

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



**Belfast  
City Council**

## **HYBRID MEETING OF THE CITY GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE**

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet both online and in-person, in the Lavery Room - City Hall on Wednesday, 9th August, 2023 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. **Presentation**
  - (a) Renewed Ambition Partnership
3. **Restricted Items**
  - (a) Future City Centre Programme - Vacant to Vibrant (Pages 1 - 8)
  - (b) Update on Externally Funded Projects: Active Travel Enablers, Grey to Green and South West Quarter (Pages 9 - 24)
  - (c) Zoo Collection - Update (Pages 25 - 30)

(d) Year-End Finance Report 2022-23

4. **Regenerating Places and Improving Infrastructure**

(a) Department for Communities Covid Recovery Revitalisation Programme Update (Pages 31 - 38)

(b) Department for Infrastructure response to Committee Correspondence (Pages 39 - 62)

5. **Growing Business and the Economy**

(a) Enterprise Support Service Update (Pages 63 - 68)

(b) Belfast Business Promise Update (Pages 69 - 76)

(c) Eurocities Update (Pages 77 - 80)

6. **Positioning the City to Compete**

(a) Festive Lighting Scheme and Future Christmas Programming (Pages 81 - 86)

(b) Artist Studios Update

(c) Major Events Update (Pages 87 - 94)

(d) Music Strategy Update (Pages 95 - 104)

7. **Strategic and Operational Issues**

(a) Response to Government Departments EQIA consultations

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

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Subject:	DfC Covid Recovery Revitalisation Programme Update
Date:	9 <sup>th</sup> August 2023
Reporting Officer:	Cathy Reynolds, Director, City Regeneration & Development
Contact Officer:	Sean Dolan, Senior Development Manager

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<p><b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b></p> <p>To update Committee on the ongoing DfC Covid-19 Revitalisation Programme including an Extension of Time to the Programme and the budget position.</p>
<b>2.0</b>	<p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Note the current status of the DfC Covid-19 Revitalisation Programme, including the findings of the Final Programme Evaluation Report.</li> <li>II. Note that an Extension of Time has been sought for the 'Castle Place Kiosk'.</li> <li>III. Note the budget position across the project lines.</li> </ol>

3.0	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<p><b><u>Background</u></b></p> <p>The CG&amp;R Committee have received regular updates and provided approvals relating to the DfC Covid-19 Revitalisation Programme, providing updates on the £4.039m capital programme including providing approvals on time and budget implications. In August 2022 Members were provided with the mid-term Evaluation Report &amp; the associated brochure along with an update on the remaining projects of the Castle Place Kiosk and the Entries Phase 2. It was also previously agreed that any further underspends realised within the Programme are reallocated under delegated authority to the Director of City Regeneration &amp; Development to meet any additional costs incurred on previously agreed and committed projects with updates on these reallocations to be brought to this Committee at a future date.</p>
3.2	<p><b><u>Main Report</u></b></p> <p>The majority of the programme is now complete, with the Entries Phase 2 project to be completed by September 2023 in line with the DfC Letter of Offer Process. As a condition of the Letter of Offer from DfC Evaluation Reports are required on a quarterly basis, and on the completion of the projects. A Summary of the draft Final Evaluation Report is included within this paper.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 87% of People agreed that they were satisfied with the interventions taken by the council to respond to safety issues raised by the Covid-19 pandemic</li> <li>• 90% of participating businesses reported that they were satisfied or very satisfied with the improvements to their businesses.</li> <li>• 79% survey respondents agreed/strongly agreed that improvements undertaken through the programme would encourage people to live, work and invest in this area</li> <li>• 76% of businesses (64 of 84 respondents) reported turnover returning to at least 70% of pre-Covid 19 levels following council interventions in the area.</li> </ul>
3.3	<p>In total through this Revitalisation Programme the Council were able to support and deliver a large range of projects, many of which were aligned to the emerging Bolder Vision work promoting better use of outdoor and public space, testing alternative uses of streetscape and providing creative approaches to environmental improvement works. A summary overview of the projects delivered below:</p>

- **Grants to Businesses to purchase equipment to help them to continue to trade or trade safely**
  - Over £800k in support to 454 small business grants to help SME's to deliver hand sanitisers, signage, safety equipment & control measures to manage social distancing;
- **Grants to Business Cluster and Community Groups for physical interventions and streetscape improvements**
  - £1.1m to 51 Business Cluster & Community Grant (BCCCG) capital schemes. This included a top up of £450k Councils non-recurring reallocation in 2021 to meet the demand of the scheme.
  - Funding to 35 Community Groups and 16 Business Clusters.
  - 7 projects delivered within the city centre and 44 projects delivered outside the city centre.
  - 16 Community Gardens and Facilities refreshed and redeveloped to attract greater outdoor use including facilities for supporting mental health & sensory spaces.
  - 8 outdoor hospitality locations.
  - 27 shop frontage improvement and local area environmental schemes.
  - 9 grants aligned to upgrading and expanding sports facilities including walking paths and improving outdoor facilities.
  - Given the success of this project, and as agreed through SP&R in June 2022, Council committed a further £600k of funding (including 10% for Integrated Design Team Support) for a further phase of the BCCG's. Officers are currently working through the process to roll this funding out in Autumn 2022 to support a further 20-25 projects.
- **Physical Interventions and Streetscape Improvements (Council Led & BID Led)**

This included the delivery of a range of city centre physical interventions aimed at testing and piloting how we better use the city's streetscape aligned to the Bolder Vision. This included reallocating traditional road and parking spaces for enhanced active and sustainable travel provision, improving access for businesses to utilise city space, to encourage dwell time and improve the attractiveness of the city centre.

  - Castle Place - Reallocating on-street parking to facilitate a pavement extension and closing one lane to traffic to implement the first stage of the High St cycle scheme. Bringing forward an iconic city centre location and kiosk structure to attract footfall and dwell time

- Union St – pedestrianising Union St and building out parklets to enable businesses to utilise additional outdoor space. This approach has encouraged additional businesses to take up vacant space on the street.
- Warehouse Lane/Exchange Place – An Entries type approach to draw attention and use to the city’s entries including lighting, iconic artwork and covered outdoor space for hospitality.
- Brunswick St – closing a section of Brunswick St to deliver an outdoor leisure and hospitality venue, bringing forward a pilot for how the designs of Belfast Streets Ahead Phase 5 can transform the area permanently.
- Linenhall St – Reallocation of on-street parking bays to deliver parklets, facilitating dwell time, business spill out and additional green infrastructure on the street.
- Adelaide St – due to the approach taken through this Revitalisation Programme, additional funding was secured from DfI to deliver the Adelaide St project. Working with DfI to realign the street, including removing on-street parking bays to facilitate pavement extensions, prioritising public transport and delivering innovative structures with historical references, additional green infrastructure, along with additional seating and cycling parking infrastructure.
- The Linenhall St, Brunswick St and Adelaide St projects all form early pilot schemes aligned to A Bolder Vision and the intention to bring forward the Linen Quarter Sustainable District.
- Iconic lighting interventions within the Linen Quarter, Cathedral Quarter and BID One Business Improvement Districts.
- The Entries Phase 2 – bringing forward the next phase of the Entries project to Sugarhouse Lane, Patterson’s Place and Wine Cellar St. Phase 1 of the Entries won the CBRE Ireland Excellence in placemaking Awards 2021 and this approach will be further implemented through future phases.

- **Council Led Interventions to Encourage People Safely Back into the City**

Council directly delivered schemes to encourage people back into the city include:

- Hand sanitisers introduced at key locations across the city centre.
- Social Distance signage and management of touch points and public seating.
- An enhanced cleansing operation.
- Enhanced Christmas Animation to promote footfall and visitors through the 2020 Christmas period



- A targeted marketing campaign operated across social media, radio, TV and press channels to promote Belfast as a safe and vibrant place to visit.
- A Belfast Gift Card delivered in conjunction with BID One and the retailers during the Christmas period to encourage spend and footfall within this key retail period.

- **Council Led Sustainable & Active Travel Measures**

- Two new Active Travel Hubs delivered at Cathedral Gardens and Queens University Belfast.
- A modernised Belfast Bike Fleet.
- Additional Belfast Bike docking locations.
- An e-cargo bike pilot scheme.
- 10 covered cycle stands delivered across the Council Estate.

3.4

**Programme Learnings**

The overall findings from the DfC Covid-19 Revitalisation Programme show successful implementation of the projects, enabling business and community groups to operate and recover successfully from the pandemic while delivering extensive green infrastructure and active & sustainable transport initiatives. In total the programme delivered over 535 grants to businesses and community groups, over 70 physical interventions & streetscape improvements delivering over 1200 items of street furniture & cycle infrastructure, 188 public hygiene items and over 65 marketing and animation events.

In addition to this, the successful development and implementation of this £4.039m programme has led to additional funding been allocated from Council, DfI and DfC & private investment through the BIDs. This programme has directly led to the attraction of a further £2.3m of support to deliver the interventions as outlined within this report, contributing to the delivery of the Councils wider objectives in the delivery of the Future City Centre Programme and A Bolder Vision.

3.5

**Remaining Project Delivery**

Two elements of the programme remain uncompleted, with one project at risk of over-running the September 2032 programme deadline. As such an extension of time to cover this project has been requested from DfC until March 2024. These projects and ongoing mitigating measures are outlined below:

3.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Castle Place Kiosk</u>: following issues raised through the planning process it was agreed to rescind the planning application for the Castle Place Kiosk. Officers are currently seeking an alternative location with a plan to complete in March 2024.</li> <li>• <u>Entries Phase 2</u>: The Entries Phase 2 project is scheduled to complete in September and will see the reopening of the previously closed up Sugarhouse Entry, running between High Street &amp; Waring St.</li> </ul> <p><b>Budget Position</b></p> <p>As previously agreed the Director of City Regeneration &amp; Development was delegated authority to reallocate realised project underspend within previously agreed projects within the DfC Covid-19 Revitalisation Programme, with reports on the budget position to be brought back to this committee at a future date. Appendix A of this report outlines the final budget positions for the DfC Covid-19 Revitalisation Programme and Members are asked to note this report.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Finance &amp; Resource Implications</b>
4.1	All costs associated with this paper will be meet from the DfC Covid-19 Revitalisation Capital Programme.
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</b>
	Equality of opportunity and good relations, and disability duties screening is complete on the overall programme with mitigating actions agreed and implemented.
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
	Appendix A – Budget Position Report.

Funding	Project Description	Previously Agreed Budget	Final Budget Position
Signage & Dressing	Public Safety signage and messaging	£ 40,000.00	£ 43,431.00
	Dressing & branding to temp DfI infrastructure - Adelaide St	£ -	£ -
	Public messaging & communication	£ 8,000.00	£ 8,000.00
		<b>£ 48,000.00</b>	<b>£ 51,431.00</b>
Physical Interventions & Streetscape Improvements	Castle Place Hub Phase 1	£ 235,000.00	£ 235,000.00
	Union Street Pedestrianisation	£ 50,000.00	£ 50,000.00
	Cathedral Qtr - Exchange Place/Warehouse Entry	£ 50,000.00	£ 50,000.00
	Covid-19 Business Grants	£ 859,000.00	£ 801,715.90
		<b>£ 1,194,000.00</b>	<b>£ 1,136,715.90</b>
Access & Connectivity	Linen Qtr Parklets	£ 15,000.00	£ 15,000.00
	Linen Qtr Boardwalk	£ 50,000.00	£ 50,000.00
	DfC Budget allocation for Bolder Vision Phase 2	£ 110,000.00	£ 115,891.00
	City Wide Parklets	£ 75,000.00	£ 75,000.00
		<b>£ 250,000.00</b>	<b>£ 255,891.00</b>
Monitoring & Evaluation	UU Study allocation	£ 30,000.00	£ 22,000.00
	Monitoring & evaluation TBC	£ 20,000.00	£ 22,350.00
		<b>£ 50,000.00</b>	<b>£ 44,350.00</b>
Enhanced Christmas Offering including animation, lighting and marketing	Marketing & branding	£ 200,000.00	£ 200,000.00
	Feature Lighting Linen Qtr	£ 50,000.00	£ 50,000.00
	Feature Lighting BIDOne	£ 50,000.00	£ 38,000.00
	Feature Lighting CQ Bid	£ 50,000.00	£ 50,000.00
	Animation	£ 250,000.00	£ 247,361.95
	<b>£ 600,000.00</b>	<b>£ 585,361.95</b>	
Physical Improvements & Streetscape Improvements	Business Cluster & Community Grant	£ 683,000.00	£ 683,000.00
	Jubilee Gardens		
	Castle Place Phase 2	£ 125,000.00	£ 135,658.64
	Linen Qtr Hub	£ 75,000.00	£ 82,736.00
	Entries Phase 2	£ 200,000.00	£ 200,000.00
		<b>£ 1,083,000.00</b>	<b>£ 1,101,394.64</b>
Sustainable & Active Travel Measures	DfI contribution to Connectivity Study Phase 2	£ 90,000.00	£ 95,890.00
	Connectivity Scheme in Church Lane area	£ 54,000.00	£ 97,965.51
	Replacement/upgrade of Belfast Bikes	£ 200,000.00	£ 200,000.00
	Covered Citywide cycle stands	£ 100,000.00	£ 100,000.00
	Expanding Belfast Bike network	£ 120,000.00	£ 120,000.00
	Electric Bike Trial	£ 45,000.00	£ 45,000.00
	Expanding Sustainable Transport Hub network	£ 45,000.00	£ 45,000.00
	<b>£ 654,000.00</b>	<b>£ 703,855.51</b>	
DfC Revenue Proposals	Additional Street Cleansing & Neighbourhood Safety	£ 137,400.00	£ 137,400.00
	Belfast Gift Card	£ 22,600.00	£ 22,600.00
		<b>£ 160,000.00</b>	<b>£ 160,000.00</b>
<b>Total DfC Covid-19 Revitalisation Funding</b>		<b>£ 4,039,000.00</b>	<b>£ 4,039,000.00</b>

