

# Public Document Pack

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

17<sup>th</sup> October, 2023

## **MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

As previously notified to you, I enclose a copies of the reports for the following items to be considered at the meeting to be held at 9.30 am on Friday, 20th October, 2023.

Yours faithfully,

John Walsh

Chief Executive

### **AGENDA:**

3. **Restricted Items**

(h) Contracts Update (Pages 1 - 12)

4. **Matters referred back from Council/Motions**

(b) Notices of Motion – Quarterly Update (Pages 13 - 28)

5. **Belfast Agenda/Strategic Issues**

(b) Consultation response to Northern Ireland's Emissions Reduction Targets and Carbon Budgets the UKCCC's Advice Report (Pages 29 - 58)

(d) Dual Language Street Signs Gaeltacht Quarter Proposal (Pages 59 - 70)

6. **Physical Programme and Asset Management**

(a) Asset Management (Pages 71 - 84)

(b) Physical Programme Update (Pages 85 - 92)

9. **Operational Issues**

- (b) Requests for use of the City Hall and the provision of Hospitality (Pages 93 - 96)
- (e) Minutes of the Meeting of the Cost of Living Working Group of 5th October (Pages 97 - 102)

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

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<b>Subject:</b>	Notices of Motion – Quarterly Update
<b>Date:</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> October 2023
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Nora Largey, City Solicitor & Director of Legal and Civic Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Geoff Dickson, Strategic Policy Lead Officer Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer Clare Hutchinson, Strategic Planning and Policy Officer

## Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

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No

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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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## Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

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No

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update Committee on the progress of all Notices of Motion for which SP&R Committee is responsible for.

<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	<p>It is recommended that SP&amp;R Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Note the updates to all Notices of Motion that SP&amp;R Committee is responsible for and</li> <li>• Agree to the closure of Notice of Motion 7, 24, 25, 55, 73, 78, 93, 98, 108, 139, 163, 168, 169, 196, 198, 210, 213, 215, 237, 239, 247, 292, 295, 301 as referenced in Appendix 1 and paragraph 3.4 below.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<p><u>Background</u></p> <p>At SP&amp;R Committee on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2019, the following Notice of Motion was agreed:</p> <p>“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:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Date received</li> <li>2. Notice of motion title</li> <li>3. Submitted by which Councillor</li> <li>4. Council meeting date</li> <li>5. Committee motion is referred to</li> <li>6. Outcome of committee where Notice of Motion will be debated</li> <li>7. Month it will be reported back to committee</li> <li>8. Other action to be taken.”</li> </ol>
3.2	<p>Following a review exercise, a new database containing all Notices of Motion and Issues Raised in Advance at Committee was created and quarterly reporting to Committee commenced in March 2021. Appendix 1 is the latest quarterly update showing all active Notices of Motion and Issues Raised in Advance which SP&amp;R Committee is responsible for.</p>
3.3	<p><b>Closure of Notices of Motion and Issues Raised in Advance</b></p> <p>At SP&amp;R Committee on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020, it was agreed that Notices of Motion could be closed for one of two reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Notices of Motion which contained an action(s) that has been completed; and</li> <li>• Notices of Motion have become Council policy.</li> </ul>

3.4	<p>SP&amp;R Committee are asked to agree that the following 24 Notices of Motion are now closed:</p> <p>Category 1 Recommended Closures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <p><b>Childcare Strategy (Ref no 7)</b> – This NOM called for the Council to agree to investigate options to co-create a Childcare Strategy for the city. It was agreed that a childcare strategy that is for Belfast alone would not be operational and outside the remit of the Council. Council continues to engage with key central government departments and agencies through community planning and other structures to advocate the need to accelerate the finalisation and implementation of the regional strategy. Therefore, it is recommended that this NOM is now closed.</p> </li> <li> <p><b>Application to Ulster History Circle for a Blue Plaque ( Ref 108)</b> – This called for an application to the Ulster History Circle for a blue plaque for Olaudah Equiano and to meet the costs for it's implementation. A letter was issued to the Secretary of the Ulster History Circle who advised that this application has been discussed and declined on the basis that Mr. Equiano did not meet the criteria for a blue plaque. Therefore, it is recommended that this NOM is now closed.</p> </li> <li> <p><b>Establishment of an External Independent Review of Educational Provision ( Ref 139)</b> – This NOM called for the Council to write to the NI Executive to show support for the very early implementation of the agreement to establish an external, independent review of educational provision and the prospect of moving towards a single education system and invite representation onto the Community Planning Partnership to ensure Belfast is equipped to ensure that education is inclusive for all. SP&amp;R Committee agreed a Council response on 18th November 2022 (endorsed by Full Council) to the Department of Education's consultation on it's Corporate Plan which has been submitted. Council officers continue to work with colleagues from Dept of Education and the Education Authority in bringing forward the refreshed Belfast Agenda and focus for the next four years and it is recommended that this NOM is now closed.</p> </li> <li> <p><b>Application Fees in the Private Rental Sector (Ref 163)</b> – This NOM called for the Council to write to the Minister for Communities and the Minister of Finance, outlining concerns about and pledging council's support for the regulation of the private rented sector. Letter were sent in March 2021 and the responses reported back to Committee in April 2021. It is recommended that this NOM is now closed.</p> </li> <li> <p><b>Legislation to Tackle the Third Party Sale of Pups (Ref 168)</b> – This NOM called for the Council to write to the Minister for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs with regard to measures to tackle the third party sale of pups. Letters were issued</p> </li> </ul>
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in April 2021 and a further motion on the Illegal Puppy Trade (Ref 221) was taken forward and completed in December 2021. It is recommended that this NOM is now closed.

- **Mullaghglass Landfill Sire – Legal action ( Ref 169)** – This NOM called on the Council to prepare legal action against the Northern Ireland Environment Agency and the site operator for their dereliction of duty in protecting the rights of citizens around the Mullaghglass landfill site. The outcome of the legal proceedings were notified to the People & Communities Committee at the September 2023 meeting. It is recommended that this NOM is now closed.
- **Bonfire Procedures (Ref 198)** – This NOM called for the Council to review bonfire procedures. A report was brought to Committee on 24 September 2021. A further report 'Review of Bonfire Procedure' was brought on 19 November 2021. The SP&R Committee agreed to endorse the proposed review process and noted that the Bonfire Panel would be reconvened to move that forward and address the issues which had been raised in relation to the decision to regulate illegal and toxic bonfires. It is recommended that this NOM is now closed.
- **Community Sector Terms and Conditions (Ref 213)** – This NOM called for the Council to write to the Minister for Communities to request that a review be undertaken and actions recommended, to support and strengthen the community sector, particularly in relation to terms and conditions and salaries. A letter was sent in November 2021. It is recommended that this NOM is now closed.
- **Regulation of Air BnB's (Ref 215)** – This NOM called on the Council to write to the NI Executive to undertake a review and propose recommendations with regard to concerns around the growing number of unregulated Air BnB's and similar types of short-term let arrangements. A letter was sent in November 2021. It is recommended that this NOM is now closed.
- **Belfast Citywide Tribunal Service ( Ref 237)** – This NOM called on the Council to fund the Tribunal a sum of money, if necessary, to avert redundancies and maintain the level of service. The funding allocation was approved and it is therefore recommended that this NOM is now closed.
- **Mountainview Centre ( Ref 239)** – This NOM called on the Council to convene an urgent meeting with relevant partners to explore the possibility of keeping this service open. The Mountainview Centre has now closed with the staff and service users being absorbed elsewhere and therefore it is recommended that this NOM is now closed.
- **Abortion Services ( Ref 295)** – This NOM called on the Council to write to the Northern Trust to encourage it to provide more information about early medical abortion on their website and write to Minister Swann to urge him to convene an

emergency meeting of the Executive to officially commission abortion services. The Northern Trust have now commissioned abortion services and therefore it is recommended that this NOM is now closed.

- **Dual Language Street Signage (Ref 301)** – This NOM called for an update report to be brought to the next meeting of SP&R outlining the reasons for the delay in processing the backlog of applications. An update report was brought to Committee on 17 February 2023. It is recommended that this NOM is now closed.

Category 2 Recommended Closures:

- **Webcasting of Committee Meetings (Refs 24 and 93)** – These NOMs called for the webcasting of committee meetings to become common practice after the pandemic. This has now been implemented so it is recommended that both NOMs be closed.
- **Abortion Imagery ( Ref 25)** – This NOM called on the Council to investigate whether the public display of graphic abortion imagery in the city centre can be regulated lawfully. The Council undertook initial engagement with the Department for Communities and obtained legal advice on the draft byelaws. On 26 June 2023 the SP&R Committee agreed that the draft bye laws be issued for formal public consultation commencing in September 2023. It is recommended that this NOM is now closed.
- **Drug Risk Force ( Ref 55)** – This NOM called on the Council to write to the Ministers for Health, Justice and Communities to establish a drug task force, the primary role of which would be to co-ordinate and drive action to improve the health outcomes for people who use drugs, reducing the risk of harm and death. Letters were issued as requested on 20 Feb 2020 and this work is now being taken forward as part of the 'Complex Lives' initiative. It is recommended that this NOM is now closed.
- **Race Equality Champion for Belfast City Council (Ref 73)** – This NOM called on a report to be brought forward for Members to consider, outlining options to further promote the inclusion of BAME communities, their access to Council services and participation in civic life. The Director of City and Organisational Strategy is now the CMT nominated Executive Sponsor for Race and is overseeing the development of a Race Action Plan for 2023 – 2026. The Race Action Plan will be an additional strand to the Council's diversity action plans going forward. It is recommended that this NOM is now closed.
- **Suicide Awareness Training (Ref 78)** – This NOM called on the Council to resource further mental health and suicide awareness training for staff and appoint

mental health champions in each department. A number of courses have been promoted to staff and Members and are offered on a continual basis via the Council's health and well-being support page. In addition, the revised Health and Well-Being Strategy Action Plan includes the establishment of a network of health and wellbeing champions as a key action. It is recommended that this NOM is now closed.

- **Procurement Policy – Living Wage (Ref 98)** – This NOM called on the Council to promote a procurement policy that supports the principle of a Real Living Wage. The council's Social Value Procurement Policy is now implemented and includes support for the Real Living Wage and the Council has also been awarded accreditation from the Living Wage Foundation. It is recommended that this NOM is now closed.
- **A Changing Places Toilets Policy for Belfast City Council ( Ref 196)** – This NOM called on the Council to develop a Changing Places Toilet Facility Policy for Belfast City Council, with input from disabled people, older people and carers. An officer working group has now been established, who are working on a draft policy. This draft policy was presented to the Disability Working Group in October 2023 and therefore it is recommended that this NOM is now closed.
- **Staff on Temporary Contracts (Ref no 210)** – This NOM called on the Council to obtain legal opinion to establish whether anyone employed on a temporary contract for 12 continuous months can have that contract made permanent if the staff member wishes to do so. A report was presented to January's SP&R Committee on the legal opinion received and reports on the number of staff on temporary contracts and the use of agency assignees is presented to Committee on a quarterly basis. It is recommended that this NOM is now closed.
- **City of Sanctuary (Ref 247)** – This NOM called on the Council to support the Council becoming a Council of Sanctuary and Belfast a City of Sanctuary and commit to the standards identified as part of this. The council has recently carried out research into the inequalities experienced by Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic and Traveller people residing in Belfast and work is on-going to ensure a co-ordinated approach to addressing the findings. In addition, initiatives are still on-going through the Good Relations Action Plan and Council has also been awarded £406 thousand pounds from the TEO's Dispersal Fund to assist with programmes to support asylum seekers until March 2024. Updates on this on-going work are brought to Committee as required. Therefore, it is recommended that this NOM is now closed.
- **Council to become an Autism Impact Champion (Ref 292)** – This NOM called on the council to become an Autism Impact Champion, as defined by Autism NI. The Equality and Diversity Unit have included "becoming an Autism NI Impact



	<p>Champion” as an action measure in the new Disability Action Plan 2022-25.</p> <p>Therefore, it is recommended that this NOM is now closed.</p>
3.5	<p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There are no additional financial implications required to implement these recommendations.</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>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	<p>Appendix 1: Notices of Motion Live Database – SP&amp;R Committee</p>

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# Notice of Motion – Live Database

Belfast

Ref	Type	Date of Council Meeting	Motion (including hyperlinks)	Proposed by	Referral route	Committee	Agreed actions (agreed decisions from committee/ Council)	Lead officer	Lead Department	Status	277
7	notice of Motion	09/04/2018	<a href="#">Childcare Strategy</a>	Cllr O'Hara	Referred to SP&R	SP&R		J Tully	City & Organisational Strategy	Recommendation Close	A child care strategy that is for Belfast alone would not be operational and outside the remit of the Council. The Council continues to engage with key central government departments and agencies through community planning and other structures to help improve the education and social outcomes for children and young people. The Education Minister recently confirmed ( 7th Sep 2022) the continued commitment to developing an integrated Early Learning and Childcare Strategy for NI with March 2023 as the anticipated date for the draft of the strategy and costed action plan which will be subject to NI Executive consideration. Council officers will engage with Depts and seek to input into this process and advocate the need to accelerate the finalisation and implementation of the regional strategy
23	Notice of Motion	01/07/2019	<a href="#">Removal of Banners and Paramilitary Flags in Belfast</a>	Cllr Beattie	Debated and passed	SP&R		N Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	Consultation delayed due to Covid-19. Since the decision by SP &R in 2019, the FICT report commissioned by The Executive was published which covers similar issues. Extensive consultation was undertaken between 2016 – 19 on this and the contents of this report have the agreement of the 5 main political parties represented on the Commission
24	Notice of Motion	01/07/2019	<a href="#">Webcasting of Committee Meetings</a>	Cllr Nicholl	Referred to SP&R	SP&R		N Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Recommendation Close	Report to be brought to CMT and potentially Party Group Leaders for discussion on way forward.
25	Issue raised in Advance	23/08/2019	<a href="#">Abortion Imagery</a>	Cllr Groogan		SP&R	Motion referred to SP&R	N Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Recommendation Close	Work is ongoing on the development of new city amenities byelaws which would try to address a number of issues in relation to good governance in the city centre including the display of promotional literature or material without a permit from the Council. The Council have undertaken initial engagement with the Department for Communities and obtained legal advice on the draft byelaws. On 26 June 2023 the SP&R Committee agreed that the draft Bye Laws be issued for formal public consultation commencing in September 2023.
35	Notice of Motion	02/12/2019	<a href="#">Pridestrian Animation</a>	Cllr Garrett	Referred to SP&R	SP&R		J Greer	Place & Economy	Ongoing	Following recommendations from the Inclusive Mobility and Transport Advisory Committee (IMTAC) that colourful crossings should not be used; officers are continuing to engage with partner to investigate alternative options.
49	Notice of Motion	03/02/2020	<a href="#">Market Gardens and Urban Farming</a>	Cllr de Faioite	Straight to Committee	SP&R		J Tully	City & Organisational Strategy	Ongoing	The Climate Team are have established a Belfast Sustainable Food Partnership, which is currently developing an action plan which will consider the potential for market gardens and urban farming in the city. The UPSURGE and UP2030 projects are also looking at the use of green space and nature based solutions, and will include community growing elements.
50	Notice of Motion	03/02/2020	<a href="#">Belfast Zoo</a>	Cllr Maskey	Straight to Committee	SP&R		J Greer	Place & Economy	Ongoing	Jun 23: Visitor numbers at the zoo are improving. A number of initiatives have been well received including Love your zoo week and the return of " quiet hour". The zoo has also welcomed several new residents with lots of pictures appearing on zoo social media channe .The Rainforest House re-opened with a new Sloth Snug and the opening of the new lion/big cat enclosure is expected early July to coincide with the zoo's summer campaign. The art trail is progressing and refurbishment works continues at the vacant Hazelwood House; the Bellevue Steps is still a potential area for future refurbishment and Floral Hall continues to be reviewed. Works have completed to replace the roof of the giraffe/ elephant house and the gibbon house. The Council's Assets Team continue to work on a detailed action plan with timelines and potential funding opportunities.
51	Notice of Motion	03/02/2020	<a href="#">Growth Deal</a>	Cllr Beattie	Straight to Committee	SP&R		R Cregan	Finance & Resources	Ongoing	To be progressed as resources become available.

