

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



**Belfast  
City Council**

21st September, 2021

**MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in hybrid format (in the Council Chamber and via Microsoft Teams) on Friday, 24th September, 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) Residual Waste Contract Arrangements (Pages 1 - 4)
  - (b) Community Diversionary Festivals Programme (Pages 5 - 10)
  - (c) Recruitment of Senior Posts (Pages 11 - 14)
  - (d) City Regeneration - Institutional Investment Expression of Interest (Pages 15 - 22)

3. Matters referred back from Council/Motions
  - (a) Motion - A Changing Places Toilets Policy for Belfast City Council (Pages 23 - 26)
  - (b) Motion - Rights of Nature (Pages 27 - 28)
  - (c) Motion - Bonfire Procedures (Pages 29 - 32)
  - (d) Motion - A Four-Day Working Week (Pages 33 - 34)
4. Belfast Agenda/Strategic Issues
  - (a) Local Government Boundary Commissioner – Provisional Recommendations (Pages 35 - 50)
  - (b) France-United Kingdom Local Government Forum (Pages 51 - 52)
  - (c) COP 26 Climate Business Conference Funding Agreement (Pages 53 - 58)
  - (d) Belfast Submission to the Carbon Disclosure Project and Associated Campaigns (Pages 59 - 74)
  - (e) Modern Slavery Act 2015 - Proposed Corporate Action Plan (Pages 75 - 86)
5. Physical Programme and Asset Management
  - (a) Update on Area Working Groups (Pages 87 - 136)
  - (b) Colin Interpretive Heritage Trail (Pages 137 - 140)
6. Finance, Procurement and Performance
  - (a) Update on Contracts (Pages 141 - 146)
  - (b) Corporate Diaries and Christmas Cards (Pages 147 - 148)
7. Equality and Good Relations
  - (a) Minutes of the Meeting of the Shared City Partnership (Pages 149 - 174)
8. Operational Issues
  - (a) Response to Consultation on the Justice (Sexual Offences and Trafficking Victims) Bill (Pages 175 - 178)
  - (b) Minutes of the Meeting of the Customer Focus Working Group (Pages 179 - 182)
9. **Issues Raised in Advance by Members**
  - (a) Adopt a Kiosk Scheme  
  
(Councillor Garret to propose that the Council participate in the BT 'adopt a kiosk' scheme for the preservation and transformation of unused telephone kiosks)



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

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| <b>Subject:</b>           | <b>Motion – A Changing Places Toilets Policy for Belfast City Council</b> |
| <b>Date:</b>              | 24th September, 2021  |
| <b>Reporting Officer:</b> | John Walsh, City Solicitor  |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b>   | Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer                             |

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

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

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| <b>1.0</b> | <b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>  |
| 1.1        | To bring to Members' attention a motion calling for the introduction of a Changing Places Toilets Policy for Belfast City Council, which was referred to the Committee by the Council at its meeting on 1st September. |
| <b>2.0</b> | <b>Recommendation</b>  |
| 2.1        | The Committee is requested to consider the motion and, if adopted, agree that a report on how this would be facilitated, resourced and managed be submitted to a future meeting.                                       |

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| 3.0 | <b>Main Report</b>   |
| 3.1 | <p data-bbox="276 264 427 297"><b><u>Key Issues</u></b></p> <p data-bbox="276 331 1471 409">The Council, at its meeting on 1st September, considered the following motion which had been proposed by Councillor McMullan and seconded by Councillor Mulholland.</p> <p data-bbox="371 465 1375 566">“Changing Places are specialised toilet facilities which make public places and spaces accessible and inclusive for everyone, including children, adults and older people with complex needs or mobility issues.</p> <p data-bbox="371 600 1375 701">Where they are not provided, people are changed on a toilet floor, which is dangerous, unhygienic and undignified. Without them, people may be excluded entirely from certain public spaces.</p> <p data-bbox="371 734 1375 869">The Council notes its commitment in the Belfast Agenda to deliver an accessible City for all and its unanimous support for a COVID-19 response and recovery inclusive of disabled people, older people and carers in July, 2020.</p> <p data-bbox="371 902 1375 969">It further recognises the importance of Changing Places toilets in delivering our vision of an accessible and inclusive Belfast.</p> <p data-bbox="371 1003 1375 1171">The Council notes that Building Regulations in Northern Ireland only require standard accessible toilets to be provided. Despite discussion to add Changing Places toilets to these regulations, there is currently no requirement for these facilities. As a result of this, Changing Places are not usually provided as a matter of course, even in new buildings.</p> <p data-bbox="371 1205 1375 1305">This Council will, therefore, develop a Changing Places toilet facility policy for Belfast City Council, with input from disabled people, older people and carers, to include the following:</p> <ul data-bbox="419 1339 1375 2056" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="419 1339 1375 1440">• The Council will commit to include a Changing Places facility in every new building in which the public will have access to its services and where public toilet provision is available for others.</li> <li data-bbox="419 1473 1375 1641">• The Council will also make every effort to include Changing Places facilities when it extends or extensively refurbishes an existing Council-owned building. These schemes will be considered on a case-by-case basis at the early stages of feasibility/design to establish whether there is an opportunity to install a Changing Places.</li> <li data-bbox="419 1675 1375 1776">• It will review where such facilities could be installed on the Council Estate (e.g. playgrounds) and put a plan in place to ensure that all inclusive playgrounds are equipped with such a facility.</li> <li data-bbox="419 1809 1375 1955">• It will ensure that organisers of all large-scale public events (e.g. concerts, festivals, family days) with a license from the Council will have a fixed or portable Changing Places unit as part of the design of the event.</li> <li data-bbox="419 1989 1375 2056">• Where the Council is organising a large public event, it should be considered if it can take place at a venue that already has a Changing</li> </ul> |

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|            | <p>Places facility and include a mobile/portable facility, if a permanent Changing Places toilet is not available.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• For smaller public events, these should be advertised early and adequately communicated with the option to request access to a Changing Places facility whereupon they can be moved or have a mobile/portable facility provided.”</li> </ul> |
| 3.2        | <p>In accordance with Standing Order 13(f), the motion was referred without discussion to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.</p> <p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p>   |
| 3.3        | <p>None.</p> <p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></b></p>  |
| 3.4        | <p>This motion, if agreed, may have potential equality, good relations and rural needs implications and should be subject to our normal screening process as appropriate.</p>  |
| <b>4.0</b> | <b>Documents Attached</b>  |
|            | None   |

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| <b>Subject:</b>           | <b>Motion – Rights of Nature</b>              |
| <b>Date:</b>              | 24th September, 2021                          |
| <b>Reporting Officer:</b> | John Walsh, City Solicitor                    |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b>   | Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer |

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

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

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| <b>1.0</b> | <b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>  |
| 1.1        | To bring to Members' attention a motion in relation to Rights of Nature, which was referred to the Committee by the Council at its meeting on 1st September.                     |
| <b>2.0</b> | <b>Recommendation</b>  |
| 2.1        | The Committee is requested to consider the motion and, if adopted, agree that a report on how this would be facilitated, resourced and managed be submitted to a future meeting. |

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| <b>3.0</b> | <b>Main Report</b>   |
|            | <b><u>Key Issues</u></b>   |
| 3.1        | <p>The Council, at its meeting on 1st September, considered the following motion which had been proposed by Councillor Smyth and seconded by Alderman Copeland.</p> <p>“This Council notes the legal and social movement globally for the ‘Rights of Nature’, which aims to strengthen protections for people, place and planet.</p> <p>It believes that ‘Rights of Nature’ can help inspire an innovative rethinking about how to create regenerative, not extractivist, economies while also making human and other living communities safer, stronger and more resilient.</p> <p>The positive work already being done by Council staff and groups on the climate emergency and biodiversity crises are commendable, but we recognise the need for a rights-based approach to nature.</p> <p>It is proposed that, over the next twelve months, the Council will collaborate with civic society to explore what rights of nature mean for the people and economies of the region and to investigate how Rights of Nature could be expressed in community plans, corporate plans, improvement objectives and other strategic frameworks. In particular, the Council will, in the next twelve months, hold community workshops and work with the local community and stakeholders to draw up a Declaration for the Rights of Nature for the City, to be brought back before the Council for adoption.</p> <p>It is also requested that a report, authored in collaboration and with input from the local community, be brought to the Council in relation to embedding ‘Rights of Nature’ as a keystone concept into the Council’s operational practices, planning processes and long-term decision-making.</p> <p>Mindful of our mutual environmental obligations under the Espoo Convention, we call on all councils in Northern Ireland to also explore ‘Rights of Nature’ for their council areas.”</p> |
| 3.2        | <p>In accordance with Standing Order 13(f), the motion was referred without discussion to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.</p> <p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p>   |
| 3.3        | <p>None.</p> <p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></b></p>  |
| 3.4        | <p>This motion, if agreed, may have potential equality, good relations and rural needs implications and should be subject to our normal screening process as appropriate.</p>  |
| <b>4.0</b> | <b>Documents Attached</b>  |
|            | None   |



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| <b>Subject:</b>           | <b>Motion – Bonfire Procedures</b>            |
| <b>Date:</b>              | 24th September, 2021                          |
| <b>Reporting Officer:</b> | John Walsh, City Solicitor                    |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b>   | Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer |

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| <b>Restricted Reports</b>                         |   |
| 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"/>  |

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

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| <b>1.0</b> | <b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>  |
| 1.1        | To bring to Members' attention a motion in relation to proposed Bonfire Procedures, which was referred to the Committee by the Council at its meeting on 1st September.          |
| <b>2.0</b> | <b>Recommendation</b>  |
| 2.1        | The Committee is requested to consider the motion and, if adopted, agree that a report on how this would be facilitated, resourced and managed be submitted to a future meeting. |

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| 3.0 | <b>Main Report</b>   |
| 3.1 | <p><b><u>Key Issues</u></b></p> <p>The Council, at its meeting on 1st September, considered the following motion which had been proposed by Councillor Beattie and seconded by Councillor McLaughlin.</p> <p>“After multiple incidents, including the tragic incident in Ballysillan on 11th July, this Council agrees to remove all bonfire materials from Belfast City Council assets, unless permission has been granted through an application process.</p> <p>A bonfire application must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• permission being requested by a constituted organisation;</li> <li>• a risk assessment provided by the applicant and agreed with the PSNI, Fire Service and landowner (BCC);</li> <li>• Public Liability Insurance;</li> <li>• an Event Management Plan;</li> <li>• a commitment to ensuring that there will be no burning of any toxic materials (e.g. tyres);</li> <li>• an Entertainments Licence;</li> <li>• the demonstration of sufficient consultation with local residents; and</li> <li>• a site cleansing plan.</li> </ul> <p>In addition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The display or burning of offensive materials such as flags, emblems, effigies, and posters will not be permitted and a commitment must be provided. Any breaches will impact upon future applications; and</li> <li>• Bonfire Beacons will be preferred, unless an applicant can demonstrate the necessity and safety of a non-structured bonfire.</li> </ul> <p>Any failure to follow an open, transparent, robust and successful application procedure for a bonfire will result in the Council requesting the support of the PSNI to provide protection to our contractors for the removal of materials.</p> <p>Applications must be received three months before a planned event.”</p> <p>3.2 In accordance with Standing Order 13(f), the motion was referred without discussion to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.</p> <p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>3.3 None</p> |

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| 3.4        | <p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></b></p> <p>This motion, if agreed, may have potential equality, good relations and rural needs implications and should be subject to our normal screening process as appropriate.</p> |
| <b>4.0</b> | <b>Documents Attached</b>  |
|            | None   |

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| <b>Subject:</b>           | <b>Motion – A Four-Day Working Week</b>       |
| <b>Date:</b>              | 24th September, 2021                          |
| <b>Reporting Officer:</b> | John Walsh, City Solicitor                    |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b>   | Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer |

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

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

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| <b>1.0</b> | <b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>  |
| 1.1        | To bring to Members' attention a motion in relation to a Four Day Working Week, which was referred to the Committee by the Council at its meeting on 1st September.              |
| <b>2.0</b> | <b>Recommendation</b>  |
| 2.1        | The Committee is requested to consider the motion and, if adopted, agree that a report on how this would be facilitated, resourced and managed be submitted to a future meeting. |

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| <b>3.0</b> | <b>Main Report</b>   |
|            | <b><u>Key Issues</u></b>   |
| 3.1        | <p>The Council, at its meeting on 1st September, considered the following motion which had been proposed by Councillor Garrett and seconded by Councillor Murphy.</p> <p>“Over the course of the Covid-19 pandemic, businesses and workers have re-evaluated and re-assessed the issue of work life balance and productivity.</p> <p>It has been almost 100 years since Trades Unions secured workers the right to a weekend and it is important that, as part of the economic recovery, we consider how we can modernise the working arrangements to the benefit of workers and employers.</p> <p>There are numerous examples from across the world where a four-day working week has been successfully trialled, leading to increases in positivity and an improved work life balance.</p> <p>The latest trial from Iceland has been hailed as an 'overwhelming success', with productivity remaining unchanged or actually going up and the health and wellbeing of workers improving significantly.</p> <p>The Council agrees, therefore, to work alongside Trades Unions and other relevant bodies, to bring forward a plan within twelve months to implement a trial under review within our own Council workforce, based on best international examples and practices elsewhere.</p> <p>The Council agrees also that progress and implementation reports be presented to the Council on a quarterly basis, to support and inform any policies being progressed within the Department for Economy or other relevant bodies elsewhere.”</p> |
| 3.2        | <p>In accordance with Standing Order 13(f), the Motion was referred without discussion to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.</p> <p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p>   |
| 3.3        | <p>None</p> <p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></b></p>   |
| 3.4        | <p>This motion, if agreed, may have potential equality, good relations and rural needs implications and should be subject to our normal screening process as appropriate.</p>  |
| <b>4.0</b> | <b>Documents Attached</b>  |
|            | None   |





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| <b>Subject:</b>           | <b>Local Government Boundary Commissioner – Provisional Recommendations</b> |
| <b>Date:</b>              | 24th September, 2021  |
| <b>Reporting Officer:</b> | John Walsh, City Solicitor and Director of Legal and Civic Services         |
| <b>Contact Officers:</b>  | Russell Connelly, Policy, Research and Compliance Officer                   |

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| <b>Restricted Reports</b>                         |   |
| 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"/>  |

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

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| <b>1.0</b> | <b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>   |
| 1.1        | The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on the Local Government Boundary Commissioner's Provisional Recommendations which are out for public consultation and to seek retrospective approval for the attached Council response which was provisionally approved by Party Leaders Consultative Forum on 16th September. The Commissioner had invited written feedback and suggestions by 21st September. |
| <b>2.0</b> | <b>Recommendations</b>  |
| 2.1        | <p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Note the contents of the attached report</li> <li>- approve retrospectively the response to the Local Government Boundary Commissioner outlined at Appendix 2 (which has been provisionally approved by Party Group Leaders Consultative Forum) on 16th September.</li> </ul>  |

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|            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Officers make representations in line with this response on behalf of the Council at the public hearings scheduled for late September / early October</li> </ul>  |
| <b>3.0</b> | <b>Main Report</b>   |
| <b>3.1</b> | <p><b>Background</b></p> <p>On 27th July 2021 the Local Government Boundary Commissioner published the Provisional Recommendations for the Review of Local Government Boundaries in Northern Ireland. These Provisional Recommendations will now be the subject of public consultation. The <b>closing date</b> for written feedback and suggestions about these proposals is <b>21st September 2021</b>.</p> <p>The Commissioner's office has indicated that the process is about independently ensuring electoral equality and fairness across Northern Ireland, with the aim that all the wards within a district should, as far as possible, have a similar number of electors. The Statutory Rules governing the review are set out in the Local Government Act (Northern) Ireland Act 1972, as amended.</p> <p>After the initial consultation period a series of 11 public hearings will be held in each council area facilitated by Assistant Commissioners. The public hearings, which will be subject to public health guidance at that time, will be held in <b>late September and early October</b>. To maximise public participation in the hearings, and to mitigate against any public health restrictions that may be in place, these events will be in a hybrid format allowing for both in person and online participation.</p> |
| <b>3.2</b> | <p><b><u>Previous Local Government Boundary Review - 2008</u></b></p> <p>The previous Local Government Boundary review took place in 2008. At that time the Final Recommendations of the Local Government Boundary Commissioner (Dick Mackenzie) included the placement of the area containing Forestside shopping centre and the Castlereagh Council Civic HQ building within the new Belfast district boundary. However, the NI Executive made amendments to the Final Recommendations which resulted in Forestside and the adjacent Castlereagh Council Civic HQs remaining within the new Lisburn and Castlereagh council area.</p>  |
| <b>3.3</b> | <p><b>Local Government Boundary Review (2021 – 2022)</b></p> <p><b>Provisional Recommendations – Belfast</b></p> <p>On 27 July the Local Government Boundary Commissioner published the Provisional Recommendations for the Review of Local Government Boundaries in Northern Ireland.</p> <p><b>District Boundary – Belfast</b></p> <p>The LG Boundary Commissioner recommends that the district boundary line should remain unchanged.</p>   |

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|     | <p><b>Wards</b></p> <p>The LG Boundary Commissioner recommends that Belfast district should remain comprised of 60 wards. The current electorate per ward (as at 4 January 2021) and proposed new electorate per ward are set out in the table at <b>Appendix 1</b>.</p> <p>There has been some alteration to ward boundaries to satisfy the legislative requirement for each ward within the district to have substantially the same number of electors. There is a total of 230236 electors within the district which averages at 3837 electors per ward and the recommended changes are designed to balance the electorate across the district.</p> <p>The ward boundary changes that have been proposed can be accessed by clicking: <a href="#">Belfast Wards</a></p>   |
| 3.4 | <p><b>Belfast City Council Response</b><br/><b>(as provisionally approved by Party Group Leaders Consultative Forum on 16th September).</b></p> <p><b>Wards</b></p> <p>In line with previous decisions in relation to the Review of Local Government Boundaries in Northern Ireland, responses to the Commissioners recommendations in relation to ward boundaries will be left to individual parties. Parties are encouraged to examine the table at Appendix 1 and to review the map accessible at the link above.</p> <p><b>District Boundary</b></p> <p>Whilst the 2021 review recommends that the district boundary remains unchanged, Members will note that in 2008 the Final Recommendations recommended that the area containing Forestside shopping centre and the Castlereagh Council Civic HQ building should reside within the new Belfast district boundary. However, the Council notes that the NI Executive did in fact amend the Final Recommendations of the Commissioner and included Forestside in the new LCCC district boundary.</p> <p>Given the LG Boundary Commissioner's previous conclusions in respect of the Belfast district boundary, Members are asked to retrospectively approve the Belfast City Council response (attached at Appendix 2) asking the LG Boundary Commissioner to reassess the 2008 Final Recommendations with a view to placing the area containing Forestside within the Belfast district boundary as originally proposed in 2008.</p> <p>The Council would argue that the principles upon which the 2008 recommendations were made and those features which the Commissioner determined to constitute 'readily identifiable boundaries' in respect of this area (namely the A55 Outer Ring Road and the upland topography in this area) have not changed.</p> |

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|     | <p>The Council's response also highlights an issue with the district boundary as it pertains to the Harbour ward, and in particular the extension to the harbour which has resulted in part of the harbour infrastructure being outside of the district boundary. The Council would note that there is a further approved extension beyond the currently constructed area shown on the plans and request that the Commissioner, when considering any modification to the district boundary, may wish to take this into account also.</p> |
| 3.5 | <p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>No financial implications attached this report</p>   |
| 3.6 | <p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Implications</u></b></p> <p>No good relations or equality implications attached to this report</p>  |
| 4.0 | <p><b>Documents Attached</b></p>   |
|     | <p>Appendix 1 – Table showing current electorate per ward (as at 4 January 2021) and proposed new electorate per ward</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Council response to the Local Government Boundary Commission Provisional Recommendations</p>   |

**Table 3. Belfast**

| Number of wards – 60 | Total electorate - 230236       | Average ward size - 3837 |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Ward name            | Current Electorate <sup>3</sup> | Proposed Electorate -    |
| Andersonstown        | 3713                            | 3713                     |
| Ardoyne              | 3665                            | 4018                     |
| Ballygomartin        | 4168                            | 4129                     |
| Ballymacarrett       | 3819                            | 3819                     |
| Ballymurphy          | 3598                            | 3598                     |
| Ballysillan          | 3449                            | 3651                     |
| Beechmount           | 3605                            | 3605                     |
| Beersbridge          | 4076                            | 3611                     |
| Bellevue             | 3672                            | 3672                     |
| Belmont              | 3608                            | 3608                     |
| Belvoir              | 3681                            | 3681                     |
| Blackstaff           | 4398                            | 4209                     |
| Bloomfield           | 3919                            | 3618                     |
| Cavehill             | 3403                            | 3513                     |
| Central              | 5282                            | 4214                     |
| Chichester Park      | 3970                            | 3860                     |
| Cliftonville         | 3896                            | 3896                     |
| Clonard              | 3956                            | 3828                     |
| Collin Glen          | 4089                            | 4089                     |
| Connswater           | 3975                            | 3975                     |
| Cregagh              | 3402                            | 3577                     |
| Duncairn             | 4584                            | 4088                     |
| Dunmurry             | 3878                            | 3878                     |

<sup>3</sup> The manual geocoding process described in Chapter 6 results in very small and statistically insignificant differences in the final electorate figures used for the Review, and the figures published by EONI on the enumeration date

|              |      |      |
|--------------|------|------|
| Falls        | 3329 | 3457 |
| Falls Park   | 3707 | 3707 |
| Finaghy      | 3539 | 4217 |
| Forth River  | 3307 | 3479 |
| Fortwilliam  | 3393 | 3876 |
| Garnerville  | 3553 | 3553 |
| Gilnahirk    | 3740 | 3740 |
| Hillfoot     | 3630 | 3630 |
| Innisfayle   | 3932 | 3932 |
| Knock        | 3855 | 3649 |
| Ladybrook    | 3728 | 3927 |
| Lagmore      | 5070 | 3986 |
| Legoniel     | 3974 | 3772 |
| Malone       | 3754 | 4202 |
| Merok        | 3193 | 3513 |
| Musgrave     | 3705 | 4219 |
| New Lodge    | 3447 | 3460 |
| Orangefield  | 3568 | 3713 |
| Ormeau       | 4200 | 3911 |
| Poleglass    | 3969 | 4131 |
| Ravenhill    | 3399 | 3688 |
| Rosetta      | 4028 | 3853 |
| Sandown      | 3287 | 3794 |
| Shandon      | 4000 | 4000 |
| Shankill     | 4415 | 4086 |
| Shaw's Road  | 3984 | 3984 |
| Stewartstown | 3644 | 3644 |
| Stormont     | 3791 | 3791 |

|              |      |      |
|--------------|------|------|
| Stranmillis  | 4391 | 4184 |
| Sydenham     | 3732 | 3732 |
| Turf Lodge   | 3521 | 3521 |
| Twinbrook    | 3475 | 4198 |
| Upper Malone | 3707 | 4218 |
| Water Works  | 4307 | 3954 |
| Windsor      | 4865 | 4178 |
| Woodstock    | 3793 | 3793 |
| Woodvale     | 3498 | 3694 |

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**BELFAST CITY COUNCIL**

**\*\*\*\*\***

**SUBMISSION**

**RE**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARIES REVIEW IN  
NORTHERN IRELAND**

**PROVISIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

**(September 2021)**

## **Introduction**

This submission in response to the Local Government Boundary Commissioner's Provisional Recommendations 2021-22 is made on behalf of Belfast City Council.

The Commissioner will wish to note that, as with previous decisions in relation to boundaries review in Northern Ireland, the Council have advised individual parties to submit their own responses to the recommendations, particularly in relation to proposed changes to ward boundaries.

The following Council response can be categorised into:

- (i) General Points pertaining to broad issues concerning the Commission's approach to the identification of boundaries; and
- (ii) Specific Points in relation to Belfast.

### **(i) General Points re Boundary Delimitation**

A number of General Points on the approach to boundary delimitation can be distilled under the headings of (a) statutory parameters and (b) additional factors.

#### Statutory parameters

Please note from the outset that we understand how the Commission has arrived at its recommendations, having regard to the statutory parameters it has to work within. In this respect, we understand that Belfast has to be equipped with a certain number of wards that falls within the range of 55 to 65. We appreciate that the Commission, in the desire to appear even-handed, would have a tendency to advocate the medium of this range, namely the 60 ward figure.

We also accept that a degree of interpretation has to be made in respect of what constitutes readily identifiable boundaries, in terms of the importance attached to physical features on the ground – whether they be man-made (roads, railway lines, etc.) or natural features (rivers, lakes or uplands).

To this end, we recognise that the existing urban footprint and Development Plans, such as the BUAP and Draft BMAP, can act as reference points for deciding what constitutes 'readily identifiable boundaries' for District Council areas. This is because Development Plans define settlement limits and apply land use zonings, particular those relating to green spaces between built areas, which need to be respected when defining boundaries.

Taking on board these points, the Council would refer the Commissioner back to the Final Recommendations from the previous Local Government Boundary

Review in Northern Ireland in 2008 which made clear those features which the Commissioner adjudged to constitute 'readily identifiable boundaries' in the Belfast City Council area. As the Council argued at that time, such 'readily identifiable boundaries' provided support for the principle of expansion of the Belfast Council Area.

### Additional Factors

Having stated the above, we would, however, like to make the Commissioner aware of a number of additional factors that may help inform her of the need to facilitate the expansion of Belfast's council area. There are essentially two of these: -

1. Firstly, we are well aware that the definition of Local Government Districts is very much premised on achieving greater efficiency in the delivery of services, in terms of securing better value for money and quality of service.

The definition of such boundaries must allow for the creation of a critical mass of population within the Belfast Council Area upon which to sustain and improve upon efficiency in the delivery of services. We say this for the very good reason that Belfast City Council has a disproportionate number of deprived wards in Northern Ireland.

Following the 2008 review a number of wards of similar socio-economic standing were included within the new Belfast City Council area (Twinbrook and Collin Glen, which are ranked the twentieth and the twenty first most deprived wards), making it even more imperative that the Belfast Local Government District be equipped with an optimum population size and geographical area capable of sustaining and improving services.

2. Secondly, we attach appreciable significance to the Regional Development Strategy for Northern Ireland and its aspirations (under SPG-BMA 1) to create a thriving Belfast Metropolitan Area based on a revitalised City of Belfast. In this regard, we view Belfast as the regional driver of growth in Northern Ireland and all efforts to promote this objective in the form of bolstering its population size should be welcomed. This is especially so when it is considered that, in recent times, Belfast has endured significant population loss to surrounding districts.

### **(ii) Specific Response in relation to Belfast**

Against the background of the general points outlined above, we would like to make the following comments in respect of the existing Belfast City Council district boundary.

## Boundary with Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council

The previous Local Government Boundary Review for Northern Ireland - Final Recommendations 2008 included a recommendation to place the Galwally area (including Forestside) within the new Belfast City Council district area. However, as the Commissioner will be aware, the NI Assembly ultimately approved the Final Recommendations with some amendments, one of which included the placement of the Galwally area within the new Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council area. Belfast City Council would contend that this decision by the NI Assembly disregarded the logic governing the need to have regard to the 'readily identifiable boundaries' guidelines and was in contravention of the clear recommendations of the Boundary Commissioner.

This decision, as Belfast City Council argued at the time, amounted to an irrational departure from those features that have helped to shape the delimitation of the District Boundary in this part of Belfast, namely the readily identifiable boundaries of the Outer Ring Road and the upland topography in this area. Indeed, when viewed on a map, it graphically stands out as an aberration in boundary demarcation.

### Forestside catchment area

There are different ways to approach the calculation of catchment area figure as it can be done on a spend or population (customer) basis, both of which could be further refined in many ways to take account of the different days, times of travel, population / household composition, socio/economic group.

The Council however believe that that the simple drive time catchment analysis could be utilised as it is based on published data and standard tools.

The appended diagram shows the extent of the catchments generated for 0-5, 5-10, 10-15 and 15-20 minutes. For the table these polygons were used to determine the number of residential properties (using the OSNI Pointer Domestic Address from 27/07/2021).

| Drivetime Catchment | Percentage of Pointer Domestic Addresses by Council Area |                       |                   |                      |                       |
|---------------------|--|-----------------------|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
|                     | Belfast  | Lisburn & Castlereagh | Ards & North Down | Newry, Mourne & Down | Antrim & Newtownabbey |
| 0 - 5 mins          | <b>69.6</b>  | 30.4                  | 0.0               | 0.0                  | 0.0                   |
| 0 - 10 mins         | <b>84.3</b>  | 15.6                  | 0.1               | 0.0                  | 0.0                   |
| 0 - 15 mins         | <b>74.4</b>  | 19.5                  | 4.8               | 1.1                  | 0.2                   |
| 0 - 20 mins         | <b>62.7</b>  | 20.4                  | 8.5               | 2.5                  | 5.9                   |

There have been no major applications at Forestside that could provide an assessed catchment for the Centre although the Centre was assessed as part

of the Lisburn & Castlereagh Retail Capacity Study 2018. In para 6.5.4 (page 25) of that study the concluding statement is at best a simplification in terms of potential draw from outside *"In the Forestside catchment, it was estimated that 50% of the comparison turnover of the centre came from outside the area; principally from the Belfast suburbs, as the shopping centre is right on the border of the Council area"*. Both the average household size and available income would have to be significantly higher to sustain such a conclusion.

Belfast City Council also notes that the various objections from the former Lisburn and Castlereagh councils to the Final Recommendations in 2008 in respect of this area, (whilst not being deemed sufficient at that time to change the Final Recommendations), which carry less weight now given that i) the majority of LCCC council services have since been transferred to the Island Civic Centre in Lisburn, and ii) a range of new bus routes has been introduced since 2008 (including the Glider service and the proposed Phase 2 of Glider) which extend routes into the Lisburn and Castlereagh district.

The Council would also make a case based on which authority is best placed to manage and address the wider implications of the District Centre's operations, accessibility and servicing. The A55 Outer Ring Road is a significant physical barrier and much of the potential for improvements in accessibility with potential for better integration into the surrounding urban areas would naturally lie with Belfast City Council in relation to the geography of the site and the potential for integration with existing services.

Taking into account each of these points, and the Commissioners previous recommendations, the Council does not agree with the Provisional Recommendation at para 7.3.1 which recommends that the Belfast "district boundary line should remain unchanged".

Belfast City Council would therefore requests that the Local Government Boundary Commissioner reassess the findings of the 2008 Local Government Boundary Review including the "Final Recommendations" report and the "Report of the Assistant Commissioner Sarah Havlin on Belfast City Council district" which clearly recommended that the Galwally area containing Forestside should reside within the Belfast district boundary based on the statutory parameters highlighted above.

### **District Boundary with regards to the Harbour Ward**

The Council also wish to highlight an issue with the district boundary as it pertains to the Harbour ward, and in particular the extension to the harbour which has resulted in part of the harbour infrastructure existing outside of the district boundary (see image below).

