

Public Document Pack

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

20th February, 2024

MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

As previously notified to you, I enclose a copies of the reports for the following items to be considered at the meeting to be held at 9.30 am on Friday, 23rd February, 2024.

Yours faithfully,

John Walsh

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

2. Restricted Items

- (d) Regeneration (Place Based Growth Proposition) Advocacy and Lobbying Report and Regeneration Framework Update (Pages 1 - 36)
- (e) Update on 2 Royal Avenue (Pages 37 - 46)
- (j) Minutes of the Shared City Partnership Meeting (Pages 47 - 86)
- (k) Draft Irish Language Policy (Pages 87 - 130)
- (l) Discretionary Payments (Pages 131 - 136)

4. Governance

- (a) Change of Date Council Meeting in May (Pages 137 - 138)

5. Belfast Agenda/Strategic Issues

- (c) Correspondence from Invest NI (Pages 139 - 144)

- (g) Response by NILGA to the Consultation on Non-domestic and Domestic rating measures to support budget sustainability by raising additional revenue (Pages 145 - 158)

6. **Physical Programme and Asset Management**

- (a) Physical Programme Update (Pages 159 - 198)

7. **Finance, Procurement and Performance**

- (a) Contracts (Pages 199 - 206)
- (b) Commercial and Procurement Services Social Value Working Group update (Pages 207 - 222)

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:	Change of Date of Council Meeting in May
Date:	23 rd February, 2024
Reporting Officer:	Nora Largey, Interim City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Democratic Services and Governance 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

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

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☐

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☒

No

☐

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To consider the change of date of the Council meeting and the meeting of the People and Communities Committee in May.

2.0	Recommendation
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to agree that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I. The Council meeting in May be moved from Wednesday 1st to Tuesday 7th May; and II. The meeting of the People and Communities Committee be brought forward from Tuesday 7th to Thursday 2nd May.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Members will be aware that the Council has previously approved the visit of the Lord Mayor and the Chief Executive to Sejong, South Korea in connection with joint innovation initiatives with Belfast.
3.2	The visit is set to take place from 25 th April to 2 nd May and will therefore clash with the May meeting of the Council.
3.3	In order to accommodate the attendance of the Lord Mayor and the Chief Executive at both events, the Committee is being asked to consider the change of date of the Council meeting in May from Wednesday 1 st May to Tuesday 7 th May.
3.4	This will in turn have a knock-on effect of the meeting of the People and Communities Committee and it is suggested that meeting is brought forward from Tuesday 7 th to Thursday 2 nd May.
3.5	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None associated with report.</p>
3.6	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
	None



Subject:	Correspondence with Invest Northern Ireland
Date:	23 February 2024
Reporting Officer:	Cathy Reynolds, Director of City Regeneration and Development
Contact Officer:	Adrian Ferguson, Senior Development Manager

Restricted Reports									
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>								
<p>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</p> <p>Insert number <input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Information relating to any individual 2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual 3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information) 4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter 5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained 6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction 7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime 									
<p>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">After Committee Decision</td> <td style="width: 30%;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>After Council Decision</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sometime in the future</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Never</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>		After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>	Never	<input type="checkbox"/>
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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 advise Members of a response from Invest NI following the Committee decision on 23 November 2023, to write to Invest NI seeking clarification on its future plans for the former Mackie's site.

2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Members of the Committee are asked to: I. Note the correspondence from Invest NI as attached at Appendix 1.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	At the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee meeting on 23 November the Committee requested officers write to Invest NI seeking clarification on its future plans for the former Mackie's site within the context of housing led regeneration.
3.2	Invest NI have advised: <i>"The lands that comprise Invest NI's Forthriver Business Park were acquired and developed with the intent they would be used for industrial purposes. The land has been developed as a business park and is held in support of economic growth. Invest NI continues to actively promote it to investors for this purpose. The consideration, development and/or promotion of housing sits outside our remit, and we would oppose the release of current industrial zoned land given the shortage of the same in the immediate vicinity. Invest NI has consistently reiterated this position and will continue to do so."</i>
3.3	Members are asked to note the correspondence as attached at Appendix 1.
	Financial and Resource Implications
3.4	None associated with this report.
	Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment
3.5	None associated with this report.
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 – Correspondence with Invest NI

Place & Economy Department



Belfast
City Council

City Regeneration & Development

Your reference

Being dealt with by Miss D Kelly

Our reference

Email: kellyda@belfastcity.gov.uk

Date: 13 December 2023

Mrs. S O'Kane
Invest NI
Bedford Square
1 Bedford St
Belfast
BT2 7ES

Dear Susan

Strategic Policy & Resources Committee – Former Mackie's Site

We had previously been in touch in October of this year, which had been very helpful in terms of insight into the remit of the Invest NI Industrial Land and Property Services and consideration also of the INI lands at Forthriver.

I am writing to you in the context of a Strategic Policy & Resources Committee meeting decision. At its meeting on 24th November 2023, the Council's Strategic Policy & Resources Committee considered a report in relation to the potential targeted acquisition of land elsewhere in the city for housing regeneration purposes. In the round of discussion which followed, the Committee asked that the Council write to Invest NI seeking clarification on its future plans for the former Mackie's site.

I recognise that we had some discussion relating to these lands when we met but I would appreciate it if you could please consider this request from the Council's Strategic Policy & Resources Committee. If helpful I am happy also pick up in a meeting or telephone call.

Belfast City Council, Place & Economy Department, 9-21 Adelaide Street, Belfast BT2 8DJ

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cathy Reynolds', with a stylized, cursive script.

Cathy Reynolds

Director, City Regeneration & Development

9th January 2024

Via email to: reynoldsc@belfastcity.gov.uk

Cathy Reynolds
Director of City Regeneration & Development
Place and Economy Department
Belfast City Council
9 Adelaide Street
Belfast
BT2 8DJ

Dear Cathy,

Strategic Policy & Resources Committee meeting 24th November 2023 – Forthriver Business Park

I hope all is well with you and that you had a most well-deserved break over the Christmas period.

Thank you for your recent correspondence on behalf of the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee regarding Invest NI's Forthriver Business Park (Former Mackie's Site).

We had previously discussed Invest NI's Property remit at our meeting in October along with Debbie Caldwell and Invest NI's International and Property Teams; we had outlined the opportunities for investment into the Park for businesses that meet Invest NI's client criteria and we had sought support from Belfast City Council in promotion of this land to prospective investors.

The lands that comprise Invest NI's Forthriver Business Park were acquired and developed with the intent they would be used for industrial purposes. The land has been developed as a business park and is held in support of economic growth. Invest NI continues to actively promote it to investors for this purpose. The consideration, development and/or promotion of housing sits outside our remit, and we would oppose the release of current industrial zoned land given the shortage of the same in the immediate vicinity. Invest NI has consistently reiterated this position and will continue to do so.

I hope this provides clarification on our position.

Yours sincerely,



Susan O'Kane

Regional Business Manager - East
Invest Northern Ireland

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Belfast
City Council

STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Subject:	Response by NILGA to the Consultation on Non-domestic and Domestic rating measures to support budget sustainability by raising additional revenue
Date:	23 rd February 2024
Reporting Officer:	Trevor Wallace, Director of Finance
Contact Officer:	Trevor Wallace, Director of Finance

Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>								
<p>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</p> <p>Insert number <input style="width: 40px;" type="text"/></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Information relating to any individual 2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual 3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information) 4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter 5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained 6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction 7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime 									
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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 or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to bring to members attention NILGA's responses to the Department of Finance's revenue raising consultation and the rates measures consultation.

2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note the correspondence received by the Council from NILGA in relation to the recent Department of Finance consultations on general revenue raising opportunities and the specific consultation on the revenue raising opportunities from the NI rates system.
3.0	Main report
3.1	In September 2023 the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland wrote to Permanent Secretaries of Northern Ireland Departments directing that they launch public consultations on measures to support budget sustainability by raising additional revenue.
3.2	On the 11 th of October the Department of Finance published a document setting out the financial context for the revenue raising consultations. This was followed on the 7 th of November 2023 with the launch of a 14-week consultation on the revenue raising potential associated with the removal of rating measures.
3.3	On the 16 th February, NILGA wrote to all Council Chief Executives advising that they have responded to the two consultations and provided Councils with copies of the responses made. They have asked that these responses are brought to relevant committee as soon as possible. The correspondence received including the consultation responses are included at appendix 1, 2 and 3 for members information.
3.4	Members are asked to note the responses.
	Financial & Resource Implications
3.5	None
	Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment
3.6	None
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	<p>Appendix 1 – Letter to Council Chief Executive</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Response Letter to Neil Gibson re Revenue Raising Context Consultation</p> <p>Appendix 3 – Response Letter to Sharon Magee re Rates Measures Consultation</p>

16th February 2024

Dear Chief Executive

You will be aware of the recent Department of Finance consultations on general revenue raising opportunities across the public sector in NI and the specific consultation on the revenue raising opportunities from the NI rates system.

