

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



**Belfast
City Council**

3rd November, 2023

MEETING OF THE CLIMATE AND CITY RESILIENCE COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet as a Hybrid meeting (both remote and in person) in the Lavery Room - City Hall on Thursday, 9th November, 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
 - (d) Schedule of Meetings 2024 (Pages 1 - 2)
2. **Kerbside EV proposal from BT (Presentation - Paul Fyfe, Project Manager, BT Openreach) (Pages 3 - 16)**
3. **Update - Belfast Sustainable Food Partnership (Presentation- Beth Bell, Co-Chair of the Belfast Sustainable Food Partnership/ Mura Quigley- Adaptation and Resilience Advisor**
4. **Local Development Plan - Presentation - Kate Bentley. (Pages 17 - 42)**
5. **Update - Belfast Retrofit Delivery Hub - Brenda Roddy, Project Support Officer (Climate) (Pages 43 - 60)**

6. **Date of Next Meeting**



Subject:	Committee Schedule Report
Date:	9th November 2023
Reporting Officer:	Gareth Graham, Democratic Services Assistant
Contact Officer:	Gareth Graham, Democratic Services Assistant

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

☐

No

☒

Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.

Insert number

☐

1. Information relating to any individual
2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)
4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter
5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained
6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction
7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Sometime in the future

Never

☐
☐
☐
☐

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☒

No

☐

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
	To advise the Committee of the dates and times of the meetings of the Climate and City Resilience Committee between January and December, 2024.
2.0	Recommendations
	The Committee is requested to approve the schedule of meetings for the Climate and City Resilience Committee as outlined.
3.0	Main report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	The monthly meeting of the Client and City Resilience Committee is normally held at 5.15 p.m. on the 2nd Thursday of each month.
3.2	However, due to holiday periods and the timing of the monthly Council meetings and, in order to assist with the decision-making process, it has been necessary on occasions to move some of the meetings to later in the month.
3.3	<p>Accordingly, the following dates have been identified for meetings of the Climate and City Resilience Committee for the period from January to December, 2024:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thursday 11th January at 5.15 pm • Thursday 8th February at 5.15 pm • Thursday 14th March at 5.15 pm • Thursday 11th April at 5.15 pm • Thursday 9th May at 5.15 pm • Thursday 13th June at 5.15 pm • Thursday 8th August at 5.15 pm • Thursday 12th September at 5.15 pm • Thursday 10th October at 5.15 pm • Thursday 7th November at 5.15 pm • Thursday 5th December at 5.15 pm <p>(All meetings will commence at 5.15 p.m.)</p>
3.4	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> None associated with this report.
3.5	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment</u> None associated with this report.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None associated with this report.



Seeking support of the Climate and City Resilience Committee for Technical Trial – DSLAM EV Charging

Committee Meeting 9th November 2023

Peter Wade

Paul Fyfe

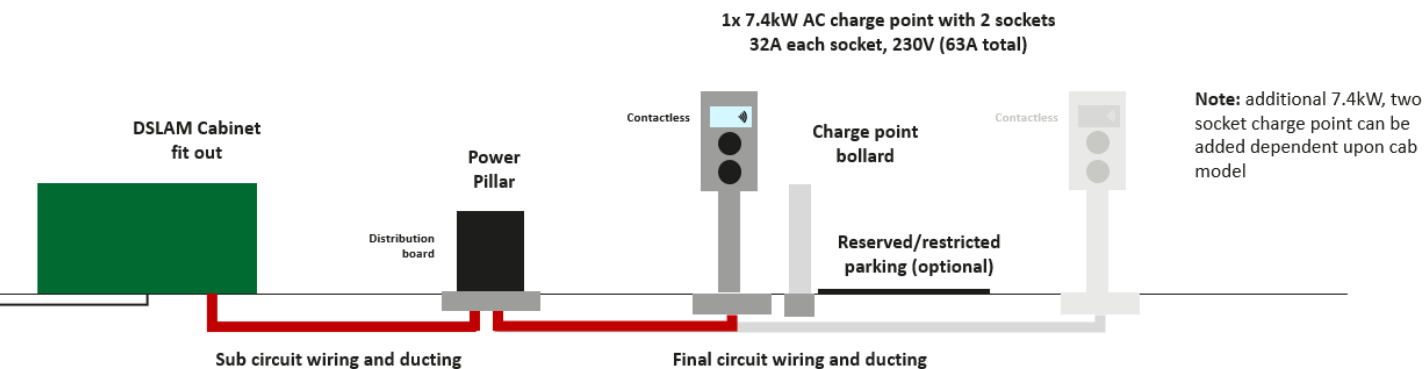
Daniel Lunney

Allen Irwin

openreac

Agenda Item 2

Proposed Design & Infrastructure



Page 4

LOW kW Charger	Up to 15 miles for a 1 hour charge
STANDARD kW Charger	Up to 30 miles for a 1 hour charge
FAST kW Charger	Up to 90 miles for a 1 hour charge
RAPID kW Charger	Up to 90 miles for a 30 minute charge
ULTRA kW Charger	Up to 200 miles for a 30 minute charge



Chargepoint bollard style proposed for trial

Key Points

1. Seeking support of the Committee to run a 3 - 6 month technical trial
2. Commitment that should any of the sites not meet the goals of the trial these can / will be removed at no cost to Council
3. A successful trial forms the basis of a wider rollout, subject to commercial sign off in BT Group
4. No cost to End users during trial
5. Reservation of space is optional – not required for Pilot



Concept example

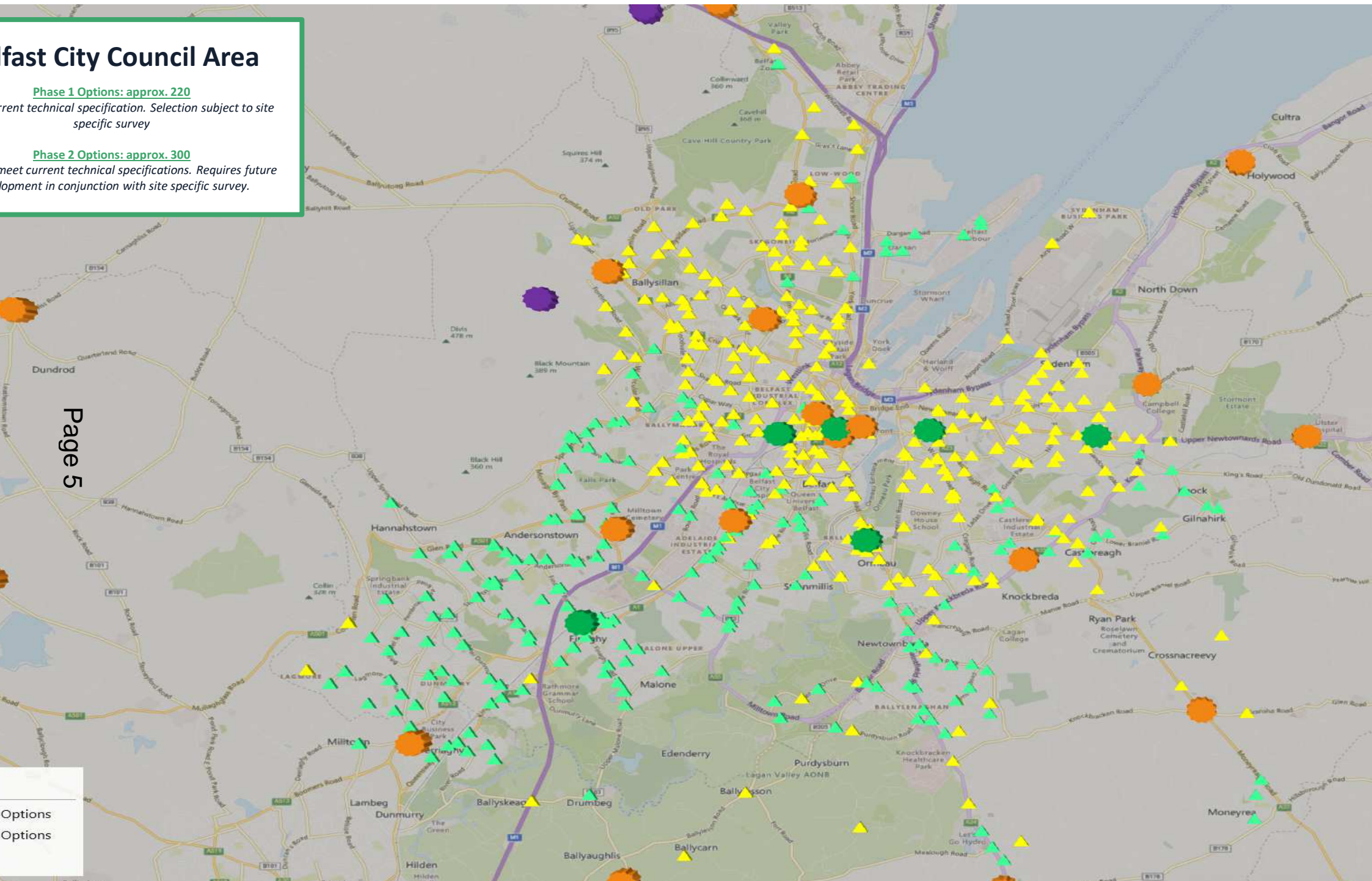
Belfast City Council Area

Phase 1 Options: approx. 220

meet current technical specifications. Selection subject to site specific survey

Phase 2 Options: approx. 300

meet current technical specifications. Requires future development in conjunction with site specific survey.



Section of the Pilot Sites

Further available in Appendix

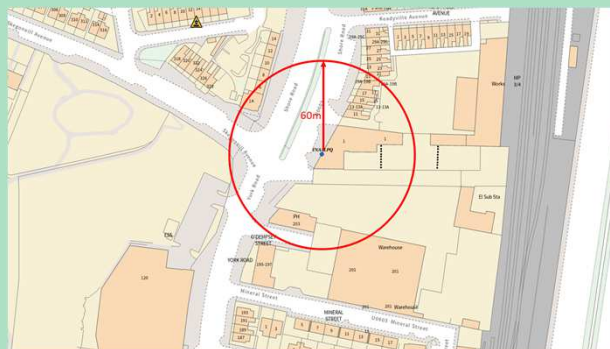
ORMEAU ROAD, ORMEAU, BELFAST, BT7 3FS

main short walk
Homes / MDUs
Shops / Cafes / Restaurants
Businesses



SKEGONEILL STREET, BELFAST, BT15 3JL

main short walk
Homes / MDUs
Shops / Cafes / Restaurants
Businesses
Football Stadium
Leisure Centre



SECTION LANDSEER STREET/STRANMILLIS ROAD, BELFAST, BT9

main short walk
Homes / MDUs
Queen's University buildings
Ulster Museum
Shops / Cafes / Restaurants
Businesses
Botanic Park



Thank You

Questions?

