

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



**Belfast
City Council**

HYBRID MEETING OF THE CITY GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet both online and in-person, in the Lavery Room - City Hall on Wednesday, 11th October, 2023 at 5.15 pm, for the transaction of the business noted below.

You are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully,

John Walsh

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

1. **Routine Matters**
 - (a) Apologies
 - (b) Minutes
 - (c) Declarations of Interest
2. **Matters Referred Back from Council/ Motions**
 - (a) Street Art Walls (Pages 1 - 4)
3. **Restricted Items**
 - (a) Major Events Update (Pages 5 - 10)
 - (b) Embracing the Belfast Waterfront - Belfast Waterfront Framework (Pages 11 - 36)

4. **Regenerating Places & Improving Infrastructure**

- (a) Eastern Transport Plan Consultation Response (Pages 37 - 52)
- (b) Correspondence from the Department for Infrastructure (Pages 53 - 66)
- (c) Correspondence received from the Department for Communities (Pages 67 - 72)

5. **Growing Business & the Economy**

- (a) Employability and Skills Workplan - mid-year update (Pages 73 - 82)
- (b) Social Enterprise Call for Evidence - draft Belfast City Council response (Pages 83 - 96)

6. **Strategic & Operational Issues**

- (a) Proposed Committee Workshops (Pages 97 - 100)
- (b) Notice of Motion Quarterly Update (Pages 101 - 108)

7. **Issues Raised in Advance by Members**

- (a) Late Night Public Transport (Cllr Murray to raise)



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| Subject: | Notice of Motion – Street Art Walls |
| Date: | 10th October, 2023 |
| Reporting Officer: | Eilish McGoldrick, Democratic Services Officer |
| Contact Officer: | Eilish McGoldrick, Democratic Services Officer |

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted? Yes No

Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.

Insert number

1. Information relating to any individual
2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)
4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter
5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained
6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction
7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

- After Committee Decision
- After Council Decision
- Sometime in the future
- Never

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| <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> |

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in? Yes No

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| 1.0 | Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues |
| 1.1 | To consider a motion in relation to Street Art Walls, which was referred to the Committee by the Standards and Business Committee at its meeting on 29th August. |
| 2.0 | Recommendation |
| 2.1 | The Members of the Committee are asked to consider the motion and, if the proposal is agreed, to agree that a report on how this would be facilitated, resourced and managed will be brought back. |
| 3.0 | Main Report |
| 3.1 3.2 3.3 3.4 | <p data-bbox="272 745 421 779"><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p data-bbox="272 797 1489 927">At the meeting of the Standards and Business Committee held on 29th August, the following motion, which was proposed by Councillor McKeown and seconded by Councillor Doherty, was referred to the Committee for consideration:</p> <p data-bbox="272 999 496 1032"><u>Street Art Walls</u></p> <p data-bbox="272 1099 1489 1435"><i>“The Council recognises the transformative benefits that street art can have on communities and welcomes the enhancement of spaces across the city through the creation of public artwork, such as in entries in Belfast City Centre, across the Holylands, and on utility boxes through the Belfast Canvas project. In many places, works have become tourist attractions and are creating a real sense of civic pride. However, the Council also acknowledges the concern and frustration that particular types of graffiti such as tagging can cause to communities, and the cost of its removal.</i></p> <p data-bbox="272 1503 1489 1688"><i>To encourage a vibrant street art culture in this city and help people to develop the skills required to realise this, the Council believes that it is important to facilitate the creation of such art in a safe, legal and positive way, enabling creative expression through this medium and reducing the proliferation of antisocial graffiti.</i></p> <p data-bbox="272 1756 1489 2040"><i>This Council will therefore work with the street art community to support the continuing development of a positive street art culture in this city and, in particular, will provide ‘street art walls’ which will allow people to create artwork legally. In addition to identifying Belfast City Council property to facilitate this, the Council will also work with public, private and third sector partners to identify locations across the city which can be used freely by people for ad hoc street art and collaborative projects.</i></p> |

The Council will also work with street artists and groups, youth providers and other partners to engage with people who could benefit from getting involved in street art and support mentoring and skills development to empower them to express themselves through this route. It will also consult and work with artists and groups to develop a better and evolving understanding of how it can support street art.

Taking this approach, the Council aims to support the vibrant street art scene in Belfast and help develop the next generation of street artists to enable it to continue to flourish, while reducing the impact and cost of negative graffiti by encouraging a positive alternative.”

Members are reminded that in accordance with Standing Order 13(l) where the notice of motion seeks to commit the Council to expenditure not previously agreed through the Committee process, the notice of motion has been referred to this Committee for consideration. This will usually require a further report from officers outlining the financial and other implications should the notice of motion be adopted.

Financial and Resource Implications

None.

Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

This Notice of Motion, if agreed, may have potential equality, good relations and rural needs implications and should be subject to our normal screening process as appropriate.

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| 4.0 | Appendices - Documents Attached |
| | None |

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

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| Subject: | Update on the Eastern Transport Plan 2035 |
| Date: | 11 th October 2023 |
| Reporting Officer: | Kate Bentley, Director of Planning and Building Control |
| Contact Officer: | Sean Dolan, Senior Development Manager, City Regeneration & Development; Keith Sutherland, Planning Manager (Plans & Policy), P&BC |

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| Restricted Reports | | | | | |
| Is this report restricted? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | | | |
| Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted. | | | | | |
| Insert number <input style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> | | | | | |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Information relating to any individual 2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual 3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information) 4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter 5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained 6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction 7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime | | | | | |
| If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted? | | | | | |
| <p>After Committee Decision</p> <p>After Council Decision</p> <p>Sometime in the future</p> <p>Never</p> | <table border="1" style="margin: auto; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="width: 30px; height: 20px;"></td></tr> </table> | | | | |
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| Call-in | |
| Is the decision eligible for Call-in? | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |

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| 1.0 | Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues |
| 1.1 | The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with an update on the Eastern Transport Plan (ETP) 2035 and to agree a draft Council response to the current public engagement exercise that commenced with the launch of the Plan on 4 th September 2023. |
| 2.0 | Recommendation |
| 2.1 | The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the update on the ETP 2035; and • Agree the proposed Council response to the initial public engagement exercise that is currently underway. |
| 3.0 | Main Report |
| 3.1 | As members will be aware the Department for Infrastructure (Dfi) is developing the Eastern Transport Plan 2035 (previously known as the Belfast Metropolitan Transport Plan (BMTP) for the city and four of the surrounding local authorities with the consultants Atkins assisting in the detailed work on what will be the statutory Transport Plan for the city. |
| | Plan renaming |
| 3.2 | Following consideration of stakeholder feedback and acknowledgement that the new Transport Plan will cover a greater geographical area than that of the previous 2004 version, the Dfi Permanent Secretary took the decision to change the name of the Plan from the BMTP to the Eastern Transport Plan (ETP) 2035. The Council is disappointed that it was not consulted on this change nor was the Project Board on which the Council is represented. The Department is hoping that this renaming will result in increased levels of community engagement across the Plan Area. |
| 3.3 | The Committee received a presentation on the ETP from Mr A. Rafferty (Dfi) and Mr D. Murray (Atkins) on 28th June 2023 which set out the background to the Plan; an overview of the approach; delivery timescales and phasing; and details of the draft Vision, Objectives and General Principles. Mr Rafferty agreed to receive further technical questions from the Committee to which Dfi would provide a response. A letter was sent to Mr Rafferty from Democratic Services on 21st September 2023 which set out the queries raised at the Committee together with other technical questions concerning the relationship between the ETP and the Belfast Local Development Plan (see Appendix 1). |
| | ETP launch and public engagement exercise |
| 3.4 | On 4th September 2023 the Department publicly announced its intention to prepare the ETP, a “ <i>new transport plan that will set the framework for making transport policy and investment decisions up until 2035</i> ” and “ <i>aims to ensure that the transport network meets the needs of</i> |

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| 3.5 | <p><i>the people and businesses living, working and visiting the ETP area, both now and into the future</i>". An 8-week public engagement exercise commenced with this announcement and seeks views of individuals and organisations on the draft Vision and Objectives for the Plan. This initial consultation exercise closes on 30th October 2023.</p> <p>At this early stage of the Plan's development the Department is seeking to ascertain people's views on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The problems we need to solve (Challenges); • The end goal we want to achieve (Our Vision); and • How we will get there (Our Objectives and Guiding Principles) <p>An online Engagement Survey has been published by the Department and is primarily targeted at individuals although organisations are able to participate. The questions are typically generic and high-level reflecting the aspirational elements of the Plan and as such, understandably, there is a lack of operational detail on specific policies, proposals and initiatives that will be brought forward as the Plan develops. The survey questions are included at Appendix 2 for information. There will be further opportunities for the Council and the public to provide formal responses to these issues as the preparation of the ETP progresses e.g. at the Draft Plan stage.</p> <p>Council response</p> |
| 3.6 | <p>Internal consultation on the engagement survey has been undertaken with a range of sections and services within the Council – Climate, Economic Development, City Regeneration & Development, Neighbourhood Services and Estates. There is broad support for the approach taken and direction of travel the Department is proposing however it has been reiterated that there will need to be more detailed consideration of the specific policies, proposals and initiatives that emerge as the Plan develops and in particular how these might impact upon schemes currently in development.</p> |
| 3.7 | <p>Council support for the ETP will in part be influenced by the Department's response to the queries raised in the letter of 21st September 2023 (Appendix 1). Given that the engagement survey is primarily targeted at individuals it is suggested that rather than completing the survey the Council submits a written response outlining any issues arising from this initial consultation and the approach proposed (see Appendix 3).</p> |
| 3.8 | Financial and Resource Implications |
| | None associated with this report. |

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| 3.9 | Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment |
| | None associated with this report. |
| 4.0 | Appendices - Documents Attached |
| | <p>Appendix 1 – CG&R Cttee follow up issues and technical queries</p> <p>Appendix 2 – ETP survey questions</p> <p>Appendix 3 – BCC response to ETP launch and public engagement exercise</p> |

Legal and Civic Services Department

Democratic Services Section



Your reference

Being dealt with by Ms Eilish McGoldrick

Our reference EMcGCGR280623

Email democraticservices@belfastcity.gov.uk

Date 21st September, 2023

Mr. A. Rafferty
DfI Project Manager ETP 2035
Department for Infrastructure
Clarence Court
10-18 Adelaide Street
BELFAST, BT2 8GB

Via email: anthony.rafferty@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Dear Mr. Rafferty,

City Growth & Regeneration Committee Presentation – BMTP Follow up issues and Technical queries

I would like to thank the Department for its presentation to the City Growth & Regeneration Committee on Wednesday 28th June 2023 and would take this opportunity to set out the queries raised at the Committee that the DfI would respond to, along with the more technical questions mentioned in relation to the BMTP and the proposed Belfast Local Development Plan (LDP). The agreement to respond to these additional queries is welcomed and the Committee recognises that Plans generally evolve over long time periods and note that the DfI have stated that the BMTP work is important to LDP progression. With the Plan Strategy adoption, the Council is now at a critical stage in developing the scope and content for the Local Policies Plan (LPP).

The queries and issues arising from the Committee discussion were as follows:

- Clarification of the relationship between the BMTP and the Belfast Cycle Network 2021 (BCN) / Delivery Plan 2022-31 and why there may be scenarios where the Cycle Network could be displaced and how the priorities would be balanced?
- Wider engagement opportunities including the provision of a presentation to the West Belfast Partnership Board?
- Detail of the funding commitments (percentage spend and actual amounts) committed to the BCN 2021/Delivery Plan and what could be the outcomes in terms of the clear quick, short terms 'wins'?

- How will the BMTP address implementation and inconsistencies such as the approach to some pedestrianisation e.g. Hill Street is intended to be pedestrianised yet still heavily used by taxis and other vehicles.
- How will the Department engage with the Committee on any draft City Centre proposal in advance of the plan being brought forward by the “end of the year”?