55	Notice of Motion	03/02/2020	<a href="#">Drug Task Force</a>	Cllr McCusker	Debated at Council	SP&R	Letters to be sent to Ministers for Health, Justice and Communities	N Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Recommendation Close	<p>Letters issued on 20 Feb 2020 to Departments of Health, Justice and Communities calling for the establishment of a drug task force to be prioritised as a matter of urgency. Reply received from Department of Health.</p> <p>This work is being taken forward as part of 'Complex Lives' so it is recommended to close this notice of motion.</p>
73	Issue Raised in Advance	19/06/2020	<a href="#">Race Equality Champion for Belfast City Council</a>	Cllr Nicholl		SP&R		J Tully	City & Organisational Strategy	Recommendation Close	The Director of City and Organisational Strategy is the CMT nominated Executive Sponsor for Race and is overseeing the development of a Race Action Plan. A draft plan covering three strands of work: Workforce, Access to services and Civic Leadership has been developed and further engagement and consultation with all stakeholders is ongoing with the aim of agreeing a three year plan 23/24 to 25/26. The Race Action Plan will be an additional strand to our diversity action plans going forward.
74	issue Raised in Advance	19/06/2020	<a href="#">Disabled People and Older People</a>	Cllr McMullan		SP&R		N Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	<p>The draft Age Friendly plan 22-26 is scheduled to be presented to SP&amp;R in September 22 before going out to public consultation in October 22. The plan outlines actions that will contribute to relevant aims in the Belfast Agenda, accessibility is explicitly mentioned in the report with proposed actions to address this issue. The emerging priorities include Infrastructure – helping people 'get out and about' and Social inclusion, promoting connections both themes will promote increased accessibility. Work will continue with the Council's internal Reference Group on Older People and officers have secured funding for a Council Age Friendly Co-ordinator, the recruitment process for this post will commence in the Autumn. It is therefore proposed that this Motion is now closed.</p> <p>10.01.23 Part one of this motion in relation to older people and inclusivity is now recommended for closure due to the above update. However there are further actions and updates to be gained in relation to accessibility and inclusivity with regards to disabled people and in a wider sense. Therefore this motion has been left as on-going until these further updates have been obtained.</p>
78	Notice of Motion	01/07/2020	<a href="#">Suicide Awareness Training</a>	Cllr Michelle Kelly	Straight to Committee	SP&R		J Tully	City & Organisational Strategy	Recommendation Close	A number of short courses developed by the Mersey Care Trust Foundation on suicide Awareness have been promoted to staff and elected members and are available on a continual basis to all staff via our Health and Wellbeing Support page on our staff intranet. A number of council staff have attended Mental Health First Aid training. The establishment of a network of health & wellbeing champions has been included in the draft revised Health and Wellbeing Strategy action plan, which is being consulted on currently. It is anticipated that the revised three year strategy and action plan will be agreed by December 23.
93	issue Raised in Advance	21/08/2020	<a href="#">Video and Web Streaming of Council Committee Meetings</a>	Cllr McReynolds		SP&R	The Committee also noted that an update report would be submitted to a future Committee with respect to the continuation of live streaming after the pandemic	N Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Recommendation Close	Webcasting of Council Committee meetings has now been implemented. Recommendation close.
98	Notice of Motion	01/09/2020	<a href="#">Procurement Policy - Living Wage</a>	Cllr Murphy	Straight to Committee	SP&R	Referred to SP&R	N Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Recommendation Close	<p>The Council's Procurement Policy is being updated as part of the overall review of Social Value Procurement - including consideration of the real living wage.</p> <p>A public consultation on the draft policy is running until Tuesday 14 December 2021. The policy is now being implemented including the requirement for payment of the Real Living Wage and the Council has been awarded Real Living Wage Accreditation. Therefore it is recommended that this NOM is now closed</p>
108	issue Raised in Advance	18/09/2020	<a href="#">Application to Ulster History Circle for a blue plaque - Olaudah Equiano</a>	Cllr McMullan		SP&R	Report to come back to SP&R Committee	N Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Recommendation Close	<p>Nominations to Ulster History Circle closed during pandemic but have now recently reopened. Details sent to Ulster History Circle official email address asking them to consider the application on 10 Mar 23, 12 Jun 23 and 21 Sep 23 but no response received.</p> <p>Letter issued to Secretary of Ulster History Circle who has now advised that this application has been discussed and declined on the basis that Mr Equiano did not meet the criteria for a blue plaque.</p>
131	Notice of Motion	02/11/2020	<a href="#">Sealing of the Records of Mother and Baby Homes</a>	Cllr Michael Collins	Debated at Council	SP&R	Letters sent. Awaiting response from Irish Gov. Exec response received.	N Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	Response from Irish Gov still outstanding - 06/09/21

138	Notice of Motion	07/12/2020	<a href="#">World Environment Day</a>	Cllr Garrett	Straight to Committee	SP&R	Report to come back to SP&R Committee	J Tully	City & Organisational Strategy	Ongoing	The Climate Team is developing a calendar of key dates with Corporate Communications, ensuring appropriate messaging is developed in advance. The Communication Plan will be delivered through the BCC Climate Action Plan.
139	Notice of Motion	07/12/2020	<a href="#">Establishment of an External Independent Review of Educational Provision</a>	Cllr McReynolds	Debated at Council	SP&R		J Tully	City & Organisational Strategy	Recommendation Close	Dept of Education appointed an Independent Panel to undertake a deep rooted review of the education system in NI and the council will input into this process as it moves forward. The Dept of Education has recently published for consultation ( 20th Sep to 15th Nov 2022) its corporate plan " Every Child Matters 2023 - 2030". SP&R Committee agreed a Council response on 18th November (endorsed by Full Council) which had been submitted. Council officers continue to work with colleagues from Dept of Education and the Education Authority in bringing forward the refreshed Belfast Agenda and focus for the next four years.
163	Notice of Motion	01/03/2021	<a href="#">Application Fees in the private rented sector</a>	Cllr Flynn	Debated at Council	SP&R	Council agrees to write to the Minister for Communities and the Minister of Finance, outlining concerns above and pledging council's support for the regulation of the private rented sector.	N Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Recommendation Close	Letters sent on 10/03/2021. Responses received and reported back to People and Communities Committee on 13/04/2021. Recommendation Close.
167	Notice of Motion	01/04/2021	<a href="#">Violence against Women and Girls</a>	Notice of Motion	Straight to Committee	<a href="#">SP&amp;R</a>	Council to write to NI Executive re Strategy. Council to work with groups like Womens Aid. Council to ensure it has an up to date Anti Harrassment Policy in place	N Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	To be progressed as resources become available
168	Notice of Motion	01/04/2021	<a href="#">Legislation to Tackle the Third Party Sale of Pups</a>	Councillor Newton	Debated at Council	SP&R		N Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Recommendation Close	Letters sent 22/4/21 - further motion to Council on 1/12/21
169	Notice of Motion	01/04/2021	<a href="#">Mullaghglass Landfill Site - Legal Action</a>	Councillor Baker	Debated at Council	SP&R		N Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Recommendation Close	Outcome of legal proceedings notified to P&C at September 2023 meeting. Recommend that the motion is now closed.
171	Notice of Motion	01/04/2021	<a href="#">10 Per Cent Pay Increase for Council Workers</a>	Councillor Matt Collins	Debated at Council	SP&R		J Tully	City & Organisational Strategy	Ongoing	The NJC pay award for 2022-23, was agreed and finalised November 2022 in accordance with the NJC's Constitution. There is no provision for local pay deals to be reached unless a council has chosen to opt out of the national bargaining machinery. Management have met with Trade Union representatives from each locally recognised Trade Union, and Council agreed to award 2 x COL payments of £750 gross to all staff except for Chief Officers. Following extensive discussions, management and the Trade Unions have agreed an interim pay and grading structure effective from 1 Sep 2022 for NJC and Craft employees. The interim structure includes the removal of the first SCP in each grade, except for PO12 and the addition of 1 SCP to the top of each grade, except for PO12. All employees will progress by 1 increment with effect from 1 September 2022 with the exception of those employees at the top of PO12. From 1 April 2023, normal processes for incremental progression will apply.
176	Notice of Motion	04/05/2021	<a href="#">Mater Hospital Services</a>	Cllr Ferguson	Debated at Council	SP&R		N Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	This motion related to provision of services during the pandemic - this was resolved with services returning to normal from November 2022. 12.03.23 This motion recommendation for closure was rejected at Feb SP&R and therefore remains on-going
187	Notice of Motion	01/06/2021	<a href="#">Local Government Pension Scheme – Responsible Investment Strategy</a>	Cllr Murphy	Debated at Council	SP&R	Write to NILGOSC	N Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	Letter sent 2/7/21. Meeting with NILGOSC requested by S P and R 20/8/21 - to be arranged
189	Notice of Motion	01/06/2021	<a href="#">PEACE IV to PEACE PLUS Programmes</a>	Cllr Kyle	Debated at Council	SP&R	Write to TEO and SEUPB	N Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	Letters sent 2/7/21. Response received from SEUPB 20/7/21 - TEO yet to respond
195	Notice of Motion	01/07/2021	<a href="#">Chat Bench and Tackling Loneliness</a>	Cllr Howard	Straight to Committee	SP&R		S Grimes	Property & Projects	Ongoing	[No change from previous update]. To be progressed as resources become available. The NoM is wider than just physical projects.
196	Notice of Motion	01/09/2021	<a href="#">A Changing Places Toilets Policy for Belfast City Council</a>	Cllr McMullan	Straight to Committee	SP&R		N Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Recommendation Close	Responsibility for this NOM has now transferred to Legal & Civic Services. An officer working group has been established and are working on the draft policy. Draft policy presented to Disability Working Group in October 2023. Recommend that this motion is now closed.

197	Notice of Motion	01/09/2021	<a href="#">The Rights of Nature</a>	Cllr Smyth	Straight to Committee	SP&R		J Tully	City & Organisational Strategy	Ongoing	The Climate team will review the motion while developing the Belfast Climate Plan, updating members accordingly.
198	Notice of Motion	01/09/2021	<a href="#">Bonfire Procedures</a>	Cllr Beattie	Straight to Committee	SP&R		N Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Recommendation Close	Report brought to Committee on 24 September 2021. A further report Review of Bonfire Procedure was brought on 19 November 2021. The SP&R Committee agreed to endorse the proposed review process and noted that the Bonfire Panel would be reconvened to move that forward and address the issues which had been raised in relation to the decision to regulate illegal and toxic bonfires.
199	Notice of Motion	01/09/2021	<a href="#">Four-Day Working Week</a>	Cllr Garrett	Straight to Committee	SP&R		J Tully	City & Organisational Strategy	Ongoing	Management are currently developing proposals on how a 4 day working week may be trialled within the Council.
203	Notice of Motion	04/10/2021	<a href="#">Electric Charging Points</a>	Ald Dorrian	Debated at Council	SP&R	Write to Minister for Infrastructure Members to receive a report from officers	N Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	Responses from Ministers being considered by officers
209	Notice of Motion	04/10/2021	<a href="#">Environmentally Sustainable Event Spaces</a>	Cllr Garrett	Straight to Committee	SP&R		S Grimes	Property & Projects	Ongoing	[No change from previous update]. To be progressed as resources become available.
210	Notice of Motion	04/10/2021	<a href="#">Staff on Temporary Contracts</a>	Cllr McLaughlin	Straight to Committee	SP&R		J Tully	City & Organisational Strategy	Recommendation Close	A report was presented to January's SP&R Committee on the opinion received on the notice of motion regarding temporary staff from Senior Counsel, the Local Government Staff Commission and the Equality Commission NI. Reports on the number of staff on temporary contracts and the use of agency assignees is presented to Committee on a quarterly basis.
213	Notice of Motion	01/11/2021	<a href="#">Community Sector Terms and Conditions</a>	Cllr Bunting	Debated at Council	SP&R	Write to Minister for Communities	N Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Recommendation Close	Letter sent 16th November 2021.
215	Notice of Motion	01/11/2021	<a href="#">Regulation of AirBnBs</a>	Cllr McKeown	Debated at Council	SP&R	Write to NI Executive	N Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Recommendation Close	Letter sent 16th November 2021
225	Issue Raised in Advance	17/12/2021	<a href="#">City Centre Built Heritage</a>	Cllr Murphy	Issue Raised in Advance	SP&R		C Reynolds	Place & Economy	Ongoing	Cross departmental work is progressing on a report for consideration at committee.
228	Notice of Motion - referred by S&B Committee	10/01/2022	<a href="#">Playing Pitches in Belfast</a>	Cllr Brooks	Straight to Committee	SP&R		D Sales	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	City and Neighbourhood Services Department have commissioned the production of a Pitches Strategy. The outline strategy timeline indicates that a draft action plan should be developed by June 2024.
235	Notice of Motion - referred by S&B Committee	22/02/2022	<a href="#">Energy Price Crises</a>	Cllr Smyth	Straight to Committee	SP&R		J Tully/ Debbie Caldwell	City & Organisational Strategy	Ongoing	The Climate Team are currently developing an EV Strategy for Belfast which will consider community needs and opportunities. The Belfast Local Area Energy Plan is under development, due to complete at the start of 2024, this will consider opportunities for community energy initiatives. In parallel discussions are ongoing with projects such as Edenderry District Energy initiative, to explore opportunities to support community ambitions.
237	Notice of Motion - referred by S&B Committee	22/02/2022	<a href="#">Belfast Citywide Tribunal Service</a>	Cllr Ferguson	straight to Committee	SP&R		D Sales	City & Neighbourhood Services	Recommendation Close	Funding allocation of £279,000 from Council underspends was approved by SP&R to support delivery of the service in 23/24. Given that the specific actions detailed within this Motion have been addressed, it is recommended that this Motion is now closed.
239	Notice of Motion	01/03/2022	<a href="#">Mountainview Centre</a>	Cllr Matt Collins	Debated at Council	SP&R		D Sales	City & Neighbourhood Services	Recommendation Close	Since the initial raising and discussion of this Motion, the Mountainview Centre has since closed with staff and service users being absorbed elsewhere. It is therefore recommended that this Motion is now closed.
243	Notice of Motion	14/03/2022	<a href="#">Cost of Living</a>	Cllr. Garrett	Debated at Special Council	SP&R	Present proposal to create a citywide hardship fund	J Tully	City & Organisational Strategy	Ongoing	In 2022/2023, the Council developed and implemented a £1million Fuel Hardship Fund, supported the creation of a network of community based 'social supermarkets' which helped those suffering from food insecurity and provided advice and sign-posted, through the 'cost of living support guide' to other sources of help for those impacted by the cost of living crisis.  An All-Party Members' Cost of Living Working Group has been established to co-design a £1million+ hardship fund for 2023/24 and will bring proposals forward for the consideration and approval of SP&R Committee in October and November with full implementation by end of March 2024. The Members' Cost of Living Working Group will also consider what role and additional support can be provided by Council – as requested in the NOM - in the context of the financial pressures and uncontrollable costs facing the council. Further reports will be brought to Committee as relevant.

247	Notice of Motion	04/04/2022	<a href="#">City of Sanctuary</a>	Cllr. Kyle	Debated at Council	SP&R		D Sales	City & Neighbourhood Services	Recommendation Close	Further to the findings of the Inequalities research being published, these have been included in the Council's Action Plan where relevant. Work is ongoing through Departments to ensure a coordinated approach has been taken, along with involvement of those with lived experience an expertise. Initiatives are still ongoing through the GR Action Plan through the SCP. Council has also been awarded £406k from the TEO's Dispersal Fund to assist with programmes to support asylum seekers until 31 March 24. Work is also ongoing to align the aims of the NOM within community planning. Would recommend that this NOM be closed as updates on this work are already included within reports to SP and R and SCP where appropriate.
257	Issue Raised in Advance	17/06/2022	<a href="#">City Cemetery - Bi-lingual Signage</a>	Cllr Beattie	Issue Raised in Advance	SP&R		S Grimes	Property & Projects	Ongoing	The new City Cemetery visitor centre is now open. Dual language signage works and designs are ongoing.
264	Issue Raised in Advance	19/08/2022	<a href="#">Electric Vehicle Charging Points Strategy</a>	Cllr Long	Issue Raised in Advance	SP&R		J Tully	City & Organisational Strategy	Ongoing	The Climate team has developed a Belfast EV Strategy which will be completed in September 2023, 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 September 2023 for EV charging infrastructure at 15 BCC public facing car parks.
266	Notice of Motion	23/08/2022	<a href="#">GLL and Trade Unions</a>	Cllr Ferguson	Agreed at Committee	SP&R	CX to convene meeting	J Walsh	Chief Executives	Ongoing	Wrote to GLL cc'd CX's office - CD UPDATE: Response received and presented to September SP&R (CXs Office arranging TU Mtg)- CD
269	Notice of Motion	23/08/2022	<a href="#">Support for Striking Communication Workers Union</a>	Cllr Michael Collins	Agreed at Committee	SP&R	Write to BT/Openreach/Royal Mail & arrange an all party delegation with CWU reps.	N Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	Wrote to BT etc. and arranging APD - Response received on behalf of BT and Open Reach 15/9
280	issue Raised in Advance	21/10/2022	<a href="#">Fuel Poverty Hardship Fund</a>	Cllr Flynn	Issue Raised in Advance	SP&R		D Sales	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	£1million was allocated to recipients across the city prior to 31 March 24 - the scheme has now closed. In relation to the action regarding a long term strategy around leveraging community owned energy projects to reduce energy bills and create sustainable communities, the Climate and Resilience team are seeking to recruit a post to focus on this area of work - when in post, this will provide capacity to support community owned energy projects. In the interim, the Climate team have been in touch with the Edenderry project and provided some information and contacts to assist with the development of this project. It is suggested that ownership of this Issue is transferred to the Climate Team going forward
283	Issue Raised in Advance	18/11/2022	<a href="#">Memorial to Baroness May Blood</a>	Cllr Murray	Issue Raised in Advance	SP&R		S Grimes	Property & Projects	Ongoing	Discussed at the City Hall/City Hall Grounds Installations Working Group. To be considered as part of the City Hall statues project under the Capital Programme.
284	Issue Raised in Advance	18/11/2022	<a href="#">Use of the Ceremony Room, City Hall</a>	Cllr Michelle Kelly	Issue Raised in Advance	SP&R		S Grimes	Property & Projects	Ongoing	<i>[No change from previous update].</i> A report on the potential reinstatement of the Ceremony Room to be submitted to a future Committee meeting.
292	Notice of Motion	19/03/2021	<a href="#">Council to become an Autism Impact Champion</a>	Cllr McMullan	Straight to Committee	SP&R		N Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Recommendation Close	Equality and Diversity Unit have included 'becoming an Autism NI Impact Champion' as an action measure in the new Disability Action Plan 2022-25
295	Notice of Motion	25/10/2022	<a href="#">Abortion Services</a>	Cllr Ferguson	Agreed at Committee	SP&R	Council to write to the Northern Trust Council to write to Minister Swann to urge him to convene an emergency meeting of the Executive to officially commission abortion services. In the event that a prolonged period without Stormont Ministers looks likely, the Council to write to the Secretary of State	N Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Recommendation Close	Adopted at Standards and Business Committee.  Northern Trust have now commissioned abortion services. Recommend that this motion is now closed.

