

Public Document Pack

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

22nd November, 2023

MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

In addition to those matters previously notified to you, the following items will also be considered at the meeting to be held at 9.30 a.m. on Friday, 24th November, 2023.

Yours faithfully,

John Walsh

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

2. Restricted Items

- (g) Organisational Reviews and Change Programme (Pages 1 - 6)
- (h) Update on Physical Programme (Pages 7 - 14)

6. Physical Programme and Asset Management

- (a) Asset Management (Pages 15 - 34)

7. Finance, Procurement and Performance

- (c) Social Value Procurement Policy/Minutes of the Meeting of the Social Policy Working Group (Pages 35 - 68)

9. Operational Issues

- (c) Requests for the use of the City Hall Grounds for Events in 2024 (Pages 69 - 72)
- (d) Minutes of the Meeting of the Cost of Living Working Group (Pages 73 - 76)

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

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank



Subject:	Asset Management i) Gasworks Northern Fringe – Disposal of land to Radius Housing Association ii) 2 Royal Avenue – Surrender of Lease to AIB Group NI PLC iii) Cherryvale Playing Fields – Vesting of c25 sqm of adjoining lands. iv) Cregagh Green - Licence to Cregagh Wanderers FC. to install a storage container and portable toilet. v) Station Street Car Park – Licence renewal vi) Leisure Centres – Agreements with Easygo for Operation and Maintenance of FASTER Project Electric Vehicle Chargers
Date:	24th November, 2023
Reporting Officer:	Sinead Grimes, Director of Property and Projects
Contact Officer:	Pamela Davison, Estates Manager

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to seek approval from the Committee on asset related disposal, acquisition, and estates matters.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <p>i) Gasworks Northern Fringe – Disposal of Land to Radius Housing Association</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - approve the disposal of c68sqm of land on Site A Gasworks Northern Fringe and the disposal of c24sqm on Site D to Radius Housing Association. <p>ii) 2 Royal Avenue – Surrender of Lease to AIB Group NI PLC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - approve the surrender of a Lease to AIB Group NI PLC in respect of the ATM structure at 2 Royal Avenue <p>iii) Cherryvale Playing Fields – Vesting of c25 sqm of Adjoining Lands.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - approve the commencement of a vesting process in relation to a small piece of land (c. 25 sqm) separating Cherryvale Playing Fields from the public footpath and road. <p>iv) Cregagh Green – Licence to Cregagh Wanderers FC. to install a Storage Container and Portable Toilet.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - approve the grant of a site licence to Cregagh Wanderers Football Club for a storage container and portable toilet at Cregagh Green. <p>v) Station Street Car Park – Licence Renewal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - approve the renewal of a licence agreement from the Department for communities (DfC) in relation to the Council operated off-street car park a Station Street. <p>vi) Leisure Centres – Agreements with Easygo for Operation and Maintenance of FASTER Project Electric Vehicle Chargers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - approve entering into 7 year legal agreements with electric charge point operator EASYGO to regulate the operation of electric vehicle chargers at seven leisure centre sites.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>i) Gasworks Northern Fringe – Disposal of land to Radius Housing Association</p> <p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>On 31st March 2023, the Council sold c1.628 acres of land on Site A Gasworks Northern Fringe and c0.685 acres on Site D Gasworks Northern Fringe to Radius Housing Association, for the development of 94 social housing units. Radius has commenced construction works and now wish to acquire lands adjacent to their site at Site A – Raphael Street and their site</p>

	<p>at Site D - Cromac Place in order to install electricity sub-stations that will service the respective completed developments. The Site A sub-station lands are shown outlined in red on the site map attached in Appendix 1. The Site D sub-station lands are shown outlined in red on the site map attached in Appendix 2. LPS has valued the Site A sub-station lands at £12,500 and the Site D sub-station lands at £3,200.</p> <p>The Committee is asked to approve the disposal to Radius Housing Association of c68 sq. m of land on Site A Gasworks Northern Fringe for £12,500 and c24 sq m of land on Site D Gasworks Northern Fringe for £3,200.</p>
3.2	<p>ii) 2 Royal Avenue – Surrender of Lease to AIB Group NI PLC</p> <p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The Council acquired 2 Royal Avenue subject with an existing Lease between Rover Group Trustees Limited and AIB Group NI plc which granted AIB the right to install ATMs within a free-standing structure in front of the building. The Lease is for a term of 99 years from 24/07/1996 and is subject to a nominal rent. Following the Primark fire, the ATM structure was enclosed within hoarding and ATMs put out of operation. The ATM's were not and AIB have informed the Council of their wish to be released from their interest at this site. Council would have an opportunity to generate an income stream from an alternative service provider or re-purpose the structure in line with its vision for 2 Royal Avenue.</p> <p>The Committee is asked to approve the surrender of a Lease to AIB Group NI PLC in respect of the ATM structure at 2 Royal Avenue.</p>
3.3	<p>iii) Cherryvale Playing Fields – Vesting of c25 sqm of adjoining lands.</p> <p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The Council owned Cherryvale Playing Fields has a pedestrian gate located along its southern boundary, at the junction of Rosetta Park and Knockbreda Road. Historically this gate has been closed to deter anti-social behaviour, however following recent requests to have the gate re-opened, consultations have taken place with local residents, and it is agreed to re-open the gate for public access/egress to the playing fields from this location. A small triangle of land (c. 25 sqm and shaded yellow on the map attached at appendix '4') has been identified between the gate and public footpath/road for which ownership is unknown. The land is not owned or adopted by DfI, suggesting it is private land. Extensive attempts have been made through historic maps, ground rents, title and registrations to try and identify the landowner, including consultations with the adjoining landowners with the intention of agreeing an access for members of the public over this land, but unfortunately these attempts have been unsuccessful. Legal Services have recommended the vesting process in order for Council to assume ownership of this piece of land if approved by DfC and give members</p>

	<p>of the public access from the public footpath/road directly into Cherryvale Playing Fields via the pedestrian gate.</p> <p>The Committee is asked to approve the commencement of the vesting process for this land subject to DfC approval in order for Council to have ownership and be able to open the gate.</p>
3.4	<p>iv) Cregagh Green - Licence to Cregagh Wanderers FC. to install a storage container and portable toilet.</p> <p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>Members will recall the grant of a site licence in October 2022 to Cregagh Wanderers Football Club to install a metal shipping container on a small plot of land adjoining the Cregagh Green football pitch. Cregagh Wanderers Football Club have been allocated LIF funding for the installation of an additional container and portable toilet. Members are asked to approve a licence for two years to Cregagh Wanderers Football Club for the installation of an additional container and portable toilet within the lands shown shaded blue in Appendix 5. The Council will deliver this project including the procurement and installation of the container and portable toilet. The licence will permit the installation of a free-standing portable toilet (not connected to main services) to be cleaned and managed by the club. The container and portable toilet will be insured and maintained by the club.</p> <p>The Committee is asked to approve the grant of a licence to Cregagh Wanderers Football Club for the installation of a container and portable toilet on a site at Cregagh Green.</p>
3.5	<p>v) Station Street Car Park – Licence Renewal</p> <p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>As part of the Transfer of Functions legislation for off-street car parking from DRD, the car park at Station Street transferred to Council on 01 April 2015. This car park is owned by the Department for Communities (DfC) and has been held by Council under Licence since the transfer date. The current Licence from DfC was for a term of 3 years and expired on 30/06/2022 in which Council are currently holding over. Following ongoing discussions it is proposed to extend the Licence for a further term of 1 year to 30/06/2023 subject to a Licence fee £54,812 as assessed by Land & Property Services (LPS) based on the actual income the car park generated in the previous year with a further 1-year Licence to 30/06/2024 subject to a fee to be assessed by LPS. Council will retain all revenue generated from its operation of the car park. Both DfC and Council would have a mutual 6-month break option to facilitate the Queens Quay development plans.</p>

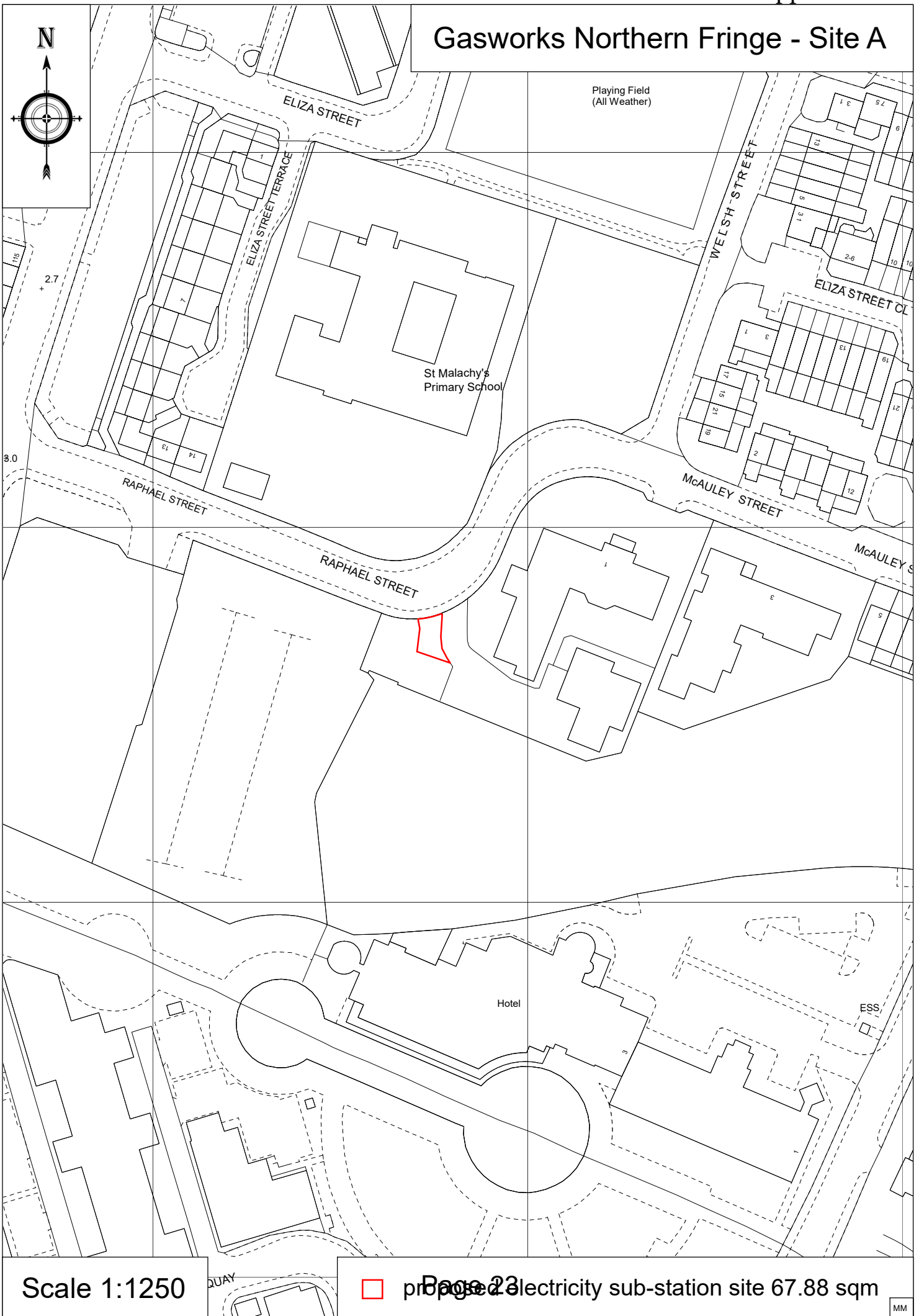
	The Committee is asked to approve both Licence renewals to 30/06/2023 and 30/06/2024 in respect of the DfC owned car park at Station Street.
3.6	<p>vi) Leisure Centres – Agreements with Easygo for Operation and Maintenance of FASTER Project Electric Vehicle Chargers</p> <p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The Climate and City Resilience Committee at its meeting on 13 October 2022 noted that an opportunity existed to bring forward a number of leisure centre sites for inclusion on a reserve list within the INTERREG funded FASTER Project (the Project) funded by SEUPB, and supported Officers progressing same. The Project is a joint cross border project across Scotland, the border Counties of Ireland and NI to support transition to low carbon transport systems and to demonstrate how each of the three jurisdictions can provide early systems learning in relation to the electrification of transport. The Project also aims to ensure that the availability of public charging stations is not a major obstacle to electric vehicle market penetration. A further update was brought to the same Committee on 15 June 2023 noting that three proposed sites had been included as primary sites in a live procurement exercise to appoint a charge point operator to manage, design, install and operate charge points at these sites. Furthermore, Committee granted approval to add one additional primary site and three further reserve sites. The seven sites being:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoniel Leisure Centre • Ballysillan Leisure Centre • Brook Leisure Centre • Girdwood Community Hub • Grove Wellbeing and Treatment Centre • Whiterock Leisure Centre • Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre <p>Following analysis by Ulster University and NIE and subsequent liaison with GLL and the Council's Energy Manager, all sites have now been included within the Project. Phase 1 has resulted in the appointment of chargepoint operator Easygo at sites across three council districts, including Belfast. This was managed centrally by Ulster University who led the procurement, and by East Border Region who are the project coordinators. A total of 10 chargepoints have been approved, with 1-2 chargers allocated to each site. Phase 2 of the project will see Easygo enter into proposed 7year agreements for the maintenance and delivery of the chargers, with the option to extend for a further 3 years on completion. The</p>

