

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



**Belfast
City Council**

16th November, 2021

MEETING OF THE STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in the Council Chamber and via Teams on Friday, 19th November, 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) Revenue Estimates and District Rate 2022/23 (Pages 1 - 8)
- (b) Financial Reporting – Quarter 2 2021-22 (Pages 9 - 30)
- (c) Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund – Programme Framework and Next Steps (Pages 31 - 62)
- (d) Organisational Reviews and Change Programme (Pages 63 - 70)
- (e) Employees on Temporary Contracts (Pages 71 - 84)
- (f) Review of 2021 Bonfire Approach (Pages 85 - 88)
- (g) Update on Physical Programme (Pages 89 - 94)

3. Matters referred back from Council/Motions

- (a) Motion: Triple Lock Guarantee - Response from HM Treasury (Pages 95 - 100)

4. Governance

- (a) Change of Date of Council Meeting – January, 2022 (Pages 101 - 102)
- (b) Schedule of Meetings 2022 (Pages 103 - 104)

5. Belfast Agenda/Strategic Issues

- (a) Update on Urban Innovation Programme (Pages 105 - 110)
- (b) Review of Belfast Agenda (Engagement Findings and Bringing Focus to Delivery) (Pages 111 - 122)
- (c) Belfast Agenda - Statement of Progress (Pages 123 - 154)

6. Physical Programme and Asset Management

- (a) Assets Management (Pages 155 - 162)
- (b) Update on Area Working Groups (Pages 163 - 174)

7. Finance, Procurement and Performance

8. Equality and Good Relations

- (a) Minutes of Meeting of Shared City Partnership (Pages 175 - 200)

9. Operational Issues

- (a) Minutes of the Meeting of the Party Group Leaders' Consultative Forum (Pages 201 - 206)
- (b) Requests for the use of the City Hall and the Provision of Hospitality (Pages 207 - 210)
- (c) Funding for Changing Places Toilet Facilities – Response from Minister of Finance (Pages 211 - 216)
- (d) Minutes of the Meeting of the Active Belfast Limited Board (Pages 217 - 260)

10. Issues Raised in Advance by Members

- (a) Publication of Information on Members' Attendance at Meetings (Councillor O'Hara to raise)

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Subject:	Motion: Triple Lock Guarantee – Response from HM Treasury
Date:	19th November, 2021
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To consider a response to a motion on the Triple Lock State Pension Guarantee which was passed by the Council at its meeting on 1st September.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to note the response and take such action thereon as may be determined.
3.0	Main Report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	The Council, at its meeting on 1st September, passed the following motion, which had been proposed by Alderman Copeland and seconded by Councillor Hutchinson:

	<p>"As the Chair of the Reference Group on Older People, I am deeply concerned at the consequences for local pensioners, should the Government move to end the State Pension "Triple Lock Guarantee", which was introduced in 2010 to inflation proof the UK state pension.</p> <p>Accordingly, the Council agrees to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, requesting him to honour the "Triple Lock Guarantee", thereby ensuring the real time, real value of the State Pension.</p> <p>The Council is aware of other proposed reforms which may be used to camouflage a diluting of the "State Pension Triple Lock Guarantee". This is not acceptable.</p> <p>The Council also notes the Government's decision to cut the Universal Credit and Working Tax Credit uplift and reiterates its call for the uplift to be retained."</p>
3.2	A response has been received from the Rt. Hon. Simon Clark MP, the Minister responsible for public spending. A copy of the response is attached.
3.3	The Minister begins by pointing out that the Government is committed to ensuring that older people are able to live with the dignity and respect which they deserve and that the State Pension is the foundation of state support for older people.
3.4	He explains that, since 2010, the State Pension has been uprated by the highest of average earnings growth, price inflation or 2.5%, an approach known as the Triple Lock. The full basic State Pension in 2021/22 is, compared to 2010, over £2,050 a year higher in cash terms and over £875 a year higher in real terms.
3.5	He then makes reference to other support available beyond the State Pension, such as Winter Fuel Payments and free eye tests, NHS prescriptions and bus passes. Some pensioners may also qualify for means tested benefits, including Pension Credit and Housing Benefit.
3.6	The Minister explains that, last year, the Government delivered primary legislation to increase State Pensions by 2.5%, at a time when earnings had fallen and price inflation had increased by half a percentage point. If this action had not been taken, State Pensions would have been frozen.
3.7	Due to the effect of the pandemic and furlough on the labour market, reported average wage growth has increased markedly to above 8% which is an anomaly. Increasing pensions by more than 8% this year would be unfair, unsustainable and hugely costly.

3.8	That is, he points out, the reason why the Government is taking the responsible and fair decision to temporarily move to a double lock this year. That means that the State Pension will rise next year by the higher of inflation or 2.5%, thereby ensuring that pensioners are protected against the rising cost of living.
3.9	The Minister confirms that this is a temporary change and will be for one year only and adds that the Government remains committed to implementing the Triple Lock for the remainder of Parliament.
3.10	He then addresses the request within the motion to retain the Universal Credit uplift by stating that the £20 per week increase was always meant to be a temporary measure to support those households whose incomes and earnings were being affected by the economic shock of Covid-19. Extending the uplift permanently would incur a very significant annual cost and would be equivalent in 2022-23 to adding 1p to the basic rate of income tax and 3p to fuel duty.
3.11	He highlights the fact that the Government is, within the welfare system, maintaining the increase to Local Housing Allowance rates for Universal Credit and Housing Benefit in cash terms in 2021-22, which is worth an extra £600 on average for more than 1.5 million households. It is also enabling Universal Credit claimants to retain more of their monthly awards by bringing forward to April 2021 a planned reduction in the deductions cap and an increase in the UC advances repayment period.
3.12	The Government is also maintaining its focus on helping people move back into work. As part of its comprehensive Plan for Jobs, it announced the £2 billion Kickstart scheme, which will create hundreds of thousands of new, fully subsidised jobs for young people, and the new three-year Restart programme, which will provide intensive and tailored support to over one million unemployed Universal Credit claimants across England and Wales and assist them in finding work.
3.13	He adds that the Budget has built on this work by making an additional £126 million available for traineeships in England, increasing the payments for employers who hire new apprentices between April and September 2021 and establishing a £7 million flexi-job apprenticeships fund to enable apprentices to work across different employers, which was launched in August 2021. The National Living Wage was also raised in April, to ensure that the lowest paid workers continue to receive pay rises.
	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>

	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
4.0	Document Attached
	Response from HM Treasury



HM Treasury, 1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ

Henry Downey
Democratic Services Officer
Belfast City Council
Legal and Civic Services Department
City Hall, Belfast
BT1 5GS

22 October 2021
Your ref: HD/JT

Dear Henry,

Thank you for your letter of 15 September to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, about the State Pension uprating and the Triple Lock and Universal Credit (UC). I am replying as the Minister responsible for public spending.

The Government is committed to ensuring that older people are able to live with the dignity and respect they deserve, and the State Pension is the foundation of state support for older people.

Since 2010, the State Pension has been uprated by the highest of average earnings growth, price inflation or 2.5 per cent- an approach known as the Triple Lock. The full basic State Pension in 2021/22 is over £2,050 a year higher in cash terms and over £875 a year higher in real terms compared to 2010.

Support available beyond the State Pension includes: Winter Fuel Payments (which are £200 per household if the oldest person in the household is less than 80 years old, or £300 per household if they are above 80); free eye tests (saving people over State Pension age around £20 each time), NHS prescriptions (which can be worth up to £110 each year depending on qualifying criteria); and free bus passes (typically worth around £120 each year). Some pensioners may also qualify for means tested benefits including Pension Credit and Housing Benefit.

Last year, Government delivered primary legislation to increase State Pensions by 2.5 per cent, when earnings fell and price inflation increased by half a percentage point. If we hadn't taken this action, State Pensions would have been frozen.

Due to the effect of the pandemic and furlough on the labour market, reported average wage growth has increased markedly to above 8 per cent - which is an anomaly. Increasing pensions by more than 8 per cent this year would be unfair, unsustainable and hugely costly.

That is why the Government is taking the responsible and fair decision to temporarily move to a double lock this year. This means the State Pension will rise next year by the higher of inflation or 2.5 per cent - ensuring we are protecting pensioners against the rising cost of living.

This is a temporary change for one year only and the Government remains committed to implementing the Triple Lock for the remainder of the Parliament.

Regarding the request to retain the UC uplift, the £20 per week increase to UC was always meant to be a temporary measure to support households whose incomes and earnings were affected by the economic shock of COVID-19. Extending the uplift permanently would come at a very significant annual cost, equivalent in 2022-23 to adding 1p on the basic rate of income tax, in addition to a 3p increase in fuel duty.

Within the welfare system, the Government is maintaining the increase to Local Housing Allowance rates for UC and Housing Benefit in cash terms in 2021-22, an increase which was worth over an extra £600 on average in 2020-21 for more than 1.5 million households. The Government is also enabling UC claimants to keep more of their monthly awards by bringing forward to April 2021 a planned reduction in the deductions cap and an increase in the UC advances repayment period.

The Government is also maintaining its focus on helping people back into work. As part of our comprehensive Plan for Jobs, we announced the £2 billion Kickstart scheme which will create hundreds of thousands of new, fully subsidised jobs for young people, and the new three year Restart programme, which will provide intensive and tailored support to over one million unemployed UC claimants across England and Wales and help them find work.

The Budget built on this, with an additional £126 million for traineeships in England, an increase in the payments for employers who hire new apprentices between April and September 2021, and the £7 million flexi-job apprenticeships fund to enable apprentices to work across different employers, which was launched in August 2021. We also raised the National Living Wage in April, to ensure the lowest paid continue to receive pay rises.

Thank you for taking the trouble to make me aware of these concerns.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Simon Clarke". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke underneath.

RT HON SIMON CLARKE MP



Subject:	Change of Date of Council Meeting – January, 2022
Date:	19th November, 2021
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor and Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To consider a change to the normal date for the monthly Council meeting in January.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is recommended to agree to move the Council meeting in January from Tuesday, 4th to Monday, 10th January.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The Council's Standing Order 1 states that:</p> <p><i>“Monthly meetings of the Council will be held on the first working day of each month except in August. Monthly Meetings shall not, however, take place on a Bank or Public Holiday, Friday, Saturday or Sunday, but shall be held on the next following weekday instead.”</i></p>

3.2	In previous years, Members have commented that the date scheduled for the monthly meeting of the Council around the New Year holiday period means that some cannot attend due to holiday commitments. The same can be said for officers, some of whom are also on holiday around that time.
3.3	In 2022, the January meeting of the Council is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, 4th, the first working day following the New Year public holidays. There would not be any difficulty in moving this meeting to Monday, 10th January at 6.00 p.m.
3.4	It is, therefore, proposed that the January meeting of the Council should take place on Monday, 10th at 6.00 p.m.
	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u>
3.5	None associated with this report.
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.6	None associated with this report.
4.0	Documents Attached
	None



Subject:	Schedule of Meetings 2022
Date:	19th November, 2021
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To advise the Committee of the dates and times of the meetings of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee between January and December, 2022.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is requested to approve the schedule of meetings, as outlined below, and to agree to the holding of special meetings, if required, to consider the rate-setting process, on dates to be determined by the Chairperson.
3.0	Main Report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	The monthly meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee is normally held at 9.30 a.m. on the 3rd Friday of each month.

3.2	However, it has been necessary on occasions to move some meetings to later in the month.
3.3	Members will also be aware that a special meeting is normally scheduled in January, in case it is required for the consideration of the rate-setting process.
3.4	There is always the possibility that additional meetings may be required. If so, these meetings would have to be arranged at short notice. The Committee is being asked, therefore, to agree to the holding of such meetings on dates and times to be determined in consultation with the Chairperson.
3.5	<p>The following dates have been identified for meetings of the Strategic Policy Committee for the period from January to December, 2022, with a commencement time of 9.30 a.m:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friday, 14th January (Rate setting, if required) • Friday, 21st January • Friday, 18th February • Friday, 25th March • Friday, 15th April • Friday, 20th May • Friday, 17th June • Friday, 19th August • Friday, 23rd September • Friday, 21st October • Friday, 18th November and • Friday, 16th December <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
4.0	Documents Attached
	None



Subject:	Update on Urban Innovation Programme
Date:	19th November, 2021
Reporting Officer:	Ronan Cregan, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resource
Contact Officer:	Deborah Colville, City Innovation Manager Mark McCann, City Innovation programme Lead

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To seek approval for a number of new Smart Belfast initiatives and to provide an update on the work currently underway to review and refresh the Smart Belfast Framework – (to be known as the Urban Innovation Framework) and plans for engagement on that framework with Members and city stakeholders.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is requested to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. note the work underway on a refreshed Urban Innovation framework (2022 to 2027); 2. note the work underway to develop a £30 million Belfast Region City Deal business case to stimulate investment in advanced wireless infrastructure;

	<p>3. grant retrospective approval for a Council-led partner application to the Dept. for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) for a £500,000 Digital Connectivity Infrastructure Accelerator pilot; and</p> <p>4. note the Council's participation in a £400,000 programme with the city of Sejong to develop approaches for international procurement of innovation.</p>
3.0	Main Report
	Smart Belfast Framework Refresh
3.1	Over the past four years, the Council's Smart Belfast programme has encouraged city institutions together on maximising the potential of urban innovation to help tackle major urban challenges while at the same time helping to grow our economy.
3.2	Developed and managed by the Council's City Innovation team, Smart Belfast has attracted over £10 million of investment to Belfast and delivered a range of successful projects with industry, SMEs and our universities. Furthermore, the Smart Belfast approach directly contributed to the design of the £120m Digital pillar of Belfast Region City Deal. And its concept of collaborative urban innovation has shaped the ambition and programme of the city's new innovation partners – Innovation City Belfast (ICB).
3.3	The development of a refreshed Urban Innovation framework is being developed in a changing strategic environment that includes the implications of Covid on the future of the city and its economy and the Council's commitment to addressing the climate emergency. It also sits against a backdrop of the establishment of ICB, the city deal and the opportunities they represent. The aim of the updated framework will be to identify how emerging technological innovation can best contribute to addressing the many urban priorities and challenges that Belfast now faces and lays out the plans for a Smart District within the city to trial and test new ways of working and delivering services.
3.4	The City Innovation Team is currently completing a draft framework which will be presented to Members at the December SPR Committee meeting. Alongside the development the team is delivering a 2-phase approach to an engagement and consultation programme to ensure Members and city stakeholders have the opportunity to inform the framework and its programme of work. Phase 1 is focussing on Members, our 2 Universities and the Belfast Met, public sector departments and industry as the key stakeholders required to make the

	<p>innovation ecosystem work across the city. Phase 2 will be the delivery of a citizen programme to build capacity to co create and co design the future programmes and projects.</p> <p>Stimulating Advanced Wireless investment</p>
3.5	<p>As part of the Belfast Region City Deal Digital programme, the Council is leading on the development of a £30 million proposal aimed at stimulating greater investment in advanced wireless connectivity. The initial geographical focus for investment is the Smart District and central core of the city – but with the aim of creating a successful model that can be scaled to the wider city and region.</p>
3.6	<p>The strategic case for the wireless investment is based on the analysis that the region's innovation, economic and societal ambitions would be greatly enhanced by the widespread availability of next generation wireless connectivity. UK Government's position is that such connectivity is going to be the backbone for areas such as advanced manufacturing, the creative industries, urban mobility, climate adaptation, etc. However, the Government's analysis is that, due a number of barriers, there are likely to be delays in reaching this level of widespread wireless connectivity over the medium term. The development of the proposal for BRCD funding seeks to address a number of these barriers and stimulate more rapid private sector investment.</p>
3.7	<p>The proposal is being facilitated by independent industry consultants, Real Wireless who have now finalised a three-month techno-feasibility study. Based on the positive findings of this study, Real Wireless are now working with Council and its city and regional partners to develop a project business case. A draft of this business case will be presented to Members in February 2022 prior to final submission to BRCD Executive Board and then to the Department for Economy.</p> <p>Digital Connectivity Infrastructure Accelerator (DCIA) Pilot</p>
3.8	<p>In a related strand of work, the Dept. for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has launched a £4 million competition for local councils and regional authorities aimed at mapping public assets that are needed to support the UK's wireless ambitions. (Public assets such as rooftops, street-poles, spare land could all be utilised to support the faster deployment of wireless networks.)</p>
3.9	<p>DCIA will make up to £500,000 available to each participating city for a one-year pilot commencing in January 2022. It will assist partners in mapping the relevant assets and</p>

	developing the policies and procedures to support easier access to them by the wireless industry.
3.10	The Council wishes to lead on a £500,000 bid to the programme (closing date is 18 November 2021) with partner support from Land and Property Services (Ordnance Survey NI), Lisburn and Castlereagh, Ards and North Down, and Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Councils, the Department for Infrastructure and the Department for the Economy.
3.11	The expectation is that the learning from the pilot will support local councils regarding the policies and procedures in relation to asset management and planning; and will directly inform the development of our Advanced Wireless proposition to the City Deal described in the item above.
3.12	Given the short timeframe (closing date for applications 18 November) and the complexity of a multi-partner bid, Members are asked to retrospectively approve a Council led submission to the programme. And retrospectively approve the commissioning of consultants, Perform Green, to support partners on development of the bid.
	Accelerating Research and Innovation between UK and Global cities.
3.13	The Council's City Innovation team have been working with Connected Places Catapult on a £400,000 proposal to the Department for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) to develop pilots that will generate opportunities for bilateral trade and investment in innovation between the UK and other global cities. Belfast has been offered the opportunity to link with Sejong, South Korea's leading 'Smart City'. Established in 2008 its population has grown to over 200,000 and is expected to double again in the next decade. It is associated with significant world-leading technologies and industries and offers Belfast companies the opportunity to build their experience in international trade and to tap into global leading innovative technologies.
3.14	As part of the programme, we will develop a common best practice playbook for innovative procurement aimed at supporting SMEs between Belfast and global cities to accelerate commercialisation and routes to market for research and innovation.
3.15	Working with Connected Places Catapult (CPC), the UK Science and Innovation Network (SIN), and Innovate UK, the programme builds on Smart Belfast programme's experience in

	such areas as Small Business Research Initiatives, Collaborative Growth Networks and Collaborative Innovation Agreements.
3.16	The city will also deliver a £200,000 challenge competition to encourage local SMEs to provide an opportunity for their innovative ideas and products to be exported to the other city. The practical learning of this element will inform and be informed by the emerging playbook. Led by the City Innovation Team local Belfast partners include the Economic Development Team, Invest NI, dept for Economy and our two local universities.
3.17	Regular senior level meetings are being scheduled with Belfast and Sejong to explore further the opportunities for collaboration on areas and projects of interest such as zero carbon, marine, automotive and aerospace and knowledge sharing on reg tech and regulatory sandboxes. An MOU will also be developed between the cities to set out expectations and joint ways of working for the pilot programme.
	Financial and Resource Implications
3.18	The maximum £29,600 budget to commission consultants to support the DCIA has been identified in the existing City Innovation team budget.
	Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment
3.19	None
4.0	Documents Attached
	None

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Subject:	Review of Belfast Agenda (Engagement Findings and Bringing Focus to Delivery)
Date:	19th November, 2021
Reporting Officer:	John Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy
Contact Officer:	Kevin Heaney, Portfolio Manager Jamie Uprichard, Community Planning Officer

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

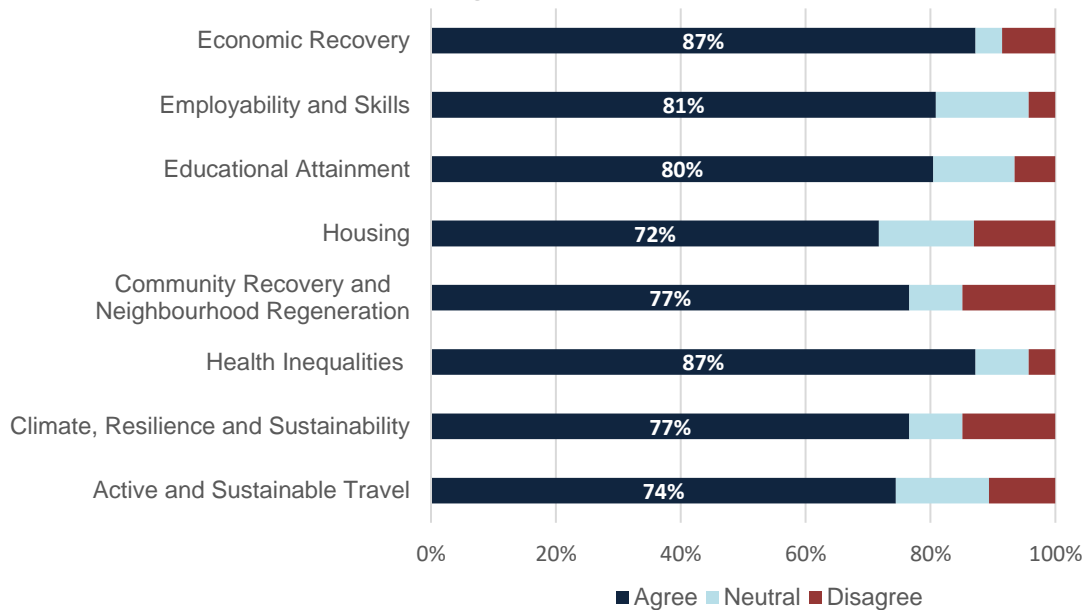
Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on the emerging findings from the Continuing the Conversation engagement programme to date and outline the proposed approach for taking them forward during the next stage in the review of the Belfast Agenda which seeks to co-design underpinning delivery plans with a focus of collaborative gain.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. consider the emerging findings and recommendations from the initial phase of the Continuing the Conversation Engagement programme outlined in section 3.7;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. note the proposed approach, structure and timeline for the development of the refreshed Belfast Agenda Strategy document and supporting four-year Delivery Action Plans in section 3.8; iii. note the plans for continued Elected Member engagement, including the date and time for the forthcoming meeting of the All-Party Working Group on Community Planning, detailed in section 3.9; and iv. note the delivery and timetabling for the 2021 Belfast Residents' Survey.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	The Committee, at its meeting on 18th June, received a report on the Continuing the Conversation engagement programme, the initial phase of which revisited the priorities to deliver the vision, outcomes and ambitions in the Belfast Agenda, seeking stakeholder views on what the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) should focus on over the period 2022-26.
3.2	A range of engagement tools were utilised including an online survey, call for evidence, idea generation and comments and suggestion tool. It was recognised that the lockdown highlighted and intensified the digital divide that exists within the city and as a result shorter paper-based surveys were developed and distributed by Libraries NI across the network of 18 libraries in the Greater Belfast area and the council's 28 community centres. The views of communities were obtained via five independently facilitated workshops sought to understand what the priorities looked like in all areas and for all communities in Belfast.
3.3	<p><u><i>Feedback from Engagement Workshops</i></u></p> <p>A total of 130 participants from 63 organisations attended the events and told us what the priorities meant for them and their community. The workshops also provided an opportunity to check that the long-term vision and outcomes are still relevant and meaningful. Participants were asked to respond to a simple poll and provided clear support that these should remain unchanged.</p> <p>Responding to the question, 'Are the vision and outcomes still very relevant, fairly relevant, or no longer relevant', 57% felt they were still very relevant, 40% felt they were fairly relevant and 3% of respondents felt that the visions and outcomes are no longer relevant.</p>

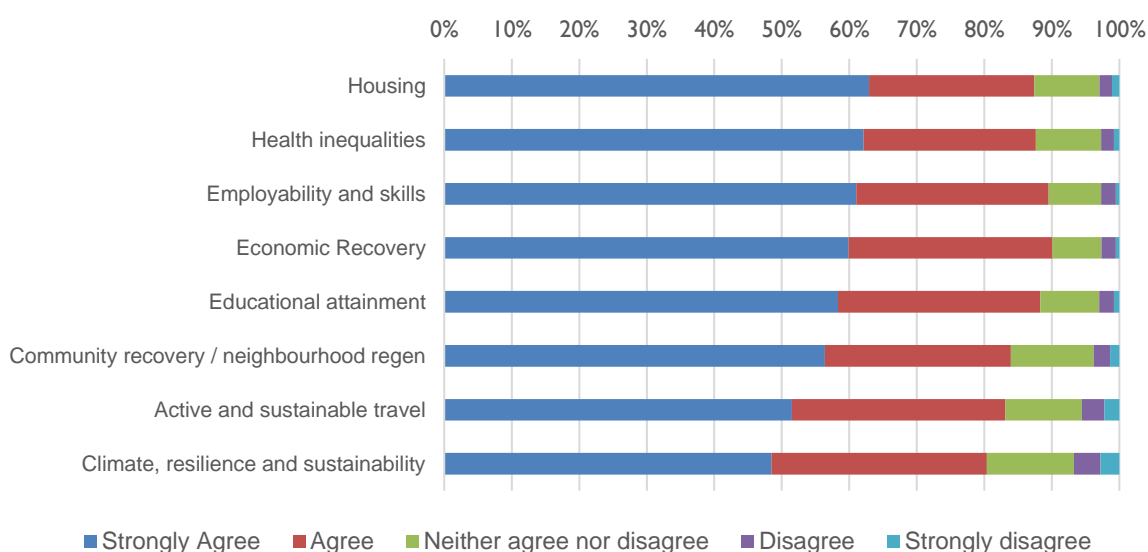
3.4	<p>The main substantive discussion of the workshops focussed on the priority themes which had been introduced and explained during the session. The discussion was structured in two parts, asking participants questions on the priorities and what they mean for their communities. Feedback from participants suggests that the emergent priorities are a valid framework to progress to the action planning phase; although some proposed priorities that they felt were missing, or highlighted areas which they felt needed to be made a priority in its own right. Additionally, feedback was received on underpinning considerations, the community planning process, implementation, evaluation, and governance.</p> <p><u><i>Feedback from Online and Paper-based Surveys</i></u></p> <p>A subgroup of CPP partners agreed a survey instrument to enable stakeholders including the wider public to provide more detailed views on the vision, outcomes and priorities. The online survey received 50 responses, which ran from 09 June until 30 September 2021. Almost 7 out of 10 people agreed or strongly agreed with the current vision. Respondents also agreed that our outcomes are broadly correct (ranging from 53% to 72%). However, given the written comments, it would appear that some people based their opinion on how well they felt Belfast was meeting these outcomes as opposed to their relevance.</p> <p>Respondents were further supportive of the proposed priority themes with high levels of agreement (ranging between 72% and 87%) that these themes should be the areas of focus for community planning during the period 2022 -26. The chart below depicts the percentage of respondents who either agreed or disagreed with these priorities. Analysing the strength of opinion, the priorities which attracted the highest levels of agreement included Health Inequalities, Economic Recovery and Employability and Skills.</p>
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To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following priority themes



A total of 385 completed paper-based surveys were received from libraries (214) and community centres (171). This channel provided a more limited opportunity for the public to provide in-depth views, however it provided an opportunity to capture the public's perception of the long-term vision and outcomes and was also an effective means of capturing further views of the individual priorities. Over 75% of respondents (n=364) agreed with the current vision for Belfast; and 81% of respondents (n=368) agreed that the current outcomes are still relevant. Similar to the survey on Your Say Belfast, the majority of respondents agreed with and supported the identified priorities.

Do you agree or disagree that the following priorities should be priorities for the next 4 years?



Again, most respondents to the paper-based surveys agreed that Health Inequalities, Economic Recovery and Employability and Skills were the top-ranking priorities. The strongest level of support (i.e. the percentage of respondents who strongly agreed) were for the Housing priority.