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Appendix

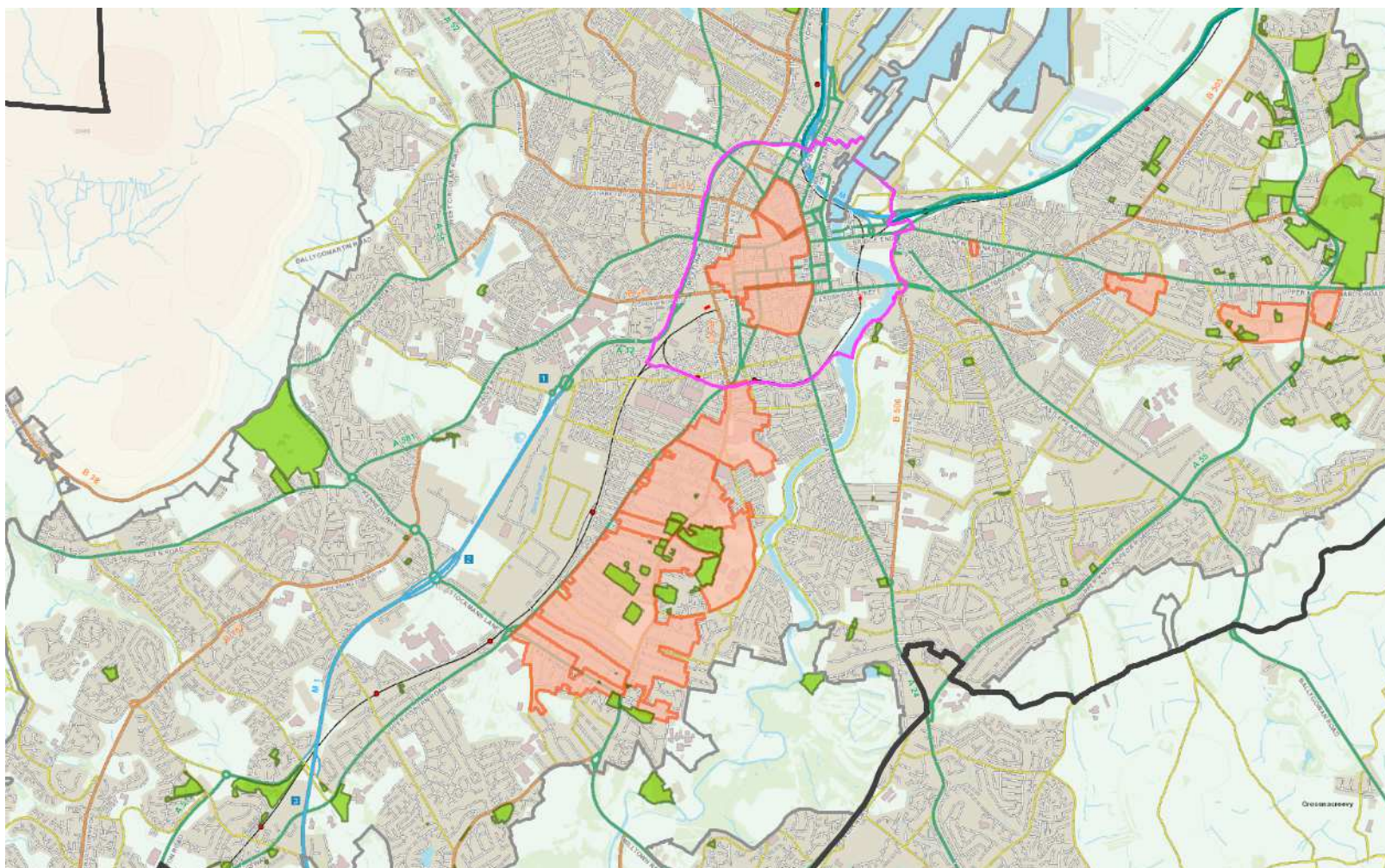
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Tree Preservation Order (TPO) and Conservation Area Map

Dublin City Council Area

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Source: [Tree Preservation Order \(TPO\) and Conservation Area Map](#)

MBJAP

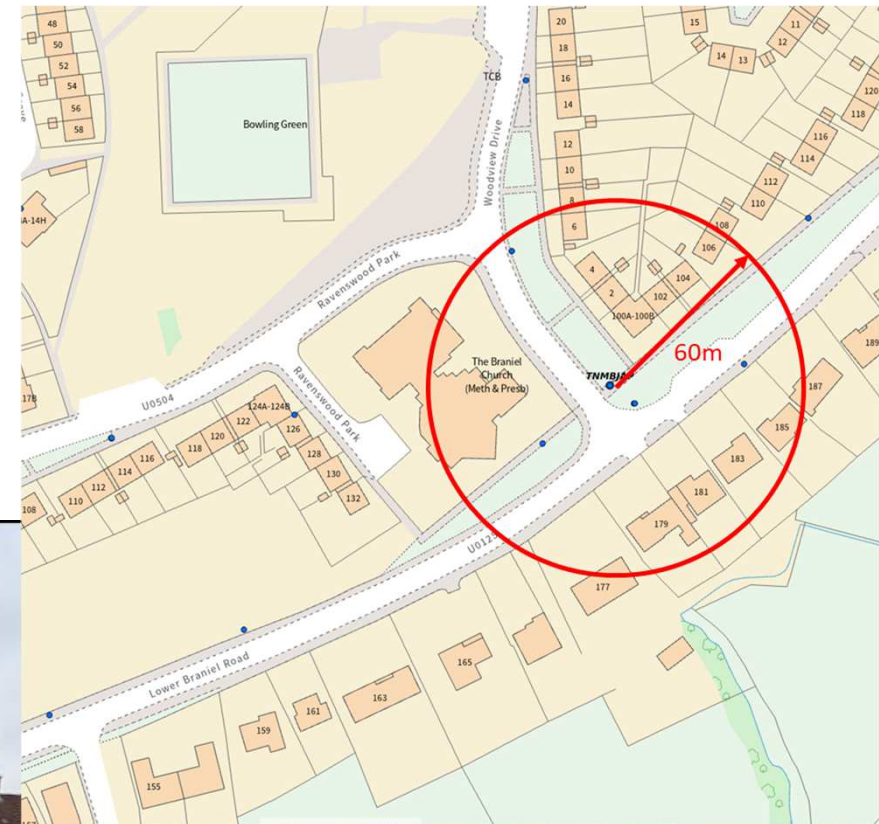
Belfast City Council
Exchange: CREGAGH

WOODVIEW DR, BELFAST, CASTLEREAGH BT5 7PY

on short walk
Homes
Church
Community Centre

Rd
ern Ireland
ps

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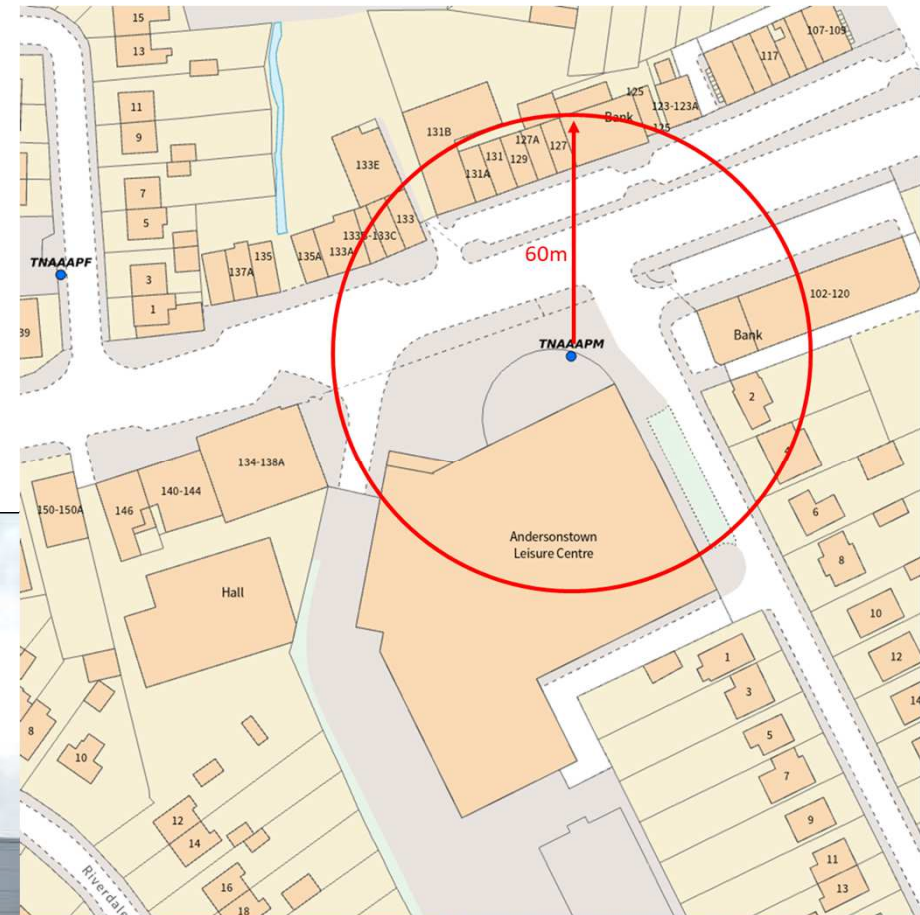


AAAPM

Belfast City Council
Exchange: Belfast North

1-133 ANDERSONSTOWN RD, BELFAST, BT11 9BT

in short walk
Homes / MDUs
Shops / Cafes / Restaurants
Businesses
Leisure Centre
Playing field

