

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



**Belfast
City Council**

19th January, 2021

MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet remotely via Microsoft Teams on Friday, 22nd January, 2021 at 9.30 a.m., for the transaction of the business noted below.

You are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully,

SUZANNE WYLIE

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

1. Routine Matters

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

2. Restricted Items

- (a) Medium Term Financial Plan and Efficiency Programme (Pages 1 - 16)
- (b) Finance Update (Pages 17 - 20)
- (c) Update on Managing Organisational Capacity and Covid-19 (Pages 21 - 34)
- (d) Rent Relief Fund – Criteria (to follow)
- (e) Recruitment of Operational Director (Pages 35 - 38)

3. Matters referred back from Council/Motions

- (a) Motion: Implementation of Care Partner Arrangements in Nursing and Care Homes - Response from Minister of Health (Pages 39 - 46)

4. Belfast Agenda/Strategic Issues

- (a) Employment Academies Procurement Framework (to follow)
- (b) Update on COVID-19 Community Response (Pages 47 - 56)

5. Physical Programme and Asset Management

- (a) Update on Physical Programme (Pages 57 - 60)
- (b) Asset Management (Pages 61 - 72)
- (c) Update on Area Working Groups (Pages 73 - 90)

6. Finance, Resources and Procurement

- (a) Update on Contracts (Pages 91 - 96)

7. Equality and Good Relations

- (a) Minutes of Meeting of Shared City Partnership (Pages 97 - 128)

8. Operational Issues

- (a) Minutes of Meeting of Party Group Leaders' Consultative Forum (Pages 129 - 132)
- (b) Minutes of Meeting of Active Belfast Limited Board (Pages 133 - 150)
- (c) Minutes of Meeting of Climate Crisis Working Group (to follow)

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

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

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

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

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

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank

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

Document is Restricted

This page is intentionally left blank



Subject:	Motion - Implementation of Care Partner Arrangements in Nursing and Care homes– Response from Minister of Health
Date:	22nd January, 2021
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor and Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

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 consider a response from the Minister of Health in relation to a motion on the Implementation of Care Partner Arrangements in Nursing and Care Homes.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to consider the response.
3.0	Main Report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	The Committee will recall that the Council, at its meeting on 2nd November, passed the following motion which had been proposed by Councillor McAteer and seconded by Councillor Groves:

	<p>“This Council recognises the distress, confusion, physical and cognitive deterioration experienced by residents with dementia living in nursing homes, due to the lockdown in Spring 2020 and the subsequent curtailment of visits with relatives to one visit per week.</p> <p>The Council also recognises the pain experienced by relatives of nursing home residents with dementia, many of whom, pre-Covid-19, cared daily for their loved ones in nursing homes, assisting them with washing, dressing, eating, drinking and exercise and provided them with love and cognitive stimulation.</p> <p>Whilst the Council acknowledges the spread of the Covid-19 virus and adheres to the Executive guidelines on Council on public health, it also supports the “Regional Principles for Nursing and Residential Care homes in N Ireland” (published by the Department of Health on 23rd September, 2020), which establishes the designation of relatives or close friends as “Care Partners” and stipulates that care and nursing homes should facilitate Care Partner arrangements to enable relatives to assist with the communication, physical and emotional needs of their loved ones in care and nursing homes.</p> <p>The Council calls upon the Minister of Health to provide the necessary human, financial and technical resources to nursing and care homes to ensure the immediate practical implementation of safe and secure Care Partner arrangements which will underpin the rights of dementia patients in nursing homes and deliver improved health and wellbeing outcomes for them and their families.”</p>
3.2	A response has now been received from Minister Swann, a copy of which is attached at Appendix 1.
3.3	The Minister begins by pointing out that the most recent visiting guidance relating to care homes, including information on the care partner concept, can be accessed via the following link: https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/Covid-19-visiting-guidance
3.4	<p>In November, the Department of Health published on its website additional guidance on the Care Partner concept, including the following Frequently Asked Questions document and an Information Leaflet for Care Home Residents and their Families:</p> <p>https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/health/doh-cp-faqs.pdf</p> <p>https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/health/doh-cp-flyer.pdf</p>
3.5	<p>In addition, the Chief Nursing Officer and the Chief Social Work Officer issued the following joint letter to residential and nursing care home providers regarding the implementation of care partners in care homes in Northern Ireland:</p> <p>https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/health/doh-cp-cno-csw-letter-131120.pdf</p>
3.6	The Minister goes on to explain that care homes are actively encouraged to adhere to all aspects of the revised visiting guidelines, including the introduction of care partners. The expectation is that care homes continue to work to facilitate a range of visiting options, in accordance with the detail of the visiting guidance aligned with the Alert Level relevant at the particular time and the care home’s individual circumstances. All decisions will be based on

	a risk assessment of the environment and will rely on the ability to ensure social distancing and the safety of residents, staff and the visitor.
3.7	He then points out that he had, on 22nd October, announced an additional allocation of £27.3m to the care home sector, which includes financial support for a number of measures which require additional management time in order to respond to the impacts of Covid-19. £9m of that funding will be paid directly to care homes to reflect the cost of i). the rolling programme of testing for both residents and staff; ii.) overseeing safe visiting and setting up care arrangements; and iii). the increased management time needed to oversee homes.
3.8	Following that announcement, the Director of Mental Health, Disability and Older People wrote to care homes and Chief Executives of the Health and Social Care Trust to outline how organisations could apply for additional funding and how it would be allocated to homes. A copy of that letter is attached at Appendix 2.
3.9	The Minister concludes by stressing that his Department recognises that the role of the care partner is of critical importance to the health and safety of care home residents. Whilst it is acknowledged that the concept may be challenging for care homes to implement whilst mitigating against the transmission of Covid-19, where there are difficulties in progressing the role, Health and Social Care Trusts have been asked to support care homes to seek a solution as a matter of urgency.
	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u>
3.10	None associated with this report.
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.11	None associated with this report.
4.0	Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 - Response from the Minister of Health Appendix 2 - Letter from Director of Mental Health, Disability and Older People

This page is intentionally left blank

FROM THE MINISTER OF HEALTH



Ms Eilish McGoldrick

McGoldrickE@BelfastCity.gov.uk

Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
BELFAST, BT4 3SQ
Tel: 028 9052 2556
Email: private.office@health-ni.gov.uk

Your Ref: CV-PO-457

Our Ref: CORR-3741-2020

Date: 6th January 2021

Dear Eilish,

Thank you for your correspondence of 16 November in which you shared a motion proposed by Councillor McAteer and seconded by Councillor Groves, which requested that I provide the necessary human, financial and technical resources to residential homes to ensure the immediate practical implementation of safe and secure Care Partner arrangements, specifically in respect of residents living with dementia.

The most recent visiting guidance in relation to care homes, including information on the care partner concept is available here: <https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/Covid-19-visiting-guidance>

Additional guidance was published on the Department of Health website on 13 November 2020 regarding the Care Partner concept, including a [FAQs Document](#) and an [Information Leaflet for Care Home Residents and their Families](#). Further to this, Chief Nursing Officer, Charlotte McArdle and Chief Social Work Officer, Sean Holland, jointly issued a letter to Residential and Nursing Care Home Providers regarding the [Implementation of Care Partners in care homes in Northern Ireland](#)

Care homes are actively encouraged to adhere to all aspects of the revised visiting guidelines, including the introduction of care partners. The expectation is that care homes continue to work to facilitate a range of visiting options in accordance with the detail of the visiting guidance aligned with the Alert Level relevant at the particular time and the care

home's individual circumstances. All decisions will be based on a risk assessment of the environment and rely on the ability to ensure social distancing and safety of residents, staff and the visitor.

On 22 October, I announced that an additional £27.3m support package would be made available for the care home sector. The funding includes financial support for a number of measures which require additional management time in order to respond to impacts of COVID-19. I advised that £9m of the funding would be paid directly to care homes to reflect the costs of:

- **the rolling programme of testing for both residents and staff;**
- **the costs of overseeing safe visiting and setting up care partner arrangements; and**
- **the increased management time needed to oversee homes.**

Following my announcement, On 7 November 2020, Mark Lee, Director of Mental Health, Disability and Older People, wrote to care homes and Health and Social Care Trust (HSCT) Chief Executives to further detail how organisations could apply for additional funding and how this would be allocated to homes. I enclose a copy of this correspondence for your review.

My Department recognises the care partner role as being of critical importance to the health and wellbeing of care home residents. Whilst it is acknowledged that the concept may be challenging for some care homes to implement whilst mitigating the transmission of COVID-19, where there are difficulties in progressing the role, Health and Social Care Trusts have been asked to support care homes to seek a solution as a matter of urgency.

I trust this is helpful.

Yours sincerely



Robin Swann MLA
Minister of Health

*From the Head of Mental Health, Disability and
Older People*

Mr Mark Lee



BY EMAIL:

Care Homes

HSC Trust Chief Executives

Department of Health

C5.14

Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
Belfast BT4 3SQ

Email:

mark.lee@health-ni.gov.uk

Date: 7 November 2020

Dear Colleagues

ADDITIONAL FUNDING PACKAGE FOR CARE HOMES

Can I firstly begin by thanking you all for the hard work undertaken by you and your staff in protecting care homes from infection while simultaneously meeting with compassion the needs of residents and their relatives.

You will be aware Minister recently announced that important support for care home staff will be sustained as a result of a planned new £27.3m funding package for the sector. This announcement was made on 22 October. The £27.3m funding package is in addition to previously announced support packages. Unused funds from previous packages will also be rolled forward, increasing the total financial support available.

The funding includes financial support for testing and visiting and to recognise some of the additional management time needed to respond to COVID-19.

£9m of the funding will therefore be paid directly to care homes to reflect the costs of:

- a) the rolling programme of testing for both residents and staff;
- b) the costs of overseeing safe visiting and setting up care partner arrangements; and
- c) the increased management time needed to oversee homes.

You do not need to apply for this funding which will be allocated based on the number of residents you have, with a set amount per home to recognise some of the additional management overheads. Trusts are currently working to start allocating this funding and will provide more details in due course.

We are also considering whether we can calculate average additional PPE costs per home (taking account of PPE provided by the Trust) and allocate funding in line with those

calculations. Should this be possible, funding will be allocated directly to homes without the need to apply. Otherwise, homes will be able to apply for funding with appropriate supporting evidence.

After any funds allocated directly to homes the remaining funds will be available for homes to apply for to address:

- a) Additional staff costs: related to the need for higher staffing levels (for instance, to support isolation of individuals, implement barrier nursing techniques or to reflect more acutely unwell residents who have needed a higher staffing ratio), as well as increased unit costs for staffing or additional training costs. Additional staff transport or staff accommodation costs. We also intend to support block booking of agency staff.
- b) Enhanced sick pay costs, in line with the previously supported approach. HSC Trusts recently wrote to care homes setting out the process for continuing to claim this support.
- c) Lost income from reduced Trust services (such as daycare services).
- d) IT and telecoms.
- e) Additional cleaning (in line with the previously supported approach) and cleaning equipment.
- f) Changes to physical infrastructure to support social distancing and allow for isolation units and safe visiting arrangements.
- g) Legal, insurance and professional fees and costs.
- h) Laundry and waste management.

Trusts will administer applications to this fund in a regionally coordinated and consistent way. There will be ongoing work with the sector to ensure there is clear guidance on what can be claimed and a streamlined and efficient process for administering applications. Further details will be provided by HSC Trusts about what can be claimed and the process for claiming.

Thanks you again for all your hard work and continued efforts in these very difficult times.

Yours sincerely,



MARK LEE

Director of Mental Health, Disability and Older People

Cc:

Working for a Healthier People





Subject:	Update on COVID-19 Community Response
Date:	22nd January, 2021
Reporting Officer:	Ryan Black, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Alison Allen, Neighbourhood Services Manager

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to further update Members on the continuing planning, partner engagement, support mechanisms and services in place to support vulnerable people during the COVID-19 pandemic
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	That Committee is asked to note the report and to also note that this approach is based on extensive partner engagement (including ongoing engagement with strategic community partners).

3.0	Main Report
	<u>Background</u>
3.1	Members will be aware of the extensive work by community and voluntary sector partners, Council and other statutory partners as part of the initial COVID-19 emergency response and that this support has continued and developed in response to emerging need.
3.2	Members will also recall that an update was provided to People and Communities Committee in November 2020 and from this will aware the continuing support to vulnerable people has been designed throughout taking community/voluntary (local as well as thematic) partner feedback in to account and in the majority of circumstances, the community/voluntary sector are delivering services.
3.3	Members will also be aware that Officers previously engaged with partners, following the initial COVID emergency response, and captured a significant amount of learning. This learning has shaped how we have collectively developed the city wide approach to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Better align services at a statutory and community/voluntary level - Ensure we were collectively getting to those who most needed the support and recognising and utilising the community/voluntary sector networks.
3.4	<u>Financial Investment</u> Additionally, Members will be aware Council (supported in part with central government funding) has invested significantly in community/voluntary sector service delivery since the pandemic began in March 2020. This continues to be the most effective method of reaching vulnerable people at present, particularly those people who may not meet the threshold for existing statutory services (and are therefore not known to statutory services at present) and those people who have never had need of support services before, but who need them now perhaps as a result of redundancy, reduced hours or the emotional and physical impacts of the ongoing restrictions.
3.5	A summary of the financial investment in community/voluntary sector delivery is attached.
3.6	Members should also be aware the expected additional financial investment from DfC has been confirmed as £764,000 which needs to be spent before the end of March 21.

3.7	<p>As requested by Members at the SP and R meeting on 10th December, representation (including a formal letter) is being issued to the DfC Permanent Secretary (along with other central government funders) as given the ongoing impact of restrictions, many organisations have not been able to deliver planned activities. Additionally, the significant additional financial investment from DfC of £764,000 to be spent by community/voluntary partners before the end of March 2021 is putting them under more unnecessary pressure when they are already struggling.</p>
3.8	<p>Members should be aware at SP and R on 10th December, Members agreed in advance how that £764,000 should be allocated with the decision being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - that any increase in demand beyond available budget to date for the micro/medium grant programme already underway be met firstly from the additional funding from DfC - Given the tight timescales involved in delivery, that is, by the end of March 2021, approximately 50% of the funding remaining should be distributed to the nine strategic community partners using the same allocation as used to date - The remaining approximately 50% be allocated to those thematic community/voluntary organisations who it was agreed on 10 December 2020 would receive financial support.
3.9	<p>The winter tranche of micro-grants (max £1,500) received 146 applicants and letter of offer for those have been issued.</p>
3.10	<p>The new medium grand (max £5,000) received 136 applications well in excess of the planned budget from central government funding received to date. The assessment process for the medium grants if currently underway and Officers will update Committee again in due course when the final outcome is known.</p>
<p><u>Ongoing Planning</u></p>	
3.11	<p>Taking all of this in to account, Officers continue to work hand in hand with community/voluntary and statutory partners to ensure services/support systems meet the needs of vulnerable people and that we speak collectively as a city in influencing central government. Indeed, it is the community/voluntary partners from Belfast who we bring to co-</p>

	design sessions with central government who are making policy and service delivery decisions.
3.12	The Council continues to meet with these core partners on a regular basis (minimum weekly) to understand any pressures on the system, what is causing those pressures and what collectively needs to be done to ensure the appropriate supports/services are in place, particularly during the current period where demand for support was expected to be higher. Partners involved are:
3.13	<p><u>Strategic Community Partners</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - North Belfast – Intercomm, North Belfast Advice Partnership, Loughside Community Action Partnership (LCAP) - South Belfast – Lower Ormeau Residents Action Group (LORAG), Forward South, South City Resource Centre - East Belfast – East Belfast Community Development Agency - West Belfast – Upper Andersonstown Community Forum - Shankill – Greater Shankill Partnership
3.14	<p><u>City Wide Partners</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advice NI (Funded by DfC to run the Regional Helpline) - Volunteer Now (supporting the volunteer eco system across the city should it be needed) - Fareshare (Strategic food supply chain partners regionally and funded by DfC to enhance this, provides food supply to community/voluntary organisations working with vulnerable people, rather than individuals) - Red Cross (Welfare, Hardship and Food support regionally as well as logistics support in the form of volunteers/vehicles if needed. On contract to BCC & Trust) - Trussell Trust (Citywide Network supporting majority of existing foodbanks in Belfast, also with strategic food supply chain partners) - Belfast Trust (supporting clinically vulnerable individuals, also with a contract with Red Cross in similar areas as Council)
3.15	We also continue to regularly engage with our thematic partners through existing city structures.

	<p><u>Current Status of Services/Support Systems</u></p>
3.16	<p>The current status of services/support systems based on continuous engagement and work with our community/voluntary partners is summarised below:</p>
3.17	<p><u>Food</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community/Voluntary Partners (strategic area and thematic) are currently delivering on the food element of their Christmas/New Year funding and are not reporting any issues with supply or capacity - All foodbanks are well stocked for the next few months due to the generosity of the people of Belfast. Some foodbanks are reporting higher than usual levels of clients for January compared to previous years and some foodbanks aren't reporting higher than usual levels. This may be down to the provision of food support through strategic community/voluntary partners adding additional capacity to the system - Fareshare (food redistribution organisation) continues to see new community/voluntary members coming on board to receive food from them. They also have significant supplies of food in place due to additional financial investment from DfC and due to pre-planning on their part with local suppliers their supply chain has not been disrupted by Brexit - DfC are currently in the process of implementing a food pallet scheme directly to community/voluntary partners to supplement their food and personal care/household items supply on an area basis (with a small number of distribution hubs at a community level in place). Officers are supporting this to ensure it doesn't place any additional burden on community/voluntary partners but that they benefit from access to additional products. The DfC budget for Belfast is £235k and it is to be broken down further using the same allocation model used by Belfast for North, South, East, West and Shankill. - The Belfast City Council Red Cross Contract remains in place to provide emergency food support across the city is support cannot be accessed elsewhere. However, requests to use this contract have been extremely low (less than 5 in the last 6 months). This is largely due to the extensive network of community/voluntary partners working tirelessly across the city supporting vulnerable people directly.
3.18	<p><u>Fuel/Utilities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All community/voluntary partners are reporting increased demand for support in relation to fuel/utilities and this has been recognised regionally with additional support as follows.

