Childhoods Report which council developed (<https://my.landscapeinstitute.org/case-study/urban-childhoods-belfast-city-centre/bab68fe7-502e-eb11-bf6f-00224801c8ab>) highlights that education around active travel, placemaking and urban greening is important to the development of children. This should tie in with DfE's corporate objectives. Schools are central to this transition within our communities and elements of this could be considered when finalising the corporate objectives.

According to a recent Arup Report (<https://www.arup.com/-/media/arup/files/publications/a/active-school-travel-index-arup.pdf>) in NI, just 1% of primary and 0% of post primary students cycled to school in 2018/19 and 67% of primary school children, and 35% of post primary school children are driven to school every day. There is significant opportunity to increase these numbers given 79% of primary and 46% of post-primary students live within 3 miles of their schools. The Department of Education has a key role to play in enabling behaviour change and a modal shift to walking and cycling where it is possible.

Action (a) *Encourage more children and young people from different backgrounds to engage together, building societal cohesion and learning to understand, respect and celebrate difference*, has the potential to connect to work that is being taken forward by Belfast City Council's Good Relations Unit and action (b) *Provide all children and young people with the opportunity, knowledge, skills, experience and support to empower them to make a positive contribution to the economy and society* aligns closely with work being taken forward by the educational inequalities and employability and skills groups and is particularly welcome. As outlined in the first response

above it is vital that this work is shaped by our community planning partners and infrastructure to ensure the most efficient and effective use of resources.

As touched on in an earlier response above council welcome the focus on alternative pathways to employment and readiness for employment support and there may be an opportunity to add in a focus on ensuring that there is a greater need to address the barriers some children and young people may face to ensure that the opportunities for education provided are as equitably accessible as possible. Specific areas to consider could include:

1. Cognisance of various learning styles and creating/linking young people to environments when traditional education is not suited to them/their aspirations
2. Increased focus on apprenticeships as pathways rather than traditional academic routes
3. Increased relevance of Careers Service provision to meet learners needs and ensure they are aware of opportunities especially within key growth sectors
4. More opportunities/interventions for young people to develop their confidence and softer skills which are transferable skills to prepare them for the increasingly dynamic and precarious labour market.

All of the above considerations are very much in line with what we are looking at going forward in the refreshed Belfast Agenda and in our aspirations as a Community Planning Partnership to create an inclusive city, where no-one is left behind.

In addition council ran a pilot Belfast Summer Work Experience programme to 30 14-21 year olds. Participants completed employment specific tasks and met employers. All 30 completed the programme and achieved Level 1 City and Guilds in Personal Development and Employability. This pilot is currently being evaluated and it would be good once this is complete to work closely with partners to identify future opportunities to provide support to young people outside of the normal school day.

One specific initiative we are developing is the creation of an Inclusive Growth City Charter, which we are branding The Belfast Business Promise. This is a free accreditation scheme which all organisations will be encouraged to sign up to deliver more positive social impact as a local employer. There are 8 key Promise Pledges and 2 specifically focus on working with employers around pre-employment support and community engagement. As a key Anchor Institution within Belfast it would be fantastic to see the Department of Education become an Early Adopter as part of pilot due to commence March 2023. We believe the corporate plan would be an excellent opportunity to show the Departments intent by inserting a reference to this in the plan.

“Meeting the LEARNING needs of our children and young people and developing their knowledge and skills, enabling them to fulfil their potential”

- ☐ Strongly Agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neither Agree nor Disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

Please provide additional comments:

Action (a) *Provide a fit-for-purpose curriculum that gives equal emphasis to skills and knowledge and empowers all children and young people to achieve their potential and to make informed and responsible decisions throughout their lives* “ aligns closely with our draft plans within the Children and Young People section of the refreshed Belfast Agenda and it would be good to connect this work to that being taken forward by the Belfast Area Outcomes Group.

Action (b) *Develop an Early Years partnership approach – educators, health providers, parents, families and communities, working together to ensure all children are supported in their early development so they are ready to learn when they reach school age* closely aligns with the work being taken forward by the educational inequalities group and it will be good to continue to work in partnership with Department of Education in relation to this over the coming months and years. With regards to action (c) there are opportunities to use the educational inequalities group to help shape the delivery of the Reducing Educational Disadvantage Programme at a local level. The council would be keen that this group is used to explore opportunities to add value, build collaborative gain and improve outcomes for the RED programme

Whilst elements of this may have been touched on in other areas of the document there may be an opportunity to include more of a focus on working on creating and developing alternative learning environments to support young people to engage in education and meet their individual learning needs.

As highlighted earlier this response welcomes the focus on supporting those children and families who face particular disadvantage and the focus on working with partners and the charitable, voluntary and community sectors. We would encourage the Department of Education to meet with the Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Sectoral Advisory (VCSE) Panel, who are a key member of our wider Community Planning Partnership infrastructure, to discuss any proposed plans in this area. As already highlighted above resources are at a premium and we recognise how valuable a resource this sector can provide alongside a deep understanding of community issues.

“DELIVERING an effective, child-focused, collaborative, high-quality education system”

- ☐ Strongly Agree
- ☐ Agree
- ☐ Neither Agree nor Disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

Please provide additional comments:

Within the Community & Neighbourhood Regeneration theme of the Belfast Agenda we are seeking to take a joined up approach towards physical investment and neighbourhood

regeneration supported by the development of 4 place-based community plans and seeking to explore opportunities for Community Wealth Building. Within this context there may be opportunities to work collaboratively as part of your proposed area planning process as outlined. This would enable us to take a joined up approach towards physical investment and asset transfer opportunities should they emerge.

There is evidence suggesting a decrease in size of schools grounds, despite evidence showing the importance of school grounds (<https://www.ltl.org.uk/school-grounds/>) and we encourage the Department to work with the Council in a partnership approach to review the use of these assets, along with the surrounding community assets, and ensure they are used to their full potential.

7. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the Enabling Priorities **(Collaborating, Optimising, Responding and Engaging)** meet the needs of children and young people?

- ☐ Strongly Agree
- ☒ Agree
- ☐ Neither Agree nor Disagree
- ☐ Disagree
- ☐ Strongly disagree

Please provide additional comments:

The council are pleased that collaborating is a fundamental pillar to how the Department of Education will deliver their corporate plan – we would see the established community planning structures, which includes our Area Partnership Board and VCSE Panel, as the best vehicle for collaboration and partnership working in Belfast and look forward to continuing to work in partnership..

In addition council values the focus on engaging directly with children and young people and their support systems/partners and have a number of areas of work currently underway to facilitate this for use as a corporate body. We currently have a very active Youth Forum in place and are looking at a number of participative democracy initiatives.

The importance of ensuring that the development of the estate is done with the benefit of the environment and building climate resilience has been covered earlier in this response.

8. Do you feel there are key areas that are missing that you would like to see the Department working on? Please comment below:

N/A – highlighted throughout the document as applicable

- 9.** Do you agree with the outcome of the Equality Screening and/or are there any considerations that should be reflected in future documents?

N/A – highlighted throughout the document as applicable

- 10.** Are there any further comments that you would like to make in relation to the draft Corporate Plan? Please comment below:

N/A

ANNEX A – FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – CONFIDENTIALITY OF CONSULTATIONS

The Department will publish a summary of responses following completion of the consultation process. Your response, and all other responses to the consultation, may be disclosed on request. The Department can only refuse to disclose information in exceptional circumstances. Before you submit your response, please read the paragraphs below on the confidentiality of consultations and they will give you guidance on the legal position about any information given by you in response to this consultation.

The Freedom of Information Act gives the public a right of access to any information held by a public authority, namely, the Department in this case. This right of access to information includes information provided in response to a consultation. The Department cannot automatically consider as confidential information supplied to it in response to a consultation. However, it does have the responsibility to decide whether any information provided by you in response to this consultation, including information about your identity (personal data), should be made public or withheld from release under relevant exemption.

This means that information provided by you in response to the consultation is unlikely to be treated as confidential, except in very particular circumstances. The Freedom of Information Code of Practice and good practice established from the implementation of the FOI Act provides that:

- the Department should only accept information from third parties in confidence if it is necessary to obtain that information in connection with the exercise of any of the Department's functions and it would not otherwise be provided;
- the Department should not agree to hold information received from third parties "in confidence" which is not confidential in nature; and
- acceptance by the Department of confidentiality provisions must be for good reasons, capable of being justified to the Information Commissioner

For further information about confidentiality of responses please contact the Information Commissioner's Office (or see website at: <http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk/>).

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Subject:	Update on Physical Programme
Date:	18th November, 2022
Reporting Officer:	Sinead Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes
Contact Officer:	Shauna Murtagh, Programme Manager

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	<p>The Council's Physical Programme currently includes 170 capital projects with investment of £150m+ via a range of internal and external funding streams, together with projects which the Council delivers on behalf of external agencies. The Council's Capital Programme forms part of the Physical Programme and is a rolling programme of investment which either improves existing Council facilities or provides new facilities. This report requests a movement on the Capital Programme for the Carson Tile project which is part of the City Hall programme. This report also provides an overview of recently completed capital projects, funding secured and contracts awarded.</p>

2.0	Recommendations						
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Capital Programme - agree that the <i>City Hall Statues City Hall Grounds - Carson Tile</i> project is moved to delivery stage i.e. <i>Stage 3 – Committed</i> on the Capital Programme.▪ Physical Programme Update - note the update on projects that have been completed recently and projects currently in construction.▪ Contracts Awarded in Q2 and Q3 2022/23 – note the update in relation to contracts awarded.						
3.0	Main Report						
3.1	<p>Members will be aware that the Council runs a substantial Physical Programme. This includes the rolling Capital Programme – a multimillion regeneration programme of investment across the city which improves existing Council assets or provides new council facilities. The Council also delivers externally focused funding streams such as BIF, LIF and SOF, as well as numerous capital programmes that we deliver for central government. Our funding partners include NHLF, SEUPB Peace IV, the Executive Office via Social Investment Fund and Urban Villages, DfC, DfI, DAERA, Ulster Garden Villages and others. When appropriate, the Physical Programmes Department is happy to arrange site visits to any projects that have been completed.</p>						
3.2	<p>Proposed Movement – Capital Programme</p> <p>Members have previously agreed that all capital projects must go through a Three Stage process where decisions on which projects progress are taken by Strategic Policy & Resources Committee. This provides assurance on the level of financial control and will allow Members to properly consider the opportunity costs of approving one capital project over another capital project.</p> <p>The Committee is asked to agree to the following movements on the Capital Programme:</p> <table><tr><th>Project</th><th>Overview</th><th>Stage movement</th></tr><tr><td>City Hall - Carson Tile</td><td>Installation of Carson Tile</td><td>Move to Stage 3 - Committed</td></tr></table> <p>Carson Tile</p>	Project	Overview	Stage movement	City Hall - Carson Tile	Installation of Carson Tile	Move to Stage 3 - Committed
Project	Overview	Stage movement					
City Hall - Carson Tile	Installation of Carson Tile	Move to Stage 3 - Committed					
3.3	<p>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 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,</p>						

