

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



**Belfast
City Council**

17th August, 2023

MEETING OF THE STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in the Lavery Room and via MS Teams on Friday, 18th August, 2023 at 9.30 a.m., for the transaction of the business noted below.

You are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully,

John Walsh

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

1. Routine Matters

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

2. Restricted Items

- (a) Financial Reporting – Quarter 1 2023/24 (Pages 1 - 22)
- (b) Revenue Estimates 2024/25 and Medium-Term Financial Planning (Pages 23 - 28)
- (c) Organisational Reviews and Change Programme (Pages 29 - 40)
- (d) Update on Employees on Temporary Contracts and Agency Workers (Pages 41 - 54)
- (e) Asset Management (Pages 55 - 74)

- (f) Update on The MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre) (Pages 75 - 78)
- (g) Update on Belfast 2024 (Pages 79 - 112)
- (h) Sponsorship and Advertising – Income Generation Pilot (Pages 113 - 170)
- (i) Update on External Funding (Pages 171 - 182)

3. Matters referred back from Council/Motions

- (a) Motion - CPR Training and Circuit (Pages 183 - 186)

4. Governance

- (a) Appointment of Panel Members for the Recruitment of Independent Members to the Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership and the Four District Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (Pages 187 - 192)
- (b) Update on Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor (Pages 193 - 198)

5. Belfast Agenda/Strategic Issues

- (a) Recruitment of Chief Officers (Pages 199 - 202)
- (b) Corporate Plan - 2022-23 Year End Report and 2023-24 Draft Delivery Plan (Pages 203 - 204)
- (c) Corporate Plan 2024-28 (Pages 205 - 208)
- (d) Council Improvement Plan 2023-24 (Pages 209 - 212)
- (e) People Strategy (Pages 213 - 220)
- (f) Common Purpose – Sponsorship of NI2035 Legacy Programme (Pages 221 - 224)
- (g) Sustain Exchange Climate Leadership Event (Pages 225 - 228)
- (h) Consultation on Department of Health Budget 2023-24 – Council Response (Pages 229 - 242)
- (i) Solar PV Potential – Phase Two of Department of Economy Collaboration (Pages 243 - 244)
- (j) Shared Island Initiative – Update on Cork Belfast Docklands Proposal (Pages 245 - 250)
- (k) Department for Infrastructure Consultation on Northern Ireland Concessionary Fares Scheme – Council Response (Pages 251 - 260)
- (l) Update on Northern Ireland Enterprise Support Service (Pages 261 - 266)
- (m) Festive Lighting Scheme/Future Christmas Programming (Pages 267 - 274)

6. Physical Programme and Asset Management

- (a) Update on Physical Programme (Pages 275 - 282)

7. Finance, Procurement and Performance

- (a) Falls Parks Event – Request for Support (Pages 283 - 286)
- (b) Update on Contracts (Pages 287 - 294)

8. Equality and Good Relations

- (a) Minutes of the Meeting of the Shared City Partnership (Pages 295 - 316)
- (b) Screening Outcome Report (Q4 2022-23 and Q1 2023-24)
(Pages 317 - 324)

9. Operational Issues

- (a) Requests for the use of the City Hall and the Provision of Hospitality
(Pages 325 - 328)
- (b) Request for the use of the City Hall Grounds – Fragile Space Exhibition
(Pages 329 - 338)
- (c) Minutes of the Meeting of the Party Group Leaders' Consultative Forum
(Pages 339 - 344)

10. Issues Raised in Advance by Members

- (a) Request for Artwork to Celebrate the Oscar Winning Film 'An Irish Goodbye'
(Councillor Black to raise)
- (b) Data Protection (Councillor Beattie to raise)
- (c) Corporate Communications - Language Policy
(Councillor R. McLaughlin to raise)

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of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

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Subject:	Motion – CPR Training and Circuit
Date:	18th August, 2023
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, Interim City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
	To bring to Members' attention a motion in relation to CPR Training and Circuit, which the Standards and Business Committee considered at its meeting on 27th June.
2.0	Recommendation
	The Committee is asked to consider the motion.
3.0	Main Report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	The Standards and Business Committee, at its meeting on 27th June, considered the following motion which had been received for submission to the Council on 3rd July:

CPR Training and Circuit

“This Council notes that cardiac arrest is the ultimate medical emergency, occurring when someone’s heart stops pumping blood around the body and they stop breathing normally.

Early cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and a defibrillator shock are vital to a person’s chances of surviving a cardiac arrest.

In the North of Ireland, there are around 1,400 cardiac arrests each year which take place outside of hospital. Less than one in ten survive to be discharged from hospital.

The Council recognises that survival rates are higher in places where more people are trained to perform CPR and are willing to intervene.

The Council commends the work of the British Heart Foundation in providing schools and communities with the resources to learn CPR. Its campaigning work has resulted in CPR training now being a compulsory element of our school curriculum for Key Stage 3 pupils.

The Belfast Agenda envisions a Belfast where everyone fulfils their potential. Empowering young people with the skills to become lifesavers encourages confidence and adds to children’s belief that they can make a difference to society.

Early defibrillation is another crucial part of the chain of survival when a cardiac arrest happens. Many defibrillators never get used because emergency services don’t know where they are or how to access them - this can cost lives. This is why registering all defibrillators on The Circuit is so vital as it could mean the difference between life and death.

We propose that the Council moves to ensure that all defibrillators located on Council property are registered on The Circuit, are accessible to the public 24/7 and are emergency ready.

We also move to ensure that any future funding for defibrillators provided by the Council includes strict criteria that the funded defibrillator must be registered on The Circuit.

	<p>Additionally, it is proposed that the Council takes its lead from our young people and supports the provision of mandatory CPR training for all councillors and council staff. We also commit to raise awareness through all our available channels and platforms and encourage all citizens to avail of CPR training.”</p> <p>The motion was proposed by Councillor Black and seconded by Alderman McCoubrey.</p> <p>As the motion involves a number of actions which fall within the remit of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, the Standards and Business Committee agreed that it should be referred to that Committee in the first instance.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None at this stage.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>This motion, if agreed, may have potential equality, good relations and rural needs implications and should be subject to our normal screening process as appropriate.</p>
	Documents Attached
	None

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Subject:	Appointment of Panel Members for the Recruitment of Independent Members to the Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership and the Four District Policing and Community Safety Partnerships
Date:	18th August, 2023
Reporting Officer:	Jim Girvan, Neighbourhood Services Manager
Contact Officer:	Lorna Somers, Safer City Assistant Manager

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The Council is required, under Part 3 of the Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, to establish the Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) the four District Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (DPCSPs).
1.2	PCSPs are statutory bodies established under the Justice Act (Northern Ireland) 2011. Under the Act, the Council is obliged to establish a (D)PCSP structure for Belfast. Independent Members of the PCSPs and DPCSPs are appointed by the Northern Ireland Policing Board (NIPB), who have overall responsibility for the process, from nominations made by the Council.
1.3	The process to nominate and appoint Independent Members to a PCSP or DPCSP consists of 3 stages. The first stage is an eligibility sift by the NIPB. The second stage is undertaken

	by the Council with support from its internal Human Resources and an external HR Service Provider. The third stage requires the NIPB to appoint from the Council's deemed appointable pool of candidates.
1.4	The NIPB is currently aiming to have the new Independent Members appointed for the PCSP/DPCSPs reconstitution target date of 1 st June, 2024.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	Establish a Panel, from existing (D)PCSP Elected Members, comprising at least 2 and up to 4 Councillors, including a Chairperson, who will meet to shortlist and interview (D)PCSP candidates.
2.2	Nominate a Reserve Panel Member for each of the aforementioned nominated Panel Members.
2.3	Ensure that the panel is broadly representative in terms of gender and community background.
3.0	Main Report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	The existing Belfast (D)PCSP structures will continue to function until the reconstitution date the target date of which is currently 1 st June, 2024. The current Members will hold office until the day before the reconstitution date.
3.2	As part of this reconstitution process, the Joint Committee is required to conduct a recruitment process for the recruitment of Independent Members to the (D)PCSPs. This process is currently at Stage 2 which involves the shortlisting and interviewing of potential candidates.
3.3	The Council, with support from its internal Human Resources and an external HR Service Provider appointed by the NIPB, is responsible for the second stage of the process which is to shortlist and interview applicants against the published criteria.
3.4	An Impartial Assessor will oversee a sample of the process and an Independent Panel Member will be present at every stage of the shortlisting and interviewing stages.

3.5	To enable this process to move forward, the NIPB has requested that the Council nominates a Panel, from existing (D)PCSP Elected Members, comprising of at least 2, and up to 4 Councillors, including a Chairperson, who will meet to shortlist and interview applicants.
3.6	To ensure consistency and because of the possibility of overlap in membership, it is recommended that the same Panel should be involved in selecting Independent Members for the PCSP and the four DPCSPs.
3.7	The Panel should remain the same throughout the process, unless extraordinary circumstances requires that a substitution is made. However, a Reserve Panel Member should also be nominated for each of the aforementioned nominated Panel Members. If a conflict/extraordinary circumstance is identified the Panel Member will stand down from the process and the Reserve Panel Member will take over and complete the process.
3.8	Furthermore, the Council should seek to ensure that the Panel is representative in terms of gender and community background.
3.9	The Panel along with an Independent Panel Member appointed by the NIPB, will shortlist and interview the Independent (D)PCSP candidates.
3.10	The Panel including the Reserve Panel Members will be required to undertake a half day training session during the month of October.
3.11	It is anticipated, based on previous recruitment exercises, that 2 days of shortlisting and 8-10 days of interviews will be required. All of which will be held during normal working hours with the shortlisting and interviews expected to take place during October/November.
	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u>
3.12	Panel Members will be entitled to receive reasonable travel expenses at 45p per mile. The NIPB has confirmed that there is no scope in the budget to cover any other costs of attending training or shortlisting/interviews.

	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.13	The Code of Practice for the Appointment of Independent Members states that councils should seek to ensure that the Panel is representative in terms of gender and community background.
3.14	The NIPB has overall responsibility for the recruitment of Independent Members and they will appoint an Independent Assessor to oversee the shortlisting and interviewing process by local Councils.
3.15	Councils are only required to shortlist and interview to achieve a pool of appointable candidates which is normally twice the number of Independent Members required. The NIPB will make the final decisions on which candidates will be offered appointment and in making those decisions will strive to ensure Independent Members are appointed to reflect the community in Belfast.
4.0	Document Attached
	List of current Belfast (D)PCSP Members

Membership of the Belfast PCSP and DPCSPs

Effective from 21st July 2023

Belfast PCSP

Political Members	Independent Members	Designates
Cllr. Donal Lyons <i>SDLP</i> (Chair)	John MacVicar (Vice-Chair)	Chief Superintendent Darrin Jones, PSNI
Cllr. Conor Maskey <i>SF</i> (North)	Michael Boyle	Pauline Smart, EA
Cllr. Tracy Kelly <i>DUP</i> (South)	Mary Lambe	Bryan Nelson, H&SCT
Cllr. Fiona McAteer <i>Alliance</i> (East)	Vincent Mogey	Aengus Hannaway, NIHE
Cllr. Claire Canavan <i>SF</i> (West)	Paula Quigley	Mark Cushnahan, NIFRS
Cllr. JJ Magee <i>SF</i>	Norma Shearer	Emer Loughran, PBNI
Cllr. Caoimhín McCann <i>SF</i>	Michael Shields	Patricia Muldoon, YJA
Cllr. Emmet McDonough-Brown <i>Alliance</i>	Gordie Walker	
Cllr. Ian McLaughlin <i>DUP</i>		

North Belfast DPCSP

Political Members	Independent Members	Designates
Cllr. Conor Maskey <i>SF</i> (Chair)	Grace Peacock (Vice-Chair)	Chief Inspector Allister Hagan, PSNI
Alderman Dean McCullough <i>DUP</i>	Thomas Cheevers	Mark McBride, EA
Cllr. Fred Cobain <i>DUP</i>	Bernard McClure	vacant, H&SCT – Bryan Nelson
Cllr. Anthony Flynn <i>Green</i>	Ciaran Shannon	Gerard Flynn, NIHE
Cllr. JJ Magee <i>SF</i>	Vacant	David Mc Comiskey, NIFRS
Cllr. Sam Nelson <i>Alliance</i>		Claire Houston/Jacqueline Nicolson, PBNI
		Dermot Magorrian, YJA

South Belfast DPCSP

Political Members	Independent Members	Designates
Cllr. Tracy Kelly <i>DUP</i> (Chair)	Richard Kennedy (Vice-Chair)	Chief Inspector Finola Dornan, PSNI
Cllr. Pádraig Donnelly <i>SF</i>	Raied Al-Wazzan	Anita Duff, EA
Cllr. John Gormley <i>SF</i>	Catherine Leonard	Vacant H&SCT – Bryan Nelson
Cllr. Donal Lyons <i>SDLP</i>	Thérèse McCartney	Paul Mc Combe, NIHE
Cllr. Micky Murray <i>Alliance</i>	Bob Stoker	John Hegarty, NIFRS
Cllr. Geraldine McAteer <i>SF</i>		Liz Walker, PBNI
		Harry Bradley, YJA

East Belfast DPCSP

Political Members	Independent Members	Designates
Cllr. Fiona McAteer <i>Alliance</i> (Chair)	Gareth Wright (Vice-Chair)	Chief Inspector Rosie Thompson, PSNI
Cllr. Séamas de Fáoite <i>SDLP</i>	Amy Gillen-Ashe	Mark McBride, EA
Cllr. Pádraig Donnelly <i>SF</i>	Lisa McMaster	Bryan Nelson, H&SCT
Cllr. Davy Douglas <i>DUP</i>	Janet Watson	Gary Ballantyne, NIHE
Cllr. John Gormley <i>SF</i>	Vacant	John Hegarty, NIFRS
Cllr. Andrew McCormick <i>DUP</i>		Clare Osborne, PBNI
		Dermot Magorrian, YJA

West Belfast DPCSP

Political Members	Independent Members	Designates
Cllr. Claire Canavan <i>SF</i> (Chair)	Michael O'Hara (Vice-Chair)	Chief Inspector Peter Brannigan, PSNI
Alderman Jim Rodgers <i>UUP</i>	Michael George	Pauline Smart/Paddy Gallagher, EA
Cllr. David Bell <i>Alliance</i>	Paul McDonnell	Paul O'Neill, H&SCT
Cllr. Micheal Donnelly <i>SF</i>	Ewan Suttie	Margaret Marley, Paddy Kelly, NIHE
Cllr. Caoimhín McCann <i>SF</i>	Vacant	David Mc Comiskey, NIFRS
Cllr. Nicola Verner <i>DUP</i>		Nicola Bradshaw, PBNI
		Harry Bradley, YJA

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Subject:	Update on Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor
Date:	18th August, 2023
Reporting Officer:	John Greer, Director of Economic Development
Contact Officer:	Cathy Keenan, Enterprise and Business Growth Manager

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with a progress update on the Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor (DBEC) partnership and seek nominations for Council representatives to the Political Advisory Group of the partnership.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. note the contents of this report and progress to date to develop the Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor partnership; and ii. nominate three representatives to the DBEC Political Advisory Group by 15th September 2023.

3.0	Main Report
	<i>Background</i>
3.1	<p>Eight councils along the Dublin - Belfast Economic Corridor form a partnership to develop a regional proposition for economic growth. The eight councils are Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council; Belfast City Council; Dublin City Council; Fingal County Council; Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council; Louth County Council; Meath County Council; and Newry, Mourne and Down District Council. The partnership also includes representation from Dublin City University and Ulster University. The corridor initiative was officially launched in March 2021.</p>
3.2	<p>The purpose of the partnership is to improve competitiveness and support economic growth across the region. This ambition has been reflected by governments North and South of the border who have made a commitment to support greater cooperation, connectivity, and opportunity North/ South on the island.</p>
3.3	<p>The partnership aims to leverage the existing local government network and resources of the participating partners to identify areas where we can exert a significant positive impact and add value to the economic development of the corridor.</p>
3.4	<p>The partnership aims to leverage the existing local government network and resources of the participating partners to identify areas where we can exert a significant positive impact and add value to the economic development of the corridor.</p>
3.5	<p>In 2022 the Development, Strategy and Action Plan for the Partnership was completed and agreed by DBEC Chief Executives. The strategy articulates a number of strategic objectives for the partnership, including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase skills and training to meet the labour requirements of the region, building on and expanding the existing workforce • Advocate for cross border infrastructure to strengthen connectivity and access to markets and labour • Enhance cross border collaboration in R&D and Innovation, targeting investment in high growth sectors and the green economy • Promote sustainable and climate conscious growth along the corridor, aligned with councils' development plans and wider policy objectives

3.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Align with and support economic development partners to increase trade and investment along corridor • Market the region and elevate the DBEC brand so that the region becomes globally renowned as an attractive place to live and do business <p>Based on these objectives DBEC's core focus for enabling growth is based on improving skills, infrastructure and R&D. The action plan includes priority actions to deliver on these objectives and guide a work programme. These actions are now being brought forward through dedicated resources for the partnership based at Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governance - Agreeing a new collaboration agreement between partnership setting out a clear framework for collaboration. • Communications - Developing and implementing a PR and Marketing strategy that will build the brand and profile of DBEC showcasing strengths and key business sectors along the corridor. Evaluation and development of event options based on thematic areas, such as investment, skills, R&D. • Engagement – Development of a stakeholder engagement framework that will facilitate deeper internal collaboration as well as forging relationships with external stakeholders aligned to priority business sectors. • Research - Review of existing skills strategies, identifying gaps, barriers and learning. Feasibility study on Regional Innovation Hubs – to be completed by end of September 2023. Feasibility study on Connected Circular Economy – to be completed by end of September 2023. • Funding – Continued engagement with Shared Island Unit and identify any relevant funding opportunities, including funds to support the next steps of the current feasibility study work. Identify opportunities to access funding through Peace Plus including potential to partner under Theme 2.3 to bid for an area-based skills initiative and explore opportunities within Peace Plus Theme 6.1 Strategic Planning and Engagement. <p><i>Governance</i></p>
3.7	<p>Newry Mourne and Down District Council currently holds the role of chair and secretariat for the partnership. As part of the Governance structure of the Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor, three elected members from each council are nominated to serve on a political advisory board. This board provides an advisory and consultative forum, supporting the Directors</p>

	Group and CEO group in the governance of the partnership. Councillor Pete Byrne (SDLP) from Newry, Mourne and Down District Council is the current chair of the political advisory group and Councillor Seána Ó Rodaigh (Labour) of Fingal County Council as deputy chair.
3.8	This group last met in January 2023. Following the local elections in Northern Ireland, there have been changes among the makeup of councils and elected representatives. Therefore, as a result of this all councils have been asked to provide an update on membership to the DBEC political advisory board. Nominees are appointed for a two-year period, with a view to participating in quarterly meetings.
3.9	The previous Council representatives were Cllr. Ciaran Beattie, (SF), Cllr. Eric Harvey (Alliance Party) and Alderman George Dorrian (DUP). These representatives were previously nominated via the Councils City Growth and Regeneration Committee as DBEC updates are provided to that committee.
3.10	The SP and R Committee is requested to nominate new representatives to participate on the DBEC Political Advisory Board following consideration by the party group leaders by September 15 th , 2023.
3.11	A list of meeting dates is provided below.
	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u>
3.12	N/A
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.13	Given the nature of this initiative as a multiparty, cross border partnership equality and good relation impacts will be assessed throughout delivery within the overall governance framework.

4.0	DBEC Meeting Schedule.			
		Directors	CEOs	Political Advisory
		Monthly	Bimonthly	Quarterly
	2023			
	September	Thursday 7 th @ 10am	Tuesday 19 th @ 2pm	Thursday 28 th @ 10am
	October	Thursday 5 th @ 10am		
	November	Thursday 2 nd @ 10am	Tuesday 21 st @ 2pm	
	December	Thursday 7 th @ 10am		Thursday 14 th @ 10am
	2024			
	January	Thursday 4 th @ 10am	Tuesday 16 th @ 2pm	
	February	Thursday 1 st @ 10am		
	March	Thursday 7 th @ 10am	Tuesday 19 th @ 2pm	Thursday 28 th @ 10am
	April	Thursday 4 th @ 10am		
	May	Thursday 2 nd @ 10am	Tuesday 21 st @ 2pm	
	June	Thursday 6 th @ 10am		Thursday 27 th @ 10am
	July	Thursday 4 th @ 10am	Tuesday 16 th @ 2pm	
	August	Thursday 1 st @ 10am		
	September	Thursday 5 th @ 10am	Tuesday 17 th @ 2pm	Thursday 26 th @ 10am
	Schedule	<i>1st Thursday in month @ 10am</i>	<i>3rd Tuesday in month @ 2pm</i>	<i>4th Thursday in month @ 10am</i>
		<i>In person</i>	<i>In person</i>	<i>In Person</i>
	Format	<i>Or alternating in person / online</i>		

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Subject:	Recruitment of Chief Officers
Date:	18th August, 2023
Reporting Officer:	Christine Sheridan, Director of Human Resources
Contact Officer:	Christine Sheridan, Director of Human Resources

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to seek approval to recruit the posts of Strategic Director of City Operations and Strategic Director of Place and Economy and for the constitution of the selection panels to comprise the Chief Executive (or his nominee) and a Council Director, along with three Elected Members from the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee and agree the proposed advertising approach.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	It is recommended that the posts of Strategic Director of City Operations and Strategic Director of Place and Economy be recruited on a permanent basis and that the selection panels for the posts comprise the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the SP and R Committee (or their nominees) and one additional Elected Member from the SP and R Committee from a Political Party not already represented by the Chair and Deputy Chair, along with the Chief Executive (or his nominee) and a Council Director.

2.2	It is important that the Elected Members nominated to constitute the selection panels for these posts provide a balance, where practicable, in terms of both gender and community background.																
3.0	Main Report																
3.1	<p>The posts of Strategic Director of City Operations and Strategic Director of Place and Economy will be publicly advertised in accordance with the Local Government Staff Commission's Code of Procedures on Recruitment and Selection.</p> <p>Given, however, that a recent exercise undertaken to analyse where Council job applicants heard about Council job opportunities in 2022/2023 has proved that a hard copy print of job adverts in local newspapers is no longer an effective recruitment source or an effective return on investment for the Council, it is recommended that these Director posts will not be advertised in the three local papers on this occasion but advertised more widely on sources that have proved to be effective, such as the Council's own website, online job boards and social media etc. The hard copy print of all other Council job adverts will continue to appear in the three local papers in the meantime but this will be kept under review.</p>																
3.2	<p>Recruitment Timetable – Strategic Director of City Operations</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Public Advertisement / Closing Date</td><td>Thursday 7th and Friday 8th September 2023/ Friday 29th September 2023</td></tr> <tr> <td>Panel Short-listing Meeting (Stage 1)</td><td>*Monday 9th October 2023 from 2 pm to 4 pm</td></tr> <tr> <td>Virtual Assessment Centre</td><td>Monday 16th October 2023 (all day)</td></tr> <tr> <td>Outcome of Assessment Centre (Stage 2)</td><td>Monday 23rd October 2023 from 2 pm to 4 pm</td></tr> <tr> <td>Final Interviews</td><td>*Thursday 2nd November 2023 (all day required at the minute)</td></tr> </table> <p>Recruitment Timetable – Strategic Director of Place and Economy</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Public Advertisement / Closing Date</td><td>Thursday 7th and Friday 8th September 2023/ Friday 29 September 2023</td></tr> <tr> <td>Panel Short-listing Meeting (Stage 1)</td><td>*Friday 20th October 2023 from 1 pm to 3 pm</td></tr> <tr> <td>Virtual Assessment Centre</td><td>Monday 30th October 2023 (all day)</td></tr> </table>	Public Advertisement / Closing Date	Thursday 7th and Friday 8th September 2023/ Friday 29th September 2023	Panel Short-listing Meeting (Stage 1)	*Monday 9th October 2023 from 2 pm to 4 pm	Virtual Assessment Centre	Monday 16th October 2023 (all day)	Outcome of Assessment Centre (Stage 2)	Monday 23rd October 2023 from 2 pm to 4 pm	Final Interviews	*Thursday 2nd November 2023 (all day required at the minute)	Public Advertisement / Closing Date	Thursday 7th and Friday 8th September 2023/ Friday 29 September 2023	Panel Short-listing Meeting (Stage 1)	*Friday 20th October 2023 from 1 pm to 3 pm	Virtual Assessment Centre	Monday 30th October 2023 (all day)
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3.3																	

	Outcome of Assessment Centre (Stage 2)	*Monday 6th November 2023 from 10 am to 12 noon
	Final Interviews	*Friday 17th November 2023 (all day required at the minute)
	<p>*Elected Members will be required to attend on these three key meeting dates and may also be required to attend a 2-hour R and S training course on non-discriminatory R and S techniques in advance of these meeting dates. An observer from the Local Government Staff Commission (LGSC) and a Professional Assessor may also attend these meetings but they will not have any voting rights.</p> <p>Both selection panels will have the authority to make these appointments and the outcome of the recruitment and selection processes will be reported back to the SP and R Committee and full Council for notation.</p>	
	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u>	
3.6	There are no financial or resource implications associated with this report as the posts have already been budgeted for in the revenue estimates and any quotes for Assessment Centres will be managed in line with the Council's agreed procurement thresholds.	
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>	
3.7	There are no equality, good relations or rural needs implications associated with this report. These posts will be recruited in full accordance with the LGSC's Code of Procedures on Recruitment and Selection and be conducted in a fair, systematic and objective manner with all appointments based strictly on the merit principle.	
4.0	Documents Attached	
	None.	