Thank you for your input and the input of the Association of Local Government Finance Officers to the final NILGA responses, which are attached.

These responses are the result of extensive engagement across the NILGA membership and with unanimous cross party political agreement now form agreed positions.

I would be grateful if you could bring these letters to the attention of the relevant committee within your Council as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,



Alison Allen
Chief Executive

ENC: Response Letter to Neil Gibson and Response letter to Sharon Magee

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Neil Gibson
Permanent Secretary
Department of Finance
Clare House
303 Airport Road
Belfast
BT3 9ED

the voice of local government

17th January 2024

Dear Neil

Financial Context for Revenue Raising Consultations

Thank you for providing some overarching context for the suite of active and forthcoming revenue raising consultations issued at the behest of the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, about which NILGA has grave concerns. The information you provided, including the presentation and discussion at Stormont Pavilion on 9th November was extremely helpful to our members and council finance officers.

Firstly, NILGA is of the view that that these issues should be dealt with by incoming NI Executive Ministers. These are devolved matters requiring local decisions. Our members have serious concerns regarding the potential undermining of local democratic decision-making that these consultations foreshadow.

There is little to no information on how the revenue raising consultations will interrelate, or what their potential cumulative impact might be. The wider cumulative context, could include a proposed 15% hike in the regional rate, and we are unsure at present if that figure will include water charges. We also note that the ongoing discussions regarding a 'fiscal floor' include consideration of taxable capacity, which is also likely to impinge on local government.

NILGA is of the view that these revenue raising consultations are poorly timed in the context of the wider cost of living crisis, with the potential to cause great financial difficulty for people and businesses across Northern Ireland, should the proposals for revenue raising be brought to bear. We believe strongly that while modernisation is undoubtedly necessary, and we would assure government that councils are committed to working towards transformation and improvement of public services, this is the wrong time - in the current economic context - to be introducing these changes, particularly given the limited revenue that would be raised, even if all proposals were implemented.

Although the need for more resources is clearly identified, an appropriate evidence base and case for change does not appear to have been developed for the emerging specific proposals, and there is scant information on how the proposals impact on the economy as an ecosystem. There is insufficient information to form a sound opinion on the proposals, and no future plan or strategy evident.

Some of the proposals have the potential to benefit councils but could disrupt current systems e.g. the distribution of rates income. There is not enough information to enable us to have a full picture of the economic impact of these proposals, in what is a largely SME-based economy.

Government must keep in mind that the revenue raising proposals could impact each council differently in terms of income and what each council is trying to achieve locally, and given the high potential for cumulative or interactive impacts of the various proposals, NILGA believes that it would be inadvisable to 'cherry pick' individual revenue-raising policies in the absence of a wider review. We look forward to a successful outcome from the ongoing political discussions in relation to setting a fiscal floor, which we believe will set Northern Ireland on a much more sustainable, appropriately funded pathway.

'Fiscal Floor' Discussions

NILGA would like to highlight that in the Fiscal Council technical report there was reference to the impact on domestic rates in their information on the 127% fiscal floor figures (which included taxable capacity), indicating that around £22m may be available to local government in the event that this option was chosen and taxable capacity was included in the calculations. NILGA is keen to ensure that early discussions with local government take place in the event that the 'taxable capacity option' is chosen, to discuss how this possible revenue stream to councils might be applied.

NILGA notes that the UK government is responsible for the sustainability of UK public finances, to which NI and devolved government contributes its part.

We are of the view that the biggest threat to the sustainability of the Executive's finances in terms of its ability to deliver services comparable to those in the rest of the UK is the 'Barnett Squeeze' but we believe that perhaps too much credence is currently being given to the idea that NI's public finance issues can be fixed by further devolution of tax raising powers, revenue raising for 'super-parity' and/or a move to a needs-based system based on replication of the Welsh model.

NILGA is of the view that Northern Ireland *should* move to a needs-based system but that it is necessary to better explore what 'relative need' means in the Northern Ireland context.

It is also clear that there is much to be learned from the Welsh experience, in particular:

- NI should build in regular review to ensure that 'need' continues to be met over time. Failure to do this is considered to be a major flaw in the Welsh system.
- The Welsh have never received 115% nor are they likely to for many years to come – instead there is a 'transitional arrangement' in place without a definite end.
- Wales is yet to diverge from England in terms of income tax and is still tied to England in terms of block grant allocation. Council tax has instead increased, which is a less progressive lever of raising revenues than income tax.
- The biggest demonstrable impact in the Welsh system has been a continuing uplift in council taxes. This may mirror the proposed 15% regional rate uplift in Northern Ireland but more information will be needed for a valid assessment. Welsh council funding is on an unsustainable path, with the funding gap growing each year (even after inflation and pay pressures diminish).
- 124% for Northern Ireland isn't enough. We need at least 127% to bring us back to 2015 levels.
- Wales has effectively had to put an 'emergency budget' in place this year to counter the impact of inflation

It is clear that the Welsh model, while an improvement on the prior system, is not a panacea and should not be regarded as such.

NILGA Response to Consultation Question 4: *"Are there public services that could be delivered by others (e.g. local government, voluntary & community sector or private sector) or are there are other areas in which greater collaboration could deliver better outcomes?"*

Although not ruling out the potential for local government to deliver new services, such as through transfer of function, NILGA is keen to emphasise that councils require both the legal vires to deliver, and the provision of corresponding and negotiated ongoing funding.

As a priority, NILGA is keen to see government put in place a legislated 'New Burdens' mechanism in Northern Ireland, to ensure appropriate funding for councils is transferred with any future transfer of function.

Councils **will not** take on a new function (including 'by stealth') without transfer of agreed levels of accompanying funding, thus negating the potential for cost savings. It is therefore difficult to see how a transfer of delivery would provide a saving for government.

Our experience as a sector is that grant funding can be removed arbitrarily (e.g. animal welfare and good relations funding), so grants, while welcome, are neither a satisfactory nor sustainable arrangement.

A more sustainable system including all costs, would need to be found – to include e.g. maintenance budgets. The experience of transfer of off-street car parking at the time of local government reform was not a particularly positive one in this regard.

Northern Ireland Local Government Association

Bradford Court, Upper Galwally, Castlereagh, BT8 6RB

Tel: 028 9079 8972 email: office@nilga.org web: www.nilga.org twitter: @NI_LGA

Councils are actively involved in working collaboratively with each other, with NDPBs and with government departments to deliver shared outcomes e.g. through community planning, but would observe that there are distinct barriers in terms of sharing/pooling budgets, and movement of money between councils and departments (e.g. to give effect locally using developer contributions). More effective legislation and policy would be helpful to drive change, and to give effect to our shared commitment to improving the efficiency of public services.

Local Government Finance

NILGA is keenly aware of the frequently expressed (government) view that in Northern Ireland, councils can raise their own revenue via rates. We would emphasise at this juncture that a transfer of function in the current circumstances would force councils to raise the district rate, which a) could be construed as double taxation, with a lack of transparency about how the regional rate is spent and b) is a less progressive tax when compared with e.g. a locally applied income tax.

It is imperative that councils have certainty in what is currently a very volatile 'macro' economic environment. NILGA highlights the cumulative impact of recent pay agreements and recent cuts including substantial cuts to the rates support grant and complete withdrawal of good relations and animal welfare funding (which came mid-year unexpectedly with council finance officers unable to prepare for this change). To balance out finances for coming years, councils need to be sure of their income within a timeline conducive to informing their rate setting process, since district rates provide 80% of council income.

Local government is keen to see a fundamental strategic review of the rates support grant to ensure the purpose and need for this support is fully understood across government. It is likely that revisiting first principles would be helpful in ensuring this critical enhancement of council finances is modernised appropriately and rendered sustainable.

We would also take this opportunity to highlight the alarm expressed by our members and senior council officers regarding the proposed 15% increase to the regional rate and its potential local impact, which we firmly believe would hamper councils in setting a reasonable district rate.

Any change of the magnitude of 15% would require a substantial lead-in period, within a timeframe cognisant of the legal timeline and framework for district rates setting. It is noted that if councils reduce their rate correspondingly to minimise the impact on ratepayers, they would effectively be subsidising the regional rate.

There is already a great deal of uncertainty for councils in trying to establish what their district rate should be, and the variation between councils in the relationship between the regional and district rate is highlighted.

The situation is very difficult for councils who are being asked to make decisions in the absence of a more complete financial picture, with no clarity at present, including on how these proposals are going to impact on ratepayers. There is insufficient information at present about where this is going to land, and consequently NILGA is unable to give a view on the overall impact.

We note that further more detailed consultation will be undertaken on key issues. NILGA will participate in more detail when appropriate but at this point in time we would again thank you for the information you have been able to give and we look forward to a time when we can have a more fruitful, pragmatic, evidenced-based discussion on modernisation of the Northern Ireland fiscal system.

