

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



**Belfast
City Council**

14th November, 2022

MEETING OF THE STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in the Lavery Room and remotely, via Microsoft Teams, on Friday, 18th November, 2022 at 9.30 a.m., for the transaction of the business noted below.

You are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully,

John Walsh

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

1. Routine Matters

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

2. Restricted Items

- (a) Financial Reporting – Quarter 2 2022/23 (Pages 1 - 22)
- (b) Revenue Estimates and District Rate 2023-24 (Pages 23 - 34)
- (c) Update on NI Council Strategic Waste Management Arrangements (Pages 35 - 84)
- (d) Fuel Poverty Hardship Fund (Pages 85 - 100)
- (e) Inquiry into Funding for Levelling Up (Pages 101 - 114)

- (f) Update on Special Meetings of the Area Working Groups – Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund Stage 1 Applications (Pages 115 - 168)

(Report and appendices for 2 (f) initially restricted – restriction removed 10/1/23)

- (g) Update on Research into the Lived Experiences of Minority Ethnic Communities in Belfast (Pages 169 - 182)
- (h) Minutes of the Meeting of the Language Working Group (Pages 183 - 208)

3. Matters referred back from Council / Motions

- (a) Motion - Rates Freeze (Pages 209 - 212)

4. Governance

- (a) Schedule of Meetings 2023 (Pages 213 - 214)
- (b) Change of Date of Council Meeting (Pages 215 - 216)
- (c) Renewal of the Scheme of Delegation for Planning (Pages 217 - 240)

5. Belfast Agenda/Strategic Issues

- (a) Update on City Region Growth Deal (Pages 241 - 252)
- (b) Leisure Management Contract Governance and Performance Reporting (Pages 253 - 256)
- (c) Belfast City Council Safeguarding All Ages Policy (Pages 257 - 332)
- (d) Smart Belfast Urban Innovation Framework 2022 - 2026 (Pages 333 - 376)
- (e) Response to Consultation on Department of Education's Draft Corporate Plan 2023 – 2028 – Every Child (Pages 377 - 412)

6. Physical Programme and Asset Management

- (a) Alleygating Programme: Phase 5 Funding – Response from Department of Justice (Pages 413 - 416)
- (b) Update on Physical Programme (Pages 417 - 438)
- (c) Asset Management (Pages 439 - 452)

7. Finance, Procurement and Performance

- (a) Update on Contracts (Pages 453 - 462)

8. Equality and Good Relations

- (a) Minutes of the Meeting of the Shared City Partnership (Pages 463 - 486)
- (b) Seachtain na Gaeilge/Irish Language Week 2023 (Pages 487 - 488)

9. Operational Issues

- (a) Minutes of the Meeting of the Party Group Leaders' Consultative Forum
(Pages 489 - 492)
- (b) Requests for Use of the City Hall and the Provision of Hospitality
(Pages 493 - 496)
- (c) Minutes of the Meeting of the City Hall/City Hall Grounds Installations
Working Group (Pages 497 - 500)
- (d) Building Regulation Fees for Applications including Insulation (Pages 501 -
504)
- (e) A Future Network For All - NIE Networks RP7 Price Control Consultation
(Pages 505 - 516)
- (f) Minutes of the Meeting of the All-Party Working Group on the City Centre
(Pages 517 - 524)

10. Issues Raised in Advance by Members

- (a) Memorial to Baroness May Blood
(Councillor Murray to raise)
- (b) Use of the Ceremony Room, City Hall
(The Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor M. Kelly to raise)

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Subject:	Update on Special Meetings of the Area Working Groups – Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund Stage 1 Applications
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
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 ask the Committee to approve the minutes of the most recent meetings of the Area Working Groups, which considered the applications received under the Council's Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund and recommended projects to be moved forward to Stage 2- Development in line with the project pathway for NRF projects, as agreed by the Committee in November 2021.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. approve the West Belfast AWG minutes <i>of 27th October, as attached at Appendix 1;</i> ii. approve the North Belfast AWG minutes <i>of 2nd November, as attached at Appendix 2;</i>

	<div>iii. approve the East Belfast AWG minutes of <i>3rd November</i>, as attached at Appendix 3; and;</div> <div>iv. approve the South Belfast AWG minutes of <i>7th November</i>, as attached at Appendix 4.</div>															
3.0	Main Report															
	<u>KEY ISSUES</u>															
3.1	Area Working Group Minutes Members agreed, in June 2016, that the Area Working Group minutes would be submitted to the SP and R Committee for approval going forward, in line with the Council’s commitment to openness and transparency and to ensure a consistent approach with other Member-led Working Groups.															
3.2	The most recent round of meetings of the Area Working Groups were special meetings which focused on the Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund. Members will be aware that the Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund is the Council’s new funding stream designed to support capital projects across the city aligned to three thematic areas – neighbourhood tourism, environmental sustainability and social economy.															
3.3	<p>Members will recall that the fund was originally £8m and that it has been bolstered by an additional £2m, via the reallocation of year end surpluses bringing it up to £10m. This additional £2m was allocated in line with the original allocation model i.e. 50% proportion of population per quadrant of the city and 50% proportion of the population that is in top 20% area of multiple deprivation giving the final amounts available per area as outlined below -</p> <table><tr><td></td><td>Agreed allocation £8m</td><td>Revised allocation £10m</td></tr><tr><td>North</td><td>£1,947,983</td><td>£2,434,979</td></tr><tr><td>South</td><td>£1,539,795</td><td>£1,924,744</td></tr><tr><td>East</td><td>£1,830,001</td><td>£2,287,501</td></tr><tr><td>West</td><td>£2,682,221*</td><td>£3,352,776</td></tr></table> <p>* Proportional allocation to Shankill from overall West (Shankill - £705,759)</p>		Agreed allocation £8m	Revised allocation £10m	North	£1,947,983	£2,434,979	South	£1,539,795	£1,924,744	East	£1,830,001	£2,287,501	West	£2,682,221*	£3,352,776
	Agreed allocation £8m	Revised allocation £10m														
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South	£1,539,795	£1,924,744														
East	£1,830,001	£2,287,501														
West	£2,682,221*	£3,352,776														
3.4	<p>The Committee agreed a 3 Stage process for the NRF projects in November 2021, as outlined below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stage 1 - Application Stage (Emerging project) –an open call application process via the completion of an application form. Once received it was agreed that officers from across the Council would then carry out an assessment of projects using an assessment matrix designed to test projects against 4 abilities (affordability, feasibility, deliverability and sustainability). Members agreed that projects had to score over 55 in order to be considered to proceed to the next stage (Stage 2 – Development).															

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stage 2 – Development (Uncommitted project) - Project development stage - at this stage a business case/economic appraisal (commensurate with the scale of the project) will be undertaken along with detailed designs and project costings. If an EA or similar has already been undertaken then the findings of this EA will be tested. Additional support (if required) will also be looked at (capacity building etc.). Due-diligence checks will be carried out in line with arrangements under LIF, BIF and SOF programmes. Proposed that this stage will be timebound to 6 months to allow decisions on projects to be taken at the same time. • Stage 3 – Delivery (Committed project) - Delivery stage – This is likely to be subject to a number of preconditions for particular projects including the return of a satisfactory tender. Due diligence checks will be carried out again in line with arrangements under LIF, BIF and SOF programmes. At this stage an indicative budget will be assigned to a project in line with the Council's three stage approval process. Projects will not receive a final investment decision until tenders are returned.
3.5	<p>Members will be aware that the application stage for NRF closed on 12th May, 2022. There was substantial interest in the fund with requests for over 100 application packs and 61 applications received in total. The proposals presented in the applications showcase a wide variety of exciting new ideas for the city as well as enhancements to existing facilities. In line with the pathway presented to the Committee in November 2021, an intensive period of eligibility review, validation, panel assessment and moderation was undertaken with the outcome of this reported into each AWG. Through the AWGs, Members will be aware that the standard of applications received was very high, and this is reflected in the proportion that achieved above the threshold (75%). It was also noted to Members that even with the increased budget for NRF that the Fund was massively overly subscribed.</p>
3.6	<p>The outcome of the assessment process was presented to the AWGs and they were asked to consider recommending a number of projects to SP and R to move to <i>Stage 2 - Development</i>. To inform their recommendation, the AWGs received the same information on each application which had reached the minimum threshold (above 55). In considering this, Members were asked to note the delivery resource implications and also the overall budget envelope available for each area. It was also emphasised to Members that they were not making any investment decisions in a particular project at this stage. This will only be 'in principle' when projects are moved to <i>Stage 3 – Delivery</i>. It was also highlighted for Members that it was recognised that not every project which had reached threshold could be recommended to be progressed to <i>Stage 2 - Development</i>. Given this, it is proposed that applicants will be advised of the outcome and in addition to being able to request feedback on their application, officers will work with applicants to help identify alternative potential sources of support. For example, some applicants will also be able to avail of business support and mentoring through the</p>

	<p>Council's Social Enterprise and Co-operative Support Programme and Enterprise Framework. This will be tailored to each individual project.</p> <p>AWGs were also advised that projects which had reached threshold but that are not progressed at this Stage are held at Stage 1, in case any of the projects which are moved forward do not progress beyond Stage 2. If this happens, then projects will be presented again for Members' consideration.</p>
3.7	<p>The AWWs were also advised of the projects which had not met threshold and that in line with the pathway advised, that these projects would be written to outlining that they had been unsuccessful. Again, it was noted that applicants would be provided with the opportunity to request feedback on their applications along with signposting to other potential sources of support. Members are asked to note that there were two city wide projects which did not specify a location that did not reach threshold (Supported Employment & Sales Training (SEST) CIC and NI Community Energy (NICE). As these did not have a location they were reported into each of the AWWs.</p>
3.8	<p>The Committee is asked to consider the recommendations arising from the special NRF AWWs.</p>
	<p>West Belfast AWW – 27th October, 2022</p>
3.9	<p>The West Belfast Area Working Group agreed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. to note the update on the Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund; ii. to note those applications which had not met the minimum threshold (An Spórtlann CIC, Supported Employment and Sales Training (SEST) CIC and NI Community Energy (NICE)) and that the applicants would be advised that they had been unsuccessful and receive feedback; iii. to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that the following three projects be progressed to Stage 2 – Development in West: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fáilte Feirste Thiar – The Mountainview Hotel; • Glór na Móna – Croí na Carraige – 'The Heart of the Rock' Phase 1; • Michael Davitt's GAC – Michael Davitt's Community Heritage Centre, and iv. to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that the following three projects be progressed to Stage 2 – Development in Shankill: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action for Community Transformation (ACT) Initiative – The ACT Initiative Community Hub and Visitors Centre; • Lower Shankill Community Association – The Road; • Glencairn – Glencairn Community Project (Hub), and v. to note the proposed approach that the Council would provide a response to each applicant whose project was not moving forward to Stage 2 at this time, outlining other potential avenues of support.

	North Belfast AWG – 2nd November, 2022
3.10	<p>The North Belfast Area Working Group agreed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. to note the update on the Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund; ii. to note those applications which had not met the minimum threshold (Greater Whitewell Community Surgery, The HUBB Community Development Resource Centre, Supported Employment & Sales Training (SEST) CIC and NI Community Energy (NICE)) and that the applicants would be advised that they had been unsuccessful and receive feedback; iii. to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that the following five projects be progressed to Stage 2 – Development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum – Cliftonville Community Enterprise project • Ardoyne Youth Enterprise - AYE Youth and Community Hub • Ulster Supported Employment Ltd (USEL) - Green Growth and The Circular Economy project • Belfast Orange Hall - Belfast Orange Hall Refurbishment project • Sailortown Regeneration Group - St Joseph's Restoration project, and iv. to note the proposed approach that the Council would provide a response to each applicant whose project was not moving forward to Stage 2 at this time, outlining other potential avenues of support.
3.11	East Belfast AWG – 3rd November, 2022
	<p>The East Belfast Area Working Group agreed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. to note the update on the Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund; ii. to note those applications which had not met the minimum threshold (Hanwood Trust Company Ltd, Lagan Village Youth and Community Group, Nettlefield Multisports, Ballymac Friendship Trust, Cycling Ulster & Cycling Ireland, Phoenix Education Centre, Supported Employment & Sales Training (SEST) CIC and NI Community Energy (NICE)) and that the applicants would be advised that they had been unsuccessful and receive feedback; iii. to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that the following four projects be progressed to Stage 2 – Development in East: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EastSide Property Belfast Ltd - EastSide Container Hotel project; • Belfast Unemployed Resource Centre (BURC) - Portview Exchange project; • Ulster Rugby - Nevin Spence Centre (NSC) Visitor Experience project; • Impact Belfast – Impact Hub project and;

	iv. to note the proposed approach, that the Council would provide a response to each applicant whose project was not moving forward to Stage 2, at this time, outlining other potential avenues of support.
3.5	South Belfast AWG – 7th November, 2022
	<p>The South Belfast Area Working Group agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. to note the update on the Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund; ii. to note those applications which had not met the minimum threshold (Cycling Ulster and Cycling Ireland, Linen Quarter BID, Belfast Central Mission, Southcity Resource and Development Centre and Donegall Road Methodist Church, Supported Employment and Sales Training (SEST) CIC and NI Community Energy (NICE)) and that the applicants would be advised that they had been unsuccessful and receive feedback; iii. to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that the following five projects be progressed to Stage 2 – Development: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sólás Special Needs Charity – Sólás New Build project • Greater Village Regeneration Trust - Branching Out project • Lower Ormeau Residents' Action Group (LORAG) - Lagan Water Access Activity Hub • Hearth Historic Buildings Trust - Redevelopment of Riddel's Warehouse • Fitzroy Presbyterian Church; Redevelopment of Former School of Music, and; iv. to note the proposed approach that the Council would provide a response to each applicant whose project was not moving forward to Stage 2 at this time, outlining other potential avenues of support.
4.0	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u>
	<p>Financial - £10m agreed for NRF.</p> <p>Resources – Officer time from Physical Programmes Department.</p>
5	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment</u>
	The Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund has been equality screened.
6	Documents Attached
	<p>Appendix 1 – Minutes of the West Belfast Area Working Group – 27th October 2022</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Minutes of the North Belfast Area Working Group – 2nd November 2022</p> <p>Appendix 3 – Minutes of the East Belfast Area Working Group – 3rd November 2022</p> <p>Appendix 4 – Minutes of the South Belfast Area Working Group – 7th November 2022</p>

West Belfast Area Working Group

Thursday, 27th October, 2022

HYBRID MEETING OF THE SPECIAL WEST BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP

Members present: Councillor McCann (Chairperson),
Alderman McCoubrey;
Councillors Beattie, Carson, Corr, Matt Collins,
Donnelly, Duffy, Garrett, Hutchinson, McCabe,
McLaughlin, Verner and Walsh.

In attendance: Ms. S. Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes
Ms. S. Murtagh, Programme Manager; and
Mrs. S. Steele, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported on behalf of Councillors Canavan, Michael Collins and Thompson.

Minutes

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

Declarations of Interest

Following receipt of legal advice that some of the proposed projects were either currently in the planning process or were likely to have to apply for planning if they were to proceed, Councillors Carson, Matt Collins, Garrett and Hutchinson, as Members of the Planning Committee, declared an interest and left the meeting. They did not return as this was a one item agenda.

Councillor Duffy declared an interest as a Board Member of the Collin Neighbourhood Partnership and removed himself from proceedings during consideration of this project.

Councillor Walsh declared an interest in respect of Fáilte Feirste Thiar in that he was an employee of the organisation and removed himself from proceedings during consideration of this project.

Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund

The Working Group considered the following report:

“1. Introduction

Members will be aware that the Council has recently launched its £10m Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund. This report provides an outline of the applications received in the West area. In line with

the agreed process, Members are asked to make recommendations to Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on which applications they now wish to move forward to *Stage 2 – Development Stage*.

2. Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- Note the update provided on the Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund,
- Note the applications that did not meet the minimum threshold and that these applicants are to be advised that they have been unsuccessful. Feedback on their applications will be provided to Groups.
- Consider which projects they wish to recommend to SP&R Committee to move forward to *Stage 2 – Development* under the Fund. In considering this, Members are asked to note that it is recommended that a maximum of 3 or 4 projects are progressed at this stage given the level of funding available and current resource capacity, and;
- Note the proposed approach that the Council will provide a response to each applicant that is not moving forward to Stage 2 at this time, outlining other potential avenues of support.

3. Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund

Background

The Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund is a £10m capital fund to help groups deliver capital projects that will make a real, long-term difference in their communities. Members will recall that the fund was originally £8m and has been bolstered by an additional £2m via the reallocation of year end surpluses. The fund attracted significant interest and a high volume of applications was received. Members were advised that they would be updated on the outcome of the *Stage 1 - Application* stage once all the applications were collated and reviewed by an assessment panel against the agreed project assessment matrix. This is now complete subject to legal validation.

The Fund encompasses a three-stage process, approved by Council in November 2021. Stage 1 is the application phase; Stage 2 is the development phase and Stage 3 is the delivery phase. The application stage closed on 12 May 2022. In line with the timeframe presented to Members in November 2021, an intensive period of eligibility review, validation, panel assessment and moderation has now been completed. Applications that have scored over the minimum threshold are now presented to Members for consideration.

Assessment process

As agreed by Council, projects were assessed and scored against four key criteria: affordability, feasibility, deliverability, and sustainability. Assessments were made solely on the basis of information supplied by the applicant within their submission. This included the application form and supporting documentation provided by applicants by the closing date such as business plans and economic appraisals.

The NRF is an outcomes focused programme aligned to three key themes emerging from the City Recovery Framework: social economy, environmental sustainability and neighbourhood tourism. The fund is adopting an Outcomes Based Accountability (OBA) approach derived directly from these three themes and all applications have been specifically assessed in terms of their alignment to these outcomes.

Applications summary

A total of 101 organisations requested the application pack and 61 organisations submitted an application. The proposals presented in the applications showcase a wide variety of exciting new ideas for the city as well as enhancements to existing facilities. Overall, the standard of the applications was very high, and this is reflected in the proportion that achieved above the threshold (75%).

Total applications:

	Total	South	North	West	Shankill	East	Location to be determined
Total applications	61	13	16	14	3	13	2
Total above threshold	46	9	14	13	3	7	0

STAGE 1 APPLICATION RESULTS

The information presented below is based on the application forms and is presented for Members' consideration.

Applications scoring below threshold

Organisations that scored below threshold (Location to be determined: 2, West: 1) will be notified that they have been unsuccessful and provided with feedback on their applications as well as advice regarding other potential sources of support.

All Area Working Groups will be advised that a total of 2 applications did not determine a location for their project as a site or building has not been secured. Neither project reached above

threshold. Although both applications demonstrated reasonable alignment to themes and outcomes, overall both applications required more detailed information in several other areas to acquire higher scores. A summary is provided below.

Details of applications below threshold – Location to be determined:

Project Name, Brief Description & Theme
<p>Supported Employment & Sales Training (SEST) CIC <u>SEST CIC</u></p> <p><i>Theme: Social Economy</i></p> <p>The project will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase of a building and development of a call centre. <p>Eligibility issues- SEST CIC – Full set of requested financial records was not available.</p>
<p><u>Belfast Community Energy Action</u></p> <p><i>Theme: Social Economy & Environmental Sustainability</i></p> <p>The project will include:</p> <p>Making energy efficiencies and installing solar panels, energy storage and EV chargers as appropriate that is co-owned by a local Belfast neighbourhood.</p>

Details of application below threshold - West:

Project Name, Brief Description & Theme
<p>Spórtlann CIC <u>Soilse na Spórtlainne</u></p> <p><i>Theme: All</i></p> <p>The project will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation of floodlighting to the soccer and multi-sport training pitch to extend the periods of usage through the winter and autumn and to encourage more sporting teams to avail of the facilities.

Applications scoring above threshold

Members are aware that the Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund is now a £10m capital programme. The total allocation towards West

projects is £3,352,776. The proportion allocated to Shankill is £705,759 and relevant projects are outlined separately below. The remainder of funding allocated to West Belfast is £2,647,017. No allocations of funding will be made until business cases are produced after Stage 2 - Development. All the applications have now been reviewed by an assessment panel against the agreed project assessment matrix.

Details of applications above threshold – West:

Project Name, Brief Description & Theme
<p>Fáilte Feirste Thiar <u>The Mountainview Hotel</u></p> <p><i>Themes: All</i></p> <p>The project will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building a socially owned environmentally friendly 65 bedroom hotel located on the new Glenmona development in West Belfast.
<p>Patrick's Sarsfield's GAC <u>Improving the Environment at Patrick Sarsfield's GAC</u></p> <p><i>Themes: Environmental Sustainability & Neighbourhood Tourism</i></p> <p>The project will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 700m Urban Nature Trail with low-level lighting and historical storyboards throughout • Solar panels on one side of the roof of the main clubhouse building. • Installation of 2 e-charging ports for electric/hybrid vehicles • Bicycle stand • Outdoor Educational Space/Sensory Garden/ Equipment • Urban Health Space to include self-weight restive outdoor equipment, strength outdoor equipment, athletic running / sprinting lanes, sport specific games stations
<p>St. John's GAC <u>Corrigan Park Redevelopment Project</u></p> <p><i>Theme: Neighbourhood Tourism</i></p> <p>The project will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of a new <i>Changing Places</i> Toilet Facility. • Construction of two concrete terraced standing areas to accommodate up to 1,100 additional spectators.. • Replacement of a dilapidated boundary wall.

Whiterock Children's Centre
Whiterock Children's Centre's New Purpose-Built Childcare and Family Support Centre

Themes: Social Economy & Neighbourhood Tourism

The project will include:

- Development of a brand-new fit for purpose 3-storey childcare and family support centre. by demolishing the existing facility and relocating the new facility on the same site closer to the Whiterock Road.

Michael Davitt's GAC
Michael Davitt's Community Heritage Centre

Themes: All

The project will include:

- Transforming a large redundant site adjacent to Páirc Mac Daibhéid located in Beechmount, West Belfast.
- Creation of e a museum/exhibition space, multipurpose hall and supporting ancillary services.

Glór na Móna
Croí na Carraige - 'The Heart of the Rock' - Phase 1

Themes: All

The project will include:

- Development of a flagship multi-purpose youth, community, family and heritage hub on the derelict land adjacent to our current community hub Gael-Ionad Mhic Goill in the Upper Springfield Area of West Belfast. It will incorporate their existing building and provide space for Irish language youth provision, a heritage exhibition gallery and office space.

Scoil na Fuiseoige
Curam Leanaí na Fuiseoige

Theme: Social economy

The project will include:

- Purchase of a new eco modular build to be sited at the front of their existing building to expand their provision.

Conway Mill
Conway Mill - redeveloping for the future

Themes: All

The project will include:

- Redevelopment of three spaces – the Drying Room to provide a unique wedding and arts venue; the Old Mill attic to provide a new start-up hub with hot desk facilities for new businesses, and demolition of an unused building to provide extra disabled car parking and bike spaces around the complex.

The Westcourt Centre
Westcourt Uplift Project

Theme: Social economy

The project will include:

- A new external passenger lift to permit wheelchair users and people with mobility issues to access the first floor of the premises;
- Replacement windows;
- Refurbishment/replacement of railings and boundary walls around the perimeter of the premises and on the first floor balcony area;
- Façade maintenance including repointing and repairs to brickwork and architectural details.

Lamh Dhearg
Renewable Energy & External Lighting Improvement scheme

Theme: Environmental sustainability

The project will include:

- Development of a renewable energy project comprising installation of a 15kw Wind Turbine / battery storage facility.
- External Lighting Improvement Scheme to including upgrading existing floodlights at main pitch, installation of LED street lighting around the perimeter of the walkway and playpark.

St. Gall's
Milltown Community Development

Themes: Environmental Sustainability & Neighbourhood Tourism

The project will include:

- Building a structure suitable to maximise the playing needs of St Gall's GAA members and families, providing an education centre for Ulster Wildlife and flexible workspace.

Colin Glen Trust
Colin Glen Eco Air-Cruizer

Themes: All

The project will include:

- Installation of an Eco-Cruizer - a cable bicycle suspended at treetop level that transports riders high into the air. This will give them an up-close view of the natural landscape into the heart of Colin Glen Forest Park.

Colin Neighbourhood Partnership
Regeneration of Cloona House

Theme: Neighbourhood Tourism

The project will include:

- Refurbishment works to the Grade B listed Cloona House including new windows, doors and other works to improve the building.

Details of applications above threshold – Shankill:

Project Name, Brief Description & Theme

Action for Community Transformation (ACT) Initiative
The ACT Initiative Community Hub & Visitors' Centre

Themes: Social economy and Neighbourhood tourism

The project will include:

- Purchase and development of ACT's central office and Community Hub to include a Visitors' Centre that features a historical exhibition.

Lower Shankill Community Association
The Road

Themes: Social economy and Neighbourhood tourism

The project will include:

- Development of a capital tourism project based around the shared history of the Shankill Road and its contribution to Belfast.

Glencairn
Glencairn Community Project (Hub)

Theme: Social economy

The project will include:

- Development of a purpose-built community and youth facility within the Glencairn estate to meet both the needs of the community and provide statutory youth provision within the area.

Next Steps

Members will appreciate that given the level of funding available and current resources it will not be possible for each project to be moved to Stage 2 – Development. At this stage it is recommended that a maximum of 3 or 4 projects per area are moved to the next stage - West and Shankill are considered two separate areas.

Projects agreed to be moved forward to Stage 2 – Development

The projects agreed to be moved forward to Stage 2 – Development will be allocated a Project Sponsor who will work closely with the Group throughout the Stage 2 Development Stage. The exact requirements for Stage 2 will be dependent on the individual status and needs of each project, for example it could be the development of a business case or economic appraisal, testing of a business case, capacity building and/or the development of detailed designs. The assigned Project Sponsor will meet with the Group once decisions are ratified by Council and will work with the Group to determine requirements.

Members are asked to note that it is proposed that the development phase will be timebound to six months with updates on all projects to be brought back to the AWGs at the same time. At the end of this stage, recommendations to Committee will include a detailed update on each project, seeking approval for funding. Projects that receive approval will be issued with a Letter of Offer in principle and will move to *Stage 3 - Delivery*. However,

a final investment decision will not be taken until a tender has been returned.

Projects not being moved forward to Stage 2 – Development at this stage

The projects not being progressed to Stage 2 at this time will be advised of the outcome. Groups will be offered the opportunity to request feedback on their application. In addition, it is proposed that officers will help Groups identify alternative potential sources of support. For example, some applicants will also be able to avail of business support and mentoring through the Council's Social Enterprise & Co-operative Support Programme and Enterprise Framework. This will be tailored to each individual project.

It is recommended however that projects that reached threshold but are not progressed at this Stage are held at Stage 1 in case any of the projects which are moved forward do not progress beyond Stage 2. If this happens then projects will be presented again for Members' consideration.

Members are asked to:

- Note the update provided on the Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund,
- Note the applications that did not meet the minimum threshold and that these applicants are to be advised that they have been unsuccessful. Feedback on their applications will be provided to Groups.
- Consider which projects they wish to recommend to SP&R Committee to move forward to *Stage 2 – Development* under the Fund. In considering this, Members are asked to note that it is recommended that a maximum of 3 or 4 projects are progressed at this stage given the level of funding available and current resource capacity, and;
- Note the proposed approach that the Council will provide a response to each applicant not moving forward to Stage 2 at this time, outlining other potential avenues of support.

4. Financial and Resource Implications

Financial - NRF *Stage 2 Development* expenditure will be funded via the agreed NRF budget of £10m.

Resources – Officer time from Physical Programmes Department.

5. Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment

The Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund has been equality screened."

The Director of Physical Programmes took the Members through the detail regarding the Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund, as outlined in the aforementioned report.

She advised that the fund had attracted significant interest with 101 organisations having requested the application pack and 61 organisations having applied for funding. She continued by expressing thanks to the Physical Programmes staff for the work and effort that they had put into assessing the applications received within the projected timescale.

The Director then provided an overview of the assessment process, as previously agreed by Council, reporting that the applications had been assessed and scored against the following four key criteria: affordability, feasibility, deliverability, and sustainability. She drew the Members' attention to the applications that had scored below the threshold and advised that each organisation would be notified that it had been unsuccessful and provided with feedback on the application.

The Members noted the applications that had not reached the threshold and welcomed the fact that officers would offer feedback to those organisations in respect of their application. The Members encouraged further liaison with all applicants not moving forward at this stage on any other potential sources of support that might be available.

The Director of Physical Programmes took the Members through the applications that had scored above the threshold in the West.

Following consideration, it was proposed by Councillor Beatie, seconded by Councillor McLaughlin and agreed that the following three projects would progress to Stage 2 – Development under the NRF:

- Fáilte Feirste Thiar – The Mountainview Hotel;
- Glór na Móna – Croi na Carraige – 'The Heart of the Rock' Phase 1; and
- Michael Davitt's GAC – Michael Davitt's Community Heritage Centre.

The Working Group then considered the applications above the threshold in the Shankill area, following which it was proposed by Alderman McCoubrey, seconded by Councillor Verner and agreed that the following three projects would also progress to Stage 2 – Development under the NRF:

- Action for Community Transformation (ACT) Initiative – The ACT Initiative Community Hub and Visitors Centre;
- Lower Shankill Community Association – The Road; and
- Glencairn – Glencairn Community Project (Hub).

The Working Group noted that applicants that had reached above minimal threshold but not been successful in progressing to Stage 2, at this time, would be informed accordingly and that each applicant would be offered the opportunity for their application to be retained on the list at Stage 1 – Application stage for consideration if a reserve list was required.

Accordingly, the Working Group agreed:

- i. to note the update on the Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund;

- ii. to note those applications which had not met the minimum threshold An Spórtlann CIC, Supported Employment and Sales Training (SEST) CIC and NI Community Energy (NICE)) and that the applicants would be advised that they had been unsuccessful and receive feedback;
- iii. to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that the following three projects be progressed to Stage 2 – Development in West:
 - Fáilte Feirste Thiar – The Mountainview Hotel;
 - Glór na Móna – Croi na Carraige – ‘The Heart of the Rock’ Phase 1; and
 - Michael Davitt’s GAC – Michael Davitt’s Community Heritage Centre.
- iv. to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that the following three projects be progressed to Stage 2 – Development in Shankill:
 - Action for Community Transformation (ACT) Initiative – The ACT Initiative Community Hub and Visitors Centre;
 - Lower Shankill Community Association – The Road; and
 - Glencairn – Glencairn Community Project (Hub).
- v. to note the proposed approach and that the Council would provide a response to each applicant whose project was not moving forward to Stage 2, at this time, outlining other potential avenues of support.

The Director of Physical Programmes reminded the Members that the NRF was an open call application process, as this was a restricted item, the recommendations from the Area Working Group would need to be ratified by both the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee and Council, following which all applications would be notified accordingly.

Chairperson

North Belfast Area Working Group

Wednesday, 2nd November, 2022

SPECIAL NORTH BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP

HELD IN THE CONOR ROOM AND REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

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

In attendance: Ms. S. Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes;
Ms. N. Largey, Interim City Solicitor and Director
of Legal and Civic Services;
Ms. S. Murtagh, Programme Manager; and
Mr. G. Graham, Democratic Services Assistant.

Declarations of Interest

Following receipt of legal advice that some of the proposed projects were either currently in the planning process or were likely to have to apply for planning if they were to proceed, Councillors Maskey, Murphy and Whyte declared an interest and indicated that they would remove themselves from the Planning Committee should any of the development projects be presented before that Committee for its consideration.

Councillor McCullough and Councillor Pankhurst both declared an interest as Members of the Loyal Orange Order and removed themselves from proceedings and took no further part in the meeting.

Councillor O'Hara declared an interest in that his Sister In-Law was a board member in regard to one of the organisations which had submitted a funding application, but which had subsequently failed to meet the required threshold. Upon seeking legal advice in the matter, that, under the circumstance outlined, there was no conflict of interest, Councillor O'Hara was not required to remove himself from the meeting.

Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund – Feedback on Stage 1 Applications

The Working Group considered the undernoted report:

“1. Introduction

Members will be aware that the Council has recently launched its £10m Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund. This report provides an outline of the applications received in the North area. In line with the agreed process, Members are asked to make recommendations to Strategic Policy and Resources

Committee on which applications they now wish to move forward to Stage 2 – Development Stage.

2. Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- Note the update provided on the Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund,
- Note the applications that did not meet the minimum threshold and that these applicants are to be advised that they have been unsuccessful. Feedback on their applications will be provided to Groups.
- Consider which projects they wish to recommend to SP&R Committee to move forward to Stage 2 – Development under the Fund. In considering this, Members are asked to note that it is recommended that a maximum of 3 or 4 projects are progressed at this stage given the level of funding available and current resource capacity, and;
- Note the proposed approach that the Council will provide a response to each applicant that is not moving forward to Stage 2 at this time, outlining other potential avenues of support.

3. Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund

Background

The Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund is a £10m capital fund to help groups deliver capital projects that will make a real, long-term difference in their communities. Members will recall that the fund was originally £8m and has been bolstered by an additional £2m via the reallocation of year end surpluses. The fund attracted significant interest and a high volume of applications was received. Members were advised that they would be updated on the outcome of the Stage 1 - Application stage once all the applications were collated and reviewed by an assessment panel against the agreed project assessment matrix. This is now complete subject to legal validation.

The Fund encompasses a three-stage process, approved by Council in November 2021. Stage 1 is the application phase; Stage 2 is the development phase and Stage 3 is the delivery phase. The application stage closed on 12 May 2022. In line with the timeframe presented to Members in November 2021, an intensive period of eligibility review, validation, panel assessment and moderation has now been completed. Applications that have scored over the minimum threshold are now presented to Members for consideration.

Assessment process

As agreed by Council, projects were assessed and scored against four key criteria: affordability, feasibility, deliverability, and

sustainability. Assessments were made solely on the basis of information supplied by the applicant within their submission. This included the application form and supporting documentation provided by applicants by the closing date such as business plans and economic appraisals.

The NRF is an outcomes focused programme aligned to three key themes emerging from the City Recovery Framework: social economy, environmental sustainability and neighbourhood tourism. The fund is adopting an Outcomes Based Accountability (OBA) approach derived directly from these three themes and all applications have been specifically assessed in terms of their alignment to these outcomes.

Applications summary

A total of 101 organisations requested the application pack and 61 organisations submitted an application. The proposals presented in the applications showcase a wide variety of exciting new ideas for the city as well as enhancements to existing facilities. Overall, the standard of the applications was very high, and this is reflected in the proportion that achieved above the threshold (75%).

Total applications

	Total	South	North	West	Shankill	East	Location to be determined
Total applications	61	13	16	14	3	13	2
Total above threshold	46	9	14	13	3	7	0

STAGE 1 APPLICATION RESULTS

The information presented below is based on the application forms and is presented for Members' consideration.

Applications scoring below threshold

Organisations that scored below threshold (Location to be determined: 2, North: 2) will be notified that they have been unsuccessful and provided with feedback on their applications as well as advice regarding other potential sources of support.

All Area Working Groups will be advised that a total of 2 applications did not determine a location for their project as a site or building has not been secured. Neither project reached above threshold. Although both applications demonstrated reasonable alignment to themes and outcomes, overall both applications required more detailed information in several other areas to acquire higher scores. A summary is provided below.

Details of applications below threshold –

Location to be determined:

Project Name, Brief Description & Theme
<u>Supported Employment & Sales Training (SEST) CIC</u> <u>SEST CIC</u> <i>Theme: Social Economy</i> The project will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Purchase of a building and development of a call centre. Eligibility issues- SEST CIC – Full set of requested financial records was not available.
<u>Belfast Community Energy Action</u> <i>Theme: Social Economy & Environmental Sustainability</i> The project will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Making energy efficiencies and installing solar panels, energy storage and EV chargers as appropriate that is co-owned by a local Belfast neighbourhood.

Details of applications below threshold – North:

Project Name, Brief Description & Theme
<u>Greater Whitewell Community Surgery (GWCS)</u> <u>Greater Whitewell Community Surgery/Ballygolan project</u> <i>Theme: Social economy</i> The project will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development of a derelict, former school site into a holistic shared site with both community space and shared housing.• Providing a fit for purpose Shared Community Hub for use by the wider Greater Whitewell interface community.
<u>The HUBB Community Development Resource Centre</u> <u>Castle Community Development Trust: (The Castle Centre)</u> <i>Theme: Social economy</i> The project will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transfer of BCC land at the site of the former Grove swimming baths at the confluence of North Queen Street and York Road.

Development of the site into a flagship community, business and social development centre.
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Applications scoring above threshold

Members are aware that the Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund is now a £10m capital programme. The total allocation towards North projects is £2,434,979. No allocations of funding will be made until business cases are produced after Stage 2 – Development. All the applications have now been reviewed by an assessment panel against the agreed project assessment matrix.

Details of applications above threshold – North:

Project Name, Brief Description & Theme
<p>North City Business Centre (NCBC) <u>NCBC Phase 4 Development – Enterprise Gateway into North Belfast</u></p> <p><i>Theme: Social Economy</i></p> <p>The project will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building a modern 4 storey development that will provide 30 new units of office/workspace and associated facilities for local micro and small businesses.
<p>Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum <u>Cliftonville Community Enterprise</u></p> <p><i>Theme: Social Economy</i></p> <p>The project will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building a 750m² social enterprise on Cliftonpark Avenue with a 2 storey childcare facility and 8 enterprise units.
<p>Ulster Supported Employment Ltd (USEL) <u>Green Growth & The Circular Economy</u></p> <p><i>Themes: Social economy and Environmental sustainability</i></p> <p>The project will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extension of their site through construction of a 600m² purpose-built processing unit with storage for recycled and unrecycled materials increasing increase capacity to recycle a wide range of Dry, Mixed Recycling materials (DMR).

Sailortown Regeneration Group
St Joseph's Restoration project

Themes: All

The project will include:

- Stabilising and reopening the Parochial House, a Grade B+ listed Italianate red brick building;
- Work to the Grade B+ listed Church space to assist with remaining water ingress and developing its potential for wider use.

Quaker Service
Frederick Street Quaker Meeting House

Themes: All

The project will include:

- Improvement works to Fredrick Street Quaker Meeting House that will comprise moving Quaker Service's administrative operation to the site and developing social enterprises to include a café/ eatery.

Ardoyne Youth Enterprise
AYE Youth and Community Hub

Themes: All

The project will include:

- Creation of a Community Youth Hub totalling almost 1,000m². It will comprise three main zones – (i) a fully shared and inclusive Community Youth Hub comprising a range of facilities including a flexible activity/ youth space, counselling rooms, coffee point and rest area; (ii) a Creative Learning Centre (CLC) that will include digital and creative skills equipment and workspaces; and (iii) Office space and meeting rooms.