	<p>legal agreement between Belfast City Council and Easygo has been drafted and is being reviewed by Legal Services at present.</p> <p>The Committee is asked to approve entering into the proposed 7 year legal agreements with EASYGO in a form to be agreed by Legal Services and signed by Council officers.</p>
	<u>Financial and Resources Implications</u>
3.7	<p>i) Gasworks Northern Fringe – Disposal of land to Radius Housing Association</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Council will receive payments totalling £15,700. Legal Services will act on the instructions of Estates. <p>ii) Royal Avenue – Surrender of Lease to AIB Group NI PLC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - AIB Group NI PLC pay a nominal rent and therefore a surrender of their Lease presents no loss of income. Legal Services shall act on the instructions of Estates to draft a Deed of Surrender. <p>iii) Cherryvale Playing Fields – Vesting of c25 sqm of adjoining lands.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Legal Services shall act on the instructions of Estates to draft and lodge a vesting order application. Council will be liable for the costs associated with this application. In addition, Council will be responsible for maintenance of the land going forward. <p>iv) Cregagh Green - Licence to Cregagh Wanderers FC. to install a storage container and portable toilet.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The licence will be drafted by Legal Services on the instructions of Estates. <p>v) Station Street Car Park – Licence renewal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council will be responsible for payment of a Licence fee assessed by LPS based on actual income generated by the car park. Council will retain all revenue generated from its operation of the car park. <p>vi) Leisure Centres – Agreements with Easygo for Operation and Maintenance of FASTER Project Electric Vehicle Chargers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Legal agreements with Easygo for each site will be finalised and agreed with Legal Services. Installation of the chargepoints will be at no cost to the Council, with the costs of their maintenance and operation the responsibility of Easygo for the duration of the term.
	<u>Equality and Good Relations / Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.8	None associated with this report.

4.0	Documents Attached
	<p>Appendix 1 – Site Map – Site A – Gasworks Northern Fringe sub-station land</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Site Map – Site D – Gasworks Northern Fringe sub-station land</p> <p>Appendix 3 – Map illustrating the ATM structure at 2 Royal Avenue.</p> <p>Appendix 4 – Map illustrating the lands adjoining Cherryvale Playing Fields proposed to be vested.</p> <p>Appendix 5 – Cregagh Green - Map showing the site shaded blue.</p> <p>Appendix 6 – Map illustrating Station Street Car park.</p>