The more technical questions that members have in respect of the relationship between the different plans relate to the concept of what ‘support’ actually means regarding the emerging BMTP and LDP. These queries whilst more specific and technical in nature relate to issues being faced across the city and the agreement that these matters could be addressed in written response from the DfI is useful.

These more technical queries are obviously closely related to our Local Development Plan and have been discussed at a different committee meeting in relation to the Plan Strategy development and specific proposals. The issues and more specific technical queries are in relation to the following:

- the presentation on the BMTP was high level around the objectives and consultation but can DfI confirm that it can deliver the support for the LDP to meet the revised draft for the LPP Timetable (appended)?
- timescales are becoming more critical following the Plan Strategy adoption, are there specific elements that DfI are progressing for formal inclusion within our Local Policies Plan (LPP)?
- DfI as statutory transport authority has confirmed it is responsible for progressing specific transport initiatives that can have land use implications, but the Council will need confidence that the details of these can be provided in time and to a standard that will support formal inclusion within the LPP. These include:
 - review of parking standards and approach both for applications in different types of areas (arterial routes, city centre, residential areas etc) and for different uses (current standards date from 2005). This should also include reserved parking standards for those with disabilities;
 - review of the areas of parking restraint and basis for retention or modification (city centre core, fringe etc) for inclusion within the LPP;
 - confirmation of the approach to road protection lines and strategic proposals such as the York Street Interchange;
 - potential for resident parking schemes with areas of focus to be identified or included – the approach, implications for policy and specific areas for consideration;
 - car parking strategy inclusion within the BMTP process – previous commitment from Minister for a “Joint Approach” with councils;
 - capacity to effectively support for the assessment of zonings and allocations within the LPP; and
 - how will the BMTP take account of such plans or existing proposals such as the Queens Island Transport Plan to ensure they support both BMTP delivery and positively respond to developments or opportunities in the adjoining areas.

I note from correspondence received since the presentation that the Permanent Secretary has taken the decision to change the name of the BMTP to the Eastern Transport Plan (ETP) 2035. Whilst you have indicated that this followed stakeholder feedback and acknowledges the much wider geographical area it is difficult to see how this will contribute to any increase the level of community engagement as the focus appears to be more strategic or generic and loses the clear link to the city and surrounding area.

As outlined at the beginning of my letter, the presentation from the Department was welcomed and well-received, I look forward to future engagement as your proposals continue to develop. I thank you in anticipation for your response to the queries I have set out above and should you wish to discuss this matter and clarification further, please do not hesitate to contact Kate Bentley (bentleyk@belfastcity.gov.uk) as our officer representative on the Project Board for the Transport Plan.

Yours sincerely



Eilish McGoldrick
Democratic Services Officer

Belfast City Council, Legal and Civic Services Department
City Hall, Belfast BT1 5GS
Tel: 028 9032 0202 Textphone: 028 9027 0405
Dx No.: 383 NR Belfast

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Appendix 2 - ETP Survey Questionnaire

4 September and 30 October 2023

1. To what extent do you agree that the travel choices made by individuals in the ETP area can contribute to achieving the draft target identified by DAERA?

(Required) Strongly agree Agree Neither agree nor disagree Disagree Strongly disagree

2. To what extent do you agree that, in conjunction with improving sustainable modes, reducing reliance on private cars is necessary to reduce the carbon emissions from transport?

(Required) Strongly agree Agree Neither agree nor disagree Disagree Strongly disagree

3. To what extent do you agree that any major new transport infrastructure must be designed and constructed such that it improves air quality and the natural and built environmental?

(Required) Strongly agree Agree Neither agree nor disagree Disagree Strongly disagree

4. To what extent do you agree that ensuring the transport network operates in a sustainable and efficient manner influences the economic performance of the region?

(Required) Strongly agree Agree Neither agree nor disagree Disagree Strongly disagree

5. To what extent do you agree that land use planning (e.g. building of new homes and employment infrastructure) needs to be linked with the provision of suitable sustainable transport options?

(Required) Strongly agree Agree Neither agree nor disagree Disagree Strongly disagree

6. To what extent do you agree that access to opportunities (e.g. jobs, services, social activities) should be possible by convenient, safe and affordable public transport (bus and rail services)?

(Required) Strongly agree Agree Neither agree nor disagree Disagree Strongly disagree

7. To what extent do you agree that access to opportunities (e.g. jobs, services, social activities) should be possible by convenient, safe and affordable active travel (walking, wheeling and cycling options)?

(Required) Strongly agree Agree Neither agree nor disagree Disagree Strongly disagree

8. Do you have any further comments on the wider societal challenges that have informed the development of ETP 2035 so far

Further comments on the overarching challenges that have informed the development of the ETP so far.

There is a limit of 250 characters

9. To what extent do you agree or disagree that the key transport challenges identified for consideration during ETP 2035 development apply in your local area?

| (Required) | Strongly agree | Agree | Neither agree nor disagree | Disagree | Strongly disagree |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Some areas have a lack of safe footpaths or cycle paths. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Some areas are less well connected by active travel (walking, wheeling and cycling) routes than others. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Bus journeys can be unreliable, slow or delayed. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Inconsistent provision of public transport can make it | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

| (Required) | Strongly agree | Agree | Neither agree nor disagree | Disagree | Strongly disagree |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| difficult to get around without a car. | | | | | |
| Rural areas in particular are very difficult to access without using a car. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Provision of parking needs to be better managed to limit car use while maintaining accessibility. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| Some roads can't cope with the level of car traffic, particularly in the mornings. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

10. Are there any further transport challenges that are not covered by the list above that you think should be considered during ETP 2035 development?

Further comments

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There is a limit of 250 characters

11. To what extent do you agree that the vision statement reflects how you would like to see the Transport Plan evolve and be delivered?

(Required) Strongly agree Agree Neither agree nor disagree Disagree
 Strongly disagree

12. To what extent do you agree with objective 1?

(Required) Strongly agree Agree Neither agree nor disagree Disagree
 Strongly disagree

13. To what extent do you agree with objective 2?

(Required) Strongly agree Agree Neither agree nor disagree Disagree
 Strongly disagree

14. To what extent do you agree with objective 3?

(Required) Strongly agree Agree Neither agree nor disagree Disagree
 Strongly disagree

15. To what extent do you agree with proposed objective 4?

(Required) Strongly agree Agree Neither agree nor disagree Disagree
 Strongly disagree

16. To what extent do you agree with objective 5?

(Required) Strongly agree Agree Neither agree nor disagree Disagree
 Strongly disagree

17. To what extent do you agree with objective 6?

(Required) Strongly agree Agree Neither agree nor disagree Disagree
 Strongly disagree

18. To what extent do you agree with objective 7?

(Required) Strongly agree Agree Neither agree nor disagree Disagree
 Strongly disagree

19. Do you have any other suggestions or comments relating to the objectives or guiding principles?

Further comments on objectives or guiding principles



There is a limit of 250 characters

20. Which of the following would encourage you to walk, wheel or cycle for short trips more often? (Please tick all that apply).

- New or improved footways and crossings connecting to local amenities or other transport services New or improved traffic-free cycle paths connecting to local amenities or other transport services Secure, well located cycle parking
- Access to shared electric or manual bikes A reduction in car parking availability at your destination Increased cost of car parking at your destination
- None of the above / nothing Other
- Other (Please specify)

21. Which of the following would encourage you to use public transport for more of your regular trips? (Please tick all that apply).

- More direct services Quicker journey times Reduced cost of services
- More frequent services Improved shelters / stations Increased provision of Park & Ride facilities A reduction in car parking availability at your destination
- Increased cost of car parking at your destination Increased cost of driving
- None of the above / nothing Other
- Other (Please specify)

22. Are you responding on behalf of an organisation or as an individual?

(Required) Organisation Individual

24. Please tick the statement that best represents how you would like to travel to work in the future.

- Not applicable (I don't work) No travel (I work mostly from home)
- Walking (or wheeling) Cycling Public Transport - Bus Public Transport - Train Car (or van/taxi) – petrol or diesel Car (or van/taxi) – electric/hybrid
- Electric Other (inc Motorbikes/electric scooters)

25. Please tick the statement that best represents how you would like to travel to school/place of study in the future. This includes how you would like to take your children to school.

- Not applicable (I / my children don't attend school or place of study etc)
- Walking (or wheeling) Cycling Public Transport - Bus Public Transport - Train Car (or van/taxi) – petrol or diesel Car (or van/taxi) – electric/hybrid
- Electric Other (inc Motorbikes/electric scooters)

26. Please tick the statement that best represents how you would most like to travel for other trips in the future, such as leisure trips etc.

- Walking (or wheeling) Cycling Public Transport - Bus Public Transport - Train Car (or van/taxi) – petrol or diesel Car (or van/taxi) – electric/hybrid
- Electric Other (inc Motorbikes/electric scooters)

Draft response to the ETP 2035 launch and public engagement exercise

The Council welcomes the progress to date on the Eastern Transport Plan (ETP) 2035 and its recent launch on the 4th September 2023. As a key stakeholder the Council is keen to continue to make a positive contribution to the ongoing preparation and development of this significant document for the city and wider city region. Given that the current, initial [Engagement Survey](#) is primarily and understandably targeted at individuals the Council wishes to provide some comments on the proposed approach and various aspects of the Plan including the draft Vision, Objectives and General Principles. The comments set out below are in addition to the issues raised in the Council's letter to the Department of 21st September 2023 (see attached) to which a separate response is anticipated.

- The Council is broadly supportive of the shift away from a 'predict and provide' approach towards a more proactive 'vision and validate' approach which seeks to establish an agreed vision for the Plan and tests whether future transport networks can help deliver on this vision. The shift in focus to creating places for people is welcome as it clearly aligns with the Council's vision for the city as set out in a range of documents including the Belfast Agenda and the Bolder Vision.
- The context set out by the Department, both in terms of wider societal challenges and specific shortcomings of the transport network appears to be sufficiently comprehensive, identifying the range of challenges facing society today. Again these issues and the need to address them are reflected in various plans and strategies that are being taken forward by the Council. It should be clarified if the Department intends to revisit the findings of the Belfast Metropolitan Transport Study (May 2020) to assess the impact of COVID-19 and any other relevant factors which may have subsequently influenced travel patterns and behaviours.
- The Council whilst generally supportive of the Vision for the ETP 2035 considers that the extent to which the Plan will successfully deliver and integrate will be dependent on the specific policies, proposals and initiatives that emerge as the Plan develops. It is anticipated that there will be further opportunity for participation in the development of these detailed policies. The Council would welcome the opportunity for early engagement in respect of the emerging proposals and policies.
- To ensure coherence it is suggested that there is a minor revision to the draft Vision with "*...an attractive, inclusive and safe economic region for all...*" being amended to read "*...an attractive, inclusive, safe and economically prosperous city region for all...*".
- The proposed draft Objectives, associated Guiding Principles and categories of transport network appear consistent and should assist in delivering on the Plan Vision. The Council appreciates that there is no 'one size fits all' approach for the varied areas covered by the ETP and supports the anticipated flexibility that will be necessary in the application of the guiding

principles across different geographies. For example, Belfast City Centre is a unique space within the Plan Area where the needs of public transport and people should be addressed proportionately and weighted to the movement of people with alignment to the civic spine.

- In terms of the timetabling for the ETP 2035 the Council still has concerns as to the practicalities of how the Transport Plan can be developed in a phased approach which supports and is aligned with the publication of Belfast's LDP Local Policies Plan (LPP) and the LDPs of the other four councils which results in a single coherent and consistent statutory Transport Plan for the region. The Council needs assurance from the Department that the preparation and publication of the Belfast LPP will not be delayed or hindered by the ETP and that the outputs of the ETP are phased in line with the LDP/LPP. Similarly, it will be crucial to ensure that projects can still progress whilst the Transport Plan is being developed and that schemes such as Bankmore Link, Frederick Street Junction and Belfast Streets Ahead will not be adversely impacted. We support the overall approach but stress that this must be followed up with the policy and resource to implement the transformation change that is required to deliver on our Climate commitments.

