

Public Document Pack

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

19th March, 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, 22nd March, 2024.

Yours faithfully,

John Walsh

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

2. **Restricted Items**

(b) Belfast Stories Update (Pages 1 - 12)

4. **Belfast Agenda/Strategic Issues**

(c) Performance Improvement Plan 2023/24 Updated KPIs (Pages 13 - 32)

5. **Physical Programme and Asset Management**

(a) Physical Programme Update (Pages 33 - 42)

(b) Assets Management (Pages 43 - 50)

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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:	Performance Improvement Plan 2023-24 – Updated KPIs
Date:	22 March 2024
Reporting Officer:	John Tully, Director of City & Organisational Strategy
Contact Officer:	Kevin Heaney, Head of Inclusive Growth and Anti-Poverty Karen Anderson-Gillespie, Strategic Performance Manager Ryan Berry, Strategic Planning & Performance Officer

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: 30px; height: 20px;" 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 					
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?					
<p>After Committee Decision</p> <p>After Council Decision</p> <p>Sometime in the future</p> <p>Never</p>	<table border="1" style="border-collapse: collapse; width: 40px;"> <tr><td style="height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="height: 20px;"></td></tr> </table>				

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 provide members with an update on the proposed amendments to the performance indicators to be included in the Council's 2023-24 Performance Improvement Plan following discussions and engagement with the NI Audit Office (NIAO) and Department for Communities (DfC).				
2.0	Recommendation				
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • agree to the recommended changes to the performance indicators to be included in the Performance Improvement Plan 2023-24. • provide approval for officers to update and publish the Performance Improvement Plan 2023-24 following final agreement with DfC and NIAO. 				
3.0	Main Report				
3.1	<p>Background</p> <p>Part 12 of the Local Government (NI) Act requires Councils to agree improvement objectives on an annual basis and publish these in the form of a Performance Improvement Plan. In August 2023, Members agreed the Performance Improvement Plan 2023-24, which contains our commitment to securing continuous improvement as well as delivery of five improvement objectives. The Act also requires us to monitor and report on progress in an annual assessment of performance.</p> <p>Improvement Plan 2023-24</p> <p>3.2 In August 2023, the SP&R Committee approved the Performance Improvement Plan for 2023-24. It was then published on the council website as required by legislation. To date, Council has provided two quarterly delivery updates to the NIAO for 2023-24 and was in the process of compiling a Quarter 3 report. However, following recent feedback, engagement and discussions with senior officials within the NIAO and the DfC, officers have been working to revise and amend a number of our performance indicators to ensure that we can report on our progress and performance more effectively going forward.</p> <p>3.3 The Improvement Plan 2023-24 sets out the following improvement objectives:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="312 1778 1433 2038"> <tr> <td data-bbox="312 1778 1433 1832">Our services and facilities</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="312 1832 1433 1906">Maintain and where appropriate improve resident satisfaction with the council and the services and facilities that we provide.</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="312 1906 1433 1960">Our communities</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="312 1960 1433 2038">Improve our local areas and enhance how we engage and support residents so everyone can enjoy good quality of life.</td> </tr> </table>	Our services and facilities	Maintain and where appropriate improve resident satisfaction with the council and the services and facilities that we provide.	Our communities	Improve our local areas and enhance how we engage and support residents so everyone can enjoy good quality of life.
Our services and facilities					
Maintain and where appropriate improve resident satisfaction with the council and the services and facilities that we provide.					
Our communities					
Improve our local areas and enhance how we engage and support residents so everyone can enjoy good quality of life.					

Our economy
Help small businesses, including social enterprises and co-operatives, to develop and grow, and by doing so, help create opportunities for local jobs and employment.
Our environment
Help tackle climate change, protect our environment, and improve the sustainability of Belfast.
Our city
Revitalise our city and help it to innovate in an inclusive and sustainable way.

3.4 Each improvement objective is supported by a range of actions and milestones that we are required to report on quarterly. Several KPIs and targets are also attributed to help us evidence the extent to which we have achieved our objectives.

Officers have engaged with the CMT and brought a report to Audit and Risk Panel on the 5 March, to outline and agree the approach and next steps to revising the KPIs within the current Performance Improvement Plan 2023-24, subject to S&PR approval of the changes and final agreement with the DfC and NIAO.

3.5 A revised copy of the Improvement Objectives with the proposed new indicators is attached in Appendix 1 and the changes are summarised below:

Please note:

- Current KPIs that have been ~~scored through~~ are recommended to be removed.
- Current KPIs not scored through will remain.
- Proposed new / additional KPIs in **green** have been agreed by departments (data will be available for reporting and aligned to improvement objectives).

Improvement Objective 1: Our services and facilities	
Maintain and where appropriate improve resident satisfaction with the council and the services and facilities that we provide.	
Current KPIs	Proposed new / additional KPIs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resident satisfaction with Belfast City Council • Percentage of residents who agree that council provides good customer service • Percentage of residents who agree that is easy to contact the council or access council services • Percentage of residents who agree Council provides good value for money • Percentage of residents who agree their local area is clean and attractive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Customer contact service level (people answered within 120 secs) • Percentage of corporate complaints resolved within timeframe. • Number of adult and junior leisure centre monthly prepaid memberships (including swim school). • Throughput / footfall – number of people using leisure centres (individual unique customer visits).

- Resident satisfaction with sports and leisure facilities.

Improvement objective 2: Our communities

Improve our local areas and enhance how we engage and support residents so everyone can enjoy good quality of life.

Current KPIs

- Percentage of residents who are satisfied with their local area a place to live.
- Percentage of residents who agree council shows good leadership.
- Percentage of residents who agree council consults and listens to the views of local residents.
- Percentage of residents who agree that their local area has good quality parks and green.
- Percentage of residents using council parks at least monthly (resident survey data).
- Number of parks and green spaces with green flag accreditation.
- Number of responses to consultation surveys per annum (via Your Say Belfast).
- Public participation levels in participatory budgeting (PB) decision making events.
- Number of residents accessing online cost-of-living support and advice or 'warm and welcome spaces'.

Proposed new / additional KPIs

- Investment in new/ upgraded playgrounds.
- Total BCC capital investment in neighbourhoods.

Improvement objective 3: Our economy

Help small businesses, including social enterprises and co-operatives, to develop and grow, and by doing so, help create opportunities for local jobs and employment.

Current KPIs

- Number of jobs promoted through the 'Go For It' programme [Statutory performance indicator]
- Business start-up and growth activity:
 - Number of business plans developed
 - Number of participants or businesses supported

Proposed new / additional KPIs

- No additional indicators required / recommended

Improvement objective 4: Our environment

Help tackle climate change, protect our environment, and improve the sustainability of Belfast.

