

Public Document Pack

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



**Belfast
City Council**

HYBRID MEETING OF THE CITY GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE – REPORTS TO FOLLOW

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet both online and in-person, in the Lavery Room - City Hall on Wednesday, 8th November, 2023 at 5.15 pm, for the transaction of the business noted below.

You are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully,

John Walsh

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

3. Regenerating Places & Improving Infrastructure

- (b) All Party Round Table on Connectivity, Active and Sustainable Travel (Pages 1 - 32)

4. Positioning the City to Compete

- (a) Northern Ireland Enterprise Support Service Update (Pages 33 - 38)



Subject:	All Party Round Table on Connectivity, Active & Sustainable Travel
Date:	8 November 2023
Reporting Officer:	Cathy Reynolds, Director of City Regeneration & Development
Contact Officer:	Sean Dolan, Senior Development Manager Callie Persic, Development Manager

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

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

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

1.1	The purpose of this report is to update Members on the All Party Round Table on Connectivity, Active and Sustainable Travel that took place on 30 August 2023 and next steps.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Note the content of this report in relation to the All Party Round Table meeting and the opportunity shape the Belfast Agenda Connectivity, Active and Sustainable Travel Action Plan. II. Agree that future sessions will take place that will provide an opportunity for Members to have a focused and informed discussion around this strategic priority.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p><u>Background</u></p> <p>Following discussions between Officers and Elected Members regarding various matters associated with active and sustainable travel, particularly in relation to the refreshed Belfast Agenda it was agreed in February 2023 to convene an All Party Round Table meeting. The session enabled Members to explore the various stands of work ongoing across the organisation and with partners to ensure that Council can effectively position itself in terms of what we can deliver, who we need to work with and what we need to influence to realise the wider associated benefits of connecting people to opportunities and creating a better connected and sustainable city.</p> <p>In particular, the session looked at how this work cuts across various Committees and via the Community Planning process and provided an overview (Appendix 1) of the streams of work underway, which enabled Members to see all this work holistically and how it feeds into Council's strategic priorities and governance structures. This included the work being taken forward within the Community Planning structures via the Connectivity, Active & Sustainable Travel subgroup as part of the Belfast Agenda refresh and through the Climate & Resilience Board as well as Council led Physical Programme projects, A Bolder Vision and the strategic and large-scale infrastructure projects being led by public and private sector city partners.</p> <p>Connectivity, Active and Sustainable Travel are integrated levers that cut across city stakeholders, including Council, DfI and other Government departments, Sustrans, Translink, communities, businesses and anchor institutions and span across a number of strategic, policy and delivery areas including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Local Development Plan and the Eastern Transport Plan (ETP) • Belfast Agenda and A Bolder Vision • Council's capital delivery programme • Modal shift/behavioural change projects
3.14	

- Net Zero Roadmap for Belfast

The All Party Round Table took place on 30 August 2023 and provided an overview of the wider strategic opportunities and links to the Corporate Plan, the draft CAST plan, A Bolder Vision, Council capital workstreams and outlined the links to the plans and projects of other partners, including the Department for Infrastructure's emerging Eastern Transport Plan.

A key focus of discussion included the relationship of the ETP to other large priority schemes such as Belfast Streets Ahead, Glider Phase 2 and the key Junctions (Peter's Hill, Frederick St, Clifton Street) with particular focus on the need to deliver the Belfast Cycling Network across the city. Referencing the ETP presentation from DfI on 28 June 2023, Members were advised that the ETP will influence and shape the form and function of streets and roads which means that large transport and place-making projects will have to be altered to accommodate the changes needed to deliver sustainable travel, aligned with the climate targets.

Members were advised that Council will submit a response to the ETP and were encouraged to submit a response from their respective parties. Council's response was agreed at the City Growth & Regeneration Committee on 11 October. The resource and financial restraints experienced by DfI and the restrictions of 'in-year' funding was highlighted along with how these impact on what can be delivered in relation to major projects across the city, including Belfast Streets Ahead, Glider Phase 2 and improvements at the large junctions.

