

Public Document Pack

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



**Belfast
City Council**

HYBRID MEETING OF THE CITY GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE – COMBINED PACK

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet (both online and in-person) in the Lavery Room - City Hall on Wednesday, 5th April, 2023 at 5.15 pm, 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
- (d) Correspondence received from Department of Health - GP Indemnity (Pages 1 - 4)

2. Restricted Items

- (a) Future City Centre Programme - Vacant to Vibrant (Pages 5 - 10)
- (b) City Centre Public Realm Catalyst Projects (Pages 11 - 20)

3. **Matters referred back from Council**

- (a) Belfast Zoo - Fees and Charges (Restricted) (Pages 21 - 24)

To consider further the minute of the meeting of 8th March which was referred back to the Committee by the Council on 3rd April (minute and report attached).

4. **Positioning the City to Compete**

- (a) Tourism Work and Events Work plan 23-24 (Pages 25 - 44)
- (b) Update on Music Strategy (Pages 45 - 50)
- (c) Update on Dublin - Belfast Economic Corridor (Pages 51 - 54)
- (d) Cultural Work Programme 23-24 (Pages 55 - 68)

5. **Strategic and Operational Issues**

- (a) Committee Plan 2023-24 and End of Year Report 2022-23 (Pages 69 - 102)



Subject:	Correspondence received from the Department of Health
Date:	5th April, 2023
Reporting Officer:	Cathy Reynolds, Director of City Regeneration and Development
Contact Officer:	Eilish McGoldrick, 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
1.1	To note the correspondence received from the Department of Health in response to the queries raised by the Committee regarding GP indemnity in Northern Ireland.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> note the correspondence as set out in the report and to consider if any further action is necessary.

3.0	Main Report
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.2	<p>The Committee, at its Special meeting in February, received a presentation from the Strategic Planning and Performance Group of the Department of Health in relation to GP Services in Belfast. During discussion, concerns were raised regarding the disparity in Northern Ireland, where GPs were the only GPs in the UK who paid their own indemnity costs, which increased the more hours in which they worked. The Committee agreed that it would write to the Permanent Secretary to request an update on the work being undertaken to resolve GP indemnity in Northern Ireland, together with the following questions which had been added by the Council at its meeting on 1st March:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What mitigation measures were being taken to try and address the number of GPs leaving the Health Services?; and • What measures were being taken to try and increase the number of medical students year on year? <p>Accordingly, Democratic Services wrote to the Permanent Secretary to request an update on the matter and a response has been received at Appendix 1 for consideration.</p>
3.3	
3.4	<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	Appendices - Documents Attached
	Appendix 1- DoH GP Indemnity Response 290323

**From the Permanent Secretary
and HSC Chief Executive**



Eilish McGoldrick
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Email: peter.may@health-ni.gov.uk

Your Ref:

Our ref: SCORR-0373-2023

Date: 29 March 2023

Dear Eilish

Thank you for your letter, dated 22 March 2023, requesting an update in relation to a number of queries, including GP Indemnity.

In respect of GP Indemnity costs, the Department of Health (DoH) has been working to review the arrangements for clinical negligence indemnity cover for GPs in Northern Ireland (NI).

As part of this process a range of options, from the status quo to a state backed indemnity scheme such as that adopted in England and Wales, are currently being assessed via the business case process. This process is necessarily very detailed, given the potential costs and risks associated with the options for the GP indemnity model.

We will be continuing to work on this issue in the coming period, however, it is important to note that given the potential cost to the public purse of some of the options, it is likely that a final decision may require Ministerial agreement.

To try to address the issue of GPs leaving NI, the DoH has invested funding into implementation of a new scheme known as "Attract, Recruit Retain scheme". This scheme has been introduced by the Strategic Planning and Performance Group (SPPG in the Department) to assist in increasing the numbers of GP Partners and salaried GPs remaining in N Ireland and joining practices across the region.

The scheme will provide funding to assist with a number of costs and to provide a payment known as a Golden Hello payment for new GPs becoming partners or salaried GPs. GPs recruited under this scheme will be required to stay employed in the GP Practice for a minimum of 5 years.

As noted above, funding has also been provided to assist with some of the following costs:

- Relocation costs
- Recruitment costs
 - Additional management costs
 - Costs incurred for applying to NI GP Performers List
 - Costs towards recruitment of International GPs.

SPPG will consider funding Indemnity costs for GPs recruited via this scheme, should sufficient funding be available.

SPPG has amended the process for ROI GPs who wish to practice in NI. Applicants to the GP Induction Scheme who have completed training in the ROI will not be required to sit the knowledge test if they have successfully completed the Irish College of General Practitioners examination within the last 2 years from the date of their application to the Performers list.

In recognition of the increasing demand for Primary Care services, the DoH has continued to invest in our GP workforce and has increased the number of GP trainees by over 70% from 2015 levels. This includes increasing the number of GP training places in NI to an all-time high of 121.

It is important to note however that the increase in demand for Primary Care services cannot be met solely by increasing the number of GPs, rather this is part of a wider programme of work to help improve patient access to services in Primary Care. Other elements include the wider roll-out of Primary Care Multi- Disciplinary Teams (MDTs) as well as the introduction of Advanced Nurse Practitioners and additional General Practice Nurses, all of which are making a difference to how services are delivered in Primary Care and contributing to improved patient outcomes.

Yours sincerely



Peter May

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:	Make Yourself at Home - Tourism Plan - Priorities 2023 / 2024
Date:	5 th April 2023
Reporting Officer:	John Greer, Director of Economic Development
Contact Officer:	Kerry Mc Mullan, Tourism and Events Development Manager

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update for approval on the Year 2 Action Plan (2023 /2024) for Tourism Plan for Belfast - <i>Make Yourself at Home</i> and to provide an update on the Council annual events programme and bids for large-scale events.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	Members are asked to:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the contents of this report and provide approval for Officers to progress with the Year 2 Action Plan, as detailed including the priorities as set out at Appendix 1 including associated budgets. • Note the outline plan for Lord Mayors Days • Approve interim funding of £25,000 each to Fáilte Feirste Thiar and EastSide Tourism from existing organisational budgets. • Approve the hosting of a EUROVISION viewing event in 2RA to be funded from existing budgets
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p>The purpose of the <i>Make Yourself at Home</i> Tourism Plan is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver on the tourism priorities set out in the <i>Belfast Agenda</i> recognising the importance of tourism to <i>Growing the Economy</i> and <i>City Development</i>. • Align to the ten-year cultural strategy, <i>A City Imagining</i>, in order to ensure that tourism development supports cultural development and is based upon an authentic and sustainable Belfast offer. • Support economic and social recovery in the context of COVID-19 including stabilisation, recovery and growth with the opportunity to build back better. • Provide strategic context to the Belfast Region City Deal that sets out wider city priorities to ensure Belfast's appeal internationally and ability to attract out of state visitors.
3.2	<p>Tourism Growth</p> <p>Despite significant growth and the success of flagship projects such as Titanic Belfast there is still a gap in scale and maturity of the local industry when compared with other regions. Notably, Northern Ireland lags behind UK regions and Republic of Ireland with respect to tourism as a driver for job growth. However, the positive trajectory in place before Covid-19 had identified tourism growth as both a feasible and a necessary part of inclusive economic growth. The challenge for any tourism development plan is to create a sustainable model that continues to support the growth that is essential for city success and the creation of jobs.</p>
3.3	<p>Belfast's tourism and hospitality sectors directly support 19,300 jobs, one third of the sector in Northern Ireland. Key tourism sectors such as Accommodation and Food Services, Arts, Entertainment and Recreation and finally Transportation.</p>

3.4	The hospitality sector is an employment - intensive one, supporting a disproportionate number of jobs compared with the average sectoral GVA: jobs ratio. Between 2013 and 2019 employment in Accommodation and Food Services in Belfast increased by 18.2 percent, compared with 8.5 percent growth in the city's total employment.
3.5	It was in this context that Tourism NI set the ambitious target of doubling the value of the tourism industry to £2 billion by 2030. A key element of this opportunity further reinforced by ambitions of the Belfast Region City Deal was getting a bigger share of the international visitors coming to the island of Ireland to travel to Belfast and the Belfast region.
3.6	The emerging 'Belfast Agenda' refresh (new tourism targets tbc) notes the importance of Belfast being a 'culturally vibrant' city which the Tourism Plan is a significant contributor to with cross cutting priorities of <i>Inclusive Growth and Anti-Poverty</i> and <i>Sustainable and Economic Growth</i> .
3.7	The Draft Economic Strategy for Belfast identifies an increase the value of Tourism in Belfast from £417 million in 2019 to £800 million by 2030. Belfast is the gateway to tourism in Northern Ireland and generates 40% of the region's tourism spend. The current challenge is the need to develop a greater range of quality tourism products that will attract more visitors and encourage them to stay for longer.
3.8	<p>Tourism Recovery</p> <p>As NI recovers from impact of Covid-19 on tourism with the aim to build back to pre-pandemic levels by 2024, Belfast as the regional driver will be hugely significant to this growth ambition, both in terms of visitor spend and the creation of new jobs. It is therefore imperative that our city break destination is developed in a strategic way which maximises the economic benefits that can be derived from tourism for local businesses and communities, as well as increasing visitor numbers and spend and improving overall satisfaction levels. While full year statistics for 2022 - 23 are not yet confirmed, recovery has been stronger than expected including for example - 1.3m hotel rooms sold: 93% of 2019 levels and hotel revenue 19% above 2019 levels; 141 cruise ships welcoming 250,000 cruise visitors came to Belfast: 91% of 2019 levels; 95 conferences attracting 30,711 delegates generating over 103,000 bed nights.</p>

3.9	<p>10 - Year Plan</p> <p>The <i>Make Yourself at Home</i> Tourism Plan sets out a vision for the future of tourism in the city that is centred on a people-based and sustainable model of development with a focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing the coherency of the Belfast experience • Supporting quality authentic products • Developing skills • Strengthening the city's position through marketing and communications
3.10	<p>The approach</p> <p>The past two decades have given rise to a number of trends within tourism development. This has included the popularity of approaches such as cultural tourism, green tourism or local tourism. What each of these approaches and associated models have in common is an increasing awareness that sustainable forms of tourism must respect the local context and support the economic, social, environmental and cultural values of a place.</p>
3.11	<p>In the context of Belfast, even before COVID-19, this is a complex proposition. The city requires further growth with a clear international agenda and need to continue to attract and grow out of state visitors. The Tourism Plan seeks to set out how this growth can be achieved in a responsible and inclusive way recognising that the city's greatest asset is its people.</p>
3.12	<p>The plan sets out a shared vision for tourism in the city and is supported by 4 strategic themes and three of catalyst projects. The strategic themes are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grow Belfast • Experience Belfast • Position Belfast • Sustainable Belfast
3.13	<p>Strategic Themes</p> <p><i>Strategic theme 1: Grow Belfast</i></p> <p><i>Make Yourself at Home</i> identifies the role of tourism in city recovery including the need for stabilisation of the tourism sector and the requirement for further growth in Belfast. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic context and evidence-based proposition that Belfast acts as a catalyst for the region.

3.14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measurement of the attractiveness of the city as a destination and how this plays a key role in maximising the economic impact of each visitor by increasing average length of stay and daily spending levels. • Priority areas for investment e.g., catalyst projects. • Introducing social, cultural and environmental measures to better understand and advocate for the true value of responsible tourism growth. <p>As part of the Year 1 Action Plan for Make Yourself at Home, the following has been delivered against the theme of <i>Grow Belfast</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management of Visit Belfast contract in respect of marketing, destination management and visitor servicing - to deliver on increased visitor numbers staying longer and spending more, thereby supporting tourism jobs in Belfast. • Delivery of Conference Subvention Programme to assist in winning conferences and business events for Belfast. • Delivery of an Accessible Tourism Programme to improve the visitor experience and value of the 'purple pound'. This focused on a programme of education and training including an engagement session with 40 businesses (Visit Belfast) members, a 'Living Library' training session for businesses to learn from people with disabilities and a series of 'Be Communication Confident' training videos for tourism / events organisations to access at own pace and in own time. • Implementation of Food and Drink Tourism plan to increase associated spend and improve experience, while strengthening Belfast's position as a food and drink destination - therefore supporting the sector to be sustainable and economically viable. A Food and Drink Network Committee has been established including cross-sectoral representation within the city. The first year of the Action Plan has been delivered and has focused on 'Focus on Food' conference which attracted 260 delegates and included a producer zone, keynote speakers (including food columnist for The Guardian, Grace Dent), positioning exercise, audit of photography and finally an audit of Council assets with regard to public-facing Council-managed assets. Funding was also secured in-year from Tourism NI and DAERA to uplift Council budget and associated activity. • Global Destination Sustainability Index (GDSI) application resulting in elevation of Belfast as a business events destination to 8th position in the world - ensuring Belfast is globally competitive in securing conferences and business events for Belfast, resulting in associated economic benefit / sectoral support.
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<p>3.15</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing scoping of the Neighbourhood Tourism Investment Programme to support development of cultural tourism products, which promote enhanced visitor footfall, dwell time and spend across the city's neighbourhoods and extend tourism's economic benefits to communities throughout the city. <p>Strategic Theme 2: Position Belfast</p> <p><i>Make Yourself at Home</i> sets out a dynamic model for city positioning that strengthens Belfast's role as the gateway to the region in a way that responds to key markets including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business Tourism and sub-sectors within this group. • Leisure tourism target markets including - geographic considerations and the visitor journey. • This theme also takes forward a new approach that pushes beyond traditional marketing methods towards enabling the people creating the Belfast experience to tell their story. <p>3.16</p> <p>As part of the Year 1 Action Plan for Make Yourself at Home, the following has been delivered against the theme of <i>Position Belfast</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing work with Visit Belfast, Tourism NI and Tourism Ireland to ensure Belfast is positioned as a Gateway to Northern Ireland and a must-see urban destination on the island of Ireland by capturing GB and ROI city break market and attracting greater share of Out of State visitors to Ireland- primarily through contract management of Visit Belfast. • Through Neighbourhood Tourism Investment Programme scoping activity - supporting the work of Belfast Stories in supporting organisations to tell the key stories. <p>3.17</p> <p>Strategic theme 3: Experience</p> <p><i>Make Yourself at Home</i> identifies the importance of experiential priorities including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experiences that can be brought to life through the development of an optimal mix of 'anchor' and ancillary products that get people into an area and keep them there. • Encouraging international visitors to immerse themselves actively in the locale, interacting with people, engaging the senses and learning the history and stories of the places.
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3.18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prioritises delivering immersive moments that inspire tourists not only to share their experience with others but also make them want to return to the city. <p>As part of the Year 1 Action Plan for Make Yourself at Home, the following has been delivered against the theme of <i>Experience Belfast</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with the industry to encourage the development and delivery of quality visitor experiences including securing Tourism NI product development funding for new products such as Ceili at the Castle, Music Tours and music workshops. • Ongoing scoping of Neighbourhood Tourism Programme - working towards aim of increased footfall, dwell time and spend in neighbourhoods with associated economic and employability benefits. • Ongoing scoping of enhancement of the visitor experience at Council-owned assets including Belfast Zoo, Belfast Castle, Tropical Ravine, City Cemeteries, Malone House and City Hall to ensure an action plan is developed for future implementation which creates synergy with the city's 'Belfast brand' and Tourism NI 'Embrace A Giant Spirit' brand to deliver on experiential tourism.
3.19	<p>The Tourism Plan identified the need for improvements in connectivity and accessibility through signage, wayfinding and interpretation which requires a scoping exercise to be undertaken, subject to budget approval in Year 2.</p> <p>Strategic theme 4: Sustain Belfast</p> <p>Members will be aware that Belfast signed up to this benchmarking following Committee approval in August 2020. The Global Destination Sustainability Index is the world's leading benchmarking and performance Index for cities, their events and their visitor economy. Its purpose is to engage, enable and inspire cities to become more sustainable places to visit, meet and thrive in. In addition to benchmarking a city's environmental strategy and social sustainability performance, the GDS-Index assess criteria that are industry specific: industry supplier support (restaurants, hotels, conference centres) and convention bureau strategy and initiatives.</p>
3.20	<p>Since 2019, over 60 cities have started the process of benchmarking and assessment. The goal is to have 300 cities collaborating by 2023. The Index is based on 69 Indicators broken down into four categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Environmental Performance