Current KPIs	Proposed new / additional KPIs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of residents who agree that Belfast is an environmentally friendly city • One Million Trees Programme - number of trees planted per annum. • Carbon disclosure project (CDP) score • Northern Ireland environmental benchmarking survey rating. • Amount of (tonnage) of biodegradable council collected waste that is landfilled [Statutory performance indicator] • % of household waste collected that is sent for recycling (or prepared for re-use) [Statutory performance indicator] • Amount (tonnage) of council collected municipal waste arisings [Statutory performance indicator] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of the council's vehicle fleet switching fuel consumption to HVO

Improvement Objective 5: Our city

Revitalise our city and help it to innovate in an inclusive and sustainable way.

Current KPIs	Proposed new / additional KPIs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resident satisfaction with Belfast as a place to live • Percentage of residents who agree the city centre is vibrant and attractive, with lots going on • Percentage of residents who agree that Belfast: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - is easy to get about - has good infrastructure • Number of small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) and companies directly engaged in the Smart District programme. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The total number of previously vacant city centre properties that have been awarded the Vacant to Vibrant grant and will become occupied as a result of the intervention. • The total amount of funding (£) awarded to city centre traders to address vacancy. • The total number of people engaged (traders, developers, business owners, landlords etc) in assisting with the completion of applications to the Vacant to Vibrant intervention.

Current KPIs

Planning [Statutory performance indicators]

- Average (weeks) processing time for major planning applications
- Average (weeks) processing time for local planning applications
- Percentage of enforcement cases processed within 39 weeks.

3.6	<p>Next steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subject to SP&R approval, officers will present the revised KPIs to DfC and NIAO for final agreement. • Subject to approval by DfC and NIAO, officers will publish the revised Performance Improvement Plan 2023-24 on our website and will submit a combined Q3 and Q4 update to the SP&R Committee in June 2024. This combined Q3 and Q4 and all future reports will be based on the revised KPIs.
3.7	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There are no finance or resource implications contained within this report.</p>
3.8	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>There are no equality implications contained in this report.</p>
4.0	<p>Appendices - Documents Attached</p>
	<p>Appendix 1: Draft Improvement Plan 2023-24 - Updated KPIs.</p>

Improvement objective 1: Our services and facilities

What we want to achieve

Maintain and where appropriate improve resident satisfaction with the council and the services and facilities that we provide.

What we will do

- Improve our customer care practices by continuing to implement our customer focus programme.
- Improve the efficiency and effectiveness of key services, focusing this year on our services that help make the city clean and green.
- Upgrade and improve our Leisure facilities by continuing to implement our Leisure Transformation Programme.

How we will measure our performance (potential new / additional)

Performance Indicators	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24 Target
Customer contact service level (people answered within 120 secs)	-	67%	68%	73%
Percentage of corporate complaints resolved within timeframe	65.5%	71.6	72.3%	75%
Number of adult and junior leisure centre monthly prepaid memberships (including swim school)		23,339	27,582	30,500
Throughput / footfall – number of people using leisure centres (individual unique customer visits)		2,029,310	2,810,202	3,100,000

Activities to support this improvement objective

Improve our customer care				
Milestones	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Create a strategy for expanding the provision and uptake of automated digital channels	✓			
Develop of performance metrics to measure the impact of the customer programme			✓	

Develop service level agreements and transactional customer satisfaction measurement			✓		
Develop and implement an approach for seamless customer transactional relationship across all contact channels (single view of customer)					✓
Responsible Chief Officer	Programme Director Customer Focus				
Reporting Committee	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee				

Improve key services					
Milestones		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Carry out a robust review of city centre governance and management arrangements			✓	✓	
Convene a 'City Centre Delivery Group' to bring together key stakeholders to implement city centre strategies			✓	✓	
Develop an operational improvement plan for delivery of pest control services			✓		
Responsible Chief Officer	Strategic Director of City & Neighbourhood Services				
Reporting Committee	People & Communities Committee				

Improve our facilities					
Milestones		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Complete construction works at Templemore Baths and launch facility		✓			
Continue to develop business case for Girdwood indoor sports facility		✓	✓	✓	✓
Continue to develop options for Leisure Transformation Phase 4 aligned to the Physical Activity and Sports Development Strategy		✓	✓	✓	✓
Responsible Chief Officer	Director of Physical Programmes				
Reporting Committee	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee				

Improvement objective 2: Our communities

What we want to achieve

Improve our local areas and enhance how we engage and support residents so everyone can enjoy good quality of life.

What we will do

- Support our residents, especially those most vulnerable, through the cost-of-living crisis.
- Improve the physical condition of local neighbourhoods.
- Improve our parks and playgrounds and encourage people to be physically active.
- Enhance and improve how we engage and involve our residents.

How we will measure our performance and impact (current)

Performance Indicators	2021-22	2022-2023	Target	Mid-year
Number of parks and green spaces with green flag accreditation	20	20	20	20
Number of responses to consultation surveys per annum (via Your Say Belfast)	6,797	8,846	n/a	3434
Public participation levels in participatory budgeting (PB) decision making events	-	-	150	675*
Number of residents accessing online cost-of-living support and advice or 'warm and welcome spaces'	-	-	n/a	-

How we will measure our performance and impact (potential new / additional)

Performance Indicators	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24 Target
Investment in new/ upgraded playgrounds				£580k
Total BCC capital investment in neighbourhoods				TBC

Activities to support this improvement objective

Support our residents, especially those most vulnerable, through the cost-of-living crisis					
Milestones		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Develop framework for provision of council services to help address cost-of-living crisis		✓	✓	✓	
Develop a cost-of-living support and awareness campaign to signpost residents to support services and advice		✓	✓	✓	
Develop targeted initiatives to address food and fuel poverty and their impact on low-income households		✓	✓	✓	✓
Undertake a review of council and Department for Communities funded advice services		✓	✓	✓	✓
Implement the Belfast warm and well programme to support vulnerable people in cold homes during winter				✓	✓
Responsible Chief Officer	Director of City and Organisational Strategy and Strategic Director of City & Neighbourhood Services				
Reporting Committee	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee and People and Communities Committee				

Improve our neighbourhoods - Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund:					
Milestones		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Stage 2: development (uncommitted projects) - work with groups at Stage 2 to develop their projects		✓	✓	✓	
Stage 3: delivery (committed projects) – work with groups at Stage 3 to implement their projects.					✓
Responsible Chief Officer	Director of Physical Programmes				
Reporting Committee	Strategic Policy & Resources Committee				

Improve our parks and playgrounds and encourage people to be physically active					
Milestones		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Initiate major capital project to improve Marrowbone Millennium Park.		✓	✓	✓	
Initiate major capital project to improve Pitt Park			✓	✓	✓
Complete major capital project to improve Paisley Park Sportsplex		✓	✓	✓	
Initiate major improvement works to Ballysillan Playing Fields in collaboration with partners		✓	✓	✓	✓

