#### **Public Document Pack**

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



### HYBRID MEETING OF THE CITY GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE - COMBINED PACK

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in the Lavery Room - City Hall on Wednesday, 9th August, 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

#### 2. **Presentation**

(a) Renewed Ambition Partnership (Pages 1 - 54)

#### 3. Restricted Items

- (a) Future City Centre Programme Vacant to Vibrant (Pages 55 62)
- (b) Update on Externally Funded Projects: Active Travel Enablers, Grey to Green and South West Quarter (Pages 63 78)
- (c) Zoo Collection Update (Pages 79 84)

(d) Year-End Finance Report 2022-23 (Pages 85 - 90)

#### 4. Regenerating Places and Improving Infrastructure

- (a) Department for Communities Covid Recovery Revitalisation Programme Update (Pages 91 98)
- (b) Department for Infrastructure response to Committee Correspondence (Pages 99 122)

#### 5. **Growing Business and the Economy**

- (a) Enterprise Support Service Update (Pages 123 128)
- (b) Belfast Business Promise Update (Pages 129 136)
- (c) Eurocities Update (Pages 137 140)

#### 6. **Positioning the City to Compete**

- (a) Festive Lighting Scheme and Future Christmas Programming (Pages 141 146)
- (b) Artist Studios Update (Pages 147 156)
- (c) Major Events Update (Pages 157 164)
- (d) Music Strategy Update (Pages 165 174)

#### 7. Strategic and Operational Issues

(a) Response to Government Departments EQIA consultations (Pages 175 - 186)



| Subject:           | Renewed Ambition Programme Update                                |  |
|--------------------|--|--|
| Date:              | 9 August 2023  |  |
| Reporting Officer: | Cathy Reynolds, Director of City Regeneration and Development    |  |
| Contact Officer:   | Marie Miller, Marketing Manager, City Regeneration & Development |  |
|                    |  |  |
|                    |  |  |

| Restricted Reports                                |                          |   |           |          |          |       |  |
|---|--------------------------|---|-----------|----------|----------|-------|--|
| Is this report restricted?                        |                          |   | Yes       |          | No       | х     |  |
| If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted? |                          |   |           |          |          |       |  |
|   | After Committee Decision |   |           |          |          |       |  |
| After Council Decision                            |                          |   |           |          |          |       |  |
| Some time in the future                           |                          |   |           |          |          |       |  |
| Never   |                          |   |           |          |          |       |  |
| Call-in   |                          |   |           |          |          |       |  |
| Is the decision eligible for Call-in?             |                          |   |           |          |          |       |  |
| 1.0   | Purpo                    | se of Report or Summary of main Issues                      |           |          |          |       |  |
| 1.1   | The pu                   | urpose of this report is to:                                |           |          |          |       |  |
|   | •                        | Update Members on the Renewed Ambition Public - Pri         | vate Pa   | ırtnersl | hip 202  | 22 /  |  |
|   |                          | 2023 programme; and proposed 2023 / 2024 programm           | ne of wo  | rk aim   | ed at    |       |  |
|   |                          | attracting inclusive investment for the delivery of regene  | eration,  | infrastı | ructure  | and   |  |
|   |                          | a modern built environment for Belfast and wider City R     | egion.    |          |          |       |  |
|   | •                        | Seek approval to extend the Council's involvement in the    | e Partn   | ership   |          |       |  |
|   |                          | Programme for 2023 / 2024 and contribution as part of       | a wider   | public-  | -privat  | е     |  |
|   |                          | approach.   |           |          |          |       |  |
| 2.0   | Recon                    | nmendations   |           |          |          |       |  |
| 2.1   | I.                       | Note the presentation from representatives from the Re      | newed .   | Ambitio  | on       |       |  |
|   |                          | Partnership Taskforce, a public private sector partnersh    | iip, aime | ed at a  | ttractir | ıg    |  |
|   |                          | inclusive investment for the delivery of regeneration, infe | rastruct  | ure an   | d a mo   | odern |  |
|   |                          | built environment for Belfast and wider City Region. The    | e preser  | ntation  | provid   | les   |  |

- an update on the 22 / 23 programme of work and the proposed approach to the 23 / 24 Programme.

  Approve that Officers continue to support the 23 / 24 programme including
- II. Approve that Officers continue to support the 23 / 24 programme including governance processes, administering programme funded expenditure and entering into associated contracts on behalf of and with oversight from the Taskforce, and in line with Council's procurement processes.
- III. Approve the Council investment (from existing and approved City Regeneration and Development Budget) as part of the wider public private partnership contribution towards the delivery of the 23 / 24 Programme.
- IV. Approve attendance of Senior Officers at the proposed New York Real Estate Investment Showcase as part of the 23 / 24 programme, subject to event plans being sufficiently progressed and support from wider city partners, noting that it will be funded from the wider public private Renewed Ambition Partnership budget.
- V. Approve attendance by the Chairperson of the Committee, or their nominee, along with Senior Officers as appropriate at MIPIM 2024, noting that it will be funded from the wider public private Renewed Ambition Partnership budget.

#### 3.0 Background

- 3.1 Members will recall that the Committee agreed in June 2023 to receive a presentation from the Renewed Ambition Partnership (RAP) Taskforce to update Members on the 2022 / 2023 programme; and proposed 2023 / 2024 programme of work, including priority issues and objectives for the Partnership moving forward.
- The Renewed Ambition Partnership (RAP) is a joint public-private initiative that is delivering a programme of work aimed at ensuring Belfast is positioned to continue to attract investment to underpin regeneration, development and infrastructure activities in the city required to deliver our inclusive growth ambitions.
- 3.3 The Renewed Ambition Partnership is supported by public, private and key anchor institution partners. Partners comprise of Belfast City Council, all BRCD partner Councils, Invest NI, Belfast Harbour, Translink, Housing Association representation, the local development community and representatives from key city infrastructure, regeneration and development projects.
- In terms of context setting, it is relevant to highlight to Members that the Council have been supporting a public private sector approach to ensuring Belfast is positioned to

attract inclusive investment and delivering sustainable and inclusive growth for the last eight years.

- The Belfast Agenda (the City's Community Plan) sets bold ambitions and economic development priorities for the city. Delivering inclusive growth and ensuring that no one is left behind is central to this vision. It aims to develop a competitive city region economy by creating 46,000 additional jobs and attracting 66,000 new residents into the city. Positively through the Belfast Agenda Statement of Progress, which is published every two years, significant progress has been made in achieving key short term targets including attracting £1 billion in private sector investment and securing a Belfast Region City Deal. The joint public private sector approach and shared focus created through RAP has been key to achieving this. It is an important platform and lever within our wider 'Position the City to Compete' proposition which seeks to build on the city's reputation as a unique destination for investment, tourism, development and supporting inclusive economic growth.
- Members will be aware that whilst the city has experienced a positive trajectory in terms of regeneration and investment, there is still more work to be done to achieve the ambitious targets as set out within the Belfast Agenda, and importantly unlocking the wider inclusive benefits of such investment and, ensuring these reach every part of the city. This will require significant private and public sector investment. To give members a sense of investment required, the Belfast Agenda indicates the need for a total investment in the region of £7.5 billion by 2035. This includes the requirement to deliver 31,600 new homes for and development of 550,000 sq m of employment floor space to support the additional jobs.
- 3.7 The priorities within the Belfast City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy (BCCRIS) together with the Future City Programme and city-wide regeneration and investment priorities remain critical to delivering physical and inclusive development in the city. From a Community Planning and city leadership perspective, the cross sectoral City Development Board has identified housing-led regeneration; improving connectivity active and sustainable travel; supporting city-wide development and regeneration and delivering the Future City Centre programme as key priorities for the city's future growth. It is important to note that a number of Renewed Ambition partners are also represented on the City Development Board, underpinning the importance of a collaborative approach to city development.

- Through our Inclusive Growth Framework, we are committed to working with our partners including the private sector, anchor institutions, community and voluntary sector and our wider public sector partners to create an inclusive city. The physical and built environment is part of an overall enabling framework to deliver on this.
- 3.9 Members will also be aware of the 'Reset for Growth' report that the Innovation and Inclusive Growth Commission produced in 2021. This report set out a number of strategic priorities for action which would help support inclusive economic growth in Belfast. these included delivering a house building programme at scale, creating a sustainable, connected, and animated city centre, focusing on making Belfast a globally significant innovation hub in key sectors and building strong global co-operation frameworks. Specifically, the Commission highlighted the need for collaborative working with partners, building strategic networks and relationships and developing viable investment propositions to bring to market as being critical to positioning the city globally as an attractive investment location.

#### 4.0 Main Report

#### 4.1 Renewed Ambition Programme 2022 / 2023 Update

As outlined in the accompanying presentation, the RAP 2022 / 2023 programme ran from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2022 to the 31<sup>st</sup> May 2023 and delivered a structured programme of work focussed on the five key pillars of Research; Events; Advocacy and Engagement; Communications and Repository aligned to securing investment and regeneration for the Belfast region.

#### 4.2 Benefits achieved through the 2022/2023 Programme

As highlighted previously, to Council, RAP is one lever within the wider "Position the City to Compete" proposition and forms a key element within the Corporate Plan. It aligns and complements other city partnerships including Innovation City Belfast, Belfast Region City Deal and alongside council-led activities to accelerate city centre living, Smart Belfast, Resilience / Net Zero and our Economic Development activities. It is a key tool in attracting external capital investment required to deliver key regeneration projects across the city.

4.3 Council's participation in the 22/23 programme has delivered a number of benefits in terms of working to achieve our corporate and city level strategic priorities. Members will be aware that in March 2023, the Council launched an Expression of Interest seeking to

establish a long-term arrangement with an investor / development partner to bring forward the sustainable, residential-led regeneration of a number of Council assets within the city centre. Through the 22/23 RAP programme the Council were able to promote this opportunity with institutional investors at events such as UKREiiF and MIPIM. Attending these events provided Officers with an opportunity to hold one to one meetings with key institutional investors, banks and pension funds all with strong track records and focus on Environmental, Social and Governance. There was a significant footfall on the Belfast Stands at both events, and requests for impromptu meetings from investors and developers interested in Belfast. This interest can be evidenced in the responses received to the EOI which closed at the end of May.

The Belfast City Regeneration Tracker (Appendix A) was presented to the Committee in March 2023. This provided an overview of regeneration and development activity which took place across the city during 2022, as aligned to the Belfast Agenda and the eight policies set out in BCCRIS. There was positive progress across the range of asset classes throughout 2022, which is expected to continue through 2023 given the scale of schemes commencing or planning to commence. As previously noted by this Committee, in 2022 / 2023 there was a 2% growth in rates base (arising from additional development), which resulted in additional rates growth of £3.3m every year.

#### 4.5 **2023 / 2024 Programme**

As touched on within the request to present report to Committee in June this year, Members were advised that the governance of the Renewed Ambition Partnership is via a Taskforce comprised of representatives of the public and private sector. Council plays a key role in both the strategic and operational management of RAP; including the development, management and delivery of the Programme of Activity; and supporting the governance processes, administering programme funded expenditure, and entering into associated contracts on behalf of, and with oversight from, the Taskforce. Members are asked to approve Council continuing to take on this role, with officers supporting the 23/24 programme including governance processes, administering programme funded expenditure and entering into associated contracts on behalf of and with oversight from the Taskforce, and in line with Council's procurement processes.

The presentation accompanying this report from the Renewed Ambition Partnership Taskforce sets out the core objectives and workstreams for the 2023 / 2024 programme. It will continue to be delivered as a structured pillared programme of work (Events,

Advocacy & Engagement, Communications and Research). The 2023/2024 programme will continue to align to and complement other BCC led activities within the context of 'Positioning the City to Compete' and delivering a 'Global Future' - a key action area from the Innovation and Inclusive Growth Commission. This includes work being undertaken by Economic Development, Tourism and Culture, International Relations, Resilience, the SMART team and partnerships including Innovation City Belfast, Belfast Dublin Economic Corridor and BRCD. In addition, the need to continue to work in collaboration with international partners, including Department for Business and Trade (DBT) and Invest NI to promote investment opportunities in Belfast will be a critical component, notably through the upcoming Northern Ireland Investment Summit.

- 4.7 For the Council, the key aims and objectives of being part of the Renewed Ambition Partnership and contributing to the programme include:
  - Securing investment to assist with delivery of our growth ambitions as outlined in the Belfast Agenda, and aligned to corporate priorities
  - Maximising the benefits of the Belfast Region City Deal investments
  - Identifying and potentially securing longer term institutional investment to support the implementation of agreed regeneration plans for the city, with a particular emphasis on housing led regeneration and city centre living
  - Securing investment in the built environment on a city-wide basis to maximise opportunities to create jobs, support inclusive economic growth alongside enhancing physical and social infrastructure across the city
  - Securing investment in key city infrastructure schemes including waterfront regeneration, connectivity, net-zero and innovation related projects
  - Investment to help address dereliction and support the re-use and preservation of heritage assets
  - Investment in tourism and cultural products to underpin regeneration priorities
  - Investment in clean tech, environmental and sustainability initiatives
- The Council has a lead role to play in delivering on this shared agenda. Supporting the collaborative partnership approach taken by the Renewed Ambition Programme to showcasing Belfast, locally and globally, to the real estate investment, development and occupier market is critical, as we seek to attract the right investment into the city to drive the delivery of key regeneration projects, including residential, commercial and forthcoming BRCD projects, to provide for sustainable inclusive growth in the city.

- All five BRCD partner Councils have invested in RAP since 2019 and it has been an important forum to showcase the real estate investment potential for the wider Belfast City Region and forthcoming BRCD projects. BRCD, which seeks to deliver a 10-year programme to increase GVA by £470m and creating up to 20,000 new and better jobs across the Belfast City Region is in delivery phase across 6 Council areas. Within Belfast, it will support the delivery of Belfast Stories, active travel through a new cycle & pedestrian bridge, a Smart District as well as innovative University-led centres of excellence in life & health sciences, artificial intelligence and data analytics and virtual production at Studio Ulster. BRCD is targeting a further £1bn of private sector investment in order to deliver the benefits in terms of jobs and productivity set out within the business cases.
- 4.10 The Renewed Ambition Partnership is supported and funded by public, private and key anchor institution partners, with external funding forming the majority of the overall programme delivery budget. Members are asked to note the proposed approach to the 2023 / 2024 Programme and approve the Council investment (from existing and approved City Regeneration & Development Budget) as part of the wider public private partnership contribution towards the delivery of the 23 / 24 Programme.

#### 4.11 New York 2023 Real Estate Investment Showcase

The RAP Taskforce endorsed exploring the opportunity to organise a focused Real Estate Investment Showcase in New York as part of the 23/24 programme to meet with potential investors and occupiers, to ensure the inclusion of the real estate opportunity in Belfast and the wider region to these audiences. The partnership is engaging with other partners including Invest NI to gauge support and further endorsement. From a Council perspective, officers are working across City Regeneration, Economic Development and International Relations through the wider "Position the City to Compete" proposition to ensure alignment with the planned International Relations Programme, notably New York New Belfast and on-going engagement with US Diplomats and Consulate. Subject to event plans being sufficiently progressed and support from wider city partners, Members are asked to approve senior officer attendance at the proposed Real Estate Investment Showcase, noting that it will be funded from the wider public private Renewed Ambition Partnership budget.

#### 4.12 **MIPIM 2024**

Members are reminded that in previous years the Council has participated in the 'Team Belfast' attendance at MIPIM, and more recently in 2023 as part of the Renewed

Ambition Partnership. MIPIM is the world's leading built environment conference and exhibition. The Renewed Ambition Taskforce has recently endorsed a Belfast presence at MIPIM in March 2024 and its inclusion within the Programme of activity for 2023 / 2024. The presentation to Committee from representatives from the Renewed Ambition Taskforce will provide further detail on how a Belfast Region presence at MIPIM assists on the delivery of investment that provides for sustainable inclusive growth in the city and wider city region, based on previous experience at MIPIM and looking forward.

- 4.13 MIPIM brings together nearly 27,000 public and private sector built environment representatives from across the globe, including all major UK and European cities. It provides city leaders with an opportunity to promote their city to a global audience and connect with potential partners and sources of investment required to unlock built environment regeneration and development, while supporting the built environment industry to bring forward sustainable development and help accelerate on the road to net zero.
- 4.14 From a Renewed Ambition Partnership perspective, partners feel that attending MIPIM allows Belfast and the Belfast Region to position itself to a global audience and attract the interest of institutional investors, developers, occupiers and funders in the context of bringing forward sustainable development to create a well-connected and culturally vibrant, sustainable city and region. The Partnership has therefore proposed a Belfast City Region presence at MIPIM 2024, in line with other UK Cities.
- The RAP Partnership feel that in order to successfully showcase Belfast and the wider City Region, it requires the civic leadership and attendance of Belfast City Council. The Council's involvement will align to and complement other BCC led activities within the context of 'Positioning the City to Compete' and delivering a 'Global Future' a key action area from the Innovation and Inclusive Growth Commission. Members are asked to approve attendance by the Chairperson of the Committee, or their nominee, along with Senior Officers as appropriate at MIPIM 2024, noting that it will be funded from the wider public private Renewed Ambition Partnership budget.

#### 5.0 Financial & Resource Implications

5.1

**2023 / 2024 Partnership and Programme Support:** Council plays a key role in both the strategic and operational management of RAP; including supporting the governance processes, administering programme funded expenditure, and entering into associated

contracts on behalf of, and with oversight from, the Taskforce, and in line with Council's procurement processes. Subject to Member agreement it is proposed that the Council continues to take on this role, with officers supporting the 23/24 programme including governance processes, administering programme funded expenditure and entering into associated contracts on behalf of and with oversight from the Taskforce, and in line with Council's procurement processes.

- Council investment in the 2023 / 2024 Programme: The Renewed Ambition

  Partnership is delivered as a public private sector sponsorship fund and is supported by a range of public, private and key anchor institutions. The partnership comprises of all BRCD partner Councils, Belfast Harbour Commissioners, QUB, and representatives from the developer and built environment supply chain community. They contributed towards the 2022 / 2023 programme, with external and private sector funding forming the majority of the overall programme budget. It is anticipated that the majority of the 2023 / 2024 programme budget will again be funded through external funding.
- Council has previously agreed to contribute of £80,000 towards the 2022 / 2023

  Programme, and subject to Members agreement it is proposed that Council contribute £80,000 (from existing and approved City Regeneration and Development Budget) as part of the wider public private partnership investment towards the delivery of the 23 / 24 Partnership and Programme.
- New York 2023 Real Estate Investment Showcase and MIPIM 2024: The RAP Taskforce are proposing that a Belfast City Region presence at MIPIM 2024 and a proposed New York Real Estate Investment Showcase as part of the 23 / 24 programme, with associated costs being funded through the 23 / 24 Partnership sponsorship budget.
- Approval is sought for attendance by the Chairperson of the Committee, or their nominee, along with Senior Officers as appropriate at MIPIM 2024.
- Approval is also sought for Senior Officer attendance at the proposed New York Real Estate Showcase; however this is subject to event plans being sufficiently progressed and alignment with strategic Council corporate objectives.
- 5.7 Travel costs for Council attendance at the proposed New York Real Estate Investment Showcase and MIPIM 2024 to be met from within existing and approved departmental

|     | budgets. All other costs related to these events would be met from the 2023 / 2024 |
|-----|--|
|     | RAP Public - Private Partnership budget.   |
| 6.0 | Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment                    |
|     | None associated with this report.  |
| 7.0 | Appendices – Documents attached  |
|     | Appendix A – Belfast Regeneration Tracker Review of 2022                           |
|     | Appendix B - Renewed Ambition Partnership Presentation                             |



# **Belfast City Centre Regeneration Tracker**

Review of 2022





### **City Centre**



#### **Loft Lines, Titanic Quarter**

Planning granted for 778 new homes at Titanic Quarter, including 151 social and affordable homes and a new public park. The mixed tenure regeneration scheme is expected to commence during 2023.



#### Portland 38, Ormeau Road

Construction continued at Portland 38; a development of 38 apartments adjacent to Portland 88 - a development of 88 apartments completed in 2019.



#### City Quays 4

Belfast Harbour submitted planning for 256 'energy efficient' Build-to-Rent apartments on the Maritime Mile, next to the proposed City Quays Gardens.



#### Wilton House, College Square North

£4.5m restoration, conversion and extension of a Grade B1 listed building to create 23 apartments. The scheme secures the future of a 17th century property previously on the Buildings at RIsk Register.



#### **Belfast Waterside**

Plans to develop up to 500 new apartment homes at the former Sirocco Works site progressed during 2022. The scheme includes up to 80 social apartments overlooking the River Lagan.



#### Castle Place

Conversion of a prominent listed building into 9 apartments, including a refurbished ground floor retail unit. The scheme represents the only Living Over the Shops (LOTS) scheme to progress during 2022.



#### **Weavers Cross**

Outline planning granted for c.400 new homes adjacent to Belfast Grand Central Station, including at least 20% affordable. Translink is expected to announce a Development Partner during 2023.



#### **Porter's Annex, Apsley Street**

Construction continued throughout 2022 to deliver 23 apartments off Donegall Pass. Completion is expected during late 2023.

### **City Centre**



#### **College Square North**

Triangle Housing Association commenced construction on 48 social apartments comprising 38 General Needs, 7 Active Elderly and 3 wheelchair units.



#### Pilot Street, Sailortown

Belfast Harbour consulted on plans for 70 affordable / social townhouses and apartments within Sailortown. A planning application followed in February 2023.



#### Posnett Street, Belfast

Clanmil Housing Association consulted on plans for up to 28 social homes. A planning application is expected to follow in 2023.



#### **Gasworks Northern Fringe**

Planning granted for 94 social homes on Belfast City Council's Gasworks Northern Fringe lands. Radius Housing Association expect construction to commence 2023.



#### **McClure Street**

Apex Housing commenced construction on 22 social homes, comprising 20 houses, 2 apartments and 1 wheelchair bungalow. The scheme, on land transferred from Belfast City Council, is due to complete during 2024.



#### **Durham House, Durham Street**

Radius Housing continued to progress plans for the redevelopment of the existing Durham House into 22 new apartment homes. A planning application is expected during 2023.



#### **Loft Lines, Titanic Quarter**

Planning granted for 151 social and affordable homes at Titanic Quarter. The 4 acre waterfront regeneration scheme is expected to commence during 2023.



#### **Ormeau Centre, Verner Street**

Habinteg Housing continue to progress plans for the redevelopment of an existing hostel building to provide new residential units.

### **Housing Led Regeneration**



#### Inner North West - North

Work continued to deliver a city centre living project across three sites in Council and DfC ownership. The opportunity is centred around the INW Masterplan regeneration principles.



#### **Corporation Street / Exchange Street**

Work continued to prepare a mixed tenure residential-led regeneration scheme with a focus on placemaking and connections between Sailortown / City Quays and the Cathedral Quarter / City Centre.



#### Inner North West - South (Smithfield)

Work continued to prepare a placemaking opportunity including new public spaces, reimagined Smithfield Market and high quality mixed-tenure city centre living connected to surrounding neighbourhoods.



