

Public Document Pack

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

19th September. 2023

MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

As previously notified to you, I enclose a copies of the reports for the following item(s) to be considered at the meeting to be held at 9.30 am on Friday, 22nd September, 2023.

Yours faithfully,

John Walsh

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

7. Finance, Procurement and Performance

- (b) Contracts Update (Pages 1 - 8)
- (e) Henry Jones Playing Fields (Pages 9 - 10)

8. Equality and Good Relations

- (c) Minutes of Shared City Partnership Meeting on 11th September 2023 (Pages 11 - 58)

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Subject:	Contracts Update
Date:	22 September 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 members for tenders and Single Tender Actions (STA) over £30,000 <p>And to ask members to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note contract modifications to contract term and retrospective Single Tender Actions (STAs) Note the award of contracts by Arc 21 on behalf the council
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approve the public advertisement of tenders as per Standing Order 37a detailed in Appendix 1 (Table 1) Approve the award of STAs in line with Standing Order 55 exceptions as detailed in Appendix 1 (Table 2)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve the modification of the contract as per Standing Order 37a detailed in Appendix 1 (Table 3) • Note the award of retrospective STAs in line with Standing Order 55 exceptions as detailed in Appendix 1 (Table 4) • Note the award of contracts by Arc 21 on behalf the council (Table 5)
3.0	Main report
	<u>Competitive Tenders</u>
3.1	Section 2.5 of the Scheme of Delegation states 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"> • Contract for up to £60,000, for up to 3 years, awarded to Signify Commercial Ireland Ltd, supply, for the delivery and commissioning of replacement illuminate lighting fittings and ancillary equipment as part of the PPM Maintenance Programme. The City Hall illuminate system is wholly proprietary to Philips lighting. The system is installed throughout the City Hall utilising a specialist technology, that is a closed protocol, and will only operate with the family of Phillips products. Signify (Phillips) do not supply to clients direct, as they use approved wholesalers. Due to our partnership in the 2013 EU project, we have a wholesale account directly with them. • Contract for up to £45,000, for up to 1 month, awarded to John J Doyle Ltd for replacement of Existing Flue at Tropical Ravine Botanic Gardens.
3.5	<p>The following retrospective STAs were awarded:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contract for up to £65,000, for up to 2 months, awarded to WJM Building Services Ltd, for installation of new ACV and associated works in plant room at Kennedy Way Civic Amenity Site. Failure of the existing boilers. Due to the urgency of the works

	<p>the Councils Mechanical MTC Contractor has been appointed to carry out the works, consequently this STA is retrospective. Using an existing Contractor provides assurance that the works will be fairly priced and carried out to a good standard.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract for up to £38,000, for up to 2 months, awarded to WJM Building Services Ltd, for installation of new ACV and associated works in plant room at North Queen Street Community Centre. Failure of the existing boilers. Due to the urgency of the works the Councils Mechanical MTC Contractor has been appointed to carry out the works, consequently this STA is retrospective. Using an existing Contractor provides assurance that the works will be fairly priced and carried out to a good standard <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 4 months and up to an additional £55,000, for Contract T1872 - provision of animal healthcare services at Belfast Zoo, awarded to Jubilee Veterinary Centre. Additional time is required to finalise the specification and associated tender documents. Work is underway to complete this review during Aug/Sept 23 and to advertise the tender but an additional 4 months is required to ensure continuity of service whilst tender process is completed. Up to an additional 4 months and up to additional £11,000, for Contract Q2102 - provision of a window cleaning service at Council Properties, awarded to Ryak Cleaning and Support Services. Extension to contract period required due to delay with new window cleaning tender process. Contract value to be increased to £41k to cover extension period. New window cleaning contract to cover all BCC sites to be in place by October 2023. Being reported to Committee as quotation as value now exceeds £30k. <p><u>Contracts awarded by Arc 21 on behalf of the Council</u></p>
3.7	<p>Arc 21 are in the process of completing the award of contract for the collection, transportation, sorting and recycling of material from bring sites.</p>
	<p>Financial & Resource Implications</p>
3.8	<p>The financial resources for these contracts are within approved corporate or departmental budgets</p>
	<p>Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment</p>
3.9	<p>None</p>
4.0	<p>Appendices – Documents Attached</p>

