

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



Belfast
City Council

MEETING OF CLIMATE AND CITY RESILIENCE COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Belfast and remotely via Teams on Thursday, 7th April, 2022 at 5.15 pm, for the transaction of the business noted below.

You are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully,

JOHN WALSH

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

1. **Routine Matters**
 - (a) Apologies
 - (b) Minutes
 - (c) Declarations of Interest
2. **DAERA - Kevin Hegarty, Director of Green Growth & Climate Action (Presentation Followed by Q&A)**
3. **Update on Current Issues**
 - (a) Net Zero Event (Pages 1 - 4)
 - (b) One Million Trees/UPSURGE Update (Pages 5 - 10)
4. **Belfast Agenda Review (Action Planning Update) (Pages 11 - 32)**
5. **Update on Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) (Pages 33 - 38)**

6. **Recap on Issues to be Raised at Future Meetings**



Subject:	Net Zero Event
Date:	7 April 2022
Reporting Officer:	Debbie Caldwell
Contact Officers:	Debbie Caldwell

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update Members on the visit to Belfast by Mayor Andy Burnham, Mayor Steve Rotheram and Lord Mayor Alison Gilliland on 30th March 2022.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to note
3.0	Main report
3.1	The aim of the visit was to establish a collaboration / partnership on delivering Net Zero between Belfast, Dublin, Greater Manchester and Liverpool City region ahead of a Decarbonisation Summit in England in June 2022.
3.1	The visit was framed around current efforts to decarbonise transport, heat and industry using innovations in hydrogen production, storage and use across the four cities to illustrate the challenges and opportunities arising from the transition, to show inter-linkages between

	<p>different industries (transport, water etc.) and how hydrogen fits with the wider energy system. Visiting delegations comprised Mayors and officers from the respective regions but also engaged key stakeholders locally including Forge Integrated Primary school in South Belfast, Translink, Wrightbus, Catagen, B9 Energy, NI Water, MJM Renewables, QUB and Belfast Met.) from Belfast during the one day visit.</p>
3.2	<p>The programme comprised a series of visits around the city in a hydrogen bus provided by Translink.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The tour started with a visit by the Mayors to Forge Integrated Primary school in South Belfast - an ECO School Ambassador - this provided an opportunity for pupils to present the school's eco-ethos, show their Wheelie Bin Workshop and ask Mayors what their Cities are doing to tackle climate change. • In tandem with the school visit, the officers took part in a collaboration session to build awareness of Net Zero activities in each of the four regions – this provided an opportunity for cities to learn from each other and discuss areas for further collaboration specifically related to decarbonising transport, heat and industry. • An innovation session was held at Catagen's Net Zero Technology Centre in Titanic Quarter where the delegations were provided lunch whilst CEO Dr Andrew Woods explained Catagen's activities and plans to advance technology around green hydrogen and how this might impact more widely on the production, storage, distribution, cost etc. The Mayors also had an opportunity to see and hear about developments in hydrogen from organisations active in this area and to pose questions to Translink (as a user of hydrogen buses), Wrightbus (as a manufacturer of hydrogen buses), Catagen (as an R&D centre for the development and deployment of green hydrogen technology), B9 Energy (as a producer of green hydrogen and electrolyzers), NI Water (as an early demonstrator of green hydrogen production), MJM Renewables (as a source of renewable energy to power hydrogen production), QUB and Belfast Met (as R&D and teaching centres for hydrogen innovation) and Artemis as innovator in hydrogen ferries. The session concluded with the Lord Mayor hosting a Q&A with the other Mayors where they reflected on what they've seen and heard and to related this back to what is going on in their cities. • The Mayors also visited Translink Milewater Zero Emission Service Centre. The site includes both the maintenance and fuelling facilities for Hydrogen buses as well as the charging facilities for 45 Battery Electric buses – supplied with renewably produced "Green" electricity. Chris Conway explained how a working refuelling depot operates and it was an opportunity for the Mayors to get Translink's (as a key off-taker) perspective on hydrogen and it's role in decarbonising pubic transport. A walk through the site was led by Paul Slaney, Head of Bus Fleet Engineering, finishing at the hydrogen fuel cell. Other members of the Translink team included: Ian Campbell - Director of Service Operations, William McCullagh - Head of Major Programmes, and Brian Elliot - Senior Programme Manager Zero Emission Bus Programme.
3.3	<p>A Statement of intent (below) was signed by the Mayors to work jointly to accelerate efforts towards Net Zero and signpost to a Decarbonisation summit in June.</p>

	<p><i>“Belfast, Dublin, Liverpool City Region and Greater Manchester, with a collective population of over 5 million, will come together to form a cooperative partnership to develop practical approaches to accelerate the delivery of net-zero commitments in our cities and city regions.</i></p> <p><i>Climate change is the greatest challenge facing our nations and our planet. That is why, we have developed ambitious climate agendas to become more equitable, fairer, prosperous and greener cities. Each of us are committed to the protection of our people and our economies and we are firmly of the view that working together will give us the best chance of realising the benefits of transitioning to a low carbon economy.</i></p> <p><i>To achieve these goals, we are committed to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Sharing best practices, knowledge and experience;</i> • <i>Connecting organisations and facilitating R&D, business and investment collaborations; and</i> • <i>Coordinating joint participation at events (including the Net Zero Summit in June 2022) and hosting, where necessary, incoming delegations.”</i>
3.4	<p>The day concluded with a reception and dinner hosted by Belfast Chamber of Commerce in City Hall. The event included businesses and public sector figures active in the Net Zero journey. Elected members from all of the parties (except People Before Profit) were present at the event.</p> <p>The Lord Mayor thanked the Mayors and guests, announced the signing of the SOI and stressed the commitment of Belfast to working together highlighting the role of public / private sector collaboration in delivering Net Zero commitments in the 4 cities and city regions.</p> <p>At a Q&A at the end of the dinner, the City Mayors reflected on their visit and their plans to collaborate ahead of the decarbonisation Summit in June</p>
3.5	<p>The next steps are to hold a virtual workshop and agree areas for collaboration ahead of the decarbonisation Summit in June.</p>
3.3	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None</p>
3.4	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Implications</u></p> <p>Any good relations or equality implications will be identified as part of the Council’s screening process.</p>
4.0	<p>Appendices – Documents Attached</p>
	<p>None</p>

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Subject:	Belfast One Million Trees and Upsurge Project update
Date:	7 April 2022
Reporting Officer:	Richard McLernon
Contact Officers:	Richard McLernon

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update Members on two key projects within the Climate Unit portfolio – the Belfast One Million Trees Programme and the Horizon 2020 UPSURGE project.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to note the project update.
3.0	Main report
3.1	The Climate Unit leads the delivery of two major projects for which external funding has been secured. Both projects work with a wide range of stakeholders locally and across the UK, EU and globally. Belfast One Million Trees Programme is the city tree planting initiative, which Belfast City Council coordinates and delivers on behalf of a range of city partners,

	<p>working closely with delivery partners including the Woodland Trust, Belfast Hills Partnership, the National Trust, and The Conservation Volunteers.</p> <p>The Horizon 2020 funded UPSURGE project is focused on nature-based solutions, improving the condition of soil for the purpose of growing plants and produce, the development of a community garden in an unused area of Belfast City Council's estate, engagement with and education for local stakeholders, and applying learning at a range of satellite sites likely to be focused on Council community gardens and allotments. Initially the project is a partnership with EU partners led by Slovenia, with a close working relationship between BCC and QUB driving the work of the Belfast demonstration. Belfast is one of five demonstration cities within the overarching programme of work.</p>
	<p>Belfast One Million Trees Programme</p>
<p>3.2</p>	<p>Belfast One Million Trees Project is a 15-year city partnership and programme of activity led by Belfast City Council aimed at increasing tree planting, maintenance and management in the city, with key outcomes being increased climate resilience, support for public health and wellbeing, support for biodiversity, reduction in water runoff, improvement in air quality and reduction in urban heat island effects. The project is one of 30 foundational projects contained in the Belfast Resilience Strategy and aligns with city strategies such as the Living with Water Programme, Open Spaces Strategy, and Local Development Plan. We have three overarching aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create an inclusive structure and processes which enable tree planting and the growth of green infrastructure and biodiversity in Belfast. • Plant at least one million trees within the next 15 years- delivering a step change in our approach to climate adaptation and environmental improvements. • Protect the city and the people of the city by reducing harms from air pollution, weather impact and loss of nature and improving health and well-being.
<p>3.3</p>	<p>The initial proposal for the Belfast One Million Trees Programme was received by Council from the Belfast Metropolitan Residents Group. The motion came through People and Communities Committee which approved the role for Council to coordinate and manage the initiative and updates are periodically brought back to People and Communities Committee for approval. Programme management is led by the Climate Unit within Council, working closely with colleagues in City and Neighbourhood Services, and across the Council.</p>

3.4	<p>A Belfast One Million Trees steering group was established in early 2020 which includes partners from statutory bodies, government departments, community organisations and conservation organisations. Over the course of several meetings a process was agreed whereby each year sites would be identified, assessed and planting plans put in place for the annual planting season which takes place between November and April. The city steering group sets the work programme and receives an update twice yearly. A delivery group was established early in the project which is made up of Belfast City Council, the Woodland Trust, National Trust and Belfast Hills Partnership. This group meets fortnightly and is responsible for workplan delivery. Furthermore, a communication group has been established which meets quarterly with communication representatives from Belfast City Council, the Woodland Trust and National Trust. The Communications Group created a communication plan and assets which have been adopted by the steering group and all partners.</p> <p>In parallel an internal group was established within Belfast City Council which looks at the Council contribution. That group has made recommendations such as the establishment of a tree nursery on BCC land which has resulted in the Grovelands site being developed into a tree nursery, the development of a Belfast Tree Strategy which is now underway part funded by Belfast One Million Trees funding and the development of engagement events which include the ‘Give a tree a home’ events which we have now run on two occasions in partnership with The Conservation Volunteers – once in Ormeau Park and once in Waterworks Park.</p> <p>In December 2020 the Belfast One Million Trees Programme launched officially, and at the same time the Yoursay Platform launched with a Million Trees section that includes tools such as a map which members of the public can drop a pin into to indicate preferred locations for trees. To date there have been approximately 3,000 interactions with the Yoursay Million Trees page.</p>
3.5	<p>A number of workstreams are in progress through the Belfast One Million Trees Programme which include a rolling programme of business engagement which has resulted in 19 businesses being engaged in total around volunteering, sponsorship, and partnership. A total of £17,000 has been secured in partnership with businesses to date.</p> <p>A supply line of native trees has been established through a contract with the Conservation Volunteers, who will also provide seed collection, tree planting and tree maintenance workshops for the Belfast One Million Trees Project.</p>