### **Existing Situation (area currently beyond the BCC boundary)**



The exercise of powers and responsibilities are normally linked to the LGD geography. This creates an issue for the Council not only in terms of rates but also for enforcement with regards to any event which may happen beyond our line and therefore jurisdiction. The Council would note that there is a further approved extension (planning permission at appendix 1) beyond the currently constructed area shown on the plans – see red line below. The Commissioner when considering any modification to the district boundary may wish to take this into account also.

### **Example of potential new boundary to encompass the extension of the Harbour**



## **Conclusion**

In summary, Belfast City Council does not agree with para 7.3.1 of the Provisional Recommendations report which states that the district boundary line should remain unchanged. The Council would refer to the following two issues in relation to the district boundary.

### **Galwally Area (including Forestside)**

The Council request that the Local Government Boundary Commissioner reassess the findings of the 2008 Local Government Boundary Review including the "Final Recommendations" report and the "Report of the Assistant Commissioner Sarah Havlin on Belfast City Council district" which made clear recommendations that the Galwally area containing Forestside should reside within the Belfast district boundary.

The Council would argue that the principles upon which the 2008 recommendations were made and those features which the Commissioner determined to constitute 'readily identifiable boundaries' in respect of this area (namely the A55 Outer Ring Road and the upland topography in this area) have not changed.

### **Harbour Area**

The Council also wish to highlight the issue with the district boundary as it pertains to the Harbour ward, and in particular the extension to the harbour which has resulted in part of the harbour infrastructure being outside of the district boundary.

The Council would note that there is a further approved extension beyond the currently constructed area shown on the plans. The Commissioner when considering any modification to the district boundary may wish to take this into account also.

**John Walsh**

City Solicitor

On behalf of Belfast City Council  
September 2021

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## STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE



**Belfast**  
City Council

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| <b>Subject:</b>           | <b>France – United Kingdom Local Government Forum</b>                      |
| <b>Date:</b>              | 24th September 2021  |
| <b>Reporting Officer:</b> | Suzanne Wylie, Chief Executive   |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b>   | John Walsh, City Solicitor<br>Geoff Dickson, Strategic Policy Lead Officer |

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

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

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|------------|--|
| <b>1.0</b> | <b>Purpose of Report</b>   |
| 1.1        | To seek approval for the Council to accept an invitation to attend the France – United Kingdom Local Government Forum, scheduled for 25th – 26th October in Nancy, France.   |
| <b>2.0</b> | <b>Recommendation</b>  |
| 2.1        | The Committee is asked to approve in-person attendance at the Forum and that attendees be the Chair of the Brexit Committee, the Chair of the Climate Change Working Group and the City Solicitor.   |
| <b>3.0</b> | <b>Main Report</b>   |
| 3.1        | The city of Nancy, France is hosting the next meeting of the UK – France Local Government Forum on 25th and 26th October. At the moment, the intention is for a physical meeting, but this may change to a hybrid or virtual one closer to the time. |

|            |   |
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| 3.2        | NILGA is working with the other LGAs, the British Embassy in Paris and the French authorities to develop the programme and is taking initial expressions of interest from NI councils in speaking at the event.   |
| 3.3        | Day One of the Forum is titled “ <b>Reinvigorating Franco-British cooperation and exchange</b> ” and there are three workshop session, as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth Mobility: the future of our relations</li> <li>• How to re-energise our bilateral partnerships?</li> <li>• Protecting the environment: a shared local challenge.</li> </ul> |
| 3.4        | Day Two of the Forum is titled “ <b>Green Transition: global challenges and local responses</b> ” where local authorities will present their strategies followed by a roundtable discussion titled “Committed for climate: together towards COP26”.   |
| 3.5        | Given the subject matters, it is recommended that The Chair of the Brexit Committee and the Chair of the Climate Crisis Working Group attend the Forum, accompanied by the City Solicitor, as the Senior Responsible Officer for Brexit.  |
|            | <b>Resource and Resource Implications</b>   |
| 3.6        | Some funding has been agreed between NILGA and Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office. Any additional travel and subsistence costs will be paid for out of existing revenue budgets.  |
|            | <b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b>  |
| 3.7        | None arising from this report.  |
| <b>4.0</b> | <b>Documents Attached</b>   |
|            | None  |



|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| <b>Subject:</b>           | <b>COP 26 Climate Business Conference Funding Agreement</b>                             |
| <b>Date:</b>              | 24th September, 2021  |
| <b>Reporting Officer:</b> | John Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy                                |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b>   | Debbie Caldwell, Climate Commissioner<br>Clare McKeown, Sustainable Development Manager |

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

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

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| <b>1.0</b> | <b>Purpose of Report</b>   |
| 1.1        | This report is to inform the Committee of a proposal by the Management and Leadership Network (MLN) to host a prominent climate business conference 'Sustain Exchange' in Belfast, with up to 400 business leaders, ahead of the COP 26 conference. The report also requests retrospective approval for a funding agreement to be put in place between the Council and the event organiser, with the value of £10,000. The event will be planned to coincide with the arrival of BEIS -sponsored Planetmark's Carbon Battle Bus. Both events will simultaneously promote the <i>Road to Zero</i> and <i>Together for the Planet</i> campaigns. |

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| 1.2        | Furthermore, in relation to the COP26 programme, which runs from 1 <sup>st</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> November in Glasgow, permission is being sought for the Chair of the All Party Working Group on the Climate Crisis (Councillor Smyth), and the Chair of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee (Councillor Groogan) to attend events should the opportunity for a delegation to attend arise.  |
| <b>2.0</b> | <b>Recommendations</b>  |
| 2.1        | The Committee is asked to support this business focused climate conference by retrospectively approving a funding agreement to the value of £10,000 be entered into with the event organiser, a report having previously been submitted to and approved by CMT and Party Group Leaders.   |
| 2.2        | The Committee is also asked to approve the attendance of the Chair of the All Party Working Group on the Climate Crisis (Councillor Smyth) and the Chair of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee (Councillor Groogan) at events during COP26 in Glasgow, should the opportunity for a delegation to attend arise.   |
| <b>3.0</b> | <b>Main Report</b>  |
| 3.1        | <p><b>Background</b></p> <p>The United Nations COP 26 Climate Summit in Glasgow in November will bring a sharp focus on the role of the business community on delivering on global net zero GHG emissions by 2050. It will also challenge business to radically reduce their environmental impact both directly and indirectly through their supply chains. It is a truly transformative time for businesses as they address climate risks and identify new opportunities in the green economy. The transition is not straightforward. Businesses need help in securing cleaner power, heat and transport solutions. They need help in navigating new markets to find more environmentally sustainable solutions in their supply chain, and they need to do it fast. There has never been a more important time to find specialist help to navigate the transition, and to educate inform and engage by sharing the existing knowledge and exemplar experience of those at the forefront of the transition.</p> <p><b>Purpose and Format of Event</b></p> |
| 3.2        | <p>The event will be planned to deliver on the objectives above and will connect local business leaders with international thought leaders with those at the forefront of the transition locally.</p> <p>The event will ideally take place as a hybrid event with the Carbon Bus campaign that will bring 100 local leaders (primarily business leaders but also those from the public, NDPB and third sectors) together in-person for a half day with some or all of the event streamed live to a mass (400+) virtual audience of additional local leaders, thus ensuring the message has reach and that partners get a level of profile, amongst the NI business / leadership community, to justify their investment.</p>   |

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| 3.3 | <p><b>Opening Address and format</b></p> <p>The opening keynote address will be delivered by an authoritative political or business leader who will focus on the business threat of the climate crisis, the legacy of COP 26 and the imperative of business to act fast, within the next decade to take advantage of the new global and local business opportunities. The keynote speaker will be followed by a carefully selected line-up of local leaders who will be challenged to share their story (exemplar), insights (expert) or support offering (stakeholder).</p> <p>As exemplars these businesses will share their story and associated lessons in an engaging, informative, and entertaining manner. The speakers will encourage and empower other sectoral representative bodies (insurance, banking, hospitality transport and logistics etc) to consider their own climate impact and take the first steps on their 'Race To Zero'.</p>   |
| 3.4 | <p><b>Management and Leadership Network Experience</b></p> <p>Management and Leadership Network (MLN) have previous experience in hosting several large events with 500 + attendees.</p> <p>Virtual summits organised by Management and Leadership Network include:</p> <p>Galvanise NI May 2020 - 1400 Business leaders</p> <p>Re- launch July 2020- 900 business leaders</p> <p>Unlearn 2021 December 2020- 700 business leaders</p> <p>WELL – February 2021 – 1000 business leaders</p> <p>Leadership SuMMit - February 2020 Prior to first lockdown MLN hosted 500 paying business leaders at Titanic Belfast. BCC was a partner on this event which featured world class speakers including Lord David Puttnam at Titanic Belfast. Podiem and MLN's virtual events have been created and delivered in a 3–4-week lead time (and have consistently attracted business leader audiences of 500+).</p> <p>As host, MLN will facilitate the event and invite all speakers to provide their slides in advance so that the idea-sharing session is delivered in a concise, visually impactful and professional manner. This format can be flipped to 100% virtual at short notice should restrictions command.</p> <p>Council will be invited to participate and profile their extensive climate work i.e Mini – Stern Report, and associated Housing and Transport Readiness Assessments, Climate Ambitions Report, Reset Agenda, internal climate mitigation and adaptation plans and /or the work of the Belfast Climate Commission, Resilience and Sustainability Board etc.</p> |
| 3.5 | <p><b>Legacy Platform and Annual Event</b></p> <p>The conference is an opportunity to highlight and celebrate the activity that is already underway in NI. It is intended that this will become an annual event which positions Belfast as a centre of excellence and activity when it comes to businesses and the Race to Zero. It is the intention of the</p>   |

|      |  |
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|      | <p>organisers to establish an online platform to share the case studies profiled and others available. The climate challenge will inevitably move further up the political and business agenda as we move through the decade and the pace of change on this issue is fast, so there is a need for annual event for the NI business/leadership community to share knowledge, experience and progress and supporting platforms available all year round to share resources.</p>  |
| 3.6  | <p><b>‘Lifting the Rock’ - Branding</b></p> <p>The conference will be branded with the theme of ‘Lifting the Rock’. It is designed to speak to and encourage participation from those businesses well on their way and those just starting their zero-carbon pathway. It acknowledges the challenges involved in committing to take meaningful action. This ‘planet – saving’ rock will be heavy for most organisations, and there may well be “creepy crawlies” underneath, but better to honestly assess the realities and create a realistic and robust strategy rather than set the rock back down and opt for greenwashing. Podiem will complete a comprehensive evaluation report on the conference.</p> |
| 3.7  | <p><b>Date, Venue and Contingence</b></p> <p>The total cost of the conference will be £60k. Podiem have already secured some corporate sponsorship for the event from Danske bank and are in advanced conversations with Belfast Harbour along with other corporate partners of MLN (energy companies etc).</p>  |
| 3.8  | <p><b>Venue</b></p> <p>The event will be hosted in a City Centre location (to encourage use of public transport and cycle networks) and this will also allow for the Carbon Bus to be on show at the venue. Should Covid restrictions (due to 3rd wave or variant) rule out any form of in-person gathering then all elements of the event will switch to 100% virtual. This includes profiling and involving the Carbon Bus.</p>  |
| 3.9  | <p><b>Partner Contribution and Profile Benefits</b></p> <p>If the Council chooses to support the conference it would be profiled as an ‘Event Partner’ alongside several other lead event partners. The Council brand would be prominent on all event marketing collateral as well as ‘at-event’. A Council representative would be invited to participate in the event press launch and MLN would be delighted for the Council to deliver a presentation. Council would also promote the conference through its social media and other relevant communication channels.</p>   |
| 3.10 | <p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>£10,000 to support this initiative has been allocated from within the existing City and Organisational Strategy budget.</p>  |

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

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| <b>Subject:</b>           | <b>Belfast submission to the Carbon Disclosure Project and Associated Campaigns</b> |
| <b>Date:</b>              | 24 <sup>th</sup> September, 2021  |
| <b>Reporting Officer:</b> | John Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy                            |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b>   | Debbie Caldwell, Climate Commissioner<br>Richard McLernon, Project Coordinator      |

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

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

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| <b>1.0</b> | <b>Purpose of Report</b>  |
| 1.1        | The purpose of this report is to invite Members to note that the Council has made a submission to the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) – ICLEI reporting platform, which is a global reporting framework to assess progress against climate ambitions at city level. A number of global climate campaigns require a submission to CDP – ICLEI as a prerequisite to joining – we will explain what each entails and request that Members approve Belfast’s participation in these campaigns. This will support marketing and publicity linked to COP26 (1 <sup>st</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> November 2021), provide access to networks of good practice, toolkits, and support for Belfast in determining and reaching our city targets. |

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| <b>2.0</b> | <b>Recommendations</b>   |
| <b>2.1</b> | <p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• note that the Council has made the first annual submission through the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) – ICLEI reporting platform. This submission will be assessed by CDP, with feedback and a score provided to the city by the end of 2021, which will inform the submission in 2022.</li> <li>• note that officers will take forward Belfast City Council's participation in a number of global campaigns described in this report, with updates to be provided on an annual basis on the annual CDP – ICLEI submission and campaign progress.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>3.0</b> | <b>Main Report</b>   |
|            | <b><u>Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) – ICLEI submission</u></b>   |
| 3.1        | <p>In July 2021, the Council made the first annual submission to the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) – ICLEI reporting platform. This was undertaken to support baselining of activity and emissions in Belfast, and to enable full participation by Belfast in global climate action campaigns such as the Race to Zero, which links to COP26, the Race to Resilience, the Global Covenant of Mayors, and the WWF One Planet City competition. All of these campaigns require members to have made a submission through a recognised reporting mechanism, of which CDP – ICLEI is perhaps the most well-known. The survey consisted of 59 questions across the following categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Governance and Data Management</li> <li>- Climate Hazards and Vulnerability</li> <li>- Adaptation</li> <li>- City-wide Emissions</li> <li>- Emissions Reduction</li> <li>- Opportunities</li> <li>- Energy</li> <li>- Transport</li> <li>- Food</li> <li>- Waste</li> <li>- Water Security</li> </ul> |
| 3.2        | <p>As Belfast has made a submission to CDP – ICLEI, the city is now eligible to participate in a number of global campaigns which are set out below. The benefits of these campaigns are as enablers for local activity, by giving access to good practice, climate finance partnerships, city networks with a focus on climate and reaching net zero. In joining these campaigns Belfast will be</p>  |

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|     | <p>part of global efforts to reach net zero, which will in turn enhance our reputation and allow us to share our progress both locally and globally. For the last 5 years Belfast has been a member of the Global Resilient Cities Network (previously 100 Resilient Cities) which presented opportunities to access additional funding, participate in peer learning initiatives, and to lever support from experts in a range of areas, most recently enabling Belfast to become part of the Real City Play Coalition.</p>   |
| 3.3 | <p>Participation in these initiatives will be on the basis that they provide tangible benefits to Belfast and this will be kept under review on an annual basis. Belfast City Council will be active throughout COP26, supporting local activity by young people, business, the arts sector and will use the opportunity to lobby for additional powers and finance to allow progress on our local targets. The Belfast Net Zero Carbon Report and Belfast Resilience Strategy – Ambitions Document form the foundation of our programme of activity, and Members will be aware that Belfast City Council is developing its own Climate Plan at present. We have established city and council governance structures to ensure accountability and collaboration is at the heart of our programme of work – through the Belfast Resilience and Sustainability Board, Belfast Climate Commission, Belfast City Council Climate Plan Programme Board, All Party Working Group on the Climate Crisis and through city initiatives such as the Belfast One Million Trees Programme.</p> <p><b><u>Cities Race to Zero</u></b></p>                           |
| 3.4 | <p>This global campaign is bringing together a large coalition of leaders from cities, regions, businesses, investors, and universities who are committing to be net zero by 2050 at the latest. To participate Belfast would have to sign up to the following pledges:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Publicly endorse the following Principles: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- We recognise the global climate emergency.</li> <li>- We are committed to keeping global heating below the 1.5°Celsius goal of the Paris Agreement.</li> <li>- We are committed to putting inclusive climate action at the centre of all urban decision-making, to create thriving and equitable communities for everyone.</li> <li>- We invite our partners – political leaders, CEOs, trade unions, investors, and civil society – to join us in recognising the global climate emergency and help us deliver on science-based action to overcome it.</li> <li>- Pledge to reach (net)-zero in the 2040s or sooner, or by mid-century at the latest, in line with global efforts to limit warming to 1.5°Celsius.</li> </ul> </li> </ol> |

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| 3.5 | <p>II. In advance of COP26, explain what steps will be taken toward achieving net zero, especially in the short- to medium-term. Set an interim target to achieve in the next decade, which reflects a fair share of the 50% global reduction in CO2 by 2030 identified in the IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°Celsius.</p> <p>III. Immediately proceed to planning at least one inclusive and equitable climate action as listed on <a href="http://www.citiesracetozero.org">www.citiesracetozero.org</a> that will help to place your city on a resilient pathway consistent with the 1.5°Celsius objective of the Paris Agreement and begin implementation no later than 2022. Actions are listed in Appendix 1, with an asterix beside those that Belfast has already made progress against.</p> <p>IV. Report progress annually, beginning no later than 2022 to the usual or the recommended reporting platform. The cities 1.5°Celsius target and action commitment(s) should be shared through your regular channels of reporting. If the city has not reported before, the city will be contacted by partners for support.</p> <p><a href="http://www.citiesracetozero.org/">http://www.citiesracetozero.org/</a></p> <p><b><u>Race to Resilience</u></b></p> <p>The <b>Cities Race to Resilience</b> (CRTR) is a strand of the Race to Resilience campaign, focusing on supporting cities to pledge their commitment to building resilience in the face of climate change.</p> <p>Should Belfast sign up to the campaign, the Mayor and/or City Council would have to commit to the following four pledges:</p> <p>I. Integrate climate change adaptation and resilience in all aspects of urban planning and undertake a community-wide climate risk and vulnerability assessment that also includes all vulnerable communities.</p> <p>II. Plan to use available knowledge and scientific evidence, including data and spatial analysis, for decision-making and action, and outline interim targets and milestones as part of a long-term commitment for citywide action.</p> <p>III. Immediately proceed to taking action by committing to at least one of the resilience actions as listed in appendix 1 by COP26. An asterix has been placed beside those which Belfast has already made progress against.</p> <p>IV. Report commitments by COP26 - and progress annually thereafter, to an existing or recommended reporting platform.</p> |
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|            | <p>The list of actions referenced above under pledge 3 is set out in Appendix 2. At least one action would have to be undertaken to permit participation in the campaign.</p> <p><a href="https://citiesracetoresilience.org/">https://citiesracetoresilience.org/</a></p> <p><b><u>Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCoM)</u></b></p> <p>3.6 The Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate &amp; Energy is the largest global alliance for city climate leadership, built upon the commitment of over 10,000 cities and local governments.</p> <p>The Carbon Disclosure Report (CDP)-ICLEI Unified Reporting System is one of the officially recognised reporting platforms to GCoM.</p> <p>Signatories commit to develop, implement and report - within the established deadlines, an action plan to reach their targets. More specifically, signatories commit to submit the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A strategy with a long-term vision including mitigation targets and climate adaptation goals (within 2 years after their official adhesion to the Covenant of Mayors).</li> <li>- A Baseline Emission Inventory (BEI), quantifying the energy consumed and therefore the emissions emitted on the signatory's territory (within 2 years).</li> <li>- A Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (RVA), identifying and assessing the climate hazards and vulnerable sectors (within 2 years).</li> <li>- Actions undertaken on mitigation, adaptation and energy poverty.</li> <li>- Monitoring reports on the implementation of actions (every 2 years) and on emissions (every 4 years).</li> </ul> <p><a href="https://www.globalcovenantofmayors.org/why-join-us/">https://www.globalcovenantofmayors.org/why-join-us/</a></p> <p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>3.7 There are no financial or resource implications at present.</p> <p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p> <p>3.8 There are no direct equality or good relations/rural needs implications.</p> |
| <b>4.0</b> | <p><b>Documents Attached</b></p> <p>Appendices 1 and 2 - Race to Zero Action List</p>  |

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***Race to Zero - Action List***

***(at least one to be undertaken)***

***Create a more inclusive society***

- Collect information on the needs of frontline communities (including children, workers in transitioning industries, women, refugees, etc) with respect to climate planning and/or implementation.
- Collect spatial or disaggregated data to inform the design and/or monitor the implementation of climate actions.
- Demonstrate how actions contribute to delivering social and economic benefits, to reducing inequality and to driving a just transition for workers, through carrying out a wider benefits or equity assessments for at least 2 priority city-wide transformative climate actions.
- Take action to develop 15- or 30-minute neighbourhoods (also known as complete neighbourhoods) all throughout the city, where residents are able to meet most of their needs within a short walk or bicycle ride from their homes.

***Create Green and Healthy Streets***

- Pilot test and procure, with partners as necessary, zero emissions buses by 2025.\*
- Expand and improve walking, cycling and integrated transit access and identify potential areas for future zero emission zones by 2025.\*
- Procure, with our partners, only zero emission buses from 2025.
- Implement pilot measures that restrict internal combustion engines in parts of the city by 2025 and ensure that a major area of our city is zero emission by 2030.

***Reduce Air Pollution and Ensure Clean Air***

- Establish baseline levels and set ambitious reduction targets for air pollutants that meet or exceed national commitments. These targets will put us on a path towards meeting World Health Organisation Air Quality Guidelines for particulate matter, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, and sulphur dioxide.
- Develop plan by 2025 to achieve pollution reductions from major sources of pollution within city/under city control and implementing at least one new substantive policy and programme to reduce pollution from top source.
- Before 2025, implement new substantive policies and programmes to address the top causes of air pollution emissions within our city and under our control by 2025.

***Develop Zero Carbon Buildings***

- Develop a roadmap to achieve net zero carbon new buildings from 2030.\*
- Implement pilot efficiency programmes and incentives for building energy efficiency with tools in place that facilitate data access and data analysis (benchmarking) of building energy use by 2025.
- Develop a roadmap to achieve net zero carbon municipal buildings by 2030 and policy approval by 2025 to deliver a commitment to own, occupy and develop net zero carbon municipal assets by 2030.
- Enact regulations and/or planning policy to ensure NEW buildings operate at net zero carbon by 2030.
- Benchmark building energy use in existing buildings and implementing citywide efficiency programmes with an approved roadmap to achieve all net zero carbon buildings by 2050.
- Enact regulations and/or planning policy to ensure ALL buildings operate at net zero carbon by 2050, with a roadmap and interim emissions goals in place in 2025.

***Move towards resilient and sustainable energy systems***

- Develop a roadmap to achieve 100% clean renewable electricity by 2030 and expand this to 100% renewable energy by 2050.
- Lead by example with municipal renewable energy projects maximising the potential of municipal assets for onsite generation with the aim to cover municipal electricity demand by 100% renewables by 2025.
- Make sure your policies follow the rule of “energy-efficiency” first so take all actions to increase the efficiency of end-use sectors.



- Develop financial support programs to incentivize deployment of building-scale renewables and mandate the use of renewables through building codes, while engaging residents and other stakeholders in the process.
- Incentivize large scale clean energy generation by using your purchasing power and support community energy projects.
- Promote the use of clean energy sources for heating and cooling buildings.

### ***Advance towards Zero Waste***

- Progressively phase out organics disposal to landfill and incinerators, i.e. at least 25% by 2025.
- Ensure all operating and closed landfills have landfill gas capture and at least flaring (ideally local landfill gas utilization for power generation) by 2025.
- Ensure all waste generated in the city is being collected and residual waste is disposed of adequately in at least an engineered sanitary landfill.
- Reduce the municipal solid waste generation per capita achieving at least 8% reduction in 2025, with actions like restricting single use materials, and volume based collection fees/incentives like “Pay as you throw”, enroute to 15% reduction by 2030.
- Reduce the amount of municipal solid waste disposed to landfill and incineration by at least 50% compared to 2015 by 2030; and increase the diversion rate away from landfill and incineration to at least 70% by 2030, with actions like scaling up citywide collection with 3-stream segregate waste collection including food/recyclables/residual by 2025

### ***Create Sustainable Food Systems***

- Pilot school feeding programs that align to locally relevant Planetary Health Diet by 2025.
- Implement policies/incentives/taxes/bans that halt or prevent the nutrition transition by 2025.
- Regulate or activate programs for food businesses to minimize food related carbon emissions.
- Expand access for all citizens to affordable, plant-based food by 2025.
- Create a food council/board with local stakeholders by 2025.
- Align our food procurement (eg school feeding programs) to planetary health diet by 2030, with at least 50% of procurement expenditure aligned to the planetary health diet by 2025.
- Reduce food loss and waste by 50% from a 2015 baseline by 2030, achieving at least a 25% reduction in food loss and waste by 2025.
- Support an overall increase of healthy plant-based food consumption in our cities by shifting away from unsustainable, unhealthy diets by 2030.

***Divest from Fossil Fuels and Invest in a Sustainable Future***

- Advocate for fossil-free and sustainable finance by other investors and all levels of government, including by promoting the importance of strong, long-term climate policies and demanding greater transparency.
- Call on our pension funds to divest from fossil fuel companies and increase financial investments in climate solutions to help promote decent jobs and a just and green economy.
- Take all possible steps to divest our city assets from fossil fuel companies and increase our financial investments in climate solutions to help promote decent jobs and a just and green economy.

***Move towards Resilient and Sustainable Construction Systems***

- Develop a roadmap with local stakeholders to halve embodied emissions in all infrastructure projects by 2030, including new build and major retrofits, and achieve zero emission construction sites by 2030.
- Make sure your policies and actions follow the rule of “existing assets” first to optimize, repurpose and retrofit existing buildings and infrastructure before building new ones.
- Lead by example by specifying low carbon materials and zero emission construction machinery in municipal procurement.
- Reward resource efficient and circular design, use of low carbon materials, and low to zero waste construction sites for all new projects and major retrofit in municipal procurement, planning permissions, policies and processes and building codes.
- Stimulate data transparency and accountability by asking for/requiring Life Cycle Assessments (LCAs) in planning permissions and embedding them into planning policies, processes and building codes.
- Approve net zero emission (operational and embodied) flagship project(s) by 2025 and advocate for regional, national government and/or intergovernmental action on sources outside city control.
- Assess the impact that the choice of materials and construction design will have on your city’s overall resilience to climate impacts (i.e. increasing urban heat island, impermeable surface increasing the risk of flooding, etc.).