3.21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Social Performance • Supplier Performance • Destination Management Performance
	<p>Belfast has now completed a third year of benchmarking resulting in significant improvement taking our place within top 20 cities. A series of related recommendations are included in <i>Make Yourself at Home</i>. A number of these relate to Visit Belfast's role as the Destination Management Organisation (DMO) and Visit Belfast have already made significant progress in implementing these as part of their current funding agreement with a commitment to build on this on a multi-annual basis.</p>
3.22	<p>As part of the Year 1 Action Plan for Make Yourself at Home, the following has been delivered against the theme of <i>Sustain Belfast</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing work with Visit Belfast on Global Sustainability Index and Tourism NI on regenerative tourism - improvement to 8th position in the world. • Green Tourism Certification - working with the industry to increase their sustainability credentials which has resulted in 80% of hotel rooms in Belfast being accredited, ongoing work with a range of tourism providers to gain bronze or move upwards to silver certification and working on a cruise sustainability plan for Belfast. • Working with key stakeholders such as Tourism NI and Visit Belfast to ensure that sustainability is embedded in tourism products and events across the city. • Sustainability fully integrated in all tourism / event planning.
3.23	<p>Catalyst Projects</p> <p>All four of these strategic themes are underpinned by the need to support inclusive economic growth and to differentiate the Belfast offer in an increasingly competitive global marketplace. A fifth strand to the plan considers key strategic opportunities that could bolster investment in the sector in order to support recovery and future growth. These are catalyst or accelerator projects and are outlined below.</p>
3.24	<p><u>Catalyst Project 1: Our Place – support for local tourism</u></p> <p>The Neighbourhood Tourism Framework is under-way and will be brought to Committee in June 2023 for approval. The Tourism Team also continue to work with colleagues across Council to ensure targeted investment in tourism through the Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund.</p>

3.25	<p><u>Catalyst 2: Make Yourself at Home</u></p> <p>Strategic and operational planning is ongoing for the delivery of the One Young World event in October 2023. Other major bid-for events have been progressed during the financial year 2022 / 2023 including the Fleadh Cheoil and the European Football Championships in 2028 with a decision due in September 2023). Work also continues across the tourism, culture and events team to prepare for Year of Culture in 2024. A detailed report will be brought to committee in June regarding 2024 and next steps and lessons learnt regarding our bid to host the Fleadh Cheoil.</p>
3.26	<p><u>Catalyst Project 3: Our Stories</u></p> <p>The Tourism and Events Teams continue to work with colleagues in Belfast Stories to connect to local tourism product development and infrastructure through a hub and spoke model. Importantly the Hub will be an exemplar for responsible and sustainable tourism demonstrating the principles set out in the ten-year plan. Through the focus on Belfast Stories, the project will also be transformative for the positioning of the city. The development programme for this project as part of BRCD is fully aligned to this tourism plan with cross-cutting priorities and synergies.</p>
3.27	<p>Implementation</p> <p>The ongoing success of the Tourism Plan requires ongoing review and delivery. To support this a number of key early actions have been identified for action in Year 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Setting up of proposed governance and partnership model to drive the implementation of <i>Make Yourself at Home</i>. • Scoping short and long-term investment priorities and financing strategy including tailored action plans to address areas of priority.
3.28	<p>Appendix 1 sets out priority actions for Year 2 of the <i>Make Yourself at Home</i> Tourism Plan.</p>
3.29	<p>City Connections</p> <p>In particular, Members will be aware that for the past number of years Council has supported two specific organisations (Fáilte Feirste Thiar in West Belfast and EastSide Tourism in East Belfast) to deliver a City Connections programme. It is proposed City Connections is replaced by the new Neighbourhood Tourism Investment Programme which will be open to organisations from across the city. In order to support transition and given that the new programme will not be operational until later in the year it is proposed that</p>

3.30	<p>£25,000 each (50% of previous annual investment) is allocated to these organisations. If approved this will be sourced from existing organisational budgets.</p>
	<p>City Events</p> <p>Members will be aware that significant work has taken place in recent years to realign City Events with Council's wider cultural and tourism ambitions. This has included a renewed focus on working in partnership and developing programmes that support the local cultural sector and represent an authentic Belfast Experience.</p>
3.31	<p>Included in Appendix 1 are the proposed events for 2023/24. Further detail on approach and programmes will be presented to Committee at relevant points throughout the year. Members will note that there are currently no plans to deliver Halloween in 2023. It is proposed that this event is reviewed in line with the development work that has taken place on other events. This should include options for city events to represent greater cultural diversity within the city and how a partnership model could be developed. An update will be presented in due course.</p>
3.32	<p>In approving the 2023-2024 programme, including ad hoc events, Committee is also asked to approve officers to enter into any license agreements or SLAs required for the successful delivery of these events.</p>
3.33	<p><u>Eurovision</u></p> <p>Members are asked to consider 2 Royal Avenue potentially hosting a ticketed live showing of the EUROVISION final. The event itself would feature compere / live performances, screens / PA, Stage and Lighting Contractor. The venue could have an approximate capacity of 250-300 depending on final layout. It is expected that organising and hosting the event would come at a cost of approximately £7,500 which would be found from existing departmental budgets.</p>
3.34	<p><u>Lord Mayor's Day</u></p> <p>Lord Mayor's Day will take place on Saturday 22 April 12-5pm in the grounds of Belfast City Hall, with satellite activity in 2 Royal Avenue. The free, all-ages event includes live music, dance, aerial circus and street theatre performances, have a go multi-sports activity, make your own multi-cultural arts and crafts, Carnival games stalls, drop-in circus workshops, creative writing activities, and Age Friendly Belfast activities. The theme for 2023 is 'Celebrating Belfast'. The event budget is £42k which is sourced from existing departmental budgets.</p>

3.35	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There are currently no immediate new financial implications to this report. Appendix 1 sets out a breakdown of budget against programmes of work to be allocated from existing departmental budgets. Further detail on proposals for investment in local tourism will be presented to Committee in due course.</p>
3.36	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>The cultural strategy, <i>A City Imagining</i> is subject to an Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) and a Rural Needs Assessment (RNA). A specific screening has been carried out on this associated tourism plan and was included as part of the consultation exercise. Mitigating actions have been considered as part of the implementation plans. Catalyst projects such as Belfast Stories will be subject to a separate Equality Impact Assessment. It is also anticipated that should any investment programmes emerge from this plan these will be subject to further equality screening.</p>
4.0	<p>Appendices: Documents attached</p> <p>Appendix 1 – Tourism and Event Priorities 2023 /2024</p>

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Make Yourself At Home Year 2 Action Plan 2023 – 2024 – Tourism and Events

Project Name	Project Description	Actions/ Targets	Timeline	Budget
Experience Belfast				
Developing Council's assets	<p><i>Make Yourself at Home</i> identifies the need for Council to utilise existing assets across the city to drive the visitor experience.</p> <p>In the past year ongoing scoping of potential for Council's own assets to contribute substantially to the visitor experience in Belfast has been undertaken and a Terms of Reference for expertise to undertake a detailed scoping study and to provide a prioritised action plan for implementation has been developed.</p> <p>In year 2 this will be undertaken and we will work in partnership with other Council stakeholders including Physical Programmes Department and City and Neighbourhood Services</p>	Secure expertise to commence development of a prioritised visitor experience action plan plans for Council owned assets including Belfast Zoo, Belfast Castle, Tropical Ravine, City Cemetery, Malone House and City Hall.	April 2023 - March 2024	£80,000
Accessible Tourism	Having identified gaps after delivering the accessible tourism programme 22/23, a year 2 23/24 programme will deliver further training, which will strengthen skills and capacity building within the tourism sector to improve the accessibility of Belfast's tourism offer and increase the spend of the 'purple pound'.	Implementation and completion of programme with a further 50 businesses/ organisations during year 2.	April 2023 - March 2024	£30,000

Project Name	Project Description	Actions/ Targets	Timeline	Budget
Food Tourism	<p>Food tourism is one of the city's unique selling points that includes the promotion of local/ regional produce.</p> <p>This sector has been impacted by the pandemic as well as the cost-of-living crisis. Council will implement year 2 of the food and drink tourism action plan, which positions food as part of destination promotion year-round as well as uplifting authentic food as part of the events and festivals offering.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitation of the Belfast Food and Drink Network and programme – including positioning of Belfast as a food destination • Exploring the development of a new food tourism event / festival as part of 2024 programme • Scoping the potential of an international accredited quality mark for food and drink for Belfast as a tourism destination • Support the food provision at events and festivals 	April 2023 - March 2024	£30,000
Visitor Pass	<p>'Terms of Reference' to be progressed with input from stakeholders such as Tourism NI and Visit Belfast to develop a feasibility study to benchmark against other cities and to scope the potential and options for a tourism visitor pass similar to what operates in other cities. The implementation of viable options will be undertaken.</p> <p>This will consolidate the significant research and benchmarking work which has been undertaken in 2022 /2023.</p>	Work with visitor attractions, Tourism NI and Visit Belfast on the scoping and delivery of a viable Visitor Pass for Belfast.	April 2023 - March 2024	£12,000

Project Name	Project Description	Actions/ Targets	Timeline	Budget
Research and Development				
Visitor Signage, Wayfinding, Street Dressing	To maximise market opportunities, there is a requirement to undertake an audit of visitor signage and city dressing. The audit will inform what investment is required to upgrade and update our visitor signage as well as investment into city dressing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake an audit with detailed investment recommendation and action plan. 	April 2023 - March 2024	£20,000
Enhancing the Visitor Experience	Visitor Experience Plan – develop out a prioritised plan for enhancing the visitor experience across the city for the next 4 years.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver a Prioritised Plan with associated budget requirements for implementation of Visitor Experience Plan for next 4 years. 	April 2023 - March 2024	£20,000
Positioning of Belfast				
Business Tourism – Conference Subvention	<p>Members will be aware that in January 2021 CGR agreed ongoing support for Conference Support in line with an updated criteria and support to ensure that Belfast can compete internationally to win conferences for Belfast in an everchanging marketplace.</p> <p>This fund is administered by Visit Belfast and match funded by our partner Tourism NI. The purpose of the fund is to ensure that Belfast, including ICC remains competitive as a business tourism destination.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the Conference Support Scheme in partnership with TNI and Visit Belfast to ensure that Belfast can compete in winning conferences for Belfast. • Continue to review the Scheme to ensure it is “fit for purpose’ in an everchanging market and competitive environment. 	April 2023 - March 2024	£200,000

Project Name	Project Description	Action/Targets	Timeline	Budget
Positioning of Belfast in national and international Markets and Gateway role of Belfast for Visitors	<p>Working with Visit Belfast, Tourism NI and Tourism Ireland to strengthen the position of Belfast in national and international markets through marketing campaigns and PR activity.</p> <p>Sharing of content with key partners to embed cultural vibrancy messaging into tourism, investment and education positioning; including the establishment of a Strategic Oversight Group as identified in the positioning of Belfast work.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of KPIs re marketing of Belfast as leisure & business tourism destination. • Media monitoring to measure impact of positioning, consumer sentiments and changing perceptions. • Establish Research baselines / dashboard & examine digital opportunities for data capture. 	April 2023 - March 2024	£20,000 Positioning & £15.8k Strategic Oversight
Sustainable Tourism				
Global Destination Sustainability Index & Actions for Sustainable Tourism work including certification	<p>Belfast completed its index benchmarking and application in 2022 and an application will be made for 2023.</p> <p>In 2023 the continued implementation of the Green Tourism Accreditation Programme which provides access to the GreenChecktool, enabling tourism businesses including accommodation, hospitality, events and attractions to complete assessments and take steps to achieve accreditation. Cultural organisations also have access to the programme.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forward Planning for Climate Change: Update to GDS Index and application for 2023 including Environmental Impact Audit and Action Plan with the aim to maintain at a minimum 8th place in the world as a business event destination. • Ongoing support to partners including Visit Belfast and ICC. • Further work with the industry to achieve accreditation and development of plan for green tourism certification and other 	April 2023 - March 2024	£40,000

	Working with the supply chain to incentivise change programmes, raise awareness and pilot projects that ensure Belfast is a sustainable tourism destination.	relevant initiatives to work towards a sustainable tourism destination		
Project Name	Project Description	Actions/ Targets	Timeline	Budget
City Events				
	<p>On an annual basis, the Council's City Events Unit delivers a series of large - scale public events, which are free to access by both citizens and visitors to the city, on behalf of Belfast City Council.</p> <p>The Tourism, Culture & Events also support a number of annual programmes and activities. Our cultural and tourism strategic priorities sets out long term recommendations for events in the city including better alignment across the Council in the design, delivery and funding of events.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 large - scale city events attracting local audiences and out – of - state visitors (for St. Patrick's Day and Maritime) measuring socio economic impact 	April 2023 - March 2024	As detailed below.
Maritime / Made in Belfast	<p>Following a strategic review in 2020, it has been agreed to deliver the full, potentially rebranded 'Maritime' Festival on a biennial basis in order to grow ambition, budget and impact of the Festival.</p> <p>In 2023, it is proposed that recommendations from this review will be implemented. There will be a new approach to governance. The festival will be delivered in partnership with Belfast Harbour Commissioners & Maritime Belfast Trust. The festival will be delivered with an additional creative piece.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commissioning a large - scale creative piece for the Festival Reaching 40,000 audience Securing TNI funding 	April 2023 - November 2023	£217,000

	Potential funding / SLA arrangement with MBT to direct deliver elements of the event.			
Christmas 2023	Christmas 2023 will build on 2021 and 2022 events, which focused activity on an opening weekend of family - friendly activity and where co-design was the cornerstone of the animation. This will be supplemented by further animation on subsequent weekends throughout November and December.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commission Research & Development initiatives with local creatives to enhance co-design of creative offering 	April 2023 - December 2023	£122,864
St Patricks Day	<p>The new model of commissioning the creative sector to deliver projects over this period continued in March 2023. Over the week of citywide celebrations, Belfast hosted a St Patrick's eve concert, a parade, traditional cross City music trail, music and traditional dance in St George's Market and 2 Royal Avenue; the latter also hosting a storytelling workshop.</p> <p>An evaluation of 2023 and the next steps detailing the proposed approach for 2024 and beyond will be presented at a future committee.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to build on the development of new model by commissioning the creative sector to deliver popular elements e.g. concert, parade, music Work with Good Relations to enhance budget 	May 2023 - March 2024	£300,000
Lord Mayor's Day	This event will celebrate Belfast, and the groups that the Lord Mayor was engaged with throughout her year in office. This event focuses on a day of family - friendly activity and animation around City Hall. This will involve live music, dance, circus, street theatre, arts and craft, sports.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to develop the offering by engaging the Lord Mayor's networks. 	April 2023 - June 2023	£42,000