	<p>As mentioned, we have developed a pilot tree nursery in the Grovelands site at Musgrave Park which will see trees supplied to Belfast City Council and into the city project.</p> <p>We are currently planning a city tree count and land call which will be repeated annually, and we are working proactively to align with existing and new initiatives such as the Queens Green Canopy, Trees for Cities, Greenways, Planning – Section 76 developer contributions, A Bolder Vision among others.</p> <p>A key piece of research is in the final draft stage – the Belfast I-TREE ECO report, which sets out the value of the existing tree cover in Belfast in carbon storage and sequestration, avoided water run-off, and amenity value. This has been undertaken by Treeconomics and Forest Research who are also forecasting the benefits of additional tree planting for the city journey to net zero. Findings of the report include identifying 83 species in Belfast, the most common being Ash, Sycamore and Beech. Belfast’s urban forest’s trees sequester an estimated 8,893 tonnes of carbon per year, has an associated value of £8 million. Overall, the trees in Belfast's urban forest store an estimated 318,626 tonnes of carbon, which has an associated value of £290 million. The trees within Belfast's urban forest reduce runoff by an estimated 317,000 m³, which is equivalent to approximately 127 Olympic swimming pools of surface runoff being averted every single year with an associated value of £593,000.</p>
3.6	<p>External funding was secured in 2020 from the Woodland Trust Emergency Tree Fund (289k over a 3-year period) which includes targets including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and implement a new Belfast Tree Strategy • Plant a minimum of 35 hectares per year • Plant a minimum 1000 metres of hedgerow planted/restored per year • Plant 10,000 trees outside woods per year • Identify at least 2 strategically important sites per year (Cavehill) • Produce 5 x farm plans per year • Commission an I-Tree ECO project which will form the evidence base for the Belfast Tree Strategy and support the implementation of the Belfast One Million Trees Programme • Minimum of 2,500 people engaged per annum through the programme • We want to run a programme of community engagement which will commence early in 2021 • Hold 10 x woodland workshops and produce 2 x good practice guides

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance community/micro-nursery coordination and support • Assist and support 5 organisations with volunteer programmes (100 volunteers annually) • Market our achievements and promote good practice, enabling public participation 																																																
3.7	<p>Draft tree planting targets for the initiative are with the steering group for approval but we have recommended the following:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Target</th> <th>Actual</th> <th>Year</th> <th>Target</th> <th>Actual</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>21/22</td> <td>15,000</td> <td>39,000</td> <td>28/29</td> <td>95,000</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>22/23</td> <td>20,000</td> <td>24,000*</td> <td>29/30</td> <td>100,000</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>23/24</td> <td>30,000</td> <td>0</td> <td>30/31</td> <td>90,000</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>24/25</td> <td>50,000</td> <td>0</td> <td>31/32</td> <td>85,000</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25/26</td> <td>70,000</td> <td>0</td> <td>32/33</td> <td>80,000</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>26/27</td> <td>75,000</td> <td>0</td> <td>33/34</td> <td>75,000</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>27/28</td> <td>85,000</td> <td>0</td> <td>34/35</td> <td>70,000</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Target	Actual	Year	Target	Actual	21/22	15,000	39,000	28/29	95,000	0	22/23	20,000	24,000*	29/30	100,000	0	23/24	30,000	0	30/31	90,000	0	24/25	50,000	0	31/32	85,000	0	25/26	70,000	0	32/33	80,000	0	26/27	75,000	0	33/34	75,000	0	27/28	85,000	0	34/35	70,000	0
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	Horizon 2020 UPSURGE Project																																																
3.8	The official title of the UPSURGE project is ‘City-centred approach to catalyse nature-based solutions through the EU Regenerative Urban Lighthouse for pollution alleviation and regenerative development’																																																
3.9	<p>The project is led by Maribor in Slovenia who coordinate a consortium which Belfast is one element of. The overarching work packages are:</p> <p>WP1 Management - E-Institute WP2 Overall NBS Assessment - LEITAT WP3 Environmental Verification with Multimodal Sensing - OPERATE WP4 Digitalisation and Connectivity with Citizens and Stakeholders - OC WP5 NBS Demonstrations - QUB WP6 Regenerative Assessment Enabling Regenerative Transition GCE WP7 European Regenerative Urban Lighthouse - ICLEI WP8 Quintuple-Helix based Verification, Communication and Dissemination - IETU WP9 Ethics requirements - E-Institute</p> <p>Belfast is one of five demonstration cities, with the Belfast work programme being managed by Belfast City Council. A total of 660,000 euros was secured for Belfast which includes infrastructure works, staff time, sensors and data platform, community engagement and training, and travel.</p>																																																
3.10	People and Communities Committee approved the use of Lower Botanic Gardens as the key hub in the UPSURGE initiative and the use of learning from the hub at associated satellite sites in the city, which are likely to be Council allotments and community gardens.																																																

3.11	A steering group meets every three weeks which is made up of a team from QUB and BCC staff, to agree the Belfast work programme and to link back into overarching project meetings which happen of each of the work packages. An internal group within BCC has been established to advise and feed into the project.
3.12	To date we have undertaken a stakeholder mapping exercise and we are currently planning several stakeholder engagement and co-design workshops focused on the Lower Botanic Gardens site. A site visit and initial soil sampling has commenced, with the intention of developing an agroecology hub focused on research, training, engagement and also incorporating multiple uses in the wider site such as health and dog walking for example. The aim is to create a multipurpose space which benefits local people and the wider city.
3.13	A series of discussions have also taken place in relation to procuring sensors, data platform and wireless network, with Digital Services supporting this workstream and leading on the procurement which will be based on a specification developed by one of the workstreams for all cities use.
3.14	The UPSURGE project is a four-year project which is in year 1 at present. It is planned that the infrastructure works will take place in 2023, with stakeholder engagement and co-design taking place in 2022, along with sensor deployment.
4.0	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u>
4.1	All activities are financed through previously approved internal and external funding.
5.0	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Implications</u>
5.1	Any good relations or equality implications will be identified as part of the Council's screening process.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
4.1	None



Subject:	Belfast Agenda Review (Action Planning Update)
Date:	7 April 2022
Reporting Officer:	Debbie Caldwell, Belfast Climate Commissioner John Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy
Contact Officer:	Kevin Heaney, Portfolio Manager Jamie Uprichard, Business Research and Development 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"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update the committee on the progress of the Belfast Agenda Review, including the action planning phase.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Note the following report which was submitted to the March SP&R Committee outlining progress of the development of the refreshed Belfast Agenda Strategy document and supporting four-year Delivery Action Plans. ii. Consider and provide comments on the emerging strategic intents and measures of success (stretch goals) as set out in slides 12-22 in Appendix 1. iii. Note the proposed next steps and timeline as set out in slide 33 in Appendix 1; and iv. Note the plans for continued elected member engagement, detailed in section 3.5.

3.0	Main report
3.1	<p>The following report was submitted to April's meeting of the Strategic Policy & Resources (SP&R) Committee and sets out the emerging strategic framework for the refreshed Belfast Agenda. Given the cross-cutting nature of the priorities, objectives and targets which will provide the focus for community planning over the period 2022-26, it was agreed to bring this to the attention of members of the Climate & City Resilience Committee.</p> <p>The November 2021 SP&R Committee received an update on the emerging findings and recommendations following the initial phase of Belfast Agenda: Continuing the Conversation engagement to inform the refreshed Belfast Agenda (BA) for the period 2022-2026. As reported at the November meeting, there was broad agreement that the existing long-term vision and outcomes of the BA remain relevant, and the proposed priorities for focus were the things that stakeholders and communities believed community planning could help address over the next 4-year period. There had been feedback in relation to how some of the priorities had been framed and the need for them to be easily understood. As a result, some minor changes had been made to the framing of the priority areas such as, changing 'economic recovery' to 'Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Growth'. A summary of the current Belfast Agenda priority framework (which reflects many of the changes) is attached at Appendix 1.</p>
3.2	<p><u>Bringing focus and commitment to delivery</u></p> <p>Building on the recommendations and consensus reached through Phase I, the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) and council has committed to co-design specific and measurable actions plan(s) which would underpin the priority areas of focus. Subsequently, a small group of core partners (cross-sectoral) has been brought together to help further develop the approach to co-designing each of the priority areas and cross-cutting themes. Each task and finish group were responsible for analysing the range of outputs from phase 1 of the 'Belfast Agenda: Continuing the Conversation' engagement process; assessing relevant strategies, plans and local intelligence (including information received through the call for evidence); feedback from the community and Belfast Agenda Board engagement workshops; online and paper-based survey results; and the current delivery plans of existing Belfast Agenda Boards.</p> <p>Based on this initial analysis, partners prepared a strategic framework to help bring focus and shape the co-designed action plans consisting of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What we are trying to achieve over the next 4 years (strategic intent); 2. How will we measure success (stretch goals); and 3. How will we realise such success (SMART Action Plan(s)). <p>Figure 1 below illustrates this framework and how a structured and informed approach is being implemented with partners to ensure there is a strong thread between each of the priority areas, ambitions, measures of success and importantly the focus for collaborative action.</p>

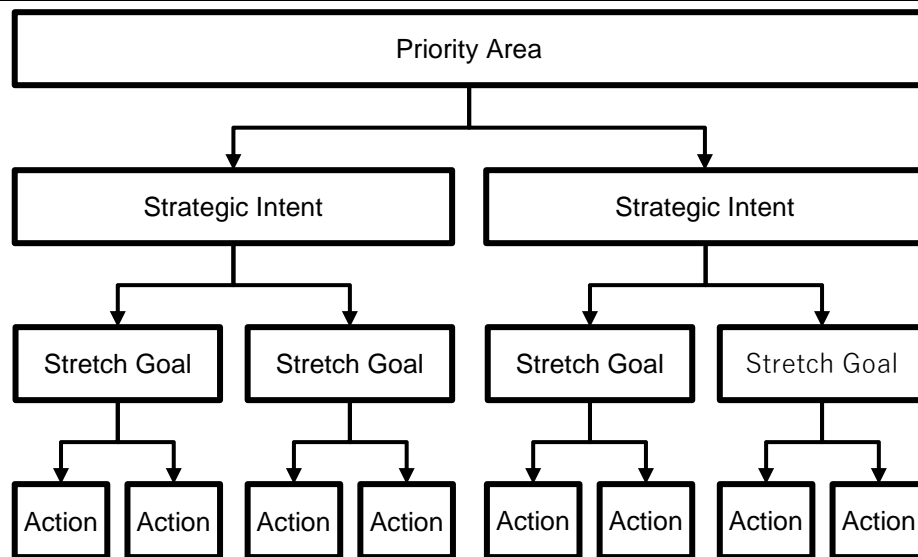


Figure 1: strategic framework adopted by partners to bring focus and shape co-designed action plans