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<b>Subject:</b>	DfI Responses to Committee Correspondence
<b>Date:</b>	9 August 2023
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Cathy Reynolds, Director of City Regeneration & Development
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Sean Dolan, Senior Development Manager

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
	To provide Members of the City Growth & Regeneration Committee an update on response from DfI to correspondence from the Committee
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
<b>2.1</b>	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Note the correspondence between the CG&amp;R Committee and the Department for Infrastructure in relation to the Eastern Division Autumn Report 2022</li> <li>ii. Note the correspondence between the CG&amp;R Committee and the Department for Infrastructure in relation to the York Street Interchange Place Making and Active Travel Review</li> </ul>

3.0	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<p><b><u>Main Report</u></b></p> <p>During the course of meetings in November 2022 and February &amp; March 2023 the CG&amp;R Committee received presentations and correspondence from Dfl in relation to the Dfl Eastern Division Autumn 2022 Report and the York Street Interchange Place-Making and Active Travel Report. Subsequent to these presents the Committee agreed to write to Dfl to seek further clarification/information in relation to these presentations. Responses have now been received by Dfl and are outlined and attached to this report to the Committee.</p>
3.2	<p><b>Dfl Eastern Division Autumn 2022.</b></p> <p>The CG&amp;R Committee received a presentation from the Dfl Eastern Division Section Manager at the November 2022 Committee Meeting. During the meeting Members requested further detail on a number of items and subsequently agreed to write to the Section Manager, with the letter and subsequent response reported to the March meeting of the CG&amp;R Committee and as attached Appendix A.</p>
3.3	<p>During discussion Members agreed that the response provided did not adequately answer the queries raised and agreed to write to the Division Manager requesting further detail. This letter and the subsequent response are as attached in Appendix B of this report.</p>
3.4	<p><b>York Street Interchange Place-Making and Active Travel Review Correspondence</b></p> <p>The CG&amp;R Committee received a presentation from the Dfl York Street Interchange team in relation to the Place-Making and Active Travel Review which was commissioned by Minister Mallon in 2020. A link to the restricted presentation is included <a href="#">here</a> for information.</p>
3.5	<p>Members agreed to write to Dfl to request further information on the Departments Strategic Transport Objectives, engagement with communities and setting out the Council’s position in relation to the Council’s Corporate support for the York Street Interchange would only be reconsidered when confirmation was given that the Department would proceed with the delivery option that ensured the safety of residents, delivered the best place making and regeneration outcomes including plans for the bridge across the Lagan and a commitment to work with all relevant stakeholders as part of the overall scheme. This letter and the subsequent response from the Dfl Permanent Secretary is as attached within Appendix C for Members consideration.</p>

3.6	Within the letter the DfI Permanent Secretary sets out the position of the Regional Development and Transport Strategies and the position of the York Street Interchange within the regional context. The Permanent Secretary continues to outline the position of the Place Making and Active Travel Review and the planned engagement ongoing with stakeholders in terms of developing out the Place Making and Active Travel Review.
3.7	Further to the York Street Interchange presentation in February the CG&R Committee received an update on the Belfast Metropolitan Transport Plan at its Special Meeting in June 2023. Officers have also held meetings with DfI on the emerging YSI Place Making and Active Travel Review and bring details to a future meeting of this Committee as details are developed by DfI.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Finance &amp; Resource Implications</b>
	There are no finance or resource implications associated with this report
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</b>
	There are no Equality or Good Relation Implications/Rural Needs Assessment requirements associated with this report
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
	Appendix A – Correspondence in relation to the Eastern Division Autumn Statement 2022 Nov 2022 Appendix B – Follow Up Correspondence to Eastern Division Autumn Statement 2022 Appendix C – Correspondence in relation to the York Street Interchange Place Making & Active Travel Review

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<b>Subject:</b>	Correspondence received from the Department for Infrastructure
<b>Date:</b>	8th March, 2023
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Cathy Reynolds, Director of City Regeneration and Development
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Eilish McGoldrick, Democratic Services Officer

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	To note the correspondence received from the Department for Infrastructure Roads, in response to the queries raised at its presentation to the Committee on 9th November, and the response from the Permanent Secretary regarding the budget allocation for the delivery of the Belfast Cycle Network.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>note the correspondence as set out in the report and to consider if any further action is necessary.</li> </ul>

3.0	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p data-bbox="272 235 432 264"><b><u>Key Issues</u></b></p> <p data-bbox="272 309 887 338"><b><i>Response from DfI Roads – Autumn Report</i></b></p> <p data-bbox="164 387 1493 568">3.2 The Committee, at its meeting in November, received a presentation for the Department for Infrastructure Roads in relation to its Autumn Report 2022. During the meeting, Members had requested information on a number of additional matters, which DfI advised would be investigated and a further update submitted to the Committee in due course:</p> <ul data-bbox="323 640 1401 1704" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In relation to the Temporary Bollards on the Donegall Road – Safety Concerns for residents regarding access - update on when this would be addressed;</li> <li>• An update on the residents parking scheme review and what, if any, have/ would be delivered across the City;</li> <li>• The need for residents parking scheme’s along the proposed new Glider Route;</li> <li>• The need to review College Park Residents Parking Scheme;</li> <li>• Lack of communication and the need for Members to have up to date, direct contact details for the DfI Roads Team so that issues could be resolved in a timely manner;</li> <li>• An update on the delivery of Orpen Park / Porter Park Traffic Calming Scheme – was there a plan in place for what this would be and a timeline for implementation;</li> <li>• Update on resurfacing of Roads and Pathways in Belvoir – Grays Park Avenue, Grays Park Gardens and Grays Park Drive;</li> <li>• Cycle Network Development Plan - Resources and Budget Update and data on what had been implemented in the last two years;</li> <li>• Learnings from Limestone/Cavehill proposed cycle lane consultation process;</li> <li>• Potholes and resurfacing in Lagmore Glen/Twinbrook area;</li> <li>• Update on Hill Street Pedestrianisation; and</li> <li>• Update on the expected delivery of 38 disabled Parking Bays which had been approved.</li> </ul> <p data-bbox="164 1823 1493 1906">3.3 Accordingly, Democratic Services wrote to Mr. D. McFarlane, Eastern Divisional Roads Manager, requesting an update on the matters raised at the Committee.</p> <p data-bbox="164 1962 1493 2045">3.4 A response was received for consideration (Appendix 1) which included the following website links:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Link to the DfI Website <a href="https://infrastructure-ni.gov.uk">DfI Roads Eastern Division - Divisional Manager   Department for Infrastructure (infrastructure-ni.gov.uk)</a></li> <li>• Link to the Autumn Council Report <a href="https://infrastructure-ni.gov.uk">Annual Report to Belfast City Council 2022   Department for Infrastructure (infrastructure-ni.gov.uk)</a></li> <li>• Link to NI Direct site Public Information Portal <a href="https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/information-and-services/travel-transport-and-roads/problems-roads-and-streets">https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/information-and-services/travel-transport-and-roads/problems-roads-and-streets</a></li> </ul> <p><b><i>Response from the Permanent Secretary – Belfast Cycle Network</i></b></p> <p>3.5 At its meeting in December, the Committee agreed to write to the Department for Infrastructure to request confirmation of the budget allocation for the delivery of the Belfast Cycle Network in the financial year 2022/23.</p> <p>3.6 Accordingly, Democratic Services wrote to the Permanent Secretary to request an update on the matter and the response was received at Appendix 2 for consideration.</p> <p>3.7 <b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b> None associated with this report.</p> <p>3.8 <b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b> None associated with this report.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices - Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1 – DfI Roads Response to meeting of 9 November Appendix 2 – DfI Perm Sec – Belfast Cycle Network Allocation

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**DFI Roads  
Eastern Division**

Mr John Walsh  
Chief Executive  
Belfast City Council

Annexe 7  
Castle Buildings  
Stormont Estate  
Upper Newtownards Road  
BELFAST  
BT4 3SQ  
Telephone: 0300 200 7899  
Email: [Eastern.Secretariat@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Eastern.Secretariat@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk)

Your reference:  
Our reference:

Date 10 February 2023

Dear John

**QUESTIONS ASKED BY ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS, FOLLOWING THE PRESENTATION OF THE EASTERN DIVISION AUTUMN 2022 REPORT**

When I presented the Eastern Division Report to Council on 9 November 2022, I agreed to consider a number of matters. Firstly I would apologise for the delay in responding.

My responses to the outstanding matters received on the evening are as follows:-

**The need for residents parking scheme's along proposed new Glider Route Park Scheme.**

The Department has recently completed a review of residents' parking schemes and the draft review report will be made public once it is finalised by a Minister. The review report will set out the lessons learnt from the Rugby Road scheme in Belfast, and the other schemes that did not make it to implementation and will be used to establish the policy for such schemes going forward.

**The need to review College Park Parking Scheme.**

The Department has recently completed a review of residents' parking schemes and the draft review report will be made public once it is finalised by a Minister. The review report will set out the lessons learnt from the Rugby Road scheme in Belfast, and the other schemes that did not make it to implementation, and will be used to establish the policy for such schemes going forward.

**Lack of communication and the need for Members to have up to date, direct contact details for the DfI Roads Team so that issues could be resolved in a timely manner.**

Contact details for the DFI Roads Team can be found on the Department's website, please follow this link:-

[DfI Roads Eastern Division - Divisional Manager | Department for Infrastructure \(infrastructure-ni.gov.uk\)](http://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk)

In addition, I have included a link to the Autumn Council report which contains a list of names and contacts within the Division, including areas of responsibility:-

[Annual Report to Belfast City Council 2022 | Department for Infrastructure \(infrastructure-ni.gov.uk\)](https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/information-and-services/travel-transport-and-roads/problems-roads-and-streets)

It should also be noted that elected representatives can report problems with roads and streets using NIDirect Public Information Portal

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/information-and-services/travel-transport-and-roads/problems-roads-and-streets>

**Councillor Tracy Kelly asked in relation to the Temporary Bollards on the Donegall Road following safety concerns raised by residents regarding access. Could you provide an update on when they would be removed.**

The Department has reviewed the pop up cycle lanes installed during the pandemic and will be reviewing the current arrangements with an aim to providing permanent infrastructure. The pop up cycle lane on the Donegall Road will be included within this review.

**Councillor Bunting asked for an update on the delivery of Orpen Park / Porter Park Traffic Calming Scheme. Is there a plan in place for what this will be and a timeline for implementation.**

Following on from the formal consultation, it has been necessary to carry out a review of the design. This matter is still receiving attention and I am unable to give a timeline for implementation at this stage.

