

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 – COMBINED PACK

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in the Lavery Room - City Hall on Wednesday, 7th February, 2024 at 5.15 pm, for the transaction of the business noted below.

You are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully,

John Walsh

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

1. Routine Matters

- (a) Apologies
- (b) Minutes
- (c) Declarations of Interest

2. Restricted Items

- (a) Regeneration Lobbying and Advocacy Paper and Regeneration Framework Update (Pages 1 - 16)
- (b) Update on externally funded placemaking and active travel projects: Active Travel Enablers, Grey to Green & South West Quarter (Pages 17 - 44)
- (c) Belfast Zoo - Scale of Charges 2024-25 (Pages 45 - 48)
- (d) Belfast 2024 Music Heritage Programme (Pages 49 - 56)
- (e) Belfast 2024 funding reallocation (Pages 57 - 60)

3. **Regenerating Places & Improving Infrastructure**

- (a) Northern Ireland Housing Executive Workshop (Pages 61 - 62)
- (b) Correspondence from Department for Infrastructure (Pages 63 - 68)

4. **Strategic and Operational Issues**

- (a) Minutes of the Belfast Stories Working Group (Pages 69 - 72)
- (b) Request to Present - Living with Water Team (NIW)
- (c) Request to Present - Visit Belfast (Pages 73 - 74)

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

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Subject:	NIHE Workshop
Date:	7 February 2024
Reporting Officer:	Cathy Reynolds, Director of City Regeneration & Development
Contact Officer:	Adrian Ferguson, Senior Development Manager

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted? Yes No

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

Insert number

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

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in? Yes No

1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

1.1	To update Members on the upcoming Workshop with NIHE, City Growth & Regeneration Committee and People & Communities Committee.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. Note the update as set out within this report and the forthcoming workshop (20 February 2023) with the NIHE and the People & Communities and CGR Committee Members in relation to housing supply and demand.
3.0	Background
3.1	At the City Growth & Regeneration Committee meeting in October 2023 the Committee agreed attendance at a future workshop with the People & Communities Committee and the NIHE. This followed a presentation on the NIHE's Annual Update on the NIHE's Housing Investment Plan to a Special meeting of the People & Communities Committee on 6 September 2023 (report and minutes can be viewed via link).
4.0	Main Report
4.1	<p>The workshop as previously agreed has now been arranged to take place on 20th February 2024 at 5.15pm, hybrid / Lavery Room, utilising a Special Meeting of the People & Communities Committee.</p> <p>Members will be aware that the workshop as agreed by the People & Communities Committee was to focus on discussion around housing need and demand and given the synergy of this across to the CG&R Committee priorities and Committee plan around maximising housing development and regeneration opportunities the Committee agreed their attendance.</p> <p>Officers have continued to engage with the NIHE around a number of priorities including the refresh of the Belfast Agenda and through the NIHE led Housing Led Regeneration Group. Officers are working with the NIHE to finalise the agenda for the workshop based on the agreement to focus on housing need and demand. Members are asked to note this update including the date and time for the workshop.</p>
5.0	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> None
6.0	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> There are no Equality, Good Relations or Rural Needs implications associated with this report.
7.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
	None



Subject:	Correspondence received from the Department for Infrastructure
Date:	7th February, 2024
Reporting Officer:	Cathy Reynolds, Director of City Regeneration and Development
Contact Officer:	Eilish McGoldrick, Democratic Services Officer

Restricted Reports													
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>												
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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 note the correspondence received from the Department for Infrastructure Roads, in response to the queries raised at its presentation to the Committee on 22nd November, 2023.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to note the correspondence as set out in the report and to consider if any further action is necessary.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u> <i>Further Response from DfI Roads – Autumn Report</i>
3.2	The Committee, at its meeting in November, received a presentation for the Department for Infrastructure Roads in relation to its Autumn Report 2023. During the meeting, Members had requested information on a number of additional matters, which DfI advised would be investigated and a further update submitted to the Committee in due course.
3.3	Accordingly, a response has been received from Mr. D. McFarlane, Eastern Divisional Roads Manager, which provides an update on the matters raised at the Committee (Appendix 2 – DfI update on issues raised).
3.4	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> None associated with this report.
3.5	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> None associated with this report.
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 – DfI Roads Response to meeting of 22 November Appendix 2 – DfI Roads update on issues raised