Cumann Cultúrtha Mhic Reachtain
Refurbishment and Extension of Áras Mhic Reachtain

Themes: Social Economy and Neighbourhood Tourism

The project will include:

- Improving the organisation's facilities through installation of a lift to all levels of the building for enhanced accessibility, roof works, demolition of existing extension and replacement with a new three storey extension to allow for a new arts business hub and green room accommodating new programmes and services.

Belfast Charitable Society
The Story Shop - Clifton Street

Themes: All

The project will include:

- Refurbishment of the derelict 36 Clifton Street to comprise the following works - Creation of the 'The Story Shop' on the ground floor – an open plan community tourist hub for the local heritage Cluster to showcase local tourism services and work. Development of a community-led housing project for homeless men who have custody of their children.

Ligoniel Improvement Association (LIA)
Ligoniel Cornmill Proposal

Themes: All

The project will include:

- Development of the site of the disused Cornmill into a community environment and heritage centre that will act as a hub for activities, initiatives and provide space for work on environmental issues.

Arts for All
John Luke Arts Centre

Themes: All

The project will include:

- Purchase of a dilapidated commercial building in the Duncairn area of North Belfast and transforming it into the John Luke Arts Centre.
- A gallery, dance studio and art studios for emerging local artists, as well as providing a permanent office and home for the organisation.

North Belfast Working Mens' Club (NBWMC)
Refurbishment of NBWMC Danube Street

Themes: All

The project will include:

- Repairs to the roof of the club, installation of a new heating system, installation of insulation, refreshment of and reglazing of three upper floor rooms together with upgrading the ground floor kitchen, office, toilets and changing facilities.

Belfast Orange Hall
Belfast Orange Hall Refurbishment

Themes: Environmental Sustainability & Neighbourhood Tourism

The project will include:

- Refurbishment works to the Belfast Orange Hall, a Grade B listed building, to ensure it is fit for purpose.
- External and internal improvements to lighting, multiple rooms on different floors including kitchens as well as a new heating system.

Indian Community Centre (ICC)
Indian Community Centre Refurbishment Project

Themes: All

The project will include:

- External and internal refurbishment works to the ICC listed building to ensure it is fit for purpose.
- Improvements including external walls, roof, lighting, heating and the creation and installation of an interpretive exhibition.

Sinclair Seamen's Presbyterian Church
Sinclair Seamen's Church Rejuvenation

Theme: Neighbourhood Tourism

The project will include:

- Rejuvenation of the Venetian style listed church which houses a unique maritime-themed heritage exhibition.
- Improved public accessibility through additional ramped access, building repairs and creation and installation of a new interpretive exhibition.

Next Steps

Members will appreciate that given the level of funding available and current resources it will not be possible for each project to be moved to Stage 2 – Development. At this stage it is recommended that a maximum of 3 or 4 projects per area are moved to the next stage.

Projects agreed to be moved forward to Stage 2 – Development

The projects agreed to be moved forward to Stage 2 – Development will be allocated a Project Sponsor who will work closely with the Group throughout the Stage 2 Development Stage. The exact requirements for Stage 2 will be dependent on the individual status

and needs of each project, for example it could be the development of a business case or economic appraisal, testing of a business case, capacity building and/or the development of detailed designs. The assigned Project Sponsor will meet with the Group once decisions are ratified by Council and will work with the Group to determine requirements.

Members are asked to note that it is proposed that the development phase will be timebound to six months with updates on all projects to be brought back to the AWGs at the same time. At the end of this stage, recommendations to Committee will include a detailed update on each project, seeking approval for funding. Projects that receive approval will be issued with a Letter of Offer in principle and will move to Stage 3 - Delivery. However, a final investment decision will not be taken until a tender has been returned.

**Projects not being moved forward to Stage 2 –
Development at this stage**

The projects not being progressed to Stage 2 at this time will be advised of the outcome. Groups will be offered the opportunity to request feedback on their application. In addition, it is proposed that officers will help Groups identify alternative potential sources of support. For example, some applicants will also be able to avail of business support and mentoring through the Council's Social Enterprise & Co-operative Support Programme and Enterprise Framework. This will be tailored to each individual project.

It is recommended however that projects that reached threshold but are not progressed at this Stage are held at Stage 1 in case any of the projects which are moved forward do not progress beyond Stage 2. If this happens then projects will be presented again for Members' consideration.

Members are asked to:

- Note the update provided on the Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund,
- Note the applications that did not meet the minimum threshold and that these applicants are to be advised that they have been unsuccessful. Feedback on their applications will be provided to Groups.
- Consider which projects they wish to recommend to SP&R Committee to move forward to Stage 2 – Development under the Fund. In considering this, Members are asked to note that it is recommended that a maximum of 3 or 4 projects are progressed at this stage given the level of funding available and current resource capacity, and;
- Note the proposed approach that the Council will provide a response to each applicant not moving forward to Stage 2 at this time, outlining other potential avenues of support.

4. Financial and Resource Implications

Financial – NRF Stage 2 Development expenditure will be funded via the agreed NRF budget of £10m.

Resources – Officer time from Physical Programmes Department.

5. Equality and Good Relations

The Neighbourhood Regenerations Fund has been equality screened.”

The Director of Physical Programmes provided an overview of the report and pointed out that applications for funding had been assessed and scored against the key criteria of affordability, deliverability, feasibility and sustainability. She drew the Members’ attention to the two applications for North Belfast and two city-wide applications which had scored below the threshold and confirmed that each organisation would be informed that they had been unsuccessful and provided with detailed feedback. She reviewed the 14 applications for North Belfast which had scored above the threshold and outlined that, given the level of funding available and current resource capacity, the Working Group was being recommended to select a maximum of 3 or 4 projects at this stage. She reported that it was the intention that, any applications which had met threshold, but which were not being moved forward, at this stage, would be held on a reserve list and could be reconsidered, by the Working Group, should any of the successful projects fail to progress beyond Stage 2.

Following consideration of the funding applications presented to the Working Group, it was:

Proposed by Councillor Cobain,
Seconded by Councillor Murphy,

That the following applications proceed to Stage 2 –Development:

1. Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum
2. Ardoyne Youth Enterprise
3. Ulster Supported Employment LTD
4. Belfast Orange Hall

Following an amendment:

Proposed by Councillor O’Hara,
Seconded by Councillor Whyte,

That the Belfast Orange Hall funding application be removed from the list, going forward to Stage 2, and that the application be replaced by the Sailortown Regeneration Group funding application.

Following further discussion in the matter, Councillor O’Hara withdrew his previous proposal and, it was:

Proposed by Councillor Magee,
Seconded by Councillor O’Hara,

That five funding applications, including both the Belfast Orange Hall and the Sailortown Regeneration Group, go forward to Stage 2, with the outcome

from Stage 2 – Development, to be brought back to the Area Working Group, for further consideration of projects, to be moved forward to Stage 3 – Delivery, as per the agreed process.

Resolved - that the following five funding applications proceed to Stage 2- Development stage.

1. Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum
2. Ardoyne Youth Enterprise
3. Ulster Supported Employment LTD
4. Belfast Orange Hall
5. Sailortown Regeneration Group

Accordingly, the North Area Working Group agreed:

- i. to note the update on the Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund;
- ii. to note those applications which had not met the minimum threshold (Greater Whitewell Community Surgery, The HUBB Community Development Resource Centre, Supported Employment and Sales Training (SEST) CIC and NI Community Energy (NICE) and that the applicants would be advised that they had been unsuccessful and receive feedback;
- iii. to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that the following five projects be progressed to Stage 2 – Development:
 - Cliftonville Community Regeneration Forum – Cliftonville Community Enterprise project
 - Ardoyne Youth Enterprise – AYE Youth and Community Hub
 - Ulster Supported Employment Ltd (USEL) - Green Growth & The Circular Economy project
 - Belfast Orange Hall – Belfast Orange Hall Refurbishment project
 - Sailortown Regeneration Group - St Joseph's Restoration project; and
- iv. to note the proposed approach that the Council would provide a response to each applicant whose project was not moving forward to Stage 2, at this time, outlining other potential avenues of support.

The Director of Physical Programmes reminded Members that the Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund was an open call application process and that this was a restricted item, with the recommendations from the Area Working Group, going forward to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee and Council, for ratification. She stated that all applicants would be notified of the outcome, following Council ratification.

Chairperson

East Belfast Area Working Group

Thursday, 3rd November, 2022

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

Members present: Councillor Long (Chairperson),
The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor M. Kelly);
Aldermen Copeland, Dorrian, Haire, Rodgers
and Sandford;
Councillors, Bower, Flynn, Hanvey, Kyle, Maghie,
McMullan, Newton and Smyth.

In attendance: Ms. S. Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes;
Ms. N. Largey, Interim City Solicitor/Director of Legal & Civic
Services
Ms. S. Murtagh, Programme Manager; and
Ms. E. McGoldrick, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf The High Sheriff, Councillor Hussey, Councillors Douglas, de Faoite and Howard.

Minutes

The Working Group agreed that the minutes of the meeting of 8th September were an accurate record of proceedings.

The Working Group noted that there were discrepancies in the attendance list, namely that Councillor Bower was also in attendance and that the Civic Dignitaries were incorrect.

Declarations of Interest

Following receipt of legal advice that some of the proposed projects were either currently in the planning process or were likely to have to apply for planning if they were to proceed, Alderman Rodgers, as a Member of the Planning Committee, declared an interest and left the meeting and did not return as this was a one item agenda. Councillors Hussey and Douglas did not attend the Working Group for the same reason.

Councillor Newton declared an interest in one of the applicants, Ulster Rugby, in that his employment was associated the organisation and left the meeting and did not return as this was a one item agenda.

Alderman Sandford and Councillor Kyle declared an interest as a Board Member of the Eastside Learning Board.

Alderman Dorrian and Councillors M. Kelly, Maghie, McMullan and Smyth declared an interest in that they were Council representative's on Eastside Partnership Board.

Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund

The Working Group received a presentation on the Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund and considered the undernoted report:

"1. Introduction

Members will be aware that the Council has recently launched its £10m Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund. This report provides an outline of the applications received in the East area. In line with the agreed process, Members are asked to make recommendations to Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on which applications they now wish to move forward to *Stage 2 – Development Stage*.

2. Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- Note the update provided on the Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund,**
- Note the applications that did not meet the minimum threshold and that these applicants are to be advised that they have been unsuccessful. Feedback on their applications will be provided to Groups.**
- Consider which projects they wish to recommend to SP&R Committee to move forward to *Stage 2 – Development* under the Fund. In considering this, Members are asked to note that it is recommended that a maximum of 3 or 4 projects are progressed at this stage given the level of funding available and current resource capacity, and;**
- Note the proposed approach that the Council will provide a response to each applicant that is not moving forward to Stage 2 at this time, outlining other potential avenues of support.**

3. Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund

Background

The Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund is a £10m capital fund to help groups deliver capital projects that will make a real, long-term difference in their communities. Members will recall that the fund was originally £8m and has been bolstered by an additional £2m via the reallocation of year end surpluses. The fund attracted significant interest and a high volume of applications was received. Members were advised that they would be updated on the outcome of the *Stage 1 - Application* stage once all the applications were collated and reviewed by an assessment panel against the agreed project assessment matrix. This is now complete subject to legal validation.

The Fund encompasses a three-stage process, approved by Council in November 2021. Stage 1 is the application phase; Stage 2 is the development phase and Stage 3 is the delivery phase. The application stage closed on 12 May 2022. In line with the timeframe presented to Members in November 2021, an intensive period of eligibility review, validation, panel assessment and moderation has now been completed. Applications that have scored over the minimum threshold are now presented to Members for consideration.

Assessment process

As agreed by Council, projects were assessed and scored against four key criteria: affordability, feasibility, deliverability, and sustainability. Assessments were made solely on the basis of information supplied by the applicant within their submission. This included the application form and supporting documentation provided by applicants by the closing date such as business plans and economic appraisals.

The NRF is an outcomes focused programme aligned to three key themes emerging from the City Recovery Framework: social economy, environmental sustainability and neighbourhood tourism. The fund is adopting an Outcomes Based Accountability (OBA) approach derived directly from these three themes and all applications have been specifically assessed in terms of their alignment to these outcomes.

Applications summary

A total of 101 organisations requested the application pack and 61 organisations submitted an application. The proposals presented in the applications showcase a wide variety of exciting new ideas for the city as well as enhancements to existing facilities. Overall, the standard of the applications was very high, and this is reflected in the proportion that achieved above the threshold (75%).

Total applications:

	Total	South	North	West	Shankill	East	Location to be determined
Total applications	61	13	16	14	3	13	2
Total above threshold	46	9	14	13	3	7	0

STAGE 1 APPLICATION RESULTS

The information presented below is based on the application forms and is presented for Members' consideration.

Applications scoring below threshold

Organisations that scored below threshold (Location to be determined: 2, East: 6) will be notified that they have been unsuccessful and provided with feedback on their applications as well as advice regarding other potential sources of support.

All Area Working Groups will be advised that a total of 2 applications did not determine a location for their project as a site or building has not been secured. Neither project reached above threshold. Although both applications demonstrated reasonable alignment to themes and outcomes, overall both applications required more detailed information in several other areas to acquire higher scores. A summary is provided below.

Details of applications below threshold – Location to be determined:

Project Name, Brief Description & Theme
Supported Employment & Sales Training (SEST) CIC <u>SEST CIC</u> <i>Theme: Social Economy</i> The project will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Purchase of a building and development of a call centre
NI Community Energy (NICE) <u>Belfast Community Energy Action</u> <i>Theme: Social Economy & Environmental Sustainability</i> The project will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Making energy efficiencies and installing solar panels, energy storage and EV chargers as appropriate that is co-owned by a local Belfast neighbourhood.

Details of application below threshold - East:

Project Name, Brief Description & Theme
Hanwood Trust Company Ltd <u>Hanwood Trust Social Economy Project</u> <i>Theme: Social Economy</i> The project will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improvements to security and lighting at the business park.
Lagan Village Youth and Community Group <u>Forward Together</u>

Theme: Social Economy

The project will include:

- Refurbishment of the community centre facilities to include a new accessible toilet block and a new reception area.

Nettlefield Multisports
Nettlefield Multisports New Generation

Theme: Social Economy

The project will include:

- Upgrade of the existing polymeric pitch to a 3G/4G surface to attract more teams / individuals to use it.

Ballymac Friendship Trust
Experience East

Theme: All

The project will include:

- Purchase of a run-down property at the bottom of the Albertbridge Road and transforming it into a tourist attraction including accommodation where visitors have the opportunity to design and paint their own mural.

Cycling Ulster & Cycling Ireland
Henry Jones Playing Fields Cycling Project

Theme: All

The project will include:

- Development and build of a new multi- disciplinary cycling facility that supports the development of cycling from grassroots to international cyclists in Belfast.

The Phoenix Education Centre
Community Upskilling

Theme: Social Economy

The project will include:

- Purchase and refurbishment of a property to be converted into a permanent premises for The Phoenix Education Centre.

Applications scoring above threshold

Members are aware that the Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund is now a £10m capital programme. The total allocation towards East projects is £2,287,501. No allocations of funding will be made until business cases are produced after Stage 2 - Development. All the applications have now been reviewed by an assessment panel against the agreed project assessment matrix.

Details of applications above threshold – East:

<p>Project Name, Brief Description & Theme</p> <p>EastSide Property Belfast Ltd <u>EastSide Container Hotel</u></p> <p><i>Themes: Social Economy & Neighbourhood Tourism</i></p> <p>The project will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of 10 unique serviced tourist apartments overlooking the C.S. Lewis Square in east Belfast.
<p>Ulster Rugby <u>Nevin Spence Centre (NSC) Visitor Experience</u></p> <p><i>Themes: Neighbourhood Tourism</i></p> <p>The project will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major overhaul of the NSC Visitor Experience, involving a new layout, full re-design, new exhibitions and integration of new augmented reality technology.
<p>Belfast Unemployed Resource Centre (BURC) <u>Portview Exchange - a makerspace in East Belfast</u></p> <p><i>Theme: Social Economy & Neighbourhood Tourism</i></p> <p>The project will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a state-of-the-art studio on the Newtownards Road comprising significant additional artist studio space as well as private rooms, workshops, test labs, a kiln and a retail shop frontage.
<p>Impact Belfast <u>Impact Belfast</u></p> <p><i>Themes: Social Economy</i></p> <p>The project will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regeneration of the former church at 122-128 Ravenhill Road into a state-of-the-art social Impact Hub providing facilities for social impact organisations to work, collaborate, network and grow. The interior fit-out will comprise 65 permanent desks, seminar space and meeting facilities.
<p>East Belfast Mission <u>Hosford Community Homes: 335 Newtownards Road</u></p> <p><i>Themes: Social Economy & Environmental Sustainability</i></p> <p>The project will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demolition, alterations and refurbishment to existing building into two apartments for the people who have been homeless and with a community/ commercial space on the ground floor.

Dundela Football, Athletic and Social Club
Development of sporting hub at Wilgar Park

Themes: Social Economy

The project will include:

- Construction of a state-of-the-art 3G community sports pitch which will greatly enhance sporting and recreational facilities in the heart of East Belfast.

Skainos Limited
Improving Skainos' Carbon Footprint

Theme: Social Economy & Environmental Sustainability

The project will include:

- Renovation and replacement work to the existing solar panels on the roof and installation of Air Source heat pumps to the existing heating system.

Next Steps

Members will appreciate that given the level of funding available and current resources it will not be possible for each project to be moved to **Stage 2 – Development**. At this stage it is recommended that a maximum of 3 or 4 projects per area are moved to the next stage.

Projects agreed to be moved forward to Stage 2 – Development

The projects agreed to be moved forward to **Stage 2 – Development** will be allocated a Project Sponsor who will work closely with the Group throughout the **Stage 2 Development** Stage. The exact requirements for Stage 2 will be dependent on the individual status and needs of each project, for example it could be the development of a business case or economic appraisal, testing of a business case, capacity building and/or the development of detailed designs. The assigned Project Sponsor will meet with the Group once decisions are ratified by Council and will work with the Group to determine requirements.

Members are asked to note that it is proposed that the development phase will be timebound to six months with updates on all projects to be brought back to the AWGs at the same time. At the end of this stage, recommendations to Committee will include a detailed update on each project, seeking approval for funding. Projects that receive approval will be issued with a Letter of Offer in principle and will move to **Stage 3 - Delivery**. However, a final investment decision will not be taken until a tender has been returned.

Projects not being moved forward to Stage 2 – Development at this stage

The projects not being progressed to Stage 2 at this time will be advised of the outcome. Groups will be offered the opportunity to request feedback on their application. In addition, it is proposed that officers will help Groups identify alternative potential sources of support. For example, some applicants will also be able to avail of business support and mentoring through the Council's Social Enterprise & Co-operative Support Programme and Enterprise Framework. This will be tailored to each individual project.

It is recommended however that projects that reached threshold but are not progressed at this Stage are held at Stage 1 in case any of the projects which are moved forward do not progress beyond Stage 2. If this happens then projects will be presented again for Members' consideration.

Members are asked to:

- Note the update provided on the Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund,
- Note the applications that did not meet the minimum threshold and that these applicants are to be advised that they have been unsuccessful. Feedback on their applications will be provided to Groups.
- Consider which projects they wish to recommend to SP&R Committee to move forward to *Stage 2 – Development* under the Fund. In considering this, Members are asked to note that it is recommended that a maximum of 3 or 4 projects are progressed at this stage given the level of funding available and current resource capacity, and;
- Note the proposed approach that the Council will provide a response to each applicant not moving forward to Stage 2 at this time, outlining other potential avenues of support.

4. Financial and Resource Implications

Financial - NRF *Stage 2 Development* expenditure will be funded via the agreed NRF budget of £10m.

Resources – Officer time from Physical Programmes Department.

5. Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment

The Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund has been equality screened."

The Director of Physical Programmes took the Members through the detail regarding the Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund, as outlined in the aforementioned report.

She advised that the fund had attracted significant interest with 101 organisations having requested the application pack and 61 organisations having applied for funding. She

continued by expressing thanks to the Physical Programmes staff for the work and effort that they had put into assessing the applications received within the projected timescale.

The Director then provided an overview of the assessment process, as previously agreed by Council, reporting that the applications had been assessed and scored against the following four key criteria: affordability, feasibility, deliverability, and sustainability. She drew the Members' attention to the applications that had scored below the threshold and advised that each organisation would be notified that it had been unsuccessful and provided with feedback on the application.

The Members noted the applications that had not reached the threshold and welcomed the fact that officers would offer feedback to those organisations in respect of their application. The Members encouraged further liaison with all applicants not moving forward at this stage on any other potential sources of support that might be available.

The Director of Physical Programmes took the Members through the applications that had scored above the threshold in the East.

Following discussion, the Working Group agreed that the following four projects would progress to Stage 2 – Development under the NRF:

- EastSide Property Belfast Ltd;
- Belfast Unemployed Resource Centre (BURC);
- Ulster Rugby; and
- Impact Belfast

The Working Group noted that applicants that had reached above minimal threshold but had not been successful in progressing to Stage 2, at this time, would be informed accordingly and that each applicant would be offered the opportunity for their application to be retained on the list at Stage 1 – Application stage for consideration if a reserve list was required, namely East Belfast Mission; Dundela Football, Athletic and Social Club; and Skainos Limited.

Accordingly, the Working Group agreed:

- i. to note the update on the Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund;
- ii. to note those applications which had not met the minimum threshold (Hanwood Trust Company Ltd, Lagan Village Youth and Community Group, Nettlefield Multisports, Ballymac Friendship Trust, Cycling Ulster & Cycling Ireland, Phoenix Education Centre, Supported Employment & Sales Training (SEST) CIC and NI Community Energy (NICE)) and that the applicants would be advised that they had been unsuccessful and receive feedback;
- iii. to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that the following four projects be progressed to Stage 2 – Development in East:
 - EastSide Property Belfast Ltd - EastSide Container Hotel project;
 - Belfast Unemployed Resource Centre (BURC) - Portview Exchange project;
 - Ulster Rugby - Nevin Spence Centre (NSC) Visitor Experience project;
 - Impact Belfast – Impact Hub project; and

- iv. to note the proposed approach, that the Council would provide a response to each applicant whose project was not moving forward to Stage 2, at this time, outlining other potential avenues of support.

The Director of Physical Programmes also reminded the Members that the NRF was an open call application process and as this was a restricted item, the recommendations from the Area Working Group would need to be ratified by both the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee and Council, following which all applications would be notified of the outcome.

Chairperson

South Belfast Area Working Group

Monday, 7th November, 2022

SPECIAL MEETING OF SOUTH BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP

HELD IN THE LAVERY ROOM AND VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

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

In attendance: Ms. S. Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes;
Ms. N. Largey, Interim City Solicitor and Director of Legal
and Civic Services;
Ms. S. Murtagh, Programme Manager; and
Mr. H. Downey, Democratic Services Officer

Apologies

No apologies were reported.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Gormley declared an interest in relation to agenda item 2 – Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund – Feedback on Stage 1 Applications, on the basis that he was on the Board of the Lower Ormeau Residents' Action Group, which had submitted an application for funding, and left the meeting in advance of that item being considered.

The Interim City Solicitor and Director of Legal and Civic Services informed those Members who were on the Planning Committee that, should they vote in favour of a project progressing to Stage 2 – Development, they would be unable to participate in the decision-making process upon it being presented to that Committee for determination.

Request to Present - Donegall Pass Community Enterprises

The Working Group approved a request from a representative of Donegall Pass Community Enterprises to attend a future meeting to provide information on the organisation's regeneration activities in Donegall Pass and the surrounding area, including the development of a Good Relations Hub on the former PSNI site.

Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund – Feedback on Stage 1 Applications

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

“1. Introduction

Members will be aware that the Council has recently launched its £10m Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund. This report provides an outline of the applications received for the South Belfast area. In line with the agreed process, the Working Group is asked to make recommendations to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on which applications it now wishes to move forward to *Stage 2 – Development Stage*.

2. Recommendations

The Working Group is asked to:

- i. note the update provided on the Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund;
- ii. note the applications which did not meet the minimum threshold and that these applicants are to be advised that they have been unsuccessful. Feedback on their applications will be provided to Groups;
- iii. consider which projects it wishes to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee to move forward to *Stage 2 – Development* under the Fund. In considering this, the Working Group is asked to note that it is recommended that a maximum of 3 or 4 projects be progressed at this stage, given the level of funding available and current resource capacity; and
- iv. note the proposed approach that the Council will provide a response to each applicant that is not moving forward to Stage 2 at this time, outlining other potential avenues of support.

3. Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund

Background

The Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund is a £10m capital fund to help groups deliver capital projects that will make a real, long-term difference in their communities. Members will recall that the fund was originally £8m and has been bolstered by an additional £2m via the reallocation of year end surpluses. The fund attracted significant interest and a high volume of applications was received. Members were advised that they would be updated on the outcome of the *Stage 1 - Application* stage once all the applications were collated and reviewed by an assessment panel against the agreed project assessment matrix. This is now complete subject to legal validation.

The Fund encompasses a three-stage process, approved by the Council in November, 2021. Stage 1 is the application phase, Stage 2 is the development phase and Stage 3 is the delivery phase. The application stage closed on 12th May, 2022. In line with the timeframe presented to Members in November 2021, an intensive period of eligibility review, validation, panel assessment and moderation has now been completed. Applications that have scored over the minimum threshold are now being presented to Members for consideration.

Assessment Process

As agreed by the Council, projects were assessed and scored against four key criteria: affordability, feasibility, deliverability, and sustainability. Assessments were made solely on the basis of information supplied by the applicant within their submission. This included the application form and supporting documentation provided by applicants by the closing date such as business plans and economic appraisals.

The NRF is an outcomes focused programme aligned to three key themes emerging from the City Recovery Framework: social economy, environmental sustainability and neighbourhood tourism. The fund is adopting an Outcomes Based Accountability approach derived directly from these three themes and all applications have been specifically assessed in terms of their alignment to these outcomes.

Applications Summary

A total of 101 organisations requested the application pack and 61 organisations submitted an application. The proposals presented in the applications showcase a wide variety of exciting new ideas for the city as well as enhancements to existing facilities. Overall, the standard of the applications was very high, and this is reflected in the proportion that achieved above the threshold (75%).

Total Applications:

	Total	South	North	West	Shankill	East	Location to be determined
Total applications	61	13	16	14	3	13	2
Total above threshold	46	9	14	13	3	7	0

STAGE 1 APPLICATION RESULTS

The information presented below is based on the application forms and is presented for the Working Group's consideration.

Applications Scoring below Threshold

Organisations that scored below threshold (location to be determined: 2, South Belfast: 4) will be notified that they have been unsuccessful and provided with feedback on their applications as well as advice regarding other potential sources of support.

All Area Working Groups will be advised that a total of 2 applications did not determine a location for their project, as a site or building has not been secured. Neither project reached above threshold. Although both applications demonstrated reasonable alignment to themes and outcomes, overall both applications required more detailed information in several other areas to acquire higher scores. A summary is provided below.

Details of Applications below Threshold – Location to be Determined:

Project Name, Brief Description and Theme
Supported Employment and Sales Training (SEST) CIC Theme: Social Economy The project will include the purchase of a building and development of a call centre. Eligibility issues - Full set of requested financial records was not available.
NI Community Energy (NICE) Theme: Social Economy and Environmental Sustainability The project will include making energy efficiencies and installing solar panels, energy storage and EV chargers, as appropriate, that is co-owned by a local Belfast neighbourhood.

**Details of Applications below Threshold –
South Belfast**

Project Name, Brief Description and Theme
<p>Cycling Ulster and Cycling Ireland Ormeau Park BMX Track Upgrade Project</p> <p>Theme: All</p> <p>The project will include the upgrade of the current BMX track located at Ormeau Park, comprising specific physical cycling related works, an automated starting gate, lighting, storage units, landscaping and fencing.</p>
<p>Linen Quarter BID (LQ BID)</p> <p>Blackstaff Square Hospitality Hub</p> <p>Themes: Environmental Sustainability and Neighbourhood Tourism</p> <p>The project will include the installation of a canopy to the western side of Blackstaff Square to support outdoor dining, signage, seating, planting, a bin store and a kiosk to provide take-away coffee.</p>
<p>Belfast Central Mission (BCM)</p> <p>Multi-Purpose City Centre Hub Development – Grosvenor House</p> <p>Themes: Social Economy and Neighbourhood Tourism</p> <p>The project will include the redevelopment of Grosvenor House into a multi-purpose city centre community hub, to include the expansion of the already established, award winning Puddleducks nursery, which is owned and operated by BCM, a community café, accommodation for meetings and an auditorium/exhibition space.</p>
<p>Southcity Resource and Development Centre and Donegall Road Methodist Church</p> <p>Shawcross Windows and Local Tourism History Project</p> <p>Theme: Neighbourhood Tourism</p> <p>The project will include the preservation of stained-glass windows designed by Neil Shawcross at Donegall Road Methodist Church and the creation of a permanent display of local history information relevant to the local community.</p>

Applications Scoring above Threshold:

Members are aware that the Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund is now a £10m capital programme. The total allocation towards South projects is £1,924,744. No allocations of funding will be made until business cases are produced after Stage 2 - Development. All the applications have now been reviewed by an assessment panel against the agreed project assessment matrix.

Details of Applications above Threshold – South Belfast

Project Name, Brief Description and Theme
Sólás Special Needs Charity Sólás New Build Project Theme: Social Economy The project will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the development of a new 3-storey building that will expand the capacity of Sólás to fully accommodate all core services and key activities such as after schools, the youth transition project, counselling/parents' room and the organisation's management, finance and administration function; and• the development of an outdoor space to accommodate sensory play areas to meet the needs of early years, after schools and young people.
Lagan Legacy Lagan Life Themes: Environmental Sustainability and Neighbourhood Tourism The project will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the development of unique riverside apartment accommodation for tourists;• the extension of the existing exhibition through new interpretation panels and AV equipment; and• the installation of solar panels, a heat pump, insulation, natural ventilation and efficient lighting.

Markets Development Association (MDA)**Market Heritage Hub**

Themes: All

The project will include:

- the regeneration of the old St Malachy's Convent School/Warehouse at Sussex Place into a vibrant new community heritage hub and visitor attraction comprising educational and social spaces, interpretive displays, office accommodation, and an attractive public courtyard space; and
- an interpretive exhibition which tells the social evolution of Belfast through the lens of one of its oldest communities, the Markets. This will be linked to a complementary tenement experience in the nearby Georgian terraces at Joy Street/Hamilton Street, another project currently in development.

An Droichead**An Droichead Annex**

Theme: Social Economy

The project will include:

- the building of a tower annex to An Droichead's main building to provide more space for childcare and their education programme for young people and adults; and
- 5 new playrooms, new classrooms for language, craft, dance and music classes. A social space for parents and youth club members and a storage and roof terrace.

Lower Ormeau Residents Action Group (LORAG)**Lagan Water Access Activity Hub**

Themes: Social Economy and Neighbourhood Tourism

The project will include:

- the development of a water activity hub at the McConnell Lock on the River Lagan at Lower Ormeau; and
- the construction of a footbridge across the lock to the outer wall and the development of a floating pontoon.

<p>Hearth Historic Buildings Trust</p> <p>Riddel's Warehouse</p> <p>Themes: All</p> <p>The project will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the delivery of phase 1 improvements to Riddel's Warehouse, a disused listed building; and • the restoration of the warehouse into an arts centre which will provide unique performance and exhibition spaces as well as being a tourist attraction in its own right. It will also provide co-working space for a number of arts organisations and individual artists.
<p>Greater Village Regeneration Trust (GVRT)</p> <p>Branching Out</p> <p>Theme: Social Economy</p> <p>The project will include the alteration, refurbishment and extension of its facility on the Donegall Road, to ensure that it is fit for purpose and can meet the demands for additional places and programmes.</p>
<p>JH Academy Outreach C.I.C.</p> <p>The Avenue Arts Centre</p> <p>Theme: Social Economy</p> <p>The project will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the renovation of the old Windsor Presbyterian Church into an arts and theatre hub for the community, comprising uplift of the ground-floor and balcony areas into a multipurpose functional space for corporate/private hire as well as a theatre space with a stage and audience seating; • adding a side extension for entrance and accessibility provision; and • the renovation of a space for its 'tiny-tots' programme.

Fitzroy Presbyterian Church

Redevelopment of former School of Music

Theme: Social Economy

The project will include:

- the redevelopment of the derelict listed former School of Music on Donegall Pass to include a range of social economy, charitable and creative ventures;
- the development of the ground floor into a flexible, community focussed space comprising a rehearsal and dance space, a gallery and a theatre/event space; and
- the development of the upper floor into creative/artist studios.

Next Steps

The Working Group will appreciate that, given the level of funding available and current resources, it will not be possible for each project to be moved to *Stage 2 – Development*. At this stage, it is recommended that a maximum of 3 or 4 projects per area be moved to the next stage.

Projects agreed to be moved forward to Stage 2 – Development

The projects agreed to be moved forward to *Stage 2 – Development* will be allocated a Project Sponsor who will work closely with the Group throughout the *Stage 2 Development* Stage. The exact requirements for Stage 2 will be dependent on the individual status and needs of each project, for example, it could be the development of a business case or economic appraisal, testing of a business case, capacity building and/or the development of detailed designs. The assigned Project Sponsor will meet with the Group once decisions are ratified by Council and will work with the Group to determine requirements.

Members are asked to note that it is proposed that the development phase will be timebound to six months, with updates on all projects to be brought back to the AWGs at the same time. At the end of this stage, recommendations to Committee will include a detailed update on each project, seeking approval for funding. Projects that receive approval will be issued with a Letter of Offer, in principle, and will move to *Stage 3 - Delivery*. However, a final investment decision will not be taken until a tender has been returned.

Projects not being moved forward to Stage 2 – Development at this Stage

The projects not being progressed to Stage 2 at this time will be advised of the outcome. Groups will be offered the opportunity to request feedback on their application. In addition, it is proposed that officers will help Groups identify alternative potential sources of support. For example, some applicants will also be able to avail of business support and mentoring through the Council's Social Enterprise and Co-operative Support Programme and Enterprise Framework. This will be tailored to each individual project.

It is recommended, however, that projects that reached threshold but are not progressed at this Stage are held at Stage 1, in case any of the projects which are moved forward do not progress beyond Stage 2. If this happens, then projects will be presented again for the Working Group's consideration.

The Working Group is asked to:

- i. note the update provided on the Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund;
- ii. note the applications which did not meet the minimum threshold and that these applicants are to be advised that they have been unsuccessful. Feedback on their applications will be provided to Groups;
- iii. consider which projects it wishes to recommend to the SP and R Committee to move forward to *Stage 2 – Development* under the Fund. In considering this, Members are asked to note that it is recommended that a maximum of 3 or 4 projects are progressed at this stage given the level of funding available and current resource capacity and;
- iv. note the proposed approach that the Council will provide a response to each applicant not moving forward to Stage 2 at this time, outlining other potential avenues of support.

4. Financial and Resource Implications

Financial - NRF *Stage 2 Development* expenditure will be funded via the agreed NRF budget of £10m.

Resources – Officer time from Physical Programmes Department.

5. Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment

The Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund has been equality screened.”

The Director of Physical Programmes provided an overview of the report and explained that applications for funding had been assessed and scored against the key criteria of affordability, deliverability, feasibility and sustainability. She drew the Members’ attention to the two City-wide applications and the four applications for South Belfast which had scored below the threshold and confirmed that each organisation would be informed that they had been unsuccessful and provided with detailed feedback.

She then reviewed the nine applications for South Belfast which had scored above the threshold and pointed out that, given the level of funding available and current resource capacity, the Working Group was being recommended to select a maximum of three/four projects at this stage. It was the intention that unsuccessful applications would be held on a reserve list and would be presented to the Working Group, should any of the successful projects fail to progress beyond Stage 2.

The Working Group proceeded to review these applications, following which the six projects listed below were each proposed and seconded for progression to Stage 2 - Development:

- Sólás Special Needs Charity
- Markets Development Association
- Lower Ormeau Residents’ Action Group
- Hearth Historic Buildings Trust
- Greater Village Regeneration Trust and
- Fitzroy Presbyterian Church.

The Director of Programmes reiterated the point which she had made earlier in the meeting around the need to select a maximum of three or four projects.

With that in mind, the Working Group agreed to call a recess and meet in private with only Members in attendance, with a view to identifying up to a maximum of four projects.

Upon the resumption of the meeting, it was agreed that the following two projects be progressed to Stage 2 – Development:

- Sólás Special Needs Charity and
- Greater Village Regeneration Trust.

Proposal

Moved by Councillor McAteer,
Seconded by Councillor T. Kelly,

That the Working Group agrees that the Lower Ormeau Residents’ Action Group project be also progressed to Stage 2 – Development.

On a vote, four Members voted for the proposal and four against, with one 'no vote'. There being an equality of votes, the Chairperson exercised her second and casting vote in favour of the proposal and it was declared carried.

Further Proposal

Moved by Councillor Lyons,
Seconded by Councillor Groogan,

That the Working Group agrees that a total of five projects be progressed to Stage 2 – Development, with the final two being those for the Hearth Historic Buildings Trust and Fitzroy Presbyterian Church.

On a vote, five Members voted for the proposal and four against and it was declared carried.

Accordingly, the Working Group agreed:

- i to note the update on the Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund;
- ii to note those applications which had not met the minimum threshold, namely, Cycling Ulster and Cycling Ireland, Linen Quarter BID, Belfast Central Mission, Southcity Resource and Development Centre and Donegall Road Methodist Church, Supported Employment and Sales Training (SEST) CIC and NI Community Energy (NICE), and that the applicants would be advised that they had been unsuccessful and receive feedback;
- iii to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that the following five projects be progressed to Stage 2 – Development:
 - Sólás Special Needs Charity - Sólás New Build Project
 - Greater Village Regeneration Trust - Branching Out Project
 - Lower Ormeau Residents' Action Group - Lagan Water Access Activity Hub
 - Hearth Historic Buildings Trust – Redevelopment of Riddel's Warehouse
 - Fitzroy Presbyterian Church - Redevelopment of former School of Music; and
- iv. to note the proposed approach that the Council would provide a response to each applicant whose project was not moving forward to Stage 2 at this time, outlining other potential avenues of support.

The Director of Physical Programmes explained that the Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund was an open call application process and that this item had been

restricted. The Working Group's recommendations would be submitted to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 18th November for approval, with the minutes of that meeting being presented to the Council on 1st December for ratification. All applicants would be notified of the outcome of their application following the Council meeting.