**Race to Resilience – Action List (at least one to be undertaken)*****Buildings***

- Develop a resilience strategy for buildings to ensure they can withstand the impacts of climate hazards ex. preparing buildings for large storm impacts
- Create a publicly accessible inventory of public assets and infrastructure, including hospitals, schools, and university buildings, their condition, exposure to hazards, and maintenance history
- Update construction standards for infrastructure and building, accounting for local hazards and criticality, and enforcement mechanisms in place
- Develop pre-approved contracts for emergency interventions (ex. debris removal) or reconstruction (ex. road repairs) approved, with enhanced standards
- Restrict development in areas that are at risk of climate impacts (ex. Areas at high risk of flooding, forest fires, etc.)
- Initiate consultation processes with communities living in informal settlements in hazardous areas, such as flood plains, in order to begin urban upgrading or co-planned resettlement processes

***Digitalization***

- Advance digital inclusion to ensure the vulnerable population has proper access to digital infrastructure, connectivity, and knowledge to participate in the digital world\*
- Amplify work from home opportunities and universalize the adequate conditions for workers to undertake labor using digital tools
- Strengthen digital commerce with a particular focus on onboarding small and medium businesses and entrepreneurs to build a strong and inclusive local economy
- Promote digital public services, open government practices, and secure data management policies to increase transparency and citizen participation

***Energy***

- Invest in and plan for resilience of the energy grid and renewable energy assets to ensure continuity of services to the community, including the most vulnerable, all critical urban infrastructure and public assets\*

- Invest in decentralized renewable energy sources to enhance access to clean sustainable energy, address energy security, and reduce energy poverty while improving climate resilience
- Provide 100% of my community with access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern renewable and clean energy

### ***Food Systems***

- Expand access for all citizens to affordable, nutritious plant-based food by 2025
- Create a food council/board with local stakeholders by 2025
- Align all food procurement (e.g. school feeding programs) to planetary health diet by 2030, with at least 50% of procurement expenditure aligned to the planetary health diet by 2025
- Reduce food loss and waste by 50% from a 2015 baseline by 2030, achieving at least a 25% reduction in food loss and waste by 2025
- Support an overall increase of healthy plant-based food consumption in our cities by shifting away from unsustainable, unhealthy diets by 2030
- Identify and eliminate food deserts (urban areas in which it is difficult to buy affordable or good-quality foods) within the community
- Generate supportive policies for local traders and informal traders
- Create enabling environments for local and regional small-scale and agroecological producers and traders (including informal traders) to access market share, through financial incentives and market access programmes

### ***Governance and Community Engagement***

- Establish new and inclusive approaches to governance that embrace a balance between economic and well-being values, co-designing the vision and the choices for a comprehensive strategy that integrates climate, social and health objectives\*
- Include social equity quotas in governance processes, to ensure that people of all genders, races, ethnicities, abilities and classes are represented equitably in community and political life, and that their needs can be assured
- Establish & improve mechanisms for community based organisations and community members to contribute to city-scale resilience plans and actions from the beginning to the end of processes\*
- Develop financing and governance mechanisms to improve basin level water resilience
- Devolve governance and fiscal responsibility to allow for local entities to drive impactful water resilience interventions

- Designate a city official/advisor to coordinate and undertake resilience projects and to engage with urban stakeholders, for example a Chief Resilience Officer\*

### ***Nature Based Solutions***

- Commit a tree-planting or creation of green space target by 2025 that supports local biodiversity and is resilient to anticipated climate change\*
- Plan for the sustainable management, protection and restoration of coastal areas and ecosystems such as mangroves, seagrasses, flats, tidal marshes
- Dedicate 30-40% of the total built-up city surface to green and permeable spaces which favour protecting and restoring biodiverse and climate resilient ecosystems
- Convert 40-60% of the urban parking space to green and permeable spaces
- Ensure that 70% of the population has free access to a fit for purpose green and blue space within 15 minutes- equitably prioritized to maximize the accessibility and connectivity to nature for the most vulnerable
- Protect soil resources by limiting soil sealing and ensuring that soil characteristics are considered in decisions concerning allocation and use of land
- Invest in and plan for protecting, restoring, and sustainably managing inner, nearby, and faraway forests\*
- Increase investment in nature-based solutions and smart low carbon technologies to address water risks i.e. pollution, flooding, drought, leakage etc

### ***Risk and Vulnerability Planning***

- Integrate local, gender-sensitive and indigenous knowledge and community-based mapping initiatives in all climate risk analysis to ensure validation and prioritization is informed by impacted communities especially the most vulnerable
- Install early hazard warning systems and emergency management systems (including the identification of the percentage of the population that has access to the systems)
- Identify, monitor, and plan accordingly to anticipate acute shocks and to adapt for addressing chronic stresses\*

### ***Social Equity***

- Ensure social justice is taken into account when developing climate & resilience strategies, actions and policies in the city, including considerations of social equity in public services delivery, affordability and access\*

- Empower leaders amongst marginalised groups and communities to take a lead in disaster scenarios in order to effectively voice the needs of these groups, and to have access to the right platforms in order to do so
- Create strategies to ensure children, the elderly and people with disabilities are accounted for in disaster scenarios, so as to not be disproportionately affected
- Promote gender and/or racial sensitivity training for all civil servants engaged in the development and implementation of resilience strategies, including city officials, civil defence, health care workers, teachers and police officers, promoting values of care, empathy and respect
- Raise awareness about the vulnerability of poor communities and the need for solidarity actions between communities and districts
- Create counselling and emotional wellness programs as well as job-finding and entrepreneurship centres to support local communities as well as climate refugees/migrants to combat trauma and disempowerment. Improving social resilience and social cohesion increases peoples' ability to endure and manage in times of crisis
- Provide more funding and capacity for gender-based violence hotlines and counselling services, particularly during the response and recovery phases which further expose already vulnerable populations as seen during the lockdowns in response to the COVID-19 pandemic

### ***Urban Rural Links***

- Consider proximity and complementarity between urban and rural areas in regional strategies, for example natural services, food supply, and cultural activities
- Cooperation programs between municipalities to financially compensate or share duties and benefits of natural resources and their management, for example waste disposal, water basin management, wastewater treatment, etc
- Keep the proportionality and land use ratio between rural/natural & urban areas in the administrative division, boundaries and plans to relate nature to all areas and all scale (incl neighbourhood)
- Adopt education programs or trainings to mainstream the concept of the right to nature and behavioural shift to consider nature as a common good that is respected
- Design urban policies and create enabling environments to ensure the immediate agricultural hinterlands have sustainable access to market share, for example in the form of local market spaces and building relationships with retail

**Waste**

- Collect all waste generated in the city and ensure residual waste is disposed of adequately in an engineered sanitary landfill, which considers and minimizes impact to surface and groundwater sources
- Provide 100% of my community with access to resilient secure, sustainable and safely managed sanitation services
- Invest in circular economy assessments to repurpose and reduce waste and generate new business opportunities

**Water**

- Ensure all wastewater is treated (including combined sewage overflows)
- Develop a roadmap to measure and reduce water consumption and leakages, and eliminate pollution
- Aim to achieve collective water security and alignment with national or basin-level water goals by working together with other cities, companies, community associations and water users operating in your watershed to mitigate water-related conflicts linked to water use and pollution
- Monitor and publish future water availability risks and scenarios related to population growth and other risk drivers
- Provide 100% of the community with access to resilient secure, sustainable, and affordable water
- Implement policies that will increase water and sanitation connections, affordability, and reliability of basic services for the most economically and socially vulnerable
- Scale comprehensive upgrading efforts for the water-insecure urban poor communities facing climate risk to ensure resilience of infrastructure investments
- Diversify water sources to account for future climate risks and increase investment in water resource conservation and water demand management
- Shift urban planning to account for hydrologically linked regions sustaining natural water flows and sources
- Develop an urban green infrastructure plan which maps key water retention zones and aquifers in order to preserve key water sources from urban development and pollution

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| <b>Subject:</b>           | <b>Modern Slavery Act 2015 - Proposed Corporate Action Plan</b>   |
| <b>Date:</b>              | 24th September, 2021  |
| <b>Reporting Officer:</b> | John Walsh, City Solicitor / Director of Legal and Civic Services |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b>   | Sarah Williams, Governance and Compliance Manager                 |

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| <b>Restricted Reports</b>                         |   |
| 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"/>  |

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

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| <b>1.0</b> | <b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>  |
| 1.1        | The purpose of this report is to set out for Committee approval a corporate action plan to meet the obligations of the Modern Slavery Act, 2015, including the updating of the annual Transparency Statement.  |
| <b>2.0</b> | <b>Recommendations</b>   |
| 2.1        | <p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>agree to the proposed actions based on the NILGA guidelines, which are to be taken forward by various Departments; and</li> <li>approve the updated annual Transparency Statement.</li> </ul>           |
| <b>3.0</b> | <b>Main Report</b>   |
|            | <b>Background</b>  |
| 3.1        | The Modern Slavery Act 2015 aims to address slavery and trafficking by enhancing support and protection for victims, giving law enforcement the tools needed to target today's slave drivers and ensuring perpetrators can be severely punished. It also includes a provision to |

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|     | encourage organisations to ensure their supply chains are slavery-free, known as the Transparency in Supply Chains arrangements ("TISC").   |
| 3.2 | <p><b>Key Issues</b></p> <p>The Council has voluntarily published an annual Modern Slavery Transparency in Supply Chains statement on our website since 2015. This sets out what an organisation has done to ensure there is no modern slavery in their supply chains or any part of their business. This year, the annual Transparency Statement has been significantly refreshed by Commercial and Procurement Services to reflect current guidance on its content and layout. An updated version for 20-21 is set out in <b>Appendix 1</b> and will be published well before the deadline of October 21. Please note that due to business pressures in Governance and Compliance Services the update of last year's statement was delayed.</p> |
| 3.3 | In July 2018, the Home Secretary undertook an independent review of the MSA and made recommendations, one of which was to strengthen Section 54 by extending the requirement to publish Modern Slavery Statements to government and the public sector.  |
| 3.4 | In July 2019, the UK Government launched a consultation on measures to strengthen the TISC arrangements, and recently published its proposals on how it plans to take this work forward. Many of the proposed changes will require legislative change which the UK Government hopes to take forward later in 2021. The proposed changes will see a strengthening of the TISC arrangements for commercial businesses, and will, for the first time, extend them so they apply to the public sector.  |
| 3.5 | The Northern Ireland Department of Justice conducted a consultation exercise, which closed in May 2021, relating to the extension of the TISC arrangements to the public sector in Northern Ireland.  |
| 3.6 | In accordance with Section 12 of the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Criminal Justice and Support for Victims) Act (Northern Ireland) 2015, the Department of Justice publishes an annual Modern Slavery Strategy. The most recent Modern Slavery Strategy for 2019-2020 is the third strategy published by the Department of Justice and a consultation on the 2021/22 Modern Slavery Strategy recently took place. The purpose of the strategy is to raise awareness of modern slavery offences and so reduce the threat from, the vulnerability to, and the prevalence of, modern slavery in Northern Ireland.   |
| 3.7 | In May 2020, NILGA published a guide for Councils with the Northern Ireland Strategic Migration Partnership (NISMP), (a multi-agency, cross-party and cross-departmental body working to reflect the regionally specific needs of Northern Ireland in the development and   |

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|            | <p>implementation of UK immigration policy). The guide was also produced in partnership with the Department of Justice and the UK Independent Anti-Slavery Commissioner. It sets out some actions which councils can take to tackle modern slavery specifically:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Provide Modern Slavery Awareness Training</b> for all council personnel in public facing services (Lead: Corporate HR / Commercial and Procurement Services / Governance and Compliance Services)</li> <li><b>2. Designate a point of contact</b> to report modern slavery concerns and raise awareness of modern slavery among communities (Lead: City and Neighbourhood Services)</li> <li><b>3. Establish clear procurement guidelines</b> (Lead: Commercial and Procurement Services)</li> <li><b>4. Collaborate with other councils and agencies</b> (Lead: All Directors)</li> </ol> |
| 3.8        | <p>The suggested actions for councils are attached at <b>Appendix 2</b>, which also includes a summary of the guidance from NILGA and a suggested lead within the Council for each action.</p>   |
| 3.9        | <p><b>Reporting</b></p> <p>Governance and Compliance Services will co-ordinate an annual report on progress to be brought to committee.</p>  |
| 3.10       | <p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>This will involve staff from City and Neighbourhood Services, Legal Services, Governance and Compliance Services, Commercial and Procurement Services, Corporate HR and Marketing and Corporate Communications.</p>  |
| 3.11       | <p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p> <p>Any equality, good relations or rural needs implications will be identified using the council's usual screening process.</p>  |
| <b>4.0</b> | <p><b>Documents Attached</b></p>   |
|            | <p>Appendix 1 - Draft Modern Slavery Act Transparency Statement 2020 - 2021</p> <p>Appendix 2 - Suggested Actions for councils</p>   |

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## Modern Slavery Act Transparency Statement for the period 01 April 2020 to 31 March 2021

### Introduction

The Modern Slavery Act 2015 (the “Act”) places specific responsibilities on organisations to ensure slavery and human trafficking does not exist within their supply chains, and in any part of their own businesses. Organisations need to demonstrate accountability through transparency to protect workers, adults and children from abuse and exploitation.

Belfast City Council is committed to improving practices to prevent slavery and human trafficking. The Council expects suppliers, partners and third parties to adhere to the same values and principles to combat slavery and human trafficking.

This statement is made pursuant to section 54(1) of the Act and constitutes Belfast City Council’s slavery and human trafficking statement for the financial year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

### Our structure and our supply chains

The Council is the local authority for the Belfast area with responsibility for a wide range of services including local planning, economic development, tourism, street cleaning and parks, leisure and waste management.

The [Belfast Agenda](#) is the community plan that the whole city is working towards. Our vision is that by 2035 Belfast will be a city

- Where everyone benefits from a thriving and prosperous economy
- That is welcoming, safe, fair and inclusive for all
- That is vibrant, attractive, connected and environmentally sustainable
- Where everyone experiences good health and wellbeing and
- Where everyone fulfils their potential

Our political governance structure is set out below:



Belfast City Council procured goods, works and services from circa 2,400 suppliers during the last financial year with a supply chain mostly based in the UK and Ireland.

The Council has a responsibility to prevent slavery and human trafficking within its supply chain and in any part of the organisation. As the customer, the Council makes clear to our suppliers, and those wishing to do business with us, what is expected of them.

The Council's tender process require all tenderers to provide confirmation that they are compliant with the Act. They are also required to confirm their subcontractors and suppliers comply with the Act.

### **Our policies in relation to slavery and human trafficking**

Belfast City Council have the following policies or procedures in place, related to mitigating the risks of slavery and human trafficking:

#### **Safeguarding**

We recognise our responsibility to develop, implement and monitor policies and procedures to safeguard the welfare of children and vulnerable adults. Our child safeguarding procedures are well established; our current focus is on underpinning how we take care of adults and the reporting system.

#### **Equality and Diversity**

We are committed to Equality and Diversity and actively seek to eradicate discrimination and inequality when developing services and when goods and or services are provided on the Council's behalf. To this end we have developed an internal toolkit which integrates equality and diversity into everything we do from policy development to service planning and delivery.

We are an Equal Opportunities employer and welcome applications from all sections of the community. We are a Lead Partner and Member of Excellence of Employers for Disability NI with members of our recruitment team being accredited as "Disability Positive". We have a dedicated helpline for any applicants who require reasonable adjustments or whose first language is not English. We appoint strictly on the merit principle and our recruitment processes require the completion of relevant pre-employment checks which include eligibility to work in the UK and the uptake of suitable references, where required.

We operate a job evaluation scheme to ensure all employees are paid fairly and equitably.

#### **Raising Concerns**

We encourage workers to raise any concerns that they may have and there are established arrangements in place for handling these. Externally, members of the public and customers can use our [Corporate Complaints Compliments and Comments](#) procedure to report concerns.

#### **Fraud and bribery**

We are committed to protecting the public money we look after and to making sure that the opportunity for fraud, bribery or any other financial impropriety is reduced to the lowest possible risk. We have policies and procedures to manage the risk of fraud, bribery and other financial impropriety, including arrangements for prevention and detection as well as arrangements for reporting and investigation.

#### **Code of Conduct**

We expect all employees and Councillors to demonstrate the highest standards of conduct and ethical behaviour. We require all Councillors and Senior Managers to submit declaration of interests to record and declare personal and pecuniary interests.

### **Due diligence in assessing modern slavery risk in operations or supply chains**

Belfast City Council's Commercial and Procurement Services team have recently introduced Category Management. A Category Management structure within the team enables greater transparency in the identification of risks associated with modern slavery on a category basis.

### **Risk Assessment and Management**

All new suppliers, for new or extended applicable contracts, are assessed as part of the Council's tendering process to ensure that they meet the requirements of the Act.

We commit to reviewing and updating our contract terms and conditions to ensure that they are compliant with the Act.

The Commercial and Procurement Services team completed CIPS Ethical Procurement training achieving the professional standard of CIPS Corporate Ethics kite mark for the service.

We commit to developing a new safeguarding policy that will go out for consultation in 2021.

### **Key performance indicators to measure effectiveness of steps being taken**

We will communicate this policy to our staff to make them aware of the issue and the Council's obligations.

The Northern Ireland Department of Justice is expected, at some point, to announce guidance on the new duty to report incidences of modern slavery. This may require further training and guidance being issued to staff.

### **Training on modern slavery and trafficking**

The Commercial and Procurement Services team commit to retaining the professional standard of CIPS Corporate Ethics during 2021. Further Council officers involved in procurement activity will also be selected for this training.

This statement was approved by the Corporate Management Team of Belfast City Council on 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2021.

Signed on behalf of Belfast City Council by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
**John Walsh**  
**City Solicitor and Director of Legal and Civic Services**  
**Date:**

**Policy Control**

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>Organisation</b>         | Belfast City Council  |
| <b>Title</b>                | Modern Slavery Act Transparency Statement 2020-2021 v. 0.1          |
| <b>Author</b>               | Sarah Williams, Governance & Compliance Manager                     |
| <b>Owner</b>                | John Walsh, City Solicitor  |
| <b>Review date</b>          | Annually  |
| <b>Location of document</b> | Website home page   |
| <b>Approved by</b>          | Strategic Policy & Resources Committee and ratified at Full Council |
| <b>Approval date</b>        |   |



## SUGGESTED ACTIONS FOR COUNCILS

## Appendix 2

| Action  | NILGA Guidance  | Suggested Lead  | Estimated deadline |
|---|---|---|--------------------|
| 1. Provide Modern Slavery Awareness Training for all council personnel in public facing services.       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Department of Justice and the Department of Finance's Construction and Procurement Delivery can advise on TISC (Transparency in Supply Chains) training for public sector and council procurement leads.</li> <li>The guidance provides a list of voluntary and community sector organisations which can advise on modern slavery and provide training.</li> </ul> <p>NILGA's suggested next steps for Councils:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deliver training for public sector procurement leads in respect of transparency in supply chains.</li> <li>Accessing "Train the trainer" sessions for Councils shared by the Department of Justice to provide Councils with the tools to deliver their own inhouse training on Modern Slavery. <i>(The Train the Trainers session will be built into NILGA's Regional Training Programme and further information will follow on an ongoing basis as appropriate).</i></li> <li>Using Training Materials for Council Staff, available from the Department of Justice and PSNI. <i>(In April 2019, the Department of Justice and the PSNI wrote to all local Council CEOs to offer training materials for staff on modern slavery concerns<sup>15</sup>.)</i></li> </ul> | <p>Commercial and Procurement Services – N Bohill</p> <p>Corporate HR – C Sheridan / Governance &amp; Compliance Services – S Williams</p> <p>External provider to deliver approved training.</p> | March 2023         |
| 2. Designate a point of contact to report modern slavery concerns and raise awareness of modern slavery | Councils should <b>designate a lead officer or team who can act as a point of contact</b> and expertise on the issue. Council Community Planning, Good Relations or Policing and Community Partnerships (PCSP) teams are ideally placed to fulfil this role. A Lead Officer from either one of these teams could be nominated as the "go to" person for other officers or council workers who have concerns that modern slavery may be happening in certain businesses or in the community.   | <p>City and Neighbourhood Services – R Black</p> <p>Nicola Lane to take the lead on this element of the</p>   | March 2023         |

| Action                                    | NILGA Guidance  | Suggested Lead   | Estimated deadline |
|---|---|--|--------------------|
| among communities.                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A <b>council protocol</b> for reporting suspicions of modern slavery should be developed.</li> <li><b>Community Planning Partnerships</b> should be harnessed to share information and to raise awareness of modern slavery with communities and the drive to eradicate it.</li> <li><b>PCSPs</b> are a key council resource in the drive to eradicate modern slavery in Northern Ireland. Intelligence which can be disclosed by the PCSP should be shared with the lead person / team in the council appointed as the “go to” for modern slavery concerns.</li> </ul>  | <p>action plan and act as the conduit in terms of Good Relations and PCSP.</p> <p>To be agreed, at the relevant time, how we will embed / promote through the Community Planning Structures, SCP and PCSP/DPCSP's.</p> |                    |
| 3. Establish clear procurement guidelines | <p>The <b>modern slavery transparency statement</b> required to be published by the Council under Section 54 of the MSA must include the steps the Council has taken during the financial year to ensure that slavery and human trafficking is not taking place in any of its supply chains, and in any part of its own business or; that the organisation has taken no steps in the financial year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transparency in supply chains is a process of continuous improvement. As stipulated in government guidance, the government expects organisations to <i>build</i> on their statements year on year</li> <li>Guidance and resources include: Transparency in Supply Chains etc. A practical guide; Council Transparency Statements Portal; TISCReport Transparency Map; LGA's Tackling Modern Slavery Guide</li> </ul> <p>NILGA's suggested next steps for Councils:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Taking account of any further government developments on proposals to extend the scope of Section 54 (TISC).</li> </ul> | Commercial and Procurement Services – N Bohill   | Annually           |

| Action  | NILGA Guidance   | Suggested Lead                                | Estimated deadline |
|---|--|---|--------------------|
| 4. Collaborate with other councils and agencies | <p>Opportunities for <b>collaboration</b> include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All-Council Professional Officers Groups (e.g. the Environmental Health Professional Officers Group, the Local Government Safeguarding Network and the Planning Professional Officers Group);</li> <li>• Cross-council project collaboration (e.g. Arc21); and</li> <li>• Council collaboration with the private sector: e.g. for Economic Development teams to provide guidance to new and existing businesses in their districts on developing modern slavery transparency statements to enhance their competitiveness when bidding for new, or when renewing goods / services contracts.</li> </ul> | All Directors to raise with relevant officers | Immediate          |

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|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| <b>Subject:</b>           | <b>Update on Area Working Groups</b>           |
| <b>Date:</b>              | 24th September, 2021                           |
| <b>Reporting Officer:</b> | Sinead Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b>   | Shauna Murtagh, Programme Manager              |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Restricted Reports</b>                         |   |
| 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"/>  |

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

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| <b>1.0</b> | <b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>   |
| 1.1        | To present to the Committee the most recent round of AWG minutes for approval.  |
| <b>2.0</b> | <b>Recommendation</b>   |
| 2.1        | The Committee is requested to approve the most recent AWG minutes ( <i>North – 25 Aug, West – 26 Aug, East – 2 Sept, South – 6 Sept</i> ), as attached. |
| <b>3.0</b> | <b>Main Report</b>  |
|            | <b><u>KEY ISSUES</u></b>  |
|            | <b>Area Working Group Minutes</b>   |

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| 3.1        | Members agreed in June 2016 that the Area Working Group minutes would be presented to the Strategic Policy and Resources 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. |
| 3.2        | The Committee is asked to approve the most recent round of AWG minutes, as attached.  |
|            | <b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b>   |
| 3.3        | As outlined in the appendix.  |
|            | <b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment</u></b>   |
| 3.4        | No implications   |
| <b>4.0</b> | <b>Documents Attached</b>   |
|            | Minutes of the Area Working Groups meetings of August/September.  |

# **North Belfast Area Working Group**

Wednesday, 25th August, 2021

## **NORTH BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

Members present: Councillor McCullough (Chairperson);  
Councillors Bradley, Cobain, Magee, McAllister;  
McCusker, Murphy, O'Hara and Pankhurst and Whyte.

In attendance: Mr. J. Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy;  
Ms. A. McGlone, Neighbourhood Integration Manager;  
Mr. D. Logan, Project Manager;  
Mr. K. Heaney, Portfolio Manager; and  
Ms. E. McGoldrick, Democratic Services Officer.

### **Election of Chairperson**

The Area Working Group noted that it was required to elect a Chairperson for the coming year.

Moved by Councillor Cobain,  
Seconded by Councillor Pankhurst and

Resolved – that Councillor McCullough be elected to serve as  
Chairperson to the North Belfast Area Working Group until 31st May, 2022.

### **Apologies**

An apology for the inability to attend was reported on behalf of Councillor Maskey.

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 26th May, 2021 were agreed as an accurate record of proceedings.

### **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Pankhurst declared an interest in relation to item 4. Physical Programme Update, in so far as he was on the Board of the Upper Crumlin Cultural Community Hub.

### **Presentations**

#### **McCracken Cultural Society**

The Chairperson welcomed Mr. D. Mac Uait (McCracken Cultural Society), Mr. C. Mackel (ArdMackel Architects), and Ms. F. Carson (Cumann Cultúrtha Mhic Reachtain -

Development Officer) to the meeting to provide an overview of their proposed development of the McCracken Cultural Society on the Antrim Road and their future plans.

The representatives provided a presentation on the community-led organisation and the facility which was founded in 2000 to promote the Irish language and indigenous arts. It was reported that the facility provided classes, workshops and events throughout the year.

Mr. Mac Uait described the different options for the development and highlighted that the initial focus would be to refurbish the ground floor of the building for the development of a Coffee Shop. He explained that the facility would be used to provide youth training and employment and intended to be a self-sustaining social enterprise, together with the community support for the development.

Mr. Mackel informed the Working Group of the long term plans for the building which included a Business Hub, a lift to all floors, refurbishment of existing stairwells and presented illustrations, floor plans and the associated costs of each stage.

During discussion, the representatives explained further the viability of the Coffee Shop and demand for the Business Hub, together with the considered timescales and energy efficiencies of the intended development.

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

After discussion, the Working Group noted the information which had been provided.

### **Refresh of Belfast Agenda - Co-Design Approach**

The Director of City and Organisational Strategy reminded the Working Group that it had been four years since the Council had published the Belfast Agenda, the city's first community plan. He advised that the review of the Belfast Agenda had launched in June 2021.

He stated that the aim was to build a society that valued and took care of people of all ages and created a city whereby everyone had the opportunity to reach their full potential. He highlighted the importance of Elected Members and partners informing this work and shaping the focus of the Belfast Agenda for the next four years (2022-2026).

He advised that a co-design approach had been adopted for refreshing the Belfast Agenda. A promotional launch video was played which showed the intended engagement programme to encourage all partners and stakeholders to contribute. The Director explained the timeline for the review process and confirmed that consultation of the draft plan was proposed to take place in Jan – Mar 2022.

The Director provided an overview of an updated Belfast Agenda 'city strategy' document which included the Council's long-term vision and outcomes, population indicators (how success would be measured) and the Council's new 4-year priorities.

He described the proposed 8 priority themes from 2022 – 2026 which included: Economic Recovery; Employability and Skills; Educational Attainment; Housing; Community Recovery and Neighbourhood Regeneration; Health Inequalities; Climate Resilience and Sustainability; and Active and Sustainable Travel. He also highlighted that there were four cross-cutting themes proposed, including Inclusive Growth; Children and Young People; Good Relations and Shared Future; and Older People.



He explained that this would include Underpinning Delivery Action Plans which encompassed actions to deliver the 4-year priorities and would be based on criteria such as:

- Partnership activity providing collaborative gain / not business as usual activity;
- Designed to contribute to the Belfast Agenda outcomes / deliver wellbeing for Belfast residents; and
- Include 'area specific' elements making the 'Belfast Agenda' more meaningful to communities.

The Director provided details of the level of engagement and feedback to date and outlined the forthcoming events scheduled for targeted groups. He highlighted that an Elected Member Workshop had been planned for Friday, 3rd September and encouraged all Members to attend.

He encouraged the Working Group to get involved and help build momentum to continue the Belfast Conversation to help shape Belfast's future. He advised that the supporting survey was available online at [yoursay.belfastcity.gov.uk](https://yoursay.belfastcity.gov.uk), and proactive promotion of the process was underway via the Council's Social Media Channels and within local community facilities (e.g. Libraries, community centres and leisure centres). He also advised that further information would be sent to Members to disseminate and share with relevant groups.

The Working Group noted the information which had been provided and welcomed the review of the Belfast Agenda.

### **Future Planning Model: Integrated Care System**

Mr. B. Nelson, Co-Director of Public Health, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, provided an overview of the Department of Health's consultation into a proposed new model of planning and managing services through an Integrated Care System.

The Working Group was advised that this was defined as "A collaborative partnership between organisations and individuals with a responsibility for planning, managing, and delivering care, services and interventions to meet the health and wellbeing needs of the local population and which, through taking collective action, deliver improved outcomes for individuals and communities and reduce health inequalities."

The challenges facing the health and social care sector were outlined, as were the social determinants of health, including socioeconomic factors, physical environment, health behaviours, and health care.

The Co-Director explained that the current commissioning system had been found to be overly bureaucratic and lacking in clarity of accountability of decision making, and so with the closure of the Health and Social Care Board, the Local Commissioning Group's would also cease.

He advised that the Health Minister had granted approval for a programme of work to develop an Integrated Care System (ICS) model in NI which would adhere to the principles of delegated local level decision-making and funding (with the exception of specialised services to be planned, managed and delivered regionally), and support an outcomes based approach underpinned by accountability.

The Working Group was presented with the principles and values which underpin the emerging Framework, as well as the proposed 4-tiered model, as set out below, which would adopt a population health needs approach informed by local intelligence:

- Regional Group – regional coordination, oversight and accountability – planning and managing specialist services;
- 5 Area Integrated Partnership Boards (AIPBs) – Local planning and delivery based on identified population needs in the local area in line with the strategic direction;
- Locality Groups - Integrated Care Partnerships (ICPs), GP Federations and Community Pharmacies linking with Community Planning – supporting and delivering interventions at a local level supporting AIPBs; and
- Community Groups – GP Practices, Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDTs), voluntary and community groups and organisations – supporting and delivering interventions at a community level.

The Co-Director presented the proposed membership model for the Area Integrated Partnership Boards (AIPBs), which included involvement beyond the Health and Social Care Trust, including GPs, the Public Health Agency, Community Planning, service users and community and voluntary representatives.

He confirmed that following the consultation period, it was envisioned that the ICS model would be implemented by March/April, 2022, after which it would be reviewed and refreshed as necessary.

During discussion, Members raised the following points for consideration:

- The importance of locality partnerships;
- The need for a consistent approach across regions; and
- The need to revamp and improve mental health service, especially in North Belfast and areas of deprivation.

The Co-Director confirmed that a framework was important to ensure consistency alongside local flexibility.

The Chairperson thanked Mr. Nelson for his presentation and encouraged the Working Group to respond to the consultation.

After discussion, the Working Group noted the information that had been provided.

### **Forward Planning Emerging Opportunities**

The Neighbourhood Integration Manager provided an update on priority areas of work which were underway in relation to the North Area Working Group.

She advised that Community Infrastructure and Capacity Pilot projects were being discussed so that ideas could be submitted to the Group for consideration and a timeline of the work plan would be submitted to the Group.

She advised that Community Infrastructure and Capacity Pilot projects were being proposed, identifying one group in each area of the city that could be supported to develop their capacity. She added that discussions were underway with partners regarding financial

support for the process, and that ideas would be developed and a list of proposals brought to a future meeting for agreement, together with a timeline of the work plan.

In relation to the Alleyway Transformation Programme, she stated that work was ongoing and further updates would be brought to the Working Group and the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in due course to refine and agree the list of priorities. One Member highlighted the urgent need for an Alleygate at Alexandra Park Avenue and the Neighbourhood Integration Manager stated a timeline of work would also be submitted to the Group.

Regarding Peace Plus, the Neighbourhood Integration Manager informed the Group that the project would be continued to be funded by the European Commission with funding being allocated to each Council area. She advised that the SEUPB were researching themes for development with a view to the Council developing a local action plan for consideration in June 22.

During discussion Members raised the importance of a locality focus, capacity building, physical provision in North Belfast for communities to call their own, resources for the BAME communities, timeframes of proposed work being undertaken in the north of the City,

After discussion, the Working Group noted the information and that the Working Group would be informed of the timelines for the Alleyway Transformation Programme and Pilot Projects in due course.

### **Physical Programme Update**

The Project Manager provided an update on the progress of those projects under a range of funding streams including the Capital Programme, the Leisure Transformation Programme, the Local Investment Fund (LIF), the Belfast Investment Fund (BIF), and Social Outcome Fund (SOF).

#### ***Local Investment Fund (LIF)***

He explained that LIF was a £9m fixed programme of capital investment in non-council neighbourhood assets, over two tranches, with the North being allocated £1.127m under LIF1 and £800,000 under LIF2.

He highlighted that 43 projects in total had received In Principle support under LIF1 and LIF2, of which 34 had been completed; 2 were at delivery stage; 2 were at preconstruction stage and 5 remained at due diligence / initial stages.