#### **Dunbar Street**

Work continued to prepare a placemaking opportunity across nearly 3 acres of the Cathedral Quarter. Includes Council's cleansing depot and Commission House, public car park and adjoining private land.



#### **Gloucester Street / May Street**

Work continued to prepare a high quality mixed-tenure city centre living project on Council's former Digital Services building at Gloucester Street.



#### **Ormeau Avenue / Bankmore**

Work continued to prepare a residentialled regeneration scheme with a focus on placemaking and connections between the Ormeau-Gasworks City Deal bridge and Weavers Cross, via the preferred route for the G3 North-South Glider.



#### Ravenhill Road / Albertbridge

Work continued to prepare a waterfront regeneration project including mixed-tenure residential and a focus on reconnecting to the river and surrounding neighbourhoods.



#### **Surrounding City**

Council continued to work with public sector partners to identify potential land and assets that could enable housing-led regeneration opportunities across the city.

### **Student Accommodation**



#### **Aster House, University Road**

CA Ventures, Lacuna Developments and Farrans Construction completed 253 student beds on top of a culverted railway line. The building is managed by Novel Student.



#### **Nelson Street**

Graham commenced construction on Belfast's largest student scheme. In addition to 774 beds the building will include sports and recreation facilities and a zero carbon energy strategy. This is Student Roost's 5th Belfast location.



#### **Alma Place, Library Street**

CA Ventures, Lacuna Developments and Farrans Construction completed the first phase of 393 student beds. The building fully opens early 2023 and is managed by Novel Student.



#### 48-52 York Street

ROK Property commenced site enabling works, including site clearance. Work is scheduled to commence during 2023. The completed scheme will comprise 307 managed student bedspaces.



#### **Bradbury Place**

Elkstone Partners and Mascott Construction commenced construction on 156 student beds for Mezzino Student's first Belfast location.



#### **Bruce Street**

McAleer & Rushe commenced construction on 271 student beds for Vita Student's first Belfast location.



#### **Glenalpin Street**

Artemis Developments Ltd submitted a Pre-Application Notice for a managed student accommodation building comprising 410 beds accessed from Wellwood Street.



#### **Dublin Road**

FMN Properties submitted a Pre-Application Notice for an 11-storey managed student accommodation building comprising 210 beds over a redeveloped public house.

### **Outside City Centre**



#### **Brookfield Mill, Crumlin Road**

Kerr Property and EHA Group completed 77 social homes for Clanmil Housing Association. The redeveloped former linen mill comprises 55 apartments and 22 duplex apartments.



#### King's Hall

Choice Housing, and subsidiary Maple & May, commenced construction of 81 new apartments on Plot 3. The £14m scheme includes 45 apartments for over 55s and 36 apartments for private rental.



#### St Gemma's, Ardoyne

Kerr Property and EHA Group completed 53 social homes for Clanmil Housing Association. The scheme comprises 29 houses, 24 apartments and 5 retail units.



#### Glenmona

Site enabling works commenced to prepare the 75 acre site for future housing development. The £95m seven year programme will deliver 653 new homes, including 549 social housing homes and 104 affordable homes.



#### Park Avenue, Holywood Road

Choice Housing commenced a mixed tenure development comprising 90 social units and 27 private rental units. The project is expected to be completed during 2024.



#### **Beersbridge Road**

Planning granted for 31 new social homes at the junction of Woodstock Road and Beersbridge Road with construction expected to commence during early 2023.



#### Lesley Parklands, Knocknagoney

Lesley Residential completed 90 one, two and three bedroom apartments across three buildings for private rental. The site had been vacant since 2015.



#### **Lewis Square, Connswater**

Choice Housing, and subsidiary Maple & May, completed a £10m mixed tenure scheme comprising 44 social apartments across three buildings, 12 affordable for sale and 15 private rented apartments across a further two buildings.



Increase the employment population



# 2/ Increase the employment population



#### The Ewart, Bedford Street

McAleer & Rushe completed the £85m restoration and extension of the Grade B+ former Ewart's warehouse with a BREEAM Excellent rating. The 200,000ft2 building is expected to be fully let during 2023.



#### The Paper Exchange, Chichester St

Heron Bros. contintued construction on 155,000ft2 of office accommodation for Wirefox. The building includes two ground floor retail / cafe units, creating active frontage to Chichester Street. Completion is expected early in 2023.



#### **Olympic House, Titanic Quarter**

O'Hare & McGovern completed Titanic Quarter and Belfast Harbour's joint investment to create 146,000ft2 of BREEAM Excellent workspace. The building achieved an EPC 'A' rating and features rainwater harvesting and recycling and PV panels.



#### **Custom House**

Straidorn completed the first phase of a £6m refurbishment of the Grade B+ listed building and entered into a JV arrangement with BE Offices to manage the 58,000ft2 building.



#### City Quays 3

Farrans Construction completed NI's largest office building for Belfast Harbour. The 250,000ft2 riverfront building is built to a BREEAM Excellent sustainability standard. Tenants include Investec, Aflac and Microsoft.



#### The Shipmaker's House

During late 2022 MJM commenced site enabling works to extend and refurbish a B1 listed Georgian terrace at Donegall Square East; creating over 35,000ft2 of office accommodation.



#### **Print Works, Queen Street**

Angus Properties commenced work to refurbish and extend a late 19th century red-brick warehouse into 50,000ft2 of office space over ground floor retail units. Completion is expected late 2023.



#### **Pearl Assurance House**

During late 2022 MJM commenced site enabling works to refurbish this late 19th century listed building into high-end office accommodation. The basement and ground floor will comprise a new restaurant unit with adjoining cafe space.

# 2/ Increase the employment population



#### Urban HQ 2, Upper Queen Street

Magell submitted planning for a second £7m Urban HQ shared workspace building opposite their existing Eagle Star House location, completed in 2020.



#### **One Grosvenor Gate**

Planning granted for Ossian Holdings' 225,000ft2 grade A office development adjacent Weaver's Cross.



#### **Create Lab, Bruce Street**

Andras House commenced refurbishment o a former furniture showroom to create 10,500ft2 of grade A office accommodation.



#### The Vantage, Great Victoria Street

McAleer & Rushe completed a £25m redevelopment of a vacant office building, sustainably repurposing over 60,000ft2 of office space and achieving BREEAM 'Very Good' and EPC A.



#### **BT Tower, Lanyon Place**

GRAHAM Fit Out commenced work at BT's Riverside Tower as part of BT's five year programme to modernise and consolidate its estate from 300 to 30 locations. Over 160,000ft2 of renewed office space will accommodate more than 2000 BT staff.



#### 35DP, Donegall Place

Wirefox acquired 35DP following redevelopment of the vacant upper floors by Ashmour, Bywater & LRE Capital. The 80,000ft2 scheme includes anchor tenant Boots which has occupied the building for 55 years and renewed their lease to 2030.



#### Kainos, Bankmore Square

Kainos released a development brief seeking a development partner to deliver an 80,000ft2 office building, supporting the company's future growth plans and accommodate up to 3,000 staff by 2026.



#### **Transport House**

Unite the Union submitted a planning application proposing to bring the Grade B+ listed building back into active use for the Union and partner organisations. The landmark building has been vacant for over 15 years.



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Manage the retail offering



# 3/ Manage the retail and leisure offering

### **City Centre**



#### Primark, Castle Place

Primark completed the largest retail development in Belfast for 15 years at a cost of more than £70m. The conservation-led re-development of Bank Buildings provides in excess of 88,000ft2 and provides employment for over 500 staff.



#### Cornmarket

Mascott Construction completed a refurbishment of the building for Castle Square Ltd. The re-purposed building, vacant since 2009, now comprises a 3,000ft2 cafe space at ground and mezzanine level with office space above.



#### The Keep, Castle Lane

Alterity Investments commenced redevelopment of the former BHS building, vacant since 2016. The 70,000ft2 retail and leisure space will include Ireland's first Deichmann footwear store.



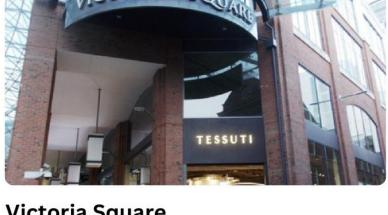
#### Queens Arcade, Donegall Place

Swiss watchmaker Breitling opened alongside Italian fashion house Gucci and OMEGA, in partnership with Lunns Jewellers opened a two storey showroom,



#### RiverStudios, Donegall Place

River Island submitted plans to redevelop the former Disney store and extend across two floors to create a 10,000ft2 concept RiverStudios store with Click & Collect.



#### Victoria Square

Tessuti opened its first Irish store in the former Topshop unit and joins Sweaty Betty and Gilly Hicks as new to Belfast. Goldsmiths and Gym + Coffee upsized in2022 and Slim Chickens opens in 2023.



#### Smithfield

Further heritage shopfront improvements at Gresham Street and Winetavern Street, including the opening of new local independent businesses, Suzie's Cafe and Never Never Clothing. Smithfield Market also became fully let during 2022.



#### **Vacant to Vibrant**

£1m pilot capital grant scheme opened to incentivise property owners and potential occupiers to bring vacant spaces back into use. Six applications have been approved to date.

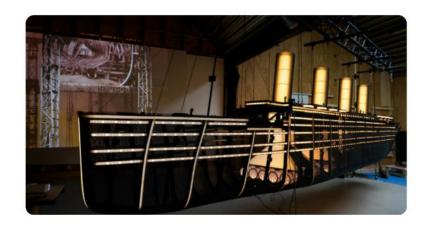
# 3/ Manage the retail and leisure offering

### **City Centre**



#### **Odyssey Pavillion**

Holywood Bowl opened a new £2.4m outlet at the refurbished Odyssey Pavillion. Nando's commenced fit-out of a new restaurant expected to open 2023 alongside Five Guys, Pizza Express and Zizzi.



#### **Titanic Belfast**

A £4.5m refresh of the Titanic Belfast visitor attraction commenced. The attraction reopens in March with four new galleries and an illuminated 7.6m long scale model of RMS Titanic designed by OPERA Amsterdam.



#### The Avenue, Castle Court

Construction commenced to convert the former Debenhams to a new £10m leisure and retail destination. Omniplex revealed a new 30,000ft2 luxury cinema brand 'The Avenue' whilst Starbucks opened a new flagship store at the mall entrance.



#### **Titanic Distillers, Thompson Dock**

Titanic Distiller's commenced work to convert the Thompson Dock Pump House into a distillery and visitor attraction on the Maritime Mile. The £7.6m attraction is expected to open in March 2023.



#### The Ivy, Donegall Place

Planning applications associated with the change of use and conversion of units at the Robinson & Cleaver building submitted and approved throughout the year with The Ivy expected to commence fit-out during 2023.



#### **Trade Market, Dublin Road**

A unique pop-up shipping container market opened on the site of the former Movie House Cinema at Dublin Road. Kainos offered the site on a temporary basis pending future redevelopment.



#### 2 Royal Avenue

Following a short closure during late 2022 the internal space was re-imagined to provide new facilities, including family friendly spaces, and an improved café offering with seating and meeting space.



#### Haymarket, Royal Avenue

Planning application submitted seeking permission for a £3m phased masterplan across several interconnected buildings at Royal Avenue. The re-development comprises a series of connected food and beverage outlets around a central space.

# 3/ Manage the retail and leisure offering

### **Outside City Centre**



#### **Boucher Shopping Park**

Frasers Group acquired Boucher Shopping Park for a reported £40m, making it the largest commercial property transaction of 2022.



#### Giant's Park, North Foreshore

Giant's Park Belfast Ltd continued to progress regeneration plans for the 250acre former landfill site, including leisure and recreational uses.



#### **Kennedy Centre**

Planning submitted to extend the centre, accommodating an enlarged O'Neills store. Tim Horton's opened a standalone unit and the centre submitted planning to construct an EV charging area.



#### **Portview Trade Centre**

Boundary Brewing, an independent co-op brewery opened a taproom next to the existing brewery on site, serving food from neighbouring business Flout Pizza.



#### Cityside Retail & Leisure Park

The 300,000ft2 retail and leisure complex was acquired for more than £14m. Cityside comprises over 140,000ft2 of leisure space, including a 14 screen cinema.



#### **Templemore Baths**

Construction continued throughout 2022 on the £17m refurbishment and extension of the leisure facilities, as part of a £105m Leisure Transformation Programme. A £5m National Lottery Heritage Fund grant supports delivery of the scheme.



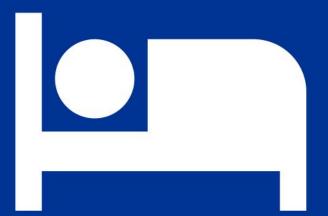
#### Lidl

Lidl opened new expanded stores at Shore Road and Castlereagh Road and submitted planning for a redeveloped store at Stewartstown Road and new store at Olympia, Boucher Road.



#### Crumlin Road Gaol

Belfast Distillery Company commenced construction on a £15m conversion of the Crumlin Road Gaol A-wing into a whiskey distillery with visitor centre, shop and restaurant.





65

Maximise tourism opportunities

# 4/ Maximise tourism opportunities

### **City Centre**



#### **Belfast Stories, Royal Avenue**

Site acquisition was completed for a new £100m visitor destination. Procurement of design teams commenced in 2022 and the teams will be appointed during 2023.



Construction continued at Oakland Holdings Queen Street apart-hotel. The 175-room scheme will be operated by room2 hometels, part of the Lamington Group when completed in 2023.



#### The Dean, Bedford Street

Press Up Hospitality Group submitted proposals for a boutique hotel comprising 91 bedrooms a rooftop restaurant and rooftop swimming pool, to be operated as The Dean Hotel.



#### **Aloft Hotel by Marriott, Titanic Quarter**

JMK Group submitted revised proposals for an Aloft by Marriott Hotel and Residence at Hamilton Dock. The scheme comprises 135 hotel beds and 93 aparthotel beds and is expected to commence during 2023.



#### Moxy Hotel, Waring Street

Planning permission granted for a 164 bedroom Moxy by Marriott Hotel at Waring Street within the retained Nambarrie building. Construction is expected to commence during 2023.



#### Adagio Apart-Hotel, Great Victoria St

Andras House commenced pre-application discussions to convert the vacant Dorchester House office building into 130 apart-hotel rooms for Adagio; a luxury international provider of apart-hotels.



#### Scottish Mutual, Donegall Sq South

Martin Property Group acquired the Grade B1 listed building from the administrators with a view to restoring and enhancing the heritage building to create a boutique hotel.



#### War Memorial Building, Waring St

SOM Properties submit planning to convert and extend the Grade B2 listed building to 120 hotel bedrooms with ground and rooftop restaurant / bar venues. The former office building has been vacant for over 15 years.

### 4/ Maximise tourism opportunities

### **City Centre**



#### **Qaurter, Donegall Street**

Hospitality start-up the Warren Collection converted former student accommodation to create 45 guest bedrooms for 'lower cost city centre breaks'.



#### **Beaufort House, Wellington Place**

Lotus Property submitted a planning application proposing to convert a vacant office building into a 113-bedroom aparthotel.



#### **Centre House, Chichester Street**

Kilmona Property submitted a planning application proposing to convert and extend part of the Centre House office building into a 163-bedroom apart-hotel.



#### 35-37 Donegall Street

Clover Group submitted a planning application proposing a 20-bedroom hotel around a central beer garden and live music stage formed using stacked repurposed shipping containers.

### **Outside City Centre**



#### Mountainview Hotel, Glenmona

Fáilte Feirste Thiar and the Ortus Group announced plans for a 4-star hotel run as a social enterprise. The 50+ bedroom hotel will form part of the mixed-use Glenmona development.



#### St Comgalls, Falls Road

A £7.2m restoration of the vacant former school building completed. The Grade B1-listed building was repurposed on behalf of Falls Community Council to include conference and exhibition facilities, event spaces and a café.



#### EastSide Hotel

Planning permission granted for Eastside Partnership's proposed container hotel at CS Lewis Square. The scheme comprises a 21 bedroom hotel with ground floor cafe / bar facilities.



#### **Belfast City Airport**

Lufthansa announced it will commence flights in 2023 to Frankfurt, Germany. Further expansion by easyJet and Aer Lingus and the new outlets in the terminal lounge included Caffè Nero and La Piazza.



Create a regional learning and innovation centre



### 5/ Create a regional learning and innovation centre



#### **Ulster University, York Street**

Ulster University opened the final phase of its new £360m Belfast city centre campus. Over 15,000 staff and students have now fully relocated from Jordanstown to the 75,000m2 campus.



#### Studio Ulster, Giant's Park

Belfast Harbour commenced construction on a £25m 57,000ft2 production studio at the North Foreshore. The project is being developed in partnership with Ulster University and NI Screen and is funded via the Belfast Region City Deal.



#### One Elmwood, University Road

Queen's University opened a new £42m Student Centre and Students' Union. The 100,000ft2 building brings together a range of student services alongside social, commercial and administrative uses.



#### King's Hall Health & Wellbeing Park

Reserved Matters application submitted for the next phase of development within the King's Hall masterplan. The proposed Medical & Health Services building will sit alongside the recently completed Data Works building.



#### Global Innovation Institute (GII)

Queen's University commenced preapplication discussions to develop a £58m Global Innovation Institute by 2025. The GII is a City Deal funded expansion of QUB's ECIT institute at Catalyst's Belfast campus.



Planning granted to facilitate an extension to the existing film studios and workshop facilities including virtual studios.



#### iREACH, Lisburn Road

Queen's University commenced preapplication discussions to develop two buildings to accommodate iREACH, a project led by QUB in partnership with the NHS. The City Deal funded project aims to establish research excellence in Advanced Clinical Healthcare in NI.



#### **W5 LIFE, The Odyssey**

The Odyssey Trust launched W5 LIFE, a 20,000ft2 extension to W5 to address the skills requirements of NI's increasingly digitalised economy.



age 30

6 Create a green centre, accessible for cycling and walking



# 6/ A green centre, accessible for cycling and walking



#### **Adelaide Street**

Completion of a public realm scheme that reduced the traffic to one lane, creating a calmer, safer, greener environment with a 400 metre long urban garden incorporating seating, playspace and cycle parking. A 2023 RIBA MacEwen Award shortlisted project.



#### **Street Dock, Weavers Cross**

The first meanwhile use at Weavers Cross launched. Street Dock established a second location for their last mile delivery service using zero emission e-cargo bikes. The initiative is supported by Belfast City Council.



#### Little Patrick / Little York Street

Consultation progressed through 2022 on proposals to re-imagine the streets between and around the City's recently development student accommodation. A planning application is expected in 2023.



#### **City Quays Gardens**

Belfast Harbour's submit planning for a proposed new urban garden. Phase 1 involves a £3m investment across 2 acres of land beside the listed Harbour Office building. Construction is expected during 2023 subject to planning permission.



#### **Cathedral Gardens Active Travel Hub**

The Hub opened at Cathedral Gardens within two refurbished shipping containers. A two year pilot project supported by Belfast City Council, Department for Infrastructure, Department for Communities, Ulster University and the Public Health Agency.



#### **York Street Traffic Control Scheme**

Dfl commenced consultation on an Experimental Traffic Control Scheme for York Street, outside the new Ulster University Campus. The proposal includes restricting access to only buses, bicycles and blue badge holders for a trial period.



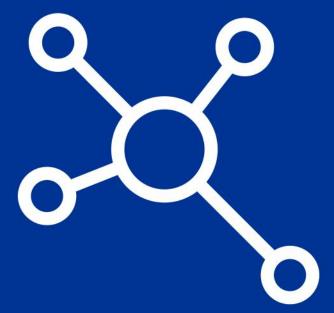
#### **Cathedral Gardens**

The Outline Business Case was prepared during 2022 following public consultation and procurement is expected to commence during 2023 for the Integrated Consultant Team.



#### The Bike Yard, CastleCourt

A free, secure public cycle parking facility opened at CastleCourt Shopping Centre. The partnership between Belfast City Council and CastleCourt was delivered by Department for Infrastructure funding and includes space for 24 bikes.



Connect to surrounding city



# 7/ Connect to surrounding city



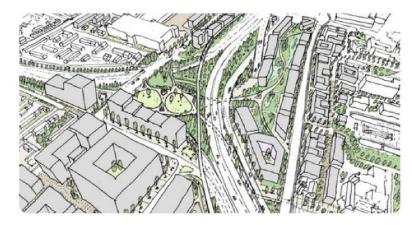
#### **Belfast Grand Central**

Work commenced on the building's structure during late 2022. The hub is expected to complete by 2025 and will comprise 26 bus stands, 8 railway platforms, cycle and taxi provision and enhanced public realm.



#### Glider Phase 2

DFI announced the preferred route for Phase 2 of Belfast Rapid Transit (BRT2). Detailed design of the proposed G3 route along the Antrim Road, Ormeau Road and Saintfield Road is now progressing. The G2 will extend to QUB and City Hospital.



#### **York Street Interchange**

Placemaking and Active Travel Review report published. The report identified several options to enhance placemaking and improve active travel provision around the York Street Interchange area.



#### **YorkGate Train Station**

Graham commenced construction of the new YorkGate Train Station for Translink. The new station is expected to open in 2024 and will also include secure cycle parking, bus and taxi drop-off areas and enhanced public realm around.



#### City Quays - Titanic Quarter Bridge

Belfast Harbour announce plans for a new pedestrian bridge linking City Quays with the Odyssey Pavilion and Titanic Quarter. A planning application is expected during 2023.



#### **Belfast Bikes**

New docking stations were installed at Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre and Kennedy Centre, facilitating further expansion of the network. Further expansion is planned in 2023.



#### **Central Area Track Renewal**

Work commenced on the Lagan Junction to Yorkgate Track Renewal Project. The project involves the replacement of the rail tracks from Lanyon Station to YorkGate station and 400 metres on the Bangor line from Lagan Junction.



#### **Belfast Streets Ahead**

DfC continued to progress Belfast Streets Ahead 3 and 5 throughout 2022 with a particular focus on aligning both projects with A Bolder Vision.



Enhance shared space and social impact



# 8/ Enhance shared space and social impact



#### Loft Lines, Titanic Quarter

Alongside the mixed tenure residential buildings the Loft Lines project will deliver extensive public realm including a new one acre public square and waterside promenade connecting to the Maritime Mile.



### **Belfast Stories, Royal Avenue**

Site acquisition was completed for a new £100m visitor destination. The completed development will feature extensive internal and external public spaces.



#### The Ewart, Bedford Street

Alongside the 200,000ft2 BREEAM Excellent building and restored 19th century linen warehouse a new public space connects Bedford Street with Franklin Street.



### **Ulster University, York Street**

The full opening of Ulster University's new city centre campus has brought the surrounding streets to life with increased footfall. The campus offers shared public space throughout the ground floor areas.



### 2 Royal Avenue

During late 2022 the internal space was reimagined to provide new facilities, including family friendly spaces, and an improved café offering with seating and meeting space. A unique covered public space.



### **Cathedral Gardens**

Following public consultation in 2022 the procurement of a Integrated Consultant Team will progress during 2023. The reimagined space will offer world class public realm for residents and visitors.