Other issues raised included the content within the Belfast Agenda's draft Connectivity, Active and Sustainable Travel Action Plan including active travel for school children, play streets and school streets and opportunities to share and learn from best practice, e.g. through Eurocities. Members were advised that the CAST group is co-chaired by Sustrans and Translink and the draft plan was developed through a co-design process led by this group. Following public consultation on the draft Belfast Agenda, partners will consider potential revisions to the suite of Action Plans before final publication. It is intended that all action plans will remain dynamic, and delivery will be through respective subgroups.

It was agreed that Members would feed the information discussed at the Round Table to their respective parties and that a copy of the presentation would be brought to a future City Growth & Regeneration Committee, with a copy of the presentation attached in Appendix A of this report. It was also agreed that the Round Table would reconvene on a future date to enable further discussion on the issues and to provide an opportunity for Members to feed into the work of the Connectivity, Active & Sustainable Travel sub-group within the Community planning structures. It is proposed that the next meeting will take place after the

	Belfast Agenda Action Plans are updated and invitations will be issued to the Party Group Leaders to nominate a representative.
4.0	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> None associated with this report.
5.0	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> There are no Equality, Good Relations or Rural Needs implications associated with this report.
6.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
	Appendix 1: All Party Round Table Presentation on Connectivity, Active & Sustainable Travel

All Party Roundtable on Connectivity, Active & Sustainable Travel

30th August 2023



Belfast
City Council

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Background
3. Corporate Plan
4. Belfast Agenda – Connectivity Active & Sustainable Travel (CAST) Draft Action Plan
5. A Bolder Vision
6. Eastern Transport Plan (Formerly BMTP)
7. Belfast Cycling Network
8. Key Enabling Projects / Funding
9. Opportunities / Challenges
10. Next Steps



Need for Change?

In 2020, the Zero-Net Carbon Roadmap for Belfast highlighted that transport was responsible for 20% of the city's carbon emissions.



Belfast
City Council

Notices of Motion - Current Position

NoM	Date	Status
<u>Sustainable Transport</u>	03/02/2020	Closed
<u>Cycle Lanes</u>	03/02/2020	Closed
<u>Review of the Belfast Bikes Scheme</u>	04/03/2020	Ongoing
<u>Opening our Streets for Everyone</u>	02/07/2020	Closed
<u>Belfast City Council Cycling Champion</u>	02/11/2020	Closed
<u>Creating Better Access into the Hills</u>	07/01/2021	Ongoing
<u>Extension of the Belfast Bikes Scheme</u>	04/05/2021	Closed
<u>Belfast Cycle Network Delivery Plan</u>	28/09/2022	Closed
<u>Belfast Cycle Network</u>	24/11/2022	Ongoing
<u>Low Traffic Neighbourhoods</u>	24/11/2022	Closed
<u>Translink Night-time Provision of Services</u>	01/12/2022	Ongoing
<u>School Streets Schemes</u>	05/01/2023	Ongoing
<u>Rosetta Way – “quietway”</u>	04/03/2023	Ongoing
<u>Department for Infrastructure - Standards of Repairs to Roads and Footpaths</u>	27/06/2023	Ongoing

Background: Strategic Opportunities

A Bolder Vision

BCC, DfC, DfI shared vision for a connected, vibrant, sustainable, people focused city centre

Belfast Agenda

Connectivity, Active & Sustainable Travel (CAST) subgroup Action Plan

Strong Cross-Sector Partnerships

Through ABV, CAST, BCCRIS and ongoing delivery of connectivity and active travel projects, i.e., Active Travel Hubs

ETP, Belfast Cycling Network & DfI Greenways Programme

The Eastern Transport Plan is the statutory transport plan for the city
The Strategic Plan for Greenways sets out a 25 year plan for the region

Social Change due to Covid & Climate Crisis

Attitudes towards travel and lifestyle are moving towards a more sustainable and neighbourhood focus

Large Infrastructure

Glider Extension
BCRD - Lagan Bridge
Belfast Grand Central Station
Belfast Streets Ahead
York Street Interchange