He drew Members' attention to the table in the report which provided an overview of progress and actions around the remaining live projects, as follows:

| LIF Ref  | PROJECT                                       | FUNDING | STAGE              | STATUS  | ACTION/RECOMMENDATION               |
|----------|---|---------|--------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| NLIF2-14 | Star Neighbourhood Centre                     | £58,467 | On Ground          | Project on site. Electrical works complete. Work ongoing regarding procurement of contractor for outside space. Artist appointed for mural on exterior wall. Design agreed with group and art piece will be installed at the end of August. | Continue engagement with the group. |
| NLIF2-22 | Sailortown, St. Joseph's Church Refurbishment | £75,000 | On Ground          | Project is progressing on site. Heaters procured and instalment ongoing. Structural Engineer surveyed the internal roof structure and identified necessary works.   | Continued engagement with group.    |
| NLIF066  | Wishing Well Project                          | £40,000 | Tender preparation | Project procurement exercise recently concluded. Contractor appointment imminent.   | Continued engagement with group.    |

|          |   |         |                     |  |  |
|----------|---|---------|---------------------|--|--|
| NLIF2-21 | Somme Group – cross community memorial    | £21,667 | Tender preparation  | Progressing through Due Diligence stage. Designs also completed and planning application approved. Ongoing work with Legal Services to get the funding agreement prepared. Some further information being sought.  | To be presented again to Due Diligence for sign off. Funding agreement to be progressed once maintenance agreement signed off. Requirement for street works licence to be resolved, work in progress with DfI. |
| NLIF014  | Westland Community Centre - new buildings | £65,000 | Due Diligence stage | Project originally agreed for LIF January 2013. Since SIF support was withdrawn in 2019 Westland Community Group are being supported by partners, including UV, NIHE and BCC to build capacity, and provide programming funding support - a funded community worker is now in place. TEO have just confirmed the project has been agreed onto their UV capital pipeline.   | Continued engagement with group and UV in regarding to re-scoping of proposal and the now commencing business case development process.  |
| NLIF2-19 | Women's Tec                               | £46,667 | Due Diligence stage | Agreed February 2017. Group will be renewing their lease at Skegoniell Primary School. Group still having issues with their lease however they are actively working to resolve this.   | Continued engagement with Group in terms of the lease. Project will be taken back to Due Diligence for review.   |
| NLIF2-03 | Ardoyne Shankill Health Partnership       | £15,000 | Due Diligence stage | Agreed in June 2018. Project remains at Due Diligence stage – lease issues to be resolved.   | Continued engagement with Group  |
| NLIF2-05 | Mercy Primary, Crumlin Road               | £15,000 | Initial stage       | Agreed June 2016 - Reported to SP&R Committee on 19 <sup>th</sup> June 2020 confirming that information was received from the group and project is progressing. The title deeds for Mercy Primary School have now been received.   | Continued engagement with Group. To be presented at the next Due Diligence meeting.  |
| NLIF057  | Ardoyne Holy Cross Boxing Club            | £66,000 | Initial stage       | Agreed April 2014 - This project is within the overall UV Phase 2 development of St Gemma's school. The UV Business Case is progressing. The project designs and costs are being developed and an MOU has been developed. TEO has identified a potential funding shortfall and has advised that it is currently reviewing project budgets across the UV Programme, following which consideration will be given to reallocating additional funding to this project. | Continued engagement with Group and with UV<br><br>AWG has agreed that the Group will come in and present to a future AWG.   |

### **Belfast Investment Fund (BIF)**

The Project Manager provided a brief overview in relation to the Belfast Investment Fund (BIF) and reminded the Working Group that North Belfast had been allocated £5.5m. He advised that, in North Belfast, 7 projects had received an 'In-Principle' funding commitment under BIF, thereby fully allocating its £5.5m: and 2 projects were on the longer BIF list:

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| <b>North</b> | Stage 3 - Cancer Lifeline—£650k; Grace Family Centre —£1.6m; Basement Youth Club/ Elim Church Ireland - £1.5m<br>Stage 2- Malgrove- £500k<br>Stage 1 - Marrowbone Park £750k; Cultural Community Hub - £350k, Midland Boxing Club £400k<br>Cliftonville Community Forum, Sunningdale Community Centre - no commitment |
|--------------|---|

He updated the Working Group on the status of the remaining projects and suggested the following actions be taken forward:

| BIF Ref  | PROJECT              | FUNDING    | STAGE        | STATUS   | ACTION/RECOMMENDATION   |
|----------|----------------------|------------|--------------|--|---|
| BIF06    | Grace Family Centre  | £1,600,000 | Complete     | Project completed and was launched in May. The Grace Family Centre café is due to open in September 2021. The project final account is not yet ready and final figure for reallocation will be available in the next quarterly update. | Continue engagement with the group re post monitoring. Final account update to be brought back in the next AWG meeting. |
| BIF22/34 | Basement Youth Club/ | £1,500,000 | Design stage | £1.5m BIF monies allocated to the project in January 2019 (SP&R Cttee) and work is ongoing with the Department of Education regarding  | Continue engagement with the group and stakeholders.  |

|       |                            |          |                         |   |   |
|-------|----------------------------|----------|-------------------------|---|---|
|       | Elim Church (Old Grove)    |          |                         | their allocated of £500k funding (£2m in total committed at present). A revised Economic Appraisal and Business Planning is ongoing however progress is reliant on feedback from the group involved and to date queries around proposed programming of any new building have not been provided to the consultant team. Due to issues regarding ongoing revenue costs in the original proposal an alternative to the Old Grove site is now being considered and it is expected that the old Basement building (owned by Elim Church) would be the subject of the new project with a demolition and rebuild. If DE continue their support for the scheme (this will be subject to them consideration and sign-off of the new Economic Appraisal) the Council's commitment to the project would reduce. This could release monies for reallocation by the AWG. This is currently being quantified with an update to be brought back to a future AWG meeting. |   |
| BIF15 | Malgrove                   | £500,000 | Uncommitted             | Business case completed - preferred option accommodates 4 team changing and is estimated cost of £1million (£500k funding deficit remains – avenues to be explored incl. DfC). Design layout reflecting access and parking requirements to be finalised to allow for detailed design and planning application submission (still awaiting response from NIE on option of community transfer of parcel of land for element of parking).   | Continue engagement with the group.   |
| BIF45 | Midland Boxing Club        | £400,000 | Emerging - Design Stage | Planning application submitted May 2021. Anticipate planning decision by Oct 2021. Officers are liaising with Northern Ireland Housing Executive to complete the acquisition of land adjacent to club for the extension (on track). Aim to complete tender exercise and appoint contractor by Nov 2021. Initial pre-tender estimates show the project may require further funding (approx. £60k) and project officers are working with group to address this by approaching other funders.  | Continue engagement with the group and design team.<br><br><b>Recommend that project to be moved to Stage 2- Uncommitted.</b> |
| BIF41 | Marrowbone Millennium Park | £750,000 | Emerging                | Partnership project with UV. Business Case approved. DfC has confirmed additional funding of £200k. In Nov 2020, additional BIF funding of £250k was re-allocated. Planning has now been approved and Council are awaiting formal letter of offer from UV before progressing procurement.   | Continue engagement with the group and stakeholders.<br><br><b>Recommend that project to be moved to Stage 2- Uncommitted</b> |
| BIF43 | Cultural Community Hub     | £350,000 | Emerging                | Proposed new cultural hub community facility. Feasibility study and business plan completed. Project will comprise of a 130sqm permanent brick facility on derelict Orange Lodge owned site. As Upper Crumlin Road Cultural Association is recently constituted it is proposed that the County Grand Orange Lodge of Belfast will be project guarantor. Project proposal assessed. Discussed initially at Due Diligence in 19 <sup>th</sup> August 2021 with no major issues.   | Continue engagement with the group and stakeholders.<br><br><b>Recommend that project to be moved to Stage 2- Uncommitted</b> |

### Capital Programme

The Project Manager reminded the Working Group of the 3 stage approval process in place for every project on the Council's Capital Programme, as agreed by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee. He summarised the current status of the live projects for North Belfast as follows:

| Project  | Status and update   |
|--|---|
| <b>Playground Improvement Programme 2021/2022 (City wide)</b>                              | Cavehill Adventurous playground works to start in January 2022.   |
| <b>North Foreshore - Development Sites Infrastructure Works</b>                            | Stage 3 – Committed Project. Electricity infrastructure upgrade currently being progressed  |
| <b>Belfast Zoo – Programme of Works (Works to the Large Cats Enclosure, Sea Lion, etc)</b> | Stage 3 - Committed Project. On ground. Health and safety works and Sea Lion works underway. Tender preparation has also begun for the Large Cats Enclosure, with works anticipated to start by September.                        |
| <b>Boodles Dam – Abandonment of the Dam</b>  | Stage 3 – Committed Project. Contractor has been appointed and has submitted a Construction Environmental Management Plan to NIEA. Awaiting response from NIEA and hope to be mobilising to site in August/ early September 2021. |
| <b>Reservoir Safety Programme</b>  | Stage 3- Committed Project. Works to Alexandra Park, Waterworks Upper and Waterworks Lower. Integrated Consultancy Team have been appointed. ICT working on designs and preparing planning application                            |
| <b>Alleygating Phase 5 – City wide</b>   | Stage 3 – Committed Project. Update to be brought to next AWG   |
| <b>LTP - Girdwood Indoor Sports Facility</b>   | Stage 2 – Uncommitted Project. Design Team and Business Case consultant now engaged. Currently working through options in partnership with DfC for inclusion in Business Case.  |
| <b>Relocation of Dunbar Link Cleansing Depot</b>   | Stage 2 – Uncommitted Project. OBC being worked up  |

### ***Externally- funded programme***

The Project Manager explained that the Council was the delivery partner / agent for a number of government departments on key capital investment programmes, namely, the Executive Office Social Investment Fund (SIF), the Executive Office Urban Villages (UV) Programme, and number of schemes with the Department for Communities Regeneration directorate. He provided the following overview of projects within each programme relevant to North Belfast:

#### ***Urban Villages Initiative***

| Project                              | Status and update  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Marrowbone Millennium Park</b>    | <i>As per update under BIF.</i> Partnership project with UV and DfC. The Business Case has been approved. Planning has now been approved and Council are awaiting formal letter of offer from UV.  |
| <b>Ballysillan Playing Fields</b>    | Partnership project with UV, DfC and DfI LWWP. Public consultation closed on 1 August. A report on the consultation findings is in the process of being prepared with any final design changes to scheme to be confirmed. The UV Business Case has been approved and a Letter of Offer is now imminent. The Council has received a request for funding from TEO in sum of £100k for contribution towards design fees. TEO have been advised that no funding is currently available at this time. |
| <b>Beann Mhadagáin Family Centre</b> | Council acting as delivery agent. The Business Case is progressing. UV has identified a potential funding deficit between £300k and £600k. The Project Promoter is exploring options regarding additional funding opportunities. The UV Letter of Offer is dependent upon confirmation of funding and Business Case approval.  |
| <b>Sunningdale Community Centre</b>  | Council acting as delivery agent, proposed on Council land. A final draft Business Case has been received and is under review. Council is considering an in-principle agreement to transfer lands. TEO identified a funding deficit in sum   |

|   |  |
|---|--|
|   | of £359,318 and following a request for match funding from Council, TEO were advised that no funding is currently available. TEO has indicated that it is currently reviewing project budgets across the UV Programme, following which consideration will be given to reallocating additional funding to this project. Additional funding opportunities are being explored by TEO to support this project.   |
| <b>Ardoyne Youth Enterprises (AYE) Social Enterprise Project:</b> | Council acting as delivery agent. The Business Case is progressing. The project designs and costs are being developed. TEO has identified a potential funding shortfall and has advised that it is currently reviewing project budgets across the UV Programme, following which consideration will be given to reallocating additional funding to this project. Additional funding opportunities are being explored by TEO to support this project.  |
| <b>St Gemma's ABC Trust</b>                                       | <i>As per update under LIF.</i> Partnership project with UV. The Business Case is progressing. The project designs and costs are being developed and an MOU has been developed. TEO has identified a potential funding shortfall and has advised that it is currently reviewing project budgets across the UV Programme, following which consideration will be given to reallocating additional funding to this project. Additional funding opportunities are being explored by TEO to support this project. |

He highlighted that Members were asked to note that a request for funding in the sum of £100k had been received from TEO in relation to the Ballysillan Playing Fields project, a copy of the letter received from TEO was attached at Appendix 1. The funding request was to support the funding profile of £5,758,616 (UV £3,958,616, DfI £1,100,000, DfC £700,000).

#### ***Peace IV***

The following update on Peace IV - Forth Meadow Community Greenway project was provided:

| Project  | Status and update   |
|--|---|
| <b>Forth Meadow Community Greenway project</b> | On Ground. Contractor on site at Section 1. Planning applications for remaining sections of the scheme with planners. Match funding received from DfI (£750k) and DfC (£500k). Estimated completion of SEUPB programme December 2023. |

#### ***Department for Communities (DfC) funded projects***

The Project Manager provided the following status update on DfC funded projects in North Belfast:

| Project   | Status and update  |
|---|--|
| <b>Girdwood Indoor Sports Site— ICT</b>                         | Business Case being developed.   |
| <b>Voice of Young people In Care (VOYPIC) and Include Youth</b> | Refurbishment of 100 Great Patrick St, Belfast to provide a modern, fit for purpose youth space - BCC as delivery agent. Tender returned and currently being assessed. |

#### ***Living with Water Programme (LWWP)***

The Working Group were provided with an update on projects under LWWP:

| Project   | Status and update  |
|---|--|
| <b>Belfast Castle Estate – SuDS pilot project</b> | Natural flood management scheme based on a sustainable drainage pilot project in the grounds of Belfast Castle. Designs are being finalised and it is anticipated work will commence on site in August 2021. |

After discussion, the Working Group noted:

- the physical programme update for North Belfast;
- that the Midland Boxing Club, Marrowbone Millennium Park and Cultural Community Hub BIF projects would be recommended to be move to Stage 2- Uncommitted at the next Strategic Policy and Resources Committee;
- the request for funding from TEO in the sum of £100k in relation to the Ballysillan Playing Fields project; and
- that any underspend from the Grace Family Centre Project would be confirmed at the next meeting and any amount available for reallocation would be brought back to Members for consideration.

#### **Date of Next Meeting**

The Working Group noted that the date of the next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, 24th November.

Chairperson



# **West Belfast Area Working Group**

Thursday, 26th August, 2021

WEST BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP  
HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Members present: Councillor Corr (Chairperson),  
Alderman Kingston; and  
Councillors Baker, Beattie, Canavan, Carson  
Donnelly, Garrett, Hutchinson, McLaughlin  
and Walsh.

In attendance: Mr. J. Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy;  
Ms. A. McGlone, Neighbourhood Integration Manager;  
Mr. K. Heaney, Portfolio Manager;  
Mr. M. Doherty, Project Manager;  
Mr. J. Uprichard, Community Planning Officer; and  
Ms. K. McCrum, Democratic Services Officer.

## **Election of Chairperson**

The Area Working Group noted that it was required to elect a Chairperson for the coming year.

Moved by Councillor McLaughlin,  
Seconded by Councillor Carson and

Resolved – that Councillor Corr be elected to serve as Chairperson to the West Belfast Area Working Group until 31st May, 2022.

## **Apologies**

Apologies for inability to attend were reported on behalf of Councillors Black, Heading McCabe and Verner.

## **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 27th May were agreed as an accurate record of proceedings.

## **Declarations of Interest**

No Declarations of Interest were recorded.

## **Presentations**

### **Refresh of Belfast Agenda - Co-Design Approach**

The Director of City and Organisational Strategy reminded the Working Group that it had been four years since the Council had published the Belfast Agenda, the city's first community plan. He confirmed that the Review of the Belfast Agenda had launched in June,

and that there was a legislative requirement to publish an updated Belfast Agenda by April, 2022.

He advised that the aim was to build a society that values and takes care of people of all ages and to make sure that everyone had the opportunity to reach their full potential, and that this was Members and partners chance to influence the focus in the next four years.

A promotional launch video was played which showed the intended engagement programme to encourage all partners to contribute. The Director explained the timeline for the review process and confirmed that consultation of the draft plan was proposed to take place between January and March 2022.

He advised that co-design was a central principle which had been adopted to review the Belfast Agenda and by the end of March 2022, the Council wished to co-design an updated Belfast Agenda.

He provided an overview of an updated Belfast Agenda 'city strategy' document which included the Council's long-term vision and outcomes, population indicators (how success would be measured) and the new 4-year priorities.

He described the 8 priority themes for 2022 – 2026 which included: Economic Recovery; Employability and Skills; Educational Attainment; Housing; Community Recovery and Neighbourhood Regeneration; Health Inequalities; Climate Resilience and Sustainability; and Active and Sustainable Travel. He added that feedback had underlined the need for these themes to be cross-cutting.

He explained that this would include Underpinning Delivery Action Plans which included actions to deliver the 4-year priorities and would be based on criteria such as:

- Partnership activity providing collaborative gain / not business as usual activity;
- Designed to contribute to the Belfast Agenda outcomes / deliver wellbeing for Belfast residents; and
- Include 'area specific' elements making the 'Belfast Agenda' more meaningful to communities.

The Director provided details of the progress of the launch to date and planned engagement events of targeted groups. He highlighted that an Elected Member Workshop had been planned for Friday, 3rd September.

The Director encouraged the Working Group to get involved and continue the Belfast Conversation and help shape Belfast's future. He advised that the survey was online at [yoursay.belfastcity.gov.uk](https://yoursay.belfastcity.gov.uk) and would be advertised via the Council's Social Media Channels and further information would be sent to Members to disseminate and share with relevant groups. He also advised that hard copies of the survey were available at local libraries, community centres and leisure centres.

In response to a question as to how success would be measured, the Director advised that in refining the priorities, it would be important to understand what needed to be monitored. He added that a partnership existed with Queens University to assist with this work, particularly around area-based analysis. The Portfolio Manager confirmed that there was a commitment to publish the supporting Action Plans alongside the Belfast Agenda, which would provide further transparency and accountability.

A Member questioned when the next Statement of Progress would be published and asked if further detail could be provided in the future, in particular, a breakdown of the statistics provided to demonstrate the differences that were being made.

The Director advised that the next Statement of Progress would be produced alongside the Belfast Agenda refresh (November 2021- March 2022), and agreed that further work was needed to develop a supporting outcomes framework to measure success that would enable regular updates to be provided to Elected Members.

The Working Group noted the information provided and welcomed the review of the Belfast Agenda.

### **Future Planning Model: Integrated Care System**

Mr. B. Nelson, Co-Director of Public Health, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, provided an overview of the Department of Health's consultation into a proposed new model of planning and managing services through an Integrated Care System.

The Working Group was advised that this was defined as "A collaborative partnership between organisations and individuals with a responsibility for planning, managing, and delivering care, services and interventions to meet the health and wellbeing needs of the local population and which, through taking collective action, deliver improved outcomes for individuals and communities and reduce health inequalities."

The challenges facing the health and social care sector were outlined, as were the social determinants of health, including socioeconomic factors, physical environment, health behaviours, and health care.

The Co-Director explained that the current commissioning system had been found to be overly bureaucratic and lacking in clarity of accountability of decision making, and so with the closure of the Health and Social Care Board, the Local Commissioning Group's would also cease.

He advised that the Health Minister had granted approval for a programme of work to develop an Integrated Care System (ICS) model in NI which would adhere to the principles of delegated local level decision-making and funding (with the exception of specialised services to be planned, managed and delivered regionally), and support an outcomes based approach underpinned by accountability.

The Working Group was presented with the principles and values which underpinned the emerging Framework, as well as the proposed 4-tiered model, as set out below, which adopted a population health needs approach informed by local intelligence:

- Regional Group – regional coordination, oversight and accountability – planning and managing specialist services;
- 5 Area Integrated Partnership Boards (AIPBs) – Local planning and delivery based on identified population needs in the local area in line with the strategic direction;
- Locality Groups - Integrated Care Partnerships (ICPs), GP Federations and Community Pharmacies linking with Community Planning – supporting and delivering interventions at a local level supporting AIPBs;
- Community Groups – GP Practices, Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDTs), voluntary and community groups and organisations – supporting and delivering interventions at a community level.

The Co-Director presented the proposed membership model for the Area Integrated Partnership Boards (AIPBs), which included involvement beyond the Health and Social Care Trust, including GPs, the Public Health Agency, Community Planning, service users and community and voluntary representatives.

He confirmed that following the consultation period, it was envisioned that the ICS model would be implemented by March/April 2022, after which it would be reviewed and refreshed as necessary.

The Chairperson thanked Mr. Nelson for his presentation, and welcomed the locality approach. He also underlined the importance of ongoing relationships between the ICS model and local Elected Members.

A Member commented on the positive partnership working that had been demonstrated throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, and emphasised the importance of having a strategic direction when setting up new partnerships, with the needs, actions and outcomes clearly articulated. The Co-Director agreed that a framework was important so as to ensure consistency alongside local flexibility.

After discussion, the Working Group noted the information that had been provided.

#### **Request to Present - The Roddy McCorley Historical Society**

The Working Group agreed to receive a presentation from the Roddy McCorley Historical Society at the next meeting of the West Belfast Area Working Group. It was noted that the Lagmore Youth Project would also be delivering a presentation at the meeting.

#### **Forward Planning Emerging Opportunities**

The Neighbourhood Integration Manager provided an update on priority areas of work within the City and Neighbourhoods Department which, if agreed, would form the focus of the West Belfast Area Working Group in the months ahead.

She advised that Community Infrastructure and Capacity Pilot projects were being proposed, identifying one group in each area of the city that could be supported to develop their capacity. She added that discussions were underway with partners regarding financial support for the process, and that ideas would be developed and a list of proposals brought to a future meeting for agreement.

In relation to the Alleyway Transformation Programme, she stated that work was ongoing in a bid to transform and green alleyways, and that an update would be brought to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee and then to the Area Working Groups in order to refine and agree the list of priorities.

Regarding Peace Plus, the Neighbourhood Integration Manager informed the Group that the project would continue to be funded by the European Commission, however, the content of the programme was yet to be agreed with SEUPB. She explained the proposal that localised action plans would be co-designed with communities, with a view to the Area Working Groups refining the range of interventions, which could include youth development programmes, health and well-being, community regeneration projects, initiatives to build positive relations and social innovation. She confirmed that timeframes were still to be confirmed but it was envisioned that submission of the Plans would be between March and June 2022.

A Member welcomed the Community Infrastructure and Capacity Pilot in light of previous discussions about the number of large scale housing developments under construction where plans existed to include community facilities within them, but no strategies were in place for how this would be managed.

Another Member raised concerns that just one group would be chosen in each area of the city given the need in West Belfast, and asked that a group from the Shankill area be included in the list provided to the Area Working Group.

After discussion, the Working Group noted the updates provided and welcomed further information at the next meeting of the Working Group.

### **Physical Programmes Update**

The Project Manager provided an update on the progress of those projects under a range of funding streams, including the Local Investment Fund (LIF), the Belfast Investment Fund (BIF), Social Outcome Fund (SOF), Capital Programme, and externally funded programmes.

#### ***Local Investment Fund (LIF)***

He explained that since the last meeting, a number of projects had been completed, and provided an update as follows:

| LIF Ref  | PROJECT                            | LIF FUNDING | STAGE              | STATUS   | ACTION/RECOMMENDATION  |
|----------|------------------------------------|-------------|--------------------|--|--|
| WLIF2-10 | St James Community Forum           | £115,000    | Recently completed | Project recently completed in May 2021. Project has received extremely positive media and local support. Final account currently being completed.  | Continue engagement with the group re post monitoring. Final account update to be brought in the next AWG meeting. |
| WLIF2-28 | Belfast Orange Hall Clifton Street | £65,000     | Recently completed | Building upgrades project recently completed. Link to SOF project.   | Continue engagement with the group re post monitoring.   |
| WLIF2-25 | Woodvale Cricket Club -            | £33,000     | Complete           | Upgrade to enable the creation of a large upstairs hall. Project fully complete.   | Continue engagement with the group re post monitoring.   |
| WLIF2-26 | St. Matthew's Parish Church Hall   | £35,000     | Complete           | Building upgrades. Project fully complete.   | Continue engagement with the group re post monitoring.   |
| WLIF2-27 | West Belfast Orange Hall -         | £17,000     | Complete           | Building upgrades. Project fully complete.   | Continue engagement with the group re post monitoring.   |
| WLIF2-30 | St. John GAC                       | £17,000     | Complete           | Project complete.  | Continue engagement with the group re post monitoring.   |
| WLIF2-08 | Berlin Swifts Football Club        | £65,085     | On Ground          | Contractor appointed. Works progressing. Estimated project completion date by end of August 2021.  | Continue engagement with the groups and project partners.  |
| WLIF2-04 | St John Bosco Boxing Club          | £40,000     | Due Diligence      | BCC delivery to be formalised with Sport NI and subject to a Memorandum of Understanding between parties. Planning permission in place. Still awaiting Sport NI info. Project need to be sign off at the next Due Diligence. | Ongoing liaison with Sport NI and group.   |

#### ***Belfast Investment Fund (BIF)***

The Project Manager drew attention to the Colin Glen Trust project which was nearing completion and had been successfully received. A further update was provided in relation to the following projects:

| BIF Ref | PROJECT   | BIF FUNDING | STAGE                            | STATUS   | ACTION/RECOMMENDATION   |
|---------|---|-------------|----------------------------------|--|---|
| BIF10   | St Comgall's  | £3,500,000  | On Ground                        | Project on ground. Estimated completion in January/ February 2022.   | Continue engagement with the group.   |
| BIF30   | Colin Glen Trust  | £2,500,000  | On Ground                        | Project is now largely complete apart from long zipline which is due to complete in August. Toboggan, short zipline, land train, car park and ticket office are now fully operational and site is already experiencing strong visitor numbers. In all, additional funding in excess of £2.5m was levered in to add to Council's original £2.5m investment. Formal launch will be organised for September 2021. | Continue engagement with the group.   |
| BIF09   | Glencairn Community Project                               | £700,00     | Uncommitted; Due Diligence stage | Project to be match funded by Education Authority (£500k). Discussed at Due Diligence issues around sustainability. Meeting with Shankill Councillors, Group and EA to develop an options paper with a view to moving the project forward.   | Continue engagement with the group and key stakeholders.  |
| BIF29   | Greater Shankill Community Council - Royal British Legion | £300,000    | Uncommitted; Design stage        | Project moved to Stage 2- Uncommitted in March 2021. Project progressing to detailed design. Integrated Design Team appointed to prepare tender documents. Building survey undertaken.   | Continue engagement with the group. Project Delivery Team established first meeting week commencing 23 August 2021. |

## Capital Programme

The current status of the live projects for West Belfast was summarised as follows:

| Project   | Status and update  |
|---|--|
| Replacement Service Yard – Falls Park/ City Cemetery          | Project recently completed. Link to the City Cemetery - National Lottery Heritage Fund project (as per below).   |
| City Cemetery – National Lottery Heritage Fund (formerly HLF) | Stage 3 – Committed, on the ground. Contractor works are progressing well. The new service yard is underway and should be complete by Oct/Nov 2020. It is hoped work will comment on the visitor centre in November and will be completed in Aug/Sept 2021. In tandem with this the restoration works on several of the site's key assets such as the Centre Steps, Victorian Fountains and Mortuary Tower is well underway. |
| Playground Improvement Programme 2020/21 (City wide)          | Stage 3 – Committed. Falls Park and Vere Foster (Moyard) playgrounds recently completed.   |

## Externally Funded Programme

The Project Manager explained that the Council was the delivery partner / agent for a number of government departments on key capital investment programmes, namely, the Executive Office Urban Villages (UV) Programme, the Executive Office Social Investment Fund (SIF), and number of schemes with the Department for Communities Regeneration directorate. He provided the following overview of projects within each programme relevant to West Belfast:

### Urban Villages Initiative

| Project   | Status and update  |
|---|--|
| Páirc Nua Chollann (New Park in Colin)              | Ongoing issues with the contractor has impacted project delivery dates. Officers, in conjunction with Legal Services and Urban Villages, are considering future options in relation to the contractor, following which next steps will be identified. Regular communication with the local community remains ongoing and regular meetings are being arranged to update on the current position. Members will be kept up to date with progress. |
| Healthy Living Centre (Sport in the Community (PCA) | Final Business Case approved by TEO and letter of offer expected imminently.   |

|                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Colin Glen Trust</b>           | Draft Business Case prepared, UV awaiting response from Group regarding funding deficit. |
| <b>Colin Valley Football Club</b> | Final Business Case approved by TEO and letter of offer expected imminently.             |

### *Social Investment Fund*

The Project Manager confirmed that works were progressing well at the St. Comgall's site, and drew attention to the update provided within the report:

| <b>Project</b>       | <b>Status and update</b>   |
|----------------------|--|
| <b>St. Comgall's</b> | Project on ground. Estimated completion in January/ February 2022. Link to BIF project – see above update. |

### *PEACE IV*

The following update on the Peace IV capital projects was provided:

| <b>Project</b>                             | <b>Status and update</b>  |
|--|---|
| <b>Springfield Dam &amp; Park</b>          | The project was completed and opened to the public in December 2020 This work was part of the Forth Meadow Community Greenway project.  |
| <b>Forth Meadow Community</b>              | Planning approvals for remaining sections of the scheme with planners for approval. Letter of Offers from DfI (£750k) and DfC received (£500k). Contractor on site at Section 1. Estimated completion of SEUPB programme December 2023.   |
| <b>Black Mountain Shared Space Project</b> | Design underway. Revised SEUPB LoO for Phase 1 received and IFI LoO (£500k) received for Phase 2 (extension rec'd). Discussions ongoing with DfC and DoJ to bridge gap left by SEUPB for the proposed Phase 2 works. Costs continue to be reviewed as the design develops. Estimated completion of SEUPB programme December 2023. |
| <b>Shankill Women's Centre</b>             | Design underway. PQQ documentation for contractor appointment issued. Costs continue to be reviewed as the design develops. Estimated completion of SEUPB programme December 2023.  |

### *Department for Communities (DfC) funded projects*

The Project Manager provided the following status update on DfC funded projects in West Belfast:

| <b>Project</b>                               | <b>Status and update</b>                                  |
|--|---|
| <b>Playground Improvements Programme</b>     | Falls Park and Vere Foster (Moyard) playgrounds completed |
| <b>Grosvenor 3G pitch carpet replacement</b> | Project completed   |
| <b>Grosvenor Centre playpark</b>             | Project completed   |
| <b>Willowbank Changing pavilion</b>          | Project completed   |
| <b>Old Golf Course Road— remedial works</b>  | Project completed   |
| <b>Restoration works at City Cemetery</b>    | Project completed   |
| <b>Colin Glen Trust (multiyear)</b>          | Project completed   |
| <b>St James Community Forum</b>              | Project recently completed. Link to LIF project           |
| <b>Berlin Swifts Football Club</b>           | Project on ground. Link to LIF project                    |
| <b>Páirc Nua Chollann</b>                    | Project on ground. Link to UV project (update above)      |
| <b>Forth Meadow Community Greenway</b>       | Project on ground. Link to PeaceIV project (update above) |
| <b>Paisley Park – Phase 2</b>                | Project at initial stage                                  |

In response to a query as to an official launch date of the Colin Glen Trust project, and involvement of the Lord Mayor, the Project Manager undertook to seek an update from the relevant officers.

The Working Group noted the physical programmes update as provided, alongside the photos of recently completed or underway projects.

**Date of Next Meeting**

The Working Group noted the date of the next scheduled meeting, Thursday, 25th November, 2021.

Chairperson



# East Belfast Area Working Group

Thursday, 2nd September, 2021

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

Members present: Alderman Sandford (Chairperson),  
Aldermen Copeland, Dorrian, Haire and Rodgers; and  
Councillors De Faoite, Flynn, Hanvey, Howard,  
M. Kelly, Kyle, Long, McMullan and Mulholland.

In attendance: Ms. S. Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes;  
Mr. J. Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy;  
Ms. K. Watters, Neighbourhood Integration Manager;  
Mr. K. Heaney, Portfolio Manager;  
Ms. P. Conway, Development Surveyor;  
Mr. J. Uprichard, Community Planning Officer; and  
Ms. K. McCrum, Democratic Services Officer.

### **Apologies**

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Councillors Brooks, McReynolds, Newton and Smyth.

### **Minutes**

The Working Group agreed that the minutes of the meeting of 21st June were an accurate record of proceedings.

### **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were recorded.

### **Presentations**

#### **Refresh of Belfast Agenda - Co-Design Approach**

The Director of City and Organisational Strategy reminded the Working Group that it had been four years since the Council had published the Belfast Agenda, the city's first community plan. He confirmed that the Review of the Belfast Agenda had launched in June, and that there was a legislative requirement to publish an updated Belfast Agenda by April, 2022.

He advised that the aim was to build a society that values and takes care of people of all ages and to make sure that everyone had the opportunity to reach their full potential. He highlighted the importance of Elected Members and partners informing this work and shaping the focus of the Belfast Agenda for the next four years (2022-2026).