3.5

Call for evidence

A range of information was received as part of a call for evidence, including:

- A 10x Economy, Northern Ireland's Decade of Innovation (Department for Economy)
- A Fair Start, Final Report and Action Plan (Expert Panel on Educational Underachievement in Northern Ireland)
- Equality Can't Wait / Build Homes Now! Campaign (PPR)
- Looking to the Future (Healthy North Belfast)
- Belfast: A Learning City, Holyland and Wider University Area Strategic Study (Louise Browne Associates)
- Reset for Growth, A report by the Belfast Innovation and Inclusive Growth Commission
- Building Resilience and Embedding Wellbeing in West Belfast Strategic Plan
- Correspondence from Lower Oldpark Community Association
- Correspondence from West Belfast Partnership Board

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Belfast Agenda Board Workshop Reports <p>This information will be considered and addressed by convening leads, who will be responsible for leading the development of the supporting action plans (see section 3.8).</p>
3.6	<p><u><i>Specific Engagement with Older People and Children and Young People</i></u></p> <p>The co-design subgroup identified older people, children and young people as specific cohorts to be directly engaged. Officers attended meetings of the Healthy Ageing Strategic Partnership (22/09/21) and the G6 / Greater Belfast Seniors Forum (12/08/21) and posed similar questions to those asked during the engagement workshops. The main findings are listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addressing health inequalities and access to health services were cited as the most pressing issues for many older people, particularly the increasing waiting lists for non-Covid related operations and procedures. • Loneliness and Isolation were highlighted as significant issues for older people in relation to access to the city centre and opportunities to re-engage socially. It was felt that this had a direct impact on mental health. <p>In addition, community planning officers designed a programme of engagement to obtain the views of children and young people, using several interactive activities to help understand what matters most to them. These activities took place during late September and October to enable access to the school environment. Engagement events took place with training providers (Workforce Training, BCTNI), sports clubs (Tullycarnet FC, Grove Jujitsu, Belfast Phoenix Basketball Club) and schools (Hazelwood Integrated College, Belfast Model School for Girls, Strathearn School). The analysis of captured data is still ongoing, however figure 1 below, shows a summary of comments which received significant support (through likes/upvotes):</p>

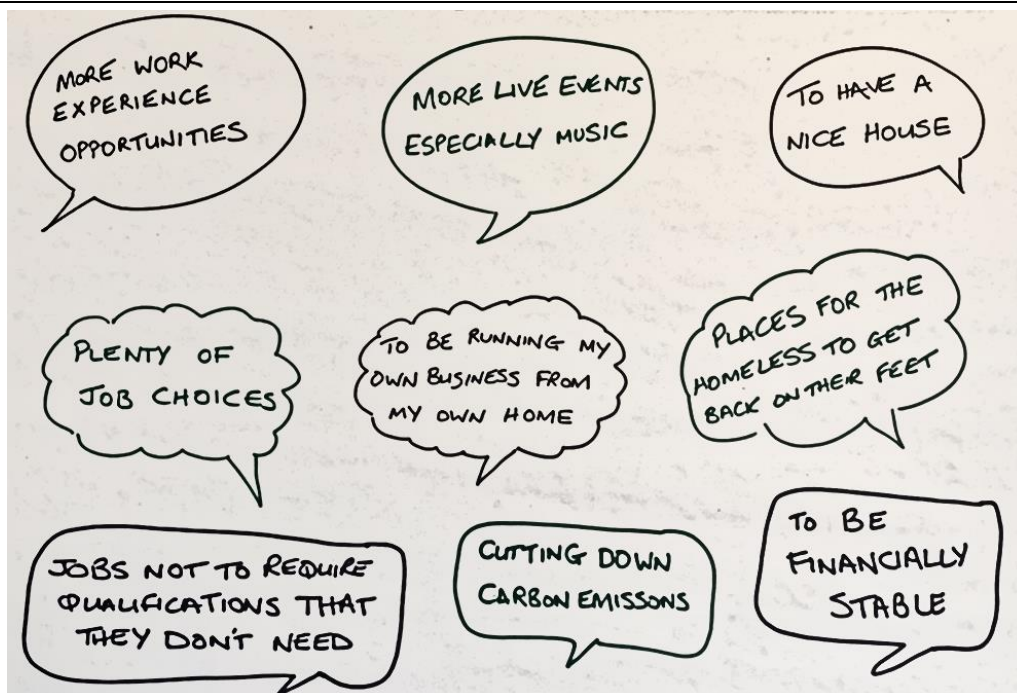


Figure 1: Sample statements from engagement with children and young people which received strong support

3.7

Emerging Findings and Recommendations

Following analysis of all evidence captured during the engagement programme to date, a number of emerging findings include:

- Terminology – Many respondents stated that many of the terms used in the consultation narrative and stated priorities needed further clarification. For example, many agreed that the definition of ‘economic recovery’ needs refined and questioned whether this was a desired outcome rather than a priority.
- Active and Sustainable Travel – Many stakeholders suggested that this issue was wider than just travel. Rather, it should be considered wider to incorporate the transport system and connectivity issues within the city.
- Community recovery and neighbourhood regeneration – Respondents also queried the definition of this priority theme, seeking clarification of what was trying to be achieved and how success would be measured. In addition, it was also suggested that regeneration could be a single citywide priority considered to address physical development, infrastructure, dereliction/vacant sites.
- Addressing Poverty – Several participants expressed concern about families and older people who were struggling with poverty (e.g. food poverty, fuel poverty).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Measuring Success – Many participants expressed a clear desire to develop targets and indicators in order to measure progress against the priorities. <p>It is recommended that each of the above findings are considered and taken forward by identified internal convening leads and in liaison with relevant partners. The emerging considerations, refinements and proposals will be brought back and considered by Members as part of phase 2 of the BA Review process. It is suggested that the wider issue of measuring success is supplemented by creating a new project on Your Say Belfast to enable stakeholders to have their say on the current Belfast Agenda population indicators.</p>
3.8	<p><u><i>Bringing Focus to Delivery - Phase 2 Action Planning</i></u></p> <p>Phase 2 will focus on co-designing specific action plans aligned to the agreed strategic priorities. The activities detailed within these supporting delivery plans will take account and be tested against the principles for action planning (see attached).</p> <p>Any emerging action plans will also take account of the experiences and lessons emerging from the Covid-19 pandemic and what can be achieved through real collaboration and co-delivery. The ambition is to adopt a pragmatic approach to developing consolidated action plan(s) which draw out those specific interventions which are identified as an urgent priority and whereby community planning can make a significant difference/ impact.</p> <p>It is important to recognise that as we reassess the key challenges and opportunities facing the city, we are not starting from a blank sheet. Consideration will also be given to a range of inputs which will inform our planning (e.g. the emerging findings and outputs from phase 1; continuing work and commitments from current programmes of work; and recent Belfast Agenda Board action planning workshops). The community planning team are currently undertaking initial work to provide a baseline position. It is also important that we engage with communities and city stakeholders at the right stage and with the input and involvement of statutory and other delivery partners to ensure we secure balance between ambition and what is possible to develop realistic and deliverable plans.</p> <p>Building on this initial scoping work, it is proposed that convening leads are identified for each priority area to take forward planning involving a core set of community planning and relevant partners. Consideration will be given to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic intent / outcomes – what we are trying to achieve? Measuring success – what would success look like / potential targets Actions – core set of actions/ interventions (what, who, when)

Figure 2 below outlines an indicative timeline for phase 2, highlighting individual milestones and ensuring the action plans are developed by the original deadline of end of March 2022.



Figure 2: Action Plan development timeline.

3.9 Engagement with Elected Members

Following the all-Member workshop on 3rd September, it is proposed that we adopt a rolling programme of engagement going forward, including the All-Party Working Group on Community Planning, Party Group Briefings and Area Working Groups. On that basis, a meeting of the All-Party Working Group on Community Planning will be scheduled for early December.

The meeting will provide an initial opportunity to contribute to the action planning phase and also input to the review of the Belfast Agenda Outcomes framework that will provide a sense as to whether the outcomes are being achieved. A featured project has also been added to the Belfast Agenda Review Hub on Your Say Belfast where elected members can also continue the conversation.

3.10 Belfast Residents' Survey 2021

Since 1999, the Council has undertaken a regular residents' survey to help inform strategic planning and performance management. Following the introduction of community planning, the survey is now also used to track progress against the Belfast Agenda and to inform city priorities. The survey provides statistically reliable perception data based on a representative sample of Belfast residents. It provides a robust evidence base to inform strategic planning and service improvement as well as helping support the council's statutory duty to consult under the Local Government (NI) Act 2014. The last survey was undertaken in early 2019. While we normally undertake the survey every two years, it was delayed this year due to the Covid pandemic. The methodology for the 2021 Survey has also been changed to a telephone survey to reflect the current environment with the pandemic. Telephone numbers including mobile numbers are obtained using recognised European and UK research standards and meet data protection.

	<p>Following a quotation exercise, we appointed Social Market Research (SMR) to carry out the survey. A minimum of 1,500 people (aged 16+) will be interviewed from across all DEAs and electoral wards. Quotas are applied to ensure those completing the survey are representative of the population of Belfast. We have included a notice on our website about the survey and have informed the PSNI; those undertaking the interviewing will also provide BCC contacts details should residents require reassurance as to the legitimacy of the caller.</p> <p>The fieldwork will be carried out between 11th November and 11th December 2021, and we anticipate brining key findings to Committee in January 2022. The survey, which has been adapted as necessary to reflect the Covid-19 pandemic, will provide feedback from residents on the following matters:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living in Belfast • Your local area • Your wellbeing • Belfast City Council
3.11	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>Any financial implications arising from this report will be covered from existing budgets. The review process will involve the participation of all community planning partners, who will need to commit their resources to the review process and the agreed action plans.</p>
3.12	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>It is recommended that the consultation and engagement activities to review the Belfast Agenda will take account of the draft Audit of Inequalities and include specific sessions with targeted harder to reach groups to ensure that equality implications are considered as part of the review process.</p>
4.0	Document Attached
	Agreed principles of community planning (action planning)

Guiding Principles for Community Planning (Action Plans)

✓ Adding Clear Value	We can achieve significant gains by collaborating across our partnership and sectors in a way we cannot through our existing single agency or thematic 'business as usual'.
✓ Impact for Belfast's people, place, economy	The work we deliver together will be felt in practical ways by individuals, families, communities, residents and businesses in Belfast, delivering tangible outcomes.
✓ With Belfast's Communities	The work we do will fully engage Belfast's residents, communities and businesses, building on their strengths and ensuring their voice is central to planning and delivery. We will work 'with and alongside' our Communities, not 'To or For' them.
✓ Intelligence led priorities and action	We will focus our collaboration on the things that data, evidence and community insights tell us matter most to Belfast and we will deliver together in ways that evidence tells us will make a real difference.
✓ Resourcing	Delivery will require joint resourcing and effort, (i.e. staff time, services or investment). Should be a leadership commitment to jointly resource the initiative.

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Subject:	Belfast Agenda - Statement of Progress
Date:	19th November, 2021
Reporting Officer:	John Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy
Contact Officer:	Kevin Heaney, Portfolio Manager Brian Carr, Portfolio and Programme Coordinator Jamie Uprichard, Community Planning Officer

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on the development and publication of a Belfast Agenda Statement of Progress in November 2021, which is a legislative requirement for the Council and its community planning partners.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is requested to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. note the statutory requirement for the Council and its community planning partners to publish a second Statement of Progress in November 2021; ii. note the process of engagement and input from community planning partners which has led to the development of the Statement of Progress;

	<p>iii. approve the draft Statement of Progress, as attached; and</p> <p>iv. agree that the Statement of Progress be published in compliance with legislative requirements, with any revisions made by the Committee being included.</p>
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Members will be aware that The Local Government Act (NI) 2014 requires the Council and its community planning partners to make arrangements to monitor progress against meeting the objectives of the Belfast Agenda and the effectiveness of the actions taken in aiming to achieve these objectives. The legislation also requires the Council to publish a report (Statement of Progress) assessing progress towards the outcomes and actions taken every two years.
3.2	The second statement of progress is due to be published by the end of November 2021. In recognition of the pressures which local Councils, and community planning partners, have faced over last 18-24 months in responding to Covid-19 the Department for Communities have indicated that they are content that Community Planning Partnerships adopt a light touch approach when producing their statement of progress reports.
3.3	Nevertheless, the statement of progress provides an opportunity for partners to update the public on the actions that have been undertaken or are ongoing through the community planning process. In addition, it demonstrates the impact of such actions on communities and local people as well as their contribution to the achievement of the ambitions and outcomes outlined in the Belfast Agenda.
3.4	The draft statement of progress (SOP) has been developed in association with and input from all community planning partners and highlights a number of case studies and noteworthy achievements showcasing the work of partners over the last 24 months including responding to the Covid-19 pandemic. It should be noted that any additional feedback received on the draft SOP will be reflected in the document prior to publication.

3.5	While the Covid-19 pandemic has adversely impacted many of the targets and further widened inequalities in the city, there are several successes worth communicating to the public. It also helps identify key challenges and opportunities facing the city and helps shape the focus of refreshed Belfast Agenda.
3.6	The key elements of the statement of progress (in line with DfC guidance) include a restatement of the vision, a short narrative provided on what our long-term outcomes are trying to achieve and why they are important; recent data for our population indicators which provide a sense of progress towards the outcomes; and an update on the collaborative actions being progressed by the Partnership. A summary of the key highlights and achievements delivered over the past two years is set out of pages 6-7 of the attached Statement of Progress.
3.7	It is important to note that there has been positive engagement with Elected Members through the Belfast Agenda Members' Reference Group and the recent Members' workshop (3 September 2021) on the refresh of the Belfast Agenda. This engagement has highlighted early consensus around important city challenges which will provide priority areas for collaborative focus with city partners as outlined in the SOP.
3.8	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> There are no additional resource implications as a result of this report. Alignment of resources to the delivery of the Belfast Agenda is part of the ongoing organisational and financial planning processes.
3.9	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment</u> There is no equality, good relations or rural need implications in this report.
4.0	Document Attached
	Statement of Progress (November 2021)

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WORKING DRAFT

V.03 – November. 2021

The Belfast Agenda

Statement of Progress
2019-2021



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Foreword from Belfast's Community Planning and city partners

The Belfast Agenda, the city's first community plan, was created by Belfast City Council in partnership with its community planning partner organisations and published in November 2017.

This document outlines the work that we have undertaken since the publication of our previous statement of progress in 2019. This second phase delivery period has coincided with the COVID-19 pandemic. Belfast's response to the COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated how much partnership working has been aided by the community planning process. The collective leadership of community planning partners alongside grass-roots community organisations, working together, has never been more important. These relationships should be sustained.

During the initial stages of the pandemic, all partner organisations focused on ensuring the continued delivery of critical services to residents and businesses across the city. As restrictions eased, we all worked to ensure residents' safety, health and wellbeing; and our city's economic recovery by re-opening key services and supporting businesses to re-open safely.

As the effects of the pandemic come to light, we continue to work to understand how our city economy and communities are likely to be impacted by COVID-19, and what we need to focus on to rebuild in the coming months and years. The pandemic is not over, and we will need to sustain our efforts to protect citizens' safety and health, while at the same time balancing the need to re-open our city economy where it is safe to do so. The Community Planning Partnership, alongside other key partnerships and organisations will continue to deliver on the Belfast Agenda ambitions, albeit through the lens of these new challenges.

We will work collaboratively to regenerate our city; to achieve resilient and inclusive recovery; to explore how Belfast can be repositioned to protect and grow the regional economy; and to develop an investment proposition which benefits our people. We will proactively engage with our communities to identify local challenges, priorities and opportunities and co-design interventions and programmes that will deliver improved outcomes for people living in Belfast.

This Statement of Progress outlines the latest stage of our journey as a partnership to deliver the Belfast Agenda ambitions and priorities and the future direction of travel we are collectively committed to. As part of this journey, we are currently reviewing the Belfast Agenda and will publish the refreshed plan in spring 2022.

Community planning and city partners



The Belfast Agenda and the community planning process is a significant catalyst for the city, bringing together partner organisations, regional government departments and agencies, the council and local communities to work collaboratively to deliver our shared vision. It's about creating real, sustainable improvements in people's wellbeing and quality of life in our city.

“Our Vision for Belfast in 2035...”

Belfast will be a city re-imagined and resurgent. A great place to live and work for everyone. Beautiful, well connected and culturally vibrant, it will be a sustainable city shared and loved by all its citizens, free from the legacy of conflict. A compassionate city offering opportunities for everyone. A confident and successful city energising a dynamic and prosperous city region. A magnet for talent and business and admired around the world. A city people dream to visit. ”

Our ambitions

There are many things that we need to do to make our vision a reality. We've set ourselves four very bold ambitions to be achieved by 2035 - our progress against these longer-term targets is detailed below.



We've created an additional 6,369 jobs in the city.

The city's population has increased by 3,653 people.

The life expectancy gap between the most and least deprived areas has increased for both males (10.5) and females (7.6).

94.7 per cent of school leavers entered further or higher education, employment or training.

Focusing on outcomes

Residents and city partners identified five key outcomes they want to achieve by 2035 working together.

Belfast will be a city...



A collaborative city leadership model

The Belfast Community Planning Partnership (CPP) was established in February 2018 with a shared aim to improve the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of our communities and all citizens.

With a focus on delivering outcomes, investment and improvements across the city, four thematic delivery boards have been established to drive collaboration across sectors and partners and deliver the agreed priorities of the CPP.



Each delivery board has the ability to form task and finish groups to give focus and drive forward specific priority areas, seek to problem solve, innovate and develop focused action plans.

Connecting with the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector

Recognising Belfast's vibrant and active voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector, and to further strengthen the sector's involvement in the community planning process, a new pioneering **VCSE Sectoral Advisory Panel** was established in spring 2020.

The Panel comprises 15 representatives, drawn from Belfast's large and diverse voluntary, community and social enterprise sector, reflecting a spread of themes, areas of the city, and large and small organisations.

Its aims are:

- to ensure that the sector's voices are represented in the community planning process
- to develop and improve cross sectoral relationships and partnerships
- to promote effective community engagement

Whilst formally established in spring 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Panel came together virtually for the first time in June 2020 and has worked continuously since.

On 30 November 2020, the Panel held its inaugural Community Conference, 'Putting Community Wellbeing at the Heart of Community Planning'. Delivered virtually, the conference provided the opportunity for 150 delegates to hear about the Panel's work, learn from community wellbeing approaches in Scotland and Wales, and to discuss implications for the community planning process in Belfast.



The Panel is currently organising a second conference which will take place in November 2021 and has started a programme of sectoral engagement sessions with the wider third sector on a range of thematic areas including health and wellbeing, the environment and education and training.

Delivering together

Since publishing the Belfast Agenda Statement of Progress in November 2019, together we delivered successful outcomes in several important areas.



Jobs, skills and education

Connecting people to opportunities



- Provided 7,000 digital devices to pupils in Belfast to support home learning during the Covid-19 pandemic
- Launched a citywide GCSE revision programme to provide support to 365 young people per academic year
- Implemented a citywide Youth Support Programme to help 180 young people each year who are at risk of dropping out of the education system
- Maintained our membership of the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities and received an award recognising our good practice in promoting quality education and lifelong learning opportunities
- Delivered a wide range of employment academies and interventions to connect residents with new or better employment opportunities
- Established Belfast's first ever Labour Market Partnership to help improve employability outcomes and connect employers with employees
- Developed a bespoke City Charter for Belfast – The Belfast Business Promise – to support the city's inclusive growth ambitions
- Delivered five emergency recovery schemes, distributing £22.5m to 2,906 Belfast businesses during the pandemic
- Provided over £175m to Belfast businesses, helping to secure £1.048 billion investment and helping to create 8,349 jobs
- Supported 2,255 individuals to take positive steps towards starting a business or social enterprise with 1,029 individuals going on to start a business or social enterprise, creating 683 jobs
- Continued to progress a £850 million Belfast Region City Deal for investment in important city infrastructure, digital innovation and tourism assets which will create up to 20,000 new jobs

Living here

Making life better for all our residents



- Established a Belfast Response Hub to support vulnerable people during the pandemic which delivered 110,000 food parcels - 9,300 medicines; 1,300 resilience packs; and handled 15,000 helpline calls
- Provided support to over 300 vulnerable households across the city through the Belfast Warm and Well Programme
- Established a multi-agency partnership programme to support Belfast's most vulnerable and disengaged people
- Invested £75m in 40 capital projects in neighbourhoods across the city
- Invested £82.4m in six new world-class leisure facilities across the city
- Built 537 new social homes across the city (1391 since publishing the Belfast Agenda)
- Developed plans for a new £8m neighbourhood regeneration fund to drive recovery and transformation in local areas and communities
- Established a multi-agency support hub pilot project in south Belfast, designed to support vulnerable people experiencing a range of problems, which may lead to offending, affect personal safety or mental health
- Progressing the Belfast Peace IV Programme

Delivering together

Since publishing the Belfast Agenda Statement of Progress in November 2019, together we delivered successful outcomes in several important areas.



City development

Creating an attractive, vibrant and connected city



- Delivered a £4.39m revitalisation programme to support businesses, communities, and residents to make better use of public space during the pandemic
- Established a housing led Regeneration group to contribute to the target of welcoming an additional 66,000 residents and address housing stress in Belfast
- Developed Belfast's Local Development Plan
- Secured endorsement of the "A Bolder Vision" City Centre Connectivity Strategy
- Progressed plans for a major city centre tourist attraction, the 'Destination Hub'.
- Worked with partners to manage the impact of the Primark fire on the city centre
- Transformed and rejuvenated seven of Belfast's unique historical entries and lanes, protecting our built environment and heritage
- Established a Renewed Ambition programme to ensure Belfast is better positioned to attract investment and deliver inclusive growth commitments
- Established the Innovation City Belfast partnership to drive forward our plans to make Belfast a global destination of choice for innovation and investment

Resilience and sustainability

Creating a sustainable and climate friendly city



- Developed a city leadership model and structures to help a range of partners focus on the resilience and climate challenges facing Belfast.
- Established a climate crisis working group involving councillors in Belfast City Council and a Climate Commission to enhance civic and city leadership in tackling the climate crisis
- Developed the Belfast Resilience Strategy and the Belfast Net Zero Carbon Roadmap to help shape city plans and green investment
- Started delivery of the 'One Million Trees Programme' with 40,000 trees planted in year one and £500,000 funding secured
- Completed an assessment of air quality and identified measures needed to make air quality improvements across the city
- Enhanced access for communities and families to open green spaces to improve mental and physical wellbeing and enable social interaction
- Worked with partners through the Core Cities Climate Investment Platform and through the Place Based Climate Action Network to look at climate financial solutions and establish how we move to net zero emissions as a city
- Developed proposals with input from partners to create a Climate Fund within Belfast City Council

Supporting our communities during the Covid-19 Pandemic

The past year has been incredibly challenging for everyone around the world. Covid-19 has brought new challenges for our health, for society and for the economy. Individuals, communities and Belfast's community planning partners have pulled together – promoting public health guidance and restrictions, adapting services for an ever-changing environment and supporting each other during this difficult and unprecedented time.

Belfast has demonstrated its resilience and ability to adapt and respond to major challenges in a flexible and cohesive way during these testing times - evidenced by the significant response provided to support our most vulnerable citizens during the initial lockdown period.

Supporting communities and vulnerable people

Our resilient communities were first to respond to the pandemic and have once again shown the strength of the sector in challenging times.

Working with the Department for Communities and a wide range of community, voluntary and statutory partners, we established a Belfast Response Hub on 31 March 2020 to provide essential support for our most vulnerable residents during the pandemic. The Ulster Hall became a food distribution hub and we established a remote customer helpline and contact centre.



Key achievements:

- 110,000 food parcels distributed
- 15,000 calls handled by the council's and community run helplines
- 9,300 prescription pick-ups and medicine deliveries
- 1,300 resilience packs provided
- Over £1.6 million + funding provided to over 280 local community and voluntary organisations to support vulnerable people and families and assist with community recovery
- £6 million council grants programmes delivered to ensure important support services and programmes continued across the city

"Thank you so very much for helping us access support when we had nowhere else to turn to. You were very effective in making things happen. We just can't thank you enough." (Belfast resident)

Supporting the business community

Working collaboratively across government and with our business community, we delivered a series of support measures and recovery plans to protect Belfast businesses, jobs and employees. Community planning partners mobilised together to raise awareness of the support available – resulting in Invest NI's Business Support Team handling over 35,500 telephone calls in 2020-21, a 600% increase on a standard year, and dealing with almost 11,000 specific email enquiries.

At the end of the 2020-21 financial year, Invest NI had supported the NI Executive to deliver five emergency recovery schemes, distributing £22.5 million to 2,906 businesses in the Belfast City Council area.

Covid-19 Revitalisation Programme

We worked with government, business and community partners to design and deliver a £4.39 million investment programme, enabling a range of economic, cultural and physical interventions to support businesses, communities and residents during the pandemic and to make better use of public space in the city.

Interventions included:

- City parklets to improve outdoor spaces and enhance the city living experience for residents
- Enhancing Belfast Bikes with a fleet of 450 new smart bikes, allowing people access to a more efficient, sustainable mode of transport and encouraging people to experience the city in a new way
- Delivery of Business Cluster and Community Grants schemes
- Collaborative city centre projects including: Castle Place Hub, Adelaide Street parklet and public realm scheme, connectivity scheme in Church Lane area and the Cathedral Gardens Active Travel Hub



Adding value

‘At this early stage of development, community planning and the Belfast Agenda has helped enhance how city partners work together, challenging organisational silos and developing new collaborative solutions to local priorities. With a focus on addressing some of the acute issues facing people in our city, there are already some exemplars of movement and success. The following section provides an overview of the added value being created through community planning.



Improving health and wellbeing

The Community Planning Partnership is determined to work in collaboration to create a healthier city, recognising the significant impact of the pandemic on widening existing inequalities. During the pandemic, the pace of integration across partners accelerated, with a reinforced commitment and energy to collaborate to make a difference. Because of this work, we have initiated the following:

Belfast Warm and Well

“This has changed our lives, we are so much warmer than before, we were delighted with the service and the new system.” (elderly Belfast couple)

Led by the Health and Social Care Board Local Commissioning Group, with support from a consortium of partners including the Public Health Agency (PHA), Belfast Health Development Unit, Belfast City Council, National Energy Action (NEA) and many community and voluntary organisations across the city, the Belfast Warm and Well initiative helps local people struggling to keep their home warm through advice, practical support, and discretionary financial assistance and seeks to address avoidable winter deaths.

The project was developed using good practice, based on NHS National Institute of Clinical Excellence (NICE) quality standards for helping people at risk of avoidable death or ill-health during the winter. Information on fuel poverty, health conditions and age were provided by partners and combined to provide targeted support to those most in need.

Support in 2020/21 included:

- Referrals increased by 107% (on previous year) in the year two of the project (2020/21), which saw two pilot areas extended to the whole city
- Over 300 vulnerable households have benefited from support to date
- 265 home assessments were completed for those living in cold and damp conditions to identify to energy efficiency measures

Partners are committed to the eventual eradication of fuel poverty in Belfast and we are working closely with government and city partners to bring forward short-term interventions and support (e.g. through the affordable warmth scheme, home insulation, financial support and advice services) to support those individuals and families in need. We are seeking to inform, shape and accelerate important new emerging strategies such as the Energy and Fuel Poverty strategies to be brought forward by NI Executive departments. There will be a continued commitment and shared focus by the community planning partners on this initiative going forward.

Supporting vulnerable people with complex lives

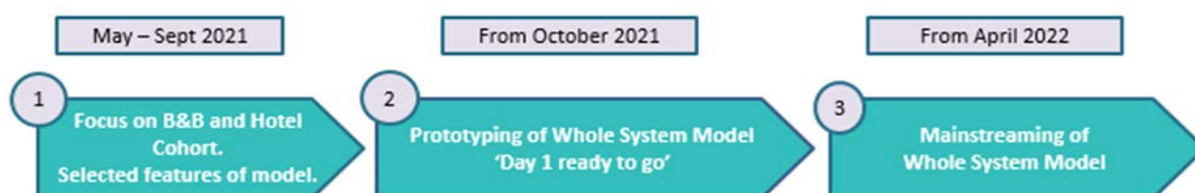
The Belfast Complex Lives initiative supports some of Belfast's most vulnerable citizens with complex needs. These are people who have fallen into a cycle involving some or all the following behaviors- rough sleeping, addiction, poor mental and physical health and offending.

Life for people in these situations can be challenging, chaotic, dangerous and can feel hopeless - moving between life on the streets, in hostels, temporary accommodation or sometimes prison. We know that breaking out of this cycle is difficult for people and these complex needs cannot be met by a single agency or service.