	<p>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> <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. The SP&R Committee was updated on this in May 2021 and approved the installation of a plaque with the final design to be agreed. At Committee on 23 September 2022, Members agreed the design for the Carson Tile to be installed in the Rotunda in City Hall. It was further agreed in October 2022 that the material be specified as black granite.</p> <p>In January 2020, the SP&R Committee agreed to add <i>City Hall Statues – City Hall Grounds</i> as a <i>Stage 1 – Emerging</i> project on the Capital Programme. The Carson Tile project falls within this programme of work and has progressed to business case stage. It is therefore recommended that the Carson Tile project be moved to Stage 3 - Committed.</p>
3.4	<p><u>Physical Programme – Projects Completed and Underway</u></p> <p>Members are aware of the scale of the Council's Physical Programme via a range of internal and external funding streams. Below is a brief summary of projects completed over the last few months, as well as a sample of projects currently underway.</p> <p><u>Recently completed projects:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major schemes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ St Comgall's - £7m restoration of former school to create a multi-use community hub BIF project with Executive Office's SIF Programme ○ Páirc Nua Chollan – £5.6m - Belfast's new city park funded by Urban Villages and DfC • Capital Programme schemes: Boodles Dam works to the Dam and environmental improvements, Clarawood Playground, Cavehill Adventurous Playground, Ormeau Park (Park Road) Playground, Waterfront / ICC Escalators, Waste Transfer Station Weighbridges, Covered cycle stands (Belmont Park, Inverary Community Centre, Belvoir Activity Centre), Ballysillan and Whiterock 3G pitches with DfC, Balmoral Bowling Club, Sea lion and lion enclosure works at Belfast Zoo. • BIF Programme: Lisnasharragh Community Schools Project, Davitt's GAC, H&W Welders FC/Blanchflower Playing Fields, TAGIT Boxing Club

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LIF Programme: St John Bosco Boxing Club, Wishing Well Family Centre play space • Living with Water Programme - Belfast Castle SUDS pilot project • Other externally funded projects: Mornington Community Project with Executive Office – SIF Programme on behalf of Executive Office. VOYPIC/Include youth on behalf of DfC, ProKick Gym on behalf of Urban Villages, Expansion of Belfast Bikes network via DfI Active Travel Enablers Blue and Green Infrastructure Fund, Revitalisation on behalf of DfI and DfC – Adelaide St upgrade, Electric bike trial e-cargo project and the Entries Phase 1.
3.5	<p><u>Projects Underway:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lagan Gateway Greenway Phase 2 – major investment of £5m in a new navigation lock, iconic foot and cycle bridge and new path connections. • City Cemetery Heritage Project - £2.3m scheme to protect, enhance and promote the cemetery's rich heritage. The new service yard is completed. The restoration of the Mortuary Tower & exterior of Foxes Lodge is completed. Visitor centre is completed and work is ongoing in preparation for opening. 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. Design and procurement works are underway with regards to Dual Language signage throughout the site. • LTP Templemore Baths – £17m restoration of Templemore Baths with a focus on heritage and spa provision, nearing completion • Forth Meadow Community Greenway – an ambitious and transformational £5m scheme which will see the development of a new 12km urban greenway in West Belfast. Section 1 – Glencairn – Works complete. Works underway: Section 2 – Forth River/ Springfield Road, Section 3- Falls Park/Whiterock, Section 4 – Bog Meadows. Section 5 – Westlink to City Centre - at detailed design stage. • Peace IV projects - Shankill Women's Centre – underway, Black Mountain Shared Space Centre – mobilisation stage • Urban Villages projects – major schemes at Marrowbone Millennium Park and Ballysillan Playing Fields and Pitt Park, acting as delivery agent for Colin Valley FC, ABC Trust Health and Leisure Trust and Colin HLC. <p><i>Projects in development:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Cathedral Gardens, New Crematorium, City Hall Statues – Winifred Carney and Mary Ann McCracken, Alleygating Phase 5</i>

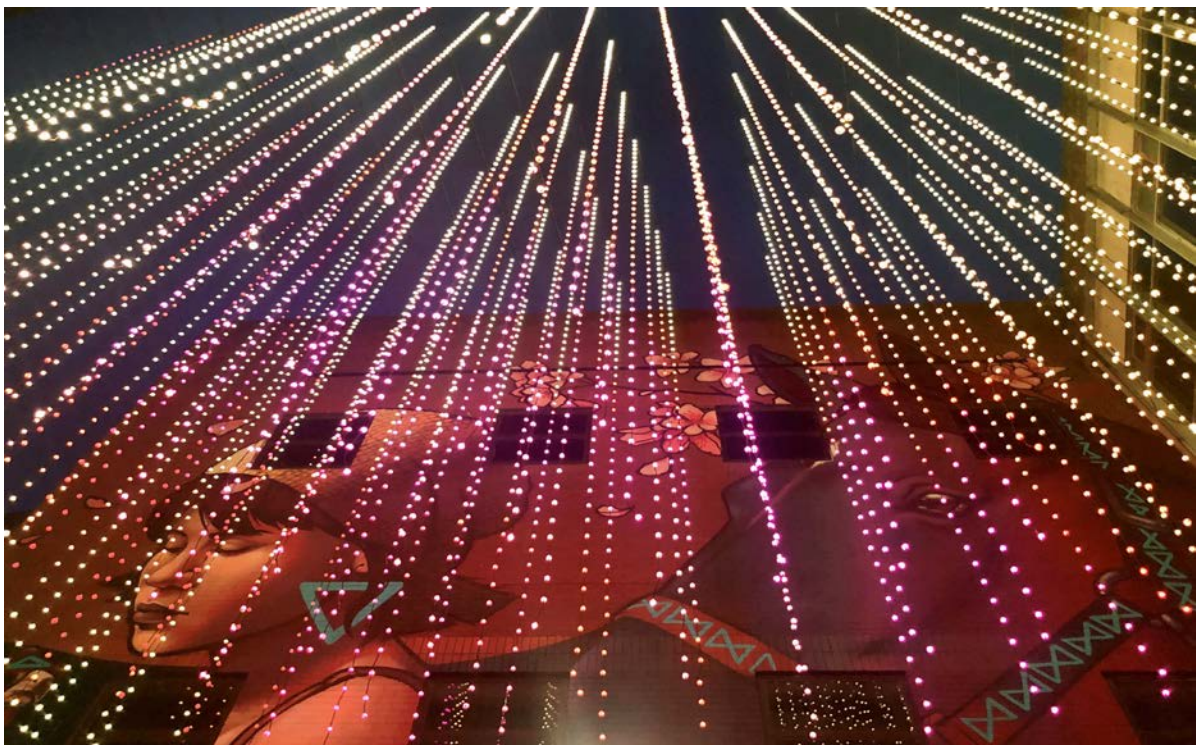
	Corporate projects – range of IT projects to ensure business continuity and ongoing Fleet replacement programme
3.6	This overview is a sample of the projects currently well underway and does not include a number of additional projects either in early stages of development, Planning or procurement, neither does it include all of the activity on maintenance projects or all the legacy projects which still require resource. Photos of the projects recently completed are attached at Appendix 1. When appropriate, the Physical Programmes Department is happy to arrange site visits to any projects that have been completed.
3.7	<p>Externally Funded Projects 2022/23 - 2023/24</p> <p>Members will be aware that the Council is the delivery agent of choice for a range of funding partners and that external funding is an increasingly important component for securing funding for projects. Committee is asked to note that letters of offer and amended letters of offer have been received for a range of projects where the Council is acting as the delivery agent. Amended letters of offer are commonly received to reflect minor adjustments required following tender returns. Several of these projects are match funded by the Council, either under the various funding streams i.e. LIF, BIF and SOF or through close alignment with ongoing Council initiatives. The details are attached at Appendix 2 and the Committee is asked to note the summary provided. The Committee is also asked to agree that necessary procurement processes (including the invitation of tenders and/or the use of appropriate ‘framework’ arrangements) be initiated for any Physical Programme projects including externally funded projects in 2023/24 as required, with contracts to be awarded on the basis of most economically advantageous tenders received and full commitment to deliver.</p>
	Contracts Awarded – Q2 and Q3 2022/23
3.8	The Committee is asked to note the award of tenders for capital works, including services related to works at Appendix 3.
	<u>Financial and Resources Implications</u>
3.9	<p><i>Financial</i> – Costs for the Carson Tile are approx. £6k and will be met from non-recurrent monies.</p> <p><i>Resources</i> – Officer time to deliver as required</p>
3.10	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>All capital projects are screened as part of the stage approval process.</p> <p>Installation of Carson Tile contributes 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.</p>

4.0	Documents Attached
	<p>Appendix 1 – Photos of recently completed projects</p> <p>Appendix 2 - Capital Letters of Offer</p> <p>Appendix 3 - Schedule of contracts awarded (Works and Works Related) for Notation (Q2 and Q3 2022, Apr-Sept 2022)</p>

Leisure Transformation Programme – Avoniel

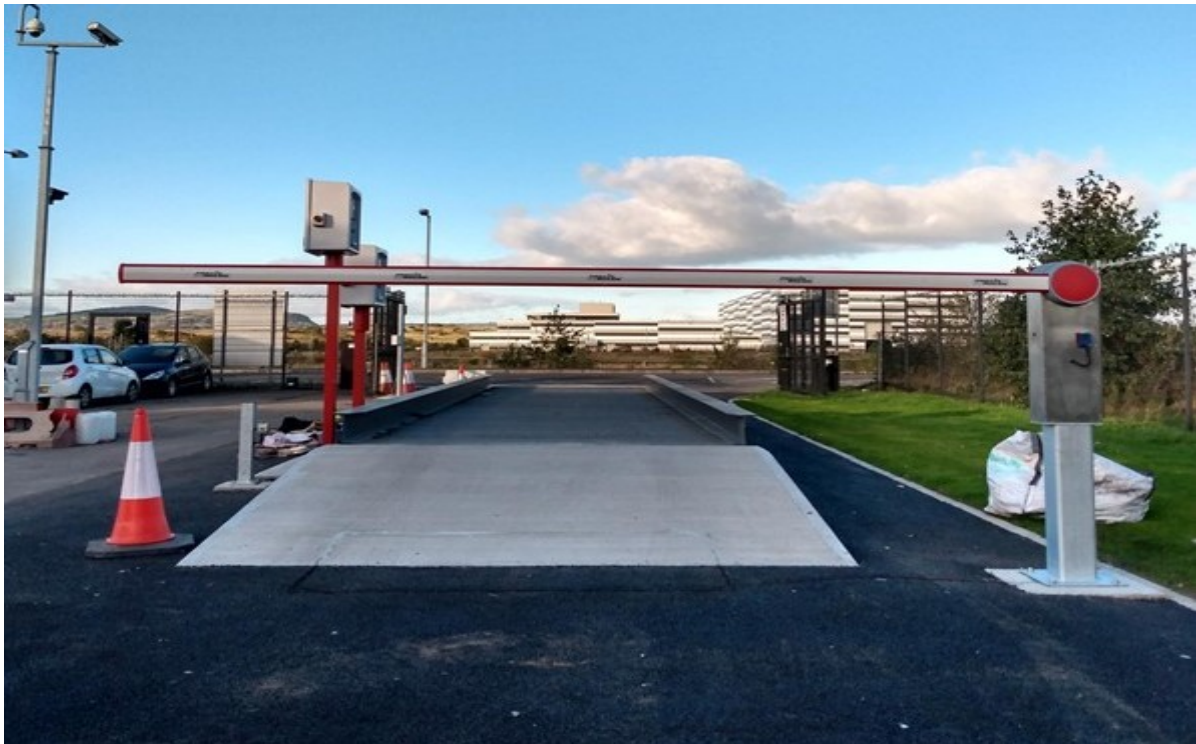


The Entries Project – Phase 1



Appendix 1 - Photos of Completed Projects (October 2021 – October 2022)

Waste Transfer Station - Weighbridges



Belfast Zoo Lion fencing



Appendix 1 - Photos of Completed Projects (October 2021 – October 2022)

Revitalisation - Electric bike trial (e-cargo project)