3.19	<div data-bbox="308 152 1461 1753" data-label="List-Group"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DfC has put in place a one-off heating payment for those people are in receipt of pension credit, or are in receipt of certain disability benefits at the higher rate. The payment is £200 and has been put in place by the Minister in the last few weeks in recognition of increased pressure in this area - The COVID-19 Discretionary Support Scheme is intended to provide emergency help or support with living expenses - DfC launched the 'Warm, Well and Connected' Fund, with the 'Warm' element of this being managed by Bryson/Advice NI. This fund aims to provide help and support to those whose wellbeing has been impacted by cold conditions and those in the most extreme need. In some cases help with essential white goods may be available, but help under this fund is only for those who have been unable to access support elsewhere and whose financial situation has been directly impacted by COVID-19. The support from the scheme is not monetary in nature and vouchers are not provided, instead the necessary help is provided directly to the client. - DfC also has in place its routine cold weather payment which is paid automatically to those who are in receipt of a qualifying benefit and live in a postcode area where the temperature is, or forecast to be, zero degrees or below for seven consecutive days. - The annual DfC Winter Fuel Payment made to those over the age of 65 have been and continue to be issued in the normal way - Many community/voluntary partners (strategic area/thematic) in receipt of funding from Belfast City Council are also using their funding to support clients in need with emergency fuel payments and/or vouchers - The Belfast Warm and Well Scheme (established under Community Planning) continues to be in operation should individuals find themselves not able to source support elsewhere. This scheme is co-ordinated for Belfast by National Energy Action and is aimed at supporting vulnerable people experiencing fuel poverty and difficult keeping their homes warm. - The Belfast City Council Red Cross Contract remains in place to provide emergency fuel/utility support across the city if support cannot be accessed elsewhere. However, there have been no requests for fuel/utility support to date. This is due to the extensive network of community/voluntary partners across the city working tirelessly supporting vulnerable people directly. </div> <div data-bbox="260 1816 603 1850" data-label="Section-Header"> <p><u>Advice/Financial Hardship</u></p> </div> <div data-bbox="308 1917 1370 2002" data-label="List-Group"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Advice NI Regional COVID-19 helpline continues to operate to assist and signpost people who need support as a result of COVID-19 </div>
------	--

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The helpline has had an increase in calls in the last couple of weeks but 95% of those increased calls are specifically from individuals seeking support under the DfC 'Warm, Well and Connected' Scheme (Bryson). This is largely down to the extensive advertising of the scheme DfC undertook and Advice NI are supporting clients to use the full spectrum of available support as detailed above to alleviate their fuel/utility concerns - Community/voluntary partners (strategic area/thematic) are offering assistance with general financial hardship for vulnerable people as part of the services they are running funded by Belfast City Council and are working closely with the local advice partners to support that with increased access to benefits and working to reduce the debt burden on those individuals. - Local advice providers are reporting increased demand for their services as a result of the impact of COVID-19 on employment but are currently managing that demand - As a result of the SP&R decision on 10 December 2020, local advice providers will be given an additional financial allocation to enable them to increase their capacity to meet these pressures.
3.20	<p><u>Welfare/Emotional Wellbeing</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community/voluntary partners (strategic area/thematic) are reporting significant impacts on individual and family welfare/emotional wellbeing as a result of COVID-19 and the ongoing restrictions - An expected increase in calls was expected as the letter re how clinically extremely vulnerable individuals should keep themselves safe was issued from 4 January 2021, however this has not materialised - A significant proportion of community/voluntary partners in receipt of funding from Belfast City Council (including micro/medium grants) are using some funding in this area. - In person activity is limited given the restrictions but groups are trying their best to deliver services either online or by phone and are also supporting individuals/families with activity packs - Groups are also using funding to provide support to vulnerable individuals/families with additional digital devices and associated Wi-Fi/data to reduce isolation and increase ability to access services online - Good Morning Schemes and Befriending Services are reporting increased demand but due to the additional support of volunteers they are still open for new referrals

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Belfast Trust community based health services continue to operate without significant disruption supporting vulnerable people and are also not reporting any significantly increased concerns coming through from those who may be clinically extremely vulnerable in terms of the welfare/emotional wellbeing
3.21	<p><u>Conclusion</u></p> <p>As detailed above, the overall eco system in the areas of food, fuel/utilities, advice/financial hardship and welfare/emotional wellbeing is experiencing significant increases in demand, including from individuals and families not previously known to services.</p> <p>Staff/volunteers are very tired but their commitment and passion in supporting vulnerable people is what is keeping services going. Additionally, the learning gathered from the emergency COVID-19 response in spring 2020, the subsequent detailed planning between community/voluntary and statutory partners, the significant additional financial investment from BCC and central government, the regional investments in services and the ongoing partnership working has created an environment of genuine and meaningful mutual support.</p> <p>Challenges/issues are identified early, directly from community/voluntary partners working on the ground and possible solutions are brought forward taking in to account their expert knowledge, experience and capacity to deliver. No one who needs support is left without an option for support.</p>
	<p><u>Financial implications</u></p>
3.22	<p>As detailed in the attached appendix.</p>
	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p>
3.23	<p>None identified at this stage but will be kept under continuous review.</p>
4.0	Document Attached
	Strategic Area and Thematic Community/Voluntary Partners Funding Summary

Strategic Area and Thematic Community/Voluntary Partners Funding Summary**Strategic Area Community Partners**

Organisation	Amount Allocated	Note
N. Belfast Alternatives	£10,000	Emergency Response Only March/April
Crusaders	£52,468	April to July 20 Only
Intercomm	£163,351	March/April to Present
North Belfast Advice Partnership	£153,351	April to Present
Loughside Community Action Partnership	£100,883	July to Present
Forward South	£117,021	March/April to Present
Lower Ormeau Residents Action Group	£117,021	March/April to Present
South City Resource Centre	£117,021	March/April to Present
EBCDA	£475,153	Lead Partner for grass roots organisations in East Belfast – March/April to Present
Upper Andersonstown Community Forum	£527,062	Lead Partner for 5 Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships across West Belfast – March/April to Present
Greater Shankill Partnership	£142,589	March/April to Present
TOTAL	£1,975,920	

Thematic Partners

Organisation	Amount Allocated	Note
Bytes	£32,173	Summer Thematic Funding
Embrace/Nicras	£25,000	Summer Thematic Funding
Forward South	£8,000	Summer Thematic Funding
Solas	£5,000	Summer Thematic Funding
Store House	£18,000	Summer Thematic Funding
Boring Wells - Food Larder	£14,910	Summer Thematic Funding
West Belfast Foodbank	£17,131	Summer Thematic Funding
St Vincent De Paul	£75,000	Christmas/New Year Food/Financial Hardship
Salvation Army	£75,000	Christmas/New Year Food/Financial Hardship
Red Cross	£50,000	Summer & Winter Thematic Funding
HereNI	£10,550	Summer & Winter Thematic Funding
Transgender NI	£9,500	Summer & Winter Thematic Funding
Belfast & Lisburn Woman's Aid	£48,000	Summer & Winter Thematic Funding
Heart Project (Citywide Community Counselling)	£62,500	Summer & Winter Thematic Funding
Community Food Providers (£2k x 45 groups)	£90,000	Winter Thematic Funding
Children Young People Locality Group (N/S/E/W/Colin)	£120,000	Winter Thematic Funding
Age Friendly Partnership	£20,000	Winter Thematic Funding
Mens Advisory Partnership	£5,000	Winter Thematic Funding
Belfast Migrant Forum	£15,000	Winter Thematic Funding
CaraFriend	£7,500	Winter Thematic Funding
We Are Pangs	£16,000	Winter Thematic Funding
TOTAL	£724,264	

Note: An update on spend against these allocations will be brought forward to Committee in February 21 for consideration (as agreed at Committee in December 20). Additionally, these allocations do not include the following (both agreed at Committee in December 20):

- **£100K to the nine strategic community partners, using the allocation method of 50% population and 50% need, with multiple deprivation as a proxy to plan volunteer recognition programmes before the end of the financial year for their areas; and**
- **£764K just confirmed by DfC using the allocation model agreed at point 3.8**



Subject:	Update on Physical Programme
Date:	22nd January, 2021
Reporting Officer:	Sinead Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes
Contact Officer:	Shauna Murtagh, Programme Manager

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The Council's Physical Programme covers over 180 capital projects under a range of internal and external funding streams together with the 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 the existing Council facilities or provides new Council facilities. This report provides an update on requested movements on the Capital Programme.

2.0	Recommendations						
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ <i>Proposed Movements - Capital Programme</i> – agree that <i>Alleygating Phase 5</i> project is added as a Stage 1 – Emerging Project on to the Capital Programme and▪ <i>DfC Joint Projects</i> – note the update is relation to match funding secured from DfC for existing projects in this financial year across a range of programmes						
3.0	Main Report						
3.1	<p><i>Proposed Movements - Capital Programme</i></p> <p>Members have previously agreed that all capital projects must go through a 3 Stage process where decisions on which projects progress are taken by SP and R. 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 agree to the following movement on the Capital Programme:</p> <table><tr><th>Project</th><th>Overview</th><th>Stage</th></tr><tr><td>Alleygating Phase 5</td><td>Next phase of the alleygates programme</td><td>Add as an Emerging Stage 1 project</td></tr></table> <p>At the SP and R meeting on 18th September 2020, Members asked that a further phase of alleygating be considered. Members have been advised in the Finance Update Committee Report which is also on the agenda for discussion today that the monies secured from DfC (see below) has contributed to a forecast capital financing budget underspend and resultant surplus and that it is proposed through this that a proportion of this (£500k) is ring-fenced for a further phase of alleygating. It is anticipated that this will be agreed by Committee and Members are therefore asked to agree that this is added as a <i>Stage 1- Emerging</i> project onto the Capital Programme in order to allow the project to be developed. Members are asked to note that further detail will be brought back to Committee in due course in line with the agreed three stage approvals process.</p>	Project	Overview	Stage	Alleygating Phase 5	Next phase of the alleygates programme	Add as an Emerging Stage 1 project
Project	Overview	Stage					
Alleygating Phase 5	Next phase of the alleygates programme	Add as an Emerging Stage 1 project					
3.2	<p><i>Update on DfC/BCC Match funded projects 2020-21</i></p> <p>Following proactive engagement with the Department for Communities to identify opportunities for joint working in 2020-21, a total of £1,124,000 has been secured to support existing projects within the overall Physical Programme, a proportion of which is match funding for projects under the Capital Programme. Contracts for Funding are in place and work continues in order to achieve delivery this financial year. The funding is for 14 projects in total including –</p>						

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrades to Vere Foster, Falls Park and Ohio Street playgrounds. • Replacement of the 3G pitch surface and upgrade of the playground at Grosvenor Community Centre. • Improvements to St James Community Forum's urban farm and community garden, including new buildings for the animals and new community and educational facilities. • A new safe play area and community garden on waste ground adjacent to the Lagan Village Youth and Community Centre. • A new changing pavilion for Berlin Swifts Football Club. • New modular changing facilities at the Willowbank Multi-Sports Centre. • Additional contributions to The Urban Villages Initiative-funded project to upgrade a section of Ballymacarrett Walkway. • Partial replacement of the damaged roof at The Hanwood Centre • Extra funding towards the construction of Grace Family Centre, which is nearing completion. • Additional contributions to Marrowbone Community Hub Teach Eilís, with support from The Urban Villages Initiative. • An upgrade to the pathways and additional planting at the park at Old Golf Course Road. • Improved lighting at the recently relocated Navigation Buoys in Titanic Quarter.
3.5	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>Financial – £500k to be ringfenced for Phase 5 of the Alleygating Programme</p> <p>Resources – Officer time as required</p>
3.6	<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>Documents Attached</p>
	<p>None</p>

This page is intentionally left blank



Subject:	Asset Management I. Whitla Street Car Park – Disposal of part to Translink II. Corporation Square and Corporation Street Car Parks – Licences to Belfast Harbour Commissioners for Installation of Barriers III. Lease to The Local Government Staff Commission, Commission House 18-22 Gordon Street, Belfast IV. Licence renewal regarding the use of lands at Bloomfield Walkway for multi-use games area and playground facility V. Licence to BMET at Girdwood
Date:	22nd January, 2021
Reporting Officer:	Sinead Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes
Contact Officer:	Pamela Davison, Estates Team Leader

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
1.1	The purpose of this report is to seek approval from the Committee in relation to asset related disposal, acquisition and estates matters.
2.0	Recommendations

2.1	<p>Members are asked to –</p> <p>I. Whitla Street Car Park – Disposal of part to Translink</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - approve the disposal of a 0.36 acre portion of Whitla Street Car Park to Translink to facilitate the redevelopment of Yorkgate Train Station. <p>II. Corporation Square and Corporation Street Car Parks – Licences to Belfast Harbour Commissioners(BHC) for Installation of Barriers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - approve entering into licence agreements with BHC to allow the installation of barriers to prevent access to both car parks from 19.00 - 06.00 each night. <p>III. Lease to The Local Government Staff Commission, Commission House 18-22 Gordon Street, Belfast</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - agree to the short term letting of Commission House from 1st April 2021 to its current occupier The Local Government Staff Commission at a rent of £55,500pa <p>IV. Licence renewal regarding the use of lands at Bloomfield Walkway for multi-use games area and playground facility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - approve of a renewal of the licence agreement between the Council and DFI for use of lands at Bloomfield Walkway for multi-use games area and playground facility. <p>V. Licence to BMET at Girdwood</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - approve the renewal of a licence agreement to Belfast Metropolitan College (BMET) for classrooms and ancillary office accommodation at Girdwood Community Hub
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p>I. Whitla Street Car Park – Disposal of part to Translink</p> <p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>At City Growth and Regeneration Committee on 6 November 2019 and Strategic Policy & Resources Committee on 22 November 2019 it was agreed that the Council owned Whitla Street Car Park would be included by Translink within planning considerations for their Yorkgate Train Station redevelopment project. In September 2020 Translink submitted a planning application (LA04/2020/1974/F) proposing to develop a new train station building, footbridge and platform canopies, cycle parking, bus and taxi drop off area and new public realm works. Subject to approval, construction is programmed to commence during the second half of 2021 and take approximately 18 months to complete. To facilitate the project Translink have sought to acquire the southern section of Whitla Street Car Park. The map attached at Appendix 1 highlights the extent of the Council owned Whitla Street Car Park shaded green together with the 0.36 acre section required by Translink edged red. Terms have now been agreed subject to Committee approval to include a premium of £185,000 as valued by Land and Property Services. Translink have also requested that the transaction is to be completed before the end of the current financial year.</p>

Financial and Resource Implications

Staff resources from the Estates Unit and Legal Services will be involved in the completion of the proposed disposal. The Council will receive a premium of £185,000 upon completion, anticipated within the current financial year.

Equality and Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment

None associated with this report.

3.2

II. Corporation Square and Corporation Street Car Parks – Licences to Belfast Harbour Commissioners for Installation of Barriers

Key Issues

For a number of years there has been anti-social behavior issues at night with a car club meeting in Council operated Corporation Square and Corporation Street Car Parks. Issues have escalated in recent times and have resulted in the Police Service of Northern Ireland physically blocking the entrances to prevent access, which has involved the deployment of considerable resources. To provide a longer term solution to the issues and the complaints received, Belfast Harbour Police on behalf of BHC have requested permission to install barriers to prevent access between 19.00 – 06.00 each night. To facilitate these proposals a licence agreement to BHC will be required for each car park. BHC have offered to take responsibility for the costs, installation, repair and maintenance of the barriers and will indemnify the Council against any claims, injuries, damages etc resulting from their installation and use. It is proposed that the Council enter into flexible licences for each car park which can be terminated at any time at Council's discretion, with BHC undertaking to then remove the barriers and reinstate as soon as practically possible. It has also been recommended by Council's Legal Services that BHC enter into suitable Memorandum of Understandings to protect the Council's operational and property interests associated with these sites.

Financial and Resource Implications

Staff resources from the Estates Unit and Legal Services will be involved in the completion of the proposed licence agreements on suitable terms to be agreed by the Estates Unit. Only a nominal fee will be sought given the mutual benefit the barriers will bring and in consideration of BHC's offer to assume responsibility for the costs and installation etc, of the proposed barriers.

Equality and Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment

None associated with this report.

3.3

III. Lease to The Local Government Staff Commission, Commission House 18-22 Gordon Street, Belfast

Key Issues

The SP and R Committee, at its meeting on 20th January 2017, agreed to the purchase of Commission House from The Local Government Staff Commission. A sale contract was subsequently completed on 8th May 2017 with a completion date for the acquisition of the property by the Council of no later than 31st March 2021. The completion date reflected a situation whereby the Commission was preparing to be wound however at that time The Executive were not meeting and the Commission has still not been dissolved. The future of The Commission has still not been determined, however the Chief Executive of BCC has been contacted by the Director of Corporate Services from the Commission to see if a short term occupation could be agreed with BCC when the Council takes ownership of the building on 31st March 2021 which will facilitate the Commission whilst its future is decided.

Members are asked to agree providing the Commission with a lease for one year from 1st April 2021 and month to month thereafter at a rent of £55,500 per annum. LPS have provided the Commission with an up to date rental valuation which has been shared with BCC and reviewed by Estates. The lease will be subject to a 3 months' notice in advance break clause after one year, by either party. Members will be aware that Commission House is being acquired by BCC as part of the site assembly for the Dunbar Cluster forming one of the Council's strategic site assessment areas. Members are asked to note that work on the Dunbar cluster is still at early stages and the granting of this lease, which will include the break clauses as outlined above, will not impact on this and will continue to secure an income stream for the Council for the next year. Please refer to Appendix 2.

Financial and Resource Implications

Rental income of £55,500 p.a. plus payment of all occupation costs on a building acquired for future regeneration by Council as part of the Strategic Site assessment work. Resources from Estates and Legal Services required to complete the Lease.

Equality and Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment

None associated with this report.