Corporate Plan

- Our corporate plan is a reflection of what people in Belfast have told us they want and the type of leadership they feel the city needs. It takes the priorities of the Belfast Agenda and sets out the ways in which the council will deliver these to grow a sustainable, inclusive economy and equitable society.
- Our priorities for 2020-2024 are:
 - Growing an inclusive economy
 - Resilience and sustainability
 - Living here
 - City development
 - Working and learning
 - Cross-cutting



Cross-Sector Strategic & Delivery Partners

CAST Group:



Belfast
City Council



Department for
Infrastructure



Department for
Communities

we are
cycling
UK



Public Health
Agency



Additional Delivery Partners:

BELFAST
ONE DIFFERENT
DAYS



LINEN
QUARTER
BID

VCSE
Panel



BELFAST
CHAMBER

Private
Developers



The
Strategic
Investment
Board



Belfast
City Council

Improving Outcomes: Belfast Agenda

Connectivity, Active & Sustainable Travel (CAST): A Priority for Belfast

- The Zero-Net Carbon Roadmap for Belfast highlights that in 2020, transport was responsible for 20% of Belfast's carbon emissions. If we are to achieve the target of being carbon neutral by 2050 we must address this carbon footprint.
- In order to thrive, cities must have transportation systems which allow the maximum volume of people to travel while doing the least possible harm to the environment.



In 2020 it was highlighted that transport in Belfast was responsible for 20% of the city's carbon emissions

The Zero-Net Carbon Roadmap for Belfast



Belfast has committed to being carbon neutral by 2050.



Walking and cycling results in +723 serious long-term health conditions being prevented annually.
Belfast Walking & Cycling Index 2021



Everyday, walking and cycling takes up to 77,000 cars off the road
Belfast Walking & Cycling index 2021

Our Outcomes

Everyone in Belfast experiences good health and wellbeing / Belfast will be vibrant, attractive, connected and environmentally sustainable



% of people who say they do not cycle but would like to:
34% - women
30% - people from ethnic minority groups
31% - disabled people
Belfast Walking & Cycling index 2021



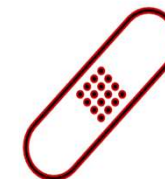
32% of people in Belfast want to cycle but don't

Walking & Cycling Index 2021



Translink aim to increase passenger journeys to 35 M per annum across the Belfast Metro and Glider Service

Translink



Safety concerns stop cycling being a genuine travel choice
For many residents
Walking & Cycling Index 2021

Shaping the CAST plan

- **General Comments:** First principle should be to **reconnect the city**, including better **connections to the city centre**. Severance, particularly at **key road junctions** is a key issue and on-going concern. People want to see **realistic targets, with recognisable, relatable, measurable actions happening in their areas**.
- **Recurrent Issues:**
 - Safety
 - Public Transport
 - Taxis
 - Accessibility
 - The potential of the River Lagan
 - Infrastructure
 - Connectivity with city centre
 - 15 minute neighbourhoods
 - Transport Poverty
 - Green space and greenways



Levers for Change: CAST



Connectivity, Active and Sustainable Travel

Belfast Agenda Long-term Outcome: *By 2035, Belfast will be vibrant, attractive, connected and environmentally sustainable
Everyone in Belfast experiences good health and well-being*

Over the next four years, we will work in partnership to improve connectivity and active and sustainable travel options, including public transport

STRATEGIC INTENT (What are we trying to do?)	ACTIONS (How are we going to achieve it?)	STRETCH GOALS (How will we measure success in 2027?)	PARTNERS (Who is going to do it?)
1. Deliver the Belfast Metropolitan Transport Plan (BMTP) which will provide the strategic framework for bringing forward our climate commitments, supporting the integration of a prioritised and modernised public transport system and a network of walking and cycling routes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Completion of BMTP and progress of implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">BMTP completed by 2027 with the Belfast iteration completed in 2025	Convening Lead(s): Department for Infrastructure Support: Community Planning Partners