As already outlined the Council is broadly supportive of the Department's proposed approach to the preparation of the ETP and welcomes that progress is being made. Although the Council encourages the Department to ensure key decisions are taken at an early stage to allow adequate design and planning time to unlock major capital investment in the city - in advance of waiting for the entirety of the Plan. The Council looks forward to continued engagement and involvement in the development of this key document for the city. I thank you in anticipation for your response to the queries and suggestions included in this correspondence and should you wish to discuss any of these matters or need clarification please do not hesitate to contact Kate Bentley (bentleyk@belfastcity.gov.uk) as our officer representative on the Project Board for ETP 2035.



| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Subject: | Correspondence Received from the Department for Infrastructure |
| Date: | 11 th October 2023 |
| Reporting Officer: | Cathy Reynolds, Director City Regeneration & Development |
| Contact Officer: | Sean Dolan, Senior Development Manager, City Regeneration & Development |

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|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| Restricted Reports | | | | | |
| Is this report restricted? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | | | |
| Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted. | | | | | |
| Insert number <input style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> | | | | | |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Information relating to any individual 2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual 3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information) 4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter 5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained 6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction 7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime | | | | | |
| If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted? | | | | | |
| After Committee Decision After Council Decision Sometime in the future Never | <table border="1" style="width: 40px; height: 80px; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="height: 20px;"></td></tr> </table> | | | | |
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| Call-in | |
| Is the decision eligible for Call-in? | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |

| | |
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| 1.0 | Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues |
|------------|---|

| | |
|------------|---|
| 1.1 | To update Committee on correspondence received from Dfl in relation to matters raised by the Council |
| 2.0 | Recommendation |
| 2.1 | <p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider the responses received from the Department for Infrastructure (Dfl) in relation to a Notice of Motion from Council. • Note the draft Council response to the Eastern Transport Plan that will be presented to this Committee meeting and the correlation with the NoM, and agree to close the NoM. • Note the correspondence from Dfl in advance of the Dfl presentation of the Autumn Statement |
| 3.0 | Main Report |
| 3.1 | At the Council meeting on the 3rd April Members passed a Notion of Motion stating that; |
| 3.2 | <p>Belfast City Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognises that many neighbourhoods across the city suffer from the blight of congestion, poor air quality, commuter traffic, under investment in active travel measures and road safety issues; • Recalls that the Council has already expressed its support for measures like School Streets and Low Traffic Neighbourhoods as well as the creation of a “Quietway” linking Lagan Gateway to Cregagh Glen, through Cherryvale Playing Fields; • Believes that a “Quietway” through Rosetta - a “Rosetta Way” along with associated measures like active travel infrastructure, reduced speed limits, the closing up of rat runs, the installation of tree pits as chicanes could all help to reduce congestion, poor air quality, commuter traffic and road safety issues; • Agrees to write to the Department for Infrastructure seeking an update on the agreed puffin crossing on the Knockbreda Road which would facilitate the opening of the pedestrian gate into Cherryvale and the creation of the Rosetta Way “Quietway”; • Further agrees to ask the Department for Infrastructure to draw up an action plan, in consultation with the Council and relevant local organisations and residents, to deliver the Rosetta Way “Quietway” and tackle the challenges associated with congestion, poor air quality, commuter traffic and road safety issues in the area.” |

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| 3.3 | Attached within Appendix A of this report is the letter issued from BCC to DfI, with the subsequent response received on the 19 th September attached within Appendix B of this report. With the response the DfI Permanent Secretary outlines that Quiet Streets are referred to as a potential tool in the 'Making Belfast an Active City; Belfast Cycling Network 2021', however this has yet to develop as a policy. The response goes on to say that that focus is now on addressing the Climate Act and the progression of the Transport Strategy for NI along with the more local Transport Plans. |
| 3.4 | This Committee received an update on the development on the Belfast local transport plan, the Eastern Transport Plan in June 2023, and the Department are currently out to consultation on this with a report due to this Committee meeting on the Councils draft response. |
| 3.5 | The response from the Permanent Secretary continue to identify that Quiet Streets / Low Traffic Neighbourhoods require a substantial professional input and community consultation, and can be contentious as evidenced by the review of the schemes initiated in England by the Prime Minister and that the outcome of that review would need to be considered prior to considering the implementation of schemes locally. |
| 3.6 | In relation to the proposed crossing on the Knockbreda Road the Permanent Secretary references a letter issued to the Chief Executive in May 2023 which is included within Appendix C of this report. This letter outlines the process, including a road safety audit, on the proposed location for a crossing on the Knockbreda Road. The letter confirms that following this process the Department are focusing on a potential crossing close to Knock Eden Park and have instructed their consultants to undertake a detailed design and a road safety audit at this location. The Department commit to keeping the Council informed of the progress of this proposal as the plans develop further. |
| 3.7 | Members are asked to consider the response received from DfI in conjunction with the ongoing developmental work of the Eastern Transport Plan which will provide the strategic direction for network decisions across the wider Belfast Metropolitan area. Pending the finalisation of the ETP, it is recommended that this NoM is closed on the basis that the Council supports the ETP Guiding Principle of 'People Places; neighbourhood areas including residential streets that prioritise active travel' in order to providing the strategic context to enable the future development of 'People Places'. |
| 3.8 | <p>Letter to Councils September 2023</p> <p>On the 21st September DfI Deputy Secretary (Transport & Road Asset Management) wrote to local Councils to provide some context in advance of the planned Divisional Road Managers</p> |

| | |
|------------|--|
| 3.9 | <p>Autumn Update to the Councils. The letter, attached as Appendix D of this report, outlines the significant budget and resource pressures that the department are currently experiencing, and the impacts that this is having on the delivery of critical services and the maintenance of the current infrastructure network. Mr Woods goes on to outline the strategic direction for transport aligned to the Climate Change Act (NI) 2022, referencing the ongoing Eastern Transport Plan and the alignment of this with the Councils' LDP processes. Mr Woods outlines the Departments approach to the development of active travel infrastructure and the intention to bring a Northern Ireland wider Active Travel Network Delivery Plan to consultation in 2024 in conjunction with Councils, along with developing an appropriate grant and support framework for the delivery of greenways. Finally, Mr Woods outlines the challenges of maintaining the current network, and the intention to consult on the Strategic Asset Management Plan in 2023, outlining the principles that will guide the maintenance and development of the current network while also considering the future requirements to deliver the key drivers for change.</p> <p>Members are asked to consider this correspondence in advance of the presentation of the DfI Autumn Statement which is currently scheduled for the Special Meeting of the CG&R Committee in November 2023, and to consider this correspondence in association with the rest of this report.</p> |
| 3.10 | Financial and Resource Implications |
| | None associated with this report. |
| 3.11 | Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment |
| | None associated with this report. |
| 4.0 | Appendices - Documents Attached |
| | <p>Appendix A – Ltr DfI Quietway Rosetta Way Motion</p> <p>Appendix B – SCORR-0199-2023 Rosetta Way Quietway</p> <p>Appendix C – Reply - Provision of a Controlled crossing at Knockbreda Road</p> <p>Appendix D – DfI Letter to Councils September 2023</p> |

Appendix A

Legal and Civic Services Department



Democratic Services Section

Your reference

Being dealt with by Ms Eilish McGoldrick

Our reference EMcGCGR170423RW

Email democraticservices@belfastcity.gov.uk

Date 17th April, 2023

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

Dear Permanent Secretary,

Rosetta Way – “quietway”

Belfast City Council, at a meeting of Council on 3rd April, passed the following motion which had been proposed by Councillor de Faoite and seconded by Councillor McKeown:

“Belfast City Council:

- Recognises that many neighbourhoods across the city suffer from the blight of congestion, poor air quality, commuter traffic, under investment in active travel measures and road safety issues;
- Recalls that the Council has already expressed its support for measures like School Streets and Low Traffic Neighbourhoods as well as the creation of a “quietway” linking Lagan Gateway to Cregagh Glen, through Cherryvale Playing Fields;
- Believes that a “quietway” through Rosetta - a “Rosetta Way” along with associated measures like active travel infrastructure, reduced speed limits, the closing up of rat runs, the installation of tree pits as chicanes could all help to reduce congestion, poor air quality, commuter traffic and road safety issues;
- Agrees to write to the Department for Infrastructure seeking an update on the agreed puffin crossing on the Knockbreda Road which would

facilitate the opening of the pedestrian gate into Cherryvale and the creation of the Rosetta Way “quietway”;

- Further agrees to ask the Department for Infrastructure to draw up an action plan, in consultation with the Council and relevant local organisations and residents, to deliver the Rosetta Way “quietway” and tackle the challenges associated with congestion, poor air quality, commuter traffic and road safety issues in the area.”

I invite you to consider the motion and advise me of your response.

Yours sincerely



Eilish McGoldrick
Democratic Services Officer

**From the Permanent Secretary
Dr Julie Harrison**

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

Room 701
Clarence Court
10-18 Adelaide Street
BELFAST
BT2 8GB
Telephone: (028) 9054 1175
Email: perm.sec@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

democraticservices@belfastcity.gov.uk

Your reference: EMcGCGR170423RW
Our reference: SCORR-0199-2023
29 August 2023

Dear Ms McGoldrick

ROSETTA WAY QUIETWAY AND PROPOSED PUFFIN CROSSING ON KNOCKBREDA ROAD.

Thank you for your letter of 17 April 2023 in which you refer to a motion made by the Council on 3 April requesting that my Department draws up an action plan to deliver the Rosetta Way Quietway and to seek an update on the proposed puffin crossing on Knockbreda Road. Firstly, can I apologise for the delay in responding to your letter. The Department has in the meantime had a lot of engagement with Council colleagues and elected representatives over recent months including on Active Travel and on the forthcoming Transport Plan.

Quiet Streets were referred to as a potential tool in the Making Belfast an Active City: Belfast Cycling Network 2021', however, the Department has yet to develop this as a policy and since that time has been developing its thinking in light of the Climate Act and progression of both a Transport Strategy for Northern Ireland and more local transport plans.

As you will have seen from coverage of such initiatives in other places, they must have the support of local communities and care is needed to consider the impacts on the wider transport network, as there is the potential to displace problems elsewhere. Quiet Streets / Low Traffic Neighbourhoods also require substantial professional input and community consultation. These schemes can also be contentious as has been evidenced by the review of schemes in England initiated by the Prime Minister.

I would like to see the outcome of that review before I ask my team to consider the implementation of schemes locally here. They also need to do so in light of other relevant plans.

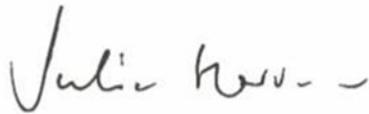
In the meantime, the team is currently undertaking the initial scoping phase for the development of a Transport Demand Management Framework for Northern Ireland to outline the range of potential measures that may be brought forward to encourage sustainable travel choices and reduce the dominance of private use cars. It is intended

that the framework will be subject to stakeholder engagement throughout its development.

In relation to the proposed crossing on Knockbreda Road, the Department wrote to the Council's Chief Executive on 4 May 2023 to provide an update. An alternative location is being considered and the team will be in touch with Council officials once they have developed their plans further.

I trust that you will find this reply helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie Harrison". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line at the end.