3.4

IV. Licence renewal regarding the use of lands at Bloomfield Walkway for multi-use games area and playground facility

Key Issues

The Department for Infrastructure has agreed with the Council to renew the licence for lands at Bloomfield Walkway for a further term of 5 years commencing 1st February 2021. The

3.5	<p>licence fee will remain the same at £170 per annum. The new licence will continue to enable BCC to use the land for the purposes of a multi-use games area and playground facility. An option to terminate will be implemented into the new agreement allowing the Council to provide 6 months' notice of their intention to Terminate the Agreement at any point over the term (if required). All other terms will remain the same as per the original Licence. A copy of the corresponding map has been provided as Appendix 3.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resources Implications</u></p> <p>The Council will be responsible for paying a licence fee of £170 per annum to the DFI. Staff from the Estates Unit and Legal Services to complete the licence agreement renewal.</p> <p><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p> <p>V. Licence to BMET at Girdwood</p> <p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>In December 2015, the Council entered into a 5 year licence agreement with BMET and GLL to allow BMET to use classrooms and ancillary office accommodation at Girdwood Community Hub. The agreement allows BMET to use the classrooms from 9.00am to 5.00pm during term time. GLL are free to use and book out the classrooms outside of these times. BMET have requested a further 5 year licence with an option to terminate after 3 years. BMET have agreed to pay £16,500 pa with effect from the 1st Dec 2020 for the facility together with all other costs associated with their occupation of the premises.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resources Implications</u></p> <p>BMET will pay £16,500 for the premises together with all other costs associated with their occupation of the premises e.g. cleaning, repairs, compliance and insurance. Staff resources from the Estates Unit and Legal Services will required to complete the licence agreement.</p> <p><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None associated with this report</p>
4.0	<p>Documents Attached</p>
	<p>Appendix 1 - Map showing the extent of the Whitla Street Car Park shaded green together with the 0.36 acre portion to be disposed of to Translink edged red.</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Map showing Commission House bordered red.</p> <p>Appendix 3 – Map showing the extent of the licenced lands at Bloomfield Walkway delineated in red.</p>

This page is intentionally left blank



This page is intentionally left blank

Depot

ESS

ESS

Cleansing
Depot

Depot

DUNBAR STREET

PH

GORDON STREET

Govt
Off

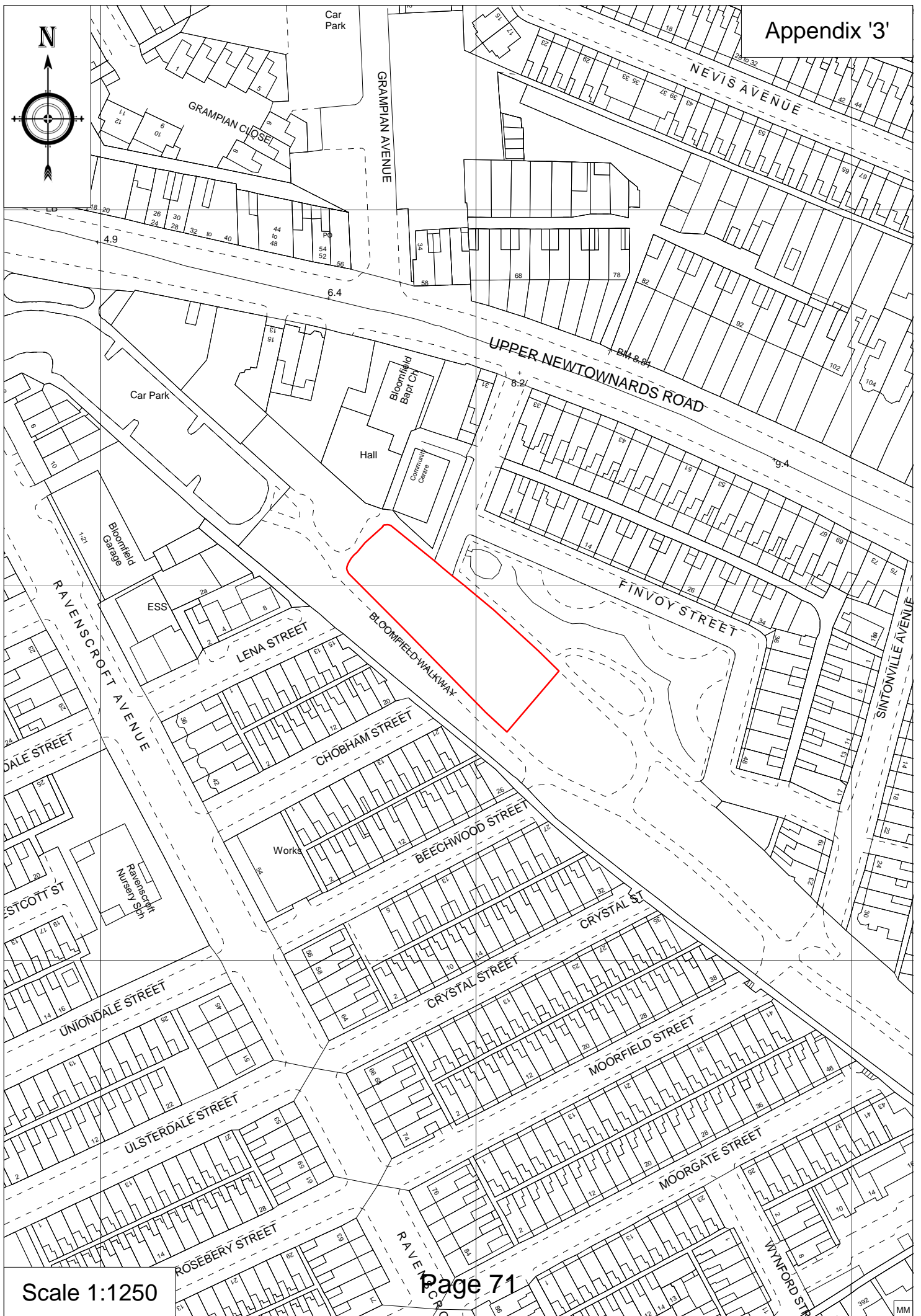
Govt O

Scale 1:500

Page 69

□ = Commission House

This page is intentionally left blank



This page is intentionally left blank



Subject:	Update on Area Working Groups
Date:	22nd January 2021
Reporting Officer:	Sinead Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes
Contact Officer:	Shauna Murtagh, Programme Manager

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To seek the Committee's approval of the minutes of the most recent round of AWGs meetings and any additional recommendations arising from the meetings.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AWG Minutes - Approve the most recent round of AWG minutes (<i>North – 6 January, West – 5 January, South – 4 January, East – 5 January</i>), as attached.

3.0	Main Report
	<u>KEY ISSUES</u> Area Working Group Minutes
3.1	<p>Members agreed in June, 2016 that the Area Working Group minutes would be taken into the SP and R Committee for approval going forward, in line with the Council's commitment to openness and transparency and to ensure a consistent approach with other Member-led Working Groups.</p> <p>Members are asked to approve the most recent round of AWG minutes as attached. At these meetings, each AWG received a presentation from the Living With Water Team on the LWW – Integrated Plan for Drainage and Wastewater Management document which is currently out for consultation.</p>
	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u>
3.2	No implications
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.3	No implications
4.0	Documents Attached
	Minutes of the Area Working Groups

South Belfast Area Working Group

Monday, 4th January, 2021

SPECIAL MEETING OF SOUTH BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Members present: Councillors Bunting, Gormley, Groogan,
T. Kelly and Lyons.

In attendance: Ms. S. Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes;
Mr. K. Sutherland, Planning Manager;
Mr. R. Connolly, Policy, Research and Compliance
Officer;
Mr. G. Dickson, Strategic Planning and Policy Officer; and
Ms. C. Donnelly, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

An apology was reported on behalf of Councillor McKeown.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were recorded.

Presentation - Living with Water

The Director of Physical Programmes welcomed Mr. S. Richardson, Programme Director for Living with Water, and Mr. S. Wightman, Programme Manager, to the meeting.

Mr. Richardson advised that, in 2014, when it had become clear that the drainage infrastructure across Belfast was insufficient for the demands being placed upon it, the Northern Ireland Executive had approved the development of a Strategic Drainage Infrastructure Plan (SDIP) for Belfast to protect against flooding; enhance the environment; and grow the economy. The Working Group was advised that major investment in the infrastructure was necessary, not only to protect against flooding, but also to enhance the environment and to enable the economy to grow.

He explained that the Living With Water Programme, an interdepartmental group, had been established in order to develop and deliver the Infrastructure Plan. He drew the Members' attention to the consultation document, "Living With Water in Belfast", the draft Strategic Drainage Infrastructure Plan for Belfast, which sought to address the inadequacies and to ensure that the city could grow in terms of business and residential development. He highlighted that the Plan had a significant strategic and operational impact for the Council.

He provided the Members a detailed overview of the existing drainage infrastructure, including rivers, culverts, sewers, wastewater treatment works and pumping stations, road gullies and drainage pipes, canals, lakes and loughs, reservoirs, green infrastructure and coastal and river flood defences. He also provided the LWWP approach to managing water through a catchment and the measures they could take to protect against flooding, to improve environmental and water quality and to enable the area to expand and develop.

The Working Group was provided with details of current drainage problems which affected the city, including agriculture run-off, erosion, surface water flooding, tidal, coastal and river flooding, and out of sewer flooding. He explained that, without addressing those problems, Belfast would continue to be prone to flooding, environmental problems would increase and the future development of the city could be hampered.

The Members were advised that four out of the twelve areas of Potential Significant Flood Risk in Northern Ireland were within the Belfast area. He explained that NI Water submitted negative consultation responses in respect of planning applications in areas of Belfast where there was insufficient wastewater system capacity.

Mr. Wightman provided the Working Group with details of a number of policy measures including Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS); Natural Flood Management, whereby new policy and guidance would encourage public and private landowners to utilise their land for Natural Flood Management including tree planting, wetlands, flood storage and attenuation; and new arrangements for developing a catchment based approach to drainage and wastewater management, including centrally championing, coordinating and funding it within the Department for Infrastructure.

He provided the Members with a detailed overview of the Connswater and Lagan Embankment study Area. He explained that the catchment objectives included reducing the number of people and properties and infrastructure at risk of flooding in the area; contributing to achieving Good Ecological Potential in the Connswater downstream to the Belfast Harbour and to facilitate sustainable development in the sub-catchment area. He presented the pressures and issues within the area, as well as opportunity based solutions including the potential use of green spaces. He highlighted that in working in partnership with Belfast City Council, LWWP had identified a number of flood alleviation opportunities, and planned to undertake a number of pilot projects, including the possibility of extending the river floodplain through Ballysillan Playing Fields and the installation of leaky dams along the Forth River and at Belfast Castle.

Mr. Wightman outlined that it was currently estimated that £1.4billion could be needed to deliver the integrated drainage proposals in all four study areas over the next 12 years. He added that the figure did not include whole life costs, i.e. operational and maintenance costs. He advised that it was hoped that the investment in blue/green infrastructure would not only reduce the need for some of the hard engineered infrastructure but would also reduce those whole life costs.

In response to a number of questions from the Members, Mr. Richardson and Mr. Wightman advised the Working Group that:

- In relation to the Orchardville and Sicily Park area, a prioritisation process had been carried out to identify issues across Belfast and that Blackstaff had been identified as the main priority in Belfast;

- The plan would demonstrate the role of blue and green infrastructure and the integrated nature of the project, which was important in securing finance and that LWWP were working to appraise a range of benefits to all stakeholders.

Mr Wightman informed the Members that he would welcome input with regard to areas of green spaces in Belfast which had not yet been identified, that could potentially serve to alleviate flooding risks and that the solutions didn't necessarily need to be close to the problem areas.

The Director of Physical Programmes thanked the representatives for their informative presentation and they retired from the meeting.

Chairperson

This page is intentionally left blank

West Belfast Area Working Group

Tuesday, 5th January, 2021

SPECIAL WEST BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Members present: Councillor Corr (Chairperson);
Alderman Kingston; and
Councillors Black, Carson,
Donnelly, Garrett, Heading, Hutchinson,
Magennis, McLaughlin and Walsh.

In attendance: Ms. S. Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes;
Mrs. A. McGlone, Neighbourhood Integration Manager;
and
Mrs. S. Steele, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Councillors Canavan and McCabe.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were recorded.

Presentation – Living With Water

The Chairperson welcomed Mr. S. Richardson, Programme Director for Living with Water, and Mr. S. Wightman, Programme Manager, to the meeting.

Mr. Richardson advised that, in 2014, when it had become clear that the drainage infrastructure across Belfast was insufficient for the demands being placed upon it, the Northern Ireland Executive had approved the development of a Strategic Drainage Infrastructure Plan (SDIP) for Belfast to protect against flooding; enhance the environment; and grow the economy. The Working Group was advised that major investment in the infrastructure was necessary, not only to protect against flooding, but also to enhance the environment and to enable the economy to grow.

He explained that the Living With Water Programme, an interdepartmental group, had been established in order to develop and deliver the Infrastructure Plan. He drew the Members' attention to the consultation document, "Living With Water in Belfast", the draft Strategic Drainage Infrastructure Plan for Belfast, which sought to address the inadequacies and to ensure that the city could grow in terms of business and residential development. He highlighted that the Plan had a significant strategic and operational impact for the Council.

He provided the Members a detailed overview of the existing drainage infrastructure, including rivers, culverts, sewers, wastewater treatment works and pumping stations, road gullies and drainage pipes, canals, lakes and loughs, reservoirs, green infrastructure and coastal and river flood defences. He also provided the LWWP approach to managing water through a catchment and the measures they could take to protect against flooding, to improve environmental and water quality and to enable the area to expand and develop.

The Working Group was provided with details of current drainage problems which affected the city, including agriculture run-off, erosion, surface water flooding, tidal, coastal and river flooding, and out of sewer flooding. He explained that, without addressing those problems, Belfast would continue to be prone to flooding, environmental problems would increase and the future development of the city could be hampered.

The Members were advised that four out of the twelve areas of Potential Significant Flood Risk in Northern Ireland were within the Belfast area. He explained that NI Water submitted negative consultation responses in respect of planning applications in areas of Belfast where there was insufficient wastewater system capacity.

Mr. Wightman provided the Working Group with details of a number of policy measures including Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS); Natural Flood Management, whereby new policy and guidance would encourage public and private landowners to utilise their land for Natural Flood Management including tree planting, wetlands, flood storage and attenuation; and new arrangements for developing a catchment based approach to drainage and wastewater management, including centrally championing, coordinating and funding it within the Department for Infrastructure.

He provided the Members with a detailed overview of the Black Staff study Area, which included 6 sub-catchments. As an example, he explained the pressures of the Ballymurphy sub catchment area, he advised that the catchment objectives included working towards trying to connect Bog Meadows to the rivers network which would provide additional storm storage. This would involve linking in with the Council's Peace IV proposal as it was felt that an opportunity existed to extend the Community Greenway proposals to accommodate works to reduce flood risk and free up capacity within the downstream Blackstaff Culvert. He also referred to Whiterock/Falls Parks and for potential opportunities within this area to create a number of offline storage ponds as well as additional restoration works which could help to reduce the flood risk in the area. In addition, there was also the potential for river restoration works to the Ballymurphy Stream which could tie into the development of Council owned green space and help facilitate the enhanced biodiversity and use of the area. In relation to Falls Parks, he stated that opportunities existed for the creation of online and offline storage ponds and also additional storage around the existing football pitches through regrading of the area. He also explained the opportunities based solutions available which had been identified as part of the delivery plan and highlighted the importance of increasing the capacity of Wastewater Treatment Works across the city.

The Working Group was then advised of a number of pilot projects which were planned across the City.

Mr. Wightman outlined that it was currently estimated that £1.4billion could be needed to deliver the integrated drainage proposals in all four study areas over the next 12 years. He added that the figure did not include whole life costs, i.e. operational and maintenance costs. He advised that it was hoped that the investment in blue/green

infrastructure would not only reduce the need for some of the hard engineered infrastructure but would also reduce those whole life costs.

In response to a number of questions from the Members, Mr. Richardson and Mr. Wightman advised the Working Group that:

- at the request of a Member, the representatives from LWW agreed that Distillery Street would be incorporated into the final plan. The Director of Physical Programmes advised that she would also suggest this area as an additional pilot project within the corporate response to the plan;
- the representatives noted the benefits of joined up working with other statutory agencies to identify issues and find solutions (Distillery Street being an excellent example);
- the requirement that all new developments in the future take into consideration potential flood and sewerage risks to ensure that the problems do not worsen in the future as a result of inappropriate development, any new development had to meet certain standards to ensure no flooding issues would arise, similar to greenfield runoff;
- the impact of dumping and the potential that this could have on flooding and the need for the statutory agencies and communities to work together to try alleviate the problem; and
- the Living With Water programme was a key priority for the Executive at the time of the “New Decade, New Approach” publication.

The Director requested that any Member would contact her directly, in respect of any other points that they wished be included as part of the Council’s corporate response to the Living With Water in Belfast Consultation and agreed to e-mail the Members a copy of the presentation following the meeting.

The Chairperson thanked the representatives for their informative presentation and they retired from the meeting.

Chairperson

This page is intentionally left blank

East Belfast Area Working Group

Tuesday, 5th January, 2021

SPECIAL MEETING OF EAST BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Members present: Alderman Copeland (Chairperson);
Aldermen Dorrian, Haire, Rodgers and
Sandford; and
Councillors Brooks, Flynn, M. Kelly,
Kyle, McMullan, McReynolds,
Mulholland and Smyth.

In attendance: Ms. S. Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes; and
Mrs. L. McLornan, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Councillors Howard and Newton.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were recorded.

Special Meeting

In response to a request from a Member, the Working Group agreed to hold a special meeting on Greenways, at a future date to be agreed with the Chairperson.

Presentation – Living With Water

The Chairperson welcomed Mr. S. Richardson, Programme Director for Living with Water, and Mr. S. Wightman, Programme Manager, to the meeting.

Mr. Richardson advised that, in 2014, when it had become clear that the drainage infrastructure across Belfast was insufficient for the demands being placed upon it, the Northern Ireland Executive had approved the development of a Strategic Drainage Infrastructure Plan (SDIP) for Belfast to protect against flooding; enhance the environment; and grow the economy. The Working Group was advised that major investment in the infrastructure was necessary, not only to protect against flooding, but also to enhance the environment and to enable the economy to grow.

He explained that the Living With Water Programme, an interdepartmental group, had been established in order to develop and deliver the Infrastructure Plan. He drew the Members' attention to the consultation document, "Living With Water in Belfast", the draft Strategic Drainage Infrastructure Plan for Belfast, which sought to address the inadequacies and to ensure that the city could grow in terms of business and residential development. He highlighted that the Plan had a significant strategic and operational impact for the Council.

He provided the Members a detailed overview of the existing drainage infrastructure, including rivers, culverts, sewers, wastewater treatment works and pumping stations, road gullies and drainage pipes, canals, lakes and loughs, reservoirs, green infrastructure and coastal and river flood defences. He also provided the LWWP approach to managing water through a catchment and the measures they could take to protect against flooding, to improve environmental and water quality and to enable the area to expand and develop.

The Working Group was provided with details of current drainage problems which affected the city, including agriculture run-off, erosion, surface water flooding, tidal, coastal and river flooding, and out of sewer flooding. He explained that, without addressing those problems, Belfast would continue to be prone to flooding, environmental problems would increase and the future development of the city could be hampered.

The Members were advised that four out of the twelve areas of Potential Significant Flood Risk in Northern Ireland were within the Belfast area. He explained that NI Water submitted negative consultation responses in respect of planning applications in areas of Belfast where there was insufficient wastewater system capacity.