Department for

Infrastructure

An Roinn

Bonneagair

www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

**DFI Roads
Eastern Division**

Eilish McGoldrick
Democratic Services Officer
Belfast City Council

mcgoldricke@belfastcity.gov.uk

Annexe 7
Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
Upper Newtownards Road
BELFAST
BT4 3SQ
Telephone: 0300 200 7899
Email: Eastern.Secretariat@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Your reference:
Our reference:

Date 12 January 2024

Dear Eilish

**DFI ROADS SPECIL PRESENTATION TO CITY GROWTH & REGENERATION
COMMITTEE - ACTIONS**

I refer to the DFI Roads Presentation at the special meeting of the Council's City Growth and Regeneration Committee held on 22 November 2023. I would like to thank the Committee for the opportunity to attend and present the Department's Autumn 2023 report to Belfast City Council.

Following the meeting you kindly provided an extract of the minutes which included a number of actions. I would like to thank you for this, and I have attached a response to each of the action points.

I would be grateful if the updates could be sent onto the members who tabled the questions. I hope they find the updates useful.

DES MCFARLANE
Divisional Roads Manager

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Eastern Division report to Belfast City Council – Autumn 2023

By Divisional Roads Manager - Mr Des McFarlane

22 Nov 2023

Mr G Salmon, Mr D Williams and Mr P Thompson in attendance

Raised By	Question
Cllr Garrett	<p>Requested that damaged pedestrian barrier on Blacks Road is replaced as a matter of urgency.</p> <p>The damaged section of guardrail on Blacks Road has now been replaced.</p>
Cllr Gormely	<p>Requested an update on the consultation exercise for residents parking scheme on Rugby Road.</p> <p>I can advise the Department has subsequently carried out a review of residents parking schemes and the draft report on this review has been prepared for Ministerial consideration. The draft review report sets out the lessons learnt from the Rugby Road scheme in Belfast, and the other schemes that did not make it to implementation and, when approved, will be used to establish the policy for such schemes going forward.</p>
Cllr Nic Bhranair (Chair)	<p>Requested a review of the need for a pedestrian crossing on Upper Dunmurry Lane to facilitate children crossing to the nearby Primary School.</p> <p>The puffin crossing at Cherry Road/ Upper Dunmurry Lane to facilitate children going to and from Our Lady Queen of Peace Primary School will be installed in early 2024.</p>
Cllr McDowell	<p>New development near Ballysillan Primary School has not had the road adopted for over three years. Possible problems between developer and DfI. Information requested on the delay and timescale for work to be completed.</p> <p>Cllr McDowell's query relates to the Buttermilk Loney Development and the received a response from on 10 November 2023 outlining the position of the Department in relation to this development.</p> <p>This is Developer led scheme and the issues are regarding the failure of the developed to complete their Private Street Determination responsibilities.</p> <p>The timescale for completion is down to the Developer.</p>
Cllr Sammy Douglas	<p>494 Woodstock Road – Request for waiting restrictions. Difficulty with assess.</p> <p>Double yellow lines have now been installed at this location.</p>

Cllr de Faointe	<p>A request to meet with relevant office in relation to the Belfast Cycle Network at Ardenlee Avenue.</p> <p>A request has been forwarded Active Travel for a direct response to be issued to the Councillor.</p>
Cllr Walsh	<p>A request to meet with stakeholders in relation to a residents parking scheme in Iveagh/ Royal Victoria Hospital area.</p>

Eastern Division report to Belfast City Council – Autumn 2023

By Divisional Roads Manager - Mr Des McFarlane

22 Nov 2023

Mr G Salmon, Mr D Williams and Mr P Thompson in attendance

	Officials will contact Cllr Walsh directly to arrange a meeting at a convenient date / time.
Cllr Bunting	Resurfacing of Balmoral Avenue – clear up. This has been completed.
Cllr Bunting	Unadopted alleyways – work with stakeholders to clean-up. Budgetary and resource restraints remain a significant issue for the Department, this impacts on all services including core services provided by the Department.
Cllr Garrett	Road safety & signage at the Bunscoil Phobal Feirste, Shaws Road All appropriate advanced school warning signs are in place on both Shaws Road and within Rosgoill Park where the school is located. The School Keep Clear markings at the entrance to the school have also been recently refreshed. We have no plans to provide any further engineering measures at this time.