Mornington Community Project



Appendix 1 - Photos of Completed Projects (October 2021 – October 2022)

Belfast Castle—SuDS pilot project (Living with Water Programme)

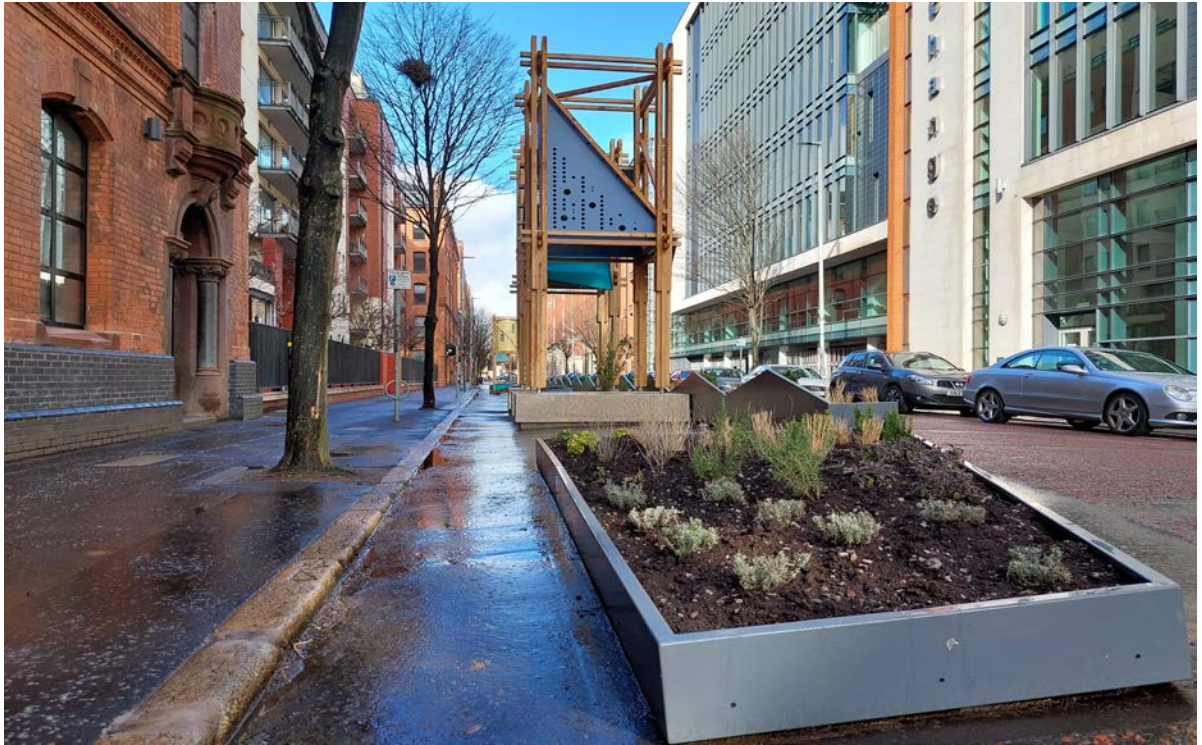


Waterfront Hall Escalators



Appendix 1 - Photos of Completed Projects (October 2021 – October 2022)

Revitalisation- Adelaide Street upgrade



Ormeau Park (Park Road) playground



Appendix 1 - Photos of Completed Projects (October 2021 – October 2022)

St. Comgall's



Cavehill Adventurous playground



Appendix 1 - Photos of Completed Projects (October 2021 – October 2022)

Lisnasharragh Community Schools Project



Wishing Well



Appendix 1 - Photos of Completed Projects (October 2021 – October 2022)

Boodles Dam



Clarawood Playground



Appendix 1 - Photos of Completed Projects (October 2021 – October 2022)

Prokick Gym



St. John Bosco Boxing Club



Appendix 1 - Photos of Completed Projects (October 2021 – October 2022)

Sea Lion Health & Safety Works at the Zoo

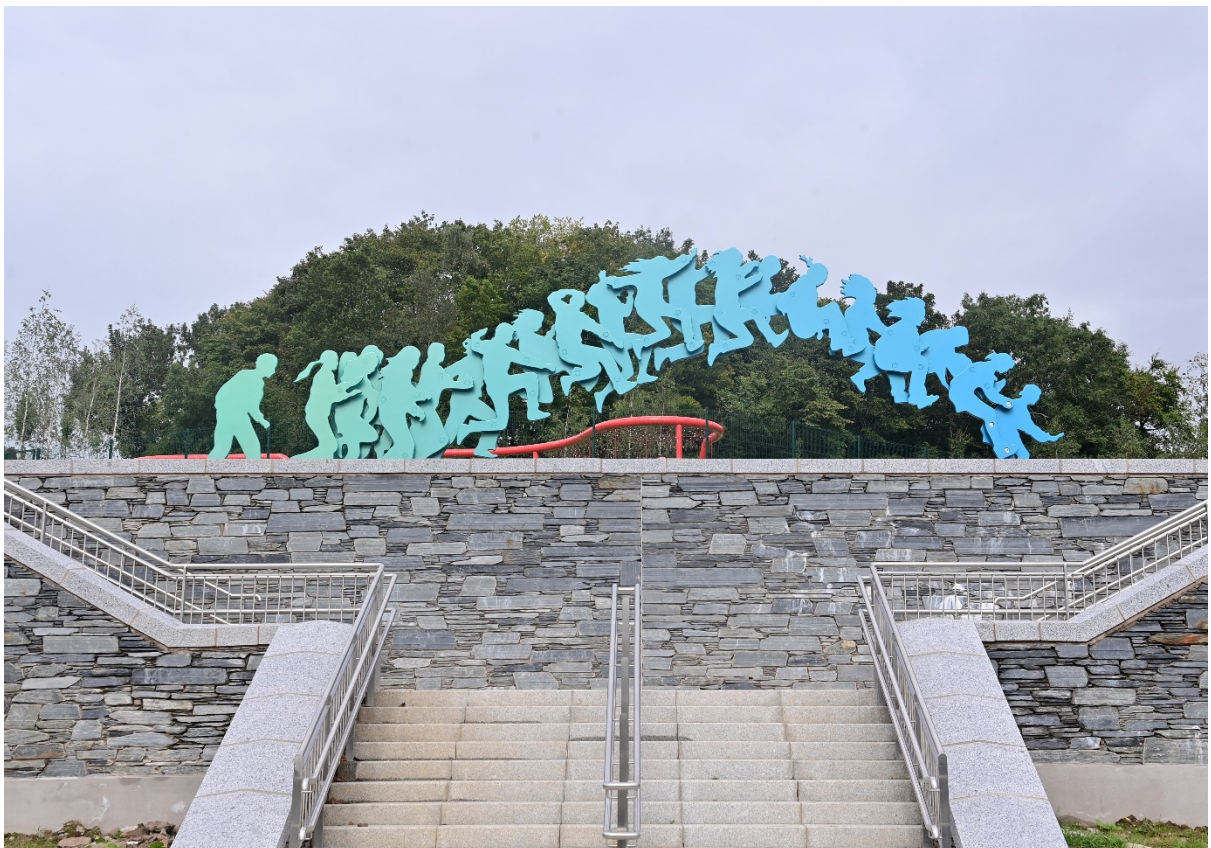


Covered Cycle Stands at Belvoir Activity Centre



Appendix 1 - Photos of Completed Projects (October 2021 – October 2022)

Páirc Nua Chollann



Appendix 1 - Photos of Completed Projects (October 2021 – October 2022)

Ormeau Household Recycling Repairs



VOYPIC/ Include Youth



Projects	Funder	Amount
Frederick Douglass Statue	DFC	98,000.00
Living With Water in Belfast	DFI	436,004.92
Paisley Park - Refurb Contract	DFC	1,296,000.00
Holylands Alleygating	DFC	120,000.00
Coffee Culture	TEO	528,923.00
5Cs Enhanced Revitalisation	DFC	162,000.00
ABC Trust	DFC	700,000.00
New Park in Colin - Letter of Amendment 2	TEO	4,946,379.00
Blackmountain Shared Space - Phase 2	IFFI	500,000.00
St Comgalls - Revised LoO	TEO	3,625,649.00
Walkway - Revised LoO	TEO	1,695,229.00
Marrowbone Millennium Park - Amendment Letter (4)	TEO	3,035,086.00
Colin Glen Ziplines LoV6	DAERA	500,000.00
ABC Trust Health & Leisure Hub	Flax Trust	1,200,000.00
Healthy Living Centre	TEO	665,390.00
ABC Trust Health and Leisure Hub	TEO	4,006,940.00
COVID-19 Letter of Variance No. 6	DFC	4,039,000.00
Access to the Belfast Hills Feasibility Study - LoO 1	DAERA	90,000.00
Healthy Living Centre - reissued	TEO	665,390.00
New Park in Colin - Letter of Amendment 3	TEO	4,946,379.00
The Strand, the Lasting Picturehouse - LoV 1	HF	254,931.00

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Appendix 3

Schedule of Contracts Awarded (Works and Works Related) for Notation (April – Oct 2022)

Contract Awarded	Supplier	Date of Award
UV_Main Contractor for ABC Trust New Community Hub	Connolly & Fee	01/04/2022
Design Competition Expertise for Belfast Stories	RIBA	07/04/2022
SOF_ICT for East Side Visitor Centre Extension	McCartan Muldoon	08/04/2022
Installation of new sports flooring at Belvoir Activity Centre and Cregagh Community Centre	Sports Surfaces UK Ltd	03/05/2022
Term contract for planned preventative maintenance to Thermostatic Mixing Valves	CA Services NI Ltd	03/05/2022
LTP_Tender for the supply and installation of submersible platform lifts at Templemore Leisure Centre	Poolpod Products Ltd	17/05/2022
LTP_Tender for the supply of cleaning equipment at Templemore Leisure Centre	Craigmore Belfast	17/05/2022
LTP_Tender for the supply of functional gym & sports hall equipment at Templemore Leisure Centre	Podium 4 Sport	17/05/2022
LTP_Tender for the supply of furniture at Templemore Leisure Centre	Work Rest Play	18/05/2022
LTP_Tender for the supply of pool testing and cleaning equipment at Templemore Leisure Centre	Chemical Treatment Services	18/05/2022
LTP_Tender for the supply of PPE & First Aid Equipment at Templemore Leisure Centre	CHBR Enterprises	18/05/2022
LTP_Tender for the supply of staff room equipment at Templemore Leisure Centre	Banner Ltd	18/05/2022
LTP_Tender for the supply of swimming pool equipment at Templemore Leisure Centre	JP Lennard	18/05/2022
Peace IV_Commissioning of an Artist for Public Art at Peace IV Forth Meadow Community Greenway, Belfast	Sara Cunningham Bell & Bell Architects	18/05/2022

Contract Awarded	Supplier	Date of Award
UV_Marrowbone Main Contractor	E Quinn Civils	27/05/2022
MTC for CCTV, door access and PA systems repair & maintenance	Radiocontact Ltd	06/06/2022
Contractor for Midland Boxing Club	William Rogers Construction	08/07/2022
Belfast Islamic Centre Rerun	Mascott Construction Ltd	03/08/2022
Term Contract for Legionella Monitoring & Risk Management	Healthy Buildings International	17/08/2022
AV Content for Interpretative fit out at Templemore Baths, Belfast	Noho Ltd	25/08/2022
Interpretive fit-out works at Templemore Baths, Belfast	Marcon	26/08/2022
UV_Integrated Supply Team (IST) for the Healthy Living Centre extension at Poleglass	Piperhill Construction	31/08/2022
North Foreshore Storm Drainage Infrastructure	FP McCann	27/09/2022
UV_Tender for an Integrated Consultant Team (ICT) for Ardoyne Youth Enterprise	Farren Architects	04/10/2022
UV_Tender for an Integrated Consultant Team (ICT) for the East Belfast Mission Project	Rolston Architects	04/10/2022
Access to the Belfast Hills Feasibility Study and Delivery Plan	Arup	05/10/2022



Subject:	Asset Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Lands adjacent to Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre - Tri Partite Licence Extension ii. Loughside Recreation Centre, Grove Playing Fields, Northumberland Street Carpark, Kent Street Carpark, Corporation Square Carpark, Girdwood Hub – Agreement to provide Emergency Access to NIW iii. 1 Picardy Avenue- Disposal of strip of land iv. Ormeau Park – Contractors Compound Licence Extension v. Duncrue Estate – Deed of Variation
Date:	18th November, 2022
Reporting Officer:	Sinead Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes
Contact Officer:	Pamela Davison, Estates 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 approval from the Committee on asset related disposal, acquisition, and estates matters.