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Subject:	Corporate Plan - 2022-23 Year End Report and 2023-24 Draft Delivery Plan
Date:	18th August, 2023
Reporting Officer:	John Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy
Contact Officers:	Kevin Heaney, Head of Inclusive Growth and Anti-Poverty Geoff Dickson, Strategic Policy Lead Officer Ryan Berry, Policy and Performance Analyst

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To seek approval from the Committee of the end of year review of the Corporate Delivery Plan 2022-23 and agree the draft 2023-24 Corporate Delivery Plan .
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) approve the end-of-year report on the Corporate Delivery Plan 2022-23; and (ii) approve the Corporate Delivery Plan for the 2023-24 period.
3.0	Key Issues
3.1	<u>Corporate Delivery Plan 2022-23</u> Members will recall that the Annual Delivery Plan for the period 2022-23 was considered and agreed at the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 28 th March 2023. The delivery plan

	sets out the key commitments and priorities for action over this period as well as the associated performance measures for success.
3.2	<p>The 2022-23 delivery plan focused on improving our services as well as advancing programmes of work in support of inclusive economic recovery, community recovery and environmental recovery. The delivery plan also prioritised the development of key strategic planning frameworks including the refresh of the Belfast Agenda.</p> <p><u>2022-23 Delivery Plan – Year End Report</u></p>
3.3	<p>It should be noted that substantial progress has been made in delivering the priorities set out in the 2022-23 Corporate Delivery Plan and within the context of continuing to operate against the backdrop of the pandemic and widening economic and social challenges facing the city. A report outlining the progress made can be accessed here.</p> <p><u>2023-24 Draft Corporate Delivery Plan</u></p>
3.4	<p>The 2023-2024 Delivery Plan sets out the final years focus for council delivery of its overarching Corporate Plan 2020-2024. The draft Delivery Plan 2023-2024, which can be accessed here, sets out the priorities for the year under the strategic themes of our services; inclusive economic recovery; community recovery; environmental recovery; strategic planning frameworks and organisational foundations.</p>
3.5	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There are no implications associated with this report.</p>
3.6	<p><u>Equality of Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>There are no implications associated with this report.</p>
4.0	Documents Attached
	<p>Draft end of year report for the Corporate Delivery Plan 2022-23 (see paragraph 3.3)</p> <p>Draft Corporate Delivery Plan 2023-24 (see paragraph 3.4)</p>



Subject:	Corporate Plan 2024-28
Date:	18th August, 2023
Reporting Officer:	John Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy
Contact Officers:	Kevin Heaney, Head of Inclusive Growth and Anti-poverty Geoff Dickson, Strategic Planning and Policy Manager Ryan Berry, Policy and Performance Analyst

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To outline to the Committee the proposed approach and key steps to develop the new corporate plan 2024-28 and accompanying Committee and Departmental Plans.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to approve the proposed approach and timeline for the development of a new corporate plan (2024-28) and accompanying Committee and Departmental Plans 2024-25.
3.0	Key Issues
	<u>Corporate Planning Framework</u>

3.1	The Corporate Plan is a key governance document, cited in the Council's constitution as the means by which the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee sets the strategic direction of the Council.
3.2	<p>It sets out the strategic aims which the Council seeks to achieve for the City, the priority actions which will help make it happen and the key performance information that will help the Council and our stakeholders determine the impact of our activity. The priorities set out within the corporate plan are used as the basis for the rate setting process to ensure our financial, physical and human resources are aligned with the achievement of the ambitions and commitments in the plan.</p> <p><u>Corporate Planning and Committee Planning Cycle</u></p>
3.3	The four-year corporate planning cycle is aligned with the electoral cycle and 4-year council terms. The timeline seeks to have a new corporate plan developed and agreed by the April following the local government elections. This provides newly elected Members to work with officers over a nine-month (approx.) period to co-design the corporate plan and associated priorities for the next four years. This approach provides a year overlap of the corporate plan into the next Council term to provide stability and focus whilst the new plan is being developed.
3.4	<p>A new corporate plan is therefore required for April 2024 and will be supported by the following key documents which will be developed alongside the plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Annual Corporate Delivery Plan. More detailed contents on what will be delivered on an annual basis against each priority, alongside key performance targets. Within the four-year corporate planning cycle, this provides an opportunity to refresh the priorities aligned to the annual estimating process. ii. Annual Committee Plans. These are developed for the People and Communities, City Growth and Regeneration and Planning Committees and will consist of the priorities in the corporate plan that each Committee is responsible for, alongside additional priorities that can be agreed by the Committee. The Committee plans help provide focus for the Committee and supporting Chief Officers on core delivery priorities. iii. Annual Departmental Plans. The departmental plan outlines the key corporate priorities which will be led by specific departments alongside other departmental and service priorities agreed. These plans also help inform the budget estimates and rate setting processes. iv. Annual rate setting process. The annual rate setting process ensures the delivery of a balanced budget and focuses the allocation of resources so that, over time, priority areas are financially supported.

	<p>v. Medium-Term Financial Strategy. This provides the financial framework to demonstrate that the corporate, committee and departmental plans are supported by sustainable and affordable financial planning. Forecasting the financial position over a longer time frame supports planning for future service provision.</p>
3.5	<p><u>Key Next Steps</u></p> <p>In order to agree the draft plans in time for April 2024, the following timeline is recommended:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Party Group Leaders, Committee Chair and Chief Officers workshop (late September) - CMT will outline its priorities for the 2024-28 corporate plan and Members will be asked to bring their priorities for the next four years. The outcome of this workshop will form the basis of the initial draft corporate plan and help inform the estimating process. ii. Committee Planning Workshops (early October). This will enable each Committee to discuss with senior officers the priorities for the Committee over the next four years (based on initial discussion between CMT, PGLS and Chairs) and discuss any additional priorities under the remit of the Committee. iii. Draft corporate plan, committee plans and departmental plans discussed at CMT – 8th November. iv. All Member workshop – November 2023 v. SP and R Committee in 24th Nov and 15th Dec – rate setting and medium-term strategy update reports (district rate must be struck by 15th Feb each year) vi. Draft Corporate Plan and Committee Plans to Committee – January/ February 2024. vii. Eight-week public consultation opens on draft corporate plan – February/ March. viii. Final four year corporate and Committee plans agreed April – May 2024.
3.6	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>The recommended corporate planning /committee planning approach can be delivered within existing resources. The content of the planning documents will be considered as a key part of the rate setting process.</p>
3.7	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>Corporate policies will be followed, and appropriate screening and mitigating actions delivered where necessary.</p>
4.0	<p>Documents Attached</p>
	<p>None</p>

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Subject:	Council Improvement Plan 2023-24
Date:	18th August, 2023
Reporting Officer:	John Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy
Contact Officers:	Kevin Heaney, Head of Inclusive Growth and Anti-poverty Patricia Flynn, Strategic Policy and Planning Officer

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

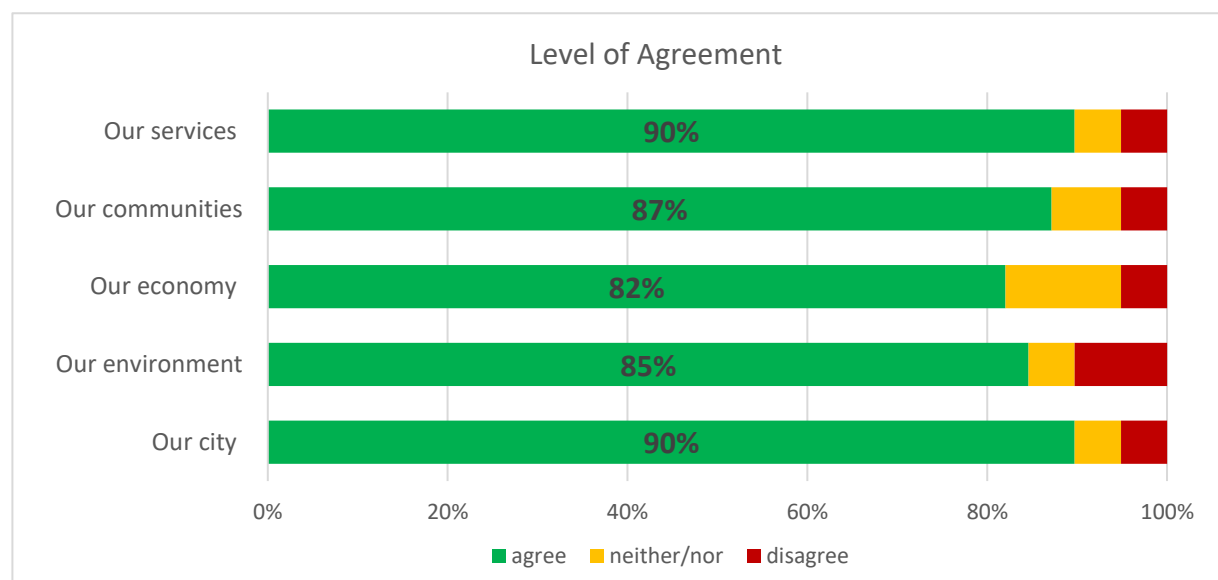
Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To present for the Committee's consideration the draft Council Improvement Plan: 2023-2024 and associated improvement objectives for this period, which has been informed by public consultation.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: (i) approve the draft 2023-2024 Council Improvement Plan; and (ii) approve the publication of the Improvement Plan as legally required.
3.0	Key Issues
3.1	The Committee will be aware that the Council has a statutory duty to agree improvement objectives and produce an annual improvement plan. The Improvement plan does not include everything that council plans to do that year, but instead focuses on a smaller set of key improvement priorities. In February 2023, the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee approved the following draft improvement objectives, which were issued for public consultation:

Our Services and Facilities
Maintain and where appropriate improve resident satisfaction with the council and the services and facilities that we provide
Our Communities
Improve our local areas and enhance how we engage and support residents so everyone can enjoy good quality of life.
Our Economy
Help small businesses, including social enterprises and co-operatives, to develop and grow, and by doing so, help create opportunities for local jobs and employment.
Our Environment
Help tackle climate change, protect our environment, and improve the sustainability of Belfast.
Our City
Revitalise our city and help it to innovate in an inclusive and sustainable way.

3.2 Summary of Consultation Responses

The consultation on the proposed improvement objectives ran for just over eight weeks and was hosted on our Your say Belfast engagement platform and promoted through the council's social media channels. A total of 39 responses were received with key results summarised below. (Note: we do not normally receive a large response to consultations of this nature.) The majority of those responding to the consultation supported the proposed improvement objectives, as set out in the graph below.



3.3 Respondents were given the opportunity to make comments, provide ideas or to suggest other areas that they felt should be included as improvement objectives. Around half of all respondents submitted comments, which have been forwarded to relevant services for information and where applicable have been fed into the ongoing review of the Belfast Agenda. Generally, the comments related to:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The need for clearer language and targets • Importance of focusing on core services such as cleanliness, collecting bins/waste and customer service • Importance of the environment including a desire to see us tackling the reliance on cars. Whilst there was significant support for the environment objective, one respondent highlighted that this is not the responsibility of council • Importance of the city centre and the need to make it cleaner, greener and safer. • The need for greater innovation in relation to enhancing the economy and developing the city and in particularly addressing challenges around housing, dereliction and disused buildings. <p>Improvement Plan 2023 - 24</p>
3.4	<p>As the consultation results show high levels of support, it was not necessary to make changes to the proposed improvement objectives. Feedback from the consultation was shared with services to help them develop their improvement tasks and milestones. As required by the legislation, we have now drafted a detailed Improvement Plan that sets out our improvement actions and targets. This can be accessed here for the Committee's consideration and approval.</p>
	Financial and Resource Implications
3.5	<p>The improvement actions have been factored into agreed programmes of work and therefore there are no unplanned resource implications contained in this report.</p>
	Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment
3.6	<p>There are no equality or rural needs implications arising directly from this report.</p>
4.0	Document Attached
	Draft Council Improvement Plan 2023 – 24 (see paragraph 3.4)

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Subject:	People Strategy
Date:	18th August, 2023
Reporting Officer:	Christine Sheridan, Director of Human Resources
Contact Officer:	Catherine Christy HR Manager - Development

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of main Issues
1.1	To present to the Committee the People Strategy, along with plans for its launch and the launch of the Achieving through People Framework.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to note the contents of this report.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	The People Strategy has been developed in consultation with senior leaders, frontline employees and managers and via the council's Joint Negotiation and Consultation Committee. Its purpose is to set out our approach to leading, managing, developing, supporting, and engaging with each other to deliver our corporate priorities and our Belfast Agenda goals.

	<p>It will be launched alongside the Achieving Through People Framework which sets out our organisational values and behaviours and how we want to work together to get things done.</p>
3.2	<p>People Strategy Goals</p> <p>The goals of the People Strategy are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council will attract, recruit, and retain a talented workforce that is motivated to achieve our ambitious plans for the city • The council will engage you and provide opportunities for you to develop and progress within the organisation • The council will be recognised as an employer that celebrates success, the diversity of our workforce and the wellbeing of you
3.3	<p>The Strategy also sets out the benefits of working for the council, our values and behaviours as detailed in the Achieving Through People Framework (ATP) as well as planned activity to be delivered over the duration of the Strategy. The proposed timeframes and action ownership is detailed in the People Strategy three-year Action Plan, a copy of which is attached.</p>
3.4	<p>Consideration of how the ATP framework can be embedded into existing performance management and personal development planning processes will be prioritised in year 1, for example embedding the Tier 3 Senior Management Appraisal process / cascading it to other tiers in the organisation, and the review of the PDP process, currently applicable to all levels of staff.</p>
3.5	<p>Governance, Measurement and Reporting.</p> <p>CMT will oversee delivery of the People Strategy. Progress on delivery of the actions contained in the strategy will be reported to CMT on a six-monthly basis. The following people performance indicators are proposed to measure the impact of the People Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % staff agree that they have opportunities to discuss their personal development • % staff agree that there are opportunities for career growth • % staff agree that they receive feedback and that their contribution is valued and recognised • % staff feel supported by their manager and senior leaders • % managers agree that have the skills and tools to support and develop their staff.

3.6	<p>It is proposed that the performance indicators are measured end of year 1, 2 and 3 of the action plan, through short, targeted employee surveys.</p> <p>Health and Wellbeing Strategy</p>
3.7	<p>Members will be aware that work is ongoing to refresh the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and associated action plan. Following conclusion of consultation with the Trade Unions, the Health and Wellbeing Strategy will be presented to CMT in the coming weeks. It is expected that some of the performance indicators used to measure the impact of the H&WB Strategy will mirror those proposed above for the People Strategy.</p> <p>Launch, Implementation and Roll Out</p>
3.8	<p>The strategy will be launched by the Chief Executive and Directors in early October and a full communication plan to cascade the strategy to all staff is being developed. It will be important for all staff to be made aware of the People Strategy and the Achieving Through People Framework, its content, planned activity and how it will impact/benefit individuals in their current roles and help them consider and plan for their career development.</p> <p>Financial and Resource Implications</p>
3.9	<p>Costs associated with delivery of the People Strategy will be met from both the existing Corporate OD budget and departmental learning and development budgets.</p> <p>Human Resources</p>
3.10	<p>A full communication and awareness raising exercise for staff and managers will be implemented and Directors will need to ensure that their own senior and middle management structures are fully briefed regarding their responsibility to communicate and roll out the strategy to their teams.</p> <p>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</p>
3.11	<p>An equality and good relations screening and a rural needs screening have been completed for the People Strategy. The screenings have indicated that there are no adverse impacts on equality and good relations or rural needs.</p>
4.0	Documents
	<p>The People Strategy here</p> <p>The Achieving Through People Framework here</p> <p>People Strategy Action Plan (attached)</p>

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People Strategy Action Plan - April 2023 to March 2026

Year 1 - April 23 to March 24

Year 2 - April 24 to March 25

Year 3 - April 25 to March 26

Delivering for Belfast - The council will attract, retain and recruit a talented workforce that is motivated to achieve our ambitious plans for the city.	Year	Who
Offer regular staff support, training or eLearning sessions on interviewee skills and selection techniques.	1, 2, 3	Corporate HR
Update our approach to Corporate Induction.	1	Corporate HR
Review and implement our approach to individual performance management cascading gradually to all tiers.	1, 2, 3	Corporate HR / CMT
Promote Belfast City Council as an employer that offers an exciting and diverse range of opportunities and roles.	1, 2, 3	Corporate HR
Support our inclusive growth ambitions through recruitment of suitable entry level posts, e.g. apprenticeships, and through volunteering and placement opportunities.	1, 2, 3	Corporate HR / Departments
Provide ring fenced job opportunities to the long term unemployed, providing pre-recruitment employment academies and increased employability outreach in communities to support our inclusive growth ambitions.	1, 2, 3	Corporate HR / Departments
Continue our leadership role in working with employers across the city to create pathways to employment		P&E

Fulfilling my Potential - The Council will engage you and provide opportunities for you to develop and progress within the organisation	Year	Who
Update our learning and development policy to include a review of the PDP process.	1	Corporate HR
Improve signposting to personal development opportunities for managers and staff.	1	Corporate HR
Develop a staff mentoring scheme that supports continued personal development and career progression.	2	Corporate HR
Provide additional opportunities for on-the-job development, work shadowing and project roles across the organisation.	1, 2 3	All Departments
Participate in Local Government Staff Commission (LGSC) review of recruitment processes.	1	Corporate HR
Produce and implement a workforce development plan to underpin new ways of working.	2	Corporate HR / CMT / Departments
Continue to develop our frontline staff through the frontline development programme.	1	Corporate HR / Departments
Continue to develop our leaders and managers at all levels through our leadership development programme.	1, 2, 3	Corporate HR
Continue our focus on completing organisation reviews and reducing temporary working arrangements.	1, 2, 3	Continuous Improvement
Via our Internal Communications Strategy, which ensures we continually address the need for all areas of our organisation to remain connected and engaged through communication we will continue to use feedback to work on the development of new channels and our regular channels.	1, 2, 3	Communications and Marketing
We will continue to make every effort to keep staff informed with accurate and timely information.	1, 2, 3	Communications and Marketing / Departments
A Place for Everyone - The Council will be recognised as an employer that celebrates our success , the diversity of our workforce and the wellbeing of you.	By When	Who
Show continued visible commitment to our people by working towards and achieving Diversity Charter Mark - Gold Level.	3	Corporate HR
Implement our gender and LGBT+ action plans and build on the existing equality and diversity awards and accreditations to demonstrate our continued commitment to equality and diversity.	1, 2, 3	Corporate HR and staff networks

Develop a Race Action Plan that focuses on making the council more reflective of the community we serve.	1	Executive Sponsor for Race / Departments
Offer all staff an annual programme of training to support employee health and wellbeing, including: - positive mental health and emotional wellbeing training (with a focus on resilience); - first aid mental health training; - stress awareness training for managers and - initiatives on improving your lifestyle including yoga, nutrition and physical care.	1, 2, 3	Corporate HR / Departments
Continue to promote better psychological health through an employee counselling service, which provides confidential help and support.	1, 2, 3	Corporate HR
Ensure that all our people have working environments that are conducive to them performing at their best.	1, 2, 3	Departments
Other ongoing activity	By when	Who
Keep our policies and procedures under review to support delivery of our ambitions in the Belfast Agenda and Corporate Plan.	1, 2, 3	All departments
We will identify workforce requirements to deliver our business now and in the future and develop plans and tools to ensure that we have the right people and skills where and when we need them.	1, 2, 3	Corporate HR and Departments
Develop hybrid working patterns where it suits the needs of the job.	1, 2, 3	All departments

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Subject:	Common Purpose – Sponsorship of NI2035 Legacy Programme
Date:	18th August, 2023
Reporting Officer:	John Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy
Contact Officers:	Kevin Heaney, Head of Inclusive Growth and Anti-Poverty Ryan Berry, Policy and Performance Analyst

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To inform the Committee of a recent request for sponsorship support for the delivery of the Common Purpose's NI 2035 Legacy Programme which will commence in Autumn 2023.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to agree to sponsor the delivery of the Common Purpose NI20235 Legacy Programme to a value of £10,000.
3.0	Key Issues
	<u>Background and Context</u>
3.1	As Members will be aware, Common Purpose is a non-for-profit leadership development. In October 2021, it developed and delivered the NorthernIreland2035 (NI2035) which brought together a group of 40 young leaders aged 18-25, from different communities, backgrounds, beliefs, and experiences. Its focus was encouraging and enabling young leaders to use their voice to make change happen in their community. The challenge posed for consideration of the young leaders engaged was 'What will the legacy of our generation be?'. The 2021 programme was very

	<p>successful with an impact report summarising the benefits and impact of the 2021 programme on participants can be accessed here. The report highlights the positive impact for the young participants involved notably enhancing Human Capital, Social Capital, and Civic Capital.</p>
3.2	<p>The Council provided funding towards the 2021 programme along with other organisations, including Allstate Northern Ireland, Belfast Charitable Society, Belfast Met, Halifax Foundation for Northern Ireland and Power NI. The Council also directly supported the delivery of the programme with The Rt. Hon. Lord Mayor of Belfast, Councillor Kate Nicholl facilitating discussions with participants on their leadership stories and the importance of recognising the diversity and different perspectives across the group. Council staff also participated on discussion panels whereby the young leaders pitched their ideas as to ‘How do we act together to transform Northern Ireland into a cleaner, greener place for all?’</p>
3.3	<p>As part of the 2021 programme, the Council also offered a range of opportunities for participants including an invitation to the All-Party Group on Climate at Stormont as well as engaging with the Youth Summit and discussions on the One Million Trees programme. The participants also given the opportunity to meet with senior officers from the Council and attend the Climate Commission Youth Working Group on 5th November 2021.</p>
	<p><u>NI2035 Autumn 2023 Programme (BCC Sponsorship Request)</u></p>
3.4	<p>Following the perceived success of the 2021 programme delivered in Northern Ireland, Common Purpose plans to bring forward a further programme ‘NorthernIreland2035 (NI2035) which will extend the reach and impact to a new cohort of young leaders in Autumn 2023. NI2035 is part of Legacy global campaign by Common Purpose which will deliver similar initiatives across other UK cities including Newcastle, Sunderland, Birmingham, Greater Manchester, and Bristol.</p>
3.5	<p>As before, Common Purpose has approached the Council and several other potential city partners, exploring the potential to sponsor the NI2035 programme to a value of £10K. The sponsorship proposal for the Autumn 2023 programme can be accessed here. Funding will help to support the organisation to offer the programme free of charge to young people across the city and engage a cohort of up to 100 participants between 18–25-year-olds. This will help to remove barriers to participation and ensure that all those who wish to participate can do so.</p>
3.6	<p>It is anticipated that the NI2035 programme will support participants to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenge them to think 20-30 years ahead to what they want their legacy to be. • Build their confidence, knowhow, and social capital. • Identify opportunities to enhance civic participation and to get more involved locally.