Mr. Wightman provided the Working Group with details of a number of policy measures including Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS); Natural Flood Management, whereby new policy and guidance would encourage public and private landowners to utilise their land for Natural Flood Management including tree planting, wetlands, flood storage and attenuation; and new arrangements for developing a catchment based approach to drainage and wastewater management, including centrally championing, coordinating and funding it within the Department for Infrastructure.

He provided the Members with a detailed overview of the Connswater and Lagan Embankment study Area. He explained that the catchment objectives included reducing the number of people and properties and infrastructure at risk of flooding in the area; contributing to achieving Good Ecological Potential in the Connswater downstream to the Belfast Harbour and to facilitate sustainable development in the sub-catchment area. He presented the pressures and issues within the area, as well as opportunity based solutions.

The Working Group was advised of a number of pilot projects which were planned across the City.

Mr. Wightman outlined that it was currently estimated that £1.4billion could be needed to deliver the integrated drainage proposals in all four study areas over the next 12 years. He added that the figure did not include whole life costs, i.e. operational and maintenance costs. He advised that it was hoped that the investment in blue/green infrastructure would not only reduce the need for some of the hard engineered infrastructure but would also reduce those whole life costs.

In response to a number of questions from the Members, Mr. Richardson and Mr. Wightman advised the Working Group that:

- the pressures identified within the plan included the flood risk along the Connswater River which covered the Holywood Road/Newtownards Road junction;
- the impact of global warming, and the predicted increase in the sea level, had been taken into account within the modelling;
- in respect of the lower Sydenham area, Victoria Park had purposely been constructed within a floodplain, and that the railway line and the Sydenham Bypass would act as a protective barrier to the surrounding buildings in the event of a tidal surge;

- a tidal scheme was planned for other parts of Belfast;
- in terms of agricultural pollution, they had already presented to the National Farmers Union (NFU), in respect of potentially using land for possible water attenuation, and that they also wanted to developing policies to ensure agricultural practices did not contribute to the pollution of the water courses;
- any new development had to meet certain standards to ensure no flooding issues would arise, similar to greenfield runoff;
- the Living With Water programme was a key priority for the Executive at the time of the “New Decade, New Approach” publication, however, that they were mindful that was pre-COVID and there were many other competing financial pressures;
- the NI Housing Executive was engaged with the programme and that opportunities were available in Belfast;
- community groups would also be consulted in respect of the green spaces throughout the City; and
- the recurrent flooding at Clonduff near the Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre was on the radar of their DfI colleagues.

In response to further queries, the representatives agreed to circulate information to the Working Group in relation to whether the plan covered the flooding in the vicinity of the Holywood/Newtownards Road junction, and whether the Sirocco Works and the former Knockbreda High School sites were being considered as opportunity sites.

In response to a Member’s query regarding the Ravenhill Flood Alleviation scheme, the Director of Physical Programmes advised the Members that she would circulate further information relating to it.

The Director requested that any Member would contact her directly, in respect of any other points that they wished be included as part of the Council’s corporate response to the Living With Water in Belfast Consultation.

The Chairperson thanked the representatives for their informative presentation and they retired from the meeting.

Chairperson

This page is intentionally left blank

North Belfast Area Working Group

Wednesday, 6th January, 2021

SPECIAL NORTH BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Members present: Councillor Maskey (Chairperson);
Councillors Bradley, Ferguson, Magee,
McCullough, Murphy, O'Hara and Pankhurst.

In attendance: Ms. S. Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes;
Ms. K. Gilliland, Neighbourhood Services Manager,
Ms. M. Higgins, Neighbourhood Services Integration
Manager; and
Ms. E. McGoldrick, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Councillors Cobain, McAllister and Whyte.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were recorded.

Presentation – Living With Water

The Chairperson welcomed Mr. S. Richardson, Programme Director for Living with Water, and Mr. S. Wightman, Programme Manager, to the meeting.

Mr. Richardson advised that, in 2014, when it had become clear that the drainage infrastructure across Belfast was insufficient for the demands being placed upon it, the Northern Ireland Executive had approved the development of a Strategic Drainage Infrastructure Plan (SDIP) for Belfast to protect against flooding; enhance the environment; and grow the economy. The Working Group was advised that major investment in the infrastructure was necessary, not only to protect against flooding, but also to enhance the environment and to enable the economy to grow.

He explained that the Living With Water Programme, an interdepartmental group, had been established in order to develop and deliver the Infrastructure Plan. He drew the Members' attention to the consultation document, "Living With Water in Belfast", the draft Strategic Drainage Infrastructure Plan for Belfast, which sought to address the inadequacies and to ensure that the city could grow in terms of business and residential development. He highlighted that the Plan had a significant strategic and operational impact for the Council.

He provided Members with a detailed overview of the existing drainage infrastructure, including rivers, culverts, sewers, wastewater treatment works and pumping stations, road gullies and drainage pipes, canals, lakes and loughs, reservoirs,

green infrastructure and coastal and river flood defences. He also provided the LWWP approach to managing water through a catchment and the measures they could take to protect against flooding, to improve environmental and water quality and to enable the area to expand and develop.

The Working Group was provided with details of current drainage problems which affected the city, including agriculture run-off, erosion, surface water flooding, tidal, coastal and river flooding, and out of sewer flooding. Mr. Richardson explained that, without addressing those problems, Belfast would continue to be prone to flooding, environmental problems would increase and the future development of the city could be hampered.

The Members were advised that four out of the twelve areas of Potential Significant Flood Risk in Northern Ireland were within the Belfast area. Mr. Richardson explained that NI Water submitted negative consultation responses in respect of planning applications in areas of Belfast where there was insufficient wastewater system capacity.

He provided an example of a best practice case study and highlighted the need for integrated catchment based solutions to alleviate the impact of rainfall.

Mr. Wightman provided the Working Group with details of a number of policy measures including Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS); Natural Flood Management, whereby new policy and guidance would encourage public and private landowners to utilise their land for Natural Flood Management including tree planting, wetlands, flood storage and attenuation; and new arrangements for developing a catchment based approach to drainage and wastewater management, including centrally championing, coordinating and funding it within the Department for Infrastructure.

He provided the Members with a detailed overview of the Black Staff study Area, which included 6 sub-catchments. As an example, he explained the pressures of the Clowney Catchment area and advised that the catchment objectives included reducing the number of people and properties at risk of flooding within and downstream of the Beechmount, Glenbank Drive and Crumlin Road Areas; Contribute to achieving Good Ecological Status in the Forth River and Clowney Water and Good Ecological Potential in the Blackstaff River; and Facilitate sustainable development across the area and further downstream. He also explained the opportunities based solutions available which had been identified as part of the delivery plan and highlighted the importance of increasing the capacity of Wastewater Treatment Works across the city.

The Working Group was advised of a number of pilot projects which had been planned across the City and the overall Work Programme timeline.

Mr. Wightman outlined that it was currently estimated that £1.4billion could be needed to deliver the integrated drainage proposals in all four study areas over the next 12 years. He added that the figure did not include whole life costs, i.e. operational and maintenance costs. He advised that it was anticipated that the investment in blue/green infrastructure would not only reduce the need for some of the hard engineered infrastructure but would also reduce those whole life costs.

In response to a number of questions from the Members, Mr. Richardson and Mr. Wightman advised that:

- in respect of the Ballysillan Playing Fields, the Urban Villages proposals would not be compromised and explained how the Living with Water plans would be incorporated;

- planting at bus stops had been identified as part of the Rapid Transport 2 scheme;
- feedback in relation to segregated cycle lanes would be provided to their colleagues; and
- in respect of Boodle's Dam, advised that they were working with the Council to look at further enhancements.

During discussion, the representative's explained further sustainable drainage, the importance of tree planting and the materials used for roads, bio-diversity improvements, and the impact of planning applications on managing water.

The Director requested that any Member would contact her directly, in respect of any other points that they wished be included as part of the Council's corporate response to the Living With Water in Belfast Consultation.

The Chairperson thanked the representatives for their informative presentation and they retired from the meeting.

Chairperson

This page is intentionally left blank



Subject:	Update on Contracts
Date:	22nd January, 2021
Reporting Officer:	Ronan Cregan, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources
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	The purpose of this report is to seek approval from the Committee for tenders over £30,000 and to note retrospective Single Tender Actions (STAs) under Delegated Authority.
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) • Note the award of retrospective STAs in line with Standing Order 55 exceptions as detailed in Appendix 1 (Table 2)

3.0	Main Report
	<u>Competitive Tenders</u>
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.
	<u>Single Tender Actions (STAs)</u>
3.4	<p>The following retrospective STAs were awarded:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 8 week contract for the use of eyebolts/lamp posts for the erection of festive lighting awarded to BCCM at a cost of £25,000 • A 2 month contract for animation/ activity to replace the traditional Christmas Market awarded to Cinimod NVS Ltd at a cost of £28,700 • An urgent 3 month contract for emergency work to investigate and repair a leak at Duncrue awarded to Morrow's Contracts Ltd at a cost of £6,450 • An urgent 1 week contract for the replacement of a pool cover at Falls Leisure Centre awarded to Forge Leisure Ltd at a cost of £6,063 • A 16 month contract for the delivery of 'Take Five at School' to three local primary schools within the Shankill/Falls locality awarded to Each Amazing Breath at a cost of £15,240
	Financial and Resource Implications
3.5	The financial resources for these contracts are within approved corporate or departmental budgets.

	Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment
3.6	None

4.0	Document Attached
	Appendix 1 Table 1 - Competitive Tenders Table 2 - Retrospective Single Tender Actions

This page is intentionally left blank

Table 1 – Competitive Tenders

Title of Tender	Proposed Contract Duration	Estimated Total Contract Value	SRO	Short description of goods/ services
Provision of animal feed	Up to 3 years	£45,000	S Toland R Black	Supply of dry animal feed for Belfast Zoo
Provision of travel services	Up to 4 years	£475,000	R Cregan	Travel services contract for all types of travel and accommodation within NI, UK, EU and internationally
Replacement of the corporate finance system	Up to 10 years	£2million (£650,000 Capital upfront cost ; £150,000 revenue PA)	R Cregan	Replacement of the current SAP financial system and support services which are nearing end of life.
Commercial sponsorship for the Belfast Public Bike Share Scheme	Up to 3 years	£300,000 income	A Reid	Commercial sponsorship opportunity to secure income to help support the maintenance, operation and planned expansion of the current Bike Scheme.
Support contract for HPE servers, storage & network equipment	Up to 1 year	£45,891	R Cregan	To ensure current servers, storage and networking equipment are maintained and kept under warranty.

Table 2 - Retrospective Single Tender Actions

Title of Contract	Supplier	Value	SRO
Animation/ activity to replace the traditional Christmas Market (Retrospective STA)	Cinimod NVS Ltd	£28,700	A Reid
Use of eyebolts/lamp posts for erection of festive lighting (Retrospective STA)	BCCM	£25,000	A Reid
Emergency work to investigate and repair leak at Duncrue (Retrospective STA)	Morrow's Contracts Ltd	£6,450	S Grimes
Replacement of pool cover at Falls Leisure Centre (Retrospective STA)	Forge Leisure Ltd	£6,063	S Grimes
Delivery of 'Take Five at School' to three local primary schools within the Shankill/Falls locality (funded)	Each Amazing Breath	£15,240	S Toland / R Black

This page is intentionally left blank



Subject:	Minutes of Meeting of Shared City Partnership
Date:	22nd January, 2021
Reporting Officer:	Ryan Black, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Nicola Lane, Good Relations Manager

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to report to the Committee the key issues discussed at the Shared City Partnership meeting held on 11 th January 2021.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Strategic Policy & Resources Committee is requested to approve the minutes and the recommendations from the Shared City Partnership Meeting held on 11th January 2021 including:</p> <p>PEACE IV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BPR3 – Transformational Leadership Project To agree in principle to pool the £4,000 resource allocation for community projects in the event where Clusters have merged and to delegate authority to the Good

	<p>Relations Manager and the PEACE IV Programme Manager to consider the Resource Allocation requests on a case by case basis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To invite NICVA to present an update to the Shared City Partnership at the March meeting. <p>Good Relations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> That the Council develops an action plan to frame delivery around the proposed actions set out under Item 5 in the minutes of the January Shared City Partnership meeting That officers follow up with the Executive Office regarding the issues raised in relation to the Minority Ethnic Development Fund and That an update report on sectarianism in the City would be submitted to a future meeting to enable further discussion and consideration.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The Shared City Partnership is a Working Group of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee which consists of Elected members and representatives from various sectors across the city. The minutes from the Partnership are brought before the Committee for approval on a monthly basis.</p>
3.2	<p>The key issues on the agenda at the January meeting were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PEACE IV <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Update on PEACE IV Secretariat ➤ Update on PEACE IV CYP Theme ➤ Update on PEACE IV SSS Theme ➤ Update on PEACE IV BPR Theme Notice of Motion – Racism Free Zone Public Attitudes Peace Walls DOJ Survey
3.3	<p>More details regarding the above issues and recommendations are included in the attached minutes of the meeting.</p>

3.4	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>All financial implications are covered through existing budgets.</p>
3.5	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>The recommendations of the Partnership promote the work of the Council in promoting good relations and will enhance equality and good relations impacts.</p>
4.0	Document Attached
	<p>Minutes of the Shared City Partnership meeting of 11th January.</p>

This page is intentionally left blank

SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP

MONDAY 11th JANUARY, 2021

MEETING OF SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Members present: Councillor Kyle (Chairperson);
Alderman Rodgers; and
Councillors Kelly, Lyons, Magennis and O'Hara.

External Members: Mr. J. Donnelly, Community and Voluntary Sector;
Miss. G. Duggan, Belfast City Centre Management;
Mrs. J. Hawthorne, Northern Ireland Housing Executive;
Ms. J. Irwin, Community Relations Council;
Mr. P. Mackel, Belfast and District Trades Union Council;
Mr. I. McLaughlin, Community and Voluntary Sector; and
Father. E. O'Neill, Faith Sector.

In attendance: Ms. N. Lane, Good Relations Manager;
Ms. D. McKinney, Programme Manager;
Ms. L. Dolan, Good Relations Officer; and
Mrs. S. Steele, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Mrs. B. Arthurs, Mrs. O. Barron, Mr. J. Currie, Mr. S. Hamilton, Mr. M. McBride,
Mr. M. McGinley, Mr. M. O'Donnell and Ms. Ann Marie White.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 7th December, 2020 were taken as read and signed as correct.

Declarations of Interest

Mr. J. Donnelly declared an interest in item 2, namely, Peace IV Updates, in that he was involved with Active Communities Network, which acted as the delivery agent for two of the Peace IV projects under the Children and Young Peoples Theme.

Peace IV Updates

Update on Peace IV Secretariat

The PEACE IV Programme Manager provided the Members with an update in respect of the Secretariat activity associated with the implementation of the Peace IV Local Action Plan.

The officer reported that the ongoing government restrictions, particularly the recent tighter measures, continued to have a severe impact on delivery. She reported that

discussions with some of the delivery partners had already taken place and, whilst the partners were making every effort to continue to engage with participant groups, valuable time had been lost and it would be extremely difficult to make up and the SEUPB continued to be slow in acknowledging the problem.

In addition, the SEUPB had recently introduced a further step in the approval of project modifications by the Accountable Department (TEO), the process / timeframe for handling the requests was still unclear. She explained that this would impact the Council's ability to provide quick decisions that were necessary for delivery partners to respond to an every changing environment. The Members were advised that modifications submitted to the SEUPB in November had not yet been approved. This additional step added further uncertainty. In the absence of clarity from SEUPB, officers had sought clarity directly from TEO regarding the process and timeframe.

She referred the Members to the guidance from the SEUPB on project modifications, as follows:

- Modifications in light of COVID were temporary interventions to aid project delivery during the pandemic and government restrictions;
- Modifications during this time were not for the purposes of re-scoping the approved work packages and deliverables;
- Approved changes in OIG tolerances and contact hours should not be amended/reflected in contracts with delivery agents;
 - Delivery agents essentially were working towards the outputs as detailed in the Belfast Local Action Plan (LAP) application.
 - Changes requested with regards to contact hours were essentially asking for an increase to the tolerances allowed under OIG as a temporary measure during COVID to aid delivery agents in achieving the outputs.
- Changes to contact timeframes were the remit of the LP. These would be dependent on the submission and approval of a LAPs extension request by the SEUPB;
- SEUPB was unable to reduce participant targets at this time as the BCC LAP had 18 months (potentially up to a possible 27 months pending submission/request for a project extension) of project activity left, as such, it would not be prudent to agree re-scopes or reductions to participant targets. This would be looked at again in Q2 - 2021 when the situation and impact of COVID was further understood.

The Programme Manager detailed that the latest advice from the SEUPB was concerning as it appeared to minimise the seriousness of the Covid-19 impact on the community and PEACE IV delivery and also did not take into account the ongoing government restrictions. She reported that a legal opinion on the advice was currently being sought and would be followed up with Senior Management within the SEUPB.

She also updated that:

- St Comgalls - The assessment process of the submissions received were currently being progressing in line with the procurement timeframe, with an award anticipated at the end of January 21, subject to successful evaluation;
- Programme Workplan - The PEACE IV Drive In Cinema, of two films sessions each providing space for 60 cars, had been successfully delivered on 19th December

2020. In addition, ND Events had been appointed to deliver a wide range of peace building events, including culture cafés, seminars, workshops and a conference during 2021 and 2022. Planning for the first events, which would all be delivered virtually, was ongoing;

- Verification and Audit – the internal audit of PEACE IV by AGRS was progressing.

The Partnership were informed that claims for all aspects of the Programme for Period 24 totalling £710, 727 were currently being verified by the SEUPB.

Update on Peace IV – Children and Young People (CYP)

The Partnership considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

To provide the Shared City Partnership (SCP) with a progress report in respect of the Children and Young People’s (CYP) theme of the PEACE IV Local Action Plan.

2.0 Recommendations

The Partnership is requested to recommend to the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee that they note the contents of the report.

3.0 Main report

Project Updates

Delivery of project activity is progressing, where possible. Covid 19 restrictions continue to impact delivery and the risk to achieving LoO deliverables is increasing, as the new restrictions announced on 17th December, which includes an 8pm curfew, will be in place for a minimum of 6 weeks. An appendix attached to the agenda shows the Risk Tracker which outlines risks and project progress, as reported to SEUPB.

