

Public Document Pack

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

6th December, 2022

MEETING OF PEOPLE and Communities Committee

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

In addition to those matters previously notified to you, the following item(s) will also be considered at the meeting to be held at 5.15 pm on Tuesday, 6th December, 2022.

Yours faithfully,

John Walsh

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

- (a) Pitch Partner Agreement - Alderman Tommy Patton Memorial Park (Pages 1 - 4)
- (f) Installation of Gates at Crescent Park (Pages 5 - 36)
- (g) Supporting Vulnerable People impacted by Cost of Living (Pages 37 - 42)
- (a) Quarterly update on Pitch Partnership Agreements (Pages 43 - 46)

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

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 2, 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

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Subject:	Supporting Vulnerable People impacted by Cost-of-Living
Date:	6 December 2022
Reporting Officer:	John Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy David Sales, Director of Neighbourhood Services Lisa Caldwell, Director of External Affairs, Communications & Marketing.
Contact Officers:	Kevin Heaney, Head of Inclusive Growth and Anti-Poverty Kelly Gilliland, Neighbourhood Services 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"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To provide P&C Committee with an update on plans to support vulnerable people and families impacted by the cost-of living crisis and who are at risk of negative health and social impacts of living in cold homes.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to note the contents of this report and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. note the Council’s expanding role in supporting vulnerable people/households impacted by the cost-of-living crisis ii. note the work underway to bring forward a programme of warm hubs (Warm Welcome / Warm Spaces) in Council assets and facilities during this winter period iii. consider the civic leadership and convening role of the Council in bringing together a citywide programme of similar support and in helping raise awareness and signposting to such facilities

	iv. note the support provided by the MarCom’s team in helping to raise awareness and promote the support available including the development and rollout of the #BelfastTogether narrative.
3.0	Main report
	<u>Background</u>
3.1	Households and vulnerable individuals are experiencing the perfect storm, emerging from a Covid-19 pandemic, growing pressures on household incomes and unprecedented increases in gas and electricity bills. The impacts of fuel poverty are felt in a wide range of ways, on physical and mental health, household finances, the economy and ultimately on people's quality of life. Despite the hard work of many agencies across the statutory, community, voluntary and private sectors, the impact of fuel poverty is intensifying within Belfast and the wider region.
3.2	It is important to highlight the growing pressures and demand on referrals to existing support schemes including the Affordable Warmth Scheme and the Belfast Warm and Well programme both of which are already exceeding capacity and we are still to enter the winter period. The Warm and Well programme has experienced a 300% growth in demand since it was first established.
3.3	Members will be aware of the recent decision taken by the SP&R Committee to allocate £1m towards a fuel hardship scheme across the city. Council officers are also engaging with the Department for Communities to explore what support can be brought forward for those most need during this winter period.
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.4	Members may be aware of the growing focus across the UK whereby public, voluntary and faith organisations are utilising local community assets and facilities as ‘warm hubs’ which are open for people to go to keep warm and often to refreshments and to take part in social activities. This initiative is being brought forward at pace in response to the inability of people and families to heat their home this winter.
3.5	Whilst recognising that ‘warm hubs’ should not be seen as an alternative to providing households with adequate resources to make heating their homes affordable, there is a growing number of councils across Northern Ireland who are already bringing forward similar plans for either setting up, supporting or highlighting/signposting the locations for ‘warm hubs’. Whilst not a new concept, as we enter the forthcoming winter months, this is a practical step to support people in communities who need it the most.