JULIE HARRISON

Appendix C

Network Traffic, Street Lighting and
Transportation
Eastern Division



Mr John Walsh
Chief Executive
Belfast City Council
24-26 Adelaide Street
BELFAST
BT2 8GB

OfficeoftheChiefExecutive@BelfastCity.gov.uk

cc WillettsC@BelfastCity.gov.uk

Annexe 7
Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
Belfast
BT4 3SQ

Tel:0300 200 7899
Textphone:028 9054 0022
Email: Traffic.Eastern@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk
Website: www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Being Dealt with By: Graeme Salmon
Direct Line: (028) 90526238

Our Ref:

Date: 4 May 2023

Dear Mr Walsh

KNOCKBREDA ROAD, BELFAST – CONTROLLED CROSSING AND OPENING OF CHERRYVALE PLAYING FIELD REAR ENTRANCE.

I am writing to update you on the request for DfI to provide a controlled crossing on Knockbreda Road, Belfast at the rear access to Cherryvale playing fields.

As you will be aware this request was made to previous DfI Minister Nicola Mallon to facilitate the opening of the rear gate to Cherryvale playing fields.

The Minister then asked the Department to consider this request and DfI Eastern Division commissioned its consultants to carry out a feasibility study.

The study looked at three options, the signalisation of the Rosetta Park/Knockbreda Road junction and two possible locations for a puffin crossing along Knockbreda Road.

Accordingly, the study highlighted a preferred location for the puffin crossing, which was outside no 30 Knockbreda Road. This was focused on the aspiration to have a crossing located as close to the rear gate of Cherryvale Playing fields as possible, even though it had extremely limited forward sight distance to the primary signals and was in very close proximity to the very busy Rosetta Park/Knockbreda Road junction.

The detailed design of a puffin outside no 30 was then subject to the normal DFI design process and an independent safety audit carried out on the proposed location.

I can advise that as part of the audit report the Safety Audit team were of a view that whilst it understood that the location has been chosen to coincide with the desire line from the new access/egress gate from Cherryvale, the audit team are of a view that moving the crossing east could further help improve visibility from the west and still provide a crossing on the desire line from Knock Eden Park (which is utilised as a rear entrance to Aquinas School).

This was then considered by Eastern Divisions approval 'A Group' system and the view of the Safety Audit team was confirmed. As such, I can advise that we are now focusing our attention on a crossing situated close to the Knock Eden Park junction and have instructed our consultants to carry out the detailed design and a further safety audit for this location.

We will keep you informed on progress and the effect on adjacent residents so the Council can carry out the consultation. We also realise that the council is awaiting completion of a crossing before proceeding any further with its proposal to open the rear gate of the playing fields. I would suggest that no expenditure is committed until the outcome of a crossing is known.

I hope this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely

Graeme Salmon

GRAEME SALMON
Network Traffic Manager

Appendix D

From the Transport and Road Asset Management Deputy Secretary
Mr Colin Woods

John Walsh
Chief Executive
Belfast City Council

Via email:
officeofthechiefexecutive@belfastcity.gov.uk



Department for
Infrastructure

An Roinn
Bonneagair

Department fur
Infrastructure

www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Clarence Court
10-18 Adelaide Street
BELFAST
BT2 8GB

Telephone: (028) 9054 7873
Email: Colin.Woods@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Your reference:
Our reference:
Date: Thursday, 21 September 2023

Dear Mr Walsh,

DfI Transport & Roads Update to Belfast City Council

Ahead of the updates the Divisional Roads Managers will be providing to Councils, I'd like to offer some wider context, especially in relation to the Department's budgetary position and the impact that has on our work.

DfI's Financial Position and the impact on Roads Functions

The Department is managing a 14% reduction in its 2023-24 resource budget allocation when compared to 2022-23 on a like for like basis. Significant action has been taken to reduce spending across all areas, and fares and other charges have been increased to help sustain essential services. Having done all of that, the Department is still facing a large funding gap against its resource budget allocation.

In July 2023, the Department published on its website an Interim Consultation Report of the equality implications arising from a range of options on the possible reduction of services. This Report recognised the impact of these potential reductions to Winter Service provision, road maintenance and flood risk management to emergency levels only, and turning off streetlights, which would affect all road users and communities. It is important to note that these options are decisions which are not currently within the power of senior officials to take.

Due to the Department's budget position, we have had to take the decision to continue with a Limited Service on road maintenance activities such as defect repairs, like potholes, and gully emptying. At this stage it is planned that winter service will continue as before, though a large volume of vacancies and the impact of industrial action could place that service under additional strain.

The Department's 2023-24 Capital budget is also well below our requirement. The opening Capital budget for structural maintenance of the road network is £85m, which is welcomed but still falls well short of the £143 million required annually to maintain the road network in a reasonable condition. Budget has also been made available for things

like Local Transport Safety Measures, though our capacity is more limited than we may wish it to be. The constrained budget position also means that the Department is unable to fill posts becoming vacant through retirement or other departures; with over 400 vacancies in my Group alone you will appreciate how this impedes our ability to offer the level of services that we would wish across the full range of responsibilities.

The Strategic Direction for Transport

I am mindful of the need to develop our strategic and policy thinking to manage the impact of budget constraints and set out what the Department believes the future of transport should be. Later this year the Department hopes to publish a Transport Strategy for public consultation. It is an overarching framework which will inform the planning and delivery of transport infrastructure and services across Northern Ireland up to 2035.

While the historic focus has been on the how the network facilitates the movement of private cars, responding to the challenge of climate change and our new legal obligations to deliver net-zero by 2050 means that we need to think hard about how we view and engage with the transport network.

Through the Climate Change Act (NI) 2022 the Assembly has set out a target of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, along with interim targets including at least a 48% reduction in net emissions by 2030. There is a legal requirement on all Northern Ireland departments to exercise their functions, as far as is possible, in a manner consistent with the achievement of the targets of the Act and carbon budgets set under it.

Given that transport is the second highest emitter of greenhouse gases, DfI and its partners have a major role in ensuring Northern Ireland is able to achieve the overall target. The rapid decarbonisation of transport represents the single greatest challenge facing the planning and management of our transport network since it developed into the modern network we recognise today. As such, the decarbonisation of transport is likely to be the single largest strategic driver for our work over the next decade. The Transport Strategy will aim to support this strategic direction for all involved in the transport sector. The scale and pace of the change necessary to reduce our transport emissions to the levels necessary should not be underestimated.

It will be crucial for the Department and local government to work together to deliver the aims of Transport Strategy. The emerging Transport Plans, which will link in with the development and timing of your Local Development Plan, are a key delivery mechanism. They will seek to apply the carbon and modal hierarchies in a pragmatic way to deliver proposals for a multimodal sustainable transport network across Northern Ireland that will support the development of local communities and economies. This approach will describe how active travel and improved public transport can retain and enhance the function of the transport network.

Development of Active Travel Infrastructure

The Climate Change Act states that, *“The Department for Infrastructure must develop sectoral plans for transport which set a minimum spend on active travel from the overall transport budgets of 10%”*. This obligation is a significant increase in active travel spend and extensive efforts are being made to ensure that we scale up our delivery capacity

from a relatively small base. We must also fully understand the consequential impact on other areas of transport spend that may need to be reduced in order to provide the investment in Active Travel.

The Department is working closely with Councils to better understand their five-year Active Travel programme and developing an appropriate grant and support framework for the delivery of greenways. We have commissioned a Northern Ireland wide Active Travel Network Delivery plan which is due for consultation in 2024. When complete, this will provide a firm basis for the prioritisation of the delivery of high quality active travel infrastructure within, and connecting, our towns and cities. The plan will complement and take account of the Belfast Cycle Network Delivery Plan and the greenways network. Steps are currently being taken to ensure increased planning, design and delivery resource moving forward, including additional consultancy support capacity.

Strategic Asset Management Plan for the Road Network

All of this activity takes place in the context of the budget challenges that I have already described, as well as all of the other work that goes into managing an asset worth over £30Billion. The underinvestment in the road network over the past decade increases the need for a sound strategic approach to the allocation of resources, and the delivery of services.

The Department plans to consult with the wider public this year to gain views on a Strategic Assessment Management Plan for the Road Network Asset. The draft Plan aims to outline the key principles that will guide the work of the Department in the development of its maintenance and development functions at an operational level. Understanding our approach to managing the road network at a strategic level will complement other strategic transport plans, ensure we are thinking consistently about the key drivers for change, and inform the implementation of future transport planning decisions.

Hopefully, the document and subsequent consultation will generate comment on aspirations for a future road network, whilst balancing constrained resources, an expanding asset base, maintenance backlogs, and current levels of service delivery.

If it would be helpful in engaging with these matters, I would be very happy to accompany my colleague Des McFarlane when they present their annual report to the Council at the annual meeting, when arranged, and to try and answer any additional questions that you may have.

Yours sincerely



COLIN WOODS

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| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Subject: | Correspondence received from the Department for Communities |
| Date: | 10th October, 2023 |
| Reporting Officer: | John Greer, Director of Economic Development |
| Contact Officer: | Eilish McGoldrick, Democratic Services Officer |

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted? Yes No

Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.

Insert number

1. Information relating to any individual
2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)
4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter
5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained
6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction
7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

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|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 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 No

| | |
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| 1.0 | Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues |
| 1.1 | To consider the correspondence received from the Department for Communities, in response to the Access and Inclusion Fund timeframe. |
| 2.0 | Recommendation |
| 2.1 | The Committee is asked to note the correspondence as set out in the report and to consider if any further action is necessary. |
| 3.0 | Main Report |
| 3.1 | <u>Key Issues</u> The Committee, at its meeting in June, received an update in relation to the Department for Communities' Access and Inclusion Programme 2023-24. During the meeting, concerns were raised in relation to the time constraints of the programme and the need for the Council to have projects prepared for the anticipated annual funding for successive years. Furthermore, the Committee agreed to write to the Department for Communities to reaffirm its concerns in relation to the short timeframe available for the delivery of the Fund. |
| 3.2 | Accordingly, Democratic Services wrote to the Permanent Secretary (Appendix one) and a response has been received for consideration (Appendix 2). |
| 3.3 | <u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> None. |
| 3.4 | <u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> None. |
| 4.0 | Appendices - Documents Attached |
| | Appendix 1 – BCC Letter to DfC - Access and Inclusion Fund Appendix 2 - DfC Response - Access and Inclusion Fund |

Legal and Civic Services Department

Democratic Services Section



Your reference

Being dealt with by Ms Eilish McGoldrick

Our reference EMcGCGR140623

Email democraticservices@belfastcity.gov.uk

Date 9 August, 2023

Colum Boyle
Department for Communities
Permanent Secretary
Causeway Exchange
1-7 Bedford Street
Belfast
BT2 7EG

Dear Permanent Secretary,

Department for Communities' Access and Inclusion Programme 2023-24

At its meeting in June, Belfast City Council's City Growth and Regeneration Committee agreed that the Council would write to you to outline that, whilst the Committee welcomed the opportunity to apply for and administer the Department for Communities' Access and Inclusion Programme 2023-24 on behalf of Belfast based arts, culture (including leisure) and heritage organisations, the Council wished to highlight its concerns in relation to the short timeframe available for the delivery of the Programme.

The Committee also requested that the Department consider the potential for a more flexible approach to in-year funding and to explore with Council any potential mechanisms to carry over funding, including consideration of innovative joint investment or funding models so that opportunities for strategic alignment of joint priorities and projects could be achieved.

I look forward to receiving your comments on the issues I have raised.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eilish McGoldrick'.

Eilish McGoldrick
Democratic Services Officer

Belfast City Council, Legal and Civic Services Department
City Hall, Belfast BT1 5GS
Tel: 028 9032 0202 Textphone: 028 9027 0405
Dx No.: 383 NR Belfast

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From: Colum Boyle
Permanent Secretary

Level 9
Causeway Exchange
1-7 Bedford Street
BELFAST
BT2 7EG

Telephone: 028 90 823301

E-mail: colum.boyle@communities-ni.gov.uk

Our Ref: PSC 0604.23

Date: 24 August 2023

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

Via email: democraticservices@belfastcity.gov.uk

Dear Ms McGoldrick,

2023/24 ACCESS AND INCLUSION PROGRAMME

Thank you for your letter of 9 August 2023 in which you highlight Council concerns in relation to the short timeframe available for the delivery of the 2023/24 Access and Inclusion programme.