Yours sincerely,



Cllr Matt Garrett
President (SF)



Cllr Alison Bennington
Vice-President (DUP)



Cllr Billy Webb
Vice-President (All)



Ald Hazel Legge
Vice-President (UUP)



Cllr Brian Tierney
Vice-President (SDLP)

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Sharon Magee
Chief Executive
Land & Property Services
Department of Finance
Lanyon Plaza
7 Lanyon Place
Belfast, BT1 3LP

29th January 2024

Dear Sharon

Revenue Raising – Rates Measures Consultation

Thank you for working so closely with NILGA in relation to the above rates measures consultation. The information you provided and your participation in our recent policy event was extremely helpful to our members and council finance officers. We would particularly like to thank you for the additional ‘council-specific’ breakdown of how these measures impact across the 11 council areas.

The rates measures consultation is one of a suite of active and forthcoming consultations, issued at the behest of the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, about which NILGA has grave concerns.

Firstly, NILGA is of the view that that these issues should be dealt with by incoming NI Executive Ministers. These are devolved matters and rates are devolved taxes. Our members have serious concerns regarding the potential undermining of local democratic decision-making that these consultations foreshadow.

There is little to no information on how the revenue raising consultations will interrelate, or what their potential cumulative impact might be. The wider cumulative context, could include a proposed 15% hike in the regional rate, and we are unsure at present if that figure will include water charges. We also note that the ongoing discussions regarding a ‘fiscal floor’ include consideration on taxable capacity, which is also likely to impinge on local government.

NILGA is of the view that these revenue raising consultations are poorly timed in the context of the wider cost of living crisis, with the potential to cause great financial difficulty for people and businesses across Northern Ireland, should the proposals be brought to bear. We believe strongly that it is the wrong time in the current economic context, to be

Northern Ireland Local Government Association

Bradford Court, Upper Galwally, Castlereagh, BT8 6RB

Tel: 028 9079 8972 email: office@nilga.org web: www.nilga.org twitter: @NI_LGA

introducing these changes, particularly given the limited revenue that would be raised, even if all proposals were implemented.

The rates measures consultation does not appear to have been designed using an appropriate evidence base, and there is scant information on the evidence for, or information surrounding the proposals as they impact on the economy as an ecosystem. There is insufficient information to form a sound opinion on the proposals, and no future plan or strategy evident.

Some of the rates measures proposals have the potential to increase income for some councils but could disrupt the distribution of rates income. There is not enough information to enable us to have a full picture of the economic impact of these proposals, in what is a largely SME-based economy.

Councils and LPS must keep in mind that the rating system impacts on each council differently in terms of income and what each council is trying to achieve locally, and given the high potential for cumulative or interactive impacts of the various rates measures proposals, NILGA believes that it would be inadvisable to 'cherry pick' individual reliefs in the absence of a wider review.

It is imperative that councils have certainty in what is currently a very volatile 'macro' environment. NILGA highlights the cumulative impact of recent pay agreements and recent cuts including substantial cuts to the rates support grant and complete withdrawal of animal welfare and good relations funding (which came mid-year unexpectedly with council finance officers unable to prepare for this change). To balance out finances for coming years, councils need to be sure of their rate setting process, since rates provide 80% of council income.

We would also take this opportunity to highlight the alarm expressed by our members and senior council officers regarding the proposed 15% increase to the regional rate and its potential local impact, which we firmly believe would hamper councils in setting a reasonable district rate.

There is already a great deal of uncertainty for councils in trying to establish what their district rate should be, and the variation between councils of the relationship between the regional and district rate is highlighted.

Any change of the magnitude of 15% would require a substantial lead-in period, within a timeframe cognisant of the legal timeline and framework for district rates setting. It is noted that if councils reduce their rate correspondingly to minimise the impact on ratepayers, they would effectively be subsidising the regional rate.

The situation is already very difficult for councils who are being asked to make decisions in the absence of a more complete financial picture, with no clarity at present, including on how these proposals are going to impact on ratepayers. There is insufficient information at

present about where this is going to land, and consequently NILGA is unable to give a view on the overall impact.

We note that LPS intends to issue further more detailed consultation, should it be decided to take forward any of the rated measures proposals. NILGA will participate in more detail when appropriate but at this point in time we would again thank you for the information you have been able to give and we look forward to a time when we can have a more fruitful, pragmatic, evidenced-based discussion on modernisation of the rates system in Northern Ireland.

Yours sincerely,



Cllr Matt Garrett
President (SF)



Cllr Alison Bennington
Vice-President (DUP)



Cllr Billy Webb
Vice-President (All)



Ald Hazel Legge
Vice-President (UUP)



Cllr Brian Tierney
Vice-President (SDLP)

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Belfast
City Council

Subject:	Physical Programme Update
Date:	23 February 2024
Reporting Officer:	Sinead Grimes, Director of Property & Projects
Contact Officer:	Shauna Murtagh, Portfolio Manager

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The Council's Physical Programme currently includes over 400 capital projects via a range of internal and external funding streams, together with projects which the Council delivers on

	<p>behalf of external agencies. The Council's Capital Programme forms part of the overall Physical Programme and is a rolling programme of investment which either improves existing Council facilities or provides new facilities. This report includes a review of recently completed and underway physical projects, requests for approvals relating to the Capital Programme, and for approval to procure as required for the Physical Programme.</p>
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical Programme Half Year Update - note the overall update on projects that have been completed recently and projects currently under construction at 3.1 to 3.5 below and in Appendix 1; and that the Property & Projects Department is happy to arrange a site visit to any projects that have been completed or are underway. • Capital Programme Movements - to agree the following movements under the Capital Programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ IT Programme – F5 Access Policy Manager / Web Application Firewall project – note that a satisfactory tender return has now been achieved and that it is recommended that a maximum £30,200 is now allocated to this project. ○ City Hall External Christmas Tree project – move the project to <i>Stage 2 – Uncommitted</i> to enable development of an outline business case. ○ Dual Language Street Signs - Gaeltacht Quarter project – add the project to the Capital Programme at <i>Stage 1 – Emerging</i> to allow a business case to be developed. • Fleet Programme 2024/2025 – note the agreed Fleet Programme for 2024/25 • City Hall Statues – note the update on the programme of events to mark the installation of the two new statues in City Hall grounds of Winifred Carney and Mary Ann McCracken on Friday 8th March – International Women's Day as outlined in 3.11 below. • Procurement process for 2024/25 Non-Recurrent Programme, Fleet Programme and Externally Funded Projects - agree that any necessary procurement processes (including the invitation of tenders and/or the use of appropriate 'framework' arrangements) be initiated for any Physical Programme projects in 2024/25 including Fleet Replacement Programme, non-recurrent programme and externally funded projects as required with contracts to be awarded on the basis of most economically advantageous tenders received and full commitment to deliver.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>Physical Programme</p> <p>Members will be aware that the Council runs a substantial Physical Programme. This includes the rolling Capital Programme – a multimillion regeneration programme of investment across</p>

	<p>the city which improves existing Council assets or provides new council facilities. The Council also delivers externally focused funding streams such as Belfast Investment Fund (BIF), Local Investment Fund (LIF), Social Outcomes Fund (SOF) and Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund (NRF), as well as numerous physical programmes and standalone projects that we deliver for central government. Our funding partners include National Lottery Heritage Fund, SEUPB Peace IV, the Executive Office, DfC, DfI including the Living with Water Programme, DAERA, Ulster Garden Villages, Levelling Up Fund (LUF) and others. When appropriate, the Property & Projects Department is happy to arrange site visits to any projects that have been completed.</p>
3.2	<p><u>Physical Programme Half Year Update</u></p> <p>Members are aware of the scale of the Council's Physical Programme via a range of internal and external funding streams. Below is a brief summary of projects completed over the last six months, as well as a sample of projects currently underway.</p>
3.3	<p><u>Recently completed projects:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Templemore Baths – launch of the major £17m restoration of Templemore Baths with a focus on heritage and spa provision. The centre is open to the public and membership targets have been surpassed. This is the sixth of seven outstanding new leisure facilities to be launched in the last seven years as part of the £105 million Leisure Transformation Programme. • Marrowbone Millennium Park – a significant £4.3m partnership project with DfC, Urban Villages, and NIHE. New facilities include an IFA intermediate standard 3G pitch; a pavilion with 128 spectator seats, a multi-use community space and accessible changing facilities; a new play park; a multi-use games area; an outdoor gym and a community events space. • Forth Meadow Community Greenway - an ambitious and transformational £6.2m EU PEACE IV-funded scheme to connect existing open spaces in north and west Belfast along a 12km route from Clarendon Playing Fields to the new Transport Hub in the city centre. The signage package to be installed includes feature panels, narrative panels and beacon lights along all sections, subject to Council approval. • Belfast Zoo - Large Cats Enclosure and Sea Lion Pool – the project eradicated immediate health and safety issues at Belfast Zoo in particular the lion enclosure and the water treatment plant at the Sea Lion pool. It also included a new viewing area and enhancement of zoo trails with greening and art. • Brown's Bridge – bridge replacement works have been completed and the bridge is open to the public. The bridge in Lagan Meadows had been closed due to structural defects and associated health and safety risks to the public. • Frederick Douglass Statue – installation of a figurative sculpture celebrating the abolitionist, social reformer and early champion of women's rights in Rosemary Street.

