

# Document Pack

**Democratic Services Section  
Chief Executive's Department  
Belfast City Council  
City Hall  
Belfast  
BT1 5GS**



20th January, 2015

## **MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in the Lavery Room (Room G05), City Hall on **Friday, 23rd January, 2015 at 10.00 am**, for the transaction of the business noted below.

You are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully,

SUZANNE WYLIE

Chief Executive

### **AGENDA:**

#### **1. Routine Matters**

- (a) Apologies
- (b) Minutes
- (c) Declarations of Interest

#### **2. Democratic Services and Governance**

- (a) Cancellation of February Committee Meeting (Pages 3 - 4)
- (b) Use of the City Hall and Provision of Civic Hospitality (Pages 5 - 10)
- (c) Award of Freedom of the City (Pages 11 - 14)

#### **3. Finance/Value-for-Money**

- (a) Minutes of the Audit Panel of 14th January (Pages 15 - 32)

- (b) Minutes of Budget and Transformation Panel of 12th January (Pages 33 - 34)

4. **Human Resources**

- (a) Standing Order 55 - Employment of Relatives (Pages 35 - 36)

5. **Asset Management**

- (a) Combined Asset Management (Pages 37 - 40)
- (b) Disposal of Land - Slievegallion (Pages 41 - 52)

6. **Good Relations and Equality**

- (a) Minutes of Good Relations Partnership of 12th January (Pages 53 - 58)

7. **Cross-Cutting Issues**

- (a) Flood Alleviation in Belfast (Pages 59 - 138)
- (b) Homelessness in Belfast (Pages 139 - 142)

**To: The Chairman and Members of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee**



### Belfast City Council

<b>Report to</b>	<b>Strategic Policy and Resources Committee</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Cancellation of February Meeting</b>
<b>Date:</b>	23rd January, 2015
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager (Ext 6314)

<b>1</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
1.1	The Committee is requested to consider the cancellation of its scheduled monthly meeting on 13th February, 2015.

<b>2</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
2.1	As Members will be aware, there is just over two months to go until the new Council for Belfast formally takes over from the existing Council.
2.2	There are a number of important decisions for the Shadow Strategic Policy and Resources Committee to take before the end of March and that Committee has requested that a special meeting is held on 13th February to consider a range of governance matters that need to be decided upon in that month.
2.3	The Chief Officers of the several Council Departments have indicated that it would not have any major operational implications if the scheduled meeting of the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee were to be cancelled on 13th February and replaced by a special meeting of the Shadow Committee.

<b>3</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
3.1	None.

<b>4</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Implications</b>
4.1	None associated with this report

<b>5</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
5.1	The Committee is recommended to cancel its scheduled meeting on 13th February 2015 and to note that a special meeting of the Shadow Strategic Policy and Resources Committee will be held at 10.00am on that date.



### Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Requests for the use of the City Hall and the provision of Hospitality
<b>Date:</b>	Friday, 23rd January, 2015
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Mr. Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager (Ext. 6314)

<b>1.</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
1.1	Members will recall that the Committee, at its meeting on 26th September, 2003, agreed to the criteria which would be used to assess requests from external organisations for the use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality. Subsequently the Committee at its meeting on 7th August, 2009, further amended the criteria so as to incorporate the new Key Themes as identified in the Council's Corporate Plan.
<b>2.</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
2.1	The revised criteria have been applied to each of the requests contained within the appendix and recommendations have been made to the Committee on this basis.
<b>3.</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
3.1	Provision has been made in the revenue estimates for hospitality.
<b>4.</b>	<b>Equality Implications</b>
4.1	N/A
<b>5.</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
5.1	The Committee is asked to approve the recommendations as set out in the Appendix.
<b>6.</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
Officer responsible – Kate McCafferty	
<b>7.</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
Not applicable.	
<b>8.</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
Appendix 1 – Schedule of Applications	

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Appendix 1

<b>Organisation/ Body</b>	<b>Event/Date - Number of Delegates/Guests</b>	<b>Request</b>	<b>Comments</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
Cancer Focus Northern Ireland	European Cancer Leagues Annual Conference Dinner  12th November, 2015  Approximately 60 attending	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a drinks reception	Delegates will be staying in accommodation in Belfast and the meeting will take place within the city.  This event would contribute to the Council's Key Theme of 'City Leadership – Strong, Fair, Together'.	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of wine and soft drinks  Approximate cost £300
Belfast Chamber of Trade and Commerce	Belfast Business Awards 2015  27th May, 2015  Approximately 350 attending	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of a drinks reception	This event will provide the opportunity to reward and acknowledge the work of the many businesses throughout Belfast who contribute not only to economic well-being of the City but also provide employment for many of the City's citizens.  This event would contribute to the Council's Key Themes of 'City Leadership - strong, fair, together' and 'Better opportunities for success across the city'.	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of wine and soft drinks  Approximate cost £500
Common Purpose	Meridian Course Final Day and Award Ceremony  6th August, 2015  Approximately 50 attending	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea/coffee and biscuits.	'Meridian' is a leadership programme that brings together a diverse group of leaders from the private, public, voluntary and community sectors. The participants learn how to improve their capacity to lead, effect change and expand their networks through the investigation of real-life challenges.  This event will recognise the achievements of those individuals who have successfully completed the Meridian Programme.  This event would contribute to the Council's Key Themes of 'City Leadership - strong, fair, together' and 'Better opportunities for success across the city'.	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea/coffee and biscuits.  Approximate Cost £125
Belfast Teachers' Credit Union	50th Anniversary Celebration  9th October, 2015  Approximately 250	The use of the City Hall	This event will celebrate 50 years of the Belfast Teachers' Credit Union and its work in supporting not only its members but also young student	The use of the City Hall

	attending		<p>teachers in Belfast through its scholarship scheme, together with donations to various charities in the City and also to international charities.</p> <p>This event would contribute to the Council's Key Themes of 'City Leadership – Strong, Fair, Together' and 'Better support for people and communities'.</p>	
Black Mountain Shared Space Project	<p>Launch of Shared Neighbourhood Survey</p> <p>21st April, 2015</p> <p>Approximately 50 attending</p>	The use of the City Hall	<p>This event will provide the opportunity to present the results of the cross-community survey undertaken to ascertain residents' views on all aspects of local services.</p> <p>This event would contribute to the Council's Key Themes of 'Better support for people and communities' and 'Better Services – listening and delivering'.</p>	The use of the City Hall
Belfast Men's Health Group	<p>Men's Health Week Event 2015</p> <p>18th June, 2015</p> <p>Approximately 300 attending</p>	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea/coffee and biscuits	<p>This event will build on the success of the 2012, 2013 and 2014 events and will focus on the theme of Men's Health Week "Voices" with the aim of highlighting how others deal with traumatic experiences, overcome adversity and which forms of support they found most beneficial.</p> <p>This event aims to promote the importance of men taking part in physical activity while highlighting the range of activities they can participate in to enhance their health.</p> <p>This event would contribute to the Council's Key Themes of 'City Leadership – Strong, Fair, Together', 'Better opportunities for success across the city' and 'Better support for people and communities'.</p>	<p>The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of tea/coffee and biscuits</p> <p>Approximate cost £750</p>
Belfast Health and Social Care Trust	<p>Service of Remembrance for Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children</p> <p>18th October,</p>	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of Tea, Coffee and Biscuits	This event will provide an opportunity for bereaved parents and relatives of children to come together and remember their loved ones and to share their experiences with other	The use of the City Hall and the provision of hospitality in the form of Tea, Coffee and Biscuits



	<p>2015</p> <p>Approximately 350 attending</p>		<p>parents.</p> <p>300 parents and children along with staff from the Royal Belfast Hospital for Sick Children participate and every year the Lord Mayor is invited to attend to light the Candle of Remembrance.</p> <p>This event would contribute to the Council's Key Theme of 'City Leadership – Strong, Fair, Together'</p>	<p>Approximate cost £875</p>
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# Agenda Item 2c

By virtue of paragraph(s) 2 of the Council's Policy on the Publication of Committee Reports on the Internet.

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## **Audit Panel**

Tuesday, 13th January, 2015

### **MEETING OF AUDIT PANEL**

Members present: Alderman Rodgers (Chairman);  
Councillors Jones and Mullan; and Mr. D. Bell.

In attendance: Mr. R. Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources;  
Mr. A. Harrison, Head of Audit, Governance and  
Risk Services;  
Mr. M. McBride, Head of Finance and Performance;  
Mr. L. Mulholland, Audit, Governance and Risk  
Services Manager;  
Mrs. E. Eaton, Corporate Health and Safety Manager;  
Mr. T. Wallace, Financial Accounting Manager;  
Mr. R. Allen, Director, Northern Ireland Audit Office;  
Mr. A. Knox, Audit Manager, Northern Ireland Audit  
Office;  
Ms. L. Francey, Democratic Services Officer; and  
Mr. H. Downey, Democratic Services Officer.

### **Apology**

An apology was reported on behalf of Alderman M. Campbell.

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meetings of 16th September and 21st October were taken as read and signed as correct.

### **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were reported.

### **Head of Audit, Governance and Risk Services**

The Chairman, on behalf of the Panel, congratulated Mr. Andrew Harrison on being appointed recently to the post of Head of Audit, Governance and Risk Services and wished him well in the role.

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**Report to those charged with Governance 2013/2014**

The Panel was advised that the Council had received from the Local Government Auditor her Report to those Charged with Governance for 2013/2014. The report summarised the system/control issues which had been identified as a result of an audit of the Council's financial statements for that period.

The Director of Finance and Resources reported that the Northern Ireland Audit Office had, within the Audit Strategy which it had published in February, 2014, following an assessment of the Council's operation and control environment, identified three significant risks. Those risks related to the identification of provisions and their recording within the accounts, to the incurring of ineligible expenditure on European Union funded projects which did not adhere to the terms and conditions set out within their Letter of Offer and to the effective delivery of the Council's Investment Programme, should key staff continue to be occupied with managing Local Government Reform rather than undertaking their normal activities.

In addition, the Local Government Auditor had made recommendations in relation to sixteen areas, five of which had been identified as being 'Priority One' in nature, in that they had the potential to result in material weakness in internal control and required immediate attention by the Council. Those related to the North Foreshore Landfill Site, impairment balances and asset revaluation, Sections 37 and 40 expenditure, an unaccounted for asset (landfill gas) and a measured term contract tender advertisement. Of the remaining eleven areas, four had been designated as 'Priority Two' status, which required them to be addressed by management within their areas of responsibility, and seven had been designated as being 'Priority Three', which were considered to be of a more minor nature which represented best practice.

The Director of Finance and Resources confirmed that management would monitor the progress made in addressing the three significant risks and the sixteen recommendations which had been identified by the Local Government Auditor and that the Audit Panel would receive regular updates on those issues through the Audit Recommendations Monitor Report.

After discussion, the Panel noted the information which had been provided and that a copy of the Northern Ireland Audit Office's Report to those charged with Governance 2013/2014 was available on the Mod.gov website.

**Annual Audit Letters 2013/2014**

The Panel was informed that the Local Government Auditor, as an independent auditor of the Council, sought to ensure that the Council had appropriate arrangements in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in the use of its resources and that public money was properly accounted for.

The Director of Finance and Resources reported that Article 13 of the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 required the Council to publish, as soon as was reasonably practicable, an Annual Audit Letter setting out the findings by the Northern Ireland Audit Office of its audit of the Council's accounts. Annual Audit Letters had now been issued for 2013/2014 for both the Belfast City Council and the Belfast Statutory Transition Committee.

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In terms of the Belfast Statutory Transition Committee, he pointed out that there had been no significant, important or best practice findings arising from the audit and that the accounts had been given an unqualified opinion by the Chief Local Government Auditor. In addition, the Annual Governance Statement had been found to be in compliance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2013/2014 and with the practices specified by the Department of the Environment and was not misleading or inconsistent with other information within the audit.

The Director of Finance and Resources pointed out that, in relation to Belfast City Council, the Chief Local Government Auditor had noted a number of minor and material adjustments to the draft accounts for 2013/2014, which had been given an unqualified opinion. The Annual Governance Statement had been found to comply with the relevant requirements and a review of five of the ten areas which were used within the Northern Ireland Audit Office's Code of Practice to assess value for money had confirmed that the Council had appropriate arrangements in place. The Chief Local Government Auditor had highlighted the fact that there had, since 2005, been a significant reduction in the Council's sickness absence figures and that the robust, fair and consistent management of attendance continued to be a priority for the organisation.

During discussion, a Member suggested that the Annual Audit Letter for Belfast City Council should include a comment confirming that the Council's reserves were at a level which would be expected by the Northern Ireland Audit Office and highlighting the importance of maintaining them at that level.

In response, Mr. Allen confirmed that the Northern Ireland Audit Office would examine ways in which it could communicate that information in future. The Director of Finance and Resources added that it was not considered to be good practice to use general reserves to finance recurring expenditure and pointed out that the report which would on 16th January be presented to the Shadow Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on the setting of the rate for 2015/2016 would provide information on the Council's reserves and recommend that they be maintained at their current level.

The Panel noted the information which had been provided in relation to the Annual Audit Letters for 2013/2014 and that copies of the documents could be viewed on the Mod.gov website.

**Corporate Risk Management**

The Panel considered the following report:

**“1 Relevant Background Information**

**The purpose of this report is to:**

- a) advise the Audit Panel of the main issues arising from the review by Chief Officers of the corporate risks and**

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- to present the updated corporate risk register for the quarter end September, 2014 for review and approval
- b) report to the Audit Panel on the assurance provided by Directors, in consultation with their departmental risk champions on the risk management processes within their department
  - c) report to the Audit Panel on the findings from the recent AGRS reviews of the management of four key corporate risks.

**2     Key Issues**

**Updates to the Corporate Risk Register and Compliance with Risk Management Processes**

- 2.1 Following the quarterly review, Directors have confirmed that they are content that the corporate risk register reflects the key risks facing the Council and that they are appropriately assessed. The main updates arising from this review are as follows:

**2.2     Emergency Planning**

The Head of Environmental Health and Lead Compliance Officer highlighted that the new Council area will bring with it more flooding hotspots and that they are considering the resource implications.

**2.3     EU / External Funding**

The Director of Property and Projects emphasised the risks around EU / external funding for major projects in terms of the impact of project implementation and the corporate approach to programme management. An internal audit of the capital programme is underway and will examine programme management arrangements in more detail.

- 2.4 AGRS can confirm that, for the quarter ending September 2014, all Chief Officers have signed their Quarterly Assurance Statements, confirming compliance with the quarterly risk review process. For this quarter, the Finance and Resources Department focussed the quarterly risk review process on the departmental risks only and the update of all risk actions within the department.
- 2.5 Regarding project risk management, the Director of Property and Projects confirmed that the risk registers and action plans for the 12 'high risk' projects have been updated for the QE September 2014. The Director did not consider it necessary to



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escalate any specific project risks for consideration for inclusion in the Corporate Risk Register.

- 2.6 The corporate risks are displayed below and were agreed by CMT on 3rd December, 2014 and by the Assurance Board on 6th January, 2015.**

**Corporate Risk Register for Q/E September 2014**

Ref.	Risk Name	Risk Owner	Impact	Likelihood	Current Rating
1	Information systems & procedures	DFR	4	4	High
2	Sustain & enhance the rate base *	DFR	5	3	High
3	Local government reform *	DFR	4	3	Major
4	Failure to attract EU / other external funding *	DPP	4	3	Major
5	Failure to manage the City's waste	Head of EH and LCO	4	3	Major
6	Health and safety of employees and others	DFR	5	2	Major
7	Leisure transformation programme *	DPL	5	2	Major
8	Poor financial planning	DFR	4	2	Significant
9	Rates	DFR	3	3	Significant
10	Investment programme	DPP	3	3	Significant
11	Business continuity	DFR	3	3	Significant
12	Failure to manage staff resources	DOD	3	3	Significant
13	Good governance	DFR	4	2	Significant
14	Failure to strategically manage the Council's assets	DPP	4	2	Significant
15	Major incident response – emergency planning	Head of EH and LCO	4	2	Significant

**Independent Assurance on the Management of Key Risks**

- 2.7 In the Annual Governance Statement for y/e March 2014, 7 significant issues were declared, 4 of which related to the following corporate risks, which are marked with an asterisk in the register above:**

- Sustain and enhance the rate base (summary at paragraph 2.9)
- Local government reform (summary at paragraph 2.14)
- EU / other external funding (summary at paragraph 2.18)

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- Leisure transformation programme (summary at paragraph 2.25)
- 2.8 Audit, Governance and Risk Services (AGRS) has carried out reviews of the progress being made to manage these 4 corporate risks. The full reports on each review may be found at appendices 2 – 5, which have been forwarded to the Panel and a summary of the results is provided below.
- 2.9 Sustain and Enhance the Rate Base and Manage the Rate Setting Process for the Shadow Council
- 2.10 We can confirm that the risk has been subject to regular review. We found that key controls are in place and working effectively and this is reflected in the relatively high degree of accuracy in setting the Estimated Penny Product (EPP) on which the rate is based, and the fact that recent Actual Penny Product (APP) outturns have resulted in positive settlements for the Council.
- 2.11 There is a high degree of inherent risk associated with the sustaining the rate base / managing the rate setting process in the current financial year given the impact of local government reform and the revaluation of non domestic properties. However, it is our view that management are taking reasonable steps to attempt to manage this uncertainty. Setting of the rate will continue to represent a challenge in future years in the light of ongoing budget cuts in local and central government.
- 2.12 We can confirm that satisfactory progress is being made to implement the risk actions and that there are generally robust sources of assurance in place.
- 2.13 Recommendations arising from our work relate to:
  - reviewing the risk assessment
  - developing continuity arrangements for the work done in terms of reviewing and challenging information from Land & Property Services (LPS)
  - identifying and recording the risk causes (and controls) related to failure to enhance the rate base
  - requesting information from LPS on the financial impact of the programme of vacancy inspections.
- 2.14 Local Government Reform

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**2.15** We can confirm that the risk has been subject to regular review, that the risk assessment is reasonable, that the risk causes have been identified, that key controls are in place and working effectively, that satisfactory progress is being made to implement the risk actions within the external constraints in place and that there are generally robust sources of assurance in place.

**2.16** Key factors that impact on the management of this risk include:

- agreeing the transferring budgets from central government (budgets proposed to be transferred by central government have been lower than expected and may be reduced further by proposed central government budget cuts; there is also uncertainty as to how budgets will be agreed for future years; negotiation and due diligence continues)
- the transfer of urban regeneration and the Laganside Weir has now been delayed to 1 April 2016
- the housing powers are not now going to transfer on 1 April 2015
- a decision is still required internally as to the committee system to be used
- for the transfer of planning there are concerns around availability of the planning portal to develop and test processes. AGRS are carrying out a separate review in this area.

**2.17** Given the approaching deadline of 1st April, 2015, we recommend that the current reporting regime is supplemented with regular reports (at least monthly) to the LGR Programme Board (the Transition Management Team) as to whether or not the Council is on track against the overall implementation plan for service convergence and transfer of functions.

**2.18** EU / External Funding of Capital Projects

**2.19** There are 7 EU funded projects in particular to which this risk relates, which account for approximately £44 million in external funding.

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**2.20 The main factors affecting the management of this risk are:**

- two letters of offer have not yet been agreed
- where letters of offer have been agreed, the timescale for project delivery is very tight and there is a risk that expenditure will not be defrayed within external funding timescales.

**2.21 We highlight a number of further actions relating to potential 'at risk' expenditure that need to be undertaken as a matter of priority in order to move the risk towards its target risk rating of amber. These are:**

- improve the monitoring of 'at risk' expenditure on the projects still awaiting letters of offer; and
- commence a process for quantifying, projecting and reporting on the amount of 'at risk' expenditure on all EU / externally funded projects where the Council may potentially be unable to claim all expected funding (because of non compliance with funding requirements such as agreed expenditure profiles or deadlines) and may be left with responsibility for meeting funding shortfalls. This is essential for effective financial planning.

**2.22 The prompt implementation of these actions will provide valuable sources of assurance around the Councils potential financial exposure for these projects.**

**2.23 We have also recommended that management consider what further actions are required at this stage to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of funding that relate to delivery of outcomes in order to avoid potential claw back.**

**2.24 AGRS understands that currently management focus is on delivery of the ongoing externally funded projects. However, we recommend that management ensure that appropriate resources are put in place on a timely basis to begin preparation for the 2014-2020 round of European funding applications to ensure the risk is managed at an earlier stage in future, should the Council decide to seek external funding in this period. Lessons learned from the current externally funded projects should also be identified and feed into this process. Management should also consider whether a new Risk Action Plan should be put in place to manage the risks associated with the grant application process for the 2014-2020 round of funding. This risk may initially sit better at Departmental level than at Corporate level.**

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**2.25 Inability to deliver the Leisure Transformation Programme**

**2.26** The current risk action plan and our review concentrates on the arrangements to have a contract in place for the operation of the leisure centres by 31 December 2014. This risk will now have to be reviewed to ensure that it reflects the new phase of the programme to include monitoring of the operations being delivered alongside the ongoing capital work.

**2.27** We can confirm that this risk has been subject to regular review and that the current assessment of the risk is reasonable and progress towards the target risk rating is satisfactory. Risk causes have been properly identified, with controls found to be adequate and effective in helping to manage the risk.

**2.28** The controls currently focus on agreement of the contracts, and will soon be updated to focus on the controls to be established over the contract management/assurance function.

**2.29** Satisfactory progress is being made to implement the outstanding risk actions. Given the proximity to the date of transfer, it is imperative that the following actions are completed:

- interim client side arrangements to be set up including robust assurance frameworks
- completion of due diligence exercise to include separate risk analysis of pensions
- business continuity planning to manage the following risks associated with 61 employees having been agreed for voluntary redundancy on 31 December 2014
- completion of the due diligence review of the draft contracts by Deloitte by 12 December 2014.

**2.30** In the opinion of AGRS, the implementation of the outstanding actions will help to move the risk towards its target risk rating.

**2.31** There are robust sources of assurance in place which demonstrate how the risk is being managed

**2.32** The Leisure Transformation Programme has been planned in such a way for efficiencies to be achieved to enable investment in the leisure estate. AGRS recommend that as

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costs and budgets become finalised, management perform a review to provide assurance over the value for money to be achieved by phase 1 of the programme

**2.33 Information Systems and Procedures**

**2.34** AGRS has not undertaken a detailed review of this risk and this risk was not declared in the annual governance statement for the year end 2014. However bearing in mind the origin of the risk and the continued high risk rating, we undertook a quick review of the risk action plan which indicates that while good progress has been made in the delivery of training, there continue to be delays in:

- the development of policy and procedures on data protection, freedom of information, environmental information and records management
- identifying and putting in place the required resources
- developing and undertaking a programme of data protection compliance audits of Council information systems
- finalisation of the information security policy.

**2.35** AGRS highlights the importance of establishing approved policy and procedures in this area, particularly in the context of the preparations for the new Council and ensuring that appropriate resources are attributed to this area.

**2.36 Transferring Functions**

**2.37** AGRS has facilitated the Planning Panel in their review and update of the risk register for the transfer of Planning, with risks grouped under the headings of programme, governance, staff transfer, capacity building, processes and support systems (IT, finance, procurement and information).

**2.38** In addition AGRS has reviewed progress against the plan for the transfer of planning and has reported on the outcome of this exercise to the Planning Panel and the Director of Finance and Resources and Deputy Chief Executive. This review highlighted a number of serious issues regarding the plan and the preparations for implementation of the new processes on 1st April, 2015. It is essential that these issues are addressed as a matter of urgency and that any unresolved issues are escalated to the transition management team as soon as possible. We will continue to undertake regular reviews of this key area.

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2.39 In addition AGRS has provided advice on the development of the risk registers for the transfer of off street car parking and for the human resources work strand of the overall LGR programme.

2.40 MK Insight – Risk Management Module

2.41 The roll out of the MK insight risk management module is now complete, with all departments using the new system.

2.42 Business Continuity Management

2.43 As at 25th November 2014, 11 of the 15 critical services have submitted 'BC Exercise Planning' reports setting out how they plan to exercise their business continuity arrangements during 14-15. Building Control, Democratic Services, Digital Services and Fleet Management have not yet submitted their BC Exercise Planning reports. This has been brought to the attention of the relevant Directors at the recent round of quarterly meetings with the Head of AGRS and to CMT on 3 December 2014.

2.44 To date, 3 critical services have undertaken their exercise for 14-15 and have submitted a report, they are; Cleansing, Births Deaths Marriages and Civil Partnerships and Bereavement Services.