As you may be aware the Secretary of State announced the 2023/24 Budget for Northern Ireland in late April 2023. The Department and its Arms' Length Bodies faced unprecedented funding challenges and cuts in 2023/24 against a backdrop of political uncertainty, inflation, ongoing Industrial Action and during a Cost-of-Living crisis. Following the completion of the initial phase of the EQIA consultation, final budget allocations for 2023/24 were set. While recognising the effect the reductions will have on the Department and its Arms' Length Bodies, we are committed to engaging with all stakeholders on how we can support our people as we steer through this period and try to protect, as best we can, the important services we provide.

The consequence of this is that some Programmes have been delayed or paused. However, I am pleased to tell you that funding has been secured for the 2023/24 Access and Inclusion programme, supported by DAERA, and the programme launched on 22 August 2023 with project completion no later than 31 March 2024. Whilst the reduced timescale for delivery is acknowledged, we hope that the early engagement with officials has been beneficial and will enable you to deliver projects in the timescales available.

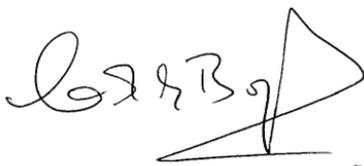
You also note that the Committee has requested that the Department consider the potential for a more flexible approach to in-year funding and to explore with Council any potential mechanisms to carry over funding, including consideration of innovative joint investment or funding models so that opportunities for strategic alignment of joint priorities and projects could be achieved.

Whilst I would welcome the opportunity to discuss a more flexible approach to funding, the Department is currently constrained by annual funding envelopes with no year-end budget flexibility.

You will be aware that Department for Communities officials consult with council representatives each year to look back at the previous edition of the Access and Inclusion Programme and help shape the forthcoming programme. The outcome of the 2023 consultation has been reflected in the 2023/24 programme but officials will contact you to discuss council proposals for strategic alignment of projects and priorities.

I hope this further information is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Colum Boyle', with a stylized flourish at the end.

COLUM BOYLE
PERMANENT SECRETARY



| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Subject: | Employability and Skills workplan – mid-year update |
| Date: | 11 October 2023 |
| Reporting Officer: | John Greer, Director of Economic Development |
| Contact Officer: | Sinéad O'Regan, Employability & Skills Manager |

| | |
|---|--|
| Restricted Reports | |
| Is this report restricted? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted. | |
| Insert number <input style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="text"/> | |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Information relating to any individual 2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual 3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information) 4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter 5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained 6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction 7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime | |
| If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted? | |
| After Committee Decision After Council Decision Sometime in the future Never | <input style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="checkbox"/> <input style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="checkbox"/> <input style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="checkbox"/> <input style="width: 30px; height: 20px;" type="checkbox"/> |
| Call-in | |
| Is the decision eligible for Call-in? | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |

| | |
|------------|--|
| 1.0 | Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues |
| 1.1 | The purpose of this report is to advise members of a range of activity undertaken in since April 2023 to support skills development, economic engagement and job outcomes for key target groups. |
| 2.0 | Recommendations |
| 2.1 | <p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the work undertaken in the financial year to date and the positive employability and jobs outcomes associated with this work • Approve the allocation of Labour Market Partnership (LMP) resources for Bridges to Progression and note the proposals to seek proposals from delivery partners to provide targeted support that can improve outcomes for participants. |
| 3.0 | Main Report |
| 3.1 | <p><u>Employment Academies</u></p> <p>Members will be aware that Employment Academies are one of the key instruments that the Council’s Employability and Skills team utilises to support residents to secure a new job or a better job. While the content of Employment Academies varies from programme to programme, there are a number of consistent components, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-academy matching and selection to ensure all individuals who participate have a meaningful chance of securing employment after successful completion • Employer-led vocational skills, qualifications, licences and training related to the specific job role • In-situ work sampling/work placements • Provision of additional supports to undergo and complete the academy, from equipment and clothing through to childcare, travel and subsistence • Employability support particularly focused on the final employment interview (all candidates are guaranteed a job interview). |
| 3.2 | <p>Given the volatility in the labour market – and the limited financial resources available to undertake the work – our work plan is driven by a range of factors including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The opportunity presented by a number of growth sectors to support participants into roles with higher earning potential. In recognition of the additional skills support work required, these interventions tend to have a higher per capita cost but offer a positive |

return on investment in terms of salary levels for those successful in finding work following programme completion

- Ongoing need to work with employers to convince them of the value of alternative approaches to finding talent other than pre-existing qualifications and/or experience. This is particularly the case for our work in new sectors – specifically those that have tended to think “degree first” and have not considered alternative routes
- Employers with entry level and lower paid jobs – particularly in sectors such as hospitality and social care – continue to experience significant challenges in finding workers. Officers are working with these employers to consider issues such as terms and conditions and payment of the real living wage in order to attract and retain talent, aligned with the implementation of the Belfast Business Promise
- Opportunities to support existing employees who are in low-paid work and/or underemployed through upskilling interventions – and thereby embedding a skills escalator by creating additional entry-level roles.

3.3

In the course of this financial year, we expect that the Employment Academies will engage around 500 participants with at least 70% expected to gain employment/self-employment across a range of sectors – see additional details below:

| Employment Academy | Participants started up to mid-Sept 23 | Places to allocate Oct 23-Mar 24 |
|---|---|---|
| Working at Sea | 10 | 40 |
| Tech | 24 | 11 |
| Business Services | 23 | - |
| Fibre | - | 12 |
| Transport | 110 | 12 |
| Health & Social Care/Working with Children | 21 | 69 |
| Working with Children – Irish Medium | 12 | 28 |
| Health & Social Care/Working with Children Upskilling | 86 | 94 |
| Construction | 12 | 12 |
| TOTALS | 298 | 278 |

3.4

Key insights on the relevant academies identified include:

- **Transport:** Over 250 people expressed an interest in participating and 140 made it through following the relevant eligibility checks, information days and preliminary interviews and from this 110 people have been offered a place on a Transport Employment Academy. Given that the average timescale to fully complete the Transport Academy can be up to nine months, we expect that most participants will be ready for employment by early Spring. As this is the fifth year of the Transport Academy work, we are building strong working partnerships with employers that have repeatedly recruited previous programme participants. At a recent information day, employers updated on live opportunities including starting salaries with Category C Licence of £40k plus per annum, moving to £50k plus after upskilling to Category C+E licence (which are mainly resourced by the employer). We are working closely with Transport Academy employers as well as Logistics UK and the Road Haulage Authority (RHA) to conduct a survey of employers in order to build a profile of future employment opportunities
- **Fibre Optics Academy:** this has been another very popular initiative, with delivery planned in late 2023 and more than 100 people have already expressed an interest in engaging. This sector offers great earning potential: one recent participant moved from unemployment to a Fibre Technician role then Project Manager within nine months, now earning over £50k per annum
- **Tech and Digital Academy:** Two academies are completing with 12 in each which takes the form of a 16-week bootcamp at the end of September 2023. One cohort undertook a pathway in Product Management and the other in Cyber Security. There are a number of employer sponsors engaged including Allstate and Belfast City Council where three of the pilot cohort (from 2022/23) are now working in Digital Services. Subject to employer support, we plan to run a further Tech Academy later in 2023. Running alongside employer engagement, we have been in liaison with a number of the representative bodies including the Software Alliance and the Cyber Security Forum. Our Academies have been promoted extensively amongst their members and employers as we seek to build a sustainable pipeline of demand for subsequent cohorts
- **Business Services Academy:** we are working with Queen's University to deliver bespoke Employment Academies for administration. Following the first programme, 12 people have been offered employment. In addition to the offer of a job, Queen's have committed to providing a Level 2 qualification once they are in post. We are working closely with the university to build the evidence for how a major employer

can adapt their recruitment processes and remove qualification criteria as a means of creating a more diverse and inclusive workforce

- **Health and Social Care Academy:** We have responded to changes within the sector by developing a number of new employment academies and upskilling programmes. These include the Classroom Assistant Employment Academy with a Level 3 qualification in Special Educational Needs, Level 3 and Level 5 Classroom Assistant Diplomas in Irish Medium, delivered by Gaelchursaí, and the Level 4 Classroom Assistant qualification delivered in partnership with Stranmillis University College. We will continue to work with key employers including Belfast Health & Social Care Trust, Triangle Housing, Inspire Wellbeing, Sure Start, Sleepy Hollow and a wide variety of educational settings including primary, secondary, grammar, Special Educational Needs and Irish Medium Schools. Offering the Upskilling Academies is a huge benefit to the sector as it encourages new entrants and helps to sustain and develop a highly skilled workforce while increasing capacity to support the most vulnerable in our society.

3.5

Improving employability outcomes for young people

While a significant proportion of activity has focused on those already in the labour market or trying to find a job or move to a better job, we are delivering a number of smaller interventions for young people with a focus has been on improving educational attainment and helping young people at risk to find positive employment and training outcomes.

3.6

As members are aware, we have undertaken a review of our delivery within this workstream and, while the outcomes from our interventions in this space have been positive, there are a number of factors at play in recommending a reduced level of activity going forward, not least being the dynamic policy environment in this space. The Fair Start and Reducing Education Disadvantage (RED) policy initiatives led by Department for Education are progressing, with new interventions currently being developed. We are working closely with both EA and DE to share the learning from our successful pilot activity with the expectation that Council delivery can be 'lifted and shifted' within the context of these new initiatives.

3.7

As agreed, our work in this space is prioritised on two key areas, namely:

- Continued support for the GCSE Support Programme for a final interim year, using this time to work with the Area Partnership Boards (who deliver this programme) as well as the Education Inequalities sub-group under the Jobs, Skills & Education Board to secure a longer-term future within the context of Community Planning and Fair

Start/Reducing Educational Disadvantage policy initiatives. Between September 2022 and June 2023, 434 young people were engaged, against a target of 365. These young people have been identified as being unlikely to achieve at least Grade C in GCSE English and Maths, without the additional support of the programme.

- Continuing the 'Bridges to Progression' programme within the Labour Market Partnership as outlined below, providing tailored wrap around support for those young people at risk of disengaging from the mainstream Skills for Life & Work programmes.

Labour Market Partnership

3.8 Members will be aware that the Labour Market Partnership is an intervention supported by DfC within all 11 council areas. Resources from the Labour Market Partnership enable the Council to increase the range and scope of employability and skills activity. The LMP also provides a platform for engagement with government departments, community partners and business organisations as a means of refocusing regional programmes more effectively within the Belfast area. The LMP action plan recognises that, while there are gaps that have been identified that will necessitate the creation of new interventions, not all activity need be new 'provision' or 'programmes'; sometimes it is equally important to profile and/or promote existing interventions.

3.9 In addition to the extra support for Employment Academy places, the headline programme of work within the action plan includes the following:

- **Gateway to Choices Service:** a key issue that emerged in our engagement with the LMP partners was the need for independent advice and guidance for those who are out of work and non-job ready outside of mainstream JBO support. Partners considered that these groups (mainly long-term unemployed and economically inactive) required enhanced support to navigate the existing provision and identify the right support, at the right time, to help move them towards positive job, skills and qualification outcomes. So far this year, over 400 people have received support through Gateway to Choices. We are beginning to build good insights into participants' "back stories" of how and why they are accessing the support; what type of support they need; what the key support resources are and where there may be gaps in the system. This presents critical learning for all advice and guidance partners and will be shared with relevant partners as the insights become more detailed

- **Digital badges:** one of the most significant skills-related challenges is the relatively high proportion of Belfast residents that have low qualifications (below level 2). We have been working alongside the RSA Cities of Learning initiative to explore how a Digital Badge could help recognise the non-accredited skills of these individuals. All Employment Academies are now digitally badged as an alternative validation of achievement, with over 1000 badges issued to participants. In addition to this, the Council has offered 24 organisations in the city access to Digital Badging for their own participants/employees
- **Belfast Jobs Fair:** The Belfast Jobs Fair has attracted considerable interest with 70 exhibitors anticipated to exhibit on October 10th. More than 65 employers will be present and, collectively, there will be more than 1800 job available for those seeking work or a better job. The event is taking place in St George's Market
- **Inclusive Employment conference:** given the commitments identified through the Belfast Agenda to promote inclusive employment practices, officers are currently working on a large scale conference to share learning and encourage additional partner engagement in this work. To date, we have secured a number of keynote speakers for the event which is scheduled to take place in Ulster University's Belfast campus on 22 January 2024. Additional information on the event will be brought back to the committee and shared with all elected members in advance.