297	Notice of Motion - referred by S&B Committee	05/01/2023	<a href="#">Comber Greenway</a>	Cllr Flynn	Straight to Committee	SP&R		S Grimes	Property & Projects	Ongoing	Project has significant resource and financial implications which needs to be discussed with the relevant officers.
298	Notice of Motion - referred by S&B Committee	05/01/2023	<a href="#">School Street Schemes</a>	Cllr de Faioite	Straight to Committee	SP&R	Council to write to Department for Infrastructure requesting it to bring forward a School Streets pilot project in Belfast	N Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	
300	issue Raised in Advance	20/01/2023	<a href="#">Levelling Up Fund</a>	Cllr McLaughlin	Issue Raised in Advance	SP&R		J Tully	City & Organisational Strategy	Ongoing	A report was submitted to SP&R Cttee on 26th June 23 providing an update on the lessons to be learnt from the approach to Levelling Up Round 2 and providing feedback on the unsuccessful submissions made. In anticipation of a Levelling Up Round 3 being brought forward, work continues to develop a pipeline of potential candidate projects which can be worked up to a stage of maturity for submission to any future funding call.
301	issue Raised in Advance	20/01/2023	<a href="#">Dual-Language Street Signage</a>	Cllr McLaughlin	Issue Raised in Advance	SP&R	Committee agreed that an update report be brought to next meeting of SP&R outlining reasons for relay in processing backlog of applications.	N Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Recommendation Close	An update report on Dual Language Street Signage was brought to the next meeting of the SP&R Committee on 17 February 2023.
302	Notice of Motion - referred by S&B Committee	24/01/2023	<a href="#">Winter Outdoor Preparedness Strategy</a>	Cllr McMullan	Straight to Committee	SP&R		S Toland	City & Neighbourhood Services	Ongoing	An update report on Winter Preparedness will be presented to People and Communities Committee in November 2023.
305	Notice of Motion	24/01/2023	<a href="#">Support for striking Health Workers</a>	Cllr Matt Collins	Agreed at Committee	SP&R	The Council resolves to write to the Department for Health and the Secretary of State, in the absence of a Minister for Health, to urge them to source and provide a fair, above inflation pay rise for health workers.	N Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	Adopted at Standards and Business Committee. Progress to be reported to SP&R
306	Notice of Motion - referred by S&B Committee	21/02/2023	<a href="#">Maternity Leave Provision for Mothers of Babies defined as Premature</a>	Cllr Spratt	Straight to Committee	SP&R		J Tully	City & Organisational Strategy	Ongoing	Research and benchmarking is ongoing, proposals will be developed and will be consulted on with management and trade unions in accordance with the IR Framework.
308	Notice of Motion	21/02/2023	<a href="#">Overdose Prevention Facility in Belfast</a>	Cllr O'Hara	Debated at Council	SP&R	That this Council facilitates an open call to organisations who wish to be involved in the setting up of such a facility to work together to draft a proposal on what this service would include, centred on providing overdose prevention facilities and wrap around support services for those in need, and to write to the relevant agencies to urge them to provide multi-year funding for the Complex Lives strategy	N Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	Adopted at Council and progress to be reported to SP&R initially
319	Notice of Motion	27/06/2023	<a href="#">CPR Training and Circuit</a>	Cllr Black	Straight to Committee	SP&R		S Grimes	Property & Projects	Ongoing	



320	Notice of Motion	27/06/2023	<a href="#">Department for Infrastructure - Standards of Repairs to Roads and Footpaths</a>	Cllr Long	Adopted	SP&R	The Council will write to DfI to raise the issue regarding the standard of repairs to roads and footpaths	N Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	Correspondence issued to DfI Perm Sec - 11.07.23 CD
325	Issue Raised in Advance	18/08/2023	<a href="#">Request for Artwork to Celebrate the Oscar Winning Film 'An Irish Goodbye'</a>	Cllr Black	Issue Raised in Advance	SP&R		J Greer	Place & Economy	Ongoing	
326	Issue Raised in Advance	18/08/2023	<a href="#">Data Protection</a>	Cllr Beattie	Issue Raised in Advance	SP&R		N Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	
327	Issue Raised in Advance	18/08/2023	<a href="#">Corporate Communications - Language Policy</a>	Cllr Ronan McLaughlin	Issue Raised in Advance	SP&R		N Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	
332	Notice of Motion	29/08/2023	<a href="#">Future Management Structures of Lough Neagh</a>	Cllr Smyth	Debated at Council	SP&R		N Largey	Legal & Civic Services	Ongoing	
Total			66						66		

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**Belfast**  
City Council

<b>Subject:</b>	Consultation response to Northern Ireland's Emissions Reduction Targets and Carbon Budgets the UKCCC's Advice Report
<b>Date:</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> October 2023
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Tully, Director City and Organisational Strategy
<b>Contact Officers:</b>	Claire Shortt, Monitoring Learning and Reporting Officer, Climate Team

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
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 type="text"/>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Information relating to any individual</li> <li>2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual</li> <li>3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)</li> <li>4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter</li> <li>5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained</li> <li>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</li> <li>7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime</li> </ol>	
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision After Council Decision Sometime in the future Never	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues</b>
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1.1	The purpose of this report is to update members on the consultation response to DAERA on emissions targets, carbon budgets and the Climate Change Committee's (CCC) Advice Report. The response has been submitted to DAERA as an officer response and will be confirmed as a Belfast City Council response after ratification at full Council on Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> November 2023.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Note the contents of the consultation</li> <li>ii) Agree submission of response to DAERA</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
	<b>Emissions Targets, Carbon Budgets and the CCC Advice Report</b>
3.1	A climate emergency was declared by the Northern Ireland Assembly in February 2020. In June 2022, the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 received Royal Assent. This Act sets out Northern Ireland's framework for tackling climate change and reducing emissions, by setting (among other things) challenging targets to deliver net zero emissions ('net zero') in Northern Ireland by the year 2050. The Department of Agriculture Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) is leading on the development of Northern Ireland's first 5-year climate action plan (CAP) as required under the Act. The CAP will contain the Northern Ireland departments' policies and proposals to meet the first 5-year carbon budget for the years 2023-27 (which is a limit on the amount of emissions Northern Ireland can emit) and it will set our longer-term pathway towards net zero by 2050.
3.2	The main aim of this consultation is to consult on the proposed 2030 and 2040 emissions targets for Northern Ireland and proposed carbon budgets for the periods 2023-2027, 2028-2032 and 2033-2037. DAERA are also using this opportunity to seek the public's views on the Climate Change Committee's (CCC) Advice Report.
3.3	<b>The Belfast City Council response is in broad agreement with both the targets and budgets.</b> In the absence of any other science-based targets, Council agrees with these NI level targets and budgets.
3.4	The response has also agreed with the current advice provided by the CCC which is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to keep the current 2030 emissions reduction target in the Act of at least a 48% reduction in emissions compared to the baseline and a 2040 emissions target of at least 77%; and</li> <li>• that the first carbon budget should be set at a level that has a 33% average annual reduction, the second with a 48% annual reduction and the third with a 62% annual reduction in emissions compared to the baseline.</li> </ul>

3.5	The Council has also highlighted some of the work that is ongoing in the city to reduce carbon emissions alongside the need for further analysis by sector at a sub-regional level as well as consideration for support for the high numbers of SME's in the city. It was also noted that strategies such as the Resilience Strategy, LDP, Belfast Agenda, Carbon Roadmap and the LEAP are helping Belfast to plan it's path to net zero.
3.6	Under the waste sector contribution to net zero, Council notes that NI has an underdeveloped Energy from Waste (EfW) infrastructure and this action needs to be carefully co-ordinated in line with the development of local EfW capacity.
3.7	<p><b>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</b></p> <p>None</p> <p><b>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Implications</b></p> <p>None.</p>
4.0	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	<p>Appendix 1 - Belfast City Council Response</p> <p><a href="https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/carbonbudget">https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/carbonbudget</a></p>

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# **Consultation on Northern Ireland's 2030 and 2040 Emissions Reduction Targets and First Three Carbon Budgets**

**&**

## **Seeking Views on CCC Advice Report: The path to a Net Zero Northern Ireland**

### **Response Template**

**June 2023**

You can access the consultation document and online survey here <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/carbonbudget>.

We would encourage participation from all interested parties. The primary method for responses is online via **Citizen Space**. The survey is quick and simple to complete. Please supplement your response with any relevant supporting information, evidence and/or analysis.

If you are unable to complete the survey online, you can respond to this consultation by email or post. Please forward the completed Response Template to DAERA using the email or postal address below:

**Email:** [GreenGrowthFeedback@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:GreenGrowthFeedback@daera-ni.gov.uk)

**Post:**

Carbon Budget Consultation Response  
Climate Change and Green Growth Policy Division  
2nd Floor, Klondyke Building  
1 Cromac Avenue  
Gasworks Business Park  
Belfast BT7 2JA

Responses to this consultation are invited until 11.59pm on Wednesday 11 Oct 2023. Following consideration of all responses, a full analysis report will be published on DAERA's website.

If you require any further information, please contact a member of the consultation team on **028 9056 9708**.

Thank you for taking part in this consultation.



## First, please tell us 'About You', to help us analyse the responses

### A. What is your name?

Claire Shortt

### B. What is your email address?

Shorttclaire@belfastcity.gov.uk

### C. What is your organisation

Belfast City Council

## Questions 1 - 7

You can contribute to this consultation by providing observations and comments in respect of the following questions. Please supplement your response with any relevant supporting information, evidence and/or analysis.

DAERA would welcome your responses to Questions 1-7.

### Question 1. The 2030 Target:

Do you agree that DAERA should follow the current advice provided by the CCC and keep the current 2030 emissions reduction target in the Act of an at least 48% reduction in emissions compared to the baseline?

☒ Yes

☐ No - please provide your reasons and any suggested alternative (Noting, that if the target

In the absence of any alternative advice, Council broadly agrees with the recommended targets. The targets are ambitious, however this is a climate emergency and the targets should in turn reflect this.

It is worth noting the impact that this would have on urban areas too in Northern Ireland. Emissions by sector differs across urban and rural regions and therefore this would need to be taken into consideration if targets were to be allocated sub nationally.

Belfast has developed an analysis of the scope 1 and 2 emissions for the city. This known as the Belfast Net Zero Carbon Roadmap and it has informed the agreement of city net zero targets. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has argued that from 2020, keeping within a global carbon budget of 344 gigatonnes (i.e. 344 billion tonnes) of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions would give us a 66% chance of limiting average warming to 1.5°C and therefore avoiding dangerous levels of climate change. If we divide this global figure up on an equal basis by population and adjust the budget to consider other gases that contribute to climate change, this gives Belfast a total carbon budget of c.14 megatonnes over the period between the present and 2050. At current rates of emissions output, Belfast would use up this budget in just over a decade at some point during the winter of 2030. However, Belfast can stay within its carbon budget by reducing its emissions by c.8.4% year on year. This would mean that to transition from the current position where emissions are 42% lower than 2000 levels to a local pathway that is consistent with the world giving itself a 66% chance of avoiding dangerous, runaway climate change, Belfast has adopted the following carbon reduction targets (on 2000 levels): 66% by 2025 80% by 2030 88% by 2035 93% by 2040 97% by 2045 100% by 2050. This road map was recently updated for the Belfast City Region Deal area and takes into account some of the already reduced emissions. The targets are now 64% by 2025, 78% by 2030, 87% by 2035, 92% by 2040 and 95% by 2045 reaching 100% by 2050.

**Question 2. The 2040 Target:**

Do you agree that DAERA should follow the current advice provided by the CCC and set a 2040 emissions reduction target of an at least 77% reduction in emissions compared to the baseline?

☒ Yes

☐ No - please provide your reasons and any suggested alternative.

As with question one, however future targets should be revisited with new advancements in technologies and historically reduced emissions.

**Question 3. First Carbon Budget (2023-2027):**

Do you agree that DAERA should follow the current advice provided by the CCC and set the first carbon budget at a level that has a 33% average annual reduction in emissions compared to the baseline?

☒ Yes

☐ No - please provide your reasons and any suggested alternative

Although Council broadly agrees with this, it realises the need for clear guidance coming from central departments. A complete breakdown of the budget, analysis by sector and information on the role of Local Government along with the science and data behind this, would be essential. This is relevant for all of the budget periods.

**Question 4. Second Carbon Budget (2028-2032):**

Do you agree that DAERA should follow the current advice provided by the CCC and set the second carbon budget at a level that has a 48% average annual reduction in emissions compared to the baseline?

☒ Yes

☐ No - please provide your reasons and any suggested alternative.

As above.

**Question 5. Third Carbon Budget (2033-2037):**

Do you agree that DAERA should follow the current advice provided by the CCC and set the third carbon budget at a level that has a 62% average annual reduction in emissions compared to the baseline?

☒ Yes

☐ No - please provide your reasons and any suggested alternative.

As above.

**Question 6. CCC advice:**

Do you agree that DAERA should follow any updated advice and recommendations from the CCC (as a result of the publication of the Northern Ireland 2021 GHG Inventory) when setting the first three carbon budgets?

☒ Yes

☐ No - please provide your reasons.

The science around climate is constantly improving and it is logical to use the most up-to-date recommendations.

We believe that DAERA should follow CCC advice and recommendations, and should review all peer reviewed research particularly where it is focused on Northern Ireland, United Kingdom, Ireland, but also being aware of new and existing good practice from other parts of the world.

## Question 7. Impact Assessments

Can you provide any information (relating to the potential financial, economic, social, rural and equality impacts) which will help inform the completion of the relevant impact assessments on the proposed carbon budgets?

Local authorities in NI have limited level of control over some sectors, such as housing and transport, that could greatly contribute to staying within the carbon budgets and achieving those targets recommended by the CCC.

The retrofit challenge, for instance, would help create construction jobs in places that need it most and that have been most impacted by the economic shock and cost of living crisis. Alongside national government intervention, local policymakers have the power to bring about change directly to their local area, through their approach to planning and discouraging car usage, for example. But the lack of powers and resources impedes this intervention. The national government should support them by developing plans and delivering the necessary tools and funding to meet that objective – support local authorities and public bodies to work and take action.

It is also worth noting that the majority of businesses in Belfast are Small to Medium Enterprises (SME's). In order to meet climate targets, we need to ensure that local SME's consistently have access to similar grants and supports as other UK regions in order to mitigate the impact of carbon budgets on their long-term viability. Opportunities to engage and participate in all-island initiatives or programmes for mutual benefit should also be assessed.

We should consider the impact on the service sector, and ensure it is not overlooked. According to research carried out by Enterprise Research Centre (QUB) in 2021 ref the Net-Zero target "SMEs in service sectors are more likely to cite a lack of relevant skills as well as the lack of information on low carbon technologies as barriers to their environmental activities than SMEs in production sectors".