The Belfast Community Planning Partnership sought to create a new approach which focuses on the needs of the individual. This led to the establishment of a multi-agency partnership, which integrates the work of service providers, city partners (NIHE, BCC, PHA, BHSCT, PSNI, BHDU, PBNI, Ascertainment/BDAC) and other voluntary and community organisations. All partners are committed to develop, test and deliver a new Complex Lives approach within Belfast that aims to:

- support the recovery, resettlement, and social inclusion of people in Belfast living complex lives
- connect and build trust with people – using existing positive relationships with services
- work together as a multi-agency, multi-disciplinary team to agree a plan, with the voice of the service user at its centre
- provide a trusted key worker (where needed) to stay with people through their journey
- provide initial stability and appropriate accommodation with wrap-around support
- help people re-integrate into community life through positive connections

A key part of the work is to make it easier for services from the statutory, voluntary and community sectors to collaborate and create a new delivery approach. This involves introducing systems for case management and joint approaches to commissioning; communicating and sharing information; developing workforce and volunteer skills and training to work together in new ways. The approach is being tested in three phases with the aim that it will become a new business model for service delivery partners from April 2022.



There is still a long way to go, but so far, we are positive that we are moving in the right direction. Strong partnership work is required over a longer period and we are committed to finding a new way to help and support Belfast's most vulnerable and disengaged people with complex lives.

Multi-agency support hub

Led by the PSNI, with direct involvement from a wide range of city partners including HSCT, BCC, NIHE, Youth Justice Agency, PBNI, EA, NIAS, NIFR, a multi-agency support hub has been established in south Belfast as a pathfinder. The Support Hub is designed to help vulnerable people access the right help, at the right time, from the right organisations in the local area.

The hub supports vulnerable people who are experiencing a range of problems, including: being a victim of ongoing anti-social behaviour or crime and being drawn into behaviour which may lead to offending and being in difficult situations which can affect personal safety or mental health. While this approach has been trialled elsewhere, this is the first time it is being tested and possibly expanded in Belfast.



Housing

A key focus has been to work collaboratively to address the housing needs for a growing population. Covering the full range of housing, including affordable and social housing, community planning has brought partners together to explore

and seek to address the challenges constraining housing development. It has created a shared call to action across partners to work together to unlock and enable housing development and support Belfast's population growth ambitions.

Since 2019:

- a housing supply strategy is being developed by NIHE to provide a delivery framework for the right volume and types of homes to meet changing patterns of demand
- strategic site assessments and public land availability analysis have been completed to identify potential for housing development across the city
- newer funding streams have been explored and maximised to increase social housing capacity and underpin any new housing supply strategy
- city centre waiting list for social housing has been developed, with a latent demand list put in place for developments in the city centre as they come forward
- 537 new social housing units (including 442 new builds) have been built across the city. This represents 1,391 social homes since the Belfast Agenda was published.
- the draft strategy as part of Belfast's Local Development Plan has been published and its public examination has been completed. It includes a commitment to provide 31,000 additional homes by 2035, with an estimated 8,000 units in the city centre
- a housing-led regeneration group has been formed, chaired by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, and comprising key partners, to bring a collaborative focus and build momentum to address housing stress and contribute to Belfast's population growth ambitions.



City development

Creating the conditions for growth and opportunity in the city

In 2017, the public told us that the kind of city that they wanted was one that was connected, well-planned, with the right infrastructure to succeed. We committed to working in partnership on a number of workstreams which would help to build a resilient infrastructure that connects people and places, as well as creating the conditions for Belfast to compete for investment, tourism and talent on a global platform.

Covid-19 has changed how cities are seen and function, how public spaces are used, as well as how people connect, work and travel. Much work continues to be done to enhance Belfast's physical and cultural regeneration and create vibrant and connected neighbourhoods.

Since 2019:

- We created a draft Belfast Local Development Plan, which is currently undergoing Independent Examination.
- We developed and secured DfC and DfI Ministerial endorsement of the City Centre Connectivity Study, 'A Bolder Vision', outlining key proposals to enhance the city Centre's green, walkable and cyclable network and the important connections into surrounding communities. This will encourage active and sustainable travel; help improve physical health and wellbeing and restore pride of place.
- We brought forward a proposition for a new, transformational Belfast tourism attraction 'the Destination Hub' as part of the Belfast Region City Deal. This major tourism anchor will help boost the industry and create a focal point allowing people to connect with the city and one another through stories, screen and social spaces. The 'beating heart' of the hub is Belfast Stories, a visitor experience that will tell first-person accounts of the city by the people who call it home.
- We delivered a range of partner interventions to enhance our built environment, including the creation of new open, green and shared places, rejuvenation of seven of Belfast's unique historical entries and lanes (Castle Arcade; Winecellar Entry; Crown Entry; Wilson's Court; Joy's Entry; Pottinger's Entry and Cole's Alley); and enhanced city lighting as part of the new 'A Luminous City' lighting strategy.
- We built on positive changes in public attitudes and behaviors emerging from the pandemic by bringing forward initiatives to enhance sustainable city infrastructure and improve connectivity. This includes development and consultation on Belfast Rapid Transit phase two for north and south Belfast.
- The Minister for Infrastructure published the 'Belfast Cycling Network', in June 2021, providing a blueprint for the development and delivery of coherent, connected and safe infrastructure for everyday cycling in Belfast over the next 10 years.

Positioning the city to compete

As we continue to live with COVID-19 and its impact on all our lives, we must look towards the future and position our city and the city region to take advantage of every opportunity.

A public-private city initiative the 'Renewed Ambition Programme' has been developed to shape how we reimagine the future of our city now and act together to build on what has already been achieved to maintain our competitiveness and attractiveness, and position Belfast as an investment and tourist destination. Renewed Ambition seeks to attract investment into the city, creating jobs and opportunity and creating important economic and social infrastructure.

Investing in our communities and local assets

The pandemic has further intensified existing inequalities and created additional, significant economic and social challenges for our communities in coming years.

Creating local assets and facilities

Since our last Statement of Progress in 2019, city partners have continued to invest in local assets and facilities and maximise the economic and social benefits of such investment. We have completed 40 projects with an approximate value of £75 million within this period, creating jobs, training opportunities and making a real difference to people's lives and behaviours. Examples include £1.2 million transformation of Springfield Dam and the creation of a new park and associated recreational, educational, physical activity and event space.



Building community capacity

Communities were first to respond to the pandemic and have shown the strength and resilience of the sector in challenging times. Working in partnership, we have sought to build upon these strong foundations and continue to invest, including council allocation of £1.6 million funding to over 280 local community and voluntary organisations to support vulnerable people and families and assist community recovery. We have continued to deliver targeted grant support programmes, including £6 million in council grants, to ensure important support services and programmes are delivered without interruption across the city.

We have invested in the development of local facilities and services including Cancer Lifeline and Grace Family Centre.

“As the Chair and founder member of Cancer Lifeline, to finally see the newly redeveloped premises has been a lifelong dream come true for me and the rest of our volunteer committee. North Belfast now has a fantastic, modern, fit for purpose, new cancer support centre.” (Bernadette Montgomery MBE, Chairperson of Cancer Lifeline)

“Grace Women’s Development Limited would like to thank the community for their support throughout the development of the new family centre. This is a tribute to their wish to turn a blight in the area into a purpose-built family centre. Our doors are now open, and we look forward to welcoming them and continuing to work in partnership to create a vibrant family hub.” (Sally Smyth, Manager of Grace Family Centre)

Leisure transformation programme

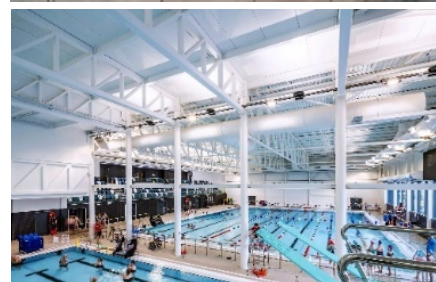
We have continued to invest in transforming Belfast's leisure provision with four new state of the art facilities at Olympia, Lisnasharragh, Andersonstown and Brook since the Belfast Agenda was published.

Construction is also well underway at Avoniel, due to open in winter 2021, and the newly restored and extended Templemore Baths will be open by summer 2022.

Each centre will offer a unique selling point as well as state of the art pools, fitness suites and pitches. Working collaboratively with GLL, our leisure service delivery partner, and despite the Covid-19 pandemic, significant health and wellbeing outcomes have been realised, creating jobs and skills opportunities for local people.

Key highlights from the investment in the new leisure facilities:

- just under 10,000 live pre-paid members (over 50% of the city's total)
- over 1,600 live members in GLL's Swim School
- over 1,000 live junior gym members
- over 1.3 million user visits
- 635,000 swim visits
- 445,000 gym and class visits
- 500 new health referrals
- over 100 new jobs created linked to operations and 13 new construction posts created
- 7 leisure academies delivered
- 44 apprenticeships delivered
- 40+ young people receiving industry specific training, with 37 now started their careers with GLL
- small business friendly procurement policy
- over £30,000 donated to local community initiatives and £7,500 to establish Go Social Programme



Neighbourhood regeneration fund

We are bringing forward a new £8 million neighbourhood regeneration fund and will seek to lever additional investment to drive recovery and transformation in local areas and communities. It has been designed to have maximum impact in neighbourhoods and will contribute to a number of Belfast Agenda priorities including the economy, tourism and sustainability.

Creating safe and shared places

We continued to work with communities and city partners to create a safe, inclusive and shared city and places through the delivery of the Good Relations Strategy and ensure maximum impact of investment and programmes supported through Peace IV funding and the new PEACE PLUS programme.

Some Shared City Partnership delivery highlights include:

- *Shared Spaces and Services* – opened the Springfield Dam and Park as part of the £5.1 million Forth Meadow Greenway project and delivered a programme of activities to animate the site and encourage usage.
- *Building positive relations* – supported over 800 people to participate in projects that focus on building positive relations including network development, creative arts, leadership and understanding shared history.
- *Supporting new and minority communities* – promoted the inclusion and integration of new communities, including the facilitation of the Migrant Forum which seeks to ensure access to services for new communities.
- *Grant aid* – supported local responses to locally identified good relations issues.
- *Interface Programme* – worked with interface communities to develop relationships, create shared spaces and remove barriers.

The impacts of this work include an improved sense of community relations; improved knowledge and positive perception of different communities in Belfast; and improved leadership skills and confidence.



Supporting our people

Children and young people

Ensuring our children and young people have the best start in life is a key priority and focus of the Belfast Agenda and the work of the Community Planning Partnership.

We've delivered a programme of work over the last two years to enhance children and young people's experience of Belfast including:

- Reconstituting the Belfast City Youth Council, comprising 40 young people from communities across the city, helping to inform them on how our city is run and address important challenges. The Youth Council produced a mental health advocacy toolkit for young people in partnership with the Northern Ireland Youth Forum and the NICCY Youth Panel.
- Engaging over 1,700 participants in Peace IV cross community projects including technology, play, sports, advocacy and network building, delivered through statutory partners, schools, community groups, youth groups and sports clubs.
- Facilitating thousands of play opportunities through a citywide play team.
- Adoption of the Urban Childhoods framework which seeks to make the city more child friendly by creating more outdoor, shared spaces. This has become even more important as we move forward in our recovery from Covid, and create a more connected, resilient city.



Responding to the impact of the pandemic on children and young people and their families, city partners came together to deliver effective, responsive interventions including a therapeutic family play programme, digital poverty support and baby support packs (for children under the age of 2).

Partners remain committed to working together to support children and young people and their families through existing partnership structures, including the Belfast and South Eastern area outcomes groups, locality planning groups and family support hubs. Being innovative and adopting a multi-agency approach is the best way to meet needs, maximise resources and identify further opportunities to improve outcomes.



Creating an age-friendly Belfast

An age-friendly city is one in which organisations work together to make sure the quality of life for people is enhanced as they age.

We are acutely aware of the challenges which may face many Belfast people and families as they age. Since publishing the Belfast Agenda, and as a member of the World Health Organisation's global network of Age Friendly Cities, Belfast's Healthy Ageing Strategic Partnership has continued to help reduce social isolation, support housing needs, promote physical activity and address poverty for older people.

The partnership's interventions proved to be even more important throughout the Covid-19 pandemic and included:

- addressing loneliness and social isolation through gatherings or events which brought people together both virtually and in-person when safe to do so
- encouraging more older people to volunteer through the age-friendly volunteers programme, annual age-friendly volunteer awards and working closely with Volunteer Now
- working in partnership with the Northern Ireland Housing Executive to inform the first Older People's Housing Strategy for Northern Ireland
- encouraging active lifestyles through organised walks in the park, exercise classes in leisure and community centres and using the city's greenways; promotion of the 'Keeping well at Home' booklet and 'Moving with Mary' DVD developed by the Public Health Agency, Age NI and Dame Mary Peters - delivered to over 10,000 people across Belfast
- supporting the extension of dementia friendly neighbourhoods and network of dementia friends and champions across Belfast
- supporting the roll out of the 'Hug in a Box' scheme, developed by Engage with Age, North Belfast Senior Citizens' Forum and Volunteer Now working alongside Greater Belfast Seniors' Forum. This was enhanced by the Covid-19 response fund, with 600 boxes delivered to isolated older people.



"Helped me feel part of the wider community" (Belfast resident)

"Unexpected. Would have loved to hug the delivery man" (Belfast resident)

Improving educational outcomes

Community planning partners recognise the fundamental contribution that education makes to communities' and individuals' lives and the economy and they're committed to addressing educational inequalities in Belfast.

These partners have formed an inter-agency group

- Education Authority
- Belfast Area Partnership Boards
- Belfast City Council
- Belfast Met
- Council for Catholic Maintained Schools
- Department of Education
- Queen's University Belfast
- St Mary's University College
- Stranmillis University College
- Ulster University
- Urban Villages

Using an evidence-based approach, they have collaborated to deliver:

GCSE support programme

The group secured funding to deliver a city-wide GCSE Support Programme to improve at least 365 young people's achievements in Maths and English at GCSE in school and community-based settings. Additional activities are currently being planned to include mid-term intensive learning programmes during the Halloween break.

Up to 180 young people who either already have or are at risk of dropping out of the education system, employment or training are also being supported each year through our Youth Support Programme. To date, 58% of those who completed the programme have moved into employment or further education and training.

Addressing digital poverty

Thanks to the Department of Education and Education Authority, with support from other statutory and community partners, 7,000 Belfast pupils who had insufficient, or no access to learning devices during the pandemic benefited from a Digital Devices programme. In addition, more than 2,800 WiFi access vouchers and WiFi 'dongles' were provided to enable internet access for pupils from vulnerable backgrounds to facilitate home learning.

Creating a learning city

Belfast is a city that puts people at the heart of learning and where communities are actively engaged as the foundation of a lifelong learning society.

As a member of the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities, Belfast values learning in all its forms and as a force to improve quality of life, tackle inequalities and deliver a better city for all, by working with partners to put people at the heart of learning. To ensure that our approach as a Learning City remains relevant and fit for existing and future challenges, we are also undertaking a review of what we have done so far which will lead into a Learning City Plan that is embedded within community planning.

Belfast has also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with a number of other cities who are part of an Irish Network of Learning Cities including Cork, Dublin, Limerick and the Derry and Strabane Region. The purpose of the joint MOU is to further strengthen the co-operation across the Network, committing the cities to continue to work together and share good practice.

In October 2021, Belfast received a UNESCO Learning City award in recognition of its approach to promoting and encouraging lifelong learning, enabling citizens to adapt to a rapidly changing world and to act jointly to solve city challenges.

Supporting local people into employment

The pandemic has disproportionately impacted upon those most vulnerable. People who were already having difficulty finding work experience further challenges with increasing numbers of experienced people moving into an already competitive job market.

Community planning partners have worked closely with employers to develop and deliver interventions and support, from mainstream employability and skills programmes through to bespoke sectoral employment academies. This has helped to connect residents with new or better employment opportunities, removing barriers to participation and supporting skills development.

Inclusive growth

We are committed to ensuring that the success of the city reaches everyone.

For the Community Planning Partnership inclusive growth means connecting all residents with economic growth and creating vibrant communities where everyone has the opportunity and aspiration to succeed. This ambition is embedded throughout our work as described in this statement. Some highlights include:

- improving basic skills and supporting people to access jobs and progress in work through our academies and skills programmes
- creating more apprenticeships
- supporting our social ambitions through our approach to purchasing goods and services and helping keep our spend within Belfast
- harnessing the collective hiring, training and purchasing power of anchor institutions (e.g. local authorities, NHS trusts, universities and colleges, Belfast Harbour etc)
- ensuring infrastructure investments deliver employment and training opportunities
- encouraging good employment practice, offering support and public recognition to businesses delivering good employment, and practical support to improve job quality in low pay sectors (including development of Business Charter / Business Promise which will help shape how employers use their employment, procurement and service delivery powers to support inclusive growth - economic growth that benefits all citizens and all communities.).

Belfast employment academies

Belfast City Council's employment academies provide tailored training to help Belfast residents get jobs and help businesses meet increasing employment demand across sectors including logistics, leisure, bus and taxi driving, construction, hospitality, business, health and social care, childcare and play work.

Since 2019, over 1,100 people accessed Employment Academies, with 700 (75%) of them going on to secure a new or better job. In addition to the sectors above where we will continue to deliver Employment Academies, new job pathways are being developed for those who would otherwise not have the qualifications/experience for job roles within the digital sector are being created as well as job and skills pathways into new industries such as retrofitting.



We are also providing pre-employment training in conjunction with employers and Further and Higher Education providers, to create a pipeline of skilled people to work in expanding local businesses. More than 600 graduate level job seekers have participated in 27 Assured Skills Academies delivered by Belfast Metropolitan College, with 92% of participants going on to secure employment with a wide range of top companies such as PwC, FinTrU and Microsoft.

Belfast Metropolitan College delivered 53 different courses through the Department for the Economy's Skills Intervention Programme funding as part of the Covid-19 response. 778 learners gained qualifications in digital construction and business information modelling, leadership and management, digital marketing and social media, cyber security, networking, cloud computing and health and wellbeing.

Belfast Labour Market Partnership

Working with community planning partners through the Department for Communities' Employability NI programme, we have created Belfast's first ever Labour Market Partnership (LMP). It aims to improve labour market conditions and meet employment supply and demand needs in Belfast.

Short-medium term themes:

- Quickly back to work: ensuring a coordinated response helping the substantial number of people in Belfast who have been, or are risk of being made unemployed move quickly back into employment and/or training
- Increasing opportunities: empowering those furthest from the labour market to succeed through quality support, including those who will be considered long-term unemployed as a consequence of COVID-19
- No-one left behind: targeting disadvantaged groups through the delivery of an integrated and holistic local employability approach; and
- Catching up: re-skilling and upskilling for those unemployed or on low incomes.

The ambition of the Labour Market Partnership is to establish:

- The Belfast Labour Market Observatory, which will identify and analyse labour market trends and challenges, directing the work of all employability and skills interventions in the city to match supply of skills and people with job demand in the city. This will also create a framework of provision in Belfast: improving information and intelligence on existing provision and help for individuals and employers to navigate the range of services on offer.
- A Gateway independent advice and guidance outside of mainstream Jobs and Benefits support for those who are out of work and not job-ready such as long-term unemployed and those who are receiving economically inactive benefits.
- Employment pathways to increase the capacity of Employment Academies to support more people into work and be able to offer differentiated approaches for different groups of people, such as a short-track reskilling interventions for those whose employment has been affected due to Covid-19 to more intensive interventions for those needing tailored support to gain a job.
- Enterprise pathways for those further back in the labour market to take the opportunity to become self-employed or set up their own business through bespoke, intensive, practical support.
- Working with providers in the city to look at how the positive job, education and training outcomes for young people can be enhanced.



- Develop place-based and people-based targeted interventions for those under-represented in the labour market or who face significant barriers to employment. These groups include (among others) those with a disability, justice system leavers, older people, lone parents, those living with health issues including mental health, ethnic minorities as well as people living in specific parts of the city where levels of long term unemployed and those receiving ‘economically inactive’ benefits are more than twice the city average.

Belfast business promise

Community planning partners are committed to working alongside the NI Executive and other partners to bring forward an integrated approach to supporting businesses, sustaining jobs and creating new and better employment opportunities in Belfast.

Working closely with the private, public and VCSE sectors we have co-developed a bespoke charter for Belfast and a pledge to create better employment conditions for all.

The launch of the Belfast Business Promise will be coming shortly and through this we pledge to work with organisations to create more high-quality jobs, lower levels of poverty, build stronger, healthier communities, reduce inequality in the workplace and work towards a more sustainable local economy. Organisations will be able to evaluate their business practices against eight pledges and gain support from the Belfast Business Promise community and network to improve their performance.

“From small stores to large organisations, we want to promote and support business leaders who care about making a real difference to the lives of the people in Belfast, the environment and the local economy.” (local business representative forum)

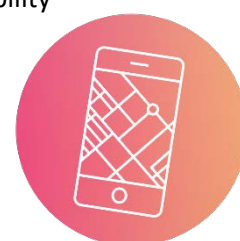


Recognising talent and enhancing skills

Cities are full of people with unrecognised talents and potential

Working with RSA Cities of Learning, work is underway to develop a digital badges and skills passport for **Belfast** which gives people a portable record of achievement through employability interventions.

It also gives employers a new way to connect with talent in cities – an alternative to the standard practice of asking for evidence of academic qualifications and work experience.



The RSA Cities of Learning will work with us to challenge current employment practices which may be excluding individuals who do not have formal qualifications but possess the right aptitudes and strengths to make a valuable contribution to the workforce.

We'll offer employability and skills providers across the city access to digital badging. The badges will recognise 'hidden' skills by creating a digital portfolio of the holder's achievements and skills to use alongside traditional CVs, helping to address the disproportionate levels of individuals recorded as having "no or low" skills.

Creating jobs and opportunity

A key commitment within the Belfast Agenda is to attract investment, support business start-up and growth and ultimately create jobs and opportunity within the city.

Securing investment and creating jobs

City partners are working closely with Invest NI, the Northern Ireland Executive and the Department for the Economy, who have a regional responsibility, to secure investment and bring forward targeted programmes to support and enable local businesses to grow and compete globally.

Since the Belfast Agenda was published in 2017, Invest NI has provided total support of over £175 million to both local and externally owned businesses based in Belfast. This has secured over £1.048 billion of investment and assisted in the promotion and creation of 8,349 new jobs. This leveraging of private investment is a significant contributor to our Belfast Agenda targets. Over the past three years, assistance offered by Invest NI to Belfast based local companies increased by 31 per cent.

Leading through innovation

"Belfast is a city of creators and inventors. Innovation is in our DNA" (source, Innovation City Belfast)

Innovation City Belfast is a new partnership between Belfast City Council, Belfast Harbour, Catalyst, Queen's University Belfast, Ulster University, and advisory partner Invest Northern Ireland which aims to establish Belfast as a globally significant destination for innovation with a focus on these transformational priorities:

- developing a major Innovation District from Queen's Island to York Street
- delivering a city-centre focused Smart District
- creating a Smart Port at Belfast Harbour
- investing in advanced wireless networks
- build the workforce's skills for new jobs in the digital economy



Recognising the importance and opportunities presented to businesses through innovation, Invest NI has almost doubled (86 percent increase) investment in R&D in the past year - from £12.9 million in 2019-20 to £24.1 million in 2020-21.

Belfast's reputation for innovation, skills and collaboration has also recently attracted a significant number of global investors including Agio, Asos, Ogletree Deakins and SafetyNetAccess. Belfast has also secured repeat investment from PwC, which is investing £40 million in a new Advanced Research and Engineering centre, creating 771 new technology and operational jobs over the next five years.

Supporting local business and enterprise

Through community planning we have worked with city partners and the business community to understand the needs and pressures facing local businesses and to co-design a range of support packages and interventions to address these and to support business enterprise and start-ups.

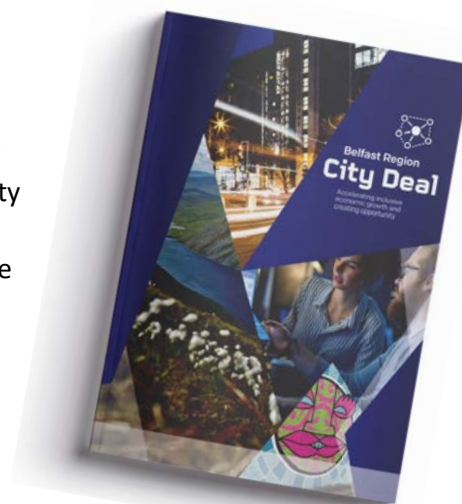
Key achievements over the past two years:

- supported over 1,545 individuals to explore starting a business
- supported 923 individuals to start a business, resulting in the creation of 578 jobs
- specialist advice given to 324 businesses with access to financial incentives/support up to £1,500
- engaged with 710 social enterprise and cooperative individuals and organisations and supported development of 106 new social enterprises or cooperatives, with 105 jobs created
- provided financial support to 47 organisations to sustain them through the Covid-19 pandemic
- 755 existing businesses supported to become more resilient and adapt to ongoing challenges presented by Covid and the UK's exit from the EU
- over 150 companies supported by Belfast Met to innovate in IT, new product design and 3D printing, fashion and manufacturing and podcasting
- business incubation space and innovation and growth support provided to 62 businesses by the Innovation Factory, with a 66% occupancy rate, including high level of interest from new firms in sectors including TV/film, digital, engineering and green tech
- continued support for businesses with the potential to scale beyond £1 million - participating companies have reported an increase in revenue of 114% and have increased their employment base by 40%
- profiled Belfast as a location of choice through the City Investment Service, engaging with more than 120 businesses and supporting them to locate here
- continued to build partnerships with Dublin, London and our Sister Cities - launching the Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor in partnership with the eight councils along the corridor, and developing the associated economic opportunities

Belfast Region City Deal

A key commitment within the Belfast Agenda was to secure a Belfast Region City Deal to support the delivery of the city's ambitions, securing significant investment, jobs and opportunity.

Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD), the first City Deal for Northern Ireland, comprises six local authorities; Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council, Ards and North Down Borough Council, Belfast City Council, Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council, Mid and East Antrim Borough Council and Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, the region's two universities; Queen's University Belfast and Ulster University, and four of the region's further education colleges; working collaboratively with NI and UK Governments and the private sector to create and deliver a £1billion programme of investment.



Work has continued at pace to prepare Outline Business Cases for 20 ambitious projects, underpinned by an employability and skills programme. Our plans were examined through the lens of the Covid-19 pandemic, and we're confident that our projects are uniquely placed to support recovery, facilitate investment in businesses and in sectors which have the greatest potential for long-term growth, to drive productivity and create and sustain jobs.

Through this transformative investment, it's estimated that over its lifetime the Belfast Region City Deal will:

- support the creation of up to 20,000 jobs
- connect local people to new and better jobs
- strengthen the region's innovation capabilities and business offer in growth sectors
- deliver £400m in GVA directly on-site and within the Region
- target delivery of almost £1bn of private sector leverage
- create compelling world-class visitor attractions
- help to regenerate major towns and cities

Climate and sustainability

We've been working collaboratively to drive forward a city leadership model and a shared focus to address resilience and the climate challenges facing Belfast. Covid-19 demonstrated the importance of building resilience to crises and has accelerated our work on climate adaptation, mitigation and decarbonising our economy. The goal for city partners is to transition Belfast to an 'inclusive, zero-emissions, climate resilient city.'

City partners developed the Belfast Resilience Strategy and a Belfast Net Zero Carbon Roadmap to help shape city plans and green investment going forward. The city's Resilience Strategy sets the strategic framework for future work and will prepare Belfast for the shocks and stresses it faces, including our work on climate. The strategy has three priorities: Climate Adaptation and Mitigation; Participation of Children and Young People; and Connected Net Zero-Emissions Economy and includes the delivery of 30 programmes designed to be 'multiple problem solvers.'