	In 2023, satellite activity will also take place at 2 Royal Ave and the two sites will be linked by animation in Donegall Place.			
		•		
Events Development				
International Events	<p>Working with city partners to plan ahead for & developing/submitting bids for international events that best align to strategic priorities and maximise legacy.</p> <p>Ongoing review of Council delivered events and collaboration with extensive range of events and festival funded by Council across the city and across the year.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify the target international events for 2025-2028 Establish a city events calendar and collaborative programming approach 	April 2023 - March 2024	£40,000
Small Grants				
Project Funding	Support for Sport grants to ensure development and delivery of community-based sporting events.	Support for local organisations with up to 10 projects supported	April 2023 - March 2024	£70,000

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Subject:	Update on Music Strategy
Date:	5 th April 2023
Reporting Officer:	John Greer, Director of Economic Development
Contact Officer:	Chris McCreery, Culture Development Manager

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	At a meeting of City Growth and Regeneration Committee in December 2022, members agreed the music strategy, "Music Matters: A Roadmap for Belfast" including its corresponding priorities. The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on progress to date and seek approval to the allocation of funding to a number of important strands of the music strategy.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Note the contents of this report and the progress made against areas of the music strategy, "Music Matters: A Roadmap for Belfast" - Approve the allocation of £20,000 towards the Pipeline Investment Fund for music venues - Approve the allocation of £50,000 for the creation of a digital music support service and marketing channels

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Approve the allocation of £30,000 towards the development of the Music Industry Mentoring Programme for 2023/24.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p>Members will be aware that at a meeting of City Growth and Regeneration Committee in December 2022, members agreed the final “Music Matters: A Roadmap for Belfast”. These Mirroring the A City Imagining cultural strategy the music strategy has 4 strategic themes, each having 4 strategic priorities. There are a number of actions and recommendations given for each priority catering to many areas of need across the music sector.</p> <p>Theme 1: Place artists at the heart - Recognising the value of creators</p> <p>Theme 2: Nurture the sector - Strengthening the structures to support those who guide and invest in creators</p> <p>Theme 3: Ignite the live experience - Liberating the live music sector as a major catalyst for cultural and economic growth</p> <p>Theme 4: Unlock the unifying power of UNESCO - Sharing the gift of music with the people of Belfast</p>
3.2	<p>Update on Music Board</p> <p>The Music Strategy sets out governance recommendations for Belfast Music, including the formation of a Belfast Region Music Board, comprising between 15 and 20 members, to bring to life the UNESCO City of Music designation.</p> <p>The board will help to embed music in all communities across the city to make music a sustainable career option for creators and people who support them. Following agreement of the full Music Strategy in December 2022, an open call was launched for applications to join the Belfast Region Music Board with applications closing in February 2023.</p> <p>A total of 60 applications were received from across a range of disciplines. After an extensive shortlisting and scoring process, 18 board members have been selected to participate on the board. After preliminary shortlisting by the Culture Team, with final selection was decided on with a wider panel including external moderation from key partners in the Music Strategy, namely the British Council NI and Thrive NI.</p> <p>Following the appointment of a Chair and Vice Chair at the inaugural meeting in early April, the board will begin work to review and agree the remaining implementation plan for 23/24. This full implementation plan and corresponding budgets will be presented to members in June 2023.</p>
3.3	<p>Support for Venues</p> <p>Theme 3 of the Music Strategy has a focus on supporting venues, with priority 9.5 including a commitment to review current support for venues to upgrade the quality of their event</p>

	<p>spaces and equipment. As a key stakeholder in the strategy, officials from the Culture Team have been in discussions with the Music Venue Trust, a UK registered charity which acts to protect, secure and improve Grassroots Music Venues, to explore opportunities to enhance support for venues in Belfast.</p> <p>In 2022, the Music Venue Trust established the Pipeline Investment Fund (PIF), a new grant-giving fund to support venues. PIF is open for small-scale grant applications (up to £5,000) from UK-based grassroots music venues to support two areas of work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small-scale capital applications; including lights, sound, access, ventilation and minor building alterations • Staff & training; diversifying your workforce, succession planning, skills development, and strengthening local community ties <p>The fund will prioritise support for organisations who may be excluded from other available funding and PIF is open to all venue operators and organisations that meet any of the three definitions of a Grassroots Music Space, namely Grassroots Music Pub (GMP), Grassroots Music & Arts Space (GMAS) and Grassroots Music Venues (GMVs).</p>
3.4	<p>To expand upon the scheme's success in England, it is proposed to allocate £20,000 and work in conjunction with the Music Venue Trust to run a programme specifically targeted at venues in Belfast. This funding, which will support a minimum of four venues, will be administered through the Music Venue Trust PIF process with scoring and final decisions made via a panel consisting of MVT staff and Belfast City Council. This initial pilot programme will be reviewed in-year to assess the impact of this programme, with a view to potentially expanding this work to support more venues.</p>
3.5	<p>Communications and website</p> <p>The draft roadmap was published in the wake of Belfast being named a UNESCO City of Music, wherein six core commitments were set out for the City to deliver upon One of these – a local initiative – was the commitment to “launch a dedicated music support service providing professional development, networking and music entrepreneurship advice, reaching 1500+ musicians and music businesses annually</p>
3.6	<p>Theme one of the Music Strategy has a focus on exploring and developing professional development opportunities to educate and equip music creators with the critical knowledge, contacts, and tools for building a sustainable career within the sector. The Belfast music roadmap sets out a number of recommendations for action, several of which an online platform can help to deliver. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2.1: Develop a Music Support Service (initially a digital space/website) which will act as a point of contact for all questions arising from within the music community (new, emerging and tipping point artists), deliver and promote educational and development

	<p>opportunities, and facilitate connections amongst and beyond individuals and organisations working within the music sector.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7.2: Create a one-stop-shop online Music Directory to promote and connect all facets of the music business and those working in it. • 14.1: Create a one-stop listing service for venues, organisations and the hospitality sector to promote their music activity to the city's locals and visitors
3.7	<p>It is envisaged that an online presence will</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide a wealth of information for creators and professionals, from membership associations and charities offering health support to the latest news, views and events relating to the development of NI's music sector. • Hosts a Directory, allowing individuals and organisations to find each other for mutual support and engagement. • Provide a monthly newsletter • Become the go-to place for future consultations, charters, or Council resources, complementing and amplifying related information on the Council's website. • Be used to host the toolkits outlined in recommendations 7.4 (sponsorship toolkit) and 12.2 (green toolkit).
3.8	<p>To begin the development of this online platform, it is proposed to allocate £50,000 toward the creation of a digital space, website and the continuation of a dedicated Belfast Music social media channels.</p>
3.9	<p>Music Industry Mentoring Programme</p> <p>Point 6.1 within Theme One of the Music Matters strategy recommends investment in <i>“the delivery of a specially designed mentoring programme for individuals working in music, including continued professional development for senior or experienced individuals working in music”</i></p> <p>The public Consultation for the Music Matters roadmap stressed the importance of developing the infrastructure around the music creators of our city by addressing skill gaps and providing opportunities for knowledge and mentoring. It is proposed that a tender will be created to invite interested parties to design a short course of training and mentoring for individuals currently working or considering working in areas such as the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agents - Managers - Labels - Marketing & PR <p>The course must be able to upskill participants to be able to provide greater support to the wider music community in these currently under-developed areas of the sector. It is proposed to allocate £30,000 towards the development of the Music Industry Mentoring Programme for 2023/24.</p>

3.10	<p>Output Conference Update</p> <p>Established in 2016, Output Belfast has earned its reputation over the last 6 years as Ireland’s biggest one-day music conference and live music showcase. Delivered as a key event within the City of Music programme, the conference will take place on 1st June 2023 and feature a full programme of panels, workshops and conferences, followed by an evening showcase of live music for free to the public. Activity includes music and creative digital showcasing and networking events, business development panels and workshops and meetings and networking with key international creative digital companies,</p>
3.11	<p>As part of our commitment to priority 2.5 within the music strategy, which reads “Develop regular music business touchpoints throughout the year using existing conferences to offer more regular but bitesize opportunities for micro learning”, we have increased elements of the Output Conference activities for 2023 to ensure that there is a day taking place after the main conference that is focused on community engagement and networking. It will capture the incoming industry delegates the day following the conference for engagement in 1-1s / speed-networking while other activities will be planned throughout the day.</p>
3.12	<p>Update on City of Music Industry Sessions</p> <p>Theme one of the Music Strategy focuses on the development of musicians, including action point 2.4 which seeks to “provide opportunities via events and programmes to provide regular access to professional associations in music to deepen existing relationships and create new ones”.</p> <p>To build towards this wider goal of increasing networking and knowledge of the local sector, officials have developed the City of Music Industry Sessions, a series of free monthly information sessions for the local music community. Hosted in 2 Royal Avenue, this series features panel discussions and advice from experts across a range of disciplines, preceded by networking opportunities and advice clinics hosted by the Culture Team. Each event will offer learning opportunities for both the music creators and music industry personnel to ensure development of both in tandem. The first event, which focused on how to get tracks played on radio as well as how to access careers in this field, took place on 21st March with 35 industry professionals in attendance to receive advice from featured experts from BBC Radio 1 and BBC Radio Ulster.</p>
3.13	<p>Six more sessions are planned for the coming months, including more informal networking sessions prior to the panel discussions. Officials are engaging with colleagues in Enterprise and Business Growth and other teams across Council to ensure alignment with other support packages provided across Council and explore opportunities to add further value to the industry sessions through advice clinics in relevant industry areas.</p>

3.14	UNESCO City of Music Opportunities
	<p>Relationships with other cities within the UNESCO City of Music network continue to be developed through attendance at UCoM cluster meetings. Learning from strategies employed by these cities has allowed the Culture Team fresh insights into best use of the Music Matters roadmap as well as support on achieving UNESCO aims.</p> <p>Opportunities for the Belfast music community continue to be developed through the network. An agreement with the city of Hannover, Germany, will see an exchange of music industry personnel between the cities to provide skill and network development for those involved. This exchange will begin in early June as representatives from Hannover come to Belfast to engage with the Belfast music community during the Output Conference, in which they will actively participate.</p> <p>An exchange is being arranged with UCoM City London, Canada, that will begin in July 2023. This opportunity will allow for two folk-music artists to be provided with attendance at a song-writing camp, two pre-festival performances, one main-stage performance at Home County Music and Art Festival, as well as music industry 1-1 meetings across Ontario with agents, bookers and other personnel that will benefit the Belfast artists. Priority 2.2 within Theme 1 of the Music Matters strategy relates to sourcing performance opportunities for Belfast music creators to perform internationally and the UCoM Network will benefit the fulfilment of this goal.</p>
3.15	Financial and Resource Implications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve the allocation of £20,000 towards the Pipeline Investment Fund for music venues • Approve the allocation of £50,000 for the creation of a digital music support service and marketing channels • Approve the allocation of £30,000 towards the development of the Music Industry Mentoring Programme for 2023/24. <p>These costs are to be met from existing departmental budgets allocated to music development.</p>
3.16	Equality & Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment <p>This music strategy is part of the overarching cultural strategy for Belfast that has been subject to EQIA. An equality screening has been completed and mitigating actions will be considered as part of any initiatives.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None



Subject:	Update on work of Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor
Date:	5 April 2023
Reporting Officer:	John Greer, Director Economic Development
Contact Officer:	Cathy Keenan, Enterprise and Business Growth Manager

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with a progress update on the Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor (DBEC) and the draft action plan for the partnership.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note the contents of this report and progress to date to develop the Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor partnership.

3.0	Main report
3.1	At its meeting on 11 August 2022, members received an update on progress to support the development of the Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor including work on the strategy and action plan. Since that meeting, the strategy has now been completed and agreed by all DBEC partners. It articulates a vision to sustainable economic growth across the region, identifying areas of focus for the partnership to address future opportunities and seeking to address any gaps in existing provision.
3.2	The vision of the strategy is to become a leading economic corridor in Europe, achieving sustainable growth through collaborative R&D, a highly skilled workforce and enabling infrastructure. This includes an ambition to be world renowned as a major international centre in growth sectors such as Professional Services, Advanced Manufacturing, ICT and Life and Health Sciences.
3.3	<p>The strategy articulates a number of strategic objectives for the partnership, including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase skills and training to meet the labour requirements of the region, building on and expanding the existing workforce • Advocate for cross-border infrastructure to strengthen connectivity and access to markets and labour • Enhance cross-border collaboration in R&D and Innovation, targeting investment in high growth sectors and the green economy • Promote sustainable and climate-conscious growth along the corridor, aligned with councils' development plans and wider policy objectives • Align with and support economic development partners to increase trade and investment along corridor • Market the region and elevate the DBEC brand so that the region becomes globally renowned as an attractive place to live and do business.
3.4	The strategy identified the need for dedicated resources to bring forward the key actions. As a result, recruitment is under way for two staff members. These positions were advertised internally across all partner councils for a period of two years. The recruitment process is led by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council who currently act as secretariat.
3.5	The action plan outlined key pillars to support effective delivery, including ways of working, governance and resourcing, and communication and marketing. Priority actions identified across the short and medium term include:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertaking further stakeholder engagement and developing a coherent marketing and communications strategy in line with the strategic objectives • Progressing the Shared Island feasibility study (see below) around sectoral Innovation Hubs along the corridor, with the aim of preparing an application for external funding by Q4 2023. In parallel with circular economy activities at Belfast City Council and Dublin City Council, gathering insights on circular economy initiatives along the corridor • Identification and preparatory scoping for relevant external funding opportunities, including Peace Plus and Shared Island • Undertaking research on existing skills strategies and enterprise plans and identifying key barriers to skills development with the aim of developing a clear skills policy and strategy • Mapping of key assets along the corridor with development potential and highlighting infrastructure gaps.
3.6	<p>As part of the governance structure for the partnership, the DBEC political advisory group continues to meet. There are 24 councillors who make up a Political Advisory Group (3 nominees from each council area). The Belfast City Council nominees are Cllr Ciaran Beattie Alderman George Dorrian and Cllr Eric Hanvey. The last meeting of the group took place in January 2023. Members were presented with a summary of the action plan and briefings from other cross border initiatives. The next meeting of the group is expected to take place in June/July 2023.</p>
3.7	<p><u>Shared Island Fund</u></p> <p>In order to bring forward collaborative activities aligned with the strategic priorities set out in the plan, a number of applications for funding were submitted to the Irish Government's Shared Island Initiative in late 2022.</p>
3.8	<p>The DBEC partners were successful in attracting financial support of €150,000 to carry out a feasibility assessment on the development of a network of regional innovation hubs across the corridor region. These locations would support current or emerging business clusters in particular locations, to the benefit of the entire region. The project will look at pairing up locations based on sectoral strengths and clusters, such as Fintech in Dublin and Belfast. The proposal also incorporates an ambition identified by the Innovation and Inclusive Growth Commission to support growth sectors such as Fintech and capitalise on linkages with cities such as Dublin.</p>