3.1 CYP 1 – Tech Connects

GIGA Training (Afterschool’s & Digital Arts Academies (Tech Camps) (6-16 Yr. Olds)

Delivery agent had replacement W5 Activity approved to a Virtual Reality technology activity to explore different cultures. As participants did not engage in using the LEGO we do kits as part of the programme, due to COVID, delivery was completed virtually. The young people will also have access to a range of apps, both fun and educational, they will have the opportunity to learn about and experience cutting edge VR technology which the delivery agent found appropriate for the Tech Connects programme. Additionally, it will add value to the projects and will help aid recruitment and retention of participants. A Digital Arts Academy is planned for Mid Term Break 15th-18th February 2021.

Afterschool's (school setting) activity outreach is ongoing and planning in progress will include collaboration with Lyric theatre, Ulster Orchestra & Strand Arts Centre. This will involve exploring instruments & music from various cultures and how to mix genres /styles with contemporary music.

Belfast Metropolitan College (Digital Insights Programme)
(17- 4 yr. olds)

Delivery agent targeted email at community contacts in North & West Belfast with a targeted Facebook messaging campaign, posting on Belfast Met Social Media channels.

This was combined with targeted engagement by project partner Bytes Project in Shankill; Peters Hill; Oldpark and Ardoyne. This resulted in over 1800 visits to the Eventbrite registration page where individuals could express their interest in participating.

However, as this is a hard to reach age group, there was low uptake and low attendance at the November sessions, BMC are to seek feedback from registrations to identify barriers to learning / attending.

Cohort 2 completed sessions on 16 & 17 December, with analysis of participants to be completed following submission of Registrations & Baseline surveys.

3.2 CYP 2 - Playing our Part in the City

A.C.N. is progressing with a condensed delivery to complete year 3 targets, via week long camps. A proposal to reduce participant contact hours from 44 to 26 hours for young people and from 30 to 24 hours for parents is awaiting a decision from SEUPB.

A change in the delivery approach is due to a number of factors: COVID 19 restrictions on group sizes making general youth provision increasingly difficult; cancellation of events and activities; new/changing COVID lockdown restrictions; lack of digital access; requirement to reduce group sizes; reduced numbers of bookings for trips and availability of activities.

Many participant groups are aligned with the Education Authority (EANI) and following EANI guidance in Aug 20, all generic youth work provision was suspended which impacted delivery of the project. The Youth Restart guidance outlines recovery of Youth Work in a gradual and phased approach in line with the Executive's recovery strategy and public health guidance. Limitations such as group sizes of approx. 6 people including staff, is continuing to impact the level of engagement from the groups.

3.3 CYP3 – On the Right Track – Sports and Personal Change elements

Residential Activity & Cross border activity is on hold at present, due to government restrictions, travel advice caused by COVID and availability of venues.

Given the government restrictions on sporting activity, delivery is focusing on participants completing VRQ & Sports coaching / OCN qualifications – scheduled to take place with staggered start times and smaller group sizes in order to comply with social distancing requirements.

Participant targets of 1800 remain high risk due to this uncertain environment, with regards to club closures & overlapping sporting governing guidance have been major barriers in terms of participation. Additional measures announced 17 December including no outdoor mixing with other households, is also restricting progression & recruitment. Sports clubs must not organise, operate or participate in an indoor or outdoor gathering, which consists of more than 15 people. Outdoor exercise is only permitted with members of your own household and the 8pm curfew will affect delivery. No sporting events at any level, either indoors or outdoors, can be held between 26 December and 2 January. This will be reviewed by the Executive after 4 weeks.

The target for this project is approximately 72 participants per month averaging 24 participants per programme, which is offering Council some flexibility in terms of numbers, as COVID may impact on clubs ability to recruit and engage. However, this number per month is ambitious given the current environment and will be risk assessed following additional 6 week restrictions announced in December, principally the no mixing of households which restricts cross community contact time.

Personal Change

SEUPB approved reduced contact hours for Cohort 1 from 305-265 per participants which aligns with contact hours for Cohort 2 (265 hours per participant). This is due to COVID preventing cross border travel/ residential activity.

Extern is progressing with delivery of OCN around Personal Identity which is planned to complete in the new year. The delivery agent is also progressing with recruitment for the final cohort 3 to complete in Jan/ Feb 21. Focus of current delivery has been on OCN personal identity & exploring family relationships, with the group planning to celebrate full achievement at a recognition event in Feb / March 2021.

3.4 CYP 4 – Cooperation Ireland (Young Advocates)

Project was paused from November 20 due to COVID and the delivery partner is now planning to remobilise activity from

February to December 2021, primarily through residential based work. This decision is based on the current challenges and restrictions of being able to bring groups of young people together 'face-to-face' in the present environment.

Most of the project activity and focus is about young people from different parts of Belfast mixing and being together for sustained periods of time. Rotating around different areas and being together is a key component of the Young Advocates Project. At this time, the delivery agent has expressed concern about community transmission and health and safety. In terms of preparing and remobilising the Young Advocates Programme, Cooperation Ireland will utilise the support of the respective partners as well as social media platforms to generate local interest. They are considering working on a short video and will explore using local press where possible. At this stage, participants have been identified by partners with young people yet to be registered for activity.

3.5 CYP 5 – NIHE Local Area Network Partner Delivery

Engagement packs on exploring a range of cultures and traditions in December and Christmas were delivered to participants with online discussions facilitated by Artsekt taking place. Discussions will explore the range of celebrations marked by different cultures. This pilot project may be used in the future to include other cultural celebrations.

Procurement is progressing with the Digital Inclusion tender in the final stages of award, with the Social Justice tender to progress in the new year. Tender closed 04 December 2020 with the appointment of the award being approved by SEUPB 21 December 2020. NIHE to issue award to successful delivery agent.

A launch has been combined with the BPR NIHE programme, due to the level of investment of £2,5m in both projects and is scheduled to take place virtually on 28 January 2021. This will also be promoted via a socially distanced photo opportunity with presentations from BCC & SEUPB and NIHE. This event will increase the profile of the 2 programmes to encourage participation from local communities & tenants.

Financial and Resource Implications

CYP projects have identified necessary delivery modifications to mitigate the level and impact of COVID 19 crisis.

PEACE IV costs are recoverable from SEUPB, as the funding body, subject to eligibility of expenditure. The CYP Claim for Period 24 expenditure was submitted to SEUPB on 1 December 2020 valued £109,202.

Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

The draft plan has been equality screened and discussed at the Equality Consultative Forum on 13 May 2015.”

The Members briefly discussed the impact that the pandemic was having on young people. The Programme Manager explained that with remote learning they were often saturated with online engagement and did not have the desire to undertake any more online activities. In addition, not all of the participants had access to devices or the internet (or good internet connection) and there was potential privacy issues which made progressing the programmes extremely challenging.

The Partnership agreed that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee be recommended to note the information contained within the report.

Update on Shared Spaces and Services (SSS) theme

The Programme Manager provided an update on the progress made to date in respect of the SSS theme, within the Peace IV Local Action Plan.

She referred to a number of capital projects which were being undertaken as part of the initiative, including:

- **Springfield Dam** – the project was handed over to Council and the Park was opened to the public on 21st December 2020. Opening arrangements were in line with other Council parks. Press coverage on the opening featured a press release with photographs of local school children. An official opening of the Dam would take place in 2021 when Government restrictions permitted. Two cross community site visits with 15 local community representatives had taken place on 15th December 2020. The representatives had been extremely positive about the site and were keen to be involved in progressing activity at the Dam and also to engage in discussion in regard to the future management approach.

Antisocial Behaviour (ASB) would be closely monitored with joint patrols involving BCC, SNOs and PSNI scheduled to put out a strong message that ASB would be addressed. A site visit with PSNI, BCC, SNOs and Local Youth Outreach Workers had taken place on 14th December 2020 and it was agreed that Community Safety would liaise weekly with the Clonard Monastery Youth Centre and Forthspring Inter Community Group (funded through the Social Clause to carry out Outreach Work) for updates, to map any patterns and to link them into the wider ASB Citywide Tasking meeting. In addition, the potential of SNOs monitoring the site in the evenings to ensure it was secure was also being explored, although this would be dependent on other demands throughout the city.

The Programme Manager reported that the allocation of the remaining £6,000 of the Social Clause to support local schools with biodiversity activity at the Dam site had been approved by SEUPB and was being progressed.

- **PEACE IV Network Scheme – Capital Works** - The assessment of tenders, for work on the remaining Greenway had taken place and the appointment of the contractor was currently being finalised with CPD and the SEUPB. The contractors were due to commence Section 1 - Glencairn in early 2021.

In regard to programming, the Partnership was informed that MDLs report, with the finding and recommendations, was currently being finalised and printed copies were expected later in the month. The next step was consideration of the recommendations, development of an Action Plan for implementation and the development of a quotation for further engagement and facilitation. Ongoing dialogue and engagement would be critical to the success of the project and should align with the capital works as each of the sections were developed.

In regard to the other Programmes:

- **Shared History, Heritage and Identity Content / Narratives for Shared Space -**
Due to COVID restrictions, delivery partners were still focusing on the preparation of engagement and research. Representatives from both the Osborne Partnership and Mediation NI had participated in site visits with community representatives on 15th December and had established links with local community groups. In addition, further walk and talk possibilities for 21st January were being explored. She highlighted that it was key that the research and work aligned with the Capital element of the programme and the development of the greenway with the initial project work anticipated in Section 1 (Glencairn/Clarendon) and public outreach planned for late January/early February 2021.
- **Shared Space Volunteer Training -** Sustrans and their community partner Intercomm had participated in both site visits to Springfield Dam Park with the Community Representatives on 15th December 2020. This had provided an opportunity to network with community contacts and to view the facilities. Sustrans hoped to launch and promote the training to the communities during mid-January via press release and email. The training was likely to begin February early March 2021 and they were looking at different venues, depending on numbers etc. Following feedback from organisations who had previously registered an interest in the volunteer training around the Shared Space Ambassadors, Heritage and Nature Guides programmes, ITT documents were being prepared to open a call for applications in early January 2021.
- **Springfield Dam activities -** With the opening of Springfield Dam Park to the public, activities led by Council's Parks and Community Services departments, along with outside providers, would be developed and supported. The volunteer training project would also make use of the newly developed site. All activities would work towards promoting the site and modular building as a shared site and facility.

The Partnership were provided with a breakdown of the costs associated with the projects and were informed that the Peace IV costs were recoverable, subject to eligibility from SEUPB. The Period 24 claim of £472,310 had been submitted to SEUPB for verification. Details of the Department for Infrastructure contribution to the project was being progressed and confirmation of Department for Communities input was being prioritised.

A Member referred to social clauses and noted the important difference that they could make to a community and he sought clarification as to how these were calculated and allocated against contracts.

Following discussion, the Programme Manager agreed to liaise with the Physical Programmes Section to clarify the social clause terms and conditions and to share these with the Members.

The Partnership recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that they note the contents of the report.

Update on Building Positive Relations - (BPR) theme

The Partnership considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

To provide the Shared City Partnership (SCP) with a progress report in respect of the Building Positive Relations (BPR) theme of the PEACE IV Local Action Plan.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 Members are asked to note the contents and appendices within the report and to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

- **BPR3 – Transformational Leadership Project –**
To agree in principle to pool the £4,000 resource allocation for community projects in the event where Clusters have merged and to delegate authority to the Good Relations Manager and the PEACE IV Programme Manager to consider the Resource Allocation requests on a case by case basis
- To invite NICVA to present an update to the Shared City Partnership at a future meeting.
- **BPR4 – Belfast and the World –** that the Ligoniel and Ballynaveigh cohorts complete in March 2021 subject to COVID restrictions.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

3.1 Delivery of project activity is continuing where possible, although ongoing and ever changing government restrictions have impacted the delivery of condensed programmes and residential activity that was scheduled for October/November/December. An appendix attached to the agenda provides detail on project progress and Risk tracker as at December 20.

3.2 BPR1 – Cross Community Area Networks

The project team has received positive responses from key players in most of the identified CCAN areas. The public tender for the Good Relations programme is now open with a view to award in early 2021. The ITT for the Place Visioning programme is currently under NIHE internal review. A joint virtual launch with the CYP5 project is scheduled for the 28th January (subject to current

restrictions). Officers liaising with SEUPB and Chair of SCP in relation to the agreed approach given recent restrictions.

3.3 BPR2 – Creative Communities Project

Artist/Heritage residency programme has commenced in Woodvale/Ardoyne cluster. It is anticipated that Shankill/Clonard, Carlisle Circus, Divis/Lower Shankill and St Malachy's/ Albert Foundry FC will commence mid January 2021 with a further 3/8 clusters commencing by Spring 2021.

Discussions are continuing with the LGBTQ+ and Malone Integrated College thematic clusters.

3.4 BPR3 – Transform for Change Project

Year 1 delivery was completed mid October, with 13 TLP courses delivered across 11 Clusters. 143 participants have completed the Transformative Leadership Programme (TLP) training element with an 84.6% completion rate.

Year 2; Autumn cohorts completed with an anticipated 104 participant meeting the required contact hours (subject to verification). Promotion and recruitment is underway for spring cohorts with approximately 130 EOIs received to date. Scheduled to commence mid-January 2021.

In certain areas, such as North clusters have merged on an area based leadership course being delivered, due to low uptake. It is anticipated that South and West may deliver in a similar fashion again due to low EOI uptake in certain Clusters.

Members are requested to consider inviting NICVA, the delivery partner for the TLP training, to present an update on the project to Shared City Partnership at the February meeting.

A request from the BPR Project Manager to pool the £4,000 resource allocation for cluster community projects in cases whereby the cluster areas have merged was considered by the Programme Board. By way of example during Year 2 7 cluster areas across North Belfast merged into one larger Area based cluster to complete the Transformative Leadership Programme (TLP) training.

The Programme Board agreed in principle with the request to pool resources and agreed to delegate authority to the Good Relations Manager and the PEACE IV Programme Manager to consider the Cluster Resource Allocation requests on a case by case basis. Procurement regulations will be taken into account and there is no budgetary impact. Members are requested to note and agree the approach as outlined.

Approval for support from NSM/NIMS for Area Teams to assist in the delivery and progression of project development workshops

and ideas for the £4,000 Resource Allocation to the cluster is under consideration and discussion are ongoing.

The delivery of collaborative project workshops (led by BCC) is progressing in the following Cluster areas: Lower Oldpark/Manor Street; Falls/Shankill; Suffolk/Lenadoon; Crumlin Rd/ Ardoyne/Glenbryn/ North Belfast area Cluster. Continued efforts to re-energise participation in Village/Westlink; Lower Ormeau/Market. The Inner East/Short Strand's project, a Kids Zone/Urban garden at the interface has been implemented.

Due to current government restrictions, project activity including the organisation of local community engagement events, citywide networking events and a cross border/UK study visit is currently on hold.

3.5 BPR4 – Belfast and the World (BATW)

Corrymeela continue to work with two live cohorts- Ligoniel (Year 2-to make up shortfall) and Ballynafeigh. In order to complete programmes and ensure contact hours have been met, the delivery agent had arranged for residentials to take place. However, due to government restrictions they have been unable to take place, despite four attempts.

Due to limited online access for Ligoniel participants, the delivery agent propose to fully complete this cohort in January 2021 either via small group work sessions or a residential if permissible. The Partnership is requested to consider approving the completion of Ligoniel and Ballynafeigh cohorts in January 2021, subject to COVID restrictions.

An open call for participants is underway to form final cohort and reach year 3 target numbers. Despite numerous efforts participant numbers remain low. Scheduled to commence late January 2021.

The former project coordinator has taken up a new role within the organisation but will continue to deliver project until new arrangements have been explored and approved.

3.6 BPR5 – Supporting Connected Communities - LINCS Projects

The delivery agent continues limited project delivery during ever changing restrictions. Currently a schedule of events/workshops for 2021 is being planned and continues to engage with participants across 4 NPFS, with Christmas events held.

The Board should note that core participant numbers have been affected due to COVID-19.

3.7 BPR5 – Traveller element of Supporting Connected Communities

Managed by BCC, a second public recruitment exercise is progressing, with applications received and shortlisting on

23 December 20. Interviews are scheduled for the 11 January and it is anticipated the successful applicant will commence mid February 2021.

3.8 BPR5 – Roma elements of Supporting Connected Communities

Project initiation and mobilisation is progressing. The delivery partner has commenced a recruitment exercise for dedicated project staff and discussions with key delivery partners are underway.

3.9 Financial and Resource Implications

All BPR project delivery partners undertaking delivery modification exercise which will determine the level and impact of COVID 19 crisis.

PEACE IV costs are recoverable from SEUPB, as the funding body, subject to eligibility of expenditure. Claim for BPR Period 24 expenditure was submitted to SEUPB on 1 December valued at £90,954.66

3.10 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

The draft plan has been equality screened and discussed at the Equality Consultative Forum on 13 May 2015.”

As with the previous Programmes, the Programme Manager advised the Partnership that the different elements of the delivery of the various themes had been greatly impacted by the latest lockdown measures and as a result some of the timescales for delivery had already been impacted since the report had been circulated.

Following consideration of the impact that the pandemic was having on the proposed delivery timescales, the Partnership recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee:

- **BPR3 – Transformational Leadership Project –**
That it agrees, in principle, to pool the £4,000 resource allocation for community projects in the event where Clusters had merged and to delegate authority to the Good Relations Manager and the PEACE IV Programme Manager to consider the Resource Allocation requests on a case by case basis;
- that representatives from NICVA be invited to present an update to the Shared City Partnership at its March meeting; and
- **BPR4 – Belfast and the World –** that the Ligoniel and Ballynaveigh cohorts complete in March 2021, subject to the ongoing COVID restrictions.

Notice of Motion - Racism Free Zone

The Partnership considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 At the Council meeting on 1st October 2020, the following motion was proposed by Councillor Canavan and seconded by Councillor Garrett:**

‘That this Council recognises that racism is a scourge across this society. This Council further recognises the positive contribution made: to society by those from Black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds; deplores the discrimination Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities face regularly; condemns racism in all its forms; and calls on this Council to work together with the sector; local BAME representative groups; schools and colleges; private businesses; and public enterprises to ensure that this Council area becomes a racism free zone.’

In accordance with Standing Order 13(f), the motion was referred without debate to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee. On 23rd October, the Committee adopted the motion and agreed that a report on the issues raised therein be considered, in the first instance, by the Shared City Partnership.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1** The Partnership is asked to consider the Notice of Motion on a Racism Free Zone which was proposed by Councillor Canavan and seconded by Councillor Garrett at the Council meeting on 1st October 2020 and to recommend to the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee that the Council develops an action plan to frame delivery around the proposed actions set out in this report.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

Background

- 3.1** Promoting Good Relations is a key feature of the Council’s work and is also a duty for all public authorities in our society. The Good Relations mandate within Section 75 (2) of the Northern Ireland Act states:
- 3.2** *‘Without prejudice to its obligations under subsection (1), a public authority shall in carrying out its functions relating to Northern Ireland have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group’*

Therefore, tackling sectarianism and racism is a duty placed upon all public authorities.