2.45 Regarding LGR, AGRS has developed the Business Continuity section of the Transition Plan Checklist which aims to ensure that services can respond effectively to an incident. We have also ensured that business continuity is included within the risk registers for Planning and off street car parking.

3 Resource Implications

Financial

None

Human Resources

None

Asset and Other Implications

None

4 Equality Implications

None

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**5 Recommendations**

**The Audit Panel is requested to:**

- (i) review and approve the updated Corporate Risk Register for the quarter ended September, 2014; and**
- (ii) note the findings arising from the AGRS review of the four corporate risks.”**

During discussion, concern was expressed around the serious issues which had been identified by Audit, Governance and Risk Services, following its review of the plan for the transfer on 1st April to the Council of the planning function. The Panel concurred with the Service's recommendation that those issues, including staffing arrangements, should be addressed as a matter of urgency in order to ensure that the Council was in a position on that date to fully discharge its responsibilities in relation to planning.

The Panel noted the information which had been provided and agreed that the Senior Responsible Officer tasked with overseeing the transfer of planning powers to the Council be requested to submit to the Shadow Planning Committee a state of readiness report on the matter.

**Audit, Governance and Risk Services Progress Report**

The Panel considered a report which provided an overview of the work which had been carried out over the previous three months by Audit, Governance and Risk Services.

The Audit, Governance and Risk Services Manager confirmed that audits had been finalised in relation to key corporate risks, the Council's arrangements for compliance with the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, Police and Community Safety Partnerships, Payroll, the management of waste disposal contracts, the 2015 Tall Ships event and Visit Belfast (follow up). Audit Governance and Risk Services were in the process of completing audits in relation to corporate complaints, the Super Connected Belfast Programme, Tourism, Culture, Heritage and Arts, control and security arrangements around fuel and financial controls relating to Cemeteries and the Roselawn Crematorium and to the Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Halls. The Service was managing also planned audit assignments in respect of accounts payable and receivable, the Capital Programme and Treasury Management, which were being delivered on its behalf by an external firm of auditors.

He provided details in respect of a review which had been undertaken by Audit, Governance and Risk Services of the project plan associated with the transfer of planning powers to the Council. Three recommendations had been made around the reviewing and updating of the plan, the monitoring and updating process and the frequency of meetings of the Transfer of Planning Panel and those had either been implemented or were in the process of being implemented. The Service had facilitated also the development of a risk register in relation to the transfer to the Council of off-street parking and had reviewed the draft service level agreement and the income and debt management procedures.



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In addition, Audit, Governance and Risk Services had reviewed guidance which had been published by the Northern Ireland Audit Office in relation to whistleblowing and would address any suggested improvements in conjunction with any recommendations which would emerge from an ongoing external review of the Council's whistleblowing arrangements. The Service was continuing to deliver training on fraud awareness and would, in February and March, be holding awareness sessions for Members on the role of the new Audit and Risk Panel, fraud and bribery. Finally, he provided an update on ongoing investigations.

After discussion, the Panel noted the information which had been provided.

**Update on Audit Panel Workshop**

The Panel was reminded that a workshop had been held on 10th November to consider its future role, in the context of the introduction of Local Government Reform and the Council's emerging governance arrangements. The Director of Finance and Resources reported that it had been agreed that, from 1st April, 2015, the Panel be referred to as the Audit and Risk Panel and that it should operate as a Panel, rather than as a Standing Committee. It had been agreed also that the Panel would have an enhanced profile and additional reporting powers, which would include the submission on a quarterly basis of a report to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee outlining the key issues discussed by the Audit and Risk Panel. The proposed changes had in November been communicated to each Political Party on the Council, as part of the round of briefings on future governance arrangements.

He explained that it was now proposed that the terms of reference for the Audit and Risk Panel be drafted in line with those of the new Committees and that they be presented in March for approval by the Audit Panel, together with a programme of business for 2015/2016, which would include a plan of work to develop the profile and effectiveness of the new Audit and Risk Panel.

Noted.

**Update on Corporate Health and Safety Performance**

The Corporate Health and Safety Manager provided the Panel with an update on the corporate health and safety performance and associated activities for the second quarter of 2014/2015. She confirmed that 108 employee accidents had been reported over the course of the quarter, which represented an increase of six on the previous three months. Nineteen accidents had been categorised under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations, which equalled the figure for the previous three months. The accidents had, in December, been reviewed by the Corporate Health and Safety Committee, which had confirmed that there had been no clear reason for the increase.

In terms of progress against key performance indicators for the quarter, which was reported through the CORVU performance management system, she pointed out that 54% of corporate healthy and safety recommendations had been implemented, which was significantly below the target figure of 80%. However, as a result of extensive

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work which had been undertaken across Departments, 75% of the recommendations had now been implemented. She added that the Corporate Health and Safety Unit was working on a project to develop health and safety assurance reports, which would enhance the information provided to both the Audit and Risk Panel and the Health and Safety Assurance Board on the management of key corporate health and safety risks.

After discussion, the Panel noted the information which had been provided.

**Update on First-Aid Arrangements**

The Panel considered the Undernoted report:

**“1 Relevant Background Information**

**At the meeting of the Audit Panel on 16th September 2014, it was requested that a report be submitted to the next quarterly meeting on the arrangements in place for providing first-aid to employees and members of the public at Council facilities and in particular in relation to City Hall.**

**2 Key Issues**

**Legal Position**

**In accordance with the Health and Safety (First-Aid) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1982, the Council has a duty to ensure that there is provided such equipment and facilities as are adequate to enable first aid to be rendered to its employees if they are injured or become ill at work.**

**There is no statutory requirement to provide first aid to members of the public. However, in line with best practice, the Council includes non employees within its first aid provisions.**

**First Aider Arrangements**

**In accordance with the Health and Safety (First-Aid) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1982 and the associated Approved Code of Practice, all line managers are required in the first instance to carry out a first aid needs assessment for their relevant unit / service / location.**

**The purpose of this assessment is to determine the level of first aid cover required and the level of first aid qualification required. This is based on a risk assessment of the level of risk associated with the work activity, the number of staff involved and the accessibility to emergency facilities. A standard template is provided for this assessment.**

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As a result of this assessment, each service is required to ensure a minimum of an Appointed Person is available at all times for their staff. This Appointed Person may be trained or untrained and is required to look after the first aid equipment and call the emergency services when required.

Where there are higher risks associated with the work activity, then an Emergency First Aider or full First Aider is required. These first aiders are trained to provide immediate assistance to casualties with injuries or illnesses and to summon an ambulance or other professional help.

There are approximately 450 first aid qualified staff within the Council.

**Public Venues**

The Waterfront Hall and Ulster Hall provide 24/7 first aid cover through their external Security provision. For events with anticipated audiences over 500, they also have additional third party first aiders in attendance. The City Events Unit similarly will appoint an external first aid company to provide first aiders at all their events. For other events, such as large events within our Parks, then details of the first aid cover provided is requested as part of the event approval arrangements.

Within the City Hall, the Facilities Management Unit maintain a list of all the first aiders within the building at reception and the Control Room. In addition to this, a number of Security Officers are also trained to provide emergency first aid and to operate the defibrillator.

**First Aider Training Arrangements**

First aid training arrangements within the Council have changed from 1st January, 2015. Historically the Council was an approved training centre for First Aid International Ltd and first aid training was provided in-house by a combination of Corporate Health and Safety Unit and Leisure Services staff. However further to Leisure Transformation (and the transfer of relevant trainers to GLL) and internal secondment arrangements within Corporate Health and Safety, there is no longer sufficient first aid trainer / assessors available to continue this in-house arrangement. Therefore, an interim local quotation process has been undertaken and an external first aid trainer has been appointed to meet the Council's training needs until a full tender exercise can be undertaken in 2015/2016.

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As part of the preparation for this tender exercise, the Corporate Health and Safety Unit will be working closely with Services to review their first aider requirements, taking into consideration staff working patterns and provisions for the public. This will enable the Corporate Health and Safety Unit to more accurately profile future training requirements and provide assurance on the level of first aid cover in place across the Council.

**First Aid Arrangement Monitoring**

As part of the WIRES Inspection and Audit programme undertaken annually by the Corporate Health and Safety Unit, first aid assessments, first aider availability, first aid signage and first aid materials are routinely checked across the Council with any recommendations for improvement tracked through the MK Insight programme and health and safety recommendations performance indicator on CORVU.

**3 Resource Implications**

**Financial**  
None

**Human Resources**  
None

**Assets and Other Implications**  
None

**4 Equality and Good Relations Implications**  
None

**5 Recommendation**

**The Panel is requested to note this report.”**

The Panel adopted the recommendation.

**Employee Costs 2014/2015**

The Director of Finance and Resources submitted for the Panel’s consideration a report which provided an overview, on a corporate and departmental basis, of staffing, overtime and agency costs for the second quarter of 2014/2015. He reported that staff costs had accounted for £44,355,996 over that period, which represented an overall underspend of £366,681 (0.82%) of the annual budget. Overtime costs and agency costs had accounted for £2,193,837 (4.95%) and £1,945,849 (4.39%) of direct employee costs, respectively.

Noted.

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**Absence Rates 2014/2015**

The Panel considered a report providing information in respect of the absence figures for the second quarter of 2014/2015. The Director of Finance and Resources reported that sickness absence per employee for that period had been 5.15 days, which meant that the Council would be slightly above its agreed target of 10 days for the current year. He pointed out that the number of absences which had been classified as long term (20 days or more) during the quarter had been 64%, as opposed to 61% for the corresponding quarter in 2013/2014. Furthermore, there had been an increase in the number of staff with recorded absence, viz., 36.26%, compared to 32.89% in the same quarter in the previous year.

He reviewed the sickness absence figures for each of the Council Departments for the quarter and confirmed that Corporate HR conducted fortnightly meetings with all Departments to ensure that timely and appropriate action was taken to manage sickness absence effectively. He added that over three hundred employees had now been vaccinated against influenza.

The Panel noted the information which had been provided.

**Mr. Rodney Allen**

The Chairman reported that Mr. Rodney Allen was attending his last meeting of the Panel, as he would be transferring shortly to another area of work within the Northern Ireland Audit Office.

On behalf of the Members, he thanked Mr. Allen for the valuable contribution which he had made to the work of the Panel over the course of the past four years and wished him every success in the future.

Mr. Allen thanked the members and stated that he was appreciative of all their support and assistance during that time.

**Date of Next Meeting**

The Panel agreed that its next meeting would take place at 1.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 10th March.

Chairman

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**Minutes of Budget and Transformation Panel Meeting  
12 January 2014**

**1. Attendance**

Members:

Councillor Tim Attwood  
Councillor Deidre Hargey  
Councillor Billy Hutchinson  
Alderman Gavin Robinson

Apologies:

Alderman David Browne  
Councillor Michael Long  
Councillor Jim McVeigh  
Alderman Christopher Stalford

Officers:

Suzanne Wylie, Chief Executive  
Ronan Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources  
Andrew Hassard, Director of Parks and Leisure (for Item 6)  
John McGrillen, Director of Development (for Item 4)  
Jill Minne, Director of Organisational Development  
Mark McBride, Head of Finance and Performance

**2. Rates / Estimates**

The Director of Finance and Resources provided an overview of the rate setting and non recurrent expenditure reports which will be presented to the Shadow Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on the 16 January 2015. This included:-

- the current departmental estimates position, which had been prepared on the new boundary basis
- the transfer of functions estimates including the funding gap for Off Street Car Parking and Planning
- the proposed capital financing budget for 2015/16 and the pressures on the capital financing budget for the capital programme and the investment in the leisure estate
- the estimated level of district rate income based on the Estimated Penny Product (EPP) and a zero increase in the domestic rate
- the level of de-rating grant due to the Council and the potential cuts to the budget being proposed by the DOE
- the level of non recurrent expenditure required for 2015/16 and the recommendation to establish a transition fund of £3.31m of finance this expenditure

**3. Capital Programme**

The Panel noted that the capital programme report would be presented to the Shadow SP&R on the 16 January and would provide information on the 2015/16 capital expenditure and capital financing plans, as well as a progress report on existing schemes within the capital programme.

The Chief Executive updated the Panel on the resource issues affecting the Innovation Centre, the North Foreshore Environmental Park and the Waterfront Hall (Existing Venue) and confirmed that any proposals for additional capital expenditure presented on the paper would be supported by the clear reasons for the need for the additional costs together with the business case for the project.

**4. Update on Deloitte Area Working Review**

The Panel noted the initial feedback from Deloitte on options for future area working and governance and agreed that further consideration of the options was required by the Party Group Leaders and the Party groups before firm proposals could be considered by Committee. The Chief Executive agreed to organise a party Group Leaders meeting in February.

**5. European Social Fund (ESF)**

The Director of Development advised that there had been 19 applications from groups seeking the Council to match fund ESF projects and letters of comfort had been issued to the organisations which would let them continue with their applications. The Director advised that the update report to the Development Committee would remind Members of the principles under which matched funding can be made and that the total budget available for matched funding was £240k.

**6. Work Programme**

The Chief Executive distributed a copy of the work plan and key decisions to be considered by the Shadow Strategic Policy and Resources Committee at the meeting between January and March 2015.

**7. Active Belfast Board**

The Director of Parks and Leisure updated Members on the revised proposals for the make-up of the Active Belfast Board and that the recommendation for a Board of 15, including 4 Elected members would be presented to the Shadow SP&R Committee on the 16 January.

**8. Capacity Building**

The Director of Organisational Development distributed an update for members on the Member capacity building programme.

This included confirmation that the first practical session on the Shadow Planning Committee had been delivered on the 7 January 2015. Feedback from members who attended the event was that the session had helped put the theory into practice and that further practical sessions should be organised before the end of March. A further two practical sessions are currently planned and it was noted that once members of the Planning Committee are identified, the current programme could be reconfigured to ensure training is targeted on a timely basis.

Members agreed to consider additional attendees for the Bristol study visit as only 3 members have been able to confirm attendance to date.

It was also noted that re-assessment against the Member Charter would commence in March 2015 with the Lord Mayor, Members of the Budget and Transformation Panel and Members who participated in the 360 feedback pilot, being interviewed as part of the review process. Further information on the preparations for the review would be provided at the next meeting of the Budget and Transformation Panel.

**9. Date of Next Meeting**

To be advised.





### Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Standing Order 55 – Employment of Relatives and engagement of agency workers
<b>Date:</b>	23 January 2015
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Ronan Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources, ext 6083
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Jill Minne, Director of Organisational Development, ext 3220

#### Relevant Background Information

In accordance with the authority delegated to the Director of Finance and Resources by the Policy and Resources (Personnel) Sub-Committee on 27 June 2005, the Director has authority to authorise the appointment of employees to the Council. These appointments are subsequently reported to Members of Committee for notation. At Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 21 February 2014 it was agreed to extend the Council's Standing Order (SO)55 reporting to include the engagement of agency resources from October 2014 on a quarterly basis.

Standing Order 55 reports will therefore set :

- permanent appointments recruited by public advertisement or local government tenders and related to a Council officer
- temporary appointments recruited by public advertisement and related to a Council officer
- agency workers engaged to cover posts on the Council's agreed staffing establishment structure and related to a Council officer

Permanent and temporary appointments will be reported on a monthly basis and agency workers reported on a quarterly basis.

**Table 1: Permanent appointees**

Name of new employee	Post appointed to / Department	Relationship to existing officer	Name of existing officer	Post title of existing officer and Department in which they work
Ken Rankin	Recycling Operative / H&ES	Son	Ken Rankin	LGV Driver Trainer / H&ES
Stuart Moffett	Cleansing Operative / H&ES	Son	Michael Moffett	LGV Combined Driver / Cleansing Services / H&ES

**Table 2: Temporary appointees**

There are no temporary appointees to be reported in this period.

**Table 3: Agency resources**

<b>Name of Agency Assignee</b>	<b>Post appointed to / Section / Department</b>	<b>Relationship to existing officer</b>	<b>Name of existing officer</b>	<b>Post title of existing officer and Section / Department in which they work</b>
Simon McKenna	Cleansing Operative / H&ES	Nephew	Joe Carson	Assistant Manager (Priority Waste and Transport) / H&ES

**Resource Implications**Financial

Provision for these posts exists within the revenue budgets of the relevant department.

Human Resources

The appointments have been made on the basis of merit in accordance with the Council's Recruitment and Selection Procedures and the agency assignees have been engaged by the Council's contracted employment agency, Grafton Recruitment.

Asset and Other Implications

There are no other implications.

**Recommendations**

Committee is asked to note the appointments as authorised by the Director of Finance and Resources in accordance with Standing Order 55 and the engagement of agency resources related to Council officers.



**Belfast City Council**

<b>Report to:</b>	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Asset Management:</b> <b>(i) Waterworks – Licence Agreement</b> <b>(ii) Shaftesbury Recreation Centre – Rent Review</b> <b>(iii) Smithfield Market – Lettings</b>
<b>Date:</b>	23 January 2015
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Gerry Millar – Director of Property & Projects Department, ext 6217
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Cathy Reynolds – Estates Manager, Property & Projects Department, ext 3493

<b>1</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
1.1	<b>(i) Waterworks – Licence Agreement</b> At its meeting on 15 January 2015, the Parks and Leisure Committee received a report outlining proposals by Grow (a charity registered with HMRC) the organisation which operates the Waterworks Community Garden, to carry out minor site works within the Community Garden. There will be a verbal update at Committee to advise on the outcome of the Parks and Leisure Committee meeting. The proposed site works include installation of drainage, paths, seating and a tree survey. The works are to be carried out by Grow's contractor(s).
1.2	<b>(ii) Shaftesbury Recreation Centre – Rent Review</b> At its meeting on 16 January 2008 Development Committee agreed to lease Shaftesbury Recreation Centre to Lower Ormeau Residents Action Group (LORAG) for 25 years from 3 February 2009 subject to an annual rent of £18,275 per annum reviewable every 5 years.
1.3	<b>(iii) Smithfield Market – Lettings</b> Functional responsibility for dealing with property related issues in relation to the letting of units at Smithfield Market rests with the Director of Property and Projects, approval of the letting terms for the units are to be undertaken by him, on the basis that the terms are reported retrospectively to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

<b>2</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
2.1	<b>(i) Waterworks – Licence Agreement</b> Because the works are to be carried out by a third party's contractor(s) they require to be regulated by a legal arrangement (a licence agreement) between the Council and Grow. The Licence will provide the Council with an opportunity to agree the specification and

	<p>timing of the works and to provide for transfer of any installations to Council ownership once officers are satisfied they have been satisfactorily completed. The Licence will also ensure appropriate insurance etc. is in place for carrying out the works. As the works are for the benefit of the site no Licence Fee would be payable.</p>
2.2	<p>The works are being funded by the NGO Challenge Fund, administered by Northern Ireland Environment Link (NIEL). There are no future maintenance conditions associated with this funding.</p>
2.3	<p><b>(ii) Shaftesbury Recreation Centre – Rent Review</b>  The rent under the Lease fell due for review on 3 February 2014 and the Estate Management Unit have calculated a revised rent of £36,700 per annum which is an uplift in rent that reflects the extension to the building since the Lease commenced. LORAG receive an annual grant net of rent.</p>
2.4	<p><b>(iii) Smithfield Market – Lettings</b>  Committee is asked to note the following letting of units in Smithfield Market as agreed under the delegated authority of the Director of Property and Projects:</p>
2.5	<p><b>Unit 21 Smithfield Market – Watch and Jewellery Repair and Sales</b>  Tenant – Ibrahim Salami  54 Stranmillis Wharf  Belfast  BT8 5GN</p> <p>Unit size – 235 sq ft</p> <p>Rent £250 per month plus rates</p> <p>Term Tenancy Agreement for six months and monthly thereafter commencing on 24 November 2014</p> <p>Mr Salami previously occupied unit 2 at Smithfield Market and relocated to unit 21 in order to expand his business.</p>
2.6	<p><b>Unit 20 Smithfield Market – Barber Shop</b>  Tenant – Mourad Abrouche  7 Northbrook Gardens  Belfast  BT9 7EA</p> <p>Unit size – 150 sq ft</p> <p>Rent £165 per month plus rates</p> <p>Term Tenancy Agreement for six months and then month to month thereafter commencing 21<sup>st</sup> February 2014</p> <p>Mourad Abrouche has occupied unit 20 since 21<sup>st</sup> February 2014. Previously Mourad occupied the unit with his business partner under a joint tenancy. Mourad has notified the Council that he wishes to take the unit via a single tenancy due to his business partner not wishing to continue.</p>
2.7	<p><b>Unit 2 Smithfield Market – PC and Phone Repairs</b>  Tenant – Brendan Doyle</p>

	<p>7 Church Avenue Kircubbin Newtownards BT22 2SL</p> <p>Unit size – 178 sq ft</p> <p>Rent £208 per month plus rates</p> <p>Term Tenancy Agreement for six months and then month to month thereafter commencing 24<sup>th</sup> December 2014</p> <p>Brendan Doyle previously worked in unit 5/6 and was familiar with the operations of Smithfield Market.</p>
2.8	<p><b>Unit 34 Smithfield Market – Sale of Games and Consoles</b></p> <p>Tenant – John Meek 14 Hillcrest Crescent Newtownabbey BT36 6EF</p> <p>Unit size 283 sq ft ground floor, 140 sq ft storage area</p> <p>Rent £420 per month plus rates</p> <p>Term Tenancy Agreement for six months and then month to month thereafter commencing on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2015</p> <p>The tenant previously ran a business alongside his wife on Bedford Street known as the ‘The Little Cupcake Cafe’ for five years. The business is now closed due to a landlord request to redevelop the building and Mr Meek has opened his new business in Smithfield Market.</p>
2.9	<p><b>Unit 30/31 Smithfield Market – Sale of Rugs and Flooring</b></p> <p>Tenant - Brendan and Ann McLarnon 18 Glenwell Park Belfast BT36 7TA</p> <p>Unit size - 575 sq ft ground floor, 150sq ft storage area</p> <p>Rent £900 per month plus rates</p> <p>Term Tenancy Agreement for six months and then month to month thereafter commencing on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2015</p> <p>Brendan and Ann McLarnon currently occupy Unit 8, 16 and 32/33 at Smithfield Market and are reputable tenants. In order to expand their business the McLarnons are moving from unit 16 to the larger unit of 30/31. Rent will continue on unit 16 until the end of January 2015. The McLarnons will as of the term commencement on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2015 be occupying two double units on both sides of the main entrance.</p>

<b>3</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
	<p><b><u>Finance and Assets</u></b></p> <p><b>3.1 (i) Waterworks – Licence Agreement</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposed works will be entirely funded by the NGO Challenge Fund. There are no capital costs to the Council. Future maintenance of the completed works will be at the Council's discretion and any costs associated with this will be covered within existing Parks and Leisure budgets.</li> <li>• Appropriately completed works will enhance the facilities provided within the community garden for the benefit of users.</li> </ul> <p><b>3.2 (ii) Shaftesbury Recreation Centre – Rent Review</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The rental value of the property for recreational and community use has increased to £36,700 per annum and will become payable from 3 February 2014. LORAG receive an annual grant net of rent.</li> </ul> <p><b>3.3 (iv) Smithfield Market – Lettings</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Letting of five units. Rental income from the four units £1,943 per month</li> </ul> <p><b>3.5 <u>Human Resources</u></b></p> <p>Staff resources from the Estate Management Unit, Community Services, Parks and Leisure Department and Legal Services will be required to complete all agreements.</p>

<b>4</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
	<p><b>It is recommended that Members agree:</b></p> <p><b>4.1 (i) Waterworks – Licence Agreement</b></p> <p>To approve the grant of a licence agreement, to be prepared by the Town Solicitor, to Grow, at the Waterworks site, to permit the organisation to carry out agreed specified works and for ownership of the completed works to pass to the Council upon their satisfactory completion.</p> <p><b>4.2 (ii) Shaftesbury Recreation Centre –Rent Review</b></p> <p>To a revised rent of £36,700 per annum payable from the rent review date of 3 February 2013.</p> <p><b>4.3 (iii) Smithfield Market – Lettings</b></p> <p>To note the terms of the lettings as set out above.</p>

<b>5</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
<b>5.1</b>	<p>NIEL – Northern Ireland Environment Link</p> <p>LORAG – Lower Ormeau Residents Action Group</p>

<b>6</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
<b>6.1</b>	N/A



### Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Proposed disposal of land at Slievegallion Drive
<b>Date:</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup> Jan 2015
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Gerry Millar - Director of Property & Projects
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Celine Dunlop—Estates Surveyor