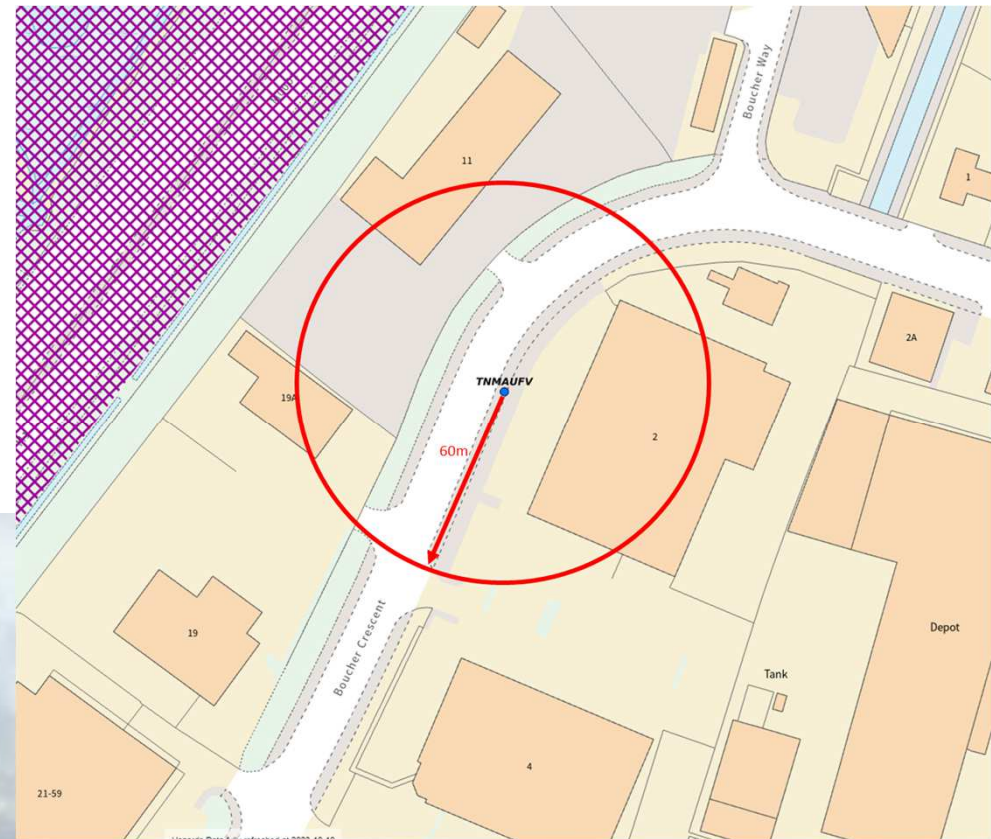


MAUFV

Belfast City Council
Exchange: Malone

BOUCHER CRESENT, BELFAST, BT12 6QU

in short walk
Businesses
Shops / Cafes / Restaurants
Boucher Road Retail Park



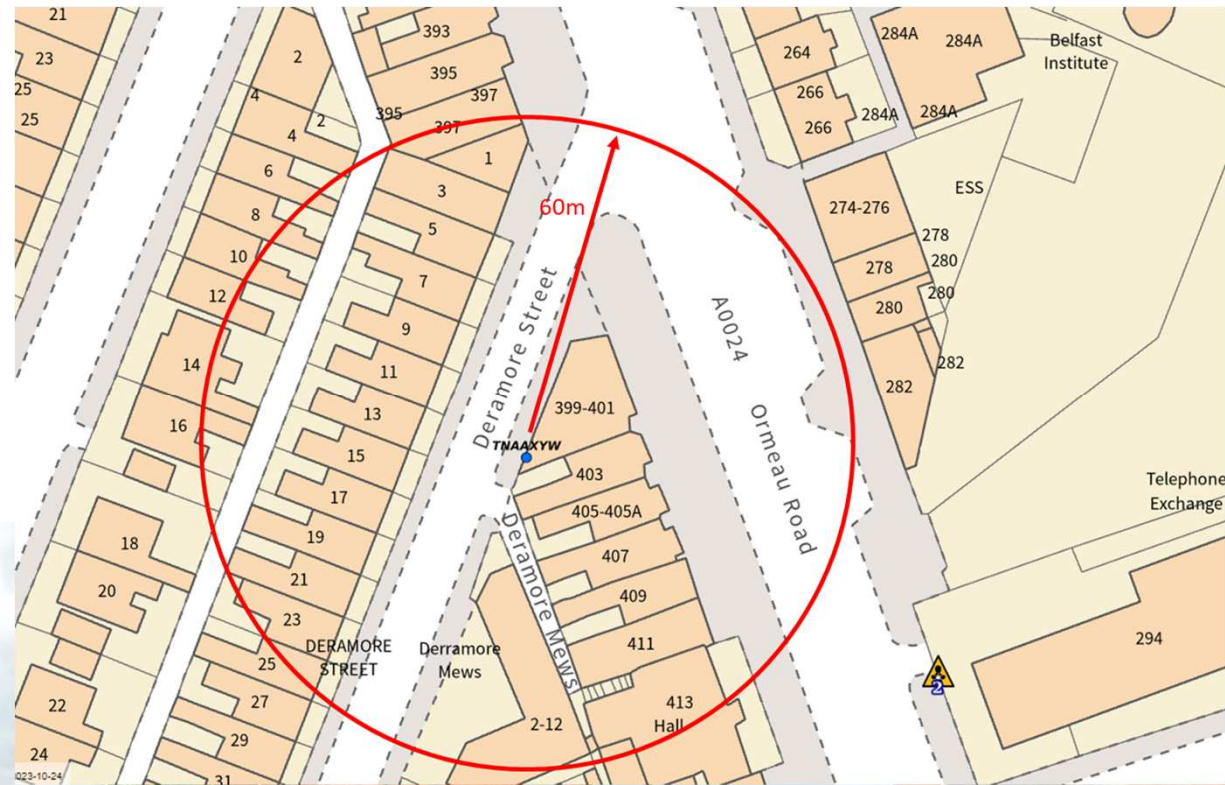
land
ps

AAXYW

Belfast City Council
Exchange: Ormeau

Ormeau Rd, Ormeau, Belfast BT7 3FS

in short walk
Homes / MDUs
Shops / Cafes / Restaurants
Businesses



AALPQ

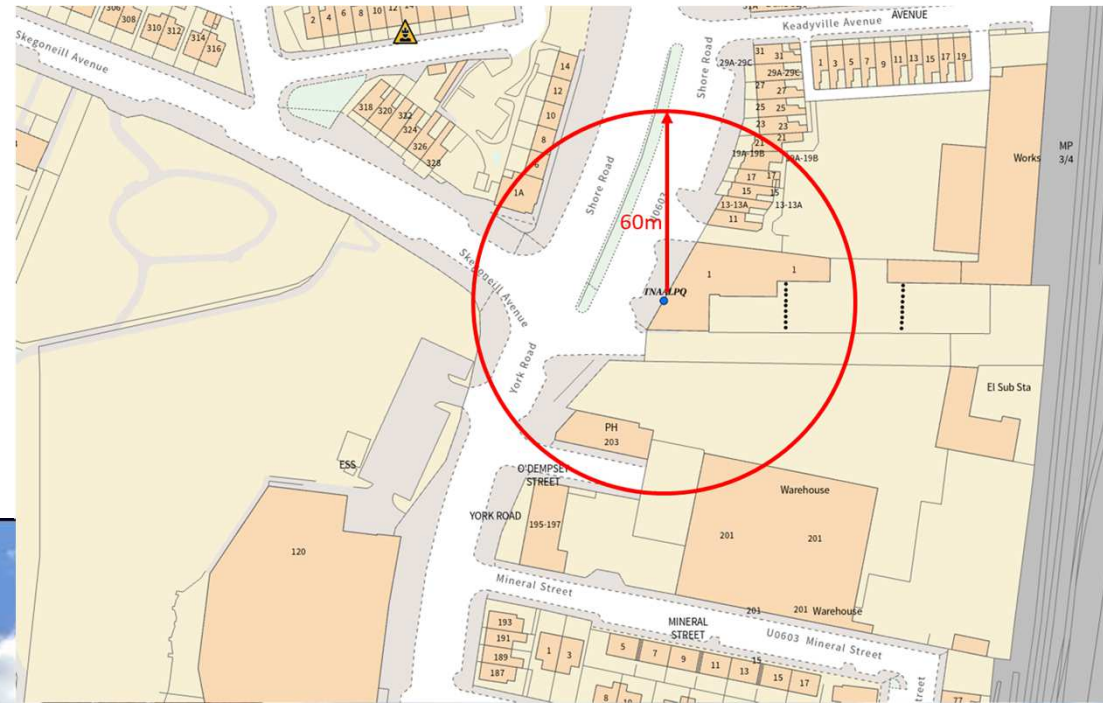
Belfast City Council
Exchange: Fortwilliam

SKEGONEILL ST, BELFAST, BT15 3JL

in short walk
Homes / MDUs
Shops / Cafes / Restaurants
Businesses
Football Stadium
Leisure Centre

eland
ps

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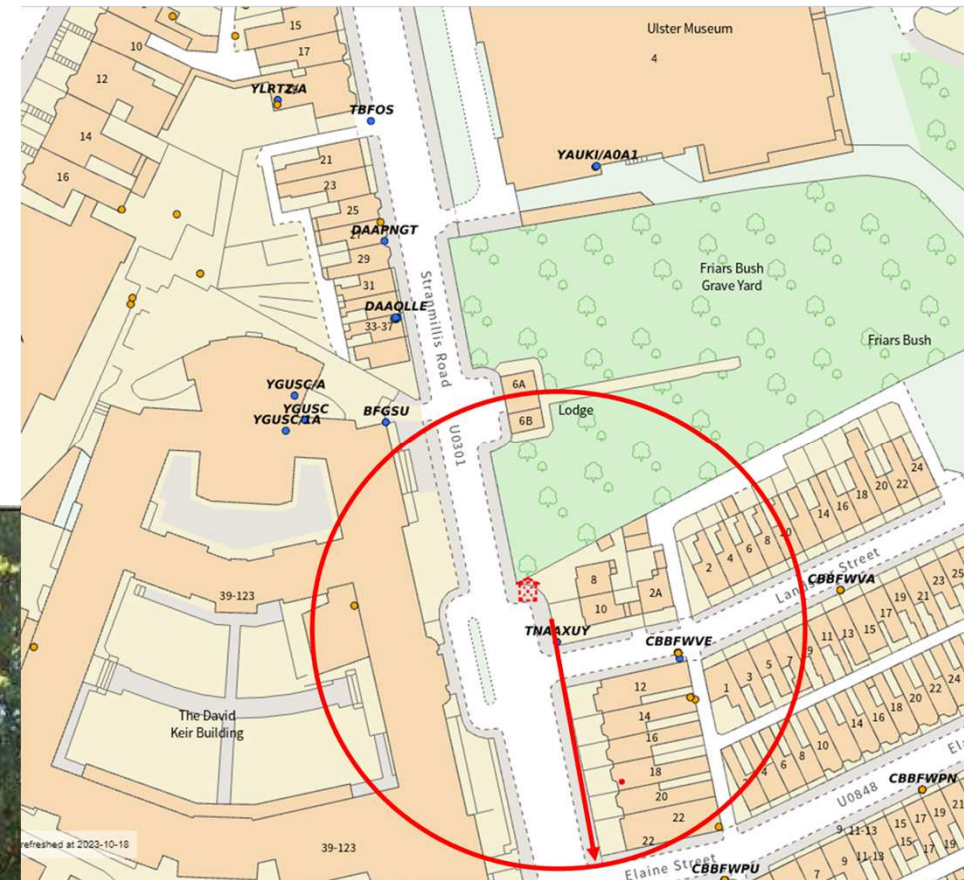
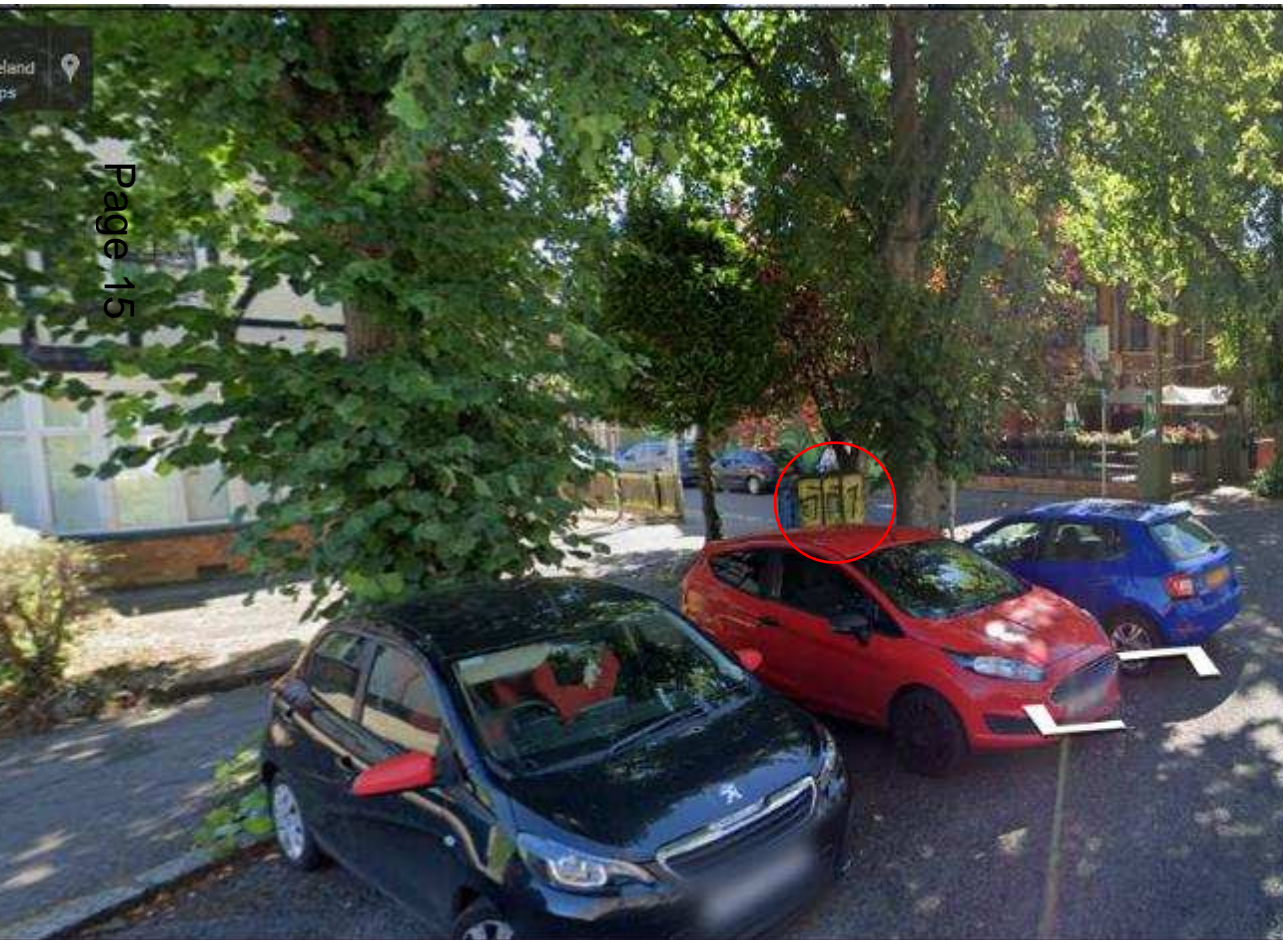


AAXUY

Belfast City Council
Exchange: Malone

SECTION LANDSEER STREET/STRANMILLIS ROAD, BELFAST, MALONE

in short walk
Homes / MDUs
Queen's University buildings
Ulster Museum
Shops / Cafes / Restaurants
Businesses
Botanic Park



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Climate & City Resilience Committee

Belfast Local Development Plan 2035

LDP Plan Strategy

Adopted 2 May 2023



Belfast
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Local Development Plan

- Key element of council's new planning powers
- Long term **spatial** plan for 15-20 yrs
- Primary basis of all planning decisions
- Will shape and guide future development / growth
- Helps provide certainty & framework for investment
- Replaces BMAP & most regional planning policies



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The Plan-Led System

- Section 6 (4) of the Planning Act (2011) directs that in making any determination under its provisions, regard is to be had to the LDP and that determination must be made in accordance with the plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.
- This establishes the primacy of the LDP in the plan-led system as acknowledged by paragraph 5.11 of the SPPS



LDP - Transitional Arrangements

- Any conflict between the policy contained in a departmental development plan and those of the PS must be resolved in favour of the PS.
- A departmental development plan will therefore remain in effect for the area for which it was made until the council adopts the Local Policies Plan.