Date of Next Meeting

The Working Group noted that its next meeting would take place at 5.00 p.m. on Monday, 28th November.

Chairperson

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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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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:	Schedule of Meetings 2023
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

☐

No

☒

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

☐
☐
☐
☐

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☒

No

☐

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To advise the Committee of the dates and times of the meetings of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee between January and December, 2023.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is requested to approve the schedule of meetings, as outlined below, and to agree to the holding of additional special meetings, if required, to consider the rate-setting process, on dates to be determined in consultation with the Chairperson.
3.0	Main Report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	The monthly meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee is normally held at 9.30 a.m. on the 3rd Friday of each month.

3.2	However, it is necessary on occasions to move some meetings to earlier/later in the month.
3.3	Members will also be aware that a special meeting is normally scheduled in January, in case it is required for the consideration of the rate-setting process.
3.4	There is always the possibility that additional meetings may be required for this purpose. If so, these meetings would have to be arranged at short notice. The Committee is being asked, therefore, to agree to the holding of such meetings on dates and times to be determined in consultation with the Chairperson.
3.5	<p>The following dates have been identified for meetings of the Strategic Policy Committee for the period from January to December, 2023, with a commencement time of 9.30 a.m:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friday 13th January at 9.30 a.m. (Rate setting, if required) • Friday 20th January at 9.30 a.m. • Friday 17th February at 9.30 a.m. • Friday 24th March at 9.30 a.m. • Friday 14th April at 9.30 a.m. <p>(No meeting in May - Local Government Elections)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friday 16th June at 9.30 a.m. • Friday 18th August at 9.30 a.m. • Friday 22nd September at 9.30 a.m. • Friday 20th October at 9.30 a.m. • Friday 24th November at 9.30 a.m. • Friday 15th December at 9.30 a.m. <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
4.0	Documents Attached
	None



Subject:	Change of Date of Council Meeting
Date:	18th November, 2022
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, Interim City Solicitor and Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

☐

No

☒

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

☐
☐
☐
☐

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☒

No

☐

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To consider a change to the normal date for the monthly Council meeting in January.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is recommended to agree to move the Council meeting in January from Tuesday, 3rd to Monday, 9th January.

3.0	Main Report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	The Council's Standing Order 1 states that:

	<p><i>“Monthly meetings of the Council will be held on the first working day of each month except in August. Monthly Meetings shall not, however, take place on a Bank or Public Holiday, Friday, Saturday or Sunday, but shall be held on the next following weekday instead.”</i></p>
3.2	<p>In previous years, Members have commented that the date scheduled for the monthly meeting of the Council around the New Year holiday period means that some cannot attend due to holiday commitments. The same can be said for officers, some of whom are also on holiday around that time.</p>
3.3	<p>In 2023, the January meeting of the Council is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 3rd, the first working day following the New Year public holidays. There would not be any difficulty in moving this meeting to Monday, 9th January at 6.00 p.m., as no other meetings are scheduled for that date.</p>
3.4	<p>It is, therefore, proposed that the January meeting of the Council should take place on Monday, 9th at 6.00 p.m.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
4.0	Documents Attached
	None



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	<p><i>Development Management Practice Note 15: Councils Schemes of Delegation</i> provides Departmental guidance. It advises that the main benefits of delegation are:</p> <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

3.9	<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													
	Table 1: % delegated decisions by year																		
	* Unverified																		
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.																			
3.10	<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>	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
	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													
Table 2: % officer recommendations overturned by Committee																			
<u>Proposed adjustments to the Scheme of Delegation</u>																			
It is recommended that the current Scheme of Delegation is renewed subject to two minor modifications set out below:																			
<div><div>1. 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.</div><div>2. 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.</div></div>																			

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

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 - v. community-related scheme up to 500 square metres gross floor space;
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- (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.

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- (a) agree minor, typographical or factual changes or modifications to the Council's Local Development Plan Documents; and
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⁶ Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended)

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- 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;
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 - (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>

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

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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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>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 not 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)
	(f) There is an objection from a statutory consultee and the recommendation of the Planning Officer is to approve (g) Purpose built student accommodation	
3.9.8 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



Subject:	Update on City Region Growth Deal
Date:	18th November, 2022
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, Chief Executive
Contact Officer:	Damien Martin, Programme Director

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	This report provides the Committee with an update on the progress of the Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD).
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. note the update on progress being made now that the Deal is in the delivery phase, including in relation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • agreeing the Contracts for Funding which are required for each of the capital projects delivered through the Deal; and • project development and delivery across the pillars of investment; and ii. note the update on the BRCD Council Panel.

3.0	Main Report
	<p>Deal Delivery</p> <p>Contracts for Funding</p> <p>3.1 Before funding can flow to projects for which Outline Business Cases (OBCs) have been approved, Contracts for Funding need to be agreed between departments and the Accountable Body and Funding Agreements agreed between the Accountable Body and Project Sponsors.</p> <p>3.2 Since the last update to the Committee and following the signing of the first individual Contract for Studio Ulster in July, progress has continued to prepare and agree a number of contracts. As previously noted by Members the Framework Contract was agreed by the BRCD Executive Board and it was agreed that subsequent agreements would be made between the relevant parties without needing specific individual Board approvals. It was also noted that the Committee would be advised of progress to agree the funding agreements for each project.</p> <p>3.3 The Contract for the Advanced Manufacturing Innovation Centre (AMIC) is nearing completion with the Contract now finalised and agreed with the relevant department and partners and is expected to be signed during December following University approvals. Draft Contracts for the Institute for Research Excellence in Advanced Clinical Healthcare (iREACH) and Momentum One Zero (formerly the Global Innovation Institute) have been shared by the Department for Economy and are being considered.</p> <p>3.4 Following agreement of the Contract with the Department for Communities, Mid & East Antrim Borough Council received approval to sign the Carrickfergus Contract for Funding at their Council meeting on 7th November and this will be signed by the middle of November. Three of the Contracts for projects within the Tourism & Regenerations pillar, namely Newry City Centre Regeneration, Bangor Waterfront and Mourne Mountain Gateway, are also now being actively progressed.</p> <p>Progress across BRCD Pillars</p> <p>Innovation</p> <p>3.5 Following signing of the Contract for Funding for Studio Ulster in July, construction at the site in Belfast Harbour commenced on 3rd October following a media launch. When complete in July 2024 it will include world-class commercial Virtual Production stages, fully supported by an integrated R&D and Innovation Centre of Excellence in real-time and virtual production. In the coming months Ulster University are due to complete the Pre-Qualification stage for the Studio Ulster Operator and Delivery Partner.</p>

3.6	<p>The Advanced Manufacturing Innovation Centre (AMIC) has been advanced by Queen's University through to the detailed design stage and it was recently announced that Sam Turner, Chief Technology Officer at the High Value Manufacturing Catapult would be seconded into the position of CEO for AMIC to drive forward plans for delivery, which include the construction of the "Factory for the Future" at Global Point. AMIC also recently launched its NI Technology Roadmap and the Invitation to Tender for its construction contractor is expected to issue in late 2022 or early 2023.</p>
3.7	<p>Momentum One Zero (formerly known as the Global Innovation Institute) is reaching the end of RIBA Stage 2 (concept design) with approval to proceed to detailed design being sought in the coming months. The IREACH project also continues to move through RIBA Stage 2, is considering in further detail its commercial model and has been undertaking significant stakeholder engagement.</p>
3.8	<p>The Centre for Digital Healthcare Technology project has undertaken a feasibility study to consider an alternative to the proposed demolition and rebuild option, driven by the net zero carbon agenda and by cost. Early procurement of equipment is being considered in relation to the Royal Victoria Hospital Living Lab.</p>
3.9	<p>The Committee is asked to note that, as part of plans to utilise the BRCD funding to leverage additional investment in support of our growth ambitions, a letter of support has been provided for a bid by the Health Innovation Research Alliance (HIRANI), supported by local industry, Invest NI, Universities and other partner Councils, to become one of 10 regions to partner with Innovate UK to define launchpad support to grow the economic value of established clusters- in this case life and health sciences. This is not direct funding but unlocks £7.5M in-kind and commercial Innovate UK grants for revenue funding to overcome barriers to commercialisation and support local business-led innovation, collaboration and growth, over 2 years (2023-25). This will build from existing and emerging local clusters such as homes for health ageing and precision diagnostics and help support the long-term investments in innovation in life and health sciences planned in each of the City and Growth deals. The bid does not involve any direct financial or resource ask from Belfast City Council.</p>
3.10	<p>Digital</p> <p>Members will be considering a separate report on the Smart Belfast Urban Innovation Framework which reflects the importance of the BRCD investments to delivering the City's and the indeed the Region's digital innovation ambitions. However, a brief update is provided below on key developments in the digital pillar since the previous report.</p>

3.11	Following Executive Board approval in October, the OBC for the Digital twin project led by Digital Catapult UK, which will see a digital twin hub for the UK being established in Belfast, attended Casework Committee on 19th October 2022 and received Ministerial approval on 28th October 2022.
3.12	Since the last update to the Committee, consultants have been appointed to commence the development of the OBC for the Venture Fund element of the Innovation Challenge Fund and a Case for Change workshop took place on 9 th November.
3.13	The i4c Innovation Centre project, led by Mid & East Antrim Borough Council received approval from the Economy Minister in Spring 2022 and the Council have been working intensively with the Department for the Economy to address challenges such as construction inflation and will now be proceeding to seek Department of Finance supply approval.
3.14	In relation to the Advanced Wireless business case, engagement has now taken place with key officials in the Department for the Economy in order to discuss options for the project following feedback on the draft OBC. The next steps are now being considered and these will be presented to the Digital Advisory Board for consideration.
	Tourism and Regeneration
3.15	The OBC for Destination Royal Hillsborough was considered at Casework Committee on 25th October 2022 with a recommendation for Ministerial approval, which was then secured on 28th October 2022 from the Economy Minister. The project will now proceed for Department of Finance supply approval.
3.16	Members will be aware that Belfast Stories is the Council's flagship project and is due to open in 2028 and that the Committee approved the extension of the Project Director for 5 years in line with this timescale. Progress against the agreed programme is ongoing with procurement of professional services now in place to progress design to RIBA 2 and enable a full OBC to be developed. The casework review is anticipated to be held in 2023. A Public consultation exercise has also been ongoing which includes elements of the Stories Collection Framework and will in turn inform the design brief for the project. The key findings of the consultation exercise will be presented to Members at a future meeting along with recommendations and next steps for the project.
	Employability and Skills (E&S)
3.17	Further to the update to Members in September, all Councils have approved their contribution to the Digital Transformation Flexible Fund and pre-development work has commenced. This will enable the key resources that supported the Full-Fibre Network to be retained by Newry,

	Mourne and Down District Council to support the OBC and establish the necessary arrangements to operate the fund from 1 April 2023 (subject to business case approval).
3.18	To better understand the labour market and skills implications resulting from the jobs created through the city deal investment a significant piece of work is underway through a process of skills assessments. Delivered through a task and finish approach, with input from projects, city deal partners (as deliverers of employability and skills interventions), industry and wider stakeholders are undertaking a deep dive to understand the nature of jobs likely to be created and to identify if and where there is a need to evolve the existing skills offer in response. To date a construction skills assessment is nearing completion, a further assessment is underway focusing upon advanced manufacturing linked to AMIC and additional assessments expected to commence in the forthcoming months will focus upon the digital and creative industries.
3.19	Experience to date suggests that the outcomes of skills assessments are likely to result in recommendations that could have implications for BRCD, (particularly partners as deliverers of employability and skills interventions) industry and government departments. The output from this work will inform plans developed through Labour Market Partnerships and the NI Skills Council. The absence of revenue funding to support the E&S priorities of city and growth deals will require consideration as to how partners could ' <i>bend the spend</i> ', i.e. realign existing resources to the needs identified.
3.20	<p>Infrastructure</p> <p>The Infrastructure Minister published the consultation report on Belfast Rapid Transit Phase 2 in October and announced the preferred routes. Departmental officials have appointed consultants to deliver the procurement phase of the Lagan Pedestrian and Cycle Bridge to facilitate the detailed design and construction. It is expected that it will take approximately three and a half years to deliver the procurement, detailed design and construction phases of the project. Design of the Newry Southern Relief Road continues and preparation of the draft Statutory Orders, along with an Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR), in advance of statutory public consultation is ongoing.</p>
3.21	<p>BRCD Council Panel</p> <p>A hybrid meeting of the BRCD Council Panel was held on 28 September, hosted by Mid and East Antrim Borough Council. Panel Members considered a detailed programme update and received a presentation on the work that is being undertaken to ensure that social value criteria are being integrated into future BRCD procurements and that social value benefits are then realised.</p>

3.22	As part of the update, the Panel also discussed in detail some of the key challenges currently facing the programme, including in particular in relation to construction inflation and the impact of the complexity of governance and approvals processes, which can result in delays to project progression and increased costs. In recent weeks senior level engagement has been taking place with government departments and across City and Growth deals with the aim of developing collaborative solutions to these significant and ongoing challenges, which arise at a time of significant economic and financial uncertainty.
3.23	The minutes of the previous Panel meeting hosted by Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council were approved by the Panel and are attached. The next meeting will be hosted as a hybrid meeting by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council on 25th January 2023.
3.24	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>All costs associated with the BRCD are within existing budgets.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>The approach taken to develop the City Deal has been subject to independent equality screening and rural proofing and states that;</p> <p><i>‘BRCD is inherently inclusive, affording an opportunity for the region to grow in a way that will benefit the economy of Northern Ireland as a whole, thereby enhancing the lives and well-being of its citizens. If during further development of the programme it becomes apparent that there may be an adverse impact on certain groups or communities then the partnership commits to carrying out further Section 75 work and including screening and EQIAs as and when appropriate.’</i></p>
4.0	Documents Attached
	Minutes of the BRCD Council Panel 22 June 2022

BRCD Council Panel

Subject:	Minutes of Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD) Council Panel
Date:	12.30 pm, 22 June 2022
Councillors in attendance:	<p>Councillor Uel Mackin - Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council (Chairperson)</p> <p>Alderman Allan Ewart – Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council</p> <p>Alderman Amanda Grehan – Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council</p> <p>Councillor Matthew Magill – Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council</p> <p>Councillor Stephen Ross – Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council</p> <p>Alderman Alan McDowell – Ards & North Down Borough Council</p> <p>Alderman George Dorrian – Belfast City Council</p> <p>Councillor Ronan McLaughlin – Belfast City Council</p> <p>Councillor Carl Whyte – Belfast City Council</p> <p>Alderman Billy Ashe MBE – Mid & East Antrim Borough Council</p> <p>Alderman Audrey Wales MBE – Mid & East Antrim Borough Council</p> <p>Councillor Robin Stewart – Mid & East Antrim Borough Council</p> <p>Councillor Timothy Gaston – Mid & East Antrim Borough Council</p> <p>Councillor Barra O’Muirí - Newry, Mourne & Down District Council</p> <p>Councillor Charlie Casey - Newry, Mourne & Down District Council</p> <p>Councillor Robert Burgess - Newry, Mourne & Down District Council</p> <p>Councillor Pete Byrne - Newry, Mourne & Down District Council</p>
Officers:	<p>David Burns – Chief Executive, Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council</p> <p>Stephen Reid – Chief Executive, Ards & North Down Borough Council</p> <p>Marie Ward – Chief Executive, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council</p> <p>Ronan Cregan – Deputy Chief Executive, Belfast City Council</p> <p>Majella McAllister – Director of Economic Development and Planning, Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council</p> <p>Ursula O’Loughlin – Head of Economic Development, Mid and East Antrim Borough Council</p> <p>Conor Mallon – Director Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council</p> <p>Amanda Smyth – Head of Regeneration and Business Development, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council</p> <p>Damien Martin – BRCD Programme Director, Belfast City Council</p> <p>Emer Husbands, Theresa Slevin, Stephen Wallace, Ruth Rea, Joanne Delaney, Lorraine Beggs – BRCD Programme Office</p> <p>Padraic Murphy, Shelley Baldrick, Lisa Crossey - Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council</p> <p>Lesley Holmes, Marketing & Communications Co-ordinator, Belfast City Council</p> <p>David Roberts – Director of Strategic Development, Tourism NI</p>

1.0	Welcome and Introductions
1.1	<p>Councillor Mackin welcomed the members of the BRCD Council Panel to the meeting which was hosted by Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council.</p> <p>Councillor Mackin thanked officers and the Executive Board for their work in driving the City Deal forward in recent months and outlined the key areas of focus for the meeting.</p>

2.0	Apologies
2.1	<p>Apologies were received from:</p> <p>Alderman Mark Cosgrove – Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council Councillor Julie Gilmour – Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council Councillor Stephen Dunlop- Ards & North Down Borough Council Councillor Richard Smart - Ards & North Down Borough Council Councillor Alistair Cathcart – Ards & North Down Borough Council Councillor Eric Hanvey – Belfast City Council</p> <p>Apologies were received from the following Officers:</p> <p>Jacqui Dixon – Chief Executive, Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council John Walsh – Chief Executive, Belfast City Council Valerie Watts – Interim Chief Executive, Mid & East Antrim Borough Council</p>
3.0	Declarations of Interest
3.1	<p>Cllr Mackin asked Councillors if they had any interests to declare in relation to the agenda. No interests were declared.</p>
4.0	Minutes of Previous Meeting
4.1	<p>Cllr Mackin asked if the Panel agreed that the minutes of the previous meeting were an accurate reflection of the meeting.</p> <p>Ald Ewart proposed that the minutes from the previous meeting were agreed. Seconded by Cllr Casey Members agreed the minutes.</p> <p>Cllr Mackin noted that an action from the previous panel, to send a formal letter of thanks to former Belfast City Council Chief Executive, Suzanne Wylie, had been completed.</p>
5.0	BRCD Programme Update
5.1	<p>Cllr Mackin highlighted that Members had received a paper outlining the intensive work ongoing by a range of partners following deal signing to progress the development of projects and to enable funding to start to flow to the projects.</p> <p>Damien Martin, BRCD Programme Director, provided Members with a detailed update on programme delivery across a number of areas, including Outline Business case Development (OBC) and approvals, with an increasing number of projects having received both Ministerial and Department of Finance approvals and a number of other projects, proceeding towards casework committee or through departmental approvals. Damien Martin also noted that several of the Innovation pillar projects had continued to proceed at risk (in advance of receipt of funding) including through the appointment of design consultants and establishment of operational models.</p> <p>Projects in digital and infrastructure, with the exception of i4C and the Lagan Cycling and Pedestrian Bridge, are at an earlier stage of development and are currently developing or commencing individual OBCs.</p> <p>Damien Martin highlighted the significant programme risk of construction inflation which is affecting all large capital projects at present. Whilst it was noted that all projects, through the OBC process, had factored in the potential for construction inflation, it was recognised that the current scale of construction inflation was exceptional.</p> <p>The importance of skills was further noted and recognised as a key challenge. An employability and skills action plan has been developed with key areas of work focusing upon understanding and identifying ways to create a</p>

skills pipeline to support City Deal projects. Training has also been rolled out on the approach to integrating social value within city deal procurements and it was further noted the OBC for the Digital Transformation Flexible Fund is currently at draft business case stage.

Following Deal signing, arrangements have been put in place to support new processes & procedures for the delivery phase, including for the Accountable Body, and partners are supporting these arrangements.

In relation to wider Deal Documentation, it was noted that an Implementation Plan and Financial Plan for the Deal had now been agreed and would be updated as required.

Finally, Damien Martin provided Members with an update in relation to the progress in agreeing a framework Contract for Funding. The intensive and complex work across multiple partners, including a number of Government Departments, was recognised and whilst there are still a small number of issues outstanding, the majority of key issues had been resolved and it was hoped that the framework Contract for Funding could be concluded and agreed in the coming weeks. It was explained that this was critical as delays in agreeing the Contract for Funding were starting to impact on the most advanced projects. The agreed framework would then apply to individual project agreements, which would be approved by relevant partner organisations through back-to-back agreements.

Ald Ewart noted concerns around construction inflation and asked about the options for projects in the absence of additional funding from government. Ald Ewart further asked if projects were scaled back whether this would require updates to OBCs.

In response, Damien Martin explained that all projects have taken account of construction inflation in their OBCs, however the current situation is exceptional. The City Deal partners have raised the issue with NI and UK Government on the basis that-if proposals are developed in relation to other government led or funded capital investments, then City Deal projects should not be treated any less favourably. It was noted that there was no indication of additional funding from governments at this point, but government partners do recognise the scale of the challenge and are willing to work with the BRCD partners to explore solutions. In relation to OBC updates, this has also been discussed with Departments and it is hoped a pragmatic approach can be found given that OBC updates would take time and could cause delay and this would not assist projects in an inflationary environment.

In relation to the Contract for Funding, Damien Martin explained that BRCD partners had been involved in discussions with all the Departments and so when the framework is agreed shortly, that will include agreement with Departments.

Ald Ewart followed-up by asking whether the levelling-up fund was a potential funding solution. Damien Martin explained that this was unlikely at a programme level, but that the City and Growth Deals Complementary Fund may be an option worth exploring.

Cllr Casey thanked Damien Martin for his detailed overview and thanked officers for their work in addressing all challenges to date. Cllr Casey asked whether there were any specific challenges in relation to the Southern Relief Road and its progress.

Damien Martin explained that decisions were required for the project in relation to the option of a lifting bridge and that delays in relation to this decision could result in project delays. The additional challenges are those faced by any large road scheme.

	<p>Members noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the update on the development of the key documents supporting the delivery of the deal; and • the update on the progress of projects within the individual Pillars of Investment <p>Proposed by Ald Henderson Seconded by Ald Ewart</p>
6.0	Impact of Tourism & Regeneration Investment Royal Hillsborough
6.1	<p>Cllr Mackin introduced David Roberts, Director of Strategic Development at Tourism NI.</p> <p>David Roberts presented an overview of the planned investments and the key role these major investments will play in supporting the recovery of the tourism industry.</p> <p>Cllr Casey stressed the importance of Tourism NI working with partners in Tourism Ireland for the benefit of all regions.</p> <p>Cllr Mackin then introduced David Burns, Chief Executive of Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council.</p> <p>David Burns presented an overview of the Destination Royal Hillsborough project and set out how the City Deal investment will build on the major investments made by Historic Royal Palaces and Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council, to help to deliver a successful project for the benefit of the region.</p>
7.0	BRCD Communication and Engagement Update
7.1	<p>Cllr Mackin introduced Lesley Holmes, Marketing & Communications Co-ordinator at Belfast City Council.</p> <p>Lesley Holmes provided an overview of the work of the Communications Forum in support of the City Deal, outlining some of the successful campaigns and promotional activity in the media since the Deal launch. She advised that the newly developed communications products, including a programme video, updated BRCD Summary document, slides and social media assets are available for partners to use individually in order to promote the benefits of the deal. Lesley then outlined the proposed next steps and the communication objectives for the next phase of the deal.</p> <p>Damien Martin highlighted that there will be a stronger focus during Phase 3 on project level communication. He outlined the benefit of now having several projects at detailed design stages, as this provides tangible material to support communications.</p> <p>Members agreed the focus and objectives for communication in phase 3 and noted the update in relation to the proactive releases, promotion and media activity.</p> <p>Proposed by Ald Ewart Seconded by Ald Grehan</p>
8.0	Press Release
8.1	<p>Cllr Mackin asked members if they were content to agree the draft press release circulated in advance of the meeting, subject to one minor amendment which had been proposed.</p> <p>No further comments were raised, and on this basis Cllr Mackin was happy to note that Members agreed the press release.</p>

9.0	Schedule of Meetings
9.1	Cllr Mackin highlighted that the next meeting is to be hosted by Mid & East Antrim Borough Council on 28 September 2022.

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Subject:	Leisure Management Contract Governance and Performance Reporting
Date:	18th November, 2022
Reporting Officer:	David Sales, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Noel Munnis, Partnership Manager

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To present proposals for the future governance of the leisure management contract, including contract compliance and performance reporting.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is requested to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. the recommendation that the People and Communities Committee is the most appropriate route for future Council reports; and ii. the proposed contract compliance and performance report schedules presented below at 3.5 and 3.6.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p><u>Background</u></p> <p>The Committee is reminded that, in November 2020, it agreed to review the tri-partite leisure model and the ABL Board, including its membership and governance arrangements. Terms</p>

	<p>of Reference were approved in June 2021 and First Point Management and Consultancy Limited was appointed to conduct the review.</p> <p>The final review report was presented to this Committee on 25th March 2022. After consideration, the Committee approved Option 3 as the preferred way forward, namely, to bring Contract Compliance and Performance Monitoring of GLL back into the Council and commence the winding up of ABL. That decision was subsequently ratified by the Council on 4th April.</p> <p>ABL has been dormant since 6th June and will remain so until formally dissolved.</p> <p>Contract compliance, performance management and financial transactions have been managed through the City and Neighbourhood Services Department (CNS) since 6th June. This will continue until new mechanisms for direct Council governance are agreed.</p> <p>Proposals for Committee consideration include general oversight arrangements, periodic reports, key performance indicators, budgets and financial transactions and audit/risk assurances.</p> <p><u>Outcomes and Proposals</u></p>
3.2	<p>This report sets out options and proposals for the future governance of the leisure management contract. CNS will continue to gather and collate contract compliance evidence and performance data as previously required for reporting through Active Belfast Limited.</p> <p><u>Committee Reporting and Governance Overview</u></p>
3.3	<p>Following the decision to bring management of the GLL leisure contract back under direct Council control, an agreed reporting mechanism is now required. It is recommended that CNS prepares contract compliance and performance monitoring papers to:</p> <p>a) Report directly into Committee. People and Communities is recommended as the most appropriate Committee.</p> <p>It is anticipated that, within the first Committee report, report formats and frequencies together with specific performance measures will be presented for consideration.</p>

3.4	<p><u>Contract compliance</u></p> <p>Contract compliance assurances are already well established. CNS takes a central role in collating information and works with Corporate H and S, Corporate finance, Audit, Governance and Risk Services and Legal Services to review and present assurances.</p> <p>Contract compliance requirements are set out within the legally binding contract with GLL. As these contractual requirements will remain unchanged, it is proposed that the same suite of check mechanisms and assurance reports be retained as part of direct Council governance procedures. For example, existing mechanisms include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Assurances on key BCC/GLL policy alignments b) Health and Safety (including Safeguarding) reporting c) Timelines for submission of key annual proposals around, pricing, programming, marketing and promotion, sports development, community engagement, etc. <p><u>Performance Reporting</u></p> <p>Periodic performance report measures and formats have evolved since contract commencement in January 2015. The current scorecard format has provided consistent and comparable management information for the last four years. Nine key performance indicators (KPI's) are presented under the following three themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Business (financial) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Labour cost recovery - Expenditure recovery - Cost per visit b) Membership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pre-Paid monthly membership net gain - Pay and Play membership net gain - Swim School membership net gain c) Occupancy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Main hall occupancy to capacity ratio - Studio occupancy to capacity ratio - Synthetic Pitch occupancy to capacity ratio
3.5	

	<p>The above KPI's present a solid overview of contract performance. All three themes are accepted within the wider leisure industry as key drivers of overall performance.</p> <p>To provide the above, CNS would continue to collate more detailed data, beyond the nine listed KPI's, which would be retained on file should additional or more specific ad-hoc performance analysis be requested.</p>
3.6	<p>It is recommended that contract compliance and performance reports be presented to Committee on a six-monthly basis presented in November and May. This would allow for sufficient time to collate and verify management information data related to the preceding six-month periods of April to September and October to March.</p> <p>CNS would continue to collate monthly management information data on a centre-by-centre level. Unless otherwise requested, six monthly committee reports would be presented at a strategic overall service level supported by centre specific performance examples where appropriate.</p>
3.7	<p><u>Summary</u></p> <p>The Committee is requested to consider the governance proposals/recommendations set out above.</p> <p>Key decisions required relate to overall governance mechanisms at 3.4, contract compliance assurances at 3.5 and performance reports at 3.6.</p>
3.8	<p><u>Communications and Public Relations</u></p> <p>None</p>
3.9	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None</p>
3.10	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None</p>
4.0	Documents Attached
	None



Subject:	Belfast City Council Safeguarding All Ages Policy 2022 - Consultation Results and Analysis
Date:	18th November, 2022
Reporting Officer:	David Sales, Director of Neighbourhood Services, CNS
Contact Officers:	Cate Taggart, Neighbourhood Services Manager Anthony McPeake, Safeguarding Compliance Manager

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	<p>This purpose of this report is to finalise the new Safeguarding All Ages Policy post public consultation and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. To provide an overview of the responses received. ii. To provide details on any changes, amendments or written response in response to the consultation iii. To note that the final policy has been presented to CMT and JNCC. Both panels have supported the progression to implementation. iv. To note and support the offer of training in Adult Safeguarding on 23rd November for Elected members and Senior staff. v. To note the expected launch date of 15th January 2023 vi. To approve the policy for ratification by the Council.

2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to note the progress made to date and approve the Safeguarding Policy.
3.0	Main Report
	<p><u>Context</u></p> <p>3.1 “Safeguarding is everybody’s responsibility, and safeguarding all ages is important to us. The Council recognises everyone has a fundamental right to be safe. Whatever the cause, or wherever it occurs, harm caused to children, young people or adults by abuse, exploitation or neglect is not acceptable.”</p> <p>3.2 Safeguarding has always been a consideration for the Council. In July 2021 a report was presented to CMT to outline the process and ongoing strategic and practical developments to improve practise and assurance across the council’s areas of responsibility.</p> <p>3.3 The main area for improvement was to review the current policy in place since 2009 and to replace it with an up-to-date policy including robust assurance and accountability. While COVID and the necessary emergency response delayed the project, the policy went out to public consultation between May 2022 and August 2022.</p> <p><u>Results of the Public Consultation:</u></p> <p>3.4 This is an overview of the salient points. A more detailed report is available in the attachments.</p> <p>3.5 Over the 14-week period the number of visitors were as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 Engaged Visitors (participated in some way) • 40 Informed Visitors (visited multiple pages/Contributed) • 156 Aware Visitors (visited at least one page) <p>3.6 None of the respondents suggested any changes to the policy content and the predominant responses were positive. The small response level was expected due to the specialist nature of the policy.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>3.7 There are financial implications associated with the policy implementation and successful safeguarding assurance across the organisation, for example, the re-vetting cost for Access NI checks (every three years), and the officer and member training programme.</p>

3.8	While these are council wide, they have been included in the CNS budget growth estimates.
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.9	The EQIA and the RNA have been completed and were part of the public consultation process. As the policy is a positive policy, any impact will be for the better in terms of both equality and Rural needs. Both documents are tabled alongside the final draft policy for consideration.
3.10	The Consultation responses did not suggest any changes to the equality impact or the Rural needs impact.
4.0	Documents Attached
	Appendix 1: Summary - Safeguarding all ages Draft Policy and Procedures 2022 Appendix 2: Safeguarding all ages Draft Policy 2022 Appendix 3: EQIA Appendix 4: Rural Needs Impact assessment. Appendix 5: Detailed Overview of consultation response

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Summary of Draft Policy

Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility, and safeguarding all ages is important to us.

The Council recognises everyone has a fundamental right to be safe. Whatever the cause, or wherever it occurs, harm caused to children, young people or adults by abuse, exploitation or neglect is not acceptable. In response to Keep Safe Children – Our duty to Care (2017) and Keep Adults safe – A shared responsibility (2015) published by Volunteer Now to reflect development in Safeguarding and changes in legislation and guidance, we reviewed the current policy and procedure and recommended some improvements.

In summary, the revised policy is designed to improve the safety and minimise the risk of harm of people of all ages living in Belfast (including staff) with whom Council may come into contact. It seeks also to enable all Council staff and Members to recognise and know how to respond to concerns about abuse. The policy provides definitions of the forms of abuse for both young persons and Adults at risk and details the steps that need to be taken by all staff, and others, if they have a concern about anyone potentially being abused.

The policy also enables Council staff to identify those adults within the community who may use Council services and who may be defined as being "at risk." The policy details how staff can get support and advice in situations where they have concerns about an older person or an adult who may be vulnerable as a result of learning disability, illness or physical or mental infirmity.

The policy is aligned with the overarching policy framework for safeguarding children and young people produced by the DHSSPS "Cooperating to safeguard Children and Young People" (2016) and with the Northern Ireland Adult Safeguarding Partnership (NIASP) "Adult Safeguarding Operational Procedures" (2016).

The draft policy is divided into 2 sections which set out Council's commitment to safeguarding people of all ages:

Section 1: Is specifically child and young person's safeguarding

Section 2: Is specifically adult safeguarding

Both sections cover: Safeguarding Policy statement, Recruitment and selection of staff and volunteers, Effective management of staff and volunteers, Reporting Concerns, Assessing and managing risk, Dealing with comments, suggestions and complaints, Information sharing, Code of behaviour, General safety and management of activities, Implementation and Monitoring Procedures.

Additional information for staff is included in an Operational procedures document that compliments and works alongside the policy. By keeping the operational procedures as a live, but separate document it will allow the Safeguarding panel and operational group to develop these procedures in line with operational need.

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Draft Policy

Belfast City Council

Safeguarding All Ages Policy 2019

Draft version 8 final. (Post Public Consultation)

Approved Date	
Review date	Every three years or in response to changes in legislation or guidance.
Related legislation	Please see policy
Replaces	Policy and procedures for the protection of Children and Vulnerable adults 2009
Policy Lead (name, Position, contact details)	Cate Taggart
Policy Author	Anthony McPeake
Sponsor Directorate	City and Neighbourhood services
Version	Final draft

Version Record

Date	Version	Revision description
26/10/2022	Final	Approved By CMT
20/10/2022	Final	Approved at full JNCC
11/10/2022	Final	No revision post public consultation
27/05/2021	V8	Small amendments in response to JNCC TU call.
10/03/2020	V7	Revision for typos
27/02/2020	V6	Revision following JNCC call by ARGS
10/01/2020	V5	Final revision from HR
18/12/2019	V4	Revision after feedback from HR and Legal.
20/10/2019	V3	Feedback from Safeguarding panel members

01/09/2019	V2	Used for Development of current policy. This document was never approved by council or seen outside of the Safeguarding panel for development.
01-09-2009	V1	Revisited due to need to update in line with changes in guidance and legislation

Overview:

1. Chief Executives Foreword

2. Rationale

3. Policy:

I. Part 1

Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy

II. Part 2

Safeguarding Adults Policy

Chief Executives Foreword:

Everyone has a fundamental right to be safe. Whatever the cause, and wherever it occurs, harm caused to children and adults by abuse, exploitation or neglect is not acceptable. This policy emphasises that safeguarding is everyone's business and that as a Council, we will strive to prevent harm to children and adults from abuse, exploitation or neglect. This policy requires us to put all individuals who may be at risk at the centre of what we do, to listen to them and to work in partnership with them on an inter-agency basis to create an organisation which has a zero-tolerance of harm to the most vulnerable people living in Belfast.

This policy is Belfast City Council's contribution to the fulfilment of a Northern Ireland Executive Programme for Government commitment to deliver a package of measures to safeguard children and adults who are at risk of harm and to promote a culture where safeguarding is everyone's business.

The Council recognises that the Safeguarding Policy must be owned at all levels within the organisation. As Chief Executive of Council I have directed that this policy be developed and I, the elected members and the Corporate Leadership Team, will be responsible for its approval and ensuring it is fully implemented and reviewed. A key element of the safeguarding policy is the recruitment of a Safeguarding Compliance Manager who will ensure that this council embraces best practice in this area.

We will also strive to incorporate the ethos of trauma informed practise into all aspects of council life by incorporating the six key principles of Safety, Trustworthiness and Transparency, Peer support, Collaboration and mutuality, Empowerment, voice and choice, Cultural, Historical, and Gender Issues.

The Policy applies to all employees, elected members, casual/agency workers, volunteers, contractors, grant-aided organisations and those using our facilities irrespective of their function, remit or role. It provides a robust platform which sets out the Councils responsibilities and details where support can be obtained.

I particularly commend this Policy to all employees and would ask that you take the time to familiarise yourself with the contents.

John Walsh

Chief Executive

Rationale

Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility, and safeguarding all ages is important to us.

The Council recognises everyone has a fundamental right to be safe. Whatever the cause, or wherever it occurs, harm caused to children, young people or adults by abuse, exploitation or neglect is not acceptable. In response to Keep Safe Children – Our duty to Care (2017) and Keep Adults safe – A shared responsibility (2015) published by Volunteer Now to reflect development in Safeguarding and changes in legislation and guidance, we reviewed the current policy and procedure and recommended some improvements; Following this in 2018 we introduced a Safeguarding Panel and began a piece of work to establish robust policies and procedures, demonstrating our commitment to safeguarding and to provide clear and practical support to elected members, staff, agency workers, casual workers, and volunteers.

We have designed this document to be user friendly and to incorporate the ethos that safeguarding of all ages is everyone's responsibility.



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- [1.0 What is safeguarding?](#)
- [1.1 Standards](#)
- [1.2 Definition of safeguarding and child protection](#)
- [2.0 Policy statement; aims and objectives](#)
- [2.1 Aims](#)
- [2.2 Objectives](#)
- [3.0 Definitions](#)
- [4.0 Recognising abuse](#)
- [4.1 Types of abuse](#)
- [5.0 Recruitment and selection of employees](#)
- [6.0 Training of employees](#)
- [7.0 Record keeping, confidentiality and information sharing](#)
- [8.0 Governance, monitoring and reporting](#)
- [8.1 Safeguarding flow chart](#)
- [8.2 Third party contracts and interactions](#)

1.0 What is safeguarding?

Within this policy the term 'safeguarding' is used in its widest sense, that is, to encompass both activity which prevents harm from occurring in the first place (council safeguarding procedures) and activity which protects children and adults at risk where harm has occurred or is likely to occur (council reporting to statutory agencies procedures).

Preventative safeguarding includes a range of actions and measures. Council employees may come into contact with children and adults who may be at risk of harm and so must recognise the potential for, and to prevent, harm. In practice we support staff by providing safeguarding procedures which include:

- recruitment and selection – vetting procedures
- management, support, supervision, training and awareness
- reporting procedures for safeguarding children and adults at risk of harm

- assessing and managing risks
- comments and complaints procedures
- management of records, confidentiality and sharing of information
- workplace domestic violence policy and trusted colleagues
- safeguarding codes of behaviour
- booking procedures for council facilities including Safeguarding requirements.
- photographic guidance
- role of Safeguarding Compliance Manager

Protective safeguarding is targeted at children and adults who are in need of protection, that is, when harm from abuse, exploitation or neglect is suspected, has occurred, or is likely to occur. The Health and Social Care (HSC) Trusts and PSNI lead the protection service. In practice the Council has internal reporting protocols for concerns regarding children and adults which may lead to referrals to these statutory agencies.