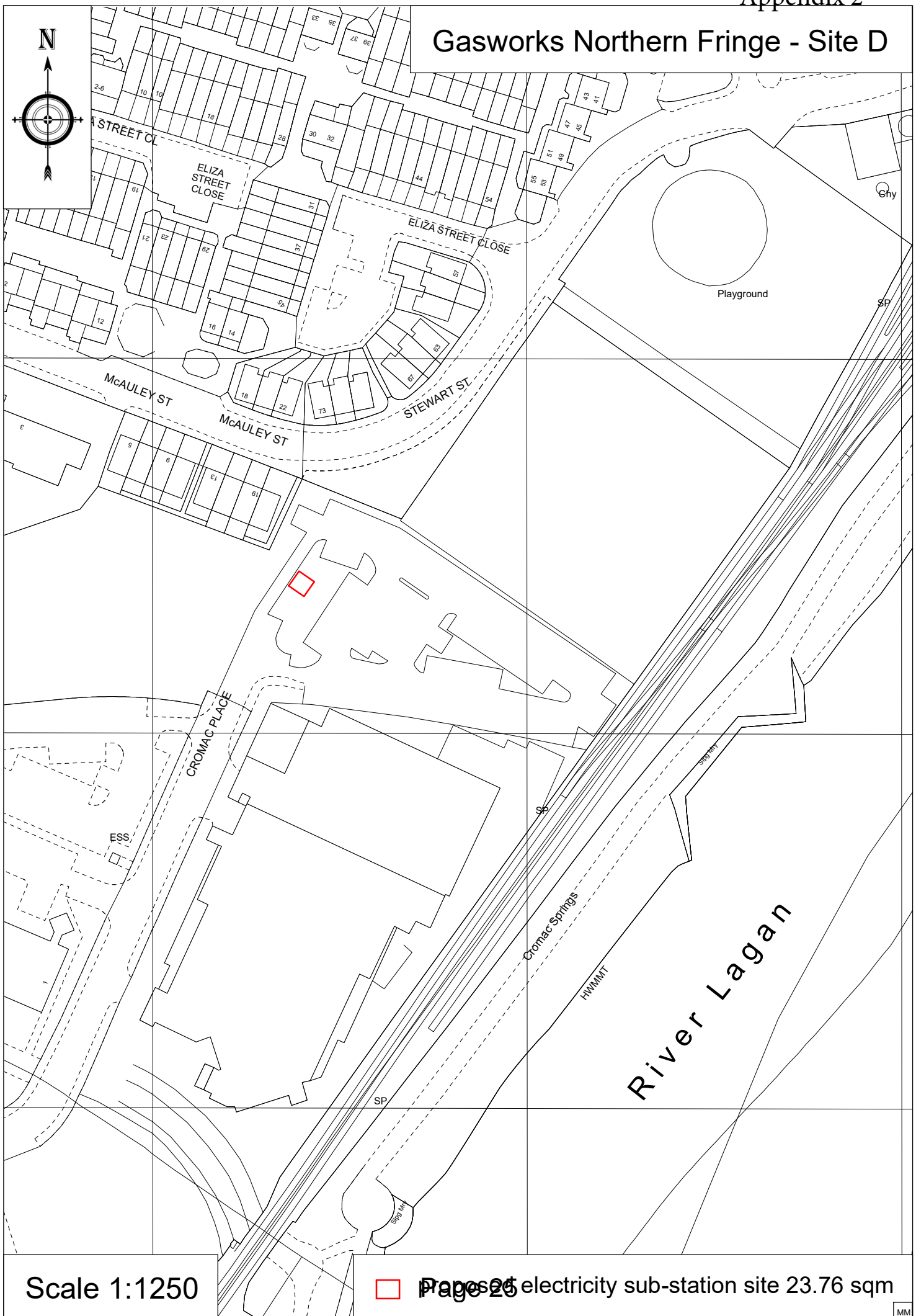
This page is intentionally left blank

Gasworks Northern Fringe - Site A



This page is intentionally left blank

Gasworks Northern Fringe - Site D



Scale 1:1250

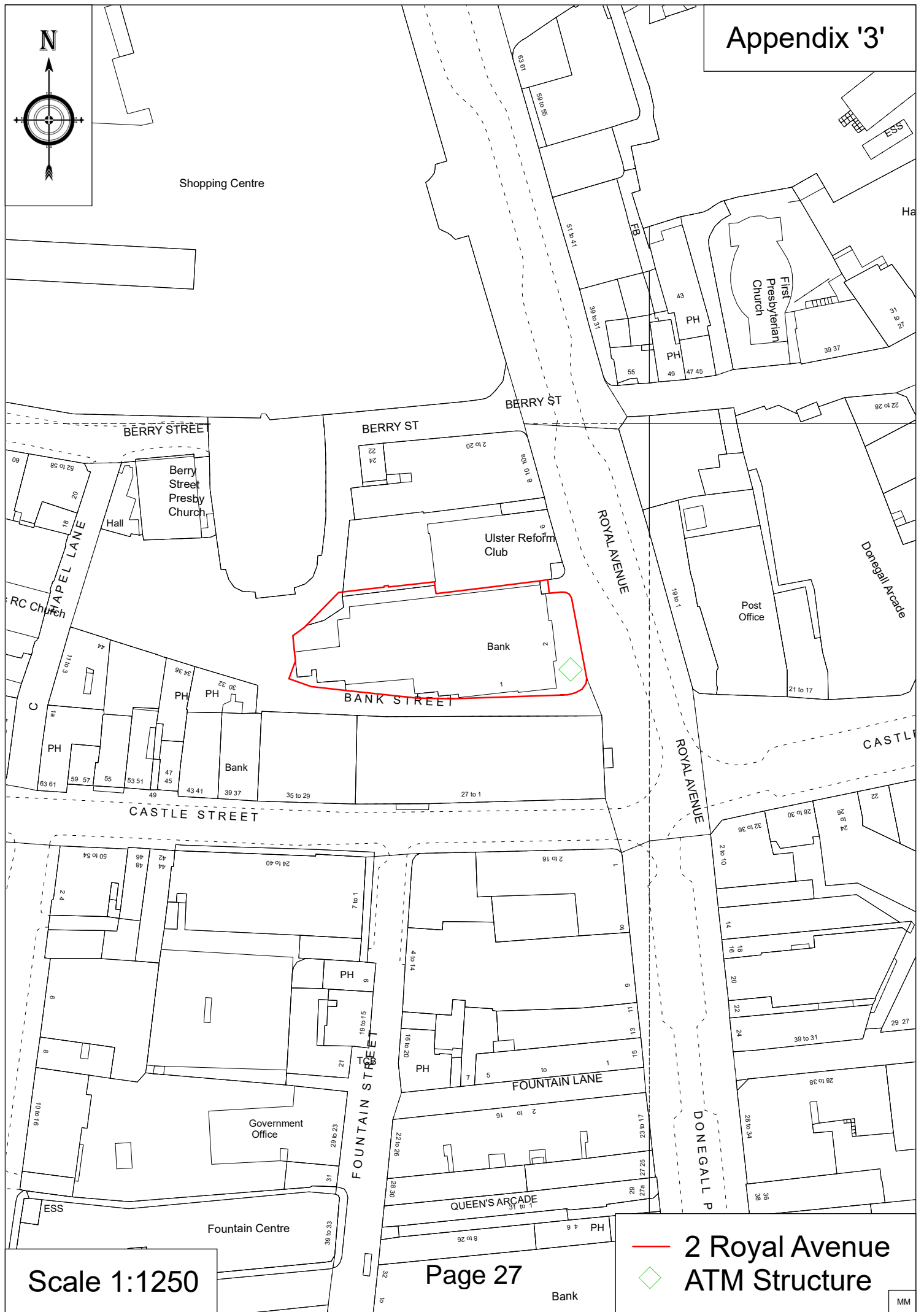


electricity sub-station site 23.76 sqm

This page is intentionally left blank



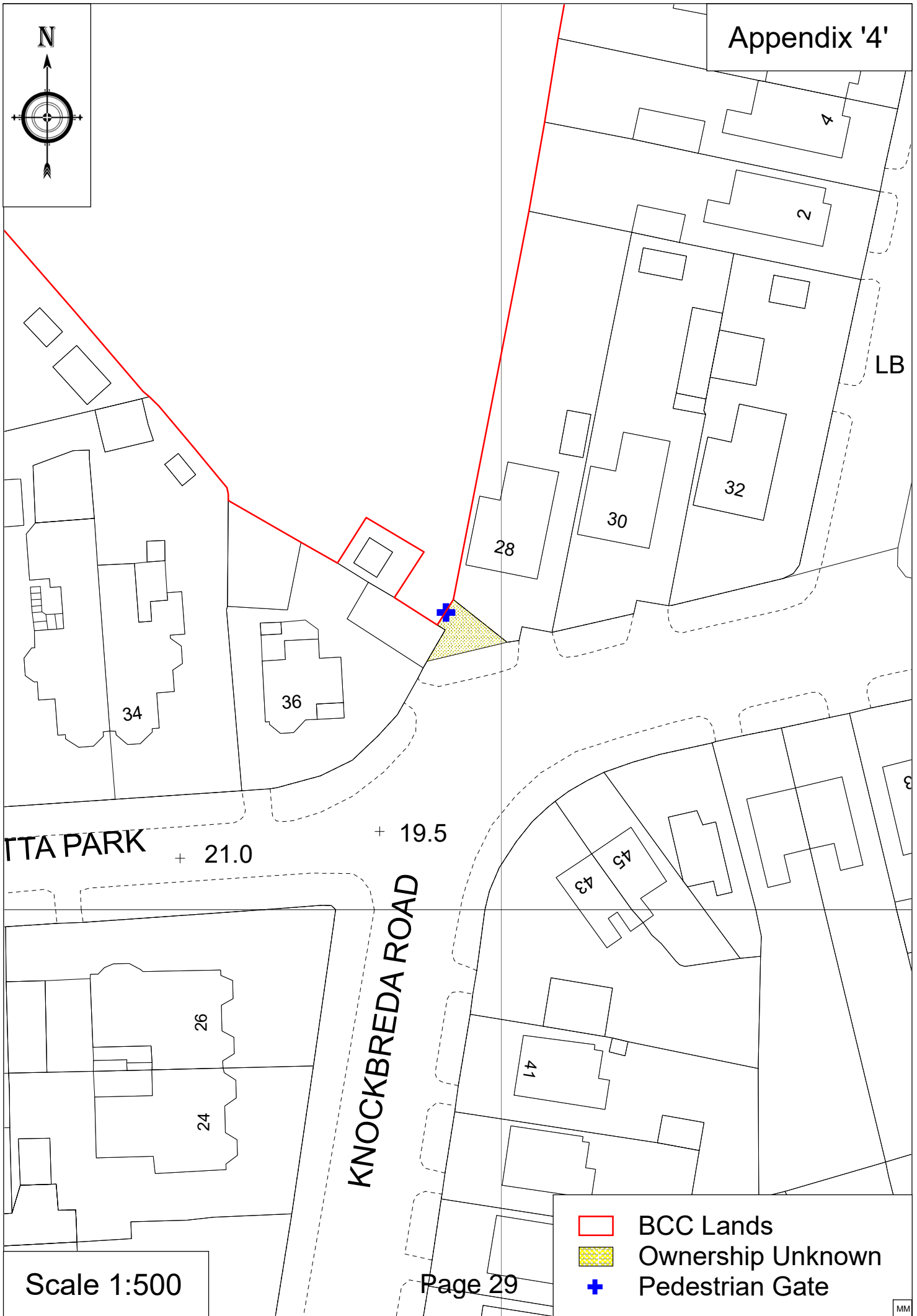
Shopping Centre



Scale 1:1250

2 Royal Avenue
ATM Structure

This page is intentionally left blank



TA PARK

+ 21.0

+ 19.5

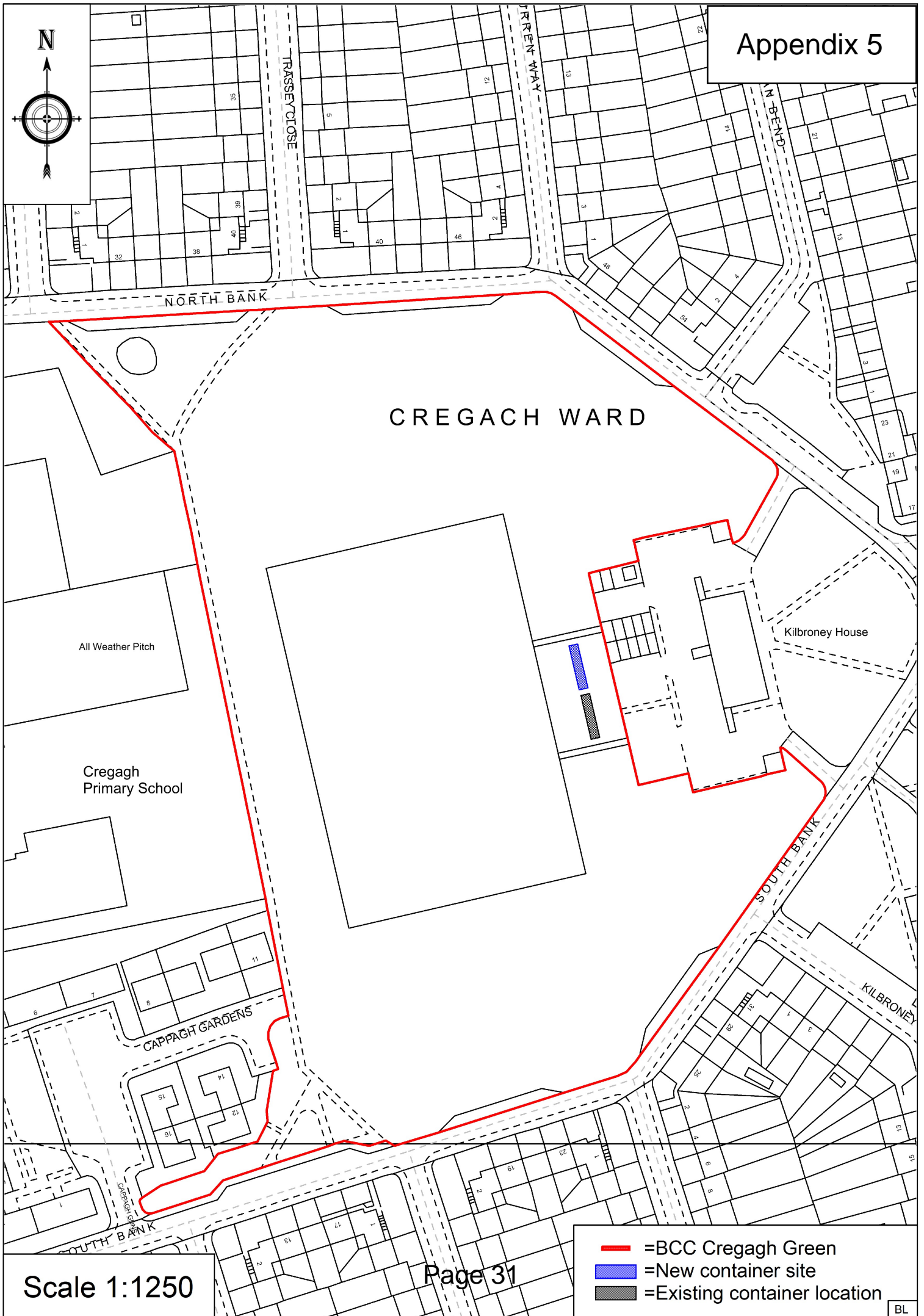
KNOCKBRED ROAD

LB

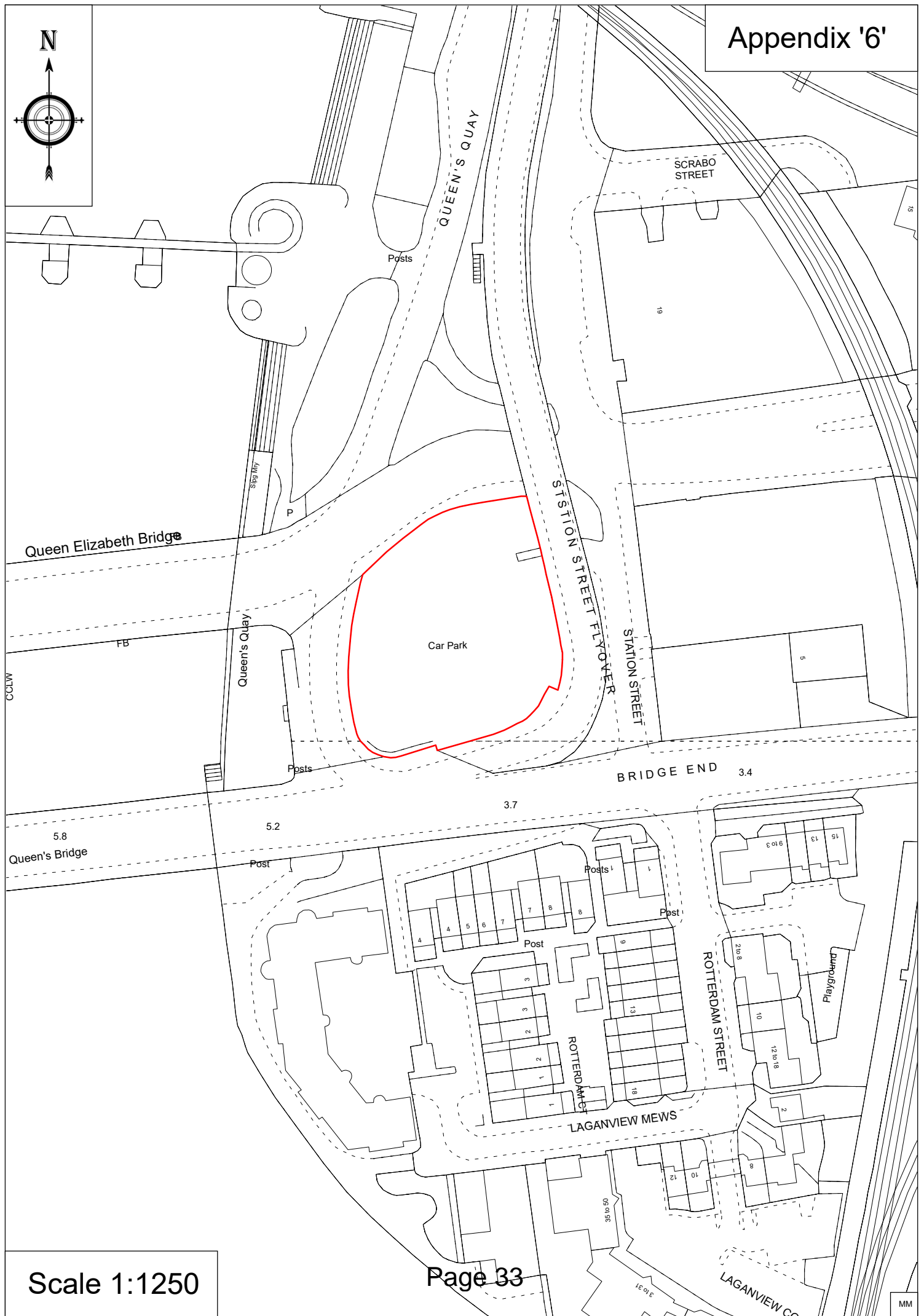
-  BCC Lands
-  Ownership Unknown
-  Pedestrian Gate