3.7	<p>Common Purpose has indicated that, as a programme sponsor, the Council will be positioned at the forefront of the future leadership agenda and demonstrate its clear commitment to supporting the development of young leaders across the city. Other proposed benefits include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • opportunities for BCC to nominate young talent and community partners as programme participants to enable them to benefit from the learning, impact, inclusion, and networks. • opportunities for BCC senior leaders to speak and engage on the programme to see the world through the diverse eyes of the young leaders. • BCC branding on all printed and electronic materials, plus social media opportunities - further raising Council profile with young people.
	Financial and Resource Implications
3.8	The proposed £10,000 funding will be sourced from in year departmental budgets thus there are no additional finance or resource implications contained within this report.
	Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment
3.9	There are no equality or rural needs implications arising directly from this report as the initiative seeks to offer opportunities for young people of all communities and backgrounds.
4.0	Documents Attached
	<p>NI2035 Impact Report (Autumn 2021 Programme) (see link in paragraph 3.1)</p> <p>NI2035: Programme for Young Leaders in Northern Ireland: Sponsorship Proposal to Belfast City Council (Autumn 2023 Programme) (see link in paragraph 3.5)</p>

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Subject:	Sustain Exchange Climate Leadership Event
Date:	18th August, 2023
Reporting Officer:	John Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy
Contact Officers:	Debbie Caldwell, Belfast Climate Commissioner

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To inform the Committee of a proposal by the non-profit Management and Leadership Network (MLN) to host a prominent climate leadership event 'Sustain Exchange', with up to 300 decision-makers.
1.2	To request approval for a funding agreement to be put in place between the Council and the event organiser to the value of £6,950 +vat.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to support the Sustain Exchange climate leadership conference by granting approval for a funding agreement to be put in place between the Council and the event organiser to the value of £6,950 +vat.
3.0	Main Report
	Background
3.1	The Sustain Exchange event is organised by the non-profit Management and Leadership Network (MLN) and has run annually for several years, acting as a mechanism for learning

	and collaboration across business organisations in Belfast in relation to climate and sustainability issues.
3.2	The aim of the event is to support organisations of all shapes, sizes and sectors to radically reduce their environmental impact both directly and indirectly through their supply chains. The Sustain Exchange event recognises that the sectors (private, public and third) need to come together to provide the inspiration, insights and impetus for their leaders to act meaningfully.
3.3	It is a transformative time for organisations as they address climate risks and identify new opportunities in the green economy. The transition is not straightforward. Organisations need help in developing planet positive practices, for example securing cleaner power, heat and transport solutions. They need help in navigating new markets to find more environmentally sustainable solutions in their supply chain. There has never been a more important time to find specialist help to navigate the transition, and to educate, inform and engage by sharing the existing knowledge and exemplar experience of those at the forefront of the transition.
	Purpose and Format of Event
3.4	The Sustain Exchange Summit will deliver on the objectives above and will connect local decision-makers with international thought leaders as well as those at the forefront of the transition locally. The event is expected to attract some 300 local leaders (primarily business leaders but also those from the public, NDPB, social enterprise and third sectors) and will either be delivered as an in-person-only event or a hybrid event which would see 120 leaders gather in-person with some additional 200 leaders attending the event via a live stream. Both delivery models will ensure the messages, around the need and importance of positive climate action, have reach and that sponsoring partners get a level of profile, amongst the NI leadership community, to justify their investment.
	Content
3.5	Previous speakers at this event have included the eminent writer, broadcaster and commentator Sir Jonathan Porritt CBE and Norman Crowley (global entrepreneur and founder of CoolPlanet). The 2023 Sustain Exchange Summit will again be delivered to a world-class standard and will feature a globally renowned speaker as well as a carefully selected line-up of local leaders who will be challenged to share their story (exemplar), insights (expert) or support offering (stakeholder). As exemplars these leaders will share their story and associated lessons in an engaging, informative, and entertaining manner. The speakers will encourage and empower attending organisations to consider their own climate impact and take the first (or next) steps in their quest to become 'planet positive'. Previous local speakers at this event have demonstrated how leaders from Belfast have become planet game-

	<p>changers on a global scale in their respective fields. These include the likes of Dr Andrew Woods from Catagen (Sustain Exchange 2022) and Eddie McGoldrick from The Electric Storage Company (Sustain Exchange 2021). The 2023 event will once again showcase how leaders from Belfast are leading the charge when it comes to the quest to avoid what is now a 'code red for humanity'. In doing this MLN plans to inspire the next cohort of planet positive pioneers to emerge from our city.</p>
3.6	<p>The event will also provide the opportunity to make the broader leadership community in NI aware of the proactive work of the Council when it comes to the climate emergency.</p>
	<p>Management and Leadership Network Experience</p>
3.7	<p>The Management and Leadership Network (MLN) is a non-profit which exists to connect decision-makers in NI with the insights of thought-leaders and world-class performers. The rationale is that by enhancing our leadership competence MLN will empower local organisations, strengthen the economy, enrich our society and ultimately improve lives.</p>
3.8	<p>MLN has worked with some of the most respected leaders on the planet and is very experienced in creating and delivering truly world-class events that engage, enrich and elevate attendees. As host, MLN will facilitate the event and invite all speakers to provide their slides in advance so that the idea-sharing session is delivered in a concise, visually impactful and professional manner. Belfast City Council would once again be invited to participate and profile its extensive climate work such as the Belfast Net Zero Carbon Report, Belfast Resilience Strategy, Belfast Climate Commission, Belfast One Million Trees etc.</p>
	<p>Date, Venue and Contingence</p>
3.9	<p>The Sustain Exchange Summit will take place in October 2023. The total cost of the conference will be in excess of £60k. The Council has been a key partner in the Sustain Exchange Summit since its inception in 2021 and its support has been crucial in the creation and subsequent growth of the initiative and its impact. In order to reduce the financial cost to the Council and increase cross-sectoral collaboration, MLN will seek financial support from additional sources to include the private sector (most likely two planet-friendly organisations in Mills Selig Solicitors and Danske Bank) as well as local government through Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council (with the Theatre at the Mill being the likely venue for a hybrid event). As well as demonstrating real collaboration, these partnerships have allowed MLN to reduce the Council's financial contribution from £10,000+vat to £6,950+vat. It is important to note that this financial contribution will be crucial in making this event a reality.</p>

	Partner Contribution and Profile Benefits
3.10	The Council will be profiled as an 'Event Partner' alongside several other lead event partners. The Council brand would be prominent on all event marketing collateral as well as 'at-event'. A Council representative will be invited to participate in the event press launch and MLN will arrange for the Council to deliver a presentation. The Council is requested to promote the conference through its social media and other relevant communication channels.
	Financial and Resource Implications
3.11	The Council is being asked to contribute £6,950+vat to support this initiative. This amount has been allocated from within the existing City and Organisational Strategy budget.
	Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Implications
3.12	There are no direct equality and good relations implications.
4.0	Documents Attached
	None.



Subject:	Consultation on Department of Health Budget 2023-24 – Council Response
Date:	18 August, 2023
Reporting Officer:	Siobhan Toland, Director City Services, City and Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Ann-Marie Mervyn, Performance and Improvement Manager

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	This report provides an update on the recent Department of Health Budget Equality Impact Assessment consultation.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to endorse the Council's response to this consultation.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	The 2023-24 Budget was announced by the NI Secretary of State on 27th April 2023. The Budget provides the proposed Resource and Capital investment funding allocations to each department for the 2023-24 financial year. A draft response, a copy of which is attached, has been submitted to the Department of Health, with a caveat that it is subject to SP and R approval and ratification by the Council.

3.2	The Department of Health provided an Equality Impact Assessment of the 2023-24 Budget Outcome and sought the Council's comments on the equality implications.
3.3	City and Neighbourhoods Service was given the responsibility by CMT for co-ordinating the response to the DoH consultation across the Council. For ease of reporting, a template was designed which highlighted the areas that needed to be considered.
3.4	An information request was sent to colleagues across the via email on 1st June and reminders were sent on 24th and 25th July. We received a number of responses e.g. Community Provision (Capacity and Neighbourhood Regeneration) within the City and Neighbourhood Services and Physical Programmes Departments. These are attached to this report. <u>Financial and Resource Implications</u>
3.5	None specifically relating to the Council at this stage. <u>Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.6	None specifically relating to the Council at this stage.
4.0	Document Attached
	Council response to DOH Budget EIA

BCC Departmental Response Template to DoH Budget 2023 – 24 EQIA

Link to DoH Consultation:

[Equality Impact Assessment of the 2023-24 Budget Outcome | Department of Health \(health-ni.gov.uk\)](#)

Summary of DoH budgetary position for 2023-24

- The £7.3 billion Resource budget set out by the Secretary of State on 27 April sees DoH receiving a budget that remains at a similar level compared to 22/23 funding however this means that no allowance has been made for pay, price and demand inflation.
- The department is therefore projecting a funding gap of some £732 million and will be required to deliver significant savings in order to achieve breakeven.
- With a sustained effort across the HSC system, it is anticipated savings and efficiencies can yield in the region of £260 million. While savings at this scale cannot be made without some impact, our analysis suggests measures up to this value can be delivered without long-term or irrevocable damage to services. Trusts and other HSC organisations have already been instructed to implement these low and medium impact savings leaving a funding gap of around £472 million.
- The most significant element of this is the estimated pay inflation pressure at c£375 million which includes the cost of implementing the English pay offer in full for Agenda for Change Staff.
- The Department has assessed that a further £100 million of cost reduction measures could be delivered. While these further savings will have an impact on services, our analysis suggests that these impacts could also be classified as medium in line with savings already identified and any services affected could be restored should additional funding be made available in future. This reduces the funding gap to some £372 million. Further work is ongoing to clarify the impact of some of these measures and the potential impact of this is reflected in our analysis below. Until that work concludes it will not be possible to completely rule out the need to implement some high impact cuts to services, although every effort will be made to ensure that this is a last resort. The work we have undertaken to date indicates that implementing further cost reductions beyond this level will certainly have an immediate detrimental impact on services to citizens.
- As a result, the Department is not currently in position to make a pay offer to its staff. Our present analysis suggests that, to do so, would require decisions to cease critical services which are beyond the power of the Department to make. It is recognised that this is not the position we would want to be in: appropriate reward and recognition for our staff is clearly an important part of demonstrating that we value the

work that they undertake. This will be kept under review as the budgetary position develops during the year, with every effort being made to maximise those cost reductions that will not impact on services in order to enable a pay offer to be made. However, it is important to recognise that without significant additional funding being made available, any such offer will inevitably fall short of expectations.

- The budget settlement for capital of £468.6 million shows an uplift on the previous years' allocations, however this is mainly due to a change in accounting treatment for leases and, when the funding required for the leases is excluded, the capital budget settlement is less than the previous year's allocation. As such, the Department has had to reduce the planned capital allocations for estate and backlog maintenance, investment in the upgrade of GP Practices, in Research and Development and in IT.
- After funding flagships, committed projects and annual running costs, including leases, there is just £35.9 million left to meet the £110.6 million of inescapable capital pressures.
- The Department's ability to transform and rebuild our Health Service is directly linked to the level of capital resources that are made available each year. There is a significant capital investment programme that the Department has planned to take forward over the next 10 years which will see investment in acute, primary, and social care, in our ageing mental health facilities, in the cancer strategy, in digital technology and in our emergency services but, without a sizeable uplift in our annual budget settlements, the critical investment we wish to make will be delayed by having to live within capital budget allocations that are significantly less than what is required.
- There are a number of critical capital schemes that the Department would like to commence in 2023/24 which include the construction of two new mental health inpatient units, the new Community Treatment Centre in Newry, the provision of additional bed capacity at Craigavon Area Hospital and investment to provide critical lifesaving equipment for the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service and to support the regional breast screening programme. In addition, there is a business critical need to renew the 3-year HSC Microsoft licence agreement at a value of £61.3 million.

Draft BCC Departmental Responses

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

Specific points from EQIA which BCC Departments would like to respond to:

DoH Budget 2023-24	Draft Departmental Response
Resource Budget	
<p>The Department is facing an extremely challenging financial outlook for 2023/24 with an estimated funding gap of some £732 million. As a result, significant reductions will be required to contain existing resource expenditure and meet funding pressures. All our Trusts and ALBs have been asked to start to actively deliver those savings classified as low and medium impact in order to bridge the funding gap which is anticipated can yield in the region of £260 million without a long-term damaging impact on services.</p>	<p>Addressing health inequalities is a key priority within the Belfast community plan, the Belfast Agenda. Council works with partners to develop interventions that will address health inequalities particularly through the Belfast Health Development Unit which is a co-located team of Council, BHSCT and PHA staff. This team delivers projects that address identified health inequality targets, particularly around drugs and alcohol, mental health and wellbeing, physical activity and nutrition, anti-poverty, older people and children and young people. Programme activity within the Unit is primarily funded through PHA.</p> <p>Any reduction in the available budget for the DoH and the services that it provides will have an impact on the health and wellbeing of the citizens of Belfast. It is also likely that these cuts will have the biggest impact on those who are already facing multiple challenges and that this will serve to increase the level of health inequality within the city.</p>
<p>In 2020 as part of the New Decade New Approach the Department committed to delivering an extra 900 nursing and midwifery undergraduate places over a three year period. This involved a further 300 places per year on top of the 1025 baseline places. However, these three years are now complete and no additional funding has been provided to continue the extra 300 places in 2023/24.</p>	

<p>Since March 2020, financial support has been provided to General Dental Practitioners (GDPs), initially via the Financial Support Scheme (FSS) and then via Rebuilding Support Scheme (RSS). The RSS currently allows eligible General Dental Practitioners (GDPs) to apply for a 10% enhancement to the Item of Service fees claimed for Health Service treatment provided. While the scheme had been extended until the end of the first quarter in 2023/24 given the budget allocation the scheme cannot be extended beyond this period.</p>	
<p>The Wastewater Surveillance Programme was previously funded from Covid funding with surveillance a crucial element of our wider pandemic preparedness work. The level of funding available for further Covid spending in 2023/24 would not enable this programme to continue without further budget cuts being made elsewhere. While funding has been provided for the first quarter in 2023/24 this will not continue beyond this period.</p>	
<p>Even with a sustained effort across the HSC system to deliver these savings and efficiencies the Department is still facing a funding gap of some £472 million.</p>	
<p>As highlighted above, the financial position does not therefore allow the Department to make a pay offer without implementing measures that would have an immediate detrimental impact on services to citizens. Our present analysis suggests that, to do so, would require decisions to cease critical services which are beyond the power the Department to make. Every effort will be made to maximise savings from other measures during the year in order to enable a pay offer to be made and the position will be kept under review. However, it is important to recognise that without significant additional funding being made available, any pay offer will inevitably fall short of expectations.</p>	

<p>Should the additional savings measures fail to yield the level of savings indicated, further cuts to services will be required. The sorts of measures that will need to be implemented include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reduction in payments for support services provided by the Community and Voluntary sector. ▪ Reduction in expenditure on community aids and adaptations for clients living in their own homes. ▪ Reduction in education and training places ▪ Further reductions in Waiting List Initiative activity. ▪ Reduction in nursing and residential care placements ▪ Restriction of domiciliary care packages 	<p>Addressing health inequalities is a key priority within the Belfast community plan, the Belfast Agenda. Council works with partners to develop interventions that will address health inequalities particularly through the Belfast Health Development Unit which is a co-located team of Council, BHSCT and PHA staff. This team delivers projects that address identified health inequality targets, particularly around drugs and alcohol, mental health and wellbeing, physical activity and nutrition, anti-poverty, older people and children and young people. Programme activity within the Unit is primarily funded through PHA.</p> <p>Any reduction in the available budget for the DoH and the services that it provides will have an impact on the health and wellbeing of the citizens of Belfast. It is also likely that these cuts will have the biggest impact on those who are already facing multiple challenges and that this will serve to increase the level of health inequality within the city.</p> <p>The Belfast community Planning Partnership and BHDU work closely with the community and voluntary sector to provide services to those in the most disadvantaged areas of the city. Any reduction in available payments for support services would increase the impact of cuts and again are likely to widen health inequalities.</p>
<p>In considering the scope to make further savings, the Permanent Secretary has considered the powers in the Northern Ireland (Executive Formation) Act 2022 and the associated guidance. He has concluded that, as things stand, these decisions fall outside that framework and require Ministerial authority. However, if there is a risk of overspend, further consideration will need to be given as to whether they fall within the powers of the Permanent Secretary, or whether the likely impact on services remains that these decisions would need to be taken by a Minister.</p>	

<p>While the Department has had to consider many cost reduction measures as set out above, the funding provided will still be sufficient to protect and maintain a wide range of essential services, albeit it is recognised that the timeliness of access to these services may continue to fall short of what is desirable. The Budget allocation will enable the department to meet its legal commitments such as providing funding to support the National Living Wage and will enable key service transformation projects to continue at 2022/23 spending levels.</p>	
Capital	
<p>The Capital Budget settlement for the Department of Health in 2023/24 is some £468.6 million which is net of £15.6 million of capital receipts. This one year budget allocation will enable the Department to fund existing priorities, however it significantly falls short of the capital funding required to progress the Department's capital investment programme.</p> <p>The budget settlement will enable the Department to meet the flagship projects, contractual commitments, maintain the HSC estate and begin to reduce the significant cost of backlog maintenance which currently stands at £1.1 billion. In addition, it will provide investment to the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service and the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service for their fleet and estate, for HSC research and development, in new and replacement medical equipment and IT and in GP practices across Northern Ireland.</p>	

Flagship Projects - £35.8 million

The Mother and Children's flagship project will provide a new Regional Children's Hospital which will deliver integrated and contemporary paediatric healthcare services. The single phase build which is due to complete in 2028 will include 155 inpatient beds, 10 Operating Theatres, a Day Procedure Unit, an emergency department, ambulatory care facilities, outpatient, therapy & medical investigation units.

A new Maternity Hospital will provide care for over 6,000 births per year and will replace existing facilities. The project will complete in three phases with completion of the main Hospital building (Phase B1) projected for mid 2024. Phase B2 and B3 will see the completion of a link bridge to the Critical Care Building and demolition of the existing Neonatal Building; these phases are scheduled to complete in early 2025. The new hospital will provide 16 delivery rooms, 68 beds, an admissions unit and an early pregnancy unit. Maternity post-natal beds and outpatient services will be provided in levels 7-9 of the Critical Care Building access via the linked bridge. The overall Mother and Children's project also includes associated site and energy infrastructure.

The Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service Learning and Development Centre will provide a centralised training function with practical scenario based training facilities. Phase 1 of the project which comprised a six storey tactical firefighting facility and teaching support building was handed over in July 2019. Phase 2 will provide a multi-function training warehouse, fire call-out scenario village, flood water training facility, road traffic collision scenarios and learning support centre, construction commenced in 2022.

<p>Contractual Commitments - £23.9 million</p> <p>Contractual commitments are inescapable and reflect amounts we are obliged to pay to ensure the projects are delivered to the agreed completion date. There are already a number of projects contractually committed within the capital programme where the main construction has commenced or is near completion.</p>	
<p>In addition, there are a number of projects which either at the design stage or deemed as inescapable as they will ensure the sustainability of our services in those areas. These projects are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ulster Hospital redevelopment • Craigavon 2nd CT scanner • Altnagelvin Phase 5.1 • New Children's homes at Glenmona • Regional Radio Pharmacy • Northern Mental Health Inpatient Unit – Stage 1 Design • AAH Interim Beds • AAH Electrical Infrastructure • CAH Low Voltage • DHH Low Voltage • Lisnaskea Health Centre • Cityside Health and Care Centre – Stage 1 Design • Children's Heart Disease – Professorship 	

<p>Critical ICT - £115.1 million</p> <p>The pace of change over the next few years across the HSC ICT programme will require significant investment over and above routine funding. The projects listed below are regarded as critical to the continuity of service and functioning of the health service.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encompass • Northern Ireland Picture Archiving and Communication System (NIPACS) • Laboratory Information Management Systems (LIMS) • Business Services Transformation Programme (BSTP) • Technical Enablement • General Medical Services ICT • NIAS Telephony • Digital Identity Service • Blood Production • Equip • 	
<p>Maintaining Services - £273.5 million</p> <p>Funding in this category whilst not fully contractually committed is required each year to provide regular and ongoing investment to the Health Service and the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service. It should be noted that the cost to maintain a hospital is much higher than any other public sector building and as a result the Department has to direct a significant portion of our annual budget to this category. Regular ongoing investment is also required in vehicle fleet, in particular for the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service and the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue</p>	

<p>Service, for the replacement of medical equipment, replacement of flu stocks, research and development, the cost of new leases and funding for the GP Improvement scheme.</p>	
<p><i>New Projects - £35.9 million</i></p> <p>There are a significant number of new projects the Department would want to commence in 2023.24 that unfortunately are unaffordable from within the Department's capital budget allocation. Nevertheless, we propose to commence the two new mental health units in the South Eastern and Western Trust areas, provide essential equipment to the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service and to HSC Trusts for breast screening. We also propose to commence the construction of the Newry Community Treatment and Care Centre, two rapid diagnostic centres in the Northern and Southern Trust areas and some additional bed capacity at Craigavon Area Hospital. In addition, we will provide funding to expand placement options for children in care and care-experienced children and young people and provide additional funding to enhance our digital services.</p>	

Receipts – (£15.6 million)

The Department also has to account for the sale/disposal of property and assets owned by the Department (retained estate) and its Arm's Length Bodies. Income from asset sales is available for reallocation within the capital budget. In addition, the HSC Research and Development team in the PHA secure additional funding from external organisations such as Cancer Research UK and the Medical Research Council. Budget cover is also provided to our five main trusts for commercial income they receive to carry out clinical trials.

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Subject:	Solar PV Potential – Phase Two Department of Economy Collaboration
Date:	18th August, 2023
Reporting Officer:	John Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy
Contact Officers:	Debbie Caldwell, Belfast Climate Commissioner

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To inform the Committee of an opportunity for the Council to continue jointly working with DfE on a project that will quantify the solar PV potential of a pilot area in the city and request approval to use £15,000 of the Council's Climate budget to participate in the project.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to agree to support and fund phase two of the project and to work with the DfE on next steps.
3.0	Main Report
	Background
3.1	The Climate Team recently undertook a project within the Shared Island Fund to examine the potential of solar PV on council buildings. Alongside this work, the Department for the Economy (DfE) commissioned the same consultant, Gordon Ingram Associates (GIA), to scope the solar PV potential of 56 buildings (both domestic and non-domestic) across the city as part of an NI wide project including 11 owned by the council. The DfE project was funded

	as part of a DfE 10X Economy Open Call for research proposals in December 2022. This work with GIA is being procured in phases.
3.2	Phase two of this research work is due to begin before the end of the month and there is an opportunity to include additional elements of the research that would be of benefit to the council. Specifically, this includes applying a unique Solar Opportunity tool to cover two areas (wards) of Belfast City. This would scale the approach from individual buildings to a larger pilot area including all the buildings in a target area.
3.3	The total cost of the project is £75,000, however, the majority of this will be covered by DfE as it intends to replicate this process across other areas. There are elements of the project that are of no direct use to the Department such as a web based interactive solar map of the pilot area, which would be of benefit to the council. The maximum cost to the council for collaboration is estimated to be £15,000.
3.4	This project would enable the solar PV potential of the pilot area to be quantified and visualised on a web page which if successful could be scaled to the whole city.
	Financial and Resource Implications
3.5	The Council is being asked to contribute £15,000 to support this project. This amount has been allocated from within the existing City and Organisational Strategy departmental budget.
	Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Implications
3.6	There are no direct equality and good relations implications.
	None.
4.0	Document Attached
	10X Economy Open Call for research proposals



Subject:	Shared Island Initiative – Update on Cork Belfast Docklands Proposal
Date:	18th August, 2023
Reporting Officer:	Cathy Reynolds, Director of City Regeneration and Development
Contact Officer:	Sean Dolan, Senior Development Manager, City Regeneration and Development

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of main Issues
1.1	To provide the Committee with an update on the progress of the Cork Belfast Docklands Regeneration Shared Island Initiative
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. note the update on the progress of the Cork Belfast Docklands Regeneration Initiative under the Shared Island Fund; ii. agree the prioritised project for the Belfast Dockside Regeneration as the Sailortown to Titanic Quarter Active Travel Bridge; and iii. note that further updates on this progress of this funding bid will be brought to future meetings of the City Growth and Regeneration and Strategic Policy and Resources Committees.

3.0	Main Report
	Background
3.1	<p>As reported to the Climate and City Resilience Committee in March 2023 and ratified by the Council in April, the Council was approached by Cork City Council to work in partnership under the Shared Island Local Authority Development Funding Scheme. Under this funding scheme, more than €4.3m was allocated to 15 lead Local Authorities in the South, working in partnership with 9 Councils in Northern Ireland to develop collaborative cross-border investment projects aligned to the Shared Island Investment priorities of delivering a more prosperous, a more connected and a more sustainable island. Under the conditions of the fund, the Southern Local Authority forms the lead applicant for the bid. €90k was allocated to the Cork-Belfast partnership to develop up a Cork Belfast Solar PV Study and to develop investment opportunities aligned to docklands regeneration. An update on the Cork Belfast Solar PV project was presented to the Climate and City Resilience Committee on 10th August.</p>
	Cork- Belfast Docklands Project
3.2	<p>The Docklands project focus arose from the opportunity to connect two important maritime economies and drive decarbonisation, growth and innovation. Ports are key hubs for trade and investment and support SME's and employ thousands of workers. Significant capital investment is planned for both the Belfast Waterside and Cork City Docklands areas and these areas represent two of the largest regeneration areas in Europe. Belfast City Council and Cork City Council have secured funding under the Shared Island initiative to assess the synergies and opportunities to overcome the existing challenges within the respective areas. This work will also set out the wider benefits of the proposed Cork-Belfast collaboration under the Shared Island initiative, and to provide a list of potential catalyst regeneration projects including providing spatial requirements, connectivity infrastructure and place-making requirements and capital investment schedules for the emerging list in conjunction with key stakeholders within each of the respective areas.</p>
3.3	<p>The feasibility work will identify opportunities and mechanisms for collaboration aligned to Climate Action, inclusive community connection, heritage, tourism and innovation and to inform/apply for next stages of the application process for the Shared Island Fund. As lead applicant, Cork City Council has commissioned an integrated consultancy team to develop the project across the two locations with a final submission to be made to the Shared Island Fund by September 2023.</p>

3.4	<p>The Belfast Docklands project was informed by the ongoing work of the Waterfront Task Force, chaired by the Council's Chief Executive and reported through the CG and R Committee and consisting of key delivery and local stakeholders including Maritime Mile, BHC, TQL, DfC, DfE etc. Aligned to the Bolder Vision Key Move "Embracing the River", this work entailed a detailed assessment of the completed developments, planned development, catalyst opportunities and gaps in infrastructure supported through detailed stakeholder engagement to inform an emerging Action Plan and prioritised project list. Stakeholder and Community Workshops were held in June/July 2023 to agree the emerging work and the priority project list with a view to complete the work in August 2023. Once completed the final document will be presented to the CG and R Committee for consideration and approval and to SP and R as appropriate.</p>
3.5	<p>The emerging priority project list that was identified and agreed through the Waterfront Taskforce process include:</p> <p>Sailortown to TQ Bridge – Providing a new cross harbour cycle and walking swing bridge this connection would complete the Harbour Loop, a continuous connectivity loop from the Lagan Gateway to the uppermost point of the northern dockside providing a continuous active travel corridor along both sides of the Lagan.</p> <p>The Project will improve connections between the Sailortown Community and the Queen's Island economic opportunities, restitching the original ship building facilities at Clarendon Dock with maritime facilities on the eastern quays.</p> <p>The proposed bridge will also provide enhanced connections between the North Belfast communities and the education, tourism, employment and innovation opportunities within Queens Island as well as providing a critical sustainable and active link between Yorkgate Train Station and the Queens Island.</p> <p>Thompson Dock and Harbour Park – This project would provide a new tourism and event destination in the Thompson Dry Dock adjacent to the new Titanic Distillery combined with a new Harbour Park to provide land and marine based biodiversity provision.</p> <p>City Centre/City Quays/Queens Island Gateway Scheme – this project would provide a key connectivity link between the opportunities of the City Centre, City Quays and Queens Island. It would provide enhanced active travel provision, biodiversity and increased leisure facilities between these three significant areas of employment and city centre living opportunities.</p>

Kickstart the Waterfront Vision – Introducing meanwhile uses along the Maritime Mile to draw footfall and animation along the waterfront, including water-based activities and marine ecological enrichment.