The duty to safeguard is a responsibility of all organisations, groups, services and agencies within society that come into contact with children and adults at risk of harm.

1.1 Standards

We have designed the standards in this policy on Information taken from the following:

Legislation

- UN Convention on the Rights of the Child 1989 (UNCRC International Treaty)
- Data Protection Act 2018 - GDPR (Replaces Data Protection Act 1998)
- The Disability Discrimination Act 1995
- Sexual Offences (NI) Order 2008
- The Sexual Offences Act 2003
- The Criminal Justice (NI) Order 2008
- Rehabilitation of Offenders Order (NI) 1978.
- Criminal Law Act (NI) 1967
- Safeguarding Vulnerable groups (NI) Order 2007
- Section 75 NI Act 1998
- The Safeguarding Board Act (NI) 2011

Guidance Documents

- Volunteer Now – Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults – Policy Standards 2012
- SBNI – Safeguarding Board for NI - Policy standards
- Co-operating to Safeguard Children (DHSSPS) Guidance
- Our Duty to Care: Standards and Guidance for Keeping Children and Young People Safe (2014), Volunteer Now.
- Co-Operating to Safeguard Children and Young People in Northern Ireland, March 2016

For the purposes of this policy, the definition of a child is any person under 18 as per The Children Order (NI) 1995.

1.2 Definition of Safeguarding and Child protection

Safeguarding is more than child protection.

Safeguarding begins with promotion and preventative activity which enables children and young people to grow up safely and securely in circumstances where their development and wellbeing is not adversely affected. It includes support to families and early intervention to meet the needs of children and continues through to child protection. Child protection refers specifically to the activity that is undertaken to protect individual children or young people who are suffering or are likely to suffer significant harm.

(Co-Operating to Safeguard Children and Young People in Northern Ireland, August 2017)

Children and young people have the right to live their lives to the fullest potential, to be protected, to be able to participate in and enjoy activities and to be treated with dignity and respect. There is a considerable body of legislation, government guidance and standards designed to ensure that these all children and young people are protected from harm.

Everybody has a responsibility for the safety of children and young people and in accordance with relevant legislation we, as an organisation which has significant contacts with children and young people across its services, have both a moral and legal obligation to ensure a duty of care.

The purpose of this policy and its associated procedures is to help protect the children and young people who use our services and to ensure that Belfast City Council employees, volunteers, and elected members are aware of issues that can cause children and young people harm and take effective action to protect them.

By complying fully with the policies and procedures, we seek to ensure that employees, volunteers, and elected members are also protected whilst carrying out their duties.

2.0 Policy Statement; aims and objectives

Policy Statement

Every child and young person has a right to feel safe and protected and, as a provider of public facilities and services, we are committed to creating and maintaining the safest possible environment for the children and young people who use our facilities, access our services and come into contact with members of our workforce. We will take all reasonable steps to protect children and young people using our facilities and services from harm, discrimination, or degrading treatment whilst respecting their rights, wishes, and feelings.

2.1 Aims

We aim to do this by:

- Recognising that all children and young people have the right to freedom from abuse and protection from harm.

- Putting in place robust recruitment procedures to ensure that those individuals whose behaviour could be a threat to the safety and wellbeing of children and young people are not offered employment.
- Raising the awareness of the duty of care responsibilities throughout the council.
- Actively encouraging good practice amongst all employees, volunteers, and elected members throughout the council and promoting wider awareness wherever possible, with partnership organisations and user groups.
- Creating a safe and healthy environment within all our services, avoiding situations where abuse or allegations of abuse may occur.
- Respecting and promoting the rights, wishes, and feelings of children and young people and working closely with other agencies.
- Recruiting, training, supervising, and supporting employees and volunteers who work with children and young people to adopt best practice to safeguard and protect children and young people from abuse, and themselves against false allegations. Employees who work with children and young people will be subject to the appropriate level employment checks. All appropriate new staff will be inducted on these policy and procedures with sign-off from their line managers and Human Resources.
- Introducing a Code of Behaviour specific to Safeguarding.
- Responding to any allegations appropriately and implementing the appropriate council policies and procedures.
- Requiring employees, volunteers, and elected members to follow the council's safeguarding children and young people policy and procedures.
- Having appropriately trained Designated Safeguarding Officers in place to co-ordinate children and young people safeguarding issues and give advice. (Please note, certain council facilities / services operate outside of 9am – 5pm, therefore, this may result in a Duty Manager rather than a Designated Officer being onsite outside of these hours).
- Ensuring we maintain confidentiality where appropriate and we restrict access to confidential information to the appropriate authorities.
- Carrying out a regular audit and review of the effectiveness of our safeguarding children and young people policy and procedures.
- Helping to maintain professionalism and standards of service which are associated with best practice provision, including a Code of Behaviour.
- We are committed to reviewing our policies, procedures, practices and training in line with changes in legislation and best practice or at a minimum every three years.

2.2 Objectives

Our objectives to achieve these aims are:

- To provide appropriate training for all appropriate employees, volunteers and elected members.
- To aid employees, volunteers, and elected members to respond sensitively and seriously to anyone who discloses information about abuse and be confident and able to take appropriate action swiftly, regardless of whom the allegation is about.
- To promote the general welfare and well-being of children and young people within council facilities and services.
- To develop and implement effective procedures for recording and responding to complaints of alleged or suspected child or young person abuse.

3.0 Definitions

Throughout this document 'children or child' is used. Unless specifically mentioned this relates to 'children and young people'.

- The term children or young person is used to refer to anyone under the age of 18 years as defined in the Children (NI) Order 1995.
- The term parent is used as a generic term to represent parents, carers and guardians.
- The term employees, staff and elected members is used to refer to employees, agency workers, casual workers, volunteers and District Councillors' and anyone working on behalf of and/or representing the Council (contractors).
- A volunteer is anyone who without compensation or expectation of compensation (other than reimbursement of agreed expenses, for example mileage) performs a task at the direction of and on behalf of the council.

4.0 Recognising abuse

Recognising child abuse is not easy. It is **not** our responsibility to decide whether or not child abuse has taken place or if a child or young person is at significant risk of harm from someone. We do, however, have both a responsibility and duty, as set out in our children and young people safeguarding policy and procedures, to act in order that the appropriate agencies can investigate and take any necessary action to protect a child or young person.

Everyone who works with children or young people or comes into contact with children or young people through their work, should be able to recognise, and know how to act upon, indicators that a child's or young person's welfare or safety may be at risk.

Abuse can be perpetrated by:

- parents
- others with parental responsibility
- adults in a position of trust
- people within the wider family circle or neighbourhood
- complete strangers or
- other children

Abuse or harm occurs as much from omissions and lack of protection as from commission of the actual acts of abuse. Child protection/safeguarding processes should always consider the wider needs of the child and family; the council's elected members, staff, agency workers, casual workers and volunteers should always be alert to potential indicators of abuse or neglect.

Disabled children

Disabled children are at increased risk of abuse because they can experience greater vulnerability. This is the result of negative societal values, attitudes, and assumptions and unequal access to services and resources. They may have problems seeking help because of barriers to communication such as no verbal communication, isolation or

inaccessible services. If staff or volunteers supporting people with disabilities have limited knowledge and skills with regard to a disability, this can increase the barriers to the recognition of abuse. The nature of a disability will be unique to each individual child or young person. They are likely to have additional needs relating to physical, sensory, cognitive, and/or communication impairments.

Reasons why disabled children and young people are more vulnerable:

- more risk of social isolation
- increased dependency for practical assistance which may increase risk of exposure to abusive behaviour
- impaired capacity to resist/avoid abuse
- speech and language communication needs can affect ability to report abuse
- lack of access to someone they trust
- vulnerable to bullying and intimidation
- looked after Children who are disabled are vulnerable due to being in care but also vulnerable due to the additional dependency of their disability

4.1 Types of abuse

A child or young person can suffer harm through acts of abuse perpetrated upon them by others. Abuse can happen in any family, but children may be more at risk if their parents have problems with drugs or alcohol, or mental health issues, or if they live in a home where domestic abuse happens. Abuse can also occur outside of the family environment. Evidence shows that babies and children with disabilities can be more vulnerable to suffering abuse (NSPCC Stats suggest children with disabilities are three times more likely to be abused).

Although the harm from the abuse might take a long time to be recognisable in the child or young person, professionals may be in a position to observe its indicators earlier, for example, in the way that a parent interacts with their child. The key is effective and ongoing information sharing between professionals.

Harm from abuse is not always straightforward to identify and a child or young person may experience more than one type of harm or significant harm.

Harm can be caused by:

- physical abuse
- sexual abuse
- emotional abuse
- neglect; and, or
- exploitation¹.

Physical abuse

Is deliberately physically hurting a child or young person. It might take a variety of different forms, including hitting, biting, pinching, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning or suffocating a child or young person.

Sexual abuse

Occurs when others use and exploit children sexually for their own gratification or gain or the gratification of others. Sexual abuse may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape, or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside clothing. It may include non-contact activities, such as involving children in the production of sexual images, forcing children to look at sexual images or watch sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via e-technology). Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

Emotional abuse

Is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child. We sometimes call this psychological abuse and it can have severe and persistent adverse effects on a child's emotional development.

Emotional abuse may involve deliberately telling a child that they are worthless, or unloved and inadequate. It may include not giving an opportunity to express their views, deliberately silencing them, or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. Emotional abuse may involve bullying, including online bullying through social networks, online games, or mobile phones by a child's peers.

Neglect

Is the failure to provide for a child's basic needs, whether it be adequate food, clothing, hygiene, supervision or shelter that is likely to result in the serious impairment of a child's health or development. Neglected children often also suffer from other types of abuse.

Exploitation¹

Is the intentional ill-treatment, manipulation or abuse of power and control over a child or young person; to take selfish or unfair advantage of a child or young person or situation, for personal gain. It may manifest itself in many forms such as child labour, slavery, servitude, engagement in criminal activity, begging, benefit or other financial fraud, or child trafficking. It extends to the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring, or receipt of children for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation can be sexual in nature.

Self-harm

Although not categorised as abuse, it is important that we recognise and respond appropriately to children and young people who may have self-harmed or are suspected of self-harming. Self-harm is a term used when someone injures or harms himself or herself on purpose (also called self-injury or deliberate self-harm) rather than by accident.

¹ Although 'exploitation' is not included in the categories of registration for the Child Protection Register, professionals should recognise that the abuse resulting from or caused by the exploitation of children and young people can be categorised within the existing CPR categories as children who have been exploited will have suffered from physical abuse, neglect, emotional abuse, sexual abuse or a combination of these forms of abuse.

Common examples include cutting, hitting, scratching or burning. Attempted suicide is the most serious form of self-harm.

Course of action: If a young person discloses that they self-harm to you or you suspect a young person could be self-harming then you should follow the safeguarding process/procedures.

5.0 Recruitment and selection of employees

Council implements transparent and clearly defined recruitment and selection procedures in accordance with legislative and statutory requirements as set out in the Local Government Staff Commission Code of Procedures for Recruitment and Selection.

The procedures set out in this document are in place to screen out those who are not suitable to work with children and young people.

As part of the Councils commitment to safeguarding children and young people we undertake 'Safer Recruitment' when recruiting to posts which are considered 'regulated activity'.

Regulated Activity (definition)

Regulated activity is defined as a position which requires working closely, regularly and unsupervised with children and is defined in Schedule 2 of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups (NI) Order 2007, as amended by the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012.

Regulated positions include those whose normal duties require them to care for, train, advise, counsel or are in sole charge of children, or have unsupervised contact with children, as well as the supervisors/managers of individuals in regulated positions.

Access NI

Access NI provides criminal history information to organisations and individuals on three levels of 'Criminal Record Check', standard, enhanced, basic disclosures.

The level of checks required will be determined at the beginning of the recruitment process by the employing department. Corporate HR will also hold a list of Regulated posts, and the related procedures will be managed by the HR department.

An Access NI Enhanced Disclosure with Barred List Check is required for employees and volunteers in posts designated as regulated activity i.e. those posts which work with children and young people (as defined under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups (NI) Order 2007, as amended by the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012). Before commencing a selection process for a post, the line manager in consultation with Departmental HR, Corporate HR, Continuous Improvement and the Safeguarding Compliance Manager will determine if the post is considered to be a 'regulated post'.

During the selection process the preferred candidate must give consent for the relevant Access NI Disclosure Check. If the preferred candidate refuses to give consent for the check or if they are found to have withheld information this will be sufficient grounds for the Council to withdraw their conditional offer of employment.

Checks will be requested for any employee in a regulated position and those whose business or professional practice dictates. Checks will be repeated every three years for those in regulated activity and/or excepted posts, as appropriate. Checks will not normally be requested for existing employees (in non-regulated activity) however, a check will be requested if, an employee takes up new duties in a regulated position, where this has not previously been the case.

Access NI Disclosures

If a Criminal Records check reveals details of convictions which may render the applicant unsuitable for the applied for post Departmental HR/Corporate HR will discuss the situation with the applicant in accordance with the guidance set out in the Councils Guidelines for Dealing with Applicants with Convictions.

It is an offence for a barred person to work, apply to work or offer to work in Regulated Activity with a group they are barred from working with. Candidates on the Barred List will not be employed in Regulated Activity by the Council. If the checks reveal that a candidate is on the Barred List for Regulated Activity, the Council will make a referral to the Disclosure and Barring Service to notify them of the individuals attempt to apply for barred work.

Identification

The Council require all those applicants who have to complete the Access NI check to produce evidence of their identity e.g., a long birth certificate. This is important as Access NI can only make checks if the persons identify is confirmed.

References

The Council require two references from people who have employed you and who are not family members. Where a post involves work with children the Council may request references from any other previous employment, which involved working with children or young people.

If for legitimate reasons there is difficulty in sourcing suitable references, we reserve the right to seek alternatives as described in the referencing guidance document.

Agency workers

Council will ensure that agency workers in Regulated Activity are required to complete the relevant Access NI checks before they commence work.

Volunteers

Where volunteers work in Council and they are carrying out work considered as Regulated Activity, the council will:

- require the Volunteer to complete a registration form
- confirm their identify (e.g. provide a long birth certificate)
- receive two written references
- organise a meeting with the volunteer to review the details on the application form, review the volunteering role, ensure they are aware of the Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy and Procedures and the induction paperwork
- give permission for council to apply to Access NI for an Enhanced Disclosure

Young Workers and Placements

Should the Council engage for any purpose a young person under the age of 18 then a safeguarding and health and safety risk assessment must be completed at induction.

6.0 Training of employees, agency workers, volunteers and elected members

Learning and development must not be seen as a one-off event, but a continuous process which requires the investment of time and resources within organisations to create a learning environment and a competent workforce. Each organisation must take responsibility to develop both knowledge and expertise in safeguarding and protecting children and young people and seek to identify the most appropriate and relevant opportunities to develop the confidence, abilities and competence of staff and volunteers.

Co-Operating to Safeguard Children and Young People in Northern Ireland, March 2016

Safeguarding children and young people training will be offered as per SBNI Child Safeguarding Learning and Development Strategy and Framework (currently 2020 -2023) on a regular basis facilitating employees, agency workers, volunteers and elected members to update their knowledge and skill as appropriate.

The Council will provide refresher training every three years. The training will be provided at three levels - according to job description and role.

Level 1- Awareness raising (online and in person)

General awareness for all, employees, agency workers, volunteers and elected members. Attendees will gain basic knowledge of signs and indicators of child abuse and contributory factors; agency / staff policy and procedures; reporting procedures / processes and record keeping. Learning outcomes will include the ability to recognise and respond appropriately to child safeguarding issues and understand own role and the role of others within the organisation using the safeguarding policy and procedures. This will form part of the Council's induction programme.

Level 2 – Facilitated training (online during COVID-19)

Safeguarding children and young people training for relevant managers, employees, agency workers and volunteers who have substantial contact with children and young people. Attendees will gain more in-depth knowledge of values and principles of safeguarding children and young people; code of behaviour; recording skills; relevant legislation and referral process. Learning outcomes will include the ability to contribute to the assessment and management of risk; assist in safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and understand the importance of own behaviour and boundaries.

Level 3 – Facilitated training (online due to COVID 19)

Comprehensive training for Designated Safeguarding Officers', Relevant Managers and Duty Mangers. Attendees will gain knowledge of key tasks to safeguard children; national, regional and local policies, standards and guidance: 'the protocol for joint investigation by police officers and social workers of alleged and suspected cases of child abuse – Northern Ireland' (April 2013). Learning outcomes will include the ability to develop working relationships with other professionals; identify learning from case management reviews and contribute to interagency safeguarding plans.

7.0 Record keeping, confidentiality and information sharing

Confidentiality

While it is important that we adopt a partnership approach to ensure the safety and welfare of adults at risk, it is of equally important that all concerned are confident that the information they provide will only be disclosed where it is in the best interests of the adult at risk to do so. We have carefully constructed the council's policy and procedures to ensure such confidentiality while protecting the interests of the adult at risk.

We have an Adult Safeguarding Champion, Safeguarding Compliance Manager and officers with designated responsibility due to the complex nature of operations.

Officers' who have been specially trained in the area of safeguarding and are committed to the principle of confidentiality.

Information obtained by organisations in the exercise of their safeguarding duties may be of a personal nature about a particular adult at risk, and therefore is governed by the common law duty of confidentiality, the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018 (the DPA).

The six principles state that personal data should be:

- processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner
- collected for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes
- adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary
- accurate and where necessary kept up to date

- kept in a form which permits identification of data subjects for no longer that is necessary for the purposes for which those data are processed, and
- processed in a manner that ensures appropriate security of the personal data

Accountability is central to GDPR. Data Controllers are responsible for compliance with the principles and must be able to demonstrate this to data subjects and the regulator.

8.0 Governance, monitoring and reporting

In order to ensure compliance with the requirements of safeguarding legislation and expectation there are a number of procedures in place:

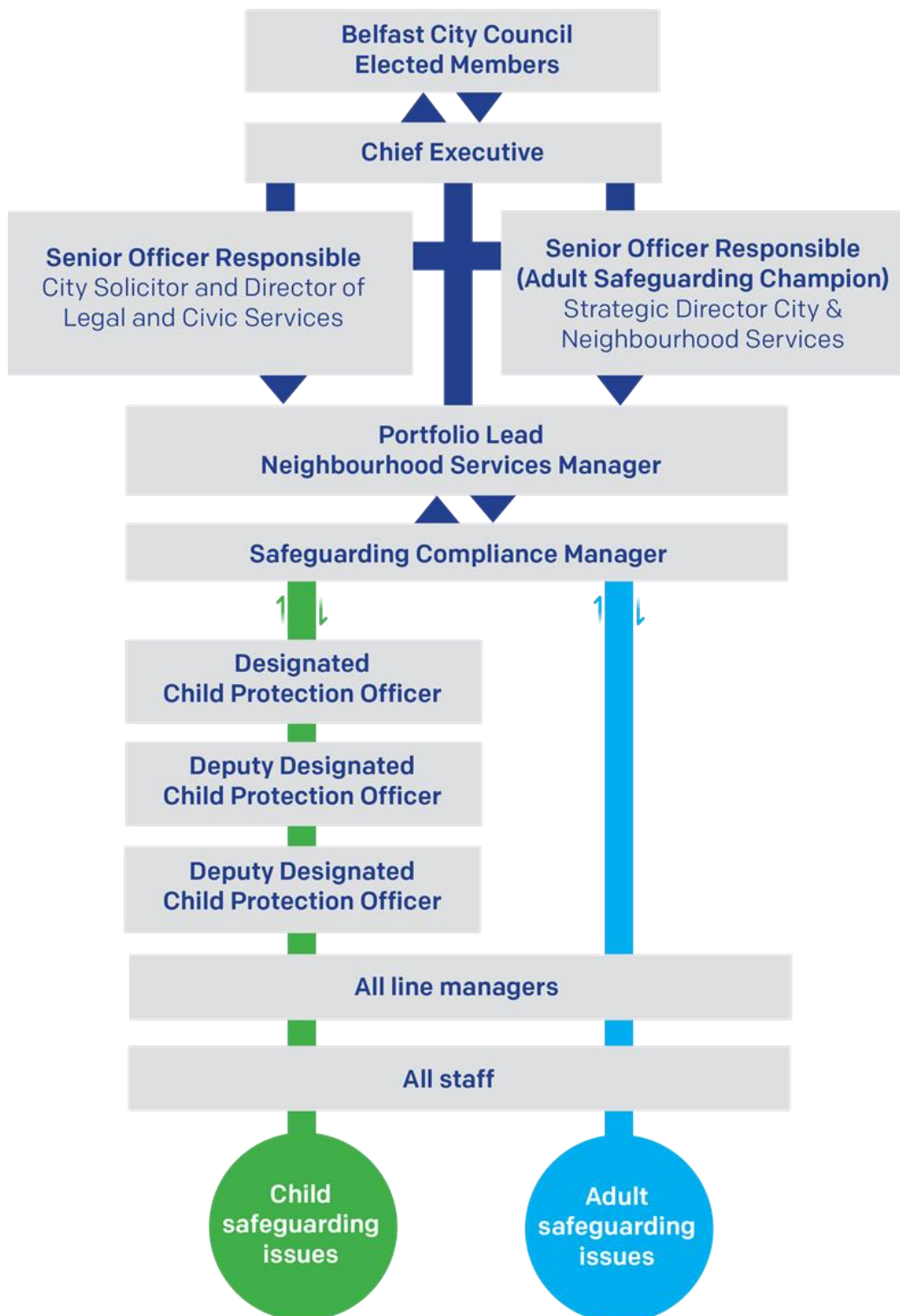
- The Safeguarding Panel:

The Safeguarding Panel is a cross-departmental assurance and compliance group set up by the Council to oversee the practical implementation of this Policy and to develop, monitor and review safeguarding procedures.

Its role includes:

- Identifying safeguarding training needs within services.
- Developing supplementary safeguarding procedures as they are required.
- Promoting good practice within council services – to include procurement of services.
- Discussing incidents and concerns raised in services to facilitate a council-wide response if necessary.
- Setting internal reporting requirements.
- Regularly review the internal reports, identify any actions needed and oversee implementation of these actions.
- Review risks and emergent issues that may require action for the council.

Safeguarding Structure



8.2 Third party contracts and interactions

Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility, and safeguarding all ages is important to us. The Council recognises everyone has a fundamental right to be safe. Whatever the cause, or wherever it occurs, harm caused to children, young people or adults by abuse, exploitation or neglect is not acceptable.

This expectation extends to all 3rd parties that work with or on behalf of the council, this includes 3rd party Contracts such as Greenwich Leisure Limited (our delivery partners for leisure services), organisations who receive grant funding, supply contracts, funded projects, events and anyone hiring our venues. In line with this policy, we expect our contactors/partners to:

- Have in place their own policy and procedures for safeguarding children, young people and adults at risk of harm consistent with current legislation and best practise.
- In absence of their own policy, agree to use ours until such time as they can write/implement their own.
- Ensure that all members of staff and volunteers who will be employed in the programme and fall into the regulated categories as per the Safeguarding of Vulnerable Groups (NI) Order 2007 (as amended by the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012) have had the appropriate level of Access NI check carried out.

Footnotes

¹ Although 'exploitation' is not included in the categories of registration for the Child Protection Register, professionals should recognise that the abuse resulting from or caused by the exploitation of children and young people can be categorised within the existing CPR categories as children who have been exploited will have suffered from physical abuse, neglect, emotional abuse, sexual abuse or a combination of these forms of abuse.

Safeguarding Policy for Adults

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1.0 Policy statement

We are dedicated to the comfort and safety of all our Elected Members, Staff, Volunteers and Service Users. We recognise our duty of care and want to make sure that we protect adults at risk while they visit our premises. The following safeguarding adults policy outlines the systems in place within the Council in order to achieve this aim. Its successful achievement requires co-operation and partnership between our staff/volunteers and our many users.

We are committed to creating and maintaining a safe and positive environment and accept our responsibility to safeguard the welfare of all adults involved in our activities in accordance with the Safeguarding Adults Operational Procedures (Sept 2016).¹

The safeguarding adults policy and procedures apply to all individuals over the age of 18 at risk of harm. We are committed to the delivery of a quality service that also promotes good practice which protects adults at risk from harm.

It will also ensure procedures are in place to safeguard our staff and volunteers and the Council from potential or unfounded allegations.

These safeguarding adults policies and procedures are applicable to all Elected Members, Staff, Agency Workers, Casual Staff, and Volunteers indeed anyone associated with Belfast City Council who may have direct or indirect contact with adults at risk. It should also be noted that latest guidelines have moved from using the term 'Vulnerable Adults' in favour of the new terminology of 'Adult at Risk', the reason for this change is to standardise the language used in line with the new definitions and that we can all be vulnerable given the right life circumstances and/or personal characteristics.

We all have a responsibility to ensure that the council is a safe environment for all visitors who attend. Therefore, you should be vigilant and alert to possible safeguarding incidents at all times when the public are using the building. You must report all incidents in accordance with the procedures laid out in this document.



2.0 Legal background information

We accept the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant of Human Rights which states that everyone is entitled to

all rights and freedoms set forth therein, without distinction of any kind, such as age, disability, gender, race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

The practices and procedures within this policy are based on the principles contained within UK legislation and government guidance and have been developed to complement the Northern Ireland Adults Safeguarding Panel (NIASP) policy and procedures, which take into consideration the following:

Legislation

- 
- The Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
 - Family Homes and Domestic Violence (NI) Order 1998
 - The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups (NI) Order 2007
 - The Sexual Offences (Northern Ireland) Order 2008
 - The Human Rights Act 1998
 - The Data Protection Act 2018 Inc. GDPR (replaced 1998 DPA)
 - The Disability Discrimination Act 1995
 - Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 2015

Guidance Documents

- Adult Safeguarding: Prevention and Protection in Partnership (July 2015)
- Adult Safeguarding Operational Procedures (Sept 2016)

3.0 Aims of the safeguarding adults policy and procedures

The aim of this document is to:

- Demonstrate our commitment to providing and maintaining an organisation that protects adults from harm, and protects staff, agency workers, volunteers and the organisation itself from potential allegations.
- Promote zero-tolerance of harm to all adults from abuse, exploitation, or neglect.
- Influence the way our organisation thinks about harm to adults resulting from abuse, exploitation or neglect by embedding a culture which recognises every adult's right to respect and dignity, honesty, humanity and compassion in every aspect of their life.
- Prevent and reduce the risk of harm to adults, while supporting people's right to maintain control over their lives and make informed choices free from coercion.
- Encourage our staff, agency workers and volunteers to work collaboratively across sectors and on an inter-agency and multi-disciplinary basis, to introduce a range of preventative measures to promote an individual's capacity to keep themselves safe and to prevent harm occurring.
- Establish clear guidance for reporting concerns that an adult is, or may be, at risk of being harmed or in need of protection and how these will be responded to; including a Code of behaviour.
- Promote access to justice for adults at risk who have been harmed as a result of abuse, exploitation or neglect.
- Promote a continuous learning approach to adult safeguarding.
- Make sure our staff are carefully selected, vetted and trained in issues of safeguarding adults.
- Provide guidance on appropriate and relevant supervision; including the appointment of officers with delegated safeguarding responsibility within each of our business units.
- Make sure staff are aware of the adults safeguarding policy and procedures within the council; their role within the policy and the consequence of not following these procedures.
- Make sure appropriate action is always taken in the event of an incident, in line with best practice.
- Provide clear procedures and guidance on how staff, agency workers, volunteers and contractors must deal with any safeguarding issues or concerns; (Code of Behaviour).
- Provide guidelines on appropriate safeguarding training for staff, agency workers and volunteers.
- Provide guidelines for staff, agency workers, volunteers when dealing with adults at risk; (Code of Behaviour).
- Provide a Safeguarding Adults Code of Behaviour for staff and volunteers.
- Provide a complaints procedure with guidance on how a complaint can be raised regarding a safeguarding issue.

We will ensure staff, agency workers, volunteers and contractors are aware of the safeguarding standards within the organisation, their role within the policy, and the consequences of not following our procedures.

We will make sure that appropriate training or awareness is given to staff, agency workers, and volunteers to ensure an understanding of their role in recognising abuse and to familiarise them with our safeguarding adults policies and procedures.

We are committed to reviewing our policies, procedures, practices and training in line with changes in legislation and best practice or at a minimum every three years.

4.0 Principles of safeguarding adults at risk

The guidance given in the policy and procedures is based on the following principles:

- **A rights-based approach:** To promote and respect an adult's right to be safe and secure; to freedom from harm and coercion; to equality of treatment; to the protection of the law; to privacy; to confidentiality; and freedom from discrimination.
- **An empowering approach:** To empower adults to make informed choices about their lives, to maximise their opportunities to participate in wider society, to keep themselves safe and free from harm and enabled to manage their own decisions in respect of exposure to risk.
- **Person-centred approach:** To promote and facilitate full participation of adults in all decisions affecting their lives taking full account of their views, wishes and feelings and, where appropriate, the views of others who have an interest in his or her safety and well-being.
- **A consent-driven approach:** To make a presumption that the adult has the ability to give or withhold consent; to make informed choices; to help inform choice through the provision of information, and the identification of options and alternatives; to have particular regard to the needs of individuals who require support with communication, advocacy or who lack the capacity to consent; and intervening in the life of an adult against his or her wishes only in particular circumstances, for very specific purposes and always in accordance with the law.
- **A collaborative approach:** To acknowledge that safeguarding adults will be most effective when it has the full support of the wider public and of safeguarding partners across the statutory, voluntary, community, independent and faith sectors. Working together in a way where roles, responsibilities and lines of accountability are clearly defined and understood. Working in partnership and a person-centred approach will work hand-in-hand.

All adults, regardless of age, ability or disability, gender, race, religion, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, marital or gender status have the right to be protected from abuse and poor

practice and to participate in an enjoyable and safe environment. We will seek to make sure that the organisation is inclusive and make reasonable adjustments for any ability, disability or impairment, we will also commit to continuous development, monitoring, and review.

We will always respect the rights, dignity and worth of all adults.

We recognise that ability and disability can change over time, such that some adults may be additionally vulnerable to abuse, for example those who have a dependency on others or have different communication needs.

We recognise that an adult with an impairment or a disability may or may not identify themselves/be identified as an adult 'at risk' or vulnerable.


Working in partnership

The diversity of our functions and settings means there can be great variation in practice when it comes to safeguarding adults at risk. We will endeavour to work in partnership with a range of stakeholders to promote safeguarding.

Good communication is essential in promoting safeguarding, both to those we wish to protect, to everyone involved in working with adults at risk and to all those with whom we work in partnership. This safeguarding policy is just one means of promoting safeguarding.

Equality

We are committed to ensuring that equality is incorporated across all aspects of our development.

- 
- We respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person and will treat everyone equally within the context of their activity while on council premises, regardless of age, ability, gender, race, ethnicity, religious belief, sexuality or social/economic status.
 - We are committed to everyone having the right to enjoy their activity in an environment free from threat of intimidation, harassment and abuse.
 - We have a responsibility to oppose discriminatory behaviour and promote equality of opportunity.
 - We will deal with any incidence of discriminatory behaviour seriously, according to the council's disciplinary procedures

5.0 Safeguarding definitions

In recent years there has been a marked shift away from using the term 'vulnerable' to describe adults potentially at risk from harm or abuse.

To help you work through and understand this policy, we have provided a number of key definitions:

- **Adult** is anyone aged 18 or over.

- **Adult at risk of harm:**

Is a person aged 18 or over, whose exposure to harm through abuse, exploitation or neglect may be increased by their:

a) Personal characteristics which may include, but are not limited to, age, disability, special educational needs, illness, mental or physical frailty or impairment of, or disturbance in, the functioning of the mind or brain.

and/or

b) Life circumstances which may include, but are not limited to, isolation, socio-economic factors and environmental living conditions.

- **Adult in need of protection:**

Is a person aged 18 or over, whose exposure to harm through abuse, exploitation or neglect may be increased by their:

a) Personal characteristics

and/or

b) Life circumstances

and

c) Who is unable to protect their own well-being, property, assets, rights or other interests

and

d) Where the action or inaction of another person or persons is causing, or is likely to cause, him or her to be harmed

6.0 Categories of abuse

What is abuse?

Abuse is defined as:

Abuse is a single or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust, which causes harm or distress to another individual or violates their human or civil rights. Abuse is the misuse of power and control that one person has over another. It can involve direct and indirect contact and can include online abuse.

(Adult Safeguarding Operational Procedures 2016)*

Everyone who works with adults or comes into contact with adults through their work, should be able to recognise, and know how to act upon, indicators that an adult's welfare or safety may be at risk. It is essential that you understand the different types of abuse that adults may suffer. Abuse is not always straightforward to identify and a person may experience more than one type of harm or significant harm. Harm can be caused by:

- physical abuse
- sexual violence and abuse
- psychological or emotional abuse
- financial abuse
- institutional abuse
- neglect
- exploitation

Physical abuse

Physical abuse is the use of physical force or mistreatment of one person by another which may or may not result in actual physical injury. This may include hitting, pushing, rough handling, exposure to heat or cold, force feeding, improper administration of medication, denial of treatment, misuse or illegal use of restraint and deprivation of liberty. Female genital mutilation (FGM) is considered a form of physical and sexual abuse.

Sexual violence and abuse

Sexual abuse is 'any behaviour (physical, psychological, verbal, virtual/online) perceived to be of a sexual nature which is controlling, coercive, exploitative, harmful, or unwanted that is inflicted on anyone (irrespective of age, ethnicity, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation or any form of disability)'. Sexual violence and abuse can take many forms and may include non-contact sexual activities, such as indecent exposure, stalking, grooming, being made to look at or be involved in the production of sexually abusive material, or being made to watch sexual activities. It may involve physical contact, including but not limited to non-consensual penetrative sexual activities or non-penetrative sexual activities, such as intentional touching (known as groping). Sexual violence can be found across all sections of society, irrelevant of gender, age, ability, religion, race, ethnicity, personal circumstances, financial background or sexual orientation.

Psychological or emotional abuse

Psychological or emotional abuse is behaviour that is psychologically harmful or inflicts mental distress by threat, humiliation or other verbal or non-verbal conduct. This may include threats, humiliation or ridicule, provoking fear of violence, shouting, yelling and swearing, blaming, controlling, intimidation and coercion.

Financial abuse

Financial abuse is actual or attempted theft, fraud or burglary. It is the misappropriation or misuse of money, property, benefits, material goods or other asset transactions which the person did not or could not consent to, or which were invalidated by intimidation, coercion or deception. This may include exploitation, embezzlement, withholding pension or benefits or pressure exerted around wills, property or inheritance.

Institutional abuse

Institutional abuse is the mistreatment or neglect of an adult by a regime or individuals in settings which adults who may be at risk reside in or use. This can occur in any organisation, within and outside Health and Social Care (HSC) provision. Institutional

abuse may occur when the routines, systems and regimes result in poor standards of care, poor practice and behaviours, inflexible regimes and rigid routines which violate the dignity and human rights of the adults and place them at risk of harm.

Institutional abuse may occur within a culture that denies, restricts or curtails privacy, dignity, choice and independence. It involves the collective failure of a service provider or an organisation to provide safe and appropriate services and includes a failure to ensure that the necessary preventative and/or protective measures are in place.

Neglect

Neglect occurs when a person deliberately withholds, or fails to provide, appropriate and adequate care and support which is required by another adult. It may be through a lack of knowledge or awareness, or through a failure to take reasonable action given the information and facts available to them at the time.

It may include physical neglect to the extent that health or well-being is impaired, administering too much or too little medication, failure to provide access to appropriate health or social care, withholding the necessities of life, such as adequate nutrition, heating or clothing, or failure to intervene in situations that are dangerous to the person concerned or to others, particularly when the person lacks the capacity to assess risk.

Exploitation

Exploitation is the deliberate maltreatment, manipulation or abuse of power and control over another person; to take advantage of another person or situation usually, but not always, for personal gain from using them as a commodity. It may manifest itself in many forms including slavery, servitude, forced or compulsory labour, domestic violence and abuse, sexual violence and abuse, or human trafficking.

This list of types of harmful conduct is neither exhaustive nor listed here in any order of priority. There are other indicators that we should not ignore. It is also possible that if a person is being harmed in one way, he/ she may very well be experiencing harm in other ways.

Adult Safeguarding Operational Procedures 2016*

Related definitions

Victims of domestic violence and abuse, sexual violence and abuse, human trafficking and hate crime are regarded as adults in need of protection. There are specific strategies and mechanisms in place designed to meet the particular care and protection needs of these adults and to promote access to justice through the criminal justice system. It is essential that we refer such safeguarding concerns to the appropriate services as outlined below.

Domestic violence and abuse

Domestic violence or abuse is 'threatening, controlling, coercive behaviour, violence or abuse (psychological, virtual, physical, verbal, sexual, financial or emotional) inflicted on anyone (irrespective of age, ethnicity, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation

or any form of disability) by a current or former intimate partner or family member'. Domestic violence and abuse is essentially a pattern of behaviour which is characterised by the exercise of control and the misuse of power by one person over another. It is usually frequent and persistent. It can include violence by a son, daughter, mother, father, husband, wife, life partner or any other person who has a close relationship with the victim. It occurs right across society, regardless of age, gender, race, ethnic or religious group, sexual orientation, wealth, disability or geography.

The response to any adult facing this situation will usually require a referral to specialist services such as Women's Aid or the Men's Advisory Project. Specialist services will then decide if the case needs to be referred to a HSC Trust for action under the safeguarding procedures. If in doubt, anyone with a concern can ring the Domestic and Sexual Violence helpline (0808 802 1414) to receive advice and guidance about how best to proceed.

Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery

Human trafficking and modern slavery involves the acquisition and movement of people by improper means, such as force, threat or deception, for the purposes of exploiting them. It can take many forms, such as domestic servitude, forced criminality, forced labour, sexual exploitation and organ harvesting. Victims of human trafficking/ modern slavery can come from all walks of life; they can be male or female, children or adults, and they may come from migrant or indigenous communities. The response to adults at risk experiencing human trafficking/modern slavery will always be to report the incident to the PSNI.

Hate crime

Hate crime is any incident which constitutes a criminal offence perceived by the victim or any other person as being motivated by prejudice, discrimination or hate towards a person's actual or perceived race, religious belief, sexual orientation, disability, political opinion or gender identity. The response to adults at risk experiencing hate crime will usually be to report the incident to the PSNI.