Scale 1:500

This page is intentionally left blank



This page is intentionally left blank



This page is intentionally left blank



Belfast
City Council

Subject:	Social Value Procurement Policy/Minutes of the Meeting of the Social Policy Working Group
Date:	24th November, 2023
Reporting Officer:	Sharon McNicholl Deputy Chief Executive / Director of Corporate Services
Contact Officer:	Noleen Bohill, Head of Commercial and Procurement Services

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To provide the Committee with an update on the delivery of social value outcomes via Council tender competitions awarded in accordance with the Social Value Procurement Policy and present the minutes of the meeting of the Social Policy Working Group of 14th November for approval.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to note the Social Value Procurement Policy Delivery Report, as presented to the Social Policy Working Group on 14th November and approve the minutes of that meeting.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	The Social Value Procurement Policy Delivery Report is presented to the Social Policy Working Group every two months, in line with the scheduled meetings and is then presented to the S P and R Committee for notation. The latest report covers the reporting period from 1st July to 30th September, 2023. A longer reporting period has been required due to the Working Group meeting being rescheduled to November.



Subject:	Update on Social Value Procurement Policy Delivery
Date:	14th November, 2023
Reporting Officer:	Noleen Bohill, Head of Commercial and Procurement Services
Contact Officer:	Lewis Murray, Strategic Category Officer, Commercial and Procurement Services

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
	<p>To update the Social Policy Working Group on the delivery of social value outcomes via open tender competitions awarded in accordance with the Council's Social Value Procurement Policy 'SVPP'</p> <p>The report also provides an update on tenders awarded by Physical Programmes where, due to project funding rules, social value has been considered and included in accordance with the CPD Buy Social Model.</p>
2.0	Background
	<p>The SVPP was approved by Committee in April 22, with a 'Go Live' date of 1st June, 2022.</p> <p>A copy of the SVPP can be found here - Social Value Procurement Policy (belfastcity.gov.uk)</p> <p>SVPP applied to any new applicable open tender exercises with approval dated from 1st June 22.</p> <p>To help officers and suppliers understanding of the SVPP and how to apply this to applicable tender competitions, the Commercial and Procurement Services team has developed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • online guidance on interlink which takes Officers through key considerations in line with the SVPP. This guidance was developed and communicated to Officers ahead of the 'Go Live' date in June 22; • a new Supplier Guidance document which was launched in September 23 which includes step by step guidance for suppliers in how to offer social value as part of their tender and how their social value offers are evaluated (new innovative approach). This was developed taking on board key learnings since the SVPP was launched in June 22; and • Social value evaluation training based on the new approach developed from September 2023. This is being rolled out during October 23 to January 24.

A link has been provided below to the interlink guidance (within the link you can access the guidance which should open as a Microsoft Sway document)

[Social value procurement guidance now available \(sharepoint.com\)](#)

It is planned for the Supplier Guidance will be available on the Councils' website but want to ensure it is fully tested with the suppliers and gather feedback before doing so. Currently available as a PDF document with tenders.

As outlined in the guidance to Officers application of the SVPP is considered in 2 key parts:

Part 1 – For all tender competitions valued over £30k, consideration by officers about whether to:

1. Reserve the tender competition to a social enterprise/ VCSE sector taking into consideration levels of market competition in this sector.
2. Include organisational behaviours (i.e., ethical procurement, environmental and HR policies and procedures) taking into consideration relevance of these policies and procedures to the goods, services or works being purchased and relevance to the market. When selected for inclusion in the tender these social value organisational behaviours are mandatory pass/fail questions for suppliers to demonstrate rather than scored questions.

Part 2 – the inclusion of a social value weighting (10% or 15%) and scoring for tenders valued:

- over £250k for tenders pre-April 23
- over £30k for tenders post-April 23

The social value offer made by suppliers using the list of social value initiatives and points is then evaluated and scored with a minimum scoring threshold required to be met.

Note from April 23 for all tender competitions valued over £30k, the following be included (in addition to the above in Part 1):

1. Payment of the Real Living Wage by suppliers to their employees
2. The prohibited use of zero hours contracts by suppliers

The above post April 23 changes will be implemented on a phased approach from April 23 and applied to any new applicable open tender exercises with approval dated from 1st April 23.

CPD Buy Social Model

The CPD Buy Social Model is applied where external central government funding of 50% or greater is provided for a capital/ works project managed by Physical Programmes.

Further information on the CPD Buy Social Model can be found here:

[PPN 01/21 - Scoring Social Value | Department of Finance \(finance-ni.gov.uk\)](#)

[Social Value - \(buysocialni.org\)](#)

	<p>The CPD Buy Social Model is broadly similar to the Council's SVPP in terms of achieving the social value outcomes. See comparison table set out in the Annexe below (at end of report) which provides an overview of the similarities/ differences in key areas.</p>
2.0	Reporting Period
	<p>It is intended that this report will be provided every two months, in line with scheduled SPWG meetings.</p> <p>This report covers the reporting Period from 1st July to 30th September, 2023 (3 months due to the rescheduling of last SPWG meeting).</p>
3.0	Main Report
	<p>The attached appendix set out details of tenders valued over £30k which have been awarded during the Reporting Period and associated SVPP data/information</p> <p>The appendix includes:</p> <p><u>Table 1 - Tenders awarded during Reporting Period</u></p> <p>This sets out details of tenders awarded during Reporting Period and whether SVPP was applied or not.</p> <p>For ease of reporting this shows tenders awarded by Commercial and Procurement Services 'CPS' team and the Physical Programmes department.</p> <p><u>Table 2 – Summary of Key Data and Findings associated with application of SVPP</u></p> <p>This shows a summary of key findings from the tenders set out in Table 1; in particular a summary of the Part 1 SVPP considerations i.e. reserved contracts and social value organisational behaviours.</p> <p><u>Table 3 - Summary of Supplier's Social Value Offers (Scored submissions)</u></p> <p>This shows a summary of the tenders that included a social value weighting (10/ 15%) and the social value offers put forward by suppliers for evaluation as explained under Part 2.</p> <p>A summary of each applicable tender has been set out in a table.</p> <p><u>Lessons Learned and Continuous Improvement</u></p> <p>A Social Value Review Team has been established to review how the SVPP is being implemented and any lessons learned that need to be applied following conclusion of tender competitions. Areas the team are currently reviewing include, but not limited to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. trends in the use of Reserved Contracts and any further guidance required for Officers on when these should be used; 2. trends in the selection of Social Value Organisational Behaviours by Officers when using the Social Value Toolkit and any further guidance required for Officers on when these should be applied;

	<p>3. The quality of social value offers by suppliers (the scored submissions) and if further guidance is required in terms of how these are evaluated by Officers. In addition any further guidance required for suppliers to improve their understanding BCC expectations in line with Belfast Agenda aims and associated strategies.</p> <p>The Social Value Review Team will meet every two months, in line with scheduled meetings and the production of this report.</p> <p>The content/ format of this report will be reviewed with further information included as more social value data becomes available i.e. social value delivery by suppliers using SIB reporting database.</p>
4.0	Summary
	<p>The Working Group is asked to consider the content of this report and provide feedback (positive or negative) on the data/ information contained in this report and how the SVPP is being applied.</p> <p>This feedback can then be considered by the Social Value Review Team and associated guidance updated for Officers and suppliers when applying the SVPP.</p>
	Documents Attached
	<p>Appendix</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Table 1 - Tenders awarded during Reporting Period • Table 2 – Summary of key data and findings associated with application of SVPP • Table 3 - Summary of Supplier's Social Value Offers (Scored submissions)

Annexe

Comparison between BCC's SVPP and CPD Buy Social Model

Key Criteria	BCC SVPP Approach	CPD Buy Social Model Approach
Consideration of Reserved Contracts	Mandatory consideration with rationale document for inclusion/exclusion noted in Social Value Toolkit	Mandatory consideration but no further guidance provided about when to reserve.
Social Value Organisational Behaviours	See comparison table below	See comparison table below
Social value weighting	<p>Applied to all applicable tenders valued over £250k (goods, services and work) from June 22 and £30k from April 23.</p> <p>Social value weighting determined by cost criteria for tender i.e.</p> <p>If cost criteria is >50% then social value weighting is 10%</p> <p>If cost criteria is ≤50% then social value weighting is 15%</p>	<p>Applied to above threshold tenders (applicable Public Contracts Regulations) for services and works. Supplies not included.</p> <p>For local government this means application to tenders valued above:</p> <p>£170k (approx.) for services contracts</p> <p>£4.3m (approx.) for works contracts</p> <p>Social value weighting 10%, rising to 20% from June 23 (subject to review/ approval)</p>
Minimum Social Value scoring threshold	<p>If 10% social value weighting then minimum 7% out 10% required</p> <p>If 15% social value weighting then minimum 11% out 15% required</p> <p>Suppliers who fail to meet this threshold are excluded from award of tender.</p>	Not included
Real Living Wage	Mandatory from April 23	Mandatory requirement
Prohibited use of zero hours contracts	Mandatory from April 23	Not included

Social Value Organisational Behaviours Comparison

BCC SVPP Approach	CPD Buy Social Model Approach
<p>BCC currently include the following requirements as mandatory for all suppliers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Compliance with the Fair Employment and Treatment (Northern Ireland) Order 1998 2. Compliance with the Modern Slavery Act 2015 3. Prompt payment of suppliers/ supply chains <p>Using the Social Value Toolkit (as explained under Part 1) Officers then consider the inclusion of the following social value organisational behaviours in the tender:</p> <p><u>1. Ethical Procurement and Fair Treatment of the Supply Chain</u></p> <p>Suppliers are to demonstrate they have a procurement policy and/or corporate social responsibility policy which clearly sets out the supplier's commitment to ethical procurement practices and fair treatment of your supply chain including associated training/ communication to staff.</p> <p><u>2. Environmental Management Systems</u></p> <p>Suppliers are to demonstrate they have an environmental management system in place i.e. ISO14001 or equivalent.</p> <p><u>3. Single Use Plastics Policy</u></p> <p>Suppliers are to demonstrate they have a single use plastics 'SUP' policy which clearly sets out the supplier's commitment to managing and reducing the use of SUP in their business operations including associated training/ communication to staff.</p> <p><u>4. Donating/ Recycling equipment to the VCSE sector</u></p> <p>Suppliers are to demonstrate they have a policy in place which clearly sets out their commitment to supporting the VCSE sector through donating/ recycling equipment (e.g. ICT equipment)</p>	<p>From 1st September 2021, the following requirements are mandatory;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. compliance with relevant employment, equality and health and safety law and human rights standards; 2. adherence to relevant collective agreements; and 3. adoption of fair work practices for all workers engaged in the delivery of the contract.