3.3	<p>Output from this initial exercise will inform the next phase of the Continuing the Conversation engagement programme, where we will continue to work with partners and communities to co-design delivery plans. This represents an ongoing and complex process, which requires participation and involvement across sectors and communities at multiple levels, which has resulted in some priorities being more developed than others. The emerging frameworks for each of the priorities are attached as part of the presentation attached at Appendix 1 (slides 12 to 22) which had been discussed with the All-Party Working group on Community Planning when it met on 23 February 2022. Please note that since the working group meeting of 23 February, the strategic intents and stretch goals have been further developed, particularly the City Development elements following the Board meeting on Friday 11 March. This reflects the dynamic nature of the co-design process which remains a work in progress. Members are asked to consider and provide feedback on the emerging frameworks outlined by 15 April 2022 to communityplanning@belfastcity.gov.uk. This feedback will then be reflected in future iterations and can be discussed further with members as the strategy is further refined.</p>
3.4	<p>As discussed with the All-Party Working Group, it is proposed that the timeline for developing the refreshed Belfast Agenda strategy document and underpinning delivery plans includes sufficient time for direct and genuine engagement with partners, communities/ communities of interest and specific sectors including the business and private sector over April and May 2022. In addition, more formal and intensive consultation activities are planned on the strategy document as well as further engagement to co-design the action plans during May and June 2022. Slide 33 in Appendix 1 outlines the proposed next steps and timeline for this process. It is felt that the timeline will allow for greater input and enable valuable buy-in to the emerging plans.</p>
3.5	<p><u>Political engagement with elected members</u> In addition to the All-Party Working Group on Community Planning on 23 February 2022, and subsequently the Strategic Policy, and Resources Committee, it is also intended to bring a similar paper, presentation, and discussions to the Social Policy Working Group in April 2022. The intention would be to bring a further iteration of the draft strategy and emerging action</p>

	plans to Party Group Briefings and Committee in April 2022 for further consideration, input, and refinement. It is important to note that the feedback and recommendations from Members received following the All-Party Working Group on Community Planning meeting (23 Feb) will be factored into the continued refinement of the BA Refresh.
3.6	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u> Any financial implications arising from this report will be covered from existing budgets. The review process will continue to involve the participation of all community planning partners, who will need to commit their resources to the review process and the agreed action plans.
3.7	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment</u> 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.
4.0	Appendices - Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 Belfast Agenda Review Overview including emerging Action Planning Frameworks for agreed priorities (updated 3 rd March 2022)



All-Party Working Group on Community Planning

Continuing the Conversation to Review the Belfast Agenda


23rd February 2022 (Updated 3rd March 2022)

Supported by




1

Where we left off...



Vision to 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.

Outcomes to 2035

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

Priority themes 2022-2026

- Economic recovery
- Employability and skills
- Housing
- Health inequalities
- Educational attainment
- Community recovery and neighbourhood regeneration
- Climate, resilience and sustainability
- Active and sustainable travel

Cross-cutting themes

- Inclusive growth
- Children and young people
- Good relations and shared future
- Older people

Join the #BelfastConversation at: yoursay.belfastcity.gov.uk

2

Phase 1: Engagement & Co-design



- 6 participatory workshops
- 130 participants from 63 organisations
- Board workshops / Online platform / social media/ 435 survey responses (online and paper based)
- Utilising local assets (libraries and community centres)



Target Audience	
1	South Belfast Stakeholders
2	Elected Members
3	North Belfast Stakeholders
4	West Belfast Stakeholders
5	East Belfast Stakeholders
6	Communities of Interest

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3

We Asked, You Said, We Did...



Participants discussed the need for targets and indicators in order to measure progress against the priorities.



Participants broadly agreed that what economic recovery meant needed to be more accurately defined... focus should be on how inclusive it would be, and how economic inequalities across the city would be addressed.



Participants felt that this was a central and urgent issue that connected to all the other priority themes.

- Agreement that long term vision and outcomes are still relevant
- Public engagement, outcomes, accountability and measuring success emphasized as part of the action planning process
- City Development included as an additional priority area; Connectivity added to Active and Sustainable Travel
- Economic Recovery refocused as **Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Growth**
- Focus being given to interrelated or cross-cutting actions to avoid creation of silos

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4

What do the priorities mean for your community? E.g.

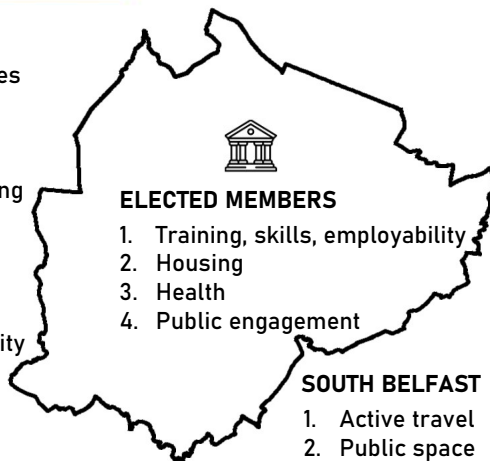


NORTH BELFAST

1. Access to services
2. Regeneration
3. Mental health
4. Housing
5. Health & Wellbeing

WEST BELFAST

1. Housing
2. Implementation
3. Outcomes and accountability
4. Public engagement
5. Poverty



ELECTED MEMBERS

1. Training, skills, employability
2. Housing
3. Health
4. Public engagement

SOUTH BELFAST

1. Active travel
2. Public space
3. Development, housing and regeneration

EAST BELFAST

1. Good relations/social cohesion
2. Public engagement
3. Implementation and outcomes
4. Health inequalities
5. Education, skills and employability

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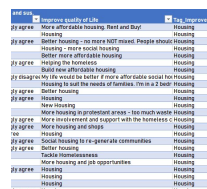
5

Action Planning Process to date

Creating Alignment through to Delivery



- Convening leads identified to form small task and finish group for each priority
- Group tasked with consideration of **inputs** and preparing a starting point for the co-design process



For example: Education Authority, Department of Education and Belfast City Council officials have considered all inputs and drafted proposals based on wider engagement with Educational Inequalities subgroup (Belfast Area Partnerships, QUB, UU and CCMS)

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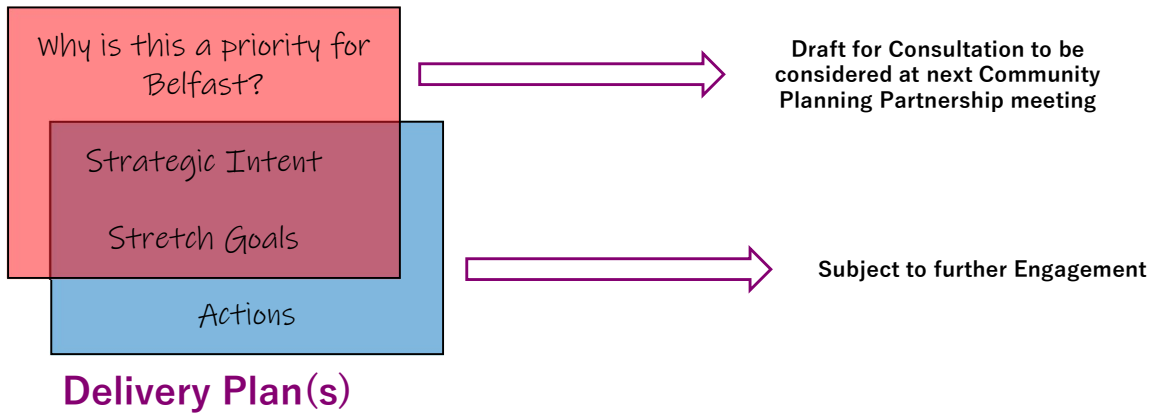
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Our Commitments and Milestones

Link between strategy document and delivery plans



Strategy Document (and Easy Read version)



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Action Planning Process to date

Ensure actions meet agreed guiding principles



✓ 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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Action Planning our Agreed Priorities

Creating Alignment through to Delivery





CLIMATE, RESILIENCE & SUSTAINABILITY



CONNECTIVITY, SUSTAINABLE & ACTIVE TRAVEL



HOUSING-LED REGENERATION



HEALTH INEQUALITIES



FUTURE CITY CENTRE

Inclusive growth Children and young people Good relations and shared future Older people



EDUCATIONAL INEQUALITIES



EMPLOYABILITY & SKILLS



SUSTAINABLE & INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH




COMMUNITY & NEIGHBOURHOOD REGENERATION



CITY REGENERATION & INVESTMENT

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Co-Designed Approach

Ensuring delivering for communities – Lived experience


- Widen voices into the planning and prioritisation process.
- Localised engagement N|S|E|W - Phase 1 and Phase 2
- Increases ownership and connection
- Encourages active participation in solving local problems
- Stimulates innovation and creativity
- Build capability to support delivery.
- Multiple layers of engagement and participation