Levers for Change: CAST

<p>2. Deliver the second stage of the Belfast Local Development Plan 2035 which supports an efficient integrated transport network offering travel choice that minimises congestion and pollution</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of the Belfast Local Development Plan 2035; the plan will encourage the expansion of green infrastructure networks for walking and cycling to encourage active travel and improve air quality and promote increased use of public transport (<u>e.g.</u> addressing dereliction, embedding connectivity) • Promote and develop partnership working across the public/private and community and voluntary sector to support access to local businesses, <u>communities</u> and relevant statutory agencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In accordance with Monitoring Indicators (Appendix F of LDP) https://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/getmedia/bba4bd89-157d-4209-8d5e-8a6eb58dd760/PS001-Plan-Strategy-Final-Web-May2023.pdf 	<p>Convening Lead(s): Belfast City Council Planning Service</p> <p>Support: Community Planning Partners</p>
<p>3. Support projects that encourage people to use forms of sustainable travel</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve public transport journey times and reliability through a prioritised public transport network 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attain 35M passenger journeys on the Metro and Glider in Belfast by 2030 • Attain 70 public transport journeys per person per year by 2030 • Undertake quality improvements on Zero Emission and Sustainable Transport (ZEST) corridors by 2027 	<p>Convening Lead(s): Translink</p> <p>Support: Department for Infrastructure</p>



Levers for Change: CAST

Page 16

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement Belfast Rapid Transit Phase 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to develop the detailed designs and business case requirements to support the delivery of Belfast Rapid Transit Phase 2 	<p>Convening Lead(s): Department for Infrastructure</p> <p>Support: Translink</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Progress the integrated, multi-modal Transport Hub (Weaver's Cross) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completion in 2025 	<p>Convening Lead(s): Department for Infrastructure</p> <p>Support: Translink</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support development of the Belfast-Dublin Transport Corridor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting hourly frequency of rail services and <2hour journey time between Belfast and Dublin 	<p>Convening Lead(s): Belfast City Council / Translink</p> <p>Support: Community Planning Partners</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand the timetable with a greater service in the evenings and funding for the provision of night-time services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of night-time services secured 	<p>Convening Lead(s): Translink</p> <p>Support: Community Planning Partners</p>



Levers for Change: CAST

<p>4. Support behavioural change projects that replace car journeys with walking, wheeling and cycling</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver cycling infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet the targets set out for Belfast in the BMTP 	<p>Convening Lead(s): Department for Infrastructure</p> <p>Support: Belfast City Council, Sustrans</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress the delivery of greenways in the city 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop greenway feasibility and identify potential routes 	<p>Convening Lead(s): Belfast City Council</p> <p>Support: Community Planning Partners</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop initiatives to help alleviate transport poverty by encouraging active and sustainable travel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry out a scoping study that identifies affordable and flexible cycle hire • Better promotion and communication of inclusive sustainable and active transport options. • Extend the cycle docking station network across the city • Increase the number of Belfast Bikes available throughout the city 	<p>Convening Lead(s): Belfast City Council, Voluntary, Community & Social Enterprise Panel</p> <p>Support: Sustrans, Translink, private sector</p>



Levers for Change: CAST

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Codesign place-based active travel initiatives to encourage walking, <u>wheeling</u> and cycling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop 2 exemplar initiatives in line with the BMTP 	<p>Convening Lead(s): Belfast City Council</p> <p>Support: <u>Sustrans</u>, Voluntary, Community & Social Enterprise Panel, QUB, Public Health Agency</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure funding for the delivery of Active Travel Hubs across the city 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding secured and hubs activated 	<p>Convening Lead(s): <u>Sustrans</u></p> <p>Support: Belfast City Council</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support health and well-being outcomes for active travel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivery of updated Public Health Agency active travel programme Delivery of schools' education programme on safe cycling, <u>walking</u> and wheeling Increase the number of public cycling workshops 	<p>Convening Lead(s): Public Health Agency</p> <p>Support: Voluntary, Community & Social Enterprise Panel, <u>Sustrans</u>, Belfast Healthy Cities, Education Authority, Belfast City Council</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify gaps in data about walking, wheeling, cycling and public transport and explore the potential for real-time data capture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gap analysis undertaken 	<p>Convening Lead(s): <u>Sustrans</u></p> <p>Support: Belfast City Council</p>

Belfast Agenda Public Consultation

- The draft Belfast Agenda Strategic Plan 2023 – 2027 and Action Plans are open for consultation until 2 Oct 2024
- Post consultation the Belfast Agenda and Action Plans will be updated to take account of feedback.
- The Community Planning Partnership will then sign off and we will publish the document.
- There will still be opportunity to get involved and have your say at different stages over the next year as we begin to develop and implement the Belfast Agenda actions through the Belfast Agenda Delivery Boards.