Key actions underway include:

- delivery of the One Million Trees programme, an ambitious 15-year city partnership approach to urban tree planting, with 40,000 trees planted in year one
- investing in our greenways and low-emissions public transport to provide sustainable and inclusive transport infrastructure and support connectivity, health and wellbeing and encouraging citizens to increase journeys by foot, wheeling, cycling and public transport
- working collaboratively with partners to ensure our infrastructure meets the city's existing and future needs and remains resilient (for example wastewater energy and waste infrastructure)
- assessment of air quality and identification of measures needed to improve air quality across the city to deliver improved public health outcomes
- maximising use of our land assets and access to open green spaces for communities and families to improve mental and physical wellbeing and enable social interaction
- working with partners through the Core Cities Climate Investment Platform, and through the Place Based Climate Action Network, to look at climate financial solutions - how we pay for the move to net zero and adapt as a city

Stretch goals assessment.

In 2017, community planning partners set a range of four year stretch goals for our original priorities. These ambitious targets provided collective focus for partners and helped to guide the decision-making process when agreeing actions to be delivered.

The infographics below summarise the stretch goals which collectively we committed to deliver by 2021 and an indication of performance or progress towards each target.



Progress on our outcomes - dashboard

We identified 51 population indicators, to track our collective progress over the long-term. The illustration below provides an indication of whether our city is heading in the right direction, based on progress from each indicator's original baseline position.

Belfast will be a city....



The past two years has been challenging for us all, heightened by the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on people's lives, significantly widening existing and creating new inequalities across the city. Whilst the Statement of Progress identifies areas where the work of community planning has contributed to the Belfast Agenda ambitions, we cannot overlook those areas which require a continued and enhanced focus going forward. It also helps us to better understand and seek to address the new challenges and needs facing the city and our people.

The refreshed Belfast Agenda (2022-2026) will provide a shared focus and catalyst for this work going forward and at the core of the co-designing approach will be re-energising and mobilising communities.

Next steps

The Belfast Agenda: Continuing the Conversation engagement programme was launched on 9 June 2021 on the Your Say Belfast platform, formally starting the statutory review of the Belfast Agenda.

The engagement programme has been co-designed by a subgroup of the Community Planning Partnership co-chaired by Belfast City Council and the VCSE Sectoral Advisory Panel.

Adopting a three phased approach to co-design and engagement, work is underway to review the emerging priorities for the city; plan what needs to happen next; and consult on our plans.

A series of initial engagement workshops have been held across the city and with specific groups and communities of interest. We have engaged with 130 participants representing 63 organisations and received feedback from hundreds of citizens and city stakeholders through our digital platform, surveys and at local community assets/facilities. This has shaped and will inform the refresh of the city's community plan (Belfast Agenda) and underpinning delivery plans.

We will work with NI Executive, government departments, communities, city partners and local government colleagues to build upon and accelerate best practice and learn from recent reports (e.g. Carnegie Trust's Embedding Well-being in Northern Ireland report and the Ernest Young Community Planning Implementation Report) which have identified areas to further enhance the effectiveness of community planning. We would call upon departmental colleagues to work together to examine how important recommendations contained within the Embedding Well-being can be brought forward at pace.

The emerging **city leadership challenges** which the community planning partners will focus upon going forward to improve the lives of people living in the city are outlined below.

City challenges:

- Health inequalities
- Economic recovery
- Employability and skills
- Educational underachievement
- Housing
- Community recovery and neighbourhood regeneration
- Climate, resilience and sustainability
- Active and sustainable travel
- Creating inclusive growth
- Supporting our children and young people
- Protecting, supporting and enabling our older people
- Creating a shared, safe and inclusive city



Strategic Policy, Planning
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www.belfastcity.gov.uk/belfastagenda

Access to information

As part of our commitment to promoting equality of opportunity and good relations, we want to ensure that everyone is able to access the documents we produce. This document is available in alternative formats such as Braille, easy-read, audio, large print and also in other languages on request by contacting: 028 9027 0234.



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Subject: Assets Management	i) Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park– Proposed New Lease to Belfast City Marathon Limited ii) Cathedral Gardens –Temporary Active Travel Hub
Date:	19th November, 2021
Reporting Officer:	Sinead Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes
Contact Officer:	Pamela Davison, Estates Manager

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to seek approval from the Committee on asset related disposal, acquisition and estates matters.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to –</p> <p>i) Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park– Proposed New Lease to Belfast City Marathon Limited</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - approve the entering into a new Lease with Belfast City Marathon Limited for use of office accommodation at Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park.

	<p>ii) Cathedral Gardens – Temporary Active Travel Hub</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - approve the granting of a Service Level Agreement to Turnaround Project (t/a Big Loop Bikes) to utilise two shipping containers at Cathedral Gardens as a temporary Active Travel Hub prior to the redevelopment of Cathedral Gardens.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>i) Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park–New Lease to Belfast City Marathon Limited</p> <p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>Belfast City Marathon Limited had occupied offices at Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park until 30th April 2021, at which point it terminated its lease as Covid-19 had created uncertainty around staging of future events and a reduction in funding and sponsorship which necessitated a reduction in their overheads due to a decrease in entry number.</p> <p>However, since this time Belfast City Marathon has reviewed its operating model and has approached Council with a view to entering into a new Lease agreement. Approval is, therefore, sought to enter into a new 5-year Lease with Belfast City Marathon Limited for 100 sqm of office space at Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park. Appendix 1 shows the proposed office accommodation shaded in red and the route of access shaded in yellow.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>If approved, the Council will receive an annual rent of £9,250.</p> <p><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
3.2	<p>ii) Cathedral Gardens – Temporary Active Travel Hub</p> <p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The Council, led by the City Regeneration and Development (CRD) Unit, has been working in collaboration with a number of external stakeholders to establish a temporary Active Travel Hub at Cathedral Gardens (see Appendix 2 for site map). On 12th May 2021, the City Growth and Regeneration Committee approved the proposal that an Active Travel Hub at Cathedral Gardens would be a pilot project comprising two key elements:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Information, guidance and programming provision to encourage and support walking and cycling; and 2) Supporting bike accessibility and provision through a range of cost-effective products and services

	<p>Data gathered from the pilot will be used to inform future investment decisions regarding Active Travel Hubs and sustainable transport initiatives across the city. The Active Travel Hub will be a temporary installation housed within two shipping containers (c. 6m x 3m), one to provide a combined work/shop front space and the other to store bikes and other equipment. Funding for the project is being provided by Department of Infrastructure as part of the Department for Communities Revitalisation Fund.</p> <p>CRD recently completed a publicly advertised Expression of Interest (EOI) exercise from the 7th – 28th October seeking an operator for the Active Travel Hub. One submission was received from 'Big Loop Bikes' a trading entity of the Turnaround Project, a social enterprise and registered charity which exists to help people who have been given prison or community sentences to turn around their futures and provide real jobs in transitional employment opportunities. The proposed Service Level Agreement with Big Loops Bikes would be for an initial period of up to 9 months with potential for a further period of up to 9 months with potential for an extension on month to month basis, up to a total maximum period of two years. The Service Level Agreement will therefore not affect the future redevelopment plans at Cathedral Gardens. Any Service Level Agreement will be subject to agreeing suitable terms with City Regeneration and Development, Estates and Legal Services.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>Capital funding has been secured under the agreed Revitalisation Fund and the operator will be charged an operating fee which will cover utilities and rates.</p> <p><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None associated with this report</p>
4.0	Documents Attached
	<p>Appendix 1 – Map showing office accommodation at Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park shaded red whilst the agreed route of access is shown shaded yellow.</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Cathedral Gardens Active Travel Hub Site Map</p>

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Playground

Lodge

BM 25.98

21.9

17.1

Lodge

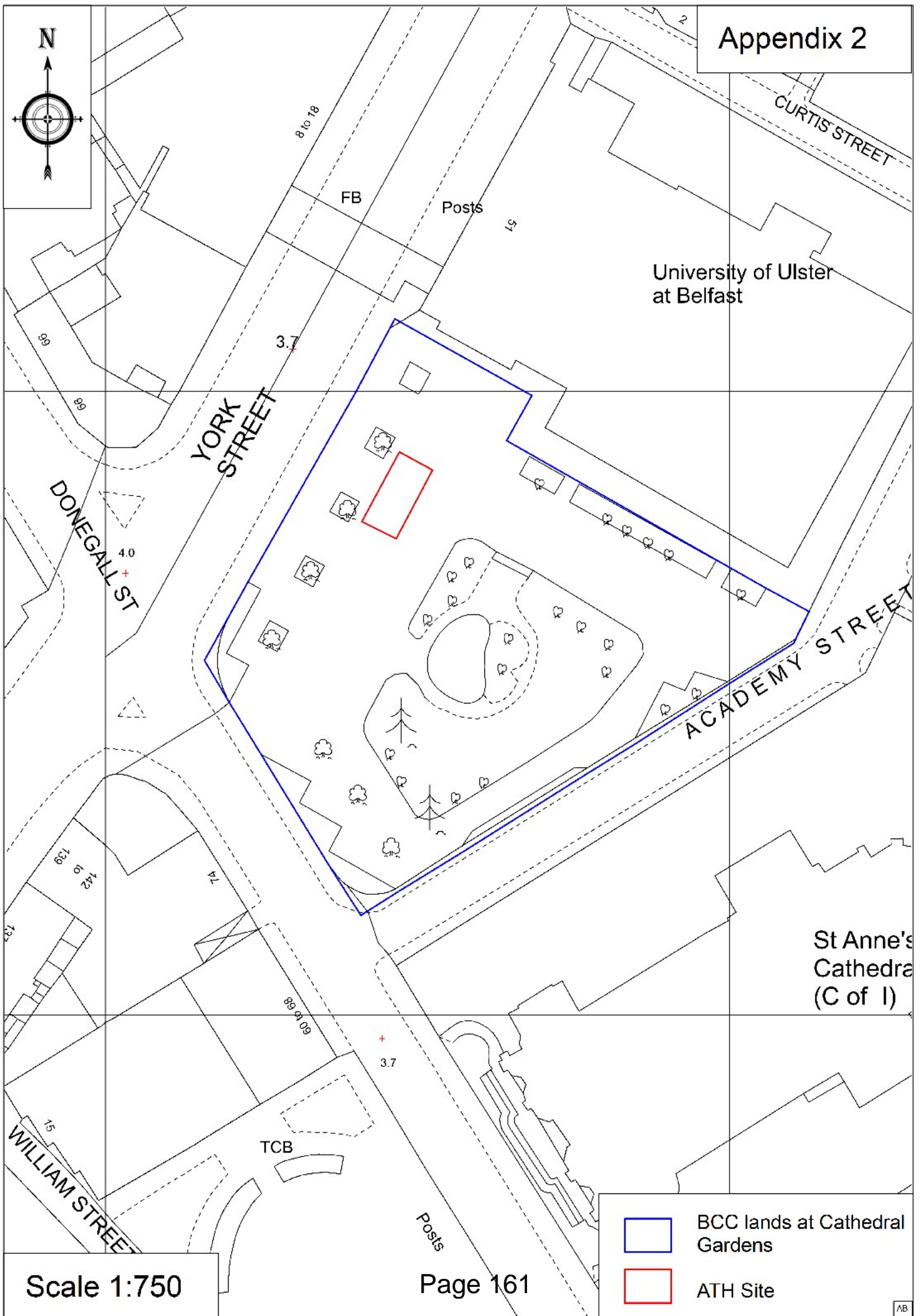
Foot Bridge

FB

4.6

Scale 1:1250

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Subject:	Update on Area Working Groups
Date:	19th November, 2021
Reporting Officer:	Sinead Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes
Contact Officer:	Shauna Murtagh, Programme Manager

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To present for the Committee's approval the minutes of the most recent round of Area Working Group meetings.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to approve the minutes of the meeting of the East Belfast Area Working Group of 4th November, as attached.
3.0	Main Report
	<u>KEY ISSUES</u>
	Area Working Group Minutes
3.1	Members agreed, in June 2016, that the minutes for each of the Area Working Groups would be presented to the SP and R Committee for approval going forward, in line with the Council's

	<p>commitment to openness and transparency and to ensure a consistent approach with other Member-led Working Groups.</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting of the East Belfast AWG minutes of 4th November are, therefore, attached.</p>
3.2	<p><i>Project Updates:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>TAGIT Boxing Club</i> - recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that £9,000 of LIF funding be allocated towards the purchase of equipment. • <i>Westbourne Presbyterian Church/ Titanic People</i> – recommend to the SP&R Committee that the original project proposal which had received an in principle allocation of £250,000 is no longer viable and that it be removed from the LIF project list with the monies to be re-allocated and that officers continue to work with the Group re other opportunities for funding <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>3.3 As outlined above</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>3.4 None</p>
4.0	Document Attached
	Minutes of the meeting of the East Belfast Area Working Group of 4th November.

East Belfast Area Working Group

Thursday, 4th November, 2021

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

Members present: Alderman Sandford (Chairperson),
Aldermen Copeland, Dorrian, Haire and Rodgers;
The High Sheriff, Councillor Long; and
Councillors Brooks, Flynn, Hanvey, Howard,
Hussey, M. Kelly, McMullan, McReynolds,
Mulholland, Newton and Smyth.

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

Apologies

An apology for inability to attend the meeting was reported from Councillor Kyle.

Minutes

The Working Group agreed that the minutes of the meeting of 2nd September were an accurate record of proceedings.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were recorded.

Presentation

Portview Trade Centre

The Chairperson welcomed Mr. G. Neill, Portview Trade Centre, to the meeting. He provided the Working Group with an overview of its recent redevelopment. He explained that, when completed, it would comprise a living museum and tourism destination, an events space, state of the art co-working spaces with up to 100 Small and Medium sized Enterprises, a rooftop venue and an innovative training hub.

He advised the Members of the history of the site as a former linen mill and outlined the story behind the name of the “Banana Block” element, so-called due to bananas having first been grown in East Belfast in 1911.

He outlined that they had undertaken in-depth research as to how heritage spaces could become carbon neutral and embedded with social value through innovative ideas, upheld through social clauses within the occupier’s tenancy agreement.

In response to Members' comments, Mr. Neill explained that the premises were owned by a charity and that the companies within the space were on social tenancies. The Members were advised that the block on the Newtownards Road would be a hub for creative industries.

In response to a Member's question regarding car parking in the area, he explained that they were highly conscious of their carbon footprint and that the location was highly accessible, on a main arterial route, with excellent pedestrian and public transport links.

He advised the Working Group that the training programme would be aimed at inspiring young people to think dynamically and to problem solve within an industry environment, particularly in respect of digital and advanced manufacturing trends.

A number of Members thanked Mr. Neill for his informative presentation and advised him that it was one of the most exciting developments in the east of the City.

Physical Programme

TAGIT

A Member stated that the TAGIT boxing facility had a funding shortfall of £9,000. He explained that the money was required in order to purchase equipment for the venue. The Director of Physical Programmes advised the Members that the East Area Working Group had £50,000 remaining in its Local Investment Fund (LIF) and that it could be used for such purchases.

Moved by Councillor Hussey
Seconded by Alderman Rodgers and

Resolved – that the Working Group agrees to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that £9,000 of LIF funding be allocated towards the purchase of equipment by TAGIT, in order to complete the project, and that the Working Group would undertake a site visit to the facility at a future date.

Physical Programme Update

The Director of Property and Projects presented 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.

Members of East AWG have carried out site visits to a number of proposed LIF and BIF funded projects on 19 and 20 October in order to understand the challenges to date and future plans. This report outlines the status of these projects under the Physical Programme.

2. Recommendations

Members are asked to note the updates in respect of each project as outlined in this report. In considering the detail in this report Members may wish to consider if they still wish support the current status of each project under the relevant funding stream .

- **Strand Arts Centre – BIF Stage 3 – Commitment £1.8m**
 - Confirm ongoing in principle commitment
 - Note the increase in costs estimates following the RIBA Stage 2 Design Report, consider if they wish to move the project to the next stage and to submit a Planning Application in December 2021
 - If agreed in terms of ongoing support, consider timebounding the project for next stages
- **Bloomfield Community Association – BIF Stage 3 – Commitment £440,000**
 - Confirm ongoing in principle commitment
 - Note updated cost estimates and cost deficit
 - If agreed, to endorse officers to continue the discussions with DfC and other partners to bridge the funding gap/ shortfall of £305k
- **Castlereagh Presbyterian Church – BIF Stage 3 – Commitment £382,000**
 - Confirm ongoing in principle commitment
 - Note revised revised/ scaled back project scope
 - If agreed, approve the project to proceed to due diligence.
- **Westbourne Presbyterian Church - Titanic People – LIF Commitment £250,000**
 - Confirm ongoing in principle commitment
 - Note revised proposed project scope
 - If agreed, to endorse officers to continue working with Urban Villages and report back once the business case is complete with Urban Villages.
- **Lagan Village Youth and Community Association – BIF Stage 2 – No commitment**
 - To continue working with project and bring it to due diligence.

3. **Strand Arts Centre**

Date approved:	October 2016	Funding allocation and stage:	£1.8m Stage 3
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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. The development of revised Stage 1 design report has highlighted the preferred option overall costs of £4.6 million in September 2019. The match funding commitment from DfC is secured in principle, awaiting for committed funding based on final decision from ACNI. The project progressed to RIBA Stage 2 and the updated costs include the already carried out surveys and inflation.

The Stage 2 Design Report has now been finalised. It identifies the works that have been carried out to date as well as works planned in RIBA Stage 3. Building inspections have been undertaken to establish necessary ground investigation works. A specialist geotechnical contractor has been appointed and commenced excavating trial pits. A CCTV survey to inform the design and modifications for a new foul drainage connection is underway. M&E site survey has been carried out to establish necessary work to bring the services to comply with latest standards and ensure energy efficient sustainable and environmentally friendly service installations. All work required to lodge a Planning Application has been carried out and the project is ready to be submitted for Planning in December 2021.

The Stage 2 Budget Cost Estimate amounts to £4,857,000 plus £463,000 Optimism Bias at 12% of construction costs (a sum of £5,320,000). This cost estimate includes Construction Costs, Main Contractors Preliminaries, Overheads & Profit and Optimism Bias incorporating Development Contingency. Further allowances have been identified for Professional/Project Fees, Provisional Sum allowances for Theatre/Cinema Specific Installations and Construction Inflation. Stage 2 Budget Costs are based on competitive pricing levels prevailing in Q4-2021. An allowance for Construction Inflation has been identified separately at £213,000 that has been included in the overall cost estimation.

The Stage 2 Budget Cost Estimate has increased by £550,000 from the Stage 1 Indicative Budget Cost Estimate, prepared in September 2019. This cost increase is primarily due to inflation increases; 2021 has seen unprecedented material price increases within the Construction Industry affecting almost all elements.

In discussion with the Group it is suggested to take provisional allowances for theatre/cinema specifics out at this stage as they can apply to specific funders for these elements at a later stage – this will be a deduction of £450,000 and would bring the total project budget excl. inflation down to £4,657,000. It should also be noted that the costs estimate include a standalone inflation allowance of £213,000 and a separate Optimism Bias of £463,000.

The Group has made several applications to different potential funding organisations (incl. HLF Development Fund and Project Fund).

East Belfast Councillors received a tour through the building 19th October and could see the work already been undertaken to date including:

- remodelling to the first floor due to flood damage (has allowed for further design development to give maximum flexibility of space and therefore create a better offer)
- lift installation and restructuring of the south wing to get accessibility sorted (SAC secured funding from accessibility fund)
- at the site visit Members were also updated on the current status of the funding strategy and ongoing discussions with other funders including HLF

Members are asked to

- Confirm ongoing in principle commitment
- note the increase in costs estimates following the RIBA Stage 2 Design Report, consider if they wish to move the project to the next stage and to submit a Planning Application in December 2021
- if agreed in terms of ongoing support, consider timebounding the project for next stages

4. Bloomfield Community Association

Date approved:	September 2016	Funding allocation and stage:	£440,000 Stage 3
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The project involves developing a fit for purpose community facility to meet the needs of the community association and futureproof their current role/ infrastructure within the community. This will include demolition of the existing premises and rebuilding to include community space, office facilities, multi-use hall and disability access. There has been no significant progress for more than 5 years now.

The project was discussed at East AWG on February 2021 and it was agreed to update the business case for the project and to undertake discussion with DfC. The business case has since been updated and reviewed with costs equating to £745,054 as of August 2021, which leaves a funding shortfall of £305,054. Discussion with DfC is ongoing and a funding application is being prepared by Council officers to cover the budget shortfall. This application will be reviewed by the group and issued to DfC in the coming weeks.

East Belfast Councillors received a tour through the building 19th October and were given an update on the works carried out by the Group who highlighted the vital role the Group played in the community infrastructure.

Members are asked to

- Confirm ongoing in principle commitment
- Note updated cost estimates and cost deficit
- If agreed to endorse officers to continue the discussions with DfC and other partners to bridge the funding gap/ shortfall of £305k

5. **Castlereagh Presbyterian Church**

Date Approved	August 2017	Funding Allocation Stage	£382.000 BIF – Stage 3
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Informed by a business case, the original project scope included extending the church hall and carry out energy efficiency improvements to the building to increase community usage and enhance the sustainability of the church hall. However, due to funding shortfall and construction cost increases, group have proposed a pared back option to suit the project budget and ensure deliverability.

The Group presented to the AWG in June 2021 on designs for 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 meet related outcomes/ benefits. Church approvals for the revised works are now in place for this revised option and group collating final pieces of information required as part of due diligence.

Members are asked to

- Confirm ongoing in principle commitment
- Note revised revised/ scaled back project scope
- If agreed, approve the project to proceed to due diligence

6. **Westbourne Presbyterian Church – Titanic People**

Date approved	September 2012	Funding Allocation and stage	£250.000
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The project at Westbourne Church/Titanic People was one of the first LIF projects to gain approval as part of the first phase of the programme in 2012. The project proposed the refurbishment and regeneration of Westbourne Church which is a landmark building on the Lower Newtownards Road and presently in a state of disrepair. The scheme would see the Church developed as a tourist attraction which would build on the areas links to the building of the Titanic and the fact that many of those working on the ship used the Church for worship and community activities. The project was due to receive match funding support from the Executive Office via the Social Investment Fund (SIF). However the Executive Office subsequently withdrew the Letter of Offer under the SIF programme to the Titanic People Project was being withdrawn due to the escalation in costs.

There is a project now on the Urban Villages list. Members are asked to note that the scope of this project is different from the original proposals with the focus being the development of the outside space of the Church with public realm works which can be used as flexible/event space. There are also some works proposed to the entrance vestibule of the Church. However the scope of the project is no longer the refurbishment and restoration of the Church.

The Group have presented to East AWG on a number of occasions and it was agreed that the position would be reviewed again when the UV Business Case was prepared. Unfortunately the UV timescale has slipped with the business case due to be completed in the next few weeks. 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 and will report back once this is completed.

Members are asked to note

- Confirm ongoing in principle commitment
- Note revised proposed project scope under the UV programme
- If agreed to endorse officers to continue working with Urban Villages and report back once the business case is complete with Urban Villages.

7. Lagan Village Youth and Community Association

Date Approved:	September 2016	Funding allocation stage:	No commitment
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Members will recall that the AWG agreed (in January 2017 and confirmed in February 2020) that Lagan Village Youth and Community Centre, currently at BIF Stage 2- Uncommitted, is the reserve project and would be considered first if any funding became available through the BIF Programme.

At the site visit on 19th October Members were updated by the Group that there is the opportunity to progress some internal renovation works to the building which cost approx. £300,000 which covers toilets upgrades etc.

Members are asked to note the update on the Lagan Village Youth and Community Association project

Members will also be aware that Lagan Village has received £15,000 funding under LIF for outside environmental improvement works. The group received match funding from DfC in the amount of £35k. The group are also in the process of submitting a funding application to Groundwork NI under the Alpha Fund.”

The Working Group considered each project in turn.

Strand Arts Centre

Moved by Alderman Dorrian
Seconded by Councillor Smyth and

Resolved – that a discussion be held with the Strand Arts Centre and the other funders to determine a timeline and to establish further certainty around the project. It was further agreed that the project should progress to the next stage with the planning application to be submitted.

Bloomfield Community Centre

The Working Group agreed to recommend the proposed course of action within the report to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, namely, that it:

- confirmed its ongoing in principle commitment to the project;
- noted the updated cost estimates and cost deficit; and
- agreed to endorse officers to continue the discussions with the Department for Communities and other partners to bridge the funding shortfall of £305,000.

Castlereagh Presbyterian Church

A number of Members expressed concern that the Church had not confirmed whether it would contribute any funding towards the project and that they wanted to ensure that the facilities would be open for use by the wider community.

After discussion, the Working Group agreed to request additional information from the Church in respect of whether there would be any congregational funding or whether they had investigated other external funding streams; who the end users of the facilities would be; and that a further site visit be arranged to the Church.

Westbourne Presbyterian Church/ Titanic People Project

A number of Members expressed concern that the scope of the project had changed considerably since it had first been approved for funding in 2012.

Moved by The High Sheriff,
Seconded by Alderman Dorrian and

Resolved - that the Working Group agrees to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that the project is no longer suitable to receive LIF funding and that it be removed from the LIF project list; and that, instead, it be considered for funding under other funding streams, such as the new Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund, and that the project should also be looked at in the context of other proposed projects in the area including the regeneration of Pitt Park and the ongoing development of Templemore Baths to include the heritage/interpretative element.

Lagan Village Youth and Community Centre

Moved by The High Sheriff,

Seconded by Alderman Dorrian and

Resolved – that officers would engage with the Department for Communities in relation to the Lagan Village Youth and Community Centre to ascertain if there are any plans in terms of funding;

that a meeting be held, in December, between the Members of the East Area Working Group and the Director of Physical Programmes, to discuss the remaining funding which was available in LIF and BIF, and the potential projects which had requested funding; and

that a Special meeting of the East AWG be held in January, 2022, to discuss the reallocation of funding.

Chairperson

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Subject:	Minutes of Meeting of Shared City Partnership
Date:	19th November, 2021
Reporting Officer:	Ryan Black, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Nicola Lane, Good Relations Manager

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee of the key issues discussed at the Shared City Partnership meeting held on 8th November and present the minutes for approval.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is requested to approve the minutes and the recommendations from the Shared City Partnership Meeting held on 8th November 2021 including to note and agree the following updates from the ongoing delivery of the Good Relations Action Plan to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> note all updates in relation to the PEACE IV Programme; make a request to SEUPB for a formal reduction of CYP targets by 10% - 460 participants, which would reduce project targets for CYP3 by 260 and CYP5 by 200;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • agree the narratives and locations of the 7 panels for Section 1 of Forth Meadow Community Greenway (FMCG); • agree the design and layout of information panels for FMCG; • agree that the panels and narratives would be subject to equality screening; • agree (i) to delegate authority to the Capital Project Board to agree, at its meeting on 17th November, on the design of the panels around the Parks along FMCG, with a further report to be submitted to Partnership meeting in December and (ii) that the contractor be advised to engage with the organisers of established local food banks in terms of organising a potential fundraising event in association with the project; • extend the delivery timeframe for BPR5 LINCS to 30 September 2022, to increase the capacity building and further develop the Inclusion Forum; • delegate authority to the PEACE IV Programme Board to agree the rescope of the Traveller Support Hub to a Capacity Building programme, subject to SEUPB approval; • extend the participant groups for the BPR5/Roma Advocacy and Advice Skills training to the wider community; • amend the format of six hard copy interpretative panels for BPR6/St Comgall's to be replaced with an online digital resource to enable the content to be more accessible; • extend the delivery timeframe for the Cinematography contract with Morrow Communications to October 2022, to include the BPR6 St Comgalls and to increase the contract award by £5,750, subject to agreement by SEUPB; • agree funding support of £2,500 for Black Mountain Shared Spaces to deliver a cross community Christmas fair at the Springmartin Interface through the Strategic Intervention Programme within BCC10 of the DCGRP Action Plan; • agree funding support of £1,000 for NI Community of Refugees and Asylum Seekers (NICRAS) to deliver translation support in relation to the High Street Voucher Scheme through the Strategic Intervention Programme BCC10;
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • agree a further update report on gaps in Youth Provision is presented to the Living Here Board; • agree a representative from the Youth Council be invited to join the Shared City Partnership on an advisory capacity. As per the terms of reference, the representative would have the right to participate fully in the discussions of the SCP and to offer advice but would not have any voting rights; and • agree the development of a project for young people on the understanding of politics is progressed.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The Shared City Partnership is a Working Group of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee consisting 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 November meeting were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a presentation from the Commission of Victims and Survivors • PEACE IV <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Update on PEACE IV Secretariat ➤ Update on PEACE IV CYP Theme ➤ Update on PEACE IV SSS Theme ➤ Update on PEACE IV BPR Theme • an update on the District Council Good Relations Programme 2021/22 • a report on workshop on gaps in Youth Provision held 6th October 2021 • an update on future events.
3.3	<p>More details regarding the above issues and recommendations are included in the attached minutes of the meeting.</p>

3.4	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> All financial implications are covered through existing budgets
3.5	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> The recommendations of the Partnership promote the work of the Council in promoting good relations and will enhance equality and good relations impacts.
4.0	Document Attached
	Minutes of meeting of 8th November

SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP

MONDAY 8th NOVEMBER, 2021

MEETING OF SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

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

External Members: Mr. J. Donnelly, Community and Voluntary Sector;
Mr. C. Gardner, Good Relations, TEO;
Ms. J. Irwin, Community Relations Council;
Ms. K. Jardine, Faith Sector;
Mr. M. McBride, Education Authority;
Mr. I. McLaughlin, Community and Voluntary Sector;
Miss. A. Roberts, Community and Voluntary Sector;
Ms. Ann Marie White, British Red Cross.