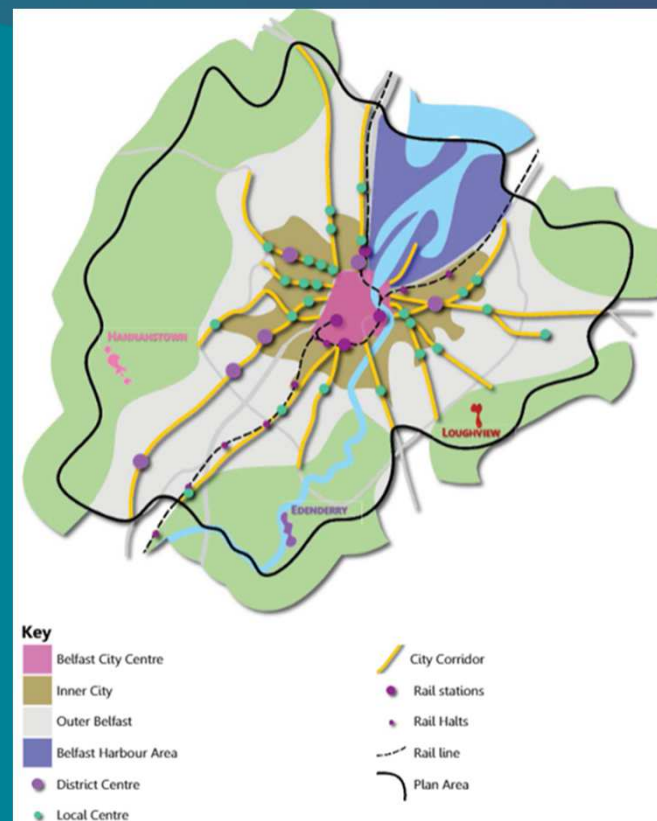


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Strategic Policies

- Growth Strategy
- Sustainable Development
- Improving Health and Wellbeing
- Community Cohesion
- Positive placemaking
- Environmental Resilience
- Connectivity
- Green and Blue Infrastructure



Growth
strategy

Sustainable
development

Improving
health and
wellbeing

Community
cohesion and
good relations

Positive
placemaking

Environmental
resilience

Connectivity

Green and blue
infrastructure



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Growth & Sustainable Development

Policy SP1 – Growth strategy

The growth strategy for the LDP can be summarised as follows:



Support
46,000
additional jobs



Our city is home
to an additional
66,000
people



550,000m²
of employment
floor space
(B-Use Class) 2020-2035



31,600
additional homes
2020-2035

Policy SP2 – Sustainable development

The council will have an overarching presumption in favour of sustainable development where it accords with the LDP, unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

Policy SP1 – Growth strategy

Policy SP1A – Managing growth and supporting infrastructure delivery

Policy SP2 – Sustainable development

The LDP is one of the key spatial tools to shape the physical form of Belfast through a sustainable approach that delivers the growth aspirations of the Belfast Agenda and RDS.



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Resilience and Green & Blue Infrastructure

SP6 - Environmental resilience

The council will support development where it helps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and is adaptable in a changing climate to build environmental resilience.

Policy SP8 – Green and blue infrastructure network

The council will support the development of a green and blue infrastructure network, designating and safeguarding sites and accesses required for the green and blue infrastructure network across the plan area.

Recognises the multi-benefits of green and blue infrastructure, including for climate resilience, biodiversity, wellbeing and community cohesion.

SP6 - Environmental resilience

Policy SP8 – Green & blue infrastructure network

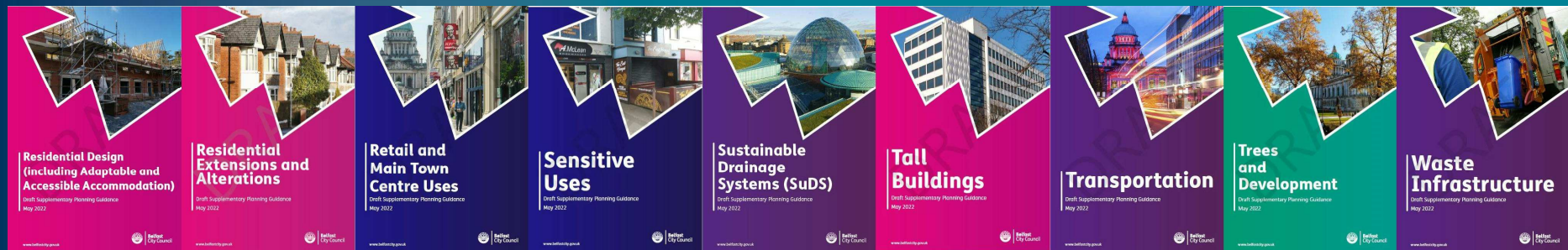
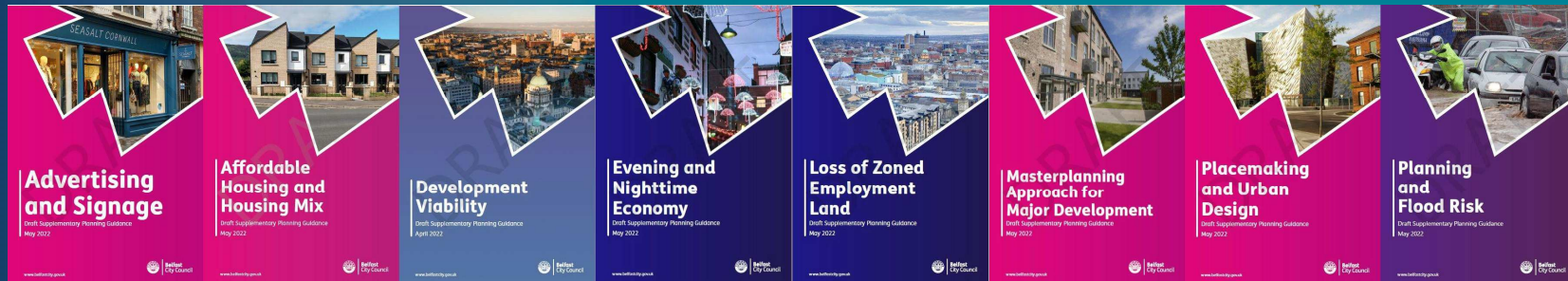


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107 Operational Plan Strategy Policies

17 Supplementary Planning Guidance Documents



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Growth: Policy HOU1– Accommodating new homes

There is a requirement for 31,660 new homes in Belfast over the period 2020-2035. This will be delivered in accordance with the requirements set out in the following table.

Settlement / Area	2020-2025	2026-2030	2031-2035	Total
Belfast city centre	1,600	2,800	3,600	8,000
Belfast Harbour estate	600	1,300	1,600	3,500
Rest of Belfast city	3,600	6,400	8,100	18,100
Small settlements total	-	30	30	60
Windfall	400	700	900	2,000
Total	6,200	11,230	14,230	31,660
Indicative Annual Average Rates	1,100-1,300	2,100-2,300	2,700-2,900	2,000-2,200



Support
46,000
additional jobs



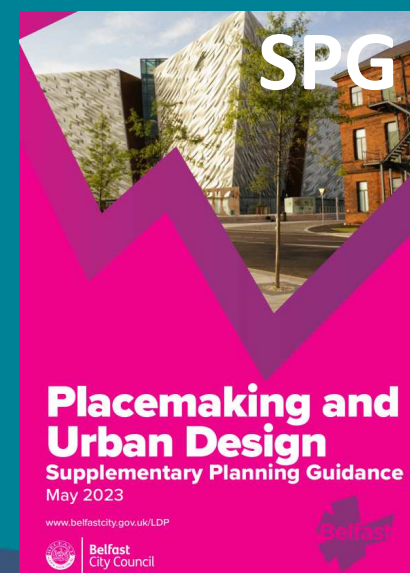
Our city is home
to an additional
66,000
people



550,000m²
of employment
floor space
(B-Use Class) 2020-2035



31,600
additional homes
2020-2035



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Policy ENV2 – Mitigating environmental change

Planning permission will be granted for development that incorporates measures to mitigate environmental change and reduce GHG by promoting sustainable patterns of development.

Development proposals should, where feasible, seek to avoid demolition and should consider how existing buildings or their main structures could be reused. Development proposals that include the demolition of existing buildings should demonstrate that reuse is not appropriate or feasible. Where demolition is proposed, measures should be included to minimise any waste through the reuse of as much building material as possible.

All new development proposals (including changes of use) will maximise opportunities to incorporate sustainable design features where feasible (such as grey water recycling, green roofs, maximising use of recycled materials, orientating buildings to optimise solar gain, energy efficiency).

Development proposals should, where appropriate, demonstrate the highest feasible and viable sustainability standards in the design, construction, operation and “end of life” phases of development in line with the ‘nearly zero carbon buildings’ strategy set out in the EU energy performance and buildings directive, where all new buildings are required to be ‘nearly zero carbon’ by 2020.

New policy to help mitigate climate change.

Sustainable patterns of development that reduce the need to travel, private car use, congestion, carbon emissions and air pollution.

Demolition of buildings should be last resort – such proposals must demonstrate why and reuse as much as possible.

Promote innovative building technologies and passive design.

Possible Statement of Sustainability – future guidance proposed.



ENV3 – Adapting to environmental change

Planning permission will be granted for development that incorporates measures to adapt to environmental change, in order to support sustainable and enduring development.

Measures to help adapt to the potential impacts may include the following:

- a. Managing coastal erosion, land instability, flood risk and promoting SuDS;
- b. Protecting and enhancing a green and blue infrastructure network in the city, including enhancing biodiversity and ecosystem services;
- c. Encouraging greater resilience to extreme weather conditions in the built environment and in transport, energy and other infrastructure; and
- d. Demonstrating how the design of the development minimises overheating and reduces reliance on air conditioning systems.

In order to minimise the impact of extreme weather conditions, new developments should also embed resilience to current and future climates, including:

- e. Where feasible, viable and sustainable, provide an accessible green roof to aid cooling, insulation and enhance biodiversity;
- f. Incorporate SuDS, including landscaping and tree planting;
- g. Demonstrate what measures have been included to ensure the safety of people and the protection of the development during extreme weather events;
- h. Demonstrate how the development integrates passive design and green infrastructure as part of the design process; and
- i. Demonstrate how the development is resilient to flood events.

New policy to help climate change adaptation.

Adaptation measures to ensure resilience, endurance and safety.

Demonstration of resilience measures for new development.

Green measures, passive design, public safety and severe weather/ flood resistance.

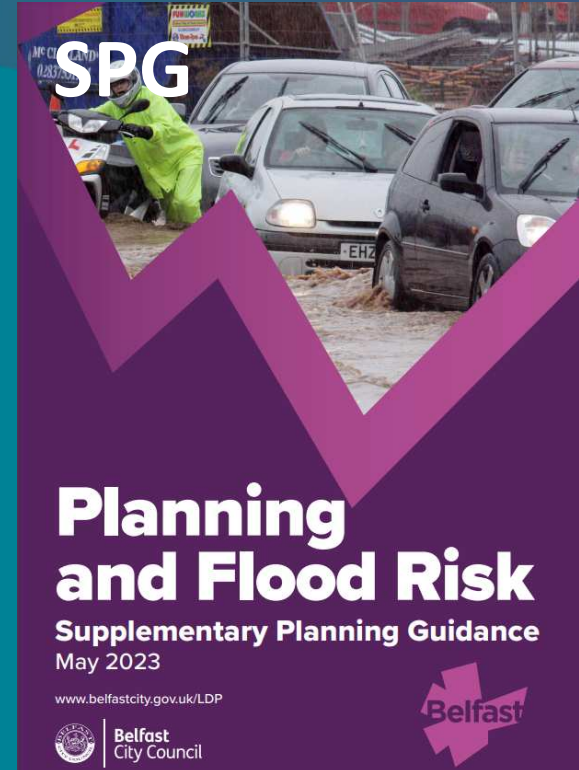


Policy: ENV4 – Flood risk

Planning applications in flood risk areas must be accompanied by an assessment of the flood risk in the form of a Flood Risk Assessment (FRA). The council will have regard to guidance publications produced by other authorities and prospective developers/applicants are advised to liaise early in the formulation of their proposals with DfI Rivers to clarify flooding or flood plain issues that may affect particular sites.

In all circumstances, the council will adopt a precautionary approach in assessing development proposals in areas that may be subject to flood risk presently or in the future as a result of environmental change predictions. All planning applications will be determined with reference to the most up to date flood risk information²⁴ available and in consultation with DfI Rivers and other relevant bodies as appropriate.