Adult Safeguarding Operational Procedures 2016*

Self-neglect and Self harm

Is when a person seriously neglects their own care and welfare and putting themselves and/or others at serious risk. The seriousness of this issue lies in the recognition that self-neglect in vulnerable persons is often not just a personal preference or a behavioural idiosyncrasy, but a spectrum of behaviours associated with increased morbidity, mortality and impairments in activities of daily living.

Therefore, we should view self-neglect referrals as alerts to potentially serious underlying problems requiring evaluation and treatment (Naik et al, 2007).

Self-harm or self-neglect are not included within the definition of an 'adult in need of protection'. Each case will require a professional Health and Social Care (HSC) assessment to determine the appropriate response and consider if any underlying factors require a protection response. For example, self-harm may be the manifestation of harm which has been perpetrated by a third party and which the adult feels unable to disclose.

People wish to respect autonomy and may not wish to be intrusive. However, if concerned or aware of a significant negative change in behaviour, staff must consider making contact or alerting statutory services.

Adult Safeguarding Operational Procedures 2016*

7.0 Recognising and dealing with abuse

Being alert to potential abuse plays a major role in ensuring that adults are safeguarded and it is important that we take all concerns about possible abuse seriously and take appropriate action.

There are a variety of ways that someone could alert you that an adult is suffering harm:

- they may disclose to you
- someone else may tell you of their concerns or something that causes you concern
- they may show some signs of physical injury for which there does not appear to be a satisfactory or credible explanation
- their demeanour or behaviour may lead you to suspect abuse or neglect
- the behaviour of a person close to them makes you feel uncomfortable (this may include another staff member, volunteer, peer or family member); or through general good neighbourliness and social guardianship

[Adult Safeguarding Operational Procedures 2016](#) (link opens in new window)

Recognising adult abuse is not easy. It is not our responsibility to decide whether or not adult abuse has taken place or if an adult is at significant risk of harm from someone. We do, however, have both a responsibility and duty, as set out in our adults safeguarding policy and procedures, to act in order that the appropriate agencies can investigate and take any necessary action to protect an adult.

Abuse can occur from:

- parents / carers
- intimate partners
- friends
- adults in a position of trust
- people within the wider family circle or neighbourhood
- strangers

In general, there are four possible situations where you may need to respond to a concern or case of alleged or suspected abuse:

- a) responding to an adult disclosing abuse - an adult makes an allegation of abuse

- b) responding to allegations or concerns against staff, agency, workers, volunteers, regular contractors
- c) responding to allegations or concerns against any other person, for example parent, carer, other service user
- d) raising concerns over incidents, observations, interactions and suspicion that they themselves have recognised

Abuse or harm occurs as much from omissions and lack of protection as from commission of actual acts of abuse. You should report any concerns you have for the welfare of adult in the council to your line manager or Safeguarding Compliance Manager using the safeguarding incident form.

Health and Social Care Trust (HSC) adult safeguarding teams should always be informed when there are reasonable grounds for concern that an adult may have been abused, or is being abused, or is at risk of abuse.

Dealing with disclosures

When dealing with a disclosure you should follow the procedures for reporting safeguarding concerns but there are some extra considerations for you to take:

- Ensure the immediate safety of the person. If urgent medical or police help is required, call the emergency services.
- Stay calm and listen attentively; avoid expressing your own views on the matter. A reaction of shock or disbelief could cause the person to 'shut down', retract or stop talking so try to stay calm.
- Express concern and acknowledge what is being said; they've told you because they want help and trust you'll be the person to believe them and help them.
- Tell them it's not their fault. Abuse is never the person's fault and they need to know this.
- Tell the person that they did the right thing in telling you; reassurance can make a big impact to the person who may have been keeping the abuse secret.

It can be very hard for adults at risk to reveal abuse. Often, they fear there may be consequences. Some delay telling someone about abuse for a long time, while others never tell anyone, even if they want to. Adults at risk value being believed and it is vital that you act on what you've been told.

Do:

- Say you believe them. An adult at risk could keep abuse secret in fear no one will believe them. They've told you because they want help and trust you'll be the person to believe them and help them.

- Don't talk to the alleged abuser. Confronting the alleged abuser about what the adult at risk told you could make the situation a lot worse for the adult at risk.
- Explain what you'll do next. Explain to the adult at risk you'll need to report the abuse to someone who will be able to help.
- Let the person know that the information will be taken seriously and provide details about what will happen next, including the limits and boundaries of confidentiality.
- Explain to them that it is your duty to share your concern with your Adult Safeguarding Champion, the Safeguarding Compliance Manager or Designated Safeguarding Officer unless to do so could increase their risk – for example, the Designated Safeguarding Officer is the subject of the allegations. In this case contact the Safeguarding Compliance Manager.
- Reassure the person that they will be kept involved at every stage; explain that the Designated Safeguarding Officer will seek their consent before any referral is made to external agencies.
- If you think a crime has occurred be aware that medical and forensic evidence might be needed. Consider the need for a timely referral to the police service and make sure nothing you do will contaminate it.
- Complete a safeguarding incident form as soon as possible and report to the Safeguarding Compliance Manager immediately.

Do not:

- Stop someone disclosing to you.
- Promise to keep secrets.
- Criticise the alleged perpetrator.
- Make promises about the future.
- Use leading questions or put words in the person's mouth.
- Press the person for more details or make them repeat the story.
- Gossip about the disclosure or pass on the information to anyone who does not have a legitimate need to know.
- Contact the alleged person to have caused the harm.
- Attempt to investigate yourself.
- Leave details of your concerns on a voicemail or by email.
- Delay reporting the abuse. The sooner the abuse is reported after a disclosure the better.

Report immediately to the Safeguarding Compliance Manager. Complete a safeguarding incident form and pass to the Adult Safeguarding Champion or Safeguarding Compliance Manager as soon as possible. The Adult Safeguarding Champion or Designated Safeguarding Officer will take any immediate action required to make sure the adult at risk of harm is safe and make a decision as to when it is appropriate to speak with the adult at risk of harm about the concerns and any proposed actions.

How to record a disclosure

If someone discloses abuse to you, you must complete a safeguarding incident form and give it to your Designated Safeguarding Officer. If you have a literacy or language

difficulties, the Designated Safeguarding Officer may assist you to complete the form but you must acknowledge this on the incident form.

The safeguarding incident form will be retained securely and confidentially by the Safeguarding Manager. We will retain Safeguarding records with protected status as per GDPR guidelines.

When recording the disclosure you must:

- Make a note, as soon as practical, of what the adult has said, using their own words.
- Describe the circumstances in which the disclosure came about. Take care to distinguish between fact, observation, allegation and opinion. It is important that the information you have is accurate; and,
- be mindful of the need to be confidential at all times, this information must only be shared with your Designated Safeguarding Officer and others only on a need to know basis.

Depending on the individual circumstances, for example, the age of the adult or level of understanding, it may be necessary for an advocate to be present to enable the adult's voice to be heard more effectively. This might be the adult's group leader, carer or parent, unless she or he is the person of concern. If the supervising person is not available, you can ask another member of staff to assist in representing the voice of the adult if appropriate. If the adult at risk is part of an organised group the Designated Safeguarding Officer will inform the group's leader and will make every effort to agree an appropriate course of action.

[Responding to allegations of or concerns against a member of staff, agency worker, elected member or any other person.](#)

Any staff member who receives allegations should follow the process below:

- Take all allegations or concerns seriously.
- Record in writing on a safeguarding incident form all the details that you are aware of as soon as possible.
- Report to and inform the Safeguarding Manager or Designated Safeguarding Officer as soon as possible.
- The Safeguarding manager or Designated Safeguarding Officer will inform the relevant persons, i.e. HR, AGRS (Whistleblowing) or external agencies social services and / or the Police if appropriate.
- The Safeguarding manager or Designated Safeguarding Officer should inform the Head of HR as soon as possible.

[Possible outcome:](#)

- Depending on the allegation, the individual may be asked to stand aside from duties or be temporarily suspended pending an investigation.

[Safeguarding concerns or Allegations about a Designated Safeguarding Officer](#)

If the concern or allegation is about a Designated Safeguarding Officer, you should refer such concerns to Council's Safeguarding Manager and / or Head of Service who will follow the steps outlined above.

Concerns about failures to adhere to safeguarding policy and procedures

If you have concerns about a colleague not fulfilling the requirements of Council's Safeguarding Policy and Procedures, these concerns should be taken to your line manager or any member of Council's Designated Safeguarding Team. The line manager or Designated Safeguarding Officer should contact the Safeguarding Manager for advice and support.

Support for external service providers

If an external provider has any concerns regarding council staff, agency workers or volunteers, a visitor, or other contractor they should report their concerns immediately to one of our Designated Safeguarding Officers. There will always be a Designated Safeguarding Officer on duty in all areas, and they may be accessed via the Duty Manager.

If the concern is about a Designated Safeguarding Officer, external service providers should report their concerns to Safeguarding Manager.

Consent and capacity

It is important to include the adult at risk throughout the process and seek consent for any referral to social services or the PSNI unless the adult in need of protection is in imminent danger of harm. Designated Safeguarding Officers are not in the position to determine capacity of adults; if you are unsure if an adult is able to consent you should contact the HSC Trust Adult Safeguarding Team for advice and guidance. If an adult at risk does not want a referral made to the HSC Trust or PSNI, the Designated Safeguarding Officer must contact the Adult Safeguarding Team for advice and guidance about whether or not to make a referral. These factors will influence whether or not you should make a referral without consent:

- Do they have capacity to make this decision?
- Have you given them full and accurate information in a way which they understand?
- Are they experiencing undue influence or coercion?
- Is the person causing harm a member of staff, a volunteer or someone who only has contact with the adult at risk because they both use the service?
- Is anyone else at risk from the person causing harm?
- Do you suspect a crime has been committed?

The HSC may determine that a referral without consent should be made and you should follow their instructions for making the referral.

If it is determined that the concern(s) do not meet the definition of an adult at risk or an adult in need of protection and a referral cannot be made without consent, the concerns raised must be recorded, including any action taken, and the reasons for not referring to HSC. In situations where the adult in need of protection is in imminent danger it may not be possible to discuss their wishes with them and obtaining a valid consent may not be

possible. Under these circumstances, you should take whatever action you feel is appropriate to protect the adult at risk, including seeking medical and/or PSNI intervention.

7.1 Record keeping, confidentiality and information sharing

While it is important that we adopt a partnership approach to ensure the safety and welfare of adults at risk, it is of equally important that all concerned are confident that the information they provide will only be disclosed where it is in the best interests of the adult at risk to do so. We have carefully constructed the council's policy and procedures to ensure such confidentiality while protecting the interests of the adult at risk.

We have an Adult safeguarding champion and officers with designated responsibility due to the complex nature of operations.

Officers' who have been specially trained in the area of safeguarding and are committed to the principle of confidentiality.

Information obtained by organisations in the exercise of their safeguarding duties may be of a personal nature about a particular adult at risk, and therefore is governed by the common law duty of confidentiality, the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018 (the DPA).

The six principles state that Personal data should be:

- processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner
- collected for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes
- adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary
- accurate and where necessary kept up to date
- kept in a form which permits identification of data subjects for no longer that is necessary for the purposes for which those data are processed, and
- processed in a manner that ensures appropriate security of the personal data
- accountability is central to GDPR

Data Controllers are responsible for compliance with the principles and must be able to demonstrate this to data subjects and the regulator.

8.0 Adult safeguarding champion (ASC)

The ASC provides strategic and operational leadership and oversight in relation to adult safeguarding for an organisation or group and is responsible for implementing its adult safeguarding policy statement. The ASC should ensure that, at a minimum, the organisation safeguards adults at risk by:

- recognising that adult harm is wrong and that it should not be tolerated
- being aware of the signs of harm from abuse, exploitation and neglect
- reducing opportunities for harm from abuse, exploitation and neglect to occur, and
- knowing how and when to report safeguarding concerns to HSC Trusts or the PSNI

The ASC role has both strategic and operational components.

Adult safeguarding: prevention and protection in partnership summarises the key responsibilities for the ASC as follows:

- to provide information and support for staff on adult safeguarding within the organisation
- to ensure that the organisation's adult safeguarding policy is disseminated and support implementation throughout the organisation
- to advise within the organisation regarding adult safeguarding training needs
- to provide advice to staff or volunteers who have concerns about the signs of harm, and ensure a report is made to HSC Trusts where there is a safeguarding concern
- to support staff to ensure that any actions take account of what the adult wishes to achieve – this should not prevent information about any risk of serious harm being passed to the relevant HSC Trust Adult Protection Gateway Service for assessment and decision making
- to establish contact with the HSC Trust Designated Adult Protection Officer (DAPO), PSNI and other agencies as appropriate
- to ensure accurate and up to date records are maintained detailing all decisions made, the reasons for those decisions and any actions taken
- to compile and analyse records of reported concerns to determine whether a number of low-level concerns are accumulating to become significant; and make records available for inspection

In larger or more complex organisations the ASC may delegate some of the operational tasks or activities as appropriate. For example, a provider with a number of Nursing Homes throughout Northern Ireland may choose to delegate some of the tasks of an ASC to a member of staff in each facility. They would then report to the ASC on adult safeguarding matters on a regular basis and assist in the compilation of reports, training needs analyses and data analysis.

For the purposes of this policy Belfast City Council's nominated person is the Safeguarding Compliance Manager.

9.0 Safer recruitment

There are currently no roles in Belfast City Council that are categorised as regulated under the Adult safeguarding criteria.

Safer recruitment and selection procedures help to ensure a safe work place by deterring and screening out unsuitable individuals. We will endeavour to promote the safety of

adults at all times and provide a safe environment, by following carefully the procedures for recruitment and selection of staff, agency workers and volunteers and by carrying out the appropriate vetting procedure for staff, agency workers and volunteers.

Recruitment and selection of employees

We implement transparent and clearly defined recruitment and selection procedures in accordance with legislative and statutory requirements as set out in the Local Government Staff Commission Code of Procedures for Recruitment and Selection. These procedures are in place to screen out those who are not suitable to work with adults at risk.

As part of our commitment to safeguarding adults at risk we undertake “safer recruitment” when recruiting to posts which are considered ‘regulated activity’.

Access NI

Access NI provides criminal history information to organisations and individuals on three levels of ‘Criminal Record Check’, basic, standard, enhanced disclosures.

We will determine the level of checks required at the beginning of the recruitment process and Corporate HR will manage the related procedures. An Access NI Enhanced Disclosure with Barred List Check is required for employees, agency workers and volunteers in posts designated as regulated activity that means, those posts which work with children and young people and Adults at risk (as defined under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups (NI) Order 2007, as amended by the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012). Before commencing a selection process for an established post the line manager in consultation with the Safeguarding Compliance Manager, Departmental HR Officer and Corporate HR Officer will determine if the post is a ‘regulated post’. If it is new post the line manager, in consultation with the Safeguarding Compliance Manager and the continuous improvement team, will ensure that this assessment is included as part of the job design process.

During the selection process the preferred candidate must give consent for the relevant Access NI Disclosure Check. If the preferred candidate refuses to give consent for the check or if we find they have withheld information this will be sufficient grounds for the council to withdraw their conditional offer of employment. We will repeat the checks every three years for regulated posts. If in the course of their employment with BCC, an employee moves from a non-regulated post to a regulated post then that employee will be subject to Access NI checks prior to deployment and may be subject to further relevant reference or line management recommendation checks.

Identification

We require all applicants who have to complete the Access NI check to produce evidence of their identity for example, a long birth certificate. This is important as Access NI can only make checks if the person’s identity is confirmed.

Access NI Disclosures

If a Criminal Records check reveals details of convictions which may render the applicant unsuitable for the applied for post Departmental HR/Corporate HR will discuss the situation with the applicant in accordance with the guidance set out in the Councils Guidelines for Dealing with Applicants with Convictions.

It is an offence for a barred person to work, apply to work or offer to work in regulated activity with a group they are barred from working with. We will not employ candidates on the barred list in regulated activity. If the checks reveal that a candidate is on the barred list for regulated activity, we will make a referral to the Disclosure and Barring Service to notify them of the individuals attempt to apply for barred work.

References

The Council require two references from people who have employed you and who are not family members. Where a post involves work with children the Council may request references from any other previous employment, which involved working with children or young people.

If for legitimate reasons there is difficulty in sourcing suitable references, we reserve the right to seek alternatives as described in the referencing guidance document.

Agency workers

We will ensure that agency workers in Regulated Activity are required to complete the relevant Access NI checks before they commence work.

Volunteers

Where volunteers work in the council and they are carrying out work considered regulated activity, we will:

- require the volunteer to complete a registration form
- confirm their identify (e.g. provide a long birth certificate)
- receive two written references
- organise a meeting with the volunteer to review the details on the application form, review the volunteering role, ensure they are aware of the Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy and Procedures and the induction paperwork
- give permission for Council to apply to Access NI for an Enhanced Disclosure

10.0 Training

We must not see learning and development as a one off event, but a continuous process which requires the investment of time and resources to create a learning environment and a competent workforce. Each organisation must take responsibility to develop both knowledge and expertise in safeguarding and protecting adults, and seek to identify the most appropriate and relevant opportunities to develop the confidence, abilities and competence of staff and volunteers.

We are committed to providing all staff, agency workers and volunteers with appropriate safeguarding awareness sessions or the relevant level of training in accordance with the Northern Ireland Adult Safeguarding Partnership Training Strategy 2013.

At each level, the training or awareness raising will identify:

- required safeguarding knowledge and skills
- key learning outcomes
- target audience

Safeguarding Adults at Risk Training Schedule

Level 0: Safeguarding awareness

All staff, agency workers, and volunteers within the organisation. This will involve familiarising staff / agency workers / volunteers with the working environment, with Belfast City Council expectations and the requirements of the job. All staff / agency workers / volunteers will be provided with a corporate code of behaviour and a safeguarding code of behaviour, which they must read. The code of behaviour will draw particular attention to Belfast City Council's Safeguarding policy and procedure. This will be part of the induction process for all new employees and volunteers.

Level 1: Safeguarding adults training (Face to face facilitated Learning)

All staff, agency workers and volunteers who have relevant contact with adults at risk, or with carers/parents of adults at risk and those who have regular contact with adults at risks, or adults known or suspected of posing a risk to adults at risk. This six-hour, face-to-face training session will enable managers, staff, agency workers and volunteers to understand their roles and responsibilities in relation to safeguarding adults at risk within the context of the organisation's policies and procedures.

Level 2: Managers' responsibilities and supervisory awareness training

Available to all managers, staff, agency workers and volunteers who have supervisory responsibilities. This six-hour, face-to-face training session will enable managers, staff, agency workers and volunteers to understand their roles and responsibilities in relation to safeguarding adults at risk within the context of the organisation's policies and procedures.

Level 3: Adult safeguarding champion, or designated person training

All officers with designated responsibility. (Delivered externally) This full-day, face-to-face training session will enable Adult safeguarding champion, or designated person to become familiar with the role and responsibilities of their role and to develop competence and confidence in carrying out this role. Completion of Level 0: Safeguarding awareness and attendance at all subsequent relevant training is a mandatory requirement and individual training records will be maintained by HR.

11.0 Governance, monitoring and reporting

In order to ensure compliance with the requirements of safeguarding legislation and expectation there are a number of procedures in place:

The Safeguarding Panel:

The Safeguarding Panel is a cross-departmental assurance and compliance group set up by the Council to oversee the practical implementation of this Policy and to develop, monitor and review safeguarding procedures.

Its role includes:

- identifying safeguarding training needs within services
- developing supplementary safeguarding procedures as they are required
- promoting good practice within council services – to include procurement of services
- discussing incidents and concerns raised in services to facilitate a council-wide response if necessary
- setting internal reporting requirements
- regularly review the internal reports, identify any actions needed and oversee implementation of these actions
- review risks and emergent issues that may require action for the council

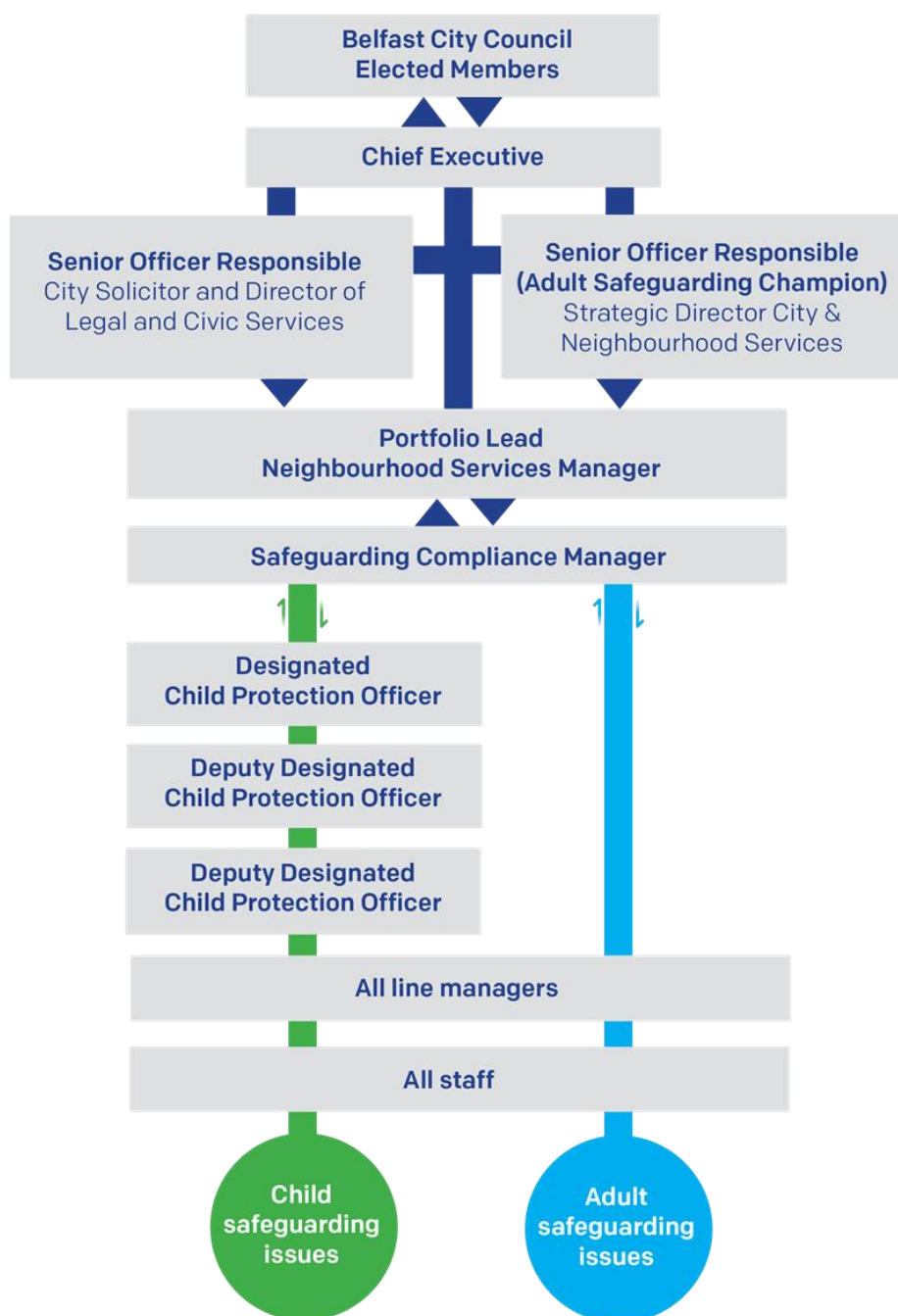
12.0 Third party contracts and interactions

Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility, and safeguarding all ages is important to us. The Council recognises everyone has a fundamental right to be safe. Whatever the cause, or wherever it occurs, harm caused to children, young people or adults by abuse, exploitation or neglect is not acceptable.

This expectation extends to all 3rd parties that work with or on behalf of the council, this includes 3rd party Contracts such as Greenwich Leisure Limited (our delivery partners for leisure services), organisations who receive grant funding, supply contracts, funded projects, events and anyone hiring our venues. In line with this policy, we expect our contractors/partners to:

- Have in place their own policy and procedures for safeguarding children, young people and adults at risk of harm consistent with current legislation and best practise.
- In absence of their own policy, agree to use ours until such time as they can write/implement their own.
- Ensure that all members of staff and volunteers who will be employed in the programme and fall into the regulated categories as per the Safeguarding of Vulnerable Groups (NI) Order 2007 (as amended by the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012) have had the appropriate level of Access NI check carried out.

Safeguarding Structure



Footnotes

¹ <http://www.hscboard.hscni.net/download/PUBLICATIONS/safeguard-vulnerable-adults/niasp-publications/Adult-Safeguarding-Operational-Procedures.pdf> (link opens in new window)

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Equality Screening Template



The Council has a statutory duty to screen. This includes our strategies, plans, policies, legislative developments; and new ways of working such as the introduction, change or end of an existing service, grant funding arrangement or facility. This screening template is designed to help departments consider the likely equality impacts of their proposed decisions on different groups of customers, service users, staff and visitors.

Before carrying out an equality screening exercise it is important that you have received the necessary training first. To find out about the training needed or any other queries on screening, contact the Equality and Diversity Officer Lorraine Dennis on extension 6027 or Lisa McKee on extension 6310 or by email equality@belfastcity.gov.uk

The accompanying **Screening Guidance** note provides straightforward advice on how to carry out equality screening exercises. Detailed information about the Section 75 equality duties and what they mean in practice is available on the Equality Commission's website¹.

The screening template has 4 sections to complete. These are:

Section A - provides details about the policy / decision that is being screened

Section B – gives information on the consultation process, supporting evidence gathered and has 4 key questions outlining the likely impacts on all equality groups.

Section C - has 4 key questions in relation to obligations under the Disability Discrimination Order

Section D - is the formal record of the screening decision.

¹ <http://www.equalityni.org/archive/pdf/S75GuideforPublicAuthoritiesApril2010.pdf>

Section A

Details about the policy / decision to be screened

1. Title of policy / decision to be screened:-

Belfast City Council Safeguarding All Ages Policy 2022.

2. Brief description of policy / decision to be screened:-

(Explain - Is this a new, revised or existing policy? Are there financial / legislative / procurement implications?)

This is to update and replace the existing policy from 2009.

The Council recognise's everyone has a fundamental right to be safe. Whatever the cause, or wherever it occurs, harm caused to children, young people or adults by abuse, exploitation or neglect is not acceptable. In response to Keep Safe Children – Our duty to Care (2017) and Keep Adults safe – A shared responsibility (2015) published by Volunteer Now to reflect development in Safeguarding and changes in legislation and guidance, we reviewed the current policy and procedure and recommended some improvements; Following this in 2018 we introduced a Safeguarding Panel and began a piece of work to establish robust policies and procedures, demonstrating our commitment to safeguarding and to provide clear and practical support to elected members, staff, agency workers, casual workers, and volunteers. We have designed this document to be user friendly and to incorporate the ethos that safeguarding of all ages is everyone's responsibility.

3. Aims and objectives of the policy / decision to be screened:-

((What is the policy trying to achieve?))

Section one of the policy is in reference to Child Safeguarding and protection.

Every child and young person have a right to feel safe and protected and, as a provider of public facilities and services, we are committed to creating and maintaining the safest possible environment for the children and young people who use our facilities, access our services or come into contact with members of our workforce. We will take all reasonable steps to protect children and young people using our facilities and services from harm, discrimination, or degrading treatment whilst respecting their rights, wishes, and feelings.

We aim to do this by:

- Recognising that all children and young people have the right to freedom from abuse and protection from harm.
- Putting in place robust recruitment procedures to ensure that those individuals whose behaviour could be a threat to the safety and well-being of children and young people are not offered employment.
- Raising the awareness of the duty of care responsibilities throughout the council.
- Actively encouraging good practice amongst all employees, volunteers, and elected members throughout the council and promoting wider awareness wherever possible, with partnership organisations and user groups.
- Creating a safe and healthy environment within all our services, avoiding situations where abuse or allegations of abuse may occur.
- Respecting and promoting the rights, wishes, and feelings of children and young people and working closely with other agencies.
- Recruiting, training, supervising, and supporting employees who work with children and young people to adopt best practice to safeguard and protect children and young people from abuse, and themselves against false allegations. Employees who work with children and young people will be subject to the appropriate level employment checks. All appropriate new staff will be inducted on these policy and procedures with sign-off from their line managers'
- Highlighting the Code of Behaviour specific to Safeguarding
- Responding to any allegations appropriately and implementing the appropriate council policies and procedures.
- Requiring employees, volunteers, and elected members to follow the council's safeguarding children and young people policy and procedures.

- Having appropriately trained Designated Safeguarding Officers in place to co-ordinate children and young people safeguarding issues and give advice. (Please note, certain council facilities / services operate outside of 9am – 5pm, therefore, this may result in a Duty Manager rather than a Designated Officer being onsite outside of these hours.)
- Ensuring we maintain confidentiality where appropriate and we restrict access to confidential information to the appropriate authorities.
- Carrying out a regular audit and review of the effectiveness of our safeguarding children and young people policy and procedures.
- Helping to maintain professionalism and standards of service which are associated with best practice provision, including a Code of Behaviour.
- We are committed to reviewing our policies, procedures, practices and training in line with changes in legislation and best practice or at a minimum every three years.

2.2 Objectives

Our objectives to achieve these aims are:

- To provide appropriate training for all appropriate employees, volunteers and elected members
- To aid employees, volunteers, and elected members to respond sensitively and seriously to anyone who discloses information about abuse and be confident and able to take appropriate action swiftly, regardless of whom the allegation is about.
- To promote the general welfare and well-being of children and young people within council facilities and services.
- To develop and implement effective procedures for recording and responding to complaints of alleged or suspected child or young person abuse.

Section 2 is in relation to Adult Safeguarding.

Aims of the safeguarding adult's policy and procedures:

This aim of this document is to:

- demonstrate our commitment to providing and maintaining an organisation that protects adults from harm, and protects staff, agency workers, volunteers and the organisation itself from potential allegations.

- promote zero-tolerance of harm to all adults from abuse, exploitation, or neglect.
- Influence the way our organisation thinks about harm to adults resulting from abuse, exploitation or neglect by embedding a culture which recognises every adult's right to respect and dignity, honesty, humanity and compassion in every aspect of their life.
- prevent and reduce the risk of harm to adults, while supporting people's right to maintain control over their lives and make informed choices free from coercion.
- encourage our staff, agency workers and volunteers to work collaboratively across sectors and on an inter-agency and multi-disciplinary basis, to introduce a range of preventative measures to promote an individual's capacity to keep themselves safe and to prevent harm occurring;
- establish clear guidance for reporting concerns that an adult is, or may be, at risk of being harmed or in need of protection and how these will be responded to; including a Code of behaviour;
- promote access to justice for adults at risk who have been harmed as a result of abuse, exploitation or neglect;
- promote a continuous learning approach to adult safeguarding;
- make sure our staff are carefully selected, vetted and trained in issues of safeguarding adults;
- provide guidance on appropriate and relevant supervision; including the appointment of officers with delegated safeguarding responsibility within each of our business units;
- make sure staff are aware of the adults safeguarding policy and procedures within the council; their role within the policy and the consequence of not following these procedures;
- make sure appropriate action is always taken in the event of an incident, in-line with best practice;
- provide clear procedures and guidance on how staff, agency workers, volunteers and contractors must deal with any safeguarding issues or concerns; (Code of Behaviour)
- provide guidelines on appropriate safeguarding training for staff / agency/ workers / volunteers.
- provide guidelines for staff, agency workers, volunteers when dealing with adults at risk; (Code of Behaviour)
- provide a Safeguarding Adults Code of Behaviour for staff and volunteers; and,
- Provide a complaints procedure with guidance on how a complaint can be raised regarding a safeguarding issue.

We will ensure staff, agency workers, volunteers and contractors are aware of the safeguarding standards within the organisation, their role within the policy, and the consequence of not following our procedures.

We will make sure that appropriate training or awareness is given to staff, agency workers, and volunteers to ensure an understanding of their role in recognising abuse and to familiarise them with our safeguarding adult's policies and procedures.

We are committed to reviewing our policies, procedures, practices and training in line with changes in legislation and best practice or at a minimum every three years.

Principles of Safeguarding Adults at Risk

The guidance given in the policy and procedures is based on the following principles:

- A rights-based approach: To promote and respect an adult's right to be safe and secure; to freedom from harm and coercion; to equality of treatment; to the protection of the law; to privacy; to confidentiality; and freedom from discrimination.
- An empowering approach: To empower adults to make informed choices about their lives, to maximise their opportunities to participate in wider society, to keep themselves safe and free from harm and enabled to manage their own decisions in respect of exposure to risk.
- Person-centered approach: To promote and facilitate full participation of adults in all decisions affecting their lives taking full account of their views, wishes and feelings and, where appropriate, the views of others who have an interest in his or her safety and well-being.
- A consent-driven approach: To make a presumption that the adult has the ability to give or withhold consent; to make informed choices; to help inform choice through the provision of information, and the identification of options and alternatives; to have particular regard to the needs of individuals who require support with communication, advocacy or who lack the capacity to consent; and intervening in the life of an adult

against his or her wishes only in particular circumstances, for very specific purposes and always in accordance with the law.

- A collaborative approach: To acknowledge that safeguarding adults will be most effective when it has the full support of the wider public and of safeguarding partners across the statutory, voluntary, community, independent and faith sectors working together and is delivered in a way where roles, responsibilities and lines of accountability are clearly defined and understood. Working in partnership and a person-centred approach will work hand-in-hand.

All adults, regardless of age, ability or disability, gender, race, religion, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, marital or gender status have the right to be protected from abuse and poor practice and to participate in an enjoyable and safe environment.

We will seek to make sure that the organisation is inclusive and make reasonable adjustments for any ability, disability or impairment, we will also commit to continuous development, monitoring, and review.

We will always respect the rights, dignity and worth of all adults.

We recognise that ability and disability can change over time, such that some adults may be additionally vulnerable to abuse, for example those who have a dependency on others or have different communication needs.

We recognise that an adult with an impairment or a disability may or may not identify themselves/be identified as an adult 'at risk' or vulnerable.

<https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/dhssps/adult-safeguarding-policy.pdf>

4. On whom will the policy / decision impact?

Consider the internal and external impacts (both actual or potential) and explain:-

Staff	YES
Service users	YES
Other public sector organizations	YES
Voluntary / community groups / trade unions	YES
Others, please specify	YES

- **Anyone who interacts with BCC third party contractors etc.**

5. Are there linkages to other Agencies/ Departments?

The Policy is relevant across our organisation and all those who provide services on our behalf.

Section B

Information on the consultation process, supporting evidence gathered and has 4 key questions outlining the likely impacts for equality and good relations

6. Outline consultation process planned or achieved:

The Safeguarding all ages policy has been/ and continues to undergo a rigorous consultation process.

The policy was designed and created under the jurisdiction of the Safeguarding panel. The panel is made up of senior officers and holds a strategic role in relation to Safeguarding.

The development also included the implementation group of officers at an operational level.-

Both these panels formed part of the quality assurance framework for Safeguarding and met bi-monthly

The policy has also been agreed by the Joint Consultative Committee by management and trade Unions.

The policy has also been presented to the SP&R Committee and received support from all parties.

A further 12 week public consultation is due to take place from mid-April 2022.

This will include but no be limited to:

1. Using the Your Belfast forum
2. Directed e-mails to relevant stakeholders for example SBNI members, Volunteer Now, NSPCC, SOLACE, members of the Local Government Safeguarding Network (LGSN), the Local Adult Safeguarding Panel (LASP) and wider community networks.
3. Contacting the disability forum members
4. The Belfast Youth Council

What evidence / information (both qualitative and quantitative) have you gathered to inform this policy? Set out all evidence below to help inform your screening assessment.

It is important to record information gathered from a variety of sources such as: monitoring information; complaints; research surveys; consultation exercises from other public authorities.

Section 75 category	Details of evidence/information and engagement
Religious belief	Updated post Public Consultation 10/10/22: During the process numerous engagement activities were undertaken:
Political opinion	
Racial group	
Age	
Marital status	

[Type here]

Sexual orientation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internally all stakeholders including the Trade Unions, Safeguarding Panel, Senior management and staff were involved in the process; Externally the draft policy was shared for comment with the following <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland Belfast panel members Local adult safeguarding partnership members Children and young person strategic partnership Local Government Safeguarding network. It was also shared with a number of relevant focus groups and forums via the Equability team. Finally, a 14 week public consultation between May 2022 and August 2022. The consultation did not result in any changes to the current equality screening.
Men and women generally	
Disability	
Dependants	

8. What is the likely impact (indicate if the policy impact is positive or negative) on equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy, for each of the Section 75 equality categories? What is the level of impact?

Section 75 category	Likely impact?	Level of impact? Minor/Major/None
Religious belief	This policy ensures the safeguarding commitment is provided to each individual irrespective of their S75 category. It includes age specific activities and behaviour where appropriate; facilities for carers and reasonable adjustments for those with a disability to ensure participation.	None
Political opinion		None
Racial group		None
Age		Minor/positive
Marital status		None
Sexual orientation		Minor/positive
Men and women generally		None
Disability		Minor/positive
Dependants		Minor/positive

[Type here]

9. Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 equalities categories?

Section 75 category	If Yes, provide details	If No, provide reasons
Religious belief	This policy ensures the safeguarding commitment is provided to each individual irrespective of their S75 category. It includes age specific activities and behaviour where appropriate; facilities for carers and reasonable adjustments for those with a disability to ensure participation.	
Political opinion		
Racial group		
Age		
Marital status		
Sexual orientation		
Men and women generally		
Disability		
Dependants		

10. To what extent is the policy likely to impact (positive or negatively) on good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group? What is the level of impact?

Good relations category	Likely impact?	Level of impact? Minor/Major/None
Religious belief		None
Political opinion		None
Racial group		None

[Type here]

11. Are there opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?

Good relations category	If Yes, provide details	If No, provide reasons
Religious belief		This policy is aimed at safeguarding all children, young people and adults who access the council's facilities and services and applies to all of the above regardless of their religious belief, political opinion or racial group
Political opinion		
Racial group		

Section C

Belfast City Council also has legislative obligations to meet under the **Disability Discrimination Order** and Questions 12-13 relate to these two areas.

Consideration of Disability Duties

12. Does this proposed policy / decision provide an opportunity for the Council to better promote positive attitudes towards disabled people?

Explain your assessment in full

No. This policy positively promotes equality of opportunity for all to whom it applies.

13. Does this proposed policy / decision provide an opportunity to actively increase the participation by disabled people in public life?