1	Relevant Background Information
1.1	The Council currently hold the land at Slievegallion Drive as shown outlined red on the plan attached at Appendix'1'. The land is held on a 10,000 year lease, date 20 <sup>th</sup> Feb 1984, from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive. The lease restricts the use of the site to informal open space and NIHE consent is required for any assignment or sub letting.
1.2	De La Salle College is located adjacent to the Council's land at Slievegallion Drive. The school have approached the Council with a proposal for the redevelopment of that part of the Council's land at Slievegallion Drive shown shaded green on the plan attached at Appendix'1' to provide a school/community facility comprising 3G sports pitch and associated changing pavilion.
1.3	The College require a 99 year lease in order to secure funding from the Department of Education for their proposal.
1.4	The site does not form part of the Pitches Strategy and there is currently no identified funding in the Capital Programme for the development of this land by the Council.
1.5	Parks and Leisure Committee at its meeting on 13 <sup>th</sup> June 2013 agreed to officers progressing discussions with De La Salle College with a view to exploring the most appropriate arrangement for the redevelopment of the informal open space at Slievegallion Drive, with a further report to be brought to the Parks & Leisure Committee in due course.
1.6	A further report was brought to the Parks & Leisure Committee on the 11 <sup>th</sup> December 2014 (copy attached at Appendix '2' recommending that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Officers continue to meet with the College representatives to progress the matter;</li> <li>2. Agree in principle to the leasing of the land subject to obtaining the necessary statutory approvals; securing funding and reaching agreement with Council</li> </ul>

1.7	<p>officers re terms and conditions including a community use clause;</p> <p>3. Agree to make recommendations to Strategic Policy &amp; Resources that the Council fund the refurbishment of the land outside of the pitch proposal using the land fee; and that the Landscape Planning and Development Unit is tasked to undertake the design element of this work.</p> <p>The recommendation was not approved by the Parks &amp; Leisure Committee but was subsequently overturned at the Council meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> Jan 2015 to provide that the Council proceed with the recommendations as set out within the report and, in addition, that officers arrange a meeting with residents in order to discuss any concerns which they may have in respect of the development.</p>

2	Key Issues
2.1	<p>Council officers have negotiated with the Department of Education and De La Salle College and the following has been agreed in principle and subject to Committee approval:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The land shown shaded green on the plan attached at Appendix'1' is to be leased to the Department of Education for 99 years for use as pitches and a pavilion.</li> <li>2. The premium is agreed at £129,450 in accordance with the Land &amp; Property Services valuation of the land.</li> <li>3. The Department of Education will be responsible for the construction costs associated with the pitch, pavilion and associated perimeter fence.</li> <li>4. De La Salle College will be responsible for obtaining planning approval for the proposed development.</li> <li>5. De La Salle College will facilitate the use of the new facilities by the local community outside of school hours.</li> </ol>
2.2	<p>While the Department of Education will be responsible for reinstating the Council's retained open space, the Council will fund any additional landscaping to provide higher quality and upgraded open space using part of the premium received from the Department of Education. A preliminary scheme has been prepared as part of the College's proposal at an estimated cost of £110,000.</p>

3	Resource Implications
3.1	<p><u>Finance</u></p> <p>The Department of Education will pay a premium of £129,450 for the site: it is estimated that the upgrading and landscaping of the retained open space will cost £110,000.</p>
3.2	<p><u>Assets</u></p> <p>De La Salle College will be responsible for the management, maintenance and insurance of proposed development. The College will provide access to the new facilities for the local community outside of school hours. This integrated approach is in line with the 'One Public Estate' concept and the improved use of publicly owned assets across the</p>



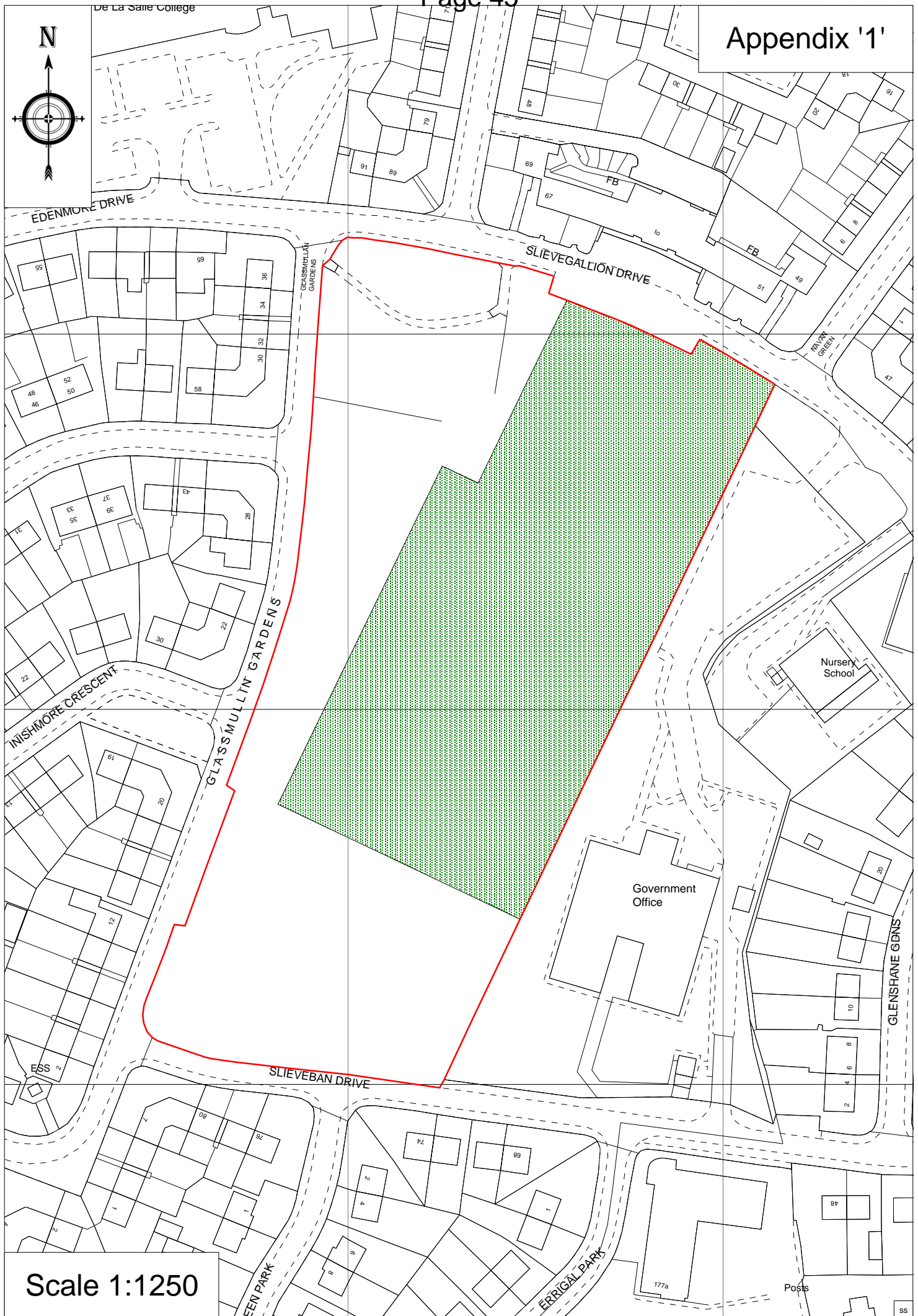
3.3	<p>wider public sector, voluntary and community sectors.</p> <p><u>Human Resources</u></p> <p>Officers from Estates and Legal Services will subject to Members approval complete the sale of the land by way of long lease to the Department of Education. Further staff resource required in developing the agreement for the community use of the new facility.</p>
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<b>4</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
4.1	<p>Members are asked to note that following the Council's decision of the 5<sup>th</sup> Jan 2015 a premium of £129,450 has now been provisionally agreed with the Department of Education for the disposal (by way of 99 year lease) of the land shaded green on the plan attached at Appendix'1' subject to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Committee approval .</li> <li>• An appropriate legal agreement to be drawn up by Legal Services.</li> <li>• Officers from the Parks &amp; Leisure Department meeting with residents in order to discuss any concerns which residents might have in respect of the development.</li> <li>• Expenditure of part of the receipt from the land disposal on the refurbishment and upgrade of the retained open space at this location.</li> </ul>

<b>5</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
Director of Property and Projects to ensure completion of the sale by way of a 99 year lease if approved by Members.	


<b>7</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
7.1	Plan attached at Appendix '1'
7.2	Report to Parks & Leisure Committee on 11 <sup>th</sup> Dec 2014 at Appendix '2'.





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### Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Parks and Leisure Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Development of Land at Slievegallion Drive
<b>Date:</b>	11 December 2014
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director of Parks and Leisure
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Stephen Walker, Departmental Portfolio and Programme Manager

1.	Relevant Background Information
	<p>The Committee is reminded that at its meeting in June 2013 it received a report outlining a proposal from De La Salle College in West Belfast to construct an artificial turf pitch and smaller pitch and associated changing pavilion on Council land at Slievegallion Drive. The Committee agreed to officers progressing discussions with De La Salle School with a view to exploring the appropriate arrangement (including leasing options) for the development of the informal space. Discussions were to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Details of the school's business model in terms of costs and income producing capacity</li> <li>• Public Access arrangements</li> <li>• Partnership or leasing arrangements to ensure wider community use</li> <li>• Sources of funding for the development of the site.</li> </ul> <p>In March 2014 a further report was submitted which highlighted concerns by some residents regarding the proposal; these concerns focused around lack of consultation by the school and the loss of open space. At the meeting it was noted that the Member of Parliament for West Belfast had indicated that he would facilitate a community consultation with a view to resolving the issues. The Committee agreed to defer consideration of the report to enable the member of Parliament to conclude the consultation.</p> <p>In the interim, Council officers have continued to meet with representatives from the College in relation to the pitch proposal. While there are number of issues that require further discussion it is necessary to establish a position at this time to enable progress to be made within the timescales for the project.</p>

2.	Key Issues
	<p>Members are asked to note the following key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The College has approximately 1,100 pupils aged 11-18 years and has inadequate space to provide for sporting activities and opportunities;</li> <li>• Whilst the Council is sympathetic to this situation it is not sufficient in itself to warrant the transfer of the land and it is primarily a matter for the Department and the Board to address;</li> <li>• However, this location has been subject to quite serious anti social behaviour over the years;</li> <li>• The Council has no plans to refurbish the site and bring it into productive use; this would require significant capital investment on the part of the council;</li> <li>• By investing in the asset and bringing positive interventions and programming to the site there is the possibility that the site can be reclaimed and the level of anti social behaviour reduced;</li> </ul> <p>The College is currently working to bring to a conclusion to following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The business case and supporting Sports Development Plan, to include wider community use;</li> <li>• Securing the necessary funding to deliver the scheme</li> <li>• Securing planning consent and other statutory approvals; and</li> <li>• Agreement around lease arrangements.</li> </ul> <p>Officials from the Department; the Council; and the College have agreed a provisional boundary, see Appendix A, however this may change subject to ongoing discussions. The redline designates the area required by the College; the area outside of this will remain under Council ownership.</p> <p>There are a number of technical issues to be resolved in relation to the management and maintenance of shared areas; car parking; entrance routes etc. However, the main issue to be resolved relates to the area of land that is outside of the pitch proposal. It has been proposed that this area be landscaped with a view to enabling its use by residents. A preliminary scheme has been prepared as part of the College's proposal at an estimated cost of £110,000; however, this cost is subject to review and further scrutiny. The Department has advised that as this outside of the pitch proposal it is not able to fund the works. The Department has, through it draft Heads of Agreement proposal, asked that the Council undertake this work. It is suggested that a portion of the fee for the land be used to fund this work.</p> <p>Should members be minded to agree to the landscaping of the area outside the pitch proposal, it is proposed that the Council's Landscape Planning and Development Unit undertake the design element of the work with a view to ensure that the scheme reflects similar Council developments and to take into account cost considerations.</p> <p>The Council has been advised by the College that a consultation exercise has been carried out in the immediate vicinity of the open space. The survey indicates that there is significant support for the development of the pitch and there is some opposition to it. We have been advised by the College</p>



	<p>representatives that they had hosted a public meeting on 23 October 2013 and propose to hold further meetings on 15/16 December 2014 to enable the public to view the revised proposal prior to submission of a planning application. We have also been advised that the Member of Parliament for West Belfast has also met with both those who support the proposal and those who are opposed to it. However, we believe that no agreement was reached and that there remain those opposed to the development.</p> <p>A planning application is yet to be submitted and at that time the issue around the loss of open space can be raised in representation to the Planning Service together with other issues of concern which residents may have.</p>
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<b>3.</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
	<p><b><u>Financial Implications</u></b></p> <p>This report has no financial implications at this time, however, there may be capital implications at a future date.</p> <p><b><u>Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>There are no additional human resource implications at this time; the work on the project will be carried out within existing resources.</p>

<b>4.</b>	<b>Equality Implications</b>
	There are no equality implications
<b>5.</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
	<p>It is recommended that the Committee agrees that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Officers continue to meet with the College representatives to progress the matter;</li> <li>2. Agree in principle to the leasing of the land subject to obtaining the necessary statutory approvals; securing the funding and reaching agreement with Council Officers regarding terms and conditions including a community use clause;</li> <li>3. Agree to make recommendation to Strategic Policy and Resources that the Council fund the refurbishment of the land outside of the pitch proposal using the land fee; and that the Landscape Planning and Development Unit be tasked to undertake the design element of this work.</li> </ol>

<b>6.</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
	Assistant Director Parks and Leisure

<b>7.</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>

<b>8.</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix A Provisional Boundary Map Appendix B Committee Report June 2013 Appendix C Committee Report March 2014





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**GOOD RELATIONS PARTNERSHIP****MONDAY, 12th JANUARY, 2015****MEETING OF THE GOOD RELATIONS PARTNERSHIP**

Members present: Councillor Hendron (Chairman);  
Alderman Stoker; and  
Councillors Kyle and Mac Giolla Mhín.

External Members: Ms. A. Chada, Minority Ethnic Groups;  
Mr. K. Gibson, Church of Ireland;  
Mrs. M. Marken, Catholic Church;  
Mr. B. McGivern, Belfast City Centre Management; and  
Mr. P. Scott, Catholic Church.

In attendance: Mrs. S. Toland, Lead Operations Officer/Head of  
Environmental Health;  
Ms. N. Lane, Good Relations Manager;  
Mr. I. May, PEACE III Programme Manager;  
Mr. B. Flynn, Democratic Services Officer; and  
Ms. L. Francey, Democratic Services Officer.

**Apologies**

Apologies were reported on behalf of Ms. O. Barron, Mr. S. Brennan, Mrs. J. Hawthorne, Dr. C. Hughes, Mr. P. Mackel and Mr. U. Tok.

**Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 8th December were taken as read and signed as correct.

**Declaration of Interest**

No declarations of interest were reported.

**Peace III Implementation Update**

The Good Relations Manager informed the Partnership that all projects which had been funded under the PEACE III Plan had now been completed. She outlined a draft version of the Post Project Evaluation, as required by the Special European Union Programmes Body, which had been prepared and had been circulated to Members. It was agreed that the PEACE III Programme Manager would incorporate any additional comments from the Partnership within the final version.

She updated Members also on the Article 16 review which had been conducted by the Department of Finance and Personnel which had now been completed and a final report would be forthcoming. She added that no significant issues had been identified in relation to expenditure or processes. An interim evaluation report had also been completed on Phase II of the Youth Engagement Project. That evaluation, which

**Good Relations Partnership,  
Monday, 12th January, 2015**

had been conducted by Gauge Consulting, had found that the Project had a net social return which equated to £9 for every £1 which had been invested. Positive outcomes from the Project, she reported, had included a reduction in substance abuse and antisocial behaviour, newfound respect for the community and an increased trust in local authorities amongst young people. A copy of the final report would be circulated to the Partnership.

The Partnership noted the information which had been provided and agreed to forward any comments on the draft Post Project Evaluation to the PEACE III Programme Manager for inclusion in the final submission.

**Equality Consultative Forum and Screening Outcome Report**

The Good Relations Manager reminded Members that two of the mechanisms which contributed to the Council in meeting its Section 75 statutory duties were the Consultative Forum and a Screening Outcome Report. She explained that the Council had hosted a Consultative Forum since 1995 and that a review of membership of that Forum had taken place to maintain a broad representation. The aims of the Forum were to:

- contribute to the consultation on the screening of policies;
- contribute to ongoing consultation on new policies;
- highlight equality and good relations issues with regard to the provision of the Council's goods, services and facilities; and
- advise on the implementation of the Council's Equality Scheme.

She explained that the Equality Scheme outlined how the Council would fulfil its statutory duties and gave a commitment to apply screening to all new and revised policies. After screening had been completed, a template would be signed off and approved by the senior manager responsible for that policy. Such templates were then collated within a Screening Outcome Report and published on the Council's website.

The Partnership noted the reporting arrangements for the Consultative Forum and the Screening Outcome Report for the period from May to September, 2014.

**Update on Interface Strategy**

The Good Relations Manager reminded Members that the Peace III funded programme for interface regeneration had concluded on 31st October 2014, in accordance with the SEUPB deadline.

A Member referred to the barrier at Roden Street and emphasised that this provided environmental protection between Roden Street and the heavy traffic on the Westlink. He emphasised that residents were opposed to the removal of the barrier for that reason and not because it was an interface. The Good Relations Manager agreed to amend the report to reflect the views of the Member.

Noted.

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Monday, 12th January, 2015**

**International Women's Day 2015**

The Good Relations Manager reminded Members that the Council, at its meeting on 2nd, December 2013 had passed unanimously a Motion relating to International Women's Day. At the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee meeting in January 2014, the Council had recognised that the costs associated with marking International Women's Day would be recurring annual expenditure. The women's sector in Belfast had indicated that it would be keen that the Council would support the annual event and had provided estimated costs in this regard.

Accordingly, she provided an overview of the details for this year's event which would take place on Saturday, 7th March. The theme would be "No Peace Without Women" and would commence at 2 p.m. with a rally outside the City Hall. Lunch would be provided in the City Hall for up to 200 women and a number of lectures would also be given in the Ulster Hall in the week preceding the rally.

The Partnership noted the information which had been provided.

**Migrant and Minority Ethnic Engagement Work - Update**

The Good Relations Manager provided the Partnership with an overview of the work which had taken place with other agencies to combat race hate crime in the City. That work was based on the three themes of Support Services, Communications and Messaging and Community Activity. She reminded Members that, as part of that collective approach, the Partnership had given its approval to delivering a number of actions to support engagement and development with migrant and minority ethnic communities under the Community Activity theme.

She updated the Partnership in respect of the three themes and agreed to distribute copies of the report entitled "Challenging Racism: Ending Hate" to the Partnership. She added that five 'Small World' events had been organised across the City and indicated that information on these would be circulated to the Partnership.

Noted.

**Black Minority Ethnic Steering Group**

The Partnership was advised that the Council, at its meeting on 1st December, had referred the undernoted motion to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for consideration, which had, in turn, referred the matter to the Partnership:

"This Council, cognisant of its responsibility as an equal opportunities employer and civic leader, seeks to establish a BME (Black Minority Ethnic) Steering Group to encourage and promote ethnic representation within the Council's workforce and seeks to address the issue of under-representation of people from the BME community in political life, supplementing and strengthening the work already undertaken as part of the Workforce Race Action Plan 2012 to 2015."

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The Good Relations Manager reminded Members that the current Good Relations Action Plan contained objectives to improve the participation of migrant and minority ethnic communities in community life and to strengthen the ethnic diversity of the City as something to be celebrated and embraced. Under those objectives, a quarterly Migrant Forum for Service Providers had been established to improve service delivery to migrant and minority ethnic communities. A series of projects and events have also been organised to promote participation of migrant and minority ethnic communities in the public sphere. These projects were connected to the 'Shared Community' priority within the Executive's 'Together: Building a United Community' Strategy. She also reminded the Partnership that the Council had submitted a response to the OFMdFM consultation on a Racial Equality Strategy and that Members would be updated on the outcome of that exercise when it had been completed. She emphasised that a more proactive approach would be required by the Council in order to increase migrant and ethnic minority participation within the context of the review of the Council's future governance requirements.

During discussion, the Partnership welcomed broadly the establishment of a steering group within the context of the Council's Community Planning remit. It was pointed out that, whilst promoting active participation from black minority ethnic groups within the workforce and within the political decision-making process, it would be remiss not to highlight that appointments were made on the basis of merit.

A further Member indicated that he had attended recently a Travellers' Forum where a number of key points had been raised in relation to promoting positive attitudes to the Travelling community and of the difficulties faced by the Travelling community. He suggested that the Partnership might receive a presentation from representatives of the Forum at a future meeting.

After discussion, the Partnership agreed that the comments which had been raised would be drawn to the attention of the Shadow Strategic Policy and Resources Committee and agreed further to invite representatives of the Travellers Forum to attend a future meeting.

**Allocation of Additional Funding from OFMdFM**

The Good Relations Manager reported that additional funding, in the sum of £64,000, had been made available for the delivery of the 'Together: Building a United Community' Strategy, in respect of which the Council would be providing match-funding at 25%. She explained that officers would seek to ensure that as many actions within the Plan would be enacted within the tight timescale, including Grant Aid Programmes, Bonfire Management Programme, actions against racism and promoting participation of migrant and minority ethnic communities and actions agreed at the December 2014 Partnership meeting in relation to murals and interfaces.

**Meeting with Junior Ministers**

She reported that the elected representatives from the Partnership would meet with the Junior Ministers at Stormont to discuss the reduction in Good Relations funding. The meeting would take place at Castle Buildings on Tuesday 9th February, at

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Monday, 12th January, 2015**

3:15 p.m. after the next Partnership meeting. A Member suggested that the important role of the Community and Voluntary sector in providing expertise and guidance in the delivery of Good Relations should be emphasised to the Junior Ministers by the delegation.

Members raised concerns also that the reduction in funding would have a negative impact upon a number of community groups. The Good Relations Manager indicated that staff would continue to advise and support groups, and that additional information sessions would be held for those groups seeking funding through the schemes in future.

The Partnership noted that additional funding had been provided and agreed that the issue of the role of the Community and Voluntary sector in the delivery of Good Relations would be raised with the Junior Ministers.

**Review of Good Relations Workshop**

The Good Relations Manager provided an overview of the outcomes of the Workshop which had taken place on Tuesday, 16th December, which had discussed the future role of the Partnership and the Good Relations Action Plan for 2015/2016.

She indicated that a number of Members felt that Good Relations, as a concept, should be central to the Council's ethos. Members agreed also that the Partnership could be more proactive and that more power could be delegated to the Partnership. In response to a Members question, the Good Relations Manager agreed that the word equality should be central to the report and indicated that it would be amended to reflect this.

The Partnership noted the findings of the workshop report and it was agreed that any comments regarding the report on the Good Relations Workshop would be submitted to the Good Relations Manager by 19th January.

Chairman

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### Belfast City Council (Shadow)

<b>Report to:</b>	Strategic Policy and Resources Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	Flood Alleviation Update Report
<b>Date:</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2015
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Siobhan Toland, Lead Operations Officer, Health and Environmental Services Department, Ext 3281
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Valerie Brown, Environmental Health Manager, Ext 3301

<b>1</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
1.1	Members will be aware that Belfast has been impacted by a number of serious flooding incidents since 2005, in particular in 2012, and the Council had identified a number of flooding areas of particular concern. Following the serious flooding in June 2012 Members agreed that work be commissioned to allow the Council to develop a better understanding on the most significant flood risk areas in the city and to identify what additional measures would be needed to alleviate those risks. It was agreed that this work would be undertaken by the Council in conjunction with the three main drainage agencies; DRD Roads Service (now Transport NI), Northern Ireland Water and DARD Rivers Agency. More details on the findings of this research report by URS are attached in Appendix 1
1.2	There has been considerable progress in addressing flood alleviation in the city since June 2012 and the purpose of this report to Committee is to highlight some of the main improvements (including those which are planned but not yet completed) and the outstanding issues mentioned in the research report, including the lack of progress in establishing a scheme for individual property protection.
1.3	Members will recall that Rivers Agency drafted a business case for such a scheme almost a year ago and the Chair of this Committee wrote to both DARD and DFP in February 2014 seeking clarification on the proposals, finance, timeframes and administrative arrangements for the scheme and welcoming early discussions on the implications of the proposed scheme for councils. The scheme is still under consideration by the Department of Finance and Personnel.