3.6 The projects from both Cork and Belfast were considered through a Multi-Criteria Assessment (MCA) to identify the preferred Shared Island Project. Stage 1 of the MCA undertook a project assessment at a local level with each of the Belfast and Cork Projects undergoing evaluation aligned to the Southern NDP priorities and the Shared Island objectives of Prosperous, Connected, and Sustainable. At Stage 2, the Cork and Belfast projects were paired and evaluated under their potential to progress and elevate at a Shared Island level.

3.7 The paired projects are outlined as below and were scored in consideration of the paired projects potential to provide an opportunity for further collaboration & cooperation and how the pair deliver the on the Shared Island regional goals. Following the MCA evaluation process the Cork Water Street Active Travel Swing Bridge / Belfast Sailortown to TQ Active Travel Swing Bridge emerged as the strongest paired project to bring forward under the Shared Island Docklands Regeneration Initiative. This prioritisation has been agreed across the Waterfront Taskforce partners, subject to finalisation of internal approval processes.

3.8	Cork Project	Belfast Project
	North Quayside public realm and active travel route	City Centre / City Quays / Odyssey Quays Gateway Scheme
	South Quayside public realm and active travel route	City Centre / City Quays / Odyssey Quays Gateway Scheme
	Water Street Cycle/Walking Swing Bridge	Sailortown to TQ Cycle/Walking Swing Bridge
	Marine Park Phase 2	Thompson Dock & Harbour Park

3.9 The pairing of the two bridges will provide connections at a local level for both docklands in terms of reconnecting communities to the areas of opportunities, providing enhanced leisure facilities along the Lagan and the Lee, and provide a significant contribution in terms of delivering sustainable and active travel infrastructure to enable the respective dockland areas to meet their climate obligations.

3.10	At a Shared Island level, the bridges provide an opportunity for the two cities to deliver landmark infrastructure projects underpinned with a collaborative approach to delivering the infrastructure, as well as enhancing shared learning through the project delivery and lessons learnt in terms of delivering successful docklands regeneration incorporating marine and land based biodiversity and ensuring effective connections between the docklands to existing and new communities. This project would also serve as an opportunity for the two dockland areas to further explore longer term collaboration aligned to our shared maritime past and the future opportunities for collaboration under key growth sectors including tourism and innovation.
	Next Steps
3.11	Pending approval across the relevant Stakeholders governance arrangements, the final submission to the Shared Island Fund will be complete in September 2023. This submission will outline the potential of the preferred paired projects for the Cork and Belfast docklands areas and the paired projects contribution to the objectives of the Shared Island Fund, a feasibility assessment outlining the project steps to delivery including funding requirements, project risks and issues to enable the paired projects to be considered for a next stage of funding through the Shared Island initiative. Updates on the progress of this work will be presented to future meetings of the CG and R and SP and R Committees.
	Finance and Resource Implications
3.12	There are no financial implications associated with this report.
	Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment
3.13	An EQIA/SEA/Rural Needs Assessment will be carried out on the emerging Waterfront Taskforce work and will be considered through the next stages of any potential next steps of the Shared Island process.
4.0	Documents Attached
	None

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Subject:	Department for Infrastructure Consultation on Northern Ireland Concessionary Fares Scheme – Council Response
Date:	18th August 2023
Reporting Officer:	Siobhan Toland, Director City Services, City and Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Ann-Marie Mervyn, Performance and Improvement Manager

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of main Issues
1.1	This paper provides an update on the recent Department of Infrastructure consultation on the Northern Ireland Concessionary Fares scheme.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to consider the attached draft Council response which will be subject to Council ratification.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	The Department for Infrastructure currently funds free and half fare public transport at all times of the day for those who qualify for a SmartPass under the Northern Ireland Concessionary Fares Scheme. The aim of the Scheme is to promote accessible public transport for members of the community who are most at risk of social exclusion.

3.2	The Department for Infrastructure (DfI) is currently consulting on a number of changes to the existing Concessionary Fares Scheme to ensure that it is financially sustainable in the longer term and available for those who are most vulnerable, or liable, to social exclusion. The consultation will close on 24th August.
3.3	The City and Neighbourhoods Services Department was asked by CMT to co-ordinate the response to the DfI consultation across the Council. For ease of reporting, a template was designed which highlighted the areas that needed to be considered.
3.4	An information request was sent to colleagues across the Council via email on 4th July and a reminder was sent on 18th July. We received several responses which have now been collated and are attached. The Council's response includes responses and commentaries to specific DfI options (pages 1-4), and a section for overarching comments (pages 5-7).
3.5	The Committee is asked to consider the draft Council response to this consultation.
	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u>
3.6	None specifically relating to the Council at this stage.
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.7	None specifically relating to the Council at this stage.
4.0	Document Attached
	Council Response to DfI's NI Concessionary Fare consultation

Specific points from Consultation that BCC Departments wish to respond to:

DfI Options	Draft Departmental Response
<p>Option 1 – Raising age eligibility The Department has put forward 3 options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Option A – make no change to the Scheme, leaving the eligibility rules as they are now; or 	<p><u>Option A: Belfast City Council supports this proposal</u></p> <p>Belfast is an Age Friendly City and in May 2023 we published our 3rd Age Friendly Plan (2023 -2027). This plan will be delivered by Belfast City Council and relevant partners working together under the banner of Age Friendly Belfast.</p> <p>One of the 4 key themes in the Age Friendly plan is Infrastructure, supporting people to get out and about. The plan notes, ‘Our partners have worked together to support and influence older people’s use of public transport. It is the main mode of transport for many older people and the 60+ SmartPass and Senior (65+) SmartPass is viewed by older people as an invaluable support in enabling them to get out and about around the city and beyond.</p> <p>For many years, Age Friendly Belfast has done much consultation with older people and partner organisations in relation to the use of public transport. From recent discussions with older people the majority would consider there should be no change to this scheme.</p> <p>The reasons cited for no change:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • public transport enables older people to connect with social networks, and promotes social inclusion, by attending groups, activities, and programmes on offer across the city, if they couldn’t access these there would be a sharp increase in levels of loneliness, social isolation and an impact on mental health issues. Since Covid much has been done to encourage older people to reconnect to groups/ programmes across the city and having their SmartPass has made this process easier. • For those older people that do have access to a car, they have said how the parking in the city centre has increased in price and as a result with other increases in cost of

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Option B – remove the concession from the 60-64 age group. This would mean that the age of eligibility for the SmartPass would increase to 65 (the age of eligibility for the existing Senior 65+ SmartPass). The change would apply to existing users as well as new applicants. • Option C – remove the concession from the 60-64 age group and raise the age of eligibility to State Pension Age. The State Pension Age for men and women is currently 66 and will increase to 67 between 2026 and 2028. This would apply to existing users as well as new applicants. However, for practical purposes those with a 65+ SmartPass would continue to be able to use it. 	<p>living, many are now unable to afford to park or pay for petrol.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since Covid some older people have reported being less confident to drive and as a result are heavily dependant on public transport to move across the city. • As well as connecting to groups and activities the SmartPass has meant that older people using public transport can have improved access to city centre shops, services and other facilities and therefore contributing to the wider economy. • Improve health by promoting a more active lifestyle for the elderly and disabled. • It promotes a modal shift from private cars to public transport. • Should the Department remove and raise the eligibility age in relation to the SmartPass, this would threaten community links for local people and may mean the most vulnerable people in our local communities lose access to vital services and programmes which support their mental and physical wellbeing. <p>However, we would contend that in terms of financial sustainability consideration could be given to means testing those between the age of 60-64 who are in full time employment.</p> <p><u>Option B: Belfast City Council does not support this proposal</u></p> <p>Concession fares increase access to services among this age group. This option will have a negative impact on older people.</p> <p><u>Option C: Belfast City Council does not support this proposal</u></p> <p>Concession fares increase access to services among this age group. This option will have a negative impact on older people.</p>
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<p>Option 2 – Limiting SmartPass use to off-peak travel</p> <p>This change would mean that a SmartPass would no longer permit people to travel before 09:30 on weekdays (Mondays to Fridays). A SmartPass user would have to pay a full fare if they wished to use public transport before this time. They will continue to be able to travel for free at other times, including at any time on Saturdays, Sundays, and Bank Holidays.</p>	<p><u>Option 2: Belfast City Council does not support this proposal</u></p> <p>Many older people's groups/ activities often start in the morning, limiting older people to off peak travel may mean they are unable to attend their programme or activity. Many older people also use peak travel time to visit family who they are assisting with childcare, who without this support from grandparents, may not be able to continue their employment. Within our sport and leisure facilities, we have high levels of use by older people during early morning periods with many of them able to access physical activity opportunities supported by concessionary public transport. This option will have a negative impact on older people</p> <p>Many of the Council's concessions in community and leisure centres are specifically aimed at seniors with price reductions available during morning periods.</p> <p>As a result, restricting the time periods to use a SmartPass will directly impact on seniors accessing their local facilities to maintain and improve their health and well-being.</p> <p>Additionally, regularly attending classes and programmes at the Council's facilities is a crucial lifeline for many people, providing opportunities for social inclusion and a positive, regular constituent to enhancing people's lives.</p>
<p>Option 3 – Limiting SmartPass use to bus travel only</p> <p>This change would mean that a SmartPass would no longer permit people to travel by rail. It would allow SmartPass users to travel on bus only.</p>	<p><u>Option 3: Belfast City Council does not support this proposal</u></p> <p>Limiting SmartPass to bus travel only would exclude those that only have the train as an accessible form of public transport or where bus services are infrequent or bus stops are not within walking distance, particularly for those with mobility issues and or limited walking capabilities. Whilst older residents in Belfast rank highly in the proximity to services domain, this option will limit the opportunity for older people to enjoy longer distance leisure travel.</p> <p>Any opportunity to maximise attendance and support cross community interaction at facilities, to enhance and improve people's health and well-being within our local communities is welcomed.</p>

	<p>By limiting SmartPass use to buses only has the potential to remove these opportunities for many people across the city.</p>
<p>Option 4 – Application, renewal and replacement fees</p> <p>This change would mean that SmartPass users would pay a fee for applications, renewals, and replacement cards. An application fee would be paid when a person applies for a SmartPass for the first time. A renewal fee would be paid when the SmartPass holder applies to renew their SmartPass. A replacement fee would be paid when a person applies to have a new card issued if their card has been lost or stolen.</p>	<p><u>Option 4: Belfast City Council does not support this proposal</u></p> <p>We do not support the proposed introduction of application, renewal, and replacement fees, however, there is no statement on the cost of the registration fee or the frequency of renewal.</p> <p>Any changes in relation to fee application, renewal and replacement has the capability to reduce the number of people who will be able to access a SmartPass, with a direct impact for the most vulnerable people in our communities.</p> <p>Given this, there is the potential that the number of vulnerable people who can access the service provision available within facilities delivered through the Physical Investment Programme will be reduced.</p>
<p>Option 5 - Free travel for those currently receiving a half fare concession due to a qualifying disability</p> <p>This change would mean that everyone who is currently eligible for a half fare concession would receive free travel. Free travel would be available on all services. This means that free travel (which is currently available on Glider) would apply to Metro, Ulsterbus, Goldline and NI railways.</p>	<p><u>Option 5: Belfast City Council supports this proposal</u></p> <p>We support this proposal to provide free travel entitlement to everyone who is currently eligible for a half fare concession. Any opportunity that can be developed to support people with disabilities to access local community facilities is positive.</p>
<p>Option 6- Companion passes for disabled people unable to travel alone</p> <p>This change would mean that, if a person is disabled and they are unable to travel alone, they may be entitled to a Companion SmartPass which would allow someone to accompany them on their journey. For the avoidance of doubt, companions are not themselves issued with a SmartPass, nor are they able to travel for free unless accompanying a Companion SmartPass holder.</p>	<p><u>Option 6: Belfast City Council supports this proposal</u></p> <p>We support this proposal to issue Companion passes for disabled people unable to travel alone. By expanding the opportunity, for disabled people who are unable to travel alone, to access vital community facilities, which will fulfil and enrich their lives is an incredibly positive action.</p>
<p>Option 7 - Extend the qualifying criteria for a Half Fare SmartPass in line with other jurisdictions</p> <p>This change would widen the qualifying criteria for a SmartPass on the grounds of disability to align it more closely with other UK jurisdictions.</p>	<p><u>Option 7: Belfast City Council supports this proposal</u></p> <p>We support this proposal to widen the qualifying criteria for a SmartPass on the grounds of disability</p>

	to align it more closely with other UK jurisdictions, though we note detail of alignment is not provided, nor whether consideration of alignment to RoI jurisdictions will be considered.
Option 8 – Free transport for destitute asylum seekers and victims of human trafficking This change would extend the Scheme to provide free transport to asylum seekers receiving asylum support and to victims of human trafficking. Under this new arrangement, all asylum seekers (including those aged between 5-181) receiving such support would be eligible for a SmartPass.	<u>Option 8: Belfast City Council supports this proposal</u> We support this proposal to extend the Scheme to provide free transport to asylum seekers receiving asylum support and to victims of human trafficking. We welcome any opportunity that can be developed to support inclusivity and enable everyone in local communities an equal chance to access community facilities across Belfast
Option 9 - Changes to the residence test This change would remove the need for applicants to be permanently resident in Northern Ireland for a period of three months and replace it with the 'primary residence' test. Applicants would be asked to sign a declaration that Northern Ireland is their primary residence.	<u>Option 9: Belfast City Council supports this proposal</u> We support this proposal to remove the need for applicants to be permanently resident in Northern Ireland for a period of three months and replace it with the 'primary residence' test
Option 10 - Proving Residency This change would extend the list of documentation that can be used to prove residency. The list would be reviewed to ensure that it is open to everyone on an equal basis.	<u>Option 10: Belfast City Council supports this proposal</u> We support this proposal to extend the list of documentation that can be used to prove residency

Overarching commentary from Belfast City Council's Planning Department (Transport and Infrastructure), Place & Economy department

The implementation of any option or combination of options which reduces the current level of accessibility to the NI Concessionary Fees Scheme (CFS) would be of concern from a land use planning perspective, specifically in terms of how this change would impact the vision and strategic aims and objectives of the Belfast Local Development Plan (LDP). The Belfast LDP Plan Strategy (adopted May 2023) sets out a number of strategic aims and objectives one of which is 'building a smart, connected and resilient place'. This aim seeks to support an efficient integrated transport network offering travel choice that minimises congestion and pollution and in operational policy terms will facilitate the expansion of active travel opportunities and promote increased use of public transport.

One of the key strategic policies underpinning the Plan Strategy for Belfast is that of 'Connectivity' whereby the Council will support the enhancement of accessibility to and within the city by sustainable transport modes. Promoting and maximising the use of public transport is seen as making a fundamental contribution to this policy direction given that optimal accessibility and connectivity for Belfast cannot be achieved through active travel measures alone. The Plan Strategy also views the promotion of sustainable connectivity as being vital to social inclusiveness, improving the ability of local communities, in particular disadvantaged or vulnerable groups, to access employment and important services such as healthcare, education, shopping and leisure.

A key challenge for the Belfast LDP over the plan period is to provide for increased accessibility into and throughout the city area and to accommodate projected growth in travel demand whilst also discouraging single occupancy private car use. The Plan Strategy seeks to address these issues through the promotion of active travel (walking, cycling and wheeling) and supporting appropriate public transport measures. From a planning perspective we would be concerned that any action that potentially reduces access to public transport would be detrimental to achieving these objectives given that active travel options may not always be a suitable or practical option for certain sections of society, particularly older age groups and those with mobility issues. In terms of potentially undesirable repercussions we would want to avoid any scenario where exclusion from the CFS would result in greater use of the private car given the associated impacts on congestion and air quality.

On the basis that increased private car use may result from reduced access to the CFS it is likely that this will disproportionately impact Belfast residents given that household access to a car is significantly lower in the Belfast council area compared to the Northern Ireland average. According to [Census 2021](#) statistics 34% of Belfast households don't have access to a car compared to the NI average of 20%. With the exception of Derry & Strabane (25%) the Belfast rate is at least twice that of any other council. At the District Electoral Area level the variation in lack of household access to a car is even more marked with four of Belfast's ten DEAs having a rate in excess of 40% (Court 49%; Oldpark 45%; Botanic 41%; and Titanic 41%).

Additionally, any reduction in access to the CFS would be potentially disproportionately detrimental to the citizens of Belfast due to the fact that public transport usage here is significantly higher compared to any other NI council. [DfI's Travel Survey for Northern Ireland 2017-2019](#) clearly demonstrates this higher usage in Table 3.5 of the in-depth report where the proportion of all journeys made by public transport was 12% for Belfast, twice that of the next nearest council areas (Antrim & Newtownabbey and Lisburn & Castlereagh both at 6%).

Whilst not covered in detail in these comments it is assumed that the Council response will consider the potential implications of any changes to the CFS in relation to the age profile of the Belfast population as well as the deprivation context – both in terms of the Multiple Deprivation Measure and the more relevant domains e.g. Access to Services, and the extent to which these factors may result in Belfast's citizens being disproportionately affected.

Overarching commentary from Belfast City Council's City Regeneration and Development Section, Place and Economy Department

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 Options to reduce the cost of the NI Concessionary Fares Scheme (with the exception of Option 1 Option A) run contrary to The Belfast Agenda since they propose making the scheme less fair and less inclusive of some of the most vulnerable groups, including those who experience the highest levels of social exclusion.

Loneliness and isolation persists especially among the older and less mobile cohorts in society and therefore we do not support any of the Options to reduce the cost of the scheme (with the exception of the 'Do Nothing' option). While we appreciate there are a number of factors that have combined to impact on the sustainability of SmartPass provision, not least increasing costs of fuel etc. the proposal to raise age eligibility of entitlement will be most keenly felt by the most socially isolated often in the most poorly connected communities.

The proposed options to reduce the cost of the NI Concessionary Fares Scheme will have a disproportionate impact on the elderly, many of who already face some of the highest levels of social exclusion and economic deprivation, as they are less likely to own a private car and are therefore more reliant on public transport to reach their place of work, or to access other social services including GP surgeries, leisure centres etc.

Almost all of the proposals under Part A, if adopted, would likely adversely impact footfall and trade within our town and city centres since it would reduce the ability and inclination of elderly people to make journeys there. Consequently the purchasing power of elderly people as consumers, i.e. the “grey pound” would be significantly reduced.

We believe the proposed budget saving measures under Part A of the consultation will be especially harmful on the basis of age. It will be important to undertake comprehensive stakeholder engagement with this particular Section 75 equality group to ascertain how the proposed measures are likely to impact them. 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.

It is our view that the Department needs to consider more carefully and thoroughly areas where resource budget savings can be made that will have reduced impact on the most vulnerable in society and avoid ‘quick fix’ measures such as tinkering with the NI Concessionary Fares scheme in a bid to make savings. Such approaches are short-sighted, run contrary to policy designed to encourage and facilitate more sustainable travel and improve mental and physical health outcomes.

It is regrettable that the area of savings identified, i.e. the NI Concessionary Fares Scheme, appears to be unfairly 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. 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.

Concessionary Fares should be extended to include children and young people free bus travel as is the case in other areas such as Scotland. There are a myriad of benefits, including but not limited to:

- Engendering public transport as a primary and preferred modal choice thereby reducing the inclination to purchase a private vehicle
- Improving employment and educational opportunities by improving travel affordability and removing travel costs as a barrier to employment or further/higher level education
- Youth Travel card would offer a youth information and opportunities platform across a range of themes and issues including money management, mental health and well being, retail promotions etc.

Belfast City Council is supportive of each of the options (i.e. Options 5-10) proposed under Part B Options to promote social inclusion.

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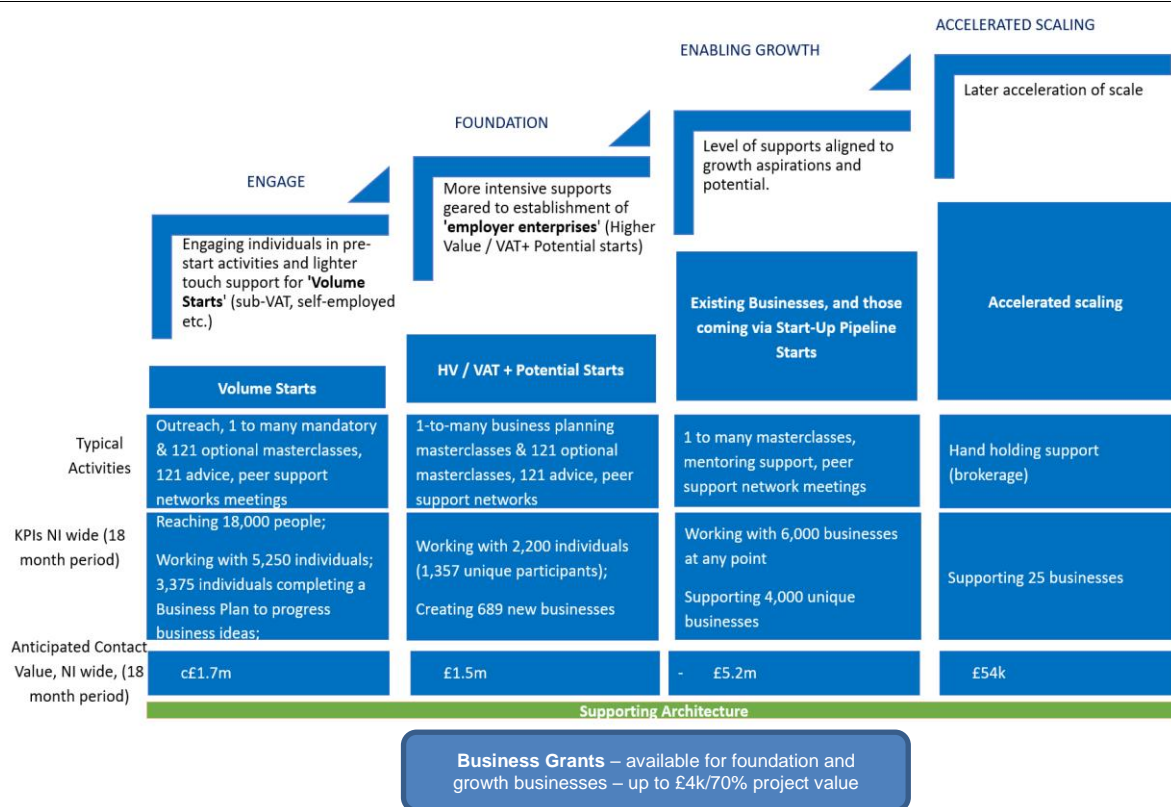
Subject:	Update on Northern Ireland Enterprise Support Service
Date:	18th August, 2023
Reporting Officer:	John Greer, Director of Economic Development
Contact Officer:	Lisa Toland, Senior Manager, Economy

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on the new Northern Ireland Enterprise Support Service (NIESS) – the regional initiative to support business start-up and growth, which will be led by Belfast City Council on behalf of the eleven councils and to seek approval to proceed with the appointment of contractors, pending receipt of the final MoU from the funder.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. note the update on the new NIESS, including the planned go-live date for the new intervention; ii. note that the final funding agreement/MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) has not yet been received from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities; iii. note that officers have reviewed and commented on draft versions of the MoU; and

	<p>iv. agree that the Chief Executive can, under delegated authority, authorise the appointment of the contractors for the communications and marketing; call handling and service delivery (Engage and Foundation; Growth and Scaling lots) and any other eligible project expenditure, pending receipt and signature of the final MoU.</p>
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>At the meeting on 17th February, the Committee agreed that the Council should lead on the submission of an application to UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) for the eleven-council Enterprise Support Service. It also agreed that, subject to additional due diligence and risk management work, the Council should lead on the future development and delivery of the service on behalf of the eleven councils.</p>
3.2	<p>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. Given the complex nature of the work, this has involved input from a range of council teams including Legal Services; Corporate Procurement Services; Finance; Human Resources and Continuous Improvement; Digital Services; Audit, Governance and Risk; Information Governance and Communications and Marketing. The work is being led by the Enterprise and Business Growth team. A March 2023 workshop, facilitated by Audit, Governance and Risk Services, helped identify initial risks and associated mitigations and these have guided the interactions with the teams since that time.</p>
3.3	<p>The service is being funded 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 eleven 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 service overview is detailed below:</p>



Commissioning of Service Delivery

- 3.4 Taking account of the capacity in 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.
- 3.5 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.
- 3.6 An initial procurement exercise for both areas was undertaken in March/April 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 – and taking account of the expectations of each of the 11 council partners. 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

	<p>21st August and preferred bidders should be appointed by the end of August. The start date for the new service is 1st October, 2023.</p>
3.7	<p>In addition to the delivery elements, there are several support elements that are being commissioned or developed in parallel. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marketing and communications: this work is being led by Derry City and Strabane District Council. 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 the 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 enquiries from entrepreneurs and new and existing businesses • CRM: to track all business engagement with the service and support the development of relevant reports for funders and individual councils, a customer relationship management (CRM) system is being developed. The 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 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.
3.8	<p>At present, the Council is still awaiting an MoU 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 and the Growth and Scaling contract assessment will be complete by mid-August 2023; with the Engage and Foundation to follow by end August. As time progresses, this presents additional risks for service delivery, given that the end date of March 2025 cannot be extended. Officers have already reviewed the document and have provided commentary on the draft versions, in order to ensure that it is in line with our processes. As at 10th August, DLUHC officials has confirmed that the MoU is with their Ministers for signature but that it cannot release it until it is signed off officially. It has provided official confirmation that, "once approved, the project and all delivery partners can benefit from</p>

	funding towards costs incurred from 1 April 2023, where this has been profiled in the project application”.
3.9	In the absence of the final MoU, members are asked to delegate authority to the Chief Executive to authorise appointment of the contractors for the communications and marketing; call handling and service delivery (Engage and Foundation; Growth and Scaling lots) and any other eligible project expenditure. All contracts will have appropriate clauses and conditions to confirm that they are subject to funding.
3.10	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 Belfast Agenda. This new approach also ensures that the councils, as a collective, can have a strong voice in the development of DfE’s 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 works effectively to meet business needs. However, they will also need to consider how they can position the new service to attract additional funding for delivery after March 2025 – recognising the challenges in the public sector investment environment at present.
	<u>Programme Governance and Management</u>
3.11	The original development work on this service was undertaken under the auspices of the SOLACE Economic Development Group (EDG), of which Belfast is the Chair. The EDG subsequently assigned the detailed work plan activities to a working group comprising all councils – again led by Belfast as the Lead Council. All key programme decisions have been escalated to the SOLACE EDG for endorsement, as delegated by SOLACE.
3.12	As the service moves towards the mobilisation phase, new governance structures will be put in place to support contract management, assurance, and reporting. It is proposed that this will include an internal delivery team across the council. This is likely to incorporate the services referenced at 3.2.
3.13	Regular reports will also be brought to CMT and to the City Growth and Regeneration Committee. At a regional level, there will be a programme management structure involving the appointed contractors and key officers from the PMO. The Programme Lead will report on a

	<p>quarterly basis to SOLACE Economic Development Group and any matters requiring escalation to SOLACE will be agreed and actioned at those meetings.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p>
3.14	<p>The Council will act as the lead council on behalf of the eleven councils for delivery of the service. To do so, we will establish a delivery and management team which will be fully resourced through the DLUHC funding.</p>
3.15	<p>The final budget is subject to completion of the relevant procurement exercises detailed above. The overall indicative SPF budget is in the region of £5million revenue in year 1 and £7million revenue in year 2, with around £5million available across the funding period for grant support.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p>
3.16	<p>An equality impact assessment for the service has been completed. Local targets for delivery in each council area have been established and will be part of the contractual commitments with delivery partners.</p>
4.0	Documents Attached
	None



Subject:	Festive Lighting Scheme / Future Christmas Programming
Date:	18th August, 2023
Reporting Officer:	John Greer, Director of Economic Development
Contact Officer:	Lesley Ann O Donnell, Senior Manager, Tourism and Culture Kerry Mc Mullan, Tourism and Events Development Manager

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	At the meeting of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee in June, Members were presented with options relating to the Belfast Christmas light switch on and potential follow-on activity across the City. During discussion at that meeting, the Committee directed officers to submit a report to a future meeting regarding the potential for Christmas events and lighting on arterial routes across the city. A further report was then presented in August to the City Growth and Regeneration Committee, and it was agreed that this would be referred to the August meeting of Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in order to allow officers to consider the locations of the proposed reduced festive lighting scheme.
1.2	This report provides information in relation to that request from the Committee.