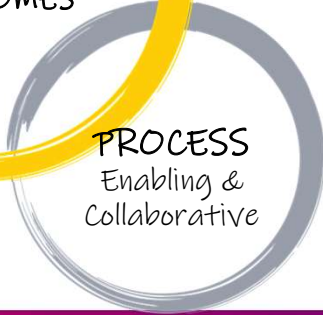
GREAT PLACES & BETTER OUTCOMES



PEOPLE
Empowered & Engaged Communities



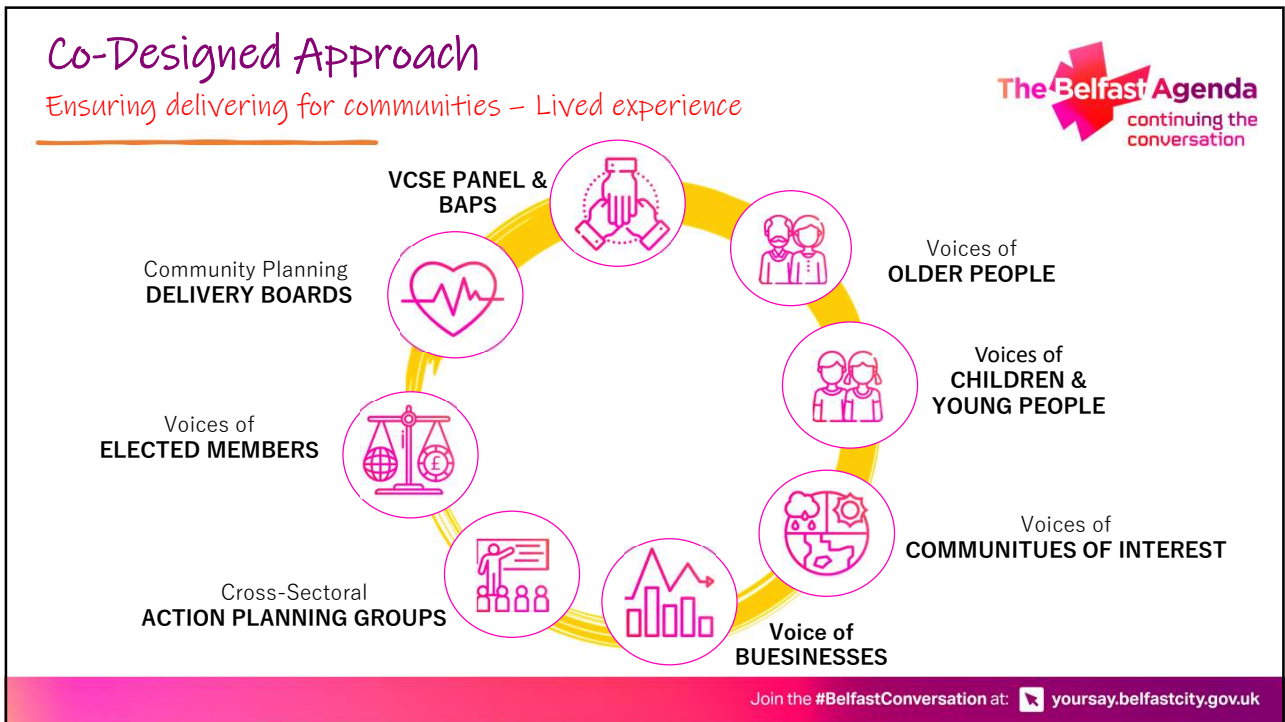
PLACES
Creative & Inclusive



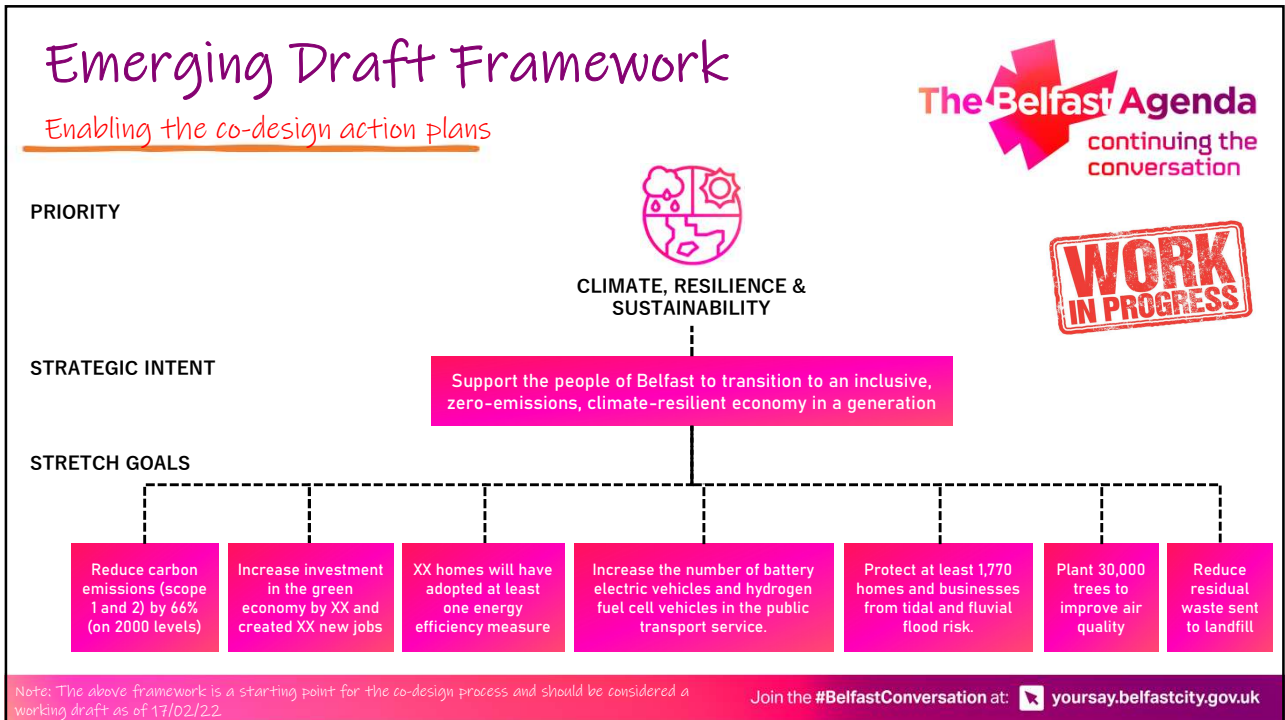
PROCESS
Enabling & Collaborative

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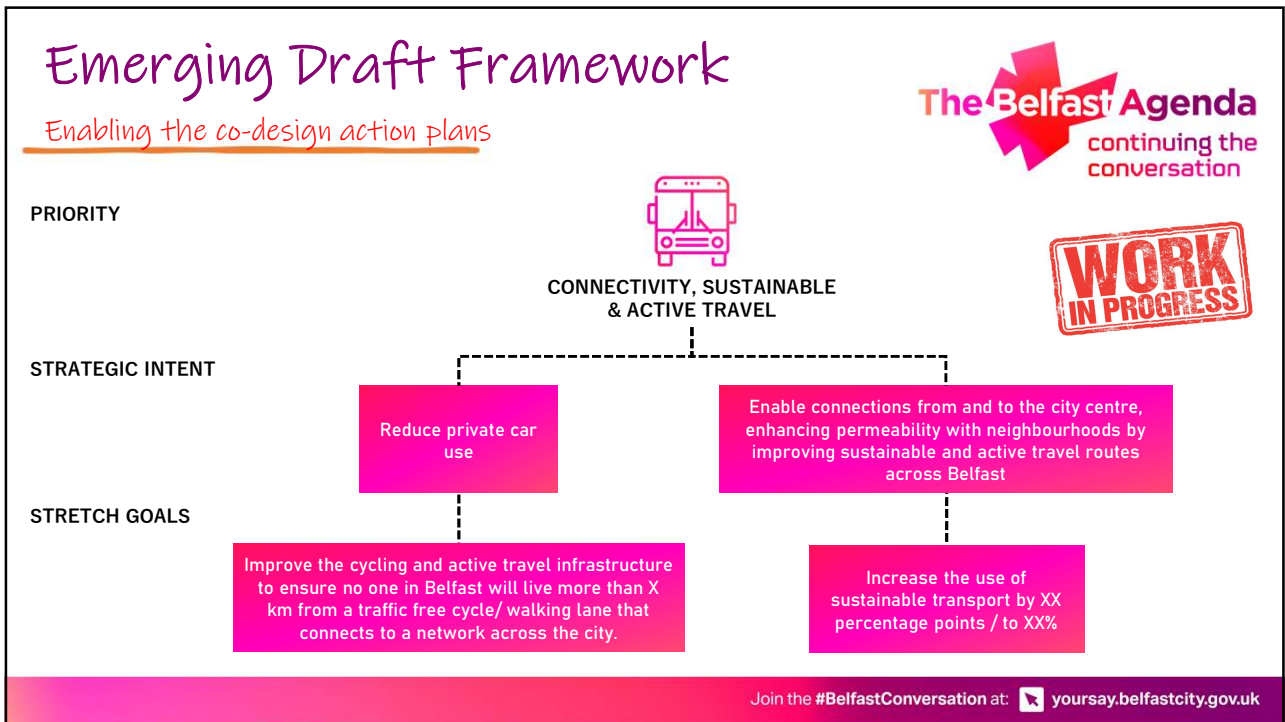
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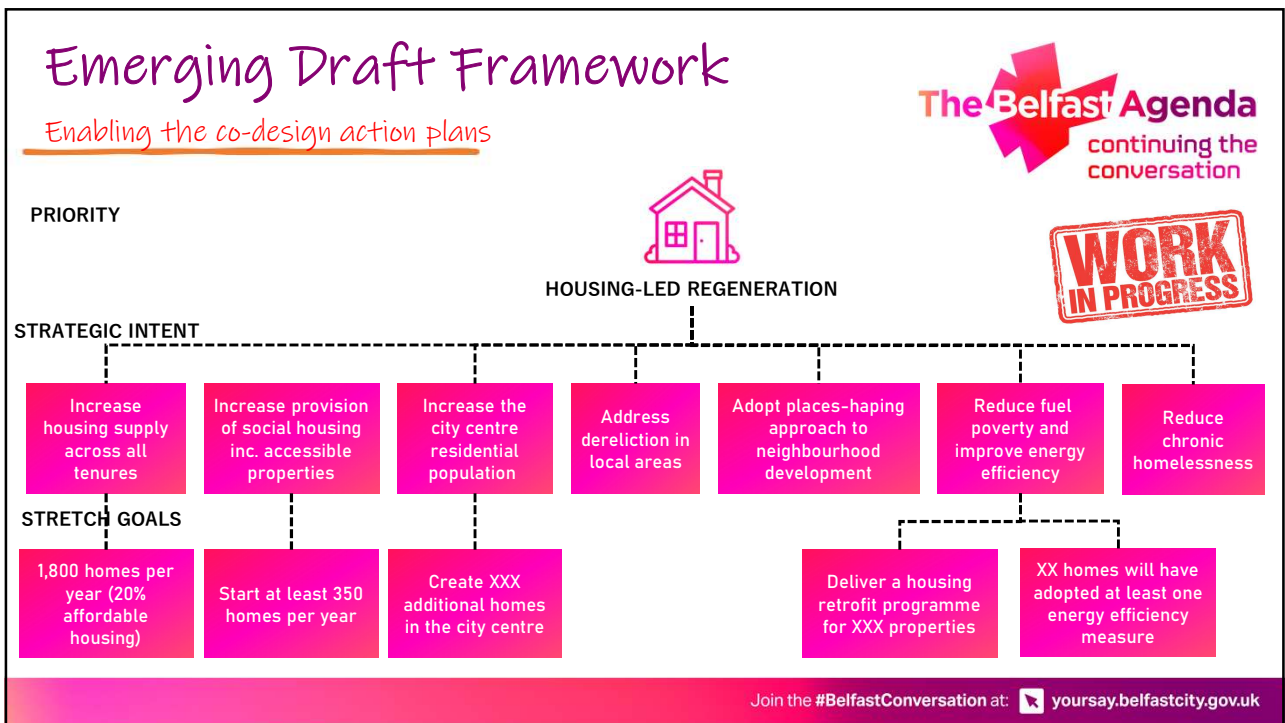