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The footways and carriageway in the Grays Park area remain on a 3 year priority resurfacing programme. Whilst no contract has been in place for a number of months, I understand that the new term asphalt resurfacing contract will be in operation for the beginning of the next financial year. The schemes in the Grays Park area will be implemented on a scheme priority basis from 2023 onwards, subject to the availability of the necessary resources and utility clearance.

**Cycle Network Development Plan - Resources and Budget Update and data on what has been implemented in the last two years.**

Implemented in the last two years – Dublin Road two-way cycle lane (2-way 0.48km), Donegall Road one-way cycle lane (0.8km), Grosvenor Road two-way cycle lane (0.53km), Crumlin Road country-bound cycle lane (1km), Castle Street cycle lane High St toucan crossing at Skipper St (£50k) Comber Greenway location signage.

**Learnings from Limestone/Cavehill proposed cycle lane consultation process**

Following on from the initial commencement works that were undertaken on Limestone Road and the decision for another consultation to be undertaken, my staff will be contacting individuals / groups who provided comments on the pop up cycle lane design. Once this information has been gathered and considered, my staff will commence the formal consultation.

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A staff member from Belfast North Maintenance Section Office met with Councillor Duffy on 10 November 2022 and explained that any actionable defects / potholes in Lagmore Glen had been identified for repair and work instructions subsequently issued to the appointed contractor to programme the work. A temporary repair was carried out on 15 November 2022 followed by a permanent repair on 25 November 2022.

It should be noted that members of the public and elected representatives can report problems with roads and streets using NIDirect Public Information Portal

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/information-and-services/travel-transport-and-roads/problems-roads-and-streets>

It was also confirmed that DfI Roads had identified Lagmore Dale and Lagmore Avenue for future resurfacing but that final design associated with Blue/Green initiatives are still to be concluded. Councillor Duffy agreed that he would follow up on current position regarding Blue/Green schemes for these streets with the relevant section.


**Councillor Whyte asked for an update on Hill Street Pedestrianisation – Blue Green Division?**

The Department will shortly be carrying out a consultation to gauge public opinion on the pedestrianisation of Hill Street. The outcome of this consultation will be used to shape any further programme of works in this area.

**Update on the expected delivery of 38 disabled Parking Bays which had been approved.**

I can advise that the Notice of Intention for these bays was advertised in the local press on the 25 January 2023. This allows a 22-day period for objections or representations. If none are received the bays will go forward for the 'Order' to be made and the bays are marked on the ground. Unfortunately, we cannot give a date at present as to when this legislative process will be completed.

I hope this information is helpful



**DES MCFARLANE**  
Divisional Roads Manager

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**From the Permanent Secretary  
Dr Julie Harrison**

Eilish McGoldrick  
Democratic Services Officer  
Belfast City Council

[mcgoldricke@belfastcity.gov.uk](mailto:mcgoldricke@belfastcity.gov.uk)

Room 701  
Clarence Court  
10-18 Adelaide Street  
BELFAST  
BT2 8GB  
Telephone: (028) 9054 1175  
Email: [Julie.Harrison@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Julie.Harrison@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk)

Your reference: EMcG. CGR.12.12.2022  
Our reference: SCORR-0025-2023  
15 February 2023

Dear Ms McGoldrick,

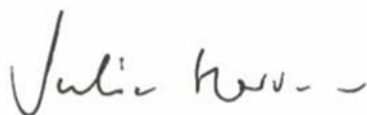
### **BELFAST CYCLE NETWORK – BUDGET ALLOCATION**

Thank you for your letter of 18 January 2023 on behalf of Council's City Growth and Regeneration Committee enquiring how much funding has been allocated for delivery of the Belfast Cycle Network this financial year. Apologies for my slow reply.

While the initial allocation for schemes identified in the Belfast Cycling Network Delivery Plan was £700k, actual spend is likely to be in the region of £490k as unfortunately progress on the delivery of a number of schemes has been slower than originally anticipated for a variety of reasons. The Department has had helpful discussions in recent months with Council colleagues on Transport Strategy and Active Travel in the context of the Climate Act and current operating environment. I am due to meet John Kyle and Sammy Douglas soon to discuss how we can work more effectively together on these issues.

I trust you will find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely



**JULIE HARRISON**

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# Legal and Civic Services Department

## Democratic Services Section



Your reference

Being dealt with by Ms Eilish McGoldrick

Our reference EMcGCGRDfIR170423

Email [democraticservices@belfastcity.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@belfastcity.gov.uk)

Date 17th April, 2023

Des McFarlane  
Divisional Roads Manager  
Department for Infrastructure  
Eastern Division  
Email: [Eastern.Secretariat@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Eastern.Secretariat@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk)

Dear Mr. McFarlane,

### **DfI Roads Response to the City Growth and Regeneration Committee**

Thank you for your response dated 10th February in relation to the issues raised by the City Growth and Regeneration Committee, following your Presentation of the Eastern Division Autumn 2022 Report at the meeting in November.

Your response was issued for the Committee to consider at its meeting in March. During discussion, the Committee expressed its disappointment in the lack of detail and up to date information in the response and highlighted that they had found it difficult to contact DfI Roads to obtain updates on their individual issues. The Committee noted it would be keen to receive current status updates of the delivery of works.

Accordingly, the Committee agreed to write to you, in response to your reply, to request a further update and more in-depth detail regarding all of the issues which had been raised by the Committee at its meeting in November.

I look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eilish McGoldrick'.

**Eilish McGoldrick**  
Democratic Services Officer

**DFI Roads  
Eastern Division**

Ms Eilish McGoldrick  
Democratic Services Office  
Belfast City Council

Annexe 7  
Castle Buildings  
Stormont Estate  
Upper Newtownards Road  
BELFAST  
BT4 3SQ  
Telephone: 0300 200 7899  
Email: [Eastern.Secretariat@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Eastern.Secretariat@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk)

Your reference: EMcGCGRDfIR170423  
Our reference:

Date: 13 June 2023

Dear Ms McGoldrick

## **DFI ROADS RESPONSE TO THE CITY GROWTH AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE**

Thank you for your letter of 17 April which was sent in response to my letter of 10 February 2023. You advise that the Committee were disappointed at the lack of detail in the response and that the members have expressed that they have experienced difficulties in trying to obtain updates on the individual issues raised.

Firstly I am sorry hear that the Committee members were disappointed with the previous response and I would like to take this opportunity to provide the Committee members with an update on each of the matters raised in turn: -

- **The need for residents parking schemes along proposed new Glider Route Park Scheme.**
  - Previous response  
The Department has recently completed a review of residents' parking schemes and the draft review report will be made public once it is finalised by a Minister. The review report will set out the lessons learnt from the Rugby Road scheme in Belfast, and the other schemes that did not make it to implementation and will be used to establish the policy for such schemes going forward.
  - Update  
I can advise that there is no change in this position, we are awaiting Ministerial decision following the review report and this will determine the way in which further resident's parking schemes will be taken forward.
- **The need to review College Park Parking Scheme.**
  - Previous response  
The Department has recently completed a review of residents' parking schemes and the draft review report will be made public once it is finalised by a Minister. The review report will set out the lessons learnt from the Rugby Road scheme in Belfast, and the other schemes that did not make it to implementation and will be used to establish the policy for such schemes going forward.

- Update  
As before there is no change in this position, awaiting Ministerial direction.
- **Lack of communication and the need for Members to have up to date, direct contact details for the DfI Roads Team so that issues could be resolved in a timely manner.**
  - Previously provided links to contact details for the DfI Roads Team remain unchanged and can be found on the Department's website:-  
[DfI Roads Eastern Division - Divisional Manager | Department for Infrastructure \(infrastructure-ni.gov.uk\)](https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/infrastructure-eastern-division-divisional-manager)
  - Link to the Autumn Council report which contains a list of names and contacts within the Division, including areas of responsibility:-  
[Annual Report to Belfast City Council 2022 | Department for Infrastructure \(infrastructure-ni.gov.uk\)](https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/annual-report-to-belfast-city-council-2022)
  - Link to NIDirect Public Information Portal  
<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/information-and-services/travel-transport-and-roads/problems-roads-and-streets>
- **Councillor Tracy Kelly asked in relation to the Temporary Bollards on the Donegall Road following safety concerns raised by residents regarding access. Could you provide an update on when they would be removed.**
  - Previous response  
The Department has reviewed the pop-up cycle lanes installed during the pandemic and will be reviewing the current arrangements with an aim to providing permanent infrastructure. The pop-up cycle lane on the Donegall Road will be included within this review.
  - Update  
Network Traffic have consulted with Active Travel Branch (ATB) to see if they would be prepared to remove the pop-up cycle lane installed during Covid restrictions. ATB have asked the Division to determine current usage by means of a traffic count. This work is currently being programmed.
- **Counillor Bunting asked for an update on the delivery of Orpen Park / Porter Park Traffic Calming Scheme. Is there a plan in place for what this will be and a timeline for implementation.**
  - Previous response  
Following on from the formal consultation, it has been necessary to carry out a review of the design. This matter is still receiving attention and I am unable to give a timeline for implementation at this stage.
  - Update  
Development work has been temporarily halted on this scheme due to other higher priority work commitments. A design check is to be undertaken before a decision can be made whether the plan provided at the formal consultation is still valid.
- **Councillor Bunting asked for an update on resurfacing of Roads and Pathways in Belvoir – Grays Park Avenue, Grays Park Gardens and Grays Park Drive.**

- Previous response  
The footways and carriageway in the Grays Park area remain on a 3 year priority resurfacing programme. Whilst no contract has been in place for a number of months, I understand that the new term asphalt resurfacing contract will be in operation for the beginning of the next financial year. The schemes in the Grays Park area will be implemented on a scheme priority basis from 2023 onwards, subject to the availability of the necessary resources and utility clearance.
- Update  
The footways and carriageway in the Grays Park area remain on a 3-year priority resurfacing programme. The schemes in the Grays Park area will be implemented on a scheme priority basis from 2023 onwards, subject to the availability of the necessary resources and utility clearance.
- **Cycle Network Development Plan - Resources and Budget Update and data on what has been implemented in the last two years.**
  - Previous response  
Implemented in the last two years – Dublin Road two-way cycle lane (2-way 0.48km), Donegall Road one-way cycle lane (0.8km), Grosvenor Road two-way cycle lane (0.53km), Crumlin Road country-bound cycle lane (1km), Castle Street cycle lane High St toucan crossing at Skipper St (£50k) Comber Greenway location signage.
  - Update  
Active Travel funded signal Upgrade A55 Knock Road / Cregagh Road on Connswater Greenway (£245k)
- **Learnings from Limestone/Cavehill proposed cycle lane consultation process**
  - Previous response  
Following on from the initial commencement works that were undertaken on Limestone Road and the decision for another consultation to be undertaken, my staff will be contacting individuals / groups who provided comments on the pop-up cycle lane design. Once this information has been gathered and considered, my staff will commence the formal consultation.
  - Update  
No change in position, The Department is working towards commencing the formal consultation period.
- **Councillor Duffy asked for an update on repairs to potholes and resurfacing in Lagmore/Twinbrook.**
  - Previous response  
A staff member from Belfast North Maintenance Section Office met with Councillor Duffy on 10 November 2022 and explained that any actionable defects / potholes in Lagmore Glen had been identified for repair and work instructions subsequently issued to the appointed contractor to programme the work. A temporary repair was carried out on 15 November 2022 followed by a permanent repair on 25 November 2022.

It should be noted that members of the public and elected representatives can report problems with roads and streets using NIDirect Public Information Portal

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It was also confirmed that DfI Roads had identified Lagmore Dale and Lagmore Avenue for future resurfacing but that final design associated with Blue/Green initiatives are still to be concluded. Councillor Duffy agreed that he would follow up on current position regarding Blue/Green schemes for these streets with the relevant section.