3.10

Bridges to Progression

Bridges to Progression is an intervention to support young people aged 16-17 years who are at risk of disengaging from Skills for Life & Work due to their personal circumstances. Participants can access intensive personal support to help them progress in and complete their formal training, with the ambition of improving the levels of progression into employment or further training. Previous analysis had flagged a very high level of drop out from these programmes, particularly in Belfast. It showed that the reasons behind participants no longer engaging with the programme related to wider social challenges – rather than the programme content itself.

3.11

At the October 2022 meeting of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee, it was agreed that officers would seek expressions of interest from organisations delivering these programmes, outlining how they would use resources to add value to the core activity with the objective of improving outcomes for participants. It was also agreed that officers would undertake assessment of the applications for funding in line with the approach detailed in

this report. As reported in March 2023 update, a number of organisations were awarded support, with a cumulative target of 120 young people to be engaged and 16 employers to be supported. Since that time 193 young people have been engaged and 173 completed the Bridges to Progression intervention. We also engaged with 29 employers over this period. Direct feedback and outcomes have demonstrated the impact this investment had on these individuals. Participants on the programme reported on the following outcomes:

| Destination | % of those completing |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Into employment | 45% |
| Into further training/ education | 31% |
| Progressed within SfL&W | 18% |
| Unsure of next step | 6% |

3.12 Feedback from participants about the support offered through the Bridges to Progression included:

- Helped deal with past issues and stress
- Confidence to achieve qualification and interview
- Importance of having someone to turn to for support
- Importance of self-care – looking after mental health
- See the value of positive thinking instead of negative thinking
- Having someone to talk to was amazing and helped a lot.

3.13 The average financial allocation provided for the support services offered to programme participants is around £750 per person. While this is not an expensive cost per head, it does appear to have a very positive impact on participant outcomes. Previously, only 3% of those starting the programme had a positive destination after the two years. Evidence from the pilot suggests that, for the first year at least, the positive outcome rates on the programme have significantly increased as you see above with 75% progressing onto employment or training/education and 18% progressing within the programme. Based on these positive outcomes, it is proposed that we re-run this intervention for another round of funding (note – this funding has already been approved by the Labour Market Partnership). Officers will seek applications from SfL&W providers and review these against agreed criteria. Officers are also engaging with the Department for the Economy to seek to incorporate the flexibility offered within Bridges to Progression with future iterations of Skills for Life & Work with the aim of improving employability outcomes.

3.14

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| 3.15 | <p>The LMP action plans are submitted on an annual basis at this point (due to the annual budget settlements in the government departments). However, as part of the strategic assessment that underpins the plan, officers have identified a number of developmental areas where we consider that there is a need to undertake additional scoping work in order to understand the issues at play and consider whether the council might play an active delivery role in the future, or lobby government partners to do more in this space in order to improve outcomes for Belfast residents. Two of these areas relate to place-based and people-based targeted interventions, with a focus on how these might improve outcomes for participants and what approaches are most appropriate for this. We are also proposing to undertake further engagement work with partners to understand how we can connect our employer-facing services more effectively, in order to make it easier for businesses to understand the support available and access it. Updates on these development pieces will be brought back to future meetings of the committee.</p> |
| 3.16 | <p><u>Collaboration with the Employability and Skills Providers</u></p> <p>The employability ecosystem is complex and, with the end of ESF funding in March 2023, there have been significant changes across the network. Given that our model is based on building strong partnerships across delivery partners and support organisations, the council engages on a regular basis with the provider network and links into existing networks to ensure that we are reaching specific target groups and geographical parts of the city. We have recently engaged the projects that have been successful in attracting Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) resources. We have also established a partnership with the Institute of Employability Professionals (IEP), facilitating continuous improvement and raising standards through activities such as shared learning and benchmarking and the delivery of vocationally specific employability training for those working in the sector.</p> <p><u>Partnership, policy influence and guidance</u></p> <p>In addition to direct delivery, officers will also continue to work with internal and external partners to use all tools at our disposal to address the key employability and skills challenges, focusing on the council's inclusive growth ambitions. There are a number of key mechanisms through which this can be achieved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social Value: officers are working closely with the Corporate Procurement Service to support the implementation of the policy, focusing on the employability and skills measures. This includes working with council contracts – as well as contractors across the city where Social Value applies – to achieve their Social Value |

| | |
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| 3.17 | <p>requirements in a meaningful way. Officers have organised a number of workshops for VCSE providers – with 60 people attending – to build capacity in tendering for council contracts. We are also organising a ‘Meet the Broker’ workshop for contractors in the city to gain access to E&S provision across the city</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peace Plus funding: we are currently engaging with partner organisations to develop project concepts for the Peace Plus 1.1 Local Action Plan. Ideas under development include ‘Language Up’: a project that will deliver community-based language classes for migrants and those from minority ethnic communities. This has been repeatedly identified as a barrier to engagement among those groups. |
| 3.18 | <p><u>Finance and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>The activities outlined in this report will be resourced from the 2023/24 budget for the Employability & Skills section of the Place and Economy departmental budget that was approved as part of the 2023/24 estimates.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>Each of the proposed projects referenced in this report is informed by statistical research, stakeholder engagement and complementary policies and strategies. New projects or service areas are equality screened and a rural needs assessment completed. Consideration is given to equality and good relation impacts at the initial stages of project development. A new CRM system has been established to enable officers to regularly review participant engagement and address any equality or good relations issues arising.</p> |
| 4.0 | Appendices |
| | None |



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|---------------------------|---|
| Subject: | Social enterprise call for evidence – draft Belfast City Council response |
| Date: | 11 October 2023 |
| Reporting Officer: | John Greer, Director of Economic Development |
| Contact Officer: | Lisa Toland, Senior Manager, Economy |

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted? Yes No

Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.

Insert number

1. Information relating to any individual
2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)
4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter
5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained
6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction
7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime

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 No

| | |
|------------|---|
| 1.0 | Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues |
|------------|---|

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|------------|---|
| 1.1 | The purpose of this report is to advise members of a consultation exercise that has recently been launched by the Department for the Economy (DfE) regarding support for the social enterprise sector and to secure committee approval to submit a response on behalf of Belfast City Council. |
| 2.0 | Recommendation |
| 2.1 | <p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agree to submit a response to the DfE call for evidence on social enterprise • Note the draft response attached as Appendix 2 and approve the current draft or advise of amendments that they wish to see incorporated in the final version. |
| 3.0 | Main Report |
| 3.1 | Members will be aware that – similar to enterprise support – the policy responsibility for social enterprise remains with DfE. Delivery responsibility for social enterprise support transferred to local authorities in 2015 as part of the wider transfer of entrepreneurship support. Since then, councils have supported social enterprises to start and grow both through the Go for It programme and through various ERDF-funded business growth programmes at an individual council level. |
| 3.2 | The new Northern Ireland Enterprise Support Service (NI ESS) includes a target of 10% businesses engaged/supported to be social enterprises. As a result, delivery partners are developing a programme of targeted support to increase the number of social enterprises accessing support. |
| 3.3 | Outside of council-funded activity, there has been very limited direct support provided to social enterprises from other government departments. DfE currently funds Social Enterprise NI (SENI) to undertake a range of networking and good practice support. The financial allocation to this work is very limited in scope and has not increased since LGR. SENI performs an important network and engagement function but it does not have capacity for significant service delivery and relies on councils to play that role. Their current three-year work programme comes to an end in March 2024. |
| 3.4 | In early September 2023, DfE issued a call for evidence and is seeking responses to a draft one-year action plan, to go live from April 2024. This action plan includes a greater focus on the outcomes that the Department would like to see, particularly those aligned to the 10X economic vision. The deadline for responses is 31 October 2023. The department has |

indicated that they then plan to commission delivery of many of the services outlined in the consultation in November 2023.

3.5 The proposed workplan includes four themes:

- Theme one: Promotion of social enterprises to promote individual business growth
- Theme two: Strategic sector growth
- Theme three: Cooperation and coordination
- Theme four: Research.

3.6 An initial review of the work plan (Appendix 1) suggests significant overlap with the work planned as part of the Northern Ireland Enterprise Support Service.

3.7 The consultation is focused around four key questions, namely:

1. What are your views on the overall approach of the work programme – connecting a smaller number of objectives to the activities required and the outcomes that would demonstrate success?
2. What are your views on the four proposed objectives?
3. Do you have any comments on any of the objectives in the proposed work programme?
4. Are there other measures of success you would like to propose for any of the activities?

3.8 A draft Belfast City Council response is attached as Appendix 2. The response is structured along the lines of the four questions set out above. The key points, in summary, include:

- Opportunity for greater alignment with NIESS work – with a proposal for additional engagement to consider how this can work more effectively, including an opportunity for DfE to provide additional resources to councils to carry out this work
- Agreement around scope and focus of the social enterprise work – and potential to give this greater visibility through a joint work plan
- Potential to take more coherent approach to considering how social enterprises are supported across government (e.g. social value in procurement; increasing social enterprises in the supply chain).

3.9 Belfast City Council has, for many years, delivered a dedicated programme of work to support social enterprises. This work is led by Work West. In the last financial year, we delivered 27 workshops and outreach sessions for the sector, attracting more than 320 attendees. 45 people received one to one mentoring support totalling more than 1500 hours. We also supported the creation of 93 jobs in both social enterprises and cooperatives. We won the “council of the year” award at the Social Enterprise NI Awards in 2022 and are in the running for the same award this year.