He advised that a co-design approach had been adopted for refreshing the Belfast Agenda. A promotional launch video was played which showed the intended engagement programme to encourage all partners to contribute. The Director explained the timeline for the review process and confirmed that consultation of the draft plan was proposed to take place between January and March 2022.

He provided an overview of an updated Belfast Agenda 'city strategy' document which included the Council's long-term vision and outcomes, population indicators (how success would be measured) and the new 4-year priorities. He added that an easy-read version would be made available also.

He described the proposed 8 priority themes for 2022 – 2026 which included: Economic Recovery; Employability and Skills; Educational Attainment; Housing; Community Recovery and Neighbourhood Regeneration; Health Inequalities; Climate Resilience and Sustainability; and Active and Sustainable Travel. Also highlighted were four proposed cross-cutting themes, including Inclusive Growth, Children and Young People, Good Relations and Shared Future, and Older People.

He explained that this would include Underpinning Delivery Action Plans which included actions to deliver the 4-year priorities and would be based on criteria such as:

- Partnership activity providing collaborative gain / not business as usual activity;
- Designed to contribute to the Belfast Agenda outcomes / deliver wellbeing for Belfast residents; and
- Include 'area specific' elements making the 'Belfast Agenda' more meaningful to communities.

The Director provided details of the level of engagement and feedback to date and outlined the forthcoming events scheduled for targeted groups. He highlighted that an Elected Member Workshop had been planned for Friday, 3rd September and encouraged all Members to attend.

The Director encouraged the Working Group to get involved, help build momentum and continue the Belfast Conversation in order to help shape Belfast's future. He advised that the supporting survey was available online at [yoursay.belfastcity.gov.uk](https://yoursay.belfastcity.gov.uk) and proactive promotion of the process was underway via the Council's Social Media Channels. He added that further information would be sent to the Members to disseminate and share with relevant groups, and that hard copies of the survey were available at local libraries, community centres and leisure centres.

In closing, he drew attention to the connection between this work and that of the Integrated Care System, which was next on the agenda, allowing partners to work together on a number of cross-cutting health issues.

A Member commented that engagement with external groups and organisations had in the past been limited and questioned how active their involvement was in the current process. The Director advised that, whilst the approach to Community Planning in Northern Ireland was still under development, in recent years, it had been gathering momentum and partnership working was active both in terms of human and financial resources across a number of projects.

At the request of a Member, the promotional launch video was circulated to the Working Group to allow further dissemination via social media.

Following discussion, the Working Group noted the information which had been provided.

### **Future Planning Model: Integrated Care System**

Ms. O. Barron, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, provided an overview of the Department of Health's consultation into a proposed new model of planning and managing services through an Integrated Care System.

The Working Group was advised that this was defined as "A collaborative partnership between organisations and individuals with a responsibility for planning, managing, and delivering care, services and interventions to meet the health and wellbeing needs of the local population and which, through taking collective action, deliver improved outcomes for individuals and communities and reduce health inequalities."

The challenges facing the health and social care sector were outlined, as were the social determinants of health, including socioeconomic factors, physical environment, health behaviours, and health care.

She explained that the current commissioning system had been found to be overly bureaucratic and lacking in clarity of accountability of decision making, and so with the closure of the Health and Social Care Board, the Local Commissioning Group's would also cease.

She advised that the Health Minister had granted approval for a programme of work to develop an Integrated Care System (ICS) model in NI which would adhere to the principles of delegated local level decision-making and funding (with the exception of specialised services to be planned, managed and delivered regionally), and support an outcomes based approach underpinned by accountability.

The Working Group was presented with the principles and values which underpinned the emerging Framework, as well as the proposed 4-tiered model, as set out below, which adopted a population health needs approach informed by local intelligence:

- Regional Group – regional coordination, oversight and accountability – planning and managing specialist services;
- 5 Area Integrated Partnership Boards (AIPBs) – Local planning and delivery based on identified population needs in the local area in line with the strategic direction;
- Locality Groups - Integrated Care Partnerships (ICPs), GP Federations and Community Pharmacies linking with Community Planning – supporting and delivering interventions at a local level supporting AIPBs;
- Community Groups – GP Practices, Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDTs), voluntary and community groups and organisations – supporting and delivering interventions at a community level.

The Working Group was then presented with the proposed membership model for the Area Integrated Partnership Boards (AIPBs), which included involvement beyond the Health and Social Care Trust, including GPs, the Public Health Agency, Community Planning, service users and community and voluntary representatives.

Ms. Barron confirmed that following the consultation period, it was envisioned that the ICS model would be implemented by March/April 2022, after which it would be reviewed and refreshed as necessary.

A number of the Members commented upon the high levels of demand within the primary care sector and the knock-on effect at A&E departments, with questions raised about how this approach would tackle the problems that people were experiencing in accessing health care, whilst minimising disruption to the current system.

Ms. Barron advised that, while the Covid-19 pandemic had not caused the problems, it had exacerbated them. She commented upon the pressures being experienced at both primary and secondary care settings, including workforce shortages, and detailed some of the actions underway to improve the situation, such as improved communication and referral systems and the delivery of Urgent Care Centres. She added that the community-based approach of the Integrated Care System was also expected to help address some of the issues.

In response to a query regarding the temporary closure of the out-of-hours GP service at Forester Green Hospital, Ms. Barron confirmed that staffing shortages had led to the consolidation of hours, and that the situation was under review.

After discussion, the Chairperson thanked Ms. Barron for her presentation and the Working Group noted the information that had been provided.

### **Forward Planning Emerging Opportunities**

The Neighbourhood Integration Manager advised that EastSide Partnership was keen to talk to the Working Group about the Connswater Community Greenway and its plans for development of the wider EastSide Greenway. She also asked the Members to advise her of any areas of work that they would like to be presented over the next number of months.

The Working Group agreed that a focused meeting regarding Greenways in East Belfast should be scheduled to encompass this request alongside an update on the Sydenham Greenway, and to discuss their alignment to corporate work regarding city connectivity.

Discussion took place regarding the need to conduct a major review of those capital projects that were now completed, whilst agreeing the direction for East Belfast in the years ahead. The Director of Physical Programmes confirmed that this was one of the ambitions of the Area Planning work being undertaken by the City and Neighbourhood Department, with the aim of aligning capital projects with the Belfast Agenda and area level outcomes.

The Working Group noted that a Special Area Working Group Meeting was scheduled in October to review a number of outstanding Physical Programme projects.

At the request of a Member, the Neighbourhood Integration Manager undertook to contact the East Belfast Community Development Agency in order to seek an update regarding their Youth Practitioners Forum, particularly youth provision types, levels and the challenges being faced.

### **Physical Programme Update**

The Director of Property and Projects submitted the undernoted report in respect of an update on the Council's Physical Programme.

#### **1. Introduction**

**The Council's Physical Programme covers projects under a range of funding streams including the Capital Programme, the Leisure**

Transformation Programme, LIF, BIF, Social Outcomes Fund (SOF) and the projects that the Council is delivering in behalf of other agencies. This report outlines the status of projects under the Physical Programme.

## 2. Recommendations

Members are asked to:-

- note the physical programme update for East Belfast
- consider the proposed schedule for the BIF/ LIF projects site visits
- note on the update on the proposals for works to the Henry Jones Playing Fields entrance on the Church Road as part of the wider works being undertaken by DFI

## 3. Local Investment Fund

LIF is a £9m fixed programme of capital investment in non-council neighbourhood assets, over two tranches: LIF 1 (2012-2015) - £5m total funding pot, allocated across each AWG areas; and LIF 2 (2015 -2019) - £4m allocation with the East being allocated £1.127m under LIF1 and £1.2m under LIF2.

Each LIF project proposal is taken through a Due Diligence process prior to any funding award. Table below outlines funding spend to date for each tranche, at key stages of the delivery process: 20 projects received In Principle support under LIF1 and LIF2, of which 18 have been completed; 2 projects at initial stage, Westbourne Presbyterian Church – Titanic People and Lagan Village Youth and Community Association.

| LIF breakdown – East                                   | LIF 1    |                      | LIF 2    |                      |
|--|----------|----------------------|----------|----------------------|
| Stage/ Description                                     | Projects | Amount/<br>Value (£) | Projects | Amount/<br>Value (£) |
| Number of Projects Completed                           | 7 (87%)  | £877,500             | 11 (92%) | £1,146,589           |
| Number of Projects in Delivery                         |          |                      |          |                      |
| Number of Projects in Pre-construction                 |          |                      |          |                      |
| Number of Projects at Initial Stage<br>(Due Diligence) | 1 (13%)  | £250,000             | 1 (8%)   | £15,000              |
| Total Number of Approved Projects                      | 8        | £1,127,500           | 12       | £1,161,589           |

The table below provides an overview of progress and actions around the remaining live projects. Members are asked to note the status of the current live LIF projects and the ongoing actions.

| LIF REF  | PROJECT   | FUNDING  | STAGE               | STATUS   | ACTION / RECOMMENDATION             |
|----------|---|----------|---------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| ELIF 002 | Westbourne Presbyterian Church – Titanic People | £250,000 | Due Diligence stage | Committed in principle September 2012 - Costs for the project have significantly increased since the project was originally proposed some 8 years ago. Group presented at East AWG on 6 May. On 21 June 2021, AWG agreed to undertake a site visit to the BIF/ LIF projects including Westbourne/ Titanic People. <i>Link to UV project – see below.</i> | Site visit to be arranged.          |
| ELIF2-17 | Lagan Village Youth and Community Association   | £15,000  | Initial stage       | Approved by SP&R on 23rd October 2020. DfC Letter of Offer (£35k) signed and awaiting final confirmation of land transfer. Initial enabling works and site fencing to commence imminently. Alpha funding application to be submitted.  | Continue engagement with the group. |

#### 4. **Belfast Investment Fund**

**BIF is a £28m investment fund for regeneration, partnership projects, with a minimum £250k investment from Council BIF. In East Belfast 9 projects have received an In-Principle funding commitment under BIF. There are 5 projects on the longer BIF list. Each of the ‘In Principle’ projects are taken through a 3-stage approval process, including a rigorous Due Diligence process before any Funding Agreement is approved and put in place. Table below provides a summary of BIF allocated projects i.e. project stage; project title; and the funding allocated.**

##### **Summary of BIF allocated projects:**

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| East       | Stage 3—Willowfield—£560k (completed); H&W Welders—£2.37m; Strand—£1.8m; Bloomfield—£440k<br>Stage 2—Lagan Village Youth & Community—no commitment<br>Stage 1—East Belfast Mission; Belmont Bowling Club; Bloomfield Presbyterian Church; St. John’s Orangefield, Church of Ireland—no commitment / on long list |
| Outer East | Stage 3 —TAGIT- £434k; Braniel—£390k; Hanwood—£396k; Castlereagh Presbyterian Church—£382k; Lisnasharragh Community Schools—£398k  |

**The table below provides an overview of the remaining projects. Members are asked to note the actions and recommendations.**

| BIF REF | PROJECT          | FUNDING    | STAGE               | STATUS  | ACTION / RECOMMENDATION                          |
|---------|------------------|------------|---------------------|---|--|
| BIF14   | H&W Welders Club | £2,370,000 | Stage 3 – on ground | Works on site progressing well. Project due for completion September 2021. Council officers currently liaising with H&W Welders representatives around land | Continue engagement with the group and partners. |

|       |                                  |            |                                  |  |   |
|-------|----------------------------------|------------|----------------------------------|--|---|
|       |                                  |            |                                  | transfer and site operations post completion. Lease details agreed by SP&R Committee on 20 <sup>th</sup> August.   |   |
| BIF12 | Strand Arts Centre               | £1,800,000 | Stage 3 – design stage           | <p>Development of revised Stage 1 Design Report for £4.6m preferred option. Match funding from DfC secured in principle, awaiting for committed funding based on the revised design report.</p> <p>The proposed refurbishment to the Strand Arts Centre will focus on extensive alterations and upgrades to bring the building up to a suitable standard and increased level of accessibility.</p> <p>Group presented to AWG in May 2021 and approval from following SP&amp;R received to release £40,000 of allocated BIF to SAC to progress the project to RIBA Stage 2 and update the costs. Will be brought back to AWG in October.</p> <p>On 21 June 2021, AWG agreed to undertake a site visit to the BIF/ LIF projects including SAC.</p> | <p>Continue engagement with the group.</p> <p>Site visit to be arranged.</p>              |
| BIF13 | Bloomfield Community Association | £440,000   | Stage 3 committed – In Principle | <p>Committed in principle September 2016 with Group given 6-9 months to secure match funding (would have been June 2017). No significant progress for more than 3 years.</p> <p>Discussed at East AWG on Feb 2021 and agreed to update the business case for the project and to undertake discussion with DfC. The revised Economic Appraisal/ Business Plan is complete and is currently being reviewed.</p> <p>On 21 June 2021, AWG agreed to undertake a site visit to the BIF/ LIF projects including Bloomfield CA.</p>   | <p>Continue engagement with the group and partners.</p> <p>Site visit to be arranged.</p> |

### **Outer East BIF Projects**

| BIF REF | PROJECT           | FUNDING  | STAGE                  | STATUS  | ACTION / RECOMMENDATION                               |
|---------|-------------------|----------|------------------------|---|---|
| BIF27   | Hanwood Project   | £396,000 | Complete               | Project fully complete.   | Continue engagement with the group re post monitoring |
| BIF18   | TAGIT Boxing Club | £434,000 | Stage 3 – On Ground    | On Ground. Works commenced in October 2020. DfC match funded (£150k). Planned completion in 14 September 2021. Additional funding needed approximately £9k for equipment to meet full requirements. | Continue engagement with the group, DfC and partners  |
| BIF25   | Braniel Church    | £390,000 | Stage 3 – Tender stage | Work ongoing with group to progress the scheme. Planning Permission has now been secured LA04/2020/0639/F. Tender package preparations underway in consultation with Design Team and group.         | Continue engagement with the group.                   |

|       |   |          |                         |  |   |
|-------|---|----------|-------------------------|--|---|
| BIF37 | Lisnasharragh Community Schools Project | £398,000 | Stage 3 – Design stage  | Project moved to Stage 3 in June 2018. Education Authority will be responsible for delivery and will procure contractor. The EA have recently advised the Council that the tender procurement exercise is now complete but the returns are above the tender estimates. After Value Engineering (VE) has taken place, the preferred tender is approximately £81k over the funding allocated from BIF. Other funding sources are being sought at this time but none secured at present. EA have sought advice from CPD regarding how to cover the construction inflation costs. Awaiting confirmation from EA. | Continue engagement with the group/ schools and Education Authority. Seek additional funding. |
| BIF38 | Castlereagh Presbyterian Church         | £382,000 | Stage 3 – Due Diligence | Project moved to Stage 3 in March 2018. Project at final Due Diligence stage.<br><br>Group presented to the AWG in June 2021 on a revised/ scaled back project proposal not dependant on additional funding - to address sustainability and energy efficiency issues with building (external doors, windows roofing, toilets) and its outcomes/benefits. Church approval for works now in place and group collating remaining information required as part of Due Diligence.<br><br>On 21 June 2021, AWG agreed to undertake a site visit to the BIF/ LIF projects including Castlereagh PC.                 | Continued engagement with group.<br><br>Site visit to be arranged.                            |

**Members are asked to note that AWG have confirmed in many occasions that the Lagan Village Youth and Community Centre, currently at BIF Stage 2- Uncommitted, is their reserve project and should be considered first if any funding became available through the BIF programme.**

**BIF/ LIF projects site visits – Members will recall that at their meeting on 21 June 2021, the AWG agreed to undertake a site visit to the BIF/ LIF projects under consideration, namely Castlereagh Presbyterian Church, Bloomfield Community Association, the Strand Cinema and the Westbourne/ Titanic People project in order to familiarise themselves with the projects. In addition, AWG also agreed to visit the Lagan Village Youth Community Association. Given the number of visits to be undertaken it is proposed that these are split over two sessions as outlined below:**

- Tuesday, 21st September (over lunch time) – Westbourne Church/ Titanic People and Strand Arts Centre**
- Thursday, 23rd September (over lunch time) – Castlereagh PC, Bloomfield CA and Lagan Village Youth and Community Association**



Members are also asked to note that prior to the first COVID lockdown in March 2020 they had agreed to visit King George V Playing Fields, Ballymacarret Recreation Centre and Strandburn Park steps. Members are asked if they wish to still progress these and if agreed it is proposed a separate site visit is arranged for this.

## 5. Social Outcomes Fund

SOF is £4m ringfenced capital investment programme with a focus on local community tourism projects. There is one project under SOF for East Belfast - Eastside Visitor Centre – with an In-Principle funding commitment. Similar to BIF, all projects are subject to Due Diligence process prior to any funding award.

| Project  | SOF Award | Status and update   |
|--|-----------|---|
| Eastside Visitor Centre<br><i>Link to UV project – see below</i> | £700,000  | The proposal is for the extension of the existing visitor centre at C.S. Lewis Square. Council and UV agreed that this is a joint project with Pop Eastside (UV). Project business case development process now complete and study with UV and in final stages of their approval process. In parallel to information collation to take the project through Due Diligence still being ongoing - preparation has begun to make ready for the procurement of full design team to take the next stage of project forward. |

## 6. Capital Programme

The Capital Programme is the rolling programme of enhancing existing Council assets or building / buying new assets. Members are reminded of the 3-stage approval process in place for every project on council's Capital Programme, as agreed by SP&R Committee. The table below provides an update on current live projects in East Belfast. Members are asked to note the status and update.

### *East Belfast – Capital programme overview*

| Project  | Status and update  |
|--|--|
| LTP- Avoniel   | Stage 3 – Committed. On Ground. Completion anticipated by late Autumn 2021. AWG visited the project site on 5th August 2021.       |
| LTP- Templemore- NLHF  | Stage 3 – Committed. On Ground. Completion anticipated by summer 2022. AWG visited the project site on 5th August 2021.            |
| Pitches Programme- Blanchflower Playing Fields – New pitch and floodlighting | Stage 3 – Committed – On Ground. Link with H&W Welders Club- Blanchflower Playing Fields (BIF). Planned completion September 2021. |
| New Crematorium  | Stage 3 - Committed – Design underway.   |

|  |   |
|--|---|
|  | Public consultation opened in 9 August until 25 October 2021.   |
| Shared Youth and Community Facility Inner East | Stage 1- Emerging. Officers to work jointly with the EA to develop business case/ plan on a potential youth facility at the council owned Ballymacarrett site. Strategic options study and discussions ongoing. |
| Ballymacarrett Area Masterplan                 | Stage 1- Emerging. Linked to Connswater Community Greenway.<br>Link to the UV/DfI funded Ballymacarrett Walkway Environmental and Cycling Infrastructure Improvement project.                                   |

**Photos of the recent project activities are attached in Appendix 1. When appropriate, as per Covid-19 public health guidance, the Physical Programmes Department is happy to arrange further site visits.**

**Church Road Footway – BCC site entrance works – Members are asked to note that there is a proposed DfI road enhancement scheme for new pavement and associated works on the Church Road. Part of this encompasses the entrance to the Council’s Henry Jones Playing Fields. Members will be aware that the entrance to Henry Jones currently provides for one vehicle at a time and there is no dedicated pedestrian access. At busy times this can lead to a bottleneck at the entrance and a build-up of traffic on a busy road. In addition, the lack of a dedicated pedestrian access poses a health & safety risk to those on foot or trying to cross the road. The works proposed by DfI provide an ideal opportunity to carry out works to the entrance of Henry Jones to improve vehicular and pedestrian access as this can be aligned to the works being undertaken and will provide a timely and cost-effective way to deal with the current traffic and pedestrian issues at the location. The proposed works to the entrance include – extending the existing entrance to allow for vehicular two-way access and egress, two pedestrian accesses (one either side of the enhanced vehicular entrance), new pedestrian footways linking up with the new footpath works being brought forward by DfI, new entrance gates and realignment of fencing etc. DfI are intending for their improvement works to commence early in the new year and the works to the entrance will link in with this. The scheme design is underway with DfI which will incorporate the BCC design elements.**

## **7. Externally funded programmes**

**The Council is the delivery partner for a number of government departments on significant capital investment programmes, namely Social Investment Fund (SIF) and the Urban Villages Initiative (UV) funded by the Executive Office, and number of schemes with DfC. The following is an overview of projects within each programme relevant to East Belfast.**

## **Social Investment Fund**

| Project                       | Award      | Status and update  |
|-------------------------------|------------|--|
| Walkway Community Association | £1,523,863 | Project commenced on site 7 December 2020. Project is due for completion in early 2022. Legal Services is progressing the registration of boundary rectifications via Land Registry, this process is expected to complete in the very near future. |

## **Urban Villages Initiative**

| Project  | Status and update  |
|--|--|
| Eastside Greenway Ballymacarrett   | Project completed May 2021.  |
| Pro-Kick Community Gym   | Council acting as delivery agent. Project designs completed and tender process being finalised. Planning application approved in May 2021. It is anticipated that contractor will be on site September 2021. Supplemental LoO received from TEO increasing funding allocation by £191k.  |
| Pop EastSide- Landmark East<br><i>NB partner funder of SOF project 'Eastside Visitor Centre'</i> | The proposal is for the extension of the existing visitor centre at C.S. Lewis Square. Council and UV agreed that this is a joint project with Pop Eastside (UV). Project business case development process now complete and study with UV and in final stages of their approval process. In parallel to information collation to take the project through Due Diligence still being ongoing - preparation has begun to make ready for the procurement of full design team to take the next stage of project forward. Link to SOF project.   |
| Pitt Park redevelopment<br><i>Council asset</i>  | Council acting as delivery agent. Business case completed and approved which includes findings from recent public consultation. LoO expected imminently. Design team appointed.  |
| East Belfast Mission Accommodation project   | Council acting as delivery agent. Emerging project. Reduced funding options have been produced and submitted to EBM Board for response. Additional funding options (potentially via DfC) are being explored by the Group. Project designs have been revised and costs updated for inclusion in Business Case which is progressing.   |
| Eastside Souk  | Council acting as delivery agent. Emerging project. Revised project scope, design and costs being prepared by Group and consideration being given to different site location. Ongoing discussions progressing between UV and the Group.  |
| Titanic People Exhibition  | Partnership project with UV. Emerging project. Design options, surveys and costs have been reviewed and concerns remain regarding building safety, associated costs in making the site secure, viability of the project given available investment and project outcome measures. The Group presented to East AWG in May and it was agreed that the position would be reviewed again in October 2021 when the UV Business Case was prepared. Discussions remain ongoing with the Group and additional funding options are being explored with DfC. The Council is waiting on detailed project proposal and Business Case from UV. |

Members are also invited to view the UV Capital area video links from Executive Office on Eastside UV area: [Summary aerial film across all five UV areas](#) and [EastSide Urban Village Capital Aerial film](#)

#### **DfC funded projects**

Members are asked to note the update on projects match funded by Department for Communities.

| Project                                  | Status and update                            |
|--|--|
| Hanwood Centre -roof replacement         | Project completed                            |
| Eastside Greenway - Ballymacarrett       | Project completed                            |
| Prokick Community Gym                    | Project underway. Link to UV project         |
| TAGIT Boxing Club                        | On Ground. Link to BIF project               |
| Avoniel Leisure Centre                   | On Ground. Link to Capital Programme project |
| Blanchflower Improvements                | On Ground. Link to Capital Programme project |
| Lagan Village youth and Community Centre | Initial stage. Link to LIF project           |

Following consideration of the report, the Working Group agreed to undertake the following site visits:

- Tuesday, 21st September (over lunch time) – Westbourne Church/ Titanic People and Strand Arts Centre;
- Thursday, 23rd September (over lunch time) – Castlereagh PC, Bloomfield CA and Lagan Village Youth and Community Association;
- Date(s) to be arranged - King George V Playing Fields, Ballymacarret Recreation Centre, Strandburn Park steps, TAGIT Boxing Club, H&W Welders Club and Blanchflower Playing Fields Project.

The Working Group also noted the update on the proposals for works to the Henry Jones Playing Fields entrance on the Church Road as part of the wider works being undertaken by DFI, and the wider Physical Programme Update for East Belfast.

#### **Date of Next Meeting**

The Working Group agreed that the date of the next meeting would be rescheduled from Monday, 11th October to Thursday 7th October, 2021, with updates provided in relation to the Strand Arts Centre, Bloomfield Community Association, Titanic People and Castlereagh Presbyterian Church projects.

Chairperson

# **South Belfast Area Working Group**

Monday, 6th September, 2021

## **MEETING OF SOUTH BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP**

### **HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

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

In attendance: Ms. S. Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes;  
Mr. S. Leonard, Neighbourhood Services Manager  
(South);  
Ms. D. Smith, Neighbourhood Integration Manager; and  
Mr. H. Downey, Democratic Services Officer.

### **Election of Chairperson**

The Working Group agreed that Councillor Groogan be elected to serve as Chairperson for the period to end on the date of the annual meeting of the Council in 2022.

(Councillor Groogan in the Chair.)

### **Apologies**

An apology was reported on behalf of Councillor McDonough-Brown.

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 24th May were approved, subject to the Declaration of Interest which had been made by Councillor Gormley being amended to reflect that he was not a Council appointee to LORAG.

### **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Gormley declared an interest in relation to the report on the Physical Programme, on the basis that he was a Director of LORAG, which had secured LIF funding for the John Murray Lockhouse project (SLIF2-13).

However, as the report was merely providing an update on LIF projects generally, he was not required to leave the meeting whilst it was being presented.

Councillor McKeown declared an interest in relation to the presentation by the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust representative on the proposed Integrated Care System consultation, on the basis that he was employed by the Public Health Agency, and took no part in the discussion.

## **Presentations**

### **Refresh of Belfast Agenda - Co-Design Approach**

(Mr. J. Uprichard, Community Planning Officer, attended in connection with this item.)

The Community Planning Officer reminded the Working Group that the Council had, in 2017, published the Belfast Agenda, the city's first community plan. The plan set out the long-term ambitions for the City's future, as well as outlining the key priorities for action over the subsequent four years. A statement of progress, covering the first two years of the plan, had been published in 2019.

He reported that a review of the Belfast Agenda had been launched in June, 2021 and that activities had, to date, included a press release, informal drop-in information sessions, the distribution of surveys through libraries, community centres and leisure centres, an online survey and engagement with various stakeholders.

He outlined the various steps in the review process, which would, in February/March 2022, lead to a consultation process being initiated on the new draft plan. An updated Belfast Agenda 'city strategy' document would then be formulated, which would include a long-term vision and outcomes, population indicators, as a measure of success, and new four-year priorities. The new plan would be underpinned by Delivery Action Plans, which would identify specific actions to deliver the four-year priorities and would focus upon, for example, partnership activity providing collaborative gain, contributing to the Belfast Agenda outcomes/delivering wellbeing for Belfast residents and including 'area specific' elements, with a view to making the 'Belfast Agenda' more meaningful to communities.

The Community Planning Officer then provided the Working Group with a brief overview of the vision and outcomes for Belfast to 2035 and pointed out that the following eight priority themes were being proposed for the period from 2022 – 2026:

- Economic Recovery;
- Employability and Skills;
- Educational Attainment;
- Housing;
- Community Recovery and Neighbourhood Regeneration;
- Health Inequalities;
- Climate Resilience and Sustainability; and
- Active and Sustainable Travel.

Four cross-cutting themes were also being proposed, namely, Children and Young People, Good Relations and Shared Future, Inclusive Growth and Older People.

He concluded by stressing that Elected Members would have a key role to play in shaping the City's future and outlined the various ways in which they could become involved in the review process.

The Working Group noted the information which had been provided.

### **Future Planning Model: Integrated Care System – Belfast Health and Social Care Trust**

The Chairperson welcomed to the meeting Mrs. C. Stoops, Director of Planning, Performance and Informatics, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, who was in attendance to provide an overview of the proposed new model of planning and managing services through an Integrated Care System, in the context of the Department of Health's consultation, which was due to end on 17th September.

Mrs. Stoops began by explaining that an Integrated Care System was defined as being “a collaborative partnership between organisations and individuals with a responsibility for planning, managing, and delivering care, services and interventions to meet the health and wellbeing needs of the local population and which, through taking collective action, deliver improved outcomes for individuals and communities and reduce health inequalities.”

She informed the Working Group that the review in 2015 of commissioning arrangements had found the current system to be overly bureaucratic and lacking in clarity of accountability in decision making and she referred to the decision to close the Health and Social Care Board in March 2022 as being the first step in a longer-term transformation. Local Commissioning Groups would also cease to exist.

It was then pointed out that the Minister of Health had granted approval to undertake a programme of work to develop an Integrated Care System model in Northern Ireland, which would adhere to the principles of delegated local level decision-making and funding, with the exception of specialised services (which would be planned, managed and delivered regionally) and would support an outcomes based approach underpinned by accountability.

She drew the Members' attention to the principles and values which would underpin the emerging framework and pointed out that the four-tiered model being proposed would adopt a population health needs approach, which would be informed by local intelligence and be structured as follows:

- A Regional Group – providing oversight, co-ordination and support for the wider model be responsible for the associated governance and accountability functions and the co-ordination of the planning and delivery of regional and specialised services;
- Five Area Integrated Partnership Boards (one per Health and Social Care Trust area) – having overall responsibility for strategic area planning and local delivery to meet local population needs and be guided by a regional strategic outcome framework;
- Locality Groups – covering GP Federations and Integrated Care Partnership areas and aligning with other relevant areas, such as local councils, where possible, and working to deliver interventions and programmes in each locality, as agreed by the Area Integrated Partnership Boards; and
- Community Groups – focusing on individual towns/local districts, GP practices/Multi-Disciplinary Teams (where established) and

community pharmacies, with the potential to align with existing areas such as District Electoral Areas, where possible and appropriate. The exact size and number of communities in each area will be determined by the Area Integrated Partnership Board.

Mrs. Stoops went on to state that the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust would be developing a response to the Department of Health's consultation and stressed the importance of ensuring that it reflected the views of its wide range of stakeholders. Accordingly, she sought the opinion of Members and pointed out that, following the conclusion of the consultation, it was envisaged that the Integrated Care System model would be implemented by March/April, 2022, and be reviewed and refreshed, as necessary, thereafter.

During discussion, a Member welcomed the community planning element within the proposed model and the engagement which had been undertaken with the voluntary and community sectors. The point was made that the Covid-19 pandemic had demonstrated that communities were heavily reliant on health and social care workers and that it was essential to ensure that the emphasis being placed within the model on valuing staff should be fully reflected in future pay awards. It was also suggested that there should be Council representation on any steering groups being established to progress the model.

The Chairperson thanked Mrs Stoops for her presentation and she, in turn, thanked the Members for their comments.

The Working Group noted the presentation and noted also that a draft Council response to the Department of Health consultation would, on the following day, be presented to the People and Communities for consideration and reflect the views which had been expressed across the four Area Working Groups.

### **Freshers Week 2021**

The Neighbourhood Services Manager provided the Working Group with an update on the work which had been undertaken by the Council in the Holylands and surrounding area, in preparation for the arrival of students. He referred to information sharing protocols having been reviewed, an increase in street cleansing provision, the ongoing monitoring of Covid-19 regulations and the continuing engagement with the Police Service of Northern Ireland, the universities and other agencies.