3.6	<p>Within Belfast, the concept of warm hubs (or Warm Welcome/Spaces) is building momentum with a number of key services including, from a Council perspective, our leisure and community centres, putting in place plans to have locations within their facilities as warm hubs which will be made available for people to avail of during the colder months.</p>
3.7	<p>Work is also underway to programme a series of activities and events within these facilities (e.g. tea clubs, homework clubs, classes, wellness programmes etc) to encourage attendance and broaden the scope (to reduce stigma and encourage longer-term engagement). Discussions are also ongoing with other key statutory agencies and community service providers including NI Libraries, Museums, the Public Health Authority and Area Partnership Boards in relation to their plans/proposals. Officers have also utilised established community planning networks to gather information on relevant local initiatives which may be planned</p>
3.8	<p>Whilst the Council has a direct role in providing such facilities, it can also use its leadership and convening role to help coordinate a citywide programme and help identify, raise awareness and signpost to locations which may be available across the city through multiple platforms and channels. Members to note that officers are currently pulling together a short and easy-to-read information booklet which will outline the range of key support services available as well as advice, including energy savings tips, to help people mitigate the impacts of the cost-of-living crisis. Again, the intention would be that this information would be shared as widely as possible and using multiple channels.</p> <p><u>Marketing and Communications</u></p>
3.9	<p>Our Marketing and Communications team is providing comms support around a number of initiatives that Council is rolling out in response to the cost-of-living crisis. Some of the initiatives have been referred to above and seek to support communities/households in need - for example our 'warm spaces, warm welcomes' programme in leisure/community centres; extra programming in community centres to encourage people, particularly seniors, into our community centres; community advice sessions including energy saving advice; fuel stamps; age-friendly events, and the Fuel Hardship Scheme. It is also important to note that ongoing communications activity and messaging around the circular economy, employment academies and support for businesses – all relate back to Council supporting the city/communities during this time of crisis.</p>
3.10	<p>Similar to our communications approach during Covid, our Marcomms team is providing signposting for our residents and ratepayers to relevant third-party services and resources available to help with the cost-of-living crisis, including the 'warm spaces, warm welcomes' scheme being delivered by our leisure partners, GLL. In the latest edition of City Matters, we included a dedicated section on where to go for support and advice in relation to the cost-of-living crisis. We have also developed a #BelfastTogether narrative so that relevant information can be</p>

	<p>'badged' in a consistent, recognisable way. This is currently running across Council's social media channels, and we will continue to regularly review and update our web content.</p>
3.11	<p>Earlier this month, we launched our own programme of 'warm spaces, warm welcomes' in community centres, involving the Lord Mayor in Marcomms activity including the Lord Mayor's video blog, and our Marcomms activity has also been highlighting the positive work going on to support older people in our communities including information sessions and age-friendly events. We are planning more PR and Marcomms activity to promote this work and encourage citizen engagement in the coming weeks. Attached at Appendix 1 is some illustrative artwork developed for the upcoming drop-in sessions.</p>
3.12	<p>Members to note that a core group of internal officers from across council, including e.g. CNS, Climate and Community Planning will be brought together to ensure that the internal consideration and operational planning of future support is coordinated and synergies maximised. MarCom's will continue to provide advice, support and leadership on the associated comms and how this can fit with the #BelfastTogether narrative.</p>
	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p>
3.13	<p>The financial implications contained within this report will be funded through existing departmental budgets and/or through possible financial or in-kind contributions from partners towards programming activity.</p>
	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Implications</u></p>
3.14	<p>None</p>
4.0	<p><u>Appendices – Documents Attached</u></p>
	<p>Appendix 1: Illustrative Artwork</p>

Appendix 1: Illustrative Artwork



Community information drop-in sessions

Residents will be able to access information on:

- our small grants scheme
- warm spaces
- keeping warm and well through the winter and more.

Sessions are **FREE** to attend with light refreshments also available.

Avoniel Leisure Centre	Monday 5 December 12.30pm to 1.30pm	Tel: 07585959042
Cregagh Community Centre	Monday 5 December 5.30pm to 6.30pm	Tel: 07585959042
Glen Community Centre	Monday 28 November 10am to 12.30pm	Tel: 07880447098
Girdwood Community Centre	Wednesday 30 November 10.30am to 2.30pm	Tel: 07500911648
Olympia Leisure Centre	Wednesday 7 December 10am to 12pm	Tel: 07825141098

#BelfastTogether
www.belfastcity.gov.uk/community



Belfast City Council



Community information drop-in sessions

FREE drop-in sessions at some of our community / leisure centres. Residents will be able to access information on our small grants scheme, warm spaces, keeping warm and well through the winter and much more.

www.belfastcity.gov.uk/community #BelfastTogether



Belfast City Council

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Subject:	Pitch Partner Agreements Quarterly Update
Date:	6 th December 2022
Reporting Officer:	David Sales, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Cate Taggart, Neighbourhood Services Manager

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	This report is to provide an update on progress regarding implementation of Partner Agreements for July – September 2022.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Members of the Committee are asked to note the progress to date at Partner Agreement sites.
3.0	Main report
3.1	Legal Agreements Council agreed to enter into Partner Agreements at the following sites with the clubs identified below.