[Type here]

Explain your assessment in full

Positive actions are encouraged towards all those included in this policy.

14. Multiple Identities

Provide details of data on the impact of the policy with multiple identities.

This policy will be delivered to all equitably and has positive actions within it to ensure that each child, young person or adult who may be vulnerable is dealt with as an individual with their own unique multiple identities.

The implementation of this policy will ensure that where any potential barriers such as language, access to facilities and/or services are identified these will be addressed in an appropriate and timely manner.

15. Monitoring Arrangements

Section 75 places a requirement the Council to have equality monitoring arrangements in place in order to assess the impact of policies and services etc; and to help identify barriers to fair participation and to better promote equality of opportunity.

Outline what data you will collect in the future in order to monitor the impact of this policy / decision on equality, good relations and disability duties.

Equality	Good Relations	Disability Duties
Number of enquiries to Designated Officer/s and number of reported incidents will be monitored with relevant Section 75 data for each incident if available.		

Section D

Formal Record of Screening Decision

Title of Proposed Policy / Decision being screened

Belfast City Council

Safeguarding All Ages Policy 2022

I can confirm that the proposed policy / decision has been screened for –

[Type here]

X	equality of opportunity and good relations
X	disabilities duties

On the basis of the answers to the screening questions, I recommend that this policy / decision is – *(place an X in the appropriate box below)*

	* <u>Screened In</u> – Necessary to conduct a full EQIA
--	--

	<p>*<u>Screened Out</u> – No EQIA necessary (no impacts)</p> <p>Provide a brief note here to explain how this decision was reached:</p>
--	--

X	<p>* <u>Screened Out -</u> Mitigating Actions (minor impacts)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide a brief note here to explain how this decision was reached:• Explain what mitigating actions and / or policy changes will now be introduced: <p>This policy ensures the safeguarding commitment is provided to each individual irrespective of their S75category . It includes age specific activities and behaviour where appropriate; facilities for carers and reasonable adjustments for those with a disability to ensure participation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The formation of the Safeguarding Panel and the Operational group as part of the Assurance framework will allow for the identification of gaps in the process and for operational officers to risk assess their own teams and identify training or support requirement.
---	---

[Type here]

Formal Record of Screening Decision (cont)

Screening assessment completed by (Officer level) -

Name: Anthony McPeake

Date: 31/03/2022

Department : Safeguarding Compliance Manager

Signature: please insert a scanned image of your signature below



Screening decision approved by -

Name: David Sales

Date:

Department:

Signature: please insert a scanned image of your signature below

Please save the final version of the completed screening form and forward to the Equality and Diversity Officer – equality@belfastcity.gov.uk. The screening form will be placed on the BCC website and a link provided to the Council's Section 75 consultees.

For more information about equality screening contact –

Lorraine Dennis/Lisa McKee

Belfast City Council

City Hall

Belfast

BT1 5GS

Telephone: 028 9027 0511

equality@belfastcity.gov.uk

Rural Needs Impact Assessment.

Rural Needs Impact Assessment Template (RNIA)

Section 1 - Defining the activity subject to Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016

1A. Name of Public Authority

Belfast City Council

1B. Please provide a short title, which describes the activity being undertaken by the Public Authority that is subject to the Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016.

Replacing and updating the current Safeguarding Policy for 2009 and implementing the new Belfast City Council Safeguarding All Ages Policy 2022

1C. Please indicate which category the activity specified in Section 1B above relates to.

Developing a	Policy <input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input type="checkbox"/>	Plan <input type="checkbox"/>
Adopting a	Policy <input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input type="checkbox"/>	Plan <input type="checkbox"/>
Implementing a	Policy <input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input type="checkbox"/>	Plan <input type="checkbox"/>
Revising a	Policy <input type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input type="checkbox"/>	Plan <input type="checkbox"/>
Designing a Public Service	Policy <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Strategy <input type="checkbox"/>	Plan <input type="checkbox"/>
Delivering a Public Service	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	<input type="checkbox"/>		

1D. Please provide the official title (if any) of the Policy, Strategy, Plan for Public Service document or initiative relating to the category indicated in Section 1C above.

1E. Please provide details of the aims and/or objectives of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service.

The Council recognises everyone has a fundamental right to be safe. Whatever the cause, or wherever it occurs, harm caused to children, young people or adults by abuse, exploitation or neglect is not acceptable. In response to Keep Safe Children – Our duty to Care (2017) and Keep Adults safe – A shared responsibility (2015) published by Volunteer Now to reflect development in Safeguarding and changes in legislation and guidance, we reviewed the current policy and procedure and recommended some improvements; Following this in 2018 we introduced a Safeguarding Panel and began a piece of work to establish robust policies and procedures, demonstrating our commitment to safeguarding and to provide clear and practical support to elected members, staff, agency workers, casual workers, and volunteers.

We have designed this document to be user friendly and to incorporate the ethos that safeguarding of all ages is everyone's responsibility.

Section 2 – Understanding the impact of the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service

2A. Is the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service likely to impact on people in rural areas?

Yes ☐ No ☒ If the response is **NO** GO TO Section **2E**.

2B. Please explain how the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to impact on people in rural areas.

The intention of the Belfast City Council Safeguarding All Ages Policy 2022 is to impact positively on all people, Staff, Services users, Contractors, Volunteers, in fact all people who come into contact with the Council, across all geographical areas of Belfast, regardless of whether they live in a rural or urban area.

2C. If the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to impact on people in rural areas

differently from people in urban areas, please explain how it is likely to impact on people in rural areas differently.

The Policy applies to all, regardless of location and is designed to have a positive impact on all operations and interactions.

2D. Please indicate which of the following rural policy areas the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is likely to primarily impact on.

Rural Businesses	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rural Tourism	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rural Housing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jobs or Employment in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Education or Training in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Broadband or Mobile Communications in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Transport Services or Infrastructure in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Poverty in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Deprivation in Rural Areas	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rural Crime or Community Safety	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rural Development	<input type="checkbox"/>
Agri-Environment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (Please state) Safeguarding of children, young people and adults	<input type="checkbox"/>

If the response to Section 2A was YES GO TO Section 3A

2E. Please explain why the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service is NOT likely to impact on people in rural areas.

The intention of the Belfast City Council Safeguarding All Ages Policy 2022 is to safeguard all people, Staff, Services users, Contractors, Volunteers, in fact all people who come into contact with the Council, across all geographical areas of Belfast, regardless of whether they live in a rural or urban area.

Section 3 – Identifying the Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas

3A. Has the Public Authority taken steps to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas that are relevant to the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service?

Yes ☐ No ☒ If the response is **NO** GO TO Section **3E**.

3B. Please indicate which of the following methods or information sources were used by the Public Authority to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas.

Consultation with Rural Stakeholders	<input type="checkbox"/>	Published Statistics	<input type="checkbox"/>
Consultation with Other Organisations	<input type="checkbox"/>	Research Papers	<input type="checkbox"/>
Surveys or Questionnaires	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other Publications	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other Methods or Information Sources (include details in Question 3C below).			<input type="checkbox"/>

3C. Please provide details of the methods and information sources used to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas including relevant dates, names of organisations, titles of publications, website references, details of surveys or consultations undertaken etc.

3D. Please provide details of the social and economic needs of people in rural areas which have been identified by the Public Authority

If the response to Section 3A was YES GO TO Section 4A

3E. Please explain why no steps were taken by the Public Authority to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas?

The intention of the Belfast City Council Safeguarding All Ages Policy 2022 is to safeguard all people, Staff, Services users, Contractors, Volunteers, in fact all people come into contact with the Council, across all geographical areas of Belfast, regardless of whether they live in a rural or urban area.

We did not directly take steps to identify the social and economic needs of people in rural areas, as the policy applies to all people regardless of the socio-economic status or needs or where they reside in the City

Section 4 – Considering the Social and Economic Needs of Persons in Rural Areas

4A. Please provide details of the issues considered in relation to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas.

Due regard has been given to the Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland) 2016, however it is not considered that the Belfast City Council Safeguarding All Ages Policy 2022 will have a material impact on the social and economic needs of people in rural areas.

The intention of the Belfast City Council Safeguarding All Ages Policy is to safeguard all people, Staff, Services users, Contractors, Volunteers, in fact all people come into

contact with the Council, across all geographical areas of Belfast, regardless of whether they live in a rural or urban area.

Section 5 – Influencing the Policy, Strategy, Plan or Public Service

5A. Has the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or delivery of the Public Service, been influenced by the rural needs identified?

Yes ☐ No ☒ If the response is **NO** GO TO Section **5C**.

5A. Please explain how the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or delivery of the Public Service, has been influenced by the rural needs identified?

No specific rural needs/impacts have been identified in undertaking this assessment and therefore there are no rural needs to influence the development of the policy.

If the response to Section 5A was YES GO TO Section 6A

5C. Please explain why the development, adoption, implementation or revising of the Policy, Strategy or Plan, or the design or the delivery of the Public Service, has NOT been influenced by the rural needs identified.



No specific rural needs/impacts have been identified in undertaking this assessment and therefore there are no rural needs to influence the development of the policy.

SECTION 6 – Documenting and Recording

6A. Please tick below to confirm that the RNIA Template will be retained by the Public Authority and relevant information on the Section 1 activity compiled in accordance with paragraph 6.7 of the guidance.

I confirm that the RNIA Template will be retained and relevant information compiled. ☐

X

Rural Needs Impact Assessment undertaken by:	Anthony McPeake
Position / Grade:	Safeguarding Compliance Manager
Division / Branch:	CNS
Signature:	
Date:	01/02/2022
Rural Needs Impact Assessment approved by:	Catherine Taggart
Position / Grade:	Neighbourhood Services Manager
Division / Branch:	CNS
Signature:	
Date:	17.10.22

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CMT Overview

CMT Overview of the responses to the Safeguarding all ages Policy Public Consultation

Methodology:

The consultation was shared in a variety of way with stakeholders and members of the public:

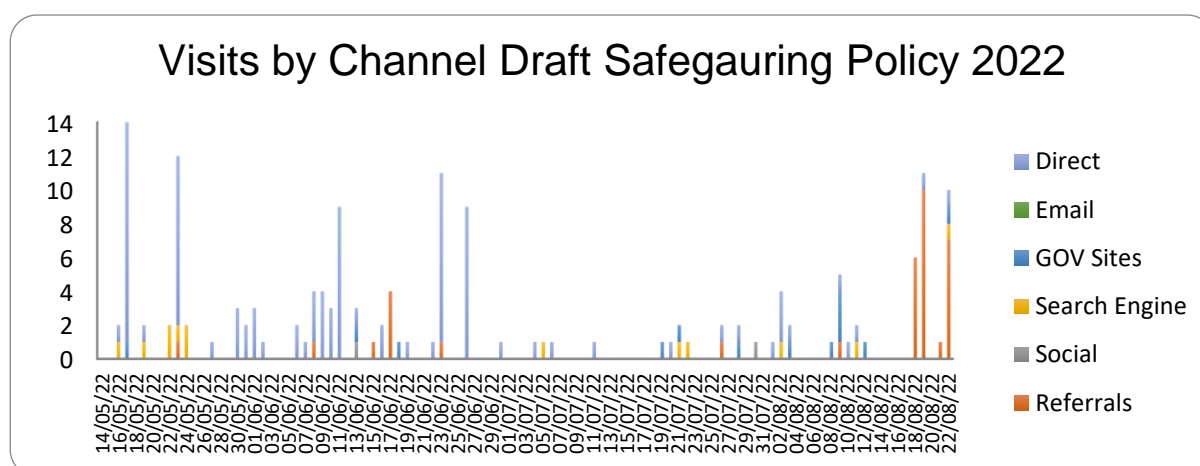
These include but were not limited to:

- Staff Via interlink
- Members of the SBNI Belfast panel (NSPCC, Banardos, Women's Aid, BHT and PSNI)
- Local government Safegaurding Partnership (all 11 Councils + NIHE)
- Members of the Local Adult Safegaurding Partnership.
- Other groups associated with the Equality Team.
- Links via the public website to Your Belfast portal.

Results

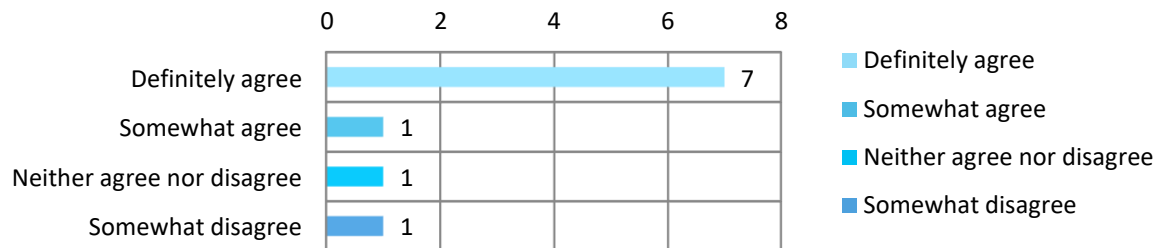
Below is a summary of the Data collected in the in the public consultation the ran from the 16th May 2002 to the 22nd August 2022.

There were 229 visits to the site which produced 10 written responses. The graph below shows the visits by channel.

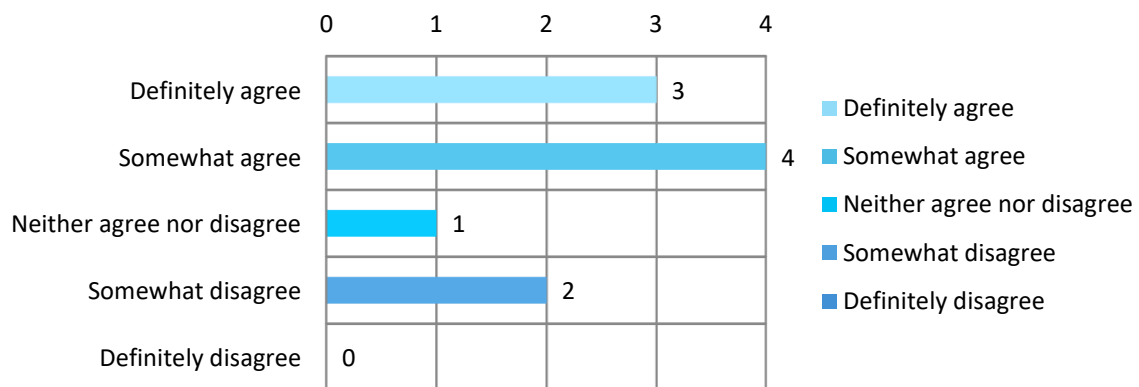


The limited response was no unexpected, given the specialist nature of the policy and the fact that it is a non-contentious subject.

To what extent do you agree or disagree that safeguarding is everybody's responsibility?

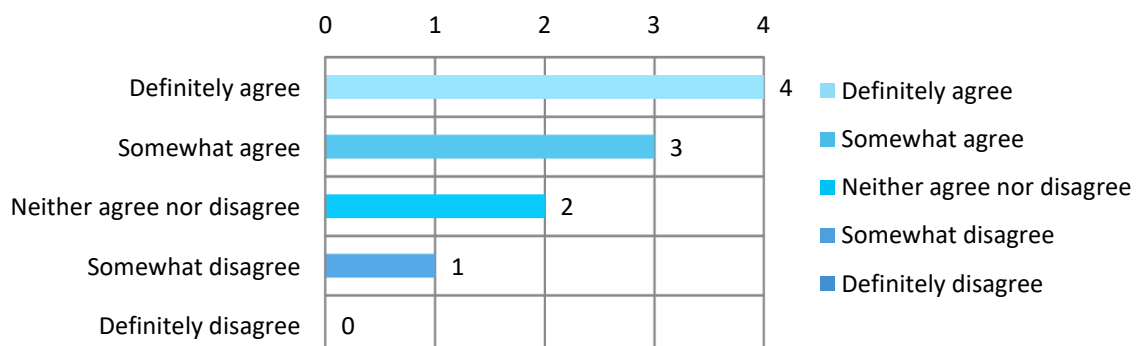


To what extent do you agree or disagree that our draft policy is 'easy to understand'?

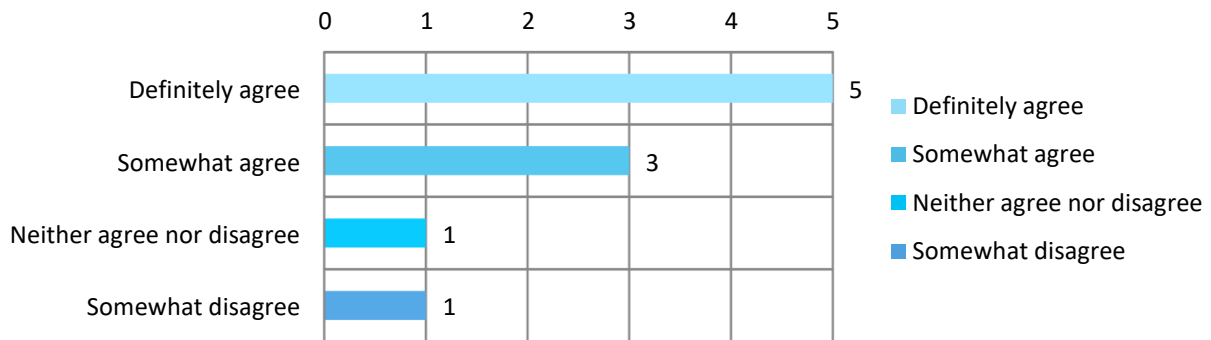


The tables below provide a breakdown of the responses:

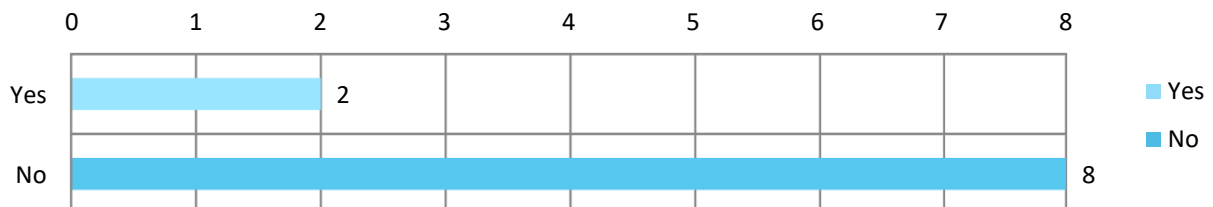
Clear in its aims



We have split the policy into two sections - Child Safeguarding and Adult Safeguarding as we feel there are differences between the two fields of operation. To what extent do you agree or disagree with this approach?



Do you have any comments or suggestions for improvement in relation to our Equality screening?



In relation to the above question the two comments detailed below were offered by way of explanation from those responders who answered YES.

“As a sign language user, British Sign Language is my first language and I struggle to understand this. I would like this to be translated or plain English.”

“There should be an easy read or plain English version for both Child Safeguarding and Adult Safeguarding policies. Also, it would be great if both policies were translated from English to British Sign Language.”

In reply, it is possible to translate the policy in to sign language, although costly and time consuming.

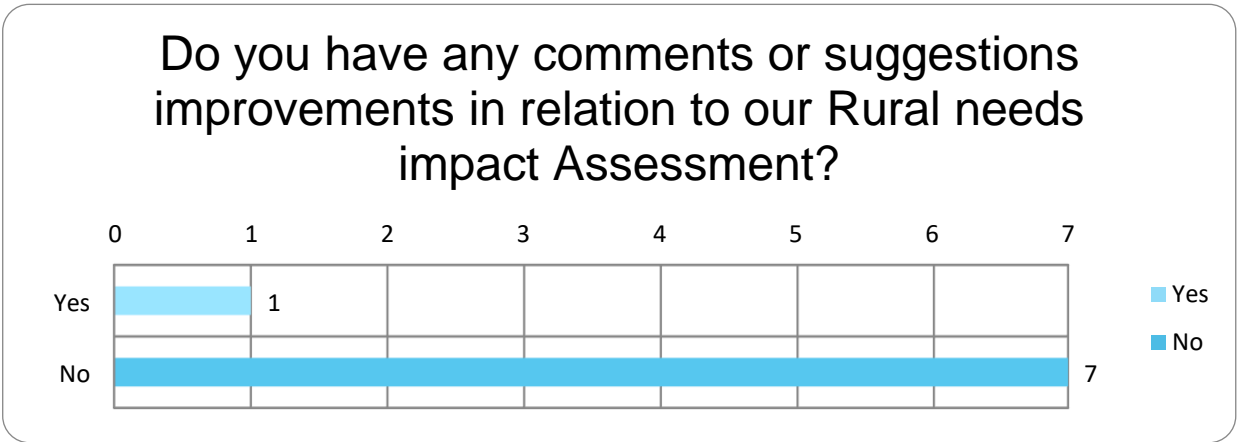
I have spoken with the equality team and as matter of practise this would be completed on request.

In relation to the comment regarding plain English, unfortunate a large proportion of the policy is governed by legislation and policy documents which are statutory requirements we are duty bound to follow. The language is therefore fixed, however should an individual request it, one of the safeguarding team would be happy to meet with the service user or group to go through any particular questions.

“If on the microscale an institution wishes to be seen as being meritocratic then said institution should endeavour to always seek out the best candidate for the job regardless of political, religious, racial or sexual characteristics. As regards to vetting people there is no need for a robust system, the reality ought to be if an adult has committed a depraved act against a minor then said adult should not get a look in, in short such an individual ought to be thrown out to the wolves for such atrociousness. However, given the escalation in violence in society particularly from the youth an adult should not be castigated for defending oneself against a pernicious section amongst this cohort. In years gone by things being done on a case-by-case basis was indeed fitting, this required work and scrutiny. There is indeed too much in the way with legislation being carefully crafted these days to promote an agenda that is not in-keeping with traditional social norms and values, which existentially still apply to the masses in their daily lives but for a select few the unwritten rules and social mores are being inverted in such a way to allow for the opportunity of a sense of elevated status given an individual's unique set of circumstances. This is counter to what has gone before. Pigeon-holing and playing into identity politics should be abandoned with vigour as this type of thing erodes social bonds and heightens friction.”

Whilst the intensions of the responder are no doubt rooted in fundamental societal belief of self-regulation, the reality of the situation is that there are people in society that have and do harm others intentionally. Therefore, we do need a robust system in place to gather as much information as is legally allowed to make informed decisions when it comes to employment and Safegaurding.

This is not to pry on those who apply, but to act as a deterrent to those with nefarious intention and to reduce the risk to service users and staff as is our duty under legislation.

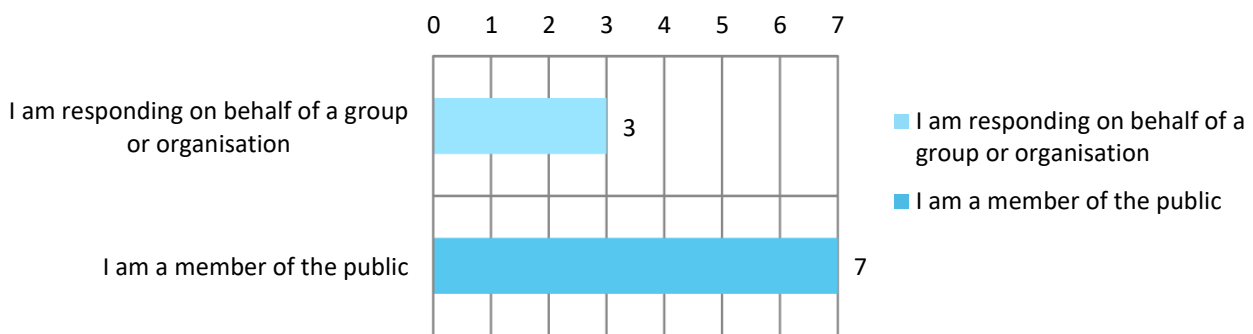


The response below was received in relation to the above question:

“Belfast has been expanding for years into rural areas, there is indeed a blurring of the boundaries between what was once the countryside and beside it a city. The amount of employees particularly office based employees that are indeed from rural areas coming into the city to work or working from home possibly 40 miles away from their employer will demand something of the city in the not so distant future but for now I would be content for the city to keep its agenda away from rural areas. I can only surmise that into the future with energy being deemed incredibly precious to all European nations that there will be a shift regarding policy here, how much it ought to impact safeguarding and rural needs is anyone's guess.”

It is my contention that the responder has mis-understood the question and therefore, the response is somewhat tangential to the process we are engaged in.

Are you responding as an individual (member of the public) or on behalf of a group or organisation?



Conclusion.

The consultation exercise has not suggested any amendments or changes to the published Documents. The responses were largely positive and endorsed the content and strategic direction of the policy.

To add some context a similar exercise was completed by Lisburn and Castlereagh Council at a similar time and they only received one response.

Given the responses it is my recommendation that we move forward to implementation

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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



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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."

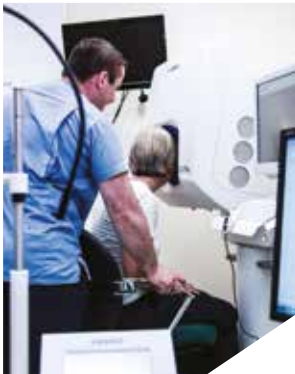
Belfast's digital innovation strengths



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.

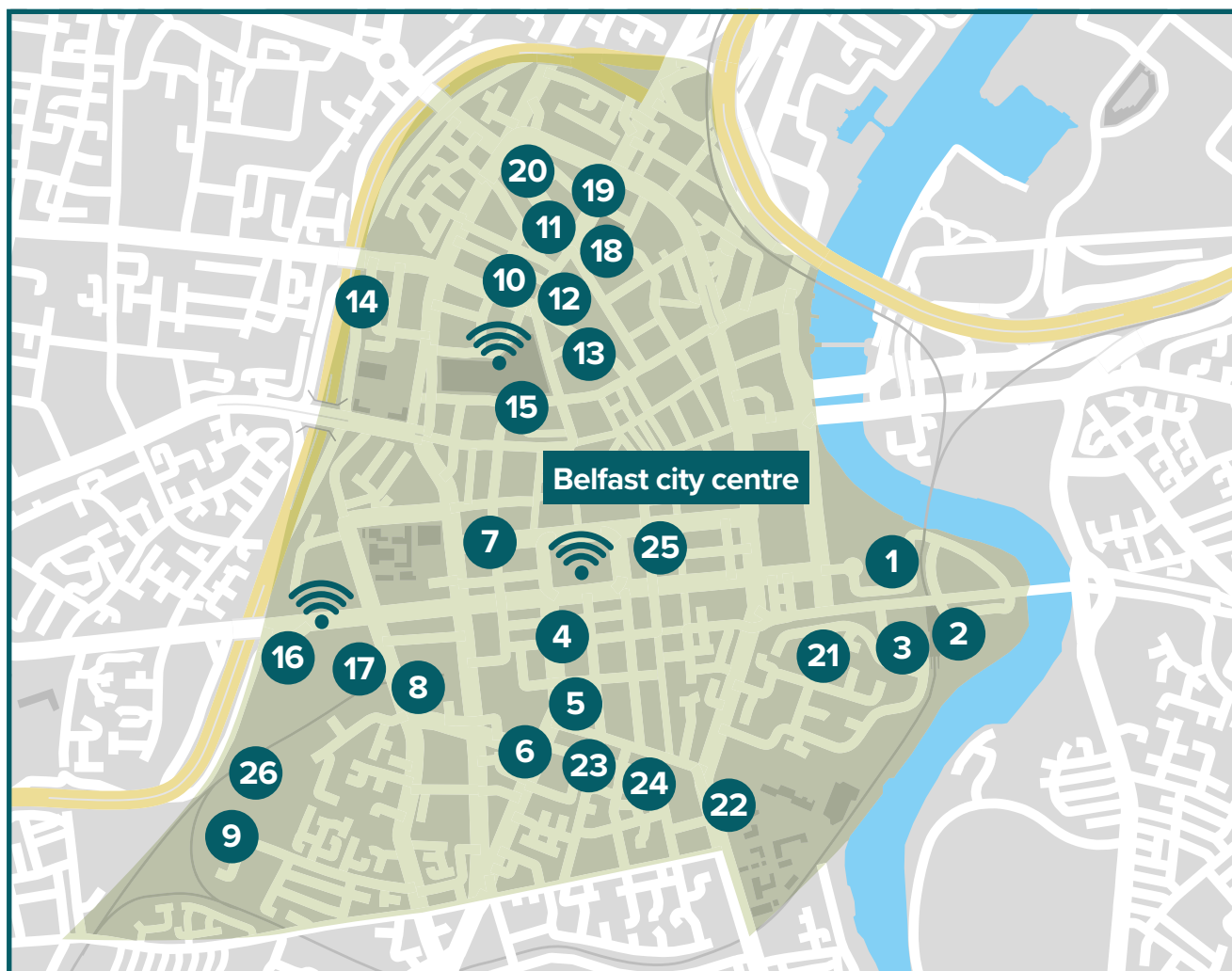
This is the place where we want partners to work with us on novel solutions to these challenges. And, when they succeed, we want to make sure these solutions are scaled or replicated across our city and region.

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.



+44 (0)28 9032 0202



smartbelfast@belfastcity.gov.uk

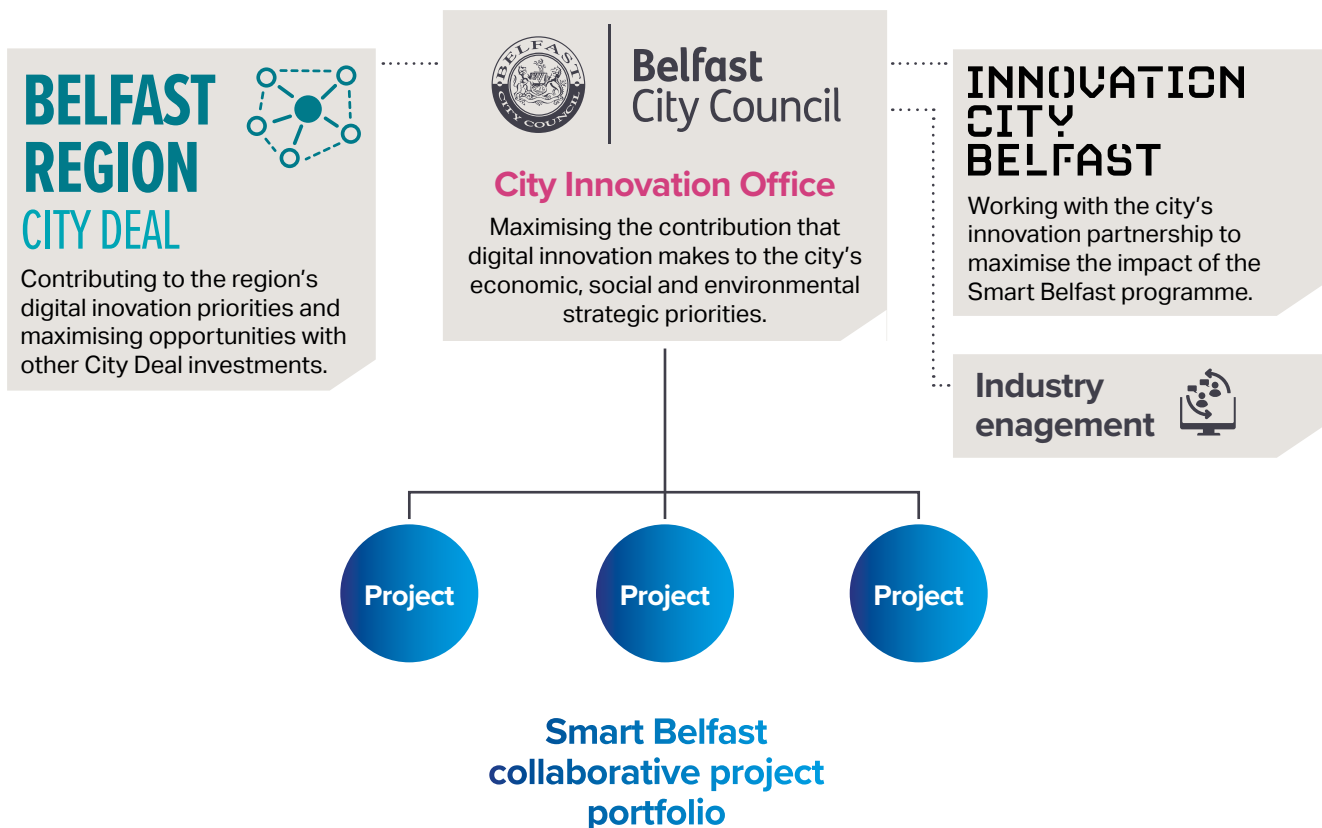


www.smartbelfast.city



[#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'.

SMART Belfast

City Innovation Office
Belfast City Council
City Hall, Belfast
Northern Ireland
BT2 8BP



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www.smartbelfast.city



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



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/departments-education-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:	Alleygating Programme: Phase 5 Funding – Response from Department of Justice
Date:	18th November, 2022
Reporting Officer:	Sinead Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes
Contact Officer:	Sinead Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To bring to the Committee's attention correspondence which has been received from the Department of Justice in response to a request from the Council for match funding for Phase 5 of the Alleygating Programme.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to note the correspondence and take such action thereon as may be determined.
3.0	Main Report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	The Committee will recall that, at its meeting on 23rd September, it approved a list of streets to be taken forward under Phase 5 of the Council's alleygating programme, with £500k to be allocated under the Capital Programme for delivery.
3.2	The Council, at its meeting on 3rd October, in ratifying that decision, agreed that a letter be forwarded to the Justice Minister requesting that the Department of Justice match the Council's allocation of £500k.

3.3	A response has been received from Mr. Richard Pengelly, Permanent Secretary in the Department of Justice, a copy of which is attached.
3.4	The Permanent Secretary begins by acknowledging the important work being undertaken by the Council around alleygating and the significant level of its investment.
3.5	In terms of the Council's request for match funding, he confirms that, given the ongoing priorities within the remit of the Department of Justice and the extraordinary constraints on its budget, the Department is not, at this time, in a position to provide funding. He points out that the Department has, in the past, used its powers to assist the Council when alley gates have been sought by residents to prevent access due to anti-social behaviour. However, this has usually been limited to interface areas and precedes adoption of the gates by the Council. On a small number of occasions, it has agreed to fund such measures, albeit that this has usually been on the recommendation of Policing colleagues for express and pressing community protection needs.
3.6	He goes on to state that the Department of Justice fully recognises the negative impact which antisocial behaviour can have on communities and that it is currently leading on a review of the legislation to ensure that the relevant authorities, such as councils, have effective and proportionate enforcement powers in place to tackle the issue.
3.7	He points out that the Department of Justice, in partnership with the Northern Ireland Policing Board, provides £826,516 annually to Policing and Community Safety Partnerships, which lead on the Department's response to community safety issues at a local level. That funding is utilised by the Policing and Community Safety Partnerships across Belfast's districts to fund a range of projects and initiatives to address antisocial behaviour, including supporting the important work being delivered via the Holyland Intervention Project.
3.8	<p>The Permanent Secretary concludes by again stating that the Department of Justice is not in a position to providing funding on this occasion and by wishing the Council every success with the Programme.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
4.0	Document Attached
	Response from Permanent Secretary, Department of Justice



Department of

Justice

An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt

Máinnystrie O tha Laa

www.justice-ni.gov.uk

**FROM THE PERMANENT SECRETARY
RICHARD PENGELLY CB**

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Stormont Estate
BELFAST BT4 3SG
Tel: 028 9052 2992
email: richard.pengelly@justice-ni.gov.uk

via email: downeyh@belfastcity.gov.uk

Henry Downey
Belfast City Council
Legal and Civic Services Department
City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS

Your Ref: HD. SP and R 23.09.2022

3 November 2022

Dear Henry

COUNCIL'S ALLEYGATING PROGRAMME

Thank you for your correspondence of 20 October 2022. I appreciate the important work of the Council and the significant investment it is making in phase five of the alleygating programme. I note the request of elected members that the Council write to the Department of Justice (DoJ) requesting matched funding for the initiative.

Unfortunately, given the ongoing priorities within the remit of the Department and extraordinary constraints on our budget, the DoJ is not, at this time, in a position to provide funding for the alleygating programme. The DoJ has used its powers in the past to assist Council when alleygates have been sought by residents to prevent access due to anti-social behaviour (ASB), but usually this is limited to interface areas and precedes adoption of the gates by Council. On a small number of occasions we have agreed to fund such measures, albeit this has usually been on the recommendation of policing colleagues for express and pressing community protection needs.

The Department fully recognises the negative impact that ASB can have on communities, and is currently leading on a review of ASB legislation to ensure that the relevant authorities, such as councils, have effective and proportionate enforcement powers in place to tackle the issue.



In partnership with the Northern Ireland Policing Board, the Department provides annual funding of £826,516 to Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (PCSPs) who lead on the Department's response to community safety issues at a local level. That funding is utilised by the PCSPs across Belfast's districts to fund a range of projects and initiatives to address ASB, including supporting the important work being conducted via the Holyland Intervention Project.

In concluding, the Department is not in a position to providing funding on this occasion, however, I wish you every success with the Programme.