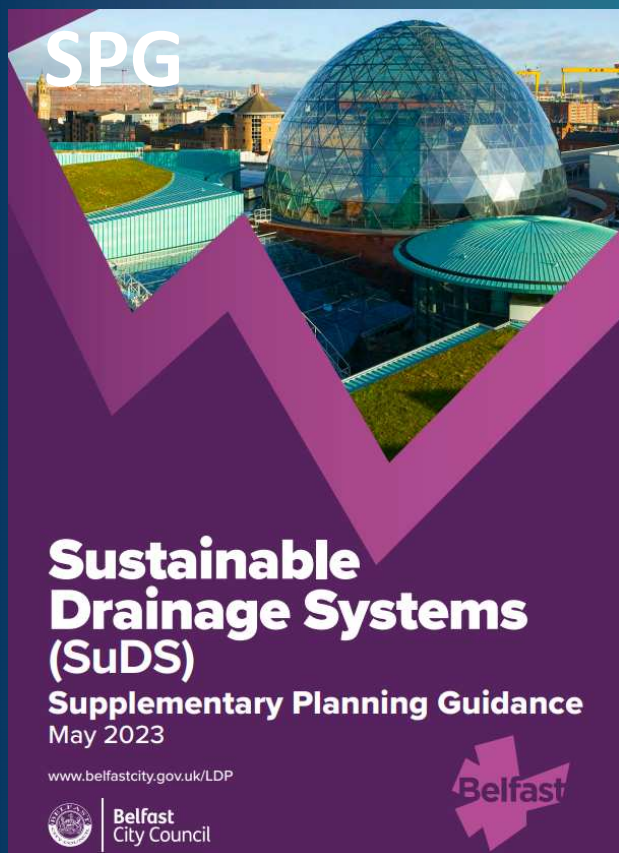
The SPPS sets out the planning policies for flood risk to minimise flood risk to people, property and the environment. The council will take full account of these in assessing development proposals.



Short policy based on the precautionary approach, cross referencing policies in SPPS. Accompanied by SPG to provide technical guidance. Taken together, generally in accordance with current flood risk policy – updated to take account of DfI Rivers guidance. DfI Rivers remains statutory consultee. No significant change in approach.



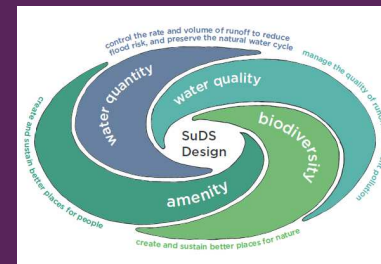
Policy: ENV5 – Sustainable drainage systems (SuDS)



All built development should include, where appropriate, SuDS measures to manage surface water effectively on site, to reduce surface water runoff and to ensure flooding is not increased elsewhere. A two stage SuDS treatment should be used, where possible, in order to improve water quality. An appropriate maintenance and management plan for all SuDS will require to be agreed with the council and a s76 planning agreement may also be sought.

Developers should consider the following SuDS measures to assist in minimising flood risk:

- Green roofs (intensive and/or extensive systems);
- Swales;
- Filter strips and filter drains;
- Permeable or porous paving;
- Detention basins;
- Open areas, ponds and wetlands; and
- Trees and landscaping.



Now an LDP requirement based on multiple benefits of 'soft SuDS'. The policy requires SuDS for most new developments.

Aligns with Green and Blue Infrastructure Plan (GBIP) and accompanied by SPG to provide additional context and guidance.



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Policy: GB1 – Green & blue infrastructure network

Planning permission will be granted for proposals that protect, augment, complement and/or improve the network and connectivity of green and blue infrastructure across the district. This includes the development of a network of community paths and greenways across the district, including those designated in the LDP, as well as the provision and improvement of public access to open space and other green and blue infrastructure resources, where this does not conflict with natural heritage interests or other matters, including amenity and public safety.

New development should incorporate green infrastructure features as part of the design, including green roofs and walls, SuDS, tree and hedgerow planting, and creating safe accessible links with neighbouring open space, in addition to providing open space on site, where appropriate.

The LDP will seek to secure improvements and expansion of the green and blue infrastructure network, including those identified in the LDP and/or the council's GBIP and associated strategies/action plans, as a result of new development. This may include the carrying out of agreed works by the developer or a financial contribution from the developer in lieu, having regard to the scale, nature and location of the proposed development and to the terms of supplementary guidance on these matters as published by the council.

The LDP will seek to safeguard designated and potential sites and corridors that form part of the network of green and blue infrastructure across the district and will only permit development either within or adjacent to such sites and corridors where it does not prejudice the retention, use, enhancement or further development of the network. Such development proposals should, where appropriate, incorporate access to the green and blue infrastructure network.

New policy to help create and protect network of G&B infrastructure across Belfast to help deliver multiple benefits.

Aligns with GBIP and brings it (and associated plans/strategies) into LDP.

Generally informs other operational policies, including open space, trees, resilience.



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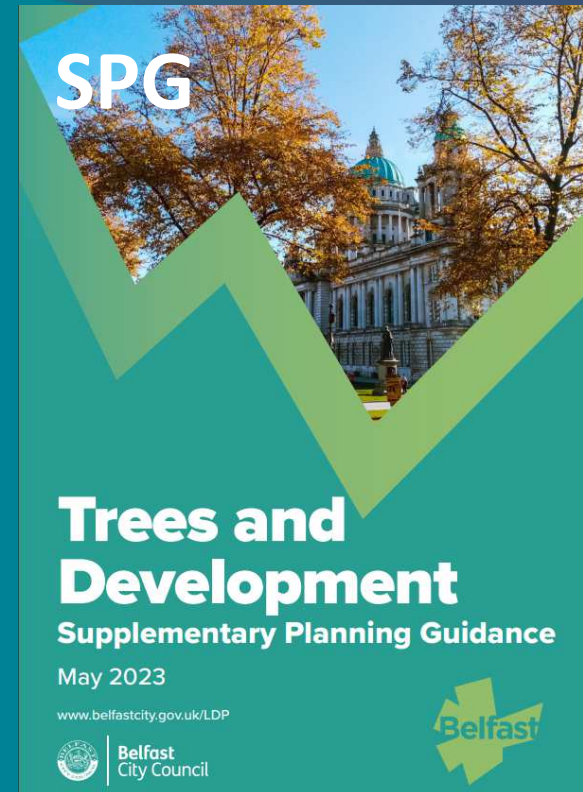
Policy NH1—Protection of natural heritage resources

The council will adopt the precautionary principle when considering the impacts of a proposed development on local, national or international natural heritage resources, including designated sites, protected species and the other important interests of biodiversity and geodiversity.

In assessing new development proposals, the council will seek to ensure the protection of the district's natural heritage and biodiversity. New development will not have an unacceptable effect, either directly, indirectly, or cumulatively, on sites, habitats, species or ecosystems and networks that are important for their nature conservation, biodiversity or geodiversity value. This includes designated sites, habitats and species protected by law, priority habitats & species and other important nature conservation and biodiversity interests and ecological networks.

The council will have due regard to the relative importance and levels of protection afforded to the hierarchy of international, national and local designated sites and to habitats and species in considering development proposals. In this regard, proposals that have, or could have, a significant effect on an international site will not be supported by the council. Proposals that have an adverse effect on a national site or a significant adverse effect on a local site will not be supported.

The council will require developers to undertake appropriate site surveys and assessments for consideration prior to planning applications being determined.

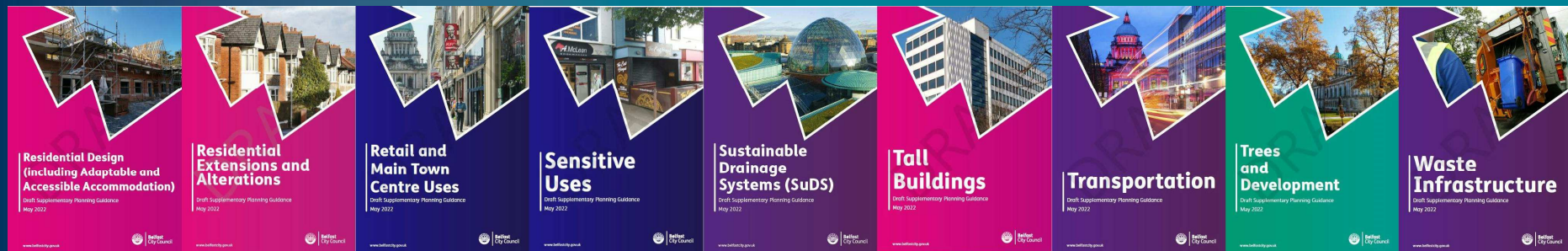
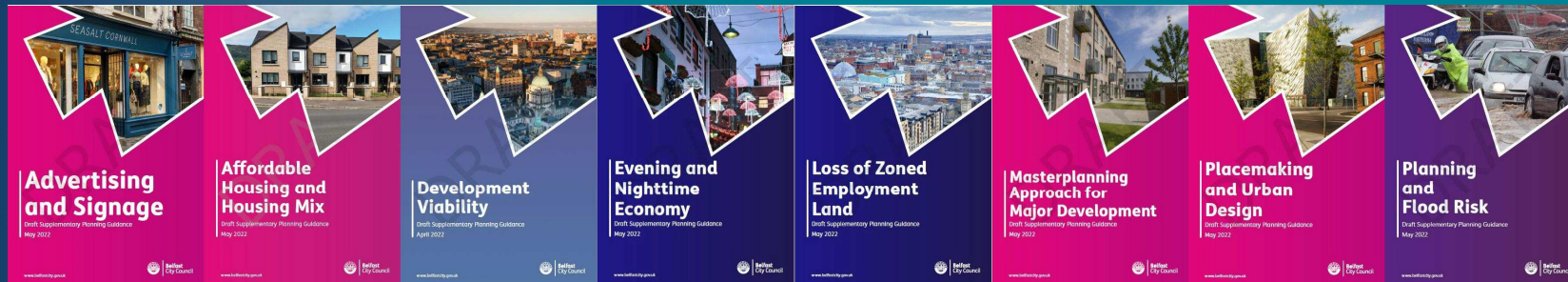


- The careful design of new development should ensure that there is no damage to nature conservation interests.
- Through the application of this policy the precautionary principle approach seeks to ensure the protection of important natural heritage interests.



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17 x Supplementary Planning Guidance



Belfast
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Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG)

- Advertising and Signage
- Affordable Housing and Housing Mix
- Development Viability
- Evening & Night time Economy
- Loss of Zoned Employment Land
- Masterplanning Approach for Major Development
- Placemaking and Urban Design
- Planning and Flood Risk
- Residential Design (including Adaptable and Accessible Accommodation)
- Residential Extensions and Alterations
- Retail & Main Town Centre Uses
- Sensitive Uses
- Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)
- Tall Buildings
- Transportation
- Trees and Development
- Waste Infrastructure



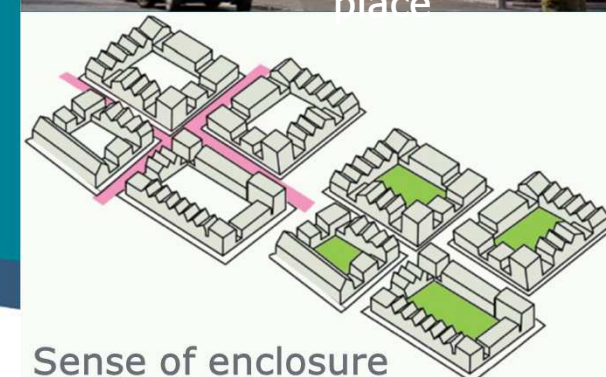
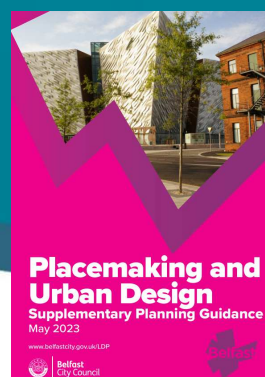
Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG)

- Non statutory planning guidance that support clarifies and illustrates by example policies included in the proposed planning policy framework
- It is a material consideration in determining planning applications but must be read in conjunction with the LDP
- In addition to local SPG produced by the council, the DfI may produce regional SPG in relation to regional planning policies.
- Commitment at Independent Examination (Consultation and parallel adoption with Plan Strategy)