Appendix 1

Table 1 - Competitive Tenders

Table 2 - Single Tender Actions

Table 3 - Modification to Contract

Table 4 - Retrospective Single Tender Actions

Table 5 - Contracts awarded by Arc 21 on behalf of the Council

Table 1: Competitive Tenders

Title of Tender	Proposed Contract Duration	Estimated Total Contract Value	SRO/ Delegated Officer	Short description of goods / services
Provision of telecommunications equipment to deliver the 5G Innovation Regions bid on behalf of Belfast City Region	Up to 17 months	Up to £3,800,000	M McCann	A successful bid for the DSIT 5G Innovation Regions funding will provide capital funding for BCC to deliver an economic development programme for SMEs in key industries focused on utilising advanced wireless
Provision of telecommunications services to deliver the 5G Innovation Regions bid on behalf of Belfast City Region	Up to 17 months	Up to £3,800,000	M McCann	A successful bid for the DSIT 5G Innovation Regions funding will provide capital funding for BCC to deliver an economic development programme for SMEs in key industries focused on utilising advanced wireless
Supply and installation of summer plants and containers	Up to 3 years	Up to £240,000	D Sales	The provision of summer plants and containers for Belfast in Bloom initiative
Requirement of an Industrial Technical Expert to support the delivery of the Digital Pillar within the BRCD Programme	Up to 2 years	Up to £60,000	M McCann	BCC does not have in-house resources and expertise to provide the right level of governance and assurances to meet the programme board's expectations or a BRCD Programme Audit
Young tree maintenance, tree planting and minor horticultural works	Up to 5 years	Up to £2,000,000	S Toland	Tender required to support in house operations in delivering grounds maintenance and horticultural work in BCC Parks and Open Spaces.

Table 2: Single Tender Actions

Title	Duration	Total Value	SRO/ Delegated Officer	Description	Supplier
Supply, delivery & commissioning of replacement illuminate lighting fittings & ancillary equipment as part of the PPM maintenance programme	Up to 3 years	Up to £60,000	S Grimes	<p>The City Hall Illuminate system is wholly proprietary to Philips lighting. The system is installed throughout the City Hall utilising a specialist technology, that is a closed protocol, and will only operate with the family of Phillips products.</p> <p>Signify (Phillips) do not supply to clients direct, as they use approved wholesalers. Due to our partnership in the 2013 EU project, we have a wholesale account directly with them.</p>	Signify Commercial Ireland Ltd
Page 6 Replacement of existing flue at Tropical Ravine Botanic Gardens	Up to 1 month	Up to £45,000	S Grimes	<p>In July 2023 the existing boiler house flue fell from its supporting brackets and dropped directly into the tropical ravine building. Specialist contractor John J Doyle have carried out the temporary repairs following the collapse. They have also carried extensive reporting, intrusive surveys, flue tests and flue design calculations.</p>	John J Doyle Ltd

Table 3: Modification to Contract

Title of Contract	Duration	Modification	SRO/ Delegated Officer	Description	Supplier
T1872 - Provision of animal healthcare services at Belfast Zoo	Up to 5 years	Additional 4 months & £55,000	J Greer	Additional time is required to finalise the Specification and associated tender documents. Work is underway to complete this review during Aug 23 and to advertise the tender but an additional 4-months is required to ensure continuity of service whilst tender process is completed	Jubilee Veterinary Centre

Table 4: Retrospective Single Tender Actions

Title of Contract	Duration	Value	SRO/ Delegated Officer	Description	Supplier
Installation of new ACV and associated works in plant room at Kennedy Way Civic Amenity Site	Up to 2 months	Up to £60,000	S Grimes	Failure of the existing boilers. Due to the urgency of the works the Councils Mechanical MTC Contractor has been appointed to carry out the works, consequently this STA is retrospective. Using existing contractor provides assurance that the works will be fairly priced and carried out to a good standard	WJM Building Services Ltd
Installation of new ACV and associated works in plant room at North Queen Street Community Centre	Up to 2 months	Up to £38,000	S Grimes	Failure of the existing boilers. Due to the urgency of the works the Councils Mechanical MTC Contractor has been appointed to carry out the works, consequently this STA is retrospective. Using existing contractor provides assurance that the works will be fairly priced and carried out to a good standard	WJM Building Services Ltd

Table 5: Contracts awarded by Arc 21 on behalf of the Council

Title of Contract	Duration	Value	SRO/ Delegated Officer	Description	Supplier
Bring Site Service Contract- Mixed Glass (Lot 1), Textiles (Lot 2) Mixed Paper (Lot 3) and Mixed Cans (Lot 4)	Up to 8 years	Up to £3,034,294	C Matthews	Contract for the collection, transportation, sorting and recycling of material from bring sites.	Contract managed by Arc 21