In attendance: Ms. D. McKinney, PEACE IV Programme Manager; and
Mrs. S. Steele, Democratic Services Officer.

Following a query from a Member, the Partnership agreed to write to the PSNI representative to encourage attendance at the meetings. It was further agreed that a report be submitted to a future meeting which would give consideration to the Terms of Reference and whether organisations could appoint a nominee to attend in instances where their representative was unable to attend, given the importance of representation at the meeting.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported on behalf of the Chairperson, Councillor Kyle, and Councillor Kelly and Ms. B. Arthurs, Ms. G. Mornhinweg, Miss. G. Duggan, and Superintendent Pollock.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 11th October, 2021 were taken as read and signed as correct.

Declarations of Interest

No Declaration of Interest were reported.

Schedule of Meetings 2022

The Partnership approved the following schedule of meetings for 2022 and agreed that it should continue to meet at 1.30 p.m.:

- Monday, 17th January;
- Monday, 7th February;
- Monday, 7th March;
- Monday, 11th April;

- Monday, 9th May;
- Monday, 6th June;
- Monday, 8th August;
- Monday, 12th September;
- Monday, 10th October;
- Monday, 7th November; and
- Monday, 5th December.

Presentation from the Commission of Victims and Survivors

The Partnership was informed that Dr. K. Radford, Head of Research and Policy, and Mr. A. Sloan, Chief Executive Officer, representing the Commission for Victims and Survivors (CVS) were in attendance to present on the work of the Commission.

Dr Radford commenced by providing the Partnership with an overview of the purpose of the presentation, as follows:

- to grow an understanding of the relevance of victims' issues to aspects of civic life and community planning; and
- to consider what 'mainstreaming' could achieve in practice – across service provision and through shared working.

She then referred specifically to recent research undertaken by the CVS to review the current needs of victims and survivors and advised that this had clearly shown a need to improve the culture and use of shared public spaces and amenities and the benefits of addressing these in victim, sensitive, trauma informed ways.

She drew reference to the research "It didn't end in 98" which had been undertaken in partnership with QUB. She explained that this had used the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child as the lens through which to explore attitudes and experiences of three generations into the following four key areas:

- Divided Space;
- Family Life and Parenting;
- Paramilitarism and Policing; and
- Health and Well-being.

She advised that, in August this year, the CVS and LucidTalk had conducted a population survey dedicated to the general public's views on aspects of the troubles/conflict and she proceeded to provide a comprehensive analysis of the findings, including details of the findings from within the Belfast City Council area specifically. She reported that there was a number of areas where public opinion had deemed that the way forward should be inclusive of the specific needs and insights informed by victims and survivors lived experiences but added that many of these already overlapped with work undertaken within local government.

The representative concluded the presentation by emphasising the need for joined-up working. She highlighted that the issue of shared spaces, community and family life permeated across society and were not specific to any one age group, community background or political persuasion. She further advised that the Commission had recently made representation to The Executive Office and had advocated strongly for the departmental champions on victims' issues to be established across all departments.

Going forward, she encouraged the Members to consider ways that the Commission could aid the work of the Partnership and the Council to affect strategic and operational decision making, ensuring that long term the needs and rights of victims and survivors were considered within a shared value base and that their children and future generations would help to shape these conversations and decisions.

Detailed discussion ensued, during which there was agreement on the need to involve future generations. Partnership members from the Community Sector in West Belfast and the Education Authority advised of relevant work they were currently undertaking in respect of Intergenerational Trauma and agreed to liaise directly with the CVS representatives to discuss this further.

There was also discussion regarding the legacy of the troubles often resulting in ongoing mental health issues and high levels of suicide, this was not just a problem of victims of trauma but also with family members. Dr. Radcliff encouraged the Members to contact her directly to discuss this in more detail, especially in regard to particular issues in their local area. She advised that this was a complex area, referring to the 'It didn't end in 98' work and stressed that such intervention needed to be addressed sensitively.

The representatives thanked the Council for its continued support and specifically the Lord Mayor for the valuable work that she had undertaken.

The Deputy Chairperson of the Partnership thanked the representative for attending and expressed thanks to the CVS for their continued hard work, following which they left the meeting.

Noted.

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 project implementation was increasing across all themes, although mitigations and modifications were continuing to be progressed as per the Thematic Reports. She reported that all delivery partners had re-engaged with participant groups, however, it remained challenging in terms of sustaining participation. Issues regarding the achievement of CYP targets (4,612) had continually been highlighted since the start of the Covid pandemic.

She reported that the following two projects accounted for a high percentage of the CYP participant targets:

- CYP3 On the Right Track with 1,800 participants represents 40% of targets; and
- CYP5 Local Area Networks with 900 participants accounts for 20%

The Partnership noted that, whilst delivery partners continued to make all reasonable efforts to mobilise, condense delivery and increase participation, it had become increasingly evident that the achievement of targets within these projects would be extremely challenging.

In reviewing and considering project progress, the PEACE IV Programme Board had suggested that a formal approach be made to the SEUPB seeking to reduce the CYP participant target by 10%, equating to 460 participants. The reduction would subsequently be applied to the two projects above with 260 participants reduction for CYP3, which would bring the project target to 1,540 and CYP5 would be reduced by 200 participants. These reductions would bring targets in line with the estimated recovery plan for the projects.

She therefore sought the Partnerships approval to formally make a business case to the SEUPB seeking a reduction of the CYP targets.

The Members were also asked to note the monitoring and evaluation of participation and that the impacts of PEACE IV activity were ongoing. The Members were advised that it was anticipated that a Sustainability Steering Group for PEACE IV projects would be established in January 2022. The findings would also be considered in developing the Peace Plus Local Action Plan, future GR Action Plans and community provision activities.

The officer advised that the Spanish Culture Café had been held virtually on Tuesday 19 October, it had been well attended with positive feedback received.

The Partnership was advised that the new Project Manager for the BPR theme had joined the PEACE IV Team on 26th October 2021. She added that the Project Development Officer (PDO) assigned to the CYP theme had resigned and was due to leave on 19th November 2021. The recruitment for the previous Project Development Officer was progressing and it was envisaged that both PDO posts would be recruited through the one recruitment exercise.

The Partnership was informed that, as previously reported, the total value of spend in the programme up to Period 27 (July 21) was £5,300,222.

The Partnership noted that delays with the verification of claims and the reimbursement of monies from the SEUPB was still an ongoing issue with a total of £636,432 currently outstanding. This had been raised with the SEUPB and was being closely monitored.

The Partnership recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that they note the report and the associated appendices and agree to make a business case to SEUPB for a formal reduction of CYP targets by 10% - 460 participants, which would reduce project targets for CYP3 by 260 and CYP5 by 200.

Children and Young People (CYP) 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 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 and 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))

Halloween camps with between 80 – 100 young people in attendance were completed week ending 29 October 2021. The Chair of Shared City Partnership attended the launch of the programme at Girdwood on 26 October 2021.

Members should note Programme Board approval of a project modification for continuation of additional VR sessions as to replace W5 visits due to the ongoing closure of W5.

Future planning for further activity will explore the provision of tech camps for Christmas 2021. The delivery agent is reviewing participants on the waiting list to determine the level of interest before progressing, as there was low uptake during Christmas 2020.

6-11 Year Olds:	250 from a target of 399	149 Remaining
12-16 Year Olds:	116 from a target of 460	344 Remaining
Total	366 Total Recruited to date	493 Total Remaining

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

Sessions have commenced with a 2nd cohort of between 12- 20 young people attending weekly sessions at Girdwood.

The 1st cohort have yet to complete the full hours required, and the potential to mix groups and permit participants to attend additional sessions is being explored. This will enable participants to meet the required cross community contact time.

The delivery agent launched the project at Girdwood on 29 October 2021, via a press release and photo call attended by the Chair of Shared City Partnership.

Total **34 from a target of 160** **126 remaining**

3.2 CYP 2 - Playing our Part in the City

As members are aware from the presentation delivered by the ACN programme manager last month, the project is fully recruited for

Years 3 & 4 and full contact hours and targets are expected to be achieved by December 2021.

Members should note that a change of approach to enable condensed delivery via residential sessions for Ledley Hall and Ardoyne Youth Clubs was approved by the Programme Board.

A closure / celebration event to acknowledge the work of the parents, and young people's achievements, is currently being planned, potentially to take place at City Hall.

Feedback from participants suggests this has been a good experience for them and that they would be willing to take part in future PEACE programmes.

PEACE IV is currently awaiting the full submissions of registration forms before reporting the final Monitoring and Evaluation status on equality and impacts.

<u>Total</u>	598 from a target of 640	42 remaining (Due to finish Dec 21)
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3.3 CYP3 – On the Right Track – Sports and Personal Change elements

The lead officer continues to engage with groups to ensure the required cross community contact time is achieved. During the period between 25-40 young people have completed Sports Leaders training including new participants from Grove and Phoenix Basketball and team building activity for the groups is currently being planned. An additional 30 participants from Cairn Lodge & Mas Boxing Clubs have also completed the OCN qualification during October 2021.

Additional groups are to begin sessions in November & December 2021. The lead officer is progressing with recruitment/scheduling of joint group sessions, as well as liaising with the Active Communities Network to confirm groups for the OCN in Inclusion & Diversity. The option of delivering training at residential is being explored with ACN.

A review of options to utilise the Cross Border Residential Centres and associated contracts will commence in the new year, as most of the young people taking part in the programme are within the unvaccinated age category.

<u>Total</u>	647 from a target of 1800	1153 remaining
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Personal Change

Members are requested to note Programme Board approval for flexibility in the achievement of contact hours from 305 to 265, which is within the Output Indicator Guidance. Although Extern will endeavour to achieve as close to the full hours as possible.

At present all participants have achieved at least 60 -70 % of target hours. The remaining sports sessions took place during October at Todd's Leap. Morrow Communications captured group content and individual testimonials from participants. As previously reported the programme will be fully delivered by end of December 2021.

Total **42 from a target of 42** **0 remaining – due to finish Dec 21**

3.4 CYP 4 – Cooperation Ireland (Young Advocates)

Cooperation Ireland has recommenced the delivery of activity and to address dropout rates is over recruiting participants. A series of information sessions with interested groups took place in East, North & West Belfast and culminated in a combined team building event at Belfast Activity Centre on 19 October 2021.

Members should note that delivery of activity is via a condensed approach with residential taking place in October 2021. The residential included a dragon's den type event whereby the participants pitched their ideas on issues affecting young people, this will then enable the group to agree on the campaign the young people will progress as part of the project. This exercise will also determine the focus of the first OCN that the group will complete.

Monitoring and evaluation data including registrations forms for this final group is still to be submitted and is being followed up by the PEACE IV team.

Morrow Communications attended the residential to capture footage for the PEACE IV journey, as this programme is due to end in March / April 2022.

Total **48 from a target of 80** **32 remaining**

3.5 CYP 5 – NIHE Local Area Network Partner Delivery

NIHE have continually tried to re-engage previous participants on the programme, with no success. As such NIHE has confirmed the withdrawal of 188 young people from the attendance tracker, as they have not completed any hours, to ensure transparent recording of current participation levels.

Members are requested to note the addition of a new group, Corpus Christi, into the West Belfast 2 network which will aid the achievement of the cross community balance.

NIHE is currently exploring the potential of reinstating residential activity in January 2022, in order to explore ways to condense delivery and use an incentive for participants to take part. The SLA for participating groups is currently with SEUPB for review before the delivery agent issues any papers to groups for commitment to the programme.

NIHE is exploring mental health resources with Action Mental Health (AMH) for CYP5 participants as part of the Pre-Tenancy Training and Active Citizenship elements of the programme. This will be deemed as benefit in kind for participants as AMH is delivering the Peace IV-funded Our Generation programme. To avoid double counting of participants and funding NIHE will incur no costs to deliver this element.

Total **123 from a target of 900** **777 remaining**

3.6 Financial and Resource Implications

The financial position remains as previously reported with spend of the CYP theme (up to Period 27) totalling £1,401,234. Payment of claims for NIHE Period 26 (£9,224) and for both BCC and NIHE Period 27 (£104,374) remain outstanding.

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 Space 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 and drew Members’ attention to a status update of the projects which had been attached as appendices.

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

Springfield Dam - As reported previously, discussion was underway in relation to the referred options for the naming process. Forth Meadow Community Greenway Project Board was to consider the preferred naming process, in line with Council Policy, at its meeting scheduled to be held on 17th November 2021.

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.

The Members were then asked to review and approve the design and layout of the draft panels in relation to the design and layout which had been attached as appendices to the report.

The officer advised that following a walk-through of Section 1 the preferred location and narrative content of the first 7 information panels had been recommended for the Members approval.

A Member referred to the recent disturbances at Lanark Way and asked that officer to convey to the contractor the need to ensure that the final panels erected were robust and safely secured.

Works had commenced at section 2 in October 2021 and had initially focused on the treatment of invasive species.

The Members were asked to note the change in commencement of works at Section 3. Due to the weather conditions at this time of the year, and the risk of laying asphalt in cold weather, works at Section 3 had been postponed to January 2022.

The officer advised that the management and maintenance group continued to work through operational matters. Key updates / actions from the meeting on 14th October included the naming of the bridge in Springfield Dam Park, postponing works in Falls Park (Section 3), addressing invasive species in Section 2, the locations of the interpretative panels in Section 1 and the procurement process around identifying artist/s for the public art pieces.

She advised that the Public Art Steering Group/Panel continued to meet and had agreed that the proposed artworks should focus on the theme “Down to Earth”. This was based on alignment with the brand identity of Forth Meadow Community Greenway “On Common Ground” and that the people of Belfast were often described as being “down to earth”. Procurement of an artist would commence in November 2021, subject to approval by the SEUPB. In addition, the Members were asked to note the PQQ documentation for the Artworks (Appendix VII) which would also be submitted to the SEUPB review and approval.

Social Value Clause – The contractor had advised the Council of the employment of one work placement student and one apprentice in line with the social clause requirements. The Members were asked to note that further work was required in relation to long term unemployed and advice had been sought from the Council’s Economic Development Department in relation to the appointments.

In addition, the contractor would be attending an Information Roadshow at St Georges Market on Friday, 8th November 2021 to promote employment, student placement and apprenticeship opportunities and also that further roadshows would take place throughout 2022. The officer reported that construction academies work to fulfill trainee requirements was also underway with the Council’s Economic Development Department and Workforce Training and that discussion was also ongoing with the contractor in relation to the preparation of a community engagement plan.

The officer referred to a clause in the Social Clauses Template which related to the engagement with at least one local charity to organise a fundraising event in association with the project and she advised that the contractor had asked the Shared City Partnership to provide some guidance around potential charities and the type of fundraising event.

The Members considered this and suggested that the contractor engage with the organisers of established local food banks. The Members also welcomed the progress made to date in progressing the jobs and skills element of the Social Clauses and stated that they would be keen to see this work further developed.

In regard to the other Programmes:

- **Shared History, Heritage and Identity Content / Narratives for Shared Space**

The Project Lead continued to engage with discussion groups along the Greenway, with input from organisations including Shankill Women’s Group; Paisley Park

Trustees; Whiterock Orange Hall and Ballygomartin Presbyterian Church; Ballygomartin Orange Hall; Springfield Primary School; Corpus Christ Youth Centre; Springmartin Women's Group and St John's Parish Church.

She advised that a similar approach to agreeing narratives and panel locations would be adopted for the remaining sections of the Greenway.

- **Shared Space Volunteer Training**

The Sustrans' Volunteer Cycle and Walk Lead projects were progressing well with the first group of 10 participants coming to the end of their training and expected to complete in November 2021.

The Walk Lead Volunteers had organised and managed a walk with a seniors' group, in collaboration with Council's Belfast Health and Development Unit, on 26th October in Bog Meadows.

The Members were asked to note that the SEUPB had approved the reallocation of the History Volunteers budget to support a 10% contract uplift to enable the existing volunteer training projects to recruit and train an additional 3 volunteers. Sustrans, Volunteer Now and The Conservation Volunteers had been approached to agree the increase in targets.

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

The officer advised that a summary of the findings from the recent residents' survey had highlighted support for the Greenway. Almost all the respondents had rated feeling safety, accessibility, and public amenities as very important to the use of the of the Greenway. Fifty-six percent of respondents stated that they were likely to use several parts of the Greenway, however, some people stated that they were still likely to only use parts near their own community, indicating that engagement work remained necessary to try and address this.

The officer advised that the full findings of the survey would be reported to the Members at a future meeting.

A second site visit by MDL to Belfast had taken place on 18th-22nd October 2021. It had involved meetings with Greater Village Regeneration Trust, Artsekta, Friendship Club, TACIT and North Belfast Youth Group, linking in representatives of residents, BME groups and young people. Further visits and discussions had been scheduled for November.

- **Governance / Management Model**

Viatic had also been involved in the second site-visit referred above and met with representatives from the Community Partnerships / Umbrella Groups, such as the West Belfast Partnership Board, the Greater Village Regeneration Trust and TACIT to gauge interest, levels of expertise and involvement in the governance model. The contractor would combine the visit with MDL in November with further discussions with other partnerships / forums, including the Greater Shankill Partnership, Blackmountain Shared Space and Paisley Park Trustees.

- **Youth Engagement and Civic Education**

The tender call had closed on 15th October 2021, three applications had been received, with the moderation meeting having been facilitated on 28th October 2021 and it was anticipated that the contract award would be made late November 2021.

- **Springfield Dam Activities**

Discussions involving City and Neighbourhood Services officers from Outdoor Space and Active Living, Parks Outreach, Community Services and PEACE IV, were being scheduled to agree a programme of activities.

- **Modular Building**

The modular building continued to be opened through an agreed internal process to facilitate the Sustrans' Volunteer training project.

- **SSS Activities Co-ordinator**

A tender call for the provision of animation activities and showcase events along the Greenway had opened on 22nd October 2021 and would close on 12th November 2021.

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 and Period 27 claim totalling £85,411 remained outstanding.

The Partnership agreed to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it note the contents of the report and associated appendices and that it:

- agree the narratives and locations of the 7 panels for Section 1;
- agree the design and layout of information panels;
- agree that the panels and narratives would be subject to equality screening;
- agree to delegate authority to the Capital Project Board at its meeting on 17th November, to agree on the design of the panels around the Parks, with a report to be submitted to the December meeting of the Partnership; and
- the contractor be advised to engage with the organisers of established local food banks in terms of organising a potential fundraising event in association with the project.

Building Positive Relations (BPR) 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 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 and Resources Committee that they agree the following proposals and note the contents of the report and related appendices:

- BPR5 LINC'S - to extend the delivery timeframe to 30 September 2022, to increase the capacity building and further develop the Inclusion Forum.
- BPR5/Traveller - to delegate authority to the PEACE IV Programme Board to agree the rescope of the Traveller Support Hub to a Capacity Building programme, subject to SEUPB approval.
- BPR5/Roma - to extend the participant group for the Advocacy and Advice Skills training to the wider community.
- BPR6/St Comgall's - to amend the format of six hard copy interpretative panels to replace with an online digital resource to enable the content to be more accessible.
- Cinematography - to include BPR6 in the project and to extend the delivery timeframe to October 2022 and to increase the contract award by £5,750, subject to agreement by SEUPB.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

Delivery of project activity is increasing as the easing of government restrictions has enabled all delivery partners to re-establish activity on a face to face basis.

Members should note the new Thematic Project Manager, Julie Larmour Knight, commenced work on 26 October 2021. Julie is currently establishing contact with relevant delivery partners.

3.1 BPR1 – Cross Community Area Networks (CCAN)

Implementation of the project is increasing with most networks now having completed good relations activity delivered by Verbal Arts Centre. Condensed delivery of other activity via residential continues to be explored.

Members are requested to note a modification to permit the use of an SLA was approved by the Programme Board. The SLA will help manage community groups expectations regarding contact hours, facilitators costs and monitoring & evaluation information required and also encourage participation and commitment to the programme. This approach will bring the BPR1 project in line with the SLA approach used within the CYP programme.

The Place shaping contract has now been formally awarded and implementation of this element is progressing. NIHE are also due to extend contracts with their delivery agents.

3.2 BPR2 – Creative Communities Project

To date 59 participants across three clusters remain engaged in activity.

The Clonard/Mid-Shankill cluster is nearing completion. A showcase event involving the unveiling of the artworks to coincide with infant loss week took place at City Hall on 15 October 2021. Significant publicity of the event highlighted the sensitive issue the cluster worked on and promoted the cross-community work of participants and PEACE IV.

Face-to-face activity by the artist in residence is continuing with Woodvale/Ardoyne and Divis/Lower Shankill cluster.

Re-engagement with St Malachy's and Albert Foundry FC participants in the Football Thematic cluster has been challenging. A study visit to the National Stadium is being planned to gain momentum.

Procurement for the appointment of Artist in Residence for the Carlisle Cluster and Ardoyne Cluster is progressing.

Discussions with client groups involved in the LGBTQ+ cluster are currently paused due to the current Outburst Arts Festival and pressures for groups to respond to core funding calls. Discussions to date have highlighted the need for the artist in residence to be from LGBTQ+ community to understand the issues face by the community and to encourage participation. Discussions with the groups will recommence mid-November.

3.3 BPR3 – Transform for Change Project

Transformative Leadership Programme:

Delivery of the Leadership Training is ongoing with five clusters across the City. The trial of an evening course in North Belfast has been well received with 16 participants actively involved in the programme. A further North Belfast cluster is due to commence on 9 November 21.

Members should note that following the delivery of one well-being session as part of the Resource Allocation project with South Belfast cluster project, the project lead has withdrawn from the programme due to procurement challenges, and as such, the two remaining well-being sessions will not be delivered.

Other Resource Allocation cluster projects are at various stages of progression and include mental health training, youth training and community days.

NICVA and delivery partners have commenced delivery of further Resource Allocation project development and have raised concerns regarding the Resource Allocation Agreement. Discussions on the approach are being progressed with Legal.

The new TPM will progress the community engagement events and local study visits as a key priority.

3.4 BPR4 – Belfast and the World (BATW)

Delivery of activity via a condensed programme of 5-6 weeks for the final year cohort is progressing via blended learning online/ residential/ face to face sessions.

Planning for delivery of the Civic Led play focusing on Partition and the learning resource pack focusing on 'How do we do commemoration better' are underway.

The delivery agent is exploring the potential to extend delivery into 2022, subject to contracted budget availability. A formal modification will be progressed, as required, in the near future.

The new Thematic Project Manager will be reviewing potential options for the delivery of targets associated with the EU Study trips and alternative trips across NI and ROI.

3.5 BPR5 – Supporting Connected Communities - LINCS Projects

All four Neighbourhood Participatory Forums (NPF's) have reviewed and updated their Action Plans which will determine the future activity / sessions to be progressed. Members should note that whilst the project is close to achieving agreed targets and outcomes, (96 participants completing 68 hours in line with the agreed rescoped activity), flexibility to ensure achievement of outcomes is required. BAME participants remain anxious about engaging outside of their own social bubbles and the delivery partner is making every effort to meet target hours and outcomes.

Given the above, the delivery partner, NI Alternatives has submitted a modification request to extend the delivery timeframe of the project from February 22 to September 22. During this period further capacity building for key participants from the four NPF's and Inclusion Forum will be delivered including:

1. Development and embedding of the Inclusion Forum – the extension will enable 10 additional strategic meetings, with 20 participants at each meeting, at least 4 of whom would be current participants / NPF members.
2. Leadership Development - key individuals from the four NPF's (8-10 current members) have been identified as having potential to develop as community leaders / champions on building relationships between / within their community with focused training and development. It is

proposed that further development of active citizenship with a focused leadership programme will build on learning to date and deepen existing skills, capacity and confidence. The programme will bring these participants together on a monthly basis for a 4-hour training / engagement programme.

The modification will enhance the active citizenship element and leave a deeper legacy impact of the project.

Members are requested to consider and agree the PEACE IV Programme Board recommendation of approving the modification subject to:

- (i) The Inclusion Forum to link in with the Good Relations Unit and co-ordinate with the Migrant Forum.
- (ii) Participation in the Leadership Development programme must be 50% BAME and 50% host communities.

3.6 BPR5 – Traveller Project - Supporting Connected Communities

Engagement with the Traveller Community is ongoing and members should note that whilst progress has been gradual the agreement of the Traveller community to participate in the project represents a major step forward.

The first programme of workshops and exhibition commenced delivery of Genealogy sessions on 9th October 2021. The sessions will explore culture, history and heritage of the Traveller and settled communities and will culminate in the delivery of a related exhibition.

Discussions to identify other engagement opportunities through existing support agencies such as Extern, Barnardos and NIHE is ongoing. The scoping of a programme aimed at young mothers focusing on Health and Wellbeing is being progressed. Discussions with a local Housing Fold to work with local Traveller Men to develop a community garden within the Fold grounds are also underway.

It has been identified that a rescope of the Traveller Support Hub into a capacity building programme is necessary. The content of the capacity building programme is being developed in conjunction with existing support agencies, and the sector, and will comprise of activities to engage the Traveller and settled communities, and provide opportunities for access to services to be promoted via a drop in approach. To accelerate approvals for this rescope, Members are requested to delegate authority to the PEACE IV Programme Board to agree the Capacity Building programme, subject to SEUPB approval.

3.7 BPR5 – Roma Project - Supporting Connected Communities

The Roma Support Hub is active, and monitoring of calls is progressing. The number of calls and advice sessions is increasing weekly, mainly dealing with welfare issues associated with living conditions, education and health. The revised Schedule of Processing to enable the processing of data through a subcontract with Advice NI has been issued and agreed.

Delivery of the Building Positive Relations programme has commenced with 18/20 core participants. It is anticipated that these participants will then progress to partaking in ESOL English language lessons, as previously approved by the Programme Board and noted to the Partnership.

Challenges associated with the capacity of current Roma participants to progress to the Advocacy and Advice Training has been highlighted due to their newcomer status and language barriers. Members are requested to note that the PEACE IV Programme Board and SEUPB agreed a modification to broaden the recruitment for these elements to both the Roma community (including the core participants) and the wider community.

3.8 BPR6 – St. Comgalls

Workshop activity for both participant groups is progressing and planning is also underway for the networking event and seminar to take place by December 2021.

Members should note that the St. Comgalls capital build is now scheduled for completion January 2022 which will enable SEUPB's condition of delivery of project activity within the building to be met.

The delivery partner has been re- engaging with groups involved in the Oral History Steering Group. The research element which contributes to the exhibition and educational resources is also to be developed over the coming weeks.

Members are requested to consider and approve a modification request to change the format of six hard copy interpretative panels to online digital resource to enable the exhibition materials and resource to be accessible and reach a broader audience.