SPG – Placemaking and Urban Design

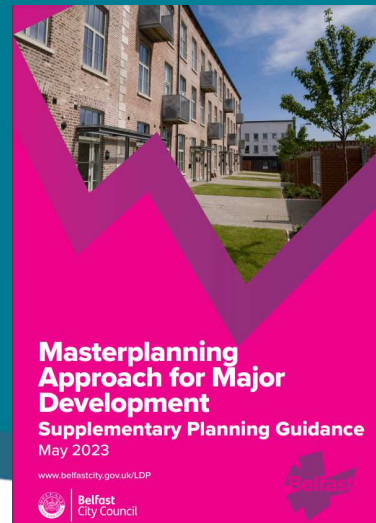
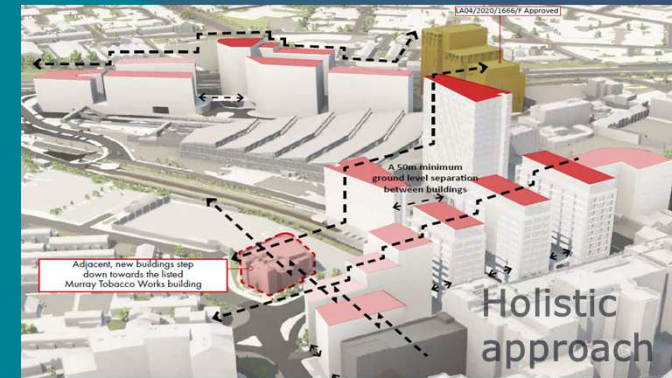
- Supports development that maximises core principles of good placemaking
- Emphasis on the importance of design as a strategic consideration
- Understanding how local context and character influences built form including heritage, layout, scale, height, materials and architectural language
- Reinforces a sense of place by emphasising locally distinctive features



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SPG – Masterplanning Approach

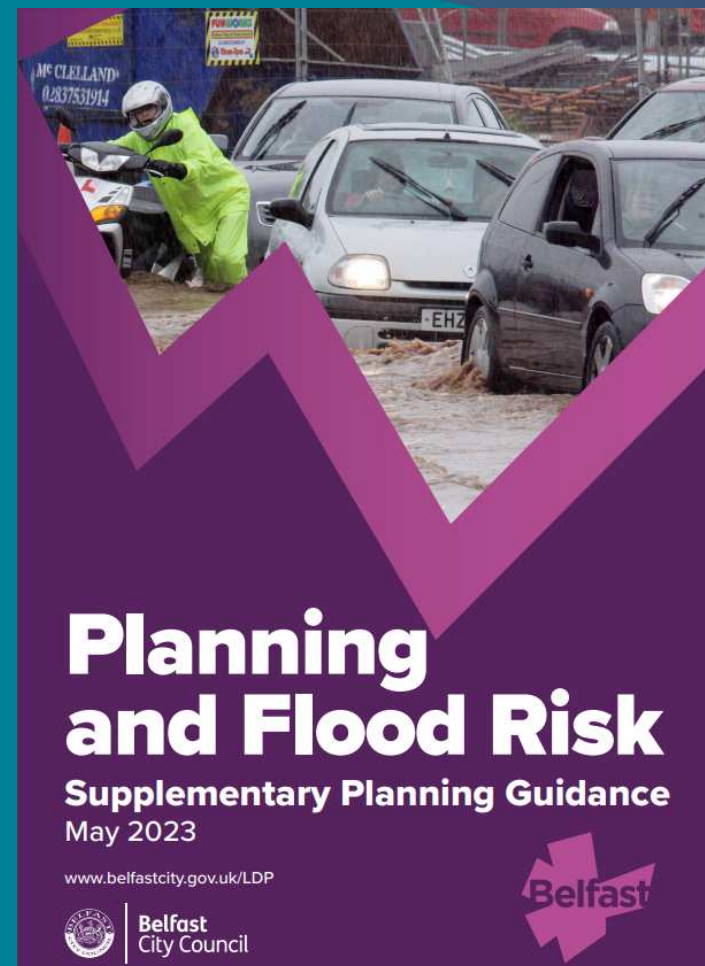
- Promotes a holistic approach to site assembly, layout and design that is mindful of adjacent sites
- Encourages higher densities appropriate for city living and a growing economy
- Maximises solutions to deliver energy efficiencies (BREEAM 'excellent')
- Promotes opportunities for urban repair and greater connectivity



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SPG – Planning and flood risk

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	Appendix E: Assessing Flood Risk and Drainage Impact.....	59
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SPG – Sustainable drainage systems (SuDS)

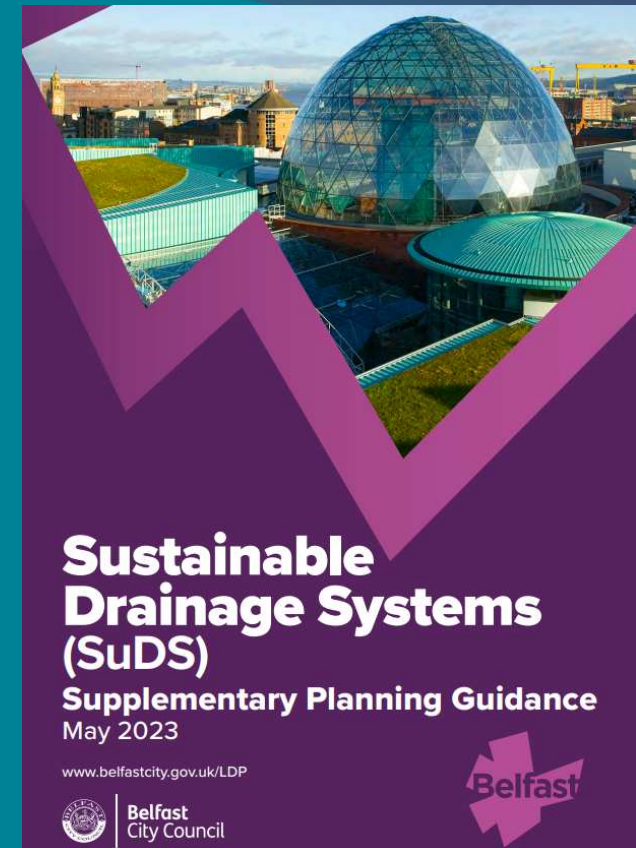
Sets out context of traditional drainage arrangements and implications for Belfast.

Includes “Myth-busting” section.

Aimed at all scales of development.

Non-technical design guidance - illustrated with photos of examples and simple diagrams.

Provides practical solutions for a range of typical types, scales and locations of development.



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SPG – Trees and Development

Replaces best practice guide by former DoE.

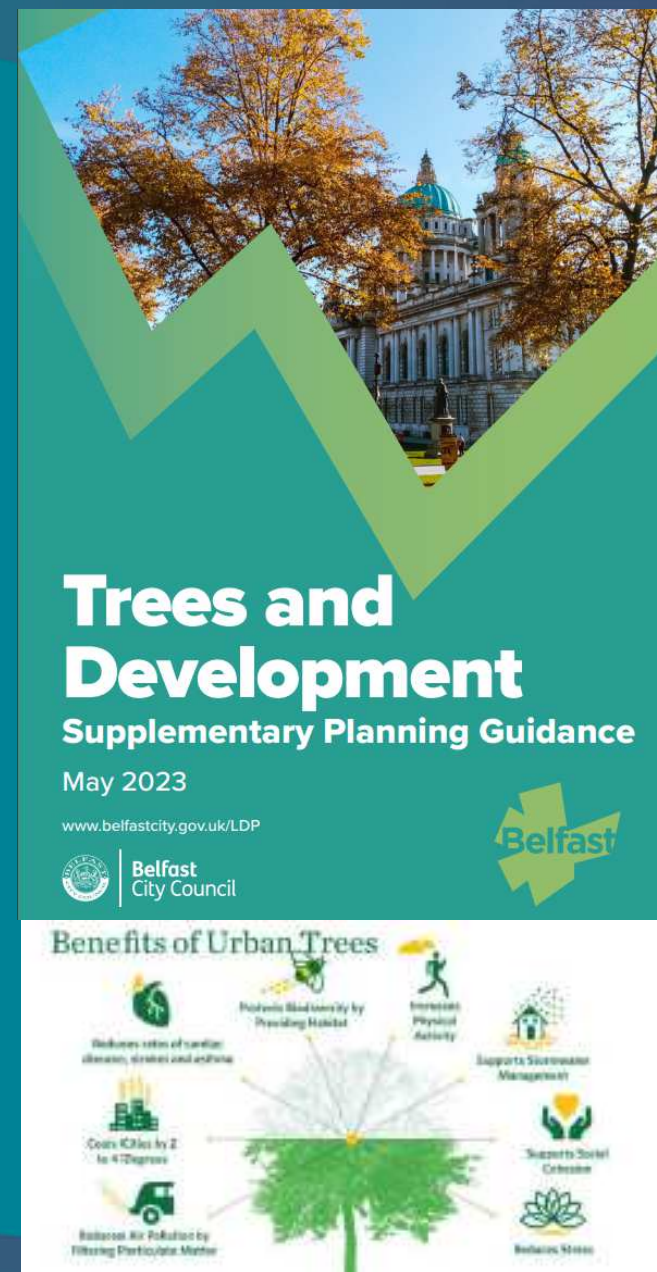
Sets out multiple benefits and value of trees
- links to other environmental policy aims.

Advice on incorporating existing and new trees in development.

Advice on how to carry out works around trees.

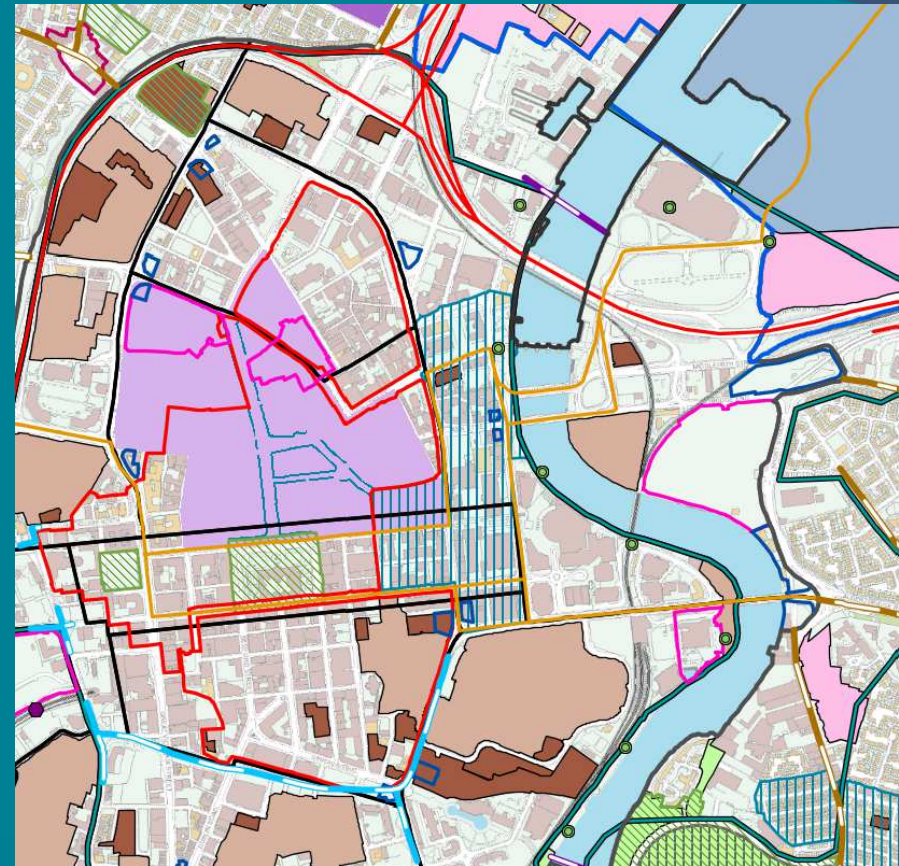
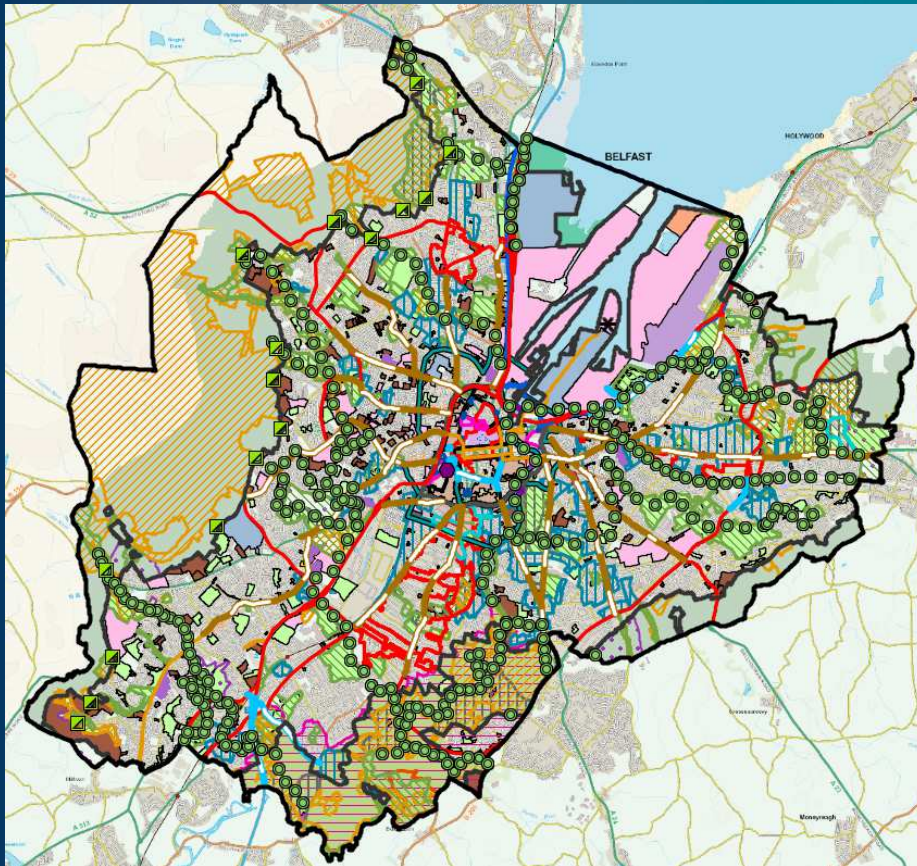
Photos and illustrations of best practice.