3.9	A procurement exercise is underway to secure external advisory support for this work. It is being led by Fingal County Council and Belfast City Council officers will participate in a project steering group. A preferred bidder has been selected and it is expected that this project will commence first week of March 2023.
3.10	In addition, Dublin and Belfast City Council were awarded €250,000 to carry out major feasibility research on capital projects to support the circular economy. Opportunities to develop the sector within the context of the Dublin Belfast Corridor will be considered as part of this work, although the primary focus is on the cities of Dublin and Belfast. There has been extensive work with colleagues from both councils preparing the terms of reference for technical support, with Dublin City Council as lead partner. This tender was issued through a procurement framework following guidance from the Office of Government Procurement in Dublin. The Tender is currently open and will close on 20 March 2023. The partners continue to monitor and review opportunities for further funding from the Shared Island Unit. Officials from the Unit made a presentation on live and pending opportunities to the Political Advisory Group meeting in January. The partnership is also monitoring relevant opportunities for funding under Peace Plus.
3.11	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>The activities outlined within this report are being resourced from the 2022/23 Enterprise and Business Growth budget.</p>
3.12	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>Given the nature of this initiative as a multiparty, cross border partnership equality and good relations impacts will be assessed throughout delivery within the overall governance framework.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents attached
	N/A



Subject:	Culture Update – 2023/24 Work Programme
Date:	5 April 2023
Reporting Officer:	John Greer, Director of Economic Development
Contact Officer:	Chris McCreery, Culture Development Manager

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update Members on the current status of the ten-year cultural strategy, <i>A City Imagining</i> and seek approval for key actions in 2023/24 aligned to the implementation of year 4 of the strategy.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Note the contents of this report and progress against the delivery of the cultural strategy priorities.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Agree the actions for 2023/24 as set out in the report and in appendix 1 including the budget implications at 3.19 to be met from existing departmental budgets.
3.0	Main report
3.1	Members will be aware that at a meeting of City Growth and Regeneration Committee in August 2019 the final ten-year cultural strategy for Belfast <i>A City Imagining</i> was agreed. This included draft implementation plans for a three-year period to be reviewed and finalised on an annual basis.
3.2	<p>Despite the challenges of Covid-19, significant progress has been made in delivery against strategic targets in the first three years of the strategy. In 2022/23 this work included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - £3.08m funding through 117 awards via the following schemes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Cultural multi-annual funding including support for Arts/ Heritage organisations and Festivals/Events – 51 organisations supported o Four Pathfinder awards for organisations not in receipt of core public sector support o 21 Community Festivals Fund in partnership with DfC o 22 organisations supported through Arts and Heritage small grants o Five Access and Inclusion grants in partnership with DfC o 8 organisations supported through Artist Studios and Maker Spaces Organisational Grants o 19 individual artists supported through the Micro-Grant Programme for Creative Practitioners o Creative Bursaries for 10 individuals o 6 partnerships with key sectoral organisations o A partnership with Theatre and Dance NI, including funding for 7 recipients, across various disciplines of the theatre and dance sector, as part of the first ever INVEST programme o Partnership with Craft NI to develop Craft NI Gallery including a programme of 8 craft exhibitions and 19 Belfast events for Craft Month o A partnership with Thrive NI to continue the Audience Panel, representing 200 members, and provide tailored advice to embedding people-led approaches within cultural organisations o A partnership with Ulster Architectural Heritage Society to deliver Open Heritage Belfast and other events, advocacy, advice & support. o Investment and delivery against the Creative Communities programme as part of Peace IV.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Delivery against the Extended Cultural Programme including creative commissions to four organisations ○ Strategic Delivery Body for Festival 2022 including delivery of Our Place in Space and support for four additional projects ○ Development, consultation and publication of the music strategy ○ Delivery of the Belfast Canvass Project and city animation projects across 30 sites across the city ○ Continue with support to increase participation and representation at cultural events by disabled people through initiatives such as the Gig Buddies programme and a new partnership with the University of Atypical <p>Year 4 of the strategy will seek to combine cultural recovery with renewal in line with the commitments and priorities set out in <i>A City Imagining</i>.</p>
3.3	<p>Investing in the cultural sector</p> <p>At a meeting of City Growth and Regeneration in February 2022 recommendations for core-multi annual funding were agreed providing support to 42 organisations for two years as well as continuation of four-year scheme that supports a further 13 organisations. This funding amounts to £2,430,010. A further £79,768 was agreed in relation to <i>Pathfinder</i> development funding for four organisations.</p> <p>The Culture Team also runs a series of small grants (project funding) including the community festivals fund, including £133,244 for Arts and Heritage Projects and £69,000 (plus, DfC match funding) for Community Festivals.</p>
3.4	<p><u>Review of CMAG</u></p> <p>Cultural multi-annual grants (CMAG) are now in the fourth and final year of its first cycle. During this time, the council administered two rounds of two-year funding (2019/20–20/21 and 2021/22–22/23) and one round of four-year funding (2019/20–22/23). As part of the evaluation framework for CMAG, it was agreed there should be a summative evaluation of both the monitoring and evaluation process and programme impact carried out by an independent evaluator. The first cycle of CMAG coincided with a period of unprecedented change in the operating environment, including the Covid-19 pandemic, which seriously limited the ability of festivals, events and cultural sectors to deliver activities and outcomes that would contribute to the overall impact of CMAG and the Investment Programme.</p>

3.5	<p>Due to the challenges of the past four years, it is recommended that the evaluation focuses primarily on a process review, exploring what worked well and what could be improved. This review will be completed by May 2023, with a report and recommendations on the future of CMAG presented to Committee in June 2023.</p>
3.6	<p><u>Artist Studio and Creative Workspaces</u></p> <p>In addition to these established funding schemes, the cultural strategy committed to a broader investment model that considered the diversity of the city's cultural landscape. In response to detailed consultation with the sector, Committee agreed in February 2022 to bring forward a specific funding programme for studios and artist-led organisations. Following an extensive grants process, 8 organisations received combined support of £100,000 through the Artist Studios and Maker Spaces Organisational Grants 2022/23. This support contributed to a range of organisational needs, including research work to locate/secure long-term accessible accommodation, infrastructural improvements, the development of new organisational strategies, development training and audience development. To respond to the continued need within the sector, it is proposed to continue this funding in 23/24 through a similar grant process starting in April, with final allocations presented to members in June 2023.</p>
3.7	<p>In addition to the funding for artist studios, members agreed a strategic review of artist studios and maker-spaces in Belfast. This research study, which will explore the current and future requirements of artist workspaces in Belfast, is led by Turley Communications and will involve extensive consultation with the sector, benchmarking and policy recommendations. To ensure alignment with other statutory partners, council officials have been working closely with the Arts Council NI in the development of this review. It is envisaged that the scope of this work will inform a set of robust action focused recommendations that could be implemented on a phased basis. The final report and recommendations will be brought to Committee in June 2023.</p>
3.8	<p>Sectoral Development and Partnerships</p> <p>In addition to funding, Belfast City Council fulfils an important role in leading and supporting sectoral development initiatives. In 2022/23, this included a range of strategic partnerships with Arts and Business, Craft NI, Theatre and Dance NI, Thrive NI, the Ulster Architectural and Heritage Society and the University of Atypical.</p>

3.9	Through the partnership with Arts and Business, Belfast City Council supports Blueprint for the Future – a financial resilience programme which supports a network of arts and cultural organisations to encourage income growth and long-term financial stability. Belfast City Council has engaged with partners throughout the development phase and significant progress has been made in securing additional resource to grow the programme. In March 23, it was announced that 17 Northern Ireland arts organisations will receive over £765,000 over the next two years from both public and private funders. Council support is £30,000 per year amounting to 10% of total project costs and it is recommended that this level of funding is maintained in year three of the programme.
3.10	In response to the needs of the theatre and dance sector, Council developed a partnership with Theatre and Dance NI to launch the first ever Invest Programme throughout 2022. This programme included bursaries for seven recipients across various disciplines of the theatre and dance sector and is designed to support, upskill and help create the next generation of inclusive artists to lead Northern Ireland's theatre and dance sectors. It is proposed to continue this programme for a second year.
3.11	Through its partnership with Craft NI, support from Belfast City Council resulted in 20 events as part of August Craft Month. Craft NI have continued to expand their Craft Gallery based in Royal Avenue, with council support including a programme of 8 craft exhibitions and 52 makers. It is proposed to continue this work to develop the Gallery to enable more Belfast makers to sell their products in Belfast city centre.
3.12	Through a partnership with Ulster Architectural and Heritage Society, support resulted in the delivery of Open Heritage Belfast and other advice & support to the heritage sector. It is proposed to continue this work. With a view to developing a heritage plan, officials conducted a quotation process to commission a Heritage Audit and Roadmap for Development in January 2023. However, no suppliers reached the required threshold to begin this work and a new enhanced quotation will be issued in April 2023. A report and recommendations presented to the Committee in Autumn 2023.
3.13	<p>Further wraparound support programmes</p> <p>In addition to these bespoke programmes, Council officers will continue to engage with the sector and respond to challenges and opportunities throughout the year. This wraparound support will be provided to all organisations in receipt of funding. In addition, leadership mentoring will be offered working with external specialists. Advice, training and capacity</p>

	building will also be provided to organisations who have been unsuccessful in securing Council funding.
3.14	Through its sector support programme, Council operates a number of sectoral Forums, namely Belfast Festivals Forum and Belfast Visual Arts Forum. Priority 15 of <i>A City Imagining</i> has an emphasis on encouraging environmental responsibility and the role of culture in changing behaviours. To help build towards this goal, foster greater collaboration and encourage best practice in the sector, its proposed to establish a Green Arts Forum, in partnership with other statutory and community stakeholders, to promote and develop sustainability practice in the cultural sector.
3.15	<p><u>Cultural Participation and Engagement</u></p> <p>The cultural strategy made a commitment to publishing an annual report in order to demonstrate the impact of cultural development on the city's wider agenda. Officials are engaging with the culture department within Queen's University, Belfast to explore partnership working in evaluating the 10-year cultural strategy including investment programmes and impact. Officials are also currently reviewing best practice from other cities to assess the impact of appropriate measurements and data. An update and recommendations will be presented to members in Autumn 2023.</p>
3.16	As well as sectoral support for culture, arts, heritage and events, Council also delivers initiatives designed to increase accessibility and cultural participation. Members will be aware the Council has commissioned a report regarding LGBTQIA+ visibility and representation in Belfast's Culture, Arts and Heritage. Officials have received a draft copy of the report and recommendations and the proposed action plan will be presented to members in June 2023. A similar report on minority ethnic representation has been issued to market, with a report and recommendations to be presented to Committee in Autumn 2023.
3.17	The Cultural Strategy also contained a commitment to complete an accessibility audit of cultural venues to publish accurate access information on an online platform. Through its partnership with the University of Atypical, social narrative videos have been produced for seven key venues in the city to provide key information for audiences with a disability. In addition, University of Atypical delivered training for twenty disability champions and supported organisations to enhance their Equality, Access and Inclusion offer to d/Deaf, disabled and neurodiverse audience members. It is recommended to continue this

	partnership, supporting eight new venues, creating an additional 20 disability champions and increase the number of organisations who can access this support.
3.18	In addition, it is proposed to progress the development of an equality, access and inclusion 'kitemark' accreditation for arts events taking place during Belfast 2024. This accreditation could apply to events taking place in non-arts venues and would demonstrate that the events have been independently assessed as achieving a good standard of equality, access and inclusion. UofA plan to develop the 'EASIMark' accreditation process starting from March 2023, field test this in from August 2023 onwards, and with the scheme being fully operational from January 2024 to coincide with the launch of Belfast 2024.
3.19	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There are no new financial implications. The activities outlined in this report will be resourced from the 2023/24 budget for the Culture and Tourism section of the Economic Development division of the Place and Economy Departmental budget in line with existing approvals. A breakdown of specific areas of spend are included in Appendix 1.</p>
3.20	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>The cultural strategy, <i>A City Imagining</i> has been subject to an Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) and a Rural Needs Assessment (RNA). Specific initiatives as required will be subject to a further equality screening.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents attached
	Appendix 1: Cultural Strategy 2023/24 Priority Actions

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Belfast

**Place and Economy Department
Economic Division
Appendix 1
Culture Update
2023/24 Priorities**

Culture Update - 2022/23 Priorities

Project Name	Project Description	Actions/Targets	Timeline and Milestones	Budget
Core multi-annual funding	<p>Management of year 4 of cultural multi-annual funding programme (CMAG)</p> <p>Two year funding 2022-2024: £473,425 to 16 Festivals and Events organisations and £564,562 to 27 Arts and Heritage organisations</p> <p>Four year funding 2020-2024: £600,240 to four Festivals and Events organisations and £791,783 to nine Arts and Heritage organisations</p> <p>Independent Review of CMAG and launch of new CMAG round</p>	56 organisations supported to deliver annual programme of activities in Belfast.	<p>Independent review of CMAG – April to June 23</p> <p>Launch of new CMAG round – Autumn 23</p>	<p>£2,430,010</p> <p>£7,000</p>
Small Grants Arts and Heritage Community Festivals Funding	Programme of project grant support for cultural organisations as a new strand of investment programme to support cultural strategy outcomes.	Support a minimum 15 cultural projects and 15 community festivals.	April 2023 to March 2024	<p>£133,244 (A&H)</p> <p>£69,000 (CFF) + DfC match funding</p>
Artist Studio and Creative Workspaces	A continuation of scheme to support Belfast based artist studios and maker spaces to ensure a stable infrastructure for 2023/24.	Artist studios and maker spaces programme – at least 15 organisations, collectives and artists supported	April 2023 to March 2024	£100,000

Project Name	Project Description	Actions/Targets	Timeline and Milestones	Budget
Sectoral Development and Strategic Partnerships	Delivery of Blueprint Programme (yr 3) in partnership with Arts and Business NI	Organisations supported through a pipeline to develop assets that has commercial potential	April 2023 to March 2024	£30,000
Sector Support Programme	Design and deliver wraparound support programme aligned to investment model. Includes support for Festivals Forum and Visual Arts Forum. Establish a Green Arts Forum, in partnership with other statutory and community stakeholders, to promote and develop sustainability practice in the cultural sector.	Support a minimum of 50 cultural organisations.	April 2023 to March 2024	£65,000
Research and development	Commission further research and engagement, collect and analyse data to ensure strategic approach to investment and delivery.	Cultural mapping stage two Develop report on the impact of culture and cultural participation	April 2023 to March 2024	£40,000
Heritage Development	Develop a Heritage Audit and Roadmap for Development, with crosscutting actions.	Heritage Audit and Roadmap for Development	April 2023 to March 2024	£25,000
Heritage Development	Partner with Ulster Architectural Heritage Society to deliver Open Heritage Belfast and other events, advocacy, advice & support	Delivery of Open Heritage Belfast programme and other events	September 2023	£20,000