2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Lands adjacent to Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre - Tri Partite Licence Extension approve a tri partite licence extension for use of a portion of Council lands adjacent to Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre for a contractor's compound between BCC, NIHE and Piperhill Construction Ltd. ii) Loughside Recreation Centre, Grove Playing Fields, Northumberland Street Carpark, Kent Street Carpark, Corporation Square Carpark, Girdwood Hub – Agreement to Provide Emergency Access to NIW approve the entering into of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to provide that in the event of a Major incident Northern Ireland Water (NIW) would be granted licences to use six sites for community water provision. iii) 1 Picardy Avenue- Disposal of Strip of Land approve the disposal of a plot of land on Picardy Avenue to the adjoining householder. iv) Ormeau Park – Contractors Compound approve the granting of an extension of an existing Licence to GEDA Construction for use of contractor's compound at Ormeau Park in connection with the Flood Alleviation Project works currently being undertaken on the Ravenhill Road and surrounding areas. v) Duncrue Estate – Deed of Variation approve the extension of the current term of the ground Lease at Plot 27 and 41 Duncrue Estate to a term of 125 years from 2022.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Lands adjacent to Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre - Tri Partite Licence Extension <u>Key Issues</u> Piperhill Construction Ltd has a contractor's compound adjacent to Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre to facilitate an energy improvement scheme they are conducting on nearby residential property on behalf of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE). See map at Appendix 1. A short-term Licence was agreed between the Council, NIHE, & Piperhill Construction Ltd covering the period from 28th August 2022 up to and including 27th January 2023. Committee approval is now being sought for extension of the tri partite licence between the same parties which will cover the period from 27th January 2023 up to and including 11th September 2023 then month to month thereafter subject to a maximum of three further months. The perimeter of the contractor's compound is fully enclosed with heras fencing to prevent any form of public access and our lands are to be fully reinstated at the end of the licence period. A licence fee of £100+VAT per week is proposed.

	<p><u>Financial and Resources Implications</u></p> <p>The Council will receive a licence fee from Piperhill Construction Ltd of £100+VAT per week. Legal Services shall act on the instructions of the Estates Management Unit.</p> <p><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
3.2	<p>ii) Loughside Recreation Centre, Grove Playing Fields, Northumberland Street Carpark, Kent Street Carpark, Corporation Square Carpark, Girdwood Hub – Agreement to Provide Emergency Access to NIW</p> <p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>NIW is preparing Emergency Plans to mitigate against the impacts of a Major Incident causing a disruption to the supply of water within the geographical area of Dorisland Wastewater Treatment Works (WTW) Supply Zone. As part of a pilot project, it is seeking to work collaboratively with Councils beginning with Belfast and two other councils</p> <p>The Dorisland WTW provides part of the water supply serving north Belfast and the city centre. The area is served by other sources so complete disruption to supply is considered to be very unlikely. Notwithstanding this NI Water are required to have emergency provision in place. Part of NIW's proposal involves use of Council owned or controlled lands to provide sites for static tanks and aquacubes from which the local community could fill containers. This MOU will facilitate the use of any of the sites as outlined above if required. It does not mean that each site will have to be used. If sites are required to be used, then this may have operational implications however if such a scenario was to arise then it is likely that there will already have been operational impacts. In the event that this plan has to be activated, Members will be kept updated. The co-operation of the Department of Communities is also required as the owner of two of the sites Girdwood and Kent Street car park.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resources Implications</u></p> <p>Resources will be required from Estates Management and Legal Services for progressing the legal agreements in addition to staff resource which may be required for assisting in a Major Incident.</p> <p><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
3.3	<p>iii) 1 Picardy Avenue- Disposal of strip of land</p> <p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>Earlier this year it was brought to the Council's attention that the occupier of an end terrace house at 1 Picardy Avenue, had encroached onto an area of adjoining open space in Council ownership. See Appendix 2. The householder has since sought to acquire the lands from the Council rather than a reinstatement of the boundary. Following discussions with City and</p>

	<p>Neighbourhood Services an LPS valuation of the land has been obtained and the proposed consideration of £4000 reflects that the land was initially encroached on. This disposal will be conditional upon use of the land being restricted to garden and parking use with no buildings permitted.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resources Implications</u></p> <p>Council will receive a single premium payment of £4,000. Legal Services shall act on the instructions of the Estates Management Unit. The owner will be responsible for all legal costs.</p> <p><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
3.4	<p>iv) Ormeau Park – Contractors Compound</p> <p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>At its meeting on 20th November 2000 SP&R granted approval for Council to enter into a Licence with Engineering Consultants GEDA, acting on behalf of NI Water, for use of ancillary lands at Ormeau Park as a contractor's compound in connection with the Flood Alleviation Project works on the Ravenhill Road and surrounding area. Initial approval was sought for use of the areas highlighted blue in Appendix 3 for a period of approximately 24 months, with the current agreement due to expire on 31st March 2023. The Contractors are now requesting an extension for a further 9 months due to work delays. It is proposed that the existing Licence is renewed with GEDA from 1st April 2023 for nine months under the same terms and conditions.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resources Implications</u></p> <p>The Licence agreement at Ormeau Park will generate a further licence fee for the Council of £7,575.</p> <p><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
3.5	<p>v) Duncrue Estate – Deed of Variation</p> <p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>Plots 27 and 41 Duncrue Estate are currently held on a 99-year ground Lease from 1st May 1982. Plot 27 is Leased to S&M Properties Ltd, and Plot 41 is Leased to Jagmohan Kumar Sharma, Vinode Sharma, Andrew Edward Wells and Santosh Kumari Bhanot. Both tenants wish to assign their Lease. On the same day as the assignment takes place, the new tenant Mint Properties (NI) Ltd has requested an extension to the term of the existing Lease to provide a term of 125 years. Estates have proposed a premium of £5,000 to extend the Lease. A Deed of Variation to the Lease will be entered into to formalise the extended term, if approved by Members. A map showing Plots 27 and 41 Duncrue Estate is attached at Appendix 4.</p>

	<p><u>Financial and Resources Implications</u></p> <p>Council will receive a single premium payment of £5,000 for the extension of the term to 125 years from the date of assignment of the Lease. Legal Services shall act on the instructions of the Estates Management Unit</p> <p><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
4.0	Documents Attached
	<p>Appendix 1 - Map showing contractor's compound at Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Map disposal strip Picardy Avenue.</p> <p>Appendix 3 - Map showing contractor's compound at Ormeau Park</p> <p>Appendix 4 - Map showing Plots 27 and 41 Duncrue Estate.</p>

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Scale 1:1250

- = BCC Lands
- = Heras Fencing
- = Contractors Compound
- = Temporary route of access c.7m wide