Deliver the Playground Improvement Programme for 2023 – 2024 including Loughside Park playground, Northlink playground and New Lodge playground		✓	✓	✓	✓
Maintain our green flag and green flag heritage award status across our parks and open spaces (20)			✓		
Develop and implement a Physical Activity and Sports Strategy					✓
Responsible Chief Officer	Director of Physical Programmes and Strategic Director of City & Neighbourhood Services				
Reporting Committee	People & Communities Committee, Strategic Policy & Resources Committee				

Enhance and improve how we engage and involve					
Milestones		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Support the Active Belfast participatory budgeting (PB) pilot		✓	✓	✓	
Improve how we engage with newer communities and other seldom heard groups within Belfast		✓	✓	✓	✓
Explore options for enhancing engagement with the Youth Council		✓	✓	✓	✓
Provide training and develop guidance notes for staff to ensure widest participation and good practice.		✓	✓	✓	✓
Support the Belfast Youth Council to identify key priorities and actions for taking forward in 2023-24		✓	✓	✓	✓
Responsible Chief Officer	Director of City and Organisational Strategy and Strategic Director of City & Neighbourhood Services				
Reporting Committee	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee and People and Communities Committee				



Improvement objective 3: Our economy

What we want to achieve

Help small businesses, including social enterprises and co-operatives, to develop and grow, and by doing so, help create opportunities for local jobs and employment.

What we will do

- Deliver support through our local business start-up programmes.
- Deliver the 'Go for it' programme for start-up support for 2023-2024.
- Help mobilise and deliver the new enterprise support service.

How we will measure our performance and impact (current)

Performance Indicators	2021-22	2022-23	Target	Mid-year
Number of jobs promoted through the 'Go For It' programme [statutory performance indicator]	311	299	163	-
Business start-up and growth activity:				
- Number of business plans developed	518	476	260	263
- Number of participants or businesses supported	731	503	658	-

How we will measure our performance and impact (new / additional)

Performance Indicators	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24 Target
Nothing additional recommended				

Activities to support this improvement objective

Support local businesses, social enterprises and co-operatives					
Milestones		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Continue to deliver the 'Go for it' programme for start-up support for 2023-2024		✓	✓		
Work with councils across the region to mobilise the new enterprise support service (launch in September 2023)		✓	✓		
Deliver the new enterprise support service				✓	✓
Responsible Chief Officer	Director of Economic Development				
Reporting Committee	City Growth & Regeneration Committee				

Improvement objective 4: Our environment

What we want to achieve

Help tackle climate change, protect our environment and improve the sustainability of Belfast.

What we will do

- Help tackle climate change by developing and implementing a BCC Climate Plan.
- Continue to protect our environment by developing a BCC tree strategy, a local biodiversity action plan and by continuing to roll out the One Million Trees programme.
- Increase the level of recycling across the city and reduce our reliance on landfill.

How we will measure our performance and impact (current)

Performance indicators	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	Target
One Million Trees Programme - number of trees planted per annum	39,000	24,000	63,500	45,000
Carbon disclosure project (CDP) score	-	B	A	A
Northern Ireland environmental benchmarking survey rating	-	-	-	Silver

Statutory performance indicators	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	Target	Mid-year
Amount of (tonnage) of biodegradable council collected waste that is landfilled	30,071	35,783	28,444	28,000	6,955
% of household waste collected that is sent for recycling (or prepared for re-use)	43%	41%	41%	42%	42%
Amount (tonnage) of council collected municipal waste arisings	171,795	168,037	157,892	158,000	82,514

Note: The waste figures for mid-year have been verified.

How we will measure our performance and impact (new / additional)

Performance Indicators	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24 Target
% of the council's vehicle fleet switching fuel consumption to HVO				90%

Activities to support this improvement objective

Climate change				
Milestones	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Agree a strategic approach to climate mitigation and action within council:				
- Publish a council climate risk plan	✓	✓		
- Publish a council climate plan	✓	✓		
- Publish a council climate investment plan			✓	
Roll out the council climate fund	✓	✓	✓	✓
Undertake energy audits across four council buildings	✓	✓	✓	✓
Maintain our carbon disclosure score and apply to the Northern Ireland environmental benchmarking survey	✓	✓		
Responsible Chief Officer	Belfast Climate Commissioner			
Reporting Committee	Climate & City Resilience Committee			

Protecting our environment				
Milestones	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Develop a 5-year action plan for the delivery of the Belfast Open Spaces Strategy			✓	✓
Review capacity to ensure compliance with statutory biodiversity duty, including control of invasive species, and resource any changes identified		✓	✓	

Take steps to transition council fleet (vehicles) to alternative or greener fuels		✓	✓	✓	✓
Complete development of a tree strategy for Belfast				✓	
Commence year 1 of associated action plan					✓
Belfast One Million Trees					
Carry out site identification and assessment		✓	✓	✓	
Carry out tree planting				✓	✓
Responsible Chief Officer	Strategic Director of City & Neighbourhood Services and Belfast Climate Commissioner				
Reporting Committee	People & Communities Committee and Climate & City Resilience Committee				

Increasing recycling and managing our waste					
Milestones		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Agree the way forward for the expansion of the kerbside sortation model for recycling		✓	✓		
Utilize treatment technologies to increase recycling and reduce reliance of landfill		✓	✓		
Work with partners to explore options that promote a circular economy		✓	✓	✓	✓
Develop a proposal for single-use plastics policy for the council		✓	✓	✓	✓
Responsible Chief Officer	Strategic Director of City & Neighbourhood Services				
Reporting Committee	People and Communities Committee				

Improvement objective 5: Our city

What we want to achieve

Revitalise our city and help it to innovate in an inclusive and sustainable way.

What we will do

- Encourage digital innovation across the city by continuing to deliver the Smart District programme.
- Revitalise and support our city centre by continuing to implement the Vacant to Vibrant City Centre Scheme.
- Improve public spaces and greenways across the city.

How we will measure our performance and impact (current)

Performance indicators	2019	2021	2023	Target
Number of small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) and companies directly engaged in the Smart District programme	New	New	145	30

How we will measure our performance and impact (new / additional)

Performance Indicators	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24 Target
The total number of previously vacant city centre properties that have been awarded the Vacant to Vibrant grant and will become occupied as a result of the intervention	-	-	5	16
The total amount of funding (£) awarded to city centre traders to address vacancy.	-	-	£92,432.70	£290,000*
The total number of people engaged (traders, developers, business owners, landlords etc) in assisting with the completion of applications to the Vacant to Vibrant intervention.	-	-	219	360

*Rationale for funding target = 10 awards@25k + 2 awards @ 15k + 4 awards @ 2.5k = 16 awards @ 290k