Subject:	Henry Jones Playing Fields
Date:	22 nd September 2023
Reporting Officer:	David Sales, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Stephen Leonard, Neighbourhood Services Manager

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To update members on a series of security alerts at Henry Jones Playing Fields and to advise of some potential improvement measures identified through a PSNI Crime Prevention visit.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	That members note the update and provide direction in relation to the measures outlined.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	In March 2023 SP&R committee approved the reconfiguration of the Henry Jones Playing Fields site, to retain one soccer pitch and to convert three other soccer pitches into a full-size GAA pitch for use by the East Belfast GAA club.
3.2	Since May 2023, there have been three security incidents at the site, including two suspect devices and an incident of criminal damage to goalposts and netting. These incidents have impacted all users of the site, including East Belfast GAA, Clarawood FC and dog

<p>3.3</p> <p>3.4</p> <p>3.5</p> <p>3.6</p> <p>3.7</p>	<p>walkers/other leisure users. A nearby Primary School and Nursery have also been impacted.</p> <p>As a result of these incidents, the PSNI's Crime Prevention Team were engaged to assess the site and the current range of preventative and protective measures in place. Accordingly, they have recommended an upgrade to the current CCTV system and also the installation of lighting in the car park. In addition, they have commented on the large number of potential access points along the site perimeter which is currently unfenced.</p> <p>Officers have obtained quotes for the associated works which are as follows:</p> <p>Total cost for CCTV upgrade = £12,000 Total cost for car park lighting = £25,000 Total cost for perimeter fencing = £120,000</p> <p>These costs cannot be met from within normal departmental operating budgets and given that it is capital expenditure, it is suggested that should elected members wish to proceed with some/all of these works, the Director of Finance will review the capital financing budget at the end of Quarter 2 and realign spend in order to provide the necessary finances.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>These costs cannot be met from within normal departmental operating budgets and given that it is capital expenditure, it is suggested that should elected members wish to proceed with some/all of these works, the Director of Finance will review the capital financing budget at the end of Quarter 2 and realign spend in order to provide the necessary finances.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>Henry Jones Playing Fields is used by all members of the community and therefore all would benefit should these measures be approved.</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Appendices - Documents Attached</p>
	<p>None</p>



Subject:	Minutes of Shared City Partnership Meeting on 11 th September 2023
Date:	22 nd September 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 report to committee on the key issues discussed at the Shared City Partnership meeting held on 11 th September 2023.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	That the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee approve the minutes and recommendations from the Shared City Partnership Meeting held on 11 th September 2023 including:
2.2	<p><u>Belfast Stories</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That Members note the contents of this report and agree to extend an invitation to the Belfast Stories team to attend the October meeting of the Partnership.

<p>2.3</p> <p>2.4</p> <p>2.5</p> <p>2.6</p>	<p><u>Shared City Partnership Membership (Verbal Update)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That members note the verbal update provided by the Good Relations Manager detailed in the minutes attached in Appendix 1. <p><u>PEACE IV (Verbal Update)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That members note the verbal update provided by the Good Relations Manager detailed in the minutes attached in Appendix 1. <p><u>TEO Asylum Dispersal Funding Update and Project Request</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members are asked to note the contents of the report and to and agree the approach for reprofiling costs in relation to the Asylum Dispersal Fund and funding available through the Belfast Health Development Unit, to support the commissioning of a drop-in good relations and health and well-being winter programme for asylum seekers. <p><u>Peace Plus Workshop</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That members note the Peace Plus presentation to Shared City Partnership attached in Appendix 2.
<p>3.0</p>	<p>Main Report</p>
<p>3.1</p> <p>3.2</p> <p>3.3</p>	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The Shared City Partnership is a Working Group of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee which consists of Elected members and representatives from various sectors across the city. The minutes from the Partnership are brought before the Committee for approval on a monthly basis.</p> <p>The key issues on the agenda at the 11th September 2023 meeting were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation request from Belfast Stories Unit • Verbal Update on SCP Membership • Verbal PEACE IV Updates • Good Relations – TEO Asylum Dispersal Funding Update and Project Request • Peace Plus Presentation and Workshop <p>More details regarding the above issues and recommendations are included in the minutes of the meeting attached in Appendix 1, and the Peace Plus Presentation is attached in Appendix 2.</p>

3.4	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>All financial implications are covered through existing budgets</p>
3.5	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>The recommendations of the Partnership promote the work of the Council in promoting good relations and will enhance equality and good relations impacts</p>
4.0	<p>Appendices - Documents Attached</p>
	<p>Appendix 1 – Minutes of the Shared City Partnership 11th September 2023.</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Peace Plus Presentation for Shared City Partnership Workshop on 11th September 2023.</p>

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SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP

Monday 11th September, 2023

MEETING OF SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Members present: Councillor Duffy (Chairperson);
Councillors I. McLaughlin and Smyth.