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MAYFAIR AVENUE

MONTGOMERY ROAD

PICARDY AVENUE



13.2

13.36

196

204

206

214

222

40

2

12

1

2

4

6

8

12

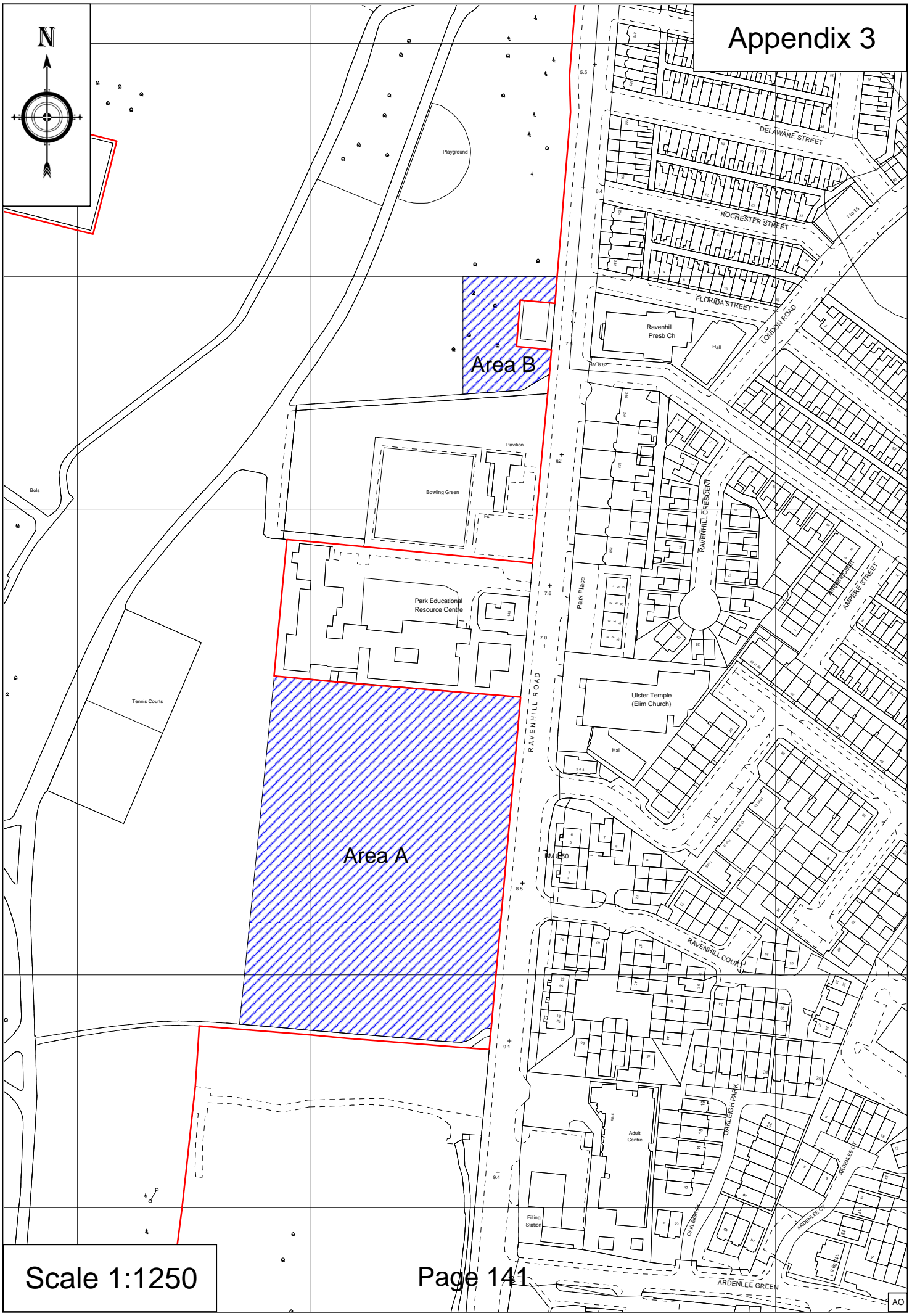
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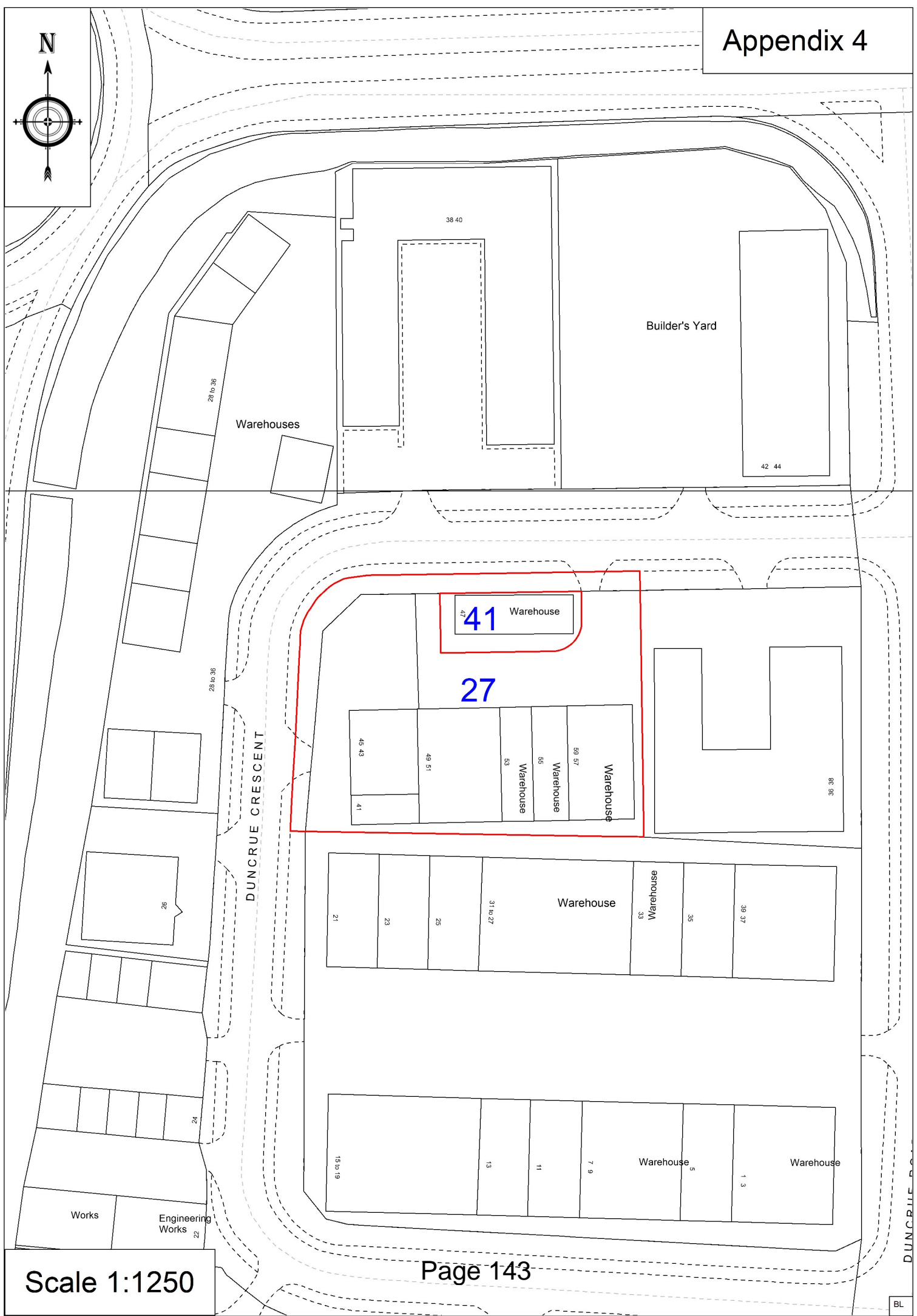
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Area B

Area A

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Subject:	Minutes of the Meeting of the Shared City Partnership
Date:	18th November, 2022
Reporting Officer:	David Sales, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	David Robinson, Leish Dolan; Good Relations Unit and Debbie McKinney, PEACE IV

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 update the Committee on the key issues discussed at the Shared City Partnership meeting held on 7th November.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is requested to note the contents of the report and adopt the following recommendations:
2.2	<p><u>PEACE IV</u></p> <p>Secretariat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> that any further programme underspends were redirected into the SSS theme to cover increased costs of construction for Forth Meadow Community Greenway.

2.3	<p>CYP1 Tech Connects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • agree the approach to redistribute the project equipment (Lego We Do kits, Laptops & iPads) via EOI to community organisations <p>CYP 5 NIHE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • agree to extend NIHE projects (CYP5 and BPR1) to 31 March 2023. To allow additional time to meet revised targets. • formally note the alternative training option to OCN and online delivery for the Foster Carers Network.
2.4	<p>BPR 1 - NIHE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree, in principle, to the request for procurement of quantity surveyors for 4 CCANS place shaping plans, subject to further information and clarification to support the viability of the plans. <p>BPR 4 - Corrymeela Facilitation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note that the final study visit is not viable due to levels of participation. <p>BPR 5 – FSP - Roma</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note a further request to modify the English language classes delivery and to amend Intercultural Navigator Advocacy Project (INAP) targets noting 4 participants of a proposed 10 completed, subject to approval by SEUPB. <p>BPR6 – St Comgalls</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree an extension to 28 February 2023 to allow for changes to materials to be implemented; and • To note the exhibition materials (oral histories) and educational resources (worksheets for schools) were being reviewed via an Equality Screening.
2.5	<p>SSS Theme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree in principle an extension of the Youth Civic Education project to 28th February 2023, subject to the submission of an implementation plan.

2.6	<p><u>GOOD RELATIONS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To note the award of £700 for Shankill Womens Centre for their Christmas Market at Lanark Way on December 1st, awarded under Delegated Authority of the Director of Neighbourhood Services • To approve the use of the additional funding of £7,050 from The Executive Office for programming and animation at the new Urban Villages Colin Park, Páirc Nua Chollann • To note that the Partnership agreed that a draft report on the Good Relations Audit and its draft findings be discussed at its December meeting; and that Peter Osborne, who was developing the Audit, will be invited to discuss the draft report at the December meeting for 20 minutes, to enable Members to feed into the report prior to it being finalised in advance of the January meeting • To note forthcoming events that the Good Relations team are involved in.
2.7	<p>Peace Plus</p> <p>To note that the Partnership agreed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed to the proposed methodology for completing Stage 1 of the co-design process; • Provided feedback on the process for the residents' survey to inform Stage 1 and agreed that SCP members would get involved in designing the survey; • Noted that given the current resource needs, an exercise to recruit a PEACE Programme Manager had commenced in accordance with Council procedures. Costs associated with a Programme Manager would be able to be claimed retrospectively from SEUPB as part of our Action Plan submission.
3.0	<p>Main Report</p>
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The Shared City Partnership is a Working Group of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee which consists of Elected members and representatives from various sectors across the city. The minutes from the Partnership are brought before the Committee for approval on a monthly basis.</p>

3.2	<p>The key issues on the agenda at the November meeting were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PEACE IV -Update on Secretariat • PEACEV IV - Update on CYP Theme • PEACE IV - Update on SSS Theme • PEACE IV Update on BPR Theme • Update on Good Relations Action Plan (Q2 report) • Good Relations Action Plan Funding allocations • Additional funding for the Good Relations Action Plan from the Executive Office • Good Relations Audit and timeline for completion • Update on forthcoming Good Relations events • Update on PEACE PLUS – Local Community Peace Action Plan & Workshop <p>More details regarding the above issues and recommendations are included in the attached minutes of the meeting.</p>
3.3	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>All financial implications are covered through existing budgets</p>
3.4	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>The recommendations of the Partnership promote the work of the Council in promoting good relations and will enhance equality and good relations impacts.</p>
4.0	<p>Document Attached</p>
	<p>Minutes of the meeting of the Shared City Partnership of 7th November.</p>

SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP

Monday 7th November, 2022

MEETING OF SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Members present: Councillor Kyle (Chairperson);
Councillors Carson, McCullough and O'Hara .

External Members: Ms. J. Irwin, Community Relations Council;
Mr. J. Donnelly, Community and Voluntary Sector,
Ms. A. Roberts, Community and Voluntary Sector;
Mr. I. McLaughlin, Community and Voluntary Sector;
Mr. P. Anderson, Community and Voluntary Sector;
Mr. W. Naeem, Faith Sector;
Ms. A. M. White, British Red Cross;
Ms. A. Tohill, Good Relations, TEO; and
Mr. A. Hannaway, NIHE.

In attendance: Ms. D. McKinney, PEACE IV Programme Manager;
Mr. S. Lavery, Programme Manager;
Mr. D. Robinson, Good Relations Officer;
Ms. L. Dolan, Good Relations Officer;
Ms. N. Lane, Neighbourhood Services Manager
Ms. V. Smyth, Democratic Services Officer;
Ms. S. Steele, Democratic Services Officer;
Ms. T. Hogg, Blu Zebra;
Mr. C. Boylan, Locus Management.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported on behalf of Superintendent A. Ford, Mr. A. Irvine, Ms. B. Arthurs and Ms. G. Duggan.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 10th October, 2022 were taken as read and signed as correct.

Declarations of Interest

Mr. J. Donnelly declared an interest in 2b Children and Young People Update.

Ms. A. Tohill declared an interest in item 7 PEACE PLUS 1.1. Co-designed Local Community Peace Action Plan for Belfast.

Both left the meeting whilst the matters were under consideration.

PEACE IV Updates

Peace IV - Update on Secretariat

The Peace IV Programme Manager provided the Members with an update in respect of the Secretariat activity associated with the implementation of the Peace IV Local Action Plan.

The Peace IV Programme Manager advised that project activity was progressing as outlined in the thematic reports, and mitigations and project extensions continued to be progressed as required to enable implementation of the programme. During the month, on the spot verification site visits took place for CYP2 and BPR4. Final clarifications were being sought which would enable project closure to complete. Closure of CYP3 and CYP4 was to be progressed.

The Peace IV Programme Manager reported that discussions had been had with SEUPB on the challenges of implementation relating to CYP3 OTRT, the Traveller and SSS Intergenerational Narratives/Panels projects. The Members were requested to note that requests for targets to be amended were due to be considered by the Programme Board.

The Peace IV Manager highlighted item 3.2 and asked the Members to note that revised budgets submitted by NIHE had identified changes in underspends from those submitted in the Business Case. The CYP5 underspend was reduced from £168K to £89K, due to increased contractual obligations, and the BPR underspend had increased from £292K to £630K due to technical assistance for place shaping no longer being utilised.

The Members agreed that any further underspends be redirected into the SSS theme to cover increased costs for the construction of Forth Meadow Community Greenway. The project continued to experience increased costs due to material prices and unforeseen issues, such as a change in legislation associated with red diesel. Discussions with SEUPB to enable changes on the eMS system for the issue of revised Letters of Offer were progressing.

In response to a query, the Peace IV Manager provided clarification about the value of the social clause. She advised that, due to the programme having carried a shortfall for some time, the value of the social clause associated with the work packages under the SSS would not change. She added that she would liaise with Physical Programmes and would bring back an update report to the Members at a future meeting.