<p><u>5. Equality and Diversity Policy</u></p> <p>Suppliers are to demonstrate they have an equality and diversity policy and/or relevant HR policy which clearly sets out their commitment to equality and diversity in the workplace including associated training/ communication to staff.</p> <p><u>7. Development, Health and Wellbeing of Employees</u></p> <p>Suppliers are to demonstrate their commitment to the development, health and wellbeing of their employees by providing at least 3 of the following points i) to v):</p> <p>i) evidence that employees are offered fair and equitable terms of employment including sick pay, holidays, pension and set working hours;</p> <p>ii) evidence of having a learning and development policy in place which shows commitment to the personal and career development of your employees;</p> <p>iii) evidence of having in place employee appraisal procedures in place including regular employment engagement;</p> <p>iv) evidence of offering employees flexible working to support a healthy work life balance i.e. flexible working hours or working from home option;</p> <p>v) evidence of having in place policies/ initiatives to support the mental and physical health of your employees e.g. offer employee counselling services or occupation health support service.</p>	
----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--

This page is intentionally left blank

Table 1: Tenders awarded during Reporting Period

Table 1a: Tenders awarded by Commercial and Procurement Services Team 'CPS'

Ref	Contract Title	Contract Type	Value	Successful Supplier	SVPP applied (Y/N)	If No - Reason why?	Reserved Contract (Y/N)	Social Value Weighting % applied
T2396	Extend the utilisation of the Port Health Interactive Live Information System (PHILIS) (STA)	Supplies	£73,745.00	East Suffolk Council	N	STA	N	N/A
T2363	Supply, delivery and off-loading of rubber crumb for 3G and 4G pitches	Supplies	£120,000.00	PPP Group	Y	N/A	N	N/A. <£250k (Pre April 23)
T2395	Supply and Erection of Street Nameplates	Supplies	£240,000.00	Traffic Signs and Equipment Ltd	Y	N/A	N	N/A. <£250k (Pre April 23)
T2184	Electrical Supplies	Supplies	£1,600,000.00	Edmundson Electrical Ltd	Y	N/A	N	10%
T2433	Provision of Strategic Oversight and Support for Complex Lives and Community Planning	Services	£200,000.00	Marsh Public Service Solutions	Y	N/A	N	15%
T2447	Annual engagement of the Institute of Revenues Rating and Valuation (IRRV), the professional body for local taxation, benefits and valuation (STA)	Services	£135,000.00	Institute of Revenues Rating and Valuation Ltd	N	STA	N	N/A
T2404(h)	Supply and Delivery of Utility Vehicle with FIDO Unit	Supplies	£138,796.00	R D Mechanical Services Ltd	Y	N/A	N	N/A. <£250k

Ref	Contract Title	Contract Type	Value	Successful Supplier	SVPP applied (Y/N)	If No - Reason why?	Reserved Contract (Y/N)	Social Value Weighting % applied
								(Pre April 23)
T2150g	Delivery of a GCSE Maths and English Support Programme (under E&S DPS T2150)	Services	£70,000.00	West Belfast Partnership Board	Y	N/A	N	15%
T2358*	Dynamic purchasing system 'DPS' framework to supply a range of food products for Belfast Zoo and catering operations	Supplies	£1,530,000.00	WD Meats, Henderson Foorservice Ltd, First4fruit, Lynas Foodservice, Martin McAleese Fruit & Veg, North Down Group, Clerkin Farmfeeds Equestrian & Farm Feeds, John Thompson & Sons Ltd	Y	N/A	N	N/A*
T2455	Procurement Advice for City Centre Regeneration	Services	£150,000.00	KMPG	N	External Framework Used	N	N/A
T2342	Advertising Service for the Placement of Planning Notices	Services	£125,000.00	Mediahius Ltd	Y	N/A	N	N/A. <£250k (Pre April 23)

Ref	Contract Title	Contract Type	Value	Successful Supplier	SVPP applied (Y/N)	If No - Reason why?	Reserved Contract (Y/N)	Social Value Weighting % applied
T2407b	NIESS' Framework A Engage and Foundation	Services	£12,000,000.00	Enterprise NI	Y	N/A	N	15%
T2345**	Belfast 2024 Creative Programme	Services	£95,000.00	Belfast International Arts Festival	Y	N/A	N	N/A**
T2345**	Belfast 2024 Creative Programme	Services	£99,352.00	Another World Belfast CIC	Y	N/A	N	N/A**
T2345**	Belfast 2024 Creative Programme	Services	£200,000.00	Bounce Culture	Y	N/A	N	N/A**
T2345**	Belfast 2024 Creative Programme	Services	£45,000.00	Robin Price	Y	N/A	N	N/A**
T2345**	Belfast 2024 Creative Programme	Services	£185,648.00	Paragon Studios Ltd [PS2]	Y	N/A	N	N/A**
T2345**	Belfast 2024 Creative Programme	Services	£38,000.00	Jasmin Marker	Y	N/A	N	N/A**
T2345**	Belfast 2024 Creative Programme	Services	£200,000.00	Henry Sykes	Y	N/A	N	N/A**
T2345**	Belfast 2024 Creative Programme	Services	£215,000.00	Boom Clap Play	Y	N/A	N	N/A**
T2345**	Belfast 2024 Creative Programme	Services	£150,000.00	Ulster Orchestra	Y	N/A	N	N/A**
T2345**	Belfast 2024 Creative Programme	Services	£180,000.00	OGU Architects Limited	Y	N/A	N	N/A**
T2345**	Belfast 2024 Creative Programme	Services	£172,000.00	Studio idir	Y	N/A	N	N/A**
T2345**	Belfast 2024 Creative Programme	Services	£70,000.00	Wild Belfast	Y	N/A	N	N/A**
T2345**	Belfast 2024 Creative Programme	Services	£200,000.00	Outburst Arts	Y	N/A	N	N/A**

Ref	Contract Title	Contract Type	Value	Successful Supplier	SVPP applied (Y/N)	If No - Reason why?	Reserved Contract (Y/N)	Social Value Weighting % applied
T2345**	Belfast 2024 Creative Programme	Services	£250,000.00	Lyric Theatre Belfast	Y	N/A	N	N/A**
T2345**	Belfast 2024 Creative Programme	Services	£175,000.00	An Droichead	Y	N/A	N	N/A**
T2345**	Belfast 2024 Creative Programme	Services	£200,000.00	Eileen McClory	Y	N/A	N	N/A**
T2345**	Belfast 2024 Creative Programme	Services	£225,000.00	Belfast Film Festival	Y	N/A	N	N/A**
T2438	NIESS Enquiry Handling Service	Services	£500,000.00	Like Us NE Ltd	Y	N/A	N	15%
T2407a(1)	NIESS' Framework A Growth and Scaling - Lot 1	Services	£2,100,000.00	Deirdre Fitzpatrick and Associates	Y	N/A	N	15%
T2407a(2)	NIESS' Framework A Growth and Scaling - Lot 2	Services	£1,100,000.00	Mallusk Enterprise Park Ltd	Y	N/A	N	15%
T2407a(3)	NIESS' Framework A Growth and Scaling - Lot 3	Services	£2,800,000.00	Full Circle	Y	N/A	N	15%
T2407a(4)	NIESS' Framework A Growth and Scaling - Lot 4	Services	£3,800,000.00	Full Circle	Y	N/A	N	15%
T2407a(5)	NIESS' Framework A Growth and Scaling - Lot 5	Services	£4,300,000.00	Full Circle	Y	N/A	N	15%
T2441(3)	Provision of St Patrick's Day Festival Events - Lot 3	Services	£150,000.00	Féile an Phobail	Y	N/A	N	15%
T2215***	T2215(1a) Research, Analysis & Scoping and Evaluations	Services	£70,000	Smith and Kent Consulting	Y	N/A	N	See note below***

* Dynamic Purchasing Systems 'DPS'

For the T2358 DPS framework multiple suppliers were appointed. Under the DPS all contracts 'Call Offs' require a mini competition so the SVPP will be applied to each 'Call Off' awarded under the DPS i.e. consideration of social value organisational behaviours and use of social value weighting and scoring. 'Call Offs' awarded will be reported via this report as and when awarded.

** The T2345 was awarded using a Design Contest. Due to the unique nature of this procurement (i.e. the value of any contracts awarded is unknown until the 'Design' has been assessed and evaluated) it was determined that including social value scoring and evaluation was not possible. Other elements of the SVPP were considered as part of the toolkit considerations i.e. Reserved Contracts and SV Organisational Behaviours.

*** This is a direct award contract under the T2215 framework therefore no evaluation of the supplier's social value offer.