- 3.3** In 2019, the Council launched its new and revised Good Relations strategy. This strategy sets out a vision of a Shared City – a city reimaged, connected and resurgent; delivering inclusive growth that leaves no-one behind. The strategy acknowledges that promoting and achieving Good Relations is ‘everyone’s business’ and contains 5 outcomes which seek to build Good Relations: through civic leadership/governance; shared and connected

spaces; shared services; effective partnerships and through an intercultural city.

3.4 The Council's approach to promoting good relations and tackling issues such as racism flows from this strategy, which was signed by all of the Party Group Leaders. It is centred on an approach that contains two key elements:

- 1. Seeking to maximise all council programmes, policies, funding schemes and facilities to better promote good relations between people from different political, religious and racial groups and;**
- 2. Targeted work that is grounded in acknowledgement, engagement and relationship building. Key to this is promoting participation and inclusion through specific activities which also addresses inequalities.**

3.5 Over the past number of years, the Council has been committed to promoting the integration and inclusion of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Communities and has developed strong links with these communities. This report highlights some of this engagement as well as outlining actions that the Council can implement to address racism and promote the inclusion of all communities.

3.6 Furthermore, in response to an issue, previously raised at the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee by Councillor Nicholl about ensuring that Council policies and practices were informed by the BAME community, Council had agreed to explore the enhancement of its current arrangements with the purpose of promoting the equality and inclusion of BAME communities, their access to Council services and participation in civic life. It would also take into consideration the review of the Council's wider approach to championing diversity. While a separate report will be brought to Council in relation to these arrangements and structures, the proposed actions detailed at the end of this report will address both requests by Members.

3.7 Wider Context in Northern Ireland

Hate Crime Statistics

The Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) publishes figures on the levels and trends in police recorded incidents and crimes with a hate motivation. As these figures only relate to those hate motivated incidents reported to the police, they only provide an indication of the true extent of hate motivation. Many members of the Council led Belfast Migrant Forum working with Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities often highlight that there is a significant underreporting of hate crime among minority communities and that Police statistics are not a true reflection of the current reality.

- 3.8 According to Police Statistics, between 2005/06 and 2015/16 sectarian incidents accounted for the largest number of incidents recorded in any of the hate motivation strands. In 2016/17 the number of sectarian incidents was exceeded by the number of racist incidents for the first time.
- 3.9 Following a decline in levels of racist incidents and crimes between 2009/10 and 2011/12 they increased each year between 2011/12 and 2014/15 (the highest recorded in the series). With the exception of 2018/19 levels have fallen in each of the years since then.

In 12 months from 1st October 2019 to 30th September 2020:

There were 194 fewer racist incidents and 112 fewer racist crimes recorded when compared with the previous 12 months.

There were 881 racist incidents recorded by the police in Northern Ireland, 194 fewer than for the previous 12 months.

The number of racist crimes recorded by the police was 583, a decrease of 112 on the previous 12 months.

There were 5 racist incidents and 3 racist crimes per 10,000 population, compared with 6 racist incidents and 4 racist crimes per 10,000 population during the previous 12 months

Racist crimes represented 0.6% of all police recorded crime

- 3.11 In the twelve months to 30 September 2020 there were 881 incidents recorded by the police where there was a racist motivation. Of these, there were 368 incidents, which did not involve a crime (i.e. incidents where the circumstances did not amount to an offence being committed). The remaining 513 incidents involved one or more crimes (amounting to 583 racist crimes in total). Around two in five incidents recorded in this period did not result in a crime being recorded.
- 3.12 When comparing the current and previous 12 months, Belfast City policing district, which accounts for around two out of five racist incidents and crimes recorded in Northern Ireland, showed a decrease in both incidents (61) and crimes (14).

(The above data has been taken from the PSNI annual bulletin 'Trends in Hate Motivated Incidents and Crimes Recorded by the Police in Northern Ireland 2004/05 to 2019/20', published on 26 Nov 2020, with figures up to the end of Sept 2020.)

3.13 Review of Hate Crime Legislation

Members will be aware that the Department of Justice has commissioned an independent review of hate crime legislation in Northern Ireland.

3.14 The review of the outcome is expected imminently and will examine the following issues:

- a workable and agreed definition of a hate crime;
- whether the current enhanced sentence approach is appropriate for Northern Ireland;
- whether new categories of hate crime should be created for characteristics such as gender and any other characteristics (which are not currently covered);
- the implementation and operation of the current legislative framework for incitement offences, in particular Part III of the Public Order (Northern Ireland) Order 1987 and make recommendations for improvements;
- how any identified gaps, anomalies and inconsistencies can be addressed in any new legislative framework ensuring this interacts effectively with other legislation guaranteeing human rights and equality; and
- whether there is potential for alternative or mutually supportive restorative approaches for dealing with hate motivated offending.

3.15 **Racial Equality Strategy**

The Racial Equality Strategy 2015 - 2025 establishes a framework for government departments (and others) to tackle racial inequalities, to eradicate racism and hate crime and along with Together: Building a United Community it is the main strategy for promoting good race relations and social cohesion.

3.16 During Private Members' Business on 14 September the NI Assembly debated the Racial Equality Strategy and resolved that:

‘this Assembly recognises that the racial equality strategy 2015-2025 was not fully implemented and is now significantly outdated; acknowledges the commitment contained in New Decade, New Approach to the publication of a new and updated racial equality strategy within 100 days of the restoration of the Assembly; further recognises the positive contribution made to society by those from black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) backgrounds; deplores the discrimination black, Asian and minority ethnic communities face regularly; condemns racism in all its forms; commits to act urgently on the forthcoming report on the review of hate crime legislation; calls for the promotion of an anti-racism ethos in our schools; and further calls on the First Minister and deputy First Minister to set up a working group with members of the black, Asian and minority ethnic communities to co-design and co-produce an updated racial equality strategy and to publish a timetable for the implementation of the strategy.’

3.17 Council Programmes and initiatives to promote the integration and inclusion of new communities and address racism.

As highlighted in 3.3 and 3.4 above, Members will be aware of the Council's Good Relations Strategy.

3.18 The participation and inclusion of new communities is central to this new strategy and indeed, it has been a strong focus of the Council's Good Relations programme and work since 2007. To support this work, the Council established a Migrant Forum that provides a regular consultative forum for debate and discussion on issues related to new communities and a means for connecting and consulting with these communities.

3.19 More than ten years on, the Good Relations Unit continues to run this forum. The forum has an active membership of over 40 organisations; partners include the Health Trust, NIHE, Law Centre, Migrant Help, Red Cross, TEO as well as numerous organisations from the minority ethnic, community and voluntary sectors. The Forum has provided a means of disseminating information to new communities and connecting them to the Council as well as promoting partnership work. It is worth noting that the Migrant Forum has a nominated representative who sits on the Shared City Partnership.

3.20 Over the past number of years, the Council has developed and supported many projects aimed at promoting the integration and inclusion of new communities and addressing racism with a number of partners. This work has been undertaken through our Good Relations Action Plan and through the current PEACE IV Programme.

Details of a number of examples of this work which had been included with the agenda for Members' information.

3.21 Proposed Council Actions to Address the Issues Raised in the Notice of Motion

The Good Relations Strategy outlines that promoting Good Relations is everyone's business. Officers have suggested key areas below, where the Council is best placed to influence change and address racism and inequality, both in its role as a major employer and as the democratically accountable, civic leadership body for the city – two pillars of our Good Relations Strategy.

3.22

1. A representative workforce

The Council will lead by example as an employer. Our goal is to ensure that our workforce properly reflects the communities we serve. While it will take time for us to attain this, we will improve pathways for underrepresented groups in Belfast City Council by delivering a programme of employability outreach to BAME

communities and ensuring that job and other opportunities are communicated to BAME communities through the migrant forum and other city networks.

2.23

2. Tackling unconscious bias

We will ensure every member of staff is required to participate in mandatory equalities training that challenges unconscious bias.

3.24

3. Highlighting and tackling racial inequalities

Covid 19 has further exposed the inequalities affecting BAME communities. We will commission an audit of racial inequalities and how these affect the lives of BAME communities living in Belfast. Subsequently, we will decide the immediate and longer-term measures together which we need to take to tackle inequality in all its forms.

3.25

4. Encouraging change in others

We will use procurement practices to encourage our delivery partners / contractors to have in place evidence demonstrating their organisation's commitment to equality and diversity in the workplace.

3.26

5. Council staff capability

We will improve accessibility to Council services by ensuring that the new Customer Hub is inclusive by design and that staff are skilled in facilitating a response to all communities.

3.27

6. Consulting those unheard voices in all our work

Our engagement and consultation framework seeks to ensure that everyone has an equal opportunity to get involved. This means looking at how our diverse communities can be supported to respond to consultations and that those who struggle to get their voices heard are part of policy planning can participate and be more involved.

3.28

7. Engagement leads

We will develop engagement leads in each department, developing our capacity to engage in more meaningful and inclusive ways, including with BAME communities so we have the in-house expertise and leadership to tackle inequality and promote good relations across the city.

3.29

8. Practically supporting participation and inclusion

Continue to open up access to economic opportunities and promote and encourage uptake from BAME communities by removing barriers that inhibit access such as addressing childcare solutions, having interpreters at engagement roadshows, producing key information about opportunities in minority languages, providing counselling for people experiencing trauma or ill health.'

3.30

9. Leading by example

We will engage with other public sector partners and anchor organisations in the city to join us in drawing up an Inclusive Growth Charter for the city.

3.31

We will deepen our partnership work with the voluntary, community and faith sectors that served the City so well during the Covid 19 crisis and ensure that funding and development opportunities are open to these sectors. We will work through the Migrant Forum to ensure that organisations representing diverse communities can be properly heard and are aware of funding and other opportunities.

3.32

10. Building future leaders

We will explore the development of a programme to grow young Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic leaders in the City.

3.3

11. Promoting an intercultural city

We will celebrate and share our city stories of diversity and work to ensure that the stories of all our communities are shared, explored and commemorated appropriately. We will use the DiverseCity programme to continue to provide opportunities to promote diversity and community conversations around inclusion. We will work with our diverse communities to encourage the shared celebration of festivals in the city.

3.34

12. Build Capacity

We will deliver training to encourage by-stander interruption of hate crime and to address anti-migrant, anti-muslim, anti-refugee and anti-asylum narratives.

3.35

13. Education

We will work with 4 Shared School Partnerships through the Good Relations Plan to develop the capacity, skills and strategies of young people and school staff to understand diversity, the impact of sectarianism and racism and to challenge racist and sectarian behaviour.

3.36

14. Post Brexit commitments

We will promote a narrative around the city as welcoming by sending out a message of support to EU nationals that the Council wants them to stay in this city and to encourage them to apply to the EU settlement scheme. We will support the settlement and inclusion of our refugee community by reviewing and reprinting the Refugee Transition Guide, to ensure that refugees living in Belfast are aware of their rights and entitlements and to support their integration into the city.

3.37

15. Building relationships in the community

We will encourage opportunities for the development of good relations projects across the city that promote contact and good relations between new and host communities through our Good Relations Fund and Peace IV programme.

3.38

To ensure these proposals are progressed, we will organise a staff workforce team to develop an action plan which will be brought back to the Partnership in due course. The team will the action plan as well as researching further best practice. It is anticipated that the external engagement will also be grounded within the area teams' programme of work.

Financial & Resource Implications

There are no direct resource implications in terms of staff time or additional costs associated with this request at present. Further resource implications will be brought to the partnership in due course.

Equality or Good Relations Implications

The proposed actions within this report will complement our good relations commitments and support the integration and inclusion of all communities in Belfast."

Appendix 1

Examples of Council projects supporting the integration and inclusion of BAME communities.

Introduction

To support the integration and inclusion of new communities, Council has delivered various projects which have been specifically commissioned and developed as well as projects that have funded through our Good Relations Grant-Aid and Peace IV Local Action Plan.

1. Grant Aid Programme Support

The Good Relations Unit has a Good Relations Grant Aid Programme that provides an opportunity twice a year for organisations across Belfast to submit project proposals focused on promoting good relations between communities.

The fund provides grant-aid up to £10,000 for short-term projects that aim to promote good relations within the City. Significant work has been undertaken through the Migrant Forum to ensure that organisations supporting new communities are competent in accessing the fund as well as encouraging host communities to utilise this fund to develop projects aimed at promoting relations between new and host communities.

This fund has been a popular initiative that has enabled many interventions and innovative projects aimed at connecting communities and supporting the integration and inclusion of all.

Examples of projects that have been supported include:

- Orientation opportunities for new communities

This included orientation sessions for new communities aimed at providing them with advice and information on issues that help support their long-term settlement in Belfast and in their local neighbourhoods. It included a six month project to support the localised integration and orientation of people from Syria living in West Belfast, delivered by Falls Women's Centre in partnership with the Shankill Women's Centre.

- Supporting contact and familiarity between Communities

The Good Relations Fund has also been used to support numerous projects that have included story telling between new and host communities, drama and community arts based programmes that focus on developing understanding between communities and exploring aspects of identity, migration and re-settlement in a new country.

2. Supporting integration and inclusion through the celebration of festivals and cultural events

We have worked with many of the minority ethnic communities across the City, supporting them to celebrate their festivals and to open them to other communities as an opportunity to build relations. The City Hall and Botanic Gardens, for example, have been used to host Eid, Chinese New Year and other cultural celebrations. We also work to ensure that festivals and cultural events organised by the Council are also inclusive of all communities living in Belfast, such as St. Patrick's Day.

3. Supporting the integration and inclusion of Asylum Seekers and Refugees

The Good Relations Unit has supported several initiatives to promote the integration and inclusion of refugees and asylum seekers including advice and information services as well as cultural events. We support the annual Refugee Awareness Week, through hosting the launch and organising awareness raising events and providing funding to enable others to mark the week. We have organised numerous Refugee and Asylum awareness training events across Belfast, enabling communities and staff to understand asylum issues and the impact of our services on these communities.

A number of years ago we developed a Refugee Transition Guide that was recognised by the Department for Work and Pensions as a model of good practice. The guide was developed on the back of an information gap relating to the provision of advice for people who claim asylum and are granted permission to stay. The guide contains information on finding a home, looking for work, applying for benefits, education, healthcare, family reunion, long term immigration status and more. It is available in several languages. We are currently looking at updating and re-printing this guide.

4. Peace IV programme and longer term interventions

Currently we are funding a three year project, through the Peace IV Local Action Plan which is funded by SEUPB. The LINCS Programme is being delivered by Alternatives, NIACRO and Community Restorative Justice Ireland. This programme aims to build contact and familiarity between new and host communities in 4 areas within Belfast. It aims to use normal everyday encounters to promote understanding between new and host communities and to develop meaningful relationships. Covid 19 has presented challenges to the delivery of this project with its high focus on community contact and community familiarisation, however the project has adapted to meet the challenges and to encourage an online level of engagement.

5. Supporting improved relations in East Belfast

For the past four years the Good Relations Unit has funded East Belfast Community Development Association to provide a Race Relations Co-ordinator in East Belfast. This post has been critical in developing improved relations

between new and host communities in East Belfast and developing networks among community, voluntary and statutory partners and linking new communities in local services.

6. Roma Information Hub

Through our Peace IV plan we are in the process of contracting a delivery agent to develop and deliver a two year Roma information Hub.

The purpose of this project is to provide a support hub as a point of contact for the Roma Community to encourage and enhance access to statutory and voluntary support services and promote the integration and inclusion of this community.

7. Building capacity within schools

We have also been partnering with the Education Authority to create 4 Shared School Partnerships. As well as promoting shared education between the partnering schools the schools will also partner in projects to develop the capacity, skills and strategies of young people and school staff to understand diversity, the impact of sectarianism and racism and to challenge racist and sectarian behaviour.

8. DiverseCity Programme

For the past four years, we have been running a very popular Diversecity programme that provides monthly diversity initiatives for the public. The purpose of these initiatives is to encourage an increased awareness of issues around diversity and to provide participants with an opportunity to meet and engage with representatives from other faith, ethnic and political backgrounds. It also gives participants the opportunity to visit places and spaces that they would not traditionally go to. Initiatives within this programme include facilitated workshops at the Belfast Islamic Centre, the Jewish Synagogue, the Hindu Temple, the Chinese Resource Centre as well as training on Refugee Issues, Arabic Awareness, Roma and Traveller issues, opportunities to listen to the stories of Refugee and Asylum Seekers. The programme has been very well received and is always oversubscribed.

Covid19 has resulted in some aspects of the programme being suspended and attempts are being made to move it to a more virtual platform.

9. Supporting integration through economic inclusion

The Good Relations Unit with the Council's Economic Development have been engaging with new communities to ensure that access to economic development programmes and academies are also accessible to new communities. To support this, Economic Development staff have become permanent members and a constant agenda item at the Council's Migrant Forum meetings. This has been critical in enhancing communication between

this department and new communities and has resulted in a greater uptake of opportunities from people from new communities. It has also helped inform those developing economic initiatives of the barriers facing inhibit new communities from accessing economic initiatives.

Targeted engagement with new communities resulted in a 13% uptake of academy opportunities from residents that were born outside the UK and Ireland.

The Economic Development Unit linked with the Migrant Forum to ensure that individual barriers to accessing employment academies were removed by:

- Having interpreters at engagement roadshows
- Producing key information in the top five languages
- Providing childcare while attending academies
- Developing flexible hours around delivery
- Working through the Migrant Forum and other partnerships to ensure that opportunities were communicated to new communities.

10. Programmes aimed at preventing hate

We are currently working with partners across the City on initiatives to prevent hate crime, through the City-Wide Hate Crime Steering Group which is convened by the Safer City Coordinator. Recently we commissioned a report on the experiences of people from the Muslim faith within Belfast. Following on from this report, we commissioned Faith Matters and Tell Mama to deliver a four day training looking specifically at anti-muslim hate and how to address and prevent. We have also partnered with other relevant agencies to develop a specific structure to monitor tensions experienced by people within the Muslim community.