- **IT Security Log Manager Replacement** - replacement of the Security Information and Event Management (SIEM) log collector which is critical to protect the Council's IT infrastructure against cyber-attack.
- **Other projects completed in the last six months include –**
 - Strangford Avenue Playing Fields path and gate improvements
 - Loughside Park Trim Trail
 - New covered cycle stands at Avoniel and Lisnasharragh Leisure Centres
 - Boundary wall at Shankill Graveyard
 - Household Waste & Recycling Centres new skips and compactors
 - Cavehill Country Park playground embankment slide
 - Whiterock Leisure Centre pitch floodlight upgrade
- **Planned Maintenance** – repair and maintenance work at Belfast Zoo, Grove Wellbeing Centre, Shankill Leisure Centre, Victoria Park, Thomas Patton Memorial Park, and also enhancements to metering and installation of Solar Film to the Waterfront Hall as part of the Climate Programme.
- **BIF Programme: Midland Boxing Club** – completion of the boxing facility extension at Cultra Street.
- **SOF Programme: Roddy McCorley Heritage Centre** – development of a modern interpretative museum and works on the existing grounds now complete.
- **LIF Programme: Cregagh Sports Club** – phase 2 of works completed including ball-catch nets, car parking and hot water system; **Lagan Village Youth & Community Association** – community garden and outdoor urban space completed; and refurbishment of **Star Neighbourhood Centre** including outdoor improvements recently completed.
- **ABC Trust Health and Leisure Hub** – this £5.9m partnership project via DfC, DfI, Flax Trust, Urban Villages and LIF involves the transformation of a derelict building formerly St Gemma's High School into a modern, purpose built health and leisure community facility. Phase 1 of the project has been completed which provides a modern, purpose-built sports hall, support space and accommodation for Building Change Trust (BCT NI).
- **Colin Healthy Living Centre** – this new community sports facility provides greater access to health and fitness facilities, supports mental health and wellbeing and promotes good relations for local residents. Delivered by the Council on behalf of the Executive Office as part of the Urban Villages Initiative.
- **Social Investment Fund** – over the last number of years, the Property & Projects Department has been assisting the Executive Office to deliver their SIF Programme across Belfast. All Council delivered projects are now complete and the programme is

	<p>drawing to a close. A summary of the work the Council has delivered for the Executive Office under this fund is at Appendix 2.</p>
3.4	<p><u>Physical projects underway:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ballysillan Playing Fields -this is a £7.5m partnership project with DfI's Living with Water Programme, DfC and Urban Villages. Design and engagement stages have been carried out and a Planning decision is awaited. It is anticipated that the contractor will be on site in Spring 2024 subject to planning approval. • Pitt Park – the £1.7 million redevelopment of Dr Pitt Memorial Park is well underway on site, funded by Urban Villages. Its aim is to create an attractive, safe and accessible area where families, children, and people of all ages can get active, have fun and enjoy the rich heritage of the area. • City Hall Statues – Winifred Carney and Mary Ann McCracken – sculptures of both women will be installed in the grounds of Belfast City Hall. Mary Ann McCracken was an abolitionist, social reformer and activist who fought for the rights of women and championed Belfast's poor, and Winifred Carney was a suffragist, trade unionist and Irish independence activist. Work is underway at the foundry and the aim is to hold the unveilings on International Women's Day on Friday 8 March 2024 (see 3.11 below). • Lagan Gateway Greenway Phase 2 – work continues on the next stages of this major investment of £5m in a new navigation lock, iconic foot and cycle bridge and new path connections. • Shankill Shared Women's Centre (Peace IV) – this significant new building is nearing completion with an official opening anticipated in June 2024. • Black Mountain Shared Space Centre (Peace IV) – Works due for completion. For the next phase, the design team has been appointed, a Planning submission has been submitted and procurement of the main contractor is underway. • The Lockhouse - this £2.7m partnership project will reimagine a historic and culturally important residential building along the Lagan towpath into a community focal point for good relations activity and cross-community partnership working including minority ethnic communities. Funded by LIF, DfC, DfI and Urban Villages. Works underway on site. • ABC Trust Health and Leisure Hub – Phase 2 of the project has commenced which comprises a community café, boxing club, minor halls, community gym and office space. • Playground Improvement Programme – Loughside Park, North Link and New Lodge playgrounds. • Corporate projects – range of IT projects to ensure business continuity and ongoing delivery of Fleet replacement programme.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• LIF and BIF - a total of 3 projects on site under the BIF Programme, 16 completed to date; and a total of 5 projects are on the ground under the LIF Programme, 126 projects completed to date.												
3.5	<p>Physical projects in development:</p> <p>The remainder of the Physical Programme includes projects in the development stage (<i>Stage 2 – Uncommitted, Stage 1 – Emerging</i> or equivalent) including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Capital Programme: Cathedral Gardens, New Crematorium, Belfast Stories, Reservoir Safety Programme, Alleygates Phase 5, LTP Girdwood Indoor Sports Facility, Waste Plan, HWRCs & CAS Containers, Relocation of Dunbar Link Cleansing Depot, New Cemetery, Access to the Hills – connections from Cavehill to Black Mountain, Sydenham Greenway, Glencairn Park/Ligoniel Park Greenway, Black Mountain / Upper Whiterock Greenway, Colin Greenway, City Hall – Installation of 2 Stained Glass Windows.• Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund – 16 projects have recently moved to <i>Stage 3 – Delivery</i> and 7 projects are at <i>Stage 2 – Development</i> stage.• A range of other schemes including the remaining LIF, BIF and SOF projects plus other externally funded projects such as Paisley Park.• Peace Plus – Reconnected Belfast – the Waterworks and Alexandra Park upgrades and projects under the Local Action Plan.												
	Capital Programme - Proposed Movements												
3.6	<p>Members agreed that all capital projects must go through a three stage process where decisions on which capital projects progress are taken by the Committee. This provides assurance as to the level of financial control and will allow Members to properly consider the opportunity costs of approving one capital project over another capital project. Members are asked to note the following activity on the Capital Programme:</p> <table><tr><th>Project</th><th>Overview</th><th>Stage movement</th></tr><tr><td>IT Programme – F5 Access Policy Manager Project / Web Application Firewall</td><td>Procurement and commissioning of the F5 security suite consisting of Web Application Firewall and VPN modules. Maximum of £30,200 to be allocated</td><td>Stage 3 – Committed</td></tr><tr><td>City Hall Christmas Tree Provision</td><td>Consideration of options for replacement of the current Christmas Tree provision in front of the City Hall with an alternate solution.</td><td>Move to Stage 2 – Uncommitted</td></tr><tr><td>Dual Language Street Signs - Gaeltacht Quarter</td><td>The erection of dual language street signs en bloc with the Gaeltacht Quarter.</td><td>Add to Stage 1- Emerging</td></tr></table>	Project	Overview	Stage movement	IT Programme – F5 Access Policy Manager Project / Web Application Firewall	Procurement and commissioning of the F5 security suite consisting of Web Application Firewall and VPN modules. Maximum of £30,200 to be allocated	Stage 3 – Committed	City Hall Christmas Tree Provision	Consideration of options for replacement of the current Christmas Tree provision in front of the City Hall with an alternate solution.	Move to Stage 2 – Uncommitted	Dual Language Street Signs - Gaeltacht Quarter	The erection of dual language street signs en bloc with the Gaeltacht Quarter.	Add to Stage 1- Emerging
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Dual Language Street Signs - Gaeltacht Quarter	The erection of dual language street signs en bloc with the Gaeltacht Quarter.	Add to Stage 1- Emerging											
3.7	<p><u>IT Programme – F5 Access Policy Manager Project</u></p> <p>In October 2023, Members agreed to move the <i>IT programme - F5 Access Policy Manager/ Web Application Firewall project</i> to <i>Stage 3 – Committed</i> pending a satisfactory tender return. The tender return has now been received. The Director of Finance has confirmed that it is within the affordability limits of the Council. Members are now asked to agree a budget</p>												

