Public Document Pack

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

Belfast City Council

18th September, 2017

MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in the Lavery Room - City Hall on Friday, 22nd September, 2017 at 9.30 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

   (d) Change of Date of Meeting in November (Pages 1 - 2)

   (e) Briefing Session - Commission for Victims and Survivors (Pages 3 - 10)

2. **Restricted Items**

   (a) Changes to Current Catering Arrangements (Pages 11 - 14)

   (b) City Centre Investment Fund (Pages 15 - 16)

   (c) Efficiency Programme 2018-19 – 2019-20 (Pages 17 - 20)

3. **Matters referred back from Council/Notices of Motion**

(a) Party Leaders' Forum (Pages 21 - 24)

(b) Notice of Motion - Donations to Political Parties (Pages 25 - 30)

(c) Notice of Motion - Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry (Pages 31 - 40)

4. **Strategic Issues/Belfast Agenda**

(a) Belfast Agenda – publication and next steps (Pages 41 - 116)

(b) European Capital of Culture 2023 (To Follow)

(c) City Region Growth Deal – Update (Pages 117 - 122)

(d) Launch of the Smart Belfast Framework and Innovation Programme (Pages 123 - 130)

5. **Governance**

(a) Freedom of the City for Sir Kenneth Branagh (Pages 131 - 132)

(b) Process for Considering Requests for the Freedom of the City (Pages 133 - 136)

(c) Amendment to the Scheme of Delegation - Special events on roads (Pages 137 - 140)

6. **Physical Programme and Asset Management**

(a) Physical Programme Update – Capital Programme and LIF (Pages 141 - 146)

(b) Disability-accessible WC and creation of a new Family Room facility in City Hall (Pages 147 - 152)

(c) Assets Management (Pages 153 - 164)

7. **Finance, Procurement and Performance**

(a) Belfast City Council Statement of Accounts 2016-17 (Pages 165 - 288)

(b) Contracts for Award (Pages 289 - 294)

(c) Request for Events and Festivals Funding 2018-19 (Pages 295 - 300)

8. **Equality and Good Relations**

(a) Shared City Partnership - Minutes of Meeting (Pages 301 - 308)

(b) Equality Action Plan and Annual Report (Pages 309 - 426)

(c) Belfast City Council Decade of Centenaries Programme 2017-2022 (Pages 427 - 436)

(d) Exhibition Memorabilia Policy Refresh (Pages 437 - 442)

9. **Operational Issues**

(a) Report of the Audit and Risk Panel (Pages 443 - 472)

(b) Minutes of Budget and Transformation Panel Meeting (Pages 473 - 476)

(c) Minutes of the Meeting of the North Foreshore Steering Group (Pages 477 - 488)

(d) Area Working Group Minutes (Pages 489 - 504)

(e) Minutes of Meeting of Active Belfast Ltd Board (To Follow)

(f) Requests for use of the City Hall and the provision of Hospitality (Pages 505 - 510)

(g) NILGA Annual Conference and Local Government Awards (Pages 511 - 516)

(h) National Association of Councillors (NI Region) AGM (Pages 517 - 518)

10. **Issues Raise in Advance by Members**

(a) Council Photograph - Alderman Browne to raise

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STRATEGIC POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Belfast City Council

Subject:	Change of Date of Meeting in November
Date:	15th September, 2017
Reporting Officer:	Ronan Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted? **Yes** [ ] **No** [X]

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

- **After Committee Decision** [ ]
- **After Council Decision** [ ]
- **Some time in the future** [ ]
- **Never** [ ]

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in? **Yes** [X] **No** [ ]

1.0	**Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**
1.1	To seek the Committee's authority to change the date of the November meeting of the Committee.
2.0	**Recommendation**
2.1	The Committee is asked to; • Approve the change of date of the November meeting.
3.0	**Main report**
3.1	The Committee will be aware that the rate setting process for the financial year 2018/19 is currently under way.