While Belfast is primarily an urban conurbation it should be noted that there are small rural settlements within the city boundaries which may be adversely (or positively) impacted by the new carbon budgets. In particular access to active travel opportunities, public transport and EV charging infrastructure will support those communities in the process of decarbonisation.

The city of Belfast is also home to significant numbers of ethnic minorities whose views must be heard in the course of this transition. Similarly, the views of older people and young people on climate action plans and the carbon budgets are important to capture. The Youth Working Group of Belfast Climate Commission conducted research which was responded to by 1200 young people using a consultation mechanism managed by Council, called YourSay, this tool may be helpful in any future consultation or consideration of impacts.



## Questions on CCC Advice Report: The path to a Net Zero Northern Ireland

You can contribute to the dialogue on climate change by providing responses and comments in respect of the following questions. Please supplement your response with any relevant supporting information, evidence and/or analysis.

Northern Ireland Executive Departments would welcome your responses to Questions 8 – 17.

### Stretch Ambition

The options proposed under the 'Stretch Ambition' would mean increases in the amount of carbon sequestered in land and engineered greenhouse gas removals. The Stretch Ambition scenario would achieve a 93% reduction against the baseline by 2050.

#### **Question 8. Stretch Ambition Scenario to reach 93% reduction by 2050:**

Do you agree that the Northern Ireland Executive should follow the advice provided by the CCC and choose the Stretch Ambition Scenario?

☒ Yes

☐ No - please provide your reasons and any suggested alternative.

Under the Stretch Ambition Scenario, it is proposed that tree planting increases to 3,100 ha/year by 2035. This ambition is in line with the ambitions of Belfast's One Million Trees Programme which to date has planted 63,500 trees since it was setup in 2020. One Million Trees programme aims to, through the setting up of effective partnership working across the city, build the necessary infrastructure to be able to significantly increase tree planting efforts across Belfast by 2035. The programme is a city-wide partnership with landowners and institutional bodies to identify, assess, plan for, implement, monitor, measure and maintain tree planting across the city, based on the overarching principle from the Belfast Tree Strategy of the 'right tree in the right place'. It currently is reliant in large part on the Woodland Trust's Emergency Tree Fund thus far, with limited support or resources having been provided from central government.

We would strongly suggest that in order to reach the Stretch Ambition, initiatives such as the One Million Trees programme are best placed to coordinate place-based action and delivery and should be utilised given the infrastructure that is currently in place to deliver. However, to ensure a pipeline of tree supply, land availability, willing partners, and robust assessment, maintenance and survival monitoring procedures, substantial financial resources and investment in existing tree planting regimes such as the One Million Trees programme are required, along with the establishment of land use agreements, if this ambition is to be fulfilled. BCC notes the CCC's assessment of the delays in tree planting having a substantial impact on their ability to contribute to reducing carbon emissions, given that the benefits of trees take several years to be realised. It is therefore critical that adequate resources and a financial package for delivery of this ambition is identified and deployed as a matter of urgency to ensure targets are met.

### **Speculative Options**

Even with the radical actions under the stretch ambition pathway, there is still an emissions gap to Net Zero. The CCC considered some speculative options including the deployment of direct air capture of CO<sub>2</sub> and a further decrease of livestock numbers. Whilst it is up to the Northern Ireland Executive to decide which speculative options to pursue, the CCC's advice on the 2030 and 2040 emissions reduction targets and the first three carbon budgets is based on the Speculative DACCS.

### **Question 9 (a). The Speculative DACCS Option to reach Net Zero by 2050:**

Do you think that the Northern Ireland Executive should choose the Speculative Direct Air Capture with CCS (DACCS) option to reach Net Zero?

☒ Yes

☐ No - please provide your reasons and any suggested alternative.

We note the challenges associated with direct air capture with carbon capture storage, however believe that this option should be subjected to detailed analysis within the range of potential interventions being considered.

**Question 9 (b). The Speculative Agriculture Option:**

Do you think that the Northern Ireland Executive should choose the Speculative Agriculture option?

☐ Yes

☐ No - please provide your reasons and any suggested alternative.

Although Belfast is largely an urban area, there are small pockets of rural communities within our city boundary. It is important that during any transitions to zero emissions that these communities are considered and brought along at the same speed as the rest of the city.

**Question 9 (c). Other Speculative Options:**

Do you think that the Northern Ireland Executive should consider other speculative options such as (1) enhanced rock weathering and (2) addition of biochar to agricultural land?

☒ Yes

☐ No - please provide your reasons and any suggested alternative.

Belfast City Council is supportive of the CCC's view of the need for further evidence to support enhanced rock weathering and addition of biochar to agricultural land. Through the Horizon 2020 UPSURGE project, Belfast City Council is working in partnership with Queen's University Belfast and University of Antwerp, along with five other European City initiatives, to provide learning and evidence through the testing of both enhanced rock weathering and the addition of biochar on a climate demonstrator site on its land in Belfast. The project overall is designed to test Nature Based Solutions (NBS) to mitigate against climate impactors.

This project which is ongoing will be completed in 2025. BCC welcomes any opportunities to share learning, knowledge and evidence being gathered that may support the CCC's and DAERA's decisions on this as a speculative option. As part of Belfast City Council's One Million Tree initiative, our delivery partners are also working closely with farmers to mitigate against climate change and create more sustainable models of climate awareness and has existing strong relationships within that sector.

**Question 10. Agriculture Sector Contribution to Net Zero:**

Do you think that the Northern Ireland Executive should diverge from the CCC sector advice to deliver the required outcomes for the first carbon budget period and that these can be achieved through the actions outlined in the Agriculture sector summary?

☐ Yes

☐ No - please provide your reasons.

### Question 11: LULUCF Sector Contribution to Net Zero:

Do you think that the Northern Ireland Executive should follow the LULUCF sector advice provided by the CCC?

☐ Yes

☐ No - please provide your reasons

*Please see BCC's response to Question 8 above in relation to reforestation.*

As well as the Million Trees Programme which is identifying and bringing forward land across the city for tree planting, Belfast is currently undertaking a number of pilot research projects to test a range of different land use and management approaches such as piloting integration of more species rich grasslands across its parks and estate, greening urban areas such as alleyways and public streets, delivering a Grey to Green programme, and testing nature based interventions on its land to increase capacity for carbon storage, rewetting and increasing biodiversity. Whilst we agree with the LULUCF sector advice provided by the CCC, we would suggest that an integrated and landscape based approach to land management to facilitate this is critical to its successful delivery. This means that both mitigation and adaptation measures can be delivered together and a place-based approach used, to ensure we are reaching net zero and preparing adequately for climate change, with other multiple benefits such as biodiversity being incorporated as well.

We would strongly suggest that a well resourced, clear, and robust, methodology for assessing soil carbon, and the impact that different interventions may have, would enhance the accuracy of the LULUCF targets, with knowledge gaps across those delivering such land use changes being filled to ensure accurate measuring and reporting can take place. As a significant landowner, Belfast City Council is committed to playing its role in the improved management of its land to help support the Stretch Ambitions targets, and is currently in process of adopting a Climate Action Plan which will support this. One issue that will slow down or act as a barrier to the effective delivery is deployment of adequate resources for training, capacity building and land management strategies for delivery.

Note also that this category includes both sinks and sources. These should be separated out to measure progress and change. Without this separation unsustainable land use and issues such as degraded peatlands emitting carbon may be overlooked.

### Question 12 (a). Buildings Sector Contribution to Net Zero:

Do you think that the Northern Ireland Executive should consider the CCC advice on residential buildings, and develop a plan to improve energy efficiency and reduce reliance on fossil fuels, taking account of the capacity and capability of the low-carbon heating sector in Northern Ireland?

☒ Yes

☐ No - please provide your reasons.

Yes, Belfast City Council has worked through Belfast Climate Commission to commission the Belfast Net Zero Carbon Roadmap which analyses the scope 1 and 2 emissions of the city. Buildings has been identified as the primary source of emissions in the city and in response to this a Housing Readiness Assessment was undertaken in 2021, supported by the University of Leeds team who helped to develop the Net Zero Carbon Roadmap. Belfast City Council established a Belfast Retrofit Delivery Hub in 2022, working closely with NIHE and a range of stakeholders from across the construction and building sector. Energy efficiency improvements for residential buildings are critical. Recognising that new housing accounts for a small proportion of housing stock, effort should focus on retrofitting existing stock. A strategic approach would be welcomed - it should be noted that NI does not yet have a National Retrofit Strategy which is essential to facilitate planning, investment and capacity building. With new low carbon heating systems costing around 2.5-3 times as much as traditional fossil fuel based system, financial support will clearly be required across different tenures.

A Belfast Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP) will be produced at the start of 2024 which will shape how we use energy in the city in the future. The LAEP will seek to recognise the importance of assessing the unique characteristics of Belfast as part of the net zero transition and utilise place-based data and network system modelling as a foundation to simulate the most effective pathway to achieving net zero for the region.

Belfast's Local Development Plan (LDP) was officially adopted in May of this year and is a 15 year plan that sets out how the city will develop in the future. This will be delivered alongside the cities Belfast Agenda, that amongst other things, aims to re-nature the city and improve food systems, create a sustainable circular economy and be innovative on our path to net zero.

As the city is delivering its ambitions as set out in the Belfast Resilience Strategy it is also working to create and Climate Action Plan that will highlight specific projects that helps the organisation achieve it's net zero ambitions (outlined in the Belfast Carbon Road Map above).

Belfast City Council recognises the importance of these city strategies and would recommend consistency in direction of travel across the region.

**Question 12 (b): Buildings Sector Contribution to Net Zero**

Do you think that the Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS) should lead by example in the government estate and phase out the use of fossil fuel boilers as per the CCC advice?

☒ Yes

☐ No – if not, please provide reasons.

Yes – the public sector has a duty to lead by example. As well as demonstrating leadership, such a move would support development of a low carbon approach to estates and asset management, helping to develop processes and pathways to help public bodies to follow suit. The NICS is also one of the regions biggest land owners – there are many other ways that the organisation can led the way and set and example for other organisations as well as having a massive impact on emission reductions.



**Question 13. Energy Sector Contribution to Net Zero:**

Do you think that additional measures (over and above those in the Energy Strategy) should be taken to ensure alignment with the CCC's advice?

xNo

☐ Yes – please provide examples of additional measures.

While we do not propose that additional measures should be taken, we would draw attention to the development of the Belfast Local Area Action Plan which will provide a detailed analysis of the energy infrastructure in the city, and options for net zero projects. In addition the potential of a Belfast Heat Network is being considered at present and we note that the CCC advice identifies heat networks and air source heat pumps as the likely priorities for decarbonisation of heat. The introduction of a fabric first energy efficiency programme is also to be welcomed and aligns with work being undertaken in Belfast to analyse the building stock and retrofit requirements of the city.

Belfast is currently working on a Local Area Energy Plan. As the whole region has a population of 1.9million, a LAEP should be considered across NI.

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**Question 14. Transport Sector Contribution to Net Zero:**

Do you think that the Northern Ireland Executive should follow the transport sector advice provided by the CCC?

☒ Yes

☐ No - please provide your reasons and any suggested alternative.

Belfast is working to support active travel through initiatives such as the Bolder Vision Strategy and through the Connectivity, Active and Sustainable Travel Group within the Belfast Community Planning Partnership, which is co-chaired by Sustrans and Translink. The travel hierarchy approach is one of the key principles underpinning this work. In addition, Belfast City Council has produced an EV Strategy for the city of Belfast, which sets out projections on EV car uptake to enable net zero to be reached, and the associated infrastructure requirements to allow this to happen. When approved this Strategy shall be shared, and DAERA, DFI and all key stakeholders will be invited to participate in the Belfast EV Group which shall oversee the implementation of the EV strategy. Substantial investment in both active travel and EV infrastructure will be required to achieve the city and NI targets.

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**Question 15. Business and Industrial Processes Sector Contribution to Net Zero:**

Do you think that the NI Executive should follow the Business and Industrial Processes sector advice provided by the CCC?

☒ Yes

☐ No - please provide your reasons and any suggested alternative.

Clear guidance for industry would be necessary, and in many cases access to funding opportunities. It would be important to create a level playing field for industry so that the smaller (majority) are not left behind.

The main focus is around the transition from fossil fuel to electricity. It will also be important to allow for evolving technologies in this sector as soon as they become available.

## Question 16. Waste Sector Contribution to Net Zero:

Do you think that the Northern Ireland Executive should follow the Waste sector advice provided by the CCC?

☒ Yes

☐ No - please provide your reasons and any suggested alternative.

We broadly agree with the advice provided by CCC and the proposed actions to tackle climate change within the waste sector. We would however like to note a number of points to reflect the particular circumstances of waste management in NI, the UK and put forward recommendations for consideration. The immediate focus as to how the waste sector can drive down its carbon footprint is regarding the reduction of waste to landfill and in particular bio-degradable waste given the impact of methane gas. This should indeed be a key aspect of the plans, however, it should be noted that NI has an underdeveloped Energy from Waste (EfW) infrastructure and this action needs to be carefully co-ordinated in line with the development of local EfW capacity or at the very least capacity to export this material to EfW facilities. In terms of the export of Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF) we are aware that DAERA is exploring the possibility of an export ban on waste. Should this export ban include RDF it should only be implemented when local EfW is at a sufficiently developed stage. It is envisaged that EfW will be included within the UK Emissions Trading Scheme and as such by 2028-30, treatment costs will increase significantly for UK based facilities. If there is a significant variance in landfill versus EfW costs Local Authorities may be inclined to persist with landfill disposal for longer than desired. There needs to be a fiscal incentive/disincentive to maintaining landfill as a primary disposal route for residual waste. To drive biodegradable waste away from landfill DAERA should consider re-instating a new version of the Northern Ireland Landfill Allowance Scheme (NILAS). These reducing, annual thresholds of biodegradable waste to landfill which were placed on Local Authorities, were one of the most effective policy drivers over that last 20 years, along with the landfill tax escalator. Local Authorities were clear as to the implications of not complying with their NILAS obligations with the prospect of financial penalties resonating with elected members and the public. NILAS provided clear strategic direction to Local Authorities and the waste sector as companies and councils stepped up to the plate to deliver its goals. A revised NILAS would also assist in setting a clear pathway to the attainment of the Circular Economy Package target of a maximum of 10% of waste to landfill by 2035. If a revised NILAS was to be developed, consideration should be given as to how the private sector could be included in order to capture the commercial waste collected by these companies.

DAERA should liaise with UK regulators and government to consider the re-introduction of the landfill tax escalator. When this was operational it was set for a decade at around £8 per tonne increase each year which at that time was significantly more than inflationary increases. Without this fiscal measure and in the event of EfW facilities applying Emissions Trading Schemes, the cost variance between these two disposal routes will become greater and influence decision making.

In terms of tackling food waste, the Food Waste Regulations (2015) are in place but we would suggest that awareness amongst businesses which fall under this policy are either largely unaware of the legislation or fail to engage. Without proper enforcement of this legislation it is likely that compliance levels will remain low and the opportunity to capture significant tonnage of commercial food waste will be lost.

It is important that the DAERA climate action activities include the commercial and industrial sector and waste collected by private companies. A WRAP report noted that to achieve the recycling targets of the Circular Economy Package (65% by 2035) will require a significant step up from the commercial waste sector (70% recycling rate of commercial waste) and not to overcook the contribution to be made by Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste (58% target for LACMW) where much of the lower hanging fruit has already been picked. To achieve these climate action targets the waste sector needs clear strategic direction which sets the scene for waste management activities in NI for the next decade. Unfortunately, the time scales for the various strands of legislation, policy drivers and strategies have drifted and this has created a level of uncertainty regarding UK government intentions and timetables for delivery. The absence of a clear, strategic pathway increases uncertainty and risk levels and as such reduces the attractiveness to invest in the waste sector which presents a challenging environment when attempting to deliver on recycling and climate based targets.

The DAERA climate plan refers to the need to deliver behavioural change to bring about increased recycling activity. We agree that it is important to win over the hearts and minds of residents and businesses in playing their part in these important strands of work. DAERA should consider a large-scale promotional campaign similar to the "Wake UP to Waste" campaign aimed at getting the message through about the need for action and how everyone can play their part.

While the emphasis in the early years budgets is on diverting biodegradable waste from landfill the importance of reuse and repair should not be marginalised and should feature more strongly in future waste strategy documents. Many of the participants within this sector are smaller scale players such as charities and social enterprises. DAERA should consider how it can support these organisations and see how their activities could be scaled-up to deliver increased social, economic and environmental benefit.

**Question 17. Fisheries Sector Contribution to Net Zero:**

Do you think that the Northern Ireland Executive should follow the Fisheries sector advice provided by the CCC?