<b>2</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
2.1	<b>Flood Alleviation Measures</b> The number of government departments and agencies with responsibilities for flood alleviation makes it difficult to establish a single process that covers all the issues involved in improving the flood resilience of the city. However since the URS Report and a number of other reports published following the June 2012 flooding there has been considerable investment and much work done to alleviate flooding in Belfast. For example, phase one of the Connswater Community Greenway project and the flood defences at Victoria Park have been completed. This ensured that the Orangefield and Sandhill areas did not flood during recent flooding

	<p>events. Phase two of the project is underway and will provide additional protection around the other culverts feeding into the Connswater and Loop rivers. A number of other significant schemes for Finaghy, Greystown and the Upper Malone area have also been launched and are due to commence next spring. These schemes will use a number of the mechanisms suggested in the report to deliver integrated solutions to flooding.</p>
2.2	<p>Coastal flood plans are well progressed and NIE, BT and NIW have taken action to protect their infrastructure in flood risk areas. In particular there has been considerable work to improve the resilience of the NIW pumping station at Sydenham. There is also a proposal to upgrade this pumping station to increase its capacity; and a further proposal to rebuild it in a new location.</p>
2.3	<p>The research report outlines other investigative and improvement work throughout the city including replacement gullies and manholes at Knocknagoney, repairs to collapsed sewers at Tennent Street and Tildarg Street, upgrading of river grilles at Knock Dual carriageway and replacement of a storm sewer pipeline in the Castlewood Manor area. The Report identifies the York Street Interchange Scheme as an example of a collaborative multi-agency approach having the potential to provide significant flood alleviation benefits for Belfast.</p>
2.4	<p><b>Innovative Approaches</b></p> <p>Looking forward the report identifies that potential exists within Belfast for the implementation of a wide variety of Sustainable Drainage Solutions (SuDS), alongside traditional drainage methods, to help alleviate flooding. SuDS are forms of surface water management, which aim to be more sustainable than traditional piped systems, reducing both the risk of flooding and pollution. The report points to the potential for the Council to work with the Storm Water Management Group, the Rivers Agency and others to develop a green infrastructure plan for the brownfield sites in the city. It also recommends the alignment of planning processes within the city and consideration of how Belfast City Council Masterplan or new development plan can influence flood alleviation in line with Planning Policy Statement 15 (PPS15).</p>
2.5	<p><b>Individual Property Protection Scheme</b></p> <p>The URS Report makes it clear that establishing a culture of self-help and resilience in neighbourhoods is an important aspect of flood protection and it refers to the business case developed by Rivers Agency for an individual property protection scheme. The Report suggests that such a scheme has significant potential to empower the public to help themselves, to reduce the likelihood of their homes flooding and to prevent financial hardship. It was proposed that this scheme would replace the current Flooding Hardship Payment Scheme, which the Council administers on behalf of the Department of the Environment (DOE) and it was anticipated that Rivers Agency would engage the Council regarding the administrative arrangements for the introduction of this scheme. However nearly a year on the business case for the scheme is still with DFP.</p>
2.6	<p><b>Recent Flooding</b></p> <p>There were three significant severe weather events in October and November of 2014 which resulted in 49 properties in Belfast receiving a £1000 payment for severe inconvenience. It was interesting to note that 48 of those payments were made for the flooding on 16<sup>th</sup> October; an event which occurred very suddenly with a 'Yellow' severe weather warning and an advisory email from the Met Office issued less than two hours before the flooding occurred. This differed from the event of 6<sup>th</sup> November for which there was an 'Amber' warning in place well in advance and the public and drainage agencies were much better prepared to cope with the severe weather. The Council delivered sandbags throughout the day in advance of the rain and a number of river grills and gullies in flood prone areas were cleared. There were many factors associated with these events but observation would suggest that advance warning and a coordinated and collaborative preventative approach in November did help to mitigate the impacts of the heavy rain and prevent internal flooding on both 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> November, when only 1 property was flooded internally.</p>
2.7	<p>It should be noted that a significant number of the properties in south Belfast which flooded during recent events will benefit from the Finaghy, Greystown and Upper Malone schemes</p>

	mentioned above. However the Report identified a number of other areas across the city where there was no particular reason for the flooding beyond the drains not being able to cope with the extreme conditions. Many of these areas are on the NIW DG5 Register. This is a register of properties at risk from internal flooding in a 2 in 10, 1 in 10 and 1 in 20 year return period rainfall event. Capital investment projects are identified to remove as many of these properties as possible from the register but it is a regional register with over 200 properties on it and the proposed schemes are obviously subject to funding and approval from the Utility Regulator. Again the number of houses on the DG5 register and other properties where there is no remedy available to prevent flooding during extreme weather emphasises the need for a robust and accessible individual property protection scheme.
2.8	<p><b>Outstanding Issues</b></p> <p>A number of the operational flood planning groups have been collapsed down and merged with groups within the new regional resilience structures to achieve more streamlined and connected planning. However there is still a need to consider merging a number of the groups at a strategic level to establish a single forum or overseeing organisation to harmonise the work that is currently being undertaken by the drainage agencies and effectively connect with other organisations such as the Council to support working towards a strategic and comprehensive integrated planning approach to flood alleviation for Belfast. Such an approach could include developing similar innovative schemes to those mentioned in the research, for example developing a mechanism whereby funding could be made available to members of the public incentivising them to install sustainable drainage systems within their property boundary (similar to installing solar panels).</p>
2.9	The Research concludes that it is difficult to establish a single process that will cover all issues involved in trying to improve the flood resilience of Belfast and it makes it clear that all flooding cannot be prevented. It is disappointing therefore to note that the Rivers Agency scheme for individual property protection has not progressed beyond DFP as the investment created by the proposed scheme, together with the planned area improvement schemes has the potential to have a significant impact on improving flood alleviation in Belfast. Individual property protection is particularly important at this time of government cuts with the DOE proposing to withdraw the scheme of emergency financial assistance. The current scheme provides the £1000 payments to householders and enables the Council to engage contractors to assist with the cleanup of properties and other related services.
2.10	An update report was provided at the December meeting of the Emergency and Severe Weather Working group who recommended this to be considered at the next Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

<b>3</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
3.1	The current DOE budget consultation proposes to withdraw the scheme of emergency financial assistance which could impact on the Council's ability to support the response to and recovery from flooding in the city. The Council currently claims back costs for deploying contractors for cleanup of properties, additional working out of hours and contractor costs for sandbag deliveries, conference calls, and such like. There is no money in the revenue estimates to cover these costs.

<b>4</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Considerations</b>
4.1	No particular considerations

<b>5</b>	<b>Call In</b>
5.1	This report is subject to call in

<b>6</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
6.1	It is recommended that Members note the report and the significant progress that has been made to reduce the risk of flooding in areas of Belfast since June 2012. Members are also requested to note some of the barriers that still exist to achieving an integrated approach flood alleviation planning in the city.
6.2	It is recommended that the Committee agrees to write to the Finance and Personnel Minister with regard to the urgent need for a robust and accessible individual property protection scheme to prevent flooding; and to encourage the establishment of a single strategic overseeing group for Belfast to address integrated flood alleviation planning and other significant issues highlighted in this report.

<b>7</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>
Siobhan Toland	

<b>8</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
SuDS – Sustainable Drainage Systems DFP- Department of Personnel and Finance	

<b>9</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
Belfast Flood Alleviation Improvement Works Significant Issues Report May 2014	



# Belfast Flood Alleviation Improvement Works

Significant Issues Report

May 2014

47069440

Prepared for:

Belfast City Council

UNITED  
KINGDOM &  
IRELAND



Rev	Date	Details	Prepared by	Checked by	Approved by
1	6 Dec 2013	Strategic Report into Flooding in Belfast	Claire McCann Civil Engineer	John Armstrong Associate	David McKillen Technical Director
2	31 Jan 2014	2 <sup>nd</sup> Draft	Claire McCann Civil Engineer	John Armstrong Associate	David McKillen Technical Director
3	4 April 2014	3 <sup>rd</sup> Draft	Claire McCann Civil Engineer	John Armstrong Associate	David McKillen Technical Director
4	17 April 2014	4 <sup>th</sup> Draft	Claire McCann Civil Engineer	John Armstrong Associate	David McKillen Technical Director
5	20 May 2014	Final Report	Claire McCann Civil Engineer	John Armstrong Associate	David McKillen Technical Director

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**NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY**

Belfast City Council requested the preparation of a report on flood alleviation schemes in Belfast, the purpose of which is to consider the current way that flood risk is managed in the City and how this can be developed and improved for the future.

Belfast has been impacted by a number of serious flooding incidents since 2005 and the Council has identified a number of flooding areas of particular concern. The three drainage agencies in Northern Ireland; DRD Roads Service, Northern Ireland Water and DARD Rivers Agency; were contacted and requested to provide information on flooding incidents within these areas and details of any completed, ongoing, programmed or proposed schemes to alleviate the causes of this flooding.

Seventy-two flooding areas were identified by Belfast City Council. Following the data collection period, a further eight areas were added to this list. In total information was provided on 65 of the flooding areas, with the drainage agencies having no knowledge of, or information on flooding at 15 locations.

Twelve flooding areas were identified as flooding because of severe weather, meaning the storm event causing the flooding was more severe than the accepted design standard that the drainage system was designed to take.

Eight areas were identified as having properties on the Northern Ireland Water DG5 Register. The DG5 Register is a register of properties that have flooded during non-severe weather because the local drainage infrastructure has insufficient capacity to carry the required flows.

Investigation work into the causes of flooding is ongoing in a number of the flooding areas. The report outlines the nature of these investigations and, where possible, provides information on the timescales in which they are anticipated to be completed.

Flood alleviation schemes have been completed in 11 of the flooding locations. Works range from Rivers Agency upgrading grilles to the provision of additional road gullies by Roads Service to help remove surface water from the road carriageway more efficiently.

A number of programmed flood alleviation schemes were also identified. These are mainly concentrated within the East Belfast area and should alleviate flooding in more than a dozen of the flooding areas.

Collaborative working, that is schemes where more than one of the drainage agencies is involved, covers a number of the flooding areas. This type of integration occurs where it can be identified that infrastructure belonging to more than one drainage agency may have contributed to the cause of flooding. A number of multi-agency stakeholder groups exist that aim to support collaboration between the agencies for the improvement of flood resilience in Belfast and beyond.

The need to plan for the future is important when trying to reduce the impact of flooding. A number of initiatives are outlined in the report to help achieve this, including accepting that no below ground drainage system can ever be designed that would be able to cope with some of the severe weather events experienced in recent years. To construct such a system would be prohibitively large and costly. It is therefore necessary to look for more innovative solutions for stormwater management including those at risk helping themselves (self-help).

Designing for exceedance is an essential approach to be considered in the provision of drainage infrastructure. This means that once the capacity of the drainage system is exceeded, there is a dedicated above ground route where excess water can be directed to a suitable location, where flood damage will be much less. This may include the provision of flood storage areas in playing fields, car parks or other large open areas where flood water can be stored for limited periods.

There are many lessons to be learnt from other areas both nationally and internationally. The work being completed in Glasgow by the Metropolitan Glasgow Strategic Drainage Partnership (MGSDP) and that completed by Thames Water in the Counters Creek area of London are examples of how flood alleviation can be achieved in a sustainable manner. The Chicago Green Alleys initiative is also an example of how employing a range of sustainable techniques can reduce the impact of severe weather on drainage infrastructure.

The potential exists within Belfast for the implementation of a wide variety of Sustainable Drainage Solutions (SuDS), alongside traditional drainage methods, to help alleviate flooding. SuDS are forms of surface water management, which aim to be more sustainable than traditional piped systems, reducing both the risk of flooding and pollution.

The public need to be educated about the significant role they have to play in protecting themselves against flooding. This self-help mentality needs to be encouraged and advice on measures to protect homes made more readily available. Rivers Agency are developing a business case for an Individual Property Protection scheme that would empower the public to help themselves, reduce the likelihood of their homes flooding and reduce financial hardship.

The 2013 – 2020 Belfast City Masterplan identifies the high proportion of brownfield sites within the City and the need to develop a green infrastructure plan to for these sites in conjunction with development proposals. This could be further developed to include blue-green spaces and it is recommended that the Council engage the Blue-Green Cities Research Team to determine if there are opportunities available to become involved with the project.

The design of any stormwater system must take account of a range of Statutory and European legislation and requirements. These pieces of legislation aim to minimise the risk of flooding by putting restrictions on the volume and final discharge location of stormwater. They impose a requirement to protect the freshwater and marine environment and place environmental

restrictions on the water to be discharged, including specifying the level of treatment required, in order to protect habitats.

There are a number of existing groups in Northern Ireland focused on targeting flooding. The main purpose of these groups is to establish and develop a strategy for the management of surface water in Northern Ireland.

The groups aim to promote collaborative working between a range of agencies including DRD, DOE, Northern Ireland Environment Agency, Rivers Agency, Roads Service, Northern Ireland Water and DFP. They are focussed on developing a procedure that will promote the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), designing for exceedance and will seek to further develop stormwater management on a catchment basis.

There is no single process to cover all issues involved with trying to improve the flood resilience of Belfast and expectations need to be managed that all flooding can be prevented. The causes of flooding are varied and the organisation, or person, responsible for providing alleviation may not always be apparent. Therefore, it is suggested that a number of initiatives need to be established, as set out above, to drive flood alleviation in the City.

Through establishing these processes, along with other initiatives set out in the report, it should be possible to improve the flood resilience of Belfast and protect it for future generations.

**1. INTRODUCTION**

URS was appointed as sub-consultant to Turner and Townsend, acting as Project Managers, to prepare a report into flooding in a number of areas located throughout the Belfast City Council area.

The purpose of the report is to bring together all information on flood alleviation improvement schemes in Belfast. This will allow the consideration of planned improvements in a joined up manner that will identify any potential issues with the approach, current design standards, infrastructure or flooding causes which lie beyond the remit of any agency. This information will then be used to address the potential impacts on the Council's long term vision for developing and improving the City.

## 2. BACKGROUND TO FLOODING IN BELFAST

There have been a number of serious local flooding incidents throughout Belfast since 2005, with 2010 the only exemption.

The severity of flooding has ranged from minor flooding of roads and gardens to the complete submergence of the Broadway Underpass in August 2008. Details of some of these flooding events are provided below.

### ***1 December 2005***

An active front moved east across Northern Ireland during the morning of the 1st December 2005. This produced several hours of heavy rainfall with the Belfast Area worst affected with some parts in the south of the city receiving 25 to 30mm of rain in a 4 hour period, estimated to be a rainfall event with a return period of around 20 years. Lower Ormeau Road was the worst area affected with around 40 homes internally flooded. In addition 12 properties flooded in the Sydenham area. The floods were related to surface water and/or out-of-sewer flooding. This type of rainfall is not uncommon and other factors appear to have played a part in the flooding on this occasion.



**Figure 1 Flooding in South Belfast**

### ***12 June 2007***

Intense storms developed across central parts of Northern Ireland from late morning on 12 June 2007. The storms were intense and slow moving with 50mm of rain falling in the Belfast area in a 90 minute period.

Around 400 properties in East Belfast were adversely affected by the extreme rainfall. Some of the worst flooding occurred at Ladas Drive when the Loop River, which rose by over 2m, burst its banks. The Knock River at Orangefield also overtopped its banks and caused serious flooding problems in the Orangefield area with 80 residents of a local Residential Home evacuated after it was badly damaged by floodwater.



**Figure 2 Flooding at Ladas Drive**

***16 August 2008***

Recorded rainfall on 16 August 2008 was typically between 80 to 100% of the normal monthly average. Rainfall depths were typically in the range of 40 to 65mm with Belfast worst affected by the flooding. The Broadway underpass was flooded to a depth of around 4.6m when floodwater overflowed from a trash grille on the River Clowney and as a result the Westlink was closed for a period of 4 days. There was significant damage to infrastructure, services and property and Belfast City Council processed a high volume of applications from householders for emergency flood relief payments. It was estimated that the main source of flooding was surface water (pluvial) and that this may have contributed to around 60% of the total damage.





**Figure 3 Flooding at Broadway Underpass**

***27 & 28 June 2012***

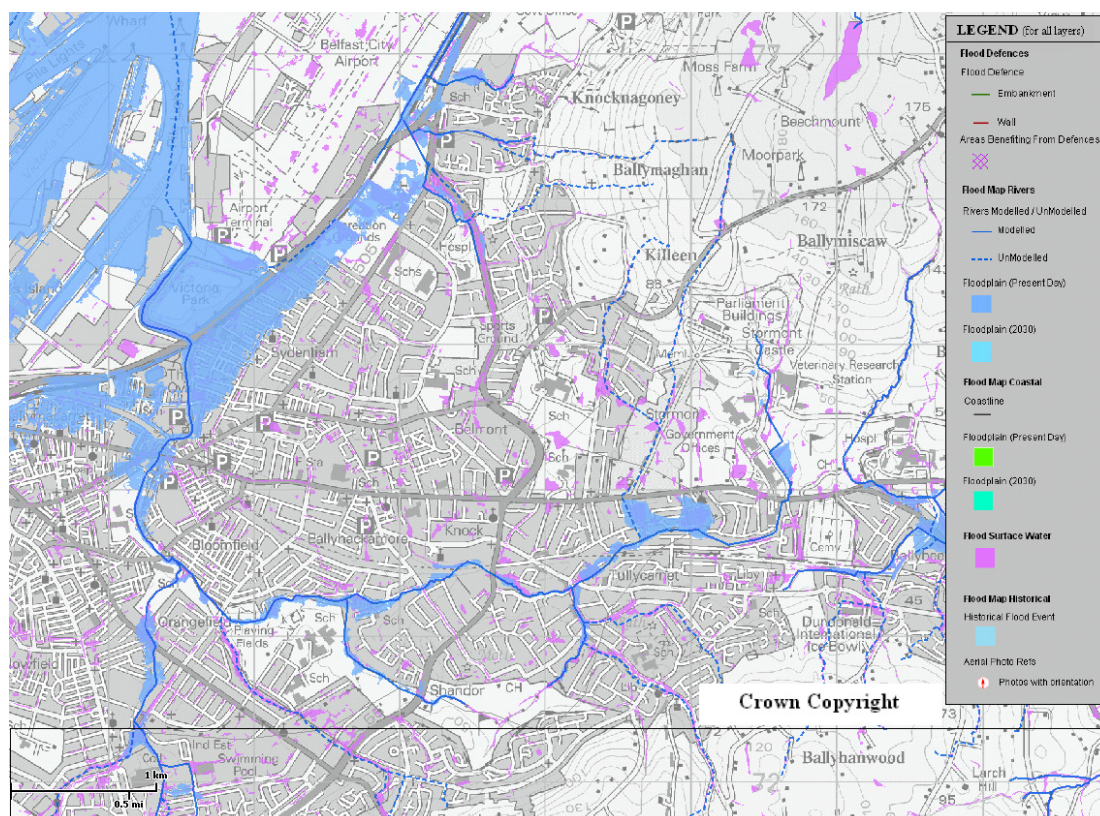
The volume of rainfall on 27 June 2012 was exceptional with the most intense rainfall concentrated on localised areas. 44mm of rain fell in a 3 hour period in Belfast, equivalent to a return period of the order of 120 years. Around 1400 properties were internally flooded, all of which were issued with the £1,000 hardship payment.



**Figure 4 Flooding at Stockman's Lane**

## 2.1 Sources of Available Information

A number of resources are available providing information on the anticipated extent of flooding from a variety of sources. The most readily available of these, the Strategic Flood Map NI, is produced by Rivers Agency. Figure 5 shows the areas affected by flooding in East Belfast. Areas shown in pink are those affected by surface water flooding and those in blue are areas that would be inundated by rivers and the sea.



**Figure 5 Strategic Flood Map NI for East Belfast**

As required by the Floods Directive, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Rivers Agency, as the Competent Authority for the implementation of the Directive, is in the process of producing Flood Risk and Hazard Maps for Significant Flood Risk Areas, of which Belfast is one. These maps are now available having been completed in December 2013. Using these maps, Rivers Agency, with input from others, has commenced work on Flood Risk Management Plans that are required to be completed by 2015.

### 3. DATA COLLECTION PROCESS

#### 3.1 Responsible Authorities

Belfast City Council identified the following agencies as having some role in the management of flood risk in Northern Ireland:

- DRD Roads Service
- Northern Ireland Water
- DARD Rivers Agency

During the development of the project scope, the Council liaised closely with members of each organisation regarding the data acquisition and to gain their support.

#### 3.2 Preparation of Request for Information

In order that the data collection process was as comprehensive as possible, URS wrote to the three agencies identified above requesting information on flooding in a list of flooding areas identified by Belfast City Council. These areas are ones that have flooded frequently in the past.

To ensure that the information provided by each agency was in a similar format, a proforma was prepared and agreed with Belfast City Council. This was issued to the agencies along with the letter and list of flooded areas.

##### 3.2.1 Flooding Areas

Belfast City Council has identified a list of 72 areas that are located throughout Belfast, as per Table 1. A breakdown of the areas by location is included in Appendix A.

Location	No. of Flooding Areas
North	6
West	7
South	19
East	37
Tidal	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>72</b>

**Table 1 Flooding Areas by Location**

The data collection process was focussed on gathering all known information on the causes of flooding within these areas. Information on whether or not any flood alleviation works are completed, ongoing, programmed or proposed within the areas was also requested. There



was also a request for information on private infrastructure and how this may be contributing to flooding in any of the areas identified.

### **3.3 Meetings with Agencies**

During the data collection process, both Northern Ireland Water and Rivers Agency requested a meeting to discuss the acquisition in more detail. The agencies were concerned with the level of detail included in the proforma and with the time that it would take to collate the information required.

Meetings were held separately on 15th August 2013 and 27th August 2013. As a result of these meetings it was agreed that the agencies should provide as much detail as was readily available on flood events within the areas requested.

A joint agency response on behalf of the three main drainage agencies was provided via DRD Water Policy Division on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2013.

#### **4. DATA ANALYSIS**

Following the receipt of the combined agency response, URS undertook a data analysis process. The outcome of this was to further develop the response provided by the agencies and to revert to them with some questions regarding the information provided. A follow up meeting was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2013 at which all issues were resolved.

##### **4.1 Standards Used**

Each of the three drainage agencies designs its infrastructure to different standards. The difference in the design standards used is as a result of the nature of the water that is being conveyed.

DRD Roads Service surface water drainage is designed for a rainfall event with a 1 in 1 year return period in accordance with the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB). Northern Ireland Water stormwater drainage infrastructure is designed for a 1 rainfall event with a 1 in 30 year return period in accordance with WRc Sewers for Adoption Northern Ireland 1st Edition. DARD Rivers Agency infrastructure is designed for a flow with a 1 in 100 year return period.

A rainfall event with a 1 in 1 year return period can be considered to have a 100% chance of occurring in any one year. Similarly, a 1 in 30 year return period rainfall event has a 1 in 30 chance of occurring in any one year. A 1 in 100 year return period flow is considered to have a 1% chance of occurring in any one year.

The primary purpose of the Roads Service drainage system is to remove surface water to prevent flooding of the road itself. Roads Service is responsible for the maintenance of the existing carriageway drainage which in many instances connects to either Northern Ireland Water or Rivers Agency infrastructure. It undertakes minor improvements to its infrastructure but does not complete specific flood alleviation schemes and has the power to deal with overland flow onto roads.

The Northern Ireland Water stormwater system is one route through which surface water is conveyed to its final discharge location. In Belfast, a high proportion of stormwater discharges through a combined drainage system that also conveys foul water. It is when this system is exceeded that there is the potential for land and property to be flooded by 'dirty' water.

All new infrastructure projects are required to provide separate foul and stormwater drainage systems. In most instances the stormwater runoff from the site post-development must be no greater than the existing stormwater runoff and in many cases this can only be achieved by Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS). Northern Ireland Water is open to the possibility of adopting an increased range of SuDS types, as demonstrated by the 2012 Carrowreagh SuDS Pilot Project. However, there are a number of issues that need to be resolved before this process can be implemented fully.

DARD Rivers Agency aims to reduce the risk to life and damage to property from flooding from rivers and the sea and to undertake watercourse and coastal flood management in a sustainable manner.

It is responsible for maintaining designated watercourses (under the terms of the Drainage (NI) Order 1973), regulation of maintenance by riparians of private watercourses, regulation of proposed works which impact on the function of watercourses and development of viable works to reduce flood risk from watercourses.

Rivers Agency's network of designated culverts and open watercourses is also a potential discharge location for both Roads Service and Northern Ireland Water stormwater. However, stormwater can also be discharged to private watercourses, drains and culverts, making the resolution of flooding problems complex.

This interdependency means that there needs to be coordination between the agencies with respect to flood alleviation in Belfast and beyond.