Belfast Stories Working Group

Tuesday, 23rd January, 2024

MEETING OF THE BELFAST STORIES WORKING GROUP

HELD IN THE CONOR ROOM AND
REMOVED VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Members present: Councillor Smyth (Chairperson); and
Councillors Bunting and Maghie.

In attendance: Mr. D. Martin, Strategic Director of Place and Economy;
Ms. W. Langham, Programme Director;
Ms. E. Henry, Strategic Lead;
Ms. M. Bagnall, Programme Manager; and
Ms. E. McGoldrick, Democratic Services Officer .

Apologies

No apologies were reported.

Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were reported.

Progress since last meeting

The Programme Director reminded the Working Group of its role to provide cross-party strategic advice to ensure that the programme vision, outcomes and objectives were realised, together with the Terms of Reference which had previously been agreed.

She highlighted that the areas which had been identified for perusal included:

- Inclusive Growth, including social value opportunities during design, construction and operations;
- Equality, inclusion, diversity, and accessibility;
- Ethics and approach to stories - gathering, holding and interpretation;
- Sustainable development, including net zero build aspirations;
- Stakeholder engagement, consultation, communications and PR;
- Linkages to the development and implementation of the Council's and city's key plans, strategies and programmes;
- Consideration of good practice and benchmarks from other relevant projects and/or cities;

- Emerging actions the Council may take to mitigate against any adverse impacts arising from the project and capitalising on any opportunities that may arise; and
- Monitoring of Belfast Stories programme and progress against key milestones.

She advised that the Integrated Design Team had been appointed and described the RIBA Project Stages, highlighting that the project was currently in stage 1 – Preparation.

The Programme Director explained that further key milestones to progress in 2024 included the development of the concept design RIBA 1 and 2 (Q1 – Q3 2024); the gathering of stories pilot (Q1 2024); Engagement and set up of a Stories Network and Stories Panel (Q1 2024); Development of the Outline Business Case (Q1 - Q3 2024); Consultation on the concept designs (Q3 2024); Submission of the Outline Business Case for the Belfast Region City Deal funding approval (Q4 2024).

Noted.

What is Belfast Stories?

The Programme Director advised that officers had been exploring ways to collectively communicate the Belfast Stories project in a succinct way. She explained that, firstly, it was intended to be a shared civic space – a gathering place for everyone, helping to express our unique identities. Secondly, it was intended to be a visitor attraction where we could clearly communicate the spirit of the city, its past, its present and its future. Thirdly, it was intended to be a creative hub where writers, musicians, artists and film makers could meet to collaborate, developing stories to sustain us.

She summarised Belfast Stories as:

Shared Civic Space.	Gather.
Visitor Attraction.	Communicate.
Creative Hub.	Collaborate.

During discussion, the Working Group welcomed the succinct explanation of the project and suggested the need for a Members’ Toolkit or social media engagement notifications to help Members communicate information about the project to residents and businesses to reach a wider audience.

Noted.

Design update - outline of the RIBA 1 and RIBA 2 design process and Members' input

The Chairperson welcomed to the meeting Mr. P. Crowe representing TODD Architects and Mr D. Berlin representing Oslo-based, Snøhetta. The Programme Director advised that they would lead on the design, supported by a team of specialists.

The representatives described their experience in delivering major cultural and public realm projects and provided context behind the project and its intended design. They explained further the organisational structure of the project teams and how they would link together and collaborate.

Mr. Crowe described Stage one of the project timeline and advised that collaborative workshops would continue, with Stage 2 of the project to commence in March 2024.

After discussion, the Chairperson thanked the representatives for their attendance and they retired from the meeting.

The Working Group noted the information which had been provided.