On considering the modification, the Programme Board noted the modification will futureproof and extend the resources and will not change the impact of the project or require any changes to budget. Members also note that ongoing costs associated with maintenance of online resources beyond the lifetime of the PEACE IV will be met by Falls Community Council.

3.9 Cinematography Project

Morrow Communications is continuing to capture project activity and content for the Belfast Peace Journey project and thematic films as well as for social media clips. The current priority for filming is capturing the activity of projects due to complete in December 21, including CYP2 and CYP3 Personal Change element.

Approval of extension requests for several PEACE IV projects has resulted in a requirement to extend the contract with Morrow Communications to October 2022 to enable all filming, editing and production of the films to be completed.

The BPR6 St. Comgalls project was not approved by SEUPB at the time of the contract award to Morrow, therefore to ensure equal treatment of all projects, and to fully capture all activity delivered through the Belfast PEACE IV LAP there is a need to include the filming of this activity in the Morrow contract. As such Members are also requested to agree the above proposal and associated uplift of the contract value by approx. £5,750 to cover associated costs of including BPR6 and the extended delivery timeframe. This uplift in the contract is within the 10% threshold for increases in contract value and will be met by cost savings within the BPR3 TFC project.

3.10 Financial & Resource Implication

The financial position for the BPR theme remains as previously reported with £1,792,882 reimbursed by SEUPB for some claims up to Period 26. Reimbursement of Period 26 for NIHE and St. Comgalls (£54,641) and for Period 27 (£326,709) remains outstanding.

3.11 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 to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it adopt the recommendations as detailed at 2.0 of the report.

Update on DCGRP Action Plan

The Partnership considered the following 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 following updates from the ongoing delivery of the Good Relations Action Plan and agree;

- funding support of £2,500 for Black Mountain Shared Spaces to deliver a cross community Christmas fair at the Springmartin Interface.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Delivery of the DCGRP Action Plan 21/22 is continuing.

The new temporary Good Relations Officer, Danny Sweeney is now in post and has been engaging with community groups and establishing relationships.

Groups have reported that due to COVID restrictions there have not been opportunities to organise large scale cross community events in the area. Liaison is ongoing between the groups and with a relaxation of restrictions on public gatherings, it is anticipated that larger scale cross community events will resume in the near future.

As members are aware, the DCGRP Action Plan 21/22 includes the BCC10 Strategic Intervention Programme which provides £15K of funds to be distributed on an area basis. This is to ensure a targeted, strategic and proactive approach and interventions requiring support must address good relations issues and one of the T:BUC priorities.

3.2 North Belfast

Members are asked to agree to provide £2,500 funding support, under the theme of the DCGRP BCC 10 Strategic Intervention Programme, for Black Mountain Shared Spaces to deliver a cross community Christmas event at the interface at Springmartin. The proposed event has been identified through relevant local groups that focus on vulnerable/interface communities and meets the good relations outcomes and T:BUC priorities. The event will involve a Santa's grotto, music, food stands and stalls run by local community groups, selling sundry items to raise funds on a not for profit basis.

3.3 Members should also note that, under the BCC10 theme, Letters of Offer have been issued to groups for projects, as follows:

- Belfast Interface Project - £10,000
- Black Mountain Shared Space, Critical Engagement Programme - £8,000
- TASCIT - £14,390
- Greater Shankill Partnership - £5,000

- New Lodge Arts - £2,500
- Dean Clarke Foundation - £1,940

The award of £1,500 to Holy Family and Mountcollyer Youth Clubs for a joint Christmas Fair is being progressed and is subject to approval at full Council on 1 November 2021.

The above funding allocations have been previously considered by the Shared City Partnership and approved by Council.

3.4 Further key highlights on delivery of the DCGRP Action Plan for members to note are:

The Schools Project delivered under BCC9 will be recommencing pupil to pupil contact from November, in line with current COVID restrictions.

The Council will be represented at the Peace Barriers Conference taking place on Wednesday 3rd November, and a report on the Conference will be brought to the December meeting of the Partnership.

Dr Lucy Michael has been awarded the contract to carry out the research, commissioned by the Council, PHA and BHSCT, looking at the lived-in experiences of people from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Communities in Belfast.

Red Cross have also been awarded the contract to deliver orientation to new communities and information to host communities.

3.5 Financial & Resource Implications

All costs are covered through the District Council Good Relations Action Plan budget 21/22 as agreed by Members in March 2021.

Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

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

The Partnership was advised of an additional request that had been received from the NI Community of Refugees and Asylum Seekers (NICRAS) seeking funding support of £1,000 to provide translation assistance to those people claiming the High Street Voucher. She advised that it was the NICAS intention to write to people in their own language to provide details of how to activate and spend the voucher.

The Partnership noted the update and agreed funding support of £2,500 be awarded for Black Mountain Shared Spaces to deliver a cross community Christmas Fair at the Springmartin Interface and £1,000 to NICRAS to deliver translation support in relation to the High Street Voucher Scheme.

**Report from Workshop held on 6th October to
consider gaps outlined by the Education Authority**

The Programme Manager referred to the recent work that had been undertaken to explore options to target support for good relations work in the City, with particular reference having been given to during times of civil unrest in the City, such as those that had occurred during April 2021.

She advised that during the initial facilitated discussion, Youth Provision had been highlighted as a key priority and subsequently the Education Authority, as a leading provider of youth services, had presented to the Partnership at its August meeting where it had considered the background of the events, the youth work response to the incidents. She advised that the following gaps in provision had been identified:

1. Safe outdoor spaces for young people;
2. Capacity to open youth centres in areas of tension should be reviewed;
3. Structured 'aftermath planning' to support and manage the consequences of the events;
4. Communications should focus on strength-based or asset-based messaging;
5. Participation and active voice of young people in debates around youth and community issues.

Subsequently, on 6th October, Dr Duncan Morrow had facilitated a further workshop, which had specifically concentrated on identifying future priorities for the Partnership and funding organisations and the following next steps had been identified:

- to convey the workshop analysis and priorities to both the Council and the Partnership;
- to engage with the Youth Service seeking a presentation on best practice;
- to consider a potential project on developing the understanding of politics for young people; and
- to report the findings to the Living Here Board;

The Members recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that:

- a further update report be issued to the Living Here Board;
- a representative from the Youth Council be invited to join the Shared City Partnership on an advisory capacity. As per the terms of reference, the representative would have the right to participate fully in the discussions of the SCP and to offer advice but would not have any voting rights; and
- it agree that the development of a project for young people on the understanding of politics is progressed.

Upcoming Events

The PEACE IV Programme Manager advised the Members of the following event which they were welcome to attend. She further advised the Members to contact the officer/organisation responsible for the event should they require any additional information.

- 'War, Treaty, the Belfast Troubles and the Craig-Collins Pacts, 1921-22'
- 24th November, 2.00 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.
- Webinar talk and question and answer with Dr. Éamon Phoenix, via Zoom

Registration available [here](#)

She also reminded the Members of an event focusing on Shared Space that was taking place on Thursday, 11th November 2021 at 9.30 a.m. in Crumlin Road Gaol and she encouraged any Member who wished to attend to register as soon as possible as there had been significant interest in the event.

Noted.

Chairperson

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Minutes of Party Group Leaders' Consultative Forum 11th November 2021

Attendance

Members:

Councillor Billy Hutchinson
Councillor Nuala McAlister
Councillor Donal Lyons
Councillor Mal O'Hara
Alderman Brian Kingston
Councillor Ciaran Beattie
Councillor Fiona Ferguson
Alderman Sonia Copeland

Apologies: Councillor Áine Groogan

Officers:

Suzanne Wylie, Chief Executive
Ronan Cregan, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources
John Walsh, City Solicitor
Ryan Black, Director of Neighbourhood Services (for Items 2 & 7)
Sinead Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes (for Item 3)
Alistair Reid, Director of Place and Economy (for Item 6)
Christine Sheridan, Head of Head of Human Resources (AOB – Return to Office)
Joanne Delaney, Portfolio and Programme Coordinator (secretariat)

Due to the meeting taking place on Armistice Remembrance Day, Members paused the meeting at 10.45am and reconvened at 11.15am.

1. Finance

The Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources outlined for Members the ongoing process to develop the revenue estimates and setting of the District Rate for 2022/23. He outlined the business as usual cost pressures and the priority growth proposals following recent Director challenge meetings. Members were also provided with an update on the impact of the Estimated Penny Product (EPP) on the District Rate Income for 2022/23. A report will be brought to SP&R committee detailing the options discussed for Members consideration.

2. Bonfires Review

The Director of Neighbourhood Services provided an update on a recent Motion in relation to proposed Bonfire Procedures. He advised that following consultation with Party Group Leaders a report would be brought to the November SP and R Committee outlining the proposed framework for a review to be undertaken. Members discussed the timescale involved in completing the review given the level of consultation and engagement required, it was noted that a draft report will be submitted to SP and R in January 2022. A query was raised by a Member in relation to a previous review undertaken in 2020, and it was agreed the draft report would be brought to the attention of Party Group Leaders and if appropriate feed into this current process.

3. Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund

Members received a presentation on the Neighbourhood Regeneration Fund designed to support capital projects within the Belfast City Council area. The Director of Physical Programmes outlined the proposed programme framework, next steps and the indicative timeframe for programme delivery. Members welcomed that the fund would be an open call and had a number of queries particularly in relation to capacity building for groups to enable access to the fund. The Director advised that detailed guidance will be issued, consultation events will be held and officers from the Physical Programme department will also provide support for groups throughout the process. It is envisaged the fund will launch in January 2022. A query was raised in relation to the Equality Screening by a Member and the Director will take this into consideration.

4. City Centre Bye-Laws

The City Solicitor provided an update for Members in relation to the city centre bye laws report which was referred back to the SP and R committee following the November Council meeting. Members discussed in detail their specific concerns in relation to the current draft and the City Solicitor advised that Party Group Briefings would be arranged to consider proposals and party issues, in advance of a report going back to SP and R. He noted that Members were keen for this to be progressed, and that briefings will be organised accordingly. In relation to ongoing concerns raised by Members about recent demonstrations outside the City Hall, the City Solicitor advised that he would raise concerns with the PSNI.

5. Brexit Committee – Revised Terms of Reference

The City Solicitor outlined proposed revised Terms of Reference for the Brexit Committee, within a post Brexit environment. He advised that it is proposed that the Brexit Committee be realigned as a Climate and City Resilience Committee with responsibility for oversight of climate and resilience strategies for the city. Members raised a number of points for consideration for the realignment of the committee and it was agreed that Party Group Leaders send their comments to the City Solicitor in advance of November SP and R.

6. Cycling Champion - Proposed Approach

The Director of Place and Economy referred Members to a previous motion for a Cycling Champion within the Council to support active travel and bicycle use. There was detailed discussion around the proposed role, remit of the role and who would be appointed to the undertake the role. Members agreed that this needed further consideration before being brought to CG&R Committee. The Director to consult with Party Group Leaders in advance of a report going to a future CG&R Committee.

7. Queen's Green Canopy - Champion Cities

The Chief Executive advised that correspondence had been received in respect of the Council making an application for Champion Cities status under the Queens Green Canopy project (QGCP). The Councils participation in the QGCP was previously considered and agreed by the People and Communities Committee. The request to consider Champion Cities status was only received recently following that decision. The Director of Neighbourhood Services advised the application deadline does not allow sufficient time to bring back to the P&C Committee and therefore approval was sought from Party Group Leaders to enable a decision to be made under delegated authority. There was consensus from Members to proceed with the application.

8. Planning Update

The Chief Executive updated the Forum on the live planning applications and informed the Forum of applications that were being presented to the Planning Committee in November.

9. AOB

Return to the office

The Chief Executive provided an update on the return to the office for those staff still working from home. She advised that as agreed the establishment of the management and trade union working group was underway. The group will review all customer related services in the first instance and agree a service by service process to prioritise the return of employees where required. Members noted that some staff have begun to return on a voluntary basis from the 1 November. Members will be updated as the review progresses.

Marking Human Rights Day

The City Solicitor advised that a request had been received from a Member to fly two flags from City Hall, namely the UN Flag and a Human Rights Flag, on the 10 December, in order to mark Human Rights Day 2021. A report will go to November SP and R committee for approval.

Covid Passport and Checks - Council Approach

The Chief Executive outlined how the council is complying with covid regulations at council events or events being held in council properties and on council land. Council will continue to ensure that regulations are followed however no organised checks for proof of vaccination or tests would be undertaken at this time. Each event and venue has individual risk assessments, and in relation to council organised events where attendance may have larger numbers attending at City Hall, Lateral Flow Test will be encouraged – in the same way we do with staff. The approach will be kept under review in line with emerging guidance from the NI Executive.

Members also discussed the guidance issued by the organisers of the Christmas Market and given the numbers anticipated noted that the front doors of City Hall would be closed whilst the market was operational.

Exhibition of Covid Memorial Stones

Councillor Lyons raised a request for city hall to host an exhibition of painted stones representing lives lost during the pandemic. He shared some recent media in relation to the exhibition which was recently hosted in the grounds of Stormont. The City Solicitor to arrange for Officers to follow up with Councillor Lyons.

Revised Dual Language Street Signs Policy

The City Solicitor Informed Members that the revised Dual Language Street Signs policy consultation will go live week commencing 15 November. Party Group Briefings will be arranged in parallel during November.

Centenary of the Ulster Memorial Tower

Alderman Kingston raised an issue in relation to an invitation to the centenary commemoration of the opening of the Ulster Tower on 18 November 2021 in France. Members noted that the invitation had been sent to an email account that was no longer accessed and this was the reason it was being raised with Party Group Leaders. Alderman Kingston referred Members to a Motion proposed by himself in relation to the marking of the centenary. There was consensus from Party Group Leaders to agree attendance at the event and that given the event was next week a report would go to SP&R for retrospective approval.

It was also agreed that some consideration is given to other events within the Decade of Centenaries programme in relation to the Labour Movement.

In relation to some concerns highlighted by a member in relation to the remit of the Forum, the Chief Executive and City Solicitor outlined the role of the forum and the City Solicitor outlined the consultation process with Party Group Leaders in this forum in relation to delegated decisions. It was highlighted that Members may wish to consider the constitution and decision-making process for Party Group Leaders in the new Council term.

DfC Community Recovery Funding

Councillor O'Hara raised an issue relating to a report that went to November P&C Committee in relation to the additional funding from the Department for Communities to support communities to manage the impacts of COVID-19. Whilst it was acknowledged that the nine

area strategic partners were agreed by Party Group Leaders in the early days of the pandemic so that funding could be utilised within the short timeframes, some Members had some issues continuing with this process without a review for future funding allocations. Members noted that the decision taken at P&C committee would be considered at the December Council meeting and if minded could raise their concerns then.

Alderman Kingston declared an interest in this item in relation to the area strategic partners, however, the City Solicitor confirmed that no decision was being taken. He also clarified a question in relation to conflicts of interest for Councillor O' Hara.



Subject:	Requests for the use of the City Hall and the Provision of Hospitality
Date:	19th November, 2021
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor and Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Aisling Milliken, Functions and Exhibition Manager

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes ☐ No ☒

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

☐
☐
☐
☐

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes ☒ No ☐

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	This report, together with the attached appendix, contains the recommended approach in respect of each of the requests by external organisations for access to the City Hall function rooms received up to 5th November 2021, which appear to the Function Management Unit to comply with the criteria previously established by the Committee. They are, therefore, recommended for approval.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to approve the recommendations made in respect of applications received up to 5th November, as set out in the attached appendix.
3.0	Main Report
	<u>Background Information</u>
3.1	The Committee will recall that, at its meeting on 6th January 2017, it agreed to modify the criteria governing access to the City Hall function rooms for external organisations.

3.2	<p>The Committee also agreed to the implementation of room-hire charges for some categories of function and also revised the approach to the provision of civic hospitality for functions on foot of the agreed efficiency programme. Some further modifications to this approach were agreed by the Committee on 24th March and 23rd June, 2017 and 23rd June and 25th October, 2019.</p> <p><u>Key Issues</u></p>
3.3	<p>The existing revised criteria and scale of charges have been applied to the various requests received and the recommendations herein are offered to the Committee on this basis for approval.</p>
3.4	<p>The attached schedule covers four applications for functions, scheduled for 2022, however approval is linked to City Hall recovery and functions will be planned in line with NI Executive guidance.</p> <p><u>COVID implications</u></p>
3.5	<p>In managing and delivering future functions, liaison with and guidance for organisers will be provided by officers to ensure compliance with any relevant social distancing guidelines at the time of their function. Committee approval for their function to take place in City Hall is recommended on the basis of their compliance to this caveat and what is permissible and feasible in City Hall function rooms.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p>
3.6	<p>The implementation of charging for external functions has commenced, in line with the Committee's decisions in the matter.</p> <p><u>Equality and Good Relations / Rural Needs Implications</u></p>
3.7	<p>There are no direct good relations, equality or rural needs implications arising from this report.</p>
4.0	Document Attached
	<p>Schedule of function requests received up to 5th November 2021</p>

NOVEMBER 2021 CITY HALL FUNCTION APPLICATIONS

NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
2022 EVENTS						
Northern Ireland Alternatives	19 January 2022	STARS Celebration Ceremony (Striving Towards a Restorative Society) celebrating participants in the STARS Programme which covers Shankill, North Belfast and East Belfast involved in positive community initiatives. Numbers attending – 90 <i>* Numbers and room layout will be reviewed and revised in line with COVID19 social distancing guidelines at the time of this event.</i>	D	No (charity)	No hospitality	Approve No Charge No hospitality
European Youth Parliament	21 March 2022	NI Regional Session of Youth Parliament - teams of secondary students debate and present their ideas and solutions on current topics. Numbers attending – 130	B & D	No (Charity)	No (they provide their own lunches for attendees)	Approve No charge No hospitality

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Subject:	Funding for Changing Places Facilities – Response from Minister of Finance
Date:	19th November, 2021
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor / Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Ian Harper, Building Control Manager

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to draw to Members' attention a letter which has been received from the Minister of Finance in response to the Committee's request for funding to be made available for the retrospective installation of changing places facilities in existing premises.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to note the response.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p><u>Background</u></p> <p>The Committee will recall that, at its meeting on 24th September, it approved a draft response to the Department of Finance's public consultation on updated building control advice on the fitting of changing places facilities.</p>

3.2	Changing Places are facilities whereby people with profound and multiple disabilities can avail of toilet and personal hygiene amenities, designed specifically for their needs.
3.3	The draft response confirmed the Council's support for the mandatory provision of changing places facilities under Building Regulations, as a positive way of increasing inclusion for service users and their carers.
3.4	The Committee was also informed that, following the introduction of similar regulations in England and issues which had been raised around the financial challenges associated with voluntarily providing changing places in existing premises, a £30 million fund had been launched in July, to be distributed through local authorities.
3.5	The Committee agreed that a letter be forwarded to the Minister of Finance requesting that a similar fund be established in Northern Ireland for retrospective installations in existing premises.
3.6	A response has now been received from Mr. Conor Murphy, MLA, Minister of Finance, a copy of which is attached.
3.7	The Minister begins by acknowledging the Council's response to the Department of Finance's important consultation on changing places facilities and confirms that the Building Standards Branch is currently analysing the responses and working to publish a summary document in due course.
3.8	He goes on to state that he is aware that £30 million of funding for changing places facilities was launched earlier this year in England and that he would be very supportive of a proposal being put to the Northern Ireland Executive to establish a similar fund to support retrofitting facilities here.
3.9	He points out that the Department for Communities leads on disability policy and strategy and that it has a track record of establishing and administering grant funding in this area. He adds that he is very sympathetic to the dignity issues arising from the limited provision of changing places facilities and will continue to support an equitable and accessible built environment for everyone. He concludes by recognising that the Council is keen to do so as well and wishes it every success in its work to expand the provision of changing places facilities in the Belfast area.

3.6	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> No implications
3.7	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> No implications
4.0	Document Attached
	Response from Minister of Finance

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From the Minister of Finance

*Henry Downey
Democratic Services Officer
Belfast City Council
Legal and Civic Services Department
City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS*

Private Office
2nd Floor
Clare House
303 Airport Road West
BELFAST
BT3 9ED
Tel: 028 9081 6216
Email: private.office@finance-ni.gov.uk

Your reference: *HD-SP and R24.09.21*
Our reference: *CORR-1367-2021*

Date: *04 November 2021*

Dear Henry

CHANGING PLACES TOILETS - RETROSPECTIVE INSTALLATIONS IN EXISTING PREMISES.

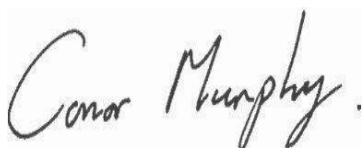
Thank you for your letter of 22 October 2021, advising that the Council has responded to my Department's recent consultation on Changing Places Toilets (CPTs) and requesting that consideration be given to establishing a fund here, similar to that in England, for retrospective installations of CPTs in existing premises.

I appreciate that the Council has provided a response to this important consultation. My Department's Building Standards Branch is currently analysing the responses and is working towards publishing a summary as quickly as possible.

I am aware of the £30 million funding for CPTs launched earlier this year in England and I have said previously that I would be very supportive of a proposal to the Executive to establish a similar fund to support retrofitting CPTs here.

The Department for Communities leads on disability policy and strategy and has a track record of establishing and administering grant funding in this area. I am very sympathetic to the dignity issues arising from the limited provision of changing places toilets and I will continue to support an equitable and accessible built environment for everyone. I appreciate your Council wants to do so as well and I wish you every success in working to expand the provision of CPTs in the Belfast community.

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**CONOR MURPHY MLA
MINISTER OF FINANCE**

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ACTIVE BELFAST LIMITED BOARD

Monday, 25th October, 2021

MEETING OF ACTIVE BELFAST LIMITED BOARD

(Held remotely via Microsoft Teams)

Attendees

- Directors:** Councillor Corr
Councillor McLaughlin
Councillor Newton
Mr. K. Ellison and
Mrs. K. McCullough.
- Officers:** Mr. N. Munnis, Partnership Manager; and
Mr. H. Downey, Democratic Services Officer.
- GLL:** Mr. G. Kirk, Regional Director;
Mr. J. Michael, Business Manager;
Ms. J. Pope, Head of Service; and
Mr. A. Walker, Partnership Manager.

Chairing of Meeting

In the absence of the Chairperson (Mr. J. McGuigan), the Board agreed that Councillor Corr chair the meeting.

(Councillor Corr in the Chair.)

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of the Chairperson (Mr. J. McGuigan) and Councillor Carson.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 9th August were approved. It was reported that those minutes had been noted by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 20th August.

Matters Arising

Director Attendance Statement

The Partnership Manager informed the Board that he had just been informed by Mr. K. O'Doherty, who had been unable to attend a number of recent meetings, that he would no longer be acting as NIPSA's representative.

The Board noted that the Partnership Manager would be contacting NIPSA at the earliest opportunity, with a view to seeking confirmation and securing a replacement.

Director Resignations/Review of Active Belfast Limited Companies House Returns

It was noted that Companies House had been notified of the resignation of Mr. Kirkwood and Mr. Walls from the Board and that its records were now fully up to date.

Under-Represented Target Groups – Six-Monthly Update

In response to a request from the Partnership Manager, the Board confirmed that the information which it had sought at its meeting on 9th August related to the number of transactions for Pay and Play (residents and non-residents), on a centre-by-centre basis, and categories of pre-paid membership.

The Partnership Manager agreed to present the requested data to the Board at its meeting on 6th December.

Loughside Recreation Centre

The Partnership Manager reported that the Council had agreed that Loughside Recreation Centre should remain closed at present, although a part of the building was being used to provide changing facilities for outdoor pitch users. The Council had, as part of Phase 3 of the Leisure Transformation Programme, requested a report, with options, on the future of six of its older facilities, one of which was Loughside Recreation Centre, with decisions to be taken at Committee/Council level.

During discussion, a Director stated that he had been advised that the closure of Loughside Recreation Centre had been due to a problem with air conditioning/ventilation, which had been remedied in other centres.

The Board noted that the Partnership Manager would seek clarification around that issue for the next meeting.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Director Attendance Statement

The Board noted that there were no issues to report in terms of the non-attendance of Directors at meetings.

Having been informed by the Partnership Manager that a number of Directors were approaching the end of their three-year term of appointment, the Board agreed to extend their tenure until such time as the ongoing review of the leisure operating model had been completed.

Agenda Items for Future Board Meetings

No agenda items were identified by Directors for future meetings.

(The GLL representatives were admitted to the meeting at this point.)

Performance and Contract Compliance

The Board was reminded that GLL was required, as part of its service contract, to provide quarterly reports on service performance.

Accordingly, Mr. Michael submitted for the Board's consideration performance and contract compliance data, together with a supporting narrative, covering three areas of overall service performance, namely, Business, Membership and Occupancy, for Quarter 1 2021/22, in line with the new reporting format which had been agreed in November, 2020.

After discussion, the Board acknowledged receipt of the Performance and Contract Compliance report for that quarter and noted the information which had been provided.

GLL Annual Schedule of Charges 2022-23

Mr. Walker submitted for the Board's consideration the following report:

"1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To present the Board with the annual leisure schedule of charges review for 2022/23, based on an average 3.0% price increase which is below the current CPI rate (August - 3.2%).**
- 1.2 To state that the freeze in pricing for 2021/22 and the increase in utility costs has and will continue to significantly impact on service net deficit. An increase in projected expenditure for 2022/23 is largely the result of the significant capital investment by BCC in the opening of four new centres.**

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Board is requested to:

- i. note the CPI based price increases to be applied from April 2022, as stated in paragraph 3.1 below;**
- ii. approve the prices proposed for new products, as highlighted in the appendix to the report; and**
- iii. note that the review and development of a 'pricing matrix' has been completed. This document is an operations handbook designed to describe each product and service covered within the schedule of charges to promote consistency of interpretation, application and equality across the city.**

3.0 Main Report

- 3.1 Following previous discussions around the annual CPI price increase, officers have checked the position with the Councils solicitor who has advised that the contractor is automatically**

entitled to the CPI increase every year. As this is an absolute entitlement under the contract a CPI increase is not subject to approval. This is consistent with the position in the vast majority of commercial contracts. As a result members are asked to note, now that the legal position has been clarified, that pricing proposals will continue to be presented to the board annually but that CPI increases will in future be presented for note and not for approval. Any price increase proposals above the CPI will be presented to the board for approval along with proposed prices for the introduction of new products.

- 3.2 Pricing is reviewed on an annual basis across the partnership and benchmarks are applied to check pricing against industry standards and Northern Ireland based leisure providers.
- 3.3 The Covid-19 pandemic has had a significant financial impact on the trading figures in 2020 and 2021. As restrictions continue to ease GLL will seek to return to delivering programmes that have been halted or significantly reduced for over the last 18 months. The focus will be on returning to pre Covid business and operating positions.
- 3.4 Finance remains a key priority for both GLL and the Council and this is reviewed on a monthly basis. This area remains in a state of flux as a result of the current instability in the operating environment.
- 3.5 2022/23 will see substantially increased expenditure resulting from the opening of new LTP facilities. Due to the opening of Lisnasharragh LC, Brook LC, Andersonstown LC and the imminent opening of Avoniel LC, there will be a significant increase in overall expenditure compared to the service that was delivered two years ago. There will be a £2m increase in staff costs compared to 2019, and a £1,3m increase in utility costs. Some of the cost increases will be offset by an uplift in income as the new centres grow the user/membership base. However, the CPI price increase will make a significant contribution to the net deficit and the future sustainability of the service.
- 3.6 A rise in national insurance contributions for employers will further impact on overall costs in the coming year.
- 3.7 Supplier costs are expected to rise in 2022 and expected to exceed CPI, which will result in further additional spend. It is important to note that the continued impact of Brexit on suppliers and associated costs continues to result in increased expenditure within the contract.
- 3.8 A price increase will be implemented at an average of 3.0% across all leisure products and services. This is reflective of the CPI rate based at 3.2% for August 2021.