He then went on to outline the resources which the Council had put in place specifically for the freshers' period. He explained that its Safer Neighbourhood Officers, Alcohol Enforcement Officers and South Belfast Anti-Social Behaviours Officers would be highly visible in the area and the Daytime and Night-time Noise services would be operating as normal. Officers from the Building Control and Environmental Health Services would be working with the PSNI's Licensing Officer to monitor licensed premises in the area. Parks Wardens would also be monitoring parks for any build-up of crowds and linking in with officers in the Holylands area. Finally, the Council's social media channels would be used to publicise and provide contact details for all of these services.

The Chairman then welcomed to the meeting Chief Inspector G. Kirkpatrick of the Police Service of Northern Ireland, together with Mr. D. Morrow and Mr. A. Stewart, representing the Ulster University and Queen's University, respectively.



### **Police Service of Northern Ireland**

Chief Inspector Kirkpatrick informed the Working Group that the Police Service was working closely with the Council, the universities and other partners in the run up to the opening of the universities. He explained that the Police Service's operation would run from 12th till 26th September, with one shift operating from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and another partly overlapping shift operating from 5 p.m. till 3 a.m. A minimum of sixteen officers would be involved each day and evidence gathering teams would also be utilised, along with a public order company, if required.

In response to an issue which had been raised by a Member, Chief Inspector Kirkpatrick confirmed that the deployment of additional officers to the Holylands area for two weeks in September would have a corresponding impact upon neighbourhood policing capacity in other parts of South Belfast.

The Neighbourhood Services Manager added that the Council would be monitoring the situation in the Holylands closely over the same period and would either deploy additional staff or direct them elsewhere, depending upon operational requirements.

### **Queen's University**

Mr. Stewart explained that Queen's University had, over the summer months, been liaising with its partners in preparation for the new university term. He pointed out that, whilst the University had not, in recent years, organised a Freshers' Week, it was accepted that there was still the potential for issues to arise. It had, therefore, reviewed the information which it would be sending out to students and each school/faculty would be delivering an induction talk to make students aware of their responsibilities towards the local community. A dedicated officer would be in place to monitor the Holylands and surrounding area and additional staff would be allocated, if required.

### **University of Ulster**

Mr. Morrow confirmed that the University of Ulster had also been working with partner organisations in advance of students returning to or entering university for the first time. He pointed out that, whilst the University would be holding a Freshers' Week, none of the planned activities would be taking place in South Belfast. Nevertheless, staff would be deployed to identify and address any issues which might arise in and around the Holylands area and a complaint management system was in place. Individual and collective messaging would also play an important role.

He concluded by pointing out that he, together with Chief Inspector Kirkpatrick and Mr. Stewart, had, earlier that day, met with the Minister for Communities to discuss the adoption of a more sustained approach for dealing with longstanding issues in the Holylands area and that the Council's Director of Neighbourhood Services had also attended.

In response to a query from a Member, Mr. Morrow and Mr. Stewart each confirmed that the high level of suspensions in the previous year had been due primarily to breaches of the Covid-19 guidelines. They pointed out that, whilst the structures were still in place, it would be more difficult to gather evidence this year and, therefore, their respective universities would not be suspending students at the same rate.

Mr. Stewart then addressed a point which had been raised by that Member around purpose built and privately rented accommodation and stated that an analysis of the factors which had influenced student decisions in choosing one over the other would be undertaken in due course.

Mr. Morrow also addressed issues which had been raised in relation to the personal safety of students, high crime rates and sub-standard accommodation by stating that the universities provided information on mental health support and crime prevention and encouraged students to report any problems with their landlords/accommodation. He also highlighted the fact that a house with three or less tenants was classified as a flat and was not covered by HMO legislation or other formal legislative framework. There was evidence that there were a significant number of flats in the Holylands area, which created difficulties and concerns for tenants, local residents, the universities and other agencies.

Chief Inspector Kirkpatrick added that the Police Service had produced a number of short educational videos on anti-social behaviour, student safety, crime prevention and alcohol and drug abuse, which had been shared with the universities. Officers in the area were also available to provide direct advice, if required.

A Member highlighted the need to move beyond behavioural management towards long-term solutions and welcomed the inter-agency work which was being undertaken at various levels. He then referred to the success of an initiative which had been undertaken by the Council's HMO Unit to force landlords to remove graffiti from their properties, under the terms of the standard licensing conditions. He suggested that the HMO Unit be requested to provide clarification on whether a programme of inspections existed or could be established to deal with other issues, such as the quality of the accommodation, the maintenance of gardens, walls etc., which was also covered under the standard licensing conditions.

The Chairperson thanked Chief Inspector G. Kirkpatrick, Mr. Morrow and Mr. Stewart for their contribution.

The Working Group noted the presentations and noted also that the Neighbourhood Services Manager:

- i. would forward to Members details of the Council's operation over the Freshers' period, including the contact details for those officers from the various Council teams and the Police Service of Northern Ireland who would be leading their respective operations in the Holylands area;
- ii. would circulate to Members the contact details of those officers within the Council dealing with HMO's and private rented properties to enable them to forward on any referrals;
- iii. would bring to the attention of the HMO Unit the issue which had been raised by a Member around the potential for using the standard licensing conditions on HMO licences to deliver further improvement initiatives; and

- iv. would circulate in advance of the next meeting an update on the discussions which had taken place earlier that day with the Minister for Communities.

**Request for Additional Enforcement Powers –**  
**Response from DAERA Minister**

The Working Group was reminded that, at its meeting on 25th March, it had been provided with an update on the Wider University and Lower Ormeau ILAB process, which had commenced in November, 2020. It had agreed, given the potential difficulties which residents of the Botanic District Electoral Area would be likely to experience once the Covid-19 night time economy restrictions were lifted and beyond, that a letter be forwarded to the Minister for Justice requesting that the Council be given additional enforcement powers around the seizure of alcohol and noise control.

The Working Group, at its meeting on 25th May, had noted the response from the Minister and had agreed that a letter then be forwarded to the Minister for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, highlighting the need for the powers contained within the Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2005 relating to noise control to be strengthened.

It was reported that the Minister, within his response, had pointed out that there were a range of powers available to councils to assist them in addressing concerns around noise nuisance, including fixed penalty notices, abatement notices, seizure of noise-making equipment and prosecution. Those powers were contained within the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 and its extension of The Noise Act 1996 to Northern Ireland.

The Minister had explained that Articles 63 and 65 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 provided councils with the power to deal with noise from premises, including land, which they considered to be prejudicial to health or amount to a statutory nuisance. These powers applied not only to existing noise, but also in instances where noise was expected to occur or reoccur. Where a council was satisfied that a statutory nuisance existed, Articles 63 and 65 required it to serve an abatement notice. That notice may require the noise to be stopped altogether or limited to certain times of the day and must be served on the person responsible for the noise or, if this person cannot be located, the owner or occupier of the premises. A person on whom an abatement notice was served had the right to appeal it within 21 days of being served.

The Minister had gone on to point out that the Noise Act 1996 allowed council officers to issue warning and fixed penalty notices and, in certain circumstances, to seize noisemaking equipment from premises emitting noise between the hours of 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. These powers applied to premises such as dwellings, those with an exhibition or entertainments licence, premises with a licence to sell intoxicating liquor (including an occasional licence) or where meals or refreshments were supplied for consumption on or off the premises, or premises occupied by a registered club. Details of these powers were outlined in the guidance document The Noise Act 1996 – Guidance to District Councils, which had been produced to inform councils of amendments made to the Noise Act 1996 by the introduction of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act.

The Minister had made the point that it was DAERA's view that increasing education on noise prevention was one way of tackling the problem and avoiding costly

enforcement action and that he was keen for councils to continue their efforts to raise noise issues on local agendas. Officials were aware of the good working relationship which existed between the Council and Queens University in addressing noise issues within certain parts of the City and he supported the efforts of all those involved.

He had then referred to the fact that DAERA officials also produced an annual Noise Complaints Statistics Report, which outlined the numbers of complaints, source of noise, action taken and the numbers of complaints which proceeded to prosecution. Whilst he acknowledged the importance of resolving noise-related issues informally and without action, the level of prosecutions was low. This could be a result of the positive work of Council officers in resolving issues amicably or that prosecutions were unwarranted in the vast majority of cases. He urged Council officers to make full use of these powers and other councils, who had not yet adopted the Noise Act 1996 legislation, to consider doing so to assist in dealing with night-noise complaints.

The Minister had concluded by stating that he understood that his officials had been involved in the Anti-Social Behaviour Legislation Review Delivery Group and that Brexit and the COVID-19 pandemic had had a significant impact on business priorities within his Department. At present, the Department felt that appropriate powers were currently in place and, therefore, had no plans to revise the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment legislation. His officials would, however, keep the Council's request in mind and were happy to revisit the issue at a future date.

After discussion, the Working Group:

- i. noted the response from the Minister for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs;
- ii. noted that the Neighbourhood Services Manager would work with the Director of City Services and the City Protection Manager to examine ways in which the Council could increase the effectiveness of the enforcement powers available to it;
- iii. noted that officers would seek clarification from the Department Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs on whether the figures contained within the annual Noise Complaints Statistics Report for all of Belfast could be provided at a local level; and
- iv. noted that it would receive regular updates on the work of the Anti-Social Behaviour Legislation Review Delivery Group.

### **Forward Planning Emerging Opportunities**

#### **Alleyway Transformation Programme**

The Neighbourhood Services Manager informed the Members that the Minister for Infrastructure had, in December 2020, written to the eleven councils advising them that funding would be made available through the Blue/Green Infrastructure fund to deliver alleyway transformation initiatives across the eleven council areas.

He explained that a report would, on the following day, be presented to the People and Communities Committee, seeking approval to proceed initially with a pilot

transformation programme, which would involve each of the four Area Working Groups ultimately selecting two locations for inclusion. The learning derived from that initiative would assist in the development of a larger alleyway transformation programme and all eleven councils could then apply for a share of the £1-2 million fund which the Department for Infrastructure was making available.

The Working Group noted the information which had been provided and agreed that a report be submitted to its next meeting providing an update on the delivery of the next phase of the Council's alleygating scheme, including a proposed timeframe.

### **Peace Plus Programme**

The Neighbourhood Integration Manager informed the Members that, whilst the European Union had committed funding to the Peace Plus Programme, the programme content and delivery process had yet to be agreed.

She explained that Theme 1.1 - Building Peaceful and Thriving Communities would be the theme most applicable to councils, although the level of funding available for each council had still to be finalised. Action Plans would be implemented through models, based on local community planning processes, and would focus on a co-design approach with local communities and be centred around the core themes of Community Regeneration and Transformation, Thriving and Peaceful Communities and Celebrating Culture, Diversity and Inclusion. She reviewed the range of interventions which would be delivered under each of those themes and stated that it was anticipated that Local Action Plans would be developed and submitted to the Special European Union Programmes Body for consideration between March and June, 22.

The Working Group noted the information which had been provided.

### **Capacity Building**

The Neighbourhood Integration Manager informed the Working Group that officers were planning to test a new approach for providing support for those communities across the City where infrastructure was deemed to be weak. It was proposed that a mapping exercise be undertaken initially to determine the number of areas which required support. Each Area Working Group would then be presented with the findings for their specific area and be requested to select one pilot area to proceed to targeted intervention.

The Working Group noted the information which had been provided.

### **Future Presentations**

The Working Group agreed, at the request of a Member, to invite representatives of the Lagan Navigation Trust to attend a future meeting to discuss the Lagan Gateway Project and future plans.

### **Update on Physical Programme**

The Director of Physical Programmes submitted for the Working Group's consideration the following report:

#### **"1. Introduction**

The Council's Physical Programme covers projects under a range of funding streams including the Capital Programme, the Leisure Transformation Programme, the Local Investment Fund (LIF), the Belfast Investment Fund (BIF), and Social Outcome Fund (SOF); in addition, the programme covers projects that the Council is delivering in behalf of other agencies. This report outlines the status of projects under the Physical Programme Photos of the recent project activities are attached . When appropriate, as per Covid-19 public health guidance, the Physical Programmes Department is happy to arrange site visits.

## 2. Recommendations

The Working Group is requested to note the physical programme update for South Belfast.

## 3. Local Investment Fund (LIF)

Members are reminded LIF is a £9m fixed programme of capital investment in non-council neighbourhood assets, over two tranches: LIF 1 (2012-2015) - £5m total funding pot, allocated across each AWG areas; and LIF 2 (2015 -2019) - £4m allocation. Each LIF project proposal is taken through a Due Diligence process prior to any funding award. The table below outlines funding spend to date for each tranche, at key stages of the delivery process: 24 projects received 'In Principle' letters under LIF1 and LIF2, of which 21 have been completed; 1 project at delivery stage, 1 at pre-construction stage and 1 project still at initial stage.

| LIF breakdown – South                              | LIF 1               |                   | LIF 2               |                    |
|--|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| <i>Stage/ Description:</i>                         | <i>No. Projects</i> | <i>Amount (£)</i> | <i>No. Projects</i> | <i>Amount/ (£)</i> |
| Number of Projects Completed                       | 12 (92%)            | £1,053,600        | 9 (82%)             | £676,000           |
| Number of Projects in Delivery                     |                     |                   | 1 (9%)              | £80,000            |
| Number of Projects in Pre-construction             |                     |                   | 1 (9%)              | £40,000            |
| Number of Project in Initial Stage (Due Diligence) | 1 (8%)              | £30,000           |                     |                    |
| <b>Total Number of Approved Projects</b>           | <b>13</b>           | <b>£1,083,600</b> | <b>11</b>           | <b>£796,000</b>    |

The table below provides an overview of progress and actions around the remaining live projects – Holylands Area Improvement (£80,000), Finaghy Bridge (£30,000) and John Murray Lockhouse (£40,000). Members are asked to note the status of the current live LIF projects and the ongoing actions.

| LIF Ref  | PROJECT                               | LIF FUNDING | STAGE         | STATUS   | ACTION/ RECOMMENDATION   |
|----------|---------------------------------------|-------------|---------------|--|--|
| SLIF2-07 | Holylands Area Improvement Initiative | £80,000     | On Ground     | A contractor has been appointed to undertake these works but was unable to source trees to plant within the growing season due to BREXIT. The trees will be planted in late October 2021. Community group (QUBA) is aware of the project status and proposed way forward.  | Continue engagement with the group and partners  |
| SLIF2-13 | LORAG - John Murray Lockhouse         | £40,000     | Design stage  | LIF funding will contribute to the development of the community garden. Project through DD and funding agreement has been completed.<br><br>Project is linked to Urban Villages programme. Group is expecting the UV business case approval and wish to submit the planning application together, with the overall development of the John Murray Lock House. Business case has been approved 11/8/2021 and LoO awaited. | Continued engagement with the group.   |
| SLIF017  | Finaghy Bridge                        | £30,000     | Initial stage | Technical feasibility report completed. Number of options identified. Report currently being considered by DFI Roads.  | Further engagement with DfI Roads on potential funding and selection of a preferred project option.<br><br>Once project scope is confirmed further engagement with group and community will take place and the LIF process can commence. |

#### 4. Belfast Investment Fund (BIF)

Members are reminded BIF is a £28m investment fund for regeneration partnership projects, with a minimum £250k investment from Council BIF – South Belfast was allocated £5.5m; with additional £500k ringfenced for new areas (outer South) that had joined the District area under Local Government Reform. In South Belfast, 6 projects received an In-Principle funding commitment, thereby fully allocating its £5.5m, and £500k pot of funding. Each project is taken through a 3-stage approval process, including a rigorous Due Diligence process before any Funding Agreement is approved and put in place.

##### *Summary of BIF allocated projects*

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| <b>South</b> | <p>Stage 3—Lagan Gateway—£2.1m; Lanyon Tunnels—£1.3m; Bredagh GAC- £700k</p> <p>Stage 1— Café Culture, Sandy Row Open Space project and BSCR IT Exam Centre project (Arts &amp; Digital Hub) [Sandy Row area projects, formerly Gilpins]— £1.35m</p> <p><i>Stage 1—Belfast Islamic Centre—no commitment</i></p> |
|--------------|---|

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| <b>Balmoral DEA</b> | <p>Stage 3 - Knockbreda Parish Church Hall—£250k</p> <p><i>Stage 2— Linfield FC/ Boys Brigade and Belvoir FC—£250k</i></p> |
|---------------------|--|

| BIF Ref | PROJECT                       | BIF FUNDING | STAGE        | STATUS   | ACTION/<br>RECOMMENDATION                                |
|---------|-------------------------------|-------------|--------------|--|--|
| BIF35   | Knockbreda Parish Church Hall | £250k       | Complete     | Project recently completed   | Continue engagement with the group re post monitoring    |
| BIF04   | Lagan Gateway                 | £2.1m       | On ground    | Project is on site. Due to be completed by September 2021. Ongoing discussion with CNS regarding handover and operation of the lock.   | Continue engagement with the group and key stakeholders. |
| BIF19   | Bredagh GAC                   | £700k       | Design stage | Project through Due Diligence. Tender for contractor resulted in prices that were significantly outside available budget. Following engagement with the group it was agreed to investigate the potential for a refurbishment of the existing building rather | Continue engagement with the group.                      |



|              |   |  |                    |   |  |
|--------------|---|--|--------------------|---|--|
|              |   |  |                    | than a complete redevelopment. Design team currently investigating feasibility of refurbishment.  |  |
| <b>BIF07</b> | <b>Lanyon Tunnels</b>                           | £1.3m  | Stage 3- Committed | Project has been impacted by the JR decision on the adjacent site to the tunnels – the adjacent site is a critical access point for the project, enabling range of connectivity outcomes and benefits (SIF business case dependent on connectivity). SIF programme expired and ongoing discussions with DfC and TEO regarding match funding. As Planning has expired in May 2021 and plans have been amended new planning application will be submitted in autumn 2021. | Officer engagement with TEO as key funder, and key stakeholders. |
| <b>BIF33</b> | <b>Linfield FC/ Boys Brigade and Belvoir FC</b> | £250k  | Stage 3- Committed | BIF funding to progress Phase 1A of larger sports hub project i.e. replacement of Belvoir FC's grass football pitch with associated widening of adjacent road access and resurfacing of existing carpark. Planning consent for wider development agreed early 2020. Project promoter working with NIHE on required tenure related elements of project development as well as required governance arrangements.  | Continue engagement with the group.                              |
| <b>BIF46</b> | <b>Café Culture -</b>                           | £1.35m - total allocation for the Sandy Area projects (formerly Gilpins) | Stage 1- Emerging  | Urban Villages are progressing the development of the Coffee Culture project – this is a social enterprise project with a training café and three rental apartments above. Any rental from the apartment will support the social enterprise business –this will be a requirement of any funding agreement. £100k has already been agreed in principle to this project under SOF (see below).  | Continue engagement with the group.                              |

|              |   |  |                      |   |  |
|--------------|---|--|----------------------|---|--|
|              |   |  |                      | Project funding includes:<br>UV £402k, BCC SOF £100k,<br>BIF unspecified funding<br>commitment agreed at<br>SAWG March 2021 and<br>DfC £100k.<br><br><i>Part of Sandy Row Area<br/>projects (formerly Gilpins).</i> |  |
| <b>BIF47</b> | <b>Sandy Row<br/>Open Space<br/>project</b>                             |  | Stage 1-<br>Emerging | Work is continuing on the<br>development of a pop-up<br>park with space for<br>sensory play.<br><br><i>Part of Sandy Row Area<br/>projects (formerly Gilpins)</i>   | Continue engagement<br>with the group. |
| <b>BIF48</b> | <b>BSCR IT Exam<br/>Centre project<br/>(Arts &amp; Digital<br/>Hub)</b> |  | Stage 1-<br>Emerging | Project approved in<br>October 2020. Business<br>Case progressing and<br>approval anticipated by<br>October 2021. Link to UV<br>project.<br><br><i>Part of Sandy Row Area<br/>projects (formerly Gilpins).</i>      | Continue engagement<br>with the group. |

**Lagan Gateway – Members will recall that on 25th March 2021, the AWG received a detailed update on the Lagan Gateway, including the outlined naming process of the bridge element of the project. Members will be provided with an update on the naming process at the meeting with an update also being brought to the People and Communities Committee on 7th September.**

## **5. Social Outcome Fund**

**SOF is £4m ringfenced capital investment programme with a focus on local community tourism projects. 3 projects in South Belfast received an In-Principle funding commitment. Similar to LIF and BIF, all projects are subject to Due Diligence process prior to any funding award. Members are asked to note the progress update of each project in Table below.**

### ***SOF – South Belfast projects overview***

| <b>Project</b>  | <b>SOF Award</b> | <b>Status and update</b>   | <b>Recommendation/<br/>Proposed Action</b>               |
|---|------------------|--|--|
| <b>SOF02<br/>Coffee<br/>Culture</b><br><i>NB - UV<br/>partnership<br/>project<br/>(£402k)</i> | £100,000         | Urban Villages are progressing the development of the Coffee Culture project – this is a social enterprise project with a training café and three rental apartments above. Any rental from the apartment will support the social enterprise business –this will be a requirement of any funding agreement. £100k has already been agreed in principle to this project under SOF. | Continue engagement with the group and key stakeholders. |

|  |         |  |                                    |
|--|---------|--|------------------------------------|
|  |         | Project funding includes: UV £402k, BCC SOF £100k, BIF unspecified funding commitment agreed at SAWG March 2021 and DfC £100k.   |                                    |
| <b>SOF04<br/>Sandy Row<br/>Community<br/>Forum</b> | £80,000 | Development of a Tourism Trail to complement the Transport Hub. Due Diligence complete. The project concept has been developed and costed. Belfast South Community Resources have signed off the project concept. Council will act as delivery agent for the project and will assist in the maintenance of signage as part of the council-wide upkeep of tourism signage. The project is expected on site in October 2021, with supply chain issues causing some delays. | Continue engagement with the group |

## 6. Capital Programme

The Capital Programme is a rolling programme to either enhance existing Council assets or, build / buy new assets or facilities. The table below provides an update on current live projects South Belfast area. Members are asked to note status and update.

### *South Belfast – Capital Programme Overview*

| Project  | Status and update  |
|--|--|
| Alleygating Phase 4 – City wide                        | Stage 3 – Committed. Project recently completed                              |
| Playground Improvement Programme 2021/2022 (City wide) | Stage 3 – Committed. Ormeau Park playground to be completed in December 2021 |
| Palm House, Botanic Gardens                            | Stage 1- Emerging. Link to Tropical Ravine                                   |
| Alleygating Phase 5 – City wide                        | Stage 1 –Emerging. Consultation stage  |

## 7. Externally Funded Programmes

The Council is the Delivery partner / agent for a number of government department on key capital investment programmes, namely TEO Social Investment Fund (SIF), TEO Urban Villages (UV) Programme, and number of schemes with DfC Regeneration Directorate. The following is an overview of projects within each programme relevant to South Belfast.

### Social Investment Fund

Table below provides a status update on SIF projects in South Belfast. Officers continue to liaise with TEO officials in relations to these projects.

### ***SIF – South Belfast Projects Overview***

| Project                             | Status and update  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Mornington Community Project</b> | An initial project meeting was held on 25 May 2021. Contractor on site and work progressing  |
| <b>Lanyon Tunnels</b>               | Project has been impacted by the JR decision on the adjacent site to the tunnels – the adjacent site is a critical access point for the project, enabling range of connectivity outcomes and benefits (SIF business case dependent on connectivity). Members are asked to note that discussions are ongoing with the TEO |

### **Urban Villages Initiative**

The table below provides a status update on UV projects in South Belfast – note the UV programme has a defined south Belfast geography (Sandy Row; Donegall Pass and Markets).

### ***UV – South Belfast Projects Overview***

| Project  | Status and update  |
|--|--|
| <b>Coffee Culture</b><br><i>NB Linked to BCC SOF/ BIF</i>            | Partnership project with UV. Final Business Case approved and LoO expected imminently. The Council is presently considering options around building purchase. Project funding includes: UV £402k, BCC SOF £100k, BIF unspecified funding commitment agreed at SAWG March 2021 and DfC £100k. |
| <b>John Murray Lock House—wider development</b>                      | Partnership project with UV. Business Case approved and LoO expected imminently. Project funding includes UV £997k and LIF £40k  |
| <b>Arts and Digital Hub (formerly Wee Ruby's Live, Work Studios)</b> | Council acting as delivery agent. Synergies with BIF Exam Centre. Business Case progressing and approval anticipated by October 2021.  |
| <b>School of Music Redevelopment</b>                                 | Emerging project.  |

Members are also invited to view the UV Capital area video links from Executive Office on South Belfast UV area: [Summary aerial film across all five UV areas](#) and [South Belfast Urban Village Capital Aerial film](#)

### **DfC Funded Projects**

Provided below is the status update on projects funded by the Department for Communities:

| Project  | Status and update   |
|--|---|
| <b>Belfast Islamic Centre -</b><br><i>Renovations of<br/>Aldersgate House,<br/>University Rd</i> | BCC is the delivery agent for this project. Working in conjunction with BIC and DfC the project has progressed to tender. Unfortunately, the project has not proceeded to award as there are governance issues that are required to be resolved between BIC and DfC. All parties are however committed to the project and funds are in place to undertake the project." |

After discussion, the Working Group agreed to note the report.

Chairperson

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|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| <b>Subject:</b>           | <b>Colin Interpretive Heritage Trail</b>  |
| <b>Date:</b>              | 24 September 2021                         |
| <b>Reporting Officer:</b> | Siobhan Toland, Director of City Services |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b>   | Alistair Charles, Project Sponsor         |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Restricted Reports</b>                         |   |
| 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"/>  |

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

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| <b>1.0</b> | <b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>  |
| 1.1        | The Council has received a request from the Colin Neighbourhood Partnership (CNP) to place one of the interpretive panels from the planned Colin Heritage Trail within the Council's new park in Colin (Páirc Nua Chollann).                           |
| <b>2.0</b> | <b>Recommendations</b>   |
| 2.1        | The Committee is asked to note this report and consider the request from CNP to locate Panel 4, which commemorates the life and achievements of Professor Frank Pantridge, within the grounds of the Council's New Park in Colin (Páirc Nua Chollann). |
| <b>3.0</b> | <b>Main Report</b>   |
| 3.1        | Colin Neighbourhood Partnership is currently working with the local community to develop a heritage walking trail across the Colin area.   |

|     |  |
|-----|--|
| 3.2 | <p>The trail will include a series of interpretive panels telling the stories of notable landmarks and historical figures from in and around the Colin area.</p> <p>The trail currently includes the following panels, as set out by Colin Neighbourhood Partnership:</p> <p><b>1. Cloona House</b></p> <p>The Victorian mansion was the original home of Nicolas Grimshaw, a leading linen manufacturer, and his wife, Eleanor and their family. The house was also home to other notable occupants such as Beatrice Grimshaw (see panel 5) and Alfred Jaffe (older brother of former Lord Mayor Otto Jaffe). During WWII, the house was leased to the MoD and became the home of the General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the British Army in Northern Ireland. Several major military operations were planned in Cloona House. In 1982 the house was sold to the local parish and now serves as a community hub.</p> <p><b>2. Belle Steele</b></p> <p>Belle Steele was a courageous Protestant woman who lived in the Colin area in the 18th Century and risked her own life to assist her Catholic neighbours at a time of persecution. At the time Catholic Masses were forbidden and as such were held in secret. At this time Belle became the trusted custodian of the sacred vessels and vestments used by the priest for this secret worship. Tradition records that she kept a small cow horn to summon people to mass and to warn the priest of any advancing 'red coats' (soldiers).</p> <p><b>3. Teeling's Mill</b></p> <p>Linen was an important industry in the Colin area with flax widely grown. The mill was developed by Luke Teeling, a successful linen and wine merchant. Luke's sons, Bartholomew and Charles Hamilton both grew up to be revolutionaries and joined the Society of United Irishmen founded by Dublin lawyer, Wolfe Tone. Bartholomew was executed for treason in 1798 and Charles went on to edit the Ulster Magazine, following a long stint in Kilmainham Gaol.</p> <p><b>4. Frank Partridge</b></p> <p>After studying medicine at Queens University, Pantrdge joined the Royal Army Medical Corps at the onset of WWII. During the retreat of Johore, Pantridge was wounded and awarded The Military Cross for bravery. Following the subsequent Battle of Singapore, Pantridge was captured and tortured by the Japanese and became a PoW. Forced into slave labour he developed heart disease but was determined not to die in far off Burma.</p> |
|-----|--|



In 1945, Pantridge was released following the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Despite being plagued by ill health Pantridge became a consultant cardiologist at the RVH and in 1965, along with Dr John Geddes and Alfred Mawhinney, invented the world's first portable defibrillator, using car batteries to create the current. The portable defibrillator has gone on to save millions of lives across the world earning Pantridge the title, 'The father of emergency medicine'. Remarkably, Pantridge went on to live to the age of 88, dying on Boxing Day, 2004.

## **5. Beatrice Grimshaw**

Beatrice Ethel Grimshaw, explorer, sports woman, record breaker, journalist, travel writer, novelist, coffee and tobacco plantation owner, explorer, photographer, and celebrity of her time, was born 3 February 1870 at Cloona House. Beatrice was the great great grand daughter of the house's original inhabitant, leading linen manufacturer, Nicolas Grimshaw.

After studying at Margaret Byers' Ladies Collegiate College (which later became Victoria College), Beatrice became a journalist in Dublin and converted to Catholicism. A keen cyclist, in the early 1900's Beatrice is reported to have broken the women's world 24 hour cycling record by five hours. Beatrice quickly achieved prominence for her non-fictional travel books and a raft of novels, set in the exotic tropical locations she visited in the South Seas. From 1907 to 1934, she lived in Papua New Guinea, where alongside her writing, she ran a coffee plantation. It was during her 30 years in Papua that Beatrice undertook the majority of her writing, publishing almost 50 books covering fiction, travel writing, and popular romance.