- Update  
A £385,000 footway and carriageway resurfacing scheme in Lagmore Meadows, Belfast commenced on Monday 13 March 2023. The improvement works extend for approximately 1300 metres from Lagmore Drive to the end of Lagmore Meadows and will deliver significant benefits for residents and road users. The works are expected to be completed before the July holidays.
- **Councillor Whyte asked for an update on Hill Street Pedestrianisation – Blue Green Division?**
  - Previous response  
The Department will shortly be carrying out a consultation to gauge public opinion on the pedestrianisation of Hill Street. The outcome of this consultation will be used to shape any further programme of works in this area.
  - While the pedestrianisation of Hill Street remains part of our longer-term agenda, we are unable to begin the consultation process due to on-going issues with staff resources and exceptionally high workloads. We regret the delay and disappointment that this has caused to public representatives and our customers but, unfortunately at this stage, we are unable to confirm when our resources will be available to allow us to progress this important piece of work.
- **Update on the expected delivery of 38 disabled Parking Bays which had been approved.**
  - Previous response  
I can advise that the Notice of Intention for these bays was advertised in the local press on the 25 January 2023. This allows a 22-day period for objections or representations. If none are received the bays will go forward for the 'Order' to be made and the bays are marked on the ground. Unfortunately, we cannot give a date at present as to when this legislative process will be completed.
  - Update  
I can advise that three 'Orders' for accessible/disabled parking bays have recently been made and another is about to be made. This will enable these bays to be marked on the ground.

Going forward I would advise that any future correspondence from the Committee members be sent to [EasternSecretariat@Infrastrucutre-ni.gov.uk](mailto:EasternSecretariat@Infrastrucutre-ni.gov.uk) where it will be handled in accordance with the Departments Enquiry response targets, or if indicated as urgent it will be considered in a more timely manner.

I hope this response is helpful.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Des McFarlane', enclosed within a light grey rectangular border.

**DES MCFARLANE**  
**Divisional Roads Manager**



# Legal and Civic Services Department

## Democratic Services Section



Your reference

Being dealt with by Ms Eilish McGoldrick

Our reference EMcGCGR220323YSI

Email [democraticservices@belfastcity.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@belfastcity.gov.uk)

Date 22nd March, 2023

Julie Harrison  
Permanent Secretary  
Corporate Policy Unit  
Clarence Court  
10-18 Adelaide Street  
Belfast, BT2 8GB

Dear Permanent Secretary,

### **York Street Interchange (YSI) Placemaking and Active Travel Review (PATR)**

At its special meeting in February, Belfast City Council's City Growth and Regeneration Committee received a presentation from the Department for Infrastructure and AECOM in relation to the York Street Interchange Placemaking and Active Travel Review.

The Committee agreed to write to the Department for Infrastructure to request that it reviewed the Strategic Transport Objectives of the York Street Interchange. This was in light of the fact that the objectives were set in 2008, and prior to the declaration of a Climate Emergency by the Council and the NI Assembly, and the subsequent passage of the Climate Act. The Committee also request that DfI share the Assurance Review of the York Street Interchange which was provided to the Minister in March 2021.

Furthermore, at its meeting in March, the Council agreed that it would only reconsider corporately supporting the York Street Interchange project when confirmation was given by the Department for Infrastructure that they would proceed with the option that ensured safety of current residents, delivered the best place making and regeneration outcomes including

plans for the bridges across the Lagan and a commitment from the Department that they would co-ordinate efforts to work collaboratively with all relevant stake holders including Belfast City Council, Department for Communities, Housing Executive, Belfast Harbour, The Ashton Centre and Sailortown Regeneration as part of the overall scheme.

The Council also agreed that this should include Community Stakeholders, the Stella Maris Hostel and Ulster University as relevant stakeholders and that the project needed to address both the air quality needs and housing objectives in the city.

I look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eilish McGoldrick', written in a cursive style.

**Eilish McGoldrick**  
Democratic Services Officer

**From the Permanent Secretary  
Dr Julie Harrison**

Ms Eilish McGoldrick  
Democratic Services Officer  
Belfast City Council  
Legal and Civic Services Department  
City Hall  
BELFAST  
BT1 5GS

Room 701  
Clarence Court  
10-18 Adelaide Street  
BELFAST  
BT2 8GB  
Telephone: (028) 9054 1175  
Email: [perm.sec@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk](mailto:perm.sec@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk)  
Your reference:  
Our reference: SCORR-0162-2023  
12 June 2023

Via email:  
[democraticservices@belfastcity.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@belfastcity.gov.uk)

Dear Eilish

## **YORK STREET INTERCHANGE – PLACEMAKING AND ACTIVE TRAVEL REVIEW**

Thank you for your letter of 22 March 2023. I am very sorry it has taken so long to reply. There are a number of matters that had to be considered before responding.

Responses to the points raised in your letter are included below.

### Review of the Strategic Transport Objectives for the YSI

The Council will be aware of the Regional Development Strategy (RDS) 2035, the Regional Transportation Strategy (RTS) 2002-2012 and the subsequent Regional Strategic Transport Network Transport Plan (RSTN-TP) 2015. These documents collectively form the extant transport policy for Northern Ireland until such time as their replacements are published. The Department is currently drafting a new Regional Transport Strategy (RTS) for consultation in late summer and publication by the end of the year. The aim of the RTS is to set out the future direction and the Department's climate goals and potential contribution to net zero. This will be followed by a review of the RSTN-TP.

Within these documents, the objective of removing bottlenecks on the strategic road network is identified and the strategic transport objectives for the YSI scheme are reflective of this principle. A deviation from the scheme objectives established at the onset of the project in 2008 would require Ministerial approval, given its potential implications on completed statutory procedures.

Notwithstanding this, the Council will be aware that a recommendation arising from the Project Assessment Review in 2020 was that "the YSI project brief should be reviewed and revised to ensure it aligns with the concept of 'place making' and new best practice in terms of urban transport design, and with the Minister's agenda."

The completed Placemaking and Active Travel Review (PATR), which identified a series of potential variations to the scope/brief of the project to improve placemaking and active travel outcomes, addresses this recommendation. The published PATR report and supporting annexes can be viewed on the YSI project website <http://www.yorkstreetinterchange.com/>

### Publication of the Project Assessment Review Report

In line with current guidance on best practice from the Department for Finance (DAO DoF 06/21) the Department plans, by the end of June 2023, to publish the Project Assessment Review report, subject to general data protection requirements, on its scheme website ([www.yorkstreetinterchange.com](http://www.yorkstreetinterchange.com)).

### Belfast City Council Corporate Support for YSI

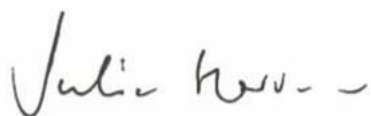
The Department welcomes the broad support for its PATR process thus far from the Council. We are grateful for the positive engagement with officers in the City Growth and Regeneration Department and also the Development and Planning Department. We are also grateful for the opportunity to present our work to both the City Growth and Regeneration Committee and the North Area Working Group.

As outlined in the Department's recent presentation to the City Growth and Regeneration Committee, the ongoing next steps in the PATR process involve the examination of the shortlisted scenarios in more detail to assess their road safety, cost, traffic, economic and environmental impacts and compatibility with stakeholder interests and objectives. This work is expected to be carried out by the end of summer 2023.

In respect of stakeholder engagement, the Department is committed to continue working collaboratively with its identified key stakeholders to the project, including those listed in the Council's letter of 22 March 2023 and others such as the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and Belfast City Council's Planning Department, who are seeking to address housing need within the City.

The Department trusts that this response satisfies the Council and looks forward to continuing to work with its colleagues in progressing this key transport project for Belfast.

Yours sincerely



**JULIE HARRISON**



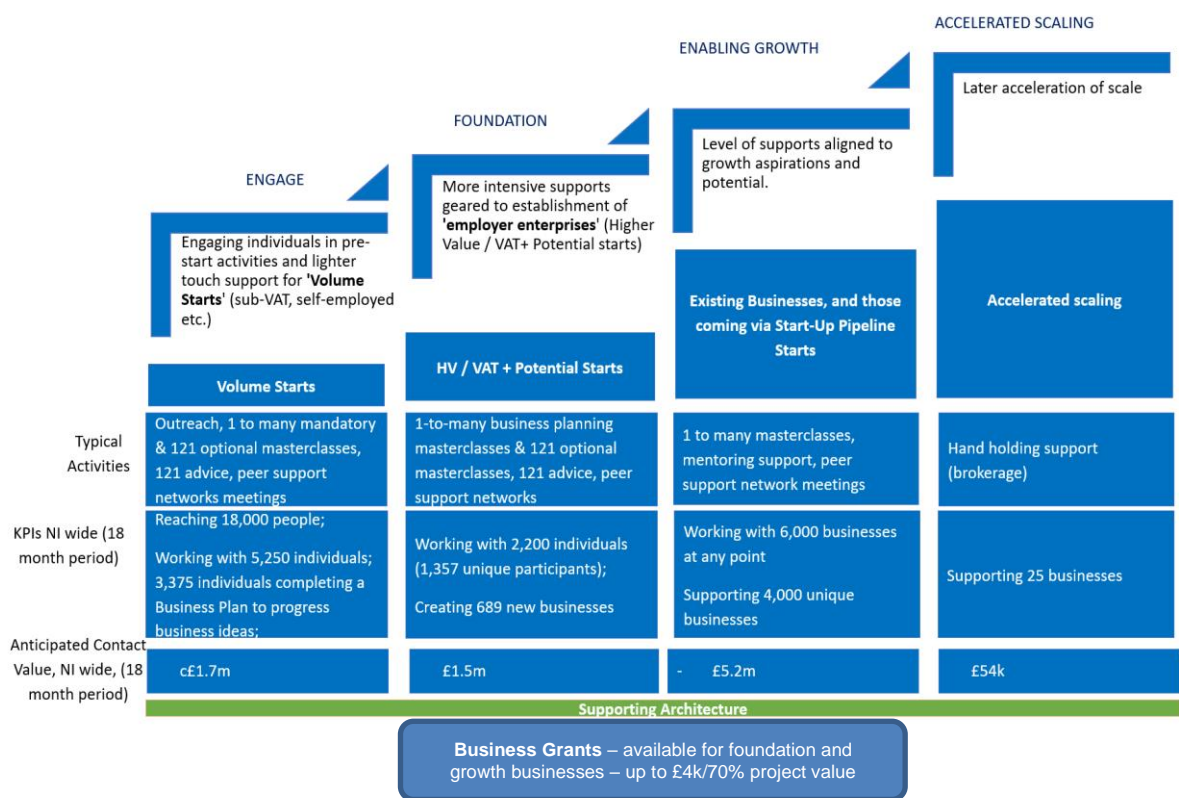
<b>Subject:</b>	Enterprise Support Service update
<b>Date:</b>	9 August 2023
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Greer, Director of Economic Development
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Lisa Toland, Senior Manager, Economy

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update members on the new Enterprise Support Service – the regional initiative to support business start-up and growth that will be led by Belfast City Council on behalf of the 11 councils.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Note the update on the new Enterprise Support Service, including the planned go-live date for the new intervention.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	At the 17 February 2023 meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, members agreed that Belfast City Council should lead on the submission of an application to UK Shared

	<p>Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) for the 11-council Enterprise Support Service model. They also agreed that, subject to additional due diligence and risk management work being undertaken, Belfast City Council should lead on the future development and delivery of the service on behalf of the 11 councils.</p>
3.2	<p>Since that time, a significant amount of work has taken place to finalise the detail of the programme content, start the commissioning process of the new service and set in place the delivery structures so that it can become operational from Autumn 2023.</p>
3.3	<p>As a recap, the service represents the councils' collective response to our statutory responsibility – set out as part of Local Government Reform in 2015 – for business start-up, social enterprise and entrepreneurship for specific target groups such as women and young people. Previously, the majority of the targets associated with the statutory responsibility were delivered through the Go for It programme. However, over time, the funding available for Go for It reduced significantly to the extent that it provided limited support for new start businesses and those target groups. Councils recognised the need for a more ambitious response so they commissioned research from the Enterprise Research Centre at Aston Business School which identified a new model and associated targets that could create a much more dynamic business base across the region.</p>
3.4	<p>The result was an enhanced support service that would provide a continuum of support from early-stage enterprise awareness through to starting, growing and scaling a business. The concept was that the service would help people get the right support at the right time – and would also help maximise other available funding streams by helping businesses to navigate the complex support ecosystem.</p>
3.5	<p>In order to fund the scaled-up intervention, officers identified the opportunity presented through the new Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF). This is the UK Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities' (DLUHC) fund that was established as a replacement for EU funding (ERDF and ESF). One strand of funding focused on "Supporting Local Business". The Investment Plan for UKSPF in Northern Ireland was launched in December 2022. At that time, the Plan proposed that a central component of the Supporting Local Business strand would be the 11 council Enterprise Support Service. An indicative financial allocation of £17million - £12 million programme delivery and £5million for small grants – was set aside for the service. UKSPF funding is available to March 2025 so the initial programme period will run from Autumn 2023 to March 2025. The programme overview is detailed below:</p>



3.6 Commissioning of Service Delivery

Taking account of the marketplace, the procurement approach for delivery of the business support services (i.e. 121 mentoring support; masterclasses; peer support networks) was broken down into two main areas, namely:

- Engage and Foundation
- Growth and Scaling.