	for the F5 Access Policy Manager/ Web Application Firewall project of a maximum of £30,200.
3.8	<p><u>City Hall Christmas Tree Provision</u></p> <p>In June 2023, the City Hall Christmas Tree Provision project was added to <i>Stage 1- Emerging</i> under the Capital Programme. The City Hall Christmas tree is a major focal point within the City Centre and can set the tone for the city's Christmas celebrations, both for visitors and the local economy. Issues with tree quality and supply are expected to increase in future years and Members may wish to consider exploring a suitable alternative. Options are now being explored in detail to replace the tree with an alternative sustainable option. As per the three stage approvals process, a Strategic Outline Case has been completed and the team can now progress to Outline Business Case stage.</p> <p>Members are asked to agree that 'Christmas Tree Provision' be moved to the Capital Programme Stage 2 – Uncommitted project to allow the options to be fully worked up, with further detail to be brought back to Committee in due course.</p>
3.9	<p><u>Dual Language Street Signs - Gaeltacht Quarter</u></p> <p>In November 2023, the Council agreed that Dual Language Street signs in the Gaeltacht Quarter would be taken forward en bloc and that the project would be delivered as a capital project. Members are asked to note that the scheme is being progressed at pace, working closely with Building Control as client and that further stage movements are anticipated to come forward shortly.</p> <p>Members are asked to agree that the Dual Language Street Signs - Gaeltacht Quarter project is added to the Capital Programme at Stage 1 – Emerging to allow a business case to be developed.</p>
3.10	<p><i>Capital Programme - Fleet Programme 2024/25</i></p> <p>Members will know that the Council needs to run and maintain a substantial fleet in order to deliver its services. There is a rolling allocation of £2.2m towards the Fleet Programme for 2024/25 with an additional budget allocation of £2m in year under the Capital Programme at Stage 3. The Fleet Programme has been developed in conjunction with Council departments and reflects the service needs of the organisation, and there are ongoing issues caused by the high age profile and condition of the fleet operating well beyond its recommended operational life cycle. The purchase of these vehicles will also assist in the harmonisation of vehicle types as recommended in the AECOM report of 2021. It will also result in the replacement of Euro 5 engines with Euro 6 equivalents which have an improved emissions standard. The agreed Fleet Programme for 2024/25 is attached at Appendix 3.</p> <p>Members are asked to note the agreed Fleet Programme for 2024/25.</p>
3.11	<p>City Hall Statues - Members will be aware that the installation of two new statues in City Hall Grounds of Mary Ann McCracken and Winifred Carney has been agreed. Committee was</p>

	<p>advised last month that these would be formally revealed on Friday 8th March which is fitting as it is International Women's Day. The inclusion of two women, whose contribution to the City, their values, beliefs, what they strived to achieved throughout their lives still very much resonates with today's society. The two new pieces in City Hall grounds will bring to the fore the issues still faced by our diverse society within the City, stimulating debate and discussion.</p> <p>The proposed programme for the 8th March includes –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Event to mark the installation – 2pm in the City Hall Grounds. Speakers to include the Lord Mayor, the artist and a representative from ICTU. • Panel discussion/debate, to include some drama, poetry and music – evening event in the City Hall. <p>Plans include the publication of a booklet which will be given out at both events and available after, a shortened version of which will be published on Council's website and accessed through a QR code on the statue.</p> <p>Members will note that there is likely to be significant media attention in the new statues and a full comms plan is being developed around this. Given the level of media interest and coverage generated by the Frederick Douglass statue it is anticipated that City Hall statues will supercede that. The last additions to City Hall grounds were the Titanic Memorial Gardens opened 15 April 2012 and Operation Banner Memorial in 2013. Members will be kept up to date and will receive invitations to both events.</p>
3.12	<p><i>Approval to Procure 2024/25</i></p> <p>Members are asked to agree that any necessary procurement processes (including the invitation of tenders and/or the use of appropriate 'framework' arrangements) be initiated for any Physical Programme projects in 2024/25 including Fleet Replacement Programme, non-recurrent programme and externally funded projects as required with contracts to be awarded on the basis of most economically advantageous tenders received and full commitment to deliver.</p>
3.13	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p><i>Financial Implications:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IT Programme – F5 Access Policy Manager Project - Up to a maximum of £30,200. • Fleet Programme - There is a rolling allocation of £2.2m towards the Fleet Programme for 2024/25 with an additional budget allocation of £2m in year under the Capital Programme. <p>The Director of Finance has confirmed that this is within the affordability limits of the Council.</p> <p><i>Resource Implications</i> – Officer time to deliver as required.</p>
3.14	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>All capital projects are screened as part of the stage approval process.</p>
4.0	<p>Appendices - Documents Attached</p>

	Appendix 1 – Photos of completed projects (June 2023 – January 2024) Appendix 2 – Completion of the SIF Programme for The Executive Office Appendix 3 – Fleet Replacement Programme 2024-2025
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Physical Programme Completed Projects

June 2023 – January 2024



Belfast
City Council

Templemore Baths

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Templemore Baths



Marrowbone Millennium Park

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Marrowbone Millennium Park



Forth Meadow Community Greenway

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Forth Meadow Community Greenway

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Belfast Zoo – New Lion Enclosure

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Belfast Zoo – New Lion Enclosure Viewing Area



Brown's Bridge



Frederick Douglass Statue



Frederick Douglass Statue



Strangford Avenue—path and gate works

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Loughside Park Trim Trail



Covered Cycle Stand – Avoniel



Covered Cycle Stand - Lisnasharragh

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Household Waste & Recycling Centres

New skips and compactors



Midland Boxing Club



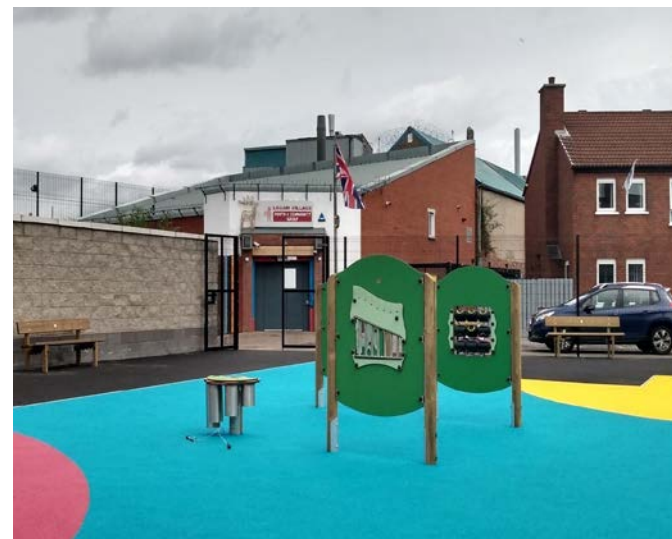
Cregagh Sports Club



Star Neighbourhood Centre



Lagan Village Youth & Community Association



Cavehill Playground Embankment Slide

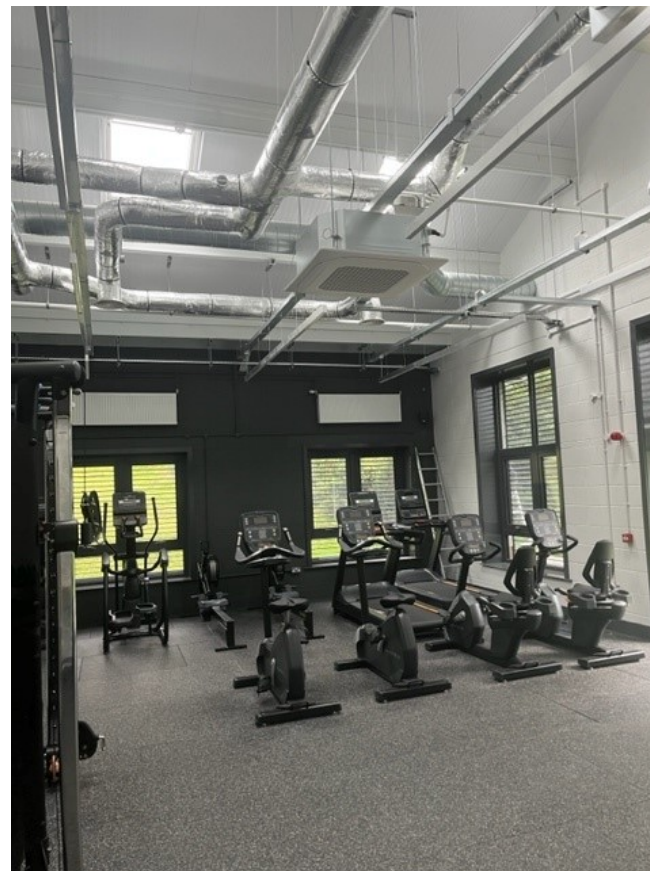


**Whiterock
Leisure Centre
Pitch
Floodlighting**



Colin Healthy Living Centre

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Appendix 2 - SIF Programme

Physical projects completed on behalf of The Executive Office in June 2023

Background

In 2014, OFMDFM established an £86m Social Investment Fund (SIF) to deliver social change, split between capital and revenue. The Programme's aim was to make life better for people living in targeted areas, by reducing poverty, unemployment and physical deterioration, through strategic area based interventions of significant scale.

In 2016 the Council entered into an agreement with the Executive Office, to act as the lead partner / delivery agent for a number of SIF capital projects in South, East and North Belfast. The request from the Executive Office recognised the Council's success in delivering capital projects, whilst also acknowledging the Council's uniquely placed role as civic leader in the city. The project teams involved in the Programme worked to successfully complete this series of complex projects right through the Covid pandemic to deliver considerable benefits to local communities. **The Council has now successfully delivered the SIF Programme as part of the wider Physical Programme comprising 10 projects worth £8million in investment.**

Glenburn Methodist Church

The project delivered refurbishment works to enhance existing facilities, which has enabled the provision of community outreach programmes and supported the establishment of the church as a community hub. As a result, the project has supported the group to increase services in the community, increase employment opportunities and tackle mental and physical health issues.