2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is requested to note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. 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; ii. 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; and iii. 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	<p>At the Committee meeting in March, 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. Officers were asked to consider further the feasibility of such an extension. A further report was then presented in August to the City Growth and Regeneration Committee and it was agreed that this be referred to the August meeting of Strategic Policy and Resources committee in order to allow officers to consider the locations of the proposed reduced festive lighting scheme.</p>
3.2	<p>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.</p>

3.3	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.
3.4	Given the Council's 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.
3.5	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.
	Logistical/Operational/Financial Constraints – Lighting on Arterial Routes
3.6	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, the 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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Purchase - Storage - Maintenance - Depreciation (typically festive lighting schemes have a useful life of 3-5 years)
3.8	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.

	<p>In addition, in respect of the Revitalisation Scheme, it was reported to be challenging to secure contractors for lighting installations.</p>
3.9	<p>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 if 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 work this would involve from several council services.</p>
	<p>Animation on Arterial Routes</p>
3.10	<p>At the CG and R meeting 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 and 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.</p>
3.11	<p>Members should note that the budget allocation for Christmas 2023 is £123,000 as presented at the CG and R Committee meeting in June. 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.</p>
	<p>Existing Funding Mechanisms</p>
3.12	<p>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</p>

	<p>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.</p>
3.13	<p>At this Committee meeting 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 groups 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.</p>
	<p>Summary</p>
3.14	<p>Members are asked to note the following salient points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 and 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 October's 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. • Consideration of the locations of the proposed reduced festive lighting scheme.

	Financial and Resource Implications
3.15	The current budget for Christmas lighting and animation was agreed by the Committee in March 2023.
	<u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u>
3.16	None.
4.0	Documents Attached
	Potential impact to site locations in 2023

Diagram illustrating four categories or components:

- LAMP POSTS (Blue)
- CSF (Yellow)
- BESPOKE (Green)
- NORTH (Teal)



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Subject:	Update on Physical Programme
Date:	18th August, 2023
Reporting Officer:	Sinead Grimes, Director of Property and Projects
Contact Officer:	Shauna Murtagh, Portfolio Manager

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The Council's Physical Programme currently includes over 400 capital projects via a range of internal and external funding streams, together with projects which the Council delivers on behalf of external agencies. The Council's Capital Programme forms part of the Physical Programme and is a rolling programme of investment which either improves existing Council facilities or provides new facilities. This report includes a stage movement request relating to the Capital Programme, an update on leisure, details on site visits for Members for Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund in line with the approach agreed by Committee, requests for the Council to act as delivery agent and an update on contracts awarded.

2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is requested:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Capital Programme: Stage movement – to agree to move the HWRC and CAS Containers project to <i>Stage 2 – Uncommitted</i> under the Waste Plan Programme due to operational requirements; ii. Leisure Programme – to note that the Leisure Transformation Programme was recently awarded Runner Up in the “<i>A whole council approach to tackling health inequalities</i>” category at the MJ Awards and that a detailed update on Leisure will be brought to the Committee next month; iii. Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund – to note the arrangements for the NRF site visits; iv. Council as Delivery Agent – to agree, in principle, that the Council act as the delivery agent for Colin Community Health and Wellbeing Hub project which is receiving external funding from the Executive Office under the Urban Villages Initiative subject to the Council receiving a management fee for the delivery, full funding packages being in place and further discussions with Legal Services; and v. Contracts awarded in Q1 2023/24 – to note the update in relation to contracts awarded.
3.0	<p>Main Report</p> <p><u>Capital Programme</u></p> <p>3.1 Members will be aware that the Council runs a substantial Physical Programme which includes the rolling Capital Programme – a multimillion regeneration programme of investment across the city which improves existing Council assets or provides new council facilities. The Council also delivers externally focused funding streams such as Belfast Investment Fund (BIF), Local Investment Fund (LIF), Social Outcomes Fund (SOF) and Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund (NRF), as well as numerous capital programmes that we deliver for central government. Our funding partners include National Lottery Heritage Fund, SEUPB Peace IV, the Executive Office, DfC, DfI via the Blue Green Infrastructure Fund and Living with Water Programme, DAERA, Ulster Garden Villages, Levelling Up Fund (LUF) and others. When appropriate, the Physical Programmes Department is happy to arrange site visits to any projects that have been completed.</p> <p>3.2 Members agreed that all capital projects must go through a three-stage process where decisions on which capital projects progress are taken by the Committee. This provides assurance as to the level of financial control and will allow Members to properly consider the</p>

opportunity costs of approving one capital project over another capital project. Members are asked to note the following activity on the Capital Programme:

Project	Overview	Stage movement
HWRC and CAS Containers	The project involves the replacement of containers (compactors and skips) at HWRCs and Civic Amenity sites in order to maintain service continuity and health & safety standards.	Move to <i>Stage 2 – Uncommitted</i> (part of Waste Plan Programme)

Proposed stage movement - HWRC and CAS Containers (Compactors and Skips)

- 3.3 The network of Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) and Civic Amenity Sites (CAS) is an essential business unit within the Resources and Fleet Service. Residents can deposit a significant range of large bulky items for re-use and/or recycling at the sites. The sites accept around 30,000 tonnes of waste per annum and account for almost 25% of the total tonnage of household recycling captured during the year. A number of these containers are coming to the end of their useful/economic life.

The Committee is asked to recommend that the HWRC and CAS Containers project is moved to *Stage 2 – Uncommitted* on the Capital Programme. An Outline Business Case will now be worked up on the proposal with further detail to be brought back to Committee in due course.

Leisure Programme

- 3.4 Members are asked to note that the Council's Leisure Transformation Programme was recently awarded Runner Up in the '*A whole council approach to tackling health inequalities*' category in the Municipal Journal Awards. The MJ Awards recognise excellence in local councils across the UK in supporting their communities and making an impact and this award recognises the transformational impact that the Leisure Programme has had across the city. Members will also be aware that the £17m Templemore has recently opened and has received positive media and community feedback and was the sixth out of the seven projects under Leisure Phase 3.

Members are asked to note that work is ongoing on finalising the business case for the remaining project under the current Leisure Programme which is the facility at Girdwood. £6m has been ringfenced for this. This is a partnership project with DfC who have funded the business case and the latest draft has been forwarded to them for review. In addition, Members will be aware that Space and Place Consultants have been appointed to look at the other centres which have not been taken forward under the other leisure phases - Shankill, Ozone, Whiterock, Ballysillan, Belvoir and Loughside. Members previously agreed that the scope of

this work be extended to also look at the leisure focused independently managed community facilities. Members will also be aware that there are a number of other inter-linked pieces underway which relate to leisure including the Sports Development and Physical Activity Strategy and the development of the new 10 year Pitches Strategy which has recently been agreed.

Members are asked to note that a detailed update on leisure, to include Girdwood and Leisure Phase 4, will be brought back to Committee next month.

Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund

- 3.5 Members will recall that in June they received an updated timeline for NRF which confirmed that Member site visits would be arranged for September to Stage 2 projects. Site visits have now been arranged in conjunction with the groups and are as follows:

Date	Time	Sites
Tues 5 Sept 2023	9:30am – 12:30pm	South Site visits to three projects – Sólás New Build Project, Lagan Water Access Activity Hub, and the Redevelopment of Riddel's Warehouse project
Wed 6 Sept 2023	1:30pm – 4:30pm	South Site visits to three projects – GVRT- Branching Out, Redevelopment of Former School of Music, and Market Heritage Hub project.
Wed 13 Sept 2023	9:30am – 12:30pm	North Site visits to three projects – AYE Youth and Community Hub, USEL- Green Growth & The Circular Economy, and Belfast Orange Hall Refurbishment project
Thurs 14 Sept 2023	1.30pm – 3.30pm	North Site visits to two projects – CCRF- Cliftonville Community Enterprise and SRG- St Joseph's Restoration project.
Wed 20 Sept 2023	9:30am - 12:30pm	West Site visits to three projects – The Mountainview Hotel, Croí na Carraige and Michael Davitt's Community Heritage Centre
Thurs 21 Sept 2023	9:30am - 12:30pm	West (Shankill) Site visits to three projects – Glencairn Community Project, The ACT Initiative Community Hub & Visitor Centre, and The Road
Tues 26 Sept 2023	9.30am – 1.30pm	East Site visits to four projects – EastSide Container Hotel, Portview Exchange, Impact Belfast and Nevin Spence Centre (NSC) Visitor Experience

Members are encouraged to attend any and all of these arranged visits and all of the Area Working Groups will also be provided with these details. Invitations for these site visits will be issued by Democratic Services. The meeting point for all visits is City Hall and transport will be

	<p>provided, returning to City Hall afterwards. Members are asked to RSVP as soon as possible when contacted. The Committee is asked to note the arrangements for the NRF site visits.</p> <p>Council acting as delivery agent</p>
3.6	<p>Members will be aware that the Council is asked to deliver externally funded initiatives for a range of funding bodies including Urban Villages (UV) projects and DfC match funded schemes. These requests recognise both the successful track record of the Council as delivery agent as well as the unique role of the Council as civic leader in the city. In total, the Council is acting as delivery agent for over 90 projects worth in excess of £65m (this includes both completed, live and planned projects). Members are reminded that the Council's Insurance Unit has advised that the Council's Professional Indemnity Insurance only provides cover for services provided to third parties for a fee. This means that, where it is acting solely as the delivery agent for a third party project, the Council can only rely on its professional indemnity insurance policy if a management fee is received. Committee is asked to note therefore that the Council will be advising in the future that it will only be able to consider acting as the delivery agent for any third party projects if the proposal includes a management fee.</p>
3.7	<p>Members are asked to note that the Council has recently received a request to act as the delivery agent in principle for an additional transformational project under the Urban Villages Initiative – the Colin Community Health and Wellbeing Hub. Committee is asked to note that this project is being 100% externally funded with the Executive Office as core funder. An application is also being lodged with SEUPB under PeacePLUS Theme 1.4 (see separate report at SP and R Committee this month). There is no Council financial commitment to the project. The Committee is asked to agree in principle to the Council acting as delivery agent for this project subject to the Council receiving a management fee for the delivery, full funding package being in place and further discussions with Legal Services.</p>
3.8	<p>Contracts awarded – Q1 2023/24</p> <p>Members are asked to note the award of tenders for capital works, including services related to works for Q1 2023/24, in the attached appendix.</p>
3.9	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p><i>Financial</i> – None</p> <p><i>Resources</i> – Officer time to deliver as required</p>
3.10	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>All capital projects are screened as part of the stage approval process</p>

4.0	Document Attached
	Contracts Awarded to June 2023 (Q1 2023/24)

**Schedule of Contracts Awarded (Works and Works Related) for Notation
(Q1 April – June 2023)**

Contract Awarded	Supplier	Date of Award
Commissioning of an Artist for the Mary Anne McCracken and Winifred Carney Figurative Sculptures	sanderwsm	06/04/2023
UV_Design Team/ ICT for Arts & Digital Hub	McCartan Muldoon	07/04/2023
Kitchen canopy assessment and cleaning	Enviro Fire Water & Air Ltd	25/04/2023
NRF_Provision of Outline Business Cases for Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund (NRF) Projects	Copius Consulting	26/04/2023
City Centre - The 5C's 2D Feature Lighting and interactive play	P&L Electrics Ltd t/a Methodology M&E	11/05/2023
Solar Film to existing Planar Glazing at Waterfront Hall	Window Films NI Ltd	06/06/2023

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Subject:	Falls Parks Event – Request for Support
Date:	18th August, 2023
Reporting Officer:	Siobhan Toland, Director of City Services
Contact Officer:	Cate Taggart, Neighbourhood Services Manager

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To bring to the Committee's attention a request from VC Glendale for financial support for its planned event in Falls Park. The People and Communities Committee, at its meeting on 8th August, approved a request to host the event in Falls Park.
1.2	The event organisers also requested funding from the City and Neighbourhood Services Department, however, there is no process available to consider this request.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to consider the request for a maximum of £8,207 funding support for the Falls Park event.

3.0	Main Report
	<u>Key Issues</u> <u>VC Glendale Falling Leaves - Falls Park</u>
3.1	VC Glendale is a well-known local voluntary cycling club with a long history of producing some of the country's finest cyclists. Its Falling Leaves event has taken place in Falls Park for the last eight years and its permission to promote the event has been given by the Council during its time at the park.
3.2	This event attracts riders and spectators far and wide from across Ireland as riders race for the points that ultimately influence their grid positions at National Championships. The event has become a well-established fixture on the cyclocross calendar and it is hoped that another successful event at the venue could result in Falls Park being nominated as the venue for the Irish National championships in 2025.
3.3	This year, the organisers have requested financial support from the Council to assist with the delivery of the event and have submitted an expenditure budget to the department totalling £8,207.00. No income projection is provided. City and Neighbourhood Services Department does not have growth funding in its budgets and Parks Events and Outreach team are reporting an overspend on programming budgets due to the increase in activity and delivery costs.
3.4	The event would have been eligible for grant funding including the Support for Sport grant but the organisers did not submit an application. It is also important to note that an allocation of funds to this event outside a grant application process could set a precedent for requests from other event organisers.
3.5	<p>The key dates for the event are as follows:</p> <p>Saturday 16th September – 10 am Set Up</p> <p>Saturday 16th September – 12 pm to 3 pm – Race Day</p> <p>Sunday 17th September – 8 am to 4.30pm – Race Day</p> <p>Sunday 17th September- 8 pm – Off Site</p>
3.6	The People and Communities Committee is asking the SP and R Committee to consider providing financial support for the event up to a maximum of £8.207 pending officer confirmation of related income projections.

3.7	<p><u>Financial and Human Resource Implications</u></p> <p>The request for funding of up to £8,207.00 for the Falls Park event is not included in any revenue budgets for the City and Neighbourhood Services Department and there is no allocation to support ad hoc requests of this nature.</p> <p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u></p> <p>Council officers will liaise with event organisers and promoters in relation to any potential environmental impact from events.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>There are no known implications.</p>
4.0	Documents Attached
	None

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Belfast
City Council

Subject:	Update on Contracts
Date:	18th August, 2023
Reporting Officer:	Sharon McNicholl, Deputy Chief Executive / Director of Corporate Services
Contact Officer:	Noleen Bohill, Head of Commercial and Procurement Services

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

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

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

	iv. note the award of retrospective STAs in line with Standing Order 55 exceptions as detailed in Appendix 1 (Table 4)
3.0	Main Report
	<u>Competitive Tenders</u>
3.1	Section 2.5 of the Scheme of Delegation states that Chief Officers have delegated authority to authorise a contract for the procurement of goods, services or works over the statutory limit of £30,000 following a tender exercise where the council has approved the invitation to tender
3.2	Standing Order 60(a) states any contract that exceeds the statutory amount (currently £30,000) shall be made under the Corporate Seal. Under Standing Order 51(b) the Corporate Seal can only be affixed when there is a resolution of the Council.
3.3	Standing Order 54 states that every contract shall comply with the relevant requirements of national and European legislation.
	<u>Single Tender Actions (STAs)</u>
3.4	<p>The following STAs are being submitted for approval:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a contract for up to £80,000, for up to 2 months, awarded to Forge Leisure, for supply, delivery and installation of 3 Pool Covers at Shankill Leisure Centre and Grove Wellbeing Centre. The existing pool covers and associated equipment were supplied and installed by Forge Leisure. The repairs are proprietary and the replacement parts will have to be manufactured by Forge Leisure to interface with the remaining parts of the system previously installed by them. • A contract for up to £100,000, for up to 10 years, awarded to Precia Molen Ltd for the provision of maintenance and servicing of the weighbridge system at Dargan Road waste transfer station. This service can only be carried out by the supplier/ OEM of the weighbridges, Precia Molen Ltd who has exclusive access to associated software and OEM parts associated with the asset as well as suitably qualified and experienced engineers to conduct the testing, calibration and updates required. • A contract for up to £33,600, for up to 3 years, awarded to VU.CITY for the provision of an accurate digital 3D model of the Belfast City. There is no other supplier that can offer this solution without significant duplication of resources, costs and time to build the Belfast data layers. VU.CITY already has a significant portion of city mapped, including 262,835 trees, accurate to height & canopy as well as 55,594 buildings.

3.5	<p>The following retrospective STAs were awarded:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A contract for up to £135,000, for up to 3 years, awarded to Institute of Revenues Rating and Valuation (IRRV), for the annual engagement of the Institute of Revenues Rating and Valuation (IRRV), the professional body for local taxation, benefits and valuation. Specialist advice on rating matters including a review of the Council's Assessments in the Valuation List, advice on rate implications of investment projects. • Contracts for up to £76,477, for up to 9 months, awarded to Hays Recruitment, for the requirement for a Temp Solicitor (Maternity Cover - Conveyancing and Contracts). The existing contracted provider for T1792 Provision of Temporary Agency Resources: Matrix SCM have confirmed they are unable to fulfil the required role of Temp Solicitor (Maternity Cover - Conveyancing and Contracts) within the contractually agreed time period. <p><u>Modification to Contract</u></p>
3.6	<p>The following Contract Terms were modified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to an additional 6 months and up to an additional £65,000, for Contract T1856 - Provision of a facilities management service at the Mary Peters Track, awarded to Athletics NI. Contract extension required to allow sufficient time for the Council to explore all possible options for the management of the site. • Up to an additional 6 months and up to an additional £5,000, for Contract T1892 Provision of play equipment inspections at Belfast City Council sites awarded to Play Services Ireland. Due to ongoing work in reviewing the scope and additional inspection work required under this contract additional time is required to finalise the Specification and associated tender documents.
3.7	<p>Off Street Parking Enforcement – Agency Agreement with DfI</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An extension of the current Agency Agreement with DfI is required to ensure continuity of service for the provision of off street parking enforcement. The service delivery by DfI, using NSL as their service provider, provides enforcement of parking through deployment of Traffic Attendants, penalty charge notice processing and cash collection / pay and display machine maintenance.

	<p>The existing agreement is due to end on 31st October 2023 with an extension required to 31st March 2024 to ensure continuity of service whilst the procurement process is concluded. The target cost schedule, which was agreed for the existing Agreement will continue to function as the contract costs, but we may be subject to increased costs for Traffic Attendants as Dfl are negotiation with NSL regarding a pay review.</p> <p>The Council has been acting as procurement lead as part of a consortium of 8 local councils via a joint procurement exercise. A Writ has been received preventing the award of the new contract. Legal Services are now progressing with seeking an opinion from Counsel as to the merits of BCC's position with a view to potentially lodging an application with the court to lift the suspension as soon as possible which would allow BCC to proceed with award. It is hoped this might be conclude in the coming months; however should this process take longer there is agreement with Dfl to extend the Agreement further until the matter is resolved.</p>
	Financial and Resource Implications
3.8	The financial resources for these contracts are within approved corporate or departmental budgets.
	Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment
3.9	None
4.0	Documents Attached
	<p>Appendix 1</p> <p>Table 1 - Competitive Tenders</p> <p>Table 2 - Single Tender Actions</p> <p>Table 3 - Modification to Contract</p> <p>Table 4 - Retrospective Single Tender Actions</p>

Table 1: Competitive Tenders

Title of Tender	Proposed Contract Duration	Estimated Total Contract Value	SRO	Short description of goods / services
To provide a catering service in Malone House	Up to 5 years	Up to estimated annual gross revenue of £435,000 for the contractor which a minimum 5% commission will be payable to Belfast City Council.	J Greer	The current catering contract (under an STA) is due to terminate on 28th Feb 2024. A new contract is required to effectively service the venues to ensure booked events are suitably catered for, to provide a public service and to ensure best use of Council assets.
To provide a catering service in Belfast Castle	Up to 5 years	Up to estimated annual gross revenue of £745,000 for the contractor (based on pre-Covid figures). Of which a minimum 5% commission will be payable to Belfast City Council.	J Greer	The current retail catering contract (STA) is due to terminate on 20th February 2024. A new contract is required to effectively service the venue to ensure booked events are suitably catered for, to provide a public service and to ensure best use of Council assets.
Supplier required to complete energy audits of four high use Council buildings – City Hall, Cecil Ward, Adelaide and Duncrue *Previously approval June 23 for £50k but revised total now £85k	6 months Initially	Up to £85,000	J Tully	Findings to inform next steps on energy reduction
Provision of playground / muga / outdoor gym equipment independent inspections on BCC sites	Up to 4 years	Up to £80,000	D Sales	All playground, multi-use games areas, outdoor gyms need to be independently inspected on an annual basis; the reports also direct the playground Improvement Programme each year

Appendix 1

AutoDesk Software licenses & support, to include bi-annual technology updates *Previous approved June 2023 for £96,000 but has now been reviewed £105,000	Up to 3 years	Up to £105,000	P Gribben	AutoDesk software is licensed on an annual subscription basis meaning the current AutoDesk software in use by BCC will no longer be available after 30.11.2023 without a new contract. The software is currently in use by Facilities Management, Building Control, Parks Landscape and the Project Management Unit
Provision of insurance brokerage services	Up to 2 years	Up to £4.6m. This includes insurance premiums of £2.2m p.a and broker fees – typically 3.5%/ up to £80k p.a.	T Wallace	The current brokerage services contract expires on the 31 October 2023 and a new supplier is required to retender the council's insurance policies which are renewable in April 24.
Managed Print Service. Leased printers and a most effective 'cost per copy' contract	Up to 6 years	Up to £700,000	P Gribben	The Council printer fleet is very old and the majority cannot be fixed and supplies are expensive.
Appointment of a procurement advisor to deliver competitive dialogue procurements and financial due diligence	Up to 12 months	Up to £150,000	C Reynolds/ A Ferguson	To assist with addressing sustained housing demand from across the city and unlock regeneration potential across a number of strategic city centre sites. This will be a complex and high-profile process that could be subject to challenges.
Print of City Matters magazine	Up to 4 years	Up to £300,000	L Caldwell	Print contractor is required to print our residents' magazine
Tender for the Collection, Treatment and Recycling of Mattresses	Up to 4 years	Up to £400,000	C Matthews	The current contract is coming to an end and a new procurement process is required to ensure continuity of service
Provision of kerbside collections & treatment services for recyclable materials	Up to 7 years	Up to £19m	C Matthews	The current contract is coming to an end and a new procurement process is required to ensure continuity of service