3.2	An update report to highlight key issues and scenarios is scheduled to be submitted to the November meeting of the Committee.
3.3	However, prior to that the Director of Finance and Resources will need to brief both the Budget and Transformation Panel and the Party Groups.
3.4	In order to accommodate this, it will be necessary to move the Committee meeting scheduled for November from Friday 17th to Friday, 24th.
	Financial & Resource Implications
3.5	None associated with this report.
	Equality or Good Relations Implications
3.6	None.
4.0	**Appendices – Documents Attached**
	None.

Belfast City Council

STRATEGIC POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Subject:	Briefing Session with the Commission for Victims and Survivors
Date:	22nd September, 2017
Reporting Officer:	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager
Contact Officer:	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager

Restricted Reports				
Is this report restricted?	**Yes**		**No**	X
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?				
After Committee Decision				
After Council Decision				
Some time in the future				
Never				

Call-in				
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	**Yes**	X	**No**	

1.0	**Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**
1.1	To consider a request from the Commission for Victims and Survivors to hold a briefing session for Members about how they can support victims and survivors.
2.0	**Recommendations**
2.1	The Committee is asked to; • Consider if it wishes to receive a briefing from the Commission.
3.0	**Main report**
3.1	Key Issues The Commission for Victims and Survivors has written to the Council offering to hold a briefing session for Members to explain their work, to explain how elected Members might

	support victims and survivors and to build their knowledge and capacity around the needs of victims and survivors and the broader victims' sector.
3.2	The Commission attended several Annual Party Conferences in 2016 and 2017 and were approached at those events by elected Members from across the political parties who expressed the desire to increase their knowledge of the victims' sector and how they might support victims and survivors. Accordingly, the Commission has offered to hold a briefing session for Members of the Council.
3.3	If the Committee agrees to the session, it is intended that it will take place in the City Hall on 27th October from 12.30pm till 2.00pm. Lunch would be provided from 12.00 Noon till 12.30pm.
	Financial & Resource Implications
3.4	There is not any direct cost associated with the holding of the session other than that for the provision of lunch for attendees which can be covered from within existing budgets.
	Equality or Good Relations Implications
3.5	There are not any good relations or equality issues associated with this report.
4.0	**Appendices – Documents Attached**
	Appendix 1 – Letter from the Commission for Victims and Survivors

The Commission for Victims & Survivors

Ms Suzanne Wylie
Chief Executive
Belfast City Council
Cecil Ward Building
4 - 10 Linenhall Street
Belfast
BT2 8BP

23 August 2017

Dear Ms Wylie,

The Commission for Victims and Survivors are implementing a new Communications Strategy and as part of the work plan activity, I attended the Annual Party Conferences in 2016 and throughout 2017. At these events, I was approached by many elected local councillors from across the region who expressed an interest in finding out more about how they can support victims and survivors and also build their knowledge and capacity around the needs of victims and survivors and the broader victims sector. They recommended that I contact you to request time to meet with the elected members.

Therefore, I am writing to you to request an opportunity to meet elected representatives in Belfast City Council and present some information about the work of the Commission for Victims and Survivors and the needs and issues affecting victims and survivors.

The Commission's principle aim is to promote the interests of victims and survivors of the conflict in Northern Ireland. Led by Commissioner Judith Thompson and supported by 11 staff, the Commission is a non-departmental public body and has been in existence since 2008. The Commissioner's statutory duties include convening a Forum of 23 individuals who are broadly representative of victims and survivors of the Troubles.

We would welcome the opportunity to present an overview of our work, to update councillors on our current priorities and to clarify our role in the wider context of the victims and survivors sector in Northern Ireland.

I would be grateful if you could advise me of any available time slots at upcoming Council meetings.

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Fax: 028 9060 7424

Email: commision@cvsni.org
Website: www.cvsni.org
Twitter: @nivictimscom

The Commission for Victims & Survivors

More detailed information about the Commission can be found in the attached briefing paper and also on our website, www.cvsni.org.

Should you wish to find out more information, please do not hesitate to contact Maureen Heaney by email, maureen.heaney@cvsni.org, or by telephone 028 9031 1000.