Table 1b: Tenders awarded by Physical Programmes

Ref	Contract Title	Contract Type	Value	Successful Supplier	SVPP applied (Y/N)	If No - Reason why?	Reserved Contract (Y/N)	Social Value Weighting % applied
ITT 36755	Belfast Stories – Project Management & Design Assurance Team	Services	£2,100,263.25	Gleeds Management Services Ltd	N	Externally Funded – CPD/SIB	N	N/A
ITT 37275	Integrated Consultant Team for Cathedral Gardens (& Blitz Memorial) Project	Services	£421,444.13	Doran Consulting	Y	N/A	N	15%

Table 2: Summary of key findings/ data

Key area/ criteria	Summary/ Key Findings
Total number of tenders awarded during Reporting Period	39 tenders awarded
Total number of tenders awarded where SVPP was applied	35 out of 39 tenders
Number of tenders awarded where a % weighting and scoring was applied.	12 out of 39 tenders
Summary of reasons why SVPP was not applied	2 out of 4 – STAs/ Direct Awards 1 out of 4 – an external framework was used to award contract therefore restricted to framework evaluation criteria 1 out of 4 – externally funded project therefore CPD Buy Social policy applies but are below threshold (CPD/SIB set threshold) to include social value
Total number of tenders awarded where CPD Buy Social (above threshold) was applied	None

Number of Reserved Contracts	<p>None.</p> <p>Social Value Review Team to consider if any further guidance is required about when/ what tenders should be reserved to social enterprises.</p>
Social value organisational behaviours selected for inclusion in tenders.	<p>Ethical Procurement Policies - included in 10 out of 35 tenders</p> <p>Environmental Managements Systems - included in 3 out of 35 tenders</p> <p>Single Use Plastics Policy - included in 1 out of 35 tenders</p> <p>Donating/recycling equipment to VCSE policy - included in 1 out of 35 tenders</p> <p>Equality and Diversity policy - included in 12 out of 35 tenders</p> <p>Employee development, health, and wellbeing policy - included in 12 out of 35 tenders</p> <p>The Social Value Review Team will review guidance to ensure it is clear when to include these organisational behaviours in tenders; particular areas where there are low levels of inclusion i.e. single use plastic and donating/ recycling equipment to VCSE sector policies.</p>

Table 3: Summary of Supplier's Social Value Offers (Scored submissions)

Page 50

Tender Awarded - Supplier	Social Value Initiatives																
	Number of employment weeks* (FTE) created for Apprenticeships	Number of employment weeks* (FTE) created for Priority Groups	Number of employment weeks* (FTE) created for Students	Employability or skills initiatives to support Priority Groups	Initiatives to enhance employability of young people	Use of a social enterprise or co-operative in the supply chain (in relation to contract)	Initiatives to support VCSE organisation	Initiatives to improve good relations between people from different religious, political, racial & ethnic backgrounds	Initiatives to reduce or prevent crime (including hate crime) and/or ASB	Initiatives to reduce or prevent health related inequalities	Initiatives to increase participation in sports related activities	Initiatives to increase participation in arts related activities	Reduce carbon emissions associated with energy supply	Reduce carbon emissions associated with transportation	Improve waste management, including recycling, upcycling and supporting the circular	Improve resource efficiency	Enhance environmental natural resources and biodiversity
T2184 - Electrical Supplies – Edmundson Electrical				✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓

	Social Value Initiatives																
Tender Awarded - Supplier	Number of employment weeks* (FTE) created for Apprenticeships	Number of employment weeks* (FTE) created for Priority Groups	Number of employment weeks* (FTE) created for Students	Employability or skills initiatives to support Priority Groups	Initiatives to enhance employability of young people	Use of a social enterprise or co-operative in the supply chain (in relation to contract)	Initiatives to support VCSE organisation	Initiatives to improve good relations between people from different religious, political, racial & ethnic backgrounds	Initiatives to reduce or prevent crime (including hate crime) and/or ASB	Initiatives to reduce or prevent health related inequalities	Initiatives to increase participation in sports related activities	Initiatives to increase participation in arts related activities	Reduce carbon emissions associated with energy supply	Reduce carbon emissions associated with transportation	Improve waste management, including recycling, upcycling and supporting the circular	Improve resource efficiency	Enhance environmental natural resources and biodiversity
T2407a(2) - NIESS' Framework A Growth and Scaling - Lot 2 - Ballusk Enterprise Park Ltd				✓	✓	✓	✓										
T2407a(3) - NIESS' Framework A Growth and Scaling - Lot 3 - Full Circle			✓		✓	✓	✓						✓				
T2407a(4) - NIESS' Framework A Growth and Scaling - Lot 4 - Full Circle			✓		✓	✓	✓						✓				
T2407a(5) - NIESS' Framework A Growth and Scaling - Lot 5 - Full Circle			✓		✓	✓	✓						✓				
T2441(3) - Provision of St Patrick's Day Festival Events - Lot 3 - Féile an Phobail						✓											
T2215(1a) - Research, Analysis & Scoping and Evaluations - Smith and Kent Consulting					✓												

	Social Value Initiatives																
Tender Awarded - Supplier	Number of employment weeks* (FTE) created for Apprenticeships	Number of employment weeks* (FTE) created for Priority Groups	Number of employment weeks* (FTE) created for Students	Employability or skills initiatives to support Priority Groups	Initiatives to enhance employability of young people	Use of a social enterprise or co-operative in the supply chain (in relation to contract)	Initiatives to support VCSE organisation	Initiatives to improve good relations between people from different religious, political, racial & ethnic backgrounds	Initiatives to reduce or prevent crime (including hate crime) and/or ASB	Initiatives to reduce or prevent health related inequalities	Initiatives to increase participation in sports related activities	Initiatives to increase participation in arts related activities	Reduce carbon emissions associated with energy supply	Reduce carbon emissions associated with transportation	Improve waste management, including recycling, upcycling and supporting the circular	Improve resource efficiency	Enhance environmental natural resources and biodiversity
ITT 37275 - Integrated Consultant Team for Cathedral Gardens (& Blitz Memorial) Project Doran Consulting	✓																

This page is intentionally left blank

Social Policy Working Group

Tuesday, 14th November, 2023

MEETING OF THE SOCIAL POLICY WORKING GROUP

**HELD IN THE CONOR ROOM AND
REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

- Members present:** Councillor Doherty (Chairperson); and
Councillors S. Douglas and R. McLaughlin.
- In attendance:** Ms. S. McNicholl, Deputy Chief Executive/Director of
Corporate Services;
Mr. J. Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy;
Ms. C. Sheridan, Director of Human Resources;
Ms. N. Bohill, Head of Commercial and Procurement
Services;
Ms. C. Christy, HR Manager (Development);
Ms. L. Toland, Senior Manager – Economy;
Ms. S. O'Regan, Employability and Skills Manager;
Ms. C. Hutchinson, Strategic Planning and Policy Officer;
Mr. L. Murray, Strategic Category Officer;
Ms. C. Patterson, Policy and Programme Manager,
Inclusive Growth;
Ms. K. McDonald, Data Analyst, Strategy, Policy and
Partnerships Team;
Ms. M. Robinson, Belfast Business Promise Programme
Co-Ordinator;
Mr. J. Uprichard, Business, Research and Development
Manager;
Mr. J. Yohanis, Employability and Skills Officer; and
Mr. H. Downey, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

An apology was reported on behalf of Councillor Smyth.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 5th September were approved by the Working Group.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Update on Actions

The Working Group noted the contents of a report providing information on those actions which were now complete and those which were still ongoing.

Update on Belfast Business Promise

The Belfast Business Promise Programme Co-ordinator reminded the Working Group that the Belfast Business Promise, which was a key commitment within the Belfast Agenda, the Belfast Agenda Refresh and the Inclusive Growth Strategy, focused on creating an inclusive City by working in collaboration with partners. The overall model had been co-designed with the help of an external business working group, with input from over 25 organisations and 130 individuals and a six-month pilot initiative had commenced on 24th April, with a target figure of 20 participants.

In relation to the progress which had been made to date, she confirmed that:

- a dedicated support team was now in place;
- 30 supporter organisations were working towards accreditation;
- 14 expressions of interest had been received;
- the Corporate Relationship Management system was now operational;
- the accreditation criteria/process had been agreed and mapped with external partners;
- the first cycle of Technical Panels had been completed and tested and would be held on a quarterly basis moving forward;
- Promise Learning Days, focusing on Pledges 1, 2, 3, 4, 7 and 8, had been held in the City Hall, Queen's University and St. Comgall's;
- a light touch communications exercise had been undertaken to highlight the Promise Learning Days and supporter organisations; and
- an equality and rural needs screening had been completed, with opportunities to promote diversity and inclusion.

She went on to point out that, whilst the number of partner organisations had not changed since the last meeting of the Working Group, she was engaging with other anchor institutions/organisations across the City to ensure that specialist support was available to participants, when required.

She reviewed the main incentives for signing-up to the Belfast Business Promise and provided details of the feedback which had been received from supporters. In terms of highlights/successes, she confirmed that:

- the Pledges had touched on all of the key issues required to create an inclusive City;
- one organisation had signed up as a Real Living Wage employer;
- almost 50% of organisations had been supported to measure their carbon footprint for the first time;
- there had been a consistently high attendance at Promise Learning Days;
- Belfast Business Promise supporters were recommending other organisations to sign up to the Programme;
- there was an increasing awareness of relevant initiatives/programmes and there were opportunities to showcase the Programme and promote good employment practices.

The Belfast Business Promise Programme Co-ordinator went on to outline the following recommendations for improvement:

Belfast Business Promise Model and Pledges

- review and refine the wording of the Pledge criteria with partners and supporters to ensure clarity, direction and alignment with other relevant policies and accreditations;
- include a requirement to encourage employers to promote inclusivity/accessibility;
- reduce the number of Pledges required to achieve member status from six to five;
- develop a detailed welcome pack, including a detailed breakdown of requirements, expectations, time commitments and benefits; and
- produce guidance notes for supporters to clarify and explain the Pledge criteria expectations.

Accreditation Process/Technical Panel

- adopt a risk-based approach to accreditation assessments, to balance a robust assessment and team capacity;
- implement a partner screening/due diligence process and assessment plan/timetable for organisations; and
- establish a process to review and revise pledge criteria and new accreditations or standards emerged.

Belfast Business Promise Offer

- develop a communications plan to increase the profile and prestige of the Belfast Business Promise and its supporters, members and ambassadors, attract new participants and foster a sense of community;
- develop the website to enhance access to resources, promote good practice and build connections;
- consider a tailored accreditation process and support package for small and start up organisations; and
- identify opportunities to integrate the Belfast Business Promise with existing programmes/policies such as Employability and Skills, the Enterprise Support Service, social value procurement etc.

Ongoing Development

- targeted engagement to promote the Belfast Business Promise to organisations in more challenging sectors; and
- progress the evaluation framework and carry out an iterative, annual impact assessment to continuously improve.

In terms of next steps, covering the period from November, 2023 to March, 2024, the Belfast Business Promise Programme Co-ordinator reported that:

- a Promise Learning Day would be held on 5th December, with a focus on International Day for People with Disabilities;
- changes/recommendations would be considered and implemented;
- a Technical Panel meeting would be held on 11th January;
- officers would, in January, attend a planned future of work conference in Belfast;
- strategic engagement with anchor organisations and key city employers would be revisited;
- a soft launch would, on 1st February, take place in the City Hall to award accreditations (Member status), with the Lord Mayor to attend;
- engagement would take place with further organisations to sign up to the Belfast Business Promise (target of 50 organisations for year 1); and

- planning would continue for 2024/25 by scoping resource options to develop a work plan, based on optimum levels of onboarding and support.

She concluded by pointing out that management discussions were ongoing around securing Technical Panel/partner organisations expertise for Pledge 8 (Protect our Environment), developing a JAM Card bursary support for Belfast Business Promise supporters, delivering a proactive communication and marketing message, developing a website and securing staff and resources beyond 31st March, 2024.

After discussion, the Working Group noted the information which had been provided and agreed that any proposed changes to the wording used within the Pledge criteria be circulated to the Members for review before adoption.

Update on Social Value Procurement Policy Delivery

The Strategic Category Officer reminded the Working Group that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting on 28th March, 2022, had approved the revised draft Social Value Procurement Policy. The Policy had been implemented on 1st June, 2022 and applied to any new applicable open tender exercises with approval from that date.

He drew the Working Group's attention to a report, covering the period from 1st July to 30th September, 2023, on the delivery of social value outcomes via open tender competitions awarded in accordance with the Social Value Procurement Policy. The report also provided an update on those tenders which had been awarded by the Physical Programmes Unit where, due to project funding rules, social value had been considered and included, in accordance with the Construction and Procurement Delivery Buy Social Model.