Beatrice's eccentricity and support for Women's rights is evidenced by the following quote; *'Women are not as clever as men- let the equality brigade shriek if they like- but neither are we as stupid'. Beatrice Grimshaw, 1907.*

## **6. Bobby Sands**

Bobby Sands was born in Newtownabbey in 1954 after which his family were relocated to the religiously mixed Rathcoole estate. With the outbreak of the troubles in 1969, Sands was forced to leave his first job in a coach building firm following sectarian threats and the family were forced to relocate to Twinbrook estate. Following the introduction of internment in the early 1970's, Sands joined the Provisional IRA. Following a three year imprisonment in Long Kesh for possession of weapons, Sands became a community activist in Twinbrook and developed the community newsletter, Liberty.

|            |   |
|------------|---|
|            | <p>In 1976 Sands was sentenced to 14 years imprisonment in the Maze prison following an IRA bombing. By this time Sands extensive writing and poetry meant he was viewed as a Republican thinker and propagandist. In 1981 Sands began a second hunger strike in support of prisoners' 'five demands'.</p> <p>As his physical condition deteriorated Sands was dramatically elected to Westminster in a by election for Fermanagh/South Tyrone. However, the British Prime Minister at the time, Margaret Thatcher, continued to refuse any concessions to the prisoners.</p> <p>Bobby Sands died on 5<sup>th</sup> May 1981, the 66<sup>th</sup> day of his hunger strike, and it is believed over 100,000 lined the streets of West Belfast during his funeral. Today, in the wake of the peace process, Sands' election is seen at the beginning of a shift by the Irish Republican Movement towards electoral politics and, ultimately, to the ceasefires which led to the Good Friday Agreement.</p> |
| 3.3        | Colin Neighbourhood Partnership is requesting that Panel 4, which commemorates the life and achievements of Professor Frank Pantridge and is located within the grounds of the Council's New Park in Colin (Páirc Nua Chollann) close to the Pantridge Road entrance is approved. Members will note that the other proposed panels are within the Colin area and are, therefore, not subject to approval by the Council as they are not located on its land.  |
|            | <b>Financial and Resource Implications</b>  |
| 3.4        | None - installation and maintenance costs will be covered by the CNP.   |
|            | <b>Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment</b>   |
| 3.5        | The Council is not the promoter of the Colin Heritage Trail as a collective entity. No equality, good relations or rural needs implications have been identified for Panel 4 (Professor Frank Pantridge) which is the only panel requested to be on Council land.   |
| <b>4.0</b> | <b>Documents Attached</b>   |
|            | None  |



|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| <b>Subject:</b>           | <b>Update on Contracts</b>   |
| <b>Date:</b>              | 24th September, 2021   |
| <b>Reporting Officer:</b> | Ronan Cregan, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b>   | Noleen Bohill, Head of Commercial and Procurement Services                 |

|   |   |
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| <b>Restricted Reports</b>                         |   |
| 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"/>  |

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

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| <b>1.0</b> | <b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>   |
| 1.1        | <p>The purpose of this report is to ask the Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to approve tenders and Single Tender Actions (STA) over £30,000; and</li> <li>to note Contract Modifications to Contract Term and retrospective Single Tender Actions (STAs)</li> </ul>   |
| <b>2.0</b> | <b>Recommendations</b>  |
| 2.1        | <p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>approve the public advertisement of tenders as per Standing Order 37a detailed in Appendix 1 (<b>Table 1</b>)</li> <li>approve the award of STAs in line with Standing Order 55 exceptions as detailed in Appendix 1 (<b>Table 2</b>)</li> <li>approve the modification of the contract as per Standing Order 37a detailed in Appendix 1 (<b>Table 3</b>)</li> </ul> |

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|            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>note the award of retrospective STAs in line with Standing Order 55 exceptions as detailed in Appendix 1 (<b>Table 4</b>)</li> </ul>   |
| <b>3.0</b> | <b>Main Report</b>  |
|            | <u>Competitive Tenders</u>  |
| 3.1        | Section 2.5 of the Scheme of Delegation states that 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 that any contract which exceeds the statutory amount (currently £30,000) shall be made under the Corporate Seal. Under Standing Order 51(b) the Corporate Seal can only be affixed when there is a resolution of the Council.   |
| 3.3        | Standing Order 54 states that every contract shall comply with the relevant requirements of national and European legislation.  |
| 3.4        | <u>Single Tender Actions (STAs)</u><br>The following STAs are being submitted for approval: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a contract for for £400,000, for up to 4 years, awarded to Manvik Plant &amp; Hire to provide and supply 'Dennis Eagle and Terberg' original equipment manufacturer 'OEM' approved warranty parts/components for specialist refuse collection vehicles and, were related, technical fitting support to comply with OEM warranty, safety terms and operating instructions. Manvik Plant &amp; Hire Ltd are the only OEM approved 'Dennis Eagle and Terberg' agents based in Northern Ireland; and</li> <li>a contract for for £400,000, for up to 4 years, awarded to RD Mechanical Services Ltd to provide and supply 'Holder' and 'Schmidt' original equipment manufacturer 'OEM' approved warranty parts/components for cleaning/sweeping vehicles and, were related, technical fitting support to comply with OEM warranty, safety terms and operating instructions. RD Mechanical Services Ltd are the only OEM approved 'Holder' and 'Schmidt' agents based in Northern Ireland.</li> </ul> |
| 3.5        | The following retrospective STAs were awarded: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a two-year extension to contract, awarded to C3 Productions Ltd, for T1996 - Co-ordination, Design Development, Fabrication, Installation and Maintenance of Projection Installations on Castle Street. Extension required due to various project</li> </ul>  |

|            |  |
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|            | <p>delivery delays including difficulty gaining landowner agreement for installation and Covid delays including inability of contractor to travel. No additional costs to original project costs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Committee is asked to note retrospectively an increase in value for a quotation, awarded to MMAS/OGU Architects, for the concept, detailed design development, outline costings and project management for extended payment enhancement at Adelaide Street, Belfast. Originally awarded via a quotation exercise with a total cost of £14,710. Due to additional unforeseen work requested by DfI (i.e. additional surveys, drawings and project enhancements) the total contract value is now estimated to be £38,250. Being reported as retrospective STA as value now exceeds £30k.</li> </ul> <p><u>Modification to Contract Term</u></p> |
| 3.6        | <p>The following contract terms were modified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A 3 month extension to contract T1764 for the supply and delivery of general uniforms to stores with suppliers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Antrim Supplies for Lot 1 – Hi-Vis Uniform</li> <li>➤ Prosafe for Lot 2 - General Uniform, and</li> <li>➤ Tailored Image for Lot 3 – Uniform accessories.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>The extension of the contract will allow extra time to complete the re-tender process.</p>  |
|            | <b>Financial and Resource Implications</b>   |
| 3.7        | The financial resources for these contracts are within approved corporate or departmental budgets  |
|            | <b>Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment</b>  |
| 3.8        | None   |
| <b>4.0</b> | <b>Document Attached</b>   |
|            | <p>Appendix 1:</p> <p>Table 1 - Competitive Tenders</p> <p>Table 2 - Single Tender Actions</p> <p>Table 3 - Modification to Contract Term</p> <p>Table 4 - Retrospective Single Tender Actions</p>   |

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**Table 1: Competitive Tenders**

| Title of Tender   | Proposed Contract Duration | Estimated Total Contract Value | SRO      | Short description of goods / services  |
|---|----------------------------|--------------------------------|----------|--|
| Creative Development 2024   | Up to 3.5 years            | £175,000                       | A Reid   | Seeking external expertise and leadership in the hosting of a large scale cultural programme in Belfast (retender)   |
| Implementation services to assist with the new NIHE hardware                                    | Up to 2 months             | £31,052                        | R Cregan | Includes the build, installation and migration of data and software.   |
| Professional Congress/Conference Organiser required for One Young World 2023 conference in 2023 | Up to 20 months            | £175,000                       | A Reid   | The total budget for the event is approx. £2.2m. Of this £1m is coming from NI Executive to BCC and a further £350,000 from BCC directly with the remaining to be raised from the private sector. For this type of event the host city procures the services of a PCO (Professional Congress/Conference Organiser). They will be responsible for overall co-ordination and project management. |

**Table 2: Single Tender Actions**

| Title   | Total Value | SRO        | Supplier                   |
|---|-------------|------------|----------------------------|
| To provide and supply 'Dennis Eagle and Terberg' OEM approved warranty parts/components, support and maintenance. | £400,000    | C Matthews | Manvik Plant & Hire Ltd    |
| To provide and supply 'Holder' and 'Schmidt' OEM approved warranty parts/components, support and maintenance.     | £400,000    | C Matthews | RD Mechanical Services Ltd |

**Table 3: Modification to Contract Term**

| Title of Contract   | Duration      | Modification                    | SRO      | Supplier   |
|---|---------------|---------------------------------|----------|--|
| T1764 - supply and delivery of general uniforms to stores | Up to 4 years | Additional 3 months and £60,000 | S Grimes | Antrim Supplies<br>Lot 1 – Hi-Vis Uniform<br>Prosafes Lot 2 - General uniform<br>Tailored Image<br>Lot 3 – Uniform accessories |

**Table 4: Retrospective Single Tender Actions**

| <b>Title of Contract</b>   | <b>Duration</b> | <b>Value</b> | <b>SRO</b> | <b>Supplier</b>     |
|--|-----------------|--------------|------------|---------------------|
| T1996 - Co-ordination, design development, fabrication, installation and maintenance of projection installations on Castle Street                    | Up to 2 years   | £95,000      | A Reid     | C3 Productions Ltd  |
| QCRD026 - Concept, detailed design development, outline costings and project management for extended payment enhancement at Adelaide Street, Belfast | Up to 3 months  | £38,250      | A Reid     | MMAS/OGU Architects |





|                           |   |
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| <b>Subject:</b>           | <b>Corporate Diaries and Christmas Cards</b>                    |
| <b>Date:</b>              | 24 <sup>th</sup> September, 2021                                |
| <b>Reporting Officer:</b> | John Walsh, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b>   | Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services officer                   |

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| <b>Restricted Reports</b>                         |   |
| 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"/>  |

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

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| <b>1.0</b> | <b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>   |
| 1.1        | To consider whether the Committee wishes to proceed with the purchase of Corporate Diaries and Christmas Cards or allocate the money to a chosen charity.   |
| <b>2.0</b> | <b>Recommendations</b>  |
| 2.1        | <p>The Committee is asked to consider:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>whether or not it wishes to proceed with the purchase of Corporate Diaries for 2022;</li> <li>whether or not it wishes to proceed with the purchase of Corporate Christmas cards for 2021; and</li> <li>to decide if it does not want to proceed with either or both, that a process be developed and that the estimated costs be donated to a chose charity or charities each year instead.</li> </ol> |

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| 3.0 | <b>Main Report</b>  |
|     | <u>Key Issues</u>   |
| 3.1 | <p>The Committee may recall that it had previously agreed the following:</p> <p><i>“That a report be submitted to a future meeting providing information on the savings to be derived from ceasing the production of Members’ corporate diaries and Christmas cards and the process for donating those savings to a chosen local charity each Christmas.”</i></p> |
| 3.2 | <p>The costs associated with the purchasing those items the previous year was:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corporate Diaries                      £7,264.80</li> <li>• Christmas Cards                      £948.00</li> </ul>   |
| 3.3 | Prior to committing any resources to the developing of a process for donating to charities, it would be preferable to seek direction from the Committee on how it wishes to proceed.  |
| 3.4 | Accordingly, the Committee is asked to consider the recommendations as set out in paragraph 2.  |
|     | <b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b>   |
| 3.5 | No additional financial resources as the amount was include in the current budget.  |
|     | <b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b>  |
| 3.6 | None associated with this report.   |
|     | <b>Documents Attached</b>   |
|     | None.   |



|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| <b>Subject:</b>           | <b>Minutes of the Meeting of the Shared City Partnership</b> |
| <b>Date:</b>              | 24th September, 2021   |
| <b>Reporting Officer:</b> | Ryan Black, Director of Neighbourhood Services               |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b>   | Nicola Lane, Good Relations Manager                          |

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| <b>Restricted Reports</b>                         |   |
| 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"/>  |

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

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| <b>1.0</b> | <b>Purpose of Report/Summary of main Issues</b>   |
| 1.1        | The purpose of this report is to present to the Committee the key issues discussed at the Shared City Partnership meeting held on 6th September.  |
| <b>2.0</b> | <b>Recommendations</b>  |
| 2.1        | <p>The Committee is requested to approve the minutes and the recommendations from the Shared City Partnership Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021 including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To agree the delivery of a Leadership Development Programme to progress the recommendations contained within the COVID research report at a cost of £10k as budgeted in the Good Relations Action Plan 21/22;</li> <li>To agree 'in principle' the Shared History, Heritage and Identity narratives for the Section 1 panels – Clarendon/Glencairn (Appendix 3 of the agenda), for inclusion in the project publication and to delegate authority to the Programme</li> </ul> |

|            |  |
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|            | <p>Board and Capital Project Board to agree on the locations with a report to be submitted to the October meeting of the Partnership;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To note the updates to the DCGRP Action Plan 21/22;</li> <li>• To note that the North Belfast Friendship Club has been awarded £1,960 to facilitate meetings of the North Belfast Friendship Club through the Strategic Intervention Programme within the DCGRP Action Plan 21/22;</li> <li>• To agree the modifications to the Good Relations Action Plan 21/22 as detailed under the Update on Council's District Good Relations Action Plan 2021/22; and</li> <li>• To assist with cost for the storage of donations relating to the NI Refugee Resettlement Scheme with an award of £300 for 2021/22 and an additional £300 for the 2022/23 financial years.</li> </ul> |
| <b>3.0</b> | <b>Main Report</b>   |
| 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 September meeting were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An update from Workshop on Sectarianism</li> <li>• A presentation from the Education Authority</li> <li>• PEACE IV <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ An update on PEACE IV Secretariat</li> <li>➤ An update on PEACE IV CYP Theme</li> <li>➤ An update on PEACE IV SSS Theme</li> <li>➤ An update on PEACE IV BPR Theme</li> </ul> </li> <li>• An update on Covid Research Project</li> <li>• An update on Good Relations Action Plan 21/22</li> <li>• A request from the NI Refugee Resettlement Consortium</li> </ul>   |
| 3.3        | <p>More details regarding the above issues and recommendations are included in the attached minutes of the meeting.</p>  |

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| 3.4        | <p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>All financial implications are covered through existing budgets</p>   |
| 3.5        | <p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></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> |
| <b>4.0</b> | <b>Documents Attached</b>   |
|            | Minutes of the Shared City Partnership meeting of 6th September.  |

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## **SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP**

**MONDAY 6th SEPTEMBER, 2021**

### **MEETING OF SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

Members present: Councillor O'Hara (Deputy Chairperson); and  
Alderman Rodgers.

External Members: Ms. B. Arthurs, Community and Voluntary Sector;  
Mr. C. Gardner, Good Relations, TEO;  
Mrs. J. Hawthorne, Northern Ireland Housing Executive;  
Ms. J. Irwin, Community Relations Council;  
Ms. K. Jardine, Faith Sector;  
Ms. G. Mornhinweg, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust;  
Mr. M. McBride, Education Authority;  
Mr. I. McLaughlin, Community and Voluntary Sector;  
Superintendent G. Pollock, PSNI; and  
Ms. A. Roberts, Community and Voluntary Sector.

In attendance: Ms. N. Lane, Good Relations Manager;  
Ms. D. McKinney, PEACE IV Programme Manager;  
Mrs. K. McCrum, Democratic Services Officer; and  
Mrs. S. Steele, Democratic Services Officer.

#### **Apologies**

Apologies for inability to attend were reported on behalf of the Chairperson, Councillor Kyle, and Councillor M. Kelly and Mr. J. Donnelly, Miss. G Duggan, Mr. S. Hamilton, Mr. M. O'Donnell and Ms. A. M. White.

#### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 9th August, 2021 were taken as read and signed as correct.

#### **Declarations of Interest**

Mrs. B. Arthurs declared an interest in item 4 (d), namely, Peace IV Updates – update on BPR Theme, in that she was an employee of the Forward South Partnership, which acts as the delivery agent for one of the Peace IV projects

#### **Update from Workshop on Sectarianism**

The Good Relation Manager drew the Members' attention to the notes from discussions held at the May meeting regarding Sectarianism in the City, where Members had agreed a number areas to be progressed. She reminded the Members that, at the June meeting of the Partnership, it had been agreed that a workshop would be convened to consider the outcomes from the facilitated discussion in more detail. In the interim, as requested, the workshop analysis and priorities had been conveyed to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee and details of the discussion had been referred to the Living Here Board.

As previously agreed, officers were currently liaising with the Youth Service seeking it to present on best practice and to consider a potential project that might help to develop a better understanding of politics for young people.

She reported that in line with the update, the Education Authority had been invited to today's meeting to look further at Best Practice and support that the Youth Services offers young people which could be supported to on a more long-term basis as opposed to crisis intervention. Accordingly, Partnership Member, Mr. Mark McBride, Senior Youth Officer with the Education Authority Youth Service was invited to present.

Noted.

### **Presentation from Education Authority**

Mr. McBride commenced by advising that the Youth Service fell within the directorate of Children and Young People's Services and he outlined that the Priorities for Youth directed that the two strategic aims of youth work within education were as follows:

- To contribute to raising standards for all and closing the performance gap between the highest and lowest achieving young people by providing access to enjoyable, non-formal learning opportunities that help them to develop enhanced social and cognitive skills and overcome barriers to learning; and
- To continue to improve the non-formal learning environment by creating inclusive, participative settings in which the voice and influence of young people are championed, supported and evident in the design, delivery and evaluation of programmes.

He advised that the Youth Service deployed its resources in the following 4 key areas:

- **Universal Provision** (Static Youth Centres);
- **Early Intervention** (Detached Work, PSD Groups, Participation structures, Global Service, Stay Connected .....);
- **Targeted Intervention** (SPARK, Belong, Youth Volunteer Academy, Learning Together Programme KS4 .....); and
- **Specialist Services** (ENGAGE, FLARE).

He then proceeded to take the Members through the Street Based Youth Work Provision Models which included Mobile Youth Work, Youth Work Outreach, Detached Youth Work, Safety Focused Youth Work and Event or Incident Response Youth Work and provided an overview of how each of these worked operationally on the ground.

In terms of the Feet on the Street Programme, the representative advised that this was a Belfast PCSP funded programme designed to respond to increased levels of anti-social behaviour in identified hotspots across the city. He explained that Youth Units applied to receive provider status by fulfilling the key criteria of:

- Ability to deploy staff in a street setting;
- All staff have received detached training; and
- A proven track record of demonstrating positive outcomes for Children and Young People in a street setting.

At a weekly multi-agency planning meeting for street-based work in Belfast, it was determined by the Senior Youth Officers based on assessed and emerging need where feet



on the street responses were required. All relevant youth units who had nominated the area where work was required would then be offered the opportunity to respond.

The representative concluded by detailing the following four gaps and roles that the Education Authority had identified and where it was felt that the Shared City Partnership could possibly assist:

- The provision of shared and safe outdoor spaces for young people;
- Provision of support in the aftermath of a situation;
- Strength based messaging platforms; and
- Ensuring that the voice of young people was valued.

During discussion the lack of volunteers and capacity to work with young people was highlighted and the stress that this was putting on the entire sector, it was felt that the pandemic had only helped to exacerbate this situation as many volunteers had reassessed their own family situations.

It was also highlighted that the public and press were often very quick to highlight issues where young people had been involved in antisocial/negative behaviour but, sadly, were not a quick to recognise the many positive achievements of young people.

Detailed discussion ensued regarding the possibility of establishing a directory of all funded youth services which it was felt would help to provide a more joined up and cohesive approach and avoid duplication of services. It was acknowledged that such a mapping exercise would be useful, however, both the Education Authority representative and Good Relations Manager highlighted the volume of work in drawing up such a directory. Following further discussion, the Members agreed that the Good Relations Manager would seek initial views from the Living Here Board to see how any such mapping exercise could be progressed.

The Education Authority representative agreed to forward information regarding Youth Service current work and programmes to the Community Relations Council representative who agreed to highlight it during Good Relations Week.

The Partnership noted that, as previously agreed and to ensure that discussions continued, a further facilitated workshop would be convened before the next meeting which would specifically look at the four gaps and roles that the Education Authority had identified where it was felt that the Shared City Partnership could possibly assist.

The Deputy Chairperson thanked the representative for his informative presentation.

### **Peace IV Update Reports**

#### **Update on 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 Members were advised that the Revised Letters of Offer (LoO) to extend the delivery of all three themes to 31st December 2022 had been received and accepted by the Council. The relevant contract addendums to extend the delivery timeframes of delivery partners, as outlined in the Business Recovery Plan and previously agreed by the SCP, were currently being progressed by the Council's Legal Department. On issue of the addendums,

delivery partners would be required to submit revised implementation plans to ensure the achievement of targets and outcomes.

In terms of Project Delivery, project modifications to enable the delivery partners to progress activity were continuing to be considered under delegated authority. Members were therefore requested to note that the modifications, as detailed in the Appendix below, had been agreed by the Programme Board, via written procedure in August 2021.

The officer then provided a brief update regarding the proposed Programme Workplan. She reported that the content for The International Day of Peace event, scheduled to be held on 21st September at Springfield Dam, was currently being finalised. Children and young people were due to contribute within the theme 'Recovering better for an equitable and sustainable world'.

An Italian Culture Café to celebrate the diversity of Belfast was also being scheduled for Good Relations Week.

She reported that recruitment for the Building Positive Relations Thematic Project Manager was progressing with interviews scheduled to be held next week. The Project Development Officer Post was also becoming vacant and would be recruited in due course.

The Partnership was informed that the SEUPB had reimbursed all claims up to and including Period 25 claims totalling £4,214,386.

The Period 26 claims for all themes with a combined value of £569,339 were currently being verified by the SEUPB.

Vouching and verification of Claim Period 27, with an estimated value of £516,496, was progressing for submission to SEUPB by 1st September 2021. The total value of spend in the programme to date was £5,300,222

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

## Appendix I

### **Peace IV Programme Board - 11 August 2021 – Project Modifications**

| No | Theme | Project                   | Delivery Partner | Proposal   | Recommendation to Board  |
|----|-------|---------------------------|------------------|--|--|
| 1  | CYP   | CYP1: Tech Connects       | Belfast Met      | Members are asked to consider & approve the inclusion of 16 years/school leaver age in order to increase participation/registrations. This has been considered by SEUPB and noted on SCP papers. | Recommend approval to include this age category. Approval granted already from SEUPB and noted by SCP. |
| 2  | CYP   | CYP5: Local Area Networks | NIHE             | NIHE LAN Programme has faced difficulties reengaging early programme (2018) participants following lapse in  | Recommend approval subject to approval from SEUPB.   |

|   |     |                            |                           |   |   |
|---|-----|----------------------------|---------------------------|---|---|
|   |     |                            |                           | engagement due to Covid. They have asked to reclassify some participants who completed early programme residentials from 'Core' to 'Peer' (ie. completed 30 hours) in order to complete out and to recoup costs from these residentials.  |   |
| 3 | BPR | BPR3: TFC                  | NICVA                     | In order to progress TFC collaborative projects component of BPR3, PIV wishes to explore options for additional support to be provided by NICVA and partners. This has been discussed with procurement and it fits within NICVA/partners' initial contract spec. PIV seeks approval for delegated authority for Officers to discuss additional support with NICVA and partners, up to 3.5 days per area to progress collaborative projects. | Recommend approval to delegate authority to Officers to discuss additional support with NICVA/ partners.  |
| 4 | BPR | BPR3: TFC                  | NICVA                     | In order to complete out Autumn cohorts, NICVA are seeking approval to accept 21 hours contact time per participant (in place of 30 hours). This has previously been approved for other cohorts also affected by Covid pressures.   | Recommend approval, subject to approval from SEUPB  |
| 5 | BPR | BPR5: Roma                 | Forward South Partnership | SLA arrangement between Forward South and Advice NI (no legal arrangement with BCC). Discussions with Legal and IG confirm that Schedule of Processing needs to be revised. More information to be submitted by FSP soon (staff absence).   | Recommend approval for delegated authority for Officers to liaise directly with Legal, once information is provided by FSP, and advise Board via written procedure. |
| 6 | SSS | SSS: Interpretative Panels | Mediation NI              | PIV is seeking approval for the Shared History narratives for Section 1 which have been gathered by Mediation NI from local residents, and to agree to  | Recommend consideration of the narratives by SCP for approval.  |

|   |             |             |             |  |  |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|--|--|
|   |             |             |             | progress on to SCP for approval.   |  |
| 7 | Secretariat | Secretariat | Secretariat | PIV is seeking approval to continue to review the standing down of Thematic Steering Groups on a monthly basis, due to continuing work pressures | Recommend approval to continue to stand down and review on a monthly basis |

### **Children and Young People (CYP) Update**

The Partnership considered the undernoted 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**

#### **3.1 CYP 1 – Tech Connects**

##### **GIGA Training (Afterschool’s & Digital Arts Academies (Tech Camps)**

Digital Summer camps are progressing with strong participation for each age group as follows:

|                         |            |
|-------------------------|------------|
| <b>6-11 Year Olds:</b>  | <b>211</b> |
| <b>12-16 Year Olds:</b> | <b>94</b>  |
| <b>Total</b>            | <b>305</b> |

Feedback remains positive and daily blogs are updated with content completed by the young people following the group sessions.

Morrow Communications attended each session to collect video content for each age category and complete a video to encourage recruitment as well as capture participants’ journey.

The delivery of further Tech Camps during Halloween school break in October 2021 is currently being planned. This will provide the opportunity to further increase participation and encourage more young people to take part during half term closure.

**Belfast Metropolitan College (Digital Insights Programme) (17-24 yr. olds)**

Members are advised whilst there have been no further workshops or training sessions in the programme, work has continued to revise the action plan and develop marketing materials for the project.

A new action plan for the project has been developed and work on engagement and recruitment continues with the deliver partner Bytes – workshops are scheduled to commence in September – preparation for this training is underway.

The Delivery Partner continues to reach out to community, statutory and youth groups to raise awareness and have connected with employers to engage current participants as part of the mentoring element of the programme.

**3.2 CYP 2 - Playing our Part in the City**

Active Communities Network has reported the delivery of Year 3 is fully recruited with both young people and parents. ACN is now progressing towards completion with 80 new participants recruited for the final year 4, from a target of 140. The delivery agent is confident in completing before the end of Dec 21 with a potential celebration event to recognise the achievement of the young people and parents.

Positive feedback from young people participating in the programme has been received with participants saying the opportunity to get outside, get active and meet new friends has made them feel better mentally, have fun and are looking forward to keeping involved. Young people are fully engaged and have provided ideas for sessions, options on activity and using their initiative with games. Young people have benefited greatly by developing their soft skills, as well as stepping outside their comfort zones and building friendships.

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

Engagement with potential clubs to participate in the programme is progressing. The planning and scheduling of dates for activity is moving forward. Recent levels of activity include 47 additional participants recruited from St Galls & Church of Ireland Hockey with 36 current participants from Grove & Phoenix basketball is still continuing to engage and complete hours towards the full contact time. Groups are progressing with day activities for team / capacity building in the absence of cross border residential.

Currently 597 participants are engaged with the programme with a further 19 young leaders involved in training during this period. Therefore, to date 616 participants will have been achieved subject to all completing the training and contact hours. The target of

1800 remains high within the 12 -14 months delivery timeframe remaining, which equates to approx 83 young people per month. This target is ambitious in the current climate as capacity of the clubs is restricted. Lead officer is focusing to recruit as close to 85% of this target which is deemed permitted in line with the Output Indicator Guidance.

Active Communities Network remain as the partner in delivering the OCN & sports leaders training. Schedules are being agreed to fully deliver to clubs based on their availability and locations across the city.

#### **Personal Change**

The recognition event for the Year 3 participants cohort took place 25th August at the MAC Belfast with the SCP Chair in attendance to present certificates of achievement.

The final cohort of 15 participants is progressing well with many having completed 40% of the hours via smaller group sizes and one to one mentoring. Members should note that due to challenges around completing residentials due to COVID ,contact hours were reduced from 305- 265, (within the OIG tolerance) and will be closely monitored.

Extern has fully recruited the required participant numbers and have 4 months remaining to deliver project activity, as such the risk remains low. Should any difficulties arise an option to extend delivery to March 2022 can be facilitated.

#### **3.4 CYP 4 – Cooperation Ireland (Young Advocates)**

Cooperation Ireland has appointed a new programme manager and 2 new peer mentors to support project delivery.

Community partners (R City, Saints & Holy Trinity YC, and East Belfast Alternatives) were consulted on the revised condensed delivery approach and all partners are engaged and committed to recruitment and participation. Recruitment of participants is now progressing and the procurement of suitable residential centres for participants to attend and complete hours is underway.

Members should note that SEUPB agreed that an 8% (approx. 4 hours) of preparatory work to develop confidence of participant and capacity building on an individual group level to prepare them to move to cross community work. This will only be used if required and not all groups will require these hours in advance of the group work.

Risk associated with this project remains low as remaining 32 participants are to complete activity by April 2022. It is anticipated that delivery of sessions, via a residential approach, should be completed by Dec/ Jan 21, with the social campaign to start in Jan 22.

### **3.5 CYP 5 – NIHE Local Area Network Partner Delivery**

*NIHE is currently reviewing their participant groups who had previously committed to the programme. Members should note that approximately 30 participants previously engaged as core participants have now been assigned as peer participants.*

The West Belfast 2 Network recently completed 20 hours of digital engagement, as well as a residential & social justice element has also been completed. Digital engagement, delivered by Wheelworks, is progressing with Foster Carers Association, who have committed to additional hours and will be now participating as core participants. The South West Belfast Network comprising of groups in Colin Glen/Finaghy/Taughmonagh are currently participating in digital summer camps.

To date the Secretariat has considered over 20 project modifications to the programme to facilitate flexibility for the groups taking part, with SEUPB approval sought as necessary.

Recruitment remains a concern with challenges in relationships between community groups from across the city. The target of 900 participants with 144 core participants required to complete 200 hours remains a challenge given the level of commitment to one programme.

Members should also note NIHE also experienced challenges with staff shortages and turnover which has now been addressed with new staff in post.

NIHE has is also exploring adopting a new suite of electronic monitoring and evaluation forms and has been liaising with BCC Information Governance team with a view towards codifying the sharing of data between the two organisations.

### **3.6 Financial and Resource Implications**

To date all PEACE IV costs for the CYP Theme up to Period 25 totalling £1,149,364 have been fully reimbursed by SEUPB. The Period 26 claim values at £147,494 is currently being verified by SEUPB.

Claims for Period 27 (1 May – 31 Jul 21) with an estimated value of £104,375 are currently being progressed for submission to SEUPB by 1 September 2021.

### **3.7 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 Equality Consultative Forum was further consulted on 18 Nov 2020.”

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

### **Shared Spaces and Services (SSS) Update**

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 advised that implementation of the Shared Space and Services theme was progressing. Whilst Government restrictions and planning approval had impacted upon delivery, the recent easing of the restrictions was helping to progress delivery of both the capital and programming elements of the scheme.

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

**Springfield Dam** - As reported previously, the Council had agreed to the naming of the new bridge in Springfield Dam which would follow the same naming process undertaken for Colin Park. A cross-community panel was currently being finalised and the naming process would be facilitated after the completion of other Council naming processes that were ongoing. The Members were advised that Springfield Dam Park continued to be well used, a series of PEACE IV animation activities, aimed specifically for children from local Summer Schemes and playgroups, had been successfully delivered during July and August.

**PEACE IV Network Scheme – Capital Works** – The Members were advised that work was progressing well on site. Section 1 was on course to complete in December 2021 / January 2022. As noted earlier in the meeting, agreement of the narratives for the information panels would enable the contractor to finalise the location of panels and to place the order for the signage.