Activities to support this improvement objective

Encourage digital innovation				
Milestones	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
City SME challenge programme				
Complete and gain approval for the £1m City Deal business case	✓			
Public launch of the competition		✓		
Phase 1 Accelerator for SME applicants			✓	
Phase 2 Proof of Concept development				✓
Building citizen digital innovation capacity (CODI):				
Complete feasibility and stakeholder engagement	✓			
Business case developed for funding with city partners		✓	✓	
Establish core functions for phase 1 CODI delivery				✓
Establish first Smart District innovation hub				
Agree optimal location for first testbed programme with partners	✓			
Complete testbed programme design	✓			
Submit business case for funding – infrastructure and SME competition			✓	
First SME challenge call competition				✓
Responsible Chief	Strategic Director of Corporate Services			
Reporting Committee	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee			
Revitalise and support our city centre				
Milestones	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Vacant to Vibrant scheme: process applications and manage the scheme	✓	✓	✓	✓
Vacant to Vibrant scheme: prepare an interim (year 1) review report for committee.	✓	✓		

Responsible Chief	Director of City Regeneration and Development
Reporting Committee	City Growth and Regeneration Committee

Improve public spaces and greenways				
Milestones	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Initiate major capital project to improve Cathedral Gardens	✓	✓	✓	✓
Complete construction of Forth Meadow Community Greenway	✓	✓	✓	✓
Complete construction of phase 2 at the Lagan Gateway	✓	✓	✓	✓
Install new statues and stained-glass windows in Belfast City Hall	✓	✓	✓	✓
Responsible Chief	Director of Physical Programmes			
Reporting Committee	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee			

Planning [Statutory performance indicators]

Planning	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-2024 Target
Average (weeks) processing time for major planning applications	37	31	57.6(p)	30
Average (weeks) processing time for local planning applications	14	17	20.2(p)	15
Percentage of enforcement cases processed within 39 weeks	93.2	83%	86.5%(p)	70%

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Subject:	Physical Programme Update including Capital Programme 2024/25
Date:	22 March 2024
Reporting Officer:	Sinead Grimes, Director of Property & Projects Trevor Wallace, Director of Finance
Contact Officer:	Shauna Murtagh, Portfolio Manager

Restricted Reports									
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>								
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Sometime in the future									
Never									

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 Council's Physical Programme currently includes over 200 capital projects with investment of £150m+ via a range of internal and external funding streams, together with projects which the Council delivers on behalf of external agencies. The Council's Capital Programme forms part of the Physical Programme and is a rolling programme of investment which either improves existing Council facilities or provides new facilities. This report presents an update on the 2024/25 Capital Programme and associated capital financing, as well as requests for stage movement approvals under the Capital Programme.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is requested to –</p> <p>Capital Programme and Capital Financing 2024/25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • note the update on Capital Financing as outlined in 3.3 below and the update on the Capital Programme for 2024/25 at 3.5 below and in Appendix 1 • agree to hold Party Group Briefings to update Members on the status of projects along with the emerging implications for future capital investment decisions and in particular the potential impact on the future district rate in line with the development of the Medium Term Financial Plan to inform the future proposed workshop on capital priorities. • Capital Programme Movements - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Dual Language Street Signs - Gaeltacht Quarter project – agree to move the project to <i>Stage 2 – Uncommitted</i> to allow the options to be fully worked up, with further detail to be brought back to Committee in due course. ○ St George's Market – New Stalls project – agree to move the project to <i>Stage 2 – Uncommitted</i> to allow the options to be fully worked up, with further detail to be brought back to Committee in due course. ○ Waste Plan – Expansion of Glass Collection Scheme project – agree to move the project to <i>Stage 2 – Uncommitted</i> under the Waste Plan to allow the options to be fully worked up, with further detail to be brought back to Committee in due course. ○ Belfast Blitz Fire Service Permanent Acknowledgement project – note that this project has been moved to <i>Stage 2 – Uncommitted</i> to allow the options to be fully worked up, with further detail to be brought back to Committee in due course.
3.0	<p>Main report</p> <p><u>Key Issues</u></p>

Capital Programme

3.1 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 the city which improves existing Council assets or provides new council facilities. Members will recall that the detailed Physical Programme Half Year Update was presented last month 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 and Capital Financing 2024/25

3.2 The Council incurs both capital expenditure and capital financing costs in the delivery of its Capital Programme:

- **Capital Expenditure** is the expenditure incurred in the actual delivery of contracts e.g. the actual payments to the contractor for a construction contract (see Appendix 1)
- **Capital Financing** is the method the council uses to fund the capital expenditure. The capital financing costs include loan repayments (principal and interest); revenue contributions (cash payments to repay or avoid taking out loans); capital receipts and external funding.

Members need to be aware that each decision they take in relation to progressing a capital project or agreeing additional money towards any one project has a consequential impact on the level of financing that is available for other capital projects and each individual decision therefore subsequently limits the capacity of the Council to progress other capital projects thereby potentially necessitating some difficult decisions for Members in terms of prioritisation.

3.3 The **SP&R Committee has approved a capital financing budget of £22,274,022 for 2024/25**. Members will be aware however that the Council has already committed financing to a range of physical projects under the Capital Programme as outlined in Appendix 1 and a number of non-recurrent projects.

Table 1- Existing Capital Financing Budget 2024/25

Existing Capital Financing Budget		£22,274,022
Less: Physical Programme Commitments (capital programme and non-recurrent projects)	£17,998,911	
Existing BCC Loans	£1,484,802	
Lisburn/ Castlereagh Transferred Loans	£598,675	
Balance Remaining		£2,191,634

3.4	<p>Members are asked to note that although the above shows that there is a financing budget balance remaining of approx. £2m it is recommended that no significant decisions are taken pending work on the new Capital Programme.</p>
3.5	<p>The current Capital Programme</p> <p><i>Capital three-stage approval process</i></p> <p>The Council has agreed a three-stage approval process which all Council Capital Programme and larger projects funded externally must go through. Each stage movement is subject to Council ratification before the project formally progresses to the next stage. Projects move through <i>Stage 1 – Emerging</i> where they are required to complete a Strategic Outline Case and then progress to <i>Stage 2 – Uncommitted</i>. Following production of an Outline Business Case, a project can move to <i>Stage 3 – Committed</i>. Following a procurement exercise, projects must then demonstrate that the project is within the affordability limits of the Council before proceeding. At each of these stages, the project is reviewed internally before coming to SP&R Committee for a decision and a committed budget. Associated revenue costs are considered at each stage. A number of years ago it was further agreed that a final investment decision and final budget would only be allocated to a project once the tender process is concluded and it was confirmed to be within the affordability limits of the Council. This process has proved to be extremely robust and central to ensuring that projects are delivered within the agreed budget envelope. A small number of schemes have historical budgets where a budget had been previously agreed/ring-fenced by Committee early in the development cycle. This is not the agreed process now under the three-stage approach where Committee is only asked to agree a budget following return of tender. This means that those pre-emptive budgets are not reflective of the current market or requirements. This does not affect many schemes and Members will be updated on a case-by-case basis as tenders are returned so these schemes are gradually being brought into line with the process.</p> <p><i>Schemes at Stage 3 – Committed</i></p> <p>The Capital Programme already comprises 30+ projects at Stage 3 – Committed, where procurement is underway or projects are already in contract, see Appendix 1. Stage 3 projects also include capital projects on Council assets which are fully funded by external bodies or developer contributions. Members are updated on these schemes via regular reports to Area Working Groups and SP&R Committee. Most of these schemes have confirmed budgets and associated financing, and a number are coming to a close over the next financial year.</p>
	<p><i>Schemes at Stage 2 – Uncommitted or Stage 1 – Emerging</i></p>