Project Name	Project Description	Actions/Targets	Timeline and Milestones	Budget
Cultural animation	Further develop a 'City as a Gallery' or 'Art in the Public Realm' initiatives including Belfast Canvas. Development and programming of city centre space/s, Art Unwrapped, participation in Vacant to Vibrant Scheme and initiatives to develop animation to celebrate musical heritage.	At least 20 key sites across the city	April 2023 to March 2024	£45,000
Sectoral Development and Strategic Partnerships	Continue partnership with University of Atypical to promote accessibility in cultural spaces and support training for disability champions within the cultural sector.	A minimum of 8 venues supported and 20 disability champions	April 2023 to March 2024	£25,000
Capacity Building	Support employability skills and capacity building programmes including co-design of programmes for underrepresented groups or where gaps are identified. Support established organisations to adapt to change and to support new organisations and practitioners to take longer term risks in programming or creative development. Development and delivery of catalyst projects and programmes with community partners.	A minimum of 50 cultural organisations or creative practitioners supported. Development and delivery of action plans following R&D and co-design programme development.	April 2023 to March 2024	£50,000 £30,000
Sectoral Development and Strategic Partnerships	Develop schemes to support higher participation and representation at cultural events by disabled people including Gig Buddies programme 2021 – 2024 in partnership with the Black Box.	Delivery of year three of the Gig Buddies programme.	April 2023 to March 2024	£45,000

Project Name	Project Description	Actions/Targets	Timeline and Milestones	Budget
Sectoral Development and Strategic Partnerships	Work in partnership with Theatre & Dance NI to deliver a professional 3 year development and capacity building programme 'Transform' for artists in theatre & dance sector at differing career stages, focusing on networking, mentoring and creation.	Delivery of Transform - theatre and dance sector development programme.	April 2023 to March 2024	£30,000
Sectoral Development and Strategic Partnerships	Work in partnership with Craft NI to deliver inclusive programme of showcase and professional development events for makers in Belfast including growth of August craft month	Delivery of support and development programme for craft makers in Belfast.	April 2023 to March 2024	£18,000
Sectoral Development and Strategic Partnerships	Maintain engagement with citizens via Belfast Audience Panel and creation of citizen led participative forum to enhance relevance of cultural programmes and communication channels. n partnership with Thrive audience development agency	Audience panel minimum 200 members Participative forum created with minimum 20 ambassadors	April 2023 to March 2024	£20,000
Networking	Support active participation in relevant local, regional and international cultural networks including but not limited to IETM, Eurocities Culture Forum, and other relevant international networks	Support for at least eight cultural exchanges, events and networking opportunities.	April 2023 to March 2024	£10,000

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Subject:	CG&R End of Year Report (23-23) and CG&R Committee Plan (23-24)
Date:	5 th April 2023
Reporting Officer:	John Greer, Director of Economic Development Cathy Reynolds, Director of City Regeneration and Development
Contact Officer:	Jamie Uprichard, Business Research and Development Manager

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To provide an end of year progress update (Appendix 1) on the key actions contained in the 2022-23 City Growth and Regeneration (CG&R) Committee Plan, as agreed by this Committee in June 2021.
1.2	To present to Committee the draft City Growth & Regeneration Committee Plan for 2023-24 (Appendix 2).

2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the content of the end of year report; and • Approve the City Growth and Regeneration Committee Plan for 2023-24.
3.0	<u>Main Report</u>
3.1	<p>The 2022-23 Committee Plan End of Year Report (EOYR) and the draft Plan for 2023-24 were both developed in the context of the Council's Corporate Plan and the Belfast Agenda, and in particular taking into account the emerging work underway with the Belfast Agenda Refresh. Consequently, the new Committee Plan contains the commitments within the Corporate Delivery Plan, which fall under the remit of this Committee, plus additional deliverables that have been agreed by CG&R Committee throughout the 22/23 period and are relevant to the Standing Orders. The Plan sets out the main priorities and programmes of work that the Committee is overseeing to maximise the Council's contribution to the Belfast Agenda.</p>
3.2	<p><u>Committee Plan 2022-23 End of Year Report</u></p> <p>While the Committee receives regular updates on progress for specific programmes and initiatives, Appendix 1 sets out an overview of progress against the main commitments in the Committee Plan 2022-2023. The End of Year Report focusses on the second half of the financial year; as members have already received a six-monthly update at December 2022's committee. Committee should also note that some of the figures provided are provisional and subject to final audit.</p>
3.3	<p>Highlights from the EOYR include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We improved our Global Destination Sustainability Index rating to 8th out of 65 other cities across the world. 80% of Belfast Hotel Rooms are now Green Tourism Certified. • Belfast was named the world's best conference destination for a 2nd consecutive year. • £17m was secured for an 11-council Entrepreneurship Support Service. • We have engaged 755 individuals, supporting them to progress to start a business. • 60 Social Enterprises and Co-operatives received one-to-one mentoring, advice and guidance; four were new co-operatives; and 25 events/ workshops were delivered with over 300 attendees. • The £50,000 Social Economy Incentive Fund was launched in September 2022 to support social economy businesses business growth plans. • Belfast City Council won 'Council of the Year' at the Social Enterprise Northern Ireland Awards in October 2022.

- The Belfast-Dublin strategy and action plan have been finalised. This helped a successful joint application with Dublin City Council to the Shared Island Fund for a €250,000 award to conduct a feasibility study on circular economy facilities in both cities.
- By the end of Q3 the zoo had welcomed 184k visitors. This is 14k higher than the five-year average.
- The assembly of the two remaining properties, for Belfast Stories, has been completed. Council is in ownership of all properties at the site and the project is currently out to procurement for the Integrated Design Team.
- Since September, our GCSE support programme has engaged 281 young people. We are also supporting 170 young people through our Youth Support Programme. So far, 87 have completed accredited training and 65 are undertaking essential skills qualifications.
- Since April 2022, we have had over 700 places on Employment Academies. On average, 93% of those who started an Employment Academy successfully completed, and for those, we achieved an into-work rate of 75%.
- The Vacant-to-Vibrant Pilot Grant scheme was launched. To date, 32 applications have been supported by officers to develop their applications, with 6 of those already approved and a further two recommendations for approval at this Committee meeting.
- The emerging draft Bolder Vision Strategy was approved by the CG&R Committee in August 2022 with work ongoing to finalise the Strategy and Action Plan with DfI & DfC and bring forward.
- Our Renewed Ambition Programme of work, to promote Belfast, was completed with local partners.
- We established new City Centre Governance structures including a Members City Centre Area Working Group to help to progress priorities and address issues.
- We commenced delivery of Public Realm Catalyst projects aligned to Developer Contributions including Great Victoria St/Shafsbury Sq area and Little York Street / Little Patrick Street.
- We delivered the majority of the £4.039m of the DfC Covid Revitalisation Programme with work ongoing to deliver the final two projects.
- DfI provided the Council with a Letter of Offer to fund the “Grey to Green” programme in March 2023 (subject to capital approvals).
- The Southwest Quarter Revitalisation proposal has received a letter of offer of £250k from DfC.
- We progressed our plans to improve active travel options for the city including Active Travel Enablers / covered cycle stores; secured cycle parking at Castle Court, the Active

	<p>Travel Hub at QUB, the Cathedral Quarter Active Travel Hub, and three new Belfast Bikes stations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We finalised a number of PADs on our emerging Housing Led Regeneration sites, progressed MOU's with other public landowners, completed concept regeneration plans and have opened an Expression of Interest process to engage the investment and development market to bring these regeneration opportunities forward at scale. • We have completed the City Centre Living Vision with key findings and recommendations to be brought back to Members. <p><u>Draft Committee Plan 2023-24</u></p>
3.4	<p>The draft Committee Plan for 2023-24 (Appendix 2) follows a similar structure to the Corporate Delivery Plan, plus additional deliverables that have been agreed by CG&R Committee and that are relevant to the Standing Orders of the Committee.</p>
3.5	<p>Highlights within the plan include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further development of the Neighbourhood Tourism Investment Programme. • Delivering the Music Strategy and Belfast 2024. • Delivering a programme of City Events. • Introducing the new Entrepreneurship Support Service (ESS) in September 2023. • Finalising our refreshed Social Economy Action Plan and introducing a new incentive to improve the financial management skills of new and growing social enterprises. • Undertaking a development and investment plan to support the sustainability of St George's market. • Completing Belfast Stories Audit and commence RIBA 2 design consultation. • Working with the Partnership Boards and the Education Inequalities sub-group to secure longer-term options to support young people. • Delivery of Employment Academies in priority areas. • Progressing the Belfast Labour Market Partnership including extending the Digital Badging initiative and progressing the Bridges to Progression service to support 180 young people. • Finalising A Bolder Vision Strategy and Action Plan taking a civic lead on delivering a significant transformation of the city centre streets and places. • Advancing Public Realm Catalyst Schemes aligned to the Developer Contributions including the 5Cs, Little York/Little Patrick St, Blackstaff Sq and Great Victoria St • Providing input and strategic direction to major regeneration and development projects, including maximising regeneration impact of the Belfast Stories.

- Leading the Community Planning Partnership's City Development Board on the identified priorities of housing-led regeneration; connectivity, active and sustainable travel; Future City Centre; and citywide regeneration & investment.
- Working with partners to maximise residential development opportunities and jointly working to overcome obstacles to increasing residential development including city centre living.
- Producing a lobby position paper to advocate for devolution to Council of enhanced regeneration powers and associated funding.
- Taking forward a Regeneration Framework and Project Prioritisation process together with associated feasibility studies and business case development to attract the necessary investment for city-wide regeneration priorities.
- Finalise a Competitive Dialogue process to attract investment at scale for the delivery of housing-led regeneration.
- Conclude the Development Brief process for the INW Northern Cluster.
- Continue working through the City Development Board (Housing Led Regeneration Group) to analyse public sector land ownership in a city-wide context identified through the Urban Capacity Study and Housing Monitor to identify opportunities for housing together with other privately owned land.
- Progress next steps for development of identified sites under the citywide strategic sites assessment process including Member engagement; planning and site appraisals and feasibility studies.
- Continue to work through the City Development Board (and Housing Led Regeneration Group) to identify inhibitors to delivering housing opportunities progressing and to identify mechanisms to unlock these challenges.
- Working with partners to promote and develop regeneration opportunities within the Innovation District.
- Delivering remaining projects under DfC's Covid Recovery Revitalisation Programme.
- Delivering Tranche 3 of the Business Cluster and Community Grants.
- Delivering the Vacant-to-Vibrant Capital Grant scheme.
- Progressing the future-use options and attracting funding for 2 Royal Avenue; and promoting the Sixth investment & development opportunity.
- Delivering the Tactical Regeneration projects including Grey to Green, Active Travel Enablers, 5C's Revitalisation Programme, and Entries Phase 2 programme physical projects.

3.6	<p><u>Progress Reports</u></p> <p>Following agreement on the draft Committee Plan, officers will bring a six-monthly progress report against all commitments in the Committee Plan in October 2023 and a further end of year report in April 2024.</p>
3.7	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>The draft Committee Plan 2023/24 and the subsequent annual programmes of work are aligned with the budget agreed by the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee on 20 January 2023, namely a cash limit for the City Growth & Regeneration Committee of £20.45 million as set out in Appendix 2.</p>
3.8	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>Strategies, programmes and actions within the Committee Plan are developed and delivered in consultation with the Council's Equality & Diversity Officers and subject to appropriate equality, good relations and rural needs assessment.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	<p>Appendix 1 – CG&R Committee Plan 2022-23 – End of Year Report</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Draft CG&R Committee Plan 2023-24</p>

CG&R Committee Plan 2022-23 – End of Year Report

INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC RECOVERY

Strategic Priority	2022-23 Deliverables	Progress at Year End
Cultural Strategy Senior Responsible Officer: John Greer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress the 'A City Imagining Plan' • Consult on, then launch, the Music Strategy • Theme 4: Unlock the unifying power of UNESCO 	<p>Belfast 2024 Year of Cultural Celebration for Belfast:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June 2022's CG&R committee noted the principles, concept and work related to the development of a year of culture and Belfast Imagining. • Public consultation completed and the full Music Strategy was agreed in December 2022. • An OBC was developed in partnership with Grant Thornton to support the case for Belfast 2024's ambitious year of cultural activity. Engagement programmes are currently underway to pilot Co-Design Framework with various communities to develop projects for 2024. The official launch of Belfast 2024 is on hold until later in 2023 in consultation with BCC Marcomms. • Commissioning for Anchor Programmes is underway with key Signature Partners, Eden Project, Little Amal, Oona Doherty and BBC/ City of Music collaboration on dance music with Ulster Orchestra. • An Open Call Design Contest for Belfast 2024, a 4-stage process with a R&D phase was launched in December 2022. Full commissions coming from this scheme will be contracted by June 2023. • BCC became the first council in the UK to directly support individual artists on a non-project basis when it completed Year 1 of the Creative Bursary Scheme in August 2022. The Creative Bursary Scheme Year 2 opened for applications in January 2023 (closing March 2023) – 13 bursaries are available and particular target for creatives identifying with/working in Irish language, new migrant communities and LGBTQIA+ sector. • Belfast 2024 Brand Identity and Guidelines were developed in partnership with McCadden. <p>Festival 2022/UNBOXED – celebration of STEAM creative industries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MarComms and Education regional working groups were formed to advise on and support the delivery of Festival 22 across NI. • Supported the delivery of Dreamachine, Storytrails, Green Space and Dark Skies regional projects.