#### 100 GPS, Great Patrick Street

Construction completed on a new £2m city centre youth space. The 9,000ft2 facility was developed by Include Youth and Voice of Young People in Care (VOYPIC).



#### Belfast Grand Central

Work continued through 2022 to deliver the new integrated transport hub and associated social value. The project also includes a new public space; Saltwater Square and extensive streetscape improvements.





### **Renewed Ambition Partnership**

City Growth & Regeneration Committee

09 August 2023



## INNOVATION

...it's in our DNA



Joe O'Neill Chair, **Renewed Ambition** 



**Anita Conway** Director of Development, Radius Housing

### Renewed Ambition Partnership 2022/23

- Welcome and scene setting
- Research
- Engagement
- Expos

**Next Steps 2023/24** 





### Renewed Ambition Partnership

2022/23













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# Renewed Ambition Partnership 2022/23

### **Objectives**

1

Continue to build collaboration and partnership in the city and wider region.

2

Continue to promote and market the Belfast region outside Northern Ireland.

3

Increase engagement and advocacy with all key stakeholders, in particular, investors and government.

### **Renewed Ambition Partnership**

2022/23





Research



Programme & Content



**Engagement** & Advocacy



Media & Communication



Repository

# Research 2022/23





### **Objectives**

1

Look back at what social, environmental and economic benefits have been achieved through real estate investment in the Belfast city region over the past five years 2

Look further afield to what best practice looks like through international case studies and a review of sustainable development frameworks and certification schemes

3

Look to the future and provide recommendations to further improve the social, environmental and economic outcomes from future real estate investment in the Belfast city region

This research recognises the important role that city region partners, including the real estate and construction industry in the Belfast region, and councils in the Belfast region, and the NI Executive, play in delivering sustainable, inclusive development and the wider benefits this brings to the region.

### Research

2022/23



Role of the real estate sector in delivering inclusive and sustainable growth

Page 44

#### **Economic**

- Inclusive economic growth
- Job creation
- Skills development
- Reduced inequalities
- Opportunities for SMEs and VCSEs
- Green economy
- Resilient and sustainable supply chains

Social

Inclusive and sustainable development

Economic Environmental

#### Social

- Revitalisation of communities and placemaking
- Social mobility
- Community cohesion
- Improved connectivity
- Amenity features, public realm improvement and community facilities
- Reduced crime risk
- Health and wellbeing benefits
- Active, healthy and empowered citizens

#### **Environmental**

- Carbon emissions
- Climate resilience and adaption
- Circular economy
- Biodiversity
- Green and open spaces
- Air quality
- Water efficiency

### Research

2022/23



### **Opportunity**

It is vital that forthcoming investment in the city is leveraged to help tackle the pressing social, economic and environmental issues the region is facing now and in the future. As well as addressing wider societal challenges, other benefits to the city include:

- capitalising upon a unique opportunity to position a significant house building programme at the heart of economic plans;
- improved attractiveness to financial investors;
- quicker occupation by tenants (and attracting major business tenants from various sectors who are seeking high quality offices that are fit for the future);
- reduced energy bills and lower maintenance costs;
- stronger community relationships and brand enhancement or reputational benefits.



#### **Belfast Agenda priorities**

 Growing the economy



Living hereCity Development



 Working and learning









# Advocacy & Engagement 2022/23





Belfast outperforms the UK average for work-life balance, jobs, housing, transport, income distribution and safety, according to PwC's Good Growth for Cities index.

Ranks Belfast as its leading city among the devolved regions and in the top 10 UK-wide.

Belfast is ranked ninth among 50 of the UK's largest cities, down from eighth in last year's index, but coming out top of cities in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.



## INNOVATION

...it's in our DNA

International Trade Expos

### **MIPIM & UKREiiF**







Highlighting high-growth sectors across Belfast Region:
Creative Industries, Professional Services, Fintech,
Advancing Manufacturing, Tourism & Hospitality, Life &
Health Sciences



**Team Belfast** 35 & 16 delegates



Building momentum

Expressions of interest £270m

resi-led developments



**BRCD**Partnership approach



**fDi Awards** 4 x Top 10



## INNOVATION

...it's in our DNA

**Next Steps:** 2023/24

# **Belfast Place Partnership** 2023/24



- Continue to build collaboration and partnership in the city and wider region.
- Continue to promote and market the Belfast region outside Northern Ireland.
- 3. Increase engagement and advocacy with all key stakeholders, in particular, investors and government.

Plus, support delivery of...

- BRCD projects by attracting collaborative partners.
- Belfast City Council's key inclusive economic and investment strategies.



## INNOVATION

...it's in our DNA

Questions



### **Renewed Ambition Partnership**

City Growth & Regeneration Committee

09 August 2023

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### Agenda Item 3a

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



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



### Agenda Item 3b

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



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



### Agenda Item 3c

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



### Agenda Item 3d

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



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



### Agenda Item 4a



#### CITY GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

| Subjec  | l.   | DIC Covid Recovery Revitalisation Progra    | inine opuale                           |  |
|---|--|---|--|--|
| Date:   |  | 9 <sup>th</sup> August 2023                 |  |  |
| Reporti   | ing Officer:   | Cathy Reynolds, Director, City Regenerat    | ion & Development                      |  |
| Contact Officer: Sean                             |  | Sean Dolan, Senior Development Manage       | Sean Dolan, Senior Development Manager |  |
|   |  |   |  |  |
| Restricted Reports                                |  |   |  |  |
| Is this report restricted?                        |  |   | Yes No                                 |  |
| If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted? |  |   |  |  |
| After Committee Decision                          |  |   |  |  |
| After Council Decision                            |  |   |  |  |
| Some time in the future                           |  |   |  |  |
| Never   |  |   |  |  |
|   |  |   |  |  |
| Call-in   |  |   |  |  |
| Is the decision eligible for Call-in?             |  |   | Yes No                                 |  |
| 1.0   | Durness of Boner   | t or Summary of main leaves                 |  |  |
| 1.0   | Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues  To update Committee on the ongoing DfC Covid-19 Revitalisation Programme including an |   |  |  |
|   | Extension of Time to the Programme and the budget position.  |   |  |  |
| 2.0   | Recommendations  |   |  |  |
|   | The Committee is asked to:   |   |  |  |
|   | I. Note the current status of the DfC Covid-19 Revitalisation Programme, including the   |   |  |  |
|   | findings of t  | he Final Programme Evaluation Report.       |  |  |
|   | II. Note that ar   | n Extension of Time has been sought for the | e 'Castle Place Kiosk'.                |  |
|   | III. Note the budget position across the project lines.  |   |  |  |
|   |  |   |  |  |
|   |  |   |  |  |
|   |  |   |  |  |
|   |  |   |  |  |

#### 3.0 Main report

#### Background

3.1 The CG&R Committee have received regular updates and provided approvals relating to the DfC Covid-19 Revitalisation Programme, providing updates on the £4.039m capital programme including providing approvals on time and budget implications. In August 2022 Members were provided with the mid-term Evaluation Report & the associated brochure along with an update on the remaining projects of the Castle Place Kiosk and the Entries Phase 2. It was also previously agreed that any further underspends realised within the Programme are reallocated under delegated authority to the Director of City Regeneration & Development to meet any additional costs incurred on previously agreed and committed projects with updates on these reallocations to be brought to this Committee at a future date.

#### 3.2 Main Report

The majority of the programme is now complete, with the Entries Phase 2 project to be completed by September 2023 in line with the DfC Letter of Offer Process. As a condition of the Letter of Offer from DfC Evaluation Reports are required on a quarterly basis, and on the completion of the projects. A Summary of the draft Final Evaluation Report is included within this paper.

- 87% of People agreed that they were satisfied with the interventions taken by the council to respond to safety issues raised by the Covid-19 pandemic
- 90% of participating businesses reported that they were satisfied or very satisfied with the improvements to their businesses.
- 79% survey respondents agreed/strongly agreed that improvements undertaken through the programme would encourage people to live, work and invest in this area
- 76% of businesses (64 of 84 respondents) reported turnover returning to at least 70% of pre-Covid 19 levels following council interventions in the area.

In total through this Revitalisation Programme the Council were able to support and deliver a large range of projects, many of which were aligned to the emerging Bolder Vision work promoting better use of outdoor and public space, testing alternative uses of streetscape and providing creative approaches to environmental improvement works. A summary overview of the projects delivered below:

### Grants to Businesses to purchase equipment to help them to continue to trade or trade safely

 Over £800k in support to 454 small business grants to help SME's to deliver hand sanitisers, signage, safety equipment & control measures to manage social distancing;

# • Grants to Business Cluster and Community Groups for physical interventions and streetscape improvements

- £1.1m to 51 Business Cluster & Community Grant (BCCCG) capital schemes.
   This included a top up of £450k Councils non-recurring reallocation in 2021 to meet the demand of the scheme.
- Funding to 35 Community Groups and 16 Business Clusters.
- 7 projects delivered within the city centre and 44 projects delivered outside the city centre.
- 16 Community Gardens and Facilities refreshed and redeveloped to attract greater outdoor use including facilities for supporting mental health & sensory spaces.
- 8 outdoor hospitality locations.
- o 27 shop frontage improvement and local area environmental schemes.
- 9 grants aligned to upgrading and expanding sports facilities including walking paths and improving outdoor facilities.
- O Given the success of this project, and as agreed through SP&R in June 2022, Council committed a further £600k of funding (including 10% for Integrated Design Team Support) for a further phase of the BCCG's. Officers are currently working through the process to roll this funding out in Autumn 2022 to support a further 20-25 projects.

#### Physical Interventions and Streetscape Improvements (Council Led & BID Led)

This included the delivery of a range of city centre physical interventions aimed at testing and piloting how we better use the city's streetscape aligned to the Bolder Vision. This included reallocating traditional road and parking spaces for enhanced active and sustainable travel provision, improving access for businesses to utilise city space, to encourage dwell time and improve the attractiveness of the city centre.

Castle Place - Reallocating on-street parking to facilitate a pavement extension and closing one lane to traffic to implement the first stage of the High St cycle scheme. Bringing forward an iconic city centre location and kiosk structure to attract footfall and dwell time

- <u>Union St</u> pedestrianising Union St and building out parklets to enable businesses to utilise additional outdoor space. This approach has encouraged additional businesses to take up vacant space on the street.
- Warehouse Lane/Exchange Place An Entries type approach to draw attention and use to the city's entries including lighting, iconic artwork and covered outdoor space for hospitality.
- Brunswick St closing a section of Brunswick St to deliver an outdoor leisure and hospitality venue, bringing forward a pilot for how the designs of Belfast Streets Ahead Phase 5 can transform the area permanently.
- <u>Linenhall St</u> Reallocation of on-street parking bays to deliver parklets, facilitating dwell time, business spill out and additional green infrastructure on the street.
- Adelaide St due to the approach taken through this Revitalisation Programme, additional funding was secured from Dfl to deliver the Adelaide St project. Working with Dfl to realign the street, including removing on-street parking bays to facilitate pavement extensions, prioritising public transport and delivering innovative structures with historical references, additional green infrastructure, along with additional seating and cycling parking infrastructure.
- The Linenhall St, Brunswick St and Adelaide St projects all form early pilot schemes aligned to A Bolder Vision and the intention to bring forward the Linen Quarter Sustainable District.
- <u>Iconic lighting interventions</u> within the Linen Quarter, Cathedral Quarter and BID One Business Improvement Districts.
- The Entries Phase 2 bringing forward the next phase of the Entries project to Sugarhouse Lane, Patterson's Place and Wine Cellar St. Phase 1 of the Entries won the CBRE Ireland Excellence in placemaking Awards 2021 and this approach will be further implemented through future phases.

#### Council Led Interventions to Encourage People Safely Back into the City

Council directly delivered schemes to encourage people back into the city include:

- o Hand sanitisers introduced at key locations across the city centre.
- Social Distance signage and management of touch points and public seating.
- An enhanced cleansing operation.
- Enhanced Christmas Animation to promote footfall and visitors through the
   2020 Christmas period

- A targeted marketing campaign operated across social media, radio, TV and press channels to promote Belfast as a safe and vibrant place to visit.
- A Belfast Gift Card delivered in conjunction with BID One and the retailers during the Christmas period to encourage spend and footfall within this key retail period.

#### Council Led Sustainable & Active Travel Measures

- Two new Active Travel Hubs delivered at Cathedral Gardens and Queens University Belfast.
- o A modernised Belfast Bike Fleet.
- Additional Belfast Bike docking locations.
- o An e-cargo bike pilot scheme.
- 10 covered cycle stands delivered across the Council Estate.

#### 3.4 **Programme Learnings**

The overall findings from the DfC Covid-19 Revitalisation Programme show successful implementation of the projects, enabling business and community groups to operate and recover successfully from the pandemic while delivering extensive green infrastructure and active & sustainable transport initiatives. In total the programme delivered over 535 grants to businesses and community groups, over 70 physical interventions & streetscape improvements delivering over 1200 items of street furniture & cycle infrastructure, 188 public hygiene items and over 65 marketing and animation events.

In addition to this, the successful development and implementation of this £4.039m programme has led to additional funding been allocated from Council, DfI and DfC & private investment through the BIDs. This programme has directly led to the attraction of a further £2.3m of support to deliver the interventions as outlined within this report, contributing to the delivery of the Councils wider objectives in the delivery of the Future City Centre Programme and A Bolder Vision.

#### 3.5 Remaining Project Delivery

Two elements of the programme remain uncompleted, with one project at risk of over-running the September 2032 programme deadline. As such an extension of time to cover this project has been requested from DfC until March 2024. These projects and ongoing mitigating measures are outlined below:

- <u>Castle Place Kiosk:</u> following issues raised through the planning process it was agreed to rescind the planning application for the Castle Place Kiosk. Officers are currently seeking an alternative location with a plan to complete in March 2024.
  - Entries Phase 2; The Entries Phase 2 project is scheduled to complete in September and will see the reopening of the previously closed up Sugarhouse Entry, running between High Street & Waring St.

#### 3.6 **Budget Position**

As previously agreed the Director of City Regeneration & Development was delegated authority to reallocate realised project underspend within previously agreed projects within the DfC Covid-19 Revitalisation Programme, with reports on the budget position to be brought back to this committee at a future date. Appendix A of this report outlines the final budget positions for the DfC Covid-19 Revitalisation Programme and Members are asked to note this report.

#### 4.0 Finance & Resource Implications

4.1 All costs associated with this paper will be meet from the DfC Covid-19 Revitalisation Capital Programme.

### 5.0 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

Equality of opportunity and good relations, and disability duties screening is complete on the overall programme with mitigating actions agreed and implemented.

#### 6.0 Appendices

Appendix A – Budget Position Report.

| Funding                    | Project Description              | Pre | eviously Agreed Budget | Fina | al Budget Position |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|-----|------------------------|------|--------------------|
|                            | Public Safety signage and        |     |                        |      |                    |
|                            | messaging                        | £   | 40,000.00              | £    | 43,431.00          |
|                            | Dressing & branding to temp DfI  | ┢   | +0,000.00              | ┢    | 43,431.00          |
| Signage & Dressing         | infrastructure - Adelaide St     | £   | _                      | £    | _                  |
|                            | initiastructure - Adelaide St    | ┢   |                        | ┝    |                    |
|                            | Public messaging & communication | £   | 8,000.00               | £    | 8,000.00           |
|                            |                                  | £   | 48,000.00              | £    | 51,431.00          |
|                            | Castle Place Hub Phase 1         | £   | 235,000.00             | £    | 235,000.00         |
|                            | Union Street Pedestrainisation   | £   | 50,000.00              | £    | 50,000.00          |
| Physical Interventions     | Cathedral Qtr - Exchange         |     |                        |      |                    |
| & Streetscape              | Place/Warehouse Entry            | £   | 50,000.00              | £    | 50,000.00          |
| Improvements               | Covid-19 Business Grants         | £   | 859,000.00             | £    | 801,715.90         |
|                            |                                  | £   | 1,194,000.00           | £    | 1,136,715.90       |
|                            | Linen Qtr Parklets               | £   | 15,000.00              | £    | 15,000.00          |
|                            | Linen Qtr Boardwalk              | £   | 50,000.00              | £    | 50,000.00          |
|                            | DfC Budget allocation for Bolder |     | <u> </u>               |      | •                  |
| Access & Connectivity      | Vision Phase 2                   | £   | 110,000.00             | £    | 115,891.00         |
|                            | City Wide Parklets               | £   | 75,000.00              | £    | 75,000.00          |
|                            |                                  | £   | 250,000.00             | £    | 255,891.00         |
| NA - uita - uita - O       | UU Study allocation              | £   | 30,000.00              | £    | 22,000.00          |
| Monitoring &               | Monitoring & evaluation TBC      | £   | 20,000.00              | £    | 22,350.00          |
| Evaluation                 |                                  | £   | 50,000.00              | £    | 44,350.00          |
|                            | Marketing & branding             | £   | 200,000.00             | £    | 200,000.00         |
| Enhanced Christmas         | Feature Lighting Linen Qtr       | £   | 50,000.00              | £    | 50,000.00          |
| Offering including         | Feature Lighting BIDOne          | £   | 50,000.00              | £    | 38,000.00          |
| animation, lighting        | Feature Lighting CQ Bid          | £   | 50,000.00              | £    | 50,000.00          |
| and marketing              | Animation                        | £   | 250,000.00             | £    | 247,361.95         |
|                            |                                  | £   | 600,000.00             | £    | 585,361.95         |
|                            | Business Cluster & Community     |     |                        |      |                    |
| Dharainal                  | Granst                           | £   | 683,000.00             | £    | 683,000.00         |
| Physical                   | Jubilee Gardens                  |     |                        |      |                    |
| Improvements & Streetscape | Castle Place Phase 2             | £   | 125,000.00             | £    | 135,658.64         |
| Improvements               | Linen Qtr Hub                    | £   | 75,000.00              | £    | 82,736.00          |
| improvements               | Entries Phase 2                  | £   | 200,000.00             | £    | 200,000.00         |
|                            |                                  | £   | 1,083,000.00           | £    | 1,101,394.64       |
|                            | DfI contribution to Connectivity |     |                        |      |                    |
|                            | Study Phase 2                    | £   | 90,000.00              | £    | 95,890.00          |
|                            | Connectivity Scheme in Church    |     |                        |      |                    |
|                            | Lane area                        | £   | 54,000.00              | £    | 97,965.51          |
|                            | Replacement/upgrade of Belfast   |     |                        |      |                    |
| Sustainable & Active       | Bikes                            | £   | 200,000.00             | £    | 200,000.00         |
| Travel Measures            | Covered Citywide cycle stands    | £   | 100,000.00             | £    | 100,000.00         |
|                            | Expanding Belfast Bike network   | £   | 120,000.00             | £    | 120,000.00         |
|                            | Electric Bike Trial              | £   | 45,000.00              | £    | 45,000.00          |
|                            | Expanding Sustainable Transport  |     |                        |      |                    |
|                            | Hub network                      | £   | 45,000.00              | £    | 45,000.00          |
|                            | Additional Street Classistics C  | £   | 654,000.00             | £    | 703,855.51         |
| DIC D                      | Additional Street Cleansing &    |     | 407 400 00             | _    | 427 400 00         |
| DfC Revenue                | Neighbourhood Safety             | £   | 137,400.00             | £    | 137,400.00         |
| Proposals                  | Belfast Gift Card                | £   | 22,600.00              | £    | 22,600.00          |
| Total DEC Could 40 D       | italianting Funding              |     | 160,000.00             | _    | 160,000.00         |
| Total DFC Covid-19 Rev     | italisation Funding              | £   | 4,039,000.00           | £    | 4,039,000.00       |



# Agenda Item 4b



### CITY GROWTH & REGENERATION COMMITTEE

| Subjec   | Subject: Dfl Responses to Committee Correspondence |   |   |  |  |  |
|----------|--|---|---|--|--|--|
| Date:    |  | 9 August 2023   |   |  |  |  |
| Report   | ting Officer:                                      | Cathy Reynolds, Director of City Regenerati           | Director of City Regeneration & Development |  |  |  |
| Contac   | ct Officer:  | Sean Dolan, Senior Development Manager                |   |  |  |  |
|          |  |   |   |  |  |  |
| Restric  | cted Reports                                       |   |   |  |  |  |
| Is this  | report restricted                                  | d?  | Yes No                                      |  |  |  |
| It       | f Yes, when will                                   | the report become unrestricted?                       |   |  |  |  |
|          | After Comr   | nittee Decision                                       |   |  |  |  |
|          | After Coun   | cil Decision  |   |  |  |  |
|          | Some time  | in the future   |   |  |  |  |
|          | Never  |   |   |  |  |  |
|          |  |   |   |  |  |  |
| Call-in  |  |   |   |  |  |  |
| Is the d | Is the decision eligible for Call-in?              |   |   |  |  |  |
|          |  |   |   |  |  |  |
| 1.0      |  | port or Summary of main Issues                        |   |  |  |  |
|          | To provide Mer                                     | nbers of the City Growth & Regeneration Commit        | tee an update on response                   |  |  |  |
|          | from DfI to corr                                   | espondence from the Committee                         |   |  |  |  |
| 2.0      | Recommenda   | tions   |   |  |  |  |
| 2.1      | The Committee                                      | e is asked to:  |   |  |  |  |
|          | i.   | Note the correspondence between the CG&R Cor          | mmittee and the                             |  |  |  |
|          |  | Department for Infrastructure in relation to the East | stern Division Autumn                       |  |  |  |
|          |  | Report 2022   |   |  |  |  |
|          | ii.  | Note the correspondence between the CG&R Cor          | mmittee and the                             |  |  |  |
|          |  | Department for Infrastructure in relation to the Yo   | rk Street Interchange Place                 |  |  |  |
|          |  | Making and Active Travel Review                       |   |  |  |  |
|          |  |   |   |  |  |  |

| 3.0 | Main report  |
|-----|--|
| 0.4 | Main Report  |
| 3.1 | During the course of meetings in November 2022 and February & March 2023 the CG&R  |
|     | Committee received presentations and correspondence from Dfl in relation to the Dfl Eastern  |
|     | Division Autumn 2022 Report and the York Street Interchange Place-Making and Active Travel Report. Subsequent to these presents the Committee agreed to write to Dfl to seek     |
|     | further clarification/information in relation to these presentations. Responses have now been  |
|     | received by DfI and are outlined and attached to this report to the Committee.   |
|     | Dfl Eastern Division Autumn 2022.  |
| 3.2 | The CG&R Committee received a presentation from the DfI Eastern Division Section   |
|     | Manager at the November 2022 Committee Meeting. During the meeting Members   |
|     | requested further detail on a number of items and subsequently agreed to write to the Section  |
|     | Manager, with the letter and subsequent response reported to the March meeting of the  |
|     | CG&R Committee and as attached Appendix A.   |
| 3.3 | During discussion Members agreed that the response provided did not adequately answer  |
|     | the queries raised and agreed to write to the Division Manager requesting further detail. This   |
|     | letter and the subsequent response are as attached in Appendix B of this report.   |
|     | York Street Interchange Place-Making and Active Travel Review Correspondence   |
| 3.4 | The CG&R Committee received a presentation from the DfI York Street Interchange team in  |
|     | relation to the Place-Making and Active Travel Review which was commissioned by Minister   |
|     | Mallon in 2020. A link to the restricted presentation is included <a href="here">here</a> for information.   |
| 3.5 | Members agreed to write to Dfl to request further information on the Departments Strategic   |
|     | Transport Objectives, engagement with communities and setting out the Council's position   |
|     | in relation to the Council's Corporate support for the York Street Interchange would only be   |
|     | reconsidered when confirmation was given that the Department would proceed with the  |
|     | delivery option that ensured the safety of residents, delivered the best place making and  |
|     | regeneration outcomes including plans for the bridge across the Lagan and a commitment to work with all relevant stakeholders as part of the overall scheme. This letter and the |
|     | subsequent response from the Dfl Permanent Secretary is as attached within Appendix C  |
|     | for Members consideration.   |
|     |  |
|     |  |

| 3.6 | Within the letter the Dfl Permanent Secretary sets out the position of the Regional          |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|-----|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|     | Development and Transport Strategies and the position of the York Street Interchange within  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|     | the regional context. The Permanent Secretary continues to outline the position of the Place |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|     | Making and Active Travel Review and the planned engagement ongoing with stakeholders         |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|     | in terms of developing out the Place Making and Active Travel Review.                        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|     |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3.7 | Further to the York Street Interchange presentation in February the CG&R Committee           |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|     | received an update on the Belfast Metropolitan Transport Plan at its Special Meeting in      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|     | June 2023. Officers have also held meetings with Dfl on the emerging YSI Place Making        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|     | and Active Travel Review and bring details to a future meeting of this Committee as details  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|     | are developed by DfI.  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 4.0 | Finance & Resource Implications  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|     | There are no finance or resource implications associated with this report                    |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 5.0 | Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment                               |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|     | There are no Equality or Good Relation Implications/Rural Needs Assessment requirements      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|     | associated with this report  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 6.0 | Appendices   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|     | Appendix A – Correspondence in relation to the Eastern Division Autumn Statement 2022        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|     | Nov 2022   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|     | Appendix B – Follow Up Correspondence to Eastern Division Autumn Statement 2022              |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|     | Appendix C – Correspondence in relation to the York Street Interchange Place Making &        |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|     | Active Travel Review   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |



# Agenda Item 4a

#### **CITY GROWTH & REGENERATION COMMITTEE**



| Subjec   | ot:  | Correspondence received from the Department for Infrastructure |         |           |       |          |
|----------|--|--|---------|-----------|-------|----------|
| Date:    |  | 8th March, 2023  |         |           |       |          |
| Report   | ting Officer:  | Cathy Reynolds, Director of City Regeneration                  | n and I | Develo    | opmer | nt       |
| Contac   | ct Officer:  | Eilish McGoldrick, Democratic Services Office                  | r       |           |       |          |
| <b>-</b> |  |  |         |           |       |          |
| Restric  | cted Reports   |  |         |           |       |          |
| Is this  | report restricted?   |  | Yes     |           | No    | X        |
| If       | f Yes, when will the   | report become unrestricted?                                    |         |           |       |          |
|          | After Committe   | ee Decision  |         |           |       |          |
|          | After Council I  | Decision   |         |           |       |          |
|          | Sometime in tl   | ne future  |         |           |       |          |
|          | Never  |  |         |           |       |          |
|          |  |  |         |           |       |          |
| Call-in  |  |  |         |           |       |          |
| Is the o | decision eligible for  | Call-in?   | Yes     | X         | No    |          |
| 1.0      | Purpose of Penor   | t/Summary of Main Issues                                       |         |           |       |          |
| 1.0      | i di pose di Nepoi   | USUITINIARY OF MAIN ISSUES                                     |         |           |       |          |
| 1.1      | To note the corre  | spondence received from the Department for                     | r Infra | struct    | ure R | oads, in |
|          | response to the queries raised at its presentation to the Committee on 9th November, and the               |  |         | , and the |       |          |
|          | response from the Permanent Secretary regarding the budget allocation for the delivery of the              |  |         |           |       |          |
|          | Belfast Cycle Netw   | ork.   |         |           |       |          |
|          |  |  |         |           |       |          |
| 2.0      | Recommendation   |  |         |           |       |          |
| 2.1      | The Committee is a   | asked to;  |         |           |       |          |
|          | <ul> <li>note the correspondence as set out in the report and to consider if any further action</li> </ul> |  |         | er action |       |          |
|          | is necessa   | ·  |         | ·         |       |          |

| 3.0 | Main Report   |  |  |  |  |  |
|-----|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| 3.1 | Key Issues  |  |  |  |  |  |
|     | Response from Dfl Roads – Autumn Report   |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3.2 | The Committee, at its meeting in November, received a presentation for the Department for Infrastructure Roads in relation to its Autumn Report 2022. During the meeting, Members had requested information on a number of additional matters, which Dfl advised would be investigated and a further update submitted to the Committee in due course:   |  |  |  |  |  |
|     | <ul> <li>In relation to the Temporary Bollards on the Donegall Road – Safety Concerns for residents regarding access - update on when this would be addressed;</li> <li>An update on the residents parking scheme review and what, if any, have/ would be delivered across the City;</li> <li>The need for residents parking scheme's along the proposed new Glider Route;</li> <li>The need to review College Park Residents Parking Scheme;</li> <li>Lack of communication and the need for Members to have up to date, direct contact details for the Dfl Roads Team so that issues could be resolved in a timely manner;</li> <li>An update on the delivery of Orpen Park / Porter Park Traffic Calming Scheme – was there a plan in place for what this would be and a timeline for implementation;</li> <li>Update on resurfacing of Roads and Pathways in Belvoir – Grays Park Avenue, Grays Park Gardens and Grays Park Drive;</li> <li>Cycle Network Development Plan - Resources and Budget Update and data on what had been implemented in the last two years;</li> <li>Learnings from Limestone/Cavehill proposed cycle lane consultation process;</li> <li>Potholes and resurfacing in Lagmore Glen/Twinbrook area;</li> <li>Update on Hill Street Pedestrianisation; and</li> <li>Update on the expected delivery of 38 disabled Parking Bays which had been</li> </ul> |  |  |  |  |  |
|     | approved.   |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3.3 | Accordingly, Democratic Services wrote to Mr. D. McFarlane, Eastern Divisional Roads Manager, requesting an update on the matters raised at the Committee.  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 3.4 | A response was received for consideration (Appendix 1) which included the following website links:  |  |  |  |  |  |

|     | <ul> <li>Link to the DFI Website         Dfl Roads Eastern Division - Divisional Manager   Department for Infrastructure (infrastructure-ni.gov.uk)     </li> <li>Link to the Autumn Council Report         Annual Report to Belfast City Council 2022   Department for Infrastructure (infrastructure-     </li> </ul> |
|-----|---|
|     | <ul> <li>ni.gov.uk)</li> <li>Link to NI Direct site Public Information Portal         https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/information-and-services/travel-transport-and-roads/problems-roads-and-streets     </li> </ul>  |
| 3.5 | Response from the Permanent Secretary – Belfast Cycle Network  At its meeting in December, the Committee agreed to write to the Department for Infrastructure to request confirmation of the budget allocation for the delivery of the Belfast Cycle Network in the financial year 2022/23.                             |
| 3.6 | Accordingly, Democratic Services wrote to the Permanent Secretary to request an update on the matter and the response was received at Appendix 2 for consideration.   |
| 3.7 | Financial and Resource Implications  None associated with this report.  |
| 3.8 | Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment  None associated with this report.   |
| 4.0 | Appendices - Documents Attached   |
|     | Appendix 1 – Dfl Roads Response to meeting of 9 November  Appendix 2 – Dfl Perm Sec – Belfast Cycle Network Allocation  |

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## DFI Roads Eastern Division

Mr John Walsh Chief Executive Belfast City Council Annexe 7
Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
Upper Newtownards Road
BELFAST
BT4 3SQ

Telephone: 0300 200 7899

Email: Eastern.Secretariat@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Your reference: Our reference:

Date 10 February 2023

Dear John

## QUESTIONS ASKED BY ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS, FOLLOWING THE PRESENTATION OF THE EASTERN DIVISION AUTUMN 2022 REPORT

When I presented the Eastern Division Report to Council on 9 November 2022, I agreed to consider a number of matters. Firstly I would apologise for the delay in responding.

My responses to the outstanding matters received on the evening are as follows:-

The need for residents parking scheme's along proposed new Glider Route Park Scheme.

The Department has recently completed a review of residents' parking schemes and the draft review report will be made public once it is finalised by a Minister. The review report will set out the lessons learnt from the Rugby Road scheme in Belfast, and the other schemes that did not make it to implementation and will be used to establish the policy for such schemes going forward.

#### The need to review College Park Parking Scheme.

The Department has recently completed a review of residents' parking schemes and the draft review report will be made public once it is finalised by a Minister. The review report will set out the lessons learnt from the Rugby Road scheme in Belfast, and the other schemes that did not make it to implementation, and will be used to establish the policy for such schemes going forward.

Lack of communication and the need for Members to have up to date, direct contact details for the Dfl Roads Team so that issues could be resolved in a timely manner.

Contact details for the DFI Roads Team can be found on the Department's website, please follow this link:-

<u>Dfl Roads Eastern Division - Divisional Manager | Department for Infrastructure (infrastructure ni.gov.uk)</u>

In addition, I have included a link to the Autumn Council report which contains a list of names and contacts within the Division, including areas of responsibility:-

Annual Report to Belfast City Council 2022 | Department for Infrastructure (infrastructure-ni.gov.uk)

It should also be noted that elected representatives can report problems with roads and streets using NIDirect Public Information Portal

 $\underline{\text{https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/information-and-services/travel-transport-and-roads/problems-roads-and-streets}$ 

Councillor Tracy Kelly asked in relation to the Temporary Bollards on the Donegall Road following safety concerns raised by residents regarding access. Could you provide an update on when they would be removed.

The Department has reviewed the pop up cycle lanes installed during the pandemic and will be reviewing the current arrangements with an aim to providing permanent infrastructure. The pop up cycle lane on the Donegall Road will be included within this review.

Counillor Bunting asked for an update on the delivery of Orpen Park / Porter Park Traffic Calming Scheme. Is there a plan in place for what this will be and a timeline for implementation.

Following on from the formal consultation, it has been necessary to carry out a review of the design. This matter is still receiving attention and I am unable to give a timeline for implementation at this stage.

Councillor Bunting asked for an update on resurfacing of Roads and Pathways in Belvoir – Grays Park Avenue, Grays Park Gardens and Grays Park Drive.

The footways and carriageway in the Grays Park area remain on a 3 year priority resurfacing programme. Whilst no contract has been in place for a number of months, I understand that the new term asphalt resurfacing contract will be in operation for the beginning of the next financial year. The schemes in the Grays Park area will be implemented on a scheme priority basis from 2023 onwards, subject to the availability of the necessary resources and utility clearance.

Cycle Network Development Plan - Resources and Budget Update and data on what has been implemented in the last two years.

Implemented in the last two years – Dublin Road two-way cycle lane (2-way 0.48km), Donegall Road one-way cycle lane (0.8km), Grosvenor Road two-way cycle lane (0.53km), Crumlin Road country-bound cycle lane (1km), Castle Street cycle lane High St toucan crossing at Skipper St (£50k) Comber Greenway location signage.

#### Learnings from Limestone/Cavehill proposed cycle lane consultation process

Following on from the initial commencement works that were undertaken on Limestone Road and the decision for another consultation to be undertaken, my staff will be contacting individuals / groups who provided comments on the pop up cycle lane design. Once this information has been gathered and considered, my staff will commence the formal consultation.

## Councillor Duffy asked for an update on repairs to potholes and resurfacing in Lagmore/Twinbrook.

A staff member from Belfast North Maintenance Section Office met with Councillor Duffy on 10 November 2022 and explained that any actionable defects / potholes in Lagmore Glen had been identified for repair and work instructions subsequently issued to the appointed contractor to programme the work. A temporary repair was carried out on 15 November 2022 followed by a permanent repair on 25 November 2022.

It should be noted that members of the public and elected representatives can report problems with roads and streets using NIDirect Public Information Portal <a href="https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/information-and-services/travel-transport-and-roads/problems-roads-and-streets">https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/information-and-services/travel-transport-and-roads/problems-roads-and-streets</a>

It was also confirmed that Dfl Roads had identified Lagmore Dale and Lagmore Avenue for future resurfacing but that final design associated with Blue/Green initiatives are still to be concluded. Councillor Duffy agreed that he would follow up on current position regarding Blue/Green schemes for these streets with the relevant section.

### Councillor Whyte asked for an update on Hill Street Pedestrianisation – Blue Green Division?

The Department will shortly be carrying out a consultation to gauge public opinion on the pedestrianisation of Hill Street. The outcome of this consultation will be used to shape any further programme of works in this area.

#### Update on the expected delivery of 38 disabled Parking Bays which had been approved.

I can advise that the Notice of Intention for these bays was advertised in the local press on the 25 January 2023. This allows a 22-day period for objections or representations. If none are received the bays will go forward for the 'Order' to be made and the bays are marked on the ground. Unfortunately, we cannot give a date at present as to when this legislative process will be completed.

I hope this information is helpful

DES MCFARLANE
Divisional Roads Manager

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Infrastructure

www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

#### From the Permanent Secretary **Dr Julie Harrison**

Room 701 Clarence Court 10-18 Adelaide Street **BELFAST** BT2 8GB

Telephone: (028) 9054 1175

Fmail: Julie.Harrison@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Your reference: EMcG. CGR.12.12.2022 Our reference: SCORR-0025-2023 15 February 2023

Eilish McGoldrick **Democratic Services Officer** Belfast City Council

mcgoldricke@belfastcity.gov.uk

Dear Ms McGoldrick,

#### BELFAST CYCLE NETWORK - BUDGET ALLOCATION

Thank you for your letter of 18 January 2023 on behalf of Council's City Growth and Regeneration Committee enquiring how much funding has been allocated for delivery of the Belfast Cycle Network this financial year. Apologies for my slow reply.

While the initial allocation for schemes identified in the Belfast Cycling Network Delivery Plan was £700k, actual spend is likely to be in the region of £490k as unfortunately progress on the delivery of a number of schemes has been slower than originally anticipated for a variety of reasons. The Department has had helpful discussions in recent months with Council colleagues on Transport Strategy and Active Travel in the context of the Climate Act and current operating environment. I am due to meet John Kyle and Sammy Douglas soon to discuss how we can work more effectively together on these issues.

I trust you will find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely

JULIE HARRISON

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### **Legal and Civic Services Department**

#### **Democratic Services Section**

Your reference

Being dealt with by Ms Eilish McGoldrick

Our reference EMcGCGRDfIR170423

Email democraticservices@belfastcity.gov.uk

Date 17th April, 2023

Des McFarlane
Divisional Roads Manager
Department for Infrastructure
Eastern Division
Empil: Eastern Secretariet@infrastruc

Email: Eastern.Secretariat@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Dear Mr. McFarlane,

#### **Dfl Roads Response to the City Growth and Regeneration Committee**

Thank you for your response dated 10th February in relation to the issues raised by the City Growth and Regeneration Committee, following your Presentation of the Eastern Division Autumn 2022 Report at the meeting in November.

Your response was issued for the Committee to consider at its meeting in March. During discussion, the Committee expressed its disappointment in the lack of detail and up to date information in the response and highlighted that they had found it difficult to contact Dfl Roads to obtain updates on their individual issues. The Committee noted it would be keen to receive current status updates of the delivery of works.

Accordingly, the Committee agreed to write to you, in response to your reply, to request a further update and more in-depth detail regarding all of the issues which had been raised by the Committee at its meeting in November.

I look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely

Eilish McGoldrick

Esul

**Democratic Services Officer** 

Belfast City Council, Legal and Civic Services Department

City Hall, Belfast BT1 5GS

Tel: 028 9032 0202 Textphone: 028 9027 0405 Dx No.: 383 NR Belfast Page 113



## DFI Roads Eastern Division

Ms Eilish McGoldrick Democratic Services Office Belfast City Council Annexe 7 Castle Buildings Stormont Estate Upper Newtownards Road BELFAST BT4 3SQ

Telephone: 0300 200 7899

Email: Eastern.Secretariat@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Your reference: EMcGCGRDfIR170423

Our reference:

Date: 13 June 2023

Dear Ms McGoldrick

#### DFI ROADS RESPONSE TO THE CITY GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

Thank you for your letter of 17 April which was sent in response to my letter of 10 February 2023. You advise that the Committee were disappointed at the lack of detail in the response and that the members have expressed that they have experienced difficulties in trying to obtain updates on the individual issues raised.

Firstly I am sorry hear that the Committee members were disappointed with the previous response and I would like to take this opportunity to provide the Committee members with an update on each of the matters raised in turn: -

### • The need for residents parking schemes along proposed new Glider Route Park Scheme.

#### o Previous response

The Department has recently completed a review of residents' parking schemes and the draft review report will be made public once it is finalised by a Minister. The review report will set out the lessons learnt from the Rugby Road scheme in Belfast, and the other schemes that did not make it to implementation and will be used to establish the policy for such schemes going forward.

#### o Update

I can advise that there is no change in this position, we are awaiting Ministerial decision following the review report and this will determine the way in which further resident's parking schemes will be taken forward.

#### • The need to review College Park Parking Scheme.

#### Previous response

The Department has recently completed a review of residents' parking schemes and the draft review report will be made public once it is finalised by a Minister. The review report will set out the lessons learnt from the Rugby Road scheme in Belfast, and the other schemes that did not make it to implementation and will be used to establish the policy for such schemes going forward.

- Update
   As before there is no change in this position, awaiting Ministerial direction.
- Lack of communication and the need for Members to have up to date, direct contact details for the Dfl Roads Team so that issues could be resolved in a timely manner.
  - Previously provided links to contact details for the DFI Roads Team remain unchanged and can be found on the Department's website: <u>DfI Roads Eastern Division - Divisional Manager | Department for Infrastructure (infrastructure-ni.gov.uk)</u>
  - Link to the Autumn Council report which contains a list of names and contacts within the Division, including areas of responsibility: Annual Report to Belfast City Council 2022 | Department for Infrastructure (infrastructure-ni.gov.uk)
  - Link to NIDirect Public Information Portal <a href="https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/information-and-services/travel-transport-and-roads/problems-roads-and-streets">https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/information-and-services/travel-transport-and-roads/problems-roads-and-streets</a>
- Councillor Tracy Kelly asked in relation to the Temporary Bollards on the Donegall Road following safety concerns raised by residents regarding access. Could you provide an update on when they would be removed.
  - Previous response
     The Department has reviewed the pop-up cycle lanes installed during the pandemic and will be reviewing the current arrangements with an aim to providing permanent infrastructure. The pop-up cycle lane on the Donegall Road will be included within this review.
  - Update
     Network Traffic have consulted with Active Travel Branch (ATB) to see if they would be prepared to remove the pop-up cycle lane installed during Covid restrictions. ATB have asked the Division to determine current usage by means of a traffic count. This work is currently being programmed.
- Counillor Bunting asked for an update on the delivery of Orpen Park / Porter Park Traffic Calming Scheme. Is there a plan in place for what this will be and a timeline for implementation.
  - Previous response
     Following on from the formal consultation, it has been necessary to carry out a review of
     the design. This matter is still receiving attention and I am unable to give a timeline for
     implementation at this stage.
  - Update
     Development work has been temporarily halted on this scheme due to other higher priority work commitments. A design check is to be undertaken before a decision can be made whether the plan provided at the formal consultation is still valid.
- Councillor Bunting asked for an update on resurfacing of Roads and Pathways in Belvoir – Grays Park Avenue, Grays Park Gardens and Grays Park Drive.

#### o Previous response

The footways and carriageway in the Grays Park area remain on a 3 year priority resurfacing programme. Whilst no contract has been in place for a number of months, I understand that the new term asphalt resurfacing contract will be in operation for the beginning of the next financial year. The schemes in the Grays Park area will be implemented on a scheme priority basis from 2023 onwards, subject to the availability of the necessary resources and utility clearance.

#### o Update

The footways and carriageway in the Grays Park area remain on a 3-year priority resurfacing programme. The schemes in the Grays Park area will be implemented on a scheme priority basis from 2023 onwards, subject to the availability of the necessary resources and utility clearance.

## • Cycle Network Development Plan - Resources and Budget Update and data on what has been implemented in the last two years.

o Previous response

Implemented in the last two years – Dublin Road two-way cycle lane (2-way 0.48km), Donegall Road one-way cycle lane (0.8km), Grosvenor Road two-way cycle lane (0.53km), Crumlin Road country-bound cycle lane (1km), Castle Street cycle lane High St toucan crossing at Skipper St (£50k) Comber Greenway location signage.

#### Update

Active Travel funded signal Upgrade A55 Knock Road / Cregagh Road on Connswater Greenway(£245k)

#### Learnings from Limestone/Cavehill proposed cycle lane consultation process

#### o Previous response

Following on from the initial commencement works that were undertaken on Limestone Road and the decision for another consultation to be undertaken, my staff will be contacting individuals / groups who provided comments on the pop-up cycle lane design. Once this information has been gathered and considered, my staff will commence the formal consultation.

#### Update

No change in position, The Department is working towards commencing the formal consultation period.

## • Councillor Duffy asked for an update on repairs to potholes and resurfacing in Lagmore/Twinbrook.

#### o Previous response

A staff member from Belfast North Maintenance Section Office met with Councillor Duffy on 10 November 2022 and explained that any actionable defects / potholes in Lagmore Glen had been identified for repair and work instructions subsequently issued to the appointed contractor to programme the work. A temporary repair was carried out on 15 November 2022 followed by a permanent repair on 25 November 2022.

It should be noted that members of the public and elected representatives can report problems with roads and streets using NIDirect Public Information Portal

https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/information-and-services/travel-transport-and-roads/problems-roads-and-streets

It was also confirmed that DfI Roads had identified Lagmore Dale and Lagmore Avenue for future resurfacing but that final design associated with Blue/Green initiatives are still to be concluded. Councillor Duffy agreed that he would follow up on current position regarding Blue/Green schemes for these streets with the relevant section.

#### o Update

A £385,000 footway and carriageway resurfacing scheme in Lagmore Meadows, Belfast commenced on Monday 13 March 2023. The improvement works extend for approximately 1300 metres from Lagmore Drive to the end of Lagmore Meadows and will deliver significant benefits for residents and road users. The works are expected to be completed before the July holidays.

#### Councillor Whyte asked for an update on Hill Street Pedestrianisation – Blue Green Division?

- Previous response
  - The Department will shortly be carrying out a consultation to gauge public opinion on the pedestrianisation of Hill Street. The outcome of this consultation will be used to shape any further programme of works in this area.
- While the pedestrianisation of Hill Street remains part of our longer-term agenda, we are unable to begin the consultation process due to on-going issues with staff resources and exceptionally high workloads. We regret the delay and disappointment that this has caused to public representatives and our customers but, unfortunately at this stage, we are unable to confirm when our resources will be available to allow us to progress this important piece of work.