Outlines some technical terms and further sources of information.



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Next Stage: Local Policies Plan



Belfast
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Adoption of LDP Plan Strategy

[Home](#) > [Planning and building control](#) > [Planning](#) > [Local Development Plan](#) > [Adoption of LDP Plan Strategy](#)

[About the Belfast Local Development Plan \(LDP\)](#)
[Adoption of LDP Plan Strategy](#)
[LDP Supplementary Planning Guidance](#)
[Draft plan strategy \(dPS\)](#)
[Preferred options paper \(POP\)](#)
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[Adoption of LDP Plan Strategy](#)

Adoption of LDP Plan Strategy

Belfast Local Development Plan – Plan Strategy (May 2023) is formally adopted

Belfast City Council's Local Development Plan Strategy has been agreed for formal adoption on the 2 May 2023.

The Belfast Local Development Plan – Plan Strategy (May 2023) and supporting documentation is [available in our LDP Library](#).

[Supplementary planning guidance documents](#) associated with a number of the policies in the new Plan Strategy (May 2023) are now available.

All documentation is also available to view at the Planning Service reception during normal public opening hours in Cecil Ward Building, Linenhall Street.

[View the Adoption of LDP Plan Strategy documents ▶](#)

Supplementary Planning Guidance - May 2023

These SPG documents were subject to public consultation at draft stage from 12 May 2022 to 4 August 2022.

Document title	File format and size
Affordable housing and housing mix	HTML
Download SPG001 Affordable Housing and Housing Mix	PDF - 3.3MB
Development viability	HTML
Download SPG002 Development Viability	PDF - 3MB
Download SPG002A Viability Key Assumptions	PDF - 1.5MB
Residential design (including adaptable and accessible accommodation)	HTML
Download SPG003 Residential Design (including Adaptable and Accessible Accommodation)	PDF - 9.9MB
Residential extensions and alterations	HTML
Download SPG004 Residential Extensions and Alterations	PDF - 6.5MB
Placemaking and urban design	HTML
Download SPG005 Placemaking Urban Design	PDF - 9.6MB
Tall buildings	HTML
Download SPG006 Tall Buildings	PDF - 3.4MB

[https://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/Planning-and-building-control/Planning/Local-development-plan-\(1\)/Local-development-plan/Adoption-of-Plan-Strategy-documents](https://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/Planning-and-building-control/Planning/Local-development-plan-(1)/Local-development-plan/Adoption-of-Plan-Strategy-documents)



Thank You



Belfast
City Council



Subject:	Update on Belfast Retrofit Delivery Hub
Date:	9 November 2023
Reporting Officer:	John Tully, Director Organisational and City Strategy
Contact Officers:	Debbie Caldwell, Belfast Climate Commissioner Brenda Roddy, Project Support Officer (Climate),

Restricted Reports									
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>								
<p>Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.</p> <p>Insert number <input style="width: 40px; height: 20px;" type="text"/></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Information relating to any individual 2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual 3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information) 4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter 5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained 6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction 7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime 									
<p>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 70%;">After Committee Decision</td> <td style="width: 30%; text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>After Council Decision</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sometime in the future</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Never</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><input type="checkbox"/></td> </tr> </table>		After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>	Never	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>								
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>								
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>								
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>								
Call-in									
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>								

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1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update Members on the Belfast Retrofit Delivery Hub
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <p>i) note the contents of the report</p>
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>Background</p> <p>Belfast Retrofit Delivery Hub was established in November 2022 following publication of the Belfast Net Zero Carbon Roadmap which identified that emissions from domestic, public and commercial buildings account for 63% of the city's greenhouse gas emissions. The Hub recognises that the majority of buildings in Belfast in 2035 already exist, and as a result, there is a need to focus resources on improving energy efficiency and decarbonising the heat supply to these buildings in order to achieve emission reduction targets and reduce energy costs.</p> <p>The Hub takes a consortium approach to catalyse retrofit activity across the public, commercial and private building sectors in Belfast, engaging stakeholders from across the construction supply chain, funders, academics, public bodies, housing providers and consumer bodies. Belfast City Council's Climate Team convenes and supports the Hub's activities as part of the wider support the team provides for the Belfast Community Planning Partnership. The Hub's work is informed by the National Retrofit Strategy produced by the Construction Leadership Council and is Chaired by Peter Roberts (previously chair of NIHE) with technical advisory support provided by Professor Alice Owen from Leeds University.</p>
3.2	<p>The Hub's principal duties are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To identify opportunities for retrofit across the city and bring together the partners who can realise those opportunities. • To identify and endorse the required standards of building performance that retrofit in Belfast needs to achieve. • To identify ways of supporting the economic activity, skills and jobs that achieving those standards requires • To draw together partners to source and release funding, using a funding-ready rather than a funding-led approach. • To promote a collaborative, solutions approach sharing knowledge across ownership and tenure. • To ensure engagement with stakeholders across the city, and to support and promote complementary initiatives. • To ensure that retrofit work considers climate resilience. • To report on progress, initially to the Community Planning Partnership's Resilience and Sustainability Board
3.3	<p>Achievements and process to date</p> <p>Participants in the Belfast Retrofit Delivery Hub meetings over the past 12 months have confirmed the city's aspiration to transform the city's buildings in line with its carbon reduction commitments and discussions have generated a rich range of insights and potential interventions.</p> <p>Belfast's approach so far has had some distinctive features compared to how other cities are tackling the retrofit challenge:</p>

- **Stakeholders from all aspects of retrofit delivery have been involved** – including installers, customers, housing providers, property owners, policymakers, researchers. The benefits of getting the ‘whole system in a room’ have been evident in the information that has been shared and the depth and breadth of ideas produced.
- **Using the UK National Retrofit Strategy as a reference point** has enabled discussions to reflect on how delivering retrofit, at scale, is a complex problem where many different elements all need to move at once. Skills, technical standards, funding, policy/regulation, market demand, supply chain capacity have to be progressed in parallel.
- **Political constraints** – whilst there is frustration at the constraints imposed whilst the NI Assembly is not functioning, there is also the recognition that the city stakeholders need to do what they can rather than waiting for restoration of the Assembly’s functioning.
- **Aiming to be funding ready rather than funding led** i.e. developing the projects that the city needs and then finding ways to fund those projects.
- **Thinking through how to work across tenures** – most retrofit programmes focus on one tenure only.

Discussions have focussed mainly on the residential sector to date, in part because improving homes is an important social priority as well as being essential for carbon emissions reduction. This discussion has gone further than many other cities by including consideration of the private rented sector alongside social housing and owner-occupied homes. Hub participants have also identified a need to retrofit commercial and public buildings in parallel with upgrading the housing stock.

3.4 Next steps

Based on discussions to date, ten ‘work packages’ – clusters of actions – are proposed, to run in parallel:

Foundation Work Packages – cross-cutting activities that underpin all the actions:	1. Data and information 2. Co-ordination, learning and knowledge exchange. 3. Ensuring the just transition – checking for equality of opportunity
Themed Work Packages – clusters of actions identified:	4. Pipeline development & funding options 5. Creating customer demand – Improving understanding, creating the market 6. Building energy performance assessment and monitoring 7. Supply chain development
New work packages – filling important gaps:	8. Commercial sector 9. Local Area Energy Plan integration 10. Resilience assessment

A series of 43 actions was identified by Hub members, clustered into three work packages and ranked by a combination of potential level of impact, ease/difficulty of implementation, timescale to deliver and dependency on factors outwith the Hub. A full list of actions is included in Appendix A.

Task and finish groups are being set up for each work package with Hub members invited to lead and participate in those relating to their experience and expertise. The groups will examine the actions in detail, exploring if/how they can be taken forward and commencing work as appropriate. Workshops are scheduled to take place in late November 2023 with progress reported to the Hub consortium at its next quarterly meeting in January 2024.

Outputs of the task and finish groups will be integrated into and will serve as a delivery plan for the Draft Retrofit Strategy which will be a Hub consortium document. Plans are under development for a launch event of the strategy in February 2024.

4.0	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u>
4.1	None
5.0	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>
5.1	Corporate policies will be followed, and appropriate screening and mitigating actions for individual work packages delivered where necessary.
6.0	Appendices - Documents Attached Appendix A – Retrofit Hub Actions by Work Package (October 2023)

APPENDIX A: Belfast Retrofit Delivery Hub Actions by Work Package.

Subjective assessment of impact on delivering retrofit in Belfast
High
Medium
Low

1. FOUNDATION ACTIONS:

Foundation 1: data and information

Collate city wide data on housing in order to map housing stock and opportunities for domestic retrofit interventions - including wall type, potentially identifying pathfinder areas, tying in with LAEP.	High
Explore whether NISRA can collect more finely grained data around housing transactions to give a better sense of the impacts and potential for fiscal measures would be around creating the correct incentives.	Low

Foundation 2: Co-ordination, learning and knowledge exchange

Retrofit Hub to call for an NI retrofit strategy similar to the approach used by the Construction Leadership Council calling for one in England.	Medium
Public and private sector - explore support for intelligent client approach to help the Hub and members develop optimised funding and business cases.	Medium
Explore potential use of the UP2030 project area as a way to test how this might work, starting with borescope surveys of properties across the area.	Medium
Disseminate lessons from the Belfast Retrofit Hub process to the rest of NI interested parties to avoid duplication.	Low

Foundation 3: Ensuring the just transition – checking for equality of opportunity

Whole street / area approach: Develop criteria for area selection and establish principles for area based pathfinders	Low
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2. WORK PACKAGES:

WP 1: Pipeline development and financing options

3Ci - discuss opportunity for setting up a Net Zero Neighbourhood model investor event to explore Belfast context. Invite Hub finance experts to attend. (UP2030 project plans to submit an application for inclusion in the pitch document).	High
Energy Efficiency – development of existing schemes - Understand Affordable Warmth programme plans/gaps/potential uplift by BCC/NIHE/DFC – links to the Energy Strategy Action Plan	High
Seek clarity on the amount of ECO+ equivalent funding that will come to NI, and to Belfast.	High
Document the range of funding mechanisms, the kinds of projects they are suited for, and the actions which would unlock different finance.	High