☐ Yes

☐ No - please provide your reasons and any suggested alternative.

**Data Protection**

Information provided by respondents will be held and used for the purposes of the administration of this current exercise and subsequently disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the Data Protection Act 2018 and General Data Protection Regulation.



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<b>Subject:</b>	Dual Language Street Signs Gaeltacht Quarter Proposal
<b>Date:</b>	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> October 2023
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Kate Bentley, Director of Planning and Building Control
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Ian Harper, Building Control Manager

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
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: 40px;" type="text"/>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Information relating to any individual</li> <li>2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual</li> <li>3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)</li> <li>4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter</li> <li>5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained</li> <li>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</li> <li>7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime</li> </ol>	
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision After Council Decision Sometime in the future Never	<input style="width: 40px; height: 20px;" type="checkbox"/> <input style="width: 40px; height: 20px;" type="checkbox"/> <input style="width: 40px; height: 20px;" type="checkbox"/> <input style="width: 40px; height: 20px;" type="checkbox"/>

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	On 1 <sup>st</sup> March 2023 the Council agreed, in principle, to progress with dual language street signage in the Gaeltacht Quarter en block as a cost saving measure, subject to equality screening and when finance becomes available, with a report to be submitted to Committee in due course.
1.2	This decision was called in and subject to a barrister's opinion which concluded that the call-in did not have merit. Party Group Leaders were advised of the barrister's opinion via email on 7 <sup>th</sup> July 2023 and were advised that officers would implement the decision and a report will be brought to a subsequent meeting of SP&R Committee in due course outlining the result of an equality screening, the financial implications and any other associated matters.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	Members are asked to consider the contents of the report and to: <p>(a) Consider the option to proceed with the erection of Dual language Street signs in the Gaeltacht Quarter in line with the process outlined in this report.</p> <p>If the Committee is minded to proceed with the process outlined in this report, then the Committee is asked to:</p>
2.2	(b) Confirm the threshold for objections to this process which triggers the requirement for an application and engagement of the current full process for a specific street within the Gaeltacht Quarter.
2.3	(c) To confirm if applications which are deemed subject to the full process due to the threshold of objections being met are dealt with after the existing applications received are processed.
2.4	(d) Agree that it is recommended to SP&R Committee that this is added to the Capital Programme as a capital project.
2.5	(e) Confirm if those streets which form the boundary of the Gaeltacht Quarter are also to be included as part of the area.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
3.1	In July 2022 SP&R Committee agreed to adopt a new policy position in relation to Dual Language Street Signs taking into account the European Charter for Regional or Minority

	<p>Languages. This provides for a single resident / elected Member / Developer being sufficient to trigger a street survey and the threshold for the percentage of residents required to respond positively being changed to 15%.</p>
3.2	<p>During SP&amp;R Committee consideration of the draft policy it was considered that separate arrangements would ultimately be developed with respect to streets within both the City Core and the Gaeltacht Quarter and that the Council would have the discretion to depart from the wider dual language street sign policy in respect of these two areas.</p>
3.3	<p>The Council agreed in principle on the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023 how applications for a second name plate in the City Core would be processed. It also agreed in principle to progress with dual language signage in the Gaeltacht Quarter en bloc as a cost saving measure, subject to equality screening and when finance becomes available.</p>
	<p><b>The Gaeltacht Quarter</b></p>
3.4	<p>In 2010, Deloitte were commissioned by An Cheathru Ghealtachta Teo (ACGT) and the Department of Culture Arts and Leisure (DCAL) to prepare several documents including a plan for the development of Belfast's Gaeltacht Quarter and to further progress recommendations made in the 2004 Dutton report. This report developed the vision, objectives and principles for the Gaeltacht Quarter which built on the 2002 West Belfast and Greater Shankill Task Force recommendations, the 2004 Dutton report and the consultation exercise undertaken by Deloitte for the 2010 report.</p>
3.5	<p>The vision for An Cheathru Ghealtachta is:</p> <p>The development and sustenance of a vibrant and compelling quarter of the city where the unique selling point and the economic potential of the Irish Language and culture are exploited, developed and maximized so as to realise profit and benefit for the people of the area, the city and the region.</p>
3.6	<p>A map of the Gaeltacht Quarter boundary has been included in Appendix 1. This boundary will be used to identify the streets that are to be included in this proposal. The boundary shown is based upon the definition of the greater Gaeltacht Quarter boundary as outlined in the 2010 Deloitte report.</p>

3.7	<p>There are circa 417 streets in the Gaeltacht Quarter as established from the map prepared and some 108 streets have already had dual language street signage installed. Of the remaining 309 streets, approx. 48 have live applications under the current policy. Members are also asked to consider those streets that form the boundary line of the Gaeltacht Quarter and determine if these streets are to be included as part of the area.</p> <p><b>The proposed approach</b></p>
3.8	<p>The Council has a discretionary power to erect dual language street signs under Article 11 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1995 (“the 1995 Order”). Article 11(4) of the 1995 Order sets out the matters to which the Council should have regard in deciding whether to exercise that discretionary power. This includes a requirement “to have regard to any views on the matter expressed by the occupiers of premises in that street”.</p>
3.9	<p>Whilst the views of the occupiers of the street must be taken into consideration, their views need not be determinative, and the Council may also take into account other considerations affecting its decision.</p> <p><u>Consultation letter</u></p>
3.10	<p>Under the current Policy, only those residents on the electoral register are surveyed. This involves officers attending the Electoral Office to identify those residents and then hand delivering surveys to their property. It is instead proposed that one letter per identified property, addressed to the ‘occupier’, will be posted out to all properties in the identified streets within the Gaeltacht Quarter. This will explain the en bloc approach and how residents can make their views known about their individual street and will give the opportunity generally to highlight any equality of opportunity and good relations issues as outlined in the equality and good relations section below. A newspaper advert will also be placed that will outline the approach and ways that objections can be registered to ensure coverage of the proposal.</p>
3.11	<p>If a resident is in favour of the proposal to erect the street signs en bloc, then there is no requirement for them to formally respond to the letter.</p>

3.12	<p>If a resident is not in favour of the proposal, they will be able to write / email / contact the Council to advise of this. Such an objection would be the trigger to require an application and engagement of the current full process for a specific street within the Gaeltacht Quarter. Members are asked to confirm the threshold for objections to this process which triggers the requirement. Members could determine a particular number of objections to the en bloc approach for a particular street would lead to the full process being followed. Alternatively, members could agree a percentage of objections required to trigger the full process.</p>
3.13	<p>Once the threshold is reached an application will be required under the current policy for their specific street and the application subject to the full process. The objector(s) would be required to confirm their name and address so these could be checked against the electoral office to confirm they are validated as occupiers of the street.</p>
3.14	<p>Where applications are required, these will be considered by the Building Control team, processed as normal and where appropriate residents will be issued with a street survey following the usual electoral register checks. Such applications will be dealt with in the normal way and will require support from 15% of residents in order to be successful. In accordance with the current policy for processing applications in the order received these applications will go to the end of the queue unless members agree an alternative method of dealing with or ordering them.</p>
3.15	<p>If the Council does not receive any objection to the en bloc approach for a particular street in the Gaeltacht Quarter within 30 calendar days of issuing the letter, the Council will move to erect the second name plate(s) on that street and will arrange for them to be installed as part of a planned schedule within a capital project.</p> <p><u>Committee</u></p>
3.16	<p>Once the timeframe for responses is reached, any correspondence received would be processed and a report brought to committee outlining:</p>
3.17	<p>(a) those streets with no objections or below the objection threshold agreed from residents and where signage would be erected, and</p> <p>(b) those streets where objections have been received above the objection threshold agreed which requires the street to be subject to the full process</p>

3.18	<p>Committee agreement will be sought to undertake the resultant actions and agreed processes for streets identified in (a) and (b) above.</p> <p><u>Potential Benefits and Costs of the proposed approach</u></p>
3.19	<p>There are benefits that will likely be achieved by applying a blanket approach to erecting Dual Language street signs in the Gaeltacht Quarter. This approach would be beneficial as the streets within the defined area of the Gaeltacht Quarter could proceed more efficiently by eliminating some of the stages of the established process. The scale of these benefits would be based upon the number of streets for which nameplates would be erected without having to progress through the full process i.e. without meeting the agreed threshold of objection.</p>
3.20	<p>For these streets, staff time and resources in Building Control would be less per street as there would be:</p>
3.21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No carrying out of surveys and less administrative burden</li> </ul> <p>This activity includes the stationary costs and postage cost for surveys returned. Surveys are prepared in the office and hand delivered to ensure that all local situations are covered. Returns are then collated for each street and prepared for the next appropriate committee. Communications posted to residents will be one per household instead of one per resident on the electoral register. This will remove the requirement for unique identifiers and the overall administrative burden for issuing the communication will be reduced. Also, there will be fewer staffing resources required to track and record every decision through the standard process.</p>
3.22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No requirement for checks at the Electoral Office.</li> </ul> <p>This involves visiting the Electoral Office in person and reviewing the register for specific streets to verify the applicant and document the numbers of all residents on the electoral register for each dwelling.</p>
3.23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No requirement to respond if in favour</li> </ul> <p>This will reduce the amount of responses being returned and significantly less analysis which is required in standard surveys is anticipated.</p>

3.24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No initial assessment exercise.</li> </ul> <p>Currently the initial assessments are carried out in a workshop format including staff from the Building Control, Good Relations, and Equality Teams.</p>
3.25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fewer committee reports:</li> </ul> <p>For each street where the normal process is not required, no further staff time is required to create committee reports and going through the standard approval process for these to be submitted.</p>
3.26	<p>The revised approach will come with up-front costs, not contained in the current budgets. To use the blanket approach for GQ streets, rather than receiving applications through the normal process would involve erecting significantly more nameplates in a shorter space of time and would require additional up front financial resources.</p>
3.27	<p>With the current staffing resource within the Building Control Service, it would not be possible to facilitate both this project and the ongoing processing of live applications for dual language street signs at the same time. The Service would have to process any surveys for Gaeltacht Quarter streets, where objections that meet the threshold to trigger the full process have been received, as part of the existing workloads.</p>
3.28	<p>Therefore, if this approach is to be taken, it is proposed that the erection of the nameplates in the Gaeltacht Quarter (where the full dual language street sign process is not being followed) could be brought forward as part of the Capital Programme as a capital project.</p>
3.29	<p>The overall project would require:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Final confirmation of the streets and properties to be written to, including commercial properties.</li> <li>• Mail drop to all properties.</li> <li>• Collation of feedback provided in responses from residents.</li> <li>• Provision of Committee report to consider the actions discussed at paragraph 3.16 above.</li> <li>• Identification of nameplates in the streets, engagement with homeowners where signs are on properties.</li> <li>• provision of work requests to contractor; and</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Checks of nameplates once erected and payment of invoices.</li> </ul>								
3.30	<p><i>Mail drop</i></p> <p>Addresses within the Gaeltacht Quarter have been identified using the Local Development Plan map and data on the area as outlined above. This uses and is based upon the accuracy of the Pointer addressing database. It is estimated that there are in the region of 9600 properties to be included. Each property will receive one letter addressed to the 'occupier'. Officers have obtained an estimate for outsourcing this element of the work shown below.</p>								
3.31	<p><i>Signage costs</i></p> <p>The estimated cost of signage for the streets currently identified within the Gaeltacht Quarter is contained in the finance section below and in the region of <b>£135,000</b>. This is based on an analysis of applications received under the new policy, and the number and cost of signs erected. Costs will vary depending on the number of signs in a street, if those signs are on walls or posts, and the size of signs required for the specific street names. It should be noted that costs would still be incurred if applications for all streets within the GQ were received, processed and approved through the normal application process, but given the condensed nature of this proposal, this finance would be required over a shorter period of time as part of the defined project, spent in one project, rather than over a number of years. To date approximately 40 applications have been received for streets in the GQ.</p>								
3.32	<p><u>Summary costs</u></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Signage</td><td>£135,000</td></tr> <tr> <td>Mail drop</td><td>£7,500</td></tr> <tr> <td>Public adverts</td><td>£7,152</td></tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL ESTIMATED COSTS</td><td>£149,652</td></tr> </table>	Signage	£135,000	Mail drop	£7,500	Public adverts	£7,152	TOTAL ESTIMATED COSTS	£149,652
Signage	£135,000								
Mail drop	£7,500								
Public adverts	£7,152								
TOTAL ESTIMATED COSTS	£149,652								
3.33	<p>Note that these costs are estimated, based upon the average of 48 signs in 17 streets approved under the new policy.</p>								



	<p><u>Translations</u></p>
3.34	<p>Queens University have confirmed that they now have additional staffing resources to assist with translations of the current applications being processed. However, further discussions would be needed to confirm their ability to facilitate translations on the scale of this approach.</p>
	<p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p>
3.35	<p>Capital costs for the project to be refined through the Capital Programme.</p>
	<p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p>
3.36	<p>A draft equality screening has been carried out on the decision to erect dual language street signs en bloc within the Gaeltacht Quarter. The decision has been screened out as having minor impacts, but with the additional consultation action as outlined below.</p>
3.37	<p>The screening finds that the measures proposed align closely with the Council's Language and Good Relations strategies. In general, this equality screening indicates that there are sufficient safeguards, within the new procedure, to ensure there are no adverse impacts in relation to equality of opportunity and good relations issues.</p>
3.38	<p>It is proposed as the next step in the development of the policy approach to dual language street signage in the Gaeltacht Quarter that there is targeted and focused consultation on the new procedure with those likely to be affected by the new procedure, i.e., the residents of the Gaeltacht Quarter. Households within the Gaeltacht Quarter will be written to, explaining the 'en bloc' approach and how each household can make their views known both about their individual street and given the opportunity generally to highlight any equality of opportunity and good relations issues.</p>
3.39	<p>Additionally, a public notice newspaper advert will be placed outlining the approach and ways that objections can be registered to ensure coverage of the proposal.</p>
3.40	<p>It is not considered that the initial Equality, Good Relations and Rural Needs assessment normally carried out for each street would be required in most streets within the Gaeltacht Quarter given that the area has designated status. However, with regards to interface areas or specific streets, there will always be an opportunity for residents and/or Members to raise objections and to engage the wider policy. It is proposed that Elected Members</p>

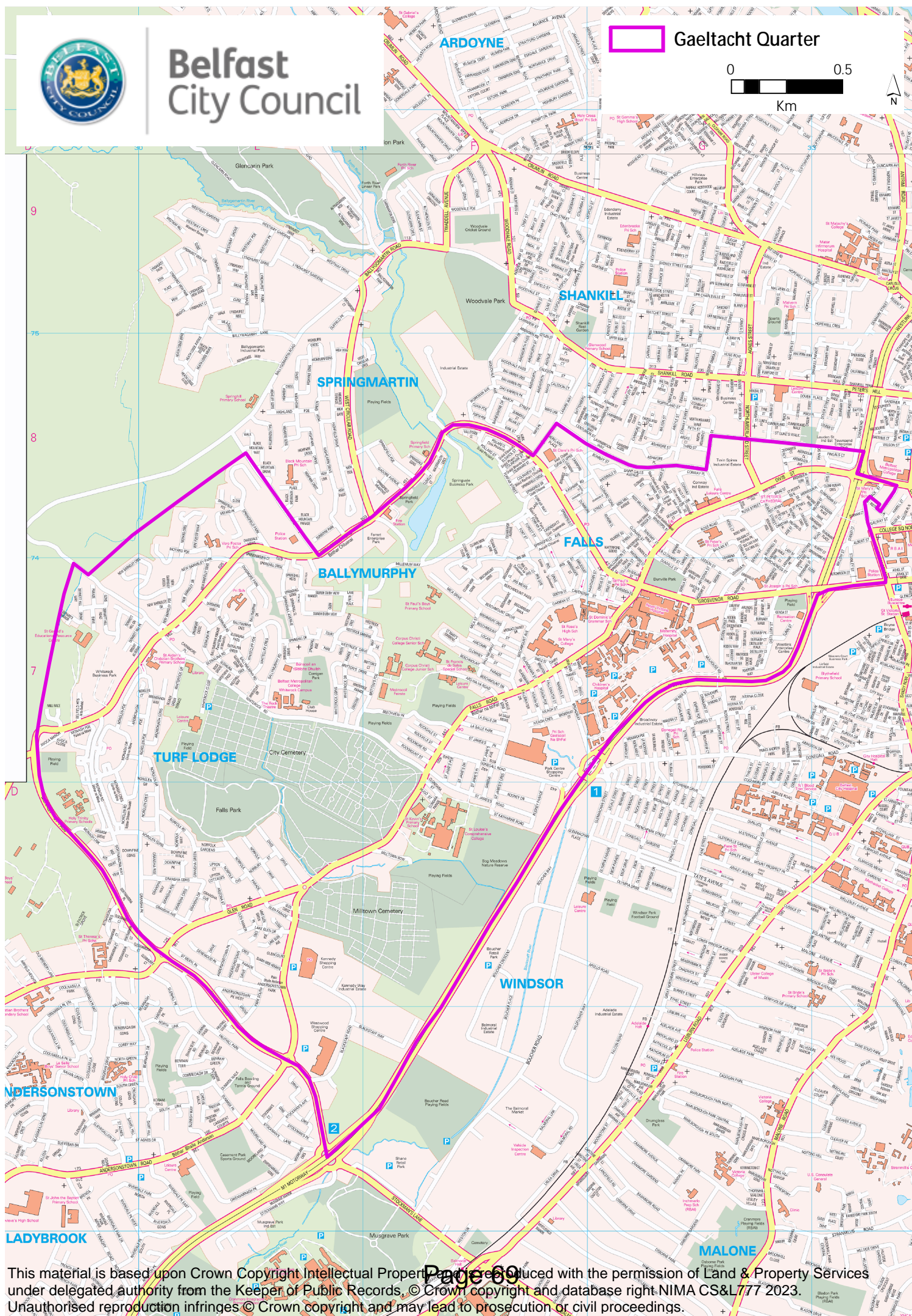
	would receive a notification of all streets within the GQ in advance of the letter being issued to residents, as is currently done in batches for standard applications.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices - Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1 - Map of Gaeltacht Quarter