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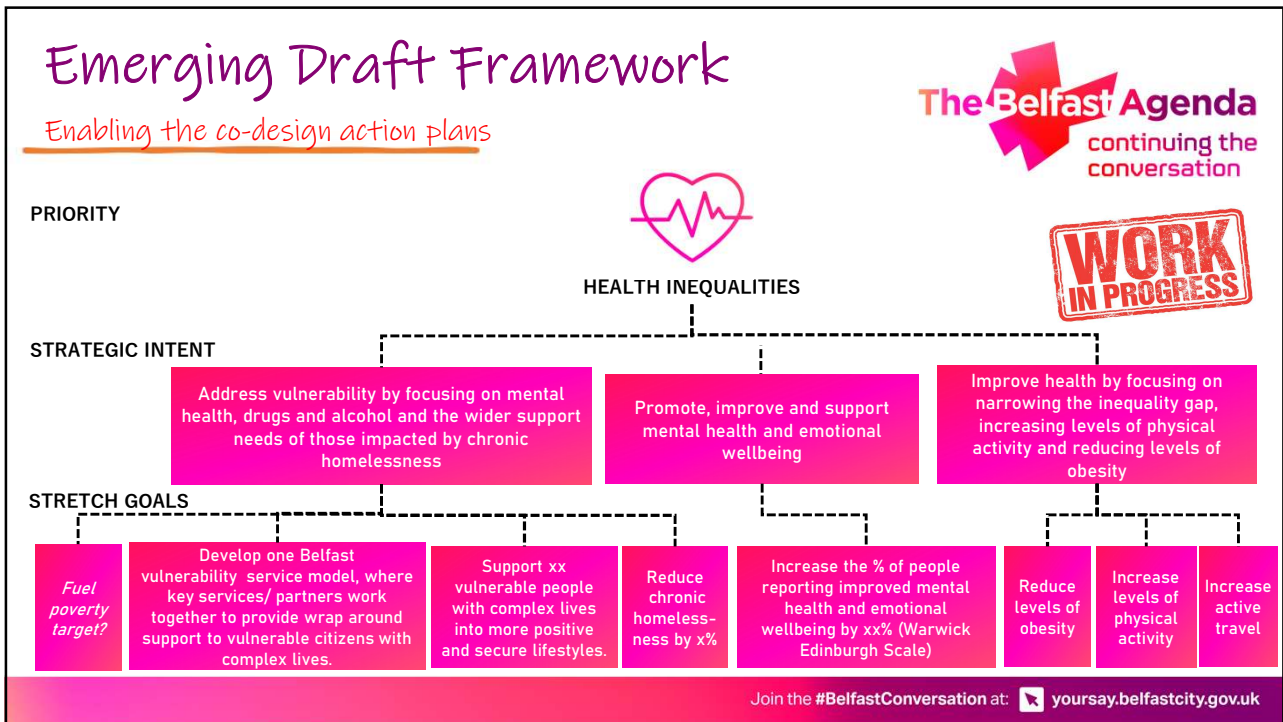
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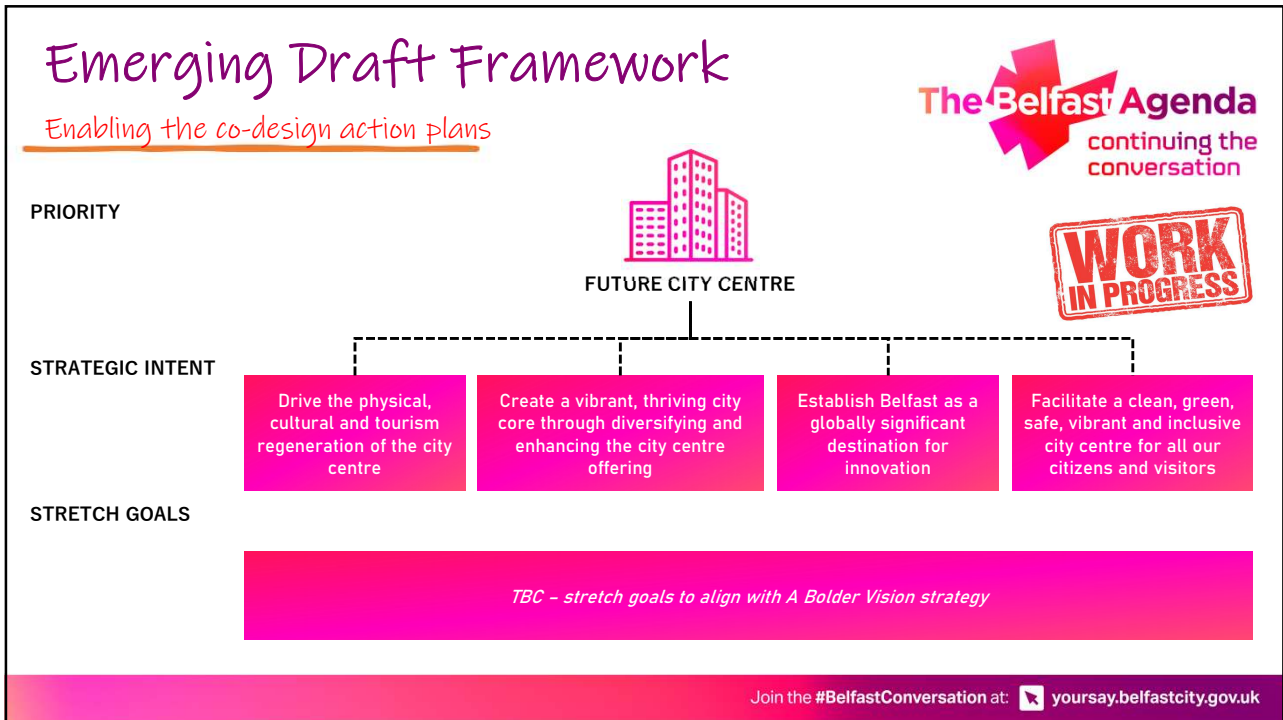
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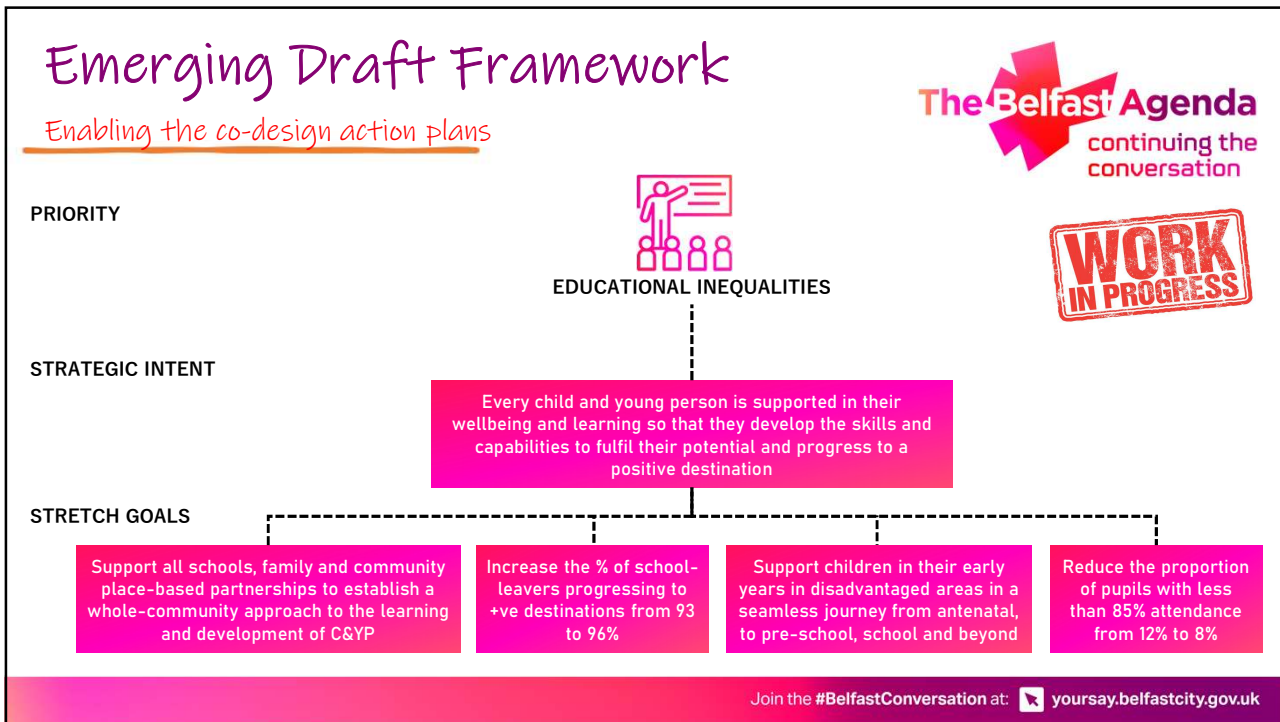
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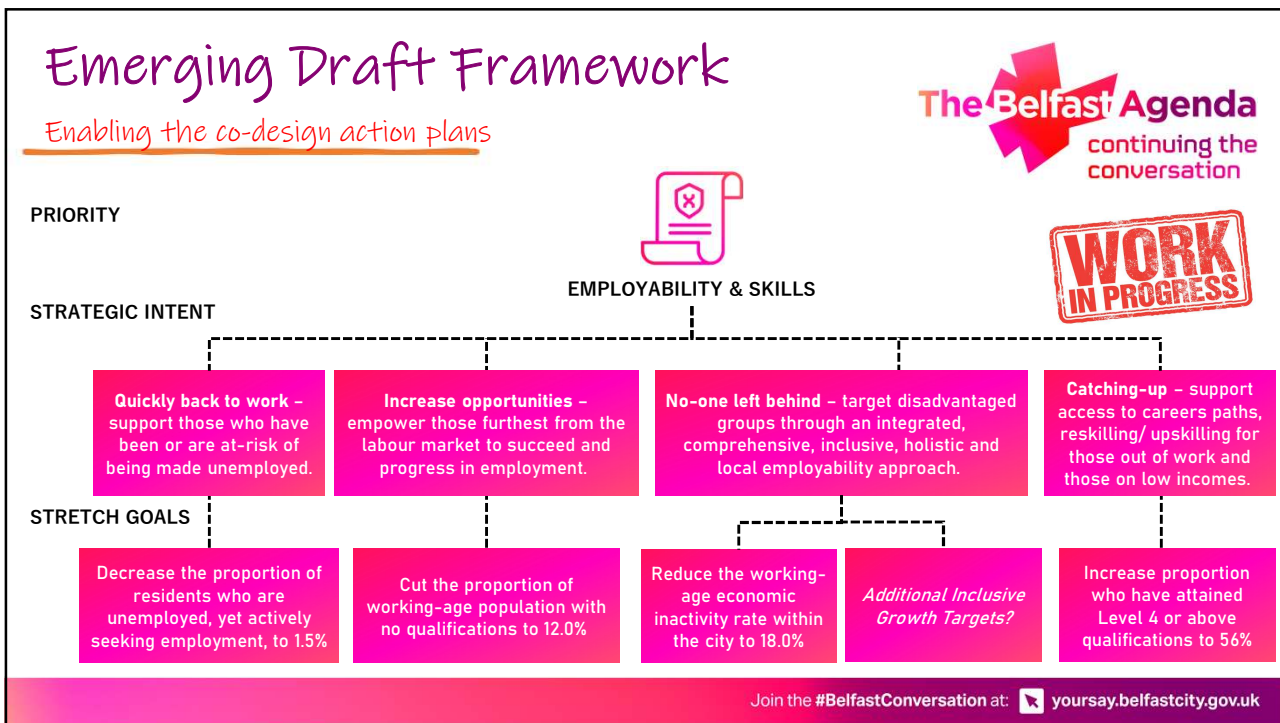
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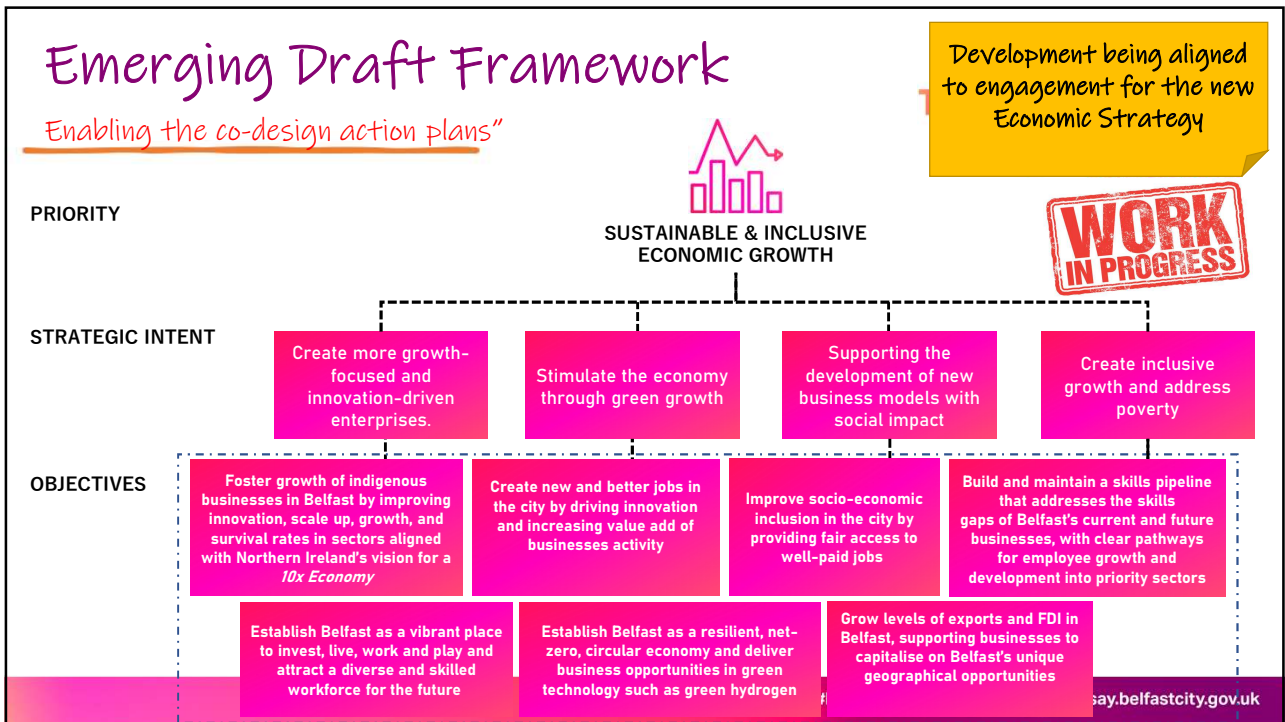
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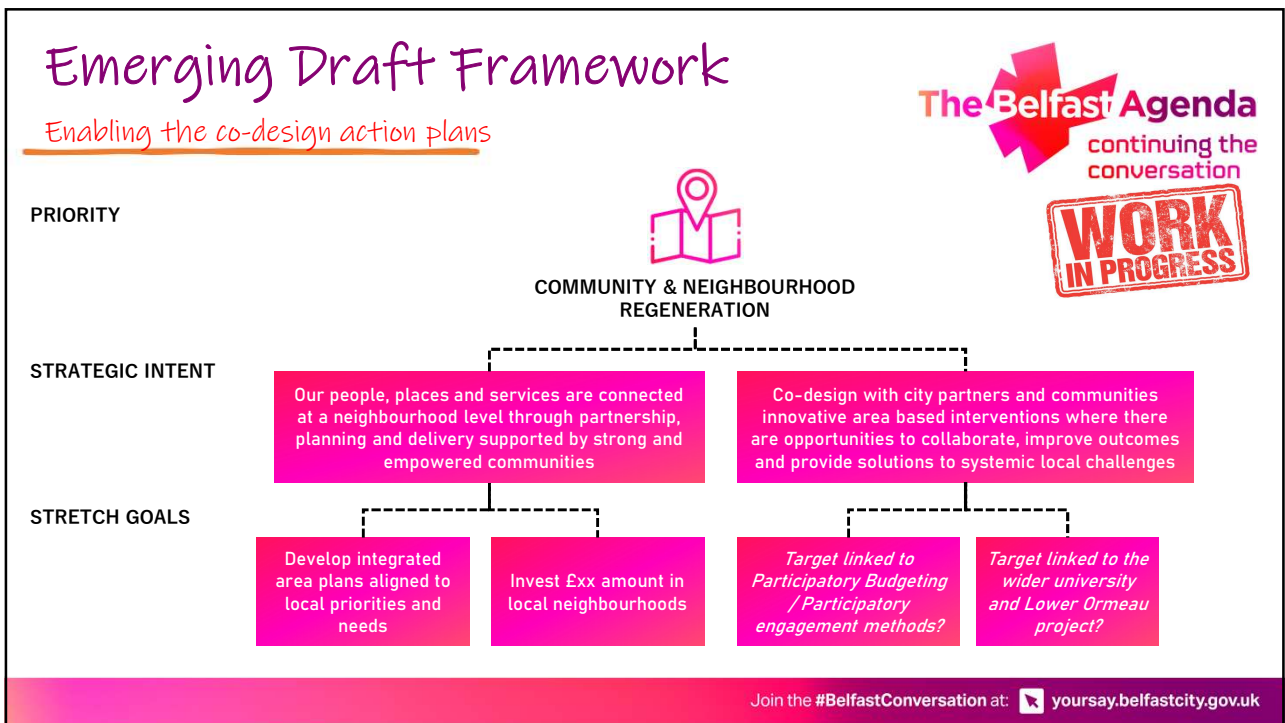