Belfast Stories - maximising the benefits for the city discussion

The Strategic Lead outlined that the project would be a driver for a healthy visitor economy and the need to ensure the project was shared across the city for the people of Belfast with high levels of social impact. She described the objectives were to: Grow Belfast's economy through tourism led regeneration and support for screen-based creative industries; Create and sustain a diversified, vibrant city where people want to live and work, visit and invest; and Create a new shared space, to support a greater sense of connection and belonging.

She outlined the Benefits Realisation Plan, Monitoring and Evaluation model and explained further the Spending Objectives under the Belfast Stories Project Outputs: Stronger safer community; Economic Growth; and Improved Urban Environment, together with proposed measures and progress to date.

During discussion the Programme Director advised that further information on benchmarking of visitor numbers would be provided at a future meeting.

In response to a Member's question on how the project would link with neighbourhood tourism, the Strategic Lead advised that engagement was already underway with the Economic Development team as it was important that linkages and opportunities to maximise the relationship between Belfast Stories and the wider city visitor experience were developed at an early stage to ensure connectivity and delivery.

Noted.

Inclusive Growth - Stories pilot, 2024 opportunities, meanwhile use, social value

The Programme Director outlined the importance of inclusive and sustainable economic growth of the project. She stated that the team were working with key stakeholders to see where they could support greater social mobility and opportunities for all, more inclusive labour markets and more inclusive places and services. She advised that the team were capturing a wide range of views to inform the investment, 'design-in' solutions to remove the barriers which would otherwise prevent those who were more likely to be economically excluded.

The Strategic Lead advised that the team was working with 'thrive and quarto' to deliver the Stories Collection Pilot Project and a diverse range of volunteers had been recruited to be trained.

She highlighted that Belfast Stories proposed to partner with the Belfast 2024 programme on a number of projects, including:

- Solab - North Star: engagement, stories collection and co-design
- Outburst and Kabosh – Are you on the bus? – stories collection and use of site
- Belfast Film Festival – Hearth – stories collection and use of site

The Programme Director also pointed out the interim uses of the space had been agreed under licence.

After discussion, the Working Group noted the information provided and that further recommendations in relation to the Stories Pilot would be brought to the Working Group in due course.

Date of next meeting

The Working Group noted that the next meeting would be scheduled for April 2024.

Chairperson



Subject:	Request for Visit Belfast and Northern Ireland Tourism Alliance to present to Committee
Date:	7 February 2024
Reporting Officer:	John Greer, Director of Economic Development
Contact Officer:	Lesley-Ann O'Donnell, Senior Manager – Culture and Tourism Kerry McMullan, Tourism and Events Development Manager

Restricted Reports													
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>												
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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 for Visit Belfast to present their annual business plan to Committee in March 2024.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> agree to receive a presentation on Visit Belfast's 2024-25 Business Plan at the Committee meeting in March 2024, including a request for Council support towards the work programme for the coming financial year.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Visit Belfast Business Plan Members will be aware that Visit Belfast is the city's Destination Marketing Organisation dedicated to marketing Belfast as a city break, conference, day-trip and cruise ship destination. It also, in its visitor servicing role, manages the operation of the gateway Visitor Information Centres (VICs) including Visit Belfast Welcome Centre and the Arrivals Desk at Belfast International Airport and a range of visitor servicing initiatives on behalf of Belfast City Council.
3.2	Visit Belfast represents over 500 tourism businesses and services across the tourism industry and its core purpose is to attract, welcome and service visitors for Belfast and Northern Ireland in order to generate an economic benefit for the city, creating jobs and wealth. The role of Visit Belfast is to drive visitor numbers and increase visitor spend. As a public private partnership, it provides a singular delivery mechanism for co-ordinating marketing investment and market engagement for the city. The organisation has a portfolio of marketing, sales and visitor servicing activity across both leisure and business tourism. Belfast City Council is the principal funder of Visit Belfast and as such receives an annual presentation of their business plan as part of the process to approve annual funding for the delivery of marketing, sales and visitor servicing activity.
3.3	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> There are no financial implications attached to this report. <u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> There are no Equality or Good Relation Implications attached to this report.
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
	None