- 3.9 The 3.0% price increase will potentially yield £228k and therefore make up 50% of the financial shortfall created by increased utility costs, estimated to be circa £450k in 2022/23.
- 3.10 The combined deficit in the five LTP centres (including Avoniel) is expected to be £2m. The LTP centres are expected to perform strongly but operating costs are anticipated to significantly exceed income.
- 3.11 GLL continues to expand its provision of services and products across the city for both adults and young people. As a result a number of additional prices have been included in the 2022/2023 proposed schedule of charges which reflect new opportunities for people to be more active, more often.
- 3.12 The shaded fields in the schedule of charges were agreed throughout the year and have been included. Field 177 is an amendment to previous pricing to include the cost of a trampoline coach to make this more transparent and easier for the customer.
- 3.13 The prices in Belfast remain some of the best value for money across Northern Ireland and the UK and are comparably at the lower end of the industry benchmarks.
- a) Average current yield per pre-paid membership price in GLL Belfast is £23.73.
 - b) Average swimming costs in GLL Belfast is £3.43.
 - c) 50% of all members' avail of a concessionary rate within Belfast and the service continues to offer free access to over 60s before 11 a.m.
 - d) The Belfast Healthwise team works in partnership with the Public Health Agency and Macmillan Cancer Support to deliver a variety of physical activity referral programmes that can be availed of free of charge for a period of 12 weeks. Competitive membership options are also provided to participants who graduate through these initiatives.
 - e) The Board is requested to note that GLL in Belfast continue to support 179 athletes, both senior and junior through the GLL Sport Foundation scheme. This scheme provides athletes with free access of all centres across the city in order to support their training and preparation for competition at national and international level.
- 3.14 The private sector continues to expand in Belfast and remains a key driving force in the local market.
- 3.15 Prepaid Membership, Pay and Play Membership, activity and facility hire charge increases are set out below:

GLL Annual Schedule of Charges Review

	OVERARCHING NOTES	DESCRIPTION	NOTES
1	Citywide Consistency	Prices will be applied equally across the city. Charges will be consistent and	Like for like charging
2	Baselines and Pro Rata Pricing	As defined in the pricing matrix	All charges for the one hour unless otherwise stated
3	Facility Categorisation for Pricing Purposes		
4	Customer Access to the Schedule of Charges	The schedule of charges will be available in centre and online.	The schedule of charges does not need to be on display in centres
5	Booking Confirmation	All booking confirmation will be confirmed in writing.	Booking confirmations will include full details of the booking accepted along with an itemised breakdown of the agreed cost
6	Invoicing	Invoices will be issued in advance?	Invoices will include an itemised breakdown of the cost including VAT applicable
7	VAT Treatment	All prices are inclusive of VAT	
8	Discounts and Concessions		Adult concessions to only be applied to residents
9	Promotional Pricing	Promotional pricing may be applied for any product or service for a fixed period of up to 8 weeks	Promotional pricing can be applied locally. In the event that promotional pricing is not to be applied on a citywide basis the the promotion must be approved in advance.
10	Menu pricing principle (Parties, etc.)	Non-standard event bookings, for example birthday parties, will be charged on a 'menu' basis built on the mix of facilities and services booked.	Menu pricing will be based on a costed list of relevant facilities, activities and services. The same list and associated prices will be applied citywide.
11	Set up/breakdown time and cleaning charges	To be defined in pricing matrix	

12	New Product Pricing	To be defined in pricing matrix	
13	Pricing Matrix	Pricing matrix to be developed as an operational tool to guide centre staff on the application of charging	

	FACILITY HIRE	DESCRIPTION	NOTES	2021/2022 Price	2022/2023 Price	% Variance
14	Main Hall	4 court hall baseline	Pro rata charges calculated for space hired (courts) and duration variations	£45.50	£46.85	2.97%
15	Main Hall Ozone/Indoor Tennis Arena	Tennis Hall	Ormeau park only	£104.00	£107.10	2.98%
16	Main Hall Commercial Hire	Non sporting activities. 4 court hall baseline at commercial event rate. Per hour.	Pro rata charges calculated for space hired (courts) and duration variations	£111.75	£115.10	3.00%
17	Main Hall Commercial Hire Ozone/Indoor Tennis Arena	Non sporting activities. Tennis hall baseline at commercial event rate. Per hour	Pro rata charges calculated for space hired (courts) and duration variations	£152.00	£156.55	2.99%
18	Main Hall Venue hire per 24 period	Professional sport, trade/public exhibitions - per 24 hours (excludes any additional staff costs incurred)	Shankill LC, Ballysillan LC and Indoor Tennis Arena	£1,119.60	£1,153.20	3.00%
19	Main Hall Venue hire per 24 period	Professional sport, trade/public exhibitions - per 24 hours (excludes any additional staff costs incurred)	Brook LC and Olympia LC	£758.00	£780.75	3.00%

20	Main Hall Venue hire per 24 period	Professional sport, trade/public exhibitions - per 24 hours (excludes any additional staff costs incurred)	Falls LC, Grove WBC, Loughside RC and Whiterock LC	£568.50		
					£585.55	3.00%
21	Studio / Meeting room	Small	Categorisation principle agreed with GLL	£16.75	£17.25	3.00%
22	Studio / Meeting room	Medium	Medium not listed in 2020- 21 pricing	£19.50	£20.10	3.08%
23	Studio / Meeting room	Large	Categorisation principle agreed with GLL	£21.50	£22.15	3.00%
24	Bespoke Meeting Room	Specifically designed for meetings	Price point set for Girdwood definition	£30.50	£31.40	2.95%
25	Swimming Pool - Whole Main Pool			£60.50	£62.30	2.98%
26	Swimming Pool - Half Main Pool			£35.00	£36.05	3.00%
27	Swimming Pool - Per Lane			£15.30	£15.75	2.94%
28	Swimming Pool - Gala Set Up - Standard	Basic lanes, blocks, seats,etc.		£120.00	£123.60	3.00%
29	Swimming Pool - Gala Set Up - Full Competition	Lisnasharragh		£150.00	£154.50	3.00%
30	Swimming Pool - Minor Large	Teaching/Diving	Lisnasharragh and Andersonstown examples	£45.00	£46.35	3.00%
31	Swimming Pool - Minor Small	Olympia example		£30.00	£30.90	3.00%
32	Swimming Pool - Sensory Set Up	Brook LC only		£60.00	£61.80	3.00%

33	Synthetic Pitch Full Pitch	Full size soccer or GAA dimensions	Full Price	£66.00	BCC aligned	tbc
34	Concession: Synthetic Pitch Full Pitch	Full size soccer or GAA dimensions	Concession price (Junior)	£34.00	BCC aligned	tbc
35	Synthetic Pitch Part Pitch		Defined part pitch bookable unit	£34.00	BCC aligned	tbc
36	Concession: Synthetic Pitch Part Pitch			£18.00	BCC aligned	tbc
37	Synthetic Pitch Full Pitch Match Rate		2 hour booking	£88.00	BCC aligned	tbc
38	Synthetic 5-a-side cage - Covered		Covered full price	£50.00	BCC aligned	tbc
39	Concession: Synthetic 5-a-side cage - Covered		Covered concession	£25.00	BCC aligned	tbc
40	Synthetic 5-a-side cage - Uncovered		Uncovered full price	£40.00	BCC aligned	tbc
41	Concession: Synthetic 5-a-side cage - Uncovered		Uncovered concession	£20.00	BCC aligned	tbc
42	Synthetic 7-a-side cage - Uncovered		Uncovered full price	£50.00	BCC aligned	tbc
43	Concession: Synthetic 7-a-side cage - Uncovered		Uncovered concession	£25.00	BCC aligned	tbc
44	Synthetic Pitch Commercial Hire	Non-sporting events. Commercial rate per hour.	Full size synthetic pitch. Lights included if required.	£124.00	£127.70	2.98%
45	Hurling Wall	Brook LC only	Club Training Only	£20.00	£20.60	3.00%
46	Laser Quest	Private hire		£99.50	£102.50	3.02%
47	Climbing Wall	Whole		£150.00	£154.50	3.00%

48	Climbing Wall	Private hire	Includes 2 specified routes/zones	£37.00	£38.10	2.97%
49	Aqua Splash 'H' set up	Private hire	Maximum 70 participants	£350.00	£360.50	3.00%
50	Surf Air Adult Rate	Private hire	Maximum 10 participants	£150.00	£150.00	0.00%
51	Surf Air Junior Rate	Private hire	Maximum 10 participants	£89.00	£89.00	0.00%
52	Birthday Parties	Headline Price	Includes activity and room hire	£89.00	£91.65	2.98%
53	Air Venture	Private hire	Maximum 60 participants	£350.00	£350.00	0.00%
54	Soft Play	Private hire	Maximum 50 participants	£150.00	£154.50	3.00%
55	Treatment Room	Cosmetic, therapy, physio		£11.40	£11.75	3.07%
56	Changing Room	For outdoor facilities	Changing provided with pitch hire	£21.50	£22.15	3.00%

	MEMBERSHIP	DESCRIPTION	NOTES	2021/2022 Price	2022/2023 Price	% Variance
57	Better Health and Fitness Plus Spa Non Resident	Includes Olympia Spa	Non resident	£58.50	£60.25	2.99%
58	Better Health and Fitness Plus Spa Resident	Includes Olympia Spa	Resident	£54.50	£56.15	3.03%
59	Better Health and Fitness Non-Resident		Non resident	£38.50	£39.65	2.99%
60	Better Health and Fitness Resident		Resident	£35.50	£36.55	2.96%
61	Better Health and Fitness Single Centre	Not applicable at Andersonstown, Brook, Lisnasharragh or Olympia		£31.00	£31.95	3.06%

62	Corporate: Better Health and Fitness. Citywide Access			£31.00	£31.95	3.06%
63	Corporate: Better Health and Fitness. Single Centre Access	Not applicable at Andersonstown, Brook, Lisnasharragh or Olympia		£27.50	£28.35	3.09%
64	Concession: Better Health and Fitness Non-Resident		Non resident	£19.25	£19.85	3.12%
65	Concession: Better Health and Fitness Resident		Resident	£17.75	£18.30	3.10%
66	Concession: Better Health and Fitness Single Centre Access		Resident	£15.30	£15.75	2.94%
67	Student Better Health and Fitness			£21.50	£22.15	3.00%
68	Better Swim Non-Resident		Non resident	£23.50	£24.20	2.98%
69	Better Swim Resident		Resident	£21.50	£22.15	3.00%
70	Better Swim School (Junior)	Pre Paid Monthly		£19.50	£20.10	3.08%
71	Gymnastics	Pre Paid Monthly		£25.50	£26.30	3.14%
72	Swimbies	Pre Paid Monthly		£25.00	£25.75	3.00%
73	Junior Better Health and Fitness			£11.00	£11.35	3.18%
74	BetterInclusive			£21.50	£22.15	3.00%
75	Better Healthwise Yr. 1			£21.50	£22.15	3.00%
76	Better Healthwise Yr. 2			£27.25	£28.05	2.94%
77	Better Healthwise Yr. 3			£32.50	£33.50	3.08%

78	Over 60s Better Health and Fitness Non-Resident		Non resident	£25.00	£25.75	3.00%
79	Over 60s Better Health and Fitness Resident		Resident	£22.75	£23.45	3.08%
80	3 Months Better Health and Fitness			£114.00	£117.40	2.98%
81	6 Months Better Health and Fitness			£217.50	£224.05	3.01%
82	12 Months Better Health and Fitness			£372.60	£383.80	3.01%
83	Concession: 3 Months Better Health and Fitness			£59.25	£61.05	3.04%
84	Concession: 6 Months Better Health and Fitness			£119.50	£123.10	3.01%
85	Concession: 12 Months Better Health and Fitness			£223.56	£230.30	3.01%
86	Better Health and Fitness Plus Bike Park Non-Resident		Non resident	£59.00	£60.75	2.97%
87	Better Health and Fitness Plus Bike Park Resident		Resident	£54.50	£56.15	3.03%
88	Belfast City Council Corporate Membership			£15.50	£15.95	2.90%
89	Family Memberships (2 Adults and 2 Children)		Resident	£59.00	£59.00	0.00%

90	Family Memberships (2 Adults and 2 Children) - Concession		Resident	£45.00	£45.00	0.00%
91	Family Memberships (2 Adults and 3 Children)		Resident	£66.00	£66.00	0.00%
92	Family Memberships (2 Adults and 3 Children) - Concession		Resident	£52.00	£52.00	0.00%
93	Family Memberships (2 Adults and 4 Children)		Resident	£72.00	£72.00	0.00%
94	Family Memberships (2 Adults and 4 Children) - Concession	Any additional children charged at £6	Resident	£58.00	£58.00	0.00%
95	Pay and Play Card Non Resident		Non resident	£10.00	£10.30	3.00%
96	Pay and Play Card Resident		Resident	£5.00	£5.15	3.00%
97	Membership Card Replacement	Lost or stolen		£2.00	£2.05	2.50%
98	Private Swim Coach	Annual access licence fee		£230.00	£236.90	3.00%

	ACTIVITY CHARGES	DESCRIPTION	NOTES	2021/2022 Price	2022/2023 Price	% Variance
99	Laser Zone			£4.90	£5.05	3.00%
100	Shower/Changing		Full price	£2.25	£2.30	2.22%
101	Concession: Shower/Changing		Concession	£1.05	£1.10	4.76%
102	Soft Play (60 Minutes)	Grove WBC only		£3.60	£3.70	2.78%

103	Short Mat Bowls Per Person Non resident	60 minutes	Full price non resident	£6.40	£6.60	3.12%
104	Short Mat Bowls Per Person Resident	60 minutes	Full price resident	£4.90	£5.05	3.00%
105	Concession: Short Mat Bowls Per Person Resident		Concession resident	£2.45	£2.50	2.04%
106	Group Activity Classes Non-Resident		Full price non resident	£7.75	£8.00	3.23%
107	Group Activity Classes Resident		Full price resident	£6.00	£6.20	3.33%
108	Concession: Group Activity Classes resident		Concession resident	£2.45	£2.50	2.04%
109	Climbing Non-Resident		Full price non resident	£6.50	£6.70	3.00%
110	Climbing Resident		Full price resident	£5.00	£5.15	3.00%
111	Concession: Climbing Resident		Concession resident	£2.40	£2.45	2.08%
112	Fitness Suite Non-Resident		Full price non resident	£7.75	£8.00	3.23%
113	Fitness suite Resident		Full price resident	£6.00	£6.20	3.33%
114	Concession: Fitness Suite Resident		Concession resident	£2.40	£2.45	2.08%
115	Handball/Squash/Racquetball/Hurling Wall Non-Resident	Per person	Full price non resident	£6.40	£6.60	3.12%
116	Handball/Squash/Racquetball/Hurling Wall Resident	Per person	Full price resident	£4.95	£5.10	3.00%

117	Concession: Handball/Squash/ Racquetball/Hurling Wall Resident					
		Per person	Concession resident	£2.45	£2.50	2.04%
118	Hurling Wall Group Booking	60 minutes		£20.00	£20.60	3.00%
119	Badminton Non-Resident	Per person	Full price non resident	£6.40	£6.60	3.12%
120	Badminton Resident	Per person	Full price resident	£4.95	£5.10	3.00%
121	Concession: Badminton Resident	Per person	Concession resident	£2.45	£2.50	2.04%
122	Swimming Non-Resident		Full price non resident	£4.60	£4.75	3.26%
123	Swimming Resident		Full price resident	£3.60	£3.70	2.78%
124	Concession: Swimming Resident		Concession resident	£1.80	£1.85	3.00%
125	Family Swim Non-Resident	2 adults + 2 (or 1 & 3) additional child add on	Non resident	£10.40	£10.70	2.88%
126	Family Swim Resident	2 adults + 2 (or 1 & 3) additional child add on	Resident	£8.00	£8.25	3.13%
127	Aqua Splash 'H' Set p (includes slide) Adult		Non member / non resident	£10.40	£10.70	2.88%
128	Aqua Splash 'H' Set up (includes slide) Adult		Member / resident	£8.00	£8.25	3.13%
129	Aqua Splash 'H' Set up (includes slide) Junior		Non member / non resident	£6.50	£6.70	3.00%
130	Aqua Splash 'H' Set up (includes slide) Junior		Member / resident	£5.00	£5.15	3.00%
131	Aqua Splash 'H' Set up (includes slide) Family Pass	Additional child £5.15. U5's free	Non member / non resident	£31.20	£32.15	3.04%

132	Aqua Splash 'H' Set up (includes slide) Family Pass	Additional child £5.15. U5's free	Member / resident	£24.00	£24.70	2.92%
133	Aqua Splash 'H' Set up (includes slide) Group Pass	10 participants. Add adult/child £8.25/£5.15		£60.00	£61.80	3.00%
134	Aqua Splash 'H' Set up (excludes slide) Adult – Non member / non resident		Non member / non resident	£9.00	£9.25	2.78%
135	Aqua Splash 'H' Set up (excludes slide) Adult – Member / resident		Member / resident	£7.00	£7.20	2.86%
136	Aqua Splash 'H' Set up (excludes slide) Junior – Non member / non resident		Non member / non resident	£5.70	£5.85	2.63%
137	Aqua Splash 'H' Set up (excludes slide) Junior – Member / resident		Member / resident	£4.40	£4.55	3.41%
138	Aqua Splash 'H' Set up (excludes slide) Family Pass – Non member / non resident	Additional child £4.55. U5's free	Non member / non resident	£27.30	£28.10	2.93%
139	Aqua Splash 'H' Set up (excludes slide) Family Pass – Member / resident	Additional child £4.55. U5's free	Member / resident	£21.00	£21.65	3.10%
140	Aqua Splash 'H' Set up (excludes slide) Group Pass	10 participants. Add adult/child £7.20/£4.55		£52.50	£54.10	3.05%

141	Aqua Splash 'I' Set up (excludes slide) Adult		Non member / non resident	£5.20	£5.35	2.88%
142	Aqua Splash 'I' Set up (excludes slide) Adult		Member / resident	£4.00	£4.10	2.50%
143	Aqua Splash 'I' Set up (excludes slide) Junior		Non member / non resident	£3.25	£3.35	3.00%
144	Aqua Splash 'I' Set up (excludes slide) Junior		Member / resident	£2.50	£2.60	4.00%
145	Aqua Splash 'I' Set up (excludes slide) Family Pass	Additional child £2.60. U5's free	Non member / non resident	£15.60	£16.05	2.88%
146	Aqua Splash 'I' Set up (excludes slide) Family Pass	Additional child £2.60. U5's free	Member / resident	£12.00	£12.35	2.92%
147	Aqua Splash 'I' Set up (excludes slide) Group Pass	10 participants. Add adult/child £4.10/£2.60		£30.00	£30.90	3.00%
148	Leisure Water Adult Non-Member / Non-Resident	Andersonstown Only	Non member / non resident	£10.40	£10.70	2.88%
149	Leisure Water Adult Member / Resident	Andersonstown Only	Member / resident	£8.00	£8.25	3.13%
150	Leisure Water Child Non-Member / Non- Resident	Andersonstown Only	Non member / non resident	£7.80	£8.05	3.21%
151	Leisure Water Child Member / Resident	Andersonstown Only	Member / resident	£6.00	£6.20	3.33%

152	Leisure Water Local Programme Child	Andersonstown Only	Local programme child	£4.00	£4.10	2.50%
153	Leisure Water Family Pass Non-Resident	Andersonstown Only	Non resident	£31.20	£32.15	3.04%
154	Leisure Water Family Pass Resident	Andersonstown Only	Resident	£24.00	£24.70	2.92%
155	Leisure Water Family Pass Additional Child	Andersonstown Only	Addition child add on	£5.00	£5.15	3.00%
156	Leisure Water Part Use Non-Resident	Andersonstown Only - Excludes water slides and Surf Belfast	Non resident	£5.20	£5.35	2.88%
157	Leisure Water Part Use Resident	Andersonstown Only - Excludes water slides and Surf Belfast	Resident	£4.00	£4.10	2.50%
158	Surf Belfast Adult Non-Resident	Andersonstown Only	Non resident	£19.50	£19.50	0.00%
159	Surf Belfast Adult Resident	Andersonstown Only	Resident	£15.00	£15.00	0.00%
160	Surf Belfast Child Non-Resident	Andersonstown Only	Non resident	£13.00	£13.00	0.00%
161	Surf Belfast Child Resident	Andersonstown Only	Resident	£10.00	£10.00	0.00%
162	Surf Belfast Leisure Water Ticket Bolt On	Andersonstown Only	Bolt on to leisure water ticket	£2.00	£2.05	2.50%

163	Air Venture Adult Non member /Non-resident		Non member / non resident	£10.40	£10.70	2.88%
164	Air Venture Adult Member/Resident		Member / resident	£8.00	£8.25	3.13%
165	Air Venture Junior Non-Member / Non-Resident		Non member / non resident	£6.50	£6.70	3.00%
166	Air Venture Junior Member / Resident		Member / resident	£5.00	£5.15	3.00%
167	Air Venture Family Pass	Additional Child £5.10. U5's free	Non member / non resident	£31.20	£32.10	2.88%
168	Air Venture Family Pass	Additional Child £5.10. U5's free	Member / resident	£24.00	£24.70	2.92%
169	Air Venture Group Pass	10 Participants. Add Adult/Child £8.25/£5.15		£80.00	£80.00	0.00%
170	Table Tennis Non Member	Per Person	Non member full price	£6.40	£6.60	3.12%
171	Table Tennis Member	Per Person	Member Full Price - for session not included in membership	£4.95	£5.10	3.00%
172	Concession: Table Tennis member	Per Person	Member Concession - for session not included in membership	£2.45	£2.50	2.04%
173	Tennis Non-Member	Per Person	Non member full price	£6.40	£6.60	3.12%

174	Tennis Member	Per Person	Member Full Price - for session not included in membership	£4.95	£5.10	3.00%
175	Concession: Tennis member	Per Person	Member Concession - for session not included in membership	£2.45	£2.50	2.04%
176	Tennis Wheelchair Block Booking Ozone	Group Booking Per Court		£21.50	£22.15	3.00%
177	Trampoline Hire (coach must be present)	10 Participants for 60 Minutes	Amendment in price to include coach	£21.20	£55.00	159.43%
178	School Swim – Per Person			£1.90	£2.00	5.26%
179	School Swimming - Banded 10 or less			£18.40	£18.95	3.00%
180	School Swimming - Banded 11 to 20			£36.75	£37.85	3.00%
181	Health Suite	Steam,suana, etc. (excludes Olympia Spa)	Full price	£3.40	£3.50	3.00%
182	Concession: Health Suite	Steam,suana, etc. (excludes Olympia Spa)	Concession	£1.70	£1.75	3.00%

	COURSES	DESCRIPTION	NOTES	2021/2022 Price	2022/2023 Price	% Variance
183	Swim School Course	Adult per course (8 lesson block)	Adult	£49.50	£51.00	3.03%
184	Swim School Course	Junior per course (8 lesson block)	Junior	£44.50	£45.85	3.03%
185	Tennis Adult 6 X 90 minutes class - 8 per group	8 per class	Full price	£98.50	£101.45	2.99%
186	Concession: Tennis Adult 6 X 90 minutes class - 8 per group	8 per class	Concession	£49.00	£50.45	2.96%
187	Tennis Adult 6 X 90 minutes class - 4 per group	4 per class	Full price	£129.00	£132.85	2.98%
188	Concession: Tennis Adult 6 X 90 minutes class - 4 per group	4 per class	Concession	£64.50	£66.45	3.02%
189	Tennis Junior 6 X 60 minutes class - 8 per group	8 per class		£33.00	£34.00	3.03%
190	Tennis Junior 6 X 60 minutes class - 8 per group	4 per class		£49.00	£50.45	2.96%
191	Tennis Junior 6 X 30 minutes class - 8 per group	8 per class		£16.50	£17.00	3.00%
192	Climbing Adult 6 X 90 minutes class - 8 per group	8 per class		£76.80	£79.10	3.00%
193	Climbing Junior 6 X 90 minutes class - 8 per group	8 per class		£46.20	£47.60	3.03%
194	Gymnastics 10 X 60 minutes	10 per class	10 X 60 minute sessions	£50.50	£52.00	2.97%

195	Gymnastics 10 X 90 minutes	10 per class	10 X 90 minute sessions	£75.50	£77.75	2.98%
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	NEW PRODUCTS - MEMBERSHIPS	DESCRIPTION	NOTES	2021/2022 Price	2022/2023 Price	% Variance
196	Brand X Method (Lessons and Courses) - Membership	Pre Paid Monthly	One class per week and access to junior gym and swimming		£19.50	N/A
197	Brand X Method (Lessons and Courses) - Membership (Excel)	Pre Paid Monthly	Two classes per week and access to junior gym and swimming		£25.50	N/A
198	Tom Daley Diving Academy	Pre Paid Monthly - Beginner and Improver Sessions (Junior Only)	One class per week and access to swimming		£19.50	N/A

	NEW PRODUCTS - ACTIVITIES/FACILITIES	DESCRIPTION	NOTES	2021/2022 Price	2022/2023 Price	% Variance
199	Brand X Method (Lessons & Courses) - Group Booking (10)	Price Per Session	Maximum of 10 per group		£35.00	N/A
200	Brand X Method (Lessons and Courses) - Group Booking (20)	Price Per Session	Maximum of 20 per group		£65.00	N/A
201	Swim Doctor - Resident / Member	Price Per Session	45-minute lesson		£3.00	N/A
202	Swim Doctor – Non-Resident / Non-Member	Price Per Session	45-minute lesson		£10.00	N/A

203	Adult In Centre Coached Activity Non-Member / Non Resident	Price Per Session	Examples such as Indoor Bowls, Badminton, Pickle ball		£4.50	N/A
204	Adult In Centre Coached Activity Member / Resident	Price Per Session	Examples such as Indoor Bowls, Badminton, Pickle ball		£3.00	N/A
205	Junior In Centre Coached Activity Non Member / Non Resident	Price Per Session	Examples such as Irish Dancing, Martial Arts, Football etc.		£3.00	N/A
206	Junior In Centre Coached Activity Member / Resident	Price Per Session	Examples such as Irish Dancing, Martial Arts, Football etc.		£1.80	N/A
207	Bouncy Castle Hire	60 minutes	Includes sports hall/studio hire		£70.00	N/A
208	Ballysillan Inflatables Adult - Non member / non resident		Non member / non resident		£5.75	N/A
209	Ballysillan Inflatables Adult - Member / resident		Member / resident		£4.60	N/A
210	Ballysillan Inflatables Junior - Non member / non resident	Over 5s only	Non member / non resident		£3.60	N/A
211	Ballysillan Inflatables Junior - Member / resident	Over 5s only	Member / resident		£2.80	N/A
212	Ballysillan Family Pass - Non member / non resident	2 Adults, 2 Children - Additional child £2.80.	Non member / non resident		£17.75	N/A

213	Ballysillan Family Pass - Member / resident	2 Adults, 2 Children - Additional child £2.80.	Member / resident		£14.00	N/A
214	Ballysillan Inflatables Group Pass	10 participants. Add adult/child £4.60/£2.80			£34.00	N/A
215	Ballysillan Inflatables Private Hire	Maximum of 25 participants			£70.00	N/A
216	Ballysillan Toddler Inflatable - Non member / Non resident	Under 5's	Non member / non resident		£3.60	N/A
217	Ballysillan Toddler Inflatable - Member / Resident	Under 5's	Member / resident		£2.80	N/A
218	Ballysillan Toddler Inflatable Private Hire	Under 5's - Maximum of 10 participants			£34.00	N/A
219	Outdoor Inflatables	60 minutes + Small Sided Pitch	Avoniel Only		£60.00	N/A
220	Outdoor Inflatables	2 Inflatables for 60 minutes + Small Sided Pitch	Avoniel Only		£80.00	N/A
221	Archery Non-Member/Non Resident	Per person	Full price non resident		£6.40	N/A
222	Archery Member/Resident	Per person	Full price resident		£4.95	N/A
223	Archery Concession	Per person	Concession resident		£2.45	N/A
224	Archery Group Pass	10 Participants. Add Adult/Child £4.95/£2.45			£45.00	N/A
225	Zorbing Group Activity	10 Participants. Add Adult/Child £8.25/£5.15	Avoniel Only		£60.00	N/A

226	Tri Golf Group Activity	10 Participants. Add Adult/Child £4.95/£2.45			£45.00	N/A
227	Video Analysis Package	Price per Match	Avoniel Only		£30.00	N/A
228	Performance Sports Testing Package	Price per session - does not include pitch hire	Avoniel Only		£35.00	N/A
229	Leisure Water Group Pass (10)	10 Participants. Add Adult/Child £8.25/£6.20	Andersonstown Only		£80.00	N/A
130	Leisure Water Group Pass (20)	20 Participants. Add Adult/Child £8.25/£6.20	Andersonstown Only		£160.00	N/A
231	Car Parking - Up to 2 hours	Andersonstown Only	Up to 2 hours		£0.00	N/A
232	Car Parking - Up to 3 hours	Andersonstown Only	Up to 3 hours		£1.50	N/A
233	Car Parking - Up to 4 Hours	Andersonstown Only	Up to 4 hours		£3.00	N/A
234	Car Parking - Conference Delegate Rate	Andersonstown Only	More than 4 hours		£7.00	N/A
235	Car Parking - Overnight or Lost Ticket	Andersonstown Only	Overnight or Lost Ticket		£7.00	N/A

After discussion, the Board noted the report and approved the new product prices, as highlighted within the foregoing appendix.