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| 3.10 | <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There are no specific financial or resource implications associated with this report.</p> |
| 3.11 | <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>The Department for the Economy will be responsible for screening their proposed workplan to take account of equality, good relations and rural needs issues.</p> |
| 4.0 | <p>Appendices - Documents Attached</p> |
| | <p>Appendix 1: DfE Draft Social Economy Work Programme – April 2024 – March 2025</p> <p>Appendix 2: Draft Belfast City Council response</p> |

| Theme | Action | What success looks like |
|---|---|---|
| <p>1. Promotion of social enterprises to promote individual business growth</p> | <p>1.1. Through a competitive process, identify 10 social enterprises which are providing a service or product which is available to the public, and provide a tailored marketing service for 3 months, increase their turnover and business viability. This will include engaging in promotional activity on social media and advising on advertising methods and appropriateness for their audience. In month three, the social enterprise will be promoted as ‘social enterprise of the month’ on the organisation’s social media platforms, including those of key staff involved, and promoted widely throughout that month.</p> | <p>1.1 (a) 10 social enterprises reporting that the support provided has increased awareness of the organisation among the target population (b) 10 social enterprises increasing their turnover by at least 10% after the 3-month period compared to the comparable 3-month period in the year before (c) for each social enterprise, a media training plan is provided and evidence of increased traffic on social media platforms of those organisations is obtained</p> |
| | <p>1.2. Provide training and follow-on support for 5 social enterprises engaging in market research, supporting development of questionnaires, information gathering, and targeting to ensure research is accurate and well-presented into a market research report that the social enterprise can use for business development and applications for finance</p> | <p>1.2 (a) 5 Market research reports produced including information and research reports, prospect lists of contacts, with sources of market information highlighted. (b) Introductions of each business to the INI Business information library and to any INI supports relevant to market research e.g. if a food product INI Consumer Insights clinic, or technical support services. (c) Number of businesses signposted to other key support organisations that receive other follow-on support.</p> |
| | <p>1.3. Conduct a pilot project to bring 3 social enterprises through the process of applying for social enterprise accreditation from Social Enterprise Mark CIC.</p> | <p>1.3 3 Social enterprises accredited by Social Enterprise Mark CIC</p> |
| | <p>1.4. Keep the sector informed of funding opportunities, including PEACE+ calls, events or support programmes, and changes in legislation or policy in NI which may impact the sector</p> | <p>1.4 Number of social enterprises that succeed in securing other supports because of engagement with the work programme provider</p> |

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| | 1.5. Deliver a programme of events and workshops which connect those developing tenders on the NI e-tenders system with social enterprises which can deliver the social value element of their tender. | 1.5 (a) At least 15 workshops held, at least one within each local council area (b) At least 10 tenders submitted to etenders and won, which include social enterprises in the social value elements, due to participation in the workshops and events (c) Value of contracts secured by social enterprises because of matching support provider |
| | 1.6. Host the DFE online database of social enterprises which can be accessed by private sector bidders for a fee. | 1.6 (a) Database is self-sustainable through income generated from access fees (b) Number of social enterprises which are included in bids following an initial contact through the database |
| | 1.7. Provide a one-stop shop for social enterprises to learn of the full range of financial products they are eligible for, including those from within the public, private and third sectors. | 1.7 (a) At least 10 social enterprises secure alternative funding because of support (c) At least 3 Alternative funding sources workshops delivered in year |
| | 1.8. Develop a package of support to facilitate 10 NI based social enterprises to begin to export to a new market outside of NI | 1.8 (a) 10 exporting into at least one new market (b) At least an additional 10 Export health Checks completed <u>Go Further Grow Stronger Invest Northern Ireland (investni.com)</u> |
| 2. Strategic Sector growth | 2.1. Survey of social enterprises to identify strategic barriers to growth of the sector that could be addressed in future work programmes, and to understand the methods currently being used to measure social impact and how many social enterprises are not tracking social value as part of their operations. | 2.1 (a) Survey completed by 150 social enterprises and at least 20 organisations working to support social enterprises in NI (b) Survey completed by a minimum of 50 third sector organisations aspiring to be social enterprises to understand the needs of these organisations that can be incorporated into future work programmes (c) Report identifying key strategic barriers to sector growth in NI that are within the remit of DFE |
| | 2.2. Deliver capacity building workshops for social enterprises not yet eligible to InvestNI support, with a focus on exporting and trading outside of NI | 2.2 At least 10 social enterprises exporting outside of NI into a new market they previously did not trade in |

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| | <p>2.3. Host an annual conference which will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - key note speakers who have successfully used the social enterprise business model to become successful companies in their field; - updates on policy and legislation changes in NI which impact social enterprises and their trade; - representation from local councils to showcase their support offerings; - a marketplace; - provide a B2B service to facilitate connections between social enterprises and other private businesses to facilitate partnership working and growth; and - contain workshops to address the main barriers social enterprises are facing with growth - Workshops to address Innovation and the need to drive innovative products and processes to be competitive and grow (The Innovation Framework Innovate NI) | <p>2.3 (a) Annual conference takes place (b) Over 80% of attendees report finding the conference useful for business growth</p> |
| | <p>2.4. Sponsor at least 2 social enterprises (more if venue permits) to attend the social economy world forum in person, and bid to host an official SEWF Community Hub in NI for virtual attendees to gather and network while attending</p> | <p>2.4 (a) at least 2 social enterprises attending and reporting attendance as beneficial (b) Successful bid to be a SEWF community hub, with over 20 social enterprises represented at this to attend the forum virtually</p> |
| | <p>2.5. Explore mentoring opportunities for social enterprises in NI from businesses in export markets, including USA</p> | <p>2.5 Number of new mentoring programmes initiated in other markets</p> |
| | <p>2.6. Develop the evidence base for the benefits of being an SE, including for the business and the community, make this available online and promote it widely, and develop a campaign to promote the benefits of existing businesses becoming social enterprises</p> | <p>2.6 Number of businesses which move to a social enterprise model (b) 10 social enterprises introduced to social value measurement tools and techniques</p> |
| <p>3. Cooperation and coordination</p> | <p>3.1. Convene and act as secretariat for a DFE chaired Local Government Social Enterprise Forum, which should meet no less than four times per year and have representation from all local councils through their social enterprise champion</p> | <p>3.1 (a) Minimum of 4 meetings held per year of the forum (c) 80% of members reporting the forum to be a useful way to exchange information and overcome barriers the sector is facing</p> |

ANNEX 2 – Draft Social Economy Work Programme – April 2024 – March 2025

| | | |
|-------------|---|---|
| | 3.2. Attend the DFE led Social Economy Policy Group to present updates on the work programme at each quarterly meeting | 3.2 Number of meetings attended |
| | 3.3. Engagement with the HE and FE providers in NI to ensure their entrepreneurship spin-out services are informed of the social enterprise business model, the benefits of it, and how to set up as a social enterprise. | 3.3 Number of spin-out companies which set up as a social enterprise |
| | 3.4. Engage with HE and FE providers to ensure social enterprise is built into course content of relevant business courses | 3.4 At least 1 workshop to each HE and FE institution to introduce the concept of support to social enterprises as part of problem based learning modules in colleges. |
| | 3.5. Engage with NIHE, SIB, CPD and InvestNI to profile relevant policies and support packages from NI Executive and local councils | 3.5 (a) At least one workshop with NIHE, SIB, CPD and INI to establish the opportunities for further development of the sector. (b) Dissemination of these opportunities to social enterprises |
| 4. Research | 3.1. Conduct an independent review of the DFE Social Economy Work Programme from 2021 to 2023. This should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Assessment of whether the 8 objectives were met; ii. Assessment of the impact of the activities which underpinned the 8 objectives; iii. Consideration of the value for money obtained through the work programme | |
| | 3.2. Conduct a survey of Social Enterprises in NI to ascertain their collective social impact. This will include information in organisational and sectoral: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Turnover ii. Profits iii. Profits donated or reinvested for social good iv. Sector of business operation v. Sector of social benefit if different vi. Business governance model adopted by the social enterprise (e.g. CIC, charity, sole trader, Ltd) | |

Appendix 2

Call for Evidence - new Social Economy Work Programme from April 2024

Response from Belfast City Council

1. What are your views on the overall approach of the work programme – connecting a smaller number of objectives to the activities required and the outcomes that would demonstrate success?

- Agree in principle with need for more focused approach to support the sector
- In our view, the proposed competitive process and very limited numbers of businesses to receive support may mean that those in most need cannot get access to the support they need
- We consider that the department needs to recognise the distinctive nature of the sector. This may mean – among other things – that there may be more support required at the early stages of development than might be the case for other businesses. This does not necessarily reflect any lack of potential for growth in the future
- We propose that a more effective approach for DfE would be to work collaboratively with 11 councils through NIESS support. The service already has a target for social enterprise engagement and the Growth and Scaling elements of NIESS will target those companies identified in themes 1 and 2 of the outline support plan – this would make a more effective use of resources. NIESS is fully aligned with 10X ambitions
- The support provided needs to recognise the specific nature of the social enterprise sector: while the targeted support is helpful and will support greater alignment with the 10X ambitions, account will need to be taken of the current baseline position. This is likely to mean the need for additional networking support and potentially additional handholding support for social enterprises to move them towards 10X growth ambitions. Councils have committed to undertaking some of this work in each local area but it is important to note that the nature of the sector means that there can be a long lead-in time with resources required to inspire, explore and help develop ideas, before moving to growth in the terms of 10X.

2. What are your views on the 4 proposed objectives?

- We consider that there is a logical structure to the four objectives that would be expected for any sector growth plan
- We would welcome additional engagement to discuss the balance of the workplan and associated resources e.g. direct business support versus networking/cooperation and coordination
- We consider that the councils can make a significant contribution to the delivery of objectives 1 and 2 through their NIESS activity in particular and would welcome the opportunity to work more closely with DfE to agree a collaborative action plan. Belfast City Council is acting as lead council for the service and would be happy to identify a contact point for engagement.

3. Do you have any comments on any of the objectives in the proposed work programme

(please indicate which activity number(s) you are commenting on)?

- Our overarching commentary is around the risk of the current proposal duplicating rather than adding value to existing provision, particularly the activity supported through NIESS. With regard to the specifics of some of the proposals:
 - Actions 1.1; 1.2; 1.5; 1.7; 1.8; 2.2; 2.5; 3.3 and 3.4 – we see specific opportunities for enhanced collaboration with NIESS – we are supportive of the proposals in principle but consider that the sector could benefit more from this investment if it was channelled through and/or designed alongside the NIESS support. We would be happy to work alongside DfE and other partners on targeting of specific locations, sectors etc.
 - Action 1.1 – we consider that the timelines identified for this are unrealistic – they should be more flexible, in line with organisational needs
 - Action 1.3 – we are aware of the Social Enterprise Mark accreditation but we also understand that it can be costly for organisations to maintain membership – we feel that there is a need for further engagement with the sector to test the value of this proposition
 - Action 1.4 – we acknowledge the need to share information on funding availability but we feel that this needs to be balanced with a longer-term push towards financial sustainability and away from a reliance on grant funding
 - Action 1.6 – we consider that there is a more proactive and two-way engagement that can take place between the social enterprise sector and the private sector – this will move the relationship beyond a “tokenistic” approach to involving social enterprises in the supply chain. We consider that a strong network organisation (such as SENI) can play an important role in managing this engagement
 - Action 2.1 – we would be keen to have access to the information generated from this survey and would be happy to tailor our support to ensure alignment with needs identified
 - Action 2.3 – we are fully supportive of the idea of an annual conference and awards and we have seen the benefits that these can provide for the sector. We would be happy to work with DfE and delivery partners to consider how these are built into a wider programme of awareness-raising and support events for the social enterprise sector

- Action 2.4 – very supportive of this opportunity to raise ambition and to promote good practice of our local social enterprise sector – and keen to enhance participation levels, resources permitting.
- Action 3.1 – based on the commentary around significant opportunities for alignment and collaboration, we would welcome and support a forum through which there can be a focus on the social enterprise sector. We consider that the roll-out of NIESS can provide significant insights to support future growth in the sector and would be keen to align the group with our emerging governance structures for NIESS
- Action 3.2 – we consider that the cross-departmental group presents an opportunity to maximise buy-in across all departments and would encourage DfE to consider how the agenda for this group can be elevated to raise the level of ambition and drive tangible progress
- Action 4.2 – we are supportive of this survey and consider that this is critical to create a shared understanding of current performance and to track the impact of investment. We consider that, once undertaken, it should be reviewed on a regular basis and shared among partners in order to focus future investment plans.

4. **Are there other measures of success you would like to propose for any of the activities**

(please use activity numbers)?

- Overall participation numbers on targeted business support activities appear to be limited – councils would be happy to discuss planned levels of engagement through NIESS to consider whether there is an opportunity to review and increase these as appropriate
- It may be appropriate to create a baseline around grant income versus earned income and to seek to increase the latter over time – based on initial survey work set out in action 4.2.

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| Subject: | Proposed Committee Workshops |
| Date: | 11 October 2023 |
| Reporting Officer: | Cathy Reynolds, Director of City Regeneration and Development |
| Contact Officer: | Deirdre Kelly, Programme Manager |

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted? Yes No

Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.