Tender for facilitation and engagement services through a managed service framework to support development of a Neighbourhood Tourism Investment Programme	Up to 6 months	Up to £50,000	J Greer	Services will support and inform the development of a phased, market-led investment programme to support and enhance tourism products and capacity in local neighbourhoods across the city
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Table 2: Single Tender Actions

Title	Duration	Total Value	SRO	Description	Supplier
Supply, Delivery & Installation of 3 Pool Covers at Shankill Leisure Centre & Grove Wellbeing Centre	Up to 2 months	Up to £80,000	S Grimes	The existing Pool Covers & associated equipment were supplied and installed by Forge Leisure. The repairs are proprietary, and the replacement parts will have to be manufactured by Forge Leisure to interface with the remaining parts of the system previously installed by them	Forge Leisure
Provision of maintenance and servicing of the weighbridge system at Dargan Road waste transfer station	Up to 10 years	Up to £100,000	C Matthews	This service can only be carried out by the supplier/ OEM of the weighbridges, Precia Molen Ltd who has exclusive access to associated software and OEM parts associated with the asset as well as suitably qualified and experienced engineers to conduct the testing, calibration and updates required.	Precia Molen Ltd
The Provision of an accurate digital 3D model of the Belfast City	Up to 3 years	Up to £33,600	P Gribben	There is no other supplier that can offer this solution without significant duplication of resources, costs and time to build the Belfast data layers. VU.CITY already has a significant portion of city mapped, including 262,835 trees, accurate to height & canopy as well as 55,594 buildings.	VU.CITY

Table 3: Modification to Contract

Title of Contract	Duration	Modification	SRO	Description	Supplier
T1856 - Provision of a facilities management service at the Mary Peters Track	Up to 5 years	Additional 6 months & £65,000	D Sales	Contract extension required to allow sufficient time for Council to explore all possible options for the management of the site.	Athletics NI
T1892 Provision of play equipment inspections at Belfast City Council sites	Up to 5 years	Additional 3 months & £5,000	D Sales	Due to ongoing work in reviewing the scope and additional inspection work required under this contract additional time is required to finalise the Specification and associated tender documents	Play Services Ireland

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Table 4: Retrospective Single Tender Actions

Title of Contract	Duration	Value	SRO	Description	Supplier
Annual engagement of the Institute of Revenues Rating and Valuation (IRRV), the professional body for local taxation, benefits and valuation	Up to 3 years	Up to £135,000	T Wallace	Specialist advice on rating matters including a review of the Council's Assessments in the Valuation List, advice on rate implications of investment projects	Institute of Revenues Rating and Valuation (IRRV)
Requirement for a Temp Solicitor (Maternity Cover - Conveyancing & Contracts)	Up to 9 months	Up to £76,476.11	N Largey	The existing contracted provider for T1792 Provision of Temporary Agency Resources: Matrix SCM have confirmed they are unable to fulfil the required role of Temp Solicitor (Maternity Cover - Conveyancing & Contracts) within the contractually agreed time period.	Hays Recruitment



Subject:	Minutes of the Meeting of the Shared City Partnership
Date:	18th August, 2023
Reporting Officer:	David Sales, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Jim Girvan, Neighbourhood Services Manager Godfrey McCartney, Good Relations Manager

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of main Issues
1.1	To provide the Committee with an update on the key issues discussed at the meeting of the Shared City Partnership held on 7 th August and present the minutes for approval.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to approve the minutes of the Shared City Partnership meeting held on 7 th August, including the recommendations:
2.2	<p><u>PEACEPLUS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to agree the ongoing process for developing project concepts to be included in the local action plan submission to SEUPB (subject to further detail being considered by SCP); to agree that a more detailed report would be submitted to a future meeting on project concepts, governance, management and the proposed implementation plan; and

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to agree that a further meeting is convened to discuss potential priority projects to be included under Theme 1 of the Local Action Plan – Community Regeneration & Transformation (Capital Projects)
2.3	<u>PEACE IV</u>
2.3.1	Secretariat <ul style="list-style-type: none"> That the Committee note the contents of the report and appendices.
2.3.2	SSS Theme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> That the Committee note the contents of the report and related appendix and agree the following: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The extension request to 31st December 2023 sent to the SEUPB to enable the installation of the signage. FMCG Governance report (Appendix III); and The proposed approach regarding Volunteer Now payments, having achieved 32% delivery on the Local Ambassadors project.
2.4	<u>GOOD RELATIONS</u>
2.4.1	Good Relations – Updated funding position and Quarter 1 report on the delivery of the Council’s Good Relations Action Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> That the Committee note the contents of this report, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The updated position regarding funding for the Good Relations Action Plan; The revised budget for the Action Plan, as a result of the reduced funding, following receipt of a letter of offer from The Executive Office; and The Quarter 1 update, in particular, the allocation of £154,644 to grants through the Good Relations Small Grant Scheme to those groups listed in appendix 2.
2.5	Membership of Shared City Partnership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> That the Committee note the contents of the report and agree: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the recruitment process for the Community Representative for North Belfast was ongoing; and

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ that correspondence will be forwarded to the Belfast Chamber of Trade and Commerce seeking two representatives for 12 months, subject to review and reengagement with Belfast City Centre Management to establish if it would be interested in having a representative on the Shared City Partnership from August 2024.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The Shared City Partnership is a Working Group of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee consisting of Elected members and representatives from various sectors across the city. The minutes from the Partnership are brought before the Committee for approval on a monthly basis.</p>
3.2	<p>The key issues on the agenda at the 7th August 2023 meeting were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on PEACE PLUS – Local Community Peace Action Plan • PEACE IV Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Update on PEACE IV Secretariat ○ Update on PEACE IV SSS Theme • Good Relations – Updated funding position and Quarter 1 report on the delivery of the Council's Good Relations Action Plan • Update on Shared City Partnership Membership
3.3	<p>More details regarding the above issues and recommendations are included in the attached minutes of the meeting.</p>
3.3	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>All financial implications are covered through existing budgets</p>
3.4	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>The recommendations of the Partnership promote the work of the Council in promoting good relations and will enhance equality and good relations impacts.</p>
4.0	Documents Attached
	<p>Minutes of the meeting of 7th August</p>

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SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP

Monday 7th August, 2023

MEETING OF SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Members present: Councillors Duffy and I. McLaughlin.

External Members: Ms. B. Arthurs, Community and Voluntary Sector;
Mr. P. Anderson, Department for Communities;
Ms. O. Barron, Belfast Trust;
Superintendent Ford, PSNI;
Mr. M. McBride, Education Authority;
Ms. A. M. White, British Red Cross.

In attendance: Ms. D. McKinney, PEACE Programme Manager;
Mr. J. Girvan, Neighbourhood Services Manager;
Mr. G. McCartney, Good Relations Manager;
Mr. S. Lavery, Programme Manager;
Ms. L. Dolan, Good Relations Officer;
Mr. D. Robinson, Good Relations Officer; and
Mrs. S. Steele, Democratic Services Officer.

Election of Chair and Vice Chair

It was proposed by Mr. P. Anderson, seconded by Ms. B. Arthurs and agreed that Councillor Duffy be elected as the Chairperson and Councillor I. McLaughlin as the Deputy Chairperson to the Shared City Partnership from August, 2023 to June, 2024.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported on behalf of Councillor McMullan and Mr. J. Donnelly, Mr. A. Hannaway, Ms. J. Irwin, Mr. P. Mackel, Ms. A. Roberts and Ms. A. Tohill.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 12th June 2023 were taken as read and signed as correct.

Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were received.

Peace Plus Update

The Partnership considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

The purpose of this report is to provide Shared City Partnership members with an update on recent activity with regards to the development of the PEACE PLUS 1.1. Co-designed Local Community Peace Action Plan for Belfast.

The areas for update and discussion at the meeting will include:

- Updated timeline for members re the local action plan submission.
- Current status with regards to the development of projects under Theme 2 - Thriving & Peaceful Communities and Theme 3 – Building Respect for All Cultural Identities.
- Update on the process for projects under Theme 1 – Community Regeneration & Transformation (Capital).
- The administration requirements for implementation of the local action plan.
- Update on work being undertaken to align the local action plan with other PEACEPLUS funding programmes and the Belfast Agenda action plan refresh.

2.0 Recommendations

That Members note the contents of this report, provide feedback and:

- Agree to the ongoing process for developing project concepts to be included in the local action plan submission to SEUPB (subject to further detail being considered by SCP).
- Agree that a more detailed report will be brought back on project concepts, governance, management and proposed implementation plan.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Background

SCP members are aware that the development of the £15.1 million Local PEACE Action Plan is being delivered in three stages:

Stage 1 Co-design needs & opportunities – Complete.
Stage 2 Co-design long list of priority projects
Stage 3 Action Plan submission

The plan will be delivered under the following 3 Thematic Areas.

1. Community Regeneration & Transformation (Capital Projects)
2. Thriving & Peaceful Communities
3. Building Respect for All Cultural Identities

Following on from the previous SCP meeting SEUPB have issued the call document for the Local Action Plan (see link below for further details) and have set a final deadline of Thursday 14th December for applications to be submitted for the Local Action Plan. Members will be aware that this is a very tight deadline, the table below outlines a high level updated indicative timeline for making the Belfast submission.

[Investment Area 1.1 - Co-designed Local PEACEPLUS Action Plans | SEUPB](#)

3.2 Timeline

The table below, outlines the current key milestones to develop the Local Action Plan.

<u>Timeline</u>	<u>Key Milestone</u>
15 Jun 23	SEUPB Open Call.
Jun 23	Initial assessment of projects under Theme 1.
Jul 23	Ongoing Concept Working group meetings for Theme 2 and 3.
7 Aug 23	SCP Consideration of initial draft project concepts
11 Aug 23	Final meeting of project concept working groups
21 Aug 23	Detailed project concepts finalised for Theme 2 and 3
25 Aug 23	Working Groups consider final draft project concepts
4 Sept 23	Council approval of draft project concepts
7 Sept 23	Public workshop to present draft concepts
11 Sept 23	SCP consider final draft project concepts, budgets & Governance

2 Oct 23	Council consider final draft project concepts, budgets & Governance
Oct 23	Initiate Stage 3 formal plan submission
Oct 23	Pre submission review by SEUPB
Nov 23	Action Plan submission to SEUPB
June – July 24	Letter of Offer received
Autumn 24	Delivery of local action plan commences

3.3 **Stage 2 Thematic Working Groups Project Design Themes 2 and 3**

As mentioned at the previous meeting, project ideas for Themes 2 and 3, process are being developed through the facilitation of Thematic Working Group sessions with internal / external stakeholders currently developing project ideas for the following 11 concept areas that may be included in the final submission to SEUPB.

Theme 2 Thriving & Peaceful Communities					
Capacity Building	Health and Wellbeing	Employability	Youth	Sport	Arts
Theme 3 Building Respect for All Cultural Identities					
Ethnic Minority	Ex-political prisoners	Cultural Heritage	LGBTQIA+	Church and Faith	

For each of the above, Concept Working Groups have been meeting over the past few months to develop project ideas. Appendix 1 provides an overview of the project ideas to date, further working group meetings will take place early August to refine project ideas with a date of 11 August set for any outstanding meetings to finalise emerging draft project ideas including indicative budgets and participant numbers. Please note, the projects are at different stages with regards to their development.

Following this co-design process in order to ensure that project ideas meet the detailed parameters and conditions as set by SEUPB, Council officers will further review initial draft project concept ideas and update the project detail for each of the 11 areas. Once the final detail of each project has been finalised, working groups will endorse before

these are brought via the Council's internal Governance process.

3.4 Theme 1 - Community Regeneration and Transformation (Capital)

The process is underway to identify a number of potential capital projects circa £500,000 per project – likely to be 4 to 6 schemes across the city.

Activity under theme 1 includes:

- Initial Scoping exercise complete - proposals have been identified, including those arising from PEACEPLUS consultation to date and other pipeline capital proposals known to the Council.
- As part of the co-design process in Stage 1 stakeholders had the opportunity to propose potential capital projects that could be considered for the local action plan submission.

This list is currently being assessed internally via the following parameters

- SEUPB criteria
- Principles that were agreed via Peaceplus engagement process for the development of the local action plan which includes: -
- Aligning to Stage 1 Engagement
- Value for Money
- Deliverability
- Building on PEACE IV
- Area based projects (circa £500,000)

Officers are continuing the assessment of potential projects using the parameters and principles agreed by the SCP and those required by SEUPB. An update on proposed projects will be brought to Committee in August. There will also be further engagement with stakeholders as part of the co-design process. The capital projects will be developed via project specific co-design processes once identified.

3.5 Budget Allocation

The total budget that Council is likely to receive is £15,170,431 (this is based on Euro to GBP rate and subject to change). We are now working with stakeholders to cost out the project concepts and proposed funding will be allocated to each of the 11 concept areas outlined earlier as well as the capital element of the plan. Further information will be brought back to the SCP partnership on this detail at a future SCP meeting.

3.6 Administration requirements

As discussed at the last meeting, ensuring relevant resources to manage the PEACEPLUS programme is critical. Learning from PEACE IV staffing highlighted the need to increase monitoring and finance staff resources and to ensure skilled, stable and long-term commitment to staff.

The PEACEPLUS call documents states that local authorities must have as a minimum staff for Monitoring and Evaluation, Administration and Finance, this is in addition to the Programme Manager and does not include additional back-office support that is required to deliver the Belfast plan. It should be noted these minimum requirements are also applicable to local authorities allocated less than £3m in comparison to the £15m funding allocated to Belfast for their local action plan.

Given the value of funding, significant risk to the Council, the participant targets, support required for project delivery agents and the transfer of the Finance Control function to Council, an appropriate staffing level is required to ensure the risk to the Council is mitigated and the following areas are sufficiently resourced:

1. Management of the overall plan, governance, compliance, financial claims and reporting
2. Project delivery and implementation
3. Support services such as Procurement, HR, Legal, Finance
4. Office and Administration Costs

Preliminary cost estimates, excluding overheads indicate that the administration requirements for each of the above areas will be in the region of;

1. Management costs will be approximately 9% of the funding allocation.
2. Project implementation staff is estimated at 8%.
3. Allocation of the overheads to other support services is to be agreed.
4. Office and Administration Costs at 15% of staff costs.

It should be noted the above is to be further defined and may be subject to change depending on the resource requirements for each concept. Officers are working this up and will bring back to the SCP at a future meeting.

Members should also note that the quality of the secretariat and project teams, partnership, and implementation

arrangements is an assessment criteria that will be used by SEUPB in assessing the local action plan submission.

3.7 Financial Controller

As referenced above, there is a new approach to the Financial Control checks previously undertaken by SEUPB. This Controller responsibility now sits with the Local Authority and will be a cost to the Council that can be taken from any LOO.

SEUPB has specified that:

- Each local authority plan is required to appoint a Controller that sits separately from the PEACEPLUS team
- Role of the controller is to (independently) verify that the expenditure reported meets SEUPB requirements / compliance with regulations (in effect Finance Control)
- Options to appoint a Controller are:
 1. Decentralised control through external controllers selected from an SEUPB central shortlist
 2. Decentralised control through an internal Controller selected by Council and approved by SEUPB
 3. Decentralised control through an external Controller selected by Council and approved by SEUPB

It is anticipated there will be increased audit and level of scrutiny from SEUPB/NIAO, given this additional requirement for Council to appoint an internal / external Financial Controller. In line with governance requirements, consideration of the best approach is currently ongoing.

3.8 Internal Resource Requirements

Members should also note that CNS officers have been engaging with colleagues internally to start to scope other internal support is required to support the development and implementation of the Local PEACE Action Plan. It should be noted there are existing pressures on our resources

Some of the key areas of support required include.

- Ongoing help to develop projects ideas (as mentioned above)
 - AGRS – Risk Management, Audit and potentially new requirement of Finance Controller

- Finance – costing and forecasting of projects / staffing
- HR – recruitment strategy / plan
- Procurement – advice / guidance, capacity building, procurement strategy
- Legal – advise on programme regulations, partner agreements, contracts
- Digital Services and Information Governance (Monitoring & Evaluation system)
- Community provision colleagues

3.9 Alignment with City Strategies and other Funding opportunities

It is important that the Local Action Plan submission outlines alignment with other strategies and funding programmes, including the updated refreshed Belfast Agenda Action Plan.

Officers are undertaking the following;

- Having ongoing formal engagement with the Living Here Board and VCSE;
- Cross referencing the emerging project concepts in the local action plan with the Belfast Agenda refreshed action plan – for example some of the key workstreams included in the Belfast Agenda Action Plans aligned to the PEACEPLUS Local Action Plan include making life better for our residents, connecting people, places, and services through partnership, delivery and supporting strong and empowered communities and citizens.
- Engaging with partners who are applying for funding across other PEACEPLUS investment areas

3.10 Financial & Resource Implications

Within existing budget to be claimed retrospectively from SEUPB.

3.11 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

The Plan, once produced, will need to be screened for equality and good relations implications along with completion of a rural needs assessment.”

During discussion the Members noted the proposed secretariat/administration expenses for the delivery of the PEACEPLUS Programme. Whilst it was noted that these staffing resources were essential for the successful delivery of the programme, it was felt that expectations needed to be managed to reflect the available funding for Programme activity given the proposed costs, which also needed simplified.

It was also noted that a meeting of the Members of the Shared City Partnership (SCP) might be required prior to the next meeting to further consider the project concepts being developed for Theme 1 Community Regeneration and Transformation (Capital Projects) to ensure they were ready for consideration at the September meeting of the SCP.

The Partnership recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it:

- agree the ongoing process for developing project concepts to be included in the local action plan submission to SEUPB (subject to further detail being considered by SCP); and
- agree that a more detailed report would be submitted to a future meeting on project concepts, governance, management and the proposed implementation plan.
- agree that a further meeting is convened, if necessary, to discuss potential priority projects to be included under Theme 1 of the Local Action Plan – Community Regeneration and Transformation (Capital Projects).

Peace IV Updates

Secretariat

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

The Peace IV Programme Manager advised that closure reviews and impact analysis for SSS programming elements had been progressed, this would enable the closure of the projects and final payments to be made.

The SEUPB had provided further guidance on the post project evaluation requirements, these were now progressing for both the CYP and BPR themes and the Partnership would be updated accordingly.

The officer reported that preparation for the submission of the final claim for the SSS theme, due with SEUPB by 11th August 2023, was progressing. The Partnership was advised that the Physical Programmes unit had agreed to submit any further claims for the SSS theme to the SEUPB and that an update would be provided in due course.

The Partnership was also asked to note that the verification of claims by the SEUPB was ongoing. During May/June £612K reimbursement had been received for P30 SSS and P30 and 31 NIHE BPR claims. Clarifications for the verification of a further £624K of claims for P31 BPR and P32 NIHE BPR were also being progressed.

The Partnership noted that the value of outstanding claims (currently £3.5m) had recently been highlighted to the SEUPB, along with a request for further mitigations of a 50% advance of outstanding claims.

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

SSS

The Peace IV Programme Manager provided the Shared City Partnership with a progress update in respect of the Shared Spaces and Services (SSS) theme of the PEACE IV Local Action Plan.

The Members were informed that the capital and programming elements of the Shared Space and Services theme were now complete with closure continuing to be progressed.

- **PEACE IV Network Scheme – Capital Works**

Works at Section 2 (Springvale lands) had completed on 30th June 2023 with a handover to the Council on 7th July 2023. Arrangements regarding key holding had been agreed with Council's Outdoor Space & Services (OSS).

- **Signage**

A final decision regarding the language approach for the signage and branding was being progressed. As previously reported, installation of greenway signage by 30th September 2023 was highly unlikely, however, the contractor was progressing the installation of bases for the signage throughout the Greenway.

The Chief Executive and Director of Physical Programmes had written to the SEUPB requesting a further extension to 31st December 2023 to enable the installation of signage once a decision had been confirmed.

- **Public Art Pieces**

Delays had occurred on the installation of the art sculpture to early August 2023, with an unveiling and photo call to take place mid-August 2023. The Artist Sara Cunningham-Bell, Lord Mayor and the SEUPB would be invited.

The SEUPB had previously approved an extension for the installation works to 31st July 2023.

- **Programming**

Implementation of the programming aspects were now complete with closure progressing.

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

Deliverable targets	Targets achieved
300 individuals	257 recruited
51 narratives (3 narratives x 17 panels)	52 draft narratives
12 contact hours per participant	152 participants (68%) achieved over 10 hours 200 participants (89%) achieved 6 hours+.
Compilation document of all stories	Draft being finalised and progressed for printing.

Following receipt of the final draft of the compendium of narratives from the delivery partner, PEACE IV had contracted a copywriter to review and finalise the wording / content. The compendium was progressing to design and print. Although, as highlighted earlier, the installation of narratives on the signage/information panels was delayed.

- **Resource Allocation – Animation Activity**

Artsekta had submitted a closure report, along with supporting information following completion of all the planned activities. This was currently being reviewed by PEACE IV ahead of final payment being made.

- **Resource Allocation – Community Led Activity**

Payments were processed, in relation to Forthspring Inter Community Groups' short programme, although the set-up of new vendors had caused some delay in progressing final payments.

- **Shared Space Volunteer Training**

Deliverable targets	Targets achieved
Sustrans	
25 volunteers (12.5 Walk & 12.5 Cycle Leads)	20 completed across 3 groups
Volunteer Now Enterprise	
12.5 volunteers (Local Ambassadors)	4 completed
The Conservation Volunteers	
12.5 volunteers (Nature Guides)	10 completed

Project closure reports had been reviewed by PEACE IV and the Thematic Closure Review and Impact Analysis progressed, enabling final payments and project closure in July 2023. Final reports on the additional activity had been completed by the project leads, Sustrans, Volunteer Now Enterprise Limited and The Conservation Volunteers, reviewed by PEACE IV and payments made.

The Members were asked to note the level of achievement of 4 completed Shared Space Ambassadors, as part of the Volunteer Now contract. This represented 32% of the revised target, therefore, the payments should have reflected this level of achievement. However, payment had been progressed in line with the phased payments outlined in the project ITT, as such £2,182.12, over the level of achievement had been paid. The officer reported that Volunteer Now had recruited the required

level of volunteers and the reduced achievement had been a consequence of the drop out of participants. The Programme Board had considered this overpayment in line with the circumstances and Council policy and agreed that no further action was required.

- **Governance / Management Model Implementation**

MDL completed its contract on 14 June 2023, submitting a Final Report (Appendix III) for review. The Programme Board reviewed and approved these in July, releasing the final payment.

- **Youth Engagement and Civic Education**

Deliverable targets	Targets achieved
280 young people	360 young people registered from Nubia, Blackmountain, Glencairn, Forthspring, St Peters, Ballysillan, Clonard, Corpus Christi, GVRT, Holy Trinity, Malone College, St Genevieve's, Belfast Boys Model and Youth Initiatives
26 contact hours per participants	360 young participants achieved 26 contact hours target or more.

An "On-the-spot" visit had been carried out and the project closure report reviewed. The final payment had been processed and the project closed off.

- **Financial and Resource Implications**

Claims for the SSS theme up to Period 34 totalling £4.4m had been submitted to SEUPB, with £2.25m reimbursed to date. Clarifications relating to SEUPB verification of outstanding claims had been progressed. The current value of outstanding claims was approximately £2.1m.

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

- the extension request to 31st December 2023 sent to the SEUPB to enable the installation of the signage;
- the FMCG Governance report; and
- the approach regarding Volunteer Now payments, having achieved 32% delivery on the Local Ambassadors project.

Good Relations - Updated funding position and Quarter 1 report on the delivery of the Council's Good Relations Action Plan

The Partnership considered the following report:

"1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

To update Members on the delivery of the Good Relations Action Plan during Quarter 1, which covers the period April – June 2023.

2.0 Recommendations

That Members recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that they note the contents of this report, including:

- The updated position regarding funding for the Good Relations Action Plan
- The revised budget for the Action Plan, as a result of the reduced funding, following receipt of a letter of offer from The Executive Office,
- Quarter 1 update and in particular the allocation of £154,644 to grants through the Good Relations Small Grant Scheme to those groups listed in appendix 2

3.0 Main report

3.1 Key Issues

Members will be aware that the Council receives funding from The Executive Office (TEO) for the delivery of its annual Good Relations Action Plan.

- 3.2 The current Action Plan was agreed by the Partnership in February 2023 and submitted to TEO. Subsequently, as reported to the Partnership in June, TEO indicated that funding to a number of T:BUC programmes, including the District Council's Good Relations Programme (DCGRP), would be cut as a result of reduced budgets.
- 3.3 The original Action Plan was costed at £767,584.36, with £575,688.27 being sought from TEO towards programming and salaries within this plan, as per their 75% contribution.
- 3.4 In May 2023, an EQIA was initiated by TEO regarding the proposed areas to be cut, but in any case, TEO wrote to Council's indicating that the DCGRP would receive 53% of funding from the original bid. In the case of Belfast, this equates to £301,537.28, rather than the £575,688.27 originally sought.
- 3.5 A letter of offer for this amount has now been received. Within the contribution from TEO of £301,537.28, £294,644 will be allocated towards programme costs and £6,893.28 will be allocated towards salaries and administration costs.
- 3.6 For 2023/24, the Council contribution of 25% towards the action plan will therefore be £256,691.08. This gives an overall budget for the Good Relations Action Plan of £558,228.36.