Six-Monthly Update on Community Engagement

Mr. Michael drew the Board's attention to the following report:

"1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To present the Board with a six-monthly community engagement update report for the period April – September 2021

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 The Board is requested to note the report.

3.0 Main Report

3.1 GLL is a leading social enterprise. One of the core priorities of GLL is to ensure full access for all members of the

community and to encourage more people to be more active, more often.

- 3.2 GLL has employed a Regional Business Manager, whose key focus is to drive participation and usage, ensuring more people from every background are regularly and meaningfully engaged and taking part in sport and physical activity. To continue on progress made, GLL have a team of three that focus on participation and another staff member with a focus on group exercise.
- 3.3 The Covid-19 pandemic has placed restrictions on a range of activities which has resulted in a decrease in programme opportunities in the period between April and September 2021. GLL has delivered on what has been possible at this time and will seek to further develop programmes from October onwards as we move from restrictions to a more normal operating environment.
- 3.4 GLL is committed to support community access offering varied opportunities delivered in centres that are accessible, affordable and not inhibiting.
- 3.5 GLL re-invests through the GLL Foundations (Sport and Communities) that provide and sustain support for community cohesion and talented individuals.
- 3.6 53% of Belfast GLL members benefit from concessionary charges thereby helping to remove affordability as a barrier to participation.
- 3.7 **Sports Programmes**
 - 3.7.1 Between April and September, GLL has supported a number of NGBs in the delivery of their holiday programmes, grassroots events and performance programmes. Holiday camps were delivered by Irish FA, Ulster Boxing and NI Netball. Badminton, tennis, swimming, water polo and martial arts are all provided with facility space to engage with a wide range of participants within the community.
 - 3.7.2 Brook Leisure Centre delivered a Community Football tournament in partnership with Total Football during the summer months. 24 junior teams from across Northern Ireland competed in the tournament running for 8 weeks in July and August with over 800 people attending finals night to watch Glentoran Juniors lift the cup.
 - 3.7.3 GLL support the delivery of Jog Belfast at Girdwood. The 10-week programme supports 25 attendees with the aim of participants completing a 5km at the end of the programme.
 - 3.7.4 GLL supports over 200 domestic clubs and performance squads weekly across leisure facilities in Belfast. Leisure

centres in Belfast are utilised for club and performance training and service a variety of local and regional competitions.

- 3.7.5 Brook Leisure Centre has a swimming pool specifically designed to cater for those with sensory needs and those with wide range of disabilities. In September GLL re-engaged with Swimming Buddies, an organisation that specialises in Autism friendly swimming lessons. Currently sessions are being offered throughout the week and the organisation is looking to expand into other areas of the city.
- 3.7.6 In partnership with Irish FA, GLL provides female only football sessions at four centre sites across the city through the Shooting Stars Programme.
- 3.7.7 Girdwood Community Hub worked in partnership with TAMHI and St Patricks FC to support a summer intervention programme which was funded by Belfast City Council. Approximately 240 junior players took part in 9-a-side small sided games on Monday to Friday evenings in July and August. A number of football clubs from across Northern Ireland participated in the programme.
- 3.8 Family Programming
 - 3.8.1 GLL has created a balanced programme of activities across all centres allowing families to participate. Junior group exercise class were reintroduced to the programme in August 2021 and GLL will launch the Brand X Method (fitness and conditioning) programme in November 2021 to engage children aged between 4 and 17 to focus on their fitness and athletic performance.
 - 3.8.2 Youth and family products such as water slides, Surf Belfast and the Aqua Play at Andersonstown, Air Venture at Brook and Aqua Splash at Lisnasharragh were extremely popular with young people and families over the summer holiday period. GLL have also utilised these products to engage over 30 youth and community groups to access the centres as part of their own summer intervention programmes.
 - 3.8.3 Pool parties returned to Brook Leisure Centre in September and have been fully booked every Friday.
 - 3.8.4 Since September, birthday parties have returned and, as restrictions ease at the end of October, GLL would hope to see a return to pre pandemic booking levels. GLL offers a wide range of provision for birthday parties including bouncy castles, climbing wall, sports (indoor and outdoor) along with the new products mentioned in this report. GLL offers a menu of prices to ensure that barriers to access are limited and that all communities can be accommodated.

3.9 School and Youth Programmes

- 3.9.1 Centres facilitated a number of primary and secondary school end of term celebrations in June. Schools were able to access a variety of junior products and swimming pools across the city to celebrate the conclusion of what had been a challenging year for many in education.**
- 3.9.2 School swimming recommenced in September with schools from across the city returning to the water. Over 230 sessions have been made available to schools and more are set to return after the Halloween break.**
- 3.9.3 Although the normal annual Summer Schemes were not delivered directly by the centres throughout July and August, a number of centres supported local community youth organisations in hosting summer initiatives. For example, 15 different junior groups attended summer scheme staycation days at Brook LC. Participants enjoyed Air venture, Pool Parties and outdoor multi sports activities. Another example is a digital arts academy funded by Peace IV and Good Relations with 200 kids in attendance at Girdwood. Over 3,000 children participated in programmes facilitated in GLL managed leisure facilities.**

3.10 Community Outreach

- 3.10.1 Girdwood Community Hub currently facilitates a Community Food Bank which is in operation Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10:00 to 13:00**
- 3.10.2 GLL continues to partner with 'Menshed' by offering Girdwood Community Hub, Brook and Whiterock where the focus is on improving mental health for men.**
- 3.10.3 GLL has supported a number of mental health charities and initiatives in the form of awareness and fund raising.**
- 3.10.4 GLL facilitates the Colin Autism Support Group for parents of children with autism and other learning disabilities.**

3.11 Older Participant Programmes

- 3.11.1 16.2% of all current Belfast members are aged 60+**
- 3.11.2 Free access for over 60's before 11am Monday to Friday.**
- 3.11.3 GLL has a daily programme of activity targeted at and suitable for older people and continue to open up further opportunities as restrictions ease.**
- 3.11.4 GLL delivers chronic disease (Cancer & Cardiac) rehabilitation programmes, whilst also supporting and hosting Diabetes and Strength & Balance programmes.**

Many of the referrals for these interventions are older people.

- 3.11.5 GLL has launched a 'basic' physical activity programming designed to target referrals coming off the rehabilitation programmes and is also suitable for members looking for a lower level/low impact workout. In addition to this, walking groups have become part of the mainstream group exercise offering so can be accessed by the wider membership and not just those on PARS.
- 3.12 Officers from GLL will be in attendance to answer any queries raised.

After discussion, during which Mr. Michael outlined, at the request of a Director, the work being undertaken to expand the programmes being delivered in the Belvoir Activity Centre and to identify new programmes in advance of the opening of the Avoniel Leisure Centre, the Board noted the report.

Annual Review of GLL Membership Architecture

Mr. Walker submitted for the Board's consideration the following report:

"1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To present the Board with the scheduled annual review of the GLL membership architecture.

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 The Board is requested to note this report.

3.0 Main Report

- 3.1 GLL offers a range of memberships that cater for children through to senior citizens.
- 3.2 Memberships are provided for single centre sites (non LTP centres only) and citywide access.
- 3.3 Memberships are subject to resident and non resident pricing and concession options are also available (in the majority of cases).
- 3.4 Memberships can be paid by monthly by direct debit or annually.
- 3.5 Health and fitness memberships entitle users to inclusive access to the gym, fitness classes, swimming, racquets and climbing. Members can book up to 7 days in advance via the Better UK app. Members also receive up to 30% off non-member prices for other activities.

- 3.6 Certain memberships provide customers additional benefits such as Olympia Spa access of access to the bike store at BGB and prices are tailored accordingly.
- 3.7 Pay and Play memberships provide users with up to a 30% off non-member prices for activities.
- 3.8 Memberships have been created to provide weekly coaching in activities such as Swimming and Gymnastics.
- 3.9 GLL continuously reviews membership pricing against local competitors in both the private and public sector.
- 3.10 GLL requests and listen to feedback to ensure the membership packages meet the needs of the customer.
- 3.11 GLL has reintroduced the Family Membership and will review the performance of this membership option over the next six months.
- 3.12 GLL introduced a free junior Pay and Play card in June 2021 and will continue to review the performance of this initiative monthly.
- 3.13 GLL has requested to add two additional memberships to the offering at this time. These memberships are related to youth coaching products. Namely the 'Brand X Method' and 'Tom Daley Diving Academy'. These memberships have been subject to a price review of competitor offerings and benchmarked against similar products both within the current membership architecture and that provided by other GLL sites in the UK.
- 3.14 GLL is currently satisfied with the current membership architecture and require no further amendments at this time. The membership architecture will be subject to ongoing analysis and review."

The Board noted the report.

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

Six monthly Update on the Council's Sports Development Unit

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

"1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To update the Board on sports development activities delivered through the Council's Leisure Development Unit.

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1** The Board is requested to note the information provided, with a view to understanding the wider sports development priorities for the Council.

3.0 Main Report

- 3.1** The Leisure Development Unit leads the delivery of an extensive programme of sports development initiatives in support of the Belfast Agenda. This report provides a summary of outputs from the main initiatives for April to September during the 2021 – 2022 financial year.

- 3.2** Understandably, the delivery of activities was restricted by Executive Office legislation and sporting governing body guidance. Access to facilities to deliver programmes and access to school and community groups was severely restricted. Council staff have not been directly delivering sports activities. Leisure Development staff have been working from home since March 2020 with Council priorities requiring staff, to work flexibly and undertake alternative roles based on Council priorities. Currently the Leisure Development Manager role is being recruited and three substantive sports development roles are vacant.

3.3 Belfast Boxing Strategy.

A 2021 – 2022 work plan has been approved and targets agreed for 34 key actions. As an indoor contact sport, most regular activities were not permitted until recently. The Development Officer and Community Coach have been working from home and delivering activities using online platforms. School programming recommenced in September and a second Community Coach has been recruited to support additional demand. Main thematic work areas are:

- a) to have an effective efficient Pathway to engage and nurture talent;
- b) to recruit, train and sustain active coaches within Belfast;
- c) to grow and sustain club membership within Belfast;
- d) to promote and sustain good governance standards within Belfast clubs; and
- e) to support competitive local and international events in Belfast.

3.4 Primary Schools Cross Country.

This programme was cancelled as schools are not currently permitted to mix.

3.5 Stadium Community Benefits Initiative.

GAA, IFA, DfC and the Council agreed a joint 2021 – 2022 work plan and targets. Specific actions were agreed for IFA and GAA with an additional collaborative work plan in place. Q1 and Q2 actions have been focussed on online delivery of generic coach and leadership education. Actions are grouped under four thematic work areas, which support all organisations' strategic plans.

- a) Collaborative working
- b) Wellbeing
- c) Engaged communities
- d) Club governance and management

3.6 Pitches Partner Agreements

Seven sites are being managed through this programme which is based on delivery of a sports development plan. Significant levels of activity were delivered in Q1 and Q2 as club activity resumes to normal levels.

3.7 GAA Joint Management Board

Resumption of adult and youth programming led to extensive delivery at Woodlands, Cliftonville, Sally Gardens and Cherryvale through club programming.

3.8 Support for Sport

Council funding was diverted to recovery with grants up to £1,500 and £5,000 available for registered sports clubs.

3.9 Bike to Work Day. This event did not take place.

3.10 Sports Development Strategy.

This project was deprioritised over the last 12 months. Engagement with key stakeholders and community will happen over the next six months to inform the draft strategy direction prior to formal consultation and adoption. The strategy will focus on the following themes:

Primary Theme 1.1 Sports Development
Primary Theme 1.2 Physical Activity
Associated Theme 2.1 Facility/Asset access and utilisation
Associated Theme 2.2 Facility/Asset planning
Supporting Theme 3.1 Health Promotion
Supporting Theme 3.2 Community Engagement and Neighbourhood Development”

The Board noted the report.

BCC Review of Leisure Operating Model

The Board considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To update the Board on the review of the leisure operating model, as communicated on 7th June and 9th August 2021.**

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 The Board is requested to note the report.**

3.0 Main Report

- 3.1 At the meeting on 9th August, the Board noted the terms of reference for the review. The terms of reference including the proposed review timeline (below at 3.2) was subsequently approved by the SP and R Committee on 20th August and ratified by Council at the start of September.**

3.2 Proposed timeline

Agree Terms of Reference	CMT Active Belfast Ltd. SP and R	June 2021 9th August 2021 20th August 2021
Appointment of independent contractor	CNS	October 2021
Commence review		October/November 2021
Draft report and findings	CMT SP and R Active Belfast Ltd.	January/February 2022

- 3.3 As the anticipated cost of the review was set at £5,000, procurement of a suitably qualified consultant requires the Council to seek quotations. Five independent consultants were invited to submit quotations.**

- 3.4 The specification issued with the invitation to quote is as set out in the Council approved terms of reference.**

- 3.5 Quotation evaluation criteria has been built around a points award split of 70% quality and 30% cost. The quality element scoring is further split with a focus on proposed methodology as follows:**

Criteria	Question	Question Weighting
Proposal/methodology	Level of service proposed -	30%

	understanding of brief, methodology, and ability to meet timescales	
Similar projects	Relevant experience of undertaking similar projects involving evaluation of strategic plans and governance, stakeholder consultation/workshops (including elected representatives) and preparation of outcome reports with recommendations within the last 5 years	20%
Knowledge and experience of project team	Calibre and experience of project team members	20%
Cost	Lowest cost	30%
	Total	100%

- 3.6 Invitations to quote were issued on 6th October with the deadline for return set for 19th October.
- 3.7 It is anticipated that a quotation evaluation panel will be convened for week commencing 25th October, with the expectation that the successful consultant will be appointed before the end of October. Subject to appointment the project remains on schedule as set out in the above timeline.
- 3.8 The contract specification is focused on the requirement to consult widely with all key stakeholders, including current and past ABL Board members.
- 3.9 Subject to contract award, the Partnership Manager will communicate directly with Board members to outline the consultation process and co-ordinate meetings/individual engagements as agreed with the successful consultant. It is anticipated that a comprehensive series of stakeholder engagements will commence in early November.
- 3.10 As the planned review will include membership of the board, the ongoing delay continues to impact on the ABL director recruitment programme previously scheduled for 2020/21. Subject to the outcome of the review process, it is anticipated that the recruitment campaign could commence early in 2022”

The Board noted the report.

Six Monthly Update on Facility Management and Centre Inspections

The Partnership Manager drew the Board's attention to the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To update the Board on the condition of the leisure facilities and the ongoing contract governance inspection programme.**

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 The Board is requested to note the report.**

3.0 Main Report

- 3.1 Since early 2016, the Council's leisure centres have been subject to a programme of routine inspections. Each centre is inspected twice in every quarter. Inspections visits are always carried out by the Partnership Manager. Visits are unannounced and the Partnership Manager is accompanied by a member of the centre management team. Usually the General Manager or the Duty Manager on shift.**

- 3.2 The visits are designed to focus on building maintenance, cleaning and Health and Safety.**

Observations are scored against a check sheet of 355 items with a clear definition of the expected standard for each. Each measure is scored out of 5 with a score of 4 demonstrating full compliance with the criteria set. Score definitions are as follows:

SCORING LEVELS			Red Rating Category 4	20% - 59.99% (average score of 2.99 or below per measure)
All measures scored from 1 - 5			Amber Rating Category 3	60% - 74.99% (average score between 3.00 - 3.74 per measure)
1 = Substantially below target standard. Significant and urgent improvement required.			Green Rating Category 2	75% - 84.99% (average score between 3.75 - 4.24 per measure)
2 = Below target standard. Improvements required.			Gold Rating Category 1	85%+ (average score of 4.25 or above per measure)
3 = Slightly below target standard. Minor improvements required.				
4 = Meeting target standard. Some improvements required to achieve 5* facility				
5 = Exceeding target standards. 5* facility				

- 3.3 The GLL Regional Management Team (RLT) and each centre General Manager receives a detailed report of all scores, with**

an explanation for any scores of 3 or below, along with a summary report including an overall centre score. The RLT also receives a centre comparison table which includes an overall service score.

- 3.4 In the first six months of the current financial year, four inspections were carried out at each centre. The following overall service scores were recorded demonstrating the very high standards maintained across the estate:

a) Q1 V1	79.03
b) Q1 V2	80.77
c) Q2 V1	80.79
d) Q2 V2	80.76

- 3.5 The positive direction of travel is undoubtedly due in part to the opening of three new centres. This naturally lifts the overall service average. This should not detract from the general improvements observed at each individual centre.

- 3.6 In the four inspection visits completed in Q1 and Q2, all centres scored 'green' (75.00 - 84.99% compliance) in their overall centre assessment. The lowest scoring centres are now consistently achieving scores in excess of 78%. This should be regarded as an excellent result as full compliance with all listed criteria would result in a score of 80%. The top four scoring centres consistently score above 83%.

- 3.7 The following outcomes are particularly encouraging:

- a) The high standards established and being maintained by the management and teams at the new LTP centres;
- b) The significant improvements evidenced over the last six months at Grove and Falls where standards had previously been challenging;
- c) The general uplift in care/cleaning of wet areas (changing, showers and toilets);
- d) Facility maintenance reaction times; and
- e) Improvements at the older centres and their contribution to the overall service average scores.

- 3.8 Areas requiring ongoing attention and focus:

- a) Synthetic pitch surface maintenance and litter picking (BCC/GLL);
- b) Lighting. Bulb replacement (GLL); and
- c) General grounds maintenance (planted areas) (BCC).

- 3.9 While there is still work to be done in certain areas at specific centres, general facility management is robust and working relationships between the responsible departments and GLL remain strong.
- 3.10 Monitoring is designed to ensure that contract standards are maintained and specifically that customer service, in relation to the centre environments, is in line with expectations for a premier leisure service.
- 3.11 Scores primarily reflect the quality of GLL management systems/normal operating procedures alongside the day to day performance of the management and staff at each centre.
- 3.12 Maintaining the centres to the required standards is a joint responsibility shared by the Council and GLL. Many elements of the centre maintenance programme and all of the maintenance of our car parks, paths and planted areas, including the synthetic pitches, sits with BCC facility maintenance and BCC Parks sections respectively. Scoring reflects observations in these areas even though responsibility for delivery does not sit with GLL.
- 3.13 Overall GLL's management systems, the Council's routine maintenance regimes and the contract governance/monitoring programme combine to provide a robust partnership that consistently provides early identification of issues and timely resolutions.
- 3.14 All centres are measured against the same standards. However, it should be noted that the estate includes centres of very different ages with expected variations in the fabric of the buildings. Naturally the most recently opened LTP centres are in the very best condition and are expected to score higher. Buildings fall into the following age categories:
- | | | |
|----|--------------------------|--|
| a) | New (opening since 2016) | Girdwood CH
Olympia LC
Better Gym Belfast
City Council (GLL)
Better Gym Connswater (GLL)
Lisnasgarragh LC
Brook LC
Andersonstown LC |
|----|--------------------------|--|

Note – BGB and BGC are owned and manages directly by GLL within/alongside the contract

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| b) | Mid range (opened 2000 – 2010) | Grove LC
Falls LC |
| c) | Older (opened pre 1990) | Ballysillan LC |

Belvoir RC
Loughside RC
Shankill LC
Ozone/Indoor Tennis
Centre
Whiterock LC

Note - Ozone was extended in the mid 90's to include indoor tennis and climbing

- 3.15 The inspection programme serves to identify common themes evidenced at multiple sites. Themes such as light bulb replacement (indoor and out), contractor sign in protocols, grounds maintenance and wet area cleaning have been identified and resolved as a direct result of the monitoring programme.
- 3.16 Inspection reports feature prominently in ongoing fortnightly BCC/GLL operational meetings. These meetings are scheduled every second Friday and provide a valuable opportunity to explore any issues highlighted through the inspections and to discuss actions/options for continuous improvement.”

After discussion, during which the Partnership Manager undertook to include within future reports a breakdown on a centre-by-centre basis of the overall service scores provided in paragraph 3.4, the Board noted the information which had been provided.

**Policy and Procedure Alignment – Human Resources/
Emergency Support and PSNI/BCC Public Safety)**

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

“1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide the Board with an annual confirmation statement in relation to policy and procedure alignment for (a) Human Resources and (b) Emergency support and PSNI/BCC public safety.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Board is requested to record receipt of this report and notes the statements of policy alignment as presented at paragraphs 3.8 and 3.16 below.

3.0 Main Report

- 3.1 At its meeting on 16th January 2017, the Board approved a programme to evaluate key policy alignments to demonstrate that GLL policies and operating procedures reflect those of the Council. This requirement is set out in the partnership specification and tri-partite contract documentation.

3.2 Within the current annual board report schedule, the relevant report on both HR and emergency support and PSNI/BCC public safety is due in Quarter 3 (October 2021).

3.3 Human Resources

3.4 Human resource policy and operational practices are, to a significant extent, dictated by employment legislation. Ongoing contract management processes supported by the findings and recommendations of the 2017 Independent Review of Leisure have established that GLL HR policies and practices are in line with (a) employment legislation and (b) contractual obligation in relation to TUPE.

3.5 In reviewing alignment between GLL and BCC policy and practices, comparative investigations have focused on:

a) TUPE compliance

GLL continue to honour terms and conditions of staff transferred in under TUPE.

b) Use of Casual Staff and Training and Development

Use of casual staff is normal and indeed an essential element of resource management throughout the leisure sector. GLL use of casual staff varies in response to the demands of the business and the percentage of overall hours allocated to casuals/permanent staff is consistent with industry norms.

Training and development is ongoing with an encouraging track record of internal promotions.

c) Payroll

GLL payroll transferred from BCC to GLL in 2018 following an initial period during which BCC, under contract agreement, had processed GLL staff payroll during the contract mobilisation period

d) Voluntary Redundancy

GLL delivered one VR process in the year to 30th September 2021 (February 2021). Nineteen staff were granted VR. The process was conducted in alignment with BCC HR principles.

e) Covid-19 Measures

GLL has worked closely with BCC throughout the pandemic to ensure that HR policies and procedures

remained aligned in areas including, home working, social distancing, self-isolation, furlough payments, etc. GLL and BCC HR teams continue to meet regularly to ensure a consistent approach.

3.6 GLL Normal Operating Procedures for broader areas of service delivery, were not assessed in this policy alignment review as, from commencement of the contract in 2015, it was expected that many operational practices and procedures would be reviewed and changed.

3.7 Assessment of the relevant policy and procedure alignments, comparing BCC and GLL, has been very positive. Information gathered through a number of approaches clearly indicates that existing policies, written 'normal operating procedures (NOPs)' and observed operational practices are substantially aligned and an alignment assurance statement was agreed.

3.8 The HR areas reviewed as detailed in paragraph 3.5 above demonstrates that GLL and BCC Human Resource positions are substantially aligned. Consequently, we are satisfied that the current position supports the following statement:

'At 25th October 2021, BCC and GLL policies and operational procedures in relation to Human Resources are closely aligned with no significant variances or areas of concern to address.'

3.9 Emergency Support and PSNI/BCC Public Safety

3.10 Emergency support and PSNI/BCC public safety policy and operational practices are to a significant extent, dictated by Council policy and in particular, the activities carried out within the remit of the BCC Emergency Plan Working Group.

3.11 The Council's Partnership Manager sits on the Emergency Plan Working Group primarily to ensure that effective communication is maintained between the group and GLL.

3.12 The key areas reviewed include:

- a) Safeguarding – Accepting a duty of care to look out for people who cannot reasonably, or legally, be expected to look out for themselves;
- b) Visitor capacity controls and management – Ensuring that attendance numbers at activities, programmes and events do not present a risk to public safety;
- c) Anti-social behaviour controls and reporting to PSNI and the Council – That adequate measures and appropriate staff are in place to monitor and react to any incidents of anti-social behaviour and that all such

incidents are correctly recorded on the PSNI reported crime register and the BCC incident reports;

- d) Emergency response plan support and in particular emergency rest centre provision – That, where designated, leisure centres are made available as emergency rest centres and that emergency supplies containers, including road salt and sandbags, are accommodated at leisure centre sites;
- e) Covid 19 responses – GLL has worked closely with the BCC Covid response and recovery teams to provide support through the leisure centres including HSCT community staff changing/showers, vaccination centres, test centres, lateral flow test kit distribution points, blood transfusion centres and GP surgery assistance.

3.13 Safeguarding and visitor capacity management, as it relates to public safety, are covered within previously reported health and safety policy and procedure alignment reviews.

3.14 Anti-social behaviour (ASB) controls and PSNI/BCC incident reporting measures are well managed along with a well-established incident reporting protocol. All incidents of ASB and criminal activity are reported in the following three stages.

- a) Recorded internally by GLL on their 'PRIME' incident reporting system;
- b) Reported to the PSNI through the relevant area control room to generate a crime/incident reference number;
- c) Reported to BCC for inclusion in the Council's FLARE system designed to record and report on all incidents; and
- d) Incident reports are discussed at regular BCC/GLL update meetings and where necessary, escalated to specific site/issue response forums.

3.5 Emergency response plan support requires that designated leisure centres are immediately available as emergency rest centres. Emergencies requiring the provision of rest centres include for example, civil unrest, bomb scares, floods, fires, etc. resulting in the evacuation of residents from their homes. Since March 2020, centres have also assisted with numerous ad hoc Covid 19 support initiatives.

There are designated rest centres throughout the city with convenient locations listed for every residential area. Incident management plans include epidemic controls and major event and cruise ship evacuations.

Rest centres are activated on a regular basis. In addition to leisure centres, the emergency response plan utilises schools, community centres, civic building, etc.

In the year to 30th September 2021, leisure centres were used as emergency rest centres or for Covid support initiatives.

Each of the above was assessed as having been successfully managed.

GLL is also involved and play a key role in emergency scenario training exercises. Training exercise often involve multi agency working and all blue light services.

- 3.16 The areas reviewed as detailed above in 3.5 demonstrate that GLL and BCC are working effectively in close partnership and that their respective policies and operating procedures a substantially aligned. Consequently, we are satisfied that the current position supports the following statement:

'At 25th October 2021, BCC and GLL policies and operational procedures in relation to emergency support and PSNI/BCC public safety are closely aligned with a successful track record in dealing with emergency planning scenarios when activated. There are no significant variances or areas of concern to address.'

After discussion, during which the Partnership Manager undertook to raise with Corporate HR issues which had been raised by a Director around holiday pay adjustment for 2019, payroll, leave entitlement and Covid-19 measures, the Board recorded the receipt of the report and noted the statements of policy alignment for (i) Human Resources and (ii) Emergency Support and PSNI/BCC Public Safety.

Other Business

Schedule of Meetings 2022

The Board approved the following schedule of meetings for 2022 and agreed that they should continue to commence at 4.30 p.m.:

- Monday, 17th January
- Monday, 7th March
- Monday, 11th April
- Monday, 6th June
- Monday, 8th August
- Monday, 12th September
- Monday, 10th October and
- Monday, 5th December.

The Board noted that meetings would, until further notice, continue to be held remotely and agreed that, once in-person meetings resumed, they would be rotated around leisure centres.

Chairperson

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