#### Update on the expected delivery of 38 disabled Parking Bays which had been approved.

- o Previous response
  - I can advise that the Notice of Intention for these bays was advertised in the local press on the 25 January 2023. This allows a 22-day period for objections or representations. If none are received the bays will go forward for the 'Order' to be made and the bays are marked on the ground. Unfortunately, we cannot give a date at present as to when this legislative process will be completed.
- Update
  - I can advise that three 'Orders' for accessable/disabled parking bays have recently been made and another is about to be made. This will enable these bays to be marked on the ground.

Going forward I would advise that any future correspondence from the Committee members be sent to <a href="mailto:EasternSecretariat@Infrastrucutre-ni.gov.uk">EasternSecretariat@Infrastrucutre-ni.gov.uk</a> where it will be handled in accordance with the Departments Enquiry response targets, or if indicated as urgent it will be considered in a more timely manner.

I hope this response is helpful.

**DES MCFARLANE** 

**Divisional Roads Manager** 

### **Legal and Civic Services Department**

### **Democratic Services Section**



Being dealt with by Ms Eilish McGoldrick Your reference

Our reference EMcGCGR220323YSI Email democraticservices@belfastcity.gov.uk

Date 22nd March, 2023

Julie Harrison Permanent Secretary Corporate Policy Unit Clarence Court 10-18 Adelaide Street Belfast, BT2 8GB

Dear Permanent Secretary,

#### York Street Interchange (YSI) Placemaking and Active Travel Review (PATR)

At its special meeting in February, Belfast City Council's City Growth and Regeneration Committee received a presentation from the Department for Infrastructure and AECOM in relation to the York Street Interchange Placemaking and Active Travel Review.

The Committee agreed to write to the Department for Infrastructure to request that it reviewed the Strategic Transport Objectives of the York Street Interchange. This was in light of the fact that the objectives were set in 2008, and prior to the declaration of a Climate Emergency by the Council and the NI Assembly, and the subsequent passage of the Climate Act. The Committee also request that Dfl share the Assurance Review of the York Street Interchange which was provided to the Minister in March 2021.

Furthermore, at its meeting in March, the Council agreed that it would only reconsider corporately supporting the York Street Interchange project when confirmation was given by the Department for Infrastructure that they would proceed with the option that ensured safety of current residents, delivered the best place making and regeneration outcomes including

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

Tel: 028 9032 0202 Textphone: 028 9027 0405 Page 119 Dx No.: 383 NR Belfast

plans for the bridges across the Lagan and a commitment from the Department that they would

co-ordinate efforts to work collaboratively with all relevant stake holders including Belfast City

Council, Department for Communities, Housing Executive, Belfast Harbour, The Ashton

Centre and Sailortown Regeneration as part of the overall scheme.

The Council also agreed that this should include Community Stakeholders, the Stella Maris

Hostel and Ulster University as relevant stakeholders and that the project needed to address

both the air quality needs and housing objectives in the city.

I look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely

Eilish McGoldrick

Esul

**Democratic Services Officer** 



www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

### From the Permanent Secretary Dr Julie Harrison

Ms Eilish McGoldrick
Democratic Services Officer
Belfast City Council
Legal and Civic Services Department
City Hall
BELFAST
BT1 5GS

Via email:

democraticservices@belfastcity.gov.uk

Room 701 Clarence Court 10-18 Adelaide Street BELFAST BT2 8GB

Telephone: (028) 9054 1175

Email: <a href="mailto:perm.sec@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk">perm.sec@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk</a>

Your reference:

Our reference: SCORR-0162-2023

12 June 2023

Dear Eilish

## YORK STREET INTERCHANGE – PLACEMAKING AND ACTIVE TRAVEL REVIEW

Thank you for your letter of 22 March 2023. I am very sorry it has taken so long to reply. There are a number of matters that had to be considered before responding.

Responses to the points raised in your letter are included below.

#### Review of the Strategic Transport Objectives for the YSI

The Council will be aware of the Regional Development Strategy (RDS) 2035, the Regional Transportation Strategy (RTS) 2002-2012 and the subsequent Regional Strategic Transport Network Transport Plan (RSTN-TP) 2015. These documents collectively form the extant transport policy for Northern Ireland until such time as their replacements are published. The Department is currently drafting a new Regional Transport Strategy (RTS) for consultation in late summer and publication by the end of the year. The aim of the RTS is to set out the future direction and the Department's climate goals and potential contribution to net zero. This will be followed by a review of the RSTN-TP.

Within these documents, the objective of removing bottlenecks on the strategic road network is identified and the strategic transport objectives for the YSI scheme are reflective of this principle. A deviation from the scheme objectives established at the onset of the project in 2008 would require Ministerial approval, given its potential implications on completed statutory procedures.

Notwithstanding this, the Council will be aware that a recommendation arising from the Project Assessment Review in 2020 was that "the YSI project brief should be reviewed and revised to ensure it aligns with the concept of 'place making' and new best practice in terms of urban transport design, and with the Minister's agenda."

The completed Placemaking and Active Travel Review (PATR), which identified a series of potential variations to the scope/brief of the project to improve placemaking and active travel outcomes, addresses this recommendation. The published PATR report and supporting annexes can be viewed on the YSI project website <a href="http://www.yorkstreetinterchange.com/">http://www.yorkstreetinterchange.com/</a>

#### Publication of the Project Assessment Review Report

In line with current guidance on best practice from the Department for Finance (DAO DoF 06/21) the Department plans, by the end of June 2023, to publish the Project Assessment Review report, subject to general data protection requirements, on its scheme website (<a href="www.yorkstreetinterchange.com">www.yorkstreetinterchange.com</a>).

#### Belfast City Council Corporate Support for YSI

The Department welcomes the broad support for its PATR process thus far from the Council. We are grateful for the positive engagement with officers in the City Growth and Regeneration Department and also the Development and Planning Department. We are also grateful for the opportunity to present our work to both the City Growth and Regeneration Committee and the North Area Working Group.

As outlined in the Department's recent presentation to the City Growth and Regeneration Committee, the ongoing next steps in the PATR process involve the examination of the shortlisted scenarios in more detail to assess their road safety, cost, traffic, economic and environmental impacts and compatibility with stakeholder interests and objectives. This work is expected to be carried out by the end of summer 2023.

In respect of stakeholder engagement, the Department is committed to continue working collaboratively with its identified key stakeholders to the project, including those listed in the Council's letter of 22 March 2023 and others such as the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and Belfast City Council's Planning Department, who are seeking to address housing need within the City.

The Department trusts that this response satisfies the Council and looks forward to continuing to work with its colleagues in progressing this key transport project for Belfast.

Yours sincerely

JULIE HARRISON

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# Agenda Item 5a

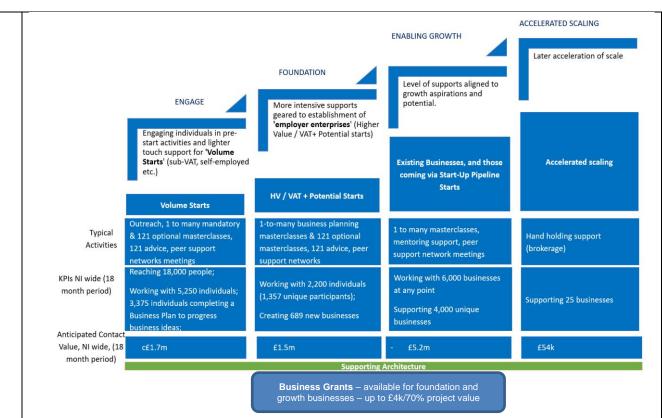




| Subje          | ect:                             | Enterprise Support Service update   |  |  |  |  |
|----------------|----------------------------------|---|--|--|--|--|
| Date:          | :                                | 9 August 2023   |  |  |  |  |
| Repo           | orting Officer:                  | Difficer: John Greer, Director of Economic Development                        |  |  |  |  |
|                | act Officer:                     | Lisa Toland, Senior Manager, Economy  |  |  |  |  |
| Joint          | <u></u>                          | Lisa Folaria, Scriiof Manager, Economy  |  |  |  |  |
| Restr          | ricted Reports                   |   |  |  |  |  |
| Is this        | s report restricted?             | Yes No X  |  |  |  |  |
|                | If Vas when will the             | report become unrestricted?   |  |  |  |  |
|                | •                                |   |  |  |  |  |
|                | After Committe After Council I   |   |  |  |  |  |
|                | Some time in t                   |   |  |  |  |  |
|                | Never                            |   |  |  |  |  |
|                |                                  |   |  |  |  |  |
| Call-i         | n                                |   |  |  |  |  |
| Is the         | decision eligible for            | Call-in? Yes X No   |  |  |  |  |
| 1.0            | Purpose of Report                |   |  |  |  |  |
|                |                                  |   |  |  |  |  |
| 1.1            |                                  | report is to update members on the new Enterprise Support Service – the       |  |  |  |  |
|                | on behalf of the 11 c            | support business start-up and growth that will be led by Belfast City Council |  |  |  |  |
| 2.0            | Recommendations                  | OUTICIIS.   |  |  |  |  |
|                |                                  |   |  |  |  |  |
| 2.1            | The Committee is as              |   |  |  |  |  |
|                | 1                                | ate on the new Enterprise Support Service, including the planned go-live date |  |  |  |  |
| 2.0            | for the new in                   | nervennon.  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>3.0</b> 3.1 | Main Report At the 17 February 2 | 2023 meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, members         |  |  |  |  |
|                |                                  | City Council should lead on the submission of an application to UK Shared     |  |  |  |  |

Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) for the 11-council Enterprise Support Service model. They also agreed that, subject to additional due diligence and risk management work being undertaken, Belfast City Council should lead on the future development and delivery of the service on behalf of the 11 councils.

- 3.2 Since that time, a significant amount of work has taken place to finalise the detail of the programme content, start the commissioning process of the new service and set in place the delivery structures so that it can become operational from Autumn 2023.
- 3.3 As a recap, the service represents the councils' collective response to our statutory responsibility set out as part of Local Government Reform in 2015 for business start-up, social enterprise and entrepreneurship for specific target groups such as women and young people. Previously, the majority of the targets associated with the statutory responsibility were delivered through the Go for It programme. However, over time, the funding available for Go for It reduced significantly to the extent that it provided limited support for new start businesses and those target groups. Councils recognised the need for a more ambitious response so they commissioned research from the Enterprise Research Centre at Aston Business School which identified a new model and associated targets that could create a much more dynamic business base across the region.
- 3.4 The result was an enhanced support service that would provide a continuum of support from early-stage enterprise awareness through to starting, growing and scaling a business. The concept was that the service would help people get the right support at the right time and would also help maximise other available funding streams by helping businesses to navigate the complex support ecosystem.
- In order to fund the scaled-up intervention, officers identified the opportunity presented through the new Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF). This is the UK Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities' (DLUHC) fund that was established as a replacement for EU funding (ERDF and ESF). One strand of funding focused on "Supporting Local Business". The Investment Plan for UKSPF in Northern Ireland was launched in December 2022. At that time, the Plan proposed that a central component of the Supporting Local Business strand would be the 11 council Enterprise Support Service. An indicative financial allocation of £17million £12 million programme delivery and £5million for small grants was set aside for the service. UKSPF funding is available to March 2025 so the initial programme period will run from Autumn 2023 to March 2025. The programme overview is detailed below:



#### 3.6 Commissioning of Service Delivery

Taking account of the marketplace, the procurement approach for delivery of the business support services (i.e. 121 mentoring support; masterclasses; peer support networks) was broken down into two main areas, namely:

- Engage and Foundation
- Growth and Scaling.
- 3.7 For both areas, there was a significant focus on ensuring that the needs of the local business base could be considered given the differences in business sectors; composition and development needs across the council areas.
- 3.8 An initial procurement exercise for both areas was undertaken in March 2023. However for different reasons it was not possible to appoint preferred suppliers in either of the areas. As a result, additional market engagement was undertaken to re-scope and re-shape the documentation in a way that could ensure delivery of the original ambitions while reflecting market feedback. The Growth and Scaling submissions are currently being assessed and bidders will be appointed in the coming week. The Engage and Foundation submissions are due to close on 21 August and preferred bidders should be appointed by the end of August. The start date for the new service is 1 October 2023.

- 3.9 In addition to the delivery elements, there are a number of support elements that are being commissioned or developed in parallel. These include:
  - Marketing and communications: this work is being led by Derry City and Strabane District Council (DCSDC). They have completed a procurement exercise for a marketing and communications agency to support with a range of activities including advertising, promotional and brand development. While DCSDC will lead on these elements of work, they will work directly with the overall Programme Lead and the wider team based in Belfast City Council, ensuring that there is a singular approach to delivery
  - Call handling: the Go for it programme benefitted from a freephone number through which business and entrepreneurs could be directed to the relevant delivery agent. That support will continue under the new service; however it will be extended to cover the full scope of the NIESS servicing enquiries from entrepreneurs and new and existing businesses
  - CRM: in order to track all business engagement with the service and also support the development of relevant reports for funders and individual councils, a customer relationship management (CRM) system is being developed. Belfast City Council's Digital Services team is taking the lead on this and they will be supported by other council services such as the Information Governance Unit (IGU) and Legal Services in order to ensure compliance with all relevant obligations. The CRM will also be guided by the council's finance and grants management teams, ensuring that it can provide adequate assurances and information required, as set out in the funding agreement.
- 3.10 At present, Belfast City Council is still awaiting an MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) from the funder. As such, we are not able to proceed with the appointment of any of the contractors (the procurement exercises for the marketing and call handling have already concluded). As time progresses, this presents additional risks for service delivery, given that the end date of March 2025 cannot be extended. Officers are working closely with DLUHC to secure the requisite documentation and review it closely so that the Chief Executive can sign it off and therefore formally commence the delivery activity with the relevant contractors.
- 3.11 For Belfast and all councils this new service represents an important step forward in the councils positioning their intent to drive their local economies with an increasing focus on support for indigenous businesses. This is reflected in the draft Community Plan that is currently out to consultation. This new approach also ensures that the councils, as a collective, can have a strong voice in the development of the new Entrepreneurship Strategy which will be a key pillar for the delivery of the 10x ambitions. It is also important to note that there is a limited window of opportunity in which to make progress so councils will be focused on ensuring that the new service

|      | None   |
|------|--|
| 4.0  | Appendices – Documents Attached  |
|      |  |
|      | delivery partners.   |
|      | each council area have been established and will be part of the contractual commitments with       |
| 3.14 | An equality impact assessment for the service has been completed. Local targets for delivery in    |
|      | Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment                                     |
|      | revenue in year 2, with around £5million available across the funding period for grant support.    |
|      | The overall indicative SPF budget is in the region of £5million revenue in year 1 and £7million    |
| 3.13 | The final budget is subject to completion of the relevant procurement exercises detailed above.    |
|      | through the DLUHC funding.   |
|      | service. To do so, we will establish a delivery and management team which will be fully resourced  |
| 3.12 | Belfast City Council will act as the lead council on behalf of the 11 councils for delivery of the |
|      | Financial & Resource Implications  |
|      |  |
|      | the challenges in the public sector investment environment at present.                             |
|      | position the new service to attract additional funding for delivery after March 2025 - recognising |
|      | works effectively to meet business needs. However they will also need to consider how they can     |



# Agenda Item 5b

### **CITY GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE**



| Subje                                 | ect:                  | Belfast Business Promise                                  |                               |  |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|---|-------------------------------|--|
| Date:                                 |                       | 9 <sup>th</sup> August 2023                               |                               |  |
| Repo                                  | orting Officer:       | John Greer, Operational Director for Economic Development |                               |  |
| •                                     |                       | Sinéad O'Regan, Employability & Skills Manager            |                               |  |
| Cont                                  | act Officer:          | Maria Robinson, Belfast Business Promise Co               | ~                             |  |
|                                       |                       |   |                               |  |
| Restr                                 | icted Reports         |   |                               |  |
| Is this                               | s report restricted?  |   | Yes No X                      |  |
|                                       | If Yes, when will the | report become unrestricted?                               |                               |  |
|                                       | After Committe        | ee Decision   |                               |  |
|                                       | After Council I       | Decision  |                               |  |
|                                       | Some time in t        | he future   |                               |  |
|                                       | Never                 |   |                               |  |
|                                       |                       |   |                               |  |
| Call-i                                | n                     |   |                               |  |
| Is the decision eligible for Call-in? |                       |   |                               |  |
| 1.0                                   | Purpose of Report     | or Summary of Main Issues                                 |                               |  |
| 1.1                                   | •                     | eport is to provide an update on progress to de           | velon and deliver the Relfact |  |
| ' ' '                                 |                       | s a key commitment in the Council's Inclusive G           | •                             |  |
|                                       |                       | •   | 3,                            |  |
| 0.0                                   | •                     | rship with Economic Development and Strategy              | 7, Policy and Partnership.    |  |
| 2.0                                   | Recommendations       |   |                               |  |
| 2.1                                   | The Committee is as   | ked to:   |                               |  |
|                                       | i. Note the prog      | ress in relation to the development of the Belfa          | st Business Promise           |  |
|                                       | ii. Note the ongo     | oing development work to support a successful             | implementation process        |  |
|                                       | including:            |   |                               |  |

- Organisations who are operating as Partners to support implementation
- Organisations who have signed up to become member
- Approach to accreditation
- Internal support to deliver
- BCC approach to gaining membership as an organisation

#### 3.0 Main report

### 3.1 Background

A key commitment in the Council's Inclusive Growth strategy to create a more inclusive city is the co-creation of the Belfast Business Promise which is our inclusive growth city charter. Members will be aware that a cross council team, led by the Strategy, Policy and Partnership in partnership with Economic Development, has been progressing the development of the Belfast Business Promise, alongside an external business working group and the council's Social Policy Working Group (SPWG). In addition, strong relationships have been built with the Greater Manchester Good Employment Charter and Scottish Business Pledge Charter teams, providing a wealth of best practice information and learning.

- 3.2 The extensive engagement with organisations, services and businesses carried out to date has shown that there is a strong appetite for such an initiative, and its role in encouraging organisations to maintain and/or adopt high standards in relation to more inclusive business practices which bring about added value to society by proactively driving forward inclusive growth in a meaningful way. The commitment to bringing forward the Belfast Business Promise is reinforced within the refreshed Belfast Agenda, the draft BCC Economic Strategy, the Inclusive Growth Strategy and the work being taken forward by the Renewed Ambition Taskforce and Bolder Vision Strategy.
- 3.3 Belfast Business Promise is aligned to and complements other strands of work underway within council including the Anchor Network on Commissioning and Procurement; BCC Social Value Policy and Framework; Social Enterprise Action Plan and BCC Employment Academies.
- There is a real opportunity through the implementation of the Belfast Business Promise to achieve our aim of creating a stronger, more resilient, and fairer city economy and society for Belfast with inclusive economic participation. The Belfast Business Promise membership and network offers a real opportunity to promote the city's aspirations and engage more widely with local businesses and organisations, working in collaboration towards becoming a more inclusive city.

## 3.5 Progress to date

#### **Pledges**

The Belfast Business Promise is a business commitment to support the city's inclusive growth mission by signing up to a number of underpinning pledges around business practices. Organisations are able to use the process to benchmark against eight pledges and gain support from the Belfast Business Promise community and network to continually improve their inclusive practice and performance.

As agreed at SP&R Committee, the Belfast Business Promise has been designed as a free, voluntary membership and accreditation scheme which is open to all employers across Belfast – irrespective of size or sector – to consider and sign-up. It also provides businesses with recognition for demonstrating how they are having a positive social impact through their core business activities.

3.6 The Belfast Business Promise has eight pledges (as set out below in figure 1), which organisations will use to assess business practices and provide evidence of the approaches applied. It is proposed that larger businesses (i.e. currently classified as those with over 250 employees) to commit to doing more in each of the pledge areas.

Figure 1.



An underpinning accreditation process has been developed which provides further details on the scope and expectations around level of commitment across each of the pledges.

### 3.7 <u>Membership structure</u>

It is proposed that the membership to the Belfast Business Promise is tiered as outlined below:

1<sup>st</sup> Level - Supporter – organisations who commit to evaluating their current business practices and developing an action plan to work towards meeting the pledges. All organisations start their journey as a Supporter, working towards improved performance and making use of the Belfast Business Promise resources and network.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Level - Member** – organisations who have made the Supporter commitment and can then demonstrate **three core** pledges with an **additional three pledges** chosen from the remaining five, that best fit with their organisational priorities. The initial engagement identified that the following pledges as high priority and could be considered in agreeing the three core designated pledges.

Pledge 1 Provide fair wages and contracts

Pledge 3 Support the local and social economy

Pledge 8 Protect our environment

**3<sup>rd</sup> Level - Ambassador** - to achieve the Ambassador level of accreditation businesses must meet all 8 pledges.

#### 3.8 Membership package

It is important that organisations and businesses in Belfast are aware of the potential benefits, support and added value created through the Business Promise. The key elements of the package, include:

- Promotion of their business via a Belfast Business Promise website and through the 'Mark', creating a unique selling point for the business and appeal to customers and employers in terms of showcasing the positive social impact of their core business practices.
- Access to an interactive members' network of like-minded and experienced individuals keen to solve common city issues and to improve business to business collaboration and support.
- Access to a members' support programme to help businesses to meet the pledges and improve their business practices (e.g. learning days around how to incorporate social value into procurement).
- Potential future opportunity to use the Belfast Business Promise accreditation to access BCC employment academies and procurement opportunities.

- Ability to capture and demonstrate the social value contributed through core business activities through an underpinning monitoring and evaluation framework.
- Signposting to best practice information, advice and support through the on-line website and members' programme of activity.
- Improved links through the Promise team and other members to communities and target groups of citizens.
- Access to a list of Belfast Business Promise members and their business profile to identify opportunities to enhance business-to-business working and trade as well as direct linkages to the labour relations agency network and other best practice organisations.

## 3.9 Pilot Phase: April - November 2023

A pilot phase was agreed to refine and further develop the Belfast Business Promise model in order to continue the collaborative approach to the design of the charter and to support sustainable and effective delivery. This phase has the following ambitions:

- Development of accreditation criteria and the supporting processes.
- Establish expert panel to provide assurance and accredit organisations against the criteria.
- Secure commitment from 20 organisations to sign up to the Belfast Business Promise to test the criteria and shape future delivery and the offer.
- Implement Promise Learning Days and provide practical supports to organisations to meet their selected pledges.