Insert number

1. Information relating to any individual
2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)
4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter
5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained
6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction
7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime

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 No

| | |
|------------|---|
| 1.0 | Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues |
| 1.1 | The purpose of this report is to seek approval to convene a number of engagement workshops with the Committee and to note arrangements for the Committee Workshop scheduled for Wednesday 25 October 2023. |
| 2.0 | Recommendation |
| 2.1 | <p>The Committee are asked to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Note the agreement of the People & Communities Committee to hold a workshop with the NIHE on housing need and demand and consider CG&R Committee attendance at this. II. Agree to hold a joint Committee workshop with the Planning Committee, with a focus on challenges and opportunities in relation to the regeneration and development of the city, date to be agreed. III. Note the proposed Committee Workshop scheduled for Wednesday 25 October 2023 in relation to the new Corporate Plan, (following a report to SP&R Committee on 18 August 2023 on the approach to this). |
| 3.0 | Main Report |
| 3.1 | <p>NIHE workshop</p> <p>The Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) presented an Annual Update on the Housing Investment Plan to a Special meeting of the People and Communities Committee on 6 September 2023. The Committee agreed that a Workshop be convened with the NIHE to specifically discuss Housing Need and Demand. Given the synergy of this across to the CG&R Committee priorities and Committee plan around maximising housing development and regeneration opportunities, the Committee are asked to consider attendance at this forthcoming workshop.</p> |
| 3.2 | <p>Challenges and opportunities to regeneration and development workshop</p> <p>Representatives from the Renewed Ambition Partnership presented to the City Growth and Regeneration Committee on 9 August 2023. The representatives answered a range of questions from Members including engagement, challenges, opportunities, and joint public/private working. Members responded positively to the quantum and focus of collaboration and engagement which has been ongoing through the Partnership. It was also highlighted to Members that the Community Planning Partnership, namely the City Development Board and its sub structures have been utilised extensively over the past two years through the refresh of the Belfast Agenda in terms of cross sector engagement around challenges and opportunities to the regeneration, investment and development of the city. This has included engagement between developers, professional advisers, NIHE, DfC, Planning and City Regeneration and Development teams and others on a range of issues</p> |

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| 3.3 | <p>(non-site specific) to try and better understand barriers to development and identify opportunities for solutions and synergies to bring about our inclusive growth ambitions for the city. In discussion with the Chair of CG&R and Planning Committees (and Director of Planning and Building Control and Director of City Regeneration and Development), it was felt there would be added value in organising a joint CGR/Planning workshop to ensure alignment and consider challenges and opportunities from a development, planning and regeneration perspective that would ultimately benefit the city and our communities. Subject to Members approval on this further detail will be brought back on arrangements.</p> <p>Corporate Plan 2024 – 2028 Committee Workshop</p> <p>Members will recall the Committee, at their meeting in September 2023, agreed to hold a Committee workshop as part of the development of a new Corporate Plan. This followed a report that was brought to the SP&R Committee on 18 August 2023 in relation to the approach for the new Corporate Plan and it had indicated that Committee Planning workshops should be in October. Officers are working on the preparation towards this and Members are asked to note that it is intended this will be an in person workshop with further details to follow. A date of 25 October 2025, which is the date held for the Special CG&R Committee is being proposed.</p> |
| 3.4 | <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p> |
| 3.5 | <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p> |
| 4.0 | <p>Appendices - Documents Attached</p> |
| | <p>None</p> |

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| Subject: | Notices of Motion – Quarterly Update |
| Date: | 11 th October 2023 |
| Reporting Officer: | John Greer, Director of Economic Development Cathy Reynolds, Director of City Regeneration and Development |
| Contact Officer: | Jamie Uprichard, Business Research and Development Manager |

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted? Yes No

Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.

Insert number

1. Information relating to any individual
2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)
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6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction
7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime

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 No

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|------------|---|
| 1.0 | Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues |
| 1.1 | This report provides a quarterly update on the Notices of Motion that the City Growth & Generation Committee is responsible for, in line with the agreement of the Strategic Policy & Resources (SP&R) Committee that all standing committees receive regular updates. |
| 2.0 | Recommendations |
| 2.1 | It is recommended that the Committee: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notes the updates to all Notices of Motion that this Committee is responsible for as referenced in Appendix 1; and • Agrees to the closure of 2 Notices of Motion, as referenced in Appendix 1 and noted in paragraph 3.4 below. |
| 3.0 | Main report |
| 3.1 | At the SP&R Committee meeting on 25th October 2019 , members agreed “ <i>that this Council notes that other Councils produce a monthly status report in relation to Notices of Motion; and agrees Belfast City Council adopts a similar practice and produces a monthly Notice of Motion Update which will be brought to each full Council Meeting, detailing the following:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Date received 2. Notice of motion title 3. Submitted by which Councillor 4. Council meeting date 5. Committee motion is referred to 6. Outcome of committee where Notice of Motion will be debated 7. Month it will be reported back to committee 8. Other action to be taken.” |
| 3.2 | It was subsequently agreed that quarterly updates would be brought to the council’s statutory committees providing a regular update on the progress of each motion for which the committee is responsible for. |
| 3.3 | At the SP&R Committee on 20th November 2020 , members approved the arrangement for the future management of motions, which included recommendations that Notices of Motion could be closed for one of two reasons: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category 1 – Notice of Motion contained an action that has been completed. All Notices of Motion within this category contained a specific task that has since been complete. It is worth noting that, when Committee agree to action a Notice of Motion, there are sometimes additional actions agreed alongside the Motion. As these are not |

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| 3.4 | <p>technically part of the Notice of Motion, they are taken forward through normal committee decision making processes. The Notice of Motion can therefore be closed, but additional actions related to it will continue to be progressed and reported to the committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Category 2 - Notice of Motion has become Council policy or absorbed into a strategic programme of work. <p>These Motions did not contain a specific task that could be completed but rather they are more strategic in nature and require changes in Council policy and/ or strategy for long term outcomes. Those listed within this category have all been agreed by Committee and are now either Council policy or are currently being implemented through a Council strategy that is managed by a Standing Committee through the corporate planning process.</p> <p>There are presently 13 Notices of Motion and Issues Raised in Advance for which the City Growth & Regeneration (CG&R) Committee is responsible for. Members are asked to approve the recommendation to close 2 motions (detailed below) and note status updates for the remaining 9 motions which remain open. Additional information is included at Appendix 1.</p> <p>Category 1 Recommended Closures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lifelong Learning Alliance (ID = 310). • Rosetta Way – “quietway” (ID = 314). |
| 3.5 | <p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There are no additional financial implications attached to this report. Finance and resource implications are considered by Committee when taking decisions on the specific Notices of Motion and Issues Raised by Members.</p> |
| 3.6 | <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>There are no equality, good relations or rural needs implications contained in this report.</p> |
| 4.0 | <p>Appendices – Documents attached</p> |
| | <p>Appendix 1: Notices of Motion Live Database – CG&R Committee</p> |

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City Growth & Regeneration Notice of Motions

Notices of Motion and Issued Raised in Advance that remain OPEN

| ID | Date | Notice of Motion | Proposed By | Referral Route | Lead Officer | Latest Status Update |
|-----|------------|---|----------------|--|----------------|--|
| 72 | 04/03/2020 | Review of the Belfast Bikes Scheme | Cllr O'Hara | Issue Raised in Advance (CG&R) | John Greer | A paper was presented to August's CG&R committee to further outline the cost implications of this notice of motion. Members noted the update and agreed that the Committee would consider this proposal as part of the rate setting process for 24/25 and would also write to the Department for Infrastructure and the Department of Health to request investment in this proposal, to be delivered on an annual basis. |
| 152 | 13/01/2021 | Environmental Infrastructure in Council Car Parks | Cllr Heading | Issue Raised in Advance (CG&R) | John Tully | The Climate team has developed a Belfast EV Strategy which will be completed and brought for approval in October/November 2023. A Belfast EV group will be established thereafter to support implementation. BCC is a partner in the FASTER project, which will see EV chargers installed at a number of BCC leisure centres. A bid will be submitted to the ORCS fund in October 2023 for EV charging infrastructure at 15 BCC public facing car parks. |
| 153 | 13/01/2021 | Disabled Parking Accreditation Scheme | Cllr McMullan | Issue Raised in Advance (CG&R) | Cathy Reynolds | As previously reported, a visit from representatives of the Disability Motoring UK's Disabled Parking Accreditation scheme confirmed that all council off-street car parks meet their recommendations for blue badge parking bays. Nevertheless, officers are continuing to work in-line with the recommendations from the Audit. |
| 208 | 04/10/2021 | Belfast City Nightlife and Night-time Economy | Cllr de Faoite | Notice of Motion – straight to CG&R | John Greer | This action is being progressed by the reconvened City Centre All-Party Working Group and will be coordinated with the ongoing work of the Purple Flag steering group. |
| 217 | 01/11/2021 | Tourism Street Signage | Cllr Long | Notice of Motion - referred by S&B Committee | John Greer | Research is being finalised to determine the scope, cost and options for signage for Belfast's Enlightenment Period as per the Motion's detail. A paper for decision will then be brought to committee. |
| 289 | 01/12/2022 | Translink - Night-time provision of services | Cllr Lyons | Notice of Motion – debated at council | Cathy Reynolds | Under the auspices of Community Planning and the Belfast Agenda, Connectivity, Active and Sustainable Travel has been identified as a priority area under the theme of "Our Place". Members will be aware the Public Consultation on the new draft |

| | | | | | | |
|-----|------------|--|--------------|--|----------------|--|
| | | | | | | Belfast Agenda and its associated draft action plans was launched in August of this year and closed on 2 October. As part of the co design process, specifically with relevance to this NoM, Council have engaged with Translink and a range of stakeholders through the “Connectivity, Active and Sustainable Travel” (CAST) sub group (co-chaired by Translink and Sustrans). The draft CAST action plan, which was subject to the recent public consultation process includes an action to “ <i>Expand the timetable with a greater service in the evenings and funding for the provision of night-time services</i> ”, with Translink as the convening lead on taking this forward. Council officers continue to engage specifically with Translink on this NoM. |
| 303 | 24/01/2023 | Support the network of WW2-era Pillboxes | Ald Dorrian | Notice of Motion - referred by S&B Committee | John Greer | We are currently considering options to report back on how best to support Neighbourhood Tourism. We will consider this issue as part of the wider review. |
| 309 | 22/02/2023 | Rent Controls | Cllr Beattie | Issue Raised in Advance (Special CG&R) | Nora Largey | Letters were drafted and sent to the Head of the Civil Service and the DfC Permanent Secretary (24/03/2023). A reply was received and presented to September’s CGR Committee. The response from DfC outlined that they are unable to make changes relating to rent controls without an assembly and an executive in place. |
| 318 | 27/06/2023 | Cathedral Quarter | Cllr Groogan | Notice of Motion – straight to CG&R | Cathy Reynolds | <u>New Update:</u> Democratic Services issued a letter to Castlebrooke in July 2023, who responded in September advising that they would meet in confidence with Party Group Leaders. Members will note a proposal which was agreed at SP&R Committee in September in relation to the Tribeca Scheme. |

Notices of Motion and Issued Raised in Advance recommended to CLOSE

| ID | Date | Notice of Motion | Proposed By | Referral Route | Lead Officer | Update / Latest Status |
|-----|------------|--|----------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|---|
| 310 | 08/03/2023 | Lifelong Learning Alliance | Cllr Spratt | Issue Raised in Advance (CG&R) | John Greer | <u>Recommendation to close (Category 1)</u> An invite has been issued and arrangements are being made to agree a suitable date to present at a future meeting. |
| 314 | 04/03/2023 | Rosetta Way – “quietway” | Cllr De Faoite | Notice of Motion – straight to CG&R | Cathy Reynolds | <u>Recommendation to close (Category 1)</u> Democratic Services wrote to the DfI Perm Sec in April of this year advising that the NoM on Rosetta Way – “quietway” had been passed, and invited the Permanent Secretary to consider the motion and advise on a response. A separate report on correspondence with the department is tabled on the agenda for the October CG&R Meeting. It is recommended to close on this basis subject to any consideration by Members. |

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