Belfast
City Council

Levers for Change: A Bolder Vision

A Bolder Vision for Belfast



City Centre as an Inclusive Place to Live, Work and Visit



Embracing our Rivers



Remove Reliance on Car Travel



Community Focused Regeneration



Active and Inclusive Public Realm and Green Spaces



Vibrant and Safe Streets



Prioritise Walking, Cycling & Public Transport



Overcoming Severance with Surrounding Communities

Visioning Principles

1] Creating a healthy, shared, vibrant and sustainable environment that promotes wellbeing for all, inclusive growth and innovation.

2] Fundamentally changing the centre of Belfast to prioritise integrated walking, cycling and public transport and end the dominance of the car

3] Providing lively, safe and green streets linking inclusive shared spaces to promote resilience and enhance our built heritage

4] Removing severance and barriers to movement between the centre of Belfast and the surrounding communities to improve access for all .

Four Key Moves for Change

A Bolder Vision for Belfast

Key Moves



Creation of a **Civic Spine**
with a focus on people



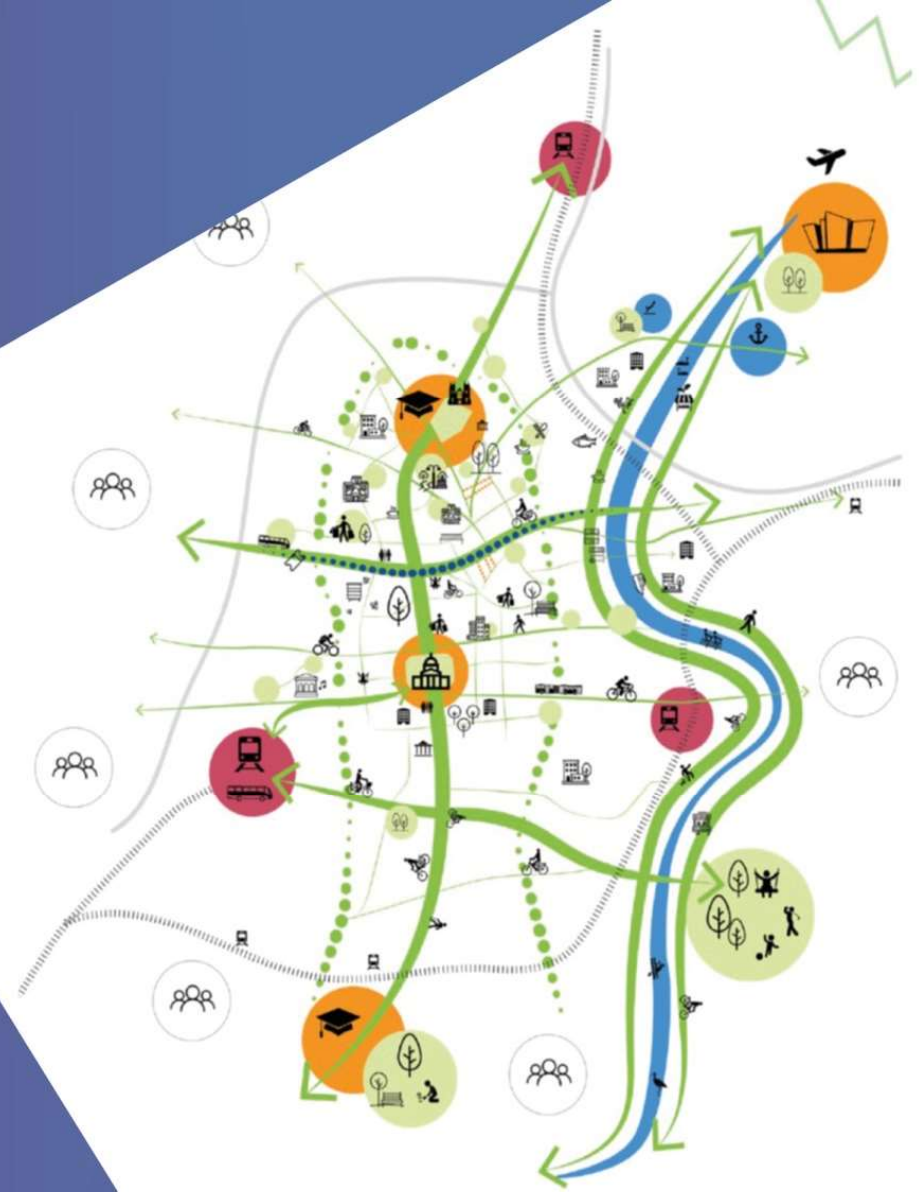
Reimagine the Inner Ring Road
and **end Car Dominance**