#### **4.2 Information on Flooding Areas**

The final database of information on the 72 identified areas is included in Appendix B. The agencies added eight areas to the spreadsheet bringing the total number of areas to 80. Comments were provided on 65 of the 80 sites. Four of these were commented on by Roads Service, 34 by Rivers Agency and 40 by Northern Ireland Water. 16 sites were responded on by more than one agency.

The 15 sites that were not commented on by any of the agencies are as follows:

- Deerpark Gardens
- Riverdale Park South
- Glencolin Heights
- Brooke Drive
- Woodbourne Crescent
- Marlborough Court
- Northbrook Street (jcn Lower Windsor Avenue)
- Florenceville Drive
- Friendly Street
- Ava Avenue
- Channing Street

- Cregagh Street
- Richardson Court
- Orangefield Avenue
- Knock Eden Parade

The agencies have advised that they have no knowledge of, or information on, flooding at these locations.

A review of the Rivers Agency Heat Map was undertaken by Belfast City Council. This is a map of all properties that have received a flood relief payment as a result of being internally flooded. All but one of the 15 areas above had properties recorded on the Heat Map.

Further investigation identified that the timing of these flood relief payments coincided with some of the most severe weather events experienced in Belfast which resulted in widespread flooding across the City. In some cases, the severity of the weather event may have resulted in the drainage infrastructure systems becoming overwhelmed leading to inundation.

It may also be possible that, as a result of the widespread nature of the flooding at the time, the flooding was not reported to any of the agencies. If flooding is not reported to the three drainage agencies, it is not possible for them to record the events to allow them to assess the potential cause of the flooding and how or if it was impacted by their infrastructure.

#### 4.2.1 ***Areas Flooded by Severe Weather***

Northern Ireland Water responds to assist in dealing with incidents of flooding due to severe weather. Properties flooded due to severe weather are recorded on a section of the DG5 Register but this would not trigger follow up action unless there are other issues in the immediate area. The DG5 Register is maintained by Northern Ireland Water and is a record of the properties at risk from internal flooding in a 2 in 10, 1 in 10 and 1 in 20 year return period rainfall event.

Twelve of the flooding areas are recorded as flooding due to severe weather:

- Brompton Park
- Deerpark Road
- Ferndale Court
- Moonstone Street
- Gilnahirk Avenue
- Sunwich Street
- Richardson Street

- Castlereagh Road
- Connsbrook Avenue
- Lisavon Drive
- Lisavon Street
- Larkfield Manor



**Figure 6 Flooding at Sunwich Street in 2007**

#### **4.2.2 Areas on the DG5 Register**

Properties are recorded on the DG5 register if they are at risk of flooding during non-severe weather because the sewer does not have sufficient capacity to carry the volume of water falling on the ground. Capital investment projects are identified to remove as many properties as possible from the Register. There are approximately 200 properties on the Register across Northern Ireland with a few new properties added each year as they are discovered. Northern Ireland Water intends to address as many of these properties as possible during their price control periods PC13 and PC15, subject to the economic viability of individual projects, availability of funding and approval from the Utility Regulator.



Of the 80 flooding areas, eight are identified as having properties on the DG5 Register, as follows:

- Sicily Park
- Greystown Avenue
- Marguerite Park
- Great Northern Street (including Brookland Street)
- Eastleigh Dale
- York Street
- Maryville Avenue
- Hawthornden Road

Northern Ireland Water have also indicated that they have recently completed 2-Dimensional modelling of overland flows at Hillsborough Drive and Ardgowan Street and as a result have determined that flooded properties in these areas should be moved to the DG5 Register. A 2-Dimensional model is also being prepared for Tildarg Street with a similar outcome expected.

Once added to the DG5 register, the properties will be subject to a standard prioritisation methodology that will establish their position on the register, which in turn will influence when a scheme will be developed in order to subsequently remove them from it.

#### **4.2.3 Areas Where Collaborative Working is Taking Place**

There are a number of instances where the agencies are currently working collaboratively to resolve flooding issues. Collaborative working takes place where it can be demonstrated that the cause of flooding falls within the responsibility of more than one of the drainage agencies. The establishment of the Flood Investment and Planning Group is one example of how this process is supported as it aims to formalise this integrated approach to flood alleviation and drainage issues.

The South Belfast Flood Alleviation Scheme is being jointly investigated by Northern Ireland Water and Rivers Agency. The outcome of this scheme should help to alleviate flooding in Sicily Park and have a positive impact on flooding at Greystown Avenue, Priory Park and Locksley Park. The scheme is supported by both Belfast City Council and Northern Ireland Environment Agency and includes a short term solution to remove services from existing private culverts with the potential to construct additional road gullies in the area. Medium and long term proposals are due to be submitted to DRD and DFP in Spring 2014 and include the possible provision of a retention feature in Musgrave Park and integration with the larger Glenmachan Project. Once completed, this scheme will remove properties in the area from the DG5 Register.

Roads Service has identified flooding at Knocknagoney Drive and Knocknagoney Avenue as arising due to runoff from land adjacent to the Old Hollywood Road. They have carried out investigations into the road drainage in the area and have determined this system is in good service condition. They have replaced two road gullies and carried out repairs to a third at Knocknagoney Drive and are investigating the ownership of the land adjacent to the Old Hollywood Road. In addition, Rivers Agency has carried out improvement works to one of the manholes and will undertake a CCTV survey, which should all help to alleviate flooding in the area.

Flood alleviation works in relation to Knock Eden Crescent were undertaken by both Rivers Agency and Northern Ireland Water. Rivers Agency has identified the potential cause of flooding being due to two blocked grilles at Knock Dual Carriageway. Both grilles have been upgraded. Northern Ireland Water has also repaired a sewer blockage which may also have contributed to the flooding. There has been no recurrence of flooding since these works have been carried out.



**Figure 7 Knocknagoney Drive during a flood event**

#### **4.2.4 Areas Where Investigation Work is Ongoing**

The agencies are currently undertaking investigation works to determine potential causes of flooding and identify possible flood alleviation solutions in a number of areas.

Northern Ireland Water is investigating flooding caused by an overloaded sewer at York Street. The project is at an early stage of development with a number of options being considered. These include increasing sewer capacity, attenuation, off-line or on-line storage and separating storm water from the existing combined sewer. Works are proposed to be completed within the PC13 to PC15 timeframe.

At Carrington Street, investigations carried out by Northern Ireland Water identified debris in the downstream siphon. Repair work has been carried out and the model has been re-run and no out of sewer flooding is apparent. Northern Ireland Water has commented that some road flooding may remain.

Rivers Agency has carried out a pre-feasibility report into the potential cause of flooding at Riverdale Park East. The nature and outcome of proposals are currently at an early stage of development.

Northern Ireland Water identified one cause of flooding at Stockmans Lane following a period of severe weather. Rivers Agency has installed a water level recorder with text alerts to monitor water levels in order to establish whether the watercourse contributes to flooding.

Rivers Agency has de-silted an open watercourse to prevent the transport of silt blocking the grille upstream at Glen Ebor Park.

#### **4.2.5 Completed Flood Alleviation Works**

The agencies are continually carrying out works to improve flood resilience. Works have been completed in a number of the identified flooding areas as summarised in the following paragraphs.

The cause of flooding at Westland Road was identified as being primarily due to a combination of runoff from the adjacent golf course and existing gullies becoming blocked by leaves. Following the installation of additional gullies by Roads Service and additional drainage being provided within the grounds of the golf course, there have been no recent reports of flooding.

A collapsed sewer at Tennent Street and a blocked sewer at Tildarg Avenue have been repaired by Northern Ireland Water.

Near Orchardville Crescent, the grille on the Ladybrook River has been upgraded by Rivers Agency and the designation was extended in November 2012. This means that Rivers Agency is able to maintain a longer stretch of the River. In addition to this, the Agency has installed a notice at the new grille requesting that residents notify them if the grille becomes

blocked. This is an innovative approach to help Rivers Agency quickly respond to a potential flooding incident and consideration should be given to rolling this initiative out to other suitable locations.

The Ladybrook River also runs adjacent to the River Close area. The watercourse was maintained in the early summer of 2013 and there have been no further reports of flooding.

To help alleviate flooding at Castlewood Manor and the Orchardville area, Roads Service has de-silted pipes beneath the M1 motorway, replaced gullies and installed approximately 90m of replacement storm sewer pipeline.

Rivers Agency has identified one possible cause of flooding at Finaghy Road South as being due to a section of privately maintained open watercourse that has since been culverted by one of the local schools, close to Rathmore Gardens. Rivers Agency de-silted the downstream system and the manholes in the Council owned park have been raised to ground level with the lids replaced with gully grates.



**Figure 8 Notice at grille on the Ladybrook River**

An additional road gully has been provided at Orpen Drive and the size of the connection pipe has been increased by Roads Service. However, the downstream discharge location of this drainage is to a private watercourse.

A CCTV survey carried out by Northern Ireland Water into flooding at Marguerite Park identified a section of broken storm sewer pipe at the junction of Diamond Park and Marguerite Park. Roads Service replaced the broken pipe in July 2013. However, the road drainage in this area connects to a private watercourse that is blocked and this is being investigated by Roads Service.

At Cloghan Crescent, the culvert and watercourse have been de-silted by Rivers Agency in an attempt to alleviate flooding in the area.

Roads Service is to investigate the road drainage network at Gilnahirk Road to determine whether it is contributing to flooding problems in the area. Rivers Agency has secured a manhole on part of the culverted section of the Gilnahirk Stream.

An equipment failure at Park Avenue in East Belfast resulted in 19 properties flooding internally. Northern Ireland Water has repaired the equipment and there has been no recurrence of the flooding, suggesting that flooding issue has been resolved.

#### **4.2.6      *Programmed Flood Alleviation Works***

A series of severe flood events over a number of years in East Belfast has identified under-capacity problems relating to existing culverts and watercourses within the area.

The East Belfast Flood Alleviation Scheme (EBFAS) works focus on the protection of areas currently subject to flooding during periods of heavy rainfall events. River capacity will be increased through the enlargement of channel sections and the provision of larger capacity culverts. Physical flood defence measures, such as sheet piles, will be used to contain the rivers during spate events where required.

The EBFAS was originally integrated within the contract for the Connswater Community Greenway (CCG) project. This is a project developed by the East Belfast Partnership to create a linear park through East Belfast and is being funded by the Big Lottery Fund, Belfast City Council, DARD Rivers Agency and the Department of Social Development. As the 'Greenway' project followed the lines of the Knock River, Loop River and the Connswater, Rivers Agency brought forward its proposals for flood alleviation works on these rivers to facilitate the 'Greenway' project.

Phase I of the Connswater Community Greenway project, which incorporates elements of the East Belfast Flood Alleviation Scheme works, is nearing completion. These works are concentrated on the Victoria Park and Orangefield Park areas.



Rivers Agency is now progressing with what it terms as flood alleviation elements of the project. These elements are works which do not require to be constructed in an integrated fashion along with the 'Greenway' environmental enhancements and therefore can be completed separately by the Agency. These works relate specifically to culverts or flood defences along the following sections:

- Montgomery Road culvert
- Ladas Drive culvert
- Ladas Way culvert
- Castlereagh Road culvert and flood walls
- Clara Park culvert and flood walls
- Grand Parade culvert



**Figure 9 Surfer battling flood water on the Castlereagh Road in 2012**

Interim flood protection measures are also being considered at Knockvale Park. This 'stand-alone' project is currently at tender stage.

Phase II of the project includes works in the remaining and following sections; Cregagh Glen, Upper Knockbreda Road, Cregagh Road, Montgomery Road, Ladas Drive, Ladas Way, Castlereagh Road, Elmgrove, Dixon Park, Sandown Road, Clara Park, Grand Parade,

Elmgrove, Knock Road, Beersbridge Road, Connswater Bridge, Newtownards Road, Hollywood Arches, Mersey Street and Sydenham Bypass.



**Figure 10 Flooding in the Orangefield Area in 2007**

The works will alleviate flooding in the following flooding areas:

- Clara Way
- Clarawood Walk
- Sandhill Parade
- Sandhill Park
- Orangefield Park
- Orangefield Green
- Orangefield Lane
- Castlereagh Road
- Loopland Park
- Loopland Gardens

- Loopland Drive
- Ladas Drive
- Knockvale Grove

Northern Ireland Water has identified a number of discrete flooding schemes as part of their East Belfast Drainage Area Study. The scope of these schemes includes upsizing of sewers, installation of offline storage tanks and the construction of additional sewers. Of the flooding areas by Belfast City Council, the following will benefit from these schemes:

- Castleview Road
- Eastleigh Dale and Pasadena Gardens
- Gilnahirk Road junction Lower Braniel Road
- Cherryvalley Gardens / Gilnahirk Road

In addition to the these areas, the following areas will also benefit; Upper Newtownards Road and Hawthornden Road, Sydenham Avenue, Cabin Hill Park, Glensharragh Gardens, Wandsworth Road, Old Holywood Road, Orangefield Parade and Meadowbank Park / Ardcarne.

No dates have been provided as to when these schemes are programmed to take place or as to when funding may become available. As is the case on all schemes of a similar nature, Northern Ireland Water will work closely with Rivers Agency when developing these projects.

#### **4.2.7 Areas Where Additional Investigation Work May Be Required**

Further investigation work may be required at a number of the identified flooding areas to help determine the possible cause of flooding and consider potential solutions.

Flooding at Glencairn Way has been attributed to overland flow. It may be possible to find a suitable method of diverting the flow away from residential areas and attenuating the flow before it discharges into the public sewer network. However, this would require identification of and agreement from the appropriate landowners.

Rivers Agency has commented that there have been no recent problems at the grille on the watercourse adjacent to Sunningdale Park. Further investigation work may be required to help identify other potential causes of flooding in the area.

Flooding in the Lille Park area has been attributed to a private drain that runs from Ormonde Park to Finaghy Road North, to the rear of properties in Lille Park. Roads Service has cleared and jetted all gullies and de-silted the storm sewer in Lille Park. In addition to this, Northern Ireland Water has identified the cause of flooding as severe weather. It may be prudent for



the agencies to work together to see if an economically viable solution to this flooding can be found.

Overland flow from the Stormont Hotel may be contributing to flooding at Castlevue Road. A previous flood report identifies works within the hotel grounds to alleviate flooding within their site, which may have resulted in escalating the flooding on Castlevue Road during periods of severe weather.

An overloaded sewer at Orangefield Drive South has been identified as contributing to flooding in the area. Northern Ireland Water has commented that this has been recorded on part of the DG5 Register. For all DG5 properties, Northern Ireland Water will identify capital investment projects to remove as many of these properties as possible from the register during PC13 and PC15. This will be subject to the economic viability of individual projects, availability of funding and approval from the Utility Regulator.

In the case of Lockview/Stranmillis, Rivers Agency has stated that storm tide forecasts have been shared with Belfast City Council and other responders. Additional investigations may be required to determine if there are any potential flood alleviation solutions for this area.

It is worth noting that Belfast Resilience Forum has recently completed a Coastal Flooding Protocol, which is to be included within the Flood Plan for the City. Rivers Agency is the lead organisation in advising on the response to tidal flooding. It receives an alert from UK Coastal Monitoring and Forecasting (UKCMF) in advance of an anticipated tidal flood event. Rivers Agency then contacts the Met Office to obtain meteorological information and use this in conjunction with the UKCMF data to determine if awareness raising is required. If required, it will then contact the PSNI requesting them to convene a multi-agency forum with key agencies to discuss the appropriate process for dealing with the anticipated flooding.

This protocol was most recently implemented at the beginning of 2014 when a storm surge was anticipated to occur at the same time as a period of severe weather. On this occasion major flooding did not occur and the implementation of the protocol was determined to be a success.

## 5. PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

### 5.1 Collaborative Working

The three drainage agencies are actively working collaboratively with each other to improve the flood resilience within Belfast. However, there are some political obstacles obstructing the full potential of collaborative working being realised, not least that the three organisations are under the umbrella of two different government departments which may create difficulties in determining where final responsibilities lie. This issue was highlighted in the PEDU report, published in September 2012 following significant flooding in Belfast in June of that year. The report recommended that consideration is given to consolidation of all flood response organisations under the one departmental ambit. This recommendation has been deferred as part of the wider review of post-2015 structures of government. The wider review of government departments is being taken forward by the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister.

One other difficulty arising from this is when it comes to scheme funding. As the agencies are funded by different government departments, problems may arise regarding financial contributions to any particular project. This issue could be lessened by harmonisation of government departments.

In May 2010, DRD published the document “Social & Environmental Guidance for Water & Sewerage Services 2010-2013”. The document sets out to provide the Northern Ireland Authority for Utility Regulation with guidance on the key environmental and social policies that DRD expects it to contribute to in carrying out its role in regulating the water industry. A draft “Social & Environmental Guidance for Water & Sewerage Services 2015-2021” was published in November 2013 and is currently out for public consultation. This document sets out guidance for the upcoming price control period, PC15.

DARD Rivers Agency is the Competent Authority for the implementation of the Floods Directive. However, DRD realises that as owners of key drainage infrastructure, Roads Service and Northern Ireland Water are required to exercise their functions in a manner that secures compliance with the Directive and to do this effectively requires an integrated approach to flood risk management by all three authorities.

The Flood Investment and Planning Group (FIPG) was established following the publication of the PEDU report with the aim of formalising the existing integrated working between the three drainage agencies and to provide a forum to progress flooding and drainage related issues.

The FIPG provides a co-ordinated approach to the identification of flooding issues to be addressed on a multi-agency basis, including proposals for the investigation of flooding, and to propose potential solutions, agree responsibilities and make the case for investment.

Collaborative working between the agencies in South Belfast is already evident on the South Belfast Flood Alleviation Scheme. The scheme, that aims to alleviate flooding in Sicily Park and the surrounding area, is being led by Northern Ireland Water.

There are a number of short and medium term solutions that will assist with the long term solution to reduce the risk of flooding in the area. Short term solutions, which included a detailed investigation into the sewerage, watercourse and culvert systems, identification and repair of collapses within private culverts and a £100k investment by Northern Ireland Water to remove services from private culverts and assist Rivers Agency to identify additional utility services within these culverts, is now complete.

The medium term solution is at outline design stage with the timescale for submission of the business case to DRD programmed for spring 2014. Proposals include upgrading sewers including storm sewer separation and possible provision of a stormwater retention feature in Musgrave Park.

The long term solution, which is part of the larger Glenmachan Project, is also being progressed. The business case for the project is programmed for completion and submission to DRD and DFP in spring 2014.

#### **5.1.1 *Areas where opportunities currently exist***

In general, where it can be identified that assets belonging to more than one drainage agency are contributing to flooding, the agencies are dedicated to working together in developing a solution to alleviate it.

The FIPG provides a mechanism for facilitating problems where it is not clear as to the cause of flooding and there may be the need for multi-agency involvement.

The proposed works on the York Street Interchange is an excellent example of a scheme where multi-agency involvement could provide significant flood alleviation benefits for Belfast. The scheme is being procured by Roads Service with the preferred option currently undergoing design development.

A storm separation system is being considered in conjunction with Northern Ireland Water and a meeting has taken place between Roads Service and Rivers Agency to discuss potential measures that could be incorporated within the overall scheme design to offer additional flood protection measures to Belfast.

#### **5.2 *Private Infrastructure***

There are many thousands of metres of private watercourses, drains and culverts located throughout the whole of Northern Ireland. The inspection and maintenance of this infrastructure is beyond the statutory remit of any of the drainage agencies. People who own

or occupy the land through which these private watercourses, drains and culverts flow have a statutory obligation to clean them as necessary to maintain the flow of water through them.

Under the Drainage (NI) Order 1973, Rivers Agency has enforcement powers to ensure compliance with these requirements in relation to private watercourses. They offer advice to help owners or occupiers understand the regulations and explain the circumstances where they would be expected to comply with them. However, Rivers Agency does not have the man power or financial resources to carry out routine inspections to ensure that land owners or occupiers are complying with their statutory duty.

Therefore, in an attempt to alleviate flooding, there is an onus on land owners and occupiers to regularly inspect and maintain the private watercourses, drains and culverts within their land. It is likely that many of these persons may be unaware of their statutory duty meaning that there may be a need to promote this within the public arena.

Land owners and occupiers should also be aware that if they wish to carry out modifications to watercourses, either designated or private, that will affect the flow regime or result in additional flow being discharged into a drainage system, then they must apply for Schedule 6 Consent under the Drainage (NI) Order 1973. Works that require this consent include culverting, watercourse realignment and the placing of structures on or adjacent to the banks of a watercourse.

### **5.3 Designing for Exceedance**

Throughout all correspondence with the drainage agencies, the term “designing for exceedance” was an essential approach to be considered in relation to the provision of any drainage infrastructure. This is coupled with the fact that no drainage system will ever be able to cope with some of the significant weather events that can occur.

The storm drainage network in many areas of Belfast is combined with the foul drainage network. Many new developments that must provide separate storm and foul drainage networks are curtailed by having to eventually discharge into the combined sewer network outside of their site boundary.

To replace the combined sewer network with new dedicated storm and foul drainage systems would be extremely costly and disruptive. It is therefore necessary to look to innovative solutions to managing flood risk within the City.

Designing for exceedance means that once the capacity of the drainage system is exceeded, there are dedicated flow paths in place that will convey and contain flow to a suitable downstream discharge location. This may also include the provision of flood storage areas in playing fields, car parks or other large open areas where exceedance flood volumes can be discharged and retained for limited periods.

Belfast City Council has an important role to play in helping to achieve this proposal as many of the large open spaces in Belfast are Council owned. One proposal to alleviate flooding in South Belfast, as part of the South Belfast Flood Alleviation Scheme, is to construct a stormwater retention feature within Musgrave Park, which is a Belfast City Council owned public park. This feature would provide additional storage capacity for stormwater during periods of heavy rainfall, thus, helping to reduce flooding in the area.

Public acceptance that this type of external flooding is tolerable will need to be dealt with. The downstream impact also needs to be assessed to ensure that alleviation of flooding in one area is not causing flooding in another.

There is currently one significant example of designing for exceedance currently being undertaken in Belfast. As part of the Connswater Greenway project, the flood plain for the Knock River has been altered to allow part of Orangefield (Greenville) Park to flood, thereby reducing the impact of severe weather and high-river flows on the adjacent properties. This scheme has seen Belfast City Council and Rivers Agency working together to produce a socially, environmentally and economically viable solution to flooding in the area.

#### **5.4 Lessons to be Learnt from Others**

Belfast could look to other cities around the world for examples of where collaboration and innovative stormwater management solutions are having a positive impact on flooding.

##### **5.4.1 *Metropolitan Glasgow Strategic Drainage Partnership***

The Metropolitan Glasgow Strategic Drainage Partnership (MGSDP) is a partnership formed by organisations involved with the operation of the sewerage and drainage network within the area - Scottish Water, Glasgow City Council, Scottish Canals, South Lanarkshire Council, Clyde Gateway URC, Scottish Enterprise and the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA).



**Figure 11 Toryglen Regional SuDS Scheme Proposal**

The partnership has a range of objectives which include flood risk reduction and integrated investment planning. Their 2060 Vision is to transform how the city region thinks about and manages rainfall to end uncontrolled flooding and improve water quality.

This vision will be realised through partnership working shaped by the Guiding Principles:

- Enhancement of our urban biodiversity and landscape
- Reconnection to our waterways
- Design for the severity of the rain
- Presumption that water will be kept on the surface
- Creation of integrated blue-green networks
- Integrated urban master planning and design
- Sustainable and affordable drainage solutions
- Climate-change ready

The Partnership has emphasised that the key issues in effective flood management are streamlined legislation and flexibility in funding. This would assist the key stakeholders, local authorities, Scottish Water and SEPA, to work in a more effective and collaborative way to develop and implement sustainable flood management solutions.



#### 5.4.2 *Chicago Green Alleys*

The city of Chicago has more miles of alleyways than any other city in the world. Flooding is often an issue in these alleys as many were built without a connection to the city's combined sewer and stormwater systems.

One solution to this problem would be to connect the alleys to the existing sewer network, however, the City of Chicago have decided to look at more sustainable solutions. Where soil conditions are appropriate, water is allowed to infiltrate into the ground through permeable paving or infiltration basins. This helps to solve the persistent flooding problem with the environmental benefit of cleaning and recharging groundwater. In areas where soils do not drain freely, permeable pavement is used in combination with subsurface drainage systems to slow runoff and reduce stress on the combined sewer system.

The Chicago Green Alley Handbook states that if all alleyways in the city were green alleys then up to 80% of rainwater falling on these surfaces throughout the year could pass through permeable paving back into the earth, reducing localised flooding, recharging groundwater and saving the taxpayer money.