	<p>Members are asked to note that there are a range of physical projects which the Council must undertake from a health and safety, legislative and/or operational perspective in order to ensure that the Council fulfils its statutory duties and continues to run 'fit for purpose' services. These will all require capital financing. A number of these are already on the Capital Programme and include: Waste Plan – New citywide kerbside collection system and Waste Transfer Station projects, Relocation of Dunbar Link Cleansing Depot, New Cemetery and Roselawn Extensions, Cremated Remains Burial Plots, Playground Improvement Programme, Waterfront Hall Chiller Units and Smoke Curtains, HWRCs and Civic Amenity Sites Containers (Skips and Compactors), Fleet Programme and IT programme. Projects at these early stages do not have final budgets agreed however estimates have been used in order to calculate the impact of these on the capital financing budget and the availability of capital financing in the future.</p> <p>In addition, there are several other major enhancement projects on the Capital Programme (Stage 1 or Stage 2) with developmental work underway including: LTP – Girdwood Indoor Sports Facility, Belfast Stories via Belfast Region City Deal, five greenway schemes and others, see Appendix 1. Many of these schemes will be attractive to external funders and schemes are developed with this in mind.</p>
<p>3.6</p>	<p>Next steps</p> <p>Members will appreciate that the Council's capital and wider physical programme is one of the most important programmes delivered by the Council and due to the nature of capital projects it is also one of the most visible and easily recognisable signs of the Council's civic leadership role in the city. Moving forward the Council will face a number of key challenges in respect of the capital programme. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The available capital financing budget will come under significant pressure if all current and emerging proposed projects are to be delivered. • The need to ensure that Investment decisions are taken within the context of strategic alignment with the Belfast Agenda, Corporate Plan, Medium Term Financial Plan and in full consideration of what assets already exist in an area and how these are being used
<p>3.7</p>	<p>Typically the Capital Programme has an expenditure horizon of around three years. CIPFA capital planning guidance recommends that local authorities take a longer-term view (8-10 years). This is intrinsically linked to the development of the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan. To facilitate this it has been agreed to hold a series of workshops for Members regarding future capital priorities linked to the medium-term financial planning process. To prepare for this it is recommended that a series of Party Group Briefings are held in the first instance to update</p>

Members on the existing Capital Programme, ascertain future priorities to determine the level of financing required, as well as exploring the implications of any future investment decisions and the potential impact on the district rate.

The outcome of this work will likely mean a wave of new proposals being added simultaneously to the Capital Programme at *Stage 1 – Emerging* so that a suite of schemes can be brought forward for consideration, ensuring a flow that is manageable from a financing perspective. All projects will continue to follow the three-stage capital approvals process outlined above. This will require additional investment in early stage project development in 2024/25 onwards.

3.8 **Capital Programme - Proposed Movements**

As outlined above Members have 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:

Project	Overview	Stage movement
Dual Language Street Signs - Gaeltacht Quarter	The erection of dual language street signs en bloc within the Gaeltacht Quarter.	Move to Stage 2 – Uncommitted
St George’s Market – New Stalls	Replacement of market stalls in St George’s Market.	Move to Stage 2 – Uncommitted
Waste Plan – Expansion of Glass Collection Scheme	Part of the Waste Plan. The project involves the phased expansion of the kerbside glass collection scheme to households in the outer city/ blue bin area.	Move to Stage 2 – Uncommitted
Belfast Blitz Fire Service Permanent Acknowledgement	A permanent memorial to all of the Fire Services efforts during the Belfast Blitz	Moved to Stage 2 – Uncommitted

3.9 **Dual Language Street Signs - Gaeltacht Quarter**

In October 2023, SP&R Committee 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. 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.

Members are asked to agree that ‘Dual Language Street Signs – Gaeltacht Quarter’ be moved to *Stage 2 – Uncommitted* on the Capital Programme to allow the options to be fully worked up, with further detail to be brought back to Committee in due course.

3.10 **St George’s Market – New Stalls**

In November 2023, SP&R Committee agreed that St George’s Market – New Stalls project would be taken forward. The project is for the replacement of the 180 market stalls in St Georges Market. The current stalls are more than 18 years old and many are in a poor state of repair,

	<p>presenting a health and safety risk both for staff and for traders. 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 ‘St George’s Market – New Stalls’ be moved to Stage 2 – <i>Uncommitted</i> on the Capital Programme to allow the options to be fully worked up, with further detail to be brought back to Committee in due course.</p>
3.11	<p><u>Waste Plan – Expansion of Glass Collection Scheme</u></p> <p>The Expansion of Glass Collection is brought forward under the existing Waste Plan Programme at <i>Stage 1 – Emerging</i> on the Capital Programme. The project involves the phased expansion of the kerbside glass collection scheme to households in the outer city/ blue bin area. An application has been lodged with DAERA for 50% match funding and a decision is awaited. 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 ‘Waste Plan – Expansion of Glass Recycling Scheme’ be moved to Stage 2 – <i>Uncommitted</i> on the Capital Programme as part of the Waste Plan to allow the options to be fully worked up, with further detail to be brought back to Committee in due course.</p>
3.12	<p><u>Fire Service Belfast Blitz</u></p> <p>In March 2023, SP&R Committee agreed that the ‘Fire Service Belfast Blitz’ project be added to the Capital Programme as a <i>Stage 1 – Emerging</i> project. The project involves the installation of a permanent memorial to all of the Fire Services efforts during the Belfast Blitz. It was agreed by SP&R via the City Hall Working Group in October 2023 to move it to <i>Stage 2 - Uncommitted</i> on the Capital Programme. This will allow a more detailed brief to be worked up and to determine financial requirements for the scheme.</p> <p>Discussions have previously taken place with representatives from Fire Brigade Unions, both Belfast and Dublin, and it has been suggested that a permanent piece in the form of a resin cast of a fire brigade helmet be procured and installed. It has been agreed that such acknowledgement include the Auxiliary Fire Services for their efforts during the Belfast Blitz. It has been agreed that the piece be located initially in the Rotunda of City Hall for a defined period of time and subsequently relocated to the City Hall exhibition. Officers will identify a suitable location on the Rotunda and suggest a number of options for relocation within the City Hall exhibition. There have been early conversations with NIWM (Northern Ireland War Memorials) in relation to advice and guidance. The City Hall Working Group will continue to receive updates on this project.</p>