# Belfast City Council

 Gaeltacht Quarter

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<b>Subject:</b>	<p>Asset Management</p> <p>i) The Gatehouse, Templemore Baths, Templemore Avenue – Lease to Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL)</p> <p>ii) Belfast Stories Site, North Street / Union Street – Proposed meanwhile use of vacant land by The Conservation Volunteers</p> <p>iii) Parkgate Avenue Car Park – Renewal of Licence Agreement</p> <p>iv) Gasworks Estate – Linen Quarter BID Intervention</p>
<b>Date:</b>	20 <sup>th</sup> October 2023
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Sinead Grimes, Director of Property and Projects
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Pamela Davison, Estates Manager

<b>Restricted Reports</b>									
<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>								
<p><b>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</b></p> <p>Insert number <input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Information relating to any individual</li> <li>2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual</li> <li>3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)</li> <li>4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter</li> <li>5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained</li> <li>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</li> <li>7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime</li> </ol>									
<p><b>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</b></p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">After Committee Decision</td> <td style="width: 30%; text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>After Council Decision</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sometime in the future</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Never</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>		After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>	Never	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>								
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>								
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>								
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>								

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	The purpose of this report is to seek approval from the Committee on asset related disposal, acquisition, and estates matters.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>i) The Gatehouse, Templemore Baths, Templemore Avenue – Lease to Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Approve the granting of a lease of the office accommodation at The Gatehouse, Templemore Avenue Baths to Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL) for a term of 6 years at a rent of £10,000 per annum.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>ii) Belfast Stories Site, North Street/Union Street – Proposed meanwhile use of vacant land by The Conservation Volunteers</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Approve the use of part of the vacant land on the Belfast Stories site by The Conservation Volunteers for meanwhile use under a short-term agreement.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>iii) Parkgate Avenue Car Park – Renewal of Licence Agreement</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Approve the renewal of the existing Licence Agreement with the Directors of Argento Contemporary Jewellery Ltd for a right to pass/repass over Parkgate Avenue car park.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>iv) Gasworks Estate – Linen Quarter BID Intervention</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Approve the LQ BID request to initiate a tender process to design a public space intervention within the public amenity area at the Gasworks Estate, details of which would be brought back for Members consideration before any commitment is given to the project.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<p><b>i) The Gatehouse, Templemore Baths, Templemore Avenue – Lease to Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL)</b></p> <p><b><u>Key Issues</u></b></p> <p>Following the restoration of Templemore Baths, the vacant office accommodation within The Gatehouse located to the rear of the complex, was placed on the open market To Let, with an asking rent of £10,000 per annum. The Gatehouse is shown outlined in red on the attached Site Map at Appendix 1. GLL, who operate the remainder of the Templemore Baths complex, has submitted an offer to lease The Gatehouse for a term of 6 years at a rent of £10,000 per annum. There have been no other offers to lease the property. It is therefore</p>



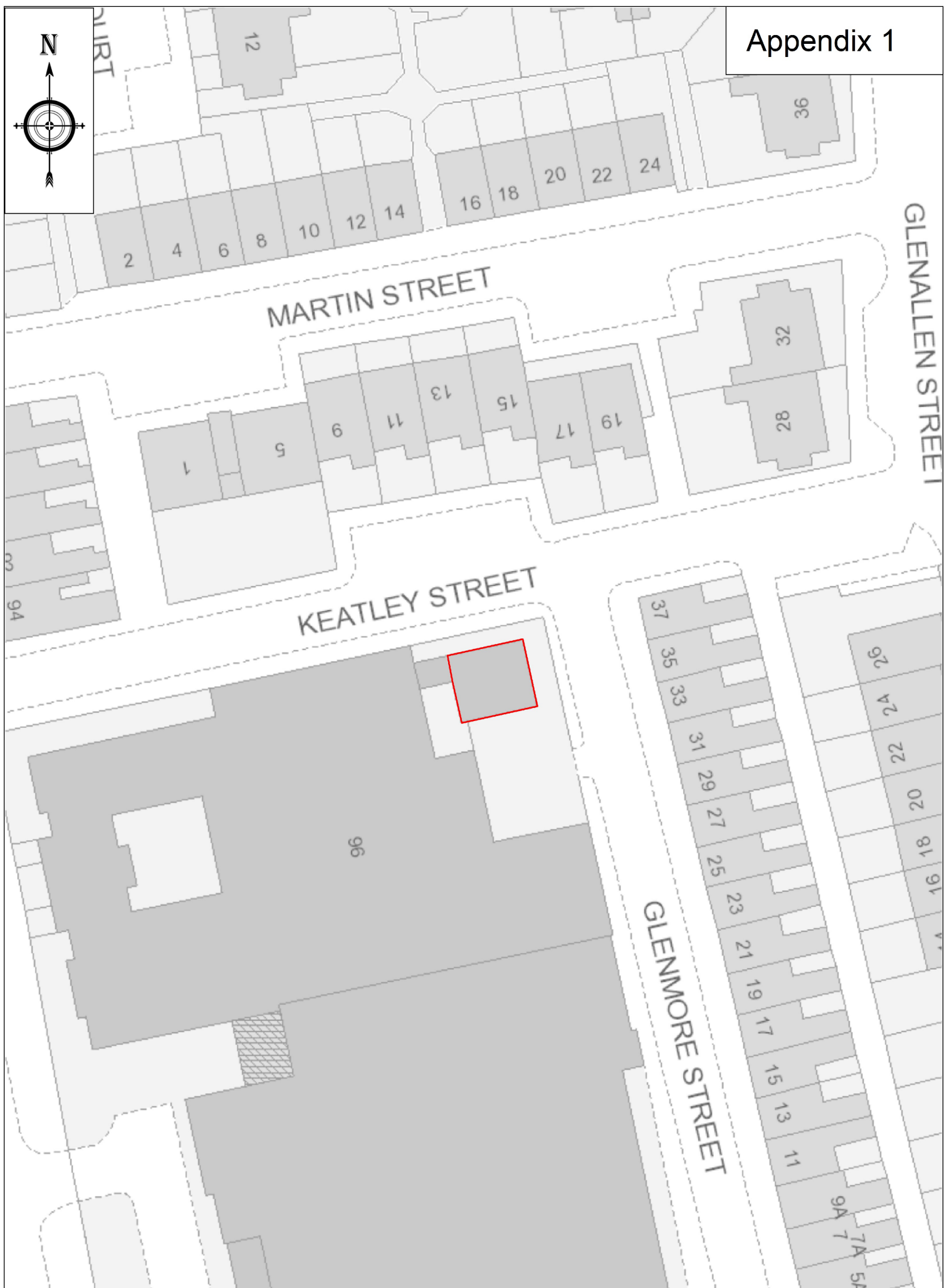
	<p>proposed to enter into a lease with GLL for a term of 6 years at a rent of £10,000 per annum, with other terms and conditions of the Lease to be agreed with the Council's Estates and Legal Services Units.</p> <p><b>Members are asked to approve the granting of a lease of the office accommodation at The Gatehouse, Templemore Avenue Baths to Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL) for a term of 6 years at a rent of £10,000 per annum.</b></p>
3.2	<p><b>ii) Belfast Stories Site, North Street/Union Street – Proposed meanwhile use of vacant land by The Conservation Volunteers</b></p> <p><b><u>Key Issues</u></b></p> <p>On 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023, the City Growth and Regeneration Committee approved the award of funding of £50,000 under the Council's Grey to Green programme to The Conservation Volunteers (TCV), subject to TCV obtaining the necessary statutory approvals and landowner permission. TCV propose to use part of the vacant land on the Council's Belfast Stories site to demonstrate how to bring life to a vacant city centre site. This would include the installation of a large polytunnel, raised beds, trees, wildflowers, and seated areas for enjoying the outdoors. Their proposals also include engagement with local communities and using funding from the Public Health Agency (PHA) to work with various disadvantaged groups to develop gardening skills and knowledge. The vacant land on the Belfast Stories site is shown shaded in blue on the Site Map attached at Appendix 2. TCV propose to use part of this vacant land, with the exact area of land required still to be agreed. Subject to obtaining any statutory approvals required, TCV propose to enter into a short-term agreement with the terms to be agreed by the Council's Estates and Legal Services Units. The terms of any short-term agreement will ensure that the Council has the ability to terminate the agreement to enable the proposed development of the Belfast Stories site to proceed.</p> <p><b>Members are asked to approve the use of part of the vacant land on the Belfast Stories site by The Conservation Volunteers for meanwhile use under a short-term agreement.</b></p>
3.3	<p><b>iii) Parkgate Avenue Car Park – Renewal of Licence Agreement</b></p> <p><b><u>Key Issues</u></b></p> <p>The Directors of Argento Contemporary Jewellery Ltd own a piece of land adjoining Parkgate Avenue car park and currently hold a Licence Agreement which enables Argento staff and invitees to pass and repass over Councils car park to access their site via a double vehicular gate and a pedestrian turnstile (see Appendix 3). The existing Licence Agreement expired on 31 August 2023. It is recommended that the Licence is renewed for a further period of 1 year to 31 August 2024 subject to payment of a fee of £3,000 per annum. The Licence</p>

3.4	<p>protects the Council's interest in the car park and obligates the Directors to indemnify the Council against any claims for injury, damage or loss of property relating to their use.</p> <p><b>Members are asked to approve the renewal of the existing Licence Agreement with the Directors of Argento Contemporary Jewellery Ltd for a right to pass/repass over Parkgate Avenue car park.</b></p> <p><b>iv) Gasworks Estate – Linen Quarter BID Intervention</b></p> <p><b><u>Key Issues</u></b></p> <p>Council has received a request from Linen Quarter BID to design a public space intervention within the Gasworks Estate. The lands identified are immediately south of the Radisson Blu Hotel and are outlined red on the map at Appendix 4. These lands are defined within the Gasworks Leases as Public Amenity Areas. They are the responsibility of the Council to maintain, and do not form part of any area demised to the tenants or part of their service charge payments to Council.</p> <p>The Linen Quarter BID extended their 2023 – 2028 Business Plan to include the Gasworks Estate as part of their second term. The Linen Quarter BID are keen to progress a scheme within the Public Amenity Area for the benefit of all of its businesses. A total of 21 businesses within the Gasworks Estate pay a levy to Linen Quarter BID. Should the scheme not proceed within the Gasworks Estate, these businesses are still required to pay the BID levy.</p> <p>This scheme would be at no cost to Council and its purpose is to provide greater animation to the area and better use of the outdoor space. Linen Quarter BID have approached the Council in the first instance to seek their approval to initiate a tender process to design the scheme, details of which would be brought back for the Council's consideration before any commitment is given to the project.</p> <p>Council has previously made the Public Amenity Area available for local events including most recently the Festival of the River. The Linen Quarter BID proposals would, if approved, need to provide flexibility to accommodate similar events in the future.</p> <p><b>Members are asked to approve the LQ BID request to initiate a tender process to design a public space intervention within the public amenity area at the Gasworks Estate, details of which would be brought back for Members' consideration before any commitment is given to the project.</b></p>
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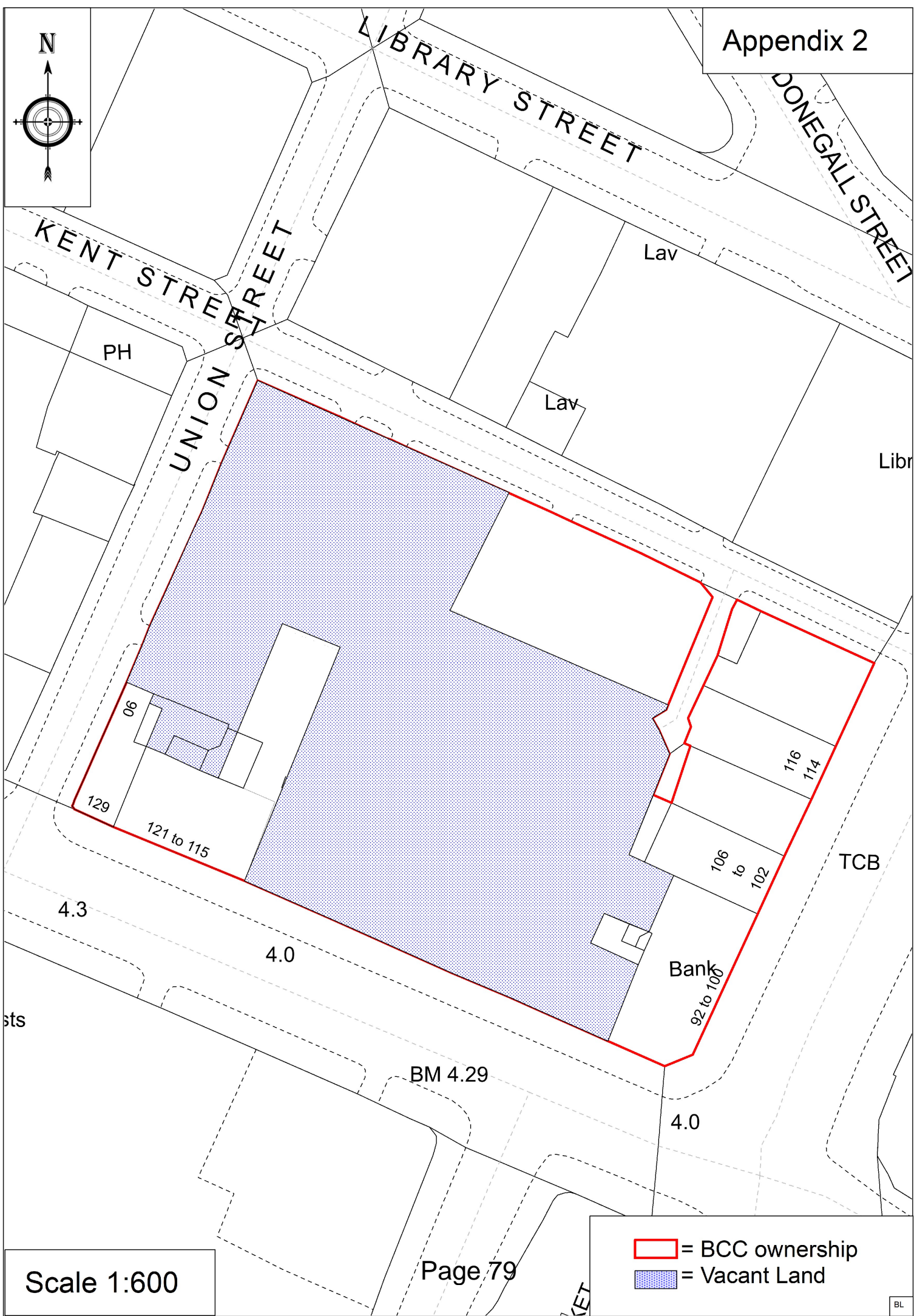