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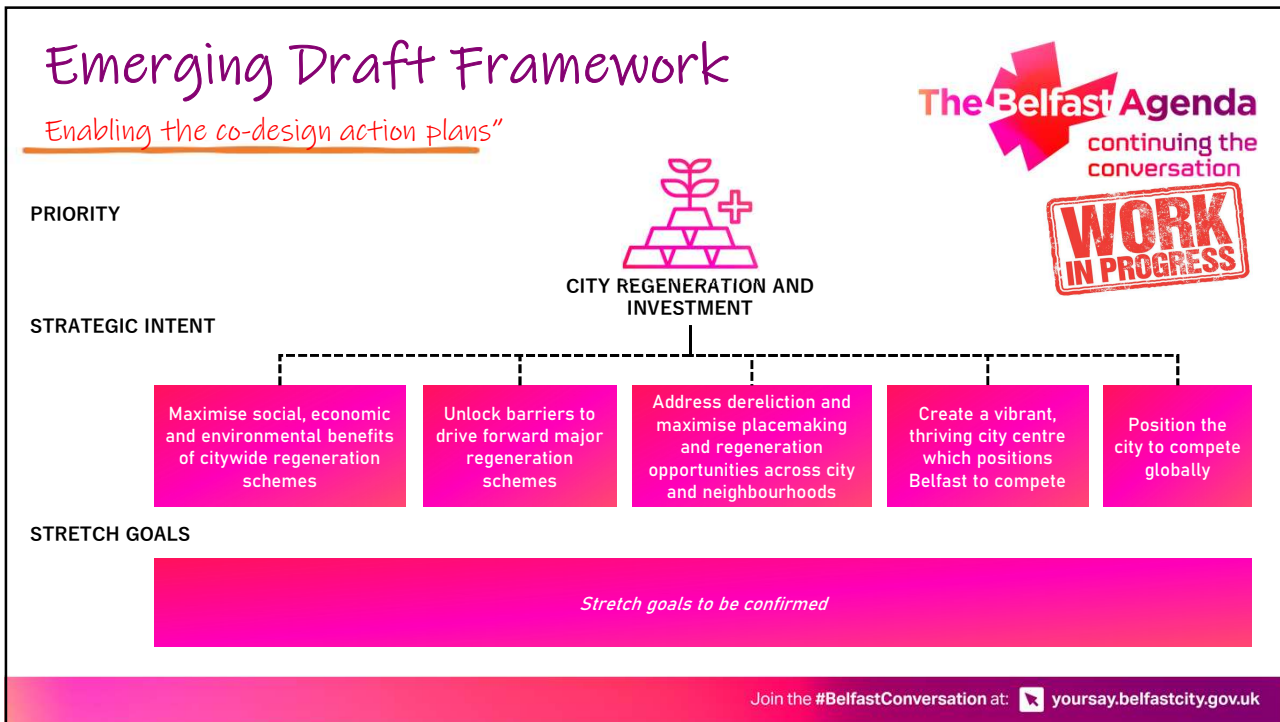
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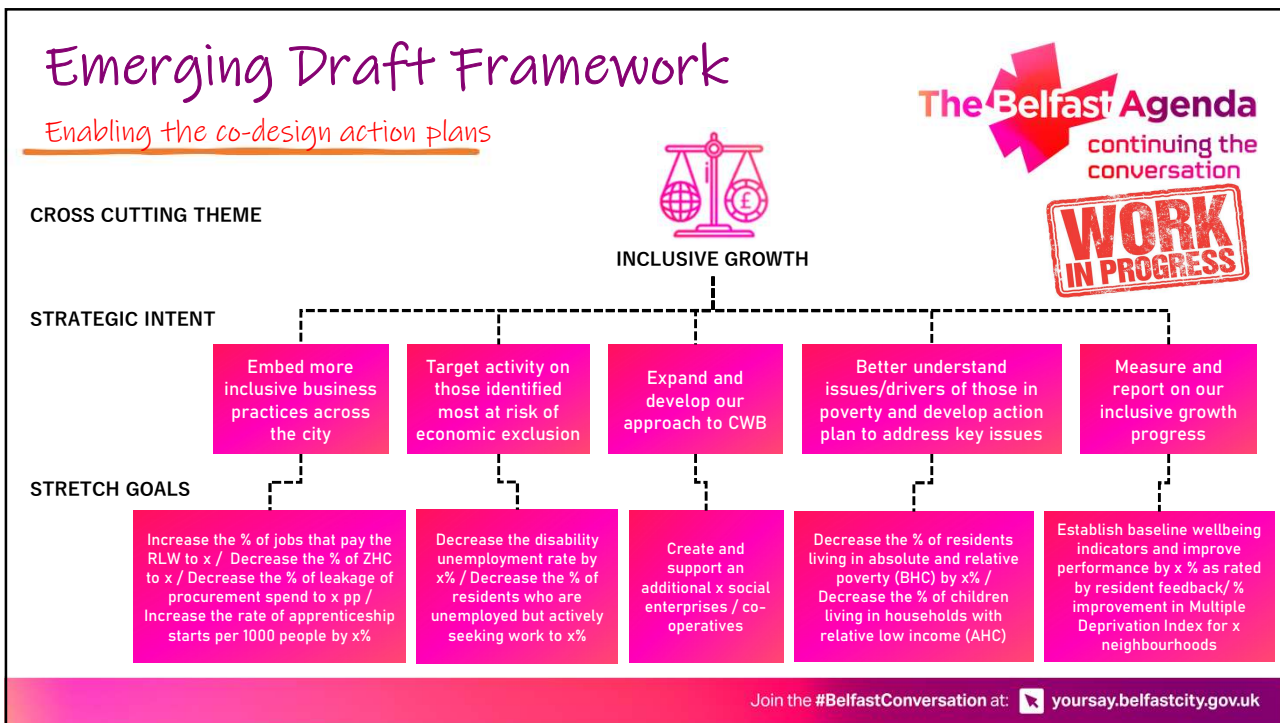
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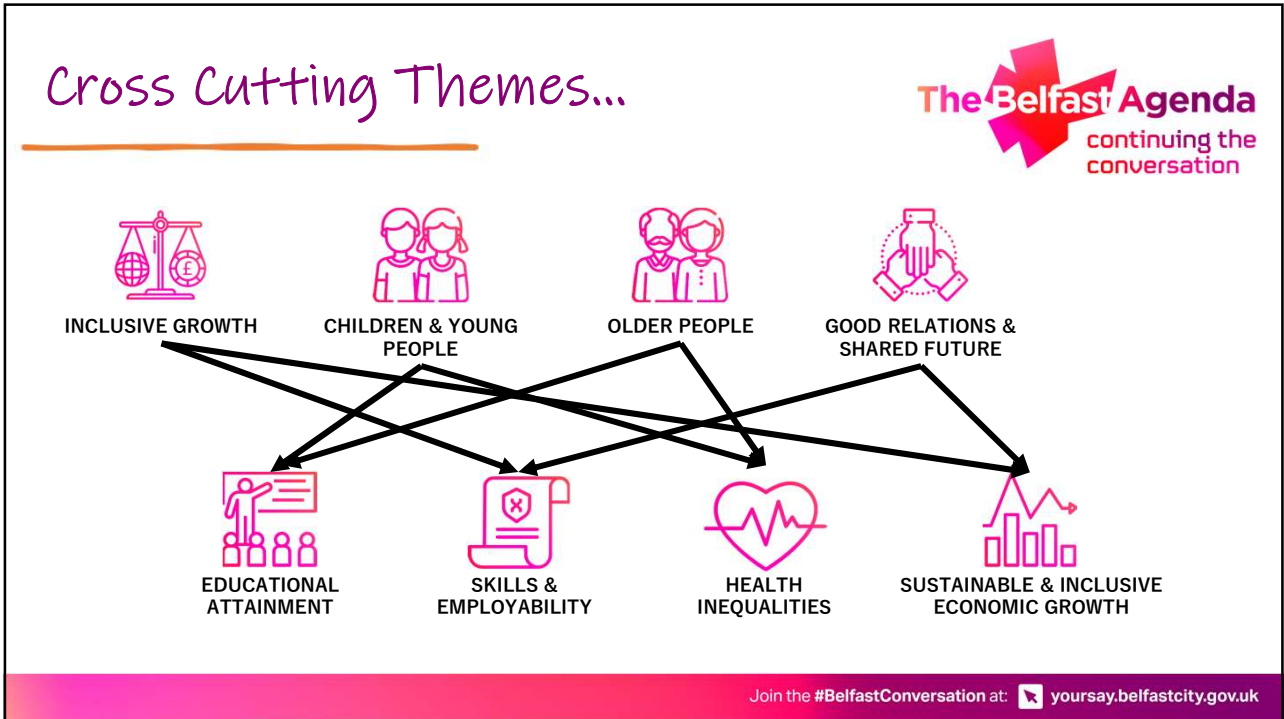
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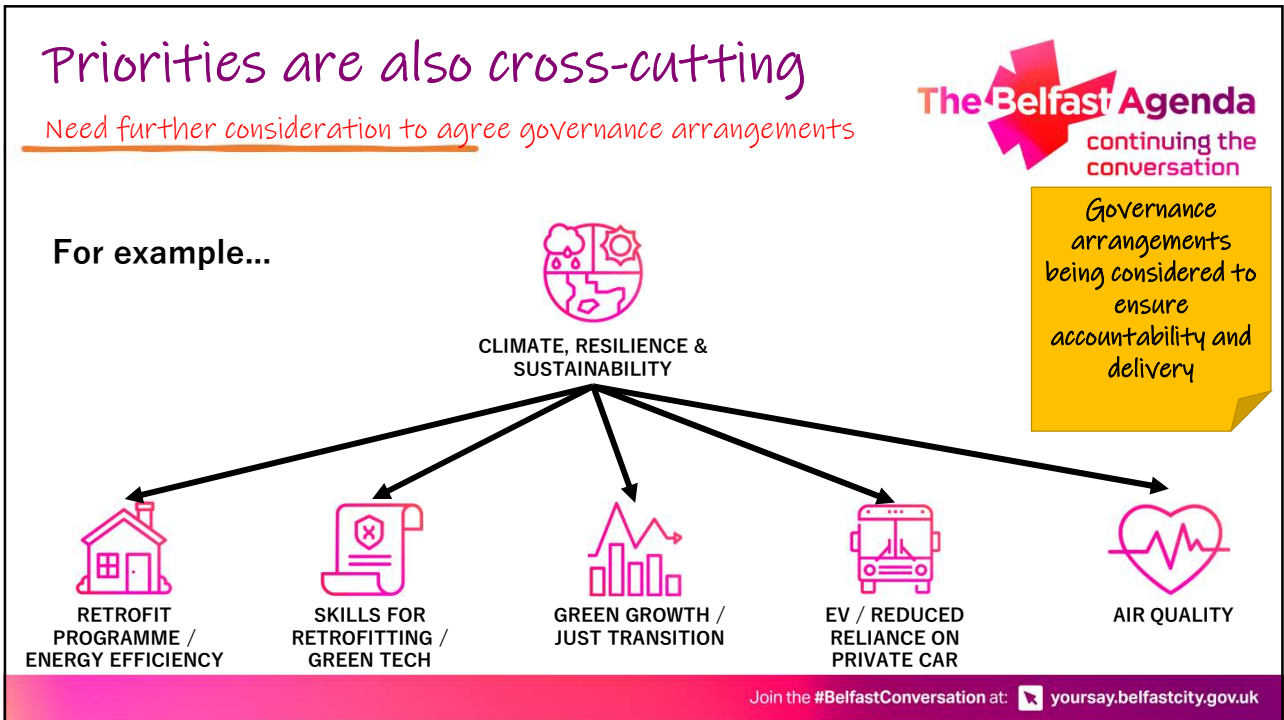
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Belfast Agenda Refresh & Delivery Plan(s)