	Members are asked to note that ‘Fire Service Belfast Blitz’ project has been moved to the Capital Programme <i>Stage 2 – Uncommitted</i> project to allow the options to be fully worked up, with further detail to be brought back to Committee in due course.
3.13	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p><i>Financial</i> – None</p> <p><i>Resources</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	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 – Capital Programme 2024/25

Project	Gross Budget	External Funding	Capital Programme Net Budget	Other Council Funding	Forecast 2024/25	Forecast 2025/26	Forecast 2026/27	Forecast 2027/28
Schemes at Stage 3 - Committed Projects								
Tier 2 - Schemes currently underway								
North Foreshore - Development Sites Infrastructure works	6,900,656	-	6,900,656	-	2,050,000	1,925,838		
Finance Replacement System	650,000	-	650,000	-	100,000	70,000		
Playground Refurbishment Programme 2022/23	580,000	-	580,000	-				
Playground Refurbishment Programme 2023/24	580,000	-	580,000	-	218,436			
Fleet Replacement Programme 2022/23	2,200,000	-	2,200,000	-				
Fleet Replacement Programme 2023/24	2,250,000	50,000	2,200,000	-				
Forth Meadow & Springfield Shared Spaces -Peace IV, DFC, DFI	5,334,591	5,334,591	-	-				
Peace IV Contingency	300,000	-	300,000	-	147,448			
City Cemetery - HLF - Including Relocation of Service Yard at Falls Park (Foxes Yard)	2,446,743	1,482,023	964,720	-				
Belfast Zoo - Programme of Works, including Works at Large Cat enclosure & Aviary	1,710,000	-	1,710,000	-				
LTP - Avoniel	8,450,000	450,000	8,000,000	-				
LTP - Templemore	16,839,567	4,839,567	12,000,000	-				
IT Programme - Corporate HR/Payroll System	457,910	-	457,910	-	8,711			
IT Programme - Customer Focus Programme - New Telephony System	150,000	-	150,000	-	8,000			
IT Programme - Customer Focus Programme - Web CMS Project	135,000	-	135,000	-				
IT Programme - Additional Telephone Licences	80,000	-	80,000	-	1,095			
IT Programme - Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS)	150,000	-	150,000	-				
IT Programme - Replacement Hardware for NIHE System	360,000	-	360,000	-				
IT Programme - Building Control System Replacement	250,000	-	250,000	-	163,769	73,454		
IT Programme - Server and storage technology refresh	513,000	-	513,000	-				
IT Programme - SIEM QRadar Log Manager Replacement	45,000	-	45,000	-				
IT Programme - Replacement of Planning Portal	955,000	-	955,000	-				
Belfast Bikes Asset Upgrade (Revitalisation Scheme)	300,000	300,000	-	-				
Belfast Bikes 4 Docking Stations (Revitalisation Scheme)	120,000	120,000	-	-				
Covered Cycle Stands (Revitalisation Scheme)	100,000	100,000	-	-				
Blue and Green Infrastructure Active Travel	167,000	167,000	-	-				
Active Travel Hub Containers	-	-	-	66,581				
Adelaide Street Works	271,250	271,250	-	-				
Alleygating - Holylands	106,000	106,000	-	-				
Upsurge - Botanic Gardens	409,367	409,367	-	-				
Animal Welfare Van	24,545	24,545	-	-				
City Hall Statues - Winifred Carney and Mary Ann McCracken	300,000	-	300,000	-	23,323			
2 Royal Avenue - Bank Square Enhancement	335,300	335,300	-	-				
DC - Botanic Studios	104,165	104,165	-	-				
DC - Knocknagoney Park	90,000	90,000	-	-				
DC - Tullycarnett Park (Rosepark House)	53,000	53,000	-	-				
DC - Belmont Park (Lands at Castlehill Manor)	39,550	39,550	-	-				
HWRCs and Civic Amenity Sites - Containers	-	-	-	-				
Paisley Park Refurbishment	1,358,600	1,358,600	-	-				
Tier 2 Total	55,116,244	15,634,958	39,481,286	66,581	2,720,782	2,069,292	-	-
Tier 1 - Schemes at tender preparation stage								
Fleet Replacement Programme 2024/25	2,200,000	-	2,200,000	-	2,200,000			
New Crematorium at Roselawn	18,000,000	-	18,000,000	-	15,059,901	3,150,852	1,116,839	
Tier 1 Total	20,200,000	-	20,200,000	-	17,259,901	3,150,852	1,116,839	-
Tier 0 - Schemes at risk								
Alleygating Phase 5	85,400	85,400	-	500,000	416,178			
Reservoir Safety	1,600,000	-	1,600,000	-	1,448,741			
Cathedral Gardens (Buoy's Park)	5,000,000	-	5,000,000	-	2,000,000	2,840,000		
IT Programme - F5 Access Policy Manager Project / Web Application Firewall	-	-	-	-				
IT Programme - Grants Management System	-	-	-	-				
In Cab Technology & Routing System	-	-	-	-				
Tier 0 Total	6,685,400	85,400	6,600,000	500,000	3,864,919	2,840,000	-	-
Stage 3 Total	167,680,014	19,144,728	148,535,286	566,581	23,845,602	8,060,144	1,116,839	-
Schemes at Stage 2 - Approved by Committee								
LTP - Girdwood	6,410,274	410,274	6,000,000	-		2,800,000	2,971,522	
Roselawn Extensions	-	-	-	-				
Belfast Stories	525,000	25,000	500,000	1,800,000	559,312	200,000		
Waste Plan - New citywide kerbside collection system	-	-	-	-				
Waste Transfer Station Upgrade	-	-	-	-				
Relocation Dunbar Link	60,000	-	60,000	-	1,641			
2 Royal Avenue - Phase 2 Refurb	177,574	-	177,574	-				
Fleet Replacement Programme 2025/26	2,200,000	-	2,200,000	-		2,200,000		
Fleet Replacement Programme 2026/27	2,200,000	-	2,200,000	-			2,200,000	
Access to the Hills (Connections from Cavehill to Divis Mountain and Black Mountain)	-	-	-	-				
Black Mountain/Upper Whiterock Greenway	-	-	-	-				
Glencairn Park/Ligoniel Park Greenway	-	-	-	-				
Sydenham Greenway	-	-	-	-				
Colin Greenway	-	-	-	-				
Stained Glass Windows City Hall - Health Service & LGBT Community	-	-	-	-				
Cremated Remains Burial Plots project	-	-	-	-				
New Cemetery	-	-	-	-				
Stage 2 Total	11,572,848	435,274	11,137,574	1,800,000	560,953	5,200,000	5,171,522	-
Schemes at Stage 1 - Emerging Proposals								
Ballymacarrett area masterplan	825,978	606,732	219,246	-			219,246	
Waste Plan Programme	-	-	-	-				
Parks Improvement Programme	-	-	-	-				
Gasworks Northern Fringe Infrastructure	-	-	-	-				
Falls Park Masterplan	-	-	-	-				
Waterfront Hall - Chiller Units	-	-	-	-				
Waterfront Hall - Smoke Curtains	-	-	-	-				
Loughside Playing Fields	-	-	-	-				
Pitches Programme - Phase 2	-	-	-	-				
Connectivity - Access to Hills	-	-	-	-				
Palm House, Botanic Gardens	-	-	-	-				
City Hall External Christmas Tree	-	-	-	-				
St George's Market - New Stalls	-	-	-	-				
Fire Service Belfast Blitz project	-	-	-	-				
Stage 1 Total	825,978	606,732	219,246	-	-	-	219,246	-
Capital Programme Total	180,078,840	20,186,734	159,892,106	2,366,581	24,406,555	13,260,144	6,507,607	-