3.7 For both areas, there was a significant focus on ensuring that the needs of the local business base could be considered – given the differences in business sectors; composition and development needs across the council areas.

3.8 An initial procurement exercise for both areas was undertaken in March 2023. However – for different reasons – it was not possible to appoint preferred suppliers in either of the areas. As a result, additional market engagement was undertaken to re-scope and re-shape the documentation in a way that could ensure delivery of the original ambitions while reflecting market feedback. The Growth and Scaling submissions are currently being assessed and bidders will be appointed in the coming week. The Engage and Foundation submissions are due to close on 21 August and preferred bidders should be appointed by the end of August. The start date for the new service is 1 October 2023.

3.9	<p>In addition to the delivery elements, there are a number of support elements that are being commissioned or developed in parallel. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Marketing and communications: this work is being led by Derry City and Strabane District Council (DCSDC). They have completed a procurement exercise for a marketing and communications agency to support with a range of activities including advertising, promotional and brand development. While DCSDC will lead on these elements of work, they will work directly with the overall Programme Lead and the wider team based in Belfast City Council, ensuring that there is a singular approach to delivery</li> <li>• Call handling: the Go for it programme benefitted from a freephone number through which business and entrepreneurs could be directed to the relevant delivery agent. That support will continue under the new service; however it will be extended to cover the full scope of the NIESS servicing enquiries from entrepreneurs and new and existing businesses</li> <li>• CRM: in order to track all business engagement with the service and also support the development of relevant reports for funders and individual councils, a customer relationship management (CRM) system is being developed. Belfast City Council's Digital Services team is taking the lead on this and they will be supported by other council services such as the Information Governance Unit (IGU) and Legal Services in order to ensure compliance with all relevant obligations. The CRM will also be guided by the council's finance and grants management teams, ensuring that it can provide adequate assurances and information required, as set out in the funding agreement.</li> </ul>
3.10	<p>At present, Belfast City Council is still awaiting an MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) from the funder. As such, we are not able to proceed with the appointment of any of the contractors (the procurement exercises for the marketing and call handling have already concluded). As time progresses, this presents additional risks for service delivery, given that the end date of March 2025 cannot be extended. Officers are working closely with DLUHC to secure the requisite documentation and review it closely so that the Chief Executive can sign it off and therefore formally commence the delivery activity with the relevant contractors.</p>
3.11	<p>For Belfast – and all councils – this new service represents an important step forward in the councils positioning their intent to drive their local economies – with an increasing focus on support for indigenous businesses. This is reflected in the draft Community Plan that is currently out to consultation. This new approach also ensures that the councils, as a collective, can have a strong voice in the development of the new Entrepreneurship Strategy which will be a key pillar for the delivery of the 10x ambitions. It is also important to note that there is a limited window of opportunity in which to make progress so councils will be focused on ensuring that the new service</p>



	works effectively to meet business needs. However they will also need to consider how they can position the new service to attract additional funding for delivery after March 2025 – recognising the challenges in the public sector investment environment at present.
	<u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u>
3.12	Belfast City Council will act as the lead council on behalf of the 11 councils for delivery of the service. To do so, we will establish a delivery and management team which will be fully resourced through the DLUHC funding.
3.13	The final budget is subject to completion of the relevant procurement exercises detailed above. The overall indicative SPF budget is in the region of £5million revenue in year 1 and £7million revenue in year 2, with around £5million available across the funding period for grant support.
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.14	An equality impact assessment for the service has been completed. Local targets for delivery in each council area have been established and will be part of the contractual commitments with delivery partners.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	None

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<b>Subject:</b>	Belfast Business Promise
<b>Date:</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> August 2023
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Greer, Operational Director for Economic Development
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Sinéad O'Regan, Employability & Skills Manager Maria Robinson, Belfast Business Promise Co-ordinator

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	The purpose of this report is to provide an update on progress to develop and deliver the Belfast Business Promise, as a key commitment in the Council's Inclusive Growth Strategy and undertaken in partnership with Economic Development and Strategy, Policy and Partnership.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Note the progress in relation to the development of the Belfast Business Promise</li> <li>ii. Note the ongoing development work to support a successful implementation process including:</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organisations who are operating as Partners to support implementation</li> <li>• Organisations who have signed up to become member</li> <li>• Approach to accreditation</li> <li>• Internal support to deliver</li> <li>• BCC approach to gaining membership as an organisation</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<p><u>Background</u></p> <p>A key commitment in the Council’s Inclusive Growth strategy to create a more inclusive city is the co-creation of the Belfast Business Promise which is our inclusive growth city charter. Members will be aware that a cross council team, led by the Strategy, Policy and Partnership in partnership with Economic Development, has been progressing the development of the Belfast Business Promise, alongside an external business working group and the council’s Social Policy Working Group (SPWG). In addition, strong relationships have been built with the Greater Manchester Good Employment Charter and Scottish Business Pledge Charter teams, providing a wealth of best practice information and learning.</p>
3.2	<p>The extensive engagement with organisations, services and businesses carried out to date has shown that there is a strong appetite for such an initiative, and its role in encouraging organisations to maintain and/or adopt high standards in relation to more inclusive business practices which bring about added value to society by proactively driving forward inclusive growth in a meaningful way. The commitment to bringing forward the Belfast Business Promise is reinforced within the refreshed Belfast Agenda, the draft BCC Economic Strategy, the Inclusive Growth Strategy and the work being taken forward by the Renewed Ambition Taskforce and Bolder Vision Strategy.</p>
3.3	<p>Belfast Business Promise is aligned to and complements other strands of work underway within council including the Anchor Network on Commissioning and Procurement; BCC Social Value Policy and Framework; Social Enterprise Action Plan and BCC Employment Academies.</p>
3.4	<p>There is a real opportunity through the implementation of the Belfast Business Promise to achieve our aim of creating a stronger, more resilient, and fairer city economy and society for Belfast with inclusive economic participation. The Belfast Business Promise membership and network offers a real opportunity to promote the city’s aspirations and engage more widely with local businesses and organisations, working in collaboration towards becoming a more inclusive city.</p>
3.5	<u>Progress to date</u>

## Pledges

The Belfast Business Promise is a business commitment to support the city's inclusive growth mission by signing up to a number of underpinning pledges around business practices. Organisations are able to use the process to benchmark against eight pledges and gain support from the Belfast Business Promise community and network to continually improve their inclusive practice and performance.

As agreed at SP&R Committee, the Belfast Business Promise has been designed as a free, voluntary membership and accreditation scheme which is open to all employers across Belfast – irrespective of size or sector – to consider and sign-up. It also provides businesses with recognition for demonstrating how they are having a positive social impact through their core business activities.

3.6 The Belfast Business Promise has eight pledges (as set out below in figure 1), which organisations will use to assess business practices and provide evidence of the approaches applied. It is proposed that larger businesses (i.e. currently classified as those with over 250 employees) to commit to doing more in each of the pledge areas.

Figure 1.



An underpinning accreditation process has been developed which provides further details on the scope and expectations around level of commitment across each of the pledges.

### 3.7 Membership structure

It is proposed that the membership to the Belfast Business Promise is tiered as outlined below:

**1<sup>st</sup> Level - Supporter** – organisations who commit to evaluating their current business practices and developing an action plan to work towards meeting the pledges. All organisations start their journey as a Supporter, working towards improved performance and making use of the Belfast Business Promise resources and network.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Level - Member** – organisations who have made the Supporter commitment and can then demonstrate **three core** pledges with an **additional three pledges** chosen from the remaining five, that best fit with their organisational priorities. The initial engagement identified that the following pledges as high priority and could be considered in agreeing the three core designated pledges.

Pledge 1	Provide fair wages and contracts
Pledge 3	Support the local and social economy
Pledge 8	Protect our environment

**3<sup>rd</sup> Level - Ambassador** - to achieve the Ambassador level of accreditation businesses must meet all 8 pledges.

### 3.8 Membership package

It is important that organisations and businesses in Belfast are aware of the potential benefits, support and added value created through the Business Promise. The key elements of the package, include:

- Promotion of their business via a Belfast Business Promise website and through the 'Mark', creating a unique selling point for the business and appeal to customers and employers in terms of showcasing the positive social impact of their core business practices.
- Access to an interactive members' network of like-minded and experienced individuals keen to solve common city issues and to improve business to business collaboration and support.
- Access to a members' support programme to help businesses to meet the pledges and improve their business practices (e.g. learning days around how to incorporate social value into procurement).
- Potential future opportunity to use the Belfast Business Promise accreditation to access BCC employment academies and procurement opportunities.

- Ability to capture and demonstrate the social value contributed through core business activities through an underpinning monitoring and evaluation framework.
- Signposting to best practice information, advice and support through the on-line website and members' programme of activity.
- Improved links through the Promise team and other members to communities and target groups of citizens.
- Access to a list of Belfast Business Promise members and their business profile to identify opportunities to enhance business-to-business working and trade as well as direct linkages to the labour relations agency network and other best practice organisations.

3.9 Pilot Phase: April - November 2023

A pilot phase was agreed to refine and further develop the Belfast Business Promise model in order to continue the collaborative approach to the design of the charter and to support sustainable and effective delivery. This phase has the following ambitions:

- Development of accreditation criteria and the supporting processes.
- Establish expert panel to provide assurance and accredit organisations against the criteria.
- Secure commitment from 20 organisations to sign up to the Belfast Business Promise to test the criteria and shape future delivery and the offer.
- Implement Promise Learning Days and provide practical supports to organisations to meet their selected pledges.

3.10 Progress achieved to date includes:

- Development of accreditation criteria for all pledges.
- Expert panels established to provide accreditation with the first members expected to be accredited by January 2024.
- Established a network of BBP Partners who can provide direct support to in achieving membership status and develop their business practices. These include...
- In the first eight weeks following the go-live date of 24<sup>th</sup> April 2023, 35 organisations have been engaged and of this, 21 organisations are now signed up to the Belfast Business Promise and going through the process of accreditation. These include:

3.11

Private Sector	Public Sector	Third Sector
Exploristics	Queen's University Belfast	East Belfast Enterprise
Change Over Technologies	Labour Relations Agency	Diversity Mark
BT	Belfast City Council	Lighthouse
People 1st	Ulster University	Orchardville
MSC Group	Translink	NOW Group

Honeycomb Jobs Babcock		Social Enterprise NI Footprints Women's Centre GEMS NI
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Further engagement is ongoing to secure partner organisations and special support across pledge areas. Partner organisations include those opposite:

3.12 Officers have also hosted two Promise Learning Days where organisations have availed of specialist support across the following pledge areas:



- Pledge 1 Provide fair wages and contracts: facilitated by Labour Relations Agency
- Pledge 2 Provide opportunities into work: facilitated by Belfast City Council – Employability & Skills Team
- Pledge 3 Recruit Inclusively: facilitated by Labour Relations Agency and Diversity Mark
- Pledge 4 Support the local and social economy: facilitated by Juno Planning and Social Enterprise NI
- Pledge 7 Work in partnership with our communities: facilitated by Now Group
- Pledge 8 Protect our environment: facilitated by Climate Essentials

3.13 BCC Accreditation

As an organisation, the Council has also signed-up to the Belfast Business Promise demonstrating leadership and commitment to working with employers to deliver on the ambition of creating an inclusive city. Detailed internal discussions have been ongoing with key officers and professions to assess the Council's position in relation to meeting the pledges and the subsequent action planning to ensure continuous improvement.

It is important to recognise the significant progress which has already been made in key areas including Social Value Procurement Policy, the work of the Employability and Skills team and community engagement teams, HR, Legal, Finance etc. and as an organisation we have made strides towards achieving the Belfast Business Promise accreditation ourselves, in particular, providing fair wages and contracts (pledge 1) with the Council achieving accreditation from the Real Living Wage Foundation for paying the Real Living Wage in February 2023 and the progress being made in terms of Protecting our Environment (pledge 8).