He went on to explain that a Social Value Review Team had been established to assess how the Social Value Procurement Policy was being implemented, along with any lessons learned which needed to be applied following the conclusion of tender competitions. Areas which the Team was currently reviewing included, but was not limited to:

- i. trends in the use of Reserved Contracts and any further guidance required for officers on when these should be used;
- ii. trends in the selection of Social Value Organisational Behaviours by officers when using the Social Value Toolkit and any further guidance required for officers on when these should be applied; and
- iii. the quality of social value offers by suppliers (the scored submissions) and if further guidance was required, in terms of how these are evaluated by officers. In addition, any further guidance required for suppliers to improve their understanding of the Council's expectations, in line with the aims of the Belfast Agenda and associated strategies.

The Strategic Category Officer pointed out that the Social Value Review Team would meet every two months, in line with scheduled meetings of the Working Group and

that the current format for this report would be reviewed and expanded, as additional social value data become available.

He concluded by highlighting the fact that the Commercial and Procurement Services team had developed online guidance to lead officers through key considerations, in line with the Social Value Procurement Policy, as well as a new step-by-step guidance document for suppliers on how to offer social value as part of their tender and how their social value offers were evaluated. Social value evaluation training was also being rolled out until January, 2024.

After discussion, the Working Group:

- i. noted the contents of the report; and
- ii. agreed that a report be submitted to its next meeting examining the potential for including social value in future reserve contracts and single tender actions and outlining the background to the decision which had been taken to bypass the Social Value Procurement Framework in the case of the Belfast 2024 design competition and any lessons learned.

Social Value Procurement Policy/Ethical Framework

(Mr. C. Campbell, Divisional Solicitor, attended in connection with this item.)

The Working Group was reminded that, at the Council meeting on 1st November, it had been granted approval to review the Ethical Framework element of the Social Value Procurement Framework, in the context of procurement practices relating to any country found to have committed war crimes.

The Divisional Solicitor explained that Article 19 of the Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions Order (Northern Ireland) Order 1992 set out a number of non-commercial considerations which a council was unable to take into account in contracts for the supply of goods or materials, one of which related to the country or territory of origin of supplies. In essence, whilst a council could develop a policy or adopt a resolution, in relation to country or territory of origin, it would find it difficult to put these into practice. This would be further compounded by the Economic Activity of Public Bodies (Overseas Matters) Bill, which was currently passing through Parliament and would make provision to prevent public bodies from being influenced by political or moral disapproval of foreign states when taking certain economic decisions.

The Working Group noted the information which had been provided and agreed that a report be submitted to its next meeting providing clarity on whether the Council could, from a legal perspective, choose not to procure goods and services from any company involved in the importation, exportation or manufacture of ammunition, munitions, chemicals etc. and on the potential for developing an ethical framework for commercial and income generating projects.

Inclusive Growth Index and Toolkit

The Working Group noted an update from the Strategic Planning and Policy Officer on the progress which had been made on the development of an Inclusive Growth Index and Toolkit, which would provide officers with a framework to monitor the extent to

which Belfast was an inclusive City and practical guidance to encourage inclusive growth through the development, design, monitoring and evaluation and delivery of programmes, projects and services.

Update on Enterprise Support Service

The Senior Manager – Economy submitted for the Working Group’s consideration the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Working Group on the new Enterprise Support Service – the regional initiative to support business start-up and growth that will be led by Belfast City Council, on behalf of the eleven councils.**

2.0 Recommendation

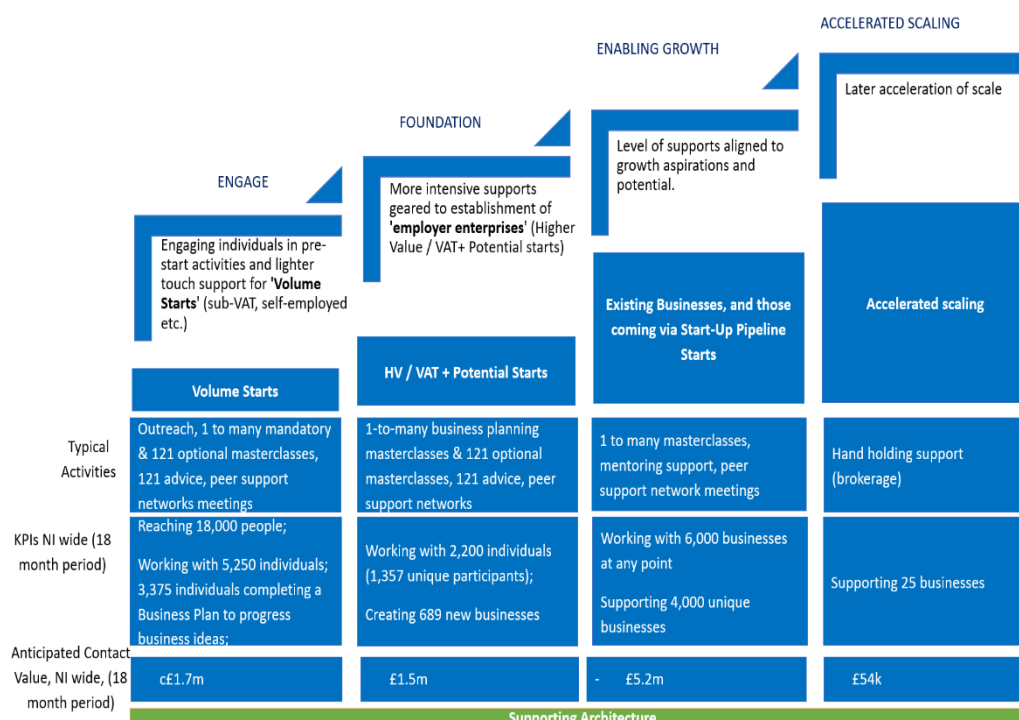
- 2.1 The Working Group is asked to note the update on the new Enterprise Support Service, including the planned go-live date for the new intervention.**

3.0 Main Report

- 3.1 The Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting on 17th February, agreed that the Council should lead on the submission of an application to UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) for the eleven-council Enterprise Support Service model. It agreed also that, subject to additional due diligence and risk management work being undertaken, the Council should lead on the future development and delivery of the service on behalf of the eleven councils.**
- 3.2 Since that time, a significant amount of work has taken place to finalise the detail of the programme content, start the commissioning process of the new service and set in place the delivery structures so that it can become operational in November 2023.**
- 3.3 The service represents the councils’ collective response to our statutory responsibility – set out as part of Local Government Reform in 2015 – for business start-up, social enterprise and entrepreneurship for specific target groups such as women and young people. Previously, the majority of the targets associated with the statutory responsibility were delivered through the Go for It programme. However, over time, the funding available for Go for It reduced significantly to the extent that it provided limited support for new start businesses and those target groups. Councils recognised the need for a more ambitious response so they commissioned research from the Enterprise Research Centre at Aston Business School which identified a new model and associated**

targets that could create a much more dynamic business base across the region.

- 3.4 The result was an enhanced support service that would provide a continuum of support from early-stage enterprise awareness through to starting, growing and scaling a business. The concept was that the service would help people get the right support at the right time – and would also help maximise other available funding streams by helping businesses to navigate the complex support ecosystem.
- 3.5 In order to fund the scaled-up intervention, officers identified the opportunity presented through the new Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF). This is the UK Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities' (DLUHC) fund that was established as a replacement for EU funding (ERDF and ESF). One strand of funding focused on 'Supporting Local Business'. The Investment Plan for UKSPF in Northern Ireland was launched in December 2022. At that time, the Plan proposed that a central component of the Supporting Local Business strand would be the 11 council Enterprise Support Service. In September 2023 Belfast City Council received a MOU from DLUHC which set out a financial commitment of £17million - £12million programme delivery and £5million for small grants – to deliver the service. UKSPF funding is available to March 2025 so the initial programme period will run from Autumn 2023 to March 2025. The programme overview is detailed below:



Commissioning of Service Delivery

- 3.6** Taking account of the marketplace, the procurement approach for delivery of the business support services (i.e. 121 mentoring support; masterclasses; peer support networks) was broken down into two main areas, namely:
- Engage and Foundation
 - Growth and Scaling.
- 3.7** For both areas, there was a significant focus on ensuring that the needs of the local business base could be considered – given the differences in business sectors; composition and development needs across the council areas.
- 3.8** In addition to the delivery elements, there are a number of support elements that have been put in place for the service, these include:
- **Marketing and communications:** this will cover a range of advertising, promotional and communication activities. This is critical in order to build and maintain awareness of the new service. The support service will also incorporate a new website/portal through which businesses will be directed to the support provided by the service – as well as a range of additional supports and relevant information. Derry City and Strabane District Council agreed that they will continue to lead on the communications activity – as they did under the Go for It programme. In doing so, they will work closely with the Belfast City Council team in order to ensure a seamless approach to all activities supported through the service;
 - **Call handling:** the Go for it programme benefitted from a freephone number through which business and entrepreneurs could be directed to the relevant delivery agent. That support will continue under the new service; and
 - **CRM:** in order to track all business engagement with the service and also support the development of relevant reports for funders and individual councils, a customer relationship management (CRM) system is being developed. Belfast City Council's Digital Services team have taken the lead on this and they will be supported by other council services such as the Information Governance Unit (IGU) and Legal Services in order to ensure compliance with all relevant obligations.

- 3.9** Following a range of procurement exercises and having received the MOU in September 2023, 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:
- 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
- 3.10** The service will provide an opportunity for councils to deliver a consistent approach to enterprise, start up and growth provision across the region, but will have the flexibility to adapt to meet the specific needs of entrepreneurs and businesses within local areas. To achieve this councils have developed a series of annual service plans which include community outreach activity which will target key groups to raise awareness of entrepreneurship and increase participation and address specific barriers for accessing the service, these groups include females, individuals with a disability, ethnic minorities etc. The service also has specific targets in relation to engagement levels with females and social enterprises, we will work to ensure there is 50% participation rate with females, in addition to this there is a target of 10% engagement with social enterprises and cooperatives across all elements the service.
- 3.11** In order to achieve this, the range of providers we have commissioned have identified delivery partners who will provide tailored support to these groups, we are also working closely with organisations aligned to these underrepresented groups and other stakeholders to ensure that we fully understand the requirements of each group and provide the relevant support to help them proceed onto the service. To achieve the 10% target of social enterprise engagement we will work in conjunction with our existing providers and organisations within the sector to profile ESS.
- 3.12** 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.

- 3.13 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.'
- 3.14 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.
- 3.15 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.
- 3.16 The formal launch of the brand and the new service is scheduled to take place on 13th November in the City Hall to mark the start of Global Entrepreneurship week.
- 3.17 The launch event will be hosted by Sarah Travers and will include a welcome and overview of the new service from John Walsh, Chief Executive, 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, delivery partners and key media partners.
- 3.18 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).
- 3.19 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.