Mount Merrion Parish Development

The capital project delivered an upgrade of internal facilities together with the development of an external play area, which has increased community use. The project provided an enhanced community facility which is now more easily accessible and allows the provision of a holistic approach to local people's health and wellbeing, whatever age, whilst addressing multiple issues associated with deprivation. As a result, the group aims to improve the health and wellbeing of local children by providing breakfast clubs, reduced social isolation for the elderly by providing regular events and through the provision of skills and training programmes supported greater employment opportunities for local people.

Joanmount Methodist Church

The capital refurbishments enabled the premises to increase capacity by bringing the church hall and upper room up to current fire and rescue services legislation standards. The increased capacity has enabled the group to provide a range of activities for targeted groups including young people and

those who are socially disadvantaged to reduce antisocial behaviour in the area and provide young people with opportunities to improve their employment skills.

PIPs

The project provided a capital refurbishment of the existing property together with an extension, to improve capacity and upgrade the facilities to conform with regulations and disability access. The restoration works have enabled increased capacity through additional counselling, family and meeting rooms, an expanded training programme and enhanced access and availability to a valuable community advice and support service. The project has specifically increased capacity to respond to walk-ins which has had a positive impact on service provision.

South City Resource Centre (St Simon's Hall)

The refurbishment project delivered one large multi-function room, with the main focus of the modernised St Simon's Hall providing a dividable space allowing different groups to use the hall simultaneously. The refurbishments have enabled the group to sustain and increase its community services and also improve training and employability opportunities in the area.

Greenway Women's Centre

The capital project was for the expansion and refurbishment of the Centre. The Greenway Women's Centre has provided services within the Cregagh and surrounding community area to women and their families for almost forty years. The project has provided sustainability for the Centre and increased its capacity, thereby supporting some of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged children and families in an area of high deprivation.

North Belfast Women's Initiative and Support Programme (NBWISP)

The capital renovation project refurbished WISP's premises, modernising the existing building, ensuring compliance with health and safety and fire legislation as well as installing disability access. By addressing the accommodation issues the project has enabled the group to increase the range and scope of its training delivery and through this increase, the capacity and employability of residents through enhanced training and development opportunities.

Mornington Community Project

The capital project successfully delivered the refurbishment of first floor accommodation to provide multi-purpose meeting rooms, training rooms, office space and toilets whilst also improving first floor access, though Installation of a lift for disability and mobility access. The refurbishments have allowed the project promoter to sustain and increase its community services and also improve training and employability opportunities in the area.

Walkway Community Centre

The project provided a new build, integrated community facility, which addressed the deficiencies and disjointed arrangements arising from service provision over various adjacent sites. The new facility has allowed the community group to consolidate its role in addressing economic and social needs in the local community. More specifically, the new facility has enabled the promotion of investment in the physical regeneration of an area of deprivation, provided sustainable community development space, which has maximised community services in the area and provided increased space and capacity which has resulted in the provision of additional community service delivery and use.

St Comgall's

The project provided a sympathetic restoration and re-purpose of the Grade B1-listed building on behalf of Falls Community Council to include new offices, conference and exhibition facilities, event spaces and a café. The building is alive with high end fashion manufacturers, weddings, creative start-ups and home to Féile an Phobail. The restoration of St Comgall's sets an example of how an important piece of the city's built heritage should be preserved and enhanced, delivering on the vision of Falls Community Council and the organisations and individuals who supported it along the way. The completion of St Comgall's is a striking example of excellent conservation and the product of many years of hard work by all parties involved.

Some completed images of two of the larger scale projects are overleaf.

St Comgall's



Walkway Community Centre



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Appendix 3 - Fleet Replacement Programme 2024/25

The proposed vehicle replacement of fleet assets for 2024/25 is made up as follows:
Total Budget £2.2m.

Item	No.
Lease/Hire of official corporate cars annually on 4yr contract	3
Electric fork truck 5t	1
Compact cleaning sweeper 5t	4
Mule Quad bike (FIDO)	1
Small panel van 3 seat 1.8t	4
Small crew van 5 seat 2.4t	4
Medium size panel van 3.3t	11
Large panel van 3.5t	17
Jumbo panel van 5.2t + washing unit	2
Crew-cab 5 seat 4x4 pick-up	7
Agri tractor 4x4 + front loader	5
Agri ride on grass mowers	5
TOTAL	£2,197,280

The proposed vehicle replacement of fleet assets for 2024/25 is made up as follows:
Additional budget: £2m.

Item	No.
RCV 6x2 n/track, r/s, twin bin-lift 26t	2
RCV 4x2 n/track, twin bin-lift 18t	1
RCV 6x2 n/track food-pod 26t	2
Compact sweeper/Holder Sub Compact	4
Large panel van 3.5t	7
Truck drop-side tipper 5t + tail lift	3
Truck box-van 7.5t + tail lift	1
Chassis-cab/tip 3.5t loose waste	1
Chassis-cab 3.5t cherry-picker hoist	1
TOTAL	£1,993,000

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Belfast
City Council

Subject:	Contracts Update
Date:	23 rd February 2024
Reporting Officer:	Sharon McNicholl, Deputy Chief Executive and 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"/>
Some time 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 or Summary of main Issues
1.	<p>The purpose of this report is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek approval from members for tenders and Single Tender Actions (STA) over £30,000 <p>And to ask members to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note contract modifications to contract term and the award of retrospective STAs
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approve the public advertisement of tenders as per Standing Order 37a detailed in Appendix 1 (Table 1) Approve the award of STAs in line with Standing Order 55 exceptions as detailed in Appendix 1 (Table 2)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve the modification of the contract as per Standing Order 37a detailed in Appendix 1 (Table 3) • Note the award of retrospective STAs in line with Standing Order 55 exceptions as detailed in Appendix 1 (Table 4)
3.0	Competitive Tenders
3.1	Section 2.5 of the Scheme of Delegation states Chief Officers have delegated authority to authorise a contract for the procurement of goods, services or works over the statutory limit of £30,000 following a tender exercise where the council has approved the invitation to tender
3.2	Standing Order 60(a) states any contract that exceeds the statutory amount (currently £30,000) shall be made under the Corporate Seal. Under Standing Order 51(b) the Corporate Seal can only be affixed when there is a resolution of the Council.
3.3	Standing Order 54 states that every contract shall comply with the relevant requirements of national and European legislation.
3.4	The Committee is asked to approve the public advertisement of tenders as per Standing Order 37a detailed in Appendix 1 (Table 1)
	Single Tender Actions (STAs)
3.5	The Council's current Single Tender Action (STA) process, which has been in place since 2020, provides assurance that the Council continues to comply with its obligations under the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 'PCRs' and internal governance arrangements including required controls and approvals. It mirrors the PCRs setting out the exceptional and specific circumstances when a STA can be used (see STA/ Direct Award Reasons Table in Appendix 1).
3.6	To support Officers understanding and to build capability CPS also offer STA Process training on a regular basis.
3.7	<p>In line with Standing Order 55 the following STAs are being submitted for approval:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contract for up to £77,700, for up to 1 year awarded to HCL Technologies Ltd. Ongoing maintenance & support by supplier is required until a replacement Financial System project is complete. Go Live of new system is scheduled in Q1 of FY24/25.

3.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract for up to £100,000, for up to 2 years awarded to Royal Mail Door to Door. Distribution of City Matters Magazine as required to all residents within the Belfast City Council electoral area. This requirement was recently tendered via open competition, but no bids were received. Contract for up to £1,100,000, for up to 3 years awarded to NEC Software Solutions. Continued maintenance & support required for NI Housing Executive's 'NIHE' Housing Benefit system which is hosted by BCC but recharged to NIHE (fully funded). NEC are the only available service provider for maintenance and support services of this system. <p>In line with Standing Order 55 the Committee is asked to note the award of the following retrospective STAs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract for up to £33,600, for up to 3 years, awarded to VU.CITY for the provision of an accurate digital 3D model of the Belfast City. There is no other supplier that can offer this solution without significant duplication of resources, costs and time to build the Belfast data layers. VU.CITY already has a significant portion of city mapped, including 262,835 trees, accurate to height & canopy as well as 55,594 buildings. <p>Note – this STA was approved by Committee in Aug 23 but should have been submitted as retrospective approval at the time. There have been ongoing negotiations with the supplier to finalise the terms and conditions. Retrospective STA approval is therefore requested to cover contract award from 17th May 23 for up to £33,600 and for up to 3 years.</p>
	Modification to Contract
3.9	<p>The Committee is asked to approve the following modification of the contract as per Standing Order 37a:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to an additional 3 months, up to £80,000, awarded to Clive Richardson Ltd under contract T1851 for the provision of young tree maintenance, tree planting and minor horticultural works. A further 3-month extension is required to facilitate a re-tendering exercise. Tender documents being finalised and should be advertised to market in Feb 24. Delays experienced due to resourcing issues in the Department and additional work required to review and re-draft tender documents to incorporate new service requirements. Note - a previous a contract modification for a 4-month extension was previously approved by Committee in October 23. Up to an additional 4 months, (£65k projected income) awarded to Avenue Recycling Ltd for the collection and recycling of scrap metal. A 4-month extension is required