Strategic Priority	2022-23 Deliverables	Progress at Year End
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overseen and delivered Our Place In Space (OPIS) on behalf of SOLACE at Derry, Belfast, Cambridge, Liverpool, Cultra, including pivoting to incorporate a 5th site at Liverpool as the opportunity arose. Highlights included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over 1M live visitors to the site App downloaded in 150 Countries 28,000 students and 2,200 teachers directly engaged with 5 new learning resources 1 new Minecraft world 1 World Record smashed! Note: above figures accurate at end of 4th site, the project is ongoing at 5th site, Ulster Transport Museum. The trail is gifted to NMNI to be displayed at the Ulster Transport Museum
<p>City Recovery, Reopening the City and support for businesses</p> <p>Senior Responsible Officer: Cathy Reynolds</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revitalisation Fund: Physical interventions 	<p>Delivery of a DfC funded Covid Recovery Revitalisation Programme. A Mid-Term Covid recovery revitalisation programme Evaluation Report was presented to the August CG&R committee. A final report is currently under development and due to be complete by 31 March reporting into CGR Committee in June 2023. This will provide an annual review of all funded projects within the programme. An extension of time, subject to sign off has been granted in relation to Entries Phase 2 and Castle Place Kiosk until end of September 2023.</p> <p>We have also supported the 'Vibrant Business Destinations' scheme across the city, securing resources for and working with local business associations outside of the city centre.</p> <p>The Vacant to Vibrant Pilot Grant scheme was launched and is currently 8 months into a 24-month pilot timeline. Over 200 application packs were issued, and officers are currently working with a number of applicants, providing support to develop their proposals. A total of 6 applications have been approved (1 subject to Council ratification in April 2023), a further 26 applicants are actively engaging with officers to finalise their applications with an expectation that these will be submitted by Summer 2023.</p>
<p>City Development and Investment</p> <p>Senior Responsible</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regeneration Programme Framework City Centre Investment Fund Institutional investment partner Provide Council input and strategic direction to major regeneration and development projects 	<p>Work is underway in relation to the commissioning of a Lobby & Advocacy Paper for Place Based Regeneration Funding and the development of a Regeneration Framework and Project Prioritisation Process. A wider engagement plan has been developed including Party Group Leaders, MPs, Permanent Secretaries and other stakeholders. This is aligned to the ongoing work via City & Organisational Strategy to develop a project pipeline for Council aligned to funding opportunities and city priorities.</p>

Strategic Priority	2022-23 Deliverables	Progress at Year End
<p>Officer: Cathy Reynolds</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to progress city wide strategic opportunities relating to the use of BCC assets • Progress the future use options for 2 Royal Avenue • Continue to promote the Sixth • Complete assembly of optimal site for development of Belfast Stories project • UU Community Campus Regeneration Forum 	<p>An Expression of Interest was launched mid-March 2023 to attract an Institutional Investment / Development partner in respect of Council lands for housing-led regeneration as part of the ongoing concept regeneration plans (including PADS).</p> <p>Officers continued to actively engage on major private sector led regeneration schemes through the established Project Reference Groups.</p> <p>While an application to the Levelling Up Fund (Round 2) was unsuccessful for 2 Royal Avenue, formal feedback was received, and work continues on the proposal of its long-term use including a focused piece on end user models and identifying potential funding. Work on the Sixth was also progressed via the BelTel LLP. The council continued to lead the UU Community Campus Regeneration Forum, including its transition in line with the opening of the Belfast campus.</p> <p>The council continued to work with DfI and DfC on the finalisation of the Bolder Vision Strategy with the emerging draft Strategy approved by the CG&R Committee in August 2022. Departments were engaged, in the absence of Ministers through the oversight and steering groups involving the CX and Perm Secs from DfC and DfI. DfI accelerated the Belfast city centre element of the BMTP to the Climate Action Plan to model options for the provision of the strategic transportation network and to help inform the emerging capital project list.</p> <p>Strategic Site Assessment for Council lands have been undertaken on a city-wide basis with an initial assessment for housing-led regeneration purposes. A similar exercise was undertaken (as part of a Housing-Led Regeneration Group with NIHE and DfC) in respect of other public sector lands. Proposals and next steps to be brought to a Members' Workshop.</p>
<p>Increase tourism spend through sustainable tourism products</p> <p>Senior Responsible Officer: John Greer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start delivery of the 10-year Tourism recovery plan "Make Yourself at Home" including: • Positioning Belfast • Sustainable Tourism • Deliver the Annual Events programme 	<p>We have delivered a number on initiatives to help Grow tourism sustainably in Belfast. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ An Accessible Tourism Programme to improve the visitor experience and value of the 'purple pound'. ▪ Implementation of Food and Drink Tourism plan to increase associated spend and improve the experience, while strengthening Belfast's position as a food and drink destination. ▪ Ongoing scoping of the Neighbourhood Tourism Investment Programme to extend tourism's economic benefits to communities beyond the city centre. ▪ Working to improve our Global Destination Sustainability Index (GDSI). Belfast is now rated 8th in the world among 65 other destinations. ▪ Promoting the Green Tourism Certification, which has resulted in 80% of hotel rooms; and ensuring that sustainability is fully integrated in all tourism / event planning.

Strategic Priority	2022-23 Deliverables	Progress at Year End
<div>Page 78</div>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Delivery of Conference Subvention Programme to assist in winning conferences and business events for Belfast. Belfast was named the world's best conference destination for a second consecutive year this year. ▪ Working to Position Belfast as an attraction tourist destination with Visit Belfast, Tourism NI and Tourism Ireland. This ensures Belfast is positioned as a Gateway to Northern Ireland and a must-see urban destination. ▪ Tourism & Belfast Stories teams working together to support Neighbourhood Tourism organisations to tell the key stories of the city. ▪ Securing Tourism NI product development funding to support new products such as Ceili at the Castle, Music Tours and music workshops. ▪ Mapping Council-owned and existing tourism assets against the city's 'Belfast brand' and Tourism NI 'Embrace the Giant Spirit' brand to deliver on experiential tourism in Belfast. ▪ Further development of the Neighbourhood Tourism Framework to bring to Committee in June 2023 for consideration. ▪ Catalyst 2: Make Yourself at Home ▪ Strategic and operational planning is ongoing for the delivery of the One Young World event in October 2023. ▪ Other major bid-for events have been progressed during the year including the Fleadh Cheoil (in partnership with the Ards Comhaltas) and the European Football Championships in 2028 (decision due Sept. 2023). ▪ Christmas 2022 was successfully delivered. The analysis, learning and future actions from the St Patrick's Event pilot, were agreed by June's CG&R committee, and the 2023 event is imminent. ▪ The Maritime Festival development continues, in consultation with partners, with the next edition planned for September 2023. The funding process for local sports events has recently concluded.
Encourage business start-ups and support indigenous business growth Senior Responsible Officer:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide 'Starting a Business' services • Support social enterprises and co-operatives • Provide 'Growing a Business' services 	<p>Officers have engaged councils to progress the enhanced approach to business start-up and growth support. Since the update to Committee in October, the DLUHC committed up to £17m for an 11-council Entrepreneurship Support Service (ESS), over 2 years from April 2023. Council will be lead council.</p> <p>We engaged 755 individuals, supporting them to progress to start a business. We continue to extend our reach to engage individuals who are under-represented including: people with disabilities, the economically inactive, females and young people. Additionally, 40 students and graduates also accessed support. We also enabled 31 test trading opportunities at St George's Market.</p>

Strategic Priority	2022-23 Deliverables	Progress at Year End
John Greer		<p>Business start-up activity engaged 503 individuals, with 476 developing a business plan through 'Go For It', supporting the creation of 299 jobs. 70 had additional 1-1 mentoring and financial support to help kick start their business.</p> <p>Direct support for 60 Social Enterprises and Co-operatives included one-to-one mentoring, advice and guidance. Four of these were new co-operatives. Overall Social Enterprise and Co-operative Support included 25 events/workshops with over 300 attendees. To increase awareness of the sector, we also targeted 50 young people in community settings. Our focused engagement with co-operative organisations also continued, this included 10 events, with 42 attendees.</p> <p>The £50,000 Social Economy Incentive Fund launched in September 2022 to support social economy businesses business growth plans. In recognition of these efforts, Belfast City Council won 'Council of the Year' at the Social Enterprise Northern Ireland Awards in October 2022.</p> <p>Through our business growth support, we have assigned mentors to over 246 businesses and delivered 20 workshops with over 265 attendees. Helped has bene provided for growth strategies, increasing resilient, enhance digital and online presence, improve tendering skills and accessing specialist support for businesses with high growth potential.</p> <p>We also delivered a large-scale Opportunity Export event with over 70 attendees and speakers from Invest NI, DIT and Intertrade Ireland. We also launched the Digital Surge programme with the other councils to help businesses with innovation and digital transformation. 22 Belfast-based companies have benefitted.</p> <p>In January 2022, we launched the Vibrant Business Destinations programme in partnership with DfC. This aims to drive footfall and create vibrancy in areas outside of the city centre. Four associations have now been supported to develop area-based action plans.</p> <p>The Innovation Factory is now at 77% occupancy (yearly average) and the operator has ambitious plans to increase those numbers in 2023/2024 with interest from sectors including TV/film, digital, engineering, and green tech. Over the year, 78 businesses engaged in masterclasses and events at the centre, 38 work placements were facilitated, and a series of school engagement activities took place involving 223 young people.</p> <p>The Way to Scale programme supported 40 individuals to transform their businesses and grow to turnover of more than £3million. 10 were supported to participate in a one week residential at MIT and access a peer-to-peer workshop series with Catalyst. We also put in place support for businesses in creative and digital industries and financial services sectors to build capacity and access opportunities for finance to support the growth and development of their businesses. 90 new companies will be supported through these services.</p>

Strategic Priority	2022-23 Deliverables	Progress at Year End
Promote and market the city internationally Senior Responsible Officer: Cathy Reynolds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Positioning the City to Compete Provide the Investing in Belfast service 	<p>Delivery of a public private Renewed Ambition Programme is on-going across the 5 pillared structure of activity aimed at marketing the city locally, nationally and internationally across events, engagement & advocacy, communications and repository.</p> <p>An Invest in Belfast website has been set up with information on Belfast, the key growth sectors and specific investment and development opportunities. A Marketing Prospectus of key public and private investment opportunities across the BRCD region has been prepared.</p> <p>A 'Building Impact' report on the social, environmental and wider economic impact of the built environment was completed and was presented to the Social Policy Working Group in August 2022. Work is on-going to develop an internal action plan to address the report recommendations relevant to BCC.</p> <p>Monitoring and analysis of valid planning applications to inform the City Development Tracker continues on an ongoing basis. Work has progressed on integrating the city investment narrative into the Invest in Belfast website to align the messaging with wider Council led initiatives and other stands of work. The new CRM system was completed and is currently being rolled out.</p> <p>Through our investor support activity, we continued to provide advice and connections to potential investors.</p>
Belfast Dublin Economic Corridor Senior Responsible Officer: John Greer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue development work with our seven partners arising from Dublin-Belfast corridor programme. 	<p>The strategy and action plan have been finalised. The partnership members have agreed to jointly fund two staff resources to drive delivery against priority actions in 2023.</p> <p>€150,000 funding was secured from the Shared Island Fund to conduct a feasibility study on regional Innovation Hubs. This was complemented by a successful joint application with Dublin City Council to the Shared Island Fund for a €250,000 award to conduct a feasibility study on circular economy facilities in both cities.</p>
Future City Centre Programme and Belfast City Centre Regeneration & Investment Strategy Senior Responsible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to progress the Future City Centre Programme and priority areas under the Belfast City Centre Regeneration & Investment Strategy Regeneration Projects Developer Contributions 	<p>We have developed Future City Centre Programme priority actions across the 6 pillars of Regeneration & Connectivity (including city centre living and Bolder Vision); Business & Investment; Positioning the City to Compete; Vibrancy & Culture; Innovation & Digital; Clean, Green, Inclusive & Safe.</p> <p>We have continued to work with city stakeholders through the Community Planning Partnership's City Development Board and relevant sub-structures. This included ongoing engagement with partner organisations and co-chairing the Community Campus Regeneration Forum (CCRF), including its transition in line with the opening of the Belfast campus.</p> <p>We established new City Centre Governance structures and continue to meet and progress priorities and address issues. This has included initial work to develop appropriate metrics and measurements for the overall Future City Centre programme. A cross-department was delivered to facilitate officer engagement</p>

Strategic Priority	2022-23 Deliverables	Progress at Year End
<p>Officer: Cathy Reynolds</p>		<p>on the scoping of this workstream to further scope and refine the pillars of the FCC programme and objectives.</p> <p>Externally the Future City Centre Leadership Group has considered the draft emerging action plan in respect of the FCC as part of the refresh of the Belfast Agenda and has agreed leads for delivery of associated actions.</p> <p>A number of priorities and projects identified within Belfast City Centre Regeneration & Investment Strategy continue to be progressed via BCC and other private /public sector partners. The 2022/23 regeneration tracker was presented to the CG&R Committee in March 2023.</p> <p>The Joint Regeneration Group (BCC, DfC, DfI, NIHE) met on a monthly basis to co-ordinate the public sector approach to Housing-Led Regeneration, A Bolder Vision, public realm projects and the FCC programme. DfI have provided Council with a Letter of Offer to fund the “Grey to Green” programme in March 2023 (subject to capital approvals), awaiting LoO in respect of Active Travel Enabling funding proposal and as reported to March 2023 CGR Committee the South West Quarter Revitalisation proposal has received a LoO (£250k) from DfC this project and subject to final approval works will commence shortly, along with the opportunities within the BCCG fund and proposals within the Linen Quarter BID 5 year business plan further investment is planned in the area, noting that the proposal Council submitted to DfI under the Blue and Green Fund has been withdrawn due to the information outline at Committee in March 2023.</p> <p>The council continued to lead the Community Planning Partnership’s City Development Board with a focus on the refresh of the Belfast Agenda and associated emerging draft action plans aligned to the newly identified priorities of the City Development Board, ie, Housing Led Regeneration; Future City Centre Programme and Citywide Regeneration; Connectivity, Active & Sustainable Travel.</p> <p>Developer Contributions (historical contributions) continue to be monitored and scheme proposals utilising the contributions are being progressed. This includes progressing the 5Cs public realm developer contributions catalyst project with DfC (with additional funding of £162k for a 5C’s Revitalisation Project underway), progressing to RIBA Stage 3 for Little York Street / Little Patrick Street for the utilisation of developer contributions, working with DfC on a proposal for a catalyst Blackstaff Square Public Realm project and progressing delivery of contributions aligned to the Great Victoria St/Shafsbury Sq Project.</p>
<p>City Infrastructure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take forward the findings from the Belfast Infrastructure Study 	<p>Ongoing work to finalise the Belfast Infrastructure Study. Continue to provide civic leadership and strategic input to the major city infrastructure projects and represent Council on citywide boards, enabling, facilitating, and influencing major infrastructure development and investment.</p>

Strategic Priority	2022-23 Deliverables	Progress at Year End
Senior Responsible Officer: Cathy Reynolds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to champion the Council's preferred position for major infrastructure projects and Continue to represent Council and play a key role on city wide boards 	
Belfast Hills and North Foreshore Senior Responsible Officer: John Walsh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Belfast Hills (and Zoo) 	<p>A full restricted update was taken to CG&R committee in February 2023. Highlights included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> By the end of Q3 the zoo had welcomed 184k visitors. This is 14k higher than the five-year average. The summer welcomed above average footfall, although September to November experienced lower footfall than expected. The current cost of living and fuel crisis may have contributed to lower footfall during off-peak season. The Zoo was open to the public as normal throughout Q3 and re-launched its Junior Keeper experience in November. Several zoo initiatives, including interactive animal experiences, unfortunately, continue to remain unavailable. In this quarter the zoo friend's community group celebrated their 25th anniversary and received charity status from the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland.
Belfast Stories Senior Responsible Officer: Wendy Langham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete OBC 1 Departmental Review Progress the acquisition of the 2 additional smaller properties Procurement and appointment of IDT / EDT to progress the concept design Progress the collection of Belfast stories Continue stakeholder and community engagement including consultation and EQIA Deliver 2022-23 communication programme Progress OBC 2 / RIBA 2 and Establish Benefits Framework and monitoring and evaluation system. 	<p>The assembly of the two remaining properties has been completed. Council is in ownership of all properties at the site. The next key step is to complete the abandonment of the adopted alleyway off Kent Street (which is in progress).</p> <p>The procurements for the professional services teams (Integrated Design Team (IDT), Interpretative Planning and Exhibition Design Team (IPEDT) and Project Management and Design Assurance Team PMDAT) are underway, with the prequalification stage now completed. Invitation to Tender (ITT) stage is to commence in March with appointments of the teams expected summer 2023.</p> <p>A city-wide Stories Audit is underway and due for completion in May 2023. An update will be provided to key stakeholders, including elected members, on the audit findings.</p> <p>A 14-week public consultation exercise has been completed with the findings and recommendations, including feedback on the draft EQIA and Rural Needs Assessment, currently under review. A summary report will be prepared for and brought to CGR Committee in June 2023.</p> <p>An engagement plan and communications plan has been developed and updated in line with consultation feedback. The plan will include consultation and engagement activities in 2023/24.</p> <p>Belfast Stories social media channels (Facebook and Instagram) support ongoing online engagement.</p>