Example: Educational Inequalities



STRATEGIC INTENT	TARGETS / STRETCH GOALS	ACTIONS
Every young person is supported through their education journey to ensure that upon leaving education they progress into a destination	By 2026 we will increase the percentage of school-leavers progressing into positive destinations from 93 per cent to 96 per cent	1. Develop impactful interventions based on identified need that align with the regional 'Reducing Educational Disadvantage' Programme 2. Implement the most appropriate support mechanisms to enable boys to maximise educational outcomes, in keeping with A Fair Start Report
	By 2026 we will effectively support transitions for children and young people especially those identified as being at risk of underachievement - How can we measure impact and make this a SMART target? (Surestart Hanen Measures and others within FairStart?)	3. Maximise the proportion of children ready to start school through a range of support programmes for children aged 4 and younger and their parents 4. Support young people 'at risk' as they transition through their learning journey 5. Pro-actively provide young people at risk of underachieving with supports to remove barriers to learning, and support them to see the benefits of education through physical and extra-curricular activities. [DN: Suggest merging or cross referencing Actions 2, 5 and 8 together]
	By 2026 we will have supported 125 primary schools & 25 post-primary schools to deliver School Development Plan priorities that focus on developing parental and community engagement	7. Develop a collaborative community and school approach to support parental engagement and empowerment 8. Support a community approach to education as referenced in Fair Start by developing capacity, skills and expertise within the community [DN: Suggest merging or cross-referencing Actions 2, 5 and 8 together] 9. Engage Area Learning Communities across this city and provide opportunities for citywide collaboration, sharing of best practice and learning

This is what we're seeking to co-design by mid April

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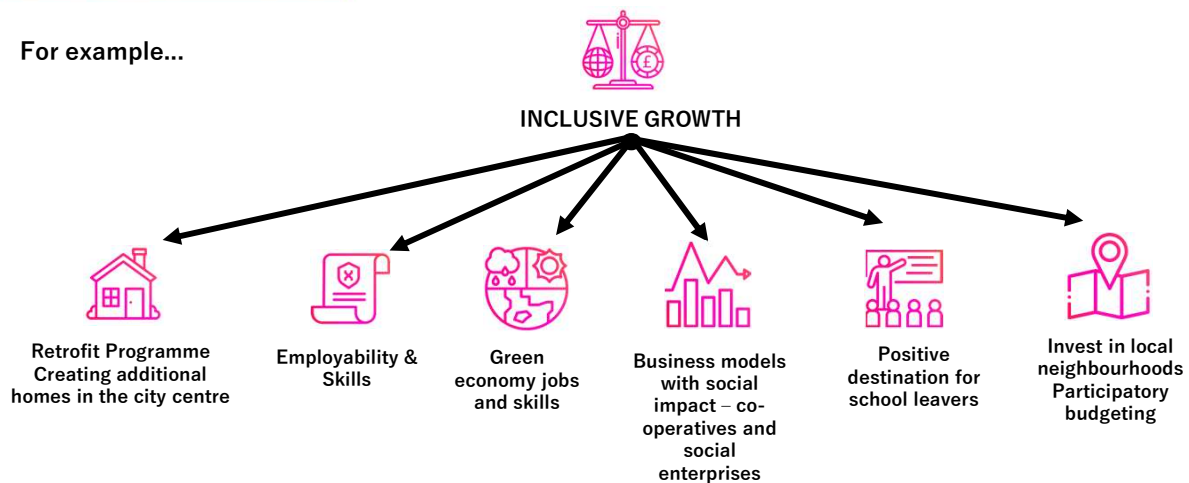
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Cross-cutting themes: an inclusive growth lens

Need further consideration of governance arrangements and action planning



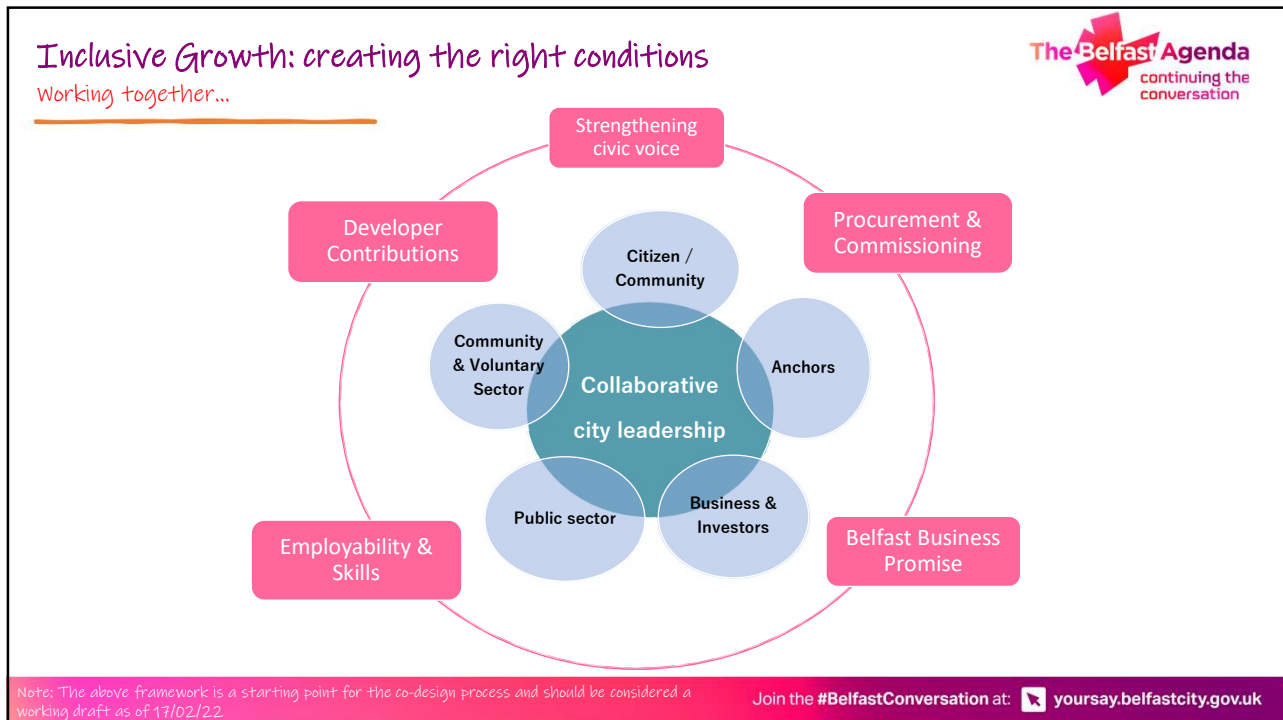
For example...