External Members: Ms. B. Arthurs, Community and Voluntary Sector;
Ms. O. Barron, Belfast Trust;
Superintendent Ford, PSNI;
Ms. J. Irwin, Community Relations Council;
P. Mackel, Belfast and District Trade Unions Council; and
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.

Apologies

Apologies were received on behalf of Mr. P. Anderson, Mr. J. Donnelly, Ms. A. Roberts and Mr. G. Walker.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 7th August 2023 were taken as read and signed as correct.

Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were received.

Belfast Stories Presentation Request

The Members were reminded that Belfast Stories would be a transformative new experience in the city centre, sharing the stories of the people and the place (past, present and future), told through exhibitions, screen and social spaces.

It was due to open in 2028/29 and would transform the current vacant site at the corner of Royal Avenue and North Street including the restoration of one of Belfast's most beloved heritage buildings, the art deco former Bank of Ireland.

Sharing people's stories would be foundational to the city of Belfast's transformative journey towards new perspectives and connections as individuals and communities.

The Members were advised that, since Belfast Stories last presentation in September 2022 to the Shared City Partnership, the consultation report had now been completed and presented to City Growth and Regeneration Committee in June 2023 and officers would be keen to update the Members of the Shared City Partnership on its progress.

A Member raised a number of queries, and he was advised that these could be further discussed with the representatives immediately following the proposed presentation.

The Partnership agreed to extend an invitation to the Belfast Stories team to attend the October meeting of the Partnership.

SCP Membership (Verbal Update)

The Partnership was advised that the recruitment exercise for the North Belfast Community Representative had been completed. Five applications had been received and following a shortlisting process all had proceeded to interview.

The Good Relations Manager advised that Mr. G. Walker had been appointed as the North Belfast Community Representative, unfortunately, he was unable to attend today's meeting as he was on holiday. The Panel also agreed that Mr. M. Lavery be placed on a reserve list for 12 months, to be offered the role in the event that Mr. Walker was no longer able to fulfill the role.

The Partnership also noted that there were currently vacant positions from the Faith Sector and Business Representative roles. Significant efforts has been made via post, email, and telephone, however, officers had been unable to establish a representative from the Church of Ireland. The Good Relations Manager advised that Officers would continue to try and progress this appointment before the October Meeting.

In regard to the vacant Business Representative roles, correspondence had been forwarded to the Belfast City Chamber of Commerce, however, officers had again received no response. Contact had been made via telephone and hopefully the matter was being actioned and representatives would be appointed for the October meeting.

The Partnership asked the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee to note the update in regard to Membership of the Shared City Partnership.

Peace IV Update (Verbal)

The Good Relations Manager provided the Members with a verbal update regarding the Peace IV Programme.

He reported that the PPEs for both the CYP and BPR Programmes had been compiled and submitted to the SEUPB for comment. The final PPEs would be presented to the Partnership in October 2023.

In terms of the SSS Theme, he reported that the final snagging of works at Section 2 had been completed, for example, the additional fencing to separate the Department for Communities and Belfast City Council lands as well as outstanding health and safety issues around the water/ravine area.

He highlighted that a low key opening of Section 2 to the public was scheduled for week commencing 11th September, with a community celebration event taking place on Saturday, 16th September from 12.00 noon - 4.00 p.m. A number of events had been raised to encourage people to move between both sites and the Members were encouraged to attend to show their support.

The final SSS theme claim, which was significant, was being progressed and was due to be completed to the SEUPB by the end of September. Verification of claims by the SEUPB continued to progress, with £65K of NIHE P32/33 claims having been completed during August. The value of outstanding claims remained at £3.6m, as claims continued to be submitted.

The Members were advised that an event to celebrate the achievement, impacts and closure of PEACE IV was taking place at the City Hall on Thursday, 21st September, at 10.30 a.m. Once again, the Partnership Members were encouraged to attend.

The Partnership recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it note the update.