11. Targeted Support for communities through the Covid19 Pandemic

At the early stages of the pandemic, members will be aware that Council developed several targeted interventions to support vulnerable communities during the pandemic and to ensure that messaging and support services were accessible to these communities. Although minority communities were encouraged to access the wider Council Covid19 Help-line, two specific interventions were also developed for minority communities in recognition of language barriers and communities that might be more isolated and digitally and socially excluded. These included the Roma Helpline and the support provided to run a bilingual help-line for refugees and asylum seekers, details of which are outlined below:

- Covid19 Response – Recovery support for Refugee and Asylum Community (CRRAC)

The Council continues to support the CRRAC initiative by providing funding to deliver a bi-lingual help-line to check-in on vulnerable refugees and asylum seekers and link them to support services that are available in their local neighbourhoods or in Belfast. The purpose of the service is to attempt to

reduce the sense of isolation and exclusion that many within the refugee and asylum community encounter in the absence of having family ties and wider social networks.

- Roma Helpline

At the early stages of the pandemic the Roma community in Belfast were identified as quite a vulnerable group who have very specific language and cultural needs that makes it difficult for them to access accurate public health advice and information about keeping themselves safe.

The Council recognised that there was a need to support an advice and advocacy resource to disseminate trusted messages and support to this community.

Recognising this vulnerability the Council funded Forward South Partnership to provide a culturally appropriate telephone helpline to support the Romanian speaking Roma community across Belfast.

This bilingual service has provided a trusted and accessible service and enabled many within the Roma community to obtain support for food, housing and benefit advice at a critical time. It has managed to provide significant engagement with the Roma Community and has established a referral system to enable this community to access wider support and advice services.

Evidence and analysis of those that have used the helpline during the covid lock-down illustrates that the funding of this service has prevented many vulnerable people from becoming destitute through signposting people into foodbanks, housing, health and advice services, thus improving connectivity and good relations with this community.

The service will continue to operate until the end of December with continued funding from the Good Relations Unit, The Belfast Health Trust and the Public Health Agency.

12. Supporting the integration and inclusion of new communities by linking and learning from other cities.

Members will be aware that in February the Council was accepted as a member to the Oxford University Inclusive Cities project. This project is a knowledge exchange initiative supporting UK cities and their local partners to achieve a change in their approach towards the inclusion of newcomers in the city.

The project will allow for peer learning and support between the participating cities and from the Global Exchange on Migration and Diversity, several learning opportunities are being planned for the coming months which will help inform improved work in supporting new communities.

Several Members commended the Officers who had been involved in the preparation of the report. They noted that every part of the City needed to embrace the various elements contained within the report to ensure that Belfast as a City was inclusive and welcoming to all

and most importantly became a Racism Free Zone and they looked forward to the development of the action plan which would help progress moving the agenda forward.

Members also commented on a number of related issues and it was agreed that these would be followed up by officers:

- The Executive Office be asked its view with regard to issues raised in relation to the Minority Ethnic Development Fund;
- to explore how the Council could use its influence to promote safe working conditions within meat factories in Northern Ireland which employed a significant number of people from the BAME community; and
- given that sectarianism continued to be such a significant issue in the City, that the Partnership should give further consideration as to how it could be addressed to help move towards a inclusive and welcoming City. This would also include work around Interfaces.

The Partnership recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that the Council develops an action plan to frame delivery around the proposed actions set out in this report. In addition, it was agreed that officers would follow up with the Executive Office regarding the issues raised in relation to the Minority Ethnic Development Fund and an update report on sectarianism in the City would be submitted to a future meeting to enable further discussion and consideration.

Public Attitudes to Peace Wall Survey

The Good Relations Manager reminded the Partnership that the Department of Justice (DoJ) had recently commissioned the Ipsos MORI to conduct the third wave of the attitudes survey available [here](#)

The specific aims of the research were to understand current attitudes towards the peace walls among residents living in close proximity to a peace wall and to measure the extent to which public attitudes had shifted, if at all, since the survey was last conducted in 2015 and 2012.

She highlighted the following points contained within the document which it was felt might have a bearing on work within the City:

- Community Safety – detail on confidence in policing at interfaces and increased community concerns regarding potential rise in ASB/interface violence;
- ‘Cultural protectionism’ within some communities living at interfaces;
- Overall drop in residents’ support for interface removal;
- General support for more visible ‘political representation’ in the barrier removal process;
- Evidences reliance on local community representatives to share information (pertinent to barrier removal) with residents;
- Policy context of ‘removal of peace walls’ – no reference to Belfast Agenda within the document but general lack of awareness of Executive/other policies by those surveyed;
- Overall support for a gradual approach to removal of walls; and
- Generally higher levels of ‘trust’ in Councils as opposed to other politicians – but evidence of lack of clarity on Council position regarding peace walls.

The Good Relation Manager advised that, once published, hard copies of the report would be available.

The Partnership recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that they note the contents of the report and that representatives from the International Fund for Ireland Peace walls project had been invited to a future meeting of the Partnership to update on its work.

Verbal Update from the Good Relations Manager

The Good Relations Manager advised that, as discussed throughout the meeting, the tightening of the Covid Restriction was likely to have an impact on the delivery on many of the Good Relations work streams. In particular, the delivery of the Good Relation Action Plan was likely to be affected and there was likely to be an underspend.

She reported that the Chief Executive would be writing to The Executive Office to seek clarification and the Partnership would be updated accordingly.

Noted.

Chairperson

This page is intentionally left blank

Minutes of Party Group Leaders Consultative Forum 14th January 2021

Attendance

Members:

Councillor Christina Black (Chair)
Councillor Billy Hutchinson
Councillor Nuala McAlister
Councillor Donal Lyons
Councillor Anthony Flynn (for Councillor Mal O'Hara)
Alderman George Dorrian
Alderman Sonia Copeland
Councillor Fiona Ferguson
Councillor Ciaran Beattie

Officers:

Suzanne Wylie, Chief Executive
Ronan Cregan, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources
John Walsh, City Solicitor
Siobhan Toland, Director of City Services (Item 2)
John Greer, Director of Economic Development (Item 3 – Employment Academies)
Joanne Delaney, Portfolio and Programme Coordinator (secretariat)

1. Covid 19 Implications

The Chief Executive provided an update on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on council services. Members discussed the ongoing response to the tightened restrictions including recent announcements on working from home, closure of schools, shielding advice and increased infections rates. Members were advised that staff who are reporting as Covid positive and unable to work is increasing along with a rise in numbers who have to self-isolate due to possible exposure which is impacting on organisational capacity. In light of this the main focus for the organisation at present and in the immediate future is sustaining and maintaining operations for critical and vital services, a list of which was noted by Members. The Chief Executive advised given the ever evolving situation a report will be presented to January SP&R outlining current position and an update on contingency plans for those critical and vital services discussed. Work continues on supporting city messaging and compliance where appropriate.

The City Solicitor provided an update for Members on the new governance arrangements given the current situation for Committee meetings. Members noted the new format for fully remote meetings and the arrangements put in place by Democratic services to provide support for the Committee Chairs. Given the quasi-judicial nature of the Planning and Licensing committee they will continue in the current format along with the Council meeting. Alderman Copeland highlighted the need for all parties to be mindful of the number of Motions and Issues Raised being brought forward and asked that Members consider a more balanced approach given the increasing pressure on staff and the organisation at this time. There was general Consensus from Members for a more balanced approach and following discussion it was agreed Alderman Copeland to raise at the January SP&R meeting.

2. Finance Update

The Deputy Chief Executive & Director of Finance and Resources presented to members an update on the rate setting process for 2021/22. He advised that the Estimated Penny Product (EPP) has now been notified from Land & Property Services (LPS) and the work carried out by the University of Ulster on Rates income modelling projections is now complete. Members were advised that the government has still not indicated whether or not funding for non-recurrent losses and rates income losses will be forthcoming. . A Report will be presented to January SP&R which will provide 2 options in the event that government funding is not available for 2021/22. It will also outline the timeline for next steps to ensure the setting of the District Rate by 1 March 2021 deadline (to be confirmed).

The Deputy Chief Executive & Director of Finance and Resources also highlighted that an underspend in the capital financing budget would be reported and Members will be in a position to decide on whether to allocate £500k to phase 5 of the alleygating scheme.

3. AOB

Procurement - Employment Academy Framework

In relation to an issue raised by Councillor Beattie at December SP&R committee the Director of Economic Development provided an update for Members on the procurement process for the Employment Academy Framework. He outlined the details of the Procurement Framework and the steps taken to ensure it is compliant with both procurement principles and with the council's Inclusive Growth Strategy. Members discussed some concerns they had and the Director agreed that these will be addressed in a report to January SP&R committee. It was noted that given the exercise is currently live, with a closing date of 15

January 2021 the concerns raised will be taken into consideration for future years. It was also agreed that the way forward is also discussed at the next Social Value Working Group meeting.

Thematic funding

Councillor Beattie raised an issue in relation to the community response for the thematic funding. The Director of City Services to follow up with the relevant officers.

Illuminate request

Members agreed to a request to light up City Hall in blue to mark the contribution and dedication of NHS staff & other frontline workers at this critical time.

This page is intentionally left blank

ACTIVE BELFAST LIMITED BOARD

Monday, 11th January, 2021

MEETING OF ACTIVE BELFAST LIMITED BOARD

(Held remotely via Microsoft Teams)

Attendees

- Directors:** Mr. J. McGuigan (Chairperson)
Councillor Carson
Councillor Corr
Councillor McLaughlin
Councillor Newton
Mr. P. Boyle
Mr. K. Ellison and
Mrs. K. McCullough.
- Officers:** Mrs. K. Gilliland, Neighbourhood Services Manager;
Mr. N. Munnis, Partnership Manager; and
Mr. H. Downey, Democratic Services Officer.
- GLL:** Mr. G. Kirk, Regional Director;
Mr. J. Michael, Business Manager; and
Mr. A. Walker, Partnership Manager.

Apologies

An apology was reported on behalf of Mr. C. Kirkwood.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 14th December were approved.

Matters Arising

Update on Director Recruitment

The Board noted that the recruitment of new Directors would be addressed later in the meeting.

GLL Staff Survey

The Board noted that the development of a GLL staff survey had been delayed as a result of the various Covid-19 restrictions which had been imposed since March and agreed that planning should proceed to enable the survey to be rolled out when there was a return to a sustained level of business stability.

Update on Covid-19 Lockdown and Recovery

The Board was reminded that, at its meeting on 14th December, it had noted that it would, later in the meeting, have the opportunity to discuss with GLL issues which had been raised around i). the failure by GLL to consult with the Trades Union Forum on proposed changes to the role of Customer Services Advisor and ii). child safeguarding, in the context of cashless entry to centres. However, the matter had been overlooked and, accordingly, the Partnership Manager had undertaken to request the information from GLL and circulate it to the Board.

The Partnership Manager provided a brief overview of GLL's response, which he had forwarded to the Board by email on 21st December.

During discussion, the Director who had raised the issues initially, stated that the response had confirmed his assertion that GLL had chosen not to consult with the relevant staff on the new Customer Services Advisor role and he pointed out that consultation had only taken place when he had intervened on their behalf.

In relation to GLL's response to child safeguarding, he stated that it was his understanding that the current online/cashless booking system would only apply for the duration of the Covid-19 pandemic and he stressed that there remained an onus on GLL to fully address that risk moving forward. He would, therefore, continue to raise the matter.

In response, the Partnership Manager explained that an independent audit of GLL's health and safety operations, which had been partly completed, had been suspended due to Covid-19 and suggested that he discuss with the consultant the possibility of extending its remit to include this specific child safeguarding issue.

The Board noted GLL's response and endorsed the action which had been suggested by the Partnership Manager.

Non- Director Attendance Protocol

The Board was reminded that, at its meeting on 14th December, it had deferred until this meeting a report setting out a protocol for dealing with requests from non-Directors to attend future meetings, to allow for further consideration to be given to the period of notice required and the process for dealing with urgent requests.

Accordingly, the Partnership Manager submitted for the Board's approval the following revised protocol:

"Draft Protocol:

- 1. For the purposes of this protocol, non-Directors will be referred to as 'guests'.**
- 2. Guests will not be permitted to attend Board meetings for the purposes of observation.**
- 3. The Board will consider all requests from guests to attend a board meeting and present to the Board.**

4. Requests from guests/groups must be submitted at least one calendar week (five working days) in advance to allow for consideration by the Board.
5. The request must be in writing (electronic correspondence if preferred) and include details of the issue to be raised, the desired outcome and the number and names of those wishing to attend. It will be the responsibility of the applicant to inform the board of any IT/presentation equipment requirements.
6. Where a request is received from a group, the total number of guests permitted will not exceed three.
7. Irrespective of the Board's decision the external guest/group in question will be notified as soon as possible after the board meeting at which the decision was taken.
8. In all cases where a request to attend is approved, the guest will receive written confirmation including details of the date and time of the meeting along with standard conditions of attendance.
9. In the event that the reason for the request is urgent and cannot meet the advanced notice deadline as set out in Point 4 above, the request will be passed to the Chair who will deal with the request on behalf of the Board.

The Chair's will consult with all other Directors by email. In the Chair's absence, the Deputy Chair will assume this role.

The decision will be communicated by email to all members of the Board and formally recorded at the start of the meeting under routine matters.

10. At the meeting, a guest may address the Board to present their case but may not directly question officers from the Council or the strategic operating partner.

Board papers will not be circulated to guests in advance.

Approved guest attendance will only be permitted from the start/introduction of the relevant agenda item. The guest(s) must leave the meeting on conclusion of the relevant agenda item and before the next item is introduced."

After discussion, the Board approved the Non-Director Attendance Protocol, subject to the first paragraph in point 10. being amended to read as follows:

"At the meeting, a guest may address the Board to present their case but may not directly question a Council officer or the strategic operating partner, as that function rests solely with the Board."

Director Attendance Statement/Extension of Tenure

The Board was reminded that, at its meeting on 11th March, 2019, it had approved a protocol for the future monitoring and management of Directors' attendance at Board meetings. Under the protocol, a Director who failed to attend three consecutive meetings, without providing notice, or five consecutive meetings, either with or without providing notice, would be notified by the Partnership Manager.

The Partnership Manager reported that he was awaiting a response to a standard letter which he had forwarded recently to a current Director who had been absent from the last five Board meetings, with apologies having been submitted on only two of those occasions. Should that Director fail to respond, he would then be invited by the Chairperson to confirm if he wished to remain on the Board and the outcome would be reported at a future meeting.

He reported further that Mr. Boyle, Mr. Kirkwood and Mrs. McCullough had reached the end of their initial three-year term of appointment. All three Directors had confirmed officially that they wished to extend their tenure for a further term, subject to approval being granted by the Board.

The Board noted the information which had been provided in relation to the Director attendance statement and granted approval for Mr. Boyle, Mr. Kirkwood and Mrs. McCullough to remain on the Board for a further three years.

Proposals for Future Board Meeting Agenda Items

No agenda items were identified by Directors for future meetings.

Update on the Council's Revised Government Arrangements

In advance of the agenda items being considered, the Partnership Manager highlighted two issues which would have a significant impact upon the work of the Board over the coming months.

Firstly, the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting on 20th November, had agreed that a report be submitted to a future meeting setting out the terms of reference for a review of the Council's governance arrangements, in relation to the delivery of its leisure service.

He explained that it had been the intention to commence the review immediately, with the views of Elected Members and Directors to be sought in relation to a proposed terms of reference and other issues. However, that process had been delayed until such time as the Council was in a position to return to something approaching normal service delivery.

Secondly, the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting on 23rd October, had agreed to suspend meetings, with the exception of Standing Committees, to enable officers to work on maintaining recovery as a priority. That, he pointed out, meant that the Board would be unable to meet for the foreseeable future and would delay in particular the recruitment of new Directors.

In response to a number of issues which had been raised, he confirmed that Directors would be kept fully informed of any issues which would arise whilst the Board was in abeyance. He added that Council officers and their GLL counterparts would work

to maintain a state of readiness in the event that Board meetings would recommence earlier than anticipated.

The Board noted the information which had been provided.

(The GLL representatives joined the meeting at this point.)

Synthetic Pitch Utilisation and Business Performance

The Board considered the following report which had been prepared by GLL:

“1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To provide the Board with a 2020/21 year to date update on the synthetic pitch utilisation and business performance managed by GLL in Belfast, since last reported on 20th January, 2020.

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 The Board is requested to note the information below.

GLL officers will be in attendance to provide any additional information or clarification.

3.0 Main Report

3.1 Occupancy and income figures for each individual centre 3G pitch managed by GLL in Belfast are presented below along with overall citywide service figures. In Quarter 1, the facilities were closed due to Covid-19 restrictions. NI Executive restrictions during periods of Q2 and Q3 have had an impact in the normal operation of pitches throughout this six month period.

3.2 City Wide Offering Quarter 2

	July Capacity	July Occupancy	July Income	Aug Capacity	Aug Occupancy	Aug Income	Sept Capacity	Sept Occupancy	Sept Income
Andersonstown	0	0	£0.00	866	255	£285.50	866	240	£645.50
Ballysillan	680	10	£0.00	670	103	£1,731.00	672	173	£2,831.50
Brook	614	99	£1,067.00	616	307	£4,976.00	602	412	£7,925.00
Girdwood	648	188	£297.00	636	235	£5,940.00	612	251	£4,503.00
Lisnasharragh	0	0	£0.00	433	8	£160.00	433	31	£1,360.00
Olympia	1,320	23	£837.00	1,299	54	£1,909.00	1,251	75	£2,412.00
Ozone	684	38	£204.00	690	112	£806.00	690	140	£1,597.25
Whiterock	753	0	£1,546.00	707	121	£3,384.00	709	156	£3,927.00
Total	4,699	358	£3,951.00	5,917	1,195	£19,191.50	5,835	1,478	£25,201.25

3.3 City Wide Offering Quarter 3

	Oct Capacity	Oct Occupancy	Oct Income	Nov Capacity	Nov Occupancy	Nov Income	Dec Capacity	Dec Occupancy	Dec Income
Andersonstown	866	240	£651.00	834	0	£0.00	848	0	£0.00
Ballysillan	434	114	£1,882.50	416	0	£0.00	424	25	£409.00
Brook	3,650	249	£3,933.00	3,430	17	£412.00	3,580	92	To be Calculated
Girdwood	636	323	£5,801.00	612	78	£1,395.00	624	69	£1,243.50
Lisnasharragh	433	17	£680.00	417	0	£0.00	424	10	£400.00
Olympia	1,299	89	£2,889.00	1,251	6	£165.00	1,272	15	£498.00
Ozone	442	115	£2,432.00	426	29	£629.00	432	38	£754.00
Whiterock	736	199	£4,043.00	709	57	£4,056.00	721	To be Calculated	To be Calculated
Total	8,496	1,346	£22,311.50	8,095	187	£6,657.00	8,325	249	£3,304.50

3.4 Peak/Off Peak Flows

- a) Covid-19 restrictions have resulted in a reduction in the number of user groups. In the early period of Q2 usage was limited to affiliated clubs and school groups. In the latter part of Q2, restrictions were lifted to allow non-affiliated club use.
- b) Covid-19 restrictions have limited competitive game usage and all youth small-sided games programmes have yet to return.
- c) 3G pitch utilisation remains seasonal and based on demands from sports clubs.
- d) Association Football is the main sport utilising 3G pitch services, through clubs, leagues, schools and casual usage. Gaelic Sports and Rugby are also played on 3G pitches but not with the same demand as Association Football.
- e) Peak usage is from 6 pm – 9 pm across all pitches.
- f) Daytime usage is predominantly occupied by schools during term time. Holiday daytime use would be taken by a variety of community groups, clubs and NGBs delivering holiday programmes but Covid-19 has resulted in none of these activities taking place in 2020.