3.14	<p><b>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</b></p> <p>None at present. A temporary BBP core team has been established consisting of 3 officers until the end of the pilot phase in November 2023 and supported through the delivery of ongoing activity and programmes of work across Council, from Climate Commission through to HR, Economic Development etc.</p>
3.15	<p><b>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</b></p> <p>As agreed within the initial Inclusive Growth Commitments equality screening, a separate screening is being undertaken as part of the Belfast Business Promise pilot phase. The findings from the initial screening are already being utilised to inform the development and content.</p>
4.0	<p><b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b></p>
	<p>None</p>

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Subject:	Eurocities Membership proposal
Date:	9 August 2023
Reporting Officer:	John Greer, Director of Economic Development
Contact Officer:	Laura Leonard, International Relations Manager

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	The purpose of this report is to seek Members' approval for renewal of the council's membership of the Eurocities network, at a cost of €16,300 per calendar year.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approve the renewal of Belfast City Council's membership of the Eurocities network, at a cost of €16,300 for one year.</li> </ul>

3.0	<b>Key issues</b>
3.1	Members will be aware that Belfast has been a member of the EUROCITIES network for almost 30 years. EUROCITIES is a network of more than 200 major European cities, across 38 countries. It is made up of the elected local and municipal governments of the major cities. The activity of the network is structured through a number of thematic working areas including Cultural Development, Social Affairs and Inclusion, Placemaking and Sustainability. Belfast has participated in a number of the groups, based on particular areas of need or interest to the council and the city at that time. We have also shared learning on a range of topics and has availed of the network to engage with the key EU institutions in order to influence policy.
3.2	Whilst the city has limited access to the transnational funds due to its withdrawal from the EU, this network is still nevertheless important in positioning the city and building strong networks to support shared learning and collaboration.
3.3	<p>Within Belfast City Council, there are a number of areas in which officers have been engaged and which remain priority areas of focus. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Developing an innovative city – link to the Smart Belfast agenda and the work on the Innovation District</li> <li>• Transitioning to a net zero and greener economy – link to the work on resilience and climate change, with a focus on developing collaborative activity and accessing new research and insights</li> <li>• Internationalising Belfast’s cultural proposition – learning from FDI and city positioning work, particularly in post-Covid world</li> <li>• Cultural development and city animation – exploring the role of culture as a driver for city development – including both capital infrastructure and innovative programming.</li> </ul>
3.4	Looking ahead to 2024, Belfast is to hold the annual meeting of the Eurocities Culture Forum in September that year. Our bid to hold the event recognises the value of Belfast as a cultural capital and will present another opportunity to position and promote the city during this year of cultural celebration. Belfast last hosted the Eurocities Culture Forum meeting in March 2014. During that event, more than 70 representatives from 58 cities attended to find out more about Belfast’s work in this space. It presented a great opportunity to shine a light on the city itself but also on the rich cultural and artistic talent that we have in this place.

3.5	<p>Taking account of the planned event in 2024 and the wider learning and opportunities presented by our engagement in the Eurocities network, it is proposed that Belfast renews our annual membership of the network for this year.</p>
3.6	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>There are no direct Equality or Good Relations implications associated with these activities.</p>
3.7	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>The cost of annual membership is €16,300. This has been set aside within the International Relations budget for this year.</p>
4.0	<p><b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b></p>
4.1	<p>None</p>

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<b>Subject:</b>	Festive Lighting Scheme / Future Christmas Programming
<b>Date:</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> August 2023
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Greer, Director of Economic Development
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Lesley Ann O Donnell, Senior Manager, Tourism and Culture Kerry Mc Mullan, Tourism and Events Development Manager

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	At this committee in June 2023 members were presented with options relating to the Belfast Christmas light switch on and potential follow-on activity across the city. During discussion at that meeting members directed officers to submit a report to a future meeting regarding the potential for Christmas events and lighting on arterial routes across the city.  This report provides information in relation to that request from elected members.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	It is recommended that Members note the following,

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The provision of festive lighting and animation on arterial routes would require additional investment and lead time, and therefore it is not possible to provide this additional programme for Christmas 2023</li> <li>- Future Christmas event programming on arterial routes could be supported via an existing Council funding scheme such as the Community Festivals Fund, or Vibrant Business Destinations may be the most suitable.</li> <li>- The increase in costs outlined at 3.2 coupled with council's static budget is likely to mean that the current city centre festive lighting scheme will need to be scaled back for 2023.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
<b>3.1</b>	At March Committee, Members were advised that Christmas Lighting Scheme in 2022 was year 3 of the existing Christmas Lighting Scheme. Feedback on the scheme was positive, however, there were additional requests to consider an extension of the scheme to include arterial routes. Further discussion took place at the City Growth and Regeneration Committee held on 14th June 2023. Officers were asked to consider further the feasibility of such an extension.
<b>3.2</b>	The installation, storage and maintenance of our festive lighting scheme is managed through a third party that was appointed via a public procurement process. This contract is currently due for renewal and the supplier has indicated that they have seen significant cost increases relating to insurance, energy costs and labour costs. The budget for the Christmas Festive Lighting Scheme has remained unchanged in the last five years and the Economic Development division have no additional budget available to fund the expansion of the lighting scheme. In addition, we have previously had access to an additional non-recurrent budget, given council's financial pressures this has not been allocated this financial year.
<b>3.3</b>	In previous years additional funding was allocated via council non-recurrent budget that allowed additional features to be added to our lighting scheme. We also previously received funding from DfC revitalisation funding that allowed us to distribute monies via a funding programme to business clusters on arterial routes for them to produce some Christmas related activity.
<b>3.4</b>	Given councils current financial pressures and reduced levels of budget within Executive Department budgets it is not currently possible for officers to secure the additional budget that would be required for any additional activity on arterial routes.
<b>3.5</b>	The aforementioned increase in costs coupled with council's static budget is likely to mean that the current city centre scheme will need to be scaled back by as much as half. This will involve a concentration of lights within the central business district.
<b>3.6</b>	<p><b>Logistical/Operational/Financial Constraints – Lighting on Arterial Routes</b></p> <p>To have impact along the arterial routes, it is anticipated the level of additional investment for lighting would be significant. To install lighting schemes suitable mounting infrastructure and power must be secured from building owners, agents, or managers via a wayleave agreement. The cost and the lead time required to secure the wayleave agreements, and</p>



	<p>install the mounting infrastructure is significant, and it would not be possible for council or individual business clusters/associations to have the agreements and infrastructure in place for Christmas 2023.</p> <p><b>3.7</b> Lights are typically purchased or leased, Belfast City Council leases its lights which allows the lighting scheme to be updated with new features, deploy more energy efficient lights, and avoid the costs relating to ownership that are,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Purchase</li> <li>- Storage</li> <li>- Maintenance</li> <li>- Depreciation (typically festive lighting schemes have a useful life of 3-5 years)</li> </ul> <p><b>3.8</b> It is very unlikely that constituted associations in arterial routes would have the capacity or resources to manage a 'local' festive lighting scheme – there is evidence of this from the Vibrant Business Destination fund and it is a busy period for retailers - therefore any extension of this nature would almost certainly be implemented as part of the council's contractor remit. In addition, in respect of the Revitalisation Scheme, it was reported to be challenging to secure contractors for lighting installations.</p> <p><b>3.9</b></p> <p>In considering the information contained above members should note that given the logistical and financial challenges, and significant lead time to negotiate and secure wayleaves, access agreements and purchase or lease lighting infrastructure any expansion would not be possible until at least 2024. It should also be noted that is council were to be responsible for developing, implementing, and managing Christmas lights and animations along arterial routes additional finance and human resources would be required to recognise the significant work this would involve from several council services.</p> <p><b>4.0</b> <b>Animation on Arterial Routes</b></p> <p>At CG&amp;R in June, Members agreed on the approach/format to Christmas 2023 - namely a combination of a Switch-on event and city-centre wide programme of animation and entertainment as per 2021 &amp; 2022 with an allocation for subsequent weekends. Members are asked to note that planning for this event has started, with expenditure incurred. However, it was also requested that a future report be submitted regarding the potential for Christmas events on arterial routes across the city.</p> <p><b>4.1</b></p> <p>Members should note that the budget allocation for Christmas 2023 is £123,000 as presented at the June CG&amp;R Committee. Within this budget, there was no allocation for Christmas event programming along arterial routes. Officers have considered the implications of resourcing programming and have concluded that significant additional resource would be required – or alternatively the current allocation for the city centre programming be used for arterial programming in future years. Based on knowledge and experience, officers have estimated that up to £10,000-£15,000 (per location) would be required for an impactful Christmas event programme; to cover elements such as staging, a parade, PA stewarding, event management and traffic management. This is on the assumption that the content is local performance.</p>
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4.2	<p><b>Existing Funding Mechanisms</b></p> <p>Members should note there is a pre-existing mechanism for groups to secure funding to programme activity during the festive period. The ‘Community Festivals Fund’ is administered via Culture and the Central Grants Unit. This funding scheme is accessible by community groups but not council. Those groups can apply for funding between £2,500 - £10,000, and this is for arts and heritage activities and/or other cultural events that contribute to the cultural identity of an area or group and celebrates the uniqueness of that area or group. The current scheme is closed. Any festival must take place between November and March. Council receives applications from a range of community groups and arts organisations.</p>
4.3	<p>At this committee in October 2021 members agreed the Vibrant Business Destination programme which provided over £500,000 including £475,000 of funding from the department for Communities to increase the footfall and vibrancy of business destinations across the city. The funding provided allowed group to form constituted associations and develop and deliver actions plans for their specific areas. The programme aims to fund 10 action plans along the arterial routes. Christmas events and lighting are eligible investments within the programme conditions.</p>
4.4	<p><b>Summary</b></p> <p>Members are asked to note the following salient points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The provision of festive lighting and animation on arterial routes would require additional investment and lead time, and therefore it is not possible to provide this additional programme for Christmas 2023</li> <li>• The Council’s Christmas Events Programme based on members agreement in June 2023 to have a Combination of a Switch-on event and city-centre wide programme of animation and entertainment as per 2021 &amp; 2022 (as per March Committee report), with an allocation for activity during subsequent weekends is well underway. Members will receive a report detailing those plans at Octobers Committee.</li> <li>• Future Christmas event programming on arterial routes could be supported via an existing Council funding scheme and the Community Festivals Fund is the most suitable.</li> <li>• If members direct officers to develop a programme of lighting and animation for arterial routes for 2024 this would need to be considered through the estimates process recognising the need for additional investment.</li> <li>• The increase in costs outlined at 3.2 coupled with council’s static budget is likely to mean that the current city centre festive lighting scheme will need to be scaled back for 2023.</li> </ul>
4.0	<p><b>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</b></p>
4.1	<p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>The current budget for Christmas lighting and animation was agreed by Committee in March 2023. There are no additional financial implications contained within this report.</p>

	<b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b> None.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	<i>None</i>

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<b>Subject:</b>	Major Events
<b>Date:</b>	9th August 2023
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Greer, Director of Economic Development
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Lesley Ann O Donnell, Senior Manager Culture and Tourism Kerry Mc Mullan, Tourism and Events Development Manager

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	<p>The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on the Major Events programme, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Belfast Maritime Festival</li> <li>• St Patrick’s Day 2024-2026 Tender</li> <li>• One Young World</li> <li>• an update on the bid for the Fleadh Cheoil na h’Eireann</li> <li>• an update regarding the UK and Ireland bid to host the European Football Championships in 2028</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Antrim Coast &amp; Belfast - Northern Ireland Official Bid - World Road Running Championships 2025 – 2026</li> <li>• Approve officers working with DfC to understand the requirements of a future bid for the Oireachtas na Samhna festival in 2025/26. With future reports coming back to this committee prior to any binding bid being submitted.</li> </ul>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	<p>It is recommended that Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Note the update on the Belfast Maritime Festival.</li> <li>• Note the contents of the update on St Patrick’s Day including the procurement approach for 2024-2026</li> <li>• Note the update on One Young World</li> <li>• Note and approve support for One Young World Delegates under the 2024 programme development strand.</li> <li>• Note the update on the bid for the Fleadh Cheoil,</li> <li>• Note the update regarding the UK and Ireland bid to host the European Football Championships in 2028</li> <li>• Note the request for support for the World Road Running Championships 2025 – 2026 and the proposal for officers to provide a non-binding letter indicating a road closure application will be submitted if the bid is successful</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
<b>3.1</b>	<p><b>Belfast Maritime Festival</b></p> <p>This year’s ‘Belfast Maritime Festival’ will be held on Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th September 2023, 11am – 6pm, in the Titanic Quarter with a programme that stretches from Queens Quay to HMS Caroline/Titanic Distillers. The aim is to create an inclusive event that appeals to all demographics celebrating all that is good and creative about Belfast, at an accessible location in the city highlighting our current tourism, heritage, culture, and maritime offering and showcasing our existing landmarks.</p> <p>The event is coordinated and implemented under a governance structure with key working groups reporting to the Programme Board, which consists of senior representatives from Council, Belfast Harbour Commissioners and Maritime Belfast Trust.</p>
<b>3.1.1</b>	<p>The draft programme includes:</p>