	<b><u>Financial and Resources Implications</u></b>
3.5	<p><b>The Gatehouse, Templemore Baths, Templemore Avenue – Lease to Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL):</b> The Council will receive a rent of £10,000 per annum. Legal Services shall act on the instructions of the BCC Estates</p> <p><b>Belfast Stories Site, North Street/Union Street – Proposed meanwhile use of vacant land by The Conservation Volunteers:</b> Licence Fee to be agreed. Legal Services shall act on the instructions of the Estates Management Unit.</p> <p><b>Parkgate Avenue Car Park – Renewal of Licence Agreement -</b> The Council will receive an income of £3,000 per annum. Legal Services and Estates to renew the Licence.</p> <p><b>Gasworks Estate – Linen Quarter BID Intervention</b></p> <p>There are no financial implications to Council.</p>
	<b><u>Equality and Good Relations / Rural Needs Assessment</u></b>
3.6	None associated with this report.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	<p><b>Appendix 1</b> – Site Map – The Gatehouse, Templemore Baths</p> <p><b>Appendix 2</b> – Belfast Stories Vacant Land Site Map</p> <p><b>Appendix 3</b> – Parkgate Avenue Car Park outlined red and adjoining Argento lands shaded blue</p> <p><b>Appendix 4</b> – Public amenity area outlined red within the Gasworks Estate shaded yellow</p>

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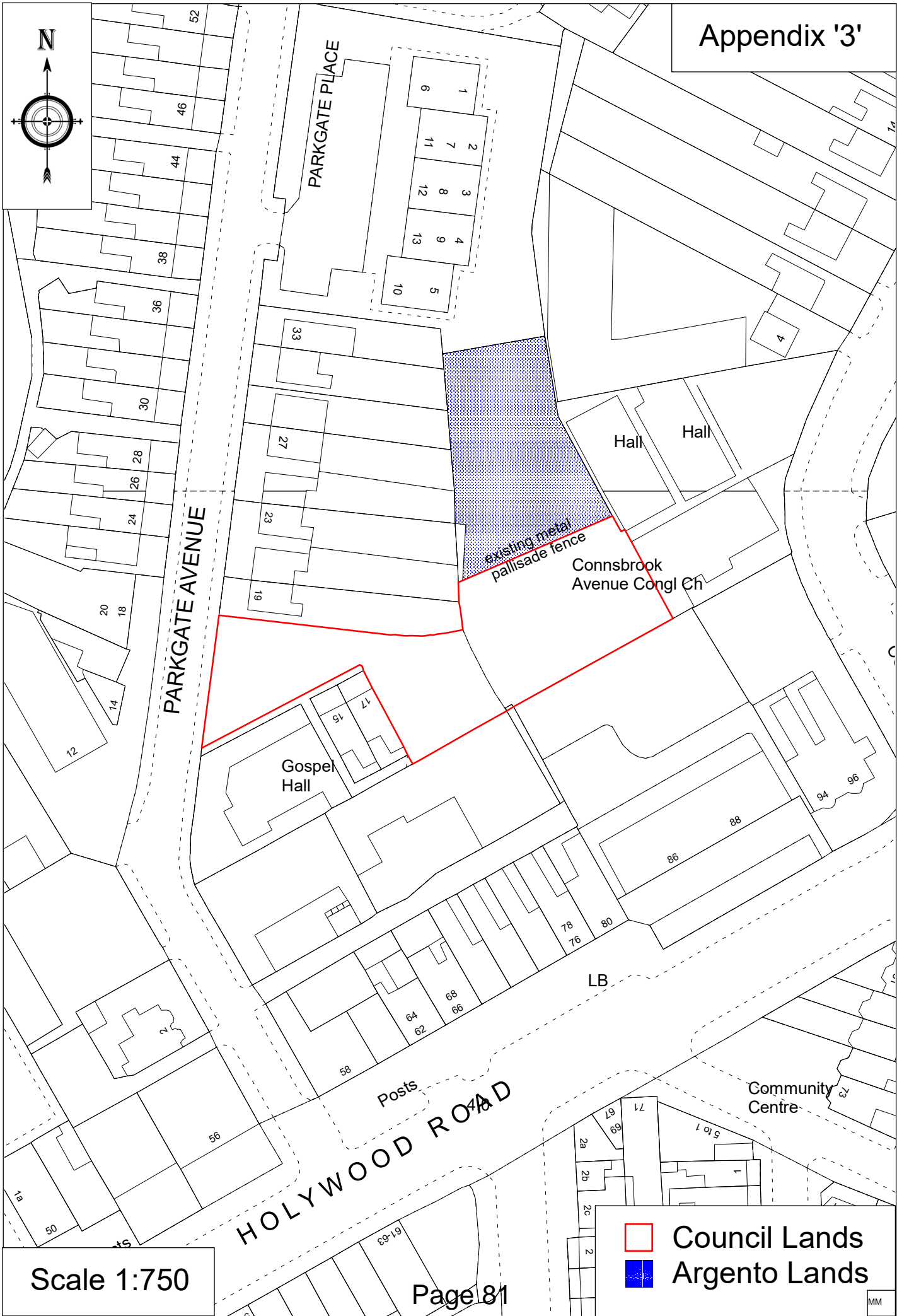
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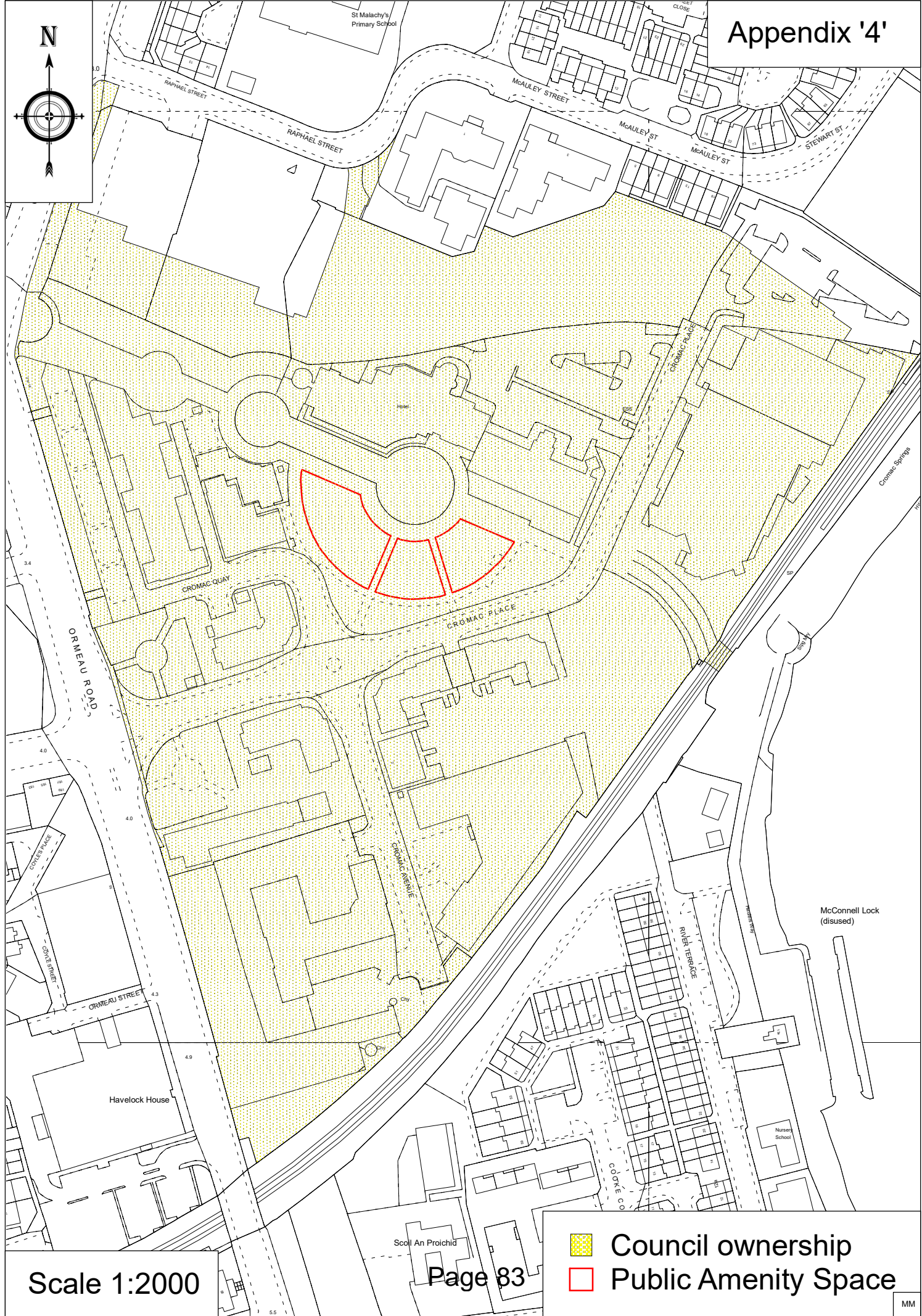
 = BCC ownership  
 = Vacant Land

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Scale 1:2000

-  Council ownership
-  Public Amenity Space

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<b>Subject:</b>	Physical Programme Update
<b>Date:</b>	20 October 2023
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Sinead Grimes, Director of Property & Projects
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Shauna Murtagh, Portfolio Manager

<b>Restricted Reports</b>									
<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	<b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>								
<p><b>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</b></p> <p>Insert number <input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Information relating to any individual</li> <li>2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual</li> <li>3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)</li> <li>4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter</li> <li>5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained</li> <li>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</li> <li>7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime</li> </ol>									
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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"/>								

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	The Council's Physical Programme currently includes over 400 capital projects via a range of internal and external funding streams, together with projects which the Council delivers on behalf of external agencies. The Council's Capital Programme forms part of the Physical Programme and is a rolling programme of investment which either improves existing Council facilities or provides new facilities. This report includes stage movement requests relating to the Capital Programme, an update on Peace IV capital projects and an update on letters of offer received.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is requested to consider the following items on the Capital Programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>IT Programme – F5 Access Policy Manager Project / Web Application Firewall</b> - Agree that this project is moved to <i>Stage 3 – Committed</i> and agree that necessary procurement processes (including the invitation of tenders and/or the use of appropriate 'framework' arrangements) be initiated with contract to be awarded on the basis of most economically advantageous tenders received and full commitment to deliver.</li> <li>• <b>HWRCs &amp; Civic Amenity Sites - Containers</b> – Agree that this project is moved to <i>Stage 3 – Committed</i> and agree that necessary procurement processes (including the invitation of tenders and/or the use of appropriate 'framework' arrangements) be initiated with contract to be awarded on the basis of most economically advantageous tenders received and full commitment to deliver.</li> <li>• <b>Update on PEACE IV Capital Projects</b> - Note the status of Black Mountain Shared Space Project and Shankill Shared Women's Centre and the challenging issues and risks presented at 3.5.</li> <li>• <b>Externally Funded Projects</b> - Agree that necessary procurement processes (including the invitation of tenders and/or the use of appropriate 'framework' arrangements) be initiated for any Physical Programme projects including externally funded projects as required, with contracts to be awarded on the basis of most economically advantageous tenders received and full commitment to deliver.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
	<b><u>Capital Programme</u></b>
3.1	Members will be aware that the Council runs a substantial Physical Programme which includes the rolling Capital Programme – a multimillion regeneration programme of investment across the city which improves existing Council assets or provides new council facilities. The Council also delivers externally focused funding streams such as Belfast Investment Fund (BIF), Local Investment Fund (LIF), Social Outcomes Fund (SOF) and Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund

	(NRF), as well as numerous capital programmes that we deliver for central government. Our funding partners include National Lottery Heritage Fund, SEUPB Peace IV, the Executive Office, DfC, DfI via the Blue Green Infrastructure Fund and Living with Water Programme, DAERA, Ulster Garden Villages, Levelling Up Fund (LUF) and others. When appropriate, the Physical Programmes Department is happy to arrange site visits to any projects that have been completed.									
3.2	<p>Members agreed that all capital projects must go through a three-stage process where decisions on which capital projects progress are taken by the Committee. This provides assurance as to the level of financial control and will allow Members to properly consider the opportunity costs of approving one capital project over another capital project. Members are asked to note the following activity on the Capital Programme:</p> <table><tr><th>Project</th><th>Overview</th><th>Stage movement</th></tr><tr><td><b>IT Programme – F5 Access Policy Manager Project / Web Application Firewall</b></td><td>Procurement and commissioning of the F5 security suite consisting of Web Application Firewall and VPN modules. This protects our web applications and allows remote access for suppliers and some staff.</td><td><b>Move to Stage 3 - Committed</b></td></tr><tr><td><b>HWRC &amp; CAS Containers</b></td><td>The project involves the replacement of containers (compactors and skips) at HWRCs and Civic Amenity sites in order to maintain service continuity and health &amp; safety standards.</td><td><b>Move to Stage 3 – Committed</b></td></tr></table>	Project	Overview	Stage movement	<b>IT Programme – F5 Access Policy Manager Project / Web Application Firewall</b>	Procurement and commissioning of the F5 security suite consisting of Web Application Firewall and VPN modules. This protects our web applications and allows remote access for suppliers and some staff.	<b>Move to Stage 3 - Committed</b>	<b>HWRC &amp; CAS Containers</b>	The project involves the replacement of containers (compactors and skips) at HWRCs and Civic Amenity sites in order to maintain service continuity and health & safety standards.	<b>Move to Stage 3 – Committed</b>
Project	Overview	Stage movement								
<b>IT Programme – F5 Access Policy Manager Project / Web Application Firewall</b>	Procurement and commissioning of the F5 security suite consisting of Web Application Firewall and VPN modules. This protects our web applications and allows remote access for suppliers and some staff.	<b>Move to Stage 3 - Committed</b>								
<b>HWRC &amp; CAS Containers</b>	The project involves the replacement of containers (compactors and skips) at HWRCs and Civic Amenity sites in order to maintain service continuity and health & safety standards.	<b>Move to Stage 3 – Committed</b>								
	<b>Proposed stage movement – F5 Access Policy Manager Project / Web Application Firewall</b>									
3.3	<p>Under the Council's IT Programme, this project has been identified as being business critical which will replace existing but end of life devices and services. The project includes two modules of the F5 security suite, the F5 Access Policy Manager (APM) and the Web Application Firewall (WAF). The first module provides a VPN service for suppliers to work on network servers and for Council staff to access the network in the event of an issue with the Global Protect service. The second Web Application Firewall (WAF) module provides protection to the Council's websites and online forms from attackers attacking the application. This project aims to continue provide remote connections to suppliers and for some applications, protect the Council against internet based cyber attacks and continue to host the digital certificates for the encryption of website traffic.</p> <p><b>Members are asked to recommend that the F5 Access Policy Manager/ Web Application Firewall project now progresses to <i>Stage 3 – Committed</i> and that it is held at <i>Tier 0 – Scheme at Risk</i> pending further development of the project and a satisfactory tender return.</b> An update will be brought back to Committee at this stage along with the final budget allocation and confirmation that this is within the affordability limits of the Council. Members are</p>									

	asked to agree that necessary procurement processes (including the invitation of tenders and/or the use of appropriate 'framework' arrangements) be initiated with contract to be awarded on the basis of most economically advantageous tenders received and full commitment to deliver.
3.4	<p><b>Proposed stage movement – HWRC &amp; Civic Amenity Sites - Containers (Compactors and Skips)</b></p> <p>Members will recall that in August 2023 this project was moved to <i>Stage 2 – Uncommitted</i> on the Capital Programme, with the requirement that an Outline Business Case will be worked up, with further detail to be brought back to Committee. Members are advised that the OBC has been completed and satisfactorily reviewed. The provision of Household Waste Recycling Centres/Civic Amenity sites is a statutory obligation on the Council, contained within article 25 of the Waste &amp; Contaminated Land (Northern Ireland) Order 1997. The network of Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) and Civic Amenity Sites (CAS) is an essential business unit within the Resources &amp; Fleet Service. Residents can deposit a significant range of large bulky items for re-use and/or recycling at the sites. The sites accept around 30,000 tonnes of waste per annum and account for almost 25% of the total tonnage of household recycling captured during the year. The provision of fit for purpose equipment (compactors &amp; skips) will assist in achieving the key objectives, namely; maintaining efficient and effective site operations which meet strategic and statutory targets for landfill diversion and recycling; reduced Health &amp; Safety risk associated with the sites and any potential liability arising from this equipment; maintaining customer service – recycling centre availability and capacity; and avoidance of additional costs in respect of the need to hire the containers.</p> <p><b>Members are asked to recommend that the HWRC &amp; CAS Containers project now progresses to Stage 3 – Committed and that it is held at Tier 0 – Scheme at Risk pending further development of the project and a satisfactory tender return.</b> An update will be brought back to Committee at this stage along with the final budget allocation and confirmation that this is within the affordability limits of the Council. Members are asked to agree that necessary procurement processes (including the invitation of tenders and/or the use of appropriate 'framework' arrangements) be initiated with contract to be awarded on the basis of most economically advantageous tenders received and full commitment to deliver.</p>
3.5	<p><b>PEACE IV Capital Projects</b></p> <p>Members will recall that the Committee has expressed strong support for both Peace IV Capital Projects - Black Mountain Shared Space Project and Shankill Women's Centre - noting that this would constitute a potentially significant investment of up to €12.5m in the area which will build on the funding already secured under the Peace IV Local Action Plan for the Forth Meadow Community Greenway project and that it would also mark a significant further step towards the</p>