Location	Partner
Dixon Playing Fields	Sirocco Works FC
Alderman Tommy Patton Memorial Park	East Belfast FC
Woodlands Playing Fields	Co. Antrim Board GAA
Loughside Playing Fields	Loughside FC
Shore Road Playing Fields	Grove United FC
Orangefield Playing Fields	Bloomfield FC
Ulidia Playing Fields	Rosario FC

3.2 The Agreements are for an initial period of 5 years with an option to extend, subject to satisfactory performance by the Agreement holders. The Department has extended all of the Agreements beyond the initial 5 year period.

3.3 Council is currently developing a new policy regarding the management of assets within the community with a pilot being delivered across a number of sites. One of the sites included in the initial pilot is Ulidia Playing Fields and this site has been assessed using the pilot approach. At their meeting in October, Strategic Policy and Resources committee endorsed this committee's recommendation to transfer the existing Partner Agreement at Ulidia to a long-term lease. It is anticipated that, following review of the CAT pilot process, a number of the sites listed above may also be made available for consideration under new management arrangements. Until that time, and to ensure continuity of service provision, it is intended that the remaining existing Partner Agreements continue until new arrangements are put in place.

3.4 Regular checks on the necessary Insurance, Health and Safety and building operations and governance have been completed at all sites.

3.5 Quarterly reporting on Safeguarding, Finance and Performance in in place with the reporting documents amended in accordance with audit requirements and sent to partners one month in advance of reporting deadlines. All partners are compliant with regards to reporting requirements.

3.6 **Financial Support to deliver Sports Development Plans**

Successful applicants submitted their plans in early 2022 to improve sports development outcomes at each site in the 2022 – 2023 financial year. Funding of up to £20,000 per annum is available for each partner to deliver a programme supporting their Sports Development Plan. Letters of offer to all partners are based on approved sports development plans for the financial year. Partners must submit Sports Development plans annually which are aligned to the financial planning calendar for the incoming year.

3.7

Monitoring

A calendar of regular monitoring meetings are in place with OSS managers, the Leisure Development Manager and Sports Development Officer. The 2022/23 action plans are reviewed and agreed with the partners during these discussions to ensure that planned outcomes are achieved and improvements identified where required.

3.8

Sports Development Impact

In line with Council objectives, the diversification of use and improved sports development impact are priorities at the Partner Agreement sites. Programme delivery has led to significant positive achievements across the sites. The table below indicates outputs at the sites as reported by the 7 partners for Quarter 2 (July-September) 2022/23.

A. Participation type	
1. Members of different codes	6100 people
2. People with a Disability	539 people
3. People from a minority ethnic background	2595 people
4. Females	3360 people
5. Older people	2108 people
6. Schools / youth organisations	7 schools /groups
B. Participation usage	
Number of full pitch/adult matches on site	237 matches
Number of full pitch/adult match participations	6,488 users
Number of small sided/youth matches on site	225 matches
Number of youth match participations	8077 users
Number of training sessions held on site	559 sessions
Number of training session participants	20,232 participants
Number of other bookings / activities on site	59 bookings

	Number of other bookings/activity participants on site	3991 participants
	C. Partnership working	
	1. Working with Belfast City Council	All reported partnership working
	2. Sport's Governing Bodies	16 engaged
	3. Other teams / groups in your sport	23 teams / groups
	4. Other teams / groups in different sports	7 teams / groups
	5. Community / voluntary groups	5 community groups
	D. Social value	
	1. Young people at risk	1191 people
	2. Encourage participation of under- represented groups	2619 people
	3. Promote positive cross community relations	320 people
	4. Promote health and wellbeing in socially deprived communities	3157 people
	5. Promote Volunteering skills	33 people
	6. Develop skills that will improve employability	9 people
3.9	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u>	
	A total of £140,000 per annum is available within revenue estimates to support annual Sports Development Plans at the Partner Agreement sites.	
3.10	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u>	
	None.	
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached	
	None	