- An interactive kid's zone at the front of the SSE, adjacent to Queens Quay which will host several visiting vessels including Granuaile, the Grace O'Malley, and both the Royal Navy and Irish Navy
- Street Theatre in the Arc, with further visiting vessels within Abercorn Marina
- The area around Hamilton Dock (the Nomadic) will host traditional shipbuilding displays and a large-scale community co-design photography project, delivered in partnership with Maritime Belfast Trust.
- The Titanic Slipways will be a hive of activity, hosting the Belfast Bazaar - food and craft markets – and the unique 'Science Street' curated for the festival by NI Science Festival
- Music is a core element of the festival, and the Slipways will be the location for the main stage, hosting a full day of artists. This will be supplemented by other stages at Hamilton Dock and the Soundyard
- Due to major infrastructure programmes, the event footprint on the Co. Antrim side of the river is unfortunately limited, but Sailortown have been engaged to programme activity including within St Joseph's.
- Waterfront Neighbourhood Groups in and around the Lagan will be engaged to participate in the Photography Co-design Project via Maritime Belfast Trust.

### 3.1.2

Visit Belfast and BCC Corporate Communications have developed a regional and out of state campaign in as per the terms and conditions of TNI's Letter of Offer. The festival press launched on 24 July 2023 with all paid activity commencing 31 July until the 10th of September 2023. The Campaign will consist of outdoor, digital, radio, social media across NI and ROI.

### 3.2

#### **St Patrick's Day 2024-2026 Tender**

The purpose of this part of the report is to provide Members with a brief update on the recent tender exercise. At the April Committee, the Tourism and Events Workplan was presented, and members approved the allocation of £300,000 to St Patricks Day 2024. Furthermore, in June, members were provided with information on the tender exercise required for engaging the creative sector to deliver elements of future St. Patrick's Celebrations. This tender has now been posted, with submissions expected at the end of August. The tender will be for a period of three years (1 + 1+ 1) to allow for product development. However, projects will be evaluated on an annual basis. Successful organisations would be expected to co-ordinate activity in support of each other.

### One Young World

3.3

3.3.1

Members will be aware that Belfast is hosting the One Young World Global Summit in Belfast from 2-5 October 2023. A global summit with a mission to create a world where leaders are empowered to build a fair, sustainable future for all through identifying, promoting, and connecting the world's most impactful young leaders. Previous host cities include Manchester, Dublin, London, Bogota, Ottawa, and Munich, with Belfast handing on the baton to Montreal for 2024. The Summit provides a global forum for young leaders to experience four days of speeches, panels, networking, and workshops, partnering with 190+ global businesses and educational institutions. It traditionally attracts delegates from 190+ countries, which sees some 2,000 + young delegates visit the host city for four nights, generating an estimated economic impact of £3.4m. As well as the young delegates, the summit attracts some 40+ global leaders, 100+ international journalists and 100's of leading global companies. One Young World will give Belfast global exposure as a young, vibrant, welcoming city as well as providing a legacy for the city on top of an economic return.

The Summit programme for the four days is summarised below:

3.3.2

<b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023</b>	
Arrival & Registration, Exhibition & Side Stage Open	ICC Belfast
Opening Ceremony	SSE Arena
Delegate Dinner	St George's Market/ICC Belfast
<b>Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023</b>	
Summit Sessions	ICC Belfast
Cathedral Quarter Takeover	Cathedral Quarter
Counsellor Dinner	City Hall
<b>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023</b>	
Summit Sessions	ICC Belfast
Community Dine-Around	Various venues. The Mac, Queens University, and 2 Royal Avenue
<b>Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023</b>	
Summit Sessions	ICC Belfast
Closing Ceremony	ICC Belfast
Delegate Dinner & After Party	Titanic Belfast / Titanic Quarter



<p>3.3.3</p>	<p>Attendance opportunities for Council officials and members across the week are currently being considered, with invites and briefings being issued in coming weeks.</p> <p>BCC is currently seeking budget approval that corresponds to sponsorship opportunities for 20 delegates to attend the event, with a total value of £63,000. This budget is intended to be sourced from existing departmental funds and will be synchronized with the programme development of Belfast 2024. The intent is to ensure that the leadership qualities, knowledge, and ambassadorial roles of the delegates would be incorporated into the development and outreach aspects of the year's programming.</p> <p>Additionally, the budget includes an initiative to establish a Youth Panel/Forum. This new platform would serve for engagement and culture alongside the advocacy board. The board would also offer a means for other sponsored delegates, supported by organisation such as the Education Authority, SEUPB, HLF, and Deloitte, to maintain an ongoing relationship with the city.</p> <p><b>All-Ireland Fleadh Cheoil Na h'Eireann</b></p> <p>The purpose of this report is to provide Members with further information on the status of Belfast's bid to host the Fleadh Cheoil Na h'Eireann.</p>
<p>3.4</p> <p>3.4.1</p>	<p>At CG&amp;R in June, Members were briefed on the Lessons Learned from Belfast's bid. The Belfast bid received very positive feedback from all sources. In June, members agreed to commit to supporting the Ards Branch in attendance at several crucial events. In addition, members were furnished with financial information on the bid, including costs associated with Council staff attending Mullingar.</p>
<p>3.4.2</p>	<p>A Belfast delegation will be attending the Fleadh Cheoil in Mullingar from Wednesday 9 - Saturday 12 August 2023, which includes representatives from Belfast City Council and Ards CCÉ. Representation from Belfast is expected at this event to show commitment to the bidding process and to garner votes. The Lord Mayor, Chief Executive and Director of Economic Development will attend the Ard Ollamh Gala Awards dinner on 9 August along with members of Ards CCÉ. The Chief Executive and 2 senior Council officers will also attend the Overseas Reception on 10 August with Ards CCÉ. Three Council officers will also attend the Comhaltas National Folk Orchestra event on the 11 August with Ards CCÉ, one of the main Comhaltas events of the week and a key opportunity for networking and lobbying. Lastly, Belfast City Council's contracted Health &amp; Safety advisor for the Events Team will also attend the event on 10 August for a one-day operational site visit.</p>

3.5	<p><b>Bid to host the European Football Championships in 2028</b></p> <p>Officers are working closely with key bid stakeholders (Tourism NI, IFA, Central Bid Team, and UK Sport) in the interim period before the official bid announcement in the Autumn. It was anticipated that preliminary feedback from UEFA on the UK and Ireland bid would require some additional clarifications, but this was managed by the Central Bid Team</p> <p>A Host City briefing from the Central Bid Team will take place early August. Members will be furnished with regular updates on the bid as and when further information is available.</p>
3.6	<p><b>Antrim Coast &amp; Belfast - Northern Ireland Official Bid - World Road Running Championships 2025 – 2026</b></p> <p>Belfast City Council are being asked to support a bid by the organisers of the Antrim Half Marathon to host the World Road Running Championships in 2025/26. The event consists of several road races,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A mass participation ½ marathon to take place outside of Belfast</li> <li>- A 5km elite to take place in Belfast City Centre</li> <li>- A 1-mile elite race in Belfast City Centre</li> </ul>
3.7	<p>It is expected that the event would cost circa £1.5m to host. At this juncture the organisers have not received a commitment of support from Tourism Northern Ireland or another agency in support of the bid.</p>
3.8	<p>The specific support sought from Council at this stage is a course guarantee which in essence,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Irrevocably undertakes, guarantee, and shall ensure that: The competition course will be made available to the MF to organise and stage the WAS event and shall give access to the MF and its guests in order to conduct visits.</li> <li>- There is no restriction in respect to WORLD ATHLETICS and / or DENTSU on installing commercial adverting in the Competition Course.</li> </ul>
3.9	<p>Officers have reviewed the course guarantee and believe that given Councils power for road closures it would not have the relevant statutory powers to provide such a guarantee. Any event road closure is subject to consultation and cannot therefore not be guaranteed.</p>

<p>4.0</p> <p>4.1</p> <p>4.2</p> <p>4.3</p>	<p>Instead, and in consultation with the bidding party, officers are suggesting providing a non-binding letter stating that if the bid is successful Belfast City Council will apply for the required road closures. But that application is subject to the standard process, including consultation, and cannot be guaranteed, and nor can any other form of support from Belfast City Council at this juncture.</p> <p>Officers have been approached by officials from the Department of Communities to begin exploring a potential bid to host Oireachtas na Samhna festival in 2025/26. This is the longest running Arts festival in Ireland and is a celebration of the original Oireachtas – or congregation of authorities – which was first established in the 7th century. This Irish speaking event welcomes people of all ages and descriptions from singers, dancers, poets, writers, storytellers, actors, impersonators, and musical composers.</p> <p>The event which typically takes place during the first week of November would be expected to take place in several cultural venues across the city and bring as many as 50,000 visitors to the city.</p> <p>At this juncture the resource requirements, or precise role for Belfast City Council is yet to be established, and when this is understood it will be brought back to this committee for consideration. At this stage officers are seeking permission to continue working with DfC to understand the requirements of any future bid and will revert to committee to seek approval from members prior to any bid being submitted that might commit Council to a role or resources.</p>
<p><b>4.0</b></p>	<p><b>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</b></p>
	<p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>All expenditure agreed in respect of the the Belfast Maritime Festival, St Patrick’s Celebrations, and respective Fleadh and UEFA bids are within existing departmental budgets and approvals.</p> <p>There is a request for approval of £63,000 to sponsor the attendance of delegates at OYW through existing departmental funds of programme development for Belfast 2024</p> <p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p> <p>None.</p>

<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	None



<b>Subject:</b>	Update on Music Strategy
<b>Date:</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> August 2023
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Greer, Director of Economic Development
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Chris McCreery, Culture Development Manager

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	At a meeting of City Growth and Regeneration Committee in December 2022, members agreed the music strategy, “Music Matters: A Roadmap for Belfast” including its corresponding priorities. The purpose of this report is to seek approval to the allocation of funding to a number of important strands of the music strategy.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Note the contents of this report and the progress made against areas of the music strategy, “Music Matters: A Roadmap for Belfast”</li> <li>- Agree the actions for remainder of 2023/24 as set out in the report and in Appendix 1 including budget implications to be met from existing departmental budgets.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	At a meeting of City Growth and Regeneration Committee in December 2022, members agreed the final “Music Matters: A Roadmap for Belfast”. Mirroring A City Imagining cultural strategy the music strategy has 4 strategic themes, each having 4 strategic priorities. There

are a number of actions and recommendations given for each priority catering to many areas of need across the music sector.

3.2 UNESCO Music delivery is funded from existing recurring and non-recurring departmental funds. At the meeting of the Special Policy and Resources Committee in April 2021, members agreed an allocation of resources to the delivery of the music strategy. £900k has been allocated towards City of Music and the Music Strategy for delivery on key developmental activities across 2023/24 and 2024/25 respectively.

3.3 In April 2023, members approved a range of initiatives to progress elements of the music strategy. In June 2023, members received an update on current initiatives and approved additional actions. Within both papers, there are a range of pre-existing commitments for the remaining financial year which are now progressing at pace. These include;

- The Pipeline Investment Fund for music venues
- The creation of a digital music support service and marketing channels
- The Music Industry Mentoring Programme for 2023/24
- Continuation of Gradam Ceoil bursaries
- Expansion of the Output Conference, Ireland's biggest one-day music conference and live music showcase
- The City of Music Industry Sessions
- Support for international exchanges with other UNESCO Cities of Music, namely Hannover, Germany and London, Ontario Canada
- A micro-grant programme, available to individual musicians, to assist with costs incurred within their artform

3.4 In June 2023, members also received an update on the recruitment and selection of the Belfast Region Music Board comprising of 25 members, to bring to life the UNESCO City of Music designation. The board has been meeting monthly since April 2023 to map further initiatives to roll out in this financial year and beyond.