- 3.7 The Council contribution towards the Action Plan will be used towards the costs for staffing and administration.**
- 3.8 Members should note that the Council also supports initiatives that are not directly within the Action Plan, or where the Council adds additional resources towards Action Plan projects.**
- 3.9 In 2022/23, the Council contributed £413,320.10 towards Good Relations initiatives, which included its 25% contribution to the delivery of the Good Relations Action Plan. For 2023/24, this Council figure will remain the same. This contribution, over and above the commitments within the Action Plan includes, for instance, additional funding to the BCC3 Programme on Positive Cultural Expression to support the full costs associated with the allocation of 11 bonfire beacons in July.**
- 3.10 With the reduced budget from The Executive Office, the total Good Relations budget for programme, staffing and administration will in fact be £714,857.38. In essence this means Council is in fact funding the programme, to almost 58% with the TEO Contribution now closer to 42%.**
- 3.11 With reduced funding, the Council has had to revise it's Good Relations Action Plan. This was reported to the Partnership in June.**
- 3.12 The Action Plan contains 9 distinct programmes, BCC1 – BCC9. Each programme contains a number of different projects under one of the 4 T:BUC Priorities, which are:**
- Improving attitudes of Children and Young People towards others**
 - Developing Shared Space**
 - Creating Safe Space**
 - Promoting Positive Cultural Expression**
- 3.13 Officers have been mobilising and delivering projects within a number of the programmes in the Action Plan over the first quarter. This has been done despite the challenges posed by the funding environment and the uncertainty that this has caused.**
- 3.14 The following is a high-level overview of the progress that has been made in each programme within the Action Plan. Further details on groups awarded funding, and the amounts, is contained in a more detailed table and is attached as appendix 1.**

Code	Project Summary	Budget	Progress in Quarter 1	Total allocated
BCC1	Good Relations Small Grants Programme.	£154,644	45 projects were awarded letters of offer following an open application process.	£154,644 allocated through an open call
BCC2	St Patrick's Day Civic Events programme	£10,000	No activity in Quarter 1.	£0
BCC3	Positive Cultural Expression Programme	£20,000	Beacon Programme underway. Assessment of sites and repairs to Beacons complete. 11 groups supported to deploy a beacon on the 11th July.	£20,000
BCC4	Civic Engagement and Learning Programme	£10,000	Events for Refugee Week delivered. Annual Day of Reflection Delivered.	£10,000
BCC5	Minority Ethnic Inclusion Programme	£30,000	June meeting of migrant forum took place.	£0
BCC6	Civic Engagement and Strategic Priorities	£20,000	Environmental project can proceed following receipt of letter of offer from TEO.	£0
BCC7	Interface Engagement and tackling sectarianism and racism	£40,000	Delivery can now commence following receipt of letter of offer from TEO.	£0
BCC8	Shared Education Schools Programme	£10,000	Project can now proceed but with reduced funding.	£0

BCC 9	Strategic Intervention Programme	£0	Two projects have been developed and approved for delivery.	£0 (amount of £23,000 was reprofiled into small grants)
	TOTAL	£294,644		£184,644

3.11 Financial & Resource Implications

The costs are covered within the annual Good Relations Action Plan, which is funded by the Council and The Executive Office under the District Council's Good Relations Programme.

3.12 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

All events are aligned with one of the four Good Relations Outcomes within the Action Plan, which has been screened for equality, good relations and rural needs, and screened out."

The Partnership adopted the recommendations as outlined at 2.0 of the report.

Update on the Membership of Shared City Partnership

The Partnership noted that there were currently vacancies on the:

- Belfast City Centre Management;
- Belfast Chamber of Trade and Commerce; and
- Community/Voluntary Sector North Belfast Representative;

The Good Relations Manager advised that the vacant Community Representative position for North Belfast had not yet been advertised but he undertook to progress shortlisting and appointment as soon as possible and to provide an update at the next Shared City Partnership Meeting on the 11th September.

Belfast City Centre Management had advised that it would not be able to nominate anyone due to a cessation of funding. Officers had reviewed a number of options to redress this through regional or local business support networks, however, it was felt that the focus for the Shared City Partnership needed to be on Belfast City as a whole. The Members were advised that officers had concluded that, for the next 12 months, 2 representatives for the SCP should be invited from the Belfast Chamber of Trade and Commerce. This would be reviewed during the year and, in parallel, officers would engage with Belfast City Centre Management to establish if it was interested on returning to the Partnership in August 2024. If Belfast City Centre Management agreed to this, Belfast Chamber of Trade and Commerce would revert to one Member.

The Members noted that correspondence had also been forwarded to the Church of Ireland seeking a nominee to sit on the Partnership for the next year, commencing in August 2023.

The Partnership recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it notes:

- the recruitment process for the Community Representative for North Belfast was ongoing; and
- that correspondence would be forwarded to the Belfast Chamber of Trade and Commerce seeking two representatives for 12 months, subject to review and reengagement with Belfast City Centre Management, to establish if it would be interested in having a representative on the Shared City Partnership from August 2024.

Chairperson



Subject:	Equality and Diversity: Screening Outcome Reports and Rural Needs Assessments: Q4 2022-23 and Q1 2023-24
Date:	18th August 2023
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, Interim City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Sarah Williams, Governance and Compliance Manager

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To provide the Committee with a summary of equality screenings and rural needs impact assessments for Q4 2022-2023 and Q1 2023-2024.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to note the contents of this report.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<u>Background</u> One of the main requirements of the council's Equality Scheme is to carry out the screening of new and revised policies. This allows any impacts related to equality of opportunity and/or

	good relations to be identified and addressed. An equality screening template is completed by the relevant officer, in collaboration with the Equality and Diversity Officer. On a regular basis, the Equality and Diversity Officer collates all completed templates into a Screening Outcome Report and publishes onto the council's website along with the relevant completed screening templates.
3.2	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The current Screening Outcome Report (including rural needs assessments) for January-June 2023 is attached. As usual, this report will be brought to the next Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for noting and will be published on the Council's website.</p>
3.3	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None</p>
3.4	<p>Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment</p> <p>The actions outlined contribute to our legal compliance regarding the promotion of equality, good relations and duties under the Rural Needs Act.</p>
4.0	Document attached
4.1	Screening Outcome Report (Q4 2022-23 and Q1 2023-24)



Belfast
City Council

**Equality Screening Outcome Report and Rural Needs Impact Assessment
from January - June 2023**

Introduction

Legislation – An Overview

Section 75 Statutory Equality Duties

Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 requires the Council, when carrying out its functions in relation to Northern Ireland, to have due regards to the need to promote equality of opportunity between nine categories of persons, namely:

- between persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation;
- between men and women generally;
- between persons with a disability and persons without; and
- between persons with dependants and persons without.

Without prejudice to its obligations above, the council must also have regards to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group.

The Council's Revised Equality Scheme was formally approved by the Equality Commission in March 2021. The revised Scheme outlines how we propose to fulfil our statutory duties under Section 75. Within the Scheme, the council gave a commitment to apply the screening methodology below to all new and revised policies and where necessary and appropriate to subject new policies to further equality impact assessment.

- What is the likely impact of equality of opportunity for those affected by this policy/proposal, for each of the Section 75 equality categories?
- Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within Section 75 equality categories?
- To what extent is the policy/proposal likely to impact on good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?

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

In keeping with the Council's commitments in its Equality Scheme, the Council has applied the above screening criteria to new policies and proposals. Screening identifies policies that are likely to have an impact on equality of opportunity and/or good relations.

Screening identifies the impact of the policy/proposal as major, minor or none.

- If major – an Equality Impact Assessment may be carried out.
- If minor – consider mitigation or alternative policy and screen out.
- If none – screen out and give reasons.
- Ongoing screening – for strategies/policies that are to be put in place through a series of stages – screen at various stages during implementation.

The council also committed within its Revised Equality Scheme to prepare and publish for information regular reports on its screening exercises. This is screening report providing details on all screenings undertaken from the period January – June 2023.

Rural Needs Impact Assessments

The Council also has a statutory duty under the Rural Needs (Northern Ireland) Act 2016 to consider rural needs in the development of new policies, plans or strategies or in any service design/delivery decisions. The Council must therefore engage with rural stakeholders in relation to policy development when it is relevant and appropriate. The Equality and Diversity Unit is responsible for reporting to the Strategic, Policy and Resources Committee and for ensuring that annual reporting returns are submitted to DAERA.

To further promote openness and transparency, there is a link to each completed screening and rural needs impact assessment template on the Council's website. www.belfastcity.gov.uk

The templates detail all policies screened over this period and includes decisions reached.

Consultation

The development of new policies and proposals will be supported by effective engagement processes to ensure that staff, service users and all interested parties are fully involved.

Planning for and delivering safe and cost-effective services requires close collaboration at many levels.

If you have any queries about this document, and its availability in alternative formats (including Braille, disk and audio cassette, and in other languages to meet the needs of those who are not fluent in English) then please contact:-

Bridgeen O'Neill
Equality and Diversity Unit
Belfast City Council
City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS

Direct Line 02890 270555
or 028 9032 0202 ext 6315

email: equality@belfastcity.gov.uk or oneillbridgeen@belfastcity.gov.uk

Screening Outcome

The screening outcomes are outlined in the table below. Three possible outcomes are recorded:

If **Major** – an Equality Impact Assessment may be carried out. **EQIA** - subject to further scrutiny under Section 75 of the NI Act 1998 to determine the impact upon those directly affected, which in turn will require informal and formal consultation with a wide range of stakeholders.

If **Minor** – consider mitigation or alternative policy and screen out.

If **None** – screen out and give reasons.

Screening Outcome Options

Major= In

Minor= Out with mitigation

None= Out without mitigation

Rural Needs Impact Assessment Options

Does the policy, plan, strategy or service design/delivery impact on the social and economic needs of people in rural areas?

Belfast City Council Equality Screening Outcome Report and Rural Needs Impact Assessment

This report includes published screenings and Rural Needs Impact Assessments for the period January – June 2023. Copies can be found at:-

<https://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/council/equality-and-diversity/equality-screening-reports#711-3>

Description of Policy/Proposal	Rural Needs Impact Assessment	ECNI Screening Decision and Contact
Asylum seeker membership concession	This policy will have no detrimental impact on rural area residents of Belfast.	Screened Out – Mitigating Actions (minor impacts) Contact: Noel Munnis
Black Mountain/ Upper Whiterock Greenway	This project will have no detrimental impact on rural area residents of Belfast.	Screened Out – No EQIA necessary (no impacts) Contact: Michael Collins
Cherryvale Playing Fields – works to pitch 1	These proposed works will have no detrimental impact on rural area residents of Belfast.	Screened Out – No EQIA necessary (no impacts) Contact: Briege Coyle
Disability Action Plan 2022-25	This plan will have no detrimental impact on rural area residents of Belfast.	Screened Out – No EQIA necessary (no impacts) Contact: Michael Johnston
Northern Ireland Enterprise Support Service (NIESS)	This plan will have no detrimental impact on rural area residents of Belfast.	Screened Out – Mitigating Actions (minor impacts) Contact: Sarah Rafter
Safeguarding All Ages Policy 2022	This policy will have no detrimental impact on rural area residents of Belfast.	Screened Out – Mitigating Actions (minor impacts) Contact: Anthony McPeake
Summer Community Diversionary Festival Programme (SCDFP)	This programme will have no detrimental impact on rural area residents of Belfast.	Screened Out – Mitigating Actions (minor impacts) Contact: Stevie Lavery

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Belfast
City Council

Subject:	Requests for the use of the City Hall and the Provision of Hospitality
Date:	18th August 2023
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, Interim City Solicitor and Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Aisling Milliken, Functions and Exhibition Manager

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	This report, together with the attached appendix, contains the recommended approach in respect of each of the requests by external organisations for access to the City Hall function rooms received up to 4th August, 2023.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to approve the recommendations as set out in the attached appendix.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p><u>Background Information</u></p> <p>The current criteria for use of the function rooms used to review external applications is:</p> <p>Functions permitted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> functions which support other events in the city and which are of demonstrable economic benefit to Belfast whether organised by the council or not

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • functions which demonstrably enhance the city's image nationally or internationally as a desirable commercial, business or tourist destination • functions designed to celebrate or commemorate a notable achievement or significant anniversary (25, 50, 100 years) by an organisation or body with close links to the city or province • functions organised by recognised local community or voluntary sector groups for non-profit and non-political purposes <p>Functions not permitted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conferences, meetings, seminars, performances, wedding receptions, private parties or receptions and similar booking requests in the prestige function rooms • functions, which have as their principal purpose the generation of commercial gain for the organisers. Charity-fundraising functions are managed by the Lord Mayor's Office. • functions which have no compelling links to the council or the city specifically and which could instead use local private sector facilities • functions which have as their primary purpose the advancement of any political or religious cause or campaign or are otherwise potentially contentious or involve significant reputation risks for the council. • functions which involve exceptionally large or disruptive set-ups or pose a real and tangible risk to the fabric of the building or grounds <p><u>Key Issues</u></p>
3.2	The existing revised criteria and scale of charges have been applied to the various requests received and the recommendations herein are offered to the Committee on this basis for approval.
3.3	The attached schedule covers 8 applications for functions, scheduled for 2023 and 2024.
	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u>
3.4	None, any recommendations for hospitality will be met from existing budgets.
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.5	None.
4.0	Documents Attached
	Schedule of function requests received up to 4th August, 2023.

AUGUST 2023 CITY HALL FUNCTION APPLICATIONS

NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
2023 EVENTS						
Yellow Door catering	3 November 2023	Yellow Door 30th Anniversary Celebration- Drinks Reception, Dinner and entertainment. Numbers attending – 150	C & D	Charge as £825 as commercial company	Yes, Wine Reception as significant anniversary	Approve Charge £825 Wine Reception <i>£500 given to their chosen caterer for wine on arrival</i>
Royal College of Nursing NI History of Nursing Network	13 November 2023	Celebration of project to commemorate nurses from across Ireland who served in the Second World War – reception including refreshments, presentations and stories to celebrate and remember nurses role in WW2 which are included in a new book. Numbers attending – 150	C & D	No Charge as Voluntary group	Yes, Tea and Coffee Reception as Nurses received the Freedom of the City and have memorial plaque in City Hall	Approve No Charge Wine Reception <i>£500 given to their chosen caterer for wine on arrival</i>
2024 EVENTS						
Chartered Institution of Highways & Transportation – NI region	28 March 2024	CIHT 200th Anniversary Celebration- Drinks Reception, Dinner, and entertainment. Numbers attending – 250	C & D	No Charge as charity	Yes, Wine Reception as significant anniversary	Approve No Charge Wine Reception <i>£500 given to their chosen caterer for wine on arrival</i>
Association of Surgeons of Great Britain & Ireland (ASGBI)	8 May 2024	ASGBI Annual Congress reception– Dinner and entertainment for guests attending their 3 day congress taking place in ICC Numbers attending - 120	A & B	No (Waiver as linked to Visit Belfast)	No hospitality	Approve No Charge No hospitality
The Royal College of Ophthalmologists	21 May 2024	RCOphth Annual Congress reception– Dinner and entertainment for guests attending	A & B	No (Waiver as linked to Visit Belfast)	No hospitality	Approve No Charge No hospitality

AUGUST 2023 CITY HALL FUNCTION APPLICATIONS

		their 3 day congress taking place in ICC Numbers attending - 350				
British and Irish Group for the Study of Personality Disorder	19 June 2024	BIGSPD 25th Conference Dinner for guests attending their 3 day congress taking place in ICC	A & B	No (Waiver as linked to Visit Belfast)	No hospitality	Approve No Charge No hospitality
RNLI	22 June 2024	RNLI 200th Anniversary Celebration- Drinks Reception, Dinner, and entertainment. Numbers attending – 300	C & D	No Charge as charity	Yes, Wine Reception as significant anniversary	Approve No Charge Wine Reception <i>£500 given to their chosen caterer for wine on arrival</i>
Irish Cardiac Society Annual Scientific Meeting Gala Dinner 2024	18 October 2024	BSSH Autumn Scientific Meeting – Dinner for guests attending their 3-day congress taking place in ICC Numbers attending - 170	A & B	No (Waiver as linked to Visit Belfast)	No hospitality	Approve No Charge No hospitality



Subject:	Request for the use of the City Hall Grounds – Fragile Space Exhibition
Date:	18th August, 2023
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, Interim City Solicitor and Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Aisling Milliken, Functions and Exhibition Manager

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

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To present to the Committee a request from NI Space Office for the use of the City Hall grounds from 1st to 13th October 2023 to host a space exhibition in advance of the UK Space Conference taking place in Belfast from 21st to 23rd November 2023.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. approve the request from NI Space Office to use the City Hall grounds from 1st to 13th October to display a photographic exhibition; and 2. authorise the exhibition in line with similar events previously approved by the Council.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<u>Background Information</u> Members will be aware that requests for the use of City Hall are normally dealt with under the authority delegated by the Committee to the Director of Legal and Civic Services using

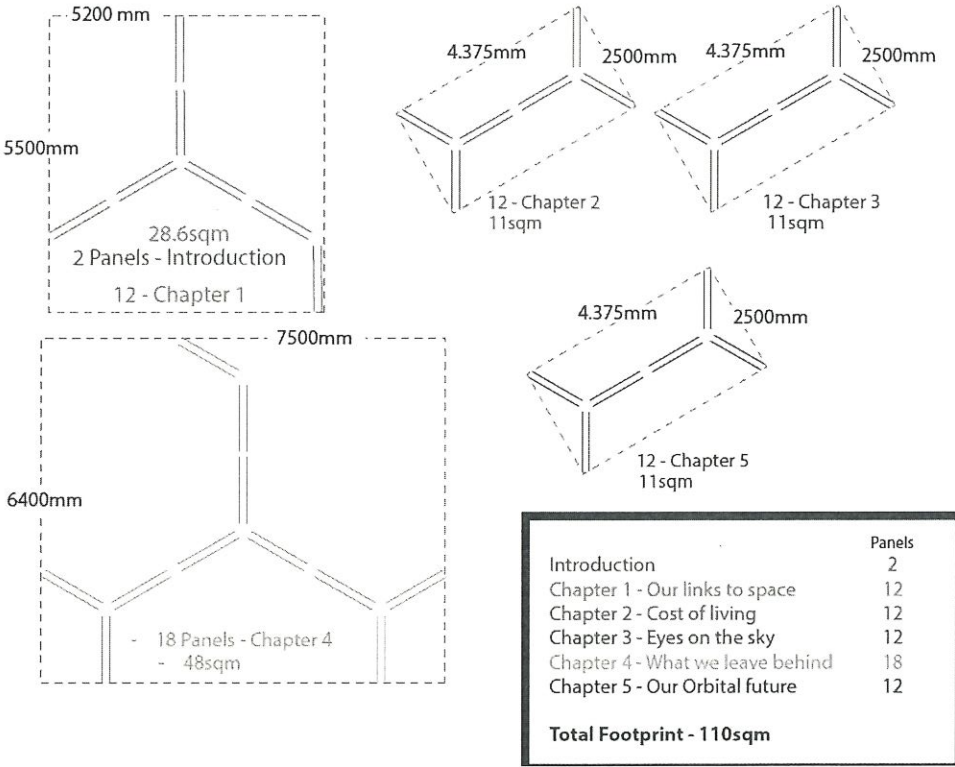
	<p>criteria agreed for this purpose. Occasionally, however, it is necessary to place such requests directly before the Committee, and the request set out below falls into this category.</p> <p><u>Key Issues</u></p>
3.2	<p>A request has recently received from the NI Space Office to have a photographic exhibition in the grounds of the City Hall. The exhibition would be installed on the West and East Lawn of the City Hall grounds – installed on 1st October and dismantled on 13th October 2023.</p>
3.3	<p>The exhibition would be free for members of the public to view daily, in line with the opening times of the grounds. The photography exhibition will be based on 5 space related themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our links to Space • Cost of Living • Eyes on the sky • What we leave behind • Our Orbital future
3.4	<p>Insurance, risk assessments and exhibition management and maintenance plan documents will all be provided by the exhibition organisers and reviewed by Function Management Team in consultation with Corporate Health and Safety Unit if required.</p>
3.5	<p>Good Relations and Corporate Communications will review the exhibition images included in the proposal but presently no negative good relations implications identified that should stop the exhibition being hosted at City Hall. A copy of the exhibition proposal is attached.</p>
	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p>
3.6	<p>There are no direct resource implications in terms of staff time or additional costs associated with this request and hosting of the exhibition.</p>
	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p>
3.7	<p>Good Relations will be consulted on this request and the exhibition content, but don't foresee any negative implications.</p>
4.0	Documents attached
	Exhibition Proposal

Outdoor Exhibition Event

DIMENSIONS:

5 display systems, with total footprint of 110 square metres (sqm); see plans for potential overall area (which is flexible)

- A. (Chapter 1) - 5500 mm x 5200 mm: 28.6 sqm
- B. (Chapter 2) - 4375 mm x 2500 mm: 11 sqm
- C. (Chapter 3) - 4375 mm x 2500 mm: 11 sqm
- D. (Chapter 3) - 6400 mm x 7500 mm: 48 sqm
- E. (Chapter 3) - 4375 mm x 2500 mm: 11 sqm
- F. Triptych display



ITEMS:

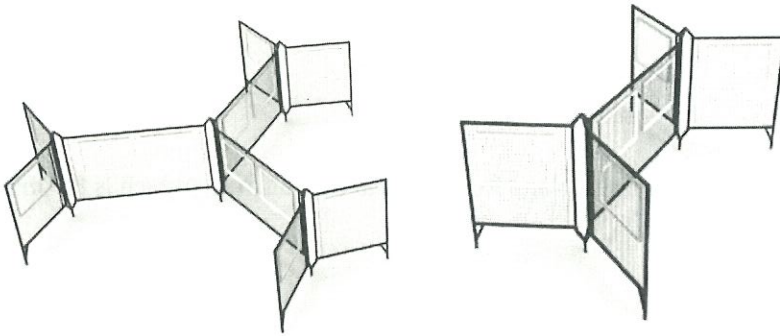
This Indoor/outdoor hybrid display system is made up from box section steel with a 6 gauge steel mesh to provide structural support. Attached to are aluminium frame which the artwork panels slot into.

The system can be levelled by adjustable feet which are plastic (protective rubber pads can be provided to prevent any marks to the floor) each foot holds no more than 38kg.

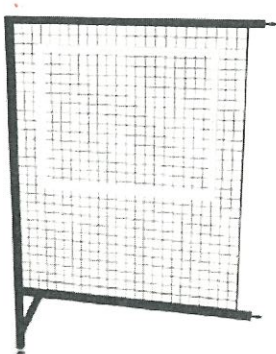
As the system is modular and is made up of sections. There is no need for lifting equipment, as a 2 man team can easily handle each element. The will arrive flat packed on 2440mm x 1220mm pallets which can be maneuvered with a pallet truck

We will require 3 – 4 hours to install the full exhibition and the same for the de-rig.