- 3.20 For Belfast – and all councils – this new service represents an important step forward in the councils positioning their intent to drive their local economies – with an increasing focus on support for indigenous businesses. This is reflected in the draft Community Plan. This new approach also ensures that the councils, as a collective, can have a strong voice in the development of the new Entrepreneurship Strategy which will be a key pillar for the delivery of the 10x ambitions. It is also important to note that there is a limited window of opportunity in which to make progress so councils will be focused on ensuring that the new service works effectively to meet business needs. However, they will also need to consider how they can position the new service to attract additional funding for delivery after March 2025 – recognising the challenges in the public sector investment environment at present.**

Financial and Resource Implications

- 3.23 The 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.**
- 3.22 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.**

Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

- 3.23 An equality impact assessment for the service has been completed. Local targets for delivery in each council area have been established and will be part of the contractual commitments with delivery partners.”**

The Working Group noted the contents of the report.

Economic Inactivity Research Brief

The Senior Manager – Economy reminded the Working Group that the Northern Ireland Shared Prosperity Fund, which provided support to organisations working to reduce economic inactivity, was due to close in March, 2025.

She explained that, in order to initiate discussion around future provision, the Council had asked the Ulster University’s Economic Policy Centre to revisit, as a useful starting point, its Anatomy of Economic Activity paper which had been published in 2016. The Council was also facilitating, under the auspices of the eleven Labour Market Partnerships, an event on 22nd January in the new Ulster University campus, focusing primarily on inclusive labour markets, with a view to identifying needs, priorities,

challenges and opportunities from April, 2025 onwards. It had also commenced a separate piece of work specific to Belfast, as economic inactivity was an issue which impacted significantly upon residents. Details of that would be presented to the City Growth and Regeneration Committee and the Social Policy Working Group in due course.

The Working Group noted the information which had been provided.

Schedule of Meetings

The Working Group noted that a schedule of meetings for 2024 would be circulated in due course.

Chairperson

This page is intentionally left blank



Subject:	Requests for the use of the City Hall Grounds for Events in 2024
Date:	24th November, 2023
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, Interim City Solicitor and Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Aisling Milliken, Functions and Exhibition Manager

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	<p>To present the following requests from various clients for the use of City Hall grounds in 2024:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action Cancer Breast Foot Forward Walk – 7th June Pride Picnic – 20th July Féile Rocks Pride Concert – 27th July Belfast One Film Screening – 10th and 11th August Belfast Mela Carnival Parade Party – 17th August
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is requested to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> authorise the use of the City Hall grounds on the dates listed above; and authorise the events to take place on the basis of submission of an event management plan and risk assessment to ensure delivery of a safe public events.

3.0	Main Report
	<u>Background Information</u>
3.1	Members will be aware that requests for the use of City Hall are normally dealt with under the authority delegated by the Committee to the Director of Legal and Civic Services, using criteria agreed for this purpose. Occasionally however, it is necessary to place such requests directly before the Committee and the requests set out below falls into this category.
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.2	Several requests have been received for events over the spring and summer period and this report seeks to update members on larger events using City Hall grounds, due to the larger scale of activities involved it is deemed necessary to seek Committee approval.
	<u>The Proposed Events</u>
3.3	The proposed events would take place on the front lawns only and areas such as the Titanic Garden and Cenotaph will remain open to the public. Access to the City Hall building will not be affected.
3.4	The events would be free to enter. In each case, the organisers would be providing all stewarding/marshalling staff and first aiders and would of course have to comply with the usual conditions including indemnities for damage and submission of a formal event-management plan.
	<u>7th June 2024 - Action Cancer Breast Foot Forward Walk</u>
3.5	The Breast Foot Forward walk has taken place at the City Hall since 2014. It is Action Cancer's flagship fundraising event and raises circa £60,000 each year. City Hall is the starting point for the event with entertainment and warm up activities before 800 participants take part in 5k or 10k walk around Belfast returning to the City Hall as the end point. An annual event in City Hall calendar and delivered without incident.
	<u>10th and 11th August 2024 Belfast One Cinema Screenings</u>
3.6	This event aims to encourage people to experience the city centre shops and hospitality while they are in town. Organisers will be offering attendees information about potential offers provided our business members. Belfast One plan to show 4 films per day. Films early in the day will be aimed at young children and families and later films at a slightly older audience. All films will be rated appropriately. The event will be ticketed and access managed. There will be a big screen and audio equipment and additional entertainment by way of face painting and film props. Previous events in 2022 and 2023 were very popular and delivered without incident.

3.7	<p><u>20th July 2024 Belfast Pride Family Fun Day</u></p> <p>This event would take place on the front lawns would include a radio roadshow, various performers on a stage, food stalls and children's attractions. The event would last from 12 noon to 5.00 pm although access would be required earlier and later in the day for set ups and strip downs. The event would be free and the organisers estimate up to 5,000 people would be in attendance. Previous event in 2019, 2022 and 2023 were very popular and delivered without incident.</p>
3.8	<p><u>27 July 2024 Féile Rocks Pride Concert</u></p> <p>A request has been received from Feile an Phobail to use the front lawns for the 'City Hall Rocks Back' event feature local young and emerging bands from all sections of the community and the type of music played includes Rock, Blues, Heavy Metal, Rap Ska and Reggae. The organisers require use of the grounds between 8 am and 7.30 pm for stage and sound set ups and strip downs. The event itself takes place between 1pm and 5pm. Depending on the weather the event could attract up 2,000 people. The profile of those attending includes family and followers of the bands, plus local and overseas visitors in the city for the day. plan etc. Previous events have taken place in the grounds without incident.</p>
3.9	<p><u>17th August 2024 Belfast Mela Carnival Parade Party</u></p> <p>In 2022, ArtsEkta launched a new event as part of the festival titled 'Mela Carnival, a spectacular opening to the festival and begin a series of 50 events across a full week which will culminate in the traditional event at Botanic Gardens. The 2022 and 2023 events were very successful and wish to host the event again this year.</p> <p>A 800-participant carnival parade will begin at Writers Square, proceed onto Royal Avenue into Donegal Place and end at City Hall grounds. ArtsEkta request the use of the City Hall grounds for a free to access carnival party and celebration event for the participants, family/friends and wider audiences with stage entertainment, performers, food traders and carnival floats.</p>
3.10	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There would be no costs for the council as the various organisers would bear any/all stewarding and equipment costs etc themselves. The utilities costs on the day are of a very minor nature and the normal event support in the form of electrical and water provision in the grounds will be provided.</p> <p>There are no concerns from an asset management point of view, although the organisers would be required to provide the usual insurances, indemnities, and obligations.</p>

3.11	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>There are no direct good relations, equality or rural needs implications arising from this report.</p>
4.0	Documents Attached
	None

Cost of Living Working Group

Thursday, 16th November, 2023

COST OF LIVING WORKING GROUP MINUTES HELD IN HYBRID FORMAT

Members present: Councillor Bradley (Chairperson);
Alderman Copeland; and
Councillors Doherty, Flynn,
I. McLaughlin and Nelson.

In attendance: Mr. D. Sales, Strategic Director of City Operations;
Mr. J. Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy;
Ms. N. Lane, Neighbourhood Services Manager;
Mr. B. Carr, Portfolio and Programme Coordinator;
Ms. M. Higgins, Lead Officer, Community Provision;
Mr. S. Lavery, Programme Manager; and
Mrs. L. McLornan, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

No apologies for inability to attend were reported.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 5th October were agreed as an accurate record of proceedings.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were recorded.

Update on Delivery

The Neighbourhood Services Manager reminded the Working Group that the Council had agreed, at its meeting on 1st November, to allocate £1,019,000 through the Emerging Hardship Fund amongst the following three themes: Support to Children and Families, Support for Individuals and Families in Immediate (Emergency) Need and “Enhancing the Capacity of Existing Structures and Programmes”.

She reported that Fareshare had since advised that it would be unable to spend the £80,000 which it had initially been allocated and that the amount had been reduced to £40,000. She explained that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee had granted delegated authority to Directors to reallocate any such funding and that, therefore, an additional £15,000 had been diverted to Social Supermarkets and an additional £25,000 had been diverted to Family Support Hubs.

The Working Group was advised that the letter of offer from the Department for Communities allowed for up to 10% of costs to be allocated to management fees for the operators and that most groups had confirmed that they would be able to work within that budget. She explained that some partners would have unavoidable costs relating to delivery infrastructure and that officers were working with those organisations to keep those to a minimum.

The Working Group was advised that the Red Cross had indicated that it would require 22% of its £75,000 allocation, totalling £16,600, to deliver its community connector programme in Belfast. The Neighbourhood Services Manager outlined that, while it would still allow the overall programme to remain with the 10% which had been budgeted, the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee would be asked to determine whether it wished to proceed with the funding for that programme.

The Strategic Director of City Operations advised the Working Group that, if the management costs of the Red Cross were not approved, the following options could be considered:

- engagement with organisations who might be able to provide a similar type of support to those aged 55+, noting that there might be a delay to the commencement of support for that element; or
- should that option not be feasible, the funding of £75,000 could be reallocated to the Warm and Well Scheme, which would ensure the cohort of people over 55+ would receive support with energy or heating costs.

A number of Members stated that they felt that the focus of the funding should be in addressing the need across the City.

In response to a Member's question, the Lead Officer in Community Provision advised the Working Group that the Trussell Trust had requested a reduction in its initial funding, from £80,000 to £30,000, as only three of its hubs in the City had confirmed that they would be able to participate in the scheme before the end of March 2024, at a cost of £10,000 each.

It was agreed that the Members would discuss the issue of the management costs requested by the Red Cross with their party groups, in advance of a decision being made by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee the following week.

Additional PHA Funding

The Working Group was advised that the Public Health Agency (PHA) was keen to contribute up to £90,000 towards work in nine designated hot-spots which had been identified through the Warm and Well Programme. The Neighbourhood Services Manager explained that Council had allocated £50,000 to enhance the Warm and Well Programme, which would be delivered by National Energy Action city-wide.

In response to a Member's question, the Portfolio and Programme Coordinator confirmed that the £90,000 offered by the PHA was separate to the £1million Cost of Living support and that the Working Group was asked to consider the offer from the PHA

to augment the Warm and Well Programme to intensify levels of support in identified hotspots.

The Working Group agreed to recommend that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee accept the additional £90,000 which had been offered by the PHA.

Schools Project Update

In relation to the Schools Project, the Portfolio and Programme Coordinator reminded the Members that the Council had agreed to allocate £250,000 towards supporting school-led projects to help alleviate the impacts of the cost-of-living crisis. He advised the Members that letters would be issued, in December, to all schools in Belfast and that any which expressed an interest would be asked to sign a letter of offer committing to provide monitoring information and to abide by eligibility criteria.

The Members were advised that, once the total number of participating schools was known, the Education Authority would release funding to the schools with the project to be completed by 31st March, 2024.

In response to a Member's question, the Portfolio and Programme Coordinator confirmed that statistics in relation to update from schools across the City would be available at the conclusion of the programme but that he would encourage Members to advise their local schools of the upcoming funding.

Noted.

Communications Update

The Neighbourhood Services Manager explained that the communications surrounding the scheme would focus on signposting people to existing services. She highlighted that officers had developed a cost-of-living guide to signpost residents to support and advice services available across the city.

The Members emphasised that it was important that lessons were learned from previous schemes which had resulted in organisations having been inundated with requests for help and thereby impacting their ability to operate effectively.

The Working Group thanked the officers for the work which had been carried out in respect of the scheme to date.

Noted.

Date of Next Meeting

The Working Group noted that the date and time of the next meeting would be agreed in conjunction with the Chairperson.

Chairperson

This page is intentionally left blank