Note: The above framework is a starting point for the co-design process and should be considered a working draft as of 17/02/22.

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Inclusive Growth

Illustrative Actions

The Belfast Agenda
continuing the conversation

Implement the Belfast Business Promise

- Seek all CPP members to sign up as Supporters with the aim of achieving Membership accreditation within 2 years.
- Additional 50 organisations signed up as Supporters by end of year 1
 - ✓ 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.

Note: The above framework is a starting point for the co-design process and should be considered a working draft as of 17/02/22.

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Belfast Business Promise

Illustrative Actions



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Inclusive Growth

Illustrative Actions



Implement Anchor Institution Commissioning & Procurement Group

Further define and focus on specific cohorts

Design & Implement Inclusive Growth Decision Making Framework

Establish business sector/advisory group

Support establishment of Poverty Truth Commission

Establish Inclusive Growth Oversight Group

Expand and develop our approach to Community Wealth Building

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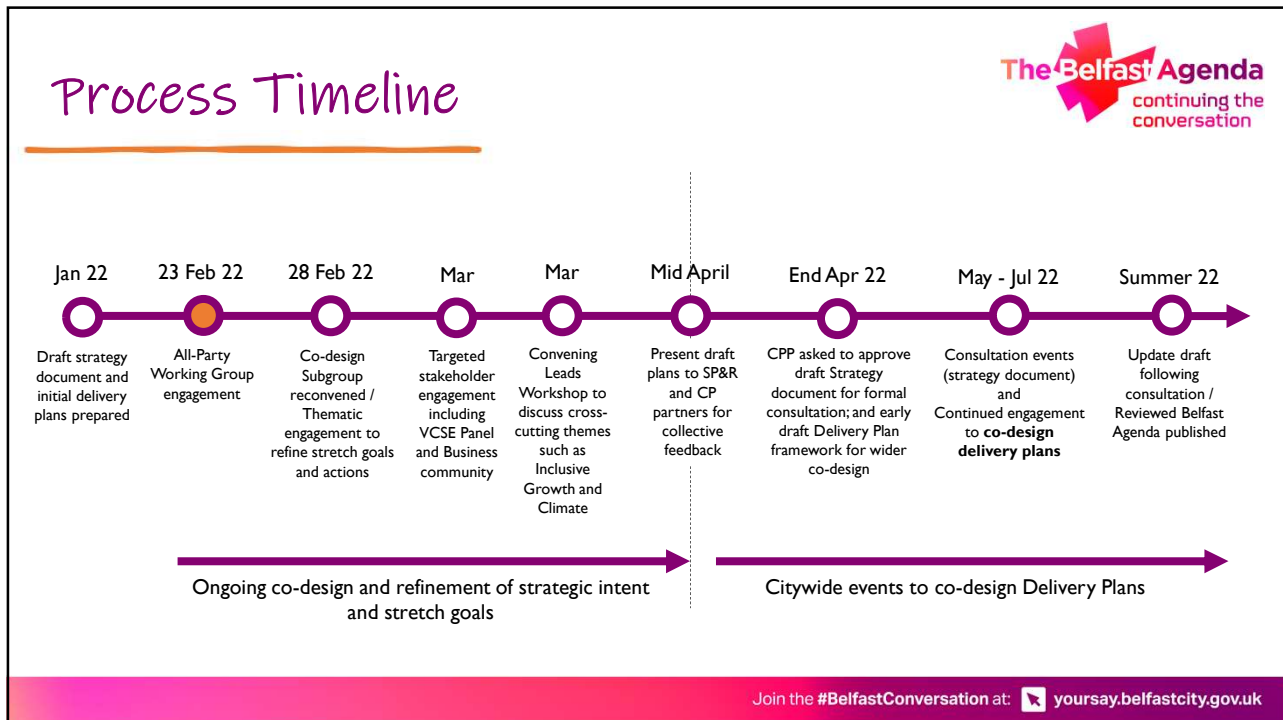
Population Indicators

Reviewed in line with the emerging stretch goals

- Currently 51 indicators which measure the contribution towards our 5 outcomes over the long-term
- Framework currently being reviewed, ensuring it is consistent with the current priorities and emerging measures of success
 - Possible new indicators include carbon emissions, biodiversity, proportion of working age population with no qualifications, homelessness...
 - Technical Assessment Process (TAP) used by TEO for PfG also being applied to streamline the 'curves we want to turn'.

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For Discussion



- Are the emerging stretch goals the correct measures of success?
- Are they ambitious enough?
- Anything missing?
- Further engagement? Party Group Briefings?

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Subject:	Shared Prosperity Funding update
Date:	6 April 2022
Reporting Officer:	John Greer, Director of Economic Development
Contact Officer:	Lisa Toland, Senior Manager Economy

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to provide an update to members on the emergent Shared Prosperity Funding.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note the contents of this report

3.0	Main Report
3.1	Members will be aware that European Structural and Investment (ESI) funds help to pay for initiatives supporting business development, research and development, investment in digital and green infrastructure, as well skills and training interventions and support for job-seekers.
3.2	<p>The ESI funds that the UK received were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), which focuses mainly on support to small businesses and on research and innovation, with a smaller emphasis on moving towards a low carbon economy; • The European Social Fund (ESF), which is very strongly focused on employment. The main way it does this is by encouraging people into the workforce, such as by building networks between employers, local authorities and charities, and by improving people’s skills. ESF funding also included the Youth Employment Initiative (YEI), which funds schemes such as apprenticeships and traineeships; • The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD), which funds improvements in agriculture as part of the EU’s Common Agricultural Policy (as opposed to income support payments to farmers, which are not part of structural funding); • The European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF), a much smaller fund supporting improvements in fisheries.
3.3	In the EU’s 2014-20 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) period, the last MFF in which the UK was an EU member state, its funding allocation from ESI funds was €16.3 billion. This worked out to around £2.0 billion per year on average.
3.4	Northern Ireland has been a net beneficiary of the EU Structural funds and their impact has been significant – indeed in Northern Ireland we received approx. 5% of the total UK allocation, while only representing 2.8% of the population
3.5	The European Social Fund has been a vital component in addressing inequalities, poverty and supported the creation of more and better jobs, which it does by co-funding projects that improve the levels of employment, the quality of jobs, and the inclusiveness of the labour market in areas of impact. ESF projects are funded to a value of 65% by ESF with a 35% match funding requirement historically. Data provided by Department for the Economy and contained in appendix 1, indicated that ESF allocation for the current programme period in Belfast March 2018 – to March 2022 had a value of £55,479,367 for ESF with the total value being £85,352,887, including 35% match funding of £29,873,520.

3.6	The UK Government announced in 2017 that ESI fundings successor will be a Shared Prosperity Fund . The UK Shared Prosperity Fund is a Government-allocated fund which is intended to reduce inequalities between communities, as part of the Government’s wider “levelling up” agenda.
3.7	The objectives set by the Government for the SPF is to tackle inequalities between communities, and raise productivity in those parts of the country whose economies are furthest behind, but so far it has given few details around its scale, design and implementation.
3.8	On February 2 nd 2022 Pre-Launch Guidance for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund was published. It stated that that it would provide £2.6 billion of new funding for local investment by March 2025, with all areas of the UK receiving an allocation from the Fund via a funding formula rather than a competition.
3.9	The pre-launch guidance confirmed that in England, Scotland and Wales local government will be given responsibility for developing an investment plan for approval by the UK Government, and for delivery of the Fund thereafter. This delivery model follows the recent approach of the Levelling Up Fund which provided a ring fenced portion of funding to 100 leading local authorities while in Northern Irland the round one levelling up and community renewal funding was dispersed via a competitive bid process.
3.10	The guidance confirmed that the approach in Northern Ireland is as per the extract below, <i>‘In Northern Ireland, the UK Government is considering options for development of a Northern Ireland investment plan. We are committed to working with local partners to ensure that the investment plan reflects the particular needs of Northern Ireland’s economy and society. We want this plan to draw on the insight and expertise of local partners, including the Northern Ireland Executive, local authorities, City and Growth Deal geographies, businesses and the community and voluntary sector to target interventions where most appropriate. This plan will be used by the Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities who will have oversight of delivery for Northern Ireland, working closely with local partners.’</i>
3.11	The guidance confirmed that for the devolved administrations broader governance, statutory and regulatory requirements will be detailed in a Prospectus, which is expected to be published in the spring. It is important to note that as well as governance the specific amount

	<p>of funding available to address the broad objectives of the programme have not been provided as yet.</p>
3.12	<p>Over successive funding cycles, councils have effectively managed and deployed EU resources to support local economies. In the current programming period, councils are responsible for administering around £18million of funding to support business start-up and growth. This comprises ERDF funding matched with budget from Invest NI and supported by resources from each of the councils. The lack of ERDF resources presents a significant risk to this support and will impact significantly on the predominantly micro business base in the region.</p>
3.13	<p>Local authorities in Northern Ireland are also at the centre of the EU's PEACE funding – an instrument that is unique to this region. Local Peace Plans – developed across three priority themes within each council area – account for around £45million of expenditure across Northern Ireland on a range of activities aimed at building positive relations and embedding peace within local communities. Again, councils play a lead role in developing locally-agreed plans and overseeing delivery – including accountability for all spend.</p>
3.14	<p>Members will be aware that Labour Market Partnership structures that have been established within each of the council areas over the last year. These Partnerships aim to improve employment outcomes and enhance skills levels of local residents. They bring together regional government departments, local skills providers and business representatives to develop innovative approaches that can improve outcomes for key target groups and help local companies to secure the talent pipeline that they need to grow their business. While these partnerships are in their infancy we propose that they can be a useful conduits for identifying and shaping priority interventions in the skills arena. We would also propose that the aforementioned structures established for administering and accounting for ERDF and PEACE funding could also act as useful conduits and instruments for shaping the objectives and assisting with the dispersals of SPF funding.</p>
3.15	<p>Council officers have engaged with representatives Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and recently representatives from NILGA met with Minister O'Brien, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. While this engagement is welcome the lack of clarity regarding the design process for Shared Prosperity, formal engagement routes, governance and the level of funding are still a concern for Council given the significant level of investment, its impact and</p>

3.16	<p>existing infrastructure. SOLACE has formally written to Minister O' Brien to request that councils have a lead role in the new programme and have asked that more detail on the issues highlighted above are provided as soon as possible.</p> <p><u>Finance and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There are no financial implications associated with this report.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>There are no equality or good relations implications associated with this report.</p>
4.0	Appendices
4.1	Appendix 1 – ESF Funding Belfast

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