**Figure 12 Chicago Green Alley Permeable Paving**

The Handbook encourages the public to participate in the green alleys project by implementing best management practices within their own site boundary. These include installing rain gardens, water butts, green roofs and permeable paving. They have also provided guidance on how the public can help to maintain the green alleys to be as functional as possible.

#### 5.4.3 **Greenstreets@CountersCreek, London**

This is a pilot project investigating the benefits of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) in managing urban flooding, funded by Thames Water.

Three trial streets in the Counters Creek catchment of London have been selected to participate in the scheme. In addition to work taking place on the public carriageway, Thames Water offered residents the opportunity to have their garden upgraded with different types of SuDS features. The costs of the installation and first year's maintenance are covered by Thames Water. At the end of the trial period, the residents have the option to keep the new garden or to have it returned to its former state. The programme for the scheme was for installation works to be completed by November 2013 followed by a performance monitoring period running until November 2014.

The three streets were chosen as the sewers in these locations are not greatly influenced by rainwater flow from adjacent streets, making them more suitable for accurately measuring the direct benefit of SuDS on the drainage network.

#### 5.5 **Sustainable Drainage Solutions (SuDS)**

In 2006 a Northern Ireland SuDS Working Party was established with the key objective of producing a SuDS Strategy for Northern Ireland. In 2011 NIEA published a document titled, "Managing Stormwater – A Strategy for Promoting the Use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) within Northern Ireland". The document defines SuDS as:

*"the generic name for a range of techniques which seek to deal in an integrated way with the issues of water quantity, water quality and amenity."*

*SuDS are one form of surface water management, which aim to be more sustainable than traditional piped systems, reducing both the risk of flooding and pollution. Such systems aim to manage storm water as near to source as possible, slow down run-off, treat it naturally and release good quality water to watercourses or groundwater. SuDS features mimic natural wetland systems. Wetlands act as nature's sponges, slowing the flow and improving water quality. Wetlands historically have been important Irish ecosystems because of the high rainfall experienced in many areas. The use of SuDS involves moving away from a reliance on traditional underground pipe drainage systems, to engineering solutions which replicate natural drainage processes."*

The Working Party proposes that the Northern Ireland Executive establishes SuDS as the preferred approach for managing the storm water discharges which arise from the



development of land. It suggests, as part of a number of recommendations, that ideally one organisation would have responsibility for assessing the flood control, water quality and amenity aspects of SuDS in new developments. However, under the existing legislation and governance arrangements, NIEA and Rivers Agency both have a role to play.

The document highlights that reliance on traditional drainage systems is proving inadequate to address the issue of storm drainage, with more intense and increasingly unpredictable rainfall arising from climate change. The importance of traditional piped systems as a valuable asset is raised and they are expected to continue to play a key role. However, it recommends the need for the adoption of a wider range of drainage techniques for new development, which can achieve the twin objectives of extending the life of existing infrastructure and dealing effectively with the issue of storm water drainage. The limitations of the traditional approach have been uncovered by the impacts of climate change and the improvements demanded by both the Water Framework Directive and the Floods Directive.

It is believed that the automatic right to connect surface water run-off to a surface or combined public sewer in Northern Ireland, granted under section 163 of the Water and Sewerage Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006, is one of the reasons why there has been such a slow uptake of SuDS. In Great Britain, DEFRA's Flood and Water Management Act (2010) encourages the use of sustainable drainage in new developments and re-developments. It does this by requiring drainage systems to be approved, against a set of National Standards, before building can commence and a connection to the sewer can be allowed (if needed). This Act also makes local authorities in Great Britain responsible for adopting and maintaining SuDS.

The potential exists within Belfast for the implementation of a wide variety of SuDS, alongside traditional drainage methods, to help alleviate flooding. However, to be successful will require a commitment from the drainage agencies that these systems would be adopted in a similar manner to traditional drainage systems.

Currently, Northern Ireland Water only adopts 'hard' SuDS, for example, geocellular retention tanks or similar. The agencies are cautious to extend this process to other SuDS types, such as swales, filter drains and retention ponds, as they are concerned over the legal responsibilities surrounding maintenance following installation from both a financial and health and safety perspective. These issues would need to be addressed and resolved before it is possible to fully implement a policy that would establish SuDS as a viable stormwater management solution that could be accepted on a wider scale than it is currently.

**Figure 13 Filter Drain****Figure 14 Swale**

Achieving this will require input at a high level and a procedure will need to be developed so that those responsible for the assessment of schemes have clear direction as to what is or is not acceptable. It will then be possible for the agencies and developers to design drainage and flood alleviation solutions that incorporate SuDS, as well as other solutions identified within this report.

In a local context, there is multi-agency involvement ongoing in Ballyclare where a pilot project to demonstrate measures to effectively manage stormwater within the catchment of the town is underway. The scheme also aims to manage the capacity of the local wastewater treatment work and ultimately improve local water resources. This project aspires to work alongside local developers to explore how sustainable stormwater management solutions could be integrated, for example, when building large-scale development or access roads within the catchment. Findings from this work package will inform future legislation and policy, necessary to drive forward the implementation of sustainable stormwater management in Northern Ireland.

## **5.6 Involving the Public**

Getting the public involved in the management of flood risk is an important factor in the alleviation of flooding.

Consideration could be given to the potential benefits of extending initiatives, such as that in place at Woodlands Grange, to other suitable locations throughout the city. Here a notice has been placed beside the newly constructed grille encouraging residents to contact Rivers Agency if the grille becomes blocked. This inclusive approach to flood risk management is working to the advantage of both the residents and Rivers Agency.

The potential for developing a mechanism to provide funding to residents to assist with the installation of SuDS within their property boundary could be investigated. For example, if residents wish to upgrade their driveway, funding could be made available if they were to install permeable paving. Although this would not completely remove the risk of their property

flooding, the SuDS would effectively lengthen the drainage path to the threshold of their property, thus providing additional time for flood barriers to be installed to help to protect the property from the approaching water.

A number of protection devices are available that provide property level protection against flooding. Rivers Agency is in the process of preparing a business case for an “Individual Property Protection” grant to be made available to residents living in areas prone to flooding. It is envisaged that this grant will replace the hardship payment currently available following a flood event, the purpose of which is to encourage a self-help approach amongst members of the public.

Some examples of the range of devices available include:

- Automatic flood-proof air bricks
- Flood resistant air brick covers
- Non-return valves for drains and water inlets/outlets
- Purpose built flood boards for doors

There are also a range of other measures that can be retrofitted to properties to help improve their flood resistance and/or reduce the impact of flooding on a property. These include:

- Raising door threshold levels
- Raising damp-proof brick courses
- Re-pointing mortar and applying waterproof sealing to external walls
- Apply sealant to floors and/or replace wooden floorboards in concrete
- Laying floor tiles rather than fitted carpets
- Keeping irreplaceable or valuable items on high mounted shelves
- Fitting water resistance skirting boards or applying varnish to wooden ones
- Fitting synthetic or waxed doors, or make sure wooden doors are easy to remove before a flood

## 5.7 Belfast City Council Masterplan

The 2013 – 2020 Belfast City Masterplan outlines proposals for how Belfast should be developed in the coming years.

One of the problems identified by the Masterplan is the high proportion of brownfield sites within the City, many of which are in public ownership. It also notes the absence of green space in the city centre and the impact this has on environmental quality and amenity in the area.

One of the strategic objectives of the Masterplan is to develop a green infrastructure strategy for the city. One idea suggested is the development of pocket parks on publicly owned brownfield sites. The proposal could be further developed to include blue-green spaces within these parks, through the inclusion of SuDS, thus further improving their environmental sustainability potential with the advantage of reducing stormwater runoff within the centre of the town through their creation.

Through the development of additional parks, particularly those utilising SuDS and blue-green spaces, there exists an opportunity to attract tourism and additional investors into the city by promoting Belfast as an innovative and sustainable city of the future.



**Figure 15 Examples of blue-green spaces**

The University of Nottingham commenced a research programme into blue-green cities in February 2013, the purpose of which is to evaluate the multiple flood risk benefits in blue-green cities. They define a blue-green city as one that aims to:

*“recreate a naturally-oriented water cycle while contributing to the amenity of the city by bringing water management and green infrastructure together.”*

It may be beneficial to engage with the Blue-Green Cities Research Team to determine whether any opportunities are available to become involved with the project.

#### **5.7.1 Local Government Reform**

The reform of local government in Northern Ireland will reduce the current 26 Councils to 11. The new councils will be responsible for the delivery of more services and, in partnership with others, will be responsible for guiding the future development of their areas.

One of the responsibilities attributed to the new councils will be leading and facilitating the community planning process. The aim is to ensure that the delivery of services is more responsive to the needs of citizens and will put local representatives at the head of this process. Key departments and agencies will be required to be engaged in the community

planning process and have regard of community plans when considering how to deliver services at a local level.

The new council for Belfast District will encompass the existing Belfast City Council along with parts of Castlereagh, Lisburn and North Down councils. A new Shadow Council will be in place by June 2014, which will ultimately become responsible for dealing with development plans and planning matters post March 2015. This provides an opportunity to align planning processes and consider how the Belfast City Council Masterplan can be further developed to help alleviate some of the flooding issues within the city.

## 6. STATUTORY LEGISLATION AND PLANNING

The design of any stormwater system must take account of a range of Statutory and European legislation and requirements.

These pieces of legislation aim to minimise the risk of flooding by putting restrictions on the volume and final discharge location of stormwater. They impose a requirement to protect the freshwater and marine environment and place environmental restrictions on the water to be discharged, including specifying the level of treatment required, in order to protect habitats.

One common point is the promotion of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) to achieve these objectives. However, the use of SuDS must be assessed on a case by case basis to determine their suitability and effectiveness as an appropriate stormwater management technique.

By ensuring those responsible for approving and/or consulting on proposals for new developments are aware of the requirements of these pieces of legislation, they can be used effectively to help alleviate flooding in the flooded areas considered in this report.

### 6.1 Northern Ireland Environment Agency

Within their Stormwater Management – Implementation in Northern Ireland document, NIEA have highlighted the need for Sustainable Stormwater Management. The document states that:

*“Traditionally the drainage generated in built-up areas is managed through conventional underground pipe systems. These are designed to prevent flooding locally by conveying water away as quickly as possible downstream of a development. However, this alteration in the natural flow of drainage can lead to pollution problems within catchments.*

*For example, when it rains, stormwater flows can pick up pollutants and wash these into rivers and streams. Rapid and increased stormwater runoff can also cause downstream flooding, localised erosion, destroy habitats and contribute to combined sewer overflows (CSOs). In addition, such engineered systems are not designed with wider social considerations in mind e.g. amenity, aesthetics and biodiversity.*

*It is now recognised that continuing to implement conventional drainage systems in urban areas and ignoring wider issues, is an unsustainable long-term option. It does not make economic sense to continue to use conventional underground pipe systems. Conventional systems have only limited appeal and can add to the existing problem.*

*The solution is sustainable stormwater management. The benefit of this approach is that it takes account of water quantity and future quality, challenges environmental and amenity issues by mimicking natural systems. The cost of the new approach is less and the multiple benefits will help society adapt to climate change.”*

The document continues to highlight the following benefits of Sustainable Stormwater Management:

*“Sustainable Stormwater Management is designed to:*

- *Manage runoff flowrates, reducing peak flow and increase pipe capacity to lower flood risks*
- *Reduce the impact of urbanisation and the danger of flooding*
- *Provide water treatment, protecting water resources from point and diffuse pollution*
- *Protect water and air quality*
- *Reduce stormwater treatment costs and sewage treatment costs. It will also lower hydraulic loading*
- *Improve aesthetics and urban amenity - such systems are integrated into the environment as visually attractive features*
- *Improve biodiversity, providing a new habitat for wildlife that would otherwise be scarce in the built environment*
- *Promote groundwater recharge”*

In terms of Legislation and Policy Drivers, NIEA, within the document, outline that:

*“There is a range of legislation & policy which is driving the implementation of stormwater management in Northern Ireland.*

*This includes:*

- *EU Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC (WFD)*
- *EU Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC*
- *EU Freshwater Fish Directive 78/659/EEC*
- *EU Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive 91/271/EEC*
- *The European Directive on the Assessment and Management of Flood Risks (2007/60/EC) (The Floods Directive)*
- *Northern Ireland Sustainable Development Strategy 2006*
- *Planning Policy Statement 15 (PPS 15) – Planning and Flood Risk*
- *Planning Policy Statement 7 (PPS 7) – Safeguarding the Character of Established Residential Areas”*



**6.1.1 EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)**

The Water Framework Directive (WFD) introduces a new holistic approach to the management of water quality, and establishes a new system for the protection and improvement of all aspects of the water environment including rivers, lakes, estuaries, coastal waters and groundwater.

The Directive requires all inland and coastal waters to reach at least “good status” by 2015. Achieving this ambitious target will require management planning at river basin level, linking with other key policy areas such as agriculture, land use, biodiversity, tourism, recreation and flood protection. Requirements for public participation at key stages will lead to greater public involvement in determining the future management of our water environment. In general, the aim of 2000/60/EC is to get polluted waters clean again, and ensure clean waters are kept clean.

The Department of the Environment is responsible for co-ordinating the implementation of the WFD in Northern Ireland.

**6.1.2 EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)**

The main aim of the Habitats Directive is to promote the maintenance of biodiversity by requiring Member States to take measures to maintain or restore natural habitats and specified wild species at a favourable conservation status, introducing robust protection for those habitats and species of European importance. In applying these measures Member States are required to take account of economic, social and cultural requirements, as well as regional and local characteristics.

**6.1.3 EU Freshwater Fish Directive (78/659/EEC)**

This Directive concerns the quality of fresh waters and applies to those waters designated by the Member States as needing protection or improvement in order to support fish life.

The aim of this Directive is to protect or improve the quality of those running or standing fresh waters which support or which, if pollution were reduced or eliminated, would become capable of supporting fish belonging to:

- indigenous species offering a natural diversity, or
- species the presence of which is judged desirable for water management purposes by the competent authorities of the Member States

**6.1.4 EU Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC)**

The objective of 91/271/EEC is to protect the environment from the adverse effects of urban waste water discharges and discharges from certain industrial sectors and concerns the collection, treatment and discharge of:



- Domestic waste water
- Mixture of waste water
- Waste water from certain industrial sectors

#### **6.1.5      *The European Directive on the Assessment and Management of Flood Risks (2007/60/EC)***

The Directive, which shall be carried out in coordination with the Water Framework Directive, aims to reduce and manage the risks that floods pose to human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity. The Directive required Member States to initially carry out a preliminary assessment by 2011 to identify the river basins and associated coastal areas at risk of flooding. For such zones flood risk maps are to be produced by 2013. Flood risk management plans focused on prevention, protection and preparedness are to be established by 2015. The Directive applies to inland waters as well as all coastal waters across the whole territory of the EU.

#### **6.1.6      *Northern Ireland Sustainable Development Strategy 2006***

The Northern Ireland Sustainable Development Strategy 2006 has now been superseded by the 2010 strategy. The 2010 strategy has been 'designed to provide a framework that can support and inform the decisions and actions taken by individuals, groups and organisations in progressing the sustainability agenda'. The strategy must be considered alongside the Sustainable Development Implementation Plan (2011 – 2014), which provides practical expression to the commitments through the targets for delivery.

#### **6.1.7      *Draft Planning Policy Statement 15 (PPS 15) – Planning and Flood Risk***

Draft Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 15, 'Planning and Flood Risk' sets out the Department's planning policies to minimise flood risk to people, property and the environment. It embodies the Government's commitment to sustainable development and the conservation of biodiversity. It adopts a precautionary approach to development and the use of land that takes account of climate change and is supportive to the wellbeing and safety of people. The document is being updated and the consultation period for the Revised Draft ended on 10 January 2014. The Department is considering all comments received during the consultation period, following which the draft document will be amended if necessary and published in final form. As it stands, the policy objectives set out in the Revised Draft are to:

- seek to prevent inappropriate new development in areas known to be at risk of flooding, or that may increase the flood risk elsewhere
- ensure that the most up to date information on flood risk is taken into account when determining planning applications and zoning / designating land for development in development plans
- adopt a precautionary approach to the identification of land for development through the development plan process and the determination of development proposals, in those

areas susceptible to flooding where there is a lack of precise information on present day flood risk or future uncertainties associated with flood estimation, climate change predictions and scientific evidence

- manage development in ways that are proportionate and appropriate to the 4 main sources of flood risk present in Northern Ireland, i.e. fluvial, coastal, surface water and water impoundment (reservoir) breach or failure
- seek to protect development that is permitted within flood risk areas by ensuring that adequate and appropriate measures are employed to mitigate and manage the flood risks
- promote sustainable development through the retention and restoration of natural flood plains and natural watercourses as a form of flood alleviation and an important environmental and social resource
- promote sustainable development through encouraging the use of sustainable stormwater management for the drainage of new development
- promote public awareness of flood risk and the flood risk information that is available and of relevance to undertaking development
- promote an integrated and sustainable approach to the management of development and flood risk which contributes to:
  - the safety and wellbeing of everyone
  - the prudent and efficient use of economic resources
  - the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity

The policy highlights that although the traditional method of conveying stormwater drainage through underground pipes reduces localised flooding, it can simply transfer risk to other parts of the catchment. As a result, the commitment to a sustainable approach to building and the use of land is underlined in the Regional Development Strategy for Northern Ireland. The water quality improvements required by the EC Water Framework Directive, and the need to minimise changes in the volume and rate of surface run-off from development sites, are also identified as reasons for the promotion of Sustainable Drainage Systems.

The Revised Draft policy states that:

*“Consistent with the requirements of PPS 7 ‘Quality Residential Environments’; incorporating watercourses into the open space requirements for new residential development will be preferred to locating them to the rear of properties where they are difficult to maintain or can become dumping grounds contributing to flood risk. Where possible the removal of culverts and the re-introduction of the natural watercourse should be encouraged.*

*The adoption of sustainable drainage solutions (SuDS) for the disposal of stormwater may be a much more sustainable alternative than culverting or other options involving the artificial modification of watercourses. The use of SuDS source control solutions such as ponds and swales and their integration into new development schemes as amenity features will therefore be encouraged. Such*

*solutions, by negating increased site discharges will reduce the need for flood alleviation / culverting works downstream and any associated maintenance.*

*It is acknowledged that in exceptional circumstances, culverting of a section of a watercourse may be unavoidable. This may apply where there are insurmountable inherent structural problems such as slope stability and land slippage. However, even in such circumstances, other solutions such as bank reinforcement, gabion wall construction and underpinning should be considered first. Similarly, where there are health and safety concerns arising from open access to watercourses or hazardous riverbanks, the construction of solid barriers such as fencing, or planting of 'soft' landscape barriers, should be considered as alternatives to culverting."*

#### **6.1.8 Planning Policy Statement 7 (PPS 7) – Safeguarding the Character of Established Residential Areas'**

PPS 7 outlines the Department's planning policies for achieving quality in new residential development and advises on the treatment of this issue in development plans. The main objectives of this Statement are:

- To promote an integrated approach to achieving sustainable and quality residential environments
- To promote quality residential development that:
  - creates places for people which are attractive, locally distinctive and appropriate to their surroundings, safe, convenient, adaptable and easy to maintain
  - respects and enhances features of value and local character and promotes biodiversity
  - reduces reliance on the private car, supports movement by pedestrians and cyclists, provides adequate and convenient access to public transport and connects well with the wider locality
- To promote the comprehensive planning and development of residential areas and ensure that adequate information accompanies planning applications which will enable the delivery of an improved design quality
- To ensure that adequate provision is made for infrastructure and appropriate local neighbourhood facilities as an integral part of residential development

#### **6.2 The Water Environment (Floods Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009**

Protecting the community from the risk and impact of flooding is at the heart of the European Floods Directive. Introduced in 2009, it provides a new approach to managing flood risk on a catchment wide scale.

Under the Directive, Rivers Agency has identified the areas in Northern Ireland which have the most significant flood risk, known as Significant Flood Risk Areas (SFRAs). These areas are now the focus for more detailed planning and mapping. Flood Risk Management plans will

also be developed to reduce the adverse impact of flooding on human health, the environment, our cultural heritage and economic activity.

Flood risk management under the Floods Directive takes place alongside government's ongoing programme of drainage and flood alleviation measures. In facing the challenges of flooding, Government manages flood risk by:

- **Prevention:** avoiding construction in flood-prone areas and by adapting future developments to the risk of flooding
- **Protection:** taking measures to reduce the likelihood and impact of floods
- **Preparedness:** informing the public about flood risk and what to do in the event of a flood

The Directive sets out the following timescale:

- **Completion of the preliminary flood risk assessment by December 2011** - Belfast has been identified as a Significant Flood Risk Areas (SFRA) under the Directive and as such is included in the flood risk management plans.
- **Produce flood risk and flood hazard maps for significant risk areas by December 2013** – In addition to the Rivers Agency Strategic Flood Map NI, which has been available since 2008, Belfast City Council has access to the stakeholder viewer that displays the draft flood risk and hazard maps.
- **Produce flood risk management plans by 2015** - These set out our objectives, measures and an action plan for managing flood risk. Belfast City Council is a member of the North Eastern River Basin District Flood Forum and will be involved in the development of the flood risk management plan.

## 7. MULTI-AGENCY STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

There are a number of existing groups in Northern Ireland focused on targeting flooding. The main purpose of these groups is to establish and develop a strategies for the management of surface water in Northern Ireland.

The groups aim to promote collaborative working between a range of agencies including DRD, DOE, Northern Ireland Environment Agency, Rivers Agency, Roads Service, Northern Ireland Water and DFP. They are focussed on developing a procedure that will promote the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), designing for exceedance and will seek to further develop stormwater management on a catchment basis.

The following sections outline the specific roles of these groups.

### 7.1 Stormwater Management Group

The Stormwater Management Group (SMG) is an inter-departmental policy coordination and implementation group, jointly chaired by Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) Water Management Unit (WMU) and Department for Regional Development (DRD) Water Policy Division. The group is an amalgam of the Sustainable Urban Drainage Working Party and the Surface Water Flood Management Implementation Group.

Other members of the group include:

- DOE Environmental Policy Division
- DOE Planning Policy Division
- DOE Planning NI
- DRD Roads Service
- DARD Rivers Agency
- Northern Ireland Authority for Utility Regulation
- Northern Ireland Water

The aim of the SMG group is to examine a range of approaches to develop more integrated stormwater management in Northern Ireland. It shall include examples of best practice in both technical terms and stakeholder collaboration. It also aims to see whether closer collaboration between relevant organisations could identify innovative and feasible solutions, despite perceived regulatory difficulties. With this strong cross-organisational commitment the group will coordinate and oversee the development and implementation of sustainable integrated, catchment-based stormwater management systems in Northern Ireland. These systems will be driven by regulation, policy and initiatives aimed at mitigating flood risk thereby protecting citizens, property and the environment.

Key deliverables of the Stormwater Management Group include:

- implementation of strategy
- legislation to enforce stormwater management
- technical guidance on implementation
- approval body which will assess and approve proposals for new and retrofit schemes, and
- new companies to service the new stormwater systems

#### **7.1.1 Ballyclare Pilot Study**

Currently the group is carrying out a pilot study in Ballyclare exploring the benefits of the implementation of sustainable drainage systems within the catchment of the town. This pilot will identify the range of benefits and issues required to inform the legislation, policy and appraisals necessary to drive forward the implementation of sustainable stormwater management in Northern Ireland. Already it has identified that by taking storm water out of the foul sewer, the treatment costs incurred by Northern Ireland Water will be less and the existing dry streams in Ballyclare will support aquatic life again. Overall, the study has developed new ways of working between the members of the Stormwater Management Group, which are essential to delivering the principles of better regulation and to efficiently achieve shared goals.

#### **7.2 Flood Investment and Planning Group**

The Flood Investment and Planning Group has recently been formed following publication, in September 2012, of the PEDU report into flooding in Belfast in June 2012.

The group is chaired by the Water Policy Division of DRD and its purpose is to assist the main drainage agencies in working collaboratively on capital projects that will address flooding issues by improving coordination of investment.

#### **7.3 Floods Directive Steering Group**

Rivers Agency is the designated authority with responsibility for the implementation of the Floods Directive in Northern Ireland. However, the successful implementation of the Directive will require effective cooperation, coordination and communication across a number of departments, agencies and a government company. In pursuance of this collective approach, Rivers Agency has established the Floods Directive Steering Group. The Steering Group comprises senior representatives from all of the key governmental stakeholders with an interest in the Floods Directive and provides strategic direction for its implementation.