The Members were advised that, following receipt of a planning challenge and upon legal advice, the planning application for Section 2 had been temporarily withdrawn from the August Planning Committee to enable further consideration. In addition, invasive species within Section 2 required treatment, this was being progressed via a temporary licence obtained from the Department for Communities (DfC) to allow for spraying and treatment. Unfortunately, these issues would have an impact on the proposed completion dates for this section.

Several operational issues were being progressed by the Management and Maintenance subgroup meeting, these included: park furniture, opening hours, lighting on/off times, environmental management and management and maintenance costs. Wider discussions with the DfC regarding the site transfer, costs associated with treating invasive species, slope stability, associated maintenance costs and liability were scheduled to be held with the Physical Programmes team during September 2021.

Community engagement on Section 4 was progressing with details of boundary lines with the St. James City Farm being provided, the possibility of site visits was being considered.

**Social Value Clause** - Implementation of the social value clause associated with McQuillan's contractual requirements was at an early stage. Discussions with McQuillan's, Physical Programme and the Council's Employability and Skills team had been held in August 2021 with the following action points having been agreed:

- McQuillan's to progress apprenticeships and student work placements and update BCC on the status. Interviews for student placements had taken place during August;
- Explore Construction Academies and progress requirements for unpaid trainees and



long term unemployed with the Employability and Skills team (likely to commence in October as Section 2 and 3 works continued);

- Community Engagement Plan, to involve engagement with schools and local community groups to be finalised and submitted to Physical Programmes; and
- A Contractors Sustainability Report to be submitted on a monthly basis.

A Member referred to social clauses and he sought clarification as to how these were calculated and allocated against contracts to ensure that they were commensurate with the value of the contract.

Following discussion, the Programme Manager agreed to liaise with the Physical Programmes Section to clarify the approach the contractor was progressing in terms of community engagement.

The Deputy Chairperson advised that consultation on a revised Council policy on Social Value aimed at maximising community benefit was to open in due course.

Regarding programming, the Partnership was informed that all aspects of programming were progressing where possible.

In regard to the other Programmes:

- **Shared History, Heritage and Identity Content / Narratives for Shared Space**
  - **Draft Panel Narratives – Section 1 Clarendon/Glencairn**

The officer advised that, representatives from the Mediation NI were unable to present on the narratives as had been scheduled, therefore, the Members were asked to agree 'in principle' the Shared History, Heritage and Identity narratives for the Section 1 panels as detailed in Appendix 3 of the agenda and to delegate authority to the Programme Board and Capital Project Board to identify the most suitable narratives in line with the locations of the panels with a report to be submitted to the October meeting of the Partnership.

- **Shared Space Volunteer Training**

Volunteer Now had commenced recruitment of the Shared Space Ambassadors. The assessment and award of the contract for the Volunteer Nature Guides was also progressing. Sustrans continued to deliver face-to-face training for both the Cycle and Walking leads projects and had been able to secure separate support for additional mediation training which would enable all the project participants to avail of the mediation training.

The cycle leads element had a cycle maintenance event scheduled for 7th September in Springfield Dam Park. Sustrans had been liaising with BCC's Age Friendly project in relation to some of the Walk Leads facilitating walks with pensioners' groups.

The officer reported that, unfortunately, no applications had been received to deliver the Volunteer History Guides and options for delivery were currently being considered.

- **Dialogue & Engagement Project (young people, residents and BME groups)**

Phase 1 of engagement had been completed and a residents' survey launched on 19th August via the Council's Engagement HQ platform, the survey would be open until 27th September 2021. Key stakeholders had been made aware of the survey which was also being promoted via social media.

Phase 2 of engagement was scheduled to commence during September with further promotion of the residents' survey, workshops, presentations, and a site visit.

- **Governance / Management Model**

Viatic Limited had accepted and returned the signed contract. Due to holidays there had been no project activity from that previously reported. Activity and engagement was due to recommence during September with stakeholder discussions and a site visit.

- **Youth Engagement and Civic Education**

Following the unsuccessful procurement exercises, feedback, and engagement with youth providers along with FMCG had taken place. Consensus feedback indicated the need to rescope the project as it was felt that no single organisation could deliver the high targets (600 participants) and also that the project targets, both in terms of hours (120 contact hours) and participant numbers (600), were exceptionally high. It was also highlighted that the budget would need to significantly increase. The Members were asked to note that the original targets had been based on a 2-year delivery timeframe, but the timeframe was now 14 months.

On review of the SSS Programming deliverables and budget, a rescope modification request and indicative cost breakdown based on the reduced delivery timeframe had been submitted to the SEUPB for its consideration.

Members were asked to note the following key changes:

- delivery via 4 lots;
- reduced contact hours to 60 hours per participant;
- participant numbers reduced to 400 (100 participants per lot); and
- an increase in budget of £160k (£40k per lot).

- **Springfield Dam Activities**

Following initial problems with the Covid 19 restrictions having affected participation, the Men's Shed programme was now progressing. A group of 6 men (4 CNR and 2 PUL) had been attending regularly and were now halfway through the completion of their Hedge Chairs. Discussions regarding establishing more long-term projects for the Men's Shed would be progressed in due course.

- **Modular Building**

The modular building had been opened to facilitate toilet access during the recent programme activity at the Springfield Dam. The internal process for bookings had been

finalised and bookings were now being managed through Outdoor Leisure. Staff from OSS would open the building as required and carry-out the necessary checks.

The Partnership was advised that claims up to and including Period 25 totalling £1,589,170 had now been fully reimbursed by the SEUPB. The Period 26 claim valued at £50,171 was currently being verified by the SEUPB. Claim 27 (May - July 2021) totalling £85,411 had been submitted on 1st September.

The Partnership agreed to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it note the contents of the report and appendices and agree 'in principle' the Shared History, Heritage and Identity narratives for the Section 1 panels – Clarendon/Glencairn as detailed in Appendix 3 of the agenda, for inclusion in the project publication and to delegate authority to the Programme Board and Capital Project Board to agree on the locations, with a report to be submitted to the October meeting of the Partnership.

### **Building Positive Relations (BPR) Update**

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**

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

#### **3.0 Main report**

##### **Key Issues**

**Face-to -face delivery across all BPR projects is progressing as the easing of restrictions continues. Appendix I and Appendix II provides an overview on project progress and the RAG status for each project.**

#### **3.1 BPR1 – Cross Community Area Networks**

**CCANs across the City have re-engaged following a period of disengagement due to recent community unrest.**

**Participants from Ligoniel, Longlands, Rathcoole associated with the North Belfast CCAN have actively engaged in Good Relations sessions delivered by the appointed good relations delivery agent, Verbal Arts Centre.**

**Participants in the southwest Belfast CCAN from Suffolk and Finaghy have registered to the programme and engagement with Colin is ongoing.**

Good relations sessions have also been progressing with participants from Black Mountain, Moyard, Springmartin and Highfield, Gort na Mona and Sliabh Dubh who form part of the West Belfast 2 CCAN.

Further good relations sessions with Networks are scheduled for September 2021.

Engagement with groups to establish the West Belfast 1 (Clonard / Mid Shankill), South Belfast and East Belfast Networks are progressing. Approval has been provided for capacity building on an individual group basis with a view to moving to cross community engagement.

In order to accelerate delivery and condense hours, the delivery agent is planning residential activity for each CCAN and a formal modification has been submitted for approval.

The place shaping tender has progressed to final assessment/ award stage and it is hoped the contractor will be in place early September with activity commencing mid-September.

Senior Officers within BCC and NIHE met on 25 August 21 to discuss project progress and ongoing issues. NIHE outlined the need for flexibility to achieve project targets.

A process of senior oversight on a quarterly basis and an escalation process for issues were agreed. NIHE provided a commitment and assurance to deliver both the BPR and CYP projects.

### **3.2 BPR2 – Creative Communities Project**

Delivery of activity by the Artist in Residence is continuing on a face-to-face basis with Woodvale/Ardoyne, Clonard/Mid-Shankill, Divis/Lower Shankill and Football clusters.

The new Ardoyne cluster have had one successful facilitated session and a draft specification for artist in residence is underway.

Discussions with groups involved in the LGBTQ+ cluster are continuing and have been positive and ideas that fit the programme are being explored.

The appointment of the Artist in Residence for the Inner East cluster is being progressed.

As members are aware the artist in residence appointed for the Carlisle Cluster has resigned and a meeting with the steering group to determine a way forward is scheduled for 3 September 2021.

### **3.3 BPR3 – Transform for Change Project**

#### **Transformative Leadership Programme:**

Recruitment for Autumn cohorts is progressing for the 7 TLP courses to commence in September 2021, to date approximately 60 EOI across the different courses have been received.

Discussions with NICVA on support for progressing the local project development Action Plans is continuing. Due to the backlog of projects as a result of Covid 19 is likely that NICVA and Partners will support a further 2-3 project development sessions to enable the projects to be delivered. Details on the projects and level of participation is progressing.

### **3.4 BPR4 – Belfast and the World (BATW)**

Final activity for Year 3 participants (online cohort) is progressing and a walking tour to bring the group together is planned for September 2021. Recruitment is underway for the final year cohorts and activity is also expected to commence in September 2021.

Due to resource issues as well as travel restrictions, the delivery of the EU Study trips and / or alternative trips across NI/ROI remains on hold.

### **3.5 BPR5 – Supporting Connected Communities - LINCS Projects**

Cultural workshops have re-commenced across the 4 Neighbourhood Participatory Forums A Cultural Day is taking place in C.S Lewis Square on 24th September from 12 noon to 4pm with a range of cuisine and entertainment. South, West and East groups continue to participate in mainly outdoor activity, with recent trips taking place to Crawfordsburn and Carnfunnock, participation in the activities were 95 adults and children.

### **3.6 BPR5 – Traveller Project - Supporting Connected Communities**

The tender for Traveller support Hub is currently open for submissions and is due to close on 10 September 21.

The 'Lets do Lunch' event has been rescheduled with the Heart Project and Feile an Phobail to take place on 3 September 2021.

Discussions with key agencies that provide Traveller support services is taking place on 2 September with a view to identifying engagement opportunities with the Traveller community.

Ideas and opportunities for Culture and Heritage workshops are continuing to be explored.

### **3.7 BPR5 – Roma Project - Supporting Connected Communities**

*The Building Positive Relations programme has commenced although participation is low. The delivery agent continues to work with the local Roma community to promote the programme and the benefits of participation. The Roma Support Hub is active and is taking a monitoring calls through a subcontract arrangement with Advice NI.*

*Options for the replacement of the OCN language element are currently being explored and the necessary project modification is to be submitted for consideration.*

### **3.8 BPR6 – St. Comgalls**

Workshops for young people continue to be successfully delivered online on a weekly basis. The delivery agent is planning the first face to face session in the form of a walking tour for all participants.

Ongoing community tensions have impacted the commence of adult activity, it is envisaged the Adult cohorts will commence in September and plans for a networking event and seminar are underway.

### **3.9 Financial & Resource Implications**

All BPR project delivery partners are regularly reviewing delivery methods and contractual deliverables which will determine the level and impact of COVID 19 crisis.

To date all PEACE IV costs for the BPR Theme, up to Period 25 totalling £1,475,851 have been fully eligible and reimbursed by SEUPB. The Period 26 Claim for £371,673 is still being verified by SEUPB.

Claim 27 (May-July 21) totalling £326,709 is currently being compiled for submission on 1 September 2021.

### **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. The Equality Consultative Forum was further consulted on 18 November 2020.”

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

### **Update on Covid Research Project**

The Good Relations Manager referred to the June meeting of the Partnership where a report and presentation had been given in respect of the research into the Council’s response

to COVID-19 during the first lockdown. At that meeting, it had been agreed that a further report would be submitted to a future meeting of the Partnership to give the Members the opportunity to consider what areas they might wish to prioritise within the next steps section of the report, taking into account that £10,000 had been set aside within the Good Relations Action Plan 2021/22.

The officer advised that the issue of leadership within communities had been heavily highlighted throughout the research and linked strongly with other recommendations in the report, namely:

- Investment in community infrastructure;
- Integrating services at a local level;
- Building on the tacit knowledge, skills and capacity of all players; and
- Developing co-design and co-production of services.

One of the main thrusts of the research had been a recognition that there needed to be an effort to add to the pool of local volunteers, in order to support those who had stepped up by supporting residents during the pandemic through the delivery (across community boundaries) of food parcels, medication and other resources. Furthermore, there had also been recognition of the need to develop a new generation of similar leaders who would have the ability, cross-community networks and commitment to fulfil those tasks that had been undertaken by local volunteers during the first lockdown.

The Members were advised that it was therefore being proposed that an appropriate leadership development programme would be sourced that would aim to develop and deliver new leaders within communities.

The Partnership recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it agree to the delivery of a Leadership Development Programme to progress the recommendations contained within the COVID research report.

### **Update on Council's District Good Relations Action Plan 2021/22**

The Partnership considered the undernoted report:

#### **“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**

**To update the SCP on delivery of the District Council Good Relations Plan (DCGRP) 2021/22.**

#### **2.0 Recommendations**

**Members are asked to note the updates to the DCGRP Action Plan 21/22 contained in Appendix 1.**

**Members are asked to note that the North Belfast Friendship Club has been awarded £1,960 to facilitate meetings of the North Belfast Friendship Club through the Strategic Intervention Programme within the DCGRP Action Plan.**

#### **3.0 Main report – Project Details**

##### **3.1 Members will be aware that the Council submits an annual action plan to the Executive Office (TEO) every year in order to draw down**

funding for the good relations work of the council. The draft Action Plan 21/22 was approved by Council via the Partnership in February 21 and was submitted by the deadline of 22 February 2021.

- 3.2 A Letter of Offer for the District Council Good Relations Programme 21/22 was subsequently received in awarding an amount of £571,893.27 with the Council required to provide match funding of at least £190,631.09. From the funding supplied by TEO, £374,205 must be allocated towards Programme costs.
- 3.3 A copy of the Action Plan with a brief update on progress is attached for Members' information.

**For Members to Note:**

- 3.4 A number of Letters of Offer have been issued to groups for projects which have been named within the GR Action Plan 21/22 and approved by Council. The majority of these are contained within the BCC8 Programme 'Our Safe Community'
- 3.5 These include:
- Black Mountain Shared Space Programme: £8,000
  - Spectrum Centre: £5,000
  - Belfast Interface Project: £10,000
  - New Lodge Arts: £2,500

**Strategic Intervention Fund**

- 3.6 Members will also recall that in the Action Plan 21/22 a new targeted Strategic Intervention programme had been introduced with the funds being directed to a distributed on an area basis.
- 3.7 This was to ensure that the approach could be targeted, strategic and proactive and could include work at interface areas or on good relations issues impacting the specific area. Work can take place all year round and not just at certain times of the year. 15k has been allocated to each area with the condition that any project must address good relations issues and one of the T:BUC priorities. This allocation is discussed at Area Team level meaning there is complementarity and a coordination of resources. The projects are agreed by the relevant Good Relations Officer, Neighbourhood Integration Manager and Neighbourhood Services Area Manager, the latter of which SCP agreed could be granted delegated authority.
- 3.8 Members are asked to note that under the theme of the DCGRP BCC 10 Strategic Intervention Programme, the following has been allocated:
- 3.9 North Belfast Friendship Club: £1,960 towards the facilitation of meetings in the Duncairn Arts Centre. This project promotes



inclusion and integration and aims to foster social cohesion and demonstrate collective opposition to hate crime in North Belfast. The project sits under the Safe Community theme and T:BUC priority.

- 3.10 The Friendship Club for North Belfast was one of several initiatives developed in response to a spike in hate crime in the area in 2015-16. The project was originally conceived as a conversation club to address the problem of isolation among newcomers to North Belfast due to lack of English language skills. However, it was recognised that the feelings of loneliness and isolation experienced by many migrants (particularly refugees and asylum seekers who are separated from their families, unable to work and have little or no access to transport) are not unlike the feelings experienced by other vulnerable residents in the community. The Club had been meeting in the R City café which is no longer open and therefore, the Club needs support to manage the transition to the new venue, the Duncairn Arts Centre and to facilitate the rebuilding of networks and relationships. This support will cover the period until March 2022.

#### **Financial & Resource Implications**

All costs can be covered through the District Council Good Relations Action Plan budget 21/22.

#### **Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment**

All the projects/programmes have been approved in the DCGRP 2021/22.”

The Good Relations Manager drew the Members’ attention to proposed project modifications which had been circulated immediately prior to the meeting and she took the Members through the detail of the proposed modifications.

The Partnership recommended that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee note the updates to the DCGRP Action Plan 2021/22 and to note that the North Belfast Friendship Club had been awarded £1,960 to facilitate meetings of the North Belfast Friendship Club through the Strategic Intervention Programme within the DCGRP Action Plan and recommend that it agree the modifications as detailed below:

#### **DCGRP Action Plan 2021/22 – Modifications**

| Programme/Priority    | Project /Current budget                          | Modification   | Recommendation   |
|-----------------------|--|--|--|
| BCC4/Shared Community | Programme to grow BAME leaders in the City – 10k | Add an additional £5k to this project from underspend within the Action Plan – Total cost of project £15k. | SCP to agree that the budget of this programme be increased to 15k with additional 5k being taken from underspend within the Plan. |

|                       |  |  |   |
|-----------------------|--|--|---|
| BCC6/Shared Community | Completion and launch of the new Refugee Transition Guide – 5k   | Add an additional 5k to cover launch and training sessions on the new guide for relevant individuals and agencies. This can be reprofiled from the Migrant Forum budget as the group are currently meeting online and from BCC7 as training also taking place online. Note that the last edition was quoted as an example of good practice by the Department of Work & Pensions                | SCP agree that an additional 5k be allocated to the Refugee Transition Guide to cover a launch and training sessions on the new guide.  |
| BCC6/Shared Community | Inclusion of tailored events/programmes to build re - engagement and contact opportunities between communities – including neighbourhood celebrations, intercultural encounters/events such as the shared celebration of festivals, animation of parks, spaces and neighbourhoods with a focus on soft good relations projects to promote physical contact, engaging communities through sport, arts, community gardens and cultural event – 10k | Given that restrictions etc have prevented certain activities taking place and that we are coming into autumn/winter time – Officers have been approached about 2 shared housing spaces and the need to develop a good relations programme to develop relationships between neighbours and develop the necessary links to support the intended ethos of shared housing. Officers are currently | SCP to agree that up to a maximum of 4k be allocated to each of the 2 shared housing projects subject to a relevant good relations programme being developed and assurance that this was not duplication of funding. Delegated authority to be given to Director. |

|                       |  |  |   |
|-----------------------|--|--|---|
|                       |  | exploring the need but would recommend that an allocation of up to a maximum 4k be agree with delegated authority given to the Director.   |   |
| BCC7 Shared Community | Support a pilot intervention that can prevent the escalation of tensions in communities by supporting the orientation and cultural competence of new and host communities building on work with agencies such as NIACRO- 20k       | Given the current needs being presented and increase in no of refuge/asylum seekers that officers engage with relevant agencies to allocate monies to orientation programme and associated support.                | SCP to agree that monies be allocated to relevant agency/agencies to provide orientation and support to asylum seekers  |
| BCC7 Shared Community | This will include resourcing for issues identified through relevant groups which focus on vulnerable/interface communities. This can be funnelled through Area Managers, Good Relations Officers and Community Safety Coordinators | In 20/21 SCP had agreed to allocate £1k towards a Workshop for re – energising the East Belfast Tension Monitoring Forum and producing an Action Plan. This was not able to take place due to health restrictions. | Given the time lag and the need to build on recent events in East Belfast, the group would like to host 2 workshops – SCP to agree that the project be allocated up to £1500 from the 21/22 budget. |

### **Request from NI Refugee Resettlement Consortium**

The Partnership was advised that, since December 2015, nearly 2000 individuals had been resettled across Northern Ireland as part of the Vulnerable Person's relocations scheme, now known as the NI Refugee Resettlement Scheme. The scheme had been in operation in Northern Ireland from late 2015, with the arrival of the first Syrian refugees in December of that year. After a pause, due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, resettlement was due to restart in Northern Ireland later in the year.

The Members noted that the arrival of the Syrian refugees had generated a significant expression of goodwill from the NI public with many donations of food and essential household items having been received. The Good Relations Manager advised that, over the last five

years, the Councils had acted collaboratively to contribute to the costs of storing the donations with Kiltonga Christian Centre in Bangor having been identified as an ideal space to collect, hold, sort and distribute the donations that had been received. With resettlement hopefully recommencing, Kiltonga Christian Centre volunteers would again be involved in the arrivals process for new refugees, putting together starter packs, offering support post arrival and providing items which were not provided in their temporary accommodation.

To retain the storage space, the NI Refugee Resettlement Consortium had written to the Council to seeking a donation of £300 towards the operation at Kiltonga Christian Centre. The officer advised that the associated costs could be met from within the annual Good Relations Action Plan (75% of which would be recouped by the Executive Office under the District Council's Good Relations Programme).

Following a query, the Good Relations Manager suggested that a presentation could be made to a future meeting of the Partnership which would seek to provide an overview of the response to the resettlement of refugees and ensuring that its humanitarian responsibilities were being met.

The Partnership recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it assists with cost for the storage of donations relating to the NI Refugee Resettlement Scheme with an award of £300 for 2021/22 and an additional £300 for the 2022/23 financial years.

### **Recruitment of Staff**

Following a query, the Good Relations Manager provided an overview of the number of vacant positions throughout the City and Neighbourhood Services Department. She reported that the Department's recruitment freeze had now been lifted and that recruitment was progressing but noted that it would take time to work through the volume of vacant positions.

In response to a specific query regarding the recruitment of Community Development Officers, the officer undertook to liaise with the Member directly.

Noted.

Chairperson



|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| <b>Subject:</b>           | <b>Response to Consultation on the Justice (Sexual Offences and Trafficking Victims) Bill</b> |
| <b>Date:</b>              | 24th September, 2021  |
| <b>Reporting Officer:</b> | John Walsh, City Solicitor / Director of Legal and Civic Services                             |
| <b>Contact Officers:</b>  | Sarah Williams, Governance and Compliance Manager   |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Restricted Reports</b>                         |   |
| 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"/>  |

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

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| <b>1.0</b> | <b>Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues</b>  |
| 1.1        | The purpose of this report is to bring to the Committee's attention The Justice (Sexual Offences and Trafficking Victims) Bill which was introduced into the Assembly on 5th July 2021. A copy of the Bill can be accessed <a href="#">here</a> .   |
| 1.2        | The Committee Stage of the Bill will commence in September 2021 and the Committee for Justice is seeking comments and/or views on the Bill from interested parties by 24th September. Whilst Council officers have not identified any objections to the Bill nor any evidence that would inform the content of the Bill, it is recommended that the Council submit a brief response recording its support for the provisions of the Bill. |

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| <b>2.0</b> | <b>Recommendations</b>  |
| 2.1        | <p>The Committee is requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• note the attached report summarising the provisions of the Justice (Sexual Offences and Trafficking Victims) Bill; and</li> <li>• approve the attached Council response in paragraph 3.3 below.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>3.0</b> | <b>Main Report</b>  |
| 3.1        | <p><u>Background</u></p> <p>The Justice (Sexual Offences and Trafficking Victims) Bill gives effect to the Justice Minister's desire to improve the operation and effectiveness of the justice system. At its core are two key aims, which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) to enhance public safety by implementing certain elements of the Report of the Gillen review of serious sexual offence cases and from a review of the law on child sexual exploitation and sexual offences against children; and</li> <li>b) to improve services for victims of trafficking and exploitation.</li> </ul>  |
| 3.2        | <p><u>Summary of Main Provisions</u></p> <p>The main provisions within the Bill include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provisions arising from the Gillen Review of serious sexual offence cases to exclude the public from all serious sexual offence hearings and to introduce anonymity for defendants' pre-charge</li> <li>• Provisions to give effect to the outcome of a review of the law on child sexual exploitation and sexual offences against children to include live streamed images in the definition of exploitation for sexual purposes and to create a new offence of adults masquerading as children online</li> <li>• Provisions to create a new offence of up-skirting and down blousing alongside a number of other sex offence adjustments to ensure the law operates as intended in these areas</li> <li>• Provisions to adjust the modern slavery strategy and improve services for potential victims of slavery and exploitation</li> </ul> <p>All of the major components proposed for inclusion in the Bill have been the subject of public consultation exercises while a number of the more technical and procedural improvements were the subject of targeted or specialist consultation.</p> |

|     |  |
|-----|--|
| 3.3 | <p><b><u>Council Response</u></b></p> <p>The Committee for Justice is now seeking comments and/or views on the content of the Bill itself.</p> <p>Officers have not identified any issues with the content of the Bill nor do we have any evidence to submit in relation to the content of the Bill. However, it is proposed that the Council submit the following brief response welcoming the provisions within the Bill.</p> <p><i>“The Council has reviewed the content of the Justice (Sexual Offences and Trafficking Victims) Bill and are supportive of the provisions outlined in the Bill. We particularly welcome the inclusion of live streamed images in the definition of exploitation for sexual purposes and the creation of a new offence of adults masquerading as children online and also welcome the broadening of the definition of the abuse of power definitions, these are long overdue”.</i></p> |
| 3.6 | <p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>There are no financial or resource implications</p>  |
| 3.7 | <p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p> <p>There are no equality, good relations or rural needs assessment implications</p>  |
| 4.0 | <p><b>Documents Attached</b></p>   |
|     | <p>None</p>  |

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## Customer Focus Working Group

Wednesday, 8th September, 2021

### CUSTOMER FOCUS WORKING GROUP MINUTES HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Members present: Councillor Flynn (Chairperson); and  
Alderman Rodgers; and  
Councillors Bunting and Hutchinson.

In attendance: Mrs. R. Crozier, Customer Focus Programme Director;  
Ms. K. Kennedy, Continuous Improvement Project  
Manager (Customer Hub);  
Mr. C. Quinn, Customer Services Manager;  
Mr. P. O'Brien, Digital Portfolio Manager (Solutions);  
Mr. P. Patterson, Digital Development Architect;  
Mr. G. McErlane, Digital Development Architect;  
Mr. A. McMullan, Democratic Services Assistant; and  
Ms K. McCrum, Democratic Services Officer.

#### **Election of Chairperson**

The Working Group noted that it was required to elect a Chairperson for the coming year.

Moved by Alderman Rodgers,  
Seconded by Councillor Bunting and

Resolved – that Councillor Flynn be elected to serve as Chairperson to the Customer Focus Working Group until 31st May, 2022.

#### **Apologies**

No apologies were reported.

#### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 20th May were agreed as an accurate record of proceedings.

#### **Declarations of Interest**

No Declarations of Interest were reported.

#### **Feedback on the App and Photograph Testing**

The Customer Focus Programme Director advised the Working Group that the purpose of the meeting was to obtain feedback on the latest version of the Members' App, which now included the ability to include a photograph with reports, as well as reflect on the blueprint and look at the next steps.

The Digital Development Architect reminded the Working Group that the beta version of the Members' App had been released on 1st August with focused testing sessions held on 17th and 19th August, however, due to summer holidays, testing had been limited. As a result, a 1-page process document had been produced and circulated to the Members, with some further feedback obtained as a result.

The Working Group was presented with the process document whilst a test case was submitted to the App by way of a demonstration. The Digital Development Architect confirmed that there were 2 ways in which to submit a request, either via the main menu or via a quick create button. He added that once a request was categorised, with further details added and then saved, the option to add a photograph would become available. He stated that there was an in-built 30-minute delay between the 2 steps to enable a picture to be uploaded before it was submitted to the Customer Hub. He confirmed that a queuing system was in place for all requests, whether received via the Members' App or via email.

The Members discussed their experience of using the system, with some feeling that the response times were too long and had led to frustration from both Councillors and the public. Others stated that, while they had not used the App extensively, they were pleased with the user experience and response times. A Member suggested that it might take time for these new processes to become established with Elected Members who were used to other methods of communication.

The Customer Focus Programme Director welcomed the feedback which had been provided and reassured the Working Group that staffing resources had stabilised with a full complement of staff now fully trained. She added that meetings had taken place between the Customer Focus team and relevant departments and services to ensure that requests were being dealt with in a timely manner.

She also advised that the Customer Hub was designed to add value to communications between Councillors, the public, and the Council, rather than replace existing relationships. She made reference to feedback that had requested that phone numbers were added to the Members' App to enable direct contact to be made with relevant staff, and stated that further improvements would be made to ensure that the systems were assisting Councillors with their constituency work.

The Customer Services Manager encouraged the Members to contact staff whenever they, or their constituents, experienced problems with the Hub. He advised of imminent changes to the telephony system for customers which would improve their experience, and confirmed that requests were being monitored to ensure that they were being dealt with as efficiently as possible. He also explained that the data from cases was beginning to be used to help teams build up a picture of consistent problems.

Discussion took place regarding the format of certain screens on Apple Phones in comparison to Android phones, and difficulties which had been experienced in closing screens as a result. The Digital Services Team undertook to actively review this issue.

The Chairperson underlined that the Customer Hub's implementation was a process that needed to be worked through with further versions and testing to be welcomed and the Working Group noted the progress that had been made to date.

### **Phase 2 App Launch schedule for all Elected Members**

The Continuous Improvement Project Manager presented the proposed schedule for the roll-out of the latest version of the Members' App, as follows:

- 8th-22nd September; Further testing by the Customer Focus Working Group
- By 23rd September; Feedback to be provided to Digital Services
- End of September; Training video development
- October; Roll out to all Elected Members
- October; Party Group Briefings

The Customer Focus Programme Director advised that this followed the same process as was used during the initial launch, but welcomed suggestions from the Members should they feel that this could be improved upon. She also underlined the importance of feedback on the App to enable the needs of Elected Members to be met.

The Working Group noted the update provided.

### **Review of the Blueprint**

The Continuous Improvement Project Manager presented the Working Group with the Blueprint that had been developed following the initial service design sessions, and asked that the Members review the 3 areas (Information, Issue Management and Resolution, and Insight and Intelligence) in order to highlight any gaps and/or priority areas.

It was agreed that the Information needs remained relevant, and that providing information from other agencies, their responsibilities and relevant contacts should be a key area of focus. Discussion took place regarding how this could be delivered, whether through the Members' Portal or via the App. The Continuous Improvement Project Manager suggested that a specific session on this may be useful in order to explore the most suitable way for this information to be provided, with various solutions to be set out by Digital Services.

With regards to Issue Management and Resolution, she advised that this had been the key focus of the App. The Working Group confirmed that it was content with what had been developed within this section of the programme.

The Working Group was advised that the Insights and Intelligence workstream was in its initial stages, but would continue to progress as data became available and services were educated further about how it could be used for planning and analysis. The Members agreed that this remained an important area of focus.

### **Next Steps**

The Customer Focus Programme Director thanked the Working Group for the feedback that had been provided and asked that any further comments be provided by 23rd September to facilitate the roll out of the next version of the Members' App in early October.

She also advised that dates would soon be issued for Party Group Briefings which would form the next step in the continuing conversation about how the Customer Hub could best serve the needs and priorities of Elected Members, after which a further session would be arranged to define the next steps more clearly, and discuss functionality, accessibility and useability across the various products.

Noted.

Chairperson

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