Strategic Priority	2022-23 Deliverables	Progress at Year End
		An action plan for 2023 to support Inclusive Growth has been developed to ensure this area of work is considered at the project development stage.
Access, Connectivity, Active and Sustainable Travel Senior Responsible Officer: Cathy Reynolds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active Travel and Connectivity • A Bolder Vision for Belfast • City Transport Plan • Belfast Urban Greenways (BUG) • Sustainable Travel Initiatives • Belfast Bikes • Car Parking Strategy • Access to the Hills/ Connectivity Programme 	<p>An update on Connectivity, Active and Sustainable travel was presented to the CG&R Committee in February 2023. This included the ongoing work across Council and with stakeholders in respect of the Committee's strategic priority of Access, Connectivity, Active and Sustainable Travel as set out in the CGR Committee Plan, and alignment into the Corporate Plan and refresh of the Belfast Agenda including the new Connectivity, Active & Sustainable Travel subgroup. Work is underway to arrange an All Party Round Table regarding Connectivity, Active and Sustainable travel as agreed by the Committee.</p> <p>We have continued to engage with DfI on the development of the BMTP.</p> <p>Ongoing delivery of the DfC Covid Recovery Revitalisation funded covered city-wide cycle stands, 21/22 DfI B&G funded Active Travel Enablers including the launch of secured cycle parking at CastleCourt in October 2022, and proposals submitted on Active Travel Enablers for DfI B&G 22/23 funding. The Active Travel Hub at QUB has been delivered and is now operating successfully. The Cathedral Quarter Active Travel Hub has been delivered and was launched in October 2022.</p> <p>The Sustainable Travel E- Cargo Pilot launched in the first half the year, with the operator presenting to Committee in September 2022.</p> <p>As agreed by CG&R Committee in June 2022 the refresh of the Car Parking Strategy is deferred pending the finalisation of the LDP & BMTP.</p> <p>BCC continues to work with DfI and DfC on finalisation of the Bolder Vision Strategy with the emerging draft Strategy approved by CG&R Committee in August 2022. Ongoing engagement with departments, in the absence of Ministers through the oversight and steering groups involving the CX, and Perm Secs from DfC and DfI. DfI have accelerated the Belfast city centre element of the BMTP to the Climate Action Plan to model options for the provision of the strategic transportation network and to help inform the emerging capital project list. Updates will be provided to CG&R as this work progresses.</p> <p>Council Officers continue to develop a pipeline of projects aligned to A Bolder Vision to identify, prioritise and work up catalyst connectivity projects to attract external funding.</p> <p>Belfast Bikes - Three new stations were introduced at Lisnasharragh and Olympia Leisure Centres and the Kennedy Centre. Work continues to install a new station at the Waterworks and develop additional stations in line with the directions from CGR and SP&R in June 2021.</p> <p>Final end of year figures will not be available until early in the new financial year, but there were 76,565 registered Belfast Bike users at the end of Q3. 'Pay as you go' (PAYG) remained the most</p>

Strategic Priority	2022-23 Deliverables	Progress at Year End
		<p>popular form of membership, accounting for 88% of users.</p> <p>Officers continue to engage with DfI on the delivery of the Belfast Cycling Network and the BMTP with regular updates provided to the CG&R Committee, and at the proposed All-Party Connectivity & Active Travel Workshop.</p>
Educational underachievement Senior Responsible Officer: John Greer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to engage in development work with partners/providers to refine support for those young people, most at need, to progress through education and into employment. Provide a Youth Support programme to assist young people to build confidence and develop capabilities to enter and progress on a career pathway. Continue to deliver our GCSE support programme to increase the % attaining grade C and above in English and Maths and Work with the Department for Education and the Education Authority to explore how the Fair Start report's recommendations can be implemented in Belfast. 	<p>Since September, our GCSE support programme has engaged 281 young people who had been identified as being unlikely to achieve at least Grade C in GCSE English and Maths without support. Through the entire 2022/23 academic year, this programme is expected to support 365 young people.</p> <p>We also supported 170 young people through our Youth Support Programme. These participants either already have or are at risk of dropping out of the education system, employment or training. So far, 87 have completed accredited training and 65 are undertaking essential skills qualifications. This programme is due to complete in summer 2024 with an expected 55% achieving a positive destination, either into training, education or employment.</p>
Access to employment Senior Responsible Officer: John Greer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver Employment Academies in priority sectors Provide match-funding for ESF projects Deliver Enterprise Pathway with intensive, person-centred support for those further back in the labour market and Support job brokerage and career events. 	<p>Since April 2022, we have had over 700 places on Employment Academies, utilising Council's and additional resources through the Labour Market Partnership, Learning & Work Institute's New Futures programme and the Community Renewal Fund. On average, 93% of those who started an Employment Academy successfully completed, and for those, we achieved an into-work rate of 75%.</p> <p>The most attended academies were in logistics, education, construction and upskilling academies for people in traditionally low-paid sectors.</p>
Upskilling opportunities Senior	Strategic Partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver the Belfast Employability and Skills Action Plan as part of the Belfast LMP, including: 	<p>The Gateway to Choices Service is being co-designed with key stakeholders such as the JBO Network, Careers Service, VCSE sector etc. Engagement with the LMP partners identified the need for independent advice and guidance outside of mainstream JBO support for those who are out of work and non-job ready</p>

Strategic Priority	2022-23 Deliverables	Progress at Year End
<p>Responsible Officer: John Greer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Quickly back to work: for those who have been or are risk of being made unemployed, especially as a consequence of the pandemic ○ Increasing Opportunities: Empowering those furthest from the labour market to succeed through quality support, especially those who will be considered long-term unemployed ○ No-one Left Behind: Targeting of those disadvantaged groups ○ Catching Up: Supporting access to careers pathways, re-skilling and upskilling for those unemployed as well as those on low incomes ▪ Implement a labour market observatory to review the impact of interventions and inform future investment. ▪ Build on the 'test and learn' career pathway work for those furthest from labour market in digital and green sectors in support of BRCD and the wider 10x economic vision. ▪ Deliver the Digital Badges project to help recognise the non-accredited skills of individuals and support employers to think about how to broaden the talent pool by including those individuals ▪ Continue to ensure employability and skills issues are properly integrated into the Belfast Business Promise, Developer Contributions, Social Value Policy and the BRCD. 	<p>such as long-term unemployed and the economically inactive. The Gateway will support up to 1,200 people in the coming year. Participants will engage on a voluntary basis and delivery will commence in April 2023.</p> <p>Officers have now completed the scoping and preparatory work and secured additional resources from DfC to establish the Labour Market Observatory.</p> <p>All Employment Academies are now digitally badged as an alternative validation of achievement, with 779 badges issued to participants. In addition to this, the Council is working with 6 organisations in the city to use Digital Badging for their own participants/employees.</p> <p>Following December Committee's approval, indicative funding awards have been issued to 6 providers to pilot Bridges to Progression schemes. These are for young people, aged 16-17 years who are at risk of disengaging from Training for Success/Skills for Life & Work due to their personal circumstances.</p>

COMMUNITY RECOVERY

Strategic Priority	2022-23 Deliverables	Progress at Year End
<p>Maximising housing development and regeneration opportunities</p> <p>Senior Responsible Officer: Cathy Reynolds</p> <p>Page 86</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BCC Housing Led Regeneration Programme • City wide strategic opportunities • Strategic City Centre Cluster Sites • City Centre Living Vision 	<p>Detailed work has been completed on several city centre cluster sites (from the Strategic Site Assessment work) including Concept Regeneration Plans for each of the cluster sites; ongoing engagement with other public and private sector neighbouring landowners; the adoption of a placemaking approach to development and progress through the planning process through Pre-Application Discussions (PADs), as well as site and title due diligence. This forms part of the overarching Institutional Investor / Development Partner approach and the launch of the Expression of Interest in mid-March 2023.</p> <p>Work on the city-wide strategic site assessments was progressed via the agreed mechanism under the Housing Led Regeneration Group (established under the Community Planning Partnership's City Development Board). To date, BCC, NIHE and DfC lands have been mapped via LPS and these have been overlaid with records from the Urban Capacity Study and Housing Monitor to identify those with housing potential. A number of these sites have been assessed at both organisational level (including Council assets) and via the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) subgroup to consider operational requirements, planning, title, etc and consideration as to how lands can best be assembled (including adjoining private sector ownerships). A Member's Workshop is to take place to consider potential for identified BCC sites (and other public lands as appropriate). A similar mechanism for mapping of other public sector lands has also been progressed via the Housing Led Regeneration Group.</p> <p>This Eol process is seeking an institutional investor / development partner to fund, develop and manage as appropriate housing led regeneration schemes at scale, (including affordable /social) working in partnership with Council and with a placemaking approach.</p> <p>The City Centre Living Vision has been completed. This followed extensive consultation and ongoing engagement, and with recommendations and next steps to be brought back to CGR Committee shortly. Ongoing engagement with the private sector, NIHE, Housing Associations and BCC Planning Service to identify challenges to development, especially city centre residential development and consideration of options to address such challenges.</p>



City Growth and Regeneration

Committee Plan 2023- 2024



Belfast
City Council

Contents

Introduction	3
Belfast City Council Priorities	4
Key Programmes of work.....	5
1. Inclusive Economic Recovery	5
2. Community Recovery.....	13
Key Expenditure	15



Introduction

The City Growth and Regeneration Committee is responsible for the development and implementation of strategies, policies, programmes and projects directed towards regeneration and growth of the city in the context of outcomes agreed in the community and corporate plans and other corporate strategy decisions.

Its specific functions include:

- Setting the overall strategic direction for the Council in the areas of physical, cultural and economic regeneration and growth.
- Influencing and contributing to regional regeneration and growth strategies and activities.
- Developing and implementing city-wide economic strategies and policies.
- Managing and maximising the impact of major physical developments in the city.
- Providing strategic oversight of strategic site assessments of Council land and property assets for regeneration purposes.
- Developing and delivering programmes and projects to support the regeneration and growth of the city
- Coordinating and promoting major citywide events.
- Considering draft financial estimates for the Committee together with such statements, reports and recommendations as required.
- Monitoring performance, financial reports and year end reports.
- Approving all revenue purchases of works, goods or services relevant to this Committee which exceed or are likely to exceed the statutory amount (currently £30,000) and subject to tender.
- Monitoring reports on matters that are of direct relevance to the responsibility of this Committee.
- Sourcing and providing support to attract and utilise external grants and other sources of funding which contribute to the growth of the city.
- Providing support for economic development initiatives.
- Supporting the development of culture, heritage and the arts.
- Working with other agencies to promote Belfast as a key investment and tourism opportunity.
- Developing programmes and actions to support local businesses and attract inward investment.
- Managing Council owned properties including the maintenance and repair of Council buildings, properties and vehicles.
- Managing the Council's markets and maximising their benefit to the city.
- Influencing and contributing to strategies policies and actions affecting skills, employability, transportation and energy in the City.
- Considering Year end and mid-year review of key corporate risks.
- Exercising the Council's functions and civic leadership in relation to:
 - Economic Development;
 - City Regeneration and Development;
 - Tourism;
 - Culture and Arts;
 - Positioning the City to Compete
 - International Relations;
 - City Markets;
 - City Events;
 - Belfast Castle;
 - Malone House;
 - Belfast Zoo and;
 - Connectivity, Active & Sustainable Travel.

Belfast City Council Priorities

The [Belfast Agenda](#) has shaped and will continue to shape the plans of council and those of our partners. Our corporate plan, which is aligned to the Belfast Agenda, sets out the work we will do to contribute to the shared city's commitments and what we will do as an organisation to continually improve and develop and focus on continuing to deliver excellent services.

In addition to the Belfast Agenda related priorities, our corporate plan also contains several organisational priorities designed to create the type of organisation we need to be to support the ambitions in the Corporate Plan and Belfast Agenda. This includes work to: develop and build the capacity of our people and Elected Members; manage our assets, data and finance; enhance partnership working and drive equality; and work to improve our services and customer care.

The City Growth and Regeneration Committee Plan for 2023-24, which is aligned to the Corporate Plan, outlines the key areas of work that this committee will be responsible for delivering. These are set out on the following pages, under the strategic objectives:

- 1) Inclusive Economic Recovery; and
- 2) Community Recovery.



Key Programmes of work

1. Inclusive Economic Recovery

Strategic Priority	In Year Deliverables (In 2023-24 we will
Cultural Strategy Senior Responsible Officer: John Greer	<p><u>Progress the 'A City Imagining Plan' and:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver year 4 of cultural multi-annual funding programme (CMAG) to deliver an annual programme of activities • Provide grant support to organisations through 8 different grant streams • Deliver a programme of sectoral development and strategic partnerships to develop the sector • Develop a heritage audit and roadmap for development • Progress cultural animations activities including Belfast Canvass, City as a Gallery, and city centre spaces. • Design and deliver wraparound support programmes including leading sector forums for festivals, visual arts and sustainability • Design launch and deliver a range of capacity building initiatives for the sector including initiatives designed to increase accessibility and cultural participation • Complete review of strategic review of artist studios and maker-spaces in Belfast and provide support to these organisations • Develop report on the impact of culture and cultural participation <p><u>Implementation of "Music Matters" Music Strategy and:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver the UNESCO City of Music actions • Deliver actions within the Music Strategy 4 strands: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Theme 1: Place artists at the heart ○ Theme 2: Nurture the Sector ○ Theme 3: Ignite the IRL experience ○ Theme 4: Unlock the unifying power of UN <p><u>Belfast 2024 Year of Cultural Celebration for Belfast</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To continue to develop and deliver this ambitious programme the Belfast 2024 team will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Launch and deliver the Governance Model ○ Commission and contract Anchor Signature Partners ○ Finalise Open Call Design Contest and commission up to 30 local projects. ○ Deliver Engagement Plan ○ Develop and Deliver Evaluation Plan ▪ Support 10 Artists through the competitive bursary programme
City Recovery, reopening the city and support for businesses Senior Responsible Officer: Cathy Reynolds	<p><u>Revitalisation Fund: Physical interventions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Deliver the remaining projects under the DfC Covid Recovery Revitalisation Programme. ▪ Deliver ongoing support for the business and community sectors via projects under: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the Sustaining Vibrant Business Destinations,

Strategic Priority	In Year Deliverables (In 2023-24 we will
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Vacant to Vibrant Pilot Capital Grant Scheme, ○ Future City Centre Programme, ○ Belfast City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy ○ City Development and Investment, including facilitation of the City Recovery Stakeholder Group and ○ Positioning the City for Investment
<p>City Development and Investment</p> <p>Senior Responsible Officer: Cathy Reynolds</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Take forward the Regeneration Framework for the prioritised city project business cases to attract necessary investment to enable the delivery of the city's regeneration and development priorities. ▪ Take forward the recommendations within the Lobby paper seeking to secure Belfast's additional investment and funding to realise the city and Region's growth ambitions. ▪ Undertake a review and purpose of the City Centre Investment Fund to align with delivery of city development aspirations. ▪ Continue to progress the Expression of Interest process to attract an institutional investor / development partner to bring forward investment at scale for the delivery of housing led placemaking regeneration, including the inclusion of identified Council property assets – "seed sites". ▪ Provide Council input and strategic direction to major regeneration and development projects. ▪ Continue to progress citywide strategic opportunities relating to the strategic use of BCC assets including housing led regeneration. ▪ Progress the future use options for 2 Royal Avenue in line with objectives of the Future City Centre Programme. ▪ Promote the Sixth investment & development opportunity. ▪ Management of the Regeneration Assets in line with the objectives of the City Centre Investment Fund. ▪ Chair and drive forward the transitioning of the Ulster University Community Campus Regeneration Forum. ▪ Take a civic lead on A Bolder Vision for Belfast aimed at a significant transformation of the city centre streets and places, including leading on supporting governance strands, identifying BCC led projects and scoping innovative funding mechanisms.
<p>Increase tourism spend through sustainable tourism products</p> <p>Senior Responsible Officer: John Greer</p>	<p>Delivery year 2 of the 10-year Tourism recovery plan "Make Yourself at Home" including:</p> <p><u>Experience Belfast</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Neighbourhood Tourism Investment Programme. ▪ Developing Council Assets. ▪ Accessible Tourism. ▪ Food Tourism. ▪ Visitor Pass. <p><u>Research and development</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Audit of Visitor Signage, Wayfinding, Street Dressing. ▪ Develop a prioritised plan for enhancing the visitor experience.