	<p>realisation of the 'Peace Corridor' stretching from Black Mountain to the city centre. On this basis the Council agreed to sign both letters of offer and progress with each project.</p> <p><i>Black Mountain Shared Space Project – Phase 1</i></p>
3.6	<p>Members will be aware that as lead partner for the above project, the Council is effectively required to act as guarantor for the project including meeting any potential deficit in Capital Financing, as well as any ongoing revenue deficit. A potential funding deficit of £1,473,994 was reported to SP&amp;R Committee in October 2022. The project timeframe has been extended out to December 2023 by SEUPB however this extension was within existing parameters and does not mitigate against delays caused by Covid 19, nor recent inflation rises. The capital build has always been programmed to complete in March 2024 and this remains the projection, with programming to be delivered afterwards as part of a 'grace period' requested by SEUPB. The Council has proposed this 'grace period' runs up until 28 June 2024 for completion of the physical build and associated monitoring. Officers have continued to explore any and all options possible with SEUPB to safeguard the Peace IV funding beyond the deadline date, including an extension to the claim deadline, a letter of guarantee, escrow and an advance payment bond. All these proposals were rejected by SEUPB in September 2023 due to Programme Rules. Officers will remain in contact with SEUPB to put forward any other potential solutions over the coming months.</p>
3.7	<p><i>Shankill Shared Women's Centre</i></p> <p>Members are asked to note that the project is proceeding on site and has encountered significant cost increases directly related to inflationary pressures. This has been formally raised with SEUPB with a view to the funder meeting the additional costs. A response is awaited and Members will be updated accordingly.</p> <p><b>Members are asked to note the status of Black Mountain Shared Space Project and Shankill Shared Women's Centre and the challenging issues and risks presented, with a further update to be brought back to Committee in due course.</b></p>
3.8	<p><b>Externally funded projects</b></p> <p>Committee is asked to note that capital project letters of offer and amended letters of offer have now been received for a number of projects where the Council is acting as the delivery agent. Amended letters of offer are commonly received to reflect minor adjustments required following tender returns. Several of these projects are match funded by the Council, either under the various funding streams i.e. LIF/BIF/SOF or through close alignment with ongoing Council initiatives. The details are attached at Appendix 1 and Members are asked to note the summary provided. <b>Members are asked to agree that necessary procurement processes (including</b></p>

	the invitation of tenders and/or the use of appropriate ‘framework’ arrangements) be initiated for any Physical Programme projects including externally funded projects as required, with contracts to be awarded on the basis of most economically advantageous tenders received and full commitment to deliver.
3.9	<p><b><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p><i>Financial</i> – PEACEIV to be met within existing budgets and Council resources</p> <p><i>Resources</i> – Officer time to deliver as required</p>
3.10	<p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p> <p>All capital projects are screened as part of the stage approval process</p>
4.0	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1 - Capital Letters of Offer (1 April 2023 to 30 September 2023)



## Capital Letters of Offer 01 April 2023 – 30 September 2023

Project	Funder	Amount
<i>Five C's Revitalisation (Amendment)</i>	DfC	£162,000
<i>Urban Villages Hosford Community Homes; Inclusion Hub (Amendment)</i>	TEO	£652,862
<i>BCC Public Realms Work Heritage Centre Roddy McCorley (Amendment)</i>	DfC	£250,000
<i>Southwest Quarter Revitalisation (Amendment)</i>	DfC	£250,000
<i>Black Mountain Shared Space Project (Amendment)</i>	SEUPB	€7,101,769
<i>LAP SSS (Forthmeadow Springfield) (Amendment)</i>	SEUPB	£6,432,705
BCC - Woodvale MUGA Pitch Replacement	IFA/DCMS	£120,000
<i>Covid-19 Letter of Variance No. 9 (Amendment)</i>	DfC	£4,039,000
<i>Urban Villages Healthy Living Centre (Amendment)</i>	TEO	£665,390

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**Belfast**  
City Council

<b>Subject:</b>	Requests for use of the City Hall and the provision of Hospitality
<b>Date:</b>	20 October 2023
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Nora Largey, Interim City Solicitor and Director of Legal and Civic Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Aisling Milliken, Functions and Exhibition Manager

### Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Some time in the future

Never

☐  
☐  
☐  
☐

### Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes ☒ No ☐

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	This paper, together with the attached appendix, contains the recommended approach in respect of each of the requests by external organisations for access to the City Hall function rooms received up to 9 October 2023.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approve the recommendations as set out in Appendix 1.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<u>Background Information</u> The current criteria for use of the function rooms used to review external applications is Functions permitted <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>functions which support other events in the city and which are of demonstrable economic benefit to Belfast whether organised by the council or not</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• functions which demonstrably enhance the city's image nationally or internationally as a desirable commercial, business or tourist destination</li> <li>• functions designed to celebrate or commemorate a notable achievement or significant anniversary (25, 50, 100 years) by an organisation or body with close links to the city or province</li> <li>• functions organised by recognised local community or voluntary sector groups for non-profit and non-political purposes</li> </ul>
3.2	<p>Functions not permitted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• conferences, meetings, seminars, performances, wedding receptions, private parties or receptions and similar booking requests in the prestige function rooms</li> <li>• functions, which have as their principal purpose the generation of commercial gain for the organisers. Charity-fundraising functions are managed by the Lord Mayor's Office.</li> <li>• functions which have no compelling links to the council or the city specifically and which could instead use local private sector facilities</li> <li>• functions which have as their primary purpose the advancement of any political or religious cause or campaign or are otherwise potentially contentious or involve significant reputation risks for the council.</li> <li>• functions which involve exceptionally large or disruptive set-ups or pose a real and tangible risk to the fabric of the building or grounds</li> </ul> <p><u>Key Issues</u></p>
3.3	<p>The existing revised criteria and scale of charges have been applied to the various requests received and the recommendations herein are offered to the Committee on this basis for approval.</p>
3.4	<p>The schedule attached at Appendix 1 covers 8 applications for functions, scheduled for 2023, 2024 and 2025.</p>
3.5	<p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None, any recommendations for hospitality will be met from existing budgets.</p>
3.6	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1 - Schedule of function requests received up to 9 October 2023.

## OCTOBER 2023 CITY HALL FUNCTION APPLICATIONS

NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
<b>2023 EVENTS</b>						
Queen University Student Law Society	15 December 2023	<b>QUB Student Law Society 85th Anniversary Celebration-</b> Drinks Reception, Dinner and entertainment.  Numbers attending – 175	C & D	No Charge as charity as voluntary group	Yes, Wine Reception as significant anniversary	Approve No Charge Wine Reception  <i>£500 given to their chosen caterer for wine on arrival</i>
<b>2024 EVENTS</b>						
OMNI (Organisation of Malayalees in Northern Ireland)	6 January 2024	<b>PONNONAM 2023 - A</b> Cultural dinner and entertainment programme to celebrate New Year.  Numbers attending 400	D	No charge as community group	Yes, Soft drinks reception.	Approve No Charge Soft Drink Reception  <i>£500 given to their chosen caterer.</i>
Confucius Institute at Ulster University	23 February 2024	<b>Chinese Year celebration – Year of the Dragon – cultural event of</b> speeches, prize giving and a range of musical / dance performances.  Numbers attending - 200	B & C	Charge £300 as not charity or voluntary	No hospitality	Approve Charge £300 No hospitality
Lough View Integrated Primary School	19 April 2024	<b>Celebrating 30 Years of Lough View IPS</b> Drinks Reception, Dinner and entertainment.  Numbers attending – 200	C & D	No charge as school	Yes, Wine Reception as significant anniversary	Approve No Charge Wine Reception  <i>£500 given to their chosen caterer for wine on arrival</i>
Electronic & Security Services Limited (ESS)	20 April 2024	<b>ESS 50th Anniversary Celebrations-</b> Drinks Reception, Dinner, and entertainment.  Numbers attending – 120	C & D	Charge as £825 as commercial company	Yes, Wine Reception as significant anniversary	Approve Charge £825 Wine Reception  <i>£500 given to their chosen caterer for wine on arrival</i>
Queens University	2 July 204	International Conference on Population Geographies	A & B	No (Waiver as linked to Visit Belfast)	No hospitality	Approve No Charge No hospitality

## OCTOBER 2023 CITY HALL FUNCTION APPLICATIONS

		Dinner Reception for guests attending their 3-day conference taking place in QUB  Numbers attending – 160				
<b>2025 EVENTS</b>						
Girls' Brigade Northern Ireland	16 May 2025	<b>Queen's Award Presentation Ceremony</b> to girls who've been actively involved in their communities and initiative in completing tasks and developing their educational skills. The Queen's Award is the highest award a girl can attain in Girls' Brigade.  Numbers attending – 160	C & D	No charge as charity	Yes, Tea and coffee Reception as significant anniversary	Approve No Charge Tea and Coffee Reception  <i>£500 given to their chosen caterer for wine on arrival</i>
The Royal College of Anaesthetists (RCoA)	21 May 2025	<b>RCoA Annual Dinner Dinner and entertainment</b> for guests attending their 3 day congress taking place in ICC  Numbers attending - 100	A & B	No (Waiver as linked to Visit Belfast)	No hospitality	Approve No Charge No hospitality

## Cost of Living Working Group

Thursday, 5th October, 2023

### COST OF LIVING WORKING GROUP MINUTES HELD IN HYBRID FORMAT

- Members present: Councillor Bradley (Chairperson);  
Alderman Copeland;  
Councillors Doherty, Flynn,  
I. McLaughlin and Nelson.
- Also attended: Councillor R. McLaughlin
- In attendance: Mr. J. Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy;  
Mr. D. Sales, Operational Director of City  
and Neighbourhood Services;  
Mr. K. Heaney, Head of Inclusive Growth  
and Anti-Poverty;  
Mr. B. Carr, Portfolio and Programme Coordinator;  
Ms. M. Higgins, Lead Officer, Community Provision; and  
Mrs. S. Steele, Democratic Services Officer.

#### **Apologies**

No apologies were reported.

#### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 15th September were agreed as an accurate record of proceedings.

#### **Declarations of Interest**

No Declarations of Interest were reported.

#### **Emerging Hardship Fund**

#### **Key considerations in developing Hardship Funding Framework – presentation**

The Head of Inclusive Growth and Anti-Poverty provided the Members with an overview of the Council's ambitions and potential focus of the Emerging Hardship Fund which had been informed by discussions with the Working Group.

He advised the Members of the design principles which would underpin the development of the proposed scheme including the timebound nature of funding from DfC which was required to be delivered by the end of March 2023, therefore, there was an urgency to get the scheme operational.

He also highlighted the importance that any proposed delivery agents would have the capacity, infrastructure and a proven track record of supporting those in need. The hardship fund needed to add value to any existing support mechanisms and ensure there was no duplication or displacement of any current assistance.

Taking account of the initial feedback received from Elected Members, it was proposed that the following groups would be the focus of any emerging Hardship Fund:

- Children and Young People (including those with special needs);
- Families and/or Individual in emergency need;
- Aging Population; and
- Newcomer Communities.

The Members were in agreement regarding the proposed focus areas, stating that they felt that these covered the most vulnerable affected by the cost-of-living crisis

The Members then considered a draft of the proposed funding framework model, which included the themes, proposed delivery partners and an indicative funding allocation as set out below:

Theme	Partner(s)	Funding Allocation (indicative)
1. Support to Children and Families	Schools via Education Authority	£250,000
	Save the Children	£200,000
2. Support for Individuals & Families in Immediate (Emergency) Need	SVDP	£100,000
	Red Cross (55+ Age Group)	£100,000
	Generalist Advice Providers	£100,000
	Trussell Trust	£75,000
	Fareshare	£75,000
3. Enhance Capacity of Existing Structures & Programmes	Winter Wellbeing Community Programmes	£19,000
	Warm & Well Programme	£50,000
	Social Supermarkets	£50,000
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£1,019,000</b>

Following discussion in relation to both the proposed delivery partners and the indicative funding allocations, there was agreement in principle from the Members.

A Member requested that consideration be given to the potential to increase the funding allocated to the Social Supermarket support given the impact these were having across the city.

The officer noted that the funding allocations were indicative at this stage and might vary based on final discussions with the proposed delivery partners in relation to their capacity to deliver in-year. The Members agreed that any emerging model must be flexible to ensure available funding and associated support was delivered in-year.

The Members also discussed the fact that the referral pathways needed to be strong to ensure that local partners were aware of the scope of the support available.



Given that there was agreement, in principle, in regard to the guiding principles, cohorts and the indicative funding allocations, it was agreed that a report would be submitted to the October meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee seeking agreement, which would enable officers to progress the establishment and implementation of the Hardship Scheme.

### **Final Terms of Reference**

The Working Group was reminded that, at its inaugural meeting in September, the Members had considered the Draft Terms of Reference and agreed to meet monthly, with additional meetings called if required. The undernoted Terms of Reference had been amended to reflect this change:

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

#### **Terms of Reference**

#### **1.0 Context**

Households are continuing to face significant pressures relating to inflation and the rising cost-of-living, which is having an adverse impact upon the most vulnerable in society, widening inequalities and increasing the prevalence of poverty across the city.

Despite the fact that, the majority of levers to fundamentally address cost of living pressures are reserved matters for the NI Executive and UK Government, Belfast City Council and the Belfast Community Planning Partnership is committed to doing what it can to address these pressures in both the short and long-term.

Mitigating the worst impacts of the cost-of-living crisis and tackling ever increasing poverty levels within the city has been a key priority for elected members, both in addressing immediate needs through the Fuel Hardship Voucher Scheme and offering people a route out of poverty through tailored wraparound support and advice through Social Supermarkets and other interventions.

The Council's Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting on the 26th June 2023, agreed to:

- (i) establish an All-Party Cost-of-Living Task Group to help inform planning for a Hardship Scheme (based on funding available) and future initiatives related to mitigating the worst impacts of the cost-of-living.
- (ii) approve the creation of a specified reserve for hardship/cost of living funding received from the Department for Communities.

#### **2.0 Role**

**The Members' Cost-of-Living Task Group will:**

- i. help co-design an effective hardship scheme including an appropriate sustainable allocation model and associated recommendations for implementation;
- ii. help build consensus across parties on any proposed hardship scheme;

- iii. help the Council understand the lived experienced of, and issues faced by people of all age groups impacted by the cost-of-living crisis;
- iv. help understand the effectiveness and learning from previous approaches to addressing hardship adopted by the Council;
- v. reviewing lessons learnt from previous Council initiatives to ease hardship;
- vi. help maintain a focus on addressing the biggest issues affecting people of all age groups as a result of living in poverty or likely to become so;
- vii. support the development of a medium-longer term cross-departmental Cost-of-Living/Poverty Framework which is evidence-based, outcome focused, appropriately aligned to the Belfast Agenda and other relevant programmes; and
- viii. ensure that the principles of equality, diversity and inclusion are at the heart of the city's response to the cost-of-living crisis.

As the cost-of-living crisis is a citywide challenge, the role of the Tasking Group will be to identify opportunities to collaborate with partners to better co-ordinate the city's resources to best support those in most need and pool resources where appropriate to maximise impact for the city.

### **3.0 Membership**

The Cost-of-Living Task Group will comprise one nomination from each Party Group. The Group may choose to engage additional members as the cost-of-living crisis response develops including wider social partners and expertise as may be appropriate.

### **4.0 Management of business**

The business of the Task Group will be underpinned by the following principles:

- **Confidentiality** – should be maintained throughout with any discussions or emerging draft papers being treated in a restricted manner until formally taken to a standing Council Committee(s).
- **Consensus** – reports and/or recommendations will be brought forward for Committee consideration based on agreement by the Task Group
- **Transparency** –potential conflicts of interest will be raised if deemed relevant to the discussions of the Task Group

### **5.0 Decision making**

The Task Group will have a key role in the co-design and development of the proposed Hardship Fund and longer-term Poverty Framework and associated recommendations. Final decisions on these will be the responsibility of the Council's Strategic Policy and Resources Committee and Full Council.

### **6.0 Meeting frequency**

The Task Group will meet initially on a monthly basis or as otherwise required. The frequency may be altered as agreed by the Group. The Group will operate initially for a six-month period from August 2023 – January 2024, at which point the arrangements will be reviewed.

## **7.0 Resources and support**

Secretariat support will be provided through Democratic Services.

Programme, policy and other support will be provided by the Council's Community Planning and CNS teams.

The Members agreed the Final Terms of Reference.

### **Date of Next Meeting**

It was agreed that the date of the next meeting would be agreed in liaison with the Chairperson.

Chairperson

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