The main aims of the Steering Group are to:

1. Consider and comment on the approach taken by the Rivers Agency's Floods Directive Implementation Group.
2. Ensure that there is a high-level commitment within all of the governmental stakeholders to provide the resources necessary to meet the requirements of the Directive.
3. Ensure the strategic co-ordination of all work required by governmental bodies in taking forward the Directive towards full implementation.
4. Facilitate the alignment of all government policies/programmes and the Directive.
5. Identify and make recommendations for the development of water and land-use policies that might affect flood risk and the management of flood risk.

#### **7.4 Floods Directive Stakeholder Group**

The Floods Directive Stakeholder Group comprises government representatives with responsibility for flood risk management, the environment, fisheries, planning and civil contingencies. Farming and insurance interests are also represented. It helps develop policies to deliver the Floods Directive and ensures compliance with the environmental objectives of the Water Framework Directive.

#### **7.5 Belfast Resilience Forum**

Belfast Resilience Forum brings together representatives from more than 50 different organisations to agree in advance how they will work together to help the public in an emergency.

Their role is to prepare emergency plans for major disasters, such as:

- severe weather
- fire
- industrial accidents
- major transport accidents
- widespread human and animal health problems

Through Belfast Resilience the organisations also:

- train and practice how they would respond in an emergency
- evaluate past emergency responses to try to improve how they work together, and
- work together to encourage people to be more prepared for emergencies

**7.6 North Eastern River Basin District Flood Forum**

The North Eastern River Basin District Flood Forum was established by Rivers Agency and is one of three Local Flood Forums to help develop a better understanding of flood risk and how it can be pro-actively managed in the future.

The forum is made up of government departments, agencies, stakeholders and the public or their representatives and provides groups with an opportunity to participate in the preparation of flood risk management plans.

This level of local engagement allows officials to get a real sense of what it is like to experience flooding and this will assist in the drafting of measures to reduce the impact.



## 8. SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

### 1. Maximise the benefits of coordinated and collaborative working

The report recognises that the drainage agencies are actively working together to resolve flooding issues but also highlights the political restrictions surrounding maximising the potential of coordination being realised. The PEDU recommendation on consolidation of flood response agencies within a single department has been deferred as part of the wider review of post-2015 structures of government. This wider review of government departments is being taken forward by the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister (OFMDFM).

A number of strategic groups exist to look at issues surrounding flood alleviation. The groups have varying roles and levels of responsibility and are chaired by a range of organisations, as set out in Section 7 of the report. The establishment of a single group or overseeing organisation may help to harmonise the work that is currently being undertaken by these organisations.

### 2. Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)

The issues surrounding the adoption of SuDS need to be investigated as there is a level of concern regarding legal responsibilities associated with the maintenance and health and safety management of soft SuDS once they have been installed. If these issues can be resolved, it may be possible to widen the adoption of SuDS which may help to increase their use as a viable drainage technique alongside traditional drainage systems.

The Storm Water Management Group and Northern Ireland Water could be engaged regarding the possibility of developing a business case for the establishment of a pilot programme similar to that undertaken at Counters Creek in London. This could be discussed alongside the potential for developing a mechanism whereby funding could be made available to members of the public incentivising them to install SuDS within their property boundary, similar to that available for installing solar panels.

A review of the proposals within the Belfast City Council Masterplan to create pocket parks in the city centre could be undertaken, with both the Stormwater Management Group and Rivers Agency, to identify potential opportunities for accommodating blue-green spaces within the city.

In doing this inspiration can be drawn from lessons learnt by others, for example, the work being undertaken by the Metropolitan Glasgow Strategic Drainage Partnership, as to how SuDS is helping to resolve flooding issues in other areas.

### **3. Integrated Planning**

The new council for Belfast District will encompass the existing Belfast City Council along with parts of Castlereagh, Lisburn and North Down councils. A new Shadow Council will be in place by June 2014, which will ultimately become responsible for dealing with development and planning matters. This provides an opportunity for alignment of planning processes and to consider how the Belfast City Council Masterplan or new Development Plan can influence flood alleviation within the city in line with Draft Planning Policy Statement 15 (PPS15).

The report highlights the benefits of SuDS and how this is identified as the preferred surface water management technique for new developments within proposals contained in Draft PPS15.

A Flood Risk Management Plan is being prepared for Belfast following its identification as Significant Flood Risk Area under the EU Floods Directive. This strategic plan will set out a framework of measures, focussed on prevention, protection and preparedness, to manage flood risk for delivery or planning at local level. Measures recommended might include identifying opportunities where an area may benefit from integrated flood protection techniques, such as designing for exceedance and SuDS.

The North Eastern River Basin District Flood Forum and the new Belfast Shadow Council could effectively engage regarding the role of the Forum and how it is assisting the flood risk management planning process for the new Belfast District.

### **4. Individual Property Protection**

Rivers Agency has developed a business case for an individual property protection scheme, it is currently with DFP. Such a scheme has significant potential to empower the public to help themselves, reduce the likelihood of their homes flooding and prevent financial hardship. It is proposed that this scheme will replace the current Flooding Hardship Payment Scheme, which the Council administers on behalf of the Department of the Environment. It is anticipated that Rivers Agency may engage the Council regarding proposals, finance, timeframes and administrative arrangements for the introduction of this scheme.

### **5. Coastal Flooding**

The risk of coastal flooding, including the recent threat to Belfast at the beginning of 2014, has highlighted the importance of individual agencies protecting their own infrastructure. Flooding of critical infrastructure such as pumping stations, electricity substations and telecommunications hubs would compound the impact of a flooding incident on residents and businesses and inhibit the ability of the city to recover quickly after an incident. While some organisations already have business continuity plans in place, all government

departments and organisations should be encouraged to assess their own assets and implement protective measures, with financial support where necessary.

## **6. Improvement Schemes**

The report identifies a number of areas which are subject to ongoing investigation into the causes of flooding, or where improvement measures are being developed, or have been put in place. In some cases these schemes will be considered by the FIPG as requiring multi-agency involvement or because no owner can be identified. If multi-agency involvement is required, an assessment could be made to determine if the use of integrated flood alleviation solutions is appropriate.

“Designing for Exceedance” is an essential approach to be considered in the provision of drainage infrastructure given that it is unlikely that any drainage system will be able to cope with some of the significant weather events that can occur. An example of this is providing storage for exceedance flows within public owned parks, similar to the work currently taking place in Orangefield Park.

Where recurring flooding issues have not been resolved, it is important that these issues continue to be highlighted to the relevant drainage agency or to the FIPG for follow up review.

**9. CONCLUSION**

It is difficult to establish a single process that will cover all issues involved in trying to improve the flood resilience of Belfast and expectations need to be managed that all flooding can be prevented. The causes of flooding are varied and the organisation or person responsible for providing alleviation may not always be apparent. Therefore, it is suggested that a number of initiatives need to be established to drive flood alleviation in the city.

The need for multi-agency collaboration to continue and develop is important. The drainage agencies currently strive to work together on policy and capital projects in relation to flooding issues where it can be demonstrated that integrated working is required. These relationships need to be supported by both central and local government to allow this good work to continue.

Pilot schemes, such as those highlighted within Section 5 of the report, are important tools in assessing the potential of innovative solutions to the management of flood risk. Through joined up planning and coordination, it may be possible to identify locations within the City where pilot schemes could be implemented. If successful, these initiatives could be rolled out in other areas.

The self-help proposal also needs to be promoted and this could be achieved using the community planning process already underway in parts of the City.

With the establishment of the new local government structure within Northern Ireland by April 2015, and the subsequent effect on the planning process, there is potential to increase awareness of the potential flood alleviation benefits of SuDS among those who will be responsible for assessing planning matters in the future. Increasing awareness and understanding of these techniques and how they can be used alongside traditional drainage methods should help to minimise the impact of flooding from new developments within the City.

Through establishing these processes, along with other initiatives set out within the report, it should be possible to improve the flood resilience of Belfast and protect the City for future generations.

## **APPENDIX A LIST OF FLOODING AREAS**

## PRIORITY FLOODING AREAS

### North Belfast Areas prone to flooding

#### Address

Brompton Park  
Deerpark Gardens  
Glencairn Way  
Westland Road  
Sunningdale Park  
Tennent Street

### West Belfast areas prone to flooding

#### Address

Riverdale Park East  
Riverdale Park South  
Glencolin Heights  
Brooke Drive  
River Close  
Woodbourne Crescent  
Castlewood Manor

### South Belfast areas prone to flooding

#### Address

Stockmans Lane  
Greystown Avenue  
Orchardville Crescent  
Sicily Park  
Priory Park  
Locksley Park  
Orpen Park  
Finaghy Road South  
Marguerite Park  
Lille Park  
Maryville Avenue  
Ferndale Court  
Marlborough Court  
Northbrook Street (jcn Lower Windsor Ave)  
Great Northern Street (jcn Brookland Street)  
Florenceville Drive  
Moonstone Street  
Friendly Street  
Ava Avenue

### East Belfast areas prone to flooding

#### Address

Eastleigh Dale  
Hawthornden Road  
Castleview Road  
Cloughan Crescent  
Gillnahirk Road

### East Belfast areas prone to flooding

#### Address

Clara Way  
Clarawood Walk  
Sandhill Parade  
Sandhill Park  
Orangefield Park  
Orangefield Green  
Orangefield Lane  
Channing Street  
Hillsborough Drive  
Ardgowan Street  
Cregagh Street  
Tildarg Street  
Sunwich Street  
Richardson Court  
Carrington Street  
Castlereagh Road  
Looiland Park  
Loppland Gardens  
Looiland Drive  
Ladas Drive  
Connsbrook Avenue  
Park Avenue  
Lisavon Drive  
Larkfield Manor  
Knocknagoney Avenue  
Knocknagoney Drive  
Quarry Road  
Glen Ebor Park  
Orangefield Avenue  
Knockvale Grove  
Castleview Road  
Knock Eden Crescent

### Areas at risk from Tidal Flooding

#### Address

York Street  
Lower Sydenham  
Lockview / Strandmillis



## **APPENDIX B FLOODING AREAS DATABASE**

**Roads Service Information**



PRIORITY AREAS

No	Area	Address	Roads Service			
			Cause of Flooding	Works Completed / Programmed	Outcome	URS Comments / Queries
1	North	Brompton Park				
2	North	Deerpark Gardens				
3	North Additional	Deerpark Road				
4	North	Glencairn Way				
5	North	Westland Road	Runoff from adjacent golf course. Previous road flooding primarily due to leaves blocking gullies.	Club contacted and additional drainage provided to prevent this. Additional gullies recently installed.	No recent reports of flooding.	
6	North	Sunningdale Park				
7	North	Tennent Street				
8	North	York Street				
9	West	Riverdale Park East				
10	West	Riverdale Park South				
11	West	Glencolin Heights				
12	West	Brooke Drive				
13	West	River Close				
14	West	Woodbourne Crescent				
15	West	Castlewood Manor	runoff flooding along road from disused factory site. The main cause of flooding at this location is the River's Agency grille on the access road to the Visteon Plant, debris flowed down the river and blocked this grille which then overflowed onto the adjacent roads.	Since the flooding in June 2012 River's Agency have upgraded the grille; HMM have desilted the pipes beneath the M1 motorway, Belfast South have replaced gullies and installed approx. 90m of replacement storm sewer pipeline	There may be some minor run-off from the access road to the Visteon plant, we are aiming to identify the owner so that we can write to them regarding runoff	Are any works proposed to deal with additional runoff?
16	West Additional	Tildarg Avenue				
17	South	Stockmans Lane				
18	South	Greystown Avenue				
19	South	Orchardville Crescent				
20	South	Sicily Park				
21	South	Priory Park				
22	South	Locksley Park				
23	South	Orpen Park	local drainage discharges into undesignated water course	Additional gully provided and connection pipe increased in size.		
24	South	Finaghy Road South				
25	South	Marguerite Park	Road drainage connects to undesignated watercourse that is blocked.	CCTV survey completed	NI Water CCTV work identified a section of broken storm sewer pipe at the junction of Diamond Gardens and Marguerite Park. We replaced this broken pipe in July 2013. Not aware of any other roads related flooding issues. Aware that NI Water have an overflow from their foul sewer into our storm sewer in Marguerite Park.	

PRIORITY AREAS

No	Area	Address	Roads Service			
			Cause of Flooding	Works Completed / Programmed	Outcome	URS Comments / Queries
26	South	Lille Park	runoff from road flooding in area is due to the undesignated watercourse that runs from Ormonde Park to Finaghy Road North, to the rear of the properties in Lille Park. All gullies in Lille Park have been cleared and jetted, we have also had the storm sewer desilted.			
27	South	Maryville Avenue				
28	South	Ferndale Court				
29	South	Marlborough Court				
30	South	Northbrook Street (jcn Lower Windsor Ave)				
31	South	Great Northern Street (jcn Brookland Street)				
32	South	Florenceville Drive				
33	South	Moonstone Street				
34	South	Friendly Street				
35	South	Ava Avenue				
36	East	Eastleigh Dale				
37	East	Hawthornden Road				
38	East	Castleview Road				
39	East	Cloughan Crescent				
40	East	Gilnahirk Road		investigate road drainage		
41	East Additional	Gilnahirk Avenue				
42	East	Clara Way				
43	East	Clarawood Walk				
44	East	Sandhill Parade				
45	East	Sandhill Park				
46	East	Orangefield Park				
47	East	Orangefield Green				
48	East	Orangefield Lane				
49	East Additional	Orangefield Drive South				
50	East	Channing Street				
51	East	Hillsborough Drive				
52	East	Ardgowan Street				
53	East	Cregagh Street				
54	East	Tildarg Street				
55	East	Sunwich Street				
56	East	Richardson Court				
57	East Additional	Richardson Street				
58	East	Carrington Street				
59	East	Castlereagh Road				
60	East	Lopland Park				
61	East	Lopland Gardens				

PRIORITY AREAS

No	Area	Address	Roads Service			
			Cause of Flooding	Works Completed / Programmed	Outcome	URS Comments / Queries
62	East	Loopland Drive				
63	East	Ladas Drive				
64	East	Connsbrook Avenue				
65	East	Park Avenue				
66	East	Lisavon Drive				
67	East Additional	Lisavon Street				
68	East	Larkfield Manor				
69	East	Knocknagoney Avenue	Runoff from land adjacent to Old Hollywood Rd. <a href="#">Rivers Agency grill which overflows into Knocknagoney Grille, Drive and Avenue.</a>	investigate road drainage.	<a href="#">Road drainage in area has been checked and is clear and running normally</a>	
70	East	Knocknagoney Drive	Runoff from land adjacent to Old Hollywood Rd.	investigate road drainage.	<a href="#">Road drainage in area has been checked and is clear and running normally. In Knocknagoney Drive we have installed 2 new gullies and repaired 1No. We are also investigating ownership of land adjacent to Old Hollywood Road and will writing to owner to request action with regard to runoff.</a>	
71	East	Quarry Road				
72	East	Glen Ebor Park				
73	<b>East</b>	<b>Orangefield Avenue</b>				
74	East	Knockvale Grove				
75	East	Knock Eden Crescent				
76	East Additional	Knock Eden Parade				
77	Tidal	York Street				
78	Tidal	Lower Sydenham				
79	Tidal	Lockview / Strandmillis				

**Northern Ireland Water Information**

PRIORITY AREAS

No	Area	Address	NI Water						
			Flooding Category	Cause of Flooding	No. of Properties	Works Completed / Programmed	Outcome	URS Comments / Queries	NIW Response
1	North	Brompton Park	Flooding Other Causes	Severe Weather	1			Is flooding as a result of FOC, severe weather or both? Has FOC issue been resolved?	The flooding is as a result of severe weather. NI Water responds to assist in dealing with incidents of flooding due to severe weather. Properties that flooded as a result of severe weather are recorded on a section of the DG5 Register but this would not trigger follow up action unless there are other issues in the immediate area.
2	North	Deerpark Gardens							
3	North Additional	Deerpark Road		Severe Weather					
4	North	Glencairn Way							
5	North	Westland Road							
6	North	Sunningdale Park							
7	North	Tennent Street	Flooding Other Causes	Sewer Collapse	1			Is flooding as a result of FOC, severe weather or both? Has FOC issue been resolved i.e. has collapsed sewer been repaired?	The FOC classification denotes internal flooding due to other causes such as sewer collapse. NI Water addresses these incidents as and when they occur. Where there are repeat issues NIW will carry out follow up investigations and may undertake remedial works for example replacement of a length of sewer.
8	North	York Street	DG5	Overloaded Sewer	2			Are there proposals to increase sewer capacity, provide attenuation/storage or alternatives?	The project is at an early stage of development but a number of options to resolve the issue will be considered. This will include increasing sewer capacity, attenuation, on line/off line storage and storm separation.
9	West	Riverdale Park East							
10	West	Riverdale Park South							
11	West	Glencolin Heights							
12	West	Brooke Drive							
13	West	River Close							
14	West	Woodbourne Crescent							
15	West	Castlewood Manor							
16	West Additional	Tildarg Avenue		Blockage				Has blockage been cleared? If yes, has this resolved flooding?	Blockage will have been cleared and there has been no recurrence to indicate the flooding has not been resolved
17	South	Stockmans Lane	Flooding Other Causes	Severe Weather	1			Is flooding as a result of FOC, severe weather or both? Has FOC issue been resolved?	The flooding is as a result of severe weather. NI Water responds to assist in dealing with incidents of flooding due to severe weather. Properties that flooded as a result of severe weather are recorded on a section of the DG5 Register but this would not trigger follow up action unless there are other issues in the immediate area.

## PRIORITY AREAS

No	Area	Address	NI Water						
			Flooding Category	Cause of Flooding	No. of Properties	Works Completed / Programmed	Outcome	URS Comments / Queries	NIW Response
18	South	Greystown Avenue	DG5 & Flooding Other Causes	Overloaded Sewer & Severe Weather	4 (3 DG5 & 1 SW)			Is flooding as a result of FOC, severe weather or both? Has FOC issue been resolved? Are there proposals to increase sewer capacity, provide attenuation/storage or alternatives?	It is likely that there are multiple incidents at multiple addresses which will be categorised into DG5 and FOC. For DG5 properties NIW will identify capital investment projects to remove as many of these properties as possible from the DG5 Register. It is intended to address as many of these properties as possible during PC13 and PC15 periods. This will be subject to the economic viability of individual projects, availability of funding and approval by the Utility Regulator. <b>DG5 go off for detailed design. Sometimes upgrade, sometimes on line/off line attenuation. Range for each. Works should resolve other flooding issues. Viability of projects and availability of funding. Doesn't think NIW have the power to purchase properties.</b>
19	South	Orchardville Crescent		Currently not on DG5 register. Feasibility study has been commenced due to Pumping Station issues.					
20	South	Sicily Park	DG5 & Flooding Other Causes	Overloaded Sewer & Severe Weather	22 (4 DG5 & 18 SW)			Is flooding as a result of FOC, severe weather or both? Has FOC issue been resolved? Are there proposals to increase sewer capacity, provide attenuation/storage or alternatives?	It is likely that there are multiple incidents at multiple addresses which will be categorised into DG5 and FOC. For DG5 properties NIW will identify capital investment projects to remove as many of these properties as possible from the DG5 Register. It is intended to address as many of these properties as possible during PC13 and PC15 periods. This will be subject to the economic viability of individual projects, availability of funding and approval by the Utility Regulator.
21	South	Priory Park	Flooding Other Causes	Severe Weather	1			Is flooding as a result of FOC, severe weather or both? Has FOC issue been resolved?	The flooding is as a result of severe weather. NI Water responds to assist in dealing with incidents of flooding due to severe weather. Properties that flooded as a result of severe weather are recorded on a section of the DG5 Register but this would not trigger follow up action unless there are other issues in the immediate area
22	South	Locksley Park							
23	South	Orpen Park	Flooding Other Causes	Severe Weather	10			Is flooding as a result of FOC, severe weather or both? Has FOC issue been resolved?	The flooding is as a result of severe weather. NI Water responds to assist in dealing with incidents of flooding due to severe weather. Properties that flooded as a result of severe weather are recorded on a section of the DG5 Register but this would not trigger follow up action unless there are other issues in the immediate area

## PRIORITY AREAS

No	Area	Address	NI Water						NIW Response
			Flooding Category	Cause of Flooding	No. of Properties	Works Completed / Programmed	Outcome	URS Comments / Queries	
24	South	Finaghy Road South	Flooding Other Causes	Severe Weather	3			Is flooding as a result of FOC, severe weather or both? Has FOC issue been resolved?	The flooding is as a result of severe weather. NI Water responds to assist in dealing with incidents of flooding due to severe weather. Properties that flooded as a result of severe weather are recorded on a section of the DG5 Register but this would not trigger follow up action unless there are other issues in the immediate area
25	South	Marguerite Park	DG5 & Flooding Other Causes	Overloaded Sewer & Severe Weather	31 (3 DG5 & 28 SW)			Is flooding as a result of FOC, severe weather or both? Has FOC issue been resolved? Are there proposals to increase sewer capacity, provide attenuation/storage or alternatives?	It is likely that there are multiple incidents at multiple addresses which will be categorised into DG5 and FOC. For DG5 properties NIW will identify capital investment projects to remove as many of these properties as possible from the DG5 Register. It is intended to address as many of these properties as possible during PC13 and PC15 periods. This will be subject to the economic viability of individual projects, availability of funding and approval by the Utility Regulator
26	South	Lille Park	Flooding Other Causes	Severe Weather	1			Is flooding as a result of FOC, severe weather or both? Has FOC issue been resolved?	The flooding is as a result of severe weather. NI Water responds to assist in dealing with incidents of flooding due to severe weather. Properties that flooded as a result of severe weather are recorded on a section of the DG5 Register but this would not trigger follow up action unless there are other issues in the immediate area
27	South	Maryville Avenue	DG5	Overloaded Sewer	1			Are there proposals to increase sewer capacity, provide attenuation/storage or alternatives?	For DG5 properties NIW will identify capital investment projects to remove as many of these properties as possible from the DG5 Register. It is intended to address as many of these properties as possible during PC13 and PC15 periods. This will be subject to the economic viability of individual projects, availability of funding and approval by the Utility Regulator
28	South	Ferndale Court	Flooding Other Causes	Severe Weather	4			Is flooding as a result of FOC, severe weather or both? Has FOC issue been resolved?	The flooding is as a result of severe weather. NI Water responds to assist in dealing with incidents of flooding due to severe weather. Properties that flooded as a result of severe weather are recorded on a section of the DG5 Register but this would not trigger follow up action unless there are other issues in the immediate area
29	South	Marlborough Court							
30	South	Northbrook Street (jcn Lower Windsor Ave)							

## PRIORITY AREAS

No	Area	Address	NI Water						
			Flooding Category	Cause of Flooding	No. of Properties	Works Completed / Programmed	Outcome	URS Comments / Queries	NIW Response
31	South	Great Northern Street (jcn Brookland Str	DG5 & Flooding Other Causes	Overloaded Sewer & Severe Weather	3 (2 DG5 & 1 SW)			Is flooding as a result of FOC, severe weather or both? Has FOC issue been resolved? Are there proposals to increase sewer capacity, provide attenuation/storage or alternatives?	It is likely that there are multiple incidents at multiple addresses which will be categorised into DG5 and FOC. For DG5 properties NIW will identify capital investment projects to remove as many of these properties as possible from the DG5 Register. It is intended to address as many of these properties as possible during PC13 and PC15 periods. This will be subject to the economic viability of individual projets, availability of funding and approval by the Utility Regualtor
32	South	Florenceville Drive							
33	South	Moonstone Street	Flooding Other Causes	Severe Weather	1			Is flooding as a result of FOC, severe weather or both? Has FOC issue been resolved?	The flooding is as a result of severe weather. NI Water responds to assist in dealing with incidents of flooding due to severe weather. Properties that flooded as a result of severe weather are recorded on a section of the DG5 Register but this would not trigger follow up action unless there are other issues in the immediate area
34	South	Friendly Street							
35	South	Ava Avenue							
36	East	Eastleigh Dale	DG5 & Flooding Other Causes	Overloaded Sewer & Severe Weather	3 (2 DG5 & 1 SW)			Is flooding as a result of FOC, severe weather or both? Has FOC issue been resolved? Are there proposals to increase sewer capacity, provide attenuation/storage or alternatives?	It is likely that there are multiple incidents at multiple addresses which will be categorised into DG5 and FOC. For DG5 properties NIW will identify capital investment projects to remove as many of these properties as possible from the DG5 Register. It is intended to address as many of these properties as possible during PC13 and PC15 periods. This will be subject to the economic viability of individual projets, availability of funding and approval by the Utility Regualtor
37	East	Hawthornden Road	DG5	Overloaded Sewer	2			Are there proposals to increase sewer capacity, provide attenuation/storage or alternatives?	For DG5 properties NIW will identify capital investment projects to remove as many of these properties as possible from the DG5 Register. It is intended to address as many of these properties as possible during PC13 and PC15 periods. This will be subject to the economic viability of individual projets, availability of funding and approval by the Utility Regualtor
38	East	Castleview Road	Flooding Other Causes	Severe Weather	1			Is flooding as a result of FOC, severe weather or both? Has FOC issue been resolved?	The flooding is as a result of severe weather. NI Water responds to assist in dealing with incidents of flooding due to severe weather. Properties that flooded as a result of severe weather are recorded on a section of the DG5 Register but this would not trigger follow up action unless there are other issues in the immediate area
39	East	Cloughan Crescent							
40	East	Gilnahirk Road							
41	East Additional	Gilnahirk Avenue		Severe Weather					