3.5 The Belfast Region Music Board met in June and July 2023 to agree a detailed and profiled delivery plan, containing initiatives to address a range of areas, most necessary to fulfil during the remainder of the financial year. These initiatives and associated budgets are detailed in Appendix 1.

#### UNESCO Music Business Ambassador

3.6 Theme two of the strategy has a focus on exploring and developing professional development opportunities to educate and equip music organisations and businesses to build sustainable career pathways within the sector. In particular, action 6.5 aims to pilot the creation of a UNESCO Music Business Ambassador (MBA) – a recurring two-year role to

guide City Council in identifying the needs of workers in music and the opportunities for personal development and growth. It is proposed to allocate £30,000 annually to the Music Business Ambassador role to support the following priorities:

- 5.3 : Identify, select and allocate funding for a three-year period to support the development, delivery and promotion of a set of core music business flagship events
- 6.3 : Create more opportunities for cultural leaders and business owners to learn from and share best practice with international counterparts
- 7.1 : Develop a music business accelerator programme to grow micro-businesses into small businesses and beyond
- 7.4 : Develop a Sponsorship Toolkit to help music organisations attract private funding and educate leaders on pitching best practice. Create opportunities for third sector and private sector matching and meet-ups
- 7.6 : Develop an export strategy to support the promotion of music businesses alongside the promotion of musical talent

3.7 As this role is developed and recruited, officials will engage with colleagues in Enterprise and Business Growth and other teams across Council to ensure alignment with other support packages provided across Council and explore opportunities to add further value to these initiatives.

### 3.8 Health and wellbeing

Theme one of the Music Strategy focuses on placing artists at the heart, a portion of which is built upon the aspiration within the Belfast Agenda that Belfast will be a city “*where everyone experiences good health and wellbeing*”.

3.9 Two priorities within Theme One are particularly relevant to this ambition:

- 1.8 : Alongside any financial assistance granted to creators, provide recipients with the opportunity to undertake a health and well-being one-to-one session with trained medical experts
- 2.8 : Co-design with sectoral stakeholders and fund a programme of practical well-being events and initiatives to ensure the physical and mental health of music creators is safeguarded and protected throughout the year. This should include a mechanism for reporting and dealing with inappropriate behaviour

3.10 The outcome of fulfilling these priorities is that Belfast will have a more inclusive, healthy and safe music community. It is proposed that to complete these priorities, Council should seek to work with music organisations that have a strong focus on health and wellbeing, such as Help Musicians NI and Mental Health England, that could then expand or increase their activity and reach within Belfast through a partnership with the Council. Through these

partnerships, which will include a range of events and advice sessions, officials will ensure that these initiatives are also open to non-professional musicians.

3.11 Music Apprenticeships and Internships

Theme two of the Music Strategy focuses on nurturing the sector, with Priority 8 focused on working with stakeholders to drive forward the creation of funded opportunities to engage and support the future generation of creative freelancers, cultural leaders and music business entrepreneurs. This priority includes an action to *“allocate funding to increase the number of paid internships and apprenticeships in music businesses”*

3.12 To achieve this aim, it is proposed to develop a pilot programme with Creative and Culture Skills NI aimed at supporting the next generation of music professionals and enable the growth of the sector by directly addressing skills gaps and shortages. Based on the principles a previously successful internship scheme, namely the NI Creative Employment Programme (NICEP), this programme will include work with employers to establish brand new internships in order to give people new opportunities in the music sector. The programme will provide part funding to cover wage costs for employers who create the new roles.

3.13 Accessibility

A key Priority within Theme one of the Music Strategy recommends that Council consult the live sector *“to encourage the implementation of Access Riders to ensure the needs of disabled musicians and performers are understood and met”* to ensure greater tangible support for artists with disabilities across the city’s venues.

3.14 Members of the Culture team have recently met with the Musicians’ Union to discuss their access rider and their work to encourage its widespread use, supported by its inclusion in all of their live contracts. It is proposed to support this priority through a partnership with the Musicians’ Union and the University of Atypical to support awareness raising and normalisation of access rider usage and ensure best practice in engaging the sector.

3.15 Sustainability

Priority 11 of the Music Strategy focuses on sustainability in the music sector, specifically to lead the charge in greening the live music sector, embedding sustainability at the heart of its approach to business operations. Sustainability, including a conference on this area in 2025, was also a key focus of the application to UNESCO to receive City of Music status.

3.16 In order to align with these UNESCO ambitions, it is proposed to partner with experts in this area, such as Music Declares Emergency, Julie’s Bicycle and Native Events, to provide a practical “Go Green” toolkit with tangible recommendations and measures for



implementation. This will be delivered by building on similar toolkits in other areas whilst promoting the use through a series of events and information sessions.

3.17 International collaborations

As part of Belfast's application and status as a City of Music, member cities are committed to "*work internationally with the UNESCO Cities Network to deliver shared music, skills and learning opportunities.*"

In July 2023, the first stage of our UNESCO City of Music partnership with fellow UCoM city London, Ontario, took place. Belfast artists Ciara O'Neill and Niall McDowell, selected by London Music Office and festival lead Darin Addison, travelled to Canada for a week of experiences that will have a lasting impact upon their career and has cemented a strong relationship between our cities. Highlights of the exchange included:

- Headline sets at Home County Music & Arts Festival which has a typical footfall of around 50,000 over the course of a weekend. This was the first time non-Canadian artists have taken part in the festival in fifteen years.
- A two day song-writing camp including representatives from UNESCO City of Music Ghent, Belgium.
- Extensive media coverage across platforms such as BBC NI and CBC London.

3.18 In October 2023, two artists and talent agents from Ontario will arrive in Belfast to appear at the Belfast International Arts Festival and take part in a wraparound programme of similar activity.

3.19 As well as collaboration between cities, UNESCO Member cities are also expected to take part in official UNESCO events, including the annual UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) conference which will be taking place in Istanbul, Turkey in September 2023. The main objectives of this event are to:

- Exchange on updated, practical information on policies and activities carried out by cities to further implement the objectives of the Network both at the local and international level and stimulate inter-city collaborations.
- Offer a key platform of discussion between UNESCO and Creative Cities on the Organization's priorities of action in the field of culture and development as well as other issues of mutual interests; and
- Showcase and broaden the impact and outreach of the Network and its member cities by nurturing dialogue with other relevant stakeholders, notably those from the local levels.

Officials from the Culture Development team will be in attendance at this important event to highlight the work that Belfast is undertaking as part of the UNESCO City of Music designation.

3.20	<p><b><u>Night-Time Economy</u></b></p> <p>Priority 10 of the Music Strategy focuses on enhancing Belfast’s night-time economy, culture and governance to ensure the city is fulfilling its economic and cultural potential after dark.</p> <p>As members will be aware, officials from Belfast City Council are engaged and represented on the Purple Flag Steering Committee which is looking at a number of actions aligned to continued status as a Purple Flag for the city in partnership with the BIDs. This work includes a review of footfall movement across areas of the city, supporting Translink in making the case for late night services, provision of visitor services, lighting strategies, a night safety charter in partnership with Hospitality Ulster and discussions on role of night Tzar.</p>
3.21	<p><b>Financial and Resource Implications</b></p> <p>UNESCO Music delivery is funded from existing recurring and non-recurring departmental funds. Costs outlined in Appendix 1 are to be met from existing departmental budgets allocated to music development.</p>
3.22	<p><b>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</b></p> <p>This music strategy is part of the overarching cultural strategy for Belfast that has been subject to EQIA. An equality screening has been completed and mitigating actions will be considered as part of any initiatives.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1 – 2023-2024 Music Strategy Initiatives

## Appendix 1 – 2023-2024 Music Strategy Initiatives

Theme	Priority No.	Description	Approach	Timeline	Budget
<b>Theme 1</b> <i>Placing Artists at the Heart</i>	2.6	Identify and financially support the recruitment of a partner to deliver a programme to develop the production skills of women, female-identifying and non-binary music creators in a safe and trusted studio environment.	Programme specification developed by Culture team and delivered with external experts	November 2023 to March 2024	£15,000
<b>Theme 1</b> <i>Placing Artists at the Heart</i>	2.7	Consult the live sector to encourage the implementation of Access Riders to ensure the needs of disabled musicians and performers are understood and met.	Partnership with key organisations including Musicians Union and University of Atypical to encourage sector usage of Access Riders.	November 2023 to March 2024	£6,000
<b>Theme 1</b> <i>Placing Artists at the Heart</i>	1.8	Alongside any financial assistance granted to creators, provide recipients with the opportunity to undertake a health and wellbeing one-to-one session with trained medical experts.	Partnership with key organisations such as British Association For Performing Arts Medicine (BAPAM), Mental Health England / Tonic Rider and Help Musicians NI	September 2023 to June 2024	£15,000
	2.8	Co-design with sectoral stakeholders and fund a programme of practical wellbeing events and initiatives to ensure the physical and mental health of music creators is safeguarded and protected throughout the year. This should include a mechanism for reporting and dealing with inappropriate behaviour.			
<b>Theme 2</b> <i>Nurture the Sector</i>	6.4	Allocate funding to support the attendance and representation of Belfast	Rolling Micro-Grants scheme, ensuring this includes Ireland/UK conferences and	October 2023 to October 2024	£40,000

	3.2	<p>music individuals at international conferences</p> <p>Identify flagship events and opportunities nationally and internationally that will enable creators to connect and collaborate with their peers. This includes, but is not limited to, residences, exchanges and showcasing opportunities. Provide creators with advice and support to maximise the new opportunities created</p>	is cross-referenced with existing funded opportunities.		
<b>Theme 2</b> <i>Nurture the Sector</i>	6.5	Pilot the creation of a UNESCO Music Business Ambassador (MBA) – a recurring two-year role to guide City Council in identifying the needs of workers in music and the opportunities for personal development and growth	<p>Recruitment of MBA role to support the following priorities:</p> <p>: 5.3 : Identify, select and allocate funding for a three-year period to support the development, delivery and promotion of a set of core music business flagship events</p> <p>6.3 : Create more opportunities for cultural leaders and business owners to learn from and share best practice with international counterparts</p> <p>7.1 : Develop a music business accelerator programme to grow micro-businesses into small businesses and beyond</p> <p>7.4 : Develop a Sponsorship Toolkit to help music organisations attract private funding and educate leaders on pitching best practice. Create opportunities for</p>	September 2023 to Sept 2024	£30,000

			third sector and private sector matching and meet-ups 7.6 : Develop an export strategy to support the promotion of music businesses alongside the promotion of musical talent		
<b>Theme 2</b> <i>Nurture the Sector</i>	8.1	Allocate funding to increase the number of paid internships and apprenticeships in music businesses	Partnerships internally with BCC skills teams and externally with Creative & Cultural Skills NI	October 23 to March 24	£45,000
<b>Theme 3</b> <i>Igniting the Live Experience</i>	9.4	Engage with the Music Venue Trust and the Music Venues Alliance to gain a greater understanding of the issues facing the survival of grassroots music venues in Belfast and the ways in which these challenges can be addressed.	Partner with the Music Venue Trust to directly engage with the Music Venue Alliance and other grassroots music venue stakeholders in Belfast. Gain insights from partnered events regarding challenges to better inform Council	September 2023 to March 2024	£3000
<b>Theme 3</b> <i>Igniting the Live Experience</i>	12.2	Aligning with UNESCO ambitions, provide a practical “Go Green” toolkit with tangible recommendations and measures for implementation	Partner with experts in this area, such as Music Declares Emergency, Julie’s Bicycle and Native Events. Delivered by building on similar toolkits in other areas whilst promoting the use through a series of events and information sessions.	September 2023 to March 2024	£6,000
<b>Theme 4</b> Unifying Power of UNESCO	UNESCO City of Music Commitments	Work internationally with the UNESCO Cities Network to deliver shared music, skills and learning opportunities.	Support active participation in UNESCO cultural networks including but not limited to partnership with UCoM city London, Ontario and Hannover, Germany and UNESCO conference.	September 2023 to August 2024	£10,000

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