	<p>to facilitate a re-tendering exercise. Tender documents being finalised and should be advertised to market in March 24. Delays experienced due to heavy workload within the Department at this time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to an additional 9 months and £391,000, for contract for the Procurement of Public Bike Share Scheme. LOT 1: Design supply maintenance & operation of the scheme. Awarded to NSL Service Group. Extension of current operator contract for a maximum of nine months to allow further work to be undertaken to define specification for tender competition for new operator contract. Given the expansion of the network, the potential to have social enterprise/co-operative involvement in the operation and the potential for the inclusion of e-bikes and accessible bikes a significantly different specification is required. It has been agreed to hold a Members Workshop to inform this. <p>Note - this was submitted to Committee in January 24 but was not approved at the time. Re-submitted for approval.</p>
	Financial & Resource Implications
3.10	The financial resources for these contracts are within approved corporate or departmental budgets
	Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment
3.11	None
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	<p>Appendix 1</p> <p>Table 1 - Competitive Tenders</p> <p>Table 2 – Single Tender Actions</p> <p>Table 3 – Modification to Contract</p> <p>Table 4 - Retrospective Single Tender Actions</p>

Table 1: Competitive Tenders

Title of Tender	Proposed Contract Duration	Est. Max Contract Value	SRO	Short description of goods / services
Investigation Support for Security Incidents	Up to 3 years	£60,000	P Gribben	Break fix support on security appliances. Specialist support for security related projects.
Daisy Mitel Systems & Support	Up to 2 years	£196,500	S McNicholl	Corporate telephony solution to include Mitel Systems, Redbox Recording and CRM Connector + SMS functionality with ongoing maintenance, support and software assurance
Coach Hire Services	Up to 4 years	£400,000	D Sales	The service shall be used by various Council departments to provide a transport service including for seasonal activities within the Community such as Summer Schemes, Halloween, Christmas and Easter time.
Catering Services at Belfast Zoo.	Up to 5 years	£900,000	D Martin	Catering service provider to manage the catering outlets at Belfast Zoo
Framework for Goods For Resale at Belfast Zoo	Up to 4 years	£520,000	D Martin	Supply of a range of goods (i.e. toys, souvenirs etc) to sell in shops at Belfast Zoo.
Maintenance of Containers and Compactors	Up to 4 years	£330,000	D Sales	This service ensures that skip containers and compactors are maintained and working properly to enable recycling centres to manage the waste received from householders.
Supply of Park and Memorial Benches	Up to 5 years	£200,000	D Sales	Tender required for the supply of park and memorial seats/ benches. Majority of seats/benches are re-sold to customers at the Crematorium/ Cemeteries.
IT Technical Research and Guidance	Up to 2 years	£45,400	P Gribben	Gartner for IT Leaders provides in-depth technical research and guidance to help Digital Services advance the initiatives/projects that support execution of the IT strategy.

Appendix 1

Electric City Centre Power Washer Vehicle	One off purchase	£50,000 (fully funded by DfC)	D Sales	Provision of electric vehicle fitted with hot & cold power washer to be used around the city centre as part of the Cleansing Fleet Enhancement Project.
Christmas Lights	Up to 5 years	£2m	D Martin	The Council wishes to refresh it's Christmas lighting display to animate the city over the festive period and attract additional visitors to the city. A Contractor will be procured to support the delivery.

Table 2: Single Tender Actions

Title	Duration	Est. Max Contract Value	SRO	Description	Supplier	STA Reason
Maintenance & Support for SAP, SRM & CRM	Up to 1 year	£77,700	P Gribben	Ongoing maintenance & support is required until a replacement Financial System project is complete. Go Live of new system is scheduled in Q1 of FY24/25.	HCL Technologies Ltd	11
City Matters Distribution - Royal Mail	Up to 2 years	£100,000	E McConville	Distribution of City Matters Magazine as required to all residents within the Belfast City Council electoral area. This requirement was recently tendered via open competition, but no bids were received.	Royal Mail Door to Door	1
NIHE (Support and Maintenance) Licenses	Up to 3 years	£1,100,000	S McNicholl	Continued maintenance & support required for NI Housing Executive's 'NIHE' Housing Benefit system which is hosted by BCC but recharged to NIHE (fully funded). NEC are the only available service provider for maintenance and support services of this system.	NEC Software Solutions	3

Table 3: Modification to Contract

Title of Contract	Original Contract Duration	Modification required	SRO	Description	Supplier
Provision of young tree maintenance, tree planting and minor horticultural works	Up to 5 years	Additional 3 months and £80,000	D Sales	A further 3-month extension is required to facilitate a re-tendering exercise. Tender documents being finalised and should be advertised to market in Feb 24. Delays experienced due to resourcing issues in the Department and additional work required to review and re-draft tender documents to incorporate new service requirements. Note - a previous a contract modification for a 4-month extension was previously approved by Committee in October 23.	Clive Richardson Ltd.
Collection and Recycling of Scrap Metal	Up to 4 years	Additional 4 months. Income based contract. Projected £65k income over 4 months.	D Sales	A 4-month extension is required to facilitate a re-tendering exercise. Tender documents being finalised and should be advertised to market in March 24. Delays experienced due to heavy workload within the Department at this time.	Avenue Recycling Ltd
Procurement of Public Bike Share Scheme. LOT 1: Design supply maintenance & operation of the scheme	Up to 9 years	Additional 9 months and £391,000	J Greer	Extension of current operator contract for a maximum of nine months to allow further work to be undertaken to define specification for tender competition for new operator contract. Given the expansion of the network, the potential to have social enterprise/co-operative involvement in the operation and the potential for the inclusion of e-bikes and accessible bikes a significantly different specification is required. It has been agreed to hold a Members Workshop to inform this. Note - this was submitted to Committee in January 24 but was not approved at the time. Re-submitted for approval.	NSL Service Group

Table 4: Retrospective STAs

Title	Duration	Est. Max Contract Value	SRO	Description	Supplier	STA Reason
Provision of an accurate digital 3D model of the Belfast City	Up to 3 years (Contract award date of 17 th May 23)	Up to £33,600	P Gribben	There is no other supplier that can offer this solution without significant duplication of resources, costs and time to build the Belfast data layers. VU.CITY already has a significant portion of city mapped, including 262,835 trees, accurate to height & canopy as well as 55,594 buildings.	VU.CITY	3

STA/ Direct Award Reasons

Reason Code	Reasons in line with Public Contract Regulations
1	No response following advertised procurement exercise
2	Creation or acquisition of a unique work of art or artistic performance
3	Competition is absent for technical reasons (no reasonable substitute exists)
4	The protection of exclusive rights, including intellectual property rights
5	Extreme urgency brought about by events unforeseeable by BCC, the time limits for a procurement cannot be complied with.
6	Products manufactured purely for the purpose of research, experimentation, study or development
7	Additional deliveries which are intended either as a partial or extended replacement of supplies or installations where a change of supplier would result in supplies of different technical characteristics causing incompatibility or disproportionate technical difficulties in operation and maintenance
8	Supplies quoted and purchased on a commodity market
9	Supplies or services on particularly time-limited advantageous terms e.g. supplier winding up its business activities
10	New works and services consisting of the repetition of similar works or services, provided that the possibility of a direct award is disclosed during the original tender process
11	Other – Reason not in line with Public Contract Regulations (PCR 2015)



Belfast
City Council

Subject:	Commercial and Procurement Services Social Value Working Group update
Date:	23 rd February 2024
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 or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To update the Strategic Policy & Resources 'SP&R' Committee following consideration by the Social Policy Working Group 'SPWG' at their meeting in February 24 on the delivery of social value outcomes via BCC tender competitions awarded in accordance with the Council's Social Value Procurement Policy 'SVPP'.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note the attached Social Value Procurement Policy 'SVPP' Delivery Report.
3.0	Main report
3.1	The SVPP Delivery Report is provided every 2 months to the SPWG in line with the scheduled meetings and then a copy is shared to Members at the SP&R Committee. This report covers the Reporting Period 1 st October 2023 to 31 st December 2023. A longer Reporting Period has been required due to the SPWG being rescheduled to Feb 24.