## PRIORITY AREAS

No	Area	Address	NI Water						NIW Response
			Flooding Category	Cause of Flooding	No. of Properties	Works Completed / Programmed	Outcome	URS Comments / Queries	
42	East	Clara Way	Flooding Other Causes	Severe Weather	1			Is flooding as a result of FOC, severe weather or both? Has FOC issue been resolved?	The flooding is as a result of severe weather. NI Water responds to assist in dealing with incidents of flooding due to severe weather. Properties that flooded as a result of severe weather are recorded on a section of the DG5 Register but this would not trigger follow up action unless there are other issues in the immediate area
43	East	Clarawood Walk	Flooding Other Causes	Severe Weather	1			Is flooding as a result of FOC, severe weather or both? Has FOC issue been resolved?	The flooding is as a result of severe weather. NI Water responds to assist in dealing with incidents of flooding due to severe weather. Properties that flooded as a result of severe weather are recorded on a section of the DG5 Register but this would not trigger follow up action unless there are other issues in the immediate area
44	East	Sandhill Parade							
45	East	Sandhill Park							
46	East	Orangefield Park							
47	East	Orangefield Green							
48	East	Orangefield Lane							
49	East Additional	Orangefield Drive South		Overloaded Sewer				Are there proposals to increase sewer capacity, provide attenuation/storage or alternatives?	For DG5 properties NIW will identify capital investment projects to remove as many of these properties as possible from the DG5 Register. It is intended to address as many of these properties as possible during PC13 and PC15 periods. This will be subject to the economic viability of individual projects, availability of funding and approval by the Utility Regulator
50	East	Channing Street							
51	East	Hillsborough Drive		Flooding Other Causes Futher investigations are ongoing to review flooding status - likely to move to DG5				What is the nature of the investigations taking place?	Since the initial response, NIW has completed 2 dimensional modelling of overland flows and have now determined that the properties should be moved to the DG5 register. For DG5 properties NIW will identify capital investment projects to remove as many of these properties as possible from the DG5 Register. It is intended to address as many of these properties as possible during PC13 and PC15 periods. This will be subject to the economic viability of individual projects, availability of funding and approval by the Utility Regulator

PRIORITY AREAS

No	Area	Address	NI Water						
			Flooding Category	Cause of Flooding	No. of Properties	Works Completed / Programmed	Outcome	URS Comments / Queries	NIW Response
52	East	Ardgowan Street		Flooding Other Causes Further investigations are ongoing to review flooding status - likely to move to DG5				What is the nature of the investigations taking place?	Since the initial response, NIW has completed 2 dimensional modelling of overland flows and have now determined that the properties should be moved to the DG5 register. For DG5 properties NIW will identify capital investment projects to remove as many of these properties as possible from the DG5 Register. It is intended to address as many of these properties as possible during PC13 and PC15 periods. This will be subject to the economic viability of individual projects, availability of funding and approval by the Utility Regulator
53	East	Cregagh Street							
54	East	Tildarg Street		Flooding Other Causes Further investigations are ongoing to review flooding status - likely to move to DG5				What is the nature of the investigations taking place?	Since the initial response NIW has commenced 2 dimensional modelling of overland flows. NIW are considering whether these properties should be moved to the DG5 Register. <b>In same area as Hillborough Drive and Ardgowan Street. Result is likely to be the same.</b>
55	East	Sunwich Street	Flooding Other Causes	Severe Weather	11			Is flooding as a result of FOC, severe weather or both? Has FOC issue been resolved?	The flooding is as a result of severe weather. NI Water responds to assist in dealing with incidents of flooding due to severe weather. Properties that flooded as a result of severe weather are recorded on a section of the DG5 Register but this would not trigger follow up action unless there are other issues in the immediate area
56	East	Richardson Court							
57	East Additional	Richardson Street		Severe Weather					
58	East	Carrington Street		Flooding Other Causes. Further investigations are ongoing to review flooding status				What is the nature of the investigations taking place?	Investigations into the flooding in Carrington Street are now complete. The subsequent recent repair work to the network and re-run model now indicates the out of sewer flooding problem at Carrington Street has been resolved. <b>Debris in downstream siphon. Repair work done, re-run model and no out of sewer flooding shown. Some road flooding may remain but NIW issue has been resolved.</b>
59	East	Castlereagh Road	Flooding Other Causes	Severe Weather	2			Is flooding as a result of FOC, severe weather or both? Has FOC issue been resolved?	The flooding is as a result of severe weather. NI Water responds to assist in dealing with incidents of flooding due to severe weather. Properties that flooded as a result of severe weather are recorded on a section of the DG5 Register but this would not trigger follow up action unless there are other issues in the immediate area
60	East	Loopland Park							
61	East	Loopland Gardens							
62	East	Loopland Drive							
63	East	Ladas Drive							

## PRIORITY AREAS

No	Area	Address	NI Water						
			Flooding Category	Cause of Flooding	No. of Properties	Works Completed / Programmed	Outcome	URS Comments / Queries	NIW Response
64	East	Connbrook Avenue	Flooding Other Causes	Severe Weather	2			Is flooding as a result of FOC, severe weather or both? Has FOC issue been resolved?	The flooding is as a result of severe weather. NI Water responds to assist in dealing with incidents of flooding due to severe weather. Properties that flooded as a result of severe weather are recorded on a section of the DG5 Register but this would not trigger follow up action unless there are other issues in the immediate area
65	East	Park Avenue	Flooding Other Causes	Equipment Failure	19			Has equipment failure been resolved and has this in turn resolved flooding issues?	Equipment failure will have been resolved and there has been no recurrence to indicate the flooding has not been resolved.
66	East	Lisavon Drive	Flooding Other Causes	Severe Weather	2			Is flooding as a result of FOC, severe weather or both? Has FOC issue been resolved?	The flooding is as a result of severe weather. NI Water responds to assist in dealing with incidents of flooding due to severe weather. Properties that flooded as a result of severe weather are recorded on a section of the DG5 Register but this would not trigger follow up action unless there are other issues in the immediate area
67	East Additional	Lisavon Street		Severe Weather					
68	East	Larkfield Manor	Flooding Other Causes	Severe Weather	2			Is flooding as a result of FOC, severe weather or both? Has FOC issue been resolved?	The flooding is as a result of severe weather. NI Water responds to assist in dealing with incidents of flooding due to severe weather. Properties that flooded as a result of severe weather are recorded on a section of the DG5 Register but this would not trigger follow up action unless there are other issues in the immediate area
69	East	Knocknagoney Avenue							
70	East	Knocknagoney Drive							
71	East	Quarry Road							
72	East	Glen Ebor Park							
73	East	Orangefield Avenue							
74	East	Knockvale Grove							
75	East	Knock Eden Crescent	Flooding Other Causes	Sewer Blockage	1			Has blockage been removed and has this resolved flooding?	Blockage will have been cleared and there has been no recurrence to indicate the flooding has not been resolved.
76	East Additional	Knock Eden Parade							
77	Tidal	York Street							
78	Tidal	Lower Sydenham							
79	Tidal	Lockview / Strandmillis							

**Rivers Agency Information**

## PRIORITY AREAS

No	Area	Address	Rivers Agency				Other
			Cause of Flooding	Works Completed / Programmed	Outcome	URS Comments / Queries	
1	North	Brompton Park					
2	North	Deerpark Gardens					
3	North Additional	Deerpark Road					
4	North	Glencairn Way					overland flow
5	North	Westland Road					overland flow
6	North	Sunningdale Park			No recent problems at grille.		
7	North	Tennent Street					
8	North	York Street					
9	West	Riverdale Park East		Further investigation required		What are type and scale of investigations that are to take place and when are these likely to be carried out? <a href="#">Pre-feasibility report being developed.</a>	
10	West	Riverdale Park South					
11	West	Glencolin Heights					
12	West	Brooke Drive					
13	West	River Close		Watercourse designated in Nov 12 & maintained in early summer 2013		Has this helped to alleviate flooding? <a href="#">Scheme has been designed in order to alleviate flooding. Have not been tested to same extent as previous flood events to date.</a>	
14	West	Woodbourne Crescent					
15	West	Castlewood Manor		Watercourse investigated & maintained, grille upgraded & designation extended		Has this helped to alleviate flooding? <a href="#">Scheme has been designed in order to alleviate flooding. Have not been tested to same extent as previous flood events to date.</a>	
16	West Additional	Tildarg Avenue					
17	South	Stockmans Lane		Investigation ongoing		What are type and scale of investigations that are to take place and when are these likely to be carried out? <a href="#">Design work costs were too high so other options are being investigated. There are some landowner issues that need to be resolved.</a>	
18	South	Greystown Avenue		Capacity of designated culvert being investigated as part of NIW study.		What are type and scale of investigations that are to take place and when are these likely to be carried out? <a href="#">Part of the wider Sicily Park study</a>	
19	South	Orchardville Crescent		Watercourse maintained, grille upgraded & designation extended		Has this helped to alleviate flooding? <a href="#">RA have placed a notice on the grille asking residents to advise them if the grille is blocked. Using twitter for residents to tweet pictures of the grille before and after clearing works have been carried out.</a>	Runoff from the Belfast City Council playing field a contributory factor. BCC have confirmed willingness to cooperate with the management of flood risk. <a href="#">(Parks Department)</a>

## PRIORITY AREAS

No	Area	Address	Rivers Agency				Other
			Cause of Flooding	Works Completed / Programmed	Outcome	URS Comments / Queries	
20	South	Sicily Park		NIW providing CCTV footage to enable consideration of designation of private urban drains			
21	South	Priory Park		NIW providing CCTV footage to enable consideration of designation of private urban drains			
22	South	Locksley Park		NIW providing CCTV footage to enable consideration of designation of private urban drains			
23	South	Orpen Park					
24	South	Finaghy Road South	Could be Rathmore Gardens. School have piped in a section of open watercourse upstream	System desilted this summer, manholes in the park have been raised to ground level and lids replaced with gully grates.		Has this helped to alleviate flooding? Scheme has been designed in order to alleviate flooding. Have not been tested to same extent as previous flood events to date.	
25	South	Marguerite Park					
26	South	Lille Park					private urban drain garden flooding
27	South	Maryville Avenue					
28	South	Ferndale Court					
29	South	Marlborough Court					
30	South	Northbrook Street (jcn Lower Windsor Ave)					
31	South	Great Northern Street (jcn Brookland Street)					
32	South	Florenceville Drive					
33	South	Moonstone Street					
34	South	Friendly Street					
35	South	Ava Avenue					
36	East	Eastleigh Dale					
37	East	Hawthornden Road					
38	East	Castleview Road					Overland flows from hotel. Previous flood report refers to works in the hotel
39	East	Cloughan Crescent		RA have desilted the culvert and w/c this summer 2013		Has this helped to alleviate flooding? Scheme has been designed in order to alleviate flooding. Have not been tested to same extent as previous flood events to date.	
40	East	Gilnahirk Road		secured manhole on culvert		Has this helped to alleviate flooding? Scheme has been designed in order to alleviate flooding. Have not been tested to same extent as previous flood events to date.	
41	East Additional	Gilnahirk Avenue					
42	East	Clara Way		Flood alleviation works being progressed as part of the East Belfast Flood Alleviation scheme		Designers: URS Current status: Tender stage	
43	East	Clarawood Walk		Flood alleviation works being progressed as part of the East Belfast Flood Alleviation scheme		Designers: URS Current status: Tender stage	

## PRIORITY AREAS

No	Area	Address	Rivers Agency				Other
			Cause of Flooding	Works Completed / Programmed	Outcome	URS Comments / Queries	
44	East	Sandhill Parade		River flood alleviation works being progressed as part of the East Belfast Flood Alleviation scheme		Designers: URS Current status: Tender stage	
45	East	Sandhill Park		River flood alleviation works being progressed as part of the East Belfast Flood Alleviation scheme		Designers: URS Current status: Tender stage	
46	East	Orangefield Park		River flood alleviation works being progressed as part of the East Belfast Flood Alleviation scheme integrated with the Greenway project		Designers: URS Current status: Tender stage Designer: Macadam Current status: Construction stage	
47	East	Orangefield Green		River flood alleviation works being progressed as part of the East Belfast Flood Alleviation scheme integrated with the Greenway project		Designers: URS Current status: Tender stage Designer: Macadam Current status: Construction stage	
48	East	Orangefield Lane		River flood alleviation works being progressed as part of the East Belfast Flood Alleviation scheme integrated with the Greenway project		Designers: URS Current status: Tender stage Designer: Macadam Current status: Construction stage	
49	East Additional	Orangefield Drive South					
50	East	Channing Street					
51	East	Hillsborough Drive					
52	East	Ardgowan Street					
53	East	Cregagh Street					
54	East	Tildarg Street					
55	East	Sunwich Street					
56	East	Richardson Court					
57	East Additional	Richardson Street					
58	East	Carrington Street					
59	East	Castlereagh Road		River Flood alleviation works being progressed as part of the East Belfast Flood Alleviation scheme.		Designers: URS Current status: Tender stage	
60	East	Loopland Park		River Flood alleviation works being progressed as part of the East Belfast Flood Alleviation scheme.		Designers: URS Current status: Tender stage	
61	East	Loppland Gardens		River Flood alleviation works being progressed as part of the East Belfast Flood Alleviation scheme.		Designers: URS Current status: Tender stage	
62	East	Loopland Drive		River Flood alleviation works being progressed as part of the East Belfast Flood Alleviation scheme.		Designers: URS Current status: Tender stage	
63	East	Ladas Drive		River Flood alleviation works being progressed as part of the East Belfast Flood Alleviation scheme.		Designers: URS Current status: Tender stage	
64	East	Connbrook Avenue					
65	East	Park Avenue					
66	East	Lisavon Drive					
67	East Additional	Lisavon Street					
68	East	Larkfield Manor					

## PRIORITY AREAS

No	Area	Address	Rivers Agency				Other
			Cause of Flooding	Works Completed / Programmed	Outcome	URS Comments / Queries	
69	East	Knocknagoney Avenue		roughing grille installed, MH to be improved in 2013/14, CCTV culvert system.		Has this helped to alleviate flooding? Scheme has been designed in order to alleviate flooding. Have not been tested to same extent as previous flood events to date.	
70	East	Knocknagoney Drive		roughing grille installed, MH to be improved in 2013/14, CCTV culvert system.		Has this helped to alleviate flooding? Scheme has been designed in order to alleviate flooding. Have not been tested to same extent as previous flood events to date.	
71	East	Quarry Road	flood report Oct 12 - flooding related to blocked grille at adjacent Glen Ebor				
72	East	Glen Ebor Park		investigating blocked grille and w/c immediately upstream			
73	East	Orangefield Avenue					
74	East	Knockvale Grove		Design being progressed & costed as part of the East Belfast River Flood Alleviation Scheme		Designers: URS Current status: Tender stage	
75	East	Knock Eden Crescent	Two grilles at Knock Dual Carriageway blocked and led to surface water flows which may have contributed to this flooding	RA upgrading grilles		Has this work been completed or when is it programmed to be carried out? Both grilles have been designed. Once is currently been constructed with the other to be constructed in this financial year.	
76	East Additional	Knock Eden Parade					
77	Tidal	York Street		On behalf of Rivers Agency, Roads Service's consultant has been asked to consider the feasibility of incorporating sea defences within the York Street road scheme			
78	Tidal	Lower Sydenham		Flood alleviation works being progressed as part of the East Belfast Flood Alleviation scheme integrated with the Greenway project. Back drainage will remain an issue.		Designer: Macadam Current status: Construction stage	
79	Tidal	Lockview / Strandmillis		Storm Tide Forecasts shared with Belfast City Council & other responders			





### Belfast City Council

<b>Report to:</b>	Strategic Policy & Resources Committee
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Homelessness in Belfast City</b>
<b>Date:</b>	23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2015
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Siobhan Toland, Head of Environmental Health Service
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Una Lappin, Health Equity Project Manager (3777)

<b>1</b>	<b>Relevant Background Information</b>
1.1	<p>Following on from discussions at both the Health and Environmental Services Committee meeting and that of the Budget Panel in December 2014, a report for information was requested in relation to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ On-going work regarding Homelessness in the City,</li> <li>▪ Belfast City Councils engagement with the relevant agencies, and</li> <li>▪ How the Council could co-ordinate initiatives with other public bodies and private sector businesses in the City to provide short term support and longer term assistance in tackling homelessness in the City</li> </ul>
1.2	<p>According to the Northern Ireland Housing Statistics Department for Social Development, 18,862 households presented themselves as homeless in 2013/2014 in NI.</p>
1.3	<p>More specifically, from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014 to 6<sup>th</sup> January 2015:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Across the <b>Greater Belfast Area</b> (including East Belfast Housing, Homeless Services Unit*, North Belfast, Shankill, South Belfast and West Belfast), the number of households presenting as homeless to the Northern Ireland Housing Executive was <b>4,056</b></li> <li>▪ Across the <b>outlying areas</b> (Castlereagh, Lisburn Antrim Street and Lisburn Dairy Farm) the number of households presenting as homeless to the Northern Ireland Housing Executive was <b>1,712</b></li> </ul> <p><i>* The Homelessness Services Unit is located in Belfast. They will normally deal with clients who present in Belfast but do not have a fixed address in the Belfast area, e.g., no fixed abode, people from outside NI etc. People who are homeless from a previous Belfast address will normally present to the District in which their former home was situated.</i></p>
1.4	<p>The Northern Ireland Housing Executive Homelessness Strategy for Northern Ireland, 2012 -2017 states:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Homelessness continues to be a significant challenge in Northern Ireland and a problem that afflicts the lives of many of our citizens.</li> <li>▪ There are numerous reasons for homelessness; family dispute, breakdown in living arrangements, addiction, mental ill health, debt and tenancy breakdown and so on.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The effect of homelessness impacts on individual lives for years and this influence goes beyond the immediate lack of accommodation.</li> <li>▪ It impedes an individual's health, financial and social well being. For this reason, no one organisation or agency can address these issues in isolation.</li> <li>▪ There is now a greater need than ever to respond to homelessness in a coordinated multi agency approach as required in the legislation** and for each partner to contribute their expertise and resources to promote social inclusion.</li> </ul> <p><b>** The Housing (NI) Order 1988 (as amended)</b></p>
1.5	<p>The Lord Mayor, Councillor Nichola Mallon, has established and chaired a multi-agency planning group with key organisations, statutory and voluntary representatives, which had its first meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2014 to discuss her priorities for her term regarding homelessness. This was the first of its kind. Her priorities included the delivery of two events for homeless individuals:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A Christmas Lunch for single adults (19<sup>th</sup> December 2014)</li> <li>2. A Shrove Tuesday event for families (17<sup>th</sup> February 2015)</li> </ol>
1.6	<p>The organisations involved in the events include: Council for the Homeless Northern Ireland, The Northern Ireland Housing Executive, DePaul, Welcome Organisation, Extern, The Salvation Army and The Simon Community. They have all welcomed the focus on homelessness and the two events being organised, and are supportive of the focus that Belfast City Council and the Lord Mayor has brought to opening up of the City Hall to homeless people.</p>
1.7	<p>At the City Hall Christmas Lunch on 19<sup>th</sup> December, the Lord Mayor welcomed 80 homeless people from across Belfast and hosted a Christmas lunch for those facing Christmas alone or on the streets.</p>
1.8	<p>This planning group, under the Chairmanship of the Lord Mayor, will co-plan and co-deliver the second event, a Shrove Tuesday event on February 17<sup>th</sup> 2015 and will once again engage with those who are homeless in Belfast, working in partnership with the organisations. Families will be the target audience for this event.</p>

<b>2</b>	<b>Key Issues</b>
2.1	<p>The Lord Mayor has given her commitment to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Support the forgotten citizens of the city and shine a light on the issue of homelessness</li> <li>▪ Remind everyone of the issue of homelessness especially the statutory agencies and their duty of care</li> <li>▪ Make the City Hall accessible for all of the citizens of Belfast City so everyone has a place.</li> </ul>
2.2	<p>There is now a greater need than ever to respond to homelessness using a coordinated multi agency approach and it is proposed that the planning group established to deliver the Christmas and Shrove Tuesday events continues to meet to take on this role. The statutory and voluntary partners involved have considerable expertise and resources to promote social inclusion in tackling this issue of homelessness and it is recommended the Council continues to support this group.</p>
2.3	<p>At the most recent multiagency planning meeting hosted by the Lord Mayor on 15<sup>th</sup> January the members confirmed the positive benefit of continuing to meet around this</p>

	agenda, the benefits of a civic lead focus, and their willingness to look at a more strategic approach to tackling the issues in Belfast . One of the initial pieces of work will be to look at the gaps in service provision in the city and look at best practice elsewhere. The Lord Mayor is intending to visit Dublin to look at the recent challenges that city has faced and to look at what initiatives have been put in place. The role of the Council will be in the first instance to facilitate the discussions and this will be supported by staff within the Environmental Health Service.
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<b>3</b>	<b>Resource Implications</b>
3.1	Una Lappin, the Health Equity Project Officer will continue to support the Shrove Tuesday event in partnership with the Lord Mayor and all of the key organisations. Post the February event, officers will continue to support the BCC focus on the issue of Homelessness, with other relevant services/units within Council.

<b>4</b>	<b>Equality and Good Relations Implications</b>
4.1	There are no relevant equality and good relations implications

<b>5</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
5.1	Belfast City Council to continue to co-ordinate and facilitate the planning group of key organisations to address homelessness issues in the City.

<b>6</b>	<b>Decision Tracking</b>

<b>7</b>	<b>Key to Abbreviations</b>
	No abbreviations were used.

<b>8</b>	<b>Documents Attached</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Christmas Lunch 19<sup>th</sup> December 2014 Press Release</li> </ul>

**Press Release 19<sup>th</sup> December 2014**

**Lord Mayor opens City Hall for Christmas Lunch**

Belfast Lord Mayor, Councillor Nichola Mallon, today welcomed 80 homeless people from across Belfast along to City Hall to enjoy a traditional Christmas lunch with all the trimmings.

Councillor Mallon joined together with a variety of charities and organisations who work with homeless people, to put on the Christmas lunch for those who are facing Christmas alone or on the streets.

The lunch was organised in partnership with Council for the Homeless NI, NI Housing Executive, DePaul, Welcome Organisation, Extern, Salvation Army and Simon Community.

The guests enjoyed the three course lunch which was provided for free by the catering company Posh Nosh Ireland. Waiting staff came in the form of volunteers from the charities and organisations involved, as well as staff from Belfast City Council.

Guest also received Christmas presents and a take home sweetie treat, donated by the NI Housing Executive and enjoyed music by Salvation Army band.

Speaking at the event, the Lord Mayor said: "I'm so pleased to come together with organisations and charities who work so hard all year round in their plight to tackle homelessness on our streets and be able to provide what we hope is a really enjoyable afternoon for our guests.

"It's important to remember that at Christmas, while we are at home with our family and friends, it's very different for those who are alone or without a roof over their heads. Throughout my term in office I have worked to highlight the issues faced by what I term 'our forgotten citizens', people who are on the margins of our society.

Councillor Mallon continued: "Nobody should have to face long term homelessness and it is vital that homeless services have the capacity to reach out and be responsive to the needs of those who, for a variety of reasons and circumstances, are in need of help and support. The acid test of a society is how it cares for its most vulnerable members and I never cease to be amazed by the compassion and generosity of people and organisations right across Belfast".

Organisers also ensured that no food was wasted as guests were able to bring home leftovers in the council's 'Take Home Boxes'.

For more information or advice on homelessness visit  
[www.belfastcity.gov.uk/buildingcontrol-environment/housing/homelessness](http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/buildingcontrol-environment/housing/homelessness)

**RELEASE ENDS**

**ISSUED BY CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS, BELFAST CITY COUNCIL**