Promote **City Centre Living**



Embrace the **River Lagan and Waterfront**





Active Travel Enablers



Neighbourhood Connectivity

- Capital Programme
- Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund
- Belfast Investment Programme
- Greenways
 - Connswater Community Greenway – completed
 - Forth Meadow Greenway – ongoing
 - Lagan Gateway - ongoing
 - Sydenham Greenway - uncommitted
 - Glencairn / Ligionel Pk Greenway – uncommitted
 - Black Mountain / Upper Whiterock Greenway – uncommitted
 - Colin Greenway – uncommitted
 - Access to the hills – uncommitted
- Belfast Bikes Scheme Expansion
 - Began in 2015 and continues to grow in popularity with over 573 bikes with 52 docking stations.
 - Network expansion across the city with new docking stations installed.



Eastern Transport Plan (ETP) (Formerly BMTP)

- The Eastern Transport Plan is the statutory transport plan for the city and sets out the strategic initiatives and transport proposals for the Belfast metropolitan area.
- The plan is currently being finalised by the Department for Infrastructure in parallel with the LDP process. The first draft ETP will set out all of the key aspects associated with the transport network and local interventions, including the Belfast Cycle Network, for the Belfast City Council area and is anticipated for publication in 2024.

Major impact on delivery of large projects:

- Finalisation of A Bolder Vision
- Belfast Streets Ahead 3 & 5
- Glider Phase 2
- Belfast Cycling Network
- Junctions (Peter's Hill, Frederick Street, Clifton Street, 5Cs Public Realm)



Eastern Transport Plan Consultation

Drafting the **Vision**, **Objectives** and Guiding Principles for the Plan

Vision

Deliver an integrated Plan to enhance and re-balance transport networks in favour of sustainable, efficient modes, which connects communities creating an attractive, inclusive and safe economic region for all by delivering carbon reduction, improving air quality, enhancing the built and natural environment and facilitating healthy and sustainable travel choices over unnecessary private car travel.

Page 26

Objectives

Reduce travel distances by promoting safe, inclusive and connected neighbourhoods, supported by integrated planning.

Deliver a reduction in carbon emissions by increasing accessibility for all to jobs, services and recreation by sustainable travel modes.

Promote healthy and inclusive communities by developing safe active travel options that respect the local built and natural environment.

Reduce unnecessary use of the private car by implementing effective demand management measures.

Improve air quality and the environment by encouraging the use of sustainable modes and vehicles which utilise sustainable fuels.

Enhance the resilience and safety of the transport network to support the economy and meet the challenges of climate change.

Support the efficient, sustainable movement of goods and people and enhance connectivity to regional networks including access to ports and airports.