Meet with the Chartered Institute of Buildings to explore if there are fiscal measures, (such as deferring Stamp Duty on properties for improvement) that could be introduced in order to have a sustainable income financing scheme to fund retrofit	Medium
Meet with Dept for the Economy in their new role in leading the Energy Management Forum to explore opportunities for joined up approach to retrofit of public built estate	Medium
Meet with Dept of Infrastructure and Strategic Investment Board to explore how the Public Sector Investment Pipeline can be utilised to identify energy efficiency retrofit opportunities for public sector clients and construction sector bidders.	Medium
Green bank loans – follow up discussion with banks to check if the debt for businesses can relate to properties that the business doesn't own, if there are any vehicles for retrofit across multiple houses and different tenures (that they don't own) achieving the 30% reduction across the whole.	Medium
Spend to save energy investment funds – discuss in greater detail with QUB and explore as an option for Retrofit Hub and LAEP	Medium
Get an update from NI Federation of Housing Associations on potential joined up funding bids with banks to feed into the Hub's work.	Medium
Explore if/ how the public sector pipeline database provides an opportunity for developing a city wide approach to building energy efficiency retrofit into the procurement programme.	Medium
Explore potential for Developer Contributions to support uplift in relevant area/s	Medium
Explore how public sector assets are currently offloaded – the scale involved, processes such as duty of care and any opportunities/ current practices to incentivise retrofit at point of sale - in order to share good practice.	Low
Keep retrofit and energy efficiency/decarbonisation on the regular call for public sector procurement directors.	Low

WP 2: Creating customer demand - Improving understanding, creating the market -

Meet with Dept for the Economy to follow up on outcomes of the public consultation on the proposed NI One Stop Shop model.	High
Homeowners - explore potential for linking the new NI One Stop Shop approach with People Powered Retrofit and SEAI models for opportunities to support a domestic project pipeline for able to pay homeowners,	High
Project commissioners - identify those commissioning and procuring Repair/Maintenance/Improvement I built environment projects throughout the area, assess knowledge gaps and explore training required to raise skills.	High
Engage with Consumer Council on how best to increase consumer awareness of what they can do and access - Review good practice for both awareness campaigns and consumer support e.g. "Green Doctor" programmes	High
Carry out market testing around the level of grant/subsidy that would be required to get property owners to participate in a tenure based programme.	Medium
Learn from the Belfast Health Trust's use of Performance Management Contracts to reduce energy use in existing estate and determine the scope to apply this more widely across the public sector.	Medium
Identifying, using and learning – together – from best practice Dublin City Council info exchange ROI learning – ongoing links through Shared Island potentially. UK learning – through Core Cities and PCAN. Globally - Resilient Cities Network, ICLEI, Horizon Programmes etc.	Medium
NIHE have regular meetings about procurement including sustainable procurement– invitations could be extended to relevant Hub members as appropriate.	Low

WP 3: Building energy performance assessment and monitoring

Explore with the banking sector the potential for taking elements of the financial industry alignment with the EPC system (which currently doesn't factor in the carbon emissions or encourage a whole of house approach), enhancing it with the SAP technical strengths and perhaps elements of the BER system.	High
Professional quality management – discussions to be held with the professional body for Building Control officers to assess how capacity can be built across the sector.	High
Identify funding and market opportunities (c £200k) to support the provision of whole house surveys (possible private sector partnership), and create an aggregated plan for an area based retrofit programme.	High
Explore a replicable home survey method (and report) which complies with EPC requirements but provide homeowners with a clear menu of actions.	High
Create a panel of impartial assessors who can carry out the surveys and produce reports	High
Engage with RICS to discuss evaluation principles and guidance for evaluation to ensure that energy efficiency improvements of households are reflected in valuations with clear guidance for evaluation professionals and the financial services - UU keen to engage	Medium
Establish the protocols to share survey reports	Medium
Agree a level of energy efficiency to aspire to	Medium

WP4: Supply chain development

Trainers and manufacturer partnership training - work with the training colleges and manufacturers to explore potential for replicating the successful cavity wall insulation programme in other retrofit measures that are likely to be in demand in the Belfast area e.g. external wall insulation (EWI), internal wall insulation (IWI), loft insulation, doors and windows.	High
Building merchant credit lines – check with banks and 3ci if their models can accommodate to reflect the credit lines required for contractors.	Medium
Identify how existing skills can be accredited, and how smaller skills gaps and uplifts can be supported (role for CITB?)	Medium
Engage with colleges to explore how retrofit skills might be integrated into broader construction skills training programmes – recognising that effective retrofit is actually a way of increasing quality and value for construction firms - Ongoing work to encourage retrofit be included in existing training programmes	Medium

3. FUTURE WORK PACKAGES:

NWP1: Commercial sector - No actions identified beyond those implicit in WP1: Pipeline and financing

NWP2: LAEP integration

Scrutinise emerging LAEP data to identify opportunities for non-domestic retrofit programmes	Medium
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NWP3: Resilience assessment

Consider resilience checking the programme for adaptation purposes - Link to TALX project (Climate NI)	Medium
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CLIMATE ACTION

Belfast Retrofit Delivery Hub
Update to Climate & City
Resilience Committee

Brenda Roddy, Climate Team

www.belfastcity.gov.uk/climate-change

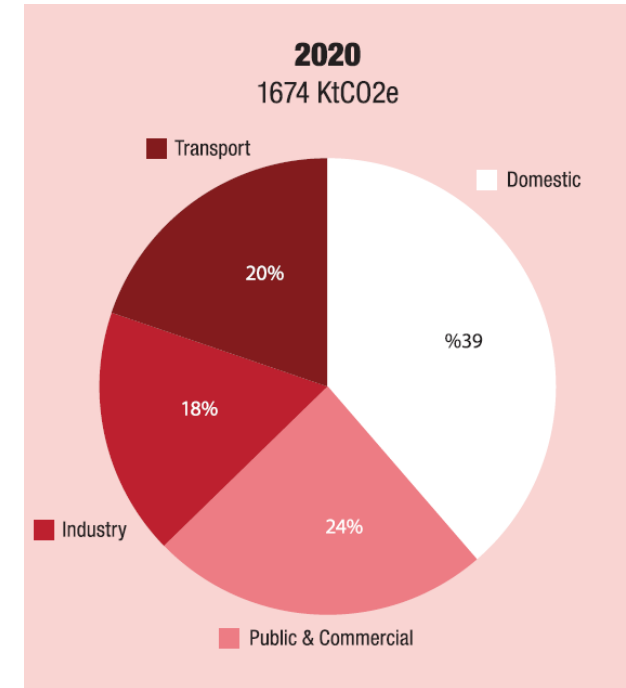
1. Outline



- Background reminder
- Journey so far
- Approach & key issues
- What we've learned in 1 year
- Turning ideas into actions
- Next steps

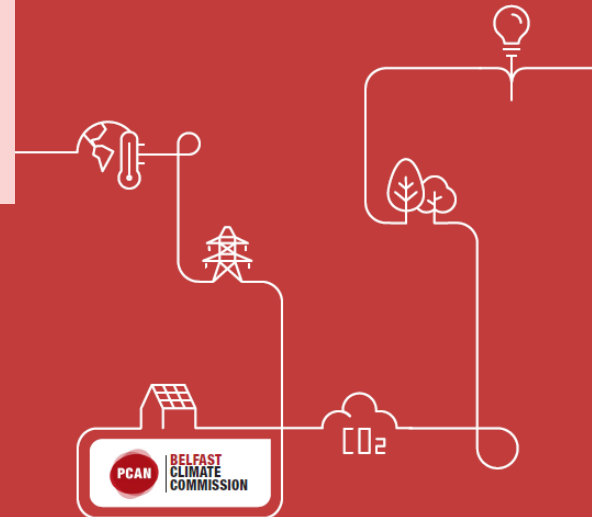
2. Background & context

- Grew out of the Carbon Road Map
- **Consortium** approach to **catalyse** retrofit activity across public and private building sectors
- Stakeholders across the supply chain
- Funding-ready approach
- National Retrofit Strategy UK



A NET-ZERO CARBON ROADMAP FOR BELFAST

Andy Gouldson, Andrew Sudmant, Jessica Boyd, Robert Fraser Williamson, John Barry & Amanda Slevin



3. Timeline



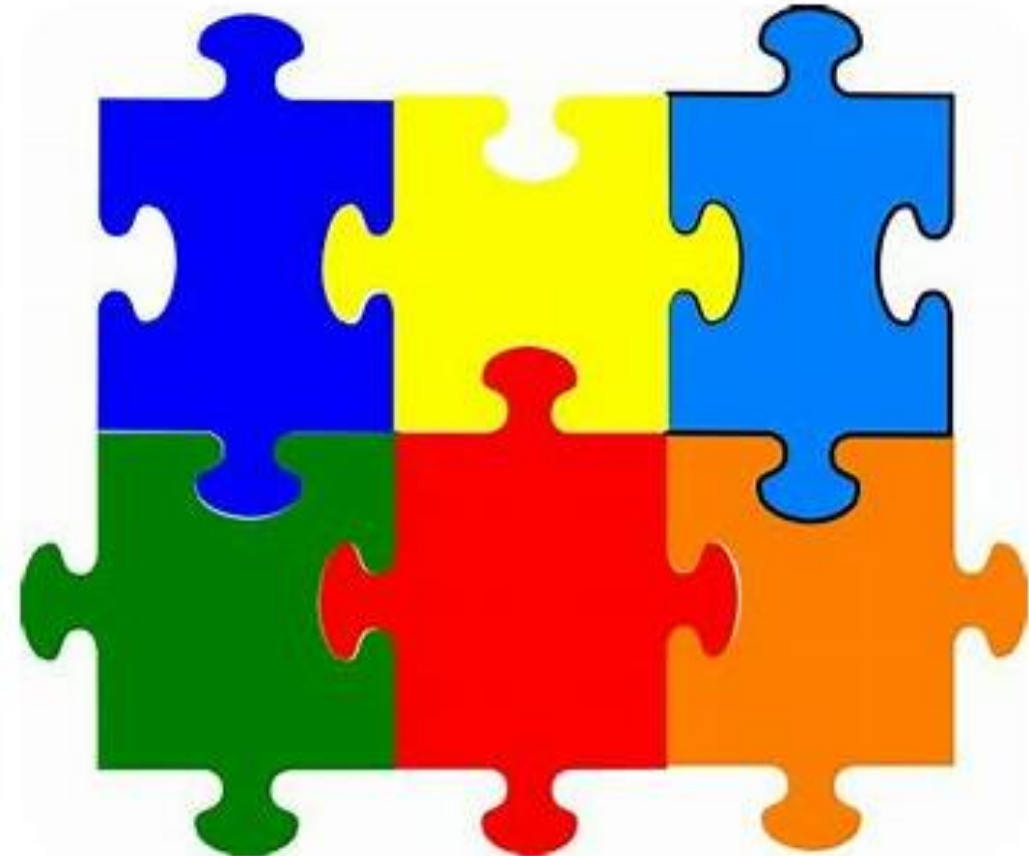
- **Nov 2022** -Terms of Ref & membership
- **Dec 2022 & March 2023** - identify issues & barriers
- **May 2023** - Draft strategy presented
- **June 2023** - round tables: actions needed to deliver
- **Oct 2023** – Draft options presented.
- Next steps under development.

3. Key Issues & Approach

UK National Retrofit Strategy :

- Energy efficiency
- Area pathfinders
- Standards and skills
- One stop shop for householders and for builders
- Funding and finance
- Public sector pipeline of retrofit work.

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4. What we learned – barriers & opportunities



ENERGY EFFICIENCY

- Understand stock & energy performance
- Assessments that inform action & measure results
- Educating householders

PATHFINDERS

- Low income & low energy performance homes
- Whole street
- Construction type
- Tenure type



5. What we learned – barriers & opportunities

STANDARDS & SKILLS

- Vital for quality, confidence & market building
- Limited appetite to investing from construction sector
- Construction sector challenges in skills & workforce
- Wide ranging solutions

ONE STOP SHOPS

- Support needed for all stakeholders
- Private sector hand holding model
- Wrap around service for householders



6. What we learned – barriers & opportunities

FUNDING & FINANCING

- Retail & public financing
- Spend to save in-house investment
- Fiscal levers - VAT & Stamp Duty

PROJECT PIPELINE OF WORKS

- Public Sector Infrastructure Pipeline
- Intelligent client approach



9. PUBLIC SECTOR PROJECT PIPELINE



Ten ‘work packages’ – clusters of actions – are proposed, to run in parallel (different timescales)



Foundation Work Packages – cross-cutting activities that underpin all the actions:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Data and information2. Co-ordination, learning and knowledge <u>exchange</u>3. Ensuring the just transition – checking for equality of opportunity
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New work packages - filling important gaps:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">8. Commercial sector9. LAEP integration10. Resilience assessment

10. Examples of potential actions



FUNDING & FINANCING

- Retail & public financing
- Spend to save in-house investment
- Fiscal levers - VAT & Stamp Duty

PROJECT PIPELINE OF WORKS

- Public Sector Infrastructure Pipeline
- New models of procurement
- Intelligent client approach