Examples of how this flexible system look like:



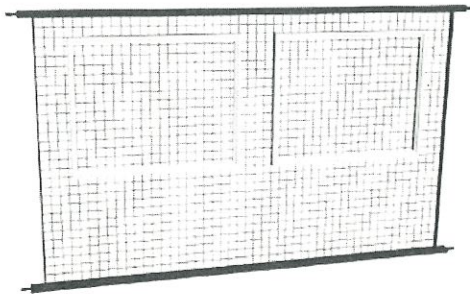
System Components



18 X END PANELS



12 X CENTER LEGS

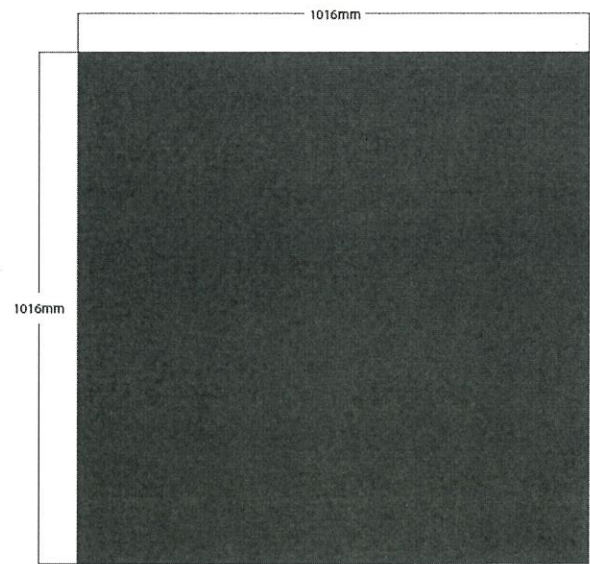


9 X DOUBLE PANELS

Artwork size

(6 units at double width)

(60 units sized as below – Including intros and chapter openers)



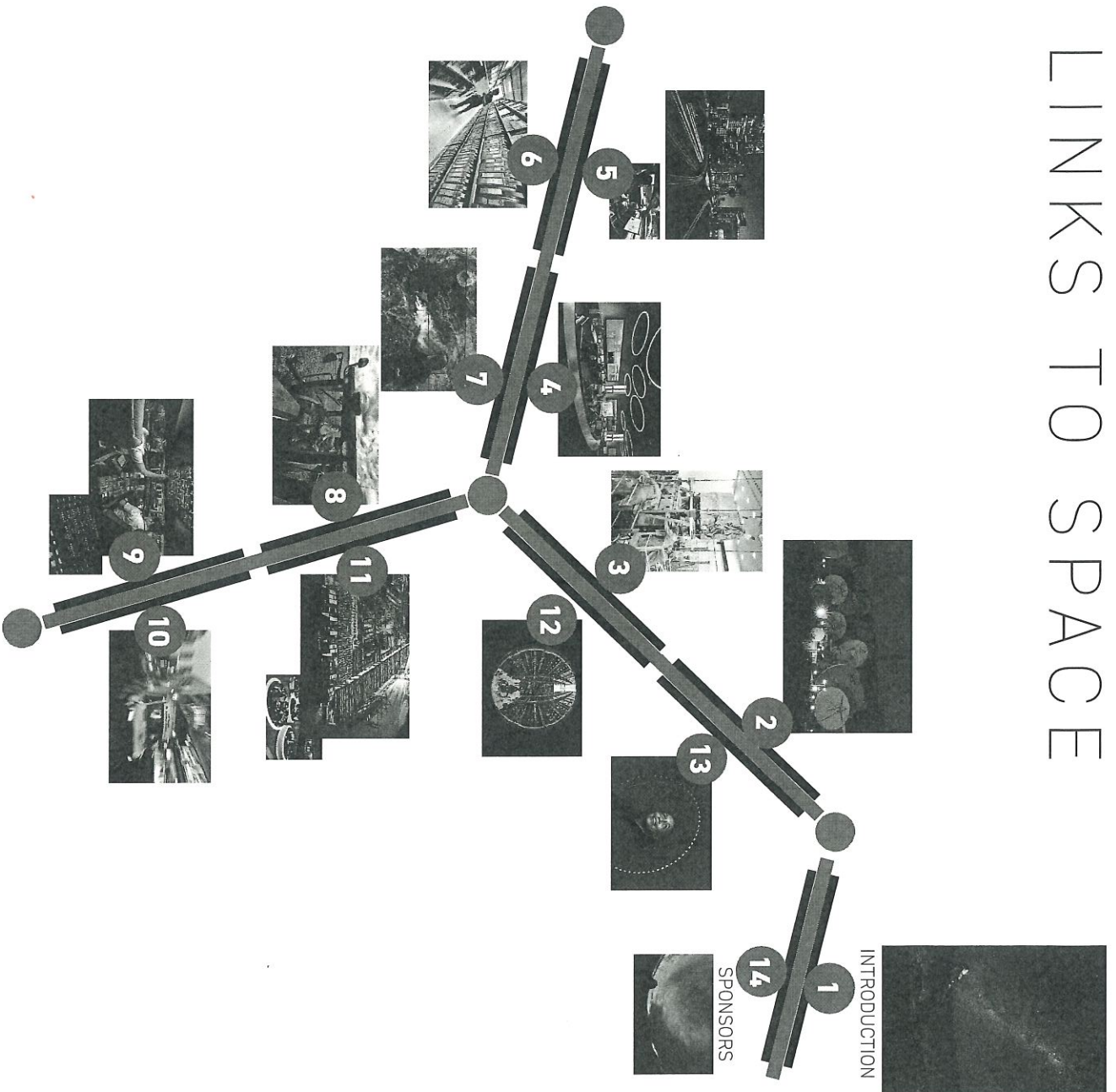


For more info and photographs of previous displays, please visit: www.outdoordisplaysystem.co.uk

UK style RAMS (risk and method statements) documents to be supplied along with public liability insurance certificates.

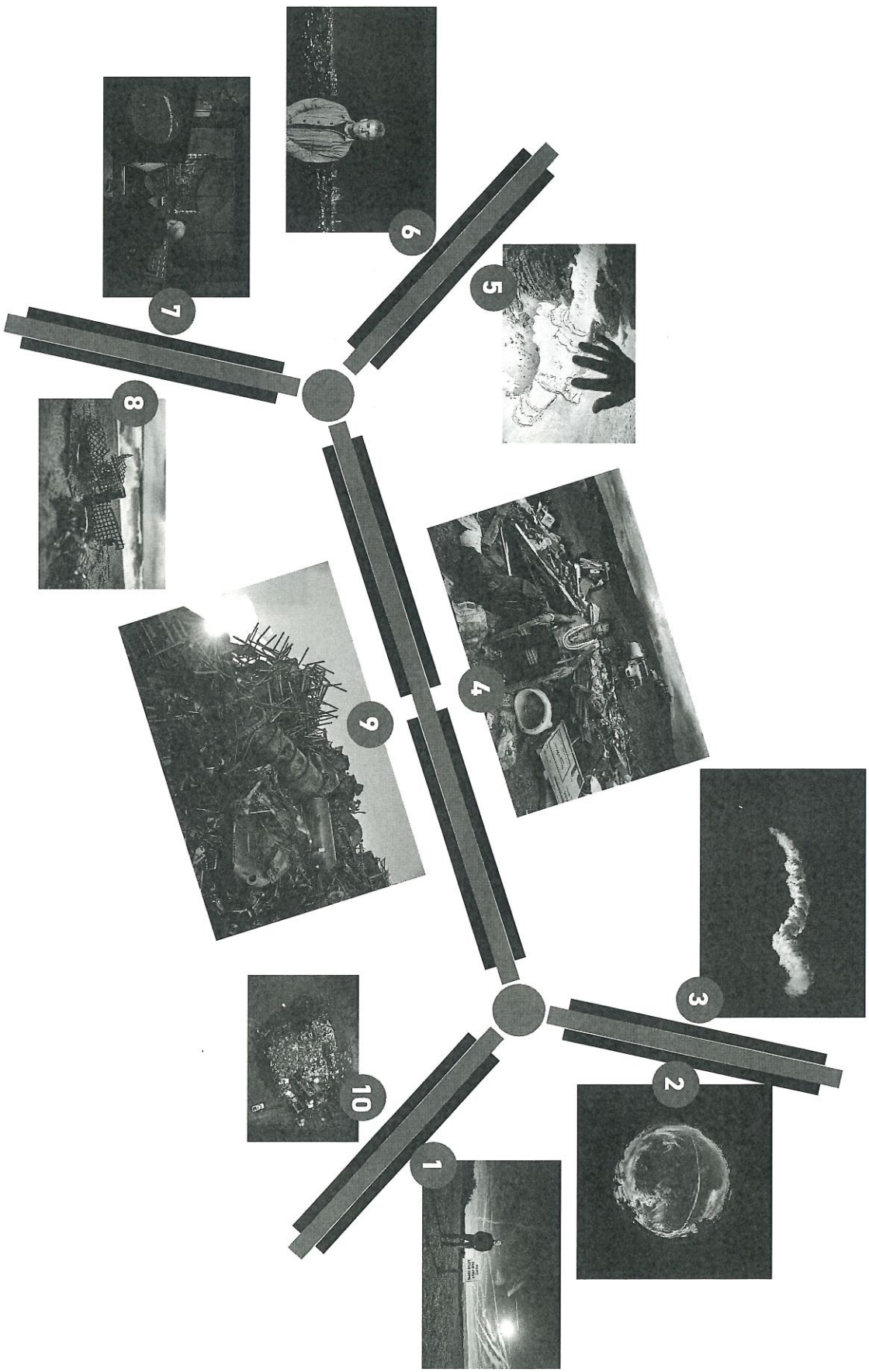
All team members will adhere to the plans and regulations laid out in the risk and method statements (i.e. Hi Vis and workwear to be worn at all times, always working in teams and following the working guidelines of the standard UK safe working practices.

A OUR LINKS TO SPACE

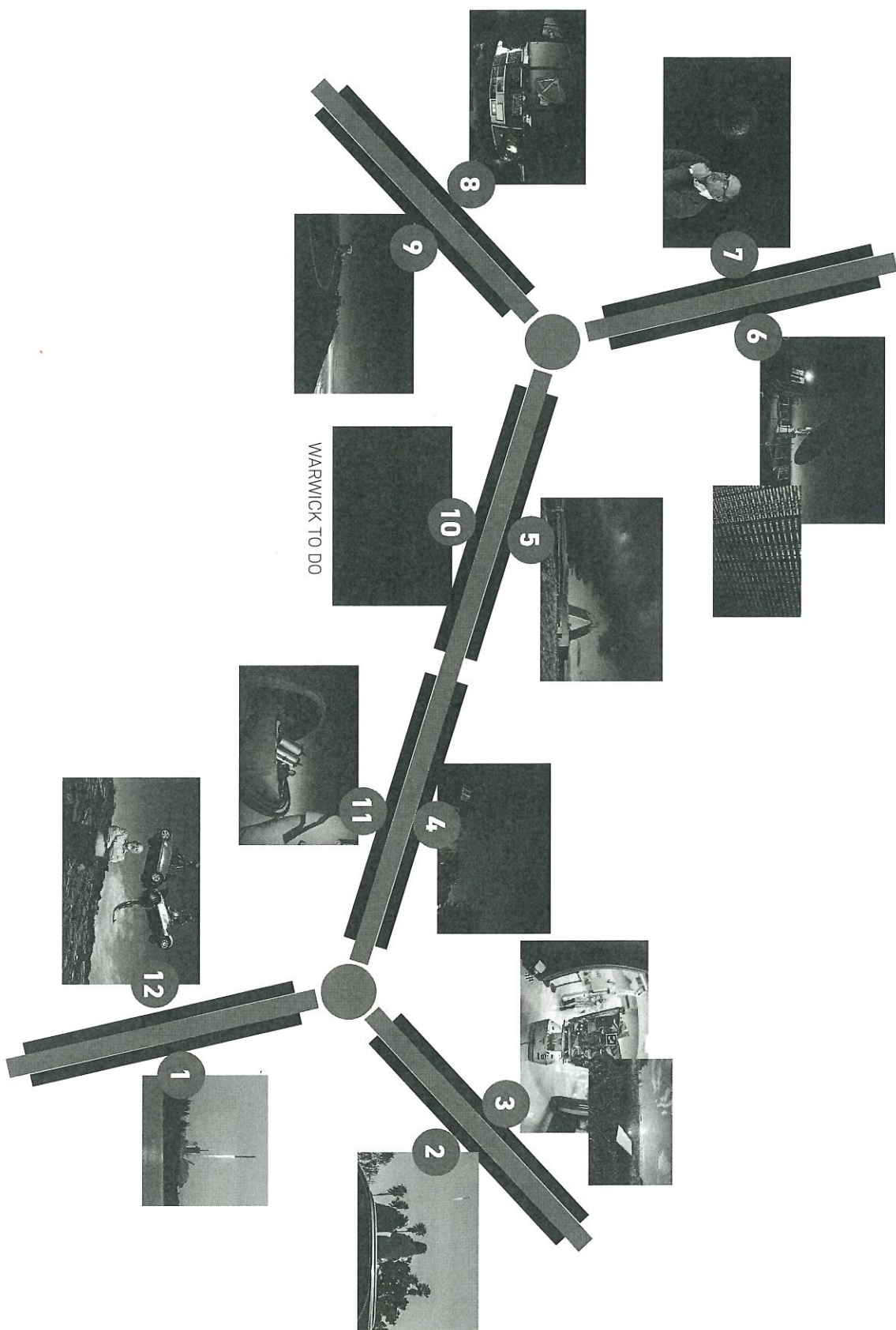


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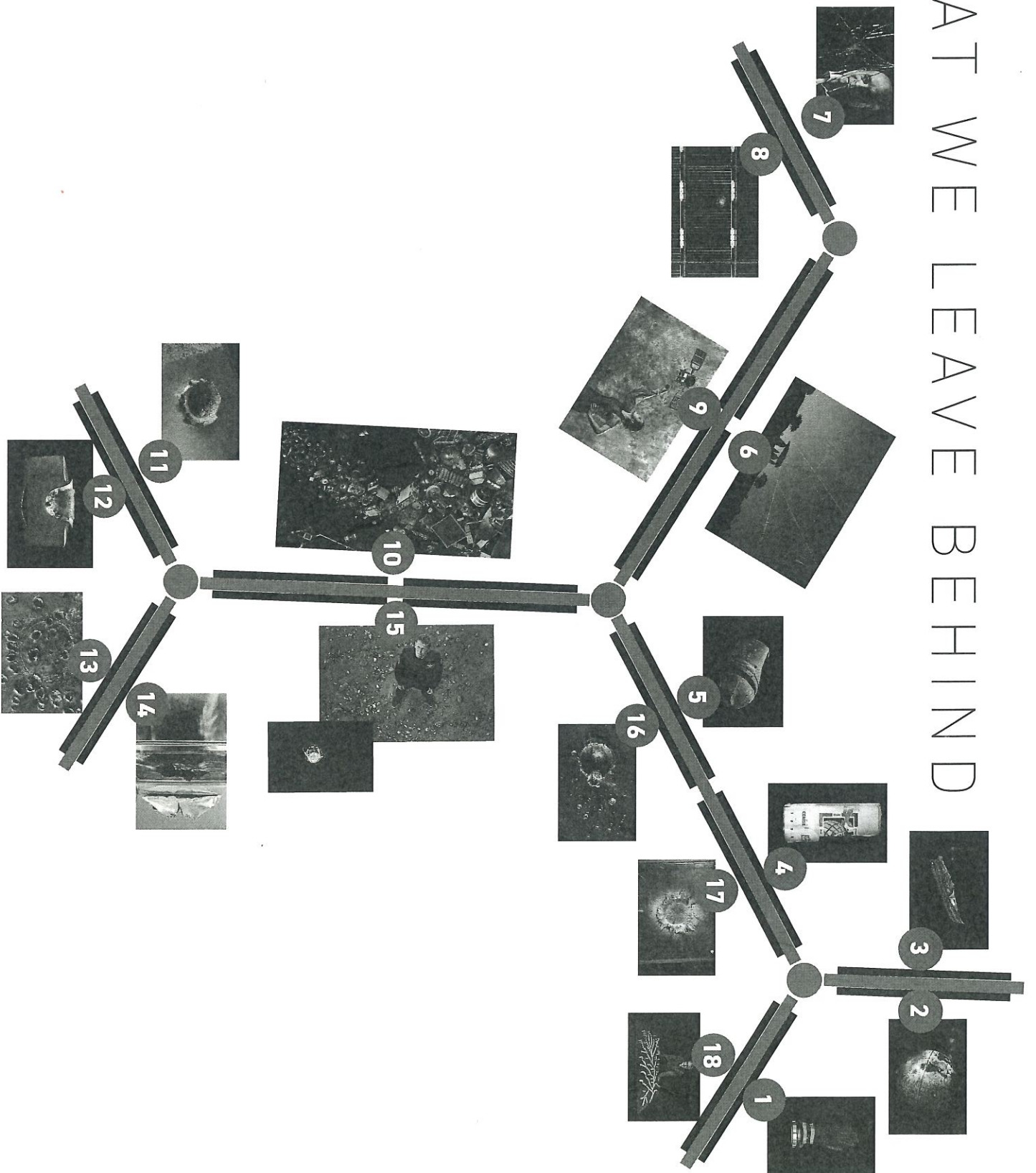
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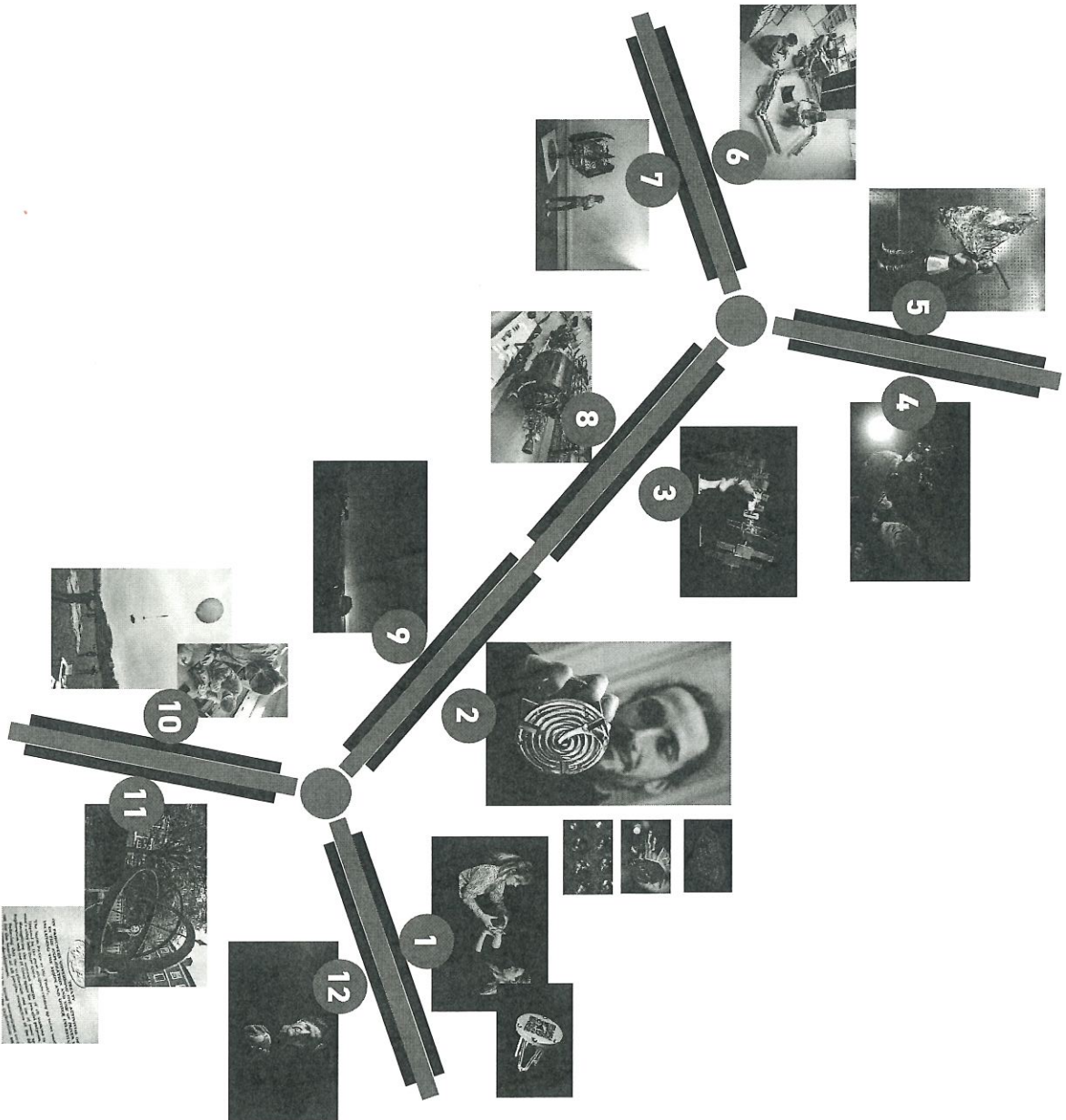
C EYES ON THE SKY



D WHAT WE LEAVE BEHIND



OUR ORBITAL FUTURE



Minutes of the Meeting of the Party Group Leaders' Consultative Forum

Thursday 10th August 2023

Attendance

Members:

Councillor Christina Black (*Chair*)
Councillor Séamas de Faoite
Councillor Michael Long
Councillor Ciaran Beattie
Councillor Brian Smyth
Councillor Sarah Bunting

Apologies: Alderman Sonia Copeland

Officers:

Sharon McNicholl Director of Corporate Services and Deputy Chief Executive
Trevor Wallace, Director of Finance
John Tully, Director of City & Organisational Strategy (for Item 1)
Shauna Murtagh, Physical Programmes Portfolio Manager (for Item 1)
Cathy Reynolds, Director City Regeneration & Development (for Item 3)
John Greer, Director of Economic Development (for Item 4)
Lesley Ann O'Donnell, Senior Manager, Tourism and Culture (for Item 4)
Erika Clark, Programme Manager (for Item 4)
Nora Largey, Interim City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services (for Item 6 & 7)
Christine Sheridan, Director of Human Resources (for Item 7)
Joanne Delaney, Portfolio and Programme Coordinator (secretariat)

1. Peace Plus

The Director of City & Organisational Strategy provided an update on the proposed approach for the development of applications for the PEACEPLUS Programme, specifically for the opening of the calls under Theme 1.1 and Theme 1.4. Members noted the proposed approach as previously agreed by SP&R committee, the challenges around the timeframes involved and the key next steps. There was detailed discussion around the proposed projects presented and it was highlighted by a Member that consideration should be given where possible to potential projects on a city wide basis. In relation to a number of queries raised by Members on specific project proposals the Physical Programmes Portfolio Manager provided clarity. The feedback provided by Members to be further considered and incorporated into the final report presented to August SP&R Committee.

Members also discussed potential requests for support under Theme 1.4 which were noted. The Director advised that discussions remained ongoing with SEUPB in relation to the implications should the Council be requested to act as delivery agent and/or provide letters of support for projects and an update will be included in the report to August SP&R committee.

2. Finance Update

The Director of Finance presented the Quarter 1 financial outturn for 2023/24 and advised a report with the detail discussed will be brought to August SP&R outlining the Quarter 1 financial position for the Council.

The Director also outlined the timeframe for the setting of the district rate for 2024/25 and highlighted the pre existing cost pressures and challenges that will need to be considered as part of the process. Member Workshops in order to begin the process of agreeing priorities will commence in September/October following consideration of the Corporate Planning process for 2024-2028 at August SP&R committee. It was agreed a copy of the information presented in relation to the rate setting process for 2024/25 will be circulated to Party Group Leaders.

In relation to a query raised by a Member in relation to the 2023/24 pay rise clarity was provided by the Director of Human Resources and Members noted the ongoing Trade Union consultation.

3. Strategic Site Assessments Phase 2

The Director City Regeneration and Development provided an update on the work being undertaken as part of Phase 2 of the Strategic Site Assessments (SSA). She advised that an extensive cross public sector mapping exercise had been carried out to identify, map and assess opportunities that may have housing led regeneration potential across publicly owned land. Members were presented with some examples of BCC assets, however the Director stressed that these would require further investigative work in terms of deliverability and planning etc. The composite list of potential sites mapped by partners across the city will be shared with Party Group Leaders once finalised and Members to feedback any initial comments/queries with the Director. The City solicitor stressed to Members the highly confidential nature of the information contained within the composite list and that it is

imperative that none of the information is for onward circulation. This will be included in the correspondence that will accompany the list when circulated. An update will then be brought to committee(s) in the near future as this work progresses.

The Director advised a Strategic Site Assessments Phase 1 report would be presented to September SP&R Committee for Members consideration. This will include an update on the institutional investors/strategic development partners expression of interest process which Party Group Leaders were previously briefed on. The Director offered to provide further Party briefings on request.

4. Belfast 2024 Update

The Director of Economic Development provided a briefing on the Belfast 2024 programme following deferral at June SP&R Committee. The programme manager then provided a detailed presentation including an overview of the engagement with communities that has taken place to date and a summary of the proposed projects being recommended for commission.

5. Memorial Request

Councillor de Faoite outlined a request for consideration to be given to the erection of a memorial in City Hall. Members discussed current memorials and also the recent Day of Reflection and it was agreed that the request come back to Party Group Leaders for further consideration at a future meeting.

6. Planning Update

The City Solicitor advised that the Local Development Plan had now been formally adopted. The Plan Strategy was formally adopted on 2nd May 2023, and the challenge period has now concluded. The City Solicitor also updated the Forum on the live planning applications and informed the Forum of applications that were being presented to the Planning Committee in the coming months.

7. AOB

Chief Officer Recruitment

The Director of Human Resources advised that the timeframe for the recruitment of the posts of Strategic Director of City Operations and the Strategic Director of Place and Economy had previously been approved. A report for the constitution of the selection panels for both will be brought to August SP&R Committee for Members consideration. She also outlined for Members the proposed advertising approach for these posts, the detail of which will be included in the report.

Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor - Political Advisory Group

The Director of Corporate Services and Deputy Chief Executive outlined for Members that as part of the governance structure for the Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor, three elected members from each council are nominated to serve on a political advisory board. Following the local government elections this year nominations are now being sought. A report will be brought to August SP&R committee.

Bonfire Review

Members noted that a Bonfire Review meeting will take place on 5 September 2023 and the meeting request has been circulated. In relation to a query raised by Members the City Solicitor confirmed that any issues Members may have can be raised at the meeting.

All-Party Members' Cost-of-Living Task Group

The Director of Corporate Services and Deputy Chief Executive advised that a request had been issued by Democratic Services seeking nominations for an All Party Members' Cost of Living Task Group. Party Group Leaders agreed to forward nominations in advance of the meeting scheduled for Tuesday 15th August.

Request for use of Woodvale Park

The Director of Corporate Services and Deputy Chief Executive outlined the details of a request received for the use of Woodvale Park. She advised that given the timescales

involved the Director of City Services would approve under delegated authority. Members requested further information and the Director of City Services to follow up.

Organisational Reviews and Change Programme

The City Solicitor provided an update of the status of the organisational reviews which had been ongoing for more than four years previously discussed at June SP&R committee. Members noted the update provided and that the report due to go to August SP&R may now go in September as discussions are still ongoing.

Request for Art Work

Councillor Black outlined a request received for some art work in the City to celebrate Oscar winning an Irish Goodbye. This will be added to the August SP&R agenda as an issue raised by a Member.

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