Belfast
City Council

Belfast Cycling Network (BCN)

- DfI published 'Making Belfast an Active City – Belfast Cycling Network 2021,' in June 2021.
- This was followed by the 'Belfast Cycling Network Delivery Plan 2022,' in March 2022.
- The documents set out a blueprint for the development and operation of the cycling infrastructure in the city for the next ten years.
- Over 50 individual schemes were identified for delivery in the plan and the Network had an estimated cost of £100 million.
- **DfI advised Council that through ETP process they are looking at how to integrate the BCN in a multi-modal plan and there may be some displacement of the BCN as they find alternative routes.**
- **DfI has assured Council that whilst there may be changes to routes the overall principles and vision of the BCN will remain.**



Key Enabling Projects / Funding

Project	Status	Funding
Belfast Grand Central Station	Under Construction	Funded
Glider Phase 2	Business Plan near completion	Part funded – BRCD
A Bolder Vision	Final draft and action plan stage	None committed
BRCD - Ormeau Park / Gasworks Bridge	Business Plan near completion	Funded – BRCD
Shared Island Fund – Sailortown / Titanic Quarter Bridge	Stage 1-3 reports completed, submission Sept	Application Process
Waterfront Taskforce – Waterside Promenade	Report completed	None committed
Belfast Streets Ahead	Awaiting ETP; at design stage	Funded
York Street Interchange	York Street Placemaking Review underway	Part Funded
Belfast Urban Greenway (BUG)	Initial scoping work completed	None committed
Gateway Connectivity Project	Feasibility work commenced	None committed
Greenways including Forth Meadow	Project development underway	Under construction
PEACE Plus – Funding opportunity	Project development underway	Application process

Opportunities & Challenges for Delivery

• Opportunities:

- ABV as the agreed blueprint to deliver infrastructure & shape the future city
- CAST to set out Council's and partners' ambitions and commitments
- Developing a pipeline of shovel ready projects for future funding
- Potential to align delivery of large infrastructure projects, BMTP, Belfast Streets Ahead, York Street Interchange, Belfast Cycling Network, Glider, Junctions (Fredrick St, Peter's Hill, Clifton St) through ABV

• Challenges:

- Limited Council powers
- Statutory processes & timeframes for delivery
- Resourcing, Departmental budget pressures
- **In-year budgets & financial uncertainty**
- Ownership of actions
- Availability of alternative funding streams
- Dfl priorities
- Governance issues



Next Steps

1. Advocacy and Engagement

- Opportunity to feed into the ETP

2. Corporate Plan

- Priorities
- Process

3. CAST Plan

- Out for consultation – Opportunity to input politically
- Vehicle for delivery with city partners

4. Project Delivery & Joint Funding Opportunities

- Quick wins
- Long term vision

Discussion



This page is intentionally left blank



Subject:	Northern Ireland Enterprise Support Service update
Date:	8 November 2023
Reporting Officer:	John Greer, Director of Economic Development
Contact Officer:	Lisa Toland, Senior Manager, Economy

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

☐

No

☒

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

Insert number

☐

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

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

☐
☐
☐
☐

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☒

No

☐

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update the committee on the new Northern Ireland Enterprise Support Service (NIESS) – the regional initiative to support business start-up and growth that will be led by Belfast City Council on behalf of the 11 councils.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note the update on the Northern Ireland Entrepreneurship Support Service (ESS). Note the planned go-live date for the new intervention and launch.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	At the 17 February meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, Members agreed that Belfast City Council should lead on the submission of the application to UKSPF (Shared Prosperity Fund) for the 11-council Enterprise Support Service (ESS) model. They also agreed that the council should lead on the future development and delivery of the service, subject to additional due diligence and risk management work being undertaken.
3.2	A further update was presented to the August 2023 meeting of this Committee, providing additional detail on progress to date on the procurement process and the funding drawdown and identifying an emerging risk due to delays in issuing the funding agreement/MoU by DLUHC (Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities). In early September 2023, officers received the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) setting out the terms and conditions of the funding offer and this was signed by the Chief Executive.
3.3	<p>Having received the MoU, officers were able to proceed with the appointment of the contractors for the delivery of services to businesses, as well as the provision of support services such as marketing and communications and call handling. Following completion of the procurement process, successful contractors include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage and Foundation – Enterprise NI and Partners Growth and Scaling – DCSDC and CCGBC – Deirdre Fitzpatrick and Associates Growth and Scaling – BCC – Full Circle Management Solutions Growth and Scaling – FODC, MUDC and ABCBC – Full Circle MS Growth and Scaling – ANDBC, LCCC and NMD – Full Circle MS Growth and Scaling – ANBC and MEABC – Mallusk Enterprise Park Telehandling – Like Us NE Communications and Marketing – Ardmore
3.4	Following mobilisation of contracts across a number of work strands it is expected that the go live date for service delivery will take place in early November. Given delays in issuing the