All contractual obligations for the delivery of the Event Management contract with Plannd were being finalised and progressed to closure. As previously reported any further workplan deliverables would be coordinated by the PEACE IV team. The Peace IV Manager reported continued resource pressures within the PEACE IV team.

As previously reported expenditure across the programme totalled £7.87m with reimbursement of £5.9m to date. During the month BCC claims for Period 29 BPR valued at £139k and Period 30 BPR for £222k had been verified by SEUPB, with payment due imminently. The Members noted that discussions had taken place with SEUPB on prioritising the reimbursement of outstanding NIHE claims given the delivery partner requests.

The Partnership recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it note the contents of the report and agree:

- That any further programme underspends be redirected into the SSS theme to cover increased costs of construction for Forth Meadow Community Greenway.

Peace IV - Update on CYP Theme

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 note the contents of the report and related appendices and recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee to

CYP1 Tech Connects

- agree the approach to redistribute the project equipment (Lego We Do kits, Laptops & iPads) via EOI to community organisations

CYP 5 NIHE

- agree to extend the project to 28 February 2023. To allow additional time to meet revised targets.
- formally note the alternative training option to OCN and online delivery for the Foster Carers Network.

1.0 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)

Members are advised latest monitoring and evaluation forms have been reviewed by Officers with the figures below. The delivery agent has been requested to submit all outstanding data to evidence their final completion figure which will be paid on final contract payment following submission of final closure report. An onsite visit is to be scheduled to close the project.

Delivery Agent	Sessions	Target	Completed YTD	Variance
GIGA Training	6-11-Year-Olds	494	449	45
GIGA Training	12-16-Year-Olds	365	357	8
Previous Delivery agent	Tech Connects 2018/2019	133	133	0
	Total	992	939	53

Members are advised the Programme Board considered an options paper on the repurpose of CYP equipment (Lego We Do kits, Laptops & iPads) and recommended the equipment reallocation should be via Expression of Interest advertised to community organisations. The items are not considered as assets within the PEACE IV programme rules, having individually cost less than £1,000. SEUPB have also endorsed this approach. It is anticipated that the reallocation will be progressed in early 2023. Members are requested to agree the above approach.

CYP 1 – TECH CONNECTS, Belfast Metropolitan College (Digital Insights Programme) (17-24 yr. olds)

Following the submission of a modification request, as reported in October, the Programme Board approved an extension to the project until 31 January 2023.

The Board also considered the anticipated completion level of 104 participants, 6 less than the previously amended target of 110. Discussions are progressing with SEUPB on the acceptance of this level of achievement of project deliverables.

Total	104 from a target of 160 104 from a target of 110 (Reduction of 50, from 160 to 110 approved in Business Case)	56 remaining against original target of 160 6 remaining against target of 110
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3.2 CYP 2 – Playing our Part in the City

An On-the-Spot Verification/Site Visit took place during October and a report issued to the project for further clarification. On receipt of the final clarification the final payment will be released.

Total	610 young people from a target of 640 123 Parents from a target of 100	Progressing to Closure
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3.3 CYP3 – On the Right Track – Sports and Personal Change elements

Delivery of activity for existing participant clubs has been continuing with OCN sessions and residentials planned to take place in October and November. Sports leaders training will be taking place during half term and recruitment is underway targeting previous clubs. Recruitment of further clubs / participants is temporarily on hold due to no Project Officer in post.

Total	800 from a target of 1260	460 remaining (Contract ends December 22)
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Personal Change – Delivered by Extern

As previously reported, the final report and additional supporting information and evidence has been submitted. An On-the-Spot Verification Site Visit is being progressed.

Total	42 from a target of 42	0 remaining – Progressing to Closure
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3.4 CYP 4 – Cooperation Ireland (Young Advocates)

As previously reported, a final signed closure report together with supporting evidence has now been submitted. Officers are reviewing all information and an On-the-Spot Verification Site Visit is to be arranged.

Total	87 from a target of 80	+ 7 achieved – Progressing to closure
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3.5 CYP 5 – NIHE Local Area Network Partner Delivery

NIHE has progressed training options for the Foster Carers Network. Members should note an alternative training provider to OCN has been agreed by SEUPB and an online approach also approved.

NIHE has recently requested an additional extension to allow both peer and core networks to achieve the level of contact hours required. In order to fully assess and progress this request with SEUPB, a modified budget and implementation plan for delivery across the networks has been requested. As such members are requested to agree in principle an extension of the project to 28 February 2023.

Procurement has completed and awards issued, which is enabling ongoing delivery of activity.

Total	345 from a target of 304 143 Core Participants 202 Peer Participants	+ 41 over target (Contract ends December 2022)
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3.6 Financial and Resource Implications

The financial position is as previously reported, with claims up to Period 31, valued at £1.92m submitted to SEUPB for reimbursement. To date £1.665m has been reimbursed and as such outstanding claims are approximately £262K.

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 Programme Manager advised that a further extension request by the NIHE for CYP5 delivery to 31 March 2023 had been requested. The Partnership noted the contents of the report and related appendices and recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee to:

CYP1 Tech Connects

- Agree the approach to redistribute the project equipment (Lego We Do kits, Laptops & iPads) via EOI to community organisations.

CYP 5 NIHE

- Agree to extend the project to 31 March 2023 to allow additional time to meet revised targets; and
- Formally note the alternative training option to OCN and online delivery for the Foster Carers’ Network.

Peace IV - Update on BPR Theme

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 in principle:

BPR 1 -NIHE

- the request for procurement of quantity surveyors for 4 CCANS place shaping plans, subject to further information and clarification to support the viability of the plans.

BPR 4- Corrymeela Facilitation

- the final study visit is not viable due to levels of participation.

BPR 5- FSP- Roma

- a further request to modify the English language classes delivery and to amend INAP targets noting 4 participants of a proposed 10 completed, subject to approval by SEUPB.

BPR6 St Comgalls

- an extension to 31 January 2023 to allow for changes to materials to be implemented

Also, to note the exhibition materials (oral histories) and educational resources (worksheets for schools) are being reviewed via an Equality Screening.

3.0 Main report

Key issues

The status and progress with projects are outlined in Appendix I BPR-Progress report. Projects are at various stages of delivery; some projects are completing, whilst activity is continuing with other projects. Members should note that participation and retention levels continue to be impacted by Covid 19 with ongoing sickness and isolation, as necessary.

3.1 BPR1 – Cross Community Area Networks (CCAN)

Participation levels remain consistent with 127/144 core participants and over 400/900 peer participants all pending verification.

NIHE has requested approval to procure Quantity Surveyors for 4 of the CCANs to enhance the place shaping plans. However further clarification and detail has been requested including evidence of engagement with landowners and key stakeholders to ensure any plans are agreed and have been communicated with

all parties. As such members are requested to note the NIHE request and agree, in principle the procurement of Quantity Surveyors, subject to clarification on the viability of the place shaping plans place shaping concept.

Members will be aware of the recent challenges with the East Belfast Network. Members should note a proposal from NIHE to explore if the Diamond ladies' group can continue as a single identity group is being progressed with SEUPB and supporting details have been shared with SEUPB to agree whether this option is viable, given that single identity work sits outside programme guidelines.

3.2 BPR2 – Creative Communities Project

A recent meeting with the culture section has led to agreed actions to progress and utilise an additional resource to aid engagement sessions with participants facilitated by the artist.

Artists in both Ardoyne and Divis groups have agreed to continue engagement with participants the cost for additional sessions being met by internal department funds.

The artist for the Football cluster has provided a mid-point report and indications show 17 participants near to completion target of 42hrs engagement each. Further sessions are planned and have been outlined to the Project Support Officer.

The East Belfast Radius cluster is engaging with McCadden to develop the booklets that will showcase the East cluster project and activities. This will conclude all deliverables for the cluster.

McCadden has outlined the engagement schedule with each cluster group and are actively working on resources to compile each creative cluster booklet.

Participant numbers and contact hours are under review.

3.3 BPR3 – Transform for Change Project

Transformative Leadership Programme

The local projects developed through the Action Plans continue to be delivered.

The £16k combined Local Action Plan for the North Belfast cluster, comprising of a multicultural event, guided tour and LTBTQ+ plus storytelling is progressing. The multicultural event took place on 8th October at Alexandra Park, with over 300 attendees. The

images captured reflect the diversity and multicultural them of the event with dancers, food stalls entertainment and music.

The West Belfast Gaming application is due to complete with a closure event proposed for November.

Remaining projects continue with payments progressing as projects come to a close. The intergenerational project in the west will complete with a family fun day at Halloween, catering for all ages. This project has been multifaceted with armchair aerobics, drama classes, art workshops, guided walking, and photography tours.

The Thematic Project Manager has met with Kidstogether, Suffolk community group and the artist to progress a consultation and engagement session with the young people, families, and the local community. The session and introduction to the artist is scheduled for 1 November at Falls Leisure Centre. The session will showcase the artwork and family food and fun day. A further two sessions will follow, and the Black Gates artwork should be completed prior to Christmas.

The two remaining study visits under council delivery remain outstanding and may have to be pushed into November given current work pressures.

A meeting took place with the delivery partner and programme manager to discuss project closure. The project manager is progressing final verification documentation and has completed review of monitoring information.

Final figures are as noted below.

Target	Status
45 cluster reports	48 submitted
15 case studies	13 submitted
45 TLP courses	42 achieved
934 participants	592 completed

3.4 BPR4 –BATW-Facilitation

The Belfast and the World project is complete with the final element of the on-the-spot verification visit scheduled. This visit and review will ensure project closure.

The Facilitation for residentials and study visit by Corrymeela has concluded. The North coast study visit took place on the 15 October 2022 with 10 participants he second study visit was cancelled due to limited interest from participants. As such

members are requested to agree that the final study visit will not proceed due to viability and cost effectiveness.

The facilitation element provided by Corrymeela on behalf of council has concluded with the North coast historic sites visit, and the completion of two residentials with 47/60 participants attending.

3.5 BPR5 – Supporting Connected Communities - LINCS Project

The LINCS project has agreed and signed the addendum permitting the extension to November 2022 thus allowing continued delivery.

Discussion on a shared learning event concluded that LINCS participants will attend the Radius and NI Alternatives 'Big lunch' event in CS Lewis Square. They will attend as interested participants; however, this is not deemed a Peace IV event.

A final event to mark the closure and celebration of LINCS participants' achievements is under discussion with the delivery partner.

The leadership programme continues and with the additional timeframe hopes to ensure targets are reached.

As previously reported number remain as 91/96 participants completed and exceeded 68hrs of engagement. The remaining participants are still engaging and on track to reach targets.

The closure report has been shared and a review of updated attendance trackers and submitted end surveys is underway by the Thematic Manager.

3.6 BPR5 – Traveller Project - Supporting Connected Communities

The Empowering Young Women workshop series and exhibition is complete. The exhibition took place early October and the materials and booklets on display positively reflected the engagement from both the traveller and settled young women.

The exhibition materials will form part of the larger closure event in November, along with the genealogy exhibition and the health & wellbeing, as noted below.

A recent meeting with the Heart project has provided assurances of completed workshops and exhibition materials have been approved by SEUPB for publishing. The exhibition took place on the 27 October for participants, family, and community. The exhibition materials will also form part of the larger scale closure event planned for the 10 November.

The Project Support Officer for the project left Peace IV in early October. Members are requested to note that achievement of targets will remain as outlined below:

Target	Status
40 participants – Traveller and Settled Communities	32 completed 26 hrs or more

Discussions with SEUPB on accepting the targets is progressing.

3.7 BPR5 – Roma Project - Supporting Connected Communities

The Roma project will continue until December 2022. The addendum has been approved, distributed, and returned by Forward South partnership.