	Financial & Resource Implications
3.2	The financial resources for these contracts are within approved corporate or departmental budgets
	Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment
3.3	None
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	<p>Appendix 1 - SPWG Report - SVPP Delivery Report Feb 24</p> <p>Appendix 1 (a) Appendix to Social Value Procurement Policy Delivery Report Feb 24</p>



Subject:	Social Value Procurement Policy Delivery Report
Date:	13 th February 2024
Reporting Officer:	Noleen Bohill, Head of Commercial and Procurement Services 'CPS'
Contact Officer:	Lewis Murray, Strategic Category Officer, CPS

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
	<p>To update the Social Policy Working Group 'SPWG' 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 Property & Projects department where, due to project funding rules, social value has been considered and included in accordance with the CPD Buy Social Model.</p> <p>At the last SPWG meeting in November 23 Members asked that further consideration is given to the inclusion of social value in STA contract awards. An update on progress regarding this has been provided in section 4.0 of this report.</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 the SVPP and how to apply this to applicable tender competitions, the Commercial and Procurement Services 'CPS' 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 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.

- 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 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 Property & Projects.

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 Annexe 1 (see 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 2 months in line with scheduled SPWG meetings.</p> <p>This report covers the Reporting Period 1st October 2023 to 31st December 2023 (3 months due to rescheduling of SPWG meetings).</p>
3.0	Main report
	<p>Appendix 1 of this report set out details of tenders valued over £30k which have been awarded during the Reporting Period and associated SVPP data/information</p> <p>Appendix 1 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 Property & Projects 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 (Evaluated 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 the 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 3. The quality of social value offers by suppliers (the evaluated submissions) and if further guidance is required in terms of how these are evaluated by Officers. In

	<p>additional 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 2 months in line with scheduled SPWG 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	Including social value in STA contracts
	<p>At the last SPWG meeting in November 23 Members asked that further consideration is given to the inclusion of social value in STA contract awards.</p> <p>Following consideration, it is proposed that the inclusion of social value is considered as part of the current >£30k STA process. This process to include:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social value to be included in all STAs unless sound rationale presented as part of the approvals process i.e. 'Opt out'. Although this rationale will develop over time this may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Proprietary equipment where the economic balance sits more with the supplier e.g. BCC require Microsoft products whereas Microsoft do not require BCC spend. ○ Urgent requirements • Rationale for opting out documented and approved on tender initiation request 'TIR' form which includes scrutiny/ challenge by CPS Strategic Category Manager; and approval by Head of CPS, City Solicitor and Chief Officer. <p>Applying the SVPP to STAs will be broadly similar to a normal competitive procurement with Officers still using the SV Toolkit; however, as STAs are not evaluated the same as a competitive procedure (i.e. with quality, social value and cost % weightings) associated templates, guidance and training for Officers will need to be adapted to suit. CPS will be working on this in the coming weeks.</p>
5.0	Summary
	<p>Members of the SPWG are 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> <p>In addition Members are asked to endorse the proposed approach to include social value in STA contracts going forward.</p>
	Appendices
	<p>Appendix 1</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 (Evaluated submissions)

Annexe 1 – 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
BCC currently include the following requirements as mandatory for all suppliers:	From the 1 September 2021 the following requirements are mandatory;

<p>1. Compliance with the Fair Employment and Treatment (Northern Ireland) Order 1998</p> <p>2. Compliance with the Modern Slavery Act 2015</p> <p>3. Prompt payment of suppliers/ supply chains</p> <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><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>1. compliance with relevant employment, equality and health and safety law and human rights standards;</p> <p>2. adherence to relevant collective agreements; and</p> <p>3. adoption of fair work practices for all workers engaged in the delivery of the contract.</p>
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<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>	
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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
T2370	Off street car parking enforcement	Services	£13,500,000 (Across 8 local councils)	Marston (Holding) Ltd	Y	N/A	N	N/A*
T2451	Provision of Insurance Brokerage Services	Services	£4,400,000	Arthur J Gallagher Insurance Brokers Ltd	Y	N/A	N	10%
T2458	Collection and treatment of mattresses	Services	£450,000	USEL	Y	N/A	N	10%
T2319	Supply and installation of wet pour repairs and the maintenance/installation/repair of playground/outdoor gym apparatus	Services	£400,000	Play and Leisure Services	Y	N/A	N	10%
T2489(a)	Supply and delivery of Large and Medium Panel Vans	Supplies	£383,910	Donnelly Bros Belfast	N	External Framework Used	N	N/A
T2489(C)	Supply and delivery of 5T Compact Sweeper	Supplies	£364,440	Aebi Schmidt	N	External Framework Used	N	N/A
T2444	Provision of an Engagement Partner for the Delivery of Belfast Stories to the end of RIBA Stage 2	Services	£200,000	Stratagem	Y	N/A	N	15%

Appendix 1

Ref	Contract Title	Contract Type	Value	Successful Supplier	SVPP applied (Y/N)	If No - Reason why?	Reserved Contract (Y/N)	Social Value Weighting % applied
T2375	Installation of wireless digital connectivity network infrastructure in three rooms in City Hall	Services	£175,000	BT PLC	N	External Framework Used	N	N/A
T2452	Provision of maintenance and servicing of the weighbridge system at Dargan Road waste transfer station	Services	£100,000	Precia Molen Ireland Ltd	N	STA	N	N/A
T2448	Energy Audit and Survey Work	Services	£85,000	Mott MacDonald	Y	N/A	N	15%
T2487	St Patricks Day Music Programme	Services	£70,000	Belfast Trad Fest	Y	N/A	N	N/A**
T2440	AutoDesk Software licenses & support, to include bi-annual technology updates	Services	£74,275	Pentagon Solutions Ltd	Y	N/A	N	15%
T2477	MasterNaut Fleet Tracking	Services	£120,000	MasterNaut Ltd	N	STA	N	N/A
T2480	Provision of Environmental Health Officer (EHO) in the Port Health service	Services	£45,000	MCS Group Ltd	N	STA	N	N/A
T2215(b)	Audit of Tourism Owned Assets	Services	£80,000	CHL & Associates	Y	N/A	N	15%

* As the contract involved a joint procurement managed by BCC but with 8 contracts created with each local councils it was agreed that the standard SV points approach set out in the SVPP could not be applied. Agreed to include SV clauses and evaluated approach to delivery but not use SV points approach. 5% weighting agreed. SV organisational behaviours included.

** This requirement was procured as a STA/Direct Award contract following no bids being received to the original open tender competition. Social value offer still included as part of the contract but therefore no evaluation of the supplier's social value offer.

Table 1b: Tenders awarded by Property & Projects

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 36752	Belfast Stories – Integrated Design Team (PQQ to ITT)	Services	£3,929,505	Todd Architects	N ¹	Externally Funded – CPD/SIB	N	N/A
ITT 37512	PIV Tender for the supply and installation of furniture at Shankill Shared Women's Centre	Supplies	£74,130.85	McLaughlin & Harvey WorkSpace	N	Externally Funded – CPD/SIB	N	N/A
ITT 37554	Design, supply and installation of phase 3 of covered cycle stands in Belfast	Works	£181,935.00	Externiture	Y	N/A	N	15%

¹ note SIB Buy Social documentation has been used given the Belfast Region City Deal funding component; Social Value Delivery Plans have been submitted and will be monitored via SIB and BRCD PMO mechanisms, including Belfast Stories Inclusive Growth commitment.

Table 2: Summary of key findings/ data

Key area/ criteria	Summary/ Key Findings
Total number of tenders awarded during Reporting Period	18 tenders awarded
Total number of tenders awarded where SVPP was applied	10 out of 18 tenders
Number of tenders awarded where a % weighting and scoring was applied.	8 out of 18 tenders
Summary of reasons why SVPP was not applied	3 out of 8 – STAs/ Direct Awards 3 out of 8 – an external framework was used to award contract therefore restricted to framework evaluation criteria 2 out of 8 – 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	None. Social Value Review Team to consider if any further guidance is required about when/ what tenders should be reserved to social enterprises.
Social value organisational behaviours selected for inclusion in tenders.	Ethical Procurement Policies - included in 3 out of 10 tenders Environmental Managements Systems - included in 3 out of 10 tenders Single Use Plastics Policy - included in 0 out of 10 tenders Donating/recycling equipment to VCSE policy - included in 0 out of 10 tenders Equality and Diversity policy - included in 7 out of 10 tenders Employee development, health, and wellbeing policy - included in 7 out of 10 tenders 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.

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

	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
T2451 Provision of Insurance Brokerage Services - Arthur J Gallagher Insurance Brokers Ltd											✓		✓	✓	✓		
T2458 Collection and treatment of mattresses - USEL				✓			✓								✓		
T2319 Supply and installation of wet pour repairs and the maintenance/installation/repair of playground/outdoor gym apparatus - Play and Leisure Services	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
T2444 Provision of an Engagement Partner for the Delivery of Belfast Stories to the end of RIBA Stage 2 - Stratagem			✓			✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓	
T2448 Energy Audit and Survey Work - Mott MacDonald					✓								✓				

Appendix 1

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
T2487 St Patricks Day Music Programme - Belfast Pad Fest								✓				✓			✓		
T2440 AutoDesk Software licenses & support, to include bi-annual technology updates - Pentagon Solutions Ltd			✓							✓	✓						
T2215(b) Audit of Tourism Owned Assets - CHL & Associates				✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓					
ITT 37554 Design, supply and installation of phase 3 of covered cycle stands in Belfast - Externiture													✓	✓			