TEO Asylum Dispersal Funding Update and Project Request

The Partnership considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of Issues

- 11 To provide members with an update on the projects funded through the Home Office Dispersal Funding and to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources committee to use reprofiled dispersal money and Belfast Health and Development Unit funding, to support a drop-in good relations and health and well-being winter inclusion programme for asylum seekers.**

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to note the contents of the report and to:**

Agree the approach for reprofiling costs in relation to the Asylum Dispersal Fund and funding available through the Belfast Health Development Unit, to support the commissioning of a drop-in good relations and health and well-being winter programme for asylum seekers.

3.0 Main report

Background

- 3.1 Members are reminded that in December 2022 the Executive Office (TEO) had requested Councils, at short notice, to submit urgent proposals for projects to enhance and/or develop support and services for asylum seekers, which could be funded by TEO through Home Office Dispersal Funding.
- 3.2 In response Council submitted proposals in December 2023, which were considered and approved as eligible for funding by the Executive Office.
- 3.3 In March 2023, TEO awarded Council £406,228 to support the proposals submitted.
- 3.4 The following projects and support costs have been agreed by Council and TEO, with most projects now mobilised.

Table 1.

Delivery Partner	Summary of project	Costs
Proposal 1: Red Cross Mobilised and delivering	Asylum Support & Triage Project, providing bilingual helpline and casework support	£152,643
Proposal 2: Barnardos Mobilised and delivering	Family Help Project – Supporting parents and children coping with displacement through conflict, with a focus on school readiness, child development and parenting.	£85,000
Proposal 3: Conway Education Centre Mobilised and delivering	Language, mentoring, training befriending and integration programme	£41,125
Proposal 4: Lower Ormeau Residents Group Completed	Community Integration Programme and trauma therapy intervention	£14,728
Proposal 5: Belfast City Council Committed	Cultural Competence Programme	£20,000

Proposal 6: Belfast City Council Reprofile requested	Project Management & Coordination Costs	£20,000 Request to reprofile £12,000
Proposal 7: Immigration and Legal Advice Project Tender not awarded	Discussions with TEO in relation to a joint proposal	£72, 732

3.5 Some of the planned costs in relation to the project management and co-ordination have not been used. It is proposed to allocate £12,000 of these costs towards commissioning a good relations and health and well being drop-in service, operating in Council community centres, for asylum seekers. This would also be supported by £8,000 of BHDU funds.

3.6 It has been documented that the impact of prolonged hotel stay has been damaging to the health and wellbeing of asylum seekers. Men, women and children have been spending increased periods of time in hotel accommodation, designed to be temporary, cut off from communities and wider support networks.

3.7 Partner organisations and support services have highlighted the impact of this on people who have already endured trauma and the damaging impact on their mental health, robbing children of their childhood and leaving people unable to progress with their lives in any meaningful way, or participate in community life.

3.8 This proposal is to commission a drop-in support service to run during the Winter months to provide social, health and well being initiatives to help alleviate the pressures on people confined to hotels, with the aim of also linking asylum seekers to wider council and community support networks as well as volunteering opportunities.

4.0 Financial & Resource Implications

4.1 The proposals in this report are funded through Home Office Dispersal Funding, via the Executive Office as well as through the Belfast Health and Development Unit.

5.0 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Implications

5.1 These proposals have strong good relations outcomes and complement the work being delivered through the Council’s Good Relations Action Plan and the Belfast Agenda, as well as delivering on the recommendations arising from the research Council commissioned to examine the Inequalities experienced by Black, Asian, minority ethnic and Traveller communities in Belfast.”

Discission ensued as to whether the Council’s community centres were best placed for the delivery of the health and wellbeing service. Whilst the Members noted that it could be difficult for people to travel across the city, it was felt that community centres were central to welcoming people into different areas of the city. It also was noted that the proposed delivery model would be an excellent learning exercise for the Council in terms of how asylum seekers accessed the services offered.

The Good Relation Manager highlighted that the delivery of these services was budget dependent, currently up to March 2024

A Member also highlighted that, whilst it was good news that health and wellbeing services were being offered, it was essential that there was an exit strategy for when the funding ended to ensure that the support services did not abruptly end and that ongoing support for the asylum seekers in some form was still available.

The Committee recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it note the report and agree the approach for reprofiling costs in relation to the Asylum Dispersal Fund and funding available through the Belfast Health Development Unit, to support the commissioning of a drop-in good relations and health and well-being winter programme for asylum seekers.

PeacePlus Workshop

The Members were advised that a Workshop to consider the PeacePlus Programme would now take place and the formal meeting ended.

Chairperson

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

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