# 3.10 Progress achieved to date includes:

- Development of accreditation criteria for all pledges.
- Expert panels established to provide accreditation with the first members expected to be accredited by January 2024.
- Established a network of BBP Partners who can provide direct support to in achieving membership status and develop their business practices. These include...
- In the first eight weeks following the go-live date of 24<sup>th</sup> April 2023, 35 organisations have been engaged and of this, 21 organisations are now signed up to the Belfast Business Promise and going through the process of accreditation. These include:

| Private Sector           | Public Sector              | Third Sector            |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Exploristics             | Queen's University Belfast | East Belfast Enterprise |
| Change Over Technologies | Labour Relations Agency    | Diversity Mark          |
| ВТ                       | Belfast City Council       | Lighthouse              |
| People 1st               | Ulster University          | Orchardville            |
| MSC Group                | Translink                  | NOW Group               |

3.11

| Honeycomb Jobs | Social Enterprise NI      |
|----------------|---------------------------|
| Babcock        | Footprints Women's Centre |
|                | GEMS NI                   |

Further engagement is ongoing to secure partner organisations and special support across pledge areas. Partner organisations include those opposite:

3.12 Officers have also hosted two Promise Learning Days where organisations have availed of specialist support across the following pledge areas:



Pledge 1 Provide fair wages and contracts: facilitated by Labour

Relations

Agency

Pledge 2 Provide opportunities into work: facilitated by Belfast City Council – Employability &

Skills Team

Pledge 3 Recruit Inclusively: facilitated by Labour Relations Agency and Diversity Mark

Pledge 4 Support the local and social economy: facilitated by Juno Planning and Social

Enterprise NI

Pledge 7 Work in partnership with our communities: facilitated by Now Group

Pledge 8 Protect our environment: facilitated by Climate Essentials

# 3.13 BCC Accreditation

As an organisation, the Council has also signed-up to the Belfast Business Promise demonstrating leadership and commitment to working with employers to deliver on the ambition of creating an inclusive city. Detailed internal discussions have been ongoing with key officers and professions to assess the Council's position in relation to meeting the pledges and the subsequent action planning to ensure continuous improvement.

It is important to recognise the significant progress which has already been made in key areas including Social Value Procurement Policy, the work of the Employability and Skills team and community engagement teams, HR, Legal, Finance etc. and as an organisation we have made strides towards achieving the Belfast Business Promise accreditation ourselves, in particular, providing fair wages and contracts (pledge 1) with the Council achieving accreditation from the Real Living Wage Foundation for paying the Real Living Wage in February 2023 and the progress being made in terms of Protecting our Environment (pledge 8).

| 3.14 | Financial & Resource Implications   |  |  |  |  |
|------|---|--|--|--|--|
|      | None at present. A temporary BBP core team has been established consisting of 3 officers until the    |  |  |  |  |
|      | end of the pilot phase in November 2023 and supported through the delivery of ongoing activity and    |  |  |  |  |
|      | programmes of work across Council, from Climate Commission through to HR, Economic                    |  |  |  |  |
|      | Development etc.  |  |  |  |  |
| 3.15 | Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment  |  |  |  |  |
|      | As agreed within the initial Inclusive Growth Commitments equality screening, a separate screening    |  |  |  |  |
|      | is being undertaken as part of the Belfast Business Promise pilot phase. The findings from the initia |  |  |  |  |
|      | screening are already being utilised to inform the development and content.                           |  |  |  |  |
| 4.0  | Appendices – Documents Attached   |  |  |  |  |
|      | None  |  |  |  |  |



# Agenda Item 5c



## **CITY GROWTH & REGENERATION COMMITTEE**

| Subjec                                | t:                 | Eurocities Membership proposal                    |                            |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|---|----------------------------|
| Date:                                 |                    | 9 August 2023                                     |                            |
| Reporti                               | ing Officer:       | John Greer, Director of Economic Developmen       | nt                         |
| Contac                                | t Officer:         | Laura Leonard, International Relations Manage     | ər                         |
|                                       |                    |   |                            |
| Restric                               | ted Reports        |   |                            |
| Is this                               | report restricted? |   | Yes No X                   |
| If                                    | Yes, when will the | report become unrestricted?                       |                            |
|                                       | After Committe     | ee Decision                                       |                            |
|                                       | After Council D    | Decision  |                            |
|                                       | Some time in t     | he future   |                            |
|                                       | Never              |   |                            |
|                                       |                    |   |                            |
| Call-in                               |                    |   |                            |
| Is the decision eligible for Call-in? |                    |   | Yes X No                   |
|                                       |                    |   |                            |
| 1.0                                   | Purpose of Report  | t or Summary of Main Issues                       |                            |
| 1.1                                   | The purpose of the | is report is to seek Members' approval for re     | enewal of the council's    |
|                                       | membership of the  | Eurocities network, at a cost of €16,300 per cale | endar year.                |
|                                       |                    |   |                            |
| 2.0                                   | Recommendation     | S   |                            |
| 2.1                                   | The Committee is a | sked to:  |                            |
|                                       | Approve the        | renewal of Belfast City Council's membership o    | of the Eurocities network, |
|                                       | at a cost of       | €16,300 for one year.                             |                            |
|                                       |                    |   |                            |

| 3.0 | Key issues   |
|-----|--|
| 3.1 | Members will be aware that Belfast has been a member of the EUROCITIES network for almost 30 years. EUROCITIES is a network of more than 200 major European cities, across 38 countries. It is made up of the elected local and municipal governments of the major cities. The activity of the network is structured through a number of thematic working areas including Cultural Development, Social Affairs and Inclusion, Placemaking and Sustainability. Belfast has participated in a number of the groups, based on particular areas of need or interest to the council and the city at that time. We have also shared learning on a range of topics and has availed of the network to engage with the key EU institutions in order to influence policy.  |
| 3.2 | Whilst the city has limited access to the transnational funds due to its withdrawal from the EU, this network is still nevertheless important in positioning the city and building strong networks to support shared learning and collaboration.   |
| 3.3 | <ul> <li>Within Belfast City Council, there are a number of areas in which officers have been engaged and which remain priority areas of focus. These include:         <ul> <li>Developing an innovative city – link to the Smart Belfast agenda and the work on the Innovation District</li> <li>Transitioning to a net zero and greener economy – link to the work on resilience and climate change, with a focus on developing collaborative activity and accessing new research and insights</li> <li>Internationalising Belfast's cultural proposition – learning from FDI and city positioning work, particularly in post-Covid world</li> <li>Cultural development and city animation – exploring the role of culture as a driver for city development – including both capital infrastructure and innovative programming.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
| 3.4 | Looking ahead to 2024, Belfast is to hold the annual meeting of the Eurocities Culture Forum in September that year. Our bid to hold the event recognises the value of Belfast as a cultural capital and will present another opportunity to position and promote the city during this year of cultural celebration. Belfat last hosted the Eurocities Culture Forum meeting in March 2014. During that event, more than 70 representatives from 58 cities attended to find out more about Belfast's work in this space. It presented a great opportunity to shine a light on the city itself but also on the rich cultural and artistic talent that we have in this place.  |

| Taking account of the planned event in 2024 and the wider learning and opportunities          |
|---|
| presented by our engagement in the Eurocities network, it is proposed that Belfast renews     |
| our annual membership of the network for this year.   |
|   |
| Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment                                |
| There are no direct Equality or Good Relations implications associated with these activities. |
|   |
| Financial and Resource Implications   |
| The cost of annual membership is €16,300. This has been set aside within the International    |
| Relations budget for this year.   |
| Appendices Desuments Attached   |
| Appendices – Documents Attached   |
| None  |
|   |



# Agenda Item 6a



# CITY GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

| Subje   | Festive Lighting Scheme / Future Christmas Programming   |  |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|--|--|
|   |  |  |  |  |  |
| Date:   |  | 9 <sup>th</sup> August 2023  |  |  |  |
| Repo  | porting Officer: John Greer, Director of Economic Development  |  |  |  |  |
| Lesley Ann O Donnell, Senior Manager, Tourism and Culture |  |  |  |  |  |
| Conta   | act Officer:   | Kerry Mc Mullan, Tourism and Events Development Manager  |  |  |  |
| Restri  | icted Reports  |  |  |  |  |
| Is this report restricted?                                |  | Y  | res No x   |  |  |
|   | If Yes, when will th   | e report become unrestricted?  |  |  |  |
|   | After Commit   | tee Decision   |  |  |  |
|   | After Council  | Decision   |  |  |  |
|   | Sometime in  | the future   |  |  |  |
|   | Never  |  |  |  |  |
|   |  |  |  |  |  |
|   |  |  |  |  |  |
| 0 11 1  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Call-ir   | 1  |  |  |  |  |
|   | n<br>decision eligible fo  | or Call-in?  | res x No   |  |  |
|   | decision eligible fo   | or Call-in? Y  | res x No   |  |  |
| 1.0   | decision eligible for  | t or Summary of main Issues  | 1es 140  |  |  |
| Is the  | decision eligible for Purpose of Report At this committee in   |  | s relating to the Belfast  |  |  |
| 1.0   | Purpose of Repor   | t or Summary of main Issues  n June 2023 members were presented with options   | s relating to the Belfast city. During discussion                                    |  |  |
| 1.0   | Purpose of Repor  At this committee in Christmas light swin at that meeting me   | t or Summary of main Issues  The June 2023 members were presented with options of the follow-on activity across the contract of the summary o | s relating to the Belfast city. During discussion ure meeting regarding              |  |  |
| 1.0   | Purpose of Repor  At this committee in Christmas light swith at that meeting meeting the potential for Christmas f | t or Summary of main Issues  In June 2023 members were presented with options of the contract  | s relating to the Belfast city. During discussion ure meeting regarding as the city. |  |  |
| 1.0   | Purpose of Repor  At this committee in Christmas light swith at that meeting meeting the potential for Christmas f | t or Summary of main Issues  In June 2023 members were presented with options of the first on and potential follow-on activity across the combers directed officers to submit a report to a futuristmas events and lighting on arterial routes across information in relation to that request from elected   | s relating to the Belfast city. During discussion ure meeting regarding as the city. |  |  |
| 1.0<br>1.1  | Purpose of Report At this committee in Christmas light swith at that meeting meeting the potential for Christmas report provide Recommendation   | t or Summary of main Issues  In June 2023 members were presented with options of the first on and potential follow-on activity across the combers directed officers to submit a report to a futuristmas events and lighting on arterial routes across information in relation to that request from elected   | s relating to the Belfast city. During discussion ure meeting regarding as the city. |  |  |

- The provision of festive lighting and animation on arterial routes would require additional investment and lead time, and therefore it is not possible to provide this additional programme for Christmas 2023
- Future Christmas event programming on arterial routes could be supported via an existing Council funding scheme such as the Community Festivals Fund, or Vibrant Business Destinations may be the most suitable.
- The increase in costs outlined at 3.2 coupled with council's static budget is likely to mean that the current city centre festive lighting scheme will need to be scaled back for 2023.

## 3.0 Main report

- 3.1 At March Committee, Members were advised that Christmas Lighting Scheme in 2022 was year 3 of the existing Christmas Lighting Scheme. Feedback on the scheme was positive, however, there were additional requests to consider an extension of the scheme to include arterial routes. Further discussion took place at the City Growth and Regeneration Committee held on 14th June 2023. Officers were asked to consider further the feasibility of such an extension.
- 3.2 The installation, storage and maintenance of our festive lighting scheme is managed through a third party that was appointed via a public procurement process. This contract is currently due for renewal and the supplier has indicated that they have seen significant cost increases relating to insurance, energy costs and labour costs. The budget for the Christmas Festive Lighting Scheme has remained unchanged in the last five years and the Economic Development division have no additional budget available to fund the expansion of the lighting scheme. In addition, we have previously had access to an additional non-recurrent budget, given council's financial pressures this has not been allocated this financial year.
- In previous years additional funding was allocated via council non-recurrent budget that allowed additional features to be added to our lighting scheme. We also previously received funding from DfC revitalisation funding that allowed us to distribute monies via a funding programme to business clusters on arterial routes for them to produce some Christmas related activity.
- Given councils current financial pressures and reduced levels of budget within Executive Department budgets it is not currently possible for officers to secure the additional budget that would be required for any additional activity on arterial routes.
- The aforementioned increase in costs coupled with council's static budget is likely to mean that the current city centre scheme will need to be scaled back by as much as half. This will involve a concentration of lights within the central business district.
- 3.6 Logistical/Operational/Financial Constraints Lighting on Arterial Routes

  To have impact along the arterial routes, it is anticipated the level of additional investment for lighting would be significant. To install lighting schemes suitable mounting infrastructure and power must be secured from building owners, agents, or managers via a wayleave agreement. The cost and the lead time required to secure the wayleave agreements, and

install the mounting infrastructure is significant, and it would not be possible for council or individual business clusters/associations to have the agreements and infrastructure in place for Christmas 2023.

- 3.7 Lights are typically purchased or leased, Belfast City Council leases its lights which allows the lighting scheme to be updated with new features, deploy more energy efficient lights, and avoid the costs relating to ownership that are,
  - Purchase
  - Storage

3.9

- Maintenance
- Depreciation (typically festive lighting schemes have a useful life of 3-5 years)
- It is very unlikely that constituted associations in arterial routes would have the capacity or resources to manage a 'local' festive lighting scheme there is evidence of this from the Vibrant Business Destination fund and it is a busy period for retailers therefore any extension of this nature would almost certainly be implemented as part of the council's contractor remit. In addition, in respect of the Revitalisation Scheme, it was reported to be challenging to secure contractors for lighting installations.

In considering the information contained above members should note that given the logistical and financial challenges, and significant lead time to negotiate and secure wayleaves, access agreements and purchase or lease lighting infrastructure any expansion would not be possible until at least 2024. It should also be noted that is council were to be responsible for developing, implementing, and managing Christmas lights and animations along arterial routes additional finance and human resources would be required to recognise the significant

## 4.0 Animation on Arterial Routes

work this would involve from several council services.

At CG&R in June, Members agreed on the approach/format to Christmas 2023 - namely a combination of a Switch-on event and city-centre wide programme of animation and entertainment as per 2021 & 2022 with an allocation for subsequent weekends. Members are asked to note that planning for this event has started, with expenditure incurred. However, it was also requested that a future report be submitted regarding the potential for Christmas events on arterial routes across the city.

Members should note that the budget allocation for Christmas 2023 is £123,000 as presented at the June CG&R Committee. Within this budget, there was no allocation for Christmas event programming along arterial routes. Officers have considered the implications of resourcing programming and have concluded that significant additional resource would be required – or alternatively the current allocation for the city centre programming be used for arterial programming in future years. Based on knowledge and experience, officers have estimated that up to £10,000-£15,000 (per location) would be required for an impactful Christmas event programme; to cover elements such as staging, a parade, PA stewarding, event management and traffic management. This is on the assumption that the content is local performance.

### 4.2 Existing Funding Mechanisms

Members should note there is a pre-existing mechanism for groups to secure funding to programme activity during the festive period. The 'Community Festivals Fund' is administered via Culture and the Central Grants Unit. This funding scheme is accessible by community groups but not council. Those groups can apply for funding between £2,500 - £10,000, and this is for arts and heritage activities and/or other cultural events that contribute to the cultural identity of an area or group and celebrates the uniqueness of that area or group. The current scheme is closed. Any festival must take place between November and March. Council receives applications from a range of community groups and arts organisations.

4.3 At this committee in October 2021 members agreed the Vibrant Business Destination programme which provided over £500,000 including £475,000 of funding from the department for Communities to increase the footfall and vibrancy of business destinations across the city. The funding provided allowed group to form constituted associations and develop and deliver actions plans for their specific areas. The programme aims to fund 10 action plans along the arterial routes. Christmas events and lighting are eligible investments within the programme conditions.

## 4.4 Summary

Members are asked to note the following salient points:

- The provision of festive lighting and animation on arterial routes would require additional investment and lead time, and therefore it is not possible to provide this additional programme for Christmas 2023
- The Council's Christmas Events Programme based on members agreement in June 2023 to have a Combination of a Switch-on event and city-centre wide programme of animation and entertainment as per 2021 & 2022 (as per March Committee report), with an allocation for activity during subsequent weekends is well underway. Members will receive a report detailing those plans at Octobers Committee.
- Future Christmas event programming on arterial routes could be supported via an existing Council funding scheme and the Community Festivals Fund is the most suitable.
- If members direct officers to develop a programme of lighting and animation for arterial routes for 2024 this would need to be considered through the estimates process recognising the need for additional investment.
- The increase in costs outlined at 3.2 coupled with council's static budget is likely to mean that the current city centre festive lighting scheme will need to be scaled back for 2023.

## 4.0 Financial & Resource Implications

#### 4.1 Financial and Resource Implications

The current budget for Christmas lighting and animation was agreed by Committee in March 2023. There are no additional financial implications contained within this report.

|     | Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment |
|-----|--|
|     | None.  |
|     |  |
| 4.0 | Annandiaea Dagumenta Attachad                                  |
| 4.0 | Appendices – Documents Attached                                |
|     | None   |
|     |  |



# Agenda Item 6b



# CITY GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

| Subjec                                | τ:                               | Artist Studios and Maker Spaces Organisation  | onai Grants 2023/24      |  |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|--------------------------|--|
| Date:                                 |                                  | 9 <sup>th</sup> August 2023                   |                          |  |
| Reporti                               | ing Officer:                     | John Greer, Director of Economic Development  |                          |  |
| Contac                                | t Officer:                       | Chris McCreery, Culture Development Mana      | ger                      |  |
|                                       |                                  |   |                          |  |
| Restric                               | ted Reports                      |   |                          |  |
| Is this                               | report restricted?               |   | Yes No X                 |  |
| If                                    | Yes, when will the               | report become unrestricted?                   |                          |  |
|                                       | After Committe                   | e Decision                                    |                          |  |
| After Committee Decision              |                                  |   |                          |  |
|                                       | Some time in the                 |   |                          |  |
|                                       | Never                            |   |                          |  |
|                                       |                                  |   |                          |  |
|                                       |                                  |   |                          |  |
| Call-in                               |                                  |   |                          |  |
| Is the decision eligible for Call-in? |                                  | Yes X No                                      |                          |  |
| 1.0                                   | Purpose of Repor                 | t or Summary of main Issues                   |                          |  |
| 1.1                                   | The purpose of this              | report is to update Members on the dedicate   | ed programme of work and |  |
|                                       | funding scheme to                | support artist-led organisations in the city  |                          |  |
| 2.0                                   | Recommendation                   | s   |                          |  |
| 2.1                                   | TI 0 ''' '                       |   |                          |  |
|                                       | The Committee is r               | •   | _                        |  |
|                                       | <ul> <li>note the cor</li> </ul> | ntents of this report and agree the recommend | ations for artist studio |  |
|                                       | grants, as s                     | set out in Appendix 1 of this report.         |                          |  |
|                                       | •                                |   |                          |  |
|                                       |                                  |   |                          |  |

# 3.0 Main report 3.1 Members will be aware that at a meeting of City Growth and Regeneration Committee in February 2022, members agreed to open a new funding scheme for artist led organisations to provide financial and development support for this sector. In April 2023, members agreed to continue this support for the second consecutive year and £100,000 has been allocated to support Artist Studios & Makers Spaces in 23/24. 3.29 **Background and context** The ten-year cultural strategy for Belfast, A City Imagining, 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, with the latest audit identifying 17 studios/ artist-led organisations in Belfast directly supporting an estimated 450 artists. This in part is due to the value of artist-led spaces not being effectively captured through traditional metrics such as income generated through ticket sales or audience figures and it was agreed that an alternative form of funding would be developed for artist-led spaces. Belfast City Council's current support programmes do not include any of these organisations as annual or multi-annual clients. 3.30 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 is exploring the current and future requirements of artist workspaces in Belfast, is led by Turley Communications. As the first analysis of needs and demand across all creative artforms, this research involves 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 and this report will be presented to members in Autumn 2023. 3.31 **Organisational funding** The "Artist Studios and Maker Spaces Organisational Grants 2023/24" programme was opened on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2023 and closed on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2023. The purpose of this strand of work is to provide financial and developmental support to organisations similar to the support offered under cultural multi-annual grants (CMAG).

3.32 The Artist Studios and Maker Spaces Organisational Grants 2023/24 scheme was advertised widely. The information and application details were emailed directly to a GDPR compliant mailing list representing over 370 organisations from across the cultural and creative sectors alongside associated social media marketing. An online information session was held in advance of the deadline, as well as organisations availing of one to one support sessions with the Culture Development team.

#### 3.33 Criteria for Decision making

The criteria and guidance for Artist Studios and Maker Spaces Organisational Grants 2023/24 applicants are included in Appendices 1 and 2. Assessments were made, and scoring applied under four key areas of criteria:

- Fit with our investment aims, & themes 3 & 4, of cultural strategy "A City Imagining"
- Need and potential impact
- Value for money
- High quality organisational development plan

Assessments were made only based on information supplied by the applicant within their submission. This included the application form and supporting documentation such as business plans and strategies.

#### 3.34 Assessment

3.36

A summary of recommended grants and proposed grant recipients is included at Appendix

1. A summary of award descriptions is included in Appendix 2.

The unit received 12 applications, one of which was ineligible, for Artist Studios and Maker Spaces Organisational Grants, requesting a total of £197,886. Percentage of funding allocated is based on scoring percentage. The recommendation is that we fund 10 organisations, with support of £100,000.

#### 3.35 **Financial & Resource Implications**

An allocation of £100,000 is recommended to "Artist Studios and Maker Spaces Organisational Grants 2022/23". These activities outlined in this report will be resourced from the 2022/23 budget for the Culture and Tourism section of the Economic Development division of the Place and Economy Departmental budget in line with existing approvals.

#### **Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment**

|     | The cultural strategy, A City Imagining 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.   |
|     |  |
| 4.0 | Appendices   |
|     | 1. 4 4 1/4 (2) 1/2 4 14 14 1 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2                                       |
|     | Appendix 1: Artist Studios and Maker Spaces Organisational Grants 2023/24 -                    |
|     | Appendix 1: Artist Studios and Maker Spaces Organisational Grants 2023/24 - Recommended Awards |
|     | , , ,  |

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

Document is Restricted



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

Document is Restricted



# Agenda Item 6c



# CITY GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

| Subje   | ct:                           | Major Events                                  |                          |        |
|---------|-------------------------------|---|--------------------------|--------|
| Date:   |                               | 9th August 2023                               |                          |        |
| Repor   | ting Officer:                 | John Greer, Director of Economic Developm     | nent                     |        |
|         |                               | Lesley Ann O Donnell, Senior Manager Cult     |                          |        |
| Conta   | ct Officer:                   | Kerry Mc Mullan, Tourism and Events Devel     | onment Manager           |        |
|         |                               | Then y we want in the Evente Bever            | opinioni managor         |        |
| Restric | cted Reports                  |   |                          |        |
| Is this | report restricted?            |   | Yes No                   | х      |
| ŀ       | f Yes, when will th           | e report become unrestricted?                 |                          |        |
|         | After Commit                  | tee Decision                                  |                          |        |
|         | After Council                 | Decision                                      |                          |        |
|         | Some time in                  | the future                                    |                          |        |
|         | Never                         |   |                          |        |
|         |                               |   |                          |        |
| Call-in |                               |   |                          |        |
| Is the  | decision eligible fo          | or Call-in?                                   | Yes X No                 |        |
| 1.0     | Purpose of Repo               | ort or Summary of main Issues                 |                          | —<br>7 |
| 4.4     | •                             |   | data an tha Main Frants  |        |
| 1.1     |                               | his report is to provide Members with an upo  | date on the Major Events | ;      |
|         | programme, inclu              | ·   |                          |        |
|         |                               | aritime Festival                              |                          |        |
|         |                               | s Day 2024-2026 Tender                        |                          |        |
|         | One Youn                      | g World                                       |                          |        |
|         | <ul> <li>an update</li> </ul> | on the bid for the Fleadh Cheoil na h'Eireann |                          |        |
|         | an update                     | e regarding the UK and Ireland bid to hos     | t the European Football  | ı      |
|         | Champion                      | ships in 2028                                 |                          |        |

- Antrim Coast & Belfast Northern Ireland Official Bid World Road Running Championships 2025 – 2026
- Approve officers working with DfC to understand the requirements of a future bid for the Oireachtas na Samhna festival in 2025/26. With future reports coming back to this committee prior to any binding bid being submitted.