3.5 User Groups

Our user groups are represented through the following categories:

- Sports Clubs

- Leagues
- National Governing Bodies
- Casual
- Schools
- Community groups,
- Casuals
- Belfast City Council

3.6 Action to maximise occupancy in 2021

- a) All centres will be building their 2021 budget books to include action and outreach plans to drive utilisation and income in this area.
- b) GLL will continue to engage with the Irish FA, Ulster GAA and Ulster Rugby to ensure NGB-led grassroots programmes, festival and coach education programmes are encouraged on these facilities. The introduction of Avoniel in 2021 will add to our synthetic pitch options.
- c) GLL will continue to be represented on the Belfast City Council and Irish Football Association Stadium benefits working group linked to the National Stadium at Windsor Park.
- d) Targets for each centre will be developed to increase occupancy and income in line with 2021 business planning process.
- e) Target markets include local schools and businesses to drive daytime occupancy and off peak usage will continue in early 2021 and permit activities in line with current Covid-19 restrictions.
- f) Specific projects will be established focusing on adult casual participation leagues (5 & 7 a side) across the small sided pitches in the city. These projects will be in line with the Leisure Transformation Programme and will work in partnership with Belfast City Council, the Irish FA and local community groups.

The Board noted the contents of the report.

Update on Healthwise and Physical Activity Referrals Programme

The Board considered the following report which had been prepared by GLL:

“1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide the Board with a six monthly progress update on the exercise and health referral programmes managed by GLL in Belfast.

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 The Board is requested to note the information below.

GLL officers will be in attendance to provide any additional information or clarification.

3.0 Main Report

3.1 Background

a) GLL currently delivers the following health related contracts and services:

Healthwise – 12-week exercise referral programme – Commissioned by Belfast Health Development Unit via Belfast City Council. Annual rolling contract value of £80K (£80,648.34)

Cardiac Rehabilitation – 12-week cardiac rehab programme – Commissioned by Belfast Health Development Unit via Belfast City Council. Annual contract value of £35K (£35,273.33)

Cancer Rehabilitation – 12-week cancer rehab programme – Commissioned by Belfast Health Development Unit via Belfast City Council. Annual contract value of £20K (£20,716.66)

***Total from BHDU £137,568.33 taking account furlough payments for staff between March to 1st May 2020.**

Move More Belfast - Commissioned by MacMillan Cancer. Three year contract value of £118K. Two year extension £56K from MacMillan, supported by GLL will come to an end December 2021

b) Programmes provide a 12-week physical activity programme, which adheres to regional standards and guidelines.

c) A team of dedicated health related exercise professionals delivers the above programmes. All staff are qualified to a minimum of Level III exercise referral. GLL currently employs eight dedicated Health staff directly managed by the Regional Business Manager.

d) All chronic conditions (cardiac and cancer) pathways are delivered by dedicated staff qualified to Level IV in the relevant chronic condition.

e) The aim is to promote and increase long-term adherence to physical activity and lifestyle changes

designed to improve the physical and mental health of clients who are inactive or sedentary and who are otherwise healthy or who have an existing health condition or other risk factors for disease.

- f) Staff support clients in meeting the Chief Medical Officer physical activity recommendations for adults and older people.
- g) Strategic partnerships and working groups established around chronic conditions pathways to ensure collaboration with key organisations such as Public Health Agency, Belfast Health & Social Care Trust and charitable partners.
- h) This year the proposed regional model was to be target based with payments for service delivery and contractual compliance. The payment per client was confirmed by the BHDU as £130 per client completed. For cardiac rehabilitation the payment was £150 per client and cancer rehabilitation as £150 per client. Target for GLL 2019-2020 was 1,073 completers across the three programmes.
- i) The impact of Covid-19 has resulted in the Health team not being able to deliver a face-to-face offering and therefore an agreement was made with BHDU that the programme would receive the full grant each quarter rather than be measured on KPI target delivery.
- j) Since 16th September, all referrals have been given the option of the hybrid model created by GLL in partnership with PHA which has provided a blended version of three types of delivery (face to face indoors, face to face outdoors and virtual/online) further description of this model can be viewed in 3.8 of this paper.

YTD update on all targets, referrals, progress and completions

3.2 Table 1 Healthwise KPIs 2019/20 – 2020/21

Programme	Measurable Objective	Annual Target	Progress To Date				Total
			Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	
			19-20	2020-21			
Healthwise (Physical Activity referral scheme)	Total number of patients completing the programme (12 week programme)	677 *interaction s recorded for referrals during covid	103	1124*	2496*		3620*

- 3.2.1. The support and work carried out by GLL to referrals during the last 6 months has been welcomed by BHDU and they have

agreed to release of funds for each quarter based on interactions are recorded as telephone call, motivational text message, email, home workout and video classes/sessions.

3.3 Table 2 Cardiac Rehabilitation KPIs 2019/20 – 2020/21

Programme		Measurable Objective	Annual Target	Progress To Date				Total
				Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	
				19-20	2020-21			
Cardiac rehab Level IV	Delivery of Cardiac Rehabilitation Phase IV for clients (12 week programme) completing the programme	256 *interactions recorded for referrals during covid	19	356	288		644	

3.3.1 Due to the pandemic, cardiac nurses have been redeployed in the health service resulting in the phase III rehabilitation referrals been suspended for this period. The support and work carried out by GLL to existing referral clients during the last 6 months has been welcomed by BHDU and they have agreed to release of funds for each quarter based interactions that are recorded as telephone call, motivational text message, email, home workout and video classes/sessions.

3.4 Table 3 Cancer Rehabilitation KPIs 2019/20 – 2020/21

Programme	Measurable Objective	Annual Target	Progress To Date				Total
			Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	
			19-20	2020-21			
Cancer rehab Level IV	Delivery of Cancer Rehabilitation Phase IV for clients (12 week programme) completing the programme	150 *interactions recorded for referrals during covid	21	480*	*610		1090

3.4.1 The cancer rehab programme referrals are made through the Move More Belfast pathway to the cancer rehab physical activity programme. Due to Covid-19 and the disruption of service it caused, contractual KPIs remained the same as 2019-20 year value. However, the support and work carried out by GLL to referral clients during the last 6 months justifies the release of funds from BHDU each quarter. Interactions are recorded as telephone call, motivational text message, email, home workout and video classes/sessions.

3.5 Table 4 'Move More' Belfast KPIs 2019/20 – 2020/21

Programme	Measurable Objective	Annual Target	Progress To Date				Total
			Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	
			19-20	2020-21			
'Move More' Belfast MacMillan Cancer	Total number of patients completing the programme including brief intervention	125 *interactions recorded for referrals during covid	56	52	46	50	204

3.6 Year-end Projections

- The Covid-19 pandemic has significantly affected the ability to deliver on KPIs set in previous years. However, the Health team have agreed with the funders on what is possible at this time and interactions are being recorded as a way to document the progress made throughout the year.
- Monthly review and performance management meetings are in place to ensure that performance is closely monitored and the required outputs delivered.
- As per contract compliance, monthly and quarterly returns are completed for all commissioners.

3.7 Regional Model

- Public Health Agency has developed a new regional exercise referral model for Level III Healthwise programmes. Emphasis remains on shift to providing group based classes, to increase volume and social interaction.
- Currently GLL have programmed 26 health referral specific classes across the city and a menu of step down options for referrals post 12 weeks. These classes include low intensity circuits, swimming, walking and yoga.
- The specification of Healthwise, including entry criteria, has been revised in the new regional model to focus on particular conditions outside of the current chronic disease pathways.
- The PHA is currently rolling out a new online GP referral database. The online GP referral database is part of the new regional model designed to deliver efficiencies in the referral process and enable clients to start programmes quicker. All GLL Healthwise coaches have been issued personal laptops in order to process online referrals.

3.8 Hybrid Model

- Under Covid-19 Health referrals are classified as clinically vulnerable and those overcoming cancer or a cardiac issue are classified as extremely clinically vulnerable. Due to these classifications a restart plan had to be in place to ensure that these demographics were not forgotten about during the pandemic.

- As well as offering remote support for referrals, during the latter part of the summer, the health team was working closely with the PHA to evolve the health model into a hybrid intervention. The idea of this was to support the referrals and to future proof the schemes in the volatile environment we find ourselves in to date.
- During the planning phase of the hybrid model, the Better Health team lead the way in designing how this service could be delivered throughout the regions in Northern Ireland. In partnership with the PHA and other councils in the country, GLL were the key players driving the creation of the hybrid model for all three-health programmes (PARS, Cardiac and Cancer). This position was the result of the best practice work they had already been carrying out in the earlier months of the pandemic.

The hybrid model is broken down into three delivery options:

- Face to face indoor
- Face to face outdoor
- Virtual/online

3.9 Issues impacting on delivery/performance

- Currently all contracts commissioned by Belfast Health Development Unit are based on one year rolling contracts. This creates challenges around staff recruitment and retention. It is anticipated that this will be addressed in the new regional model with longer-term contracts providing improved job security and stability of service.
- GLL's access to the new online GP referral database was delayed due to access and firewall security. This delay has been resolved but has resulted in a waiting list of referrals approx. GLL are working between two systems the historic paper and the new online as GPs/health care professionals are still not up to date with using the new online pathway. Discussions are ongoing with BHDU and PHA and it is hoped that this will be resolved soon.
- Redeployment of cardiac phase III nurses and the phase III rehabilitation classes that are currently not being delivered. Therefore no new referral for phase IV programme.

- **Waiting list due to honouring referrals membership when lockdown commenced and delay in hybrid model creation.**
- **Ongoing Covid-19 restrictions.”**

In response to a number of Directors who had highlighted the need to introduce specific programmes for those people whose health had been affected by Covid-19, Mr. Michael confirmed that GLL had held initial discussions with the Public Health Agency and the Belfast Health Development Unit in that regard.

The Board noted the contents of the report.

Update on Operating Restrictions and Impact of Covid-19

The Board considered the following report which had been prepared by GLL:

“1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide the Board with an update on the current operating restrictions and projected three month Covid-19 impacts.**

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 The Board is requested to the information provided below.**

GLL officers will be in attendance to provide any additional information or clarification.

3.0 Main Report

- 3.1 At the outset of the Covid19 pandemic, all leisure centres were directed to close from 17th March – 9th July 2020.**

During this time, centres were maintained by a small group of management staff who undertook daily building checks. That team also opened centres for statutory compliance works and supported on average 50 requests per week from Belfast City Council colleagues.

Our Healthwise team was initially stood down but returned to on-line client support from 1st May. Almost all other colleagues were placed on the coronavirus job retention scheme.

All customer accounts were frozen and communications ensured that stakeholders were regularly updated.

Following reopening on 10th July the approved list of centre activities gradually increased until October 2020 when further restrictions were announced although at that stage centres were permitted to remain open.

- 3.2 A second and shorter lockdown of two weeks once more closed our centres from 27th November – 10th December. Management followed the demobilisation protocol used during the first lockdown
- 3.3 Following an NI Executive announcement on 17th December 2020, the Belfast leisure centres closed after business on 24th December.
- 3.4 The present closure is expected to last between 4-6 weeks, therefore giving indicative end dates of between 23rd January – 6th February 2021. Guidance from UK active (below) confirms the NI Executive position:

Following the recent announcements, From 00:01 26 December to 1 January inclusive (ends at 00:01 on 2 Jan) Indoor sports and exercise facilities, including soft play areas, leisure centres, climbing facilities, rinks, gyms, swimming pools, equestrian centres and venues relating to sports activity must close.

From 00:01 2 January 2021 (note these restrictions are likely to last for at least a further 5 weeks) Outdoor gatherings for the purposes of exercise or sport are only permitted for elite athletes, for the purposes of P.E in or for schools, or if participants are members of the same household.

Outdoor sports and exercise facilities including activity centres, equestrian centres, Golf courses, marinas and venues relating to motor sport and water sport must close.

Indoor sport is only permitted for elite athletes or for P.E in, or for, schools.

Indoor sports and exercise facilities, including soft play areas, leisure centres, climbing facilities, rinks, gyms, swimming pools, equestrian centres and venues relating to sports activity must close.

Elite training and competition can continue, both indoors and outdoors

- 3.5 In line with lockdown, the following actions have been completed by 24th December:

Centres closed down and building checker rota in place.
Efficiency measures enacted in plant areas.

Communications to stakeholders completed

Booking systems suspended and customer accounts updated

Staff furlough arrangements enacted and ongoing staff communications plan being developed

Note –

No income will be generated during January 2021. This should be noted against a January 2020 income position of £651,237.

Government CJRS (furlough) support has been extended to 30th April 2021 and will continue to be utilised where appropriate. At the time of writing it is not expected that the majority of our products will be available prior to late spring / early summer of 2021. This has been reflected in 2021 budget preparations.

3.6 LTP impact

It should be noted that the water slides at Andersonstown LC have not yet been opened for public use.

The Surf Air offering at Andersonstown was in use from September – October 2020 and following testing was growing in popularity. Unfortunately the introduction of further operating restrictions in October resulted in closure.

Inflatable products for Brook and Lisnasharragh have been delivered and initially tested although these too remain to be made available for public usage.”

The Board noted the contents of the report.

Update on Leisure Transformation Programme

The Council's Partnership Manager submitted for the Board's consideration the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide the Board with an update on the Leisure Transformation Programme (LTP) capital build projects and service modernisation.**

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 The Board is requested to note the content and record receipt of the information presented.**

3.0 Main Report

- 3.1 The LTP comprises two distinct strands. Namely, the capital build programme and the service modernisation programme. Members receive regular updates on various elements of the service modernisation programme through a variety of reports from BCC officers and GLL. Members of the board requested that regular updates on the capital build programme be included in the annual report schedule.**

3.2 Brook and Lisnasharragh Leisure Centres

- a) Brook and Lisnasharragh leisure centres opened in December 2019 and were added to the routine KPI reporting systems from January 2020.**
- b) Both centres were fully operational and returning impressive business growth until the first Covid-19 lockdown in mid-March 2020.**

3.3 Andersonstown Leisure Centre

- a) Andersonstown LC was completed and scheduled to open in March 2020. The opening was subsequently postponed due to Covid-19 restrictions.**
- b) The centre was part opened in July following some relaxation of restrictions. Dry facilities including the fitness suite, group exercise programme and outdoor pitch use were permitted under strict Covid-Safe operating protocols.**
- c) In August, the main pool was opened, again under strict operating protocols.**
- d) The leisure water (Splash Pad, Slides and Surf Air) remains closed. The Surf Air facility was briefly open for public use in September/October but was closed in November due to the introduction of further Covid-19 restrictions and has remained closed since.**
- e) Taking advantage of the forced closure, some additional works to the Splash Pad floor surface will be completed in February.**
- f) Subject to Covid-19 restrictions, the leisure water features may open around Easter of 2021.**

3.4 Avoniel and Templemore Capital Developments

- a) Both sites have been transferred to the main contractor.**
- b) Construction has not been significantly impacted by Covid-19 restriction. Both developments remain on schedule as set out below.**

	Avoniel	Templemore
Date contractor went on site	January/February 2020 (site clearance and demolition). Actual redevelopment works started late summer.	Contractor on site from October 2020
Projected completion date	September/October 2021	April 2022
Current building progress (very brief description)	Demolition and site clearance has been completed. Construction of new building, cover for outdoor 3G pitches and associated fencing is well underway.	Hospital site has been cleared and foundations for new build element of facility are well underway. Existing building is currently being stripped back in preparation for restoration works
Facilities	<u>OUTDOOR</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 X full size 3G soccer pitch (intermediate standard) 1 X 7-a-side 3G soccer pitch 5 X 5-a-side 3G soccer cages (3 covered) Car parking <u>INDOOR</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6 x team changing facilities 2 x multi-purpose studios 2 x multi-use meeting rooms Office/admin space 	<u>OUTDOOR</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Car parking <u>INDOOR</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heritage and Interpretive space Retained 3 lane 25yd pool New 25m 6 lane pool with 150 spectator seats Village changing 80 station Fitness suite Café Steam/Sauna Spa Flexible 'lettable' space (Caretakers House)

3.5 BCC and GLL officers will be in attendance to answer any questions.”

The Board noted the contents of the report.

(The GLL representatives left the meeting at this point.)

Active Belfast Limited Annual Plan – 2021/22

The Partnership Manager drew the Director's attention to a report which provided details of future Board meetings, an amended action plan for the delivery of the agreed objectives and outputs set out in the five-year Strategic Plan, Director recruitment and

proposed dates for open forum meetings. It sought approval also to hold an annual strategic planning workshop on a date to be determined in November.

After discussion, the Board agreed, in light of the revised governance arrangements which the Partnership Manager had outlined earlier in the meeting, to adhere to the Council's decision and not meet again in any format until the situation had improved.

Update on Director Recruitment

The Board was reminded that, at its meeting on 14th December, it had approved a proposed approach for the recruitment of up to a maximum of four new Directors. As in previous recruitment exercises, the process would be managed in consultation with Volunteer Now, given its extensive network of contacts within the voluntary sector.

The Partnership Manager reported that he had, on 4th January, held discussions with Volunteer Now and that a comprehensive recruitment plan had been formulated, which would, amongst other things, seek to target candidates from a variety of backgrounds to promote better diversity on the Board, in line with Director's wishes.

In terms of a timeframe, it had been envisaged that the recruitment campaign would commence in February and that successful applicants would attend their first Board meeting no later than June. However, in light of the revised governance arrangements which the Council had put in place to ensure that maintaining recovery would be given priority, details of which had been provided earlier in the meeting, that timeframe would no longer be achievable. Accordingly, he recommended that the Board agree to retain the recruitment plan and place the recruitment process on hold until such time as there was a return to a sustained level of business stability.

The Board adopted the recommendation.

Other Business

No additional items of business were raised.

Chairperson