Strategic Priority	In Year Deliverables (In 2023-24 we will
	<p><u>Positioning Belfast</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Business Tourism - Conference Subvention. ▪ Positioning of Belfast in national and international Markets and Gateway role of Belfast for Visitors with partners. ▪ Strategic Oversight / Implementation Group. <p><u>Encouraging Sustainable Tourism</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Global Destination Sustainability Index & Actions for Sustainable Tourism work including certification. ▪ Working with the supply chain to incentivise change programmes, raise awareness and pilot projects. <p><u>Delivering the Annual Events programme</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Building on the developmental work which started with Christmas 2021/2022 & St Patrick's 2022. ▪ Maritime / Made in Belfast ▪ Lord Mayors Day ▪ International Events - working with partners to plan & develop bids. <p><u>Small Grants</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continuing to provide grants for community-based sporting events.
<p>Encourage business start-ups and support indigenous business growth</p> <p>Senior Responsible Officer: John Greer</p>	<p><u>Provide 'Starting a Business' services by:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Delivering the 'Go For It' programme to support new businesses, social enterprises and cooperatives across the city to September, then; ▪ with the other councils, launching the new Entrepreneurship Support Service (ESS) in September 2023. <p><u>Support social enterprises and co-operatives by:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Finalising the refresh of our social economy action plan based on research and engagement with sector partners such as SENI, Cooperative Alternatives and Trademark. ▪ Introducing a new financial incentive (with Community Finance Ireland CFI) to improve the financial management skills of new and growing social enterprises. ▪ Provide a range of additional support interventions including mentoring, workshops and event. <p><u>Provide 'Growing a Business' services by:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Using the previously mentioned new Entrepreneurship Support Service to also help existing businesses. ▪ Pending the introduction of the new service, continuing to provide mentoring and guidance support to Belfast based businesses. ▪ Delivering a series of workshops and events on issues such as Website and SEO basics, E-commerce essentials, Sales and Marketing, Investment Readiness, Writing a Winning bid, Strategy and Business Planning and Introduction to Innovation. ▪ Providing a range of support services to advice small businesses on critical issues such as environmental sustainability and cyber awareness. ▪ Working with InterTrade Ireland and Invest NI to increase the number of businesses engaging in export activity.

Strategic Priority	In Year Deliverables (In 2023-24 we will
	<p><u>Scaling Support and Innovation by:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Focusing on the priority sectors as identified in the Economic Strategy (Fintech and Financial Services, Creative and Digital, Life and Health Sciences, and Advanced Manufacturing, and opportunities through green transition and a drive for more sustainable investment). ▪ Working with the City Innovation Team to build capacity among local businesses, with a particular focus on helping them to access challenge funds and alternative funding sources, including those coming from the Belfast Region City Deal. ▪ Working with key partners including Digital Catapult, Ulster University, Queen's University, Catalyst and Invest NI to increase the number of innovation driven enterprises and scaling businesses. <p><u>Progress the Belfast-Dublin Corridor by:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supporting delivery of key interventions within the strategy and plan. ▪ Supporting the completion of the feasibility studies on innovation and circular economy that have been funded through the Shared Island Unit.
<p>Support City Markets</p> <p>Senior Responsible Officer: John Greer</p>	<p><u>Enhance St George's Market by:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Undertaking a development and investment plan to support the sustainability of the market in the future – this will include additional activities such as Twilight Markets and externally-organised events in order to drive additional revenue to support investment in new equipment and facilities. We will also invest in additional visitor insights in order to improve the customer experience at the market. <p><u>Deliver Continental Market by:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Supporting the delivery of the annual Christmas Continental Market at City Hall and will explore opportunities for additional markets, with a particular focus on alignment with other events and activities taking place in the city. <p><u>Support external markets by:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continuing to encourage and support other markets taking place across the city, particularly where these align with and support wider cultural, animation and tourism activity.
<p>Promote and market the city internationally</p> <p>Senior Responsible Officer: Cathy Reynolds</p>	<p><u>Positioning the City to Compete, by:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Playing a lead role in the Renewed Ambition Programme public/private partnership, participating in a programme of events, active engagement and advocacy to promote inclusive real estate development and investment and addressing barriers to investment. ▪ Facilitating investment and development related visits aimed at positioning the city to compete and promote inclusive growth and development for the city. ▪ Implementation of the Building Impact Report, which examines the role the built environment /real estate plays in delivering Social, Economic and Environmental benefits to Belfast and the wider Belfast City Region, including the development of a targeted action plan. ▪ Collating and monitoring the City Development Tracker and market intelligence. ▪ Maintaining and developing the Invest in Belfast website.

Strategic Priority	In Year Deliverables (In 2023-24 we will
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ongoing management of the CRM system to manage the database of investment and development contacts.
<p>Future City Centre Programme and Belfast City Centre Regeneration & Investment Strategy</p> <p>Senior Responsible Officer: Cathy Reynolds</p>	<p>Continue to progress the Future City Centre Programme and priority areas under the Belfast City Centre Regeneration & Investment Strategy including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Partnership working and engagement with city stakeholders across the public, private and third sectors to include the Community Planning Partnership: City Development Board, Future City Centre Leadership Group, UU Community Campus Regeneration Forum the High Street Task Force and relevant developer led fora ▪ Oversee the delivery of the Future City Centre (FCC) Programme six pillars: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Regeneration and connectivity - including City centre living, Bolder Vision; maximising major developments reimagining public realm connectivity and active travel; tactical regeneration etc and continue to deliver physical regeneration and environmental improvements e.g. the Entries Programme, Cathedral Gardens redevelopment and others. Progress the city centre Vacant to Vibrant Capital Grant pilot to address vacancies; ○ Business and Investment; ○ City Centre Vibrancy; ○ Position the city to compete; ○ Digital & Innovation; and ○ Clean, green, inclusive and safe. ▪ Undertaking a refresh of the overall FCC programme based on ongoing work across the pillars to ensure that the programme takes account of changing local and global situations. Considering the vision, objectives of the programme and pillars, refreshed data / performance metrics <p><u>Belfast City Centre Regeneration & Investment Strategy (BCCRIS)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Continue to progress (with partners) projects and interventions identified within BCCRIS and undertake a review of the priorities within the BCCRIS Action Plan. <p><u>Regeneration Projects</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lead the Joint Regeneration Group with other partners to prioritise and drive key regeneration initiatives ▪ Provide strategic input as appropriate with private and public sector developments via established Regeneration Project Reference Groups ▪ Delivery of the Tactical Regeneration programme including Grey to Green, Active Travel Enablers, 5C's Revitalisation Programme and Entries Phase 2 programme. ▪ Lead the Community Planning Partnership and City Development Board on the identified priorities of housing led regeneration; connectivity, active and sustainable travel; Future City Centre; and City-wide regeneration & investment. ▪ Continue to develop the Cathedral Gardens physical project by creating a multi-use civic space in the city centre and ▪ Deliver Phase 2 of the Belfast Entries project comprising environmental enhancements in the city centre.

Strategic Priority	In Year Deliverables (In 2023-24 we will
	<u>Developer Contributions</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor and analyse valid planning applications to bring forward projects and infrastructure proposals utilising developer contributions.
City Infrastructure Senior Responsible Officer: Cathy Reynolds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to champion the Council's preferred position for major infrastructure projects. Continue to represent Council and play a key role on city wide boards facilitating, enabling and influencing major infrastructure development and investment including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> York Street Interchange; BRT Phase 2; Belfast Streets Ahead; and Weaver's Cross.
Committee Assets Senior Responsible Officer: John Greer	<u>Continue to operate and seek ways to improve the main assets associated with this committee, including:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Belfast Zoo; Belfast Bike Scheme Malone House; and Belfast Castle.
Belfast Stories Senior Responsible Officer: Wendy Langham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete the abandonment of adopted alleyway at the site. Appointment of the professional services teams (Integrated Design Team (IDT), Interpretative Planning and Exhibition Design Team (IPEDT) and Project Management and Design Assurance Team PMDAT). Complete Belfast Stories Audit. Deliver Stories collection trial project. Draft RIBA 2 design and commence RIBA 2 design consultation. Deliver 2023/24 Engagement and Communications Plan, including further stakeholder and community consultation. Complete Consumer testing of RIBA 2 design proposals. Draft OBC 2 / RIBA 2 agreed by BCC for approval.
Access, Connectivity, Active and Sustainable Travel Senior Responsible Officer: Cathy Reynolds	<u>Active Travel and Connectivity</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop an overarching programme, including feasibility stages to coordinate our approach to access, active and sustainable travel and connectivity aligned to corporate priorities across policy, project delivery, programming and partnership working (including the Belfast Agenda City Development Board) and the Bolder Vision for Belfast, development of greenways, Access to the Hills and other initiatives. <u>A Bolder Vision for Belfast</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalisation of strategy, SEA consultation and Action plan Focused work with partners in terms of mitigating the risk around alignment on the Vision for the Civic Spine within the Client / Translink Team – outworking of the BMTP and Climate Risk Action Plan Belfast Urban Greenway (BUG): Complete the BUG study, ensuring engagement with internal and external stakeholders to agree the next steps around feasibility and delivery.

Strategic Priority	In Year Deliverables (In 2023-24 we will
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the delivery / integration of the joint working approach with DfC/DfI for delivering key projects. Identifying priority projects to bring to business case and identify funding opportunities including a focus on Embracing the River and connecting to the Civic Spine. Work with delivery partners to develop and deliver Bolder Visions projects. <p><u>Horizon Europe Urban Planning 2030</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lead the Horizon Europe UP2030 including research, training and policy development to create a framework for a net zero district <p><u>Waterfront Proposition – Belfast Waterfront Promenade</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progressing the Belfast Waterfront Promenade Proposition in conjunction with the Waterfront Task Group <p><u>Belfast – Cork Harbour Cities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support on the feasibility around a joint bid for investment with Cork City Council under the Shared Island fund focused on Waterfront area aligned to A Bolder Vision “Embrace the River” <p><u>Sustainable Travel Initiatives</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to implement the various active travel projects currently underway and further pending award of funding <p><u>Belfast Bikes</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expansion of the Belfast Bikes scheme network. <p><u>Car Parking Strategy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to monitor and review the implementation of the city centre Car Parking Strategy in conjunction with DfI and other stakeholders. <p><u>Access to the Hills/ Connectivity Programme</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to the Hills – Develop a plan for enhanced access to the Hills including exploring the creation of further access points into the Hills and Continue to create a more connected city by using existing and new greenways, urban greenways and existing and enhanced green spaces connecting the North, South, East and West of the city as well as the city centre.
Educational underachievement Senior Responsible Officer: John Greer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to deliver our GCSE support programme. Deliver the Youth Support programme for those most at risk of disengaging from formal education. Work with the Partnership Boards and the Education Inequalities sub-group to secure longer-term options to support young people.
Access to employment	<p><u>Deliver Employment academies in areas such as:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practical sectors such as logistics, construction, utilities, fibre. Professional services such as administration, business and tech.

Strategic Priority	In Year Deliverables (In 2023-24 we will
<p>Senior Responsible Officer: John Greer</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Care and education sectors including classroom assistants, health and social care, childcare and playwork. ▪ Customer service sectors such as leisure and tourism. <p><u>Improving demand side support by:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Working with public sector bodies and key employers in priority sectors to increase the use of academies to match jobs to people
<p>Upskilling opportunities</p> <p>Senior Responsible Officer: John Greer</p>	<p><u>Progress the Belfast Labour Market Partnership (LMP)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gateway to Choices to support 1200 individuals to move into training or employment. ▪ Development work to be undertaken to progress the Labour Market Observatory. ▪ Extension of the Digital Badging initiative to an additional 20 organisations/employers. ▪ Bridges to Progression to support 180 young people engaging on Training for Success/Skills for Life & Work.

2. Community Recovery

Key 2022/23 deliverables

The following list of deliverables will be reported on a six-monthly basis to Committee to demonstrate progress and explain if progress has been delayed.

Strategic Priority	In Year Deliverables (In 2022-23 we will:)
Maximising housing development and regeneration opportunities Senior Responsible Officer: Cathy Reynolds	<p><u>BCC Housing Led Regeneration Programme</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to bring forward regeneration, and development options for BCC assets in conjunction with wider public and private sectors, to include the ongoing strategic site assessment of BCC lands for regeneration purposes including housing. Work with city wide partners to maximise residential development opportunities jointly working to overcome obstacles to increasing residential development including city centre living. Identify and progress as appropriate potential external funding opportunities to help facilitate housing led regeneration schemes. <p><u>Citywide strategic opportunities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to work through the Community Planning Partnership Housing Led Regeneration Group to collate public sector land data and undertaking an analysis of public sector lands utilising the LDP Urban Capacity Study and Housing Monitor to identify public sector land opportunities for housing. Progress next steps for development of each of the identified sites, including Member engagement planning and site appraisals, feasibility and progress development options as appropriate for identified BCC sites. Continue working with relevant public and private sector bodies to identify wider potential housing development opportunities and identify and help unblock challenges to delivery via Housing Led Regeneration. <p><u>Strategic City Centre Cluster Sites</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage the Development Brief marketing and development process for the INW Northern Cluster Continue to progress development options for each of the cluster sites (inc placemaking concept plans, planning etc) at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> INW (Southern); Exchange St/Corporation Street; Ormeau Avenue; Dunbar; Gloucester Street; and Ravenhill. Progress next steps, following the launch of the EOI process for an Institutional investor / development partner, , including potential delivery vehicle opportunities for the identified housing led and mixed-use regeneration sites.

Strategic Priority	In Year Deliverables (In 2022-23 we will:)
	<p data-bbox="528 297 791 327"><u>City Centre Living Vision</u></p> <ul data-bbox="528 331 1398 434" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="528 331 1398 434">▪ Alignment of finalised Vision with the implementation of the LDP, including next steps / recommendations / engagement / Outward document and comms.

Key Expenditure

The expenditure for the 2023-24 City Growth and Regeneration Committee Plan is based on a total planned investment of £20.45 million. This represents an increase of 2.56% on the 2022/23 budget. The main budgetary intentions of the Committee for the next year are set out in the below table and are aligned to the key actions included in this Plan which will deliver on the priorities of the Belfast Agenda.

Service	Budget (£) 2023 - 24
Off-Street Car Parking	-989,113
City Regeneration	1,852,268
Place and Economy Directorate	2,214,726
Economic Development	17,367,473
Total	20,445,354



Belfast
City Council