#### 2.0 Recommendations

#### 2.1 It is recommended that Members:

- Note the update on the Belfast Maritime Festival.
- Note the contents of the update on St Patrick's Day including the procurement approach for 2024-2026
- Note the update on One Young World
- Note and approve support for One Young World Delegates under the 2024 programme development strand.
- Note the update on the bid for the Fleadh Cheoil,
- Note the update regarding the UK and Ireland bid to host the European Football Championships in 2028
- Note the request for support for the World Road Running Championships 2025
   2026 and the proposal for officers to provide a non-binding letter indicating a road closure application will be submitted if the bid is successful

#### 3.0 Main report

### 3.1 Belfast Maritime Festival

This year's 'Belfast Maritime Festival' will be held on Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th September 2023, 11am – 6pm, in the Titanic Quarter with a programme that stretches from Queens Quay to HMS Caroline/Titanic Distillers. The aim is to create an inclusive event that appeals to all demographics celebrating all that is good and creative about Belfast, at an accessible location in the city highlighting our current tourism, heritage, culture, and maritime offering and showcasing our existing landmarks.

The event is coordinated and implemented under a governance structure with key working groups reporting to the Programme Board, which consists of senior representatives from Council, Belfast Harbour Commissioners and Maritime Belfast Trust.

#### 3.1.1

The draft programme includes:

- An interactive kid's zone at the front of the SSE, adjacent to Queens Quay which will host several visiting vessels including Granuaile, the Grace O'Malley, and both the Royal Navy and Irish Navy
- Street Theatre in the Arc, with further visiting vessels within Abercorn Marina
- The area around Hamilton Dock (the Nomadic) will host traditional shipbuilding displays and a large-scale community co-design photography project, delivered in partnership with Maritime Belfast Trust.
- The Titanic Slipways will be a hive of activity, hosting the Belfast Bazaar food and craft markets – and the unique 'Science Street' curated for the festival by NI Science Festival
- Music is a core element of the festival, and the Slipways will be the location for the main stage, hosting a full day of artists. This will be supplemented by other stages at Hamilton Dock and the Soundyard
- Due to major infrastructure programmes, the event footprint on the Co. Antrim side of the river is unfortunately limited, but Sailortown have been engaged to programme activity including within St Joseph's.
- Waterfront Neighbourhood Groups in and around the Lagan will be engaged to participate in the Photography Co-design Project via Maritime Belfast Trust.
- 3.1.2 Visit Belfast and BCC Corporate Communications have developed a regional and out of state campaign in as per the terms and conditions of TNI's Letter of Offer. The festival press launched on 24 July 2023 with all paid activity commencing 31 July until the 10th of September 2023. The Campaign will consist of outdoor, digital, radio, social media across NI and ROI.

# 3.2 St Patrick's Day 2024-2026 Tender

The purpose of this part of the report is to provide Members with a brief update on the recent tender exercise. At the April Committee, the Tourism and Events Workplan was presented, and members approved the allocation of £300,000 to St Patricks Day 2024. Furthermore, in June, members were provided with information on the tender exercise required for engaging the creative sector to deliver elements of future St. Patrick's Celebrations. This tender has now been posted, with submissions expected at the end of August. The tender will be for a period of three years (1 + 1+ 1) to allow for product development. However, projects will be evaluated on an annual basis. Successful organisations would be expected to co-ordinate activity in support of each other.

#### **One Young World**

3.3

3.3.1

Members will be aware that Belfast is hosting the One Young World Global Summit in Belfast from 2-5 October 2023. A global summit with a mission to create a world where leaders are empowered to build a fair, sustainable future for all through identifying, promoting, and connecting the world's most impactful young leaders. Previous host cities include Manchester, Dublin, London, Bogota, Ottawa, and Munich, with Belfast handing on the baton to Montreal for 2024. The Summit provides a global forum for young leaders to experience four days of speeches, panels, networking, and workshops, partnering with 190+ global businesses and educational institutions. It traditionally attracts delegates from 190+ countries, which sees some 2,000 + young delegates visit the host city for four nights, generating an estimated economic impact of £3.4m. As well as the young delegates, the summit attracts some 40+ global leaders, 100+ international journalists and 100's of leading global companies. One Young World will give Belfast global exposure as a young, vibrant, welcoming city as well as providing a legacy for the city on top of an economic return.

The Summit programme for the four days is summarised below:

3.3.2

| Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October 2023             |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| Arrival & Registration, Exhibition & Side Stage | ICC Belfast                                 |  |
| Open  |   |  |
| Opening Ceremony                                | SSE Arena                                   |  |
| Delegate Dinner                                 | St George's Market/ICC Belfast              |  |
| Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October 2023            |   |  |
| Summit Sessions                                 | ICC Belfast                                 |  |
| Cathedral Quarter Takeover                      | Cathedral Quarter                           |  |
| Counsellor Dinner                               | City Hall                                   |  |
| Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> October 2023          |   |  |
| Summit Sessions                                 | ICC Belfast                                 |  |
| Community Dine-Around                           | Various venues. The Mac, Queens University, |  |
|   | and 2 Royal Avenue                          |  |
| Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> October 2023           |   |  |
| Summit Sessions                                 | ICC Belfast                                 |  |
| Closing Ceremony                                | ICC Belfast                                 |  |
| Delegate Dinner & After Party                   | Titanic Belfast / Titanic Quarter           |  |

Attendance opportunities for Council officials and members across the week are currently being considered, with invites and briefings being issued in coming weeks.

BCC is currently seeking budget approval that corresponds to sponsorship opportunities for 20 delegates to attend the event, with a total value of £63,000. This budget is intended to be sourced from existing departmental funds and will be synchronized with the programme development of Belfast 2024. The intent I to ensure that the leadership qualities, knowledge, and ambassadorial roles of the delegates would be incorporated into the development and outreach aspects of the year's programming.

Additionally, the budget includes an initiative to establish a Youth Panel/Forum. This new platform would serve for engagement and culture alongside the advocacy board. The board would also offer a means for other sponsored delegates, supported by organisation such as the Education Authority, SEUPB, HLF, and Deloitte, to maintain an ongoing relationship with the city.

#### All-Ireland Fleadh Cheoil Na h'Eireann

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with further information on the status of Belfast's bid to host the Fleadh Cheoil Na h'Eireann.

3.4

3.3.3

At CG&R in June, Members were briefed on the Lessons Learned from Belfast's bid. The Belfast bid received very positive feedback from all sources. In June, members agreed to commit to supporting the Ards Branch in attendance at several crucial events. In addition, members were furnished with financial information on the bid, including costs associated with Council staff attending Mullingar.

3.4.1

A Belfast delegation will be attending the Fleadh Cheoil in Mullingar from Wednesday 9 - Saturday 12 August 2023, which includes representatives from Belfast City Council and Ards CCÉ. Representation from Belfast is expected at this event to show commitment to the bidding process and to garner votes. The Lord Mayor, Chief Executive and Director of Economic Development will attend the Ard Ollamh Gala Awards dinner on 9 August along with members of Ards CCÉ. The Chief Executive and 2 senior Council officers will also attend the Oversea's Reception on 10 August with Ards CCÉ. Three Council officers will also attend the Comhaltas National Folk Orchestra event on the 11 August with Ards CCÉ, one of the main Comhaltas events of the week and a key opportunity for networking and lobbying. Lastly, Belfast City Council's contracted Health & Safety advisor for the Events Team will also attend the event on 10 August for a one-day operational site visit.

3.4.2

#### Bid to host the European Football Championships in 2028

Officers are working closely with key bid stakeholders (Tourism NI, IFA, Central Bid Team, and UK Sport) in the interim period before the official bid announcement in the Autumn. It was anticipated that preliminary feedback from UEFA on the UK and Ireland bid would require some additional clarifications, but this was managed by the Central Bid Team

A Host City briefing from the Central Bid Team will take place early August. Members will be furnished with regular updates on the bid as and when further information is available.

# Antrim Coast & Belfast - Northern Ireland Official Bid - World Road Running Championships 2025 – 2026

Belfast City Council are being asked to support a bid by the organisers of the Antrim

Half Marathon to host the World Road Running Championships in 2025/26. The event consists of several road races,

- A mass participation ½ marathon to take place outside of Belfast
- A 5km elite to take place in Belfast City Centre
- A 1-mile elite race in Belfast City Centre

It is expected that the event would cost circa £1.5m to host. At this juncture the organisers have not received a commitment of support from Tourism Northern Ireland or another agency in support of the bid.

3.7

3.5

The specific support sought from Council at this stage is a course guarantee which in essence,

3.8

- Irrevocably undertakes, guarantee, and shall ensure that: The competition course will be made available to the MF to organise and stage the WAS event and shall give access to the MF and its guests in order to conduct visits.
- There is no restriction in respect to WORLD ATHLETICS and / or DENTSU on installing commercial adverting in the Competition Course.

Officers have reviewed the course guarantee and believe that given Councils power for road closures it would not have the relevant statutory powers to provide such a guarantee. Any event road closure is subject to consultation and cannot therefore not be guaranteed.

3.9

Instead, and in consultation with the bidding party, officers are suggesting providing a non-binding letter stating that if the bid is successful Belfast City Council will apply for the required road closures. But that application is subject to the standard process, including consultation, and cannot be guaranteed, and nor can any other form of support form Belfast City Council at this juncture.

Officers have been approached by officials from the Department of Communities to begin exploring a potential bid to host Oireachtas na Samhna festival in 2025/26. This is the longest running Arts festival in Ireland and is a celebration of the original Oireachtas – or congregation of authorities – which was first established in the 7th century. This Irish speaking event welcomes people of all ages and descriptions from singers, dancers, poets, writers, storytellers, actors, impersonators, and musical composers.

The event which typically takes place during the first week of November would be expected to take place in several cultural venues across the city and bring as many as 50,000 visitors to the city.

At this juncture the resource requirements, or precise role for Belfast City Council is yet to be established, and when this is understood it will be brough back to this committee for consideration. At this stage officers are seeking permission to continue working with DfC to understand the requirements of any future bid and will revert to committee to seek approval from members prior to any bid being submitted that might commit Council to a role or resources.

### 4.0 Financial & Resource Implications

#### **Financial and Resource Implications**

All expenditure agreed in respect of the Belfast Maritime Festival, St Patrick's Celebrations, and respective Fleadh and UEFA bids are within existing departmental budgets and approvals.

There is a request for approval of £63,000 to sponsor the attendance of delegates at OYW though existing departmental funds of programme development for Belfast 2024

### **Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment**

None.

4.0

4.1

4.2

4.3

| Appendices – Documents Attached |
|---------------------------------|
| None                            |
|                                 |
|                                 |
|                                 |



| Subject:           | Update on Music Strategy                     |
|--------------------|--|
| Date:              | 9 <sup>th</sup> August 2023                  |
| Reporting Officer: | John Greer, Director of Economic Development |
| Contact Officer:   | Chris McCreery, Culture Development Manager  |
|                    |  |
| Restricted Reports |  |

| Rest  | ricted Reports  |                        |         |  |  |
|---|---|------------------------|---------|--|--|
| Is this report restricted?  |   | Yes No                 | X       |  |  |
|   | If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?   |                        |         |  |  |
| After Committee Decision  |   |                        |         |  |  |
|   | After Council Decision  |                        |         |  |  |
| Some time in the future   |   |                        |         |  |  |
|   | Never   |                        |         |  |  |
|   |   |                        |         |  |  |
| Call-   | in  |                        |         |  |  |
| Is the  | e decision eligible for Call-in?  | Yes X No               |         |  |  |
| 4.0   | Demonstration of Boundary   |                        |         |  |  |
| 1.0   | Purpose of Report   |                        |         |  |  |
| 1.1   | At a meeting of City Growth and Regeneration Committee in December 2022, member               |                        |         |  |  |
|   | agreed the music strategy, "Music Matters: A Roadmap for Belfast" including its corresponding |                        |         |  |  |
|   | priorities. The purpose of this report is to seek approval to the allocation of funding to a  |                        |         |  |  |
|   | number of important strands of the music strategy.  |                        |         |  |  |
| 2.0   | Recommendations   |                        |         |  |  |
| 2.1   | The Committee is asked to:  |                        |         |  |  |
| - Note the contents of this report and the progress made against areas of the |   |                        |         |  |  |
|   | strategy, "Music Matters: A Roadmap for Belfast"  |                        |         |  |  |
|   | - Agree the actions for remainder of 2023/24 as set out in the                                | report and in Appe     | endix 1 |  |  |
|   | including budget implications to be met from existing departr                                 |                        |         |  |  |
| 3.0   | Main report   |                        |         |  |  |
|   |   |                        |         |  |  |
| 3.1   | At a meeting of City Growth and Regeneration Committee in Decem                               | nber 2022, member      | S       |  |  |
|   | agreed the final "Music Matters: A Roadmap for Belfast". Mirroring A                          | A City Imagining cu    | ltural  |  |  |
|   | strategy the music strategy has 4 strategic themes, each having 4 s                           | trategic priorities. T | here    |  |  |

are a number of actions and recommendations given for each priority catering to many areas of need across the music sector.

- 3.2 UNESCO Music delivery is funded from existing recurring and non-recurring departmental funds. At the meeting of the Special Policy and Resources Committee in April 2021, members agreed an allocation of resources to the delivery of the music strategy. £900k has been allocated towards City of Music and the Music Strategy for delivery on key developmental activities across 2023/24 and 2024/25 respectively.
- 3.3 In April 2023, members approved a range of initiatives to progress elements of the music strategy. In June 2023, members received an update on current initiatives and approved additional actions. Within both papers, there are a range of pre-existing commitments for the remaining financial year which are now progressing at pace. These include;
  - The Pipeline Investment Fund for music venues
  - The creation of a digital music support service and marketing channels
  - The Music Industry Mentoring Programme for 2023/24
  - Continuation of Gradam Ceoil bursaries
  - Expansion of the Output Conference, Ireland's biggest one-day music conference and live music showcase
  - The City of Music Industry Sessions
  - Support for international exchanges with other UNESCO Cities of Music, namely Hannover, Germany and London, Ontario Canada
  - A micro-grant programme, available to individual musicians, to assist with costs incurred within their artform
- In June 2023, members also received an update on the recruitment and selection of the Belfast Region Music Board comprising of 25 members, to bring to life the UNESCO City of Music designation. The board has been meeting monthly since April 2023 to map further initiatives to roll out in this financial year and beyond.
- The Belfast Region Music Board met in June and July 2023 to agree a detailed and profiled delivery plan, containing initiatives to address a range of areas, most necessary to fulfil during the remainder of the financial year. These initiatives and associated budgets are detailed in Appendix 1.

#### **UNESCO Music Business Ambassador**

3.6

Theme two of the strategy has a focus on exploring and developing professional development opportunities to educate and equip music organisations and businesses to build sustainable career pathways within the sector. In particular, action 6.5 aims to pilot the creation of a UNESCO Music Businesses and Gesador (MBA) – a recurring two-year role to

guide City Council in identifying the needs of workers in music and the opportunities for personal development and growth. It is proposed to allocate £30,000 annually to the Music Business Ambassador role to support the following priorities:

- 5.3: Identify, select and allocate funding for a three-year period to support the development, delivery and promotion of a set of core music business flagship events
- 6.3 : Create more opportunities for cultural leaders and business owners to learn from and share best practice with international counterparts
- 7.1: Develop a music business accelerator programme to grow micro-businesses into small businesses and beyond
- 7.4: Develop a Sponsorship Toolkit to help music organisations attract private funding and educate leaders on pitching best practice. Create opportunities for third sector and private sector matching and meet-ups
- 7.6: Develop an export strategy to support the promotion of music businesses alongside the promotion of musical talent
- As this role is developed and recruited, officials will engage 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 these initiatives.

### 3.8 Health and wellbeing

Theme one of the Music Strategy focuses on placing artists at the heart, a portion of which is built upon the aspiration within the Belfast Agenda that Belfast will be a city "where everyone experiences good health and wellbeing".

- 3.9 Two priorities within Theme One are particularly relevant to this ambition:
  - 1.8: Alongside any financial assistance granted to creators, provide recipients with the opportunity to undertake a health and well-being one-to-one session with trained medical experts
  - 2.8: Co-design with sectoral stakeholders and fund a programme of practical wellbeing events and initiatives to ensure the physical and mental health of music creators is safeguarded and protected throughout the year. This should include a mechanism for reporting and dealing with inappropriate behaviour
- 3.10 The outcome of fulfilling these priorities is that Belfast will have a more inclusive, healthy and safe music community. It is proposed that to complete these priorities, Council should seek to work with music organisations that have a strong focus on health and wellbeing, such as Help Musicians NI and Mental Health England, that could then expand or increase their activity and reach within Belfast through a partnership with the Council. Through these

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partnerships, which will include a range of events and advice sessions, officials will ensure that these initiatives are also open to non-professional musicians.

### 3.11 Music Apprenticeships and Internships

Theme two of the Music Strategy focuses on nurturing the sector, with Priority 8 focused on working with stakeholders to drive forward the creation of funded opportunities to engage and support the future generation of creative freelancers, cultural leaders and music business entrepreneurs. This priority includes an action to "allocate funding to increase the number of paid internships and apprenticeships in music businesses"

3.12 To achieve this aim, it is proposed to develop a pilot programme with Creative and Culture Skills NI aimed at supporting the next generation of music professionals and enable the growth of the sector by directly addressing skills gaps and shortages. Based on the principles a previously successful internship scheme, namely the NI Creative Employment Programme (NICEP), this programme will include work with employers to establish brand new internships in order to give people new opportunities in the music sector. The programme will provide part funding to cover wage costs for employers who create the new roles.

### 3.13 Accessibility

A key Priority within Theme one of the Music Strategy recommends that Council consult the live sector "to encourage the implementation of Access Riders to ensure the needs of disabled musicians and performers are understood and met" to ensure greater tangible support for artists with disabilities across the city's venues.

3.14 Members of the Culture team have recently met with the Musicians' Union to discuss their access rider and their work to encourage its widespread use, supported by its inclusion in all of their live contracts. It is proposed to support this priority through a partnership with the Musicians' Union and the University of Atypical to support awareness raising and normalisation of access rider usage and ensure best practice in engaging the sector.

### 3.15 Sustainability

Priority 11 of the Music Strategy focuses on sustainability in the music sector, specifically to lead the charge in greening the live music sector, embedding sustainability at the heart of its approach to business operations. Sustainability, including a conference on this area in 2025, was also a key focus of the application to UNESCO to receive City of Music status.

3.16 In order to align with these UNESCO ambitions, it is proposed to partner with experts in this area, such as Music Declares Emergency, Julie's Bicycle and Native Events, to provide a practical "Go Green" toolkit with tangible recommendations and measures for

implementation. This will be delivered by building on similar toolkits in other areas whilst promoting the use through a series of events and information sessions.

### 3.17 International collaborations

As part of Belfast's application and status as a City of Music, member cities are committed to "work internationally with the UNESCO Cities Network to deliver shared music, skills and learning opportunities."

In July 2023, the first stage of our UNESCO City of Music partnership with fellow UCoM city London, Ontario, took place. Belfast artists Ciara O'Neill and Niall McDowell, selected by London Music Office and festival lead Darin Addison, travelled to Canada for a week of experiences that will have a lasting impact upon their career and has cemented a strong relationship between our cities. Highlights of the exchange included:

- Headline sets at Home County Music & Arts Festival which has a typical footfall of around 50,000 over the course of a weekend. This was the first time non-Canadian artists have taken part in the festival in fifteen years.
- A two day song-writing camp including representatives from UNESCO City of Music Ghent, Belgium.
- Extensive media coverage across platforms such as BBC NI and CBC London.
- 3.18 In October 2023, two artists and talent agents from Ontario will arrive in Belfast to appear at the Belfast International Arts Festival and take part in a wraparound programme of similar activity.
- 3.19 As well as collaboration between cities, UNESCO Member cities are also expected to take part in official UNESCO events, including the annual UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) conference which will be taking place in Istanbul, Turkey in September 2023. The main objectives of this event are to:
  - Exchange on updated, practical information on policies and activities carried out by cities to further implement the objectives of the Network both at the local and international level and stimulate inter-city collaborations.
  - Offer a key platform of discussion between UNESCO and Creative Cities on the Organization's priorities of action in the field of culture and development as well as other issues of mutual interests; and
  - Showcase and broaden the impact and outreach of the Network and its member cities by nurturing dialogue with other relevant stakeholders, notably those from the local levels.

Officials from the Culture Development team will be in attendance at this important event to highlight the work that Belfast is undertaking as part of the UNESCO City of Music designation.

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### 3.20 Night-Time Economy

Priority 10 of the Music Strategy focuses on enhancing Belfast's night-time economy, culture and governance to ensure the city is fulfilling its economic and cultural potential after dark.

As members will be aware, officials from Belfast City Council are engaged and represented on the Purple Flag Steering Committee which is looking at a number of actions aligned to continued status as a Purple Flag for the city in partnership with the BIDs. This work includes a review of footfall movement across areas of the city, supporting Translink in making the case for late night services, provision of visitor services, lighting strategies, a night safety charter in partnership with Hospitality Ulster and discussions on role of night Tzar.

### 3.21 | Financial and Resource Implications

UNESCO Music delivery is funded from existing recurring and non-recurring departmental funds. Costs outlined in Appendix 1 are to be met from existing departmental budgets allocated to music development.

### 3.22 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

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.