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Subject:	i) Blythefield Park - Licence Variation to NITHCo ii) Botanic Gardens (Lower Section) – Licence to Friends of the Field iii) St George’s Market Unit 2 – Lease Renewal
Date:	22 nd March 2024
Reporting Officer:	Sinead Grimes, Director of Property and Projects
Contact Officer:	Pamela Davison, Estates Manager

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted? Yes No

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

Insert number

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

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

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

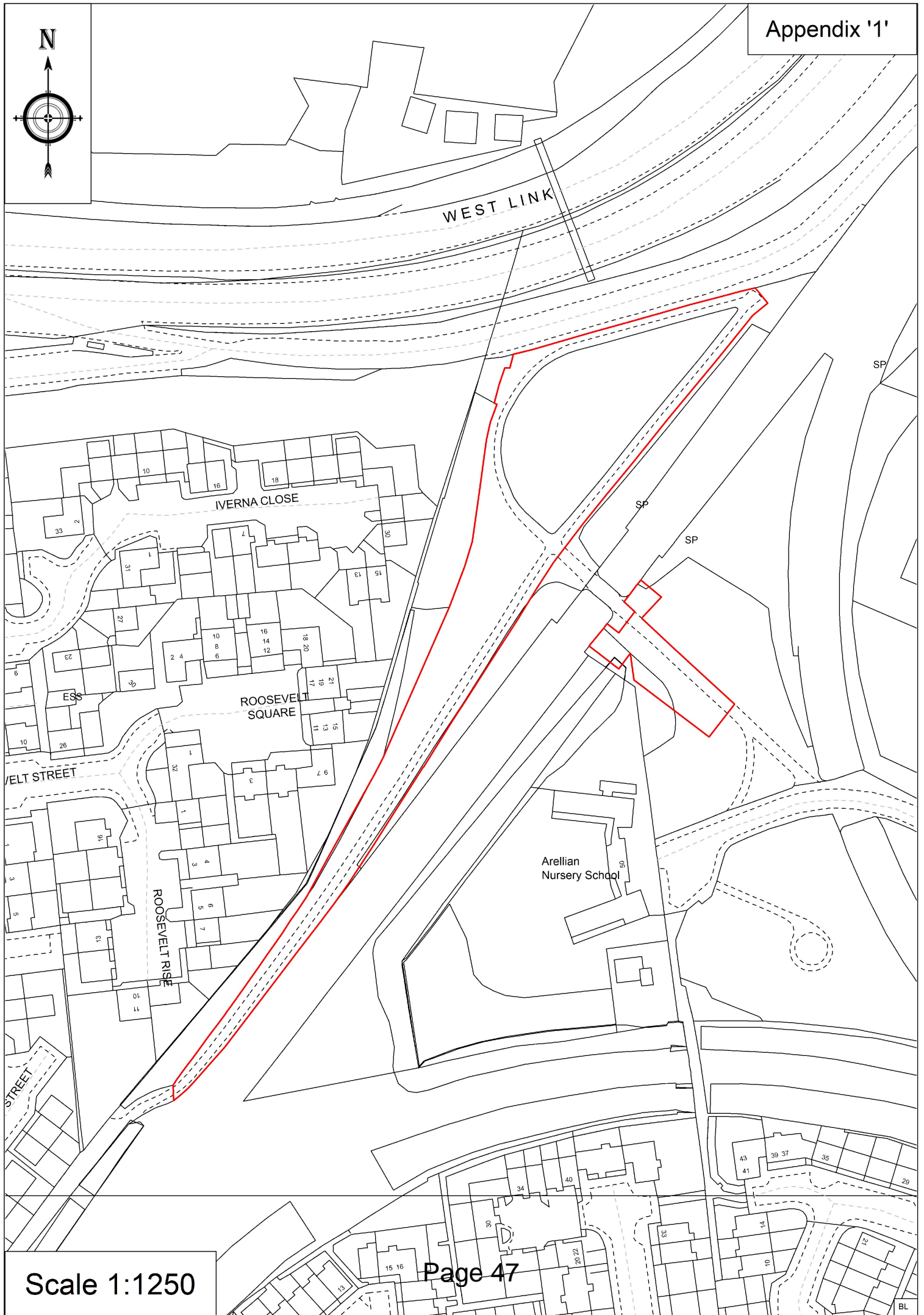
Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in? Yes No