This additional time will allow for completion of training elements. The English classes are on track with a minor reduction requested. The Advice training is ongoing, and the delivery partner is confident this will be completed. The Intercultural Navigator Advocacy Programme (INAP) is under review given the content and that the outcomes do not meet the original submission as agreed with the delivery partner. Further discussions with SEUPB are scheduled and a revised implementation plan has been requested to indicate sessions planned and activity until completion from the delivery partner.

3.8 BPR6 – St. Comgalls

Project activity is nearing an end with one rescheduled seminar and the final celebration event to be held.

The project has advised the final celebration event will meet the outcome of a seminar and provide additional contact hours.

Members should also note that seminars and networking events were extended for attendance by the wider community. As such core participants did not necessarily attend 2 seminars each as was original intention.

The exhibition and educational resources are being reviewed through an equality screening. The methodology and outline of the materials had been approved by the SCP in March and authority delegated to the Programme Board to approve the final materials, subject to a balanced view being presented in the materials. This is being reviewed at present through the equality screening process. SEUPB will also see the outcome of the equality screening and will be able to contribute to it if they wish.

The project is due to finish at end November. Members are requested to approve an extension to 31 January 2023 to allow the recommendations from the screening to be implemented if changes are requested to the materials to comply with Peace and S75/ GR outcomes. The consolidated tracker for all activity is summarised as follows:

Target	Status
20 core young people participants	27 completed target of 33 hrs
20 core adult participants	14 completed reduced target of 32 hrs

3.9 Cinematography Project

Filming of suitable opportunities to capture the Belfast Peace Journey is continuing and due to complete at end of December.

Clips produced in the last month have been short stories for project closures for CYP1, BPR5 LINC'S, BPR2, and a social clip for Forth Meadow Greenway Volunteer Training. Upcoming filming is scheduled for both NIHE BPR1 and CYP5 projects, the Forth Meadow sections for the final capital short story clip as well as interviews and installation of the Forth Meadow public artwork.

3.10 Financial and Resource Implications

As previously reported, expenditure to date within the BPR theme totals £2.95m with £2.37m reimbursed. SEUPB verification has progressed for BCC BPR claims for Period 29 valued at £139K and Period 30 BPR for £222K with payment due imminently.

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 Peace IV Manager reminded the Members that the NIHE extension to 31 March 2023, agreed via the CYP5 proposal, was also applicable to both NIHE projects, including BPR1. The Members were also advised that the extension for BPR6 St Comgalls was required to 28 February 2023, due to the equality screening process.

A Member raised the matter of single identity groups and sought further detail and the Peace IV Manager clarified that the BPR1 project would not have met its cross-community objectives. This was followed by discussion about the need for facilitation of single identity groups to build support, capacity and experience. A Member sought further clarification about the level of engagement with key stakeholders regarding the place shaping proposals, support on a cross community basis and discussions with landowners to determine viability of projects going forward. The Peace IV Manager advised that she was seeking agreement in principle

for the procurement of the QS, subject to NIHE's information coming through. The NIHE's representative provided reassurance that engagement was being undertaken with single identity groups. A Member requested clear demonstrable evidence of support for the place shaping proposals as a matter of urgency.

The Partnership recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it note the contents of the report and related appendices and agree in principle:

BPR 1 - NIHE

- The request for procurement of quantity surveyors for 4 CCANS place shaping plans, subject to further information and clarification to support the viability of the plans.

BPR 4 - Corrymeela Facilitation

- The final study visit is not viable due to levels of participation.

BPR 5 – FSP - Roma

- a further request to modify the English language classes delivery and to amend INAP targets noting 4 participants of a proposed 10 completed, subject to approval by SEUPB.

BPR6 St Comgalls

- An extension to 28 February 2023 to allow for changes to materials to be implemented; and
- To note the exhibition materials (oral histories) and educational resources (worksheets for schools) were being reviewed via an Equality Screening.

Peace IV - Update on SSS Theme

The Peace IV Programme Manager provided an update on the progress report in respect of the Shared Spaces and Services (SSS) theme of the Peace IV Local Action Plan.

Springfield Dam

A second meeting of the Bridge Naming Panel was facilitated on 6 October 2022. Promotion of the Bridge naming was progressing with an article included in City Matters, which would be distributed to all households on 7 November. Posters promoting the naming process and informing people of how to submit name suggestions, were prepared and put on all gates into the park and on the bridge itself (Appendix II). Further advertising of the process includes the Springfield Park webpage [Springfield Park \(belfastcity.gov.uk\)](https://www.belfastcity.gov.uk) and the Council's Social Media platforms. Information / drop-in sessions were scheduled for Friday 4th and Saturday 5th November, in Springfield Park, from 12:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m., with a further opportunity for people to ask about the process and submit name suggestions. The process would close on 21st November 2022, with the naming panel meeting in early December to review the names and agree a final 4 for going out to public vote.

PEACE IV Network Scheme – Capital Works - Following work around the treatment of invasive species, work in Section 2 commenced on 24th October, with the date for completion being June 2023.

Works in Section 3 were complete and were due to be completed in Section 4 at the end of October. However, there was a delay with hand-over to the Council due to issues with NIE connections for lighting columns.

The considering of signage in line with the Council's language policy was included in the October update. Officers from Physical Programmes and PEACE IV met on 26th October to review Programme Rules and Regulations and advised senior management of the same.

Work on the flag-ship piece was progressing with installation planned for December 2022 with a view to public unveiling in January 2023.

- **Programming**

Implementation of the programming aspects were progressing.

- **Shared History, Heritage and Identity Content / Narratives for Shared Space**

Deliverable targets	Targets achieved
300 individuals	257 recruited
51 narratives (3 narratives x 17 panels)	52 draft narratives
12 contact hours per participant	152 participants (68%) achieved over 10 hours 200 participants (89%) achieved 6 hours or more.
Compilation document of all stories	In progress

Draft narratives, for panels planned for Section 4, had been circulated to the sub-group for review and comment, before agreeing which should be included on the planned panels. The project lead was finalising the publication of all the narratives from all five sections. A draft publication was to be submitted to officers for review mid-November. The Members were requested to note that discussions with SEUPB on the acceptance of the achievement level were progressing.

- **Shared Space Volunteer Training**

Deliverable targets	Targets achieved
Sustrans	
30 volunteers (15 Walk & 15 Cycle Leads)	27 recruited across 3 groups
Volunteer Now Enterprise	
15 volunteers (Local Ambassadors)	13 recruited
The Conservation Volunteers	
15 volunteers (Nature Guides)	12 recruited

Discussions continue with all three project leads, on the future support and coordination of this team of volunteers, moving forward. An options document had been drafted and was to be presented to the Programme Board for consideration.

To further keep the volunteers engaged and build their capacity, site visit options to other volunteering projects were being scheduled. The visit would enable shared learning for the Forth Meadow Volunteers with other projects.

- **Governance / Management Model**

Approvals to award the contract under delegated authority and from SEUPB had been received and the successful contractor, Dr Mary Dellenbaugh-Losse (MDL), had been appointed.

An initiation meeting took place on 25th October with a project start date of 1st November 2022.

- **Youth Engagement & Civic Education**

Deliverable targets	Targets achieved
400 young people	80 young people registered from Nubia, Blackmountain, Glencairn and Forthspring.
60 contact hours per participants	54 young participants have achieved 60+ contact hours.

The project continued to receive interest from young people from Blackmountain, Nubia, Glencairn and Forthspring. An initial group of 54 young people from Blackmountain, Nubia and Glencairn, had completed with all achieving over 60 contact hours.

Following SEUPB approval to include youth organisations and young people from outside the communities along the Greenway, Youth Link had requested inclusion of youth groups in Whitewell and Fortwilliam who had expressed an interest in participating with a group of 25 young people. The Members noted the request was considered and approved by the Programme Board on 13th October.

Due to recruitment and retention issues, the Members were requested to agree in principle an extension of the project to 28th February 2023, subject to the submission of an implementation plan for review and agreement.

- **SSS Activities and Animation Programme**

Deliverable targets	Targets achieved
20 cross community activities/events, (to an audience of a minimum of 1200 attendees)	11 cross community activities / events to an audience of approximately 1000+ people
- 4 Public spectacle events (150 people at each) – 2 in Springfield Park	- “Luminate” event in Springfield Park – approx. 1500 people - “Swamp Festival” in Bog Meadows – approx. 1700 people - “Colour Festival” in Woodvale Park – approx. 1,000+ people - “Day of the Dead” in Springfield Park – approx. 2,000+ people

- 6 Medium sized creative animation activities / events (50-100 people at each).	- "River Clean event" – approx. 100 people - Colour Run events in Falls and Glencairn Park – approx. 500 people - "Movies in the Dam" – approx. 700 people
- 10 small community focused activities / events (30 to 50 people at each)	- "Sunflower Festival" – approx. 50 people - Foraging Walk and Big Potato Harvest in Bog Meadows – approx. 100 people - Dunville Heritage Tour and Whiskey Tasting – approx. 20 people - "Street Art Jam in Partnership with Seedhead Arts at Glencairn Park – attracted approx. 10 people - "Spooks on Spokes" – approx. 20+ people

This project completed the programme of small, medium and large finale events during October, which included:

- Street Art Jam in Partnership with Seedhead Arts – Glencairn Park – Saturday 15th October 2022, 11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Involving young people working with artists to create large scale canvasses themed around the Greenway and went on display at the Finale Event.
- A "Spooks on Spokes" event, facilitated by Sustrans and the FMCG Cycle Leaders, on Saturday 22nd October 2022, ahead of the Finale Event in Springfield Park.
- A Finale Event in Springfield Park on Saturday 22nd October 2022 – a colourful and energetic Mexican Day of the Dead Festival, with a wide variety of activities for all the family to enjoy, including live music, stage performances, dance, food vendors, entertainers, pumpkin carving, arts and crafts, face painting and a spectacular fire dance finale.

- **Resource Allocation**

As reported previously, options in relation to how to use the support from the Resource Allocation was being reviewed by the Programme Board, and an update would be provided to members in due course.

As previously reported, total expenditure to date for the SSS totals £2.7m with £1.82m reimbursed by SEUPB. Claims for Periods 28-31 valued at £908K remain outstanding.

The Partnership noted the contents of the report and related appendices and recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee to:

- Agree in principle an extension of the Youth Civic Education project to 28th February 2023, subject to the submission of an implementation plan.

BCC9 - Funding Request (SWC)

The Good Relations Officer informed the Partnership of a further project proposal that had been developed as part of the Good Relations Action Plan within the BCC9 Strategic Intervention.

The Members were reminded about the Strategic Intervention Programme (BCC9) within the Good Relations Action Plan and were advised that they had allocated £47,300 of this total fund of £48,000. Therefore, £700 of this overall programme budget remained and a proposal had been received from Shankill Women's Centre for costs associated with their Christmas Market, which would be held on the Lanark Way interface on 1st December 2022. Officers felt that bringing residents from neighbouring interface communities together for such an event was worthy of a financial contribution from a Good Relations perspective and would play a part in meeting the overall intentions of the Strategic Intervention Fund. Any award would be subject to the satisfactory completion of a previous outstanding award.

The Members noted that applications for Council small grants, including Good Relations small grants, were currently open. The closing date for receipt of applications was Friday 13th January 2023 at 12:00 p.m. and all information was available at: <https://www.belfastcity-grants.com/>

The Partnership noted the contents of the report and agreed that funding be awarded under Delegated Authority of the Director of Neighbourhood Services for the following project as part of the Strategic Intervention element of the Good Relations Action Plan subject to the satisfactory completion of information outstanding from a previous award.