### 4.0 Appendices – Documents Attached

Appendix 1 – 2023-2024 Music Strategy Initiatives

## Appendix 1 – 2023-2024 Music Strategy Initiatives

| Theme                                       | Priority No. | Description  | Approach   | Timeline                           | Budget  |
|---|--------------|--|--|------------------------------------|---------|
| <b>Theme 1</b> Placing Artists at the Heart | 2.6          | Identify and financially support the recruitment of a partner to deliver a programme to develop the production skills of women, female-identifying and non-binary music creators in a safe and trusted studio environment.   | Programme specification developed by Culture team and delivered with external experts  | November<br>2023 to March<br>2024  | £15,000 |
| <b>Theme 1</b> Placing Artists at the Heart | 2.7          | Consult the live sector to encourage the implementation of Access Riders to ensure the needs of disabled musicians and performers are understood and met.  | Partnership with key organisations including Musicians Union and University of Atypical to encourage sector usage of Access Riders.  | November<br>2023 to March<br>2024  | £6,000  |
| Theme 1 Placing Artists at the Heart        | 1.8          | Alongside any financial assistance granted to creators, provide recipients with the opportunity to undertake a health and wellbeing one-to-one session with trained medical experts.   | Partnership with key organisations such<br>as British Association For Performing<br>Arts Medicine (BAPAM), Mental Health<br>England / Tonic Rider and Help<br>Musicians NI | September<br>2023 to June<br>2024  | £15,000 |
|   | 2.8          | Co-design with sectoral stakeholders and fund a programme of practical wellbeing events and initiatives to ensure the physical and mental health of music creators is safeguarded and protected throughout the year. This should include a mechanism for reporting and dealing with inappropriate behaviour. |  |                                    |         |
| <b>Theme 2</b> <i>Nurture the Sector</i>    | 6.4          | Allocate funding to support the attendance and representation of Belfast   | Rolling Micro-Grants scheme, ensuring this includes Ireland/UK conferences and   | October 2023<br>to October<br>2024 | £40,000 |

|                            | 3.2 | Identify flagship events and opportunities nationally and internationally that will enable creators to connect and collaborate with their peers. This includes, but is not limited to, residences, exchanges and showcasing opportunities. Provide creators with advice and support to maximise the new opportunities created | is cross-referenced with existing funded opportunities.   |                                   |         |
|----------------------------|-----|---|---|-----------------------------------|---------|
| Theme 2 Nurture the Sector | 6.5 | Pilot the creation of a UNESCO Music Business Ambassador (MBA) – a recurring two-year role to guide City Council in identifying the needs of workers in music and the opportunities for personal development and growth   | Recruitment of MBA role to support the following priorities:  : 5.3: Identify, select and allocate funding for a three-year period to support the development, delivery and promotion of a set of core music business flagship events 6.3: Create more opportunities for cultural leaders and business owners to learn from and share best practice with international counterparts 7.1: Develop a music business accelerator programme to grow microbusinesses into small businesses and beyond 7.4: Develop a Sponsorship Toolkit to help music organisations attract private funding and educate leaders on pitching best practice. Create opportunities for | September<br>2023 to Sept<br>2024 | £30,000 |

| Theme 2 Nurture the Sector           | 8.1                                    | Allocate funding to increase the number of paid internships and apprenticeships in music businesses  | third sector and private sector matching and meet-ups 7.6: Develop an export strategy to support the promotion of music businesses alongside the promotion of musical talent Partnerships internally with BCC skills teams and externally with Creative & Cultural Skills NI | October 23 to<br>March 24           | £45,000 |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|--|-------------------------------------|---------|
| Theme 3 Igniting the Live Experience | 9.4                                    | Engage with the Music Venue Trust and the Music Venues Alliance to gain a greater understanding of the issues facing the survival of grassroots music venues in Belfast and the ways in which these challenges can be addressed. | Partner with the Music Venue Trust to directly engage with the Music Venue Alliance and other grassroots music venue stakeholders in Belfast. Gain insights from partnered events regarding challenges to better inform Council  | September<br>2023 to March<br>2024  | £3000   |
| Theme 3 Igniting the Live Experience | 12.2                                   | Aligning with UNESCO ambitions, provide a practical "Go Green" toolkit with tangible recommendations and measures for implementation   | Partner with experts in this area, such as Music Declares Emergency, Julie's Bicycle and Native Events. Delivered by building on similar toolkits in other areas whilst promoting the use through a series of events and information sessions.                               | September<br>2023 to March<br>2024  | £6,000  |
| Theme 4 Unifying Power of UNESCO     | UNESCO City<br>of Music<br>Commitments | Work internationally with the UNESCO Cities Network to deliver shared music, skills and learning opportunities.  | Support active participation in UNESCO cultural networks including but not limited to partnership with UCoM city London, Ontario and Hannover, Germany and UNESCO conference.  | September<br>2023 to August<br>2024 | £10,000 |

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## Agenda Item 7a



### **CITY GROWTH & REGENERATION COMMITTEE**

| Subjec                            | t:   | Response to Government Departments EQIA cons                  | sultations           |  |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|----------------------|--|--|
| Date:                             |  | 9 <sup>th</sup> August 2023                                   |                      |  |  |
| Duto.                             |  |   |                      |  |  |
| Reporting Officers:               |  | John Greer, Director of Economic Development                  |                      |  |  |
|                                   |  | Cathy Reynolds, Director of City Regeneration and Development |                      |  |  |
| Contact Officer: Jamie Uprichard, |  | Jamie Uprichard, Business Research and Develop                | ment Manager         |  |  |
|                                   |  |   |                      |  |  |
| Restric                           | ted Reports  |   |                      |  |  |
| Is this report restricted?        |  | No x  |                      |  |  |
| If                                | If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?                                    |   |                      |  |  |
| After Committee Decision          |  |   |                      |  |  |
| After Council Decision            |  |   |                      |  |  |
| Some time in the future           |  |   |                      |  |  |
| Never                             |  |   |                      |  |  |
|                                   |  |   |                      |  |  |
|                                   |  |   |                      |  |  |
| Call-in                           |  |   |                      |  |  |
|                                   |  |   | X                    |  |  |
| Is the c                          | decision eligible for  | Call-in? Yes  | No L                 |  |  |
|                                   | T  |   |                      |  |  |
| 1.0                               | Purpose of Report  | t or Summary of Main Issues                                   |                      |  |  |
| 1.1                               | The purpose of this report is to seek approval of the draft Council responses to the |   |                      |  |  |
|                                   | Department for the   | ne Economy and Department for Infrastructure                  | e's Equality Impact  |  |  |
|                                   | Assessment (EQIA   | ) consultation on their 2023-24 budget.                       |                      |  |  |
| 2.0                               | Recommendation   | S   |                      |  |  |
| 2.1                               | The Committee is a   | asked to consider the attached draft responses and            | approve their formal |  |  |
|                                   | submission, subject  | t to any comments or amendments provided at the C             | Committee meeting.   |  |  |

### 3.0 Key Issues

- 3.1 DfE launched an EQIA consultation on its draft budget for 2023-24 on 7<sup>th</sup> June with a closing date of 30<sup>th</sup> August 2023. DfI launched theirs on 15<sup>th</sup> May with a closing date of 7<sup>th</sup> August (though they also asked for initial responses to be submitted as soon as possible).
- 3.2 To meet the early deadline for DfI, council officers submitted a draft response for the DfI consultation on 12<sup>th</sup> June (as attached at Appendix 2) stating that the submission was subject to approval by the CG&R Committee and ratification by the Council. DfI was informed that, should any changes be made at the Committee or Council meeting, it would be provided with an updated submission. This draft was also circulated to PGLs in June via email, with no requests for changes being received.
- 3.3 The DfE consultation response has not yet been submitted. It will be submitted following feedback and approval of this committee, again with the proviso of full approval or further changes following Council on 4<sup>th</sup> September.
- 3.4 Dfl state that their budget will be reduced by 0.4% when compared to their 2022-23 budget. However, they state that, in real terms, the reductions represent a 14% cut in its resource budget, which will require £167m of savings.
- 3.5 Dfl proposed a number of options to help meet the new budget pressures. These include:
  - A reduction in public transport provision;
  - Water and wastewater services impacted;
  - Road maintenance and flood risk management operational activities are reduced to emergency-only services;
  - Community transport is not funded;
  - · Streetlights are switched off;
  - No road gritting service is provided this winter.
- The draft response in Appendix 2, comments on these specific proposals and also answers the general areas where DfI requested feedback.
- 3.7 In contrast, DfE have only provided an overview of their proposed budget reductions. The draft response (attached at Appendix 1) therefore focuses on the general areas where DfE requested feedback.

| 3.8  | In terms of the reductions, DfE state that their budget will be cut by 1.3% against their |
|------|---|
|      | 2022/23 year-end position. However, they claim that their overall resource spending power |
|      | is reduced by £130 million, or 16%.   |
|      |   |
| 3.9  | DfE's largest proposed cuts are to HEI Postgraduate funding £17m, Reduction in Funding    |
|      | to Higher Education £14m, Invest NI in year reduction 22/23 £14m and Invest NI R&D        |
|      | funding £12m. Despite these changes, skills and education remains the largest part of the |
|      | budget totalling £550m or 74% of the total.   |
|      |   |
| 3.10 | In terms of % change to funding, a 33% Reduction in Funding to Tourism NI (equivalent to  |
|      | £9m) is the largest reduction.  |
|      |   |
| 3.11 | Financial and Resource Implications   |
|      | There are no direct implications associated with this report.                             |
|      |   |
| 3.12 | Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment                          |
|      | There are no direct implications associated with this report.                             |
|      |   |
| 4.0  | Appendices – Documents Attached   |
|      | Appendix 1 – Draft response to DfE EQIA Consultation 2023                                 |
|      | i i   |
|      | Appendix 2 – Draft response to DfI EQIA Consultation 2023                                 |



# BCC Draft Response to DfE Resource Budget 2023 – 24 EQIA

Link to DfE Consultation: Budget 2023-24 Equality Impact Assessment

### **Consultation Questions**

1. Do you agree that DfE has gathered the necessary data to inform its decisions around the allocation of its budget? If not, what other sources of data should the Department consider?

Response: No. While we note your comments in relation to similar concerns raised in the 'Initial Period Consultation Response', we feel that the EQIA may have been limited in two other important ways.

Firstly, while we agree that such extensive cuts will impact all members of society, we do not agree with your fundamental assumption that with "the impact being felt across all section 75 (s75) groups, therefore, as no one section is disproportionately impacted at the expense of another." This thinking appears to be more in line with providing 'equal treatment' rather than 'equality of opportunity.' Our approach to EQIA is to determine if cuts will have a disproportionate impact on any s75 group (or multiple identities) based on the differences in need of those groups. To give a very basic example, people with disabilities are statistically more likely to be unemployed. The 2021 Labour Force Survey reports that there is a 41-percentage point disability employment gap within Belfast (37.2% of people with a disability are employed compared with 78.1% of people with no disability who are employed). To cut services that help people into employment will affect all s75 categories as you have assumed. However, while all people will experience an 'equal treatment' in that the programme will be cut; proportionally more people with disabilities are in need of the 'opportunities' provided by these programmes and hence there will be a 'bigger proportional impact' on people with disabilities.

Secondly, the sources of data that you have listed, appear to focus primarily on people (and hence s75 breakdowns) who are currently using the service. While that is understandable, it does not seem to be a thorough means of assessing the *potential* impact of cuts.

We suggest that there should also have been more reference to the s75 breakdown of people who are in need of the services, funding, and arm's length support of your funded organisations. For example, two of your main work areas (Skills for the 10x economy, and TourismNI) are of significance to the unemployed, long-term unemployed, and low skilled people who are trying to get onto the employment ladder. Statistically young people, people from ethnic minorities (especially Travellers), people with disabilities, and those with caring responsibilities are more likely to need help finding employment, being retrained or to be helped starting a business. Therefore, cuts in these areas are more likely to have a more adverse impact on their 'equality of opportunity.'

It may be that our understanding is incorrect and that your EQIA did attempt to consider this data via detailed reviews of the census, employment statistics, Business Register and Employment Survey, etc. However, as others highlighted in the 'Initial Period Consultation Response' you did not provide the specific data that was used. Therefore, we can't suggest additional data for you to consider, as

you may have already done so. Instead, we would like to highlight a few of the types of statistics that we hope have been considered in this EQIA.

- Employment rate of people with disabilities 37.3%
- Employment rate of people without disabilities 79.6%
- Economically inactive rate of people with disabilities 59.2%
- Economically inactive rate of people without disabilities 17.8%
- Economically inactive rate aged 16 to 24 50.7%
- Economically inactive rate aged 25 to 34 15.9%
- Economically inactive rate aged 35 to 49 14.1%
- Economically inactive rate aged 50 to 64 34.1%

It is also difficult to understand why the largest cuts being to education providers did not register as having a disproportionate impact on the S75 age category, where the majority of those affected will be young people.

## 2. Do you agree with DfE's assessment of the proposals for budget reductions? If not, what other areas of the Department's spend should be considered?

Response: No. While we understand that the unprecedented requirement means that difficult choices need to be made, we would still like to highlight some areas.

Firstly, the 33% cut to Tourism NI seems especially severe when the sector was one of the most affected by the Covid pandemic. The sector is also one of the areas of potential growth that also allows access to employment for those who may find employment in other sectors difficult due to lack of qualifications, experience etc. As highlighted in our other responses, this sector is likely to be disproportionately represented by s75 groups including ethnic minorities, young people, and those with disabilities.

The proposed cuts to Invest NI also seem proportionally high. From the limited financial information available, they appear to also amount to about a quarter of the budget being cut (£73m left after £26m reduction). It would be useful to know what guidance the Department will give to Invest NI in terms of instructing its future priorities. In particular, will the focus be in supporting local investment or attracting FDI?

## 3. Do you agree with DfE's assessment of equality impacts of the options considered for budget reductions? If not, what other equality impacts does the Department need to take account of?

Response: No. As already alluded to, there is insufficient information to know exactly what consideration the department has made when reaching its conclusions and recommendations. There is also insufficient information about how the cuts will be directed. The information provided in your papers is very top level.

So, to repeat the point in our response to Q1) we feel there is a potential impact on multiple s75 categories with these reductions. As a top-level summary: anything impacting on future skills development, job/employment creation, business starts or support for sectors with lower qualification requirements; is likely to have a disproportionate impact dependant on racial group, age, disability, people with dependants and potentially gender, and religious backgrounds.

# 4. Do you agree that DfE has correctly identified all relevant mitigations that could help reduce the adverse equality impacts of the budget reductions? If not, what additional mitigation measures should the Department consider?

Response: No. Considering our previous responses, we do not believe that all potential impacts have been identified and hence it is not possible to develop all relevant mitigations. The consultation also does not provide any significant information on proposed mitigations other than the draft revised budget.

We would add that it is disappointing that no mention is made of potential means to raise additional revenue to offset some of the proposed cuts. We have not had the time to undertake a particular review of what those potential revenues may look like, but examples from elsewhere include: increased monetising of HE research; efforts to attract scholarships through philanthropists and also directly from major FDI; an increase in international students; potential loan based partial payback of certain education or business programmes; tourism tax, etc. Please note, we are not suggesting that any of these ideas are fully appropriate, we just quote them as examples of ways that additional income may be generated.

5. Do you agree with DfE's overall assessment of the business areas where the proposed budget reductions will need to be made? If not, which areas of the Department's business would be better able to withstand reductions?

Response: see the response to question 2.

### 6. Do you have any other comments you would like to add about this consultation – yes or no?

Response: We fully agree with the points raised in the 'Other consideration section.' In particular, we agree with the additional risk to NI, which is already behind other competitor regions, and is therefore ill-placed to endure further reduction in its efforts to increase its competitiveness.

Going forward, these budget reductions are going to increase the importance of the various departments, arm's length bodies, independent bodies, councils, major stakeholders, and the third sector working even more closely together. We hope to be able to enhance our cooperation with all our partners to maximise the resources, experience and knowledge we all have, to minimise these impacts as much as possible.



# BCC Draft Response to Dfl Resource Budget 2023 – 24 EQIA.

### **Link to Dfl Consultation:**

**Budget 2023-24 Equality Impact Assessment** 

### **Draft BCC Responses**

# Overarching points BCC would like to raise/ emphasise in covering letter to consultation response:

Belfast City Council is not in support of any of the measures that have been proposed in the Department's Resource Budget 2023-24 to mitigate the funding gap. The Belfast Agenda, our city's first community plan, sets out how multiple statutory, community and third sector partners have committed to making Belfast a safe, fair and inclusive place for all. In our view the proposed cost-saving measures run contrary to The Belfast Agenda since they will compromise the safety of all who live in, visit or use the city and especially the most vulnerable and those who experience the highest levels of economic and social deprivation.

### A reduction in public transport provision:

The Council's Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) is aimed at reducing air polluting emissions (NO2, PM10 and PM2.5) associated with road transportation, by promoting the use of sustainable transportation options such a cycling and encouraging a shift towards greater use of public transport which reduces vehicle usage across the road network. DFI is a key partner in delivering that AQAP together with Translink. Therefore, any proposed reduction in public transport provision is concerning as there will be less choice for commuters who will not be encouraged to switch from their vehicles to using public transport. Therefore, any reduction in service provision may lead to an increase in vehicles on our road infrastructure which will in turn contribute to increased traffic congestion and air pollution in the city. This will impact on the successful delivery of the AQAP and the Council, together with its key partners DFI and Translink, will not be able to deliver on its key objectives for improving air quality standards in the city.

Furthermore, this will have a disproportionate impact on those already facing the highest levels of social inequality and economic deprivation, as they are less likely to own a private car or have access to private transport and are therefore more reliant on public transport to reach their place of work, or to access other social infrastructure of services including schools, nurseries, GP surgeries, leisure centres etc.

We are actively encouraging staff to use public transport and have seen an increase in the number of staff returning to the office following the pandemic. Will any reduction in public transport provision be designed to minimise the impact around the times when most of the workforce would be travelling to and from work?

### Water and wastewater services impacted:

Maintenance of our sewerage system is an essential element in controlling the impact of the rat population on residential and commercial premises. Will the impact on rodent control be considered if waste and wastewater services are impacted?

The city is in need of investment within its wastewater capacity to deliver development, employment and housing. Currently there are some 11,000 people in housing stress within the Belfast area and any reduction in water and wastewater provision will directly impact those in greatest need of housing relief. In addition to this any further delay in delivering on the Living With Water Programme will have a direct impact on the provision of employment opportunities, reducing our ability to provide inclusive growth and to reduce the barriers to employment.

### No road gritting service is provided this winter:

A reduction in road gritting services will also directly impact the most vulnerable in our society, increasing the risk of injury through slips and falls and potentially creating greater isolation of the elderly and mobility impaired.

Increased accidents will lead to congestion on our road network, directly impact public transportation provision and access to services across our community but particularly to the Section 75 groups who rely on these services most.

Our frontline services are required to travel to all locations within the council boundary throughout the winter. If no road gritting was undertaken there would be parts of the city that we may not be able to provide our dog warden, pest control, animal welfare and enforcement services to, as well other frontline services. Significantly, it would negatively impact our ability to collect waste, a statutory duty. If a decision is made not to grit roads, will it take account of the impact on Council frontline services?

### Road maintenance and flood risk management operational activities are reduced to emergencyonly services:

Maintenance of flood risk management operational activities are vital to reduce the likelihood and severity of flooding in Belfast which is an Area of Significant Flood Risk. Existing infrastructure requires investment and improvement as outlined in the Living With Water Programme (LWWP). Maintenance of the existing infrastructure is vital to reduce impacts from flooding, any reduction in routine maintenance such a grill and gulley clearance will have a detrimental impact increasing the likelihood of flood damage to homes and businesses with large clean-up costs and resource implications for statutory agencies.

### **Community transport is not funded:**

Loneliness and isolation persists especially among the older and less mobile cohorts in society and therefore the provision of community transport is a lifeline. While we appreciate there are a number of factors that have combined to impact on the sustainability of this service, not least changes to work patterns, increasing costs of fuel etc. the termination of this service will be most keenly felt in the most poorly connected communities especially where a regular bus service is absent.

#### Streetlights are switched off:

Streetlights are vital to protecting the safety of all road users and pedestrians and the proposed switch off would threaten the safety and security of everyone, especially the most vulnerable including children and older adults, people with visual impairments or reduced mobility, and women.

Furthermore, those most likely to be impacted by the proposed measure are people who walk, run or cycle short journeys and therefore this will only serve to reduce the inclination towards active and sustainable travel modes. The highest level of conflict between the myriad road users and pedestrians is at peak commuting times of the day and therefore as a safeguarding measure it will be critical to guarantee the operation of streetlights during peak travel times.

### **Active School Travel programme:**

Deciding not to fund the Active School Travel programme from July 2023 is likely to discriminate against young people and people with dependants. Taking a view via Sustrans, one of the partners on the Air Quality Steering Board we concur with the view that cutting this programme will contribute only 0.2% of the departments' budgetary shortfall and the impact on children across Northern Ireland will be greater. Consider the fact that climate change will have the biggest effect on the younger generation and the Department for Infrastructure has a legal obligation to reduce carbon emissions including investing 10% of the transport budget on active travel (it currently invests just 2%). There are many future implications of failing to encourage active travel from a young age, further entrenching car dependency and inactivity.

Furthermore, given the timeframes associated with this Budget Consultation this draft response has not yet been subject to our formal governance oversight and should be treated as draft pending formal ratification at the next meeting of the Full Council on the 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023.

### Specific points from EQIA that BCC departments would like to respond to:

| Dfl Budget 2023-24   | Draft Departmental Response   |
|--|---|
| 1. Are there any data needs or issues in relation to any of the Section 75 equality categories that have not been identified in Section 5 and 6 of the EQIA consultation document? If so, what are they? Please provide details? | Not to our knowledge however it will be critically important to undertake comprehensive stakeholder engagement especially targeted at the Section 75 equality categories.   |
| 2. Are there any adverse impacts in relation to any of the Section 75 equality groups that have not been identified in section 6 of the EQIA Consultation document? If so, what are they?  | Yes. It is our view that all of the Section 75 equality groups will be adversely impacted to a varying but nonetheless high degree of adversity by the proposed budget savings. While there may be a lack of available datasets to determine the level of impact on specific protected characteristics it will be important to undertake comprehensive stakeholder engagement with Section 75 equality groups to ascertain how the proposed measures are likely to impact them. |

It is our view that the proposed cuts represent a neglect of duty to have due regard for the need to promote equality of opportunity within and between the respective protected characteristics. We believe a number of the proposed budget saving measures will be especially harmful on the basis of gender and age including the proposed switch off of street lighting. It is clear that personal crime and physical assault persists especially along gender lines and it has long been reported that women in particular feel unsafe going out at night. This measure will serve to further reduce the inclination of women to make journeys on foot and instead choose to travel by private car. Our position is that, when evaluating savings options, the emphasis needs to be on protecting the needs of the most vulnerable in our society and seeking to maintain the services that they rely upon. 3. Please state what action you think could be It is our view that the Department needs to taken to reduce or eliminate any adverse consider more carefully and thoroughly areas impacts in seeking to manage the Department's where resource budget savings can be made resource budget? that will have reduced impact on the most vulnerable in society and avoid 'quick fix' measures such as the Active Schools budget saving which are short-sighted, run contrary to policy designed to encourage and facilitate more sustainable travel and improve mental and physical health outcomes. Our position is that the Department must seek to retain the services, to an adequate standard, that the most vulnerable in our society rely upon. 4. Are there any other comments you would The areas of savings identified throughout the like to make in regard to the consultation report appear to be unfairly consultation process generally? targeted at some of the most vulnerable groupings. We would encourage minimal impact economically on those most vulnerable in society given the cost-of-living crisis and ongoing economic uncertainty.