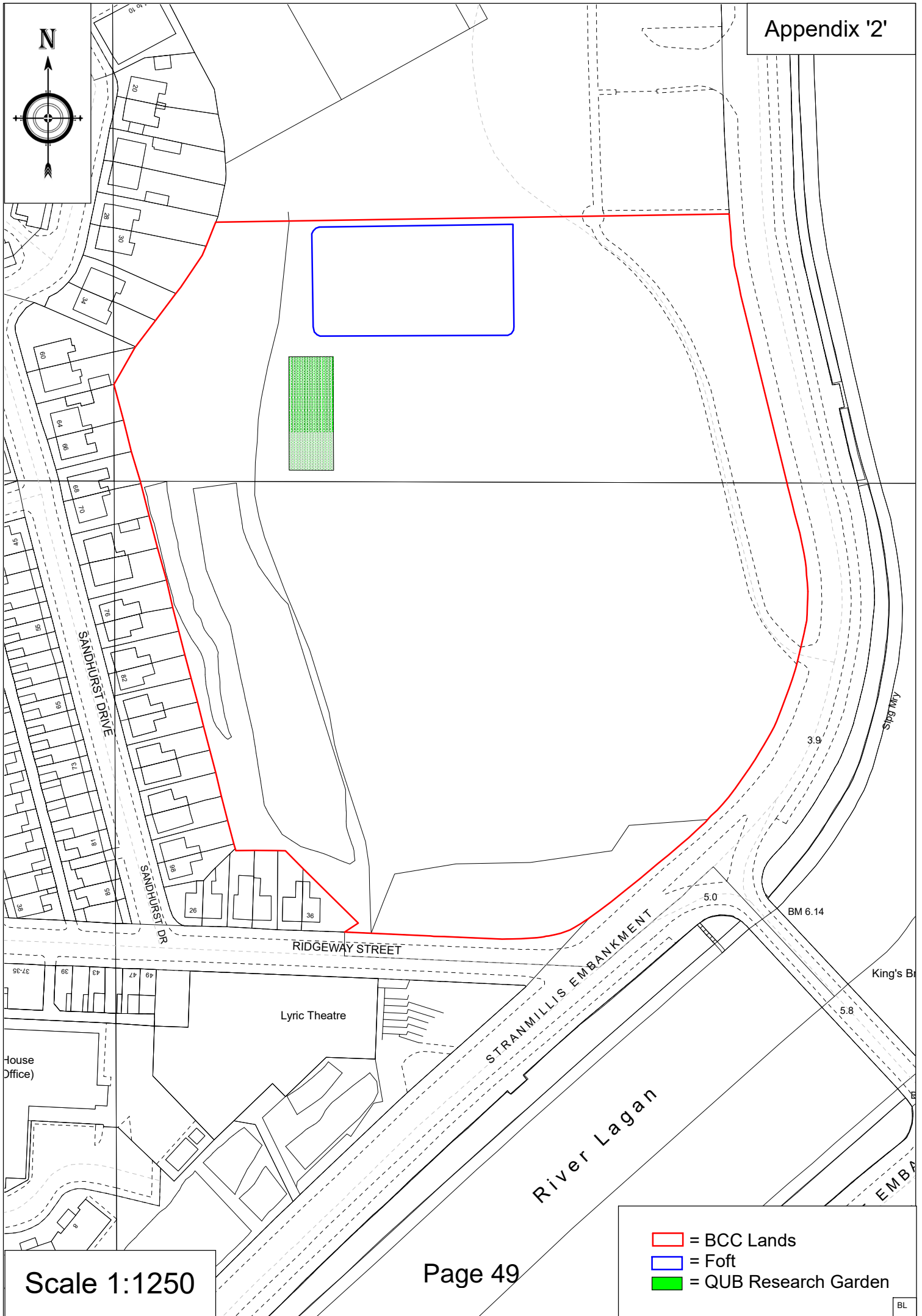
1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to seek approval from the Committee on asset related disposal, acquisition, and estates matters.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <p>i) Blythefield Park - Licence Variation to NITHCo</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - approve an extension to the Permitted Hours on lands at Blythefield Park held under licence by NITHCo. <p>ii) Botanic Gardens (Lower Section) – Licence to Friends of the Field</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - approve the grant of a Licence between the Council & Friends of the Field for use of portion of land at Botanic Gardens. <p>iii) St George’s Market Unit 2 – Lease Renewal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - approve the renewal of a Lease at Unit 2 St George’s Market.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>i) Blythefield Park - Licence Variation to NITHCo</p> <p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>Blythefield Park has been closed to the public since late 2020 to allow for the construction of a secure builder’s yard to store materials and machinery in connection with the Belfast Transport Hub project. The land is currently held by NITHCo on two licences from Belfast City Council for a period of 5-years from November 2020 (see Appendix 1). These contain a Permitted Hours clause restricting the days and hours during which works can be carried out on site. In December 2023 two periods of 24/7 working at weekends were undertaken by NITHC’s contractors to test the mitigation measures and noise levels. NITHCo subsequently undertook a public consultation exercise which concluded that the public had no issues with 24-hour working. NITHCo have requested 24-hour working over the Easter period to facilitate extensive engineering works including track laying between Lanyon Place and the new Grand Central Station. The period requested is from 00:01 on Saturday 30th March to 06:30 on Monday 8th April 2024. It is recognised that full Council approval will not be available prior to the 24-hour commencement date but Members should note that consent can be granted under delegated authority and authorised by means of a side letter drafted by Legal Services. During the extended working period, NITHCo has committed to continuing its public awareness programme by means of letter drops and regular progress meetings in the local community centre. To meet the construction programme for the new station the summer months will see further large-scale track laying works between Lanyon Place, Grand Central Station and Portadown. To minimise rail network closures and the need for bus substitutions, NITHCo has requested consent for 24-hour working from 00.01 on Saturday 11th May to 23.59 on Sunday</p>




	<p>25th August 2024. It is not anticipated that works will be continual throughout this time. During this period NITHCo will continue to liaise with local residents and local Elected representatives. Regular surveys will provide data for analysis and inclusion in a Residents Engagement Evidence Summary Report.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>The side letter will be drafted by Legal Services on the instructions of Estates Management Unit.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
3.3	<p>ii) Botanic Gardens (Lower Section) – Licence to Friends of the Field</p> <p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The People & Communities Committee on 9th January 2024 approved, in principle, the use of a part of Botanic Gardens (Lower Section) as an agroecology community garden by Friends of the Field (FotF), in conjunction with the Horizon 2020 UPSURGE project. Subject to Members approval, the Council will enter into an initial 12-month licence agreement with FotF which will be extendable on a month-to-month basis in order for FotF to fulfil objectives of the Upsurge Project through their use of a portion of the Botanic Gardens (Lower Section) as an agroecology community garden. FotF are partnering with the Council in the delivery of the Upsurge Project. See map attached at Appendix 3 showing the location of the proposed licence area delineated blue to FotF and existing research garden area shaded green which Queen’s University Belfast presently occupy in delivering the Horizon 2020 UPSURGE project in partnership with the Council.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resources Implications</u></p> <p>Legal Services shall act on the instructions of the Estates Management Unit.</p> <p><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
3.3	<p>iii) St George’s Market Unit 2 – Lease Renewal</p> <p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>Unit 2 St George’s Market is held under a 20-year Lease dated 14 December 1999 by the current tenant. The Tenant wishes to renew the Lease and terms have been agreed for a new 10-year lease from 1 March 2020, subject to Members approval. A revised rent of £20,990 per annum has been agreed which is an uplift from the passing rent of £17,380, this uplift will also result in an increase in the service charge payable which is fixed at 10% of the passing rent. The rent shall be reviewable at the end of year 5 to an open market rent. A tenant only break option has also been agreed at the end of year 5. The Unit will continue to be used as a convenience shop.</p>

	<p><u>Financial and Resources Implications</u></p> <p>Legal Services shall act on the instructions of the Estates Management Unit. The Council shall receive a rent of £20,990 per annum.</p> <p><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
4.0	<p>Appendices - Documents Attached</p>
	<p>Appendix 1 – Blythefield Park - Site Map outlined in red.</p> <p>Appendix 2 –Map showing the location of the proposed licence area delineated blue to FotF and existing research garden area shaded green which Queen’s University Belfast presently occupy.</p>



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-  = BCC Lands
-  = Foft
-  = QUB Research Garden

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