	MoU, officers are working with contractors to identify how we can maximise the delivery of the service while acknowledging that not all support services and resources are yet fully functional.
3.5	As part of the mobilisation period work has been undertaken to develop new brand for the new service. The scoping exercise consisted of detailed surveys, focus groups and stakeholder workshops which led to the creation of a new brand/logo, 4 sub brands and brand guidelines. A copy is attached for reference.
3.6	The selected brand Proposition is outlined as follows; 'Go Succeed NI Business Support is a service to help potential entrepreneurs, new starts and existing businesses to maximise their potential and contribute to Northern Ireland's economy. It provides would-be and existing businesses with flexible, tailored and easily accessible advice and support at any stage of their growth journey.'
3.7	The brand Value is that Go Succeed is the go-to source of easily accessible advice and support for anyone starting or growing their business in NI.
3.8	To accommodate marketing messages aimed at the widest possible range of businesses, and to allow for promotion of the specific support offerings applicable to each level, a set of Go Succeed sub-brands have been created.
3.9	The formal launch of the brand and the new service is scheduled to take place on the 13 November in Belfast City Hall to mark the start of Global Entrepreneurship week.
3.10	The launch event will be hosted by Sarah Travers and will include a welcome and overview of the new service from John Walsh (TBC) representing Belfast City Council as the service lead. The launch will also include a panel discussion from entrepreneurs and business owners across the region who discuss business support provision and how they have accessed council led services and others to achieve their business growth ambitions. The event will be attended by representatives from DLUHC, the other 10 councils, key stakeholders and delivery partners and key media partners.
3.11	As part of the funding application to DLUHC, resources were secured for a number of staff roles in order to support programme delivery and provide appropriate management and oversight for funders and all council partners. Recruitment for these roles took place in October and have now concluded, however due to some of the exercises being unsuccessful and the creation of additional posts for finance and compliance positions, a further exercise

	will now take place in November 2023 and staff should be in position for December 2023 (subject to notice periods).
3.12	In the interim, the development and mobilisation work is being led by existing resources within the Enterprise and Business Growth Team. The team has been supported by colleagues from across the council including Digital Services, Procurement, Finance, Legal Services, Information Governance Unit, Human Resources and Continuous Improvement and Audit, Governance and Risk.
3.13	As a recap, the service is being funded through the new Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF). This is the DLUHC fund that was established as a replacement for EU funding (ERDF and ESF). One strand of funding focused on “Supporting Local Business”. The Investment Plan for UKSPF in Northern Ireland was launched in December 2022. At that time, the Plan proposed that a central component of the Supporting Local Business strand would be the 11 council Enterprise Support Service. An indicative financial allocation of £17million - £12million programme delivery and £5million for small grants – was set aside for the service. UKSPF funding is available to March 2025 so the initial programme period will run from Autumn 2023 to March 2025.
3.14	The new service represents the ambition of all local authorities to deliver on our statutory responsibility around business start-up in a way that will make a real change over time, by working to address cultural attitudes towards entrepreneurship and helping more businesses to start, grow and scale across the region. It can directly support our Belfast Agenda targets for job creation and economic growth and can also provide an important engagement mechanism to enhance business interaction with key investments, including those supported through City Deal.
3.15	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>Belfast City Council will act as the lead council on behalf of the 11 councils for delivery of the service. To do so, we will establish a delivery and management team which will be fully resourced through the DLUHC funding.</p> <p>The overall indicative SPF budget is in the region of £5million revenue in year 1 and £7million revenue in year 2, with around £5million available across the funding period for grant support.</p>
3.16	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>

	An equality impact and rural needs assessment for the service has been completed. Local targets for delivery in each council area have been established and will be part of the contractual commitments with delivery partners.
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
	None

This page is intentionally left blank