Yours sincerely

RICHARD PENGELLY CB



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><u>Projects in development:</u></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>

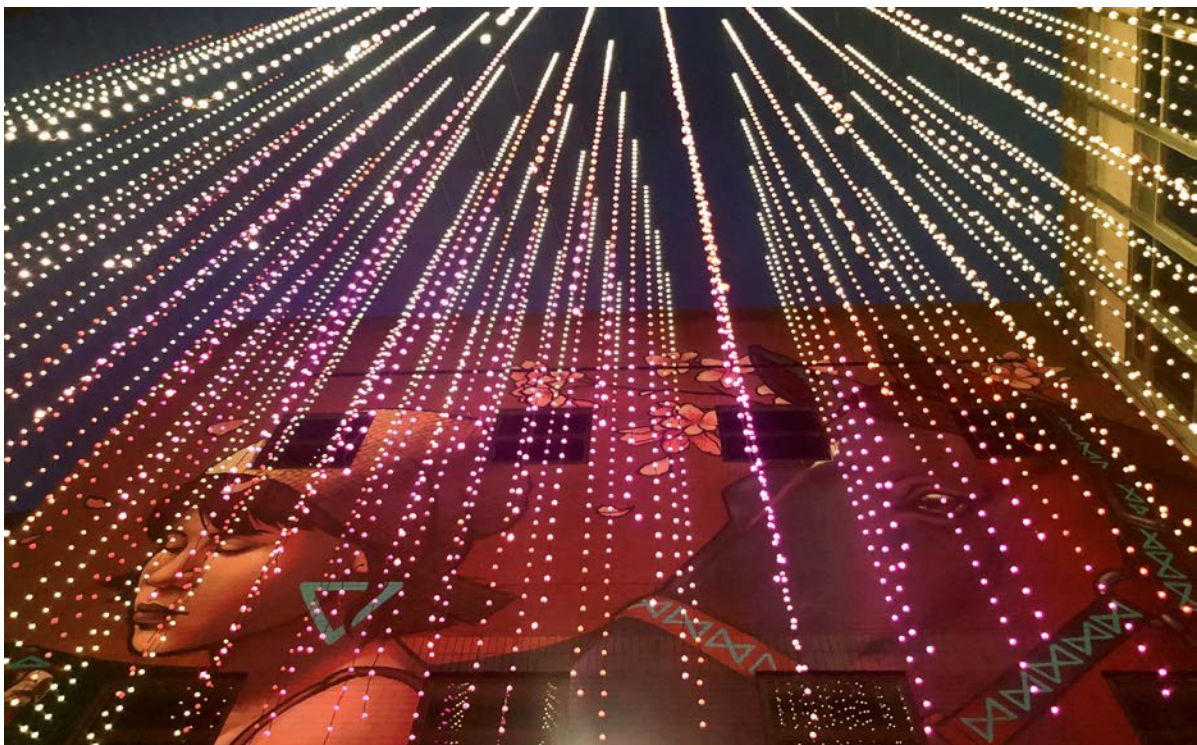
	Corporate projects – range of IT projects to ensure business continuity and ongoing Fleet replacement programme
3.6	This overview is a sample of the projects currently well underway and does not include a number of additional projects either in early stages of development, Planning or procurement, neither 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

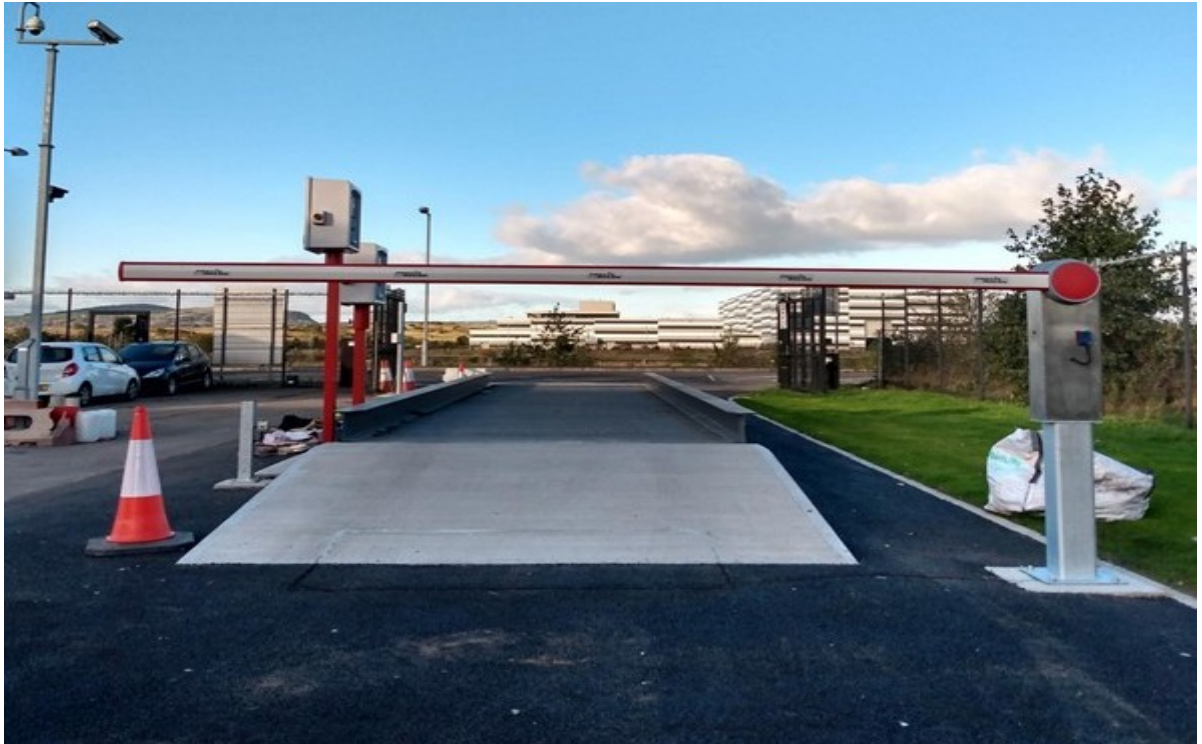


The Entries Project – Phase 1



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)

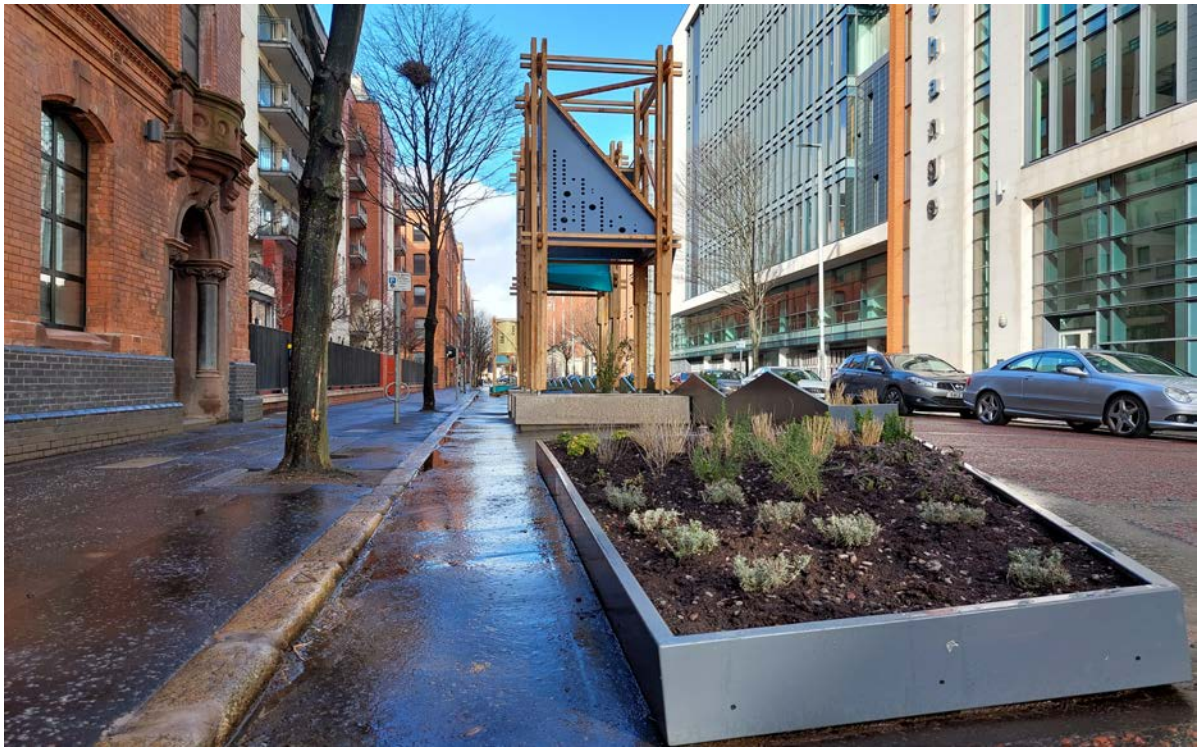


Waterfront Hall Escalators



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

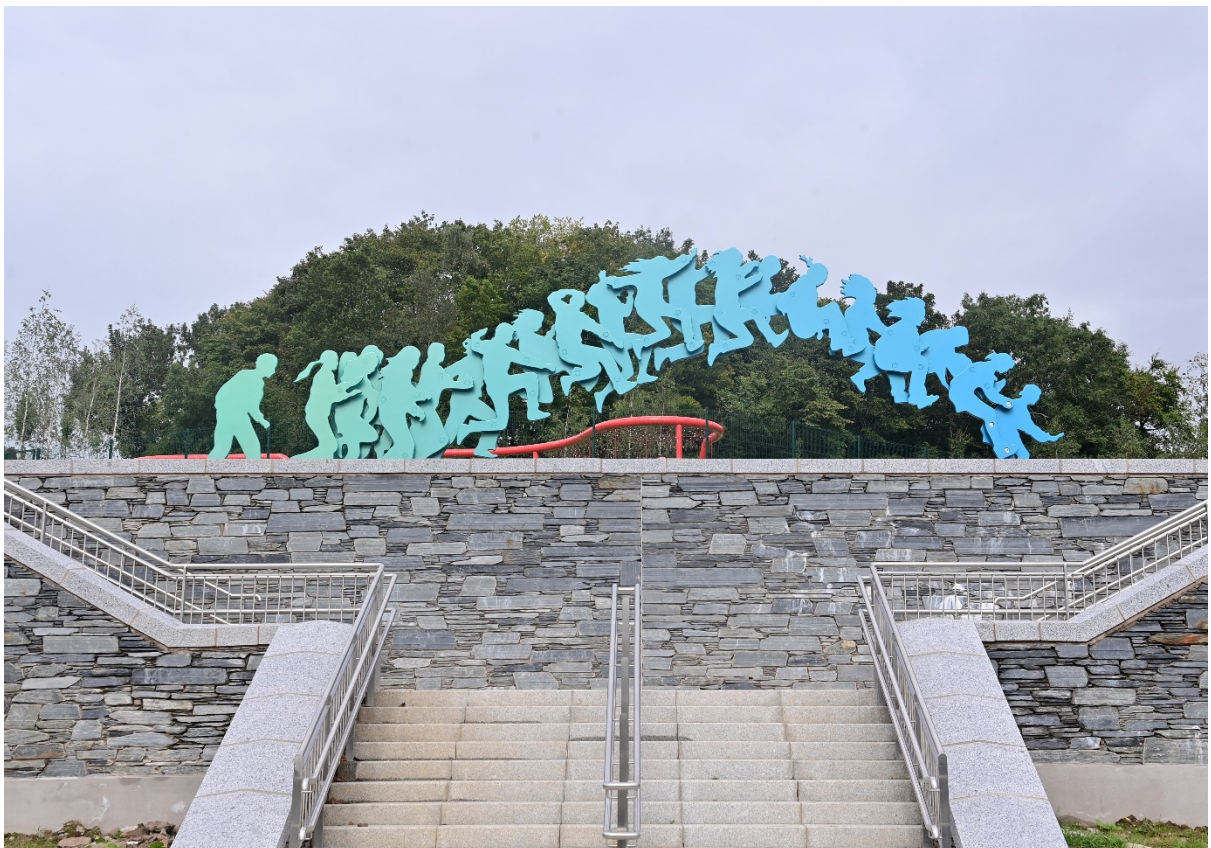


Covered Cycle Stands at Belvoir Activity Centre



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

188

196

204

206

214

222

40

2

12

1

2

4

6

8

12

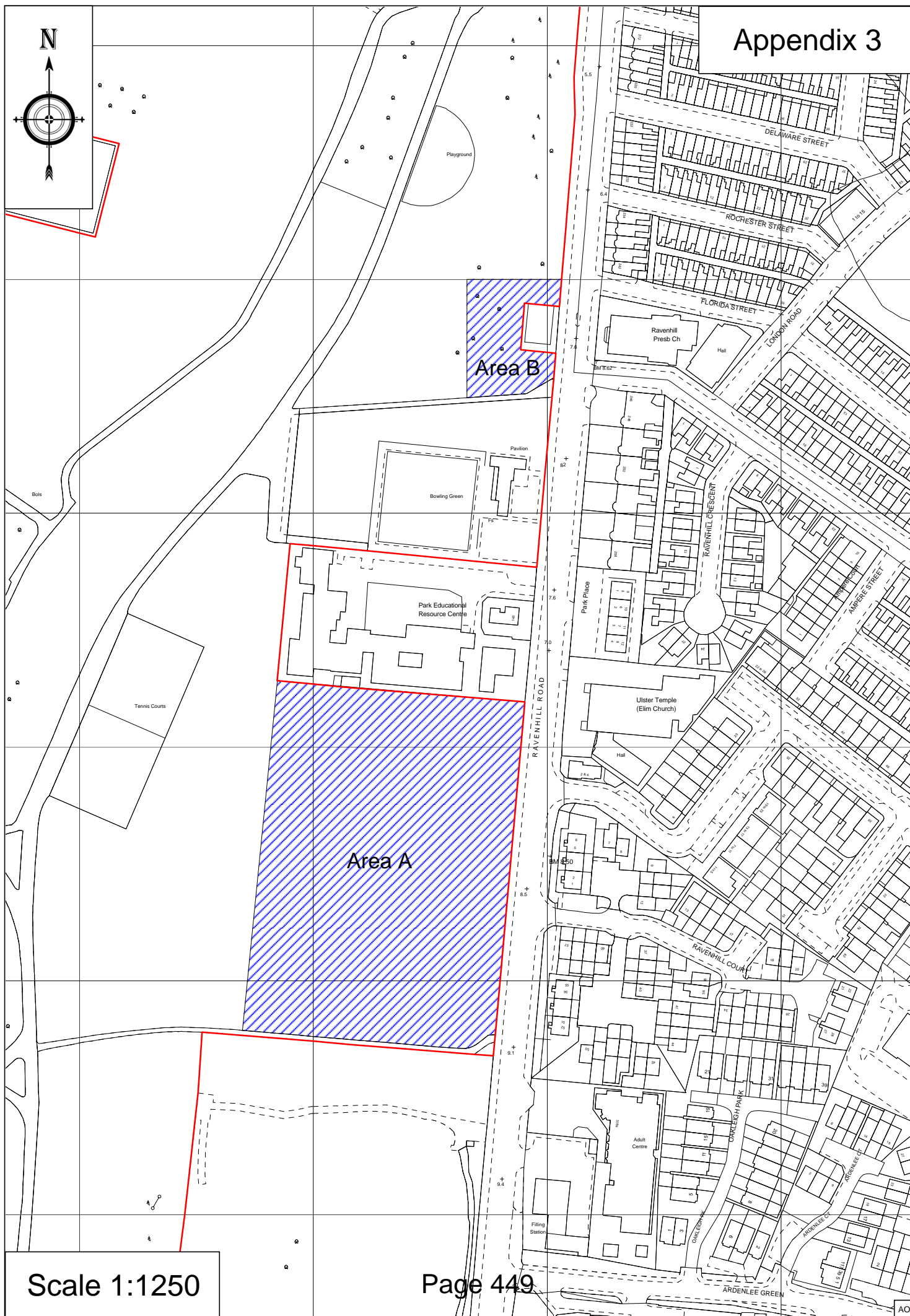
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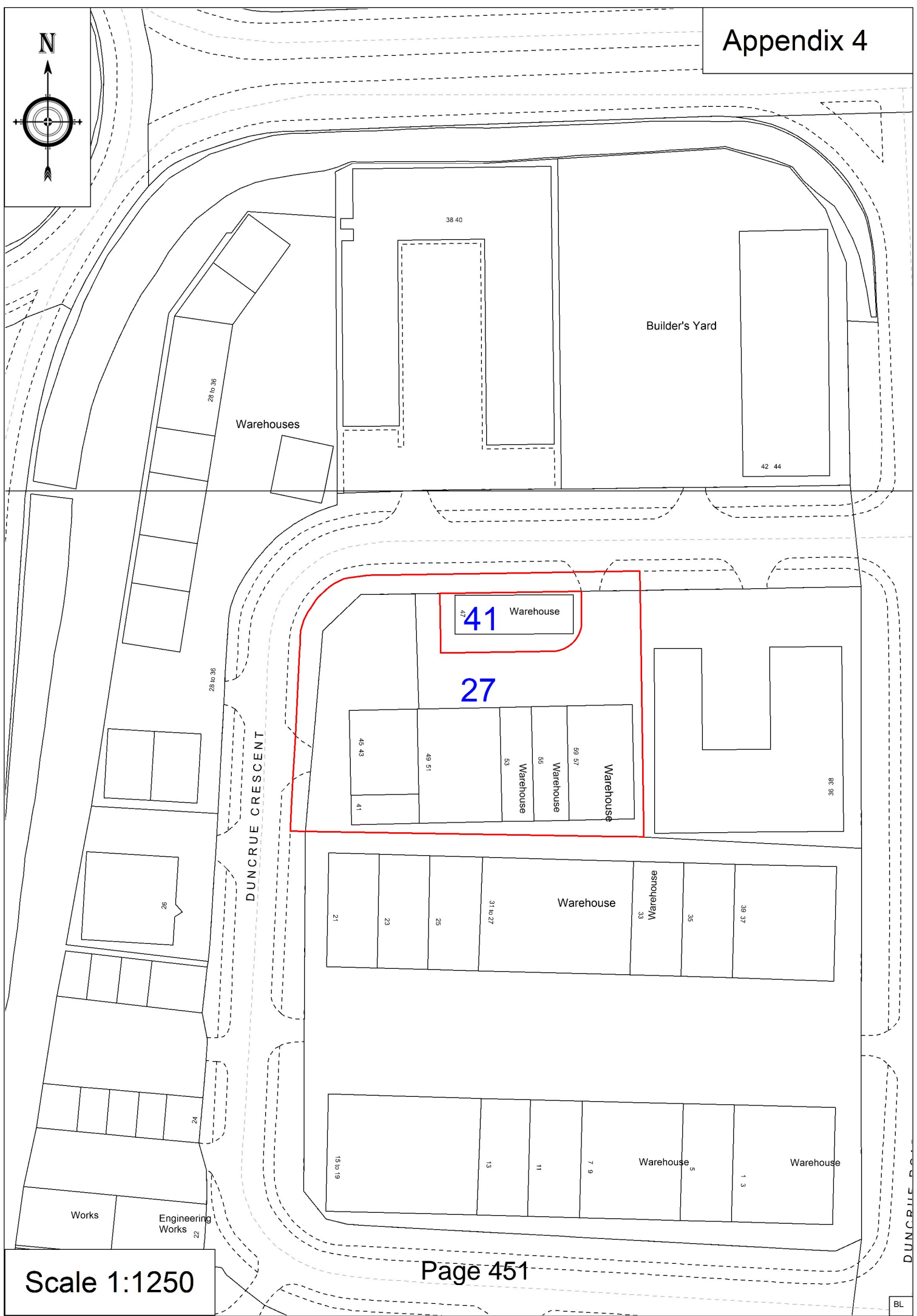
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Belfast
City Council

Subject:	Update on Contracts
Date:	18th November, 2022
Reporting Officer:	Noleen Bohill, Head of Commercial and Procurement Services
Contact Officer:	Noleen Bohill, Head of Commercial and Procurement Services

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	<p>The purpose of this report is to ask the Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to approve tenders and Single Tender Actions over £30,000; and to note contract modifications to contract term and retrospective Single Tender Actions
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> approve the public advertisement of tenders as per Standing Order 37a detailed in Appendix 1 (Table 1); approve the award of STAs in line with Standing Order 55 exceptions as detailed in Appendix 1 (Table 2); approve the modification of the contract as per Standing Order 37a detailed in Appendix 1 (Table 3); note the award of retrospective STAs in line with Standing Order 55 exceptions as detailed in Appendix 1 (Table 4); and note the award of contracts by Arc 21 on behalf the Council (Table 5)

3.0	Main Report
	<u>Competitive Tenders</u>
3.1	Section 2.5 of the Scheme of Delegation states that Chief Officers have delegated authority to authorise a contract for the procurement of goods, services or works over the statutory limit of £30,000, following a tender exercise where the Council has approved the invitation to tender.
3.2	Standing Order 60(a) states any contract that exceeds the statutory amount (currently £30,000) shall be made under the Corporate Seal. Under Standing Order 51(b) the Corporate Seal can only be affixed when there is a resolution of the Council.
3.3	Standing Order 54 states that every contract shall comply with the relevant requirements of national and European legislation.
	<u>Single Tender Actions (STAs)</u>
3.4	<p>The following STAs are being submitted for approval:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a contract for £35,000, for up to 1 year, awarded to SAP UK limited for SAP annual licence support. Licenses can only be obtained directly from SAP; and • contracts for £74,000, for up 1 year, awarded to HCL Technologies for maintenance and support for SAP, SRM & VIM. The financial system replacement project is currently at implementation stage with 'Go Live' envisaged for Q2/Q3 2023. Continued use of the incumbent SAP support service provider is critical during this period to ensure successful implementation of the new financial system.
3.5	<p>The following retrospective STAs were awarded:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a contract for £50,000, for up to 6 months, awarded to Digital Catapult NI for the appointment of company to support the delivery of a creative digital capacity building programme. Digital Catapult NI are the only organisation in NI with their own Immersive Lab, based in Belfast and have access to a wide range of specialist mentors and industry to address the specific nature of the project. Digital Catapult NI are also working with the innovation team in relation to larger City Deal and Challenge funding projects; • a contract for £40,000, for up to 9 months, awarded to Honeycomb Recruitment for the requirement of a PEACE IV Finance & Systems Officer. The existing contracted provider for T1792 Provision of Temporary Agency Resources: Matrix SCM have confirmed they are unable to fulfil the required role of PEACE IV Finance & Systems Officer within the contractually agreed time period to find a suitable candidate;

- a contract for £100,000, for up to 6 months, awarded to MCS Group for the requirement of 2 x Environmental Health Officers and 1 x Technical Support Officer required for 24hr shift rota cover for essential service delivery within the Port Health service (fully funded). The existing contracted provider for T1792 Provision of Temporary Agency Resources: Matrix SCM have confirmed they are unable to fulfil the required role of 2 x Environmental Health Officers and 1 x Technical Support Officer within the contractually agreed time period to find a suitable candidate; and
- a contract for £36,000, for up to 9 months, awarded to Hays Recruitment of a PEACE IV Project Support Officer. The existing contracted provider for T1792 Provision of Temporary Agency Resources: Matrix SCM have confirmed they are unable to fulfil the required role of PEACE IV Project Support Assistant within the contractually agreed time period to find a suitable candidate.

Modification to Contract Term

3.6

The following contract terms were modified:

- A 10-month extension for contract T2136 - Development of a Residential Strategy awarded to Savills. The value of the contract remains as per the original contract. This extension is required to complete the works to provide a city centre living vision which will include an analysis on city centre residential development that would provide analysis of the latent demand in terms of quantum and product requirement.
Please note this request is retrospective;
- A 4-month extension for T2056 - Peace IV - Delivery of TechConnects – a cross community peace building programme for children and young people using digital technology, Lot 3 - Young People (aged 17-24 years), awarded to Belfast Metropolitan College. An extension is required to allow the project to complete deliverables. The contract extension has been approved by Shared City Partnership and PEACE IV Programme Board in October 2022;
Please note this request is retrospective.
- A 4-month extension and an increase in contract value by £6,000 for contract T1948 – Hire of grounds maintenance machinery, complete with operator, for use at various Council properties and locations, awarded to Clive Richardson. A modification is required to extension whilst a re-tender is completed. The original contract was not required during winter months and could be re-tendered later ahead of the spring/summer but service continuity is now required over the winter months.
Please note this request is retrospective.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 3-month extension and an increase in contract value by £8,000 for contract - T2012 - West Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership Network Support Project, awarded to Falls Community Council. West Belfast DPCSP Members had agreed for this project to be retendered to ensure no gap in service, with the new contractor expected to be in place from 1 January 2023. It was included in the 2022/2023 Belfast PCSP Action Plan that was submitted to the Joint Committee (external funders). Funders decided that they were not content to approve that the Network Support Project be retendered without an evaluation which has delayed the project.
3.7	The Committee is also asked to note that a 3-month extension of contract has been agreed with our supplier for the contract for the interim treatment and disposal of residual waste until 31st March 2023. This is facilitate the latter stages of a procurement process for a replacement contract which is being managed by arc 21 on behalf of the council.
	Financial and Resource Implications
3.8	The financial resources for these contracts are within approved corporate or Departmental budgets.
	Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment
3.9	None
4.0	Documents Attached
	<u>Appendix 1</u> Table 1 - Competitive Tenders Table 2 - Single Tender Actions Table 3 - Modification to Contract Table 4 - Retrospective Single Tender Actions Table 5 - Contracts awarded by arc 21 on behalf of the Council

Table 1: Competitive Tenders

Title of Tender	Proposed Contract Duration	Estimated Total Contract Value	SRO	Short description of goods / services
Dynamic purchasing system 'DPS' framework to supply a range of food products for Belfast Zoo and other Council catering operations	Up to 5 years	£1,530,000	J Greer	The DPS will provide a flexible, compliant and quicker solution to source a wide range of food products to support Belfast Zoo and internal catering team(s).
The appointment of delivery agent for Gateway to Choices service as part of Belfast Labour Market partnership Previously approved Oct 21 for 4y&6m at £800k. Now reviewed due to £1.45m funding from DFC and DFE.	Up to 3 years and 3 months	£2,000,000	J Greer	The purpose of the partnership is to make employability and skills interventions more effective and support an inclusive approach to growth in the city.
Procurement of a Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) for Enterprise and Business Growth Framework	Up to 6 years	£6,000,000	J Greer	The DPS will be developed to complement and enhance the Enterprise and Business Growth 'EBG' Framework by providing additional, specialist support for businesses. The EBG framework has already been approved.
Supply, delivery and off-loading of rubber crumb for 3G and 4G pitches	Up to 3 years	£120,000	D Sales	To ensure 3G/4G pitches continue to meet all required H&S legislative requirements.
Consultancy for City Centre Residential Development	Up to 2 years	£160,000	C Reynolds	The continuation of consultancy services which was initially required to progress the Strategic Sites Assessment and Belfast Destination Hub work-streams and aligned with the Covid-19 Recovery Plan. The Strategic Sites Assessment has now progressed to real estate consultancy advice in relation to procuring an

				investment/development partner through a Competitive Dialogue Process.
West Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership Network Support Project	Up to 3 years and 6 months	£135,000	S Toland	West DPCSP has articulated that they want the contractor in place for 3 years, but the funding is in year so needs to be subject to annual approval.
To appoint an Integrated Design Team (IDT) to provide design development services to support The Business Cluster & Community Grant Programme	Up to 10 months	£60,000	C Reynolds	It is proposed to commission an IDT will work with grant recipients to develop concept designs, provide advice regarding statutory approvals (Pavement Café Licence, Planning, utility connections) procurement and pricing schedules
Insurance reinstatement valuations for council buildings	Up to 5 years	£150,000	T Wallace	Council buildings have not been revalued for insurance purposes for some time so current valuation are now out of date due to inflation, capital additions and other building alterations.

Table 2: Single Tender Actions

Title	Duration	Total Value	SRO	Description	Supplier
SAP annual licence support	Up to 1 year	£53,000	T Wallace	Licenses are obtained directly from SAP	SAP UK Limited
Maintenance and support for SAP, SRM & VIM	Up to 1 year	£74,000	T Wallace	Continued maintenance and support from the incumbent SAP service provider is critical for the successful implementation of the new financial system.	HCL Technologies

Table 3: Modification to Contract

Title of Contract	Duration	Modification	SRO	Description	Supplier
T2136 Development of a Residential Strategy *Please note this request is retrospective	Up to 8 months	Additional 10 months	J Greer	This extension is to complete the works to provide a city centre living vision which will include an analysis on city centre residential development that would provide analysis of the latent demand in terms of quantum and product requirement. The value of the contract remains as per the original contract.	Savills
T2056 - Peace IV - Delivery of TechConnects – a cross community peace building programme for children & young people using digital technology Not 3 - Young People (aged 17-24 years) *Please note this request is retrospective	Up to 2 years	Additional 4 months	S Toland	An extension is requested to 31 January 2023 to allow the project to complete deliverables. The contract extension has been approved by Shared City Partnership and PEACE IV Programme Board in October 2022	Belfast Metropolitan College
T1948 – Hire of grounds maintenance machinery, complete with operator, for use at various Council properties and locations *Please note this request is retrospective	Up to 3 years	Additional 4 months and £6,000	D Sales	An extension to allow for a new procurement exercise. An increase in value of £6K – 8% will be needed to allow work to continue. The original view was the contract would not be required during winter months and could be re-tendered later in the year ahead of the next spring/summer, but service continuity is now required over the winter months	Clive Richardson Ltd
T2012 - West Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership Network Support Project	Up to 3 years	Additional 3 months and £8,000	S Toland	West Belfast DPCSP Members had agreed for this project to be retendered to ensure no gap in service, with the new contractor expected to be in place from 1 January 2023. It was included in the 2022/2023 Belfast	Falls Community Council

				<p>PCSP Action Plan that was submitted to the Joint Committee (external funders).</p> <p>Funders decided that they were not content to approve that the Network Support Project be retendered without an evaluation which has delayed the project.</p>	
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Table 4: Retrospective Single Tender Actions

Title of Contract	Duration	Value	SRO	Description	Supplier
<p>Appointment of company to support the delivery of a creative digital capacity building programme</p> <p>Page 460</p>	Up to 6 months	£50,000	J Greer	Digital Catapult NI are the only organization in NI with their own Immersive Lab, based in Belfast and have access to a wide range of specialist mentors and industry to address the specific nature of the project. Digital Catapult NI are also working with the innovation team in relation to larger City Deal and Challenge funding projects	Digital Catapult NI
Requirement for a PEACE IV Finance & Systems Officer	Up to 9 months	£40,000	D Sales	<p>The existing contracted provider for T1792 Provision of Temporary Agency Resources: Matrix SCM have confirmed they are unable to fulfil the required role of PEACE IV Finance & Systems Officer within the contractually agreed time period to find a suitable candidate.</p>	Honeycomb Recruitment
<p>2x Environmental Health Officers and 1x Technical Support Officer required for 24hr shift rota cover for essential service delivery within the Port Health service</p> <p>(Fully funded)</p>	Up to 6 months	Up to £100,000	S Toland	<p>The existing contracted provider for T1792 Provision of Temporary Agency Resources: Matrix SCM have confirmed they are unable to fulfil the required role of 2x Environmental Health Officers and 1x Technical Support Officer within the contractually agreed time period to find a suitable candidate.</p>	MCS Group

Requirement for PEACE IV Project Support Officer	Up to 9 months	£36,000	D Sales	The existing contracted provider for T1792 Provision of Temporary Agency Resources: Matrix SCM have confirmed they are unable to fulfil the required role of PEACE IV Project Support Assistant within the contractually agreed time period to find a suitable candidate.	Hays Recruitment
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Table 5: Contracts awarded by arc 21 on behalf of the Council

Contract Title	Duration	SRO
Municipal Waste Disposal Contract – Lot 2	Extend until 31st March 2023	Cathy Matthews

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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 residential 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



Subject:	Seachtain na Gaeilge/Irish Language Week 2023
Date:	18th November, 2022
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Sarah Williams, Governance and Compliance Manager

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to present to the Committee the plans to mark Seachtain na Gaeilge in 2023.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to approve the planned events to mark Seachtain na Gaeilge/Irish Language Week in 2023.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p><u>Background</u></p> <p>Seachtain na Gaeilge/Irish Language Week is marked every year from 1st March until 17th March. Prior to COVID-19, the Council marked this by hosting events for schools in the City Hall. COVID-19 necessitated online events and content in 2021 and 2022. These events were always well attended and the feedback from participants was always excellent.</p>

3.2	It is proposed to host two events in the City Hall in March 2023. One aimed at secondary school pupils discussing career prospects for students of Irish and an event aimed at primary school children facilitated by an external performer. It is also proposed that attendees at the primary schools' event will be given a book based on the performance.
3.3	In line with commitments in the Language Strategy Action Plan, these events will be highlighted in the Irish language media and through local media outlets. This event was noted by the Language Strategy Working Group at its meeting on 11th November.
	Financial and Resource Implications
3.4	This will be covered by existing budgets.
	Equality, Good Relations or Rural Needs Implications
3.5	These events will support Council's compliance with equality, good relations and rural needs obligations.
4.0	Documents Attached
	None

Minutes of Party Group Leaders' Consultative Forum Thursday 10th November, 2022

Attendance

Members:

Councillor Ryan Murphy
Councillor Billy Hutchinson
Councillor Michael Long
Alderman George Dorrian
Councillor Mal O'Hara
Councillor Brian Heading
Alderman Sonia Copeland
Councillor Emmet McDonough-Brown.

Apologies: Councillor Fiona Ferguson

Officers:

John Walsh, Chief Executive
Trevor Wallace, Director of Finance (for Item 1)
John McConnell, City Services Manager (Resources & Fleet) (for Item 2)
Kevin Heaney, Head of Inclusive Growth and Anti-Poverty (for Item 3)
Nora Largey, Interim City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services (for Items 4 & 6)
Christine Sheridan, Director of Human Resources (for Item 5)

1. Finance Update

The Director of Finance provided an update on the work that has commenced on the estimates for 2023/24. He presented a summary of the current position for 2023/24 outlining the uncontrollable costs and the subsequent impact on the District Rate. He advised that Director challenge meetings had taken place and highlighted those growth proposals that were being recommended for removal. Members raised some concerns in relation to some of the proposals recommended for removal but were mindful of the challenges involved for the 2023/24 rate setting process. It was noted these concerns would be kept under review as this work progresses. It was also agreed that the Chief Executive would issue correspondence to the Department for Communities in relation to Belfast Citywide Tribunal Service funding for 2023/24. A detailed report on the current position and the proposals outlined would be presented to November SP&R Committee

The Director also outlined the 2022-23 Quarter 2 financial position which would also be presented to the November SP&R Committee.

2. Council Strategic Waste Management Arrangements

The City Services Manager provided an update on the progress being made on proposals for joint working between Councils in relation to waste management. He advised that SOLACE NI had previously approved a Strategic Investment Board review of the current arrangements. This review is now complete, and he outlined for Members the recommendations contained within the business case report and the proposed governance arrangements. A number of specific queries were raised by Members in relation to operations, potential savings and timelines to which the City Services manager provided clarity on. It was noted that the report presented to SP&R Committee in November would be an update to Members at this stage on the progress which has been made as further in depth work on this project is required. A report on the detail discussed will be presented to November SP&R Committee for consideration.

3. Fuel Poverty Hardship Fund

The Chief Executive updated the Forum on the recent motion raised by Councillor Flynn to to set up an Emergency Fuel Poverty Hardship Fund, to be used to administer one-off vouchers to households in most need in Belfast which was agreed at the November Council meeting. The Head of Inclusive Growth and Anti-Poverty presented for Members a draft discussion document in confidence for consideration and feedback. This included the draft proposals for the design principles, eligibility criteria, delivery model(s) and potential budget allocation model. There was detailed discussion and a number of queries raised by Members in relation to the proposed delivery models(s), support for in work poverty households and any potential administration costs for the fund and how these might be absorbed. The Head of Inclusive Growth and Anti-Poverty to consider in advance of a report going to SP&R Committee in November. It was also agreed that the draft discussion document would be circulated to Party Group Leaders for parties to further review in advance of November SP&R Committee.

Some Members also raised an issue in relation to advice services and capacity across the city and in particular in PUL communities. The Chief Executive noted the issues raised and to further consider those issues highlighted.

4. Planning Update

The City Solicitor updated the Forum on the live planning applications and informed the Forum of applications that were being presented to the Planning Committee in the coming months. There was detailed discussion on city centre living and how this is considered within a strategic context. There was also a query raised by a Member in relation to one of the updates provided, the City Solicitor to follow up.

Members also noted that the Replacement Planning Portal (new Planning IT system) would go live in early December and the City Solicitor outlined the risks involved as previously discussed at the last meeting of the Forum. She advised that Officers are continuing to address the risks outlined and that internal contingences will be put in place in order to mitigate these risks where possible.

5. Update on Response by other Councils Re: TU Demands

The Director of Human Resources updated the Forum on the local claim made by the Council's Trade Union Group in respect of the cost-of-living crisis and the collective list of demands for consideration by Council Management. She outlined for Members the detail of the proposals put forward and current position on each and advised that engagement with the Trade Union Group is ongoing. She also provided an update on the position for the other 10 Councils and the current proposals being considered in each respective Council. Members will be provided with regular updates as this progresses. The Chief Executive and the Head of Human Resources provided clarity on some queries raised in relation to proposals being put forward in other Councils.

6. AOB

arc 21

The Chief Executive advised that he had received correspondence from Noarc21 in relation to the arc 21 judicial review. Members noted the position outlined by the Chief Executive in relation to the correspondence received.

Knockagh Monument

Alderman Dorrian referred to a previous request from Mid and East Antrim Borough Council for Belfast City Council to reconsider its position and formally join the Knockagh Monument Joint Committee. It was agreed that a report would be brought to SP&R Committee for consideration.

Illumination Requests

The City Solicitor outlined a number of requests from Members to light up City Hall namely:

Councillor M Kelly - Children's Grief Awareness - 17 November 2022

Alderman Copeland - Pancreatic Cancer - 17 November 2022

Councillor McLaughlin Donor's Day - 27 January 2023

Given that two of the requests were for the same date, it was proposed that the illumination request for Pancreatic Cancer would be offered an alternative date, that is the 16 November 2022 in order to accommodate both requests. It was noted that both requests would be approved under the City Solicitors delegated authority.

In relation to the request from Councillor McLaughlin, it was noted that the date proposed is not available for illumination as City Hall is illuminated on that date for Holocaust Memorial Day. The City Solicitor to follow up with Councillor McLaughlin to determine an alternative date for illumination.