- Shankill Women's Centre - £700 towards their Christmas Market event on 1st December 2022

Additional Funding - TEO

The Good Relations Officer informed the Partnership of an additional allocation of funding to the Good Relations Action Plan from The Executive Office.

The Members were reminded that the Council receives funding from The Executive Office for costs associated with the delivery of the Council's Good Relations Action Plan. The Executive Office had contacted all Councils to indicate that an additional resource of £7,050 was being made available for each Action Plan. This must be match funded to the tune of 25% by the Council and a commitment that the funding would be used for one of the T:BUC Themes and spent by the end of March 2023.

The Good Relations Officer advised that Departmental Managers had proposed that this funding could be used to support programming and animation at the new Urban Villages Colin Park, Páirc Nua Chollann. Since this park had been handed back to the Council in October, there had been a need identified to develop programming and animation to support activities in the park. Urban Villages was one of the headline actions within the T:BUC Strategy. It had also been proposed that the 25% match funding would be sourced from the Parks Outreach Fund. The total available resource would therefore be £9,400. He added that the proposal sat well with the BCC5 Programme in the Action Plan on Shared

Communities/Inclusion Programme and would assist in creating the new park as a shared and diverse amenity.

A Member questioned the animation funding for this particular park and the distribution of funding in other neighbourhoods for other projects and added that all parks across the city should be animated. This was followed by discussion and input from other Members about how animation could attract people from all communities. A Member advised that the Colin Park was seen as a “destination park” and, with a new facility, there was a need to animate the space to ensure the ethos of developing a shared space was maximized.

The Peace IV Manager confirmed that Parks programming and animation of parks would be progressing next year and she would highlight the Member’s comments to the relevant department.

The Neighbourhood Services Manager confirmed that funding from the DCGRP was based on need and where funding would clearly deliver good relations outcomes.

Moved by Councillor Carson,
Seconded by Councillor O’Hara,

Resolved – That the Partnership note the contents of the report and agree to the use of the additional funding of £7,050 from The Executive Office for programming and animation at the new Urban Villages Colin Park, Páirc Nua Chollann.

Good Relations Audit Update

The Good Relations Officer updated the Members on the work being undertaken on the Good Relations Audit.

The Members recalled that every three years, as part of its letter of offer from the Executive Office for its Good Relations Programme, the Council must undertake an independent audit of the Good Relations issues and needs within the City.

The Provision for the audit was included in the 2022/23 Good Relations Action Plan, as agreed by the Members in February this year. Following a procurement process, Peter Osborne of Rubicon Consulting was awarded the contract to develop the Audit and associated Good Relations Action Plans. The work on the Audit had been ongoing since July and a range of surveys, meetings and focus groups had taken place and a draft Audit was currently being prepared. He explained that it was a requirement from the Executive Office that Councils’ Good Relations Action Plans were based on an independent audit of local needs and issues. Therefore, the Council’s 2023/24 Action Planning was dependent upon there being a new Audit in place.

The Members noted the contents of the report and:

1. Agreed that a draft report on the Audit and its draft findings be discussed at its December meeting; and
2. Agreed that Peter Osborne, who was developing the Audit, be invited to discuss the draft report at the December meeting for 20 minutes, to enable

Members to feed into the report prior to it being finalised in advance of the January meeting.

Events Update

The Good Relations Officer provided the Members with information on forthcoming events.

Event: Launch of Report on the Lived Experiences of people from Minority Ethnic Backgrounds living in Belfast.

Date: 1st December 2022

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Format: In person launch at Belfast City Hall

Registration: goodrelations@belfastcity.gov.uk

Event: Holocaust Memorial Event: A Living History Lesson shared by Holocaust Survivor Eve Kurger

Date: 24th January 2023

Time: 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Format: In person venue to be confirmed

Registration: goodrelations@belfastcity.gov.uk

Event: Remembering the Roma Holocaust

Date: 26th January 2023

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Format: Online workshop

Registration: goodrelations@belfastcity.gov.uk

The Members noted the contents of the report and noted that they were welcome to attend any of the events. The Members were advised that if they required any further information, they should contact the listed officer/organisation responsible for the event.

PEACE PLUS

The Programme Manager provided the Members with an update on recent activity with regards to the development of the PEACE PLUS 1.1. Co-designed Local Community Peace Action Plan for Belfast and explained that the areas for discussion at the meeting would include:

- Initial feedback from recent Stakeholder Engagement Workshops and plans to follow up with further engagement;
- Update on next steps to complete Stage 1 of the co-design process in developing the local action plan;
- Update on survey being issued to the Shared City Partnership members; and
- Development of proposed residents survey as part of Stage 1 of the co-design Process.

The Members noted that at this point that, as part of the development of the local action plan, there could be up to 40% of the overall allocation available for community regeneration and transformation projects as part of Theme 1. The outworking of what type of projects which might be considered for inclusion within the local action plan would require detailed analysis over the coming months. Further information on what process would be used to consider

potential projects would be brought back to the Members at a future meeting for discussion and agreement. However, any potential projects must:

- Have clear Peace and Reconciliation Outcomes;
- Be able to align to the objectives of the PEACE PLUS Programme and the targets as set by SEUPB;
- Meet the assessment requirements as set by SEUPB (these were to be confirmed by SEUPB);
- Align to wider PEACEPLUS opportunities;
- Align to the Belfast Agenda; and
- Be realistic, affordable, and deliverable within the Programme timescale.

The Council's appointed consultants, Locus Management and Blu Zebra, were in attendance and presented updates on the initial feedback received from recent Stage 1 Engagement sessions. They provided a breakdown of attendance at each of the 16 workshops of which a total of 154 attended, they also provided a summary of initial feedback by issue and opportunity. The Members received further detail on work that would be undertaken in the coming weeks and months outlining key stages 1-3. It was noted that the timeline was dependent upon a formal call being issued by SEUPB, therefore, it was subject to change.

The consultants also updated on both the Shared City Partnership survey as discussed at the previous meeting and the proposed stage 1 engagement survey that would be open to anyone to complete. Following discussion, it was agreed that Ian McLaughlin and Ashleigh Roberts will work with consultants to draft a survey. It was further agreed that anyone else from the Partnership who wanted to get involved would be welcome to do so.

Congratulations were extended to the consultants and the Programme Manager on the work carried out to date.

The Members noted the contents of the report, provided feedback on the presentation and:

- Agreed to the proposed methodology for completing Stage 1 of the co-design process;
- Provided feedback on the process for the residents' survey to inform Stage 1 and agreed that SCP members would get involved in designing the survey; and
- Noted that given the current resource needs, an exercise to recruit a PEACE Programme Manager had commenced in accordance with Council procedures. Costs associated with a Programme Manager would be able to be claimed retrospectively from SEUPB as part of our Action Plan submission.

Chairperson

City Hall/City Hall Grounds Installations Working Group

Wednesday, 26th October, 2022

THE CITY HALL/CITY HALL GROUNDS INSTALLATIONS WORKING GROUP MINUTES

HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Members present: Councillor Beattie (Chairperson);
Councillors Dorrian, Lyons, Murray and O'Hara.

In attendance: Ms. S. Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes;
Ms. K. Mullen, Project Sponsor;
Ms. D. Colville, City Innovation Manager;
Mr. M. McCann, City Innovation Programme Lead;
Ms. C. McCann, City Innovation Programme Officer;
Mr. J. Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer; and
Ms. V. Smyth, Democratic Services Officer;

Apologies

There were no apologies received.

Minutes

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

Permanent Acknowledgment of All the Fire Services Efforts During the Belfast Blitz

Councillor Lyons raised the matter of a permanent acknowledgment of all the fire services efforts during the Belfast Blitz further to the 75th anniversary in 2016. The Project Sponsor advised that she expected that there had been a Notice of Motion in relation to this in the past. She informed the Members that a Belfast Blitz memorial was planned for Cathedral Gardens, however, the memorial would acknowledge all those who were affected by the Belfast Blitz and not just the fire services. The Project Sponsor confirmed that she would take the matter forward by way of a discussion.

Augment the City – Proposals for City Hall Exhibition Space (Verbal Update)

The Director of Physical Programmes referred to a report which had been brought to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in relation to the proposals for 'Augment the City' and handed over to the City Innovation Manager who provided a verbal update on the project. The City Innovation Manager informed the Members that 'Augment the City' was a 12-month project aimed to help Belfast City Region partners to better

understand, and plan for, new digital technologies that were likely to shape the content and presentation of major visitor and cultural investments over the next 5 years, including Belfast Stories, the City Hall exhibition and other visitor locations across the city region.

The City Innovation Manager presented the following key objectives for the programme and explained how the project would be delivered in terms of funding, installation and connectivity in 3 rooms in the City Hall.

- To support the teams behind the city's major visitor experiences to learn more about the potential of immersive technologies;
- To provide over £700,000 to the city's creative digital SME's to support their R&D in immersive technology;
- To create a major immersive visitor experience in the City Hall to complement the existing exhibition; and
- To showcase the ideas and prototypes developed by local SME's.

The City Innovation Manager advised that the development of a £1 million business case was underway and would be submitted to the Department for Economy (DfE) to draw down City Deal funding, and a response was expected around mid-November. She further advised that the development of a collaborative agreement with BT and other key industry partners to create a timebound world-class visitor immersive showcase in the City Hall was also underway.

There was discussion around the benefits of the project and the opportunity to link to different parts of the city which would encourage neighbourhood tourism.

It was agreed that the City Innovation Manager would provide the Members with a project update at December's Working Group.

Carson Tile Update

The Director of Physical Programmes reminded the Members that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting on 23rd September 2022, had agreed to proceed with the option set out in the report in respect of the Carson Tile. It was further agreed that, in line with early discussions with HED, the material be specified as black granite.

The Working Group recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that the Carson Tile be moved to Stage 3 as committed on the Capital Programme; and agreed the concept design for the associated plaque which contextualised the rationale behind the Carson Tile.

The Project Sponsor advised that logistics and timing around installation were yet to be confirmed and the timescale would be brought to the next Working Group meeting.

Frederick Douglass - Update on Procurement

The Director of Physical Programmes reminded the Members that, following approvals, a two-stage procurement process with one artist appointed to undertake the design, installation and manufacture of a statue to Frederick Douglass had commenced.

The Members noted the current status of the design, manufacture and installation of the statue to Frederick Douglass in Belfast and:

- i. Noted that, following moderation of the PQQ (Pre-Qualification Questionnaire) stage, 3 artists had been invited to the ITT next stage (Invitation to Tender);
- ii. Noted that ITT documents would be issued week commencing 24th October, with a return date of early December with a view to appointing an artist prior to Christmas 2022; and
- iii. Gave consideration to the public unveiling arrangements and developing a narrative around the new piece.

City Hall Statues - Update on Procurement

The Members recalled that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting on 28th March 2022, had agreed that the City Hall statues namely, Winifred Carney and Mary Ann McCracken, be moved to Stage 3 as committed on the Capital Programme, and that the necessary procurement processes be initiated. The Project Sponsor advised that the process had now commenced and, as the project moved forward, the Members would be asked to give consideration to the planned public unveiling of both pieces. It was expected that there would be significant public interest generated, therefore, it was essential that a narrative and context was agreed and developed around the installation of the new pieces. The Members were advised that they would be asked to make a recommendation on the type of unveiling ceremony working in partnership with the Mary Ann McCracken Foundation and Winifred Carney subject matter expert.

Regular updates would be provided to Installations - City Hall/City Hall Grounds Working Group during the process.

Chairperson

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