Subject:	Requests for Use of the City Hall and the Provision of Hospitality
Date:	18th November, 2022
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, Interim City Solicitor and Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Aisling Milliken, Functions and Exhibition Manager

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	This report, together with the attached appendix, contains the recommended approach in respect of each of the requests by external organisations for access to the City Hall function rooms received up to 4th November, 2022.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to approve the recommendations as set out in the attached appendix.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<u>Background Information</u> The current criteria for use of the function rooms used to review external applications is: <i>Functions permitted:</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • functions which support other events in the City and which are of demonstrable economic benefit to Belfast whether organised by the Council or not; • functions which demonstrably enhance the City's image nationally or internationally as a desirable commercial, business or tourist destination; • functions designed to celebrate or commemorate a notable achievement or significant anniversary (25, 50, 100 years) by an organisation or body with close links to the City or province; and • functions organised by recognised local community or voluntary sector groups for non-profit and non-political purposes.
3.2	<p><i>Functions not permitted:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conferences, meetings, seminars, performances, wedding receptions, private parties or receptions and similar booking requests in the prestige function rooms; • functions, which have as their principal purpose the generation of commercial gain for the organisers. Charity-fundraising functions are managed by the Lord Mayor's Office; • functions which have no compelling links to the council or the city specifically and which could instead use local private sector facilities; • functions which have as their primary purpose the advancement of any political or religious cause or campaign or are otherwise potentially contentious or involve significant reputation risks for the Council; and • functions which involve exceptionally large or disruptive set-ups or pose a real and tangible risk to the fabric of the building or grounds. <p><u>Key Issues</u></p>
3.3	<p>The existing revised criteria and scale of charges have been applied to the various requests received and the recommendations herein are offered to the Committee on this basis for approval.</p>
3.4	<p>The attached schedule covers 9 applications for functions, scheduled for 2023 and 2024.</p>
3.5	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None.</p>
3.6	<p>Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment</p> <p>None.</p>
4.0	<p>Document Attached</p>
	<p>Schedule of function requests received up to 4th November, 2022</p>

NOVEMBER 2022 CITY HALL FUNCTION APPLICATIONS

NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
2023 EVENTS						
City Site Seeing Tours & City Tours	11 February 2023	City Site Seeing Tours & City Tours Celebration – Reception and Dinner to thank and celebrate staff over recent years Numbers attending – 250 - 300	B and C	Charge £825	No hospitality	Approve Charge £825 No hospitality
Belfast Health and Social Care Trust	15 February 2023	Belfast Trust Chairman's Awards 2023 – Awards ceremony to recognise the contributions and achievements of the staff in the Belfast Trust. Numbers attending – 300	C	Charge £825	No hospitality	Approve Charge £825 No hospitality
Libra Events on behalf of Royal Television Society	1 June 2023	The Royal Television Society Northern Ireland Programme Awards 2022 Annual awards event to showcase the best programmes and the best people making a positive contribution to Northern Ireland's creative industries. Numbers attending – 300 - 350	B & C	No (charity)	No hospitality	Approve No Charge No hospitality
Institute of Irish Studies, Queen's University Belfast	24 August 2023	European Federation of Associations and Centres of Irish Studies (EFACIS) Conference Welcome Reception for guests attending their 3-day conference taking place in Queens.	A & B	No (waived as linked to Visit Belfast and Charity)	No hospitality	Approve No Charge No hospitality

NOVEMBER 2022 CITY HALL FUNCTION APPLICATIONS

		Numbers attending - 200				
Ulster Journals Ltd	14 September 2023	Ulster Tatler Awards 2023 Drinks Reception, Awards, Dinner and entertainment. Numbers attending - 350 - 400	B & C	Charge £825	No hospitality	Approve Charge £825 No hospitality
Political Studies Association of Ireland, QUB	21 October 2023	Political Studies Association of Ireland Annual Conference 2023 Dinner for guests attending their 3-day conference taking place in QUB. Numbers attending – 90	A & B	No (Waivered as linked to Visit Belfast)	No hospitality	Approve No Charge No hospitality
UK Space Agency	22 November 2023	UK Space Agency Conference Dinner for guests attending their 3-day conference taking place in ICC Numbers attending – 400	A & B	No (Waivered as linked to Visit Belfast)	No hospitality	Approve No Charge No hospitality
2024 EVENTS						
British Orthopaedic Foot & Ankle Society	7 March 2024	BOFAS Annual Scientific Meeting Conference Gala Dinner for guests attending their 3-day conference taking place in ICC Belfast. Numbers attending – 250	A & B	No (Waivered as linked to Visit Belfast and Charity)	No hospitality	Approve No Charge No hospitality
British Thoracic Oncology Group	18 April 2024	BTOG Conference Gala Dinner for guests attending their 4-day conference taking place in ICC Belfast. Numbers attending – 300	A & B	No (Waivered as linked to Visit Belfast and Charity)	No hospitality	Approve No Charge No hospitality

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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Subject:	Building Regulation Fees for Applications including Insulation
Date:	18th November, 2022
Reporting Officer:	Kate Bentley, Director of Planning and Building Control
Contact Officer:	Ian Harper, Building Control Manager

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	At the People and Communities Committee meeting on 22nd September, it was requested that a report be brought back regarding the potential to waive Building Regulation inspection fees for applications which included the provision of insulation. A report was taken to that Committee on 8th November and was deferred for consideration by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to consider the report and the potential to waive fees.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u> The installation of loft insulation under the Northern Ireland Building Regulations is considered a controlled element and, therefore, requires a Building Regulations application. As such, there is typically a £60 chargeable fee for each application.

3.2	Cavity wall insulation is also a controlled element and requires a Building Regulations application but is specifically exempt from fees under the Building Regulations fees legislation. These are statutory fees set by the Department of Finance and collected by local councils to cover the cost of administration and facilitating the enforcement of Building Regulations
3.3	The processes involved in the administration and enforcement of Building Regulations involves processing applications and also the carrying out of Inspections to ascertain compliance with regulations. In reality fees collected for these types of works do not currently cover the costs involved in these processes.
3.4	In relation to both loft and cavity wall insulation, inspections are carried out by the Building Control Service to ascertain compliance with the regulations. For example, to ensure that there is adequate ventilation to the roof void to prevent condensation issues.
3.5	The Service has carried out some general analysis of the applications received over a four-year period (01/04/2018 - 31/03/2022) to include those which are solely for or include loft insulation as part of a range of measures. Over this period, it is estimated that on average approximately 1350 applications have been received per year which have included works and fees for loft insulation. Based upon the £60 fee due for these applications, this would equate to an annual fee income of £81,000.
3.6	Much of the works being carried out to insulate properties is done as part of government funded schemes. For example, the Department for Communities (DfC) Affordable Warmth Scheme involves BCC working in partnership with the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) to provide efficiency measures based upon referral criteria. For this scheme, the Building Regulation fees are covered within the grant funding provided, so the homeowner or tenant is not out of pocket. The same would apply to other schemes and where maintenance contracts are in place.
3.7	Having analysed the applications received over the four-year period, it is estimated that over 90% of the applications relating to loft insulation are carried out within funded schemes or contracts.
3.8	As such, it is understood that in these circumstances the burden of paying the Building Regulations fees is not borne by the homeowner and they would not benefit from waiving the fee. Rather, they would be retained within the scheme or contract. Given that these operate across the 11 council areas, there would be no guarantee that fees that are waived would

	be ringfenced for additional applications and measures to be installed in properties within Belfast.
3.9	<p>The Service has discussed the waiving of Building Regulation fees with Legal Services who have advised that fees can be waived, but one of the conditions would be that any exemption from fees agreed should be time bound.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p>
3.10	Based upon the analysis carried out for the four-year period it is estimated that on average £81,000 of fees have been paid per year in relation to loft insulation. If fees were to be waived for a determined period, the loss in fee income could be assumed to be a pro rata value of this annual estimate.
3.11	Any reduction in income has not been factored into the current year-end projections or the 2023-2024 revenue estimates and rates setting process.
3.12	Administering applications and carrying out Inspections of the works will still be required to fulfil the statutory duties outlined. The Service are currently experiencing difficulty in recruitment and retention of Building Control Surveyors with competition from private and public sector and reducing income for areas of work not considered rate borne activity may impact on Service delivery.
3.13	<p>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</p> <p>There are no direct Equality, Good Relations or Rural Needs implications.</p>
4.0	Documents Attached
	None

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Belfast
City Council

Subject:	A Future Network For All - NIE Networks RP7 Price Control Consultation
Date:	18th November 2022
Reporting Officer:	John Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy
Contact Officers:	Richard McLernon, Climate Programme Manager - City

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To update the Committee on the NIE Networks RP7 Price Control consultation which will inform spending during the period 2025 to 2031. Council officers have prepared responses to a number of the questions posed, these will be submitted on Monday 21st November on the understanding that they will be subject to Council ratification.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is requested to review the following summary and attached officer response, which will be subject to Council ratification.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	NIE has stated that the RP7 period (2025-2031) will be critical in enabling the changes in the electricity network necessary to achieve the goals set out in the Department for Economy's

	(DfE) Energy Strategy and the recently enacted Climate Change Act and have set out a series of proposals for consultation, which will be submitted to the Utility Regulator in March 2023 to inform the budget setting process.
3.2	As an overarching principle we have welcomed the suggested additional investment by NIE into the network infrastructure with the aim of future proofing for the transition to net zero. We have caveated this by seeking to ensure there is no adverse impact on domestic and commercial customers through increased bills, given the current cost of living crisis and increased vulnerability for both business and domestic users. While cost increases to pay for specific actions may appear modest, cumulatively these may have a negative impact and should be examined through a cost-of-living lens before being implemented. NIE have acknowledged this within the consultation document, and we welcome the recognition of the cost-of-living crisis within the document and the references to protecting the most vulnerable in society. The NIE proposals are underpinned by stakeholder engagement which we have welcomed.
3.3	NIE proposes transforming their business model from Distribution Network Operator to Distribution System Operator which will involve a new focus on forecasting, flexibility and investing in infrastructure using the 'touch the network once principle' to avoid having to replace assets in an ad hoc manner.
3.4	The Council will produce a Belfast Local Area Energy Plan, with support from Energy Systems Catapult, which will be complete by the end of 2023. NIE has proposed that a resource be created within NIE to support local area energy planning and the Council has connected to NIE to ensure these workstreams are joined up. NIE have confirmed they will participate in and support the Belfast process. Accordingly, we have welcomed the creation of the local area energy planning team.
3.5	NIE proposes to add additional meters to the network to support increased monitoring of low voltage systems to ensure that issues can be addressed promptly and prior to outages developing. NIE also propose the distribution of meters to customers with smart meter functionality that can be activated at a later date in line with Department for the Economy Energy Strategy actions. We have welcomed these investments and proposed upgrades to infrastructure.
3.6	NIE has proposed the creation of an open data platform which we have welcomed. A resource such as this will be utilised through the Council's future planning and to complement data analysis across the city.

3.7	<p>In relation to planning for climate change NIE proposes further adaptation of their infrastructure to prepare for increased flooding and heat. It is reassuring that NIE has carried out a hazard assessment and we would encourage further development of these to understand vulnerability and exposure for its assets in order to fully assess climate risk if that has not already occurred. Belfast has completed an Infrastructure Risk Assessment and would be keen to share and integrate the findings from this with any future risk assessment undertaken by NIE. Belfast will be developing a climate action plan in 2023 and would encourage active engagement of NIE to develop an integrated plan for adapting to climate change. In terms of extreme heat we encourage the integration of city climate evidence such as the Belfast Heat Map that identifies adaptive capacity of different electoral wards in the city and can help inform a targeted approach to reducing climate risk of different neighbourhoods and communities in the city.</p>
3.8	<p>Regarding increased flooding, we would also encourage engagement with the Green and Blue Infrastructure Plan for Belfast in terms of sustainable urban drainage opportunities at key sites, as well as the Living with Water Programme. Also refer to Belfast's SUDs SPG and Tree Strategy in terms of development of its sites and infrastructure.</p>
3.9	<p>NIE is a partner on the One Million Trees Programme, and we would welcome opportunities to scope and identify sites in Belfast for increased tree cover in order to help mitigate flood risk, improve biodiversity, improve air quality and improve health and wellbeing. Strategic opportunities for increased tree cover in the city should be explored across NIE Estate.</p>
3.10	<p>NIE has proposed to seek allowances through the RP7 price control to spend on direct measures or initiatives to help those customers who are worst impacted by the energy Crisis. We have welcomed this measure and will work with NIE where appropriate to ensure that Belfast residents benefit from this approach.</p>
3.11	<p>NIE has requested that their proposed actions to improve environmental sustainability are ranked and accordingly we have suggested the following ranking:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Moving away from SF6 gas use. 2. Reducing our business carbon footprint. 3. Decarbonising our fleet. 4. Helping reduce the environmental impact of our supply chain. 5. Reducing network losses. 6. Quantifying and reducing embodied carbon footprint. 7. Quantifying and improving biodiversity / Natural Capital. 8. Minimising waste to landfill.

	<p>9. Replacing worst performing fluid filled cables.</p> <p>10. Reducing fluid leaked from fluid filled cables.</p>
	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u>
3.12	None.
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Implications</u>
3.13	None.
4.0	Documents Attached
	The NIE consultation report is available at RP7 Stakeholder Consultation WEB - Flipbook - Page 9 (paperturn-view.com)
	BCC Consultation Responses.

NIE Consultation RP7 - Summary of questions

<p>General question on approach and strategy</p>	
<p>Q1. Do you think we are taking the right approach to and have the right strategy for RP7. All thoughts and comments are welcome.</p>	<p>We note that the strategy is based on stakeholder engagement feedback and reflects regional strategies such as the Energy Strategy and Climate Bill. The emphasis on supporting the most vulnerable and seeking to maintain costs at existing levels while facilitating the transition to net zero is welcomed.</p>
<p>Facilitating net zero through a flexible and integrated energy system</p> <p>Q2. We are interested in your views on our scenarios of future customer behaviour. Do you think they are realistic? Do you think our 'best view' scenario reflects the likely changes in the RP7 period?</p>	<p>The best view scenario highlights 300,000 EVs by 2030 and 120,000 Heat Pumps by 2030. Do these figures dovetail with The Path to Net Zero Energy, NI Energy Strategy? It would be essential to ensure that the grid is able to match the ambitions of the NI Energy Strategy and the numbers in the Best Case Scenario are concluded scientifically to meet these ambitions. Both the Future Energy Scenarios of the NI Energy Strategy in 2050 of 'Power Play' and 'Flexible Fit' as per The Path to Net Zero Energy require significant electrification of heat through Heat Pumps. We also support the proposed connection of EV and HP to the NI grid with the option for these to be energy assets (i.e. selling electricity back to the grid)</p>
<p>Q3. Do you agree with the mobilisation of an NIE Networks Local Area Energy Planning team to support wider stakeholders including local authorities and councils in their journey to net zero? If so, what type of support should the team provide?</p>	<p>Yes, we agree with this suggestion. It should be noted that Belfast City Council plan to commission a Belfast Local Area Energy Plan. As part of this process, we will establish a regional energy consortium (comprising primary stakeholders - including network operators, local authorities, business and community energy groups) to shape a net zero vision for Belfast and guide the LAEP. Roger Henderson has indicated that Tim Cox will be the key NIE point of contact on this Consortium. For more information, please contact the Climate Unit within Belfast City Council.</p>
<p>Q4. Do you think we are being ambitious enough with our proposal to fit monitors on 50% of our LV network or should we aim for higher?</p>	<p>The additional costs for fitting monitors on the LV network is very modest. Data will become a more and more essential resource to decarbonising. As this rolls out, this data should help design the future network. A decarbonised system will be a 'prosumer' model in which data will be key. Due to the modest costs involved and the importance of data, a higher target may be justified.</p>
<p>Q5. What do you think of our "Open Data Portal"?</p>	<p>We welcome access to open data which may inform future planning by Belfast City Council.</p>
<p>Q6. Do you agree with our 'Flexibility First' approach?</p>	<p>Yes, this is an essential approach. This reduces the amount of capital investment and will encourage the Prosumer model on the demand side that will be a critical component in the path to decarbonisation.</p> <p>At a customer level, barriers to generating CO2e free electricity and exporting this to the grid must be removed. When these barriers are removed, this will assist in</p>

	customers maximising the opportunity to decarbonise their own sites from their on-site generation as well as export decarbonised electricity to the grid.
Q7. Do you agree with us including wider societal impacts in our decision making between FLEX and conventional reinforcement?	Yes
Q8. Do you agree with our approach of going further, faster, with FLEX markets?	Yes
Q9. Do you agree with our proposed RP7 innovation principles?	As a small advanced economy Northern Ireland has the ability to roll out innovative solutions more quickly than others and so should take advantage of this opportunity.
Q10. On top of your feedback on our approach to innovation in RP7 we want to understand what you feel is an appropriate scale of allowance. In RP6 our innovation allowance amounted to approximately 2% (approx. £6m) of our total Network Investment Plan. Do you feel that a similar percentage would be appropriate for RP7? This would represent an allowance of approximately £20m.	We support the funding of innovation however would suggest there should be no impact on commercial customers given the current cost of living crisis and economic difficulties many are currently experiencing.
Q11. In respect of assessing where to invest in the network, do you agree with our proposed approach of including only LI5 sites in our base line plan for RP7? Should we be going further?	If it is possible to go further without impacting on business customers, we would encourage that approach. Failing that, we support the proposed approach of including only LI5 sites. We welcome the recognition that investment in grid development needs to be affordable to drive decarbonisation, that NIE currently accounts for 3.7p of the 28p/kwh charged to customers and that this 3.7p is set by the Utility Regulator and is not expected to rise due to the anticipated increase in consumption.
Q12. Do you agree with our proposal to replace all 5kVa transformers as soon as possible during RP7?	Yes.
Q13. Regarding the building of new substations or upgrading existing substations, which can be a lengthy process and can in some cases take several years, we would welcome your	Option 3 is our recommended approach to ensure maximum future proofing of the network.

opinion on which option presented at the end of page 32 we should adopt in RP7.	
<p>Maintaining a safe, reliable and resilient network</p> <p>Q14. Do you agree with our position of maintaining the reliability of the network? Would you accept a reduction in network reliability to reduce your electricity bill in the short term?</p> <p>For context, a £50m reduction in capital spend would result in an approximate £1.90 saving on the average annual domestic electricity bill during RP7. For our commercial customers this represents an annual decrease between £7.50 for a small business and £118 for a medium business.</p>	Yes, we agree with maintaining the reliability of the network and would be averse to accepting a reduction in network reliability to reduce our electricity bill in the short term.
<p>Q15. Our plan is to further reduce CMLs associated with faults on our network in RP7 to help offset the increased average duration of outages due to planned work on the network. To do this we propose including allowances within our RP7 baseline costs to install automated devices on our overhead line network. Are you happy that we include allowances in our plan to help minimise the impact of planned outages?</p>	Yes.
<p>Q16. Do you agree with our approach of targeting the top 6 worst performing circuits only or should we aim to eradicate all existing worst served customers in RP6?</p>	Yes, however we feel NIE should retain the ambition to eradicate all existing worst served customers should this become possible without impacting adversely on domestic and commercial customers.
<p>Q17. Our current proposals for RP7 include investment to improve the number of customers that we can keep on supply following a HILP event and move closer to the</p>	Yes, we support this proposal in order to improve access to supply in the event of an HILP event.

<p>GB average. Do you agree that we should invest in this area?</p>	
<p>Q18. Do you think we are going far enough to adapt our network for climate change in RP7?</p>	<p>It is reassuring that NIE has carried out a hazard assessment and we would encourage further development of these to understand vulnerability and exposure for its assets in order to fully assess climate risk if that has not already occurred. Belfast has completed an Infrastructure Risk Assessment and would be keen to share and integrate the findings from this with any future risk assessment undertaken by NIE. Belfast will be developing a climate action plan in 2023 and would encourage active engagement of NIE to develop an integrated plan for adapting to climate change.</p> <p>In terms of extreme heat, we would encourage the integration of city climate evidence such as the Belfast Heat Map that identifies adaptive capacity of different electoral wards in the city and can help inform a targeted approach to reducing climate risk of different neighbourhoods and communities in the city.</p> <p>Regarding increased flooding, we would also encourage engagement with the Green and Blue Infrastructure Plan for Belfast in terms of sustainable urban drainage opportunities at key sites, as well as the Living with Water Programme. Also refer to Belfast's SUDs SPG and Tree Strategy in terms of development of its sites and infrastructure.</p> <p>NIE is a partner on the One Million Trees Programme and we would welcome opportunities to scope and identify sites in Belfast for increased tree cover in order to help mitigate flood risk, improve biodiversity, improve air quality and improve health and wellbeing. Strategic opportunities for increased tree cover in the city should be explored across NIE Estate.</p>
<p>Meeting the needs of our Customers</p> <p>Q19. Do you think we should seek allowances through the RP7 price control to spend on direct measures or initiatives to help those customers who are worst impacted by the energy crisis? For example, we could seek funding to provide solar panels for such customers. If you do think we should consider initiatives such as</p>	<p>Yes, given fuel poverty (proportion of households spending more than 10% of their income on fuel) is 80%, this should be a priority. NIE should be ambitious in helping those most vulnerable in society – understanding their needs, the resources required, and establishing a programme that addresses these or seeks resources to do this.</p>

this, how ambitious should we be?	
Q20. Do you think that we should be fitting a new innovative device aimed at deterring birds from roosting on overhead lines in areas known for bird fouling issues? As a customer, would you be happy that the costs to resolve bird fouling issues are spread across our customer base and ultimately reflected in your bill?	No strong view on this however welcome the effort to address the issue within RP7.
Q21. Do you think a 'low regrets' type of approach should be considered for metering in RP7?	Yes, this appears best placed to future proof for the introduction of smart metering.
Q22. With regards to meeting the needs of our customers – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are there any Customer Measures or Commitments that we might have missed, and if so, what else would you like us to consider and why? • Are there any specific customer metrics that NIE Networks should be measuring performance against on during RP7? • Do you consider that a Customer Satisfaction Incentive metric should be introduced to drive improvements in customer service in RP7? • Are there any gaps/areas that you feel are missing from the plan? 	
Preparing our business for a digital and environmentally sustainable future Q23. With regards to our environmental considerations – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please rank your priorities in each of our Environmental Action Plan commitments 1-10. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Moving away from SF6 gas use. (the ranking of this depends on the cost and amount of SF6 gas as this has an extremely high GWP). 2. Reducing our business carbon footprint. 3. Decarbonising our fleet. 4. Helping reduce the environmental impact of our supply chain. 5. Reducing network losses. 6. Quantifying and reducing embodied carbon footprint. 7. Quantifying and improving biodiversity / Natural Capital. 8. Minimising waste to landfill.

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reducing our business carbon footprint. 2. Decarbonising our fleet. 3. Moving away from SF6 gas use. 4. Reducing network losses. 5. Quantifying and reducing embodied carbon footprint. 6. Helping reduce the environmental impact of our supply chain. 7. Minimising waste to landfill. 8. Quantifying and improving biodiversity / Natural Capital. 9. Replacing worst performing fluid filled cables. 10. Reducing fluid leaked from fluid filled cables. <p>• What do you think of our Environmental strategy? Are there any areas missing?</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Replacing worst performing fluid filled cables. 10. Reducing fluid leaked from fluid filled cables. <p>The most effective environmental consideration is to facilitate the targets for renewable electricity and the use of EVs and Heat Pumps.</p>
<p>Q24. With regards to the enablers identified –</p> <p>• Do you agree that these commitments are necessary enablers of transformational change in the RP7 period? Do you support their inclusion in our RP7 business plan?</p> <p>• Are there any other necessary enablers that we might have missed, and if so, what else would you like us to consider and why?</p>	
<p>Cost of investment</p> <p>Q25. Our vision is to provide an electricity network that is capable of facilitating Northern Ireland's overall plan to address climate change, which aims to achieve net zero carbon and affordable energy by ending our society's reliance on fossil fuels and associated price volatility. In this context, we would welcome stakeholder feedback on our analysis of the monetary impact of our</p>	<p>The areas of investment identified throughout the report appear to be appropriate. We would encourage minimal impact economically on those most vulnerable in society and commercial and domestic customers given the cost-of-living crisis and ongoing economic uncertainty.</p>

proposals and the benefits it will bring to our customers and wider society.	
Managing uncertainty Q26. Do you agree with our principles for managing uncertainty in RP7?	Yes.

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All Party Working Group on the City Centre

Wednesday, 2nd November, 2022

ALL PARTY WORKING GROUP ON THE CITY CENTRE MINUTES HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Members present: Councillor O'Hara (Chairperson);
Alderman Copeland;
Councillors de Faoite, Hutchinson, Long,
McCann and McCullough.

In attendance: Mr. J. Walsh, Chief Executive;
Mrs. C. Reynolds, Director of City Regeneration;
Mr. J. Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy;
Ms. D. Kelly, Programme Manager;
Mr. D. Sales, Director of Neighbourhood Services ;
Mr. K. Heaney, Head of Inclusive Growth and Anti-Poverty;
Ms. N. Doak, Portfolio and Programme Co-ordinator;
Ms. K. Gilliland, Neighbourhood Services Manager;
Mr. S. Conlon, Area Manager, Open spaces and Street Scene;
Mr. P. Quinn, Operations Coordinator, Community
Street Scene;
Ms. F. Dennison, Safer City Coordinator;
Mr. G. Dunlop, OSS, Assistant Area Manager;
Mr. J. Girvan, Lead Officer, Community Provision;
Mr. J. Uprichard, Business and Research Development
Manager;
Mrs. D. Smith, Neighbourhood Service Integration
Manager; and
Mrs. G. Boyd, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

No apologies were received.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were recorded.

Updated Terms of Reference

Members of the Working Group agreed the updated Terms of Reference.

City Centre Vulnerability Update

The Chief Executive thanked Members for their attendance at the second meeting of All Party City Centre Working Group. He recapped on discussions from the first meeting

touching on the purpose of the group as set out in the Terms of Reference that had been updated and agreed accordingly. He advised Members that they would receive a presentation from a number of officers outlining the current work within the City Centre to deal with issues of vulnerability. The Chair thanked the Chief Executive and invited officers to give their presentations and asked Members to reserve questions and comments until after they had received all presentations.

Sean Conlon, the Area Manager, Open Spaces and Street Scene, outlined the purpose of the Open Spaces and Street Scene Team and outlined the challenges currently faced by staff, including the increased risks, frustrated and demotivated. He detailed the main vulnerability issues in terms of locations and classifications. The Area Manager added that there were increased cleansing requirements for staff in terms of sharps and drug paraphernalia, alcohol and food/packaging containers (including food waste), discarded cardboard, sleeping bags, tents, clothing – vomiting, defecation and on-street urination.

He went on to explain that variable circumstances could affect the volume of cleansing that would be required at a given time. For example, toilet closures would mean that there was an increase in on-street defecation, urination and discarded drug paraphernalia and weather would see an increase or decrease in on street drinking, drug use and the associated mess.

The Area Manager said officers were working in partnership with a number of agencies including PSNI, Extern, City Centre Management, BIDs and the Welcome Centre. He said that this partnership approach was crucial in addressing vulnerability in the city. He emphasised that the safety of staff members was a priority and outlined examples of partnership working in action to ensure staff safety whilst dealing with the vulnerable compassionately.

Paul Quinn, Operations Coordinator with the Community Safety Unit gave Members an overview of the Safer Neighbourhood Officers work within the City Centre. He said that the unit had been operational from April 2013 and originally the work had focused on neighbourhoods, parks and open spaces. In 2016, they saw the city centre demands increase in relation to drug use and several hot spots for anti-social behaviour. He went on to explain that the aftermath of the Primark fire and Covid had seen the service focus change dramatically in relation to vulnerability issues. The Safer Neighbourhood Officers are linked into Tasking and Complex lives and they work in partnership with a range of internal and external colleagues including PSNI, NIHE and Extern. There were three additional posts funded by Covid funding, however this funding is due to cease in December 2022 meaning they would be three staff members down. He said that the in-year and growth proposal 2023/24 bids they had applied for more resources. The current team (which included the three Covid posts) were aiming to provide seven day coverage across the city centre and the neighbourhoods and he emphasised that there was a heavy reliance on goodwill of officers and overtime to meet the demands across the city. He went on to outline the statistics in relation to the city centre between January 2021 and September 2022. 236 instances of drug/substance misuse, 214 instances relating to homelessness and/or begging, 42 instances of suspected drug overdose – since 2018 officers had administered Naloxene 12 times and 1868 individual instances of discarded needles equating to 10,023 discarded needles uplifted.

Kelly Gilliland, Neighbourhood Services Manager gave an update in relation to Refugee and Asylum seekers. She set out the points below for context:

- When Asylum Seekers arrived in Belfast they must make a claim for asylum with the Home Office. Until that claim is assessed they were not able to work or to claim mainstream benefits.
- Asylum Seekers get £40.85 per week if they are accommodated in self-catering accommodation, if accommodated in a hotel they get £8.24 per week.
- Prior to June 2021, asylum seekers in NI were primarily accommodated in 'Dispersal Accommodation' ie flats and houses throughout Belfast which meant that they were part of local communities and their children attended local schools.
- However, this approach has recently changed. In June 2021, given the increased numbers and shortage of housing solutions in Belfast, the Home Office introduced a model of 'contingency accommodation', whereby asylum seekers were accommodated in hotels or large B&Bs.
- The last figures obtained at the Migrant Forum indicated that 13 hotels in Belfast were being used to house asylum seekers.
- There were around 1200 asylum seekers living in hotel contingency accommodation in Belfast (2,700 overall). This included a substantial number of school-age children.
- The Home Office had also procured accommodation in three other council areas to alleviate the pressure in Belfast. Many children living in the hotels were not enrolled in schools.

She went on to highlight that through the Good Relations Unit, the Council had procured:

- The Red Cross to develop and deliver orientation programmes to asylum seekers, providing them with key information on services across the city as well as providing casework support. This service would be delivered bilingually.
- a programme that would provide opportunities to take asylum seekers out of the hotels and to link them with wider sporting and cultural programmes in the City.
- research looking at the lived experience of minority ethnic communities in the city, which had just been finalised and would be launched in December.

The Council had also provided asylum seekers with free access to Council owned leisure centres, to date over 600 asylum seekers had applied to the scheme. The Migrant Forum (12+ years) provided a regular consultative forum for debate and discussion on issues related to inclusion, access and service delivery for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Communities, there are over 40 members represented on this Forum. The Council would develop a Race Equality Action Plan that would look at three key areas; Workforce, Accessibility to services and Civic leadership. The Council had recently been asked by TEO to establish an Assistance Centre for Asylum Seekers and Refugees in Belfast. The Members noted the expectation of TEO in relation to the lead role that Councils had in integrating asylum seekers and refugees and that this would require additional resources - Council would need to engage directly with TEO and central government colleagues to explore how an appropriate

funding package would be secured to accompany the growing expectations around the council's role locally in supporting asylum seekers.

Denise Smith, Neighbourhood Integration Manager updated members of the Working Group on the work of 'Complex Lives' that aims to support vulnerable people in our community. She set out the Belfast context detailed below:

- High level of public, media and political concern and interest on the issues of drugs and alcohol, mental health and homelessness (evidenced by ongoing TV, press and social media coverage of the issues, repeated Notices of Motion and calls for action by elected members, MLAs, etc).
- A perception that little/not enough is being done, particularly at the political and organisational (in terms of resourcing and capacity) level.
- IDU Workshop/Report (April 2019)– called for a strategic body with the purpose of 'senior level decision making with authority that joins resources to deliver on an integrated plan for addressing injecting drug use in Belfast'
- Presentation to and discussion at BCPP Living Here Board (2019)
- Presentation to and discussion at BCC Party Group Leaders Forum (2019)
- Strategic Leadership (CEO level-Chaired by BCC) Group formed (January 2020)

The Neighbourhood Services Manager outlined the whole system approach to complex lives and detailed the partnership in action approach that had been undertaken, working with a number of organisations including health partners, PSNI, Extern, Probation board and the Welcome Centre. She described the multi-layer approach to the partnership working that included Strategic Leadership Group (CEO Level), Steering Group (Senior Management Level) Multi-Disciplinary Co-Located Team (Cross sectoral case management) and On-the-Ground Support (identified key workers).

She went on to give an example of the multi-disciplinary team approach to an complex lives issue. The example she used was chronic homelessness and outlined for Members the criteria as detailed below:

“Chronic Homelessness

Within the Homelessness Strategy, chronic homelessness is defined as “a group of individuals with very pronounced and complex support needs who find it difficult to exit from homelessness”.

Chronic homelessness can often manifest itself as rough sleeping or other street activity, and clients experiencing this type of homelessness can find it difficult to sustain a tenancy due to their often extreme vulnerability.”

She went on to detail the Membership:

BCC (facilitation), NIHE, PBNI, PSNI & BHSCT – (DOT & Inclusion Health), Extern – (MDHST-SISS-CJFS), Welcome Organisation, Simon Community and DePaul – those currently commissioned to provide outreach/intensive support to this cohort and advised that they meet weekly to discuss 20-25 of the most complex cases.

The Neighbourhood Services Manager gave two examples of complex lives clients and the complexities around health, rough sleeping by choice and difficulty staying in contact with the client to find a resolution that fits their need. She went on to outline the plan to progress the project in terms of funding and resources.

Frances Dennison, Community Safety Coordinator of the Community Safety Unit gave Members an update on the role of the PCSP (Policing and Community Safety Partnership) in addressing vulnerability. She outlined the operational work that they do in the City Centre as detailed below;

- “Community Safety Unit staff manage and support the City Centre Anti-Social Behaviour Officer.
- The ASB Officer takes daily action to address the impact of street ‘activity’ in the city centre by vulnerable/complex individuals (people focused)
- This role is vital to Council’s timely response to emerging issues/problems as they occur (service focused)
- Developing and maintaining stakeholder relationships key as well as having clear lines of communication around council services and their remit/ signposting to other relevant services as appropriate.”

She went on to outline the objectives of the City Centre Tasking Group (CCTG):

- “Secure a safer city for members of the public (people living and working in Belfast City Centre).
- Reduce anti-social behaviour in Belfast City Centre and its impact on businesses and members of the public.
- Monitor locations in the City Centre that require urgent responses, these are considered ‘hot spot’ areas and CCTG diverts and coordinates attention to these areas.
- Includes representation from: government departments; statutory agencies; charities – any agency whose work contributes to the daily operational issues that require both planned and reactive responses in Belfast City Centre.”

The Community Safety Coordinator concluded her presentation by outlining the PCSP Action Plan/ In-year 2022/23 Funded Initiatives.

She said that the Belfast PCSP was responsible for funding projects and initiatives on a Citywide and City Centre basis and detailed the initiatives below:

- Fund Extern to deliver a Street Injectors Support Service (£61,500)
- Support for Complex Lives (£35,000)
- Training for Night-Time Volunteer Group (£3,500)
- Fund Inspire to deliver an Alcohol and Drug Support Service to adults (£42,500 - but note delivery is City wide).

Kelly Gilliland, Neighbourhood Services Manager and Kevin Heaney, Head of Inclusive Growth and Anti-Poverty outlined for members the next steps and key considerations.

Details of these key considerations were detailed in their presentation:

- Research and Draft Action Plan produced in late 2021
- 19 short-term actions identified – 5 related to vulnerability/inclusivity
- Also included 70 longer term proposed actions/ menu of ideas – including for example safety of women
- Research PCSP & SCP funded – these partnerships to be updated on research findings and consulted on re next steps – particularly around relevant ‘inclusive and safe’ actions/ideas

They also highlighted the Lord Mayor’s meeting on vulnerability in June 2022, at which a range of ideas and suggested actions proposed.

They detailed the next steps as outlined in the points below:

1. Strategic Leadership Group (chaired by BCC CX) – provides strategic leadership, oversight and unlocks blockages in the system(s) re. addressing vulnerability
2. Established delivery mechanisms (PSCP and Shared City Partnership; Complex Lives Steering Group; Cleansing Taskforce; as well as Tasking (Community-Safety led) operationalise and drive forward implementation of key actions around our City being ‘clean, green, safe and inclusive’
3. Mechanisms in development to capture and share key information and data (both internal and external) to Members in an informed and timely way (e.g. dashboard)

The Neighbourhood Services Manager highlighted a number of considerations:

1. That Members of the City Centre Working Group would provide the platform to help shape the work going forward.
2. That Members recognised the scale and complexity of the challenges and the need for adequate lead in time to develop meaningful responses.
3. Frequency of meetings and how agenda/discussion is structured.
4. Interface with statutory partners and key delivery mechanisms (e.g. SLG/PSCP/ Shared City Partnership; partner agencies).
5. Need for shared approach to communications and messaging across partners and key stakeholders.

Feedback from Members on the City Centre Vulnerability Update

The Chair thanked Officers for the presentation and acknowledged the sobering content. Members thanked officers for the work that was being done behind the scenes to address the complex issues around the city centre. Members raised concerns for staff safety and asked for details of the protections that were in place for staff whilst on duty and also to

support them after traumatic incidents that might occur whilst they are on shift. Officers advised members of the range of support services that were provided for staff to support them physically, mentally and emotionally. Members reiterated the point that Officers safety was paramount and that should be recognised as priority. Members also raised concerns around resources in relation to police presence in the city centre, adequate housing options for asylum seekers and street cleansing to deal with the increasing matters associated with the city centre. Members highlighted the need for all partners within the cohort to share data freely to ensure a collaborative and up-to-date approach to dealing with vulnerability within the city centre and emphasised the need for some type of early warning system to escalate those most at risk. Members asked that an update on policing be brought to the next meeting of the Working Group and more details around communication and how information is filtered through various groups. Members acknowledged that sections within BCC were under resourced and said that Officers were to be commended for the exceptional work they were doing in incredibly difficult and complex circumstances.

Focus of the Next Meeting of the City Centre All Party Working Group

The Director of City Centre Regeneration presented the priorities for the City Centre working group as detailed in the table below:

Regeneration & Connectivity	Business & Investment	City Centre Vibrancy	Position the City to Compete	Digital Innovation	Clean, Green & Safe (Multi-Agency)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating the physical built environment to create vibrancy; sustain our economic recovery and support an inclusive, accessible and connected city centre. • Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BRCD Projects ie Belfast Stories • Major Regeneration Developments • City Centre Living • Lighting & Tactical Regeneration • A Bolder Vision: Connectivity & Active Travel • Strategic Acquisitions / Built Heritage ie 2RA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support and sustain existing and new businesses, and attract new businesses. • Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vacant to Vibrant Pilot Capital Grant Scheme • Business Support Programmes • City Investment Service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To encourage vitality, vibrancy and increased footfall; maximising our cultural and tourism offering, building on the ten year cultural strategy, A City Imagining • Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2023 Year of Culture projects • Animation & events, pop up activities. • Enhanced use of public realm & environmental improvements to encourage footfall and increased dwell time • Meanwhile use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To build on our reputation as a unique destination for investment, tourism and development. • Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renewed Ambition – public private partnership • Development of a city regeneration and development – investment narrative 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maximising and deploying digital technology and innovation solutions to position the city as a key location for innovation and support indigenous and new businesses to thrive and grow. • Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smart District • Innovation District • 5G and Wireless opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To enhance the city centre experience through a clean, accessible, safe and pleasant environment. • Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery and implementation of the CGIS Strategy and Action Plan • Providing enhanced city cleansing regimes • Addressing perceptions of safety in the city centre

Policy, Legislation & Market Intelligence: Reform of Licensing; Ensuring best practice through IPM; Footfall monitor; Research examples of best practice from other towns and cities; Market intelligence including housing, retail, development tracker etc

Members agreed that the action plan and associated priorities would bring focus to the Working Group and would ensure an interconnected coordinated approach to tackling the issues faced by all who lived, worked and visited the city centre.

Chairperson

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