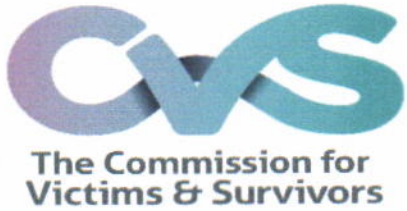
Yours sincerely,

Tina McCann
Head of Communication and Engagement

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Email: commision@cvsni.org
Website: www.cvsni.org
Twitter: @nivictimscom



The Commission for Victims and Survivors

The role of the Commission was anticipated by the Belfast Agreement in 1998;

"The participants believe that it is essential to acknowledge and address the suffering of the victims of violence as a necessary element of reconciliation. They look forward to the results of the work of the Northern Ireland Victims Commission. It is recognised that victims have a right to remember as well as to contribute to a changed society. The achievement of a peaceful and just society would be the true memorial to the victims of violence."

The Commission was formulated in legislation in 2006, established by Ministers in 2008 and given a policy framework by the Northern Ireland Executive in 2009. Its principal aim is to promote the interests of victims and survivors. This aim is the central reference point for all of the Commission's work.

The Commission is a Non-departmental Public Body of the Executive Office (formerly OFMDFM) and is unique in its construction and remit. The Commissioner is supported by a team of 12 staff.

The Commissioner

The Commissioner for Victims and Survivors is appointed by the First and deputy First Minister for an initial period of four years. The post of Commissioner is currently held by Judith Thompson.

Statutory Duties

Article 6 of the 2006 Order outlines the duties of the Commissioner as:

- Promoting an awareness of matters relating to the interests of victims and survivors and of the need to safeguard those interests
- Keeping under review the adequacy and effectiveness of law and practice affecting the interests of victims and survivors
- Keeping under review the adequacy and effectiveness of services provided for the victims and survivors by bodies or persons
- Advising the Secretary of State, the Executive Committee of the Assembly and any body or person providing services for victims and survivors on matters concerning the interests of victims and survivors
- Taking reasonable steps to ensure that the views of victims and survivors are sought
- Making arrangements for a Forum for consultation and discussion with victims and survivors.

Article 7 outlines the general powers of the Commissioner as:

- To undertake, commission or provide financial or other assistance for research or educational activities concerning the interests of victims and survivors or the exercise of its functions
- After consultation with such bodies or persons as it thinks fit, issue guidance on best practice in relation to any matter concerning the interests of victims and survivors
- To compile information concerning the interests of victims and survivors
- To provide advice or information on any matter concerning the interests of victims and survivors
- To publish any matter concerning the interests of victims and survivors, including the outcome of any research or activities mentioned above and any advice provided by the Commission
- To make representations or recommendations to anybody or person concerning the interests of victims and survivors

Within the **Strategy for Victims and Survivors** the Commission is identified as being the primary source of advice to government on victims and survivors issues, having responsibility for the strategic assessment of need and for ensuring that the correct structures are in place to meet those needs and identify gaps.

The Commission has been influential in a number of policy and strategy developments, commissioning key pieces of research which have, for example, shaped the design of the new Mental Health Trauma Service, secured measures to mitigate the impact of Welfare Reform on victims and survivors and highlighted the transgenerational impact of conflict.

The Commission's work on the Comprehensive Needs Assessment formed the foundations for the planning and delivery of services by the Victims and Survivors Service and resulted directly in policy which has shaped its structure and work. The Commission has been effective in initiating and supporting a process of performance improvement and quality assurance in relation to the early operation of the Victims and Survivors Service. The Commission continues to work with that service to improve information on the adequacy and effectiveness of the services which are provided to victims and survivors by more than 70 NGO's across Northern Ireland.

The Commission has established and maintains the Victims and Survivors Forum. This Forum provides the Commission and policy makers with a valuable insight into the lived experience of victims and survivors. The Commission and the Forum played a significant role in the development of the proposed measures for dealing with the past within the Stormont House Agreement. They also effectively articulated the disappointment and anger of victims over the failure of politicians to achieve implementation of these measures in the Fresh Start negotiations.

Some of the challenges that the Commission seeks to address over the coming three years are:

- **Supporting victims and survivors and their families to engage in legacy issues.**
  Dealing with the past - including truth, justice and acknowledgement - remains an urgent need for the Commission.

- **Improving the health and wellbeing of victims and survivors.**
  Our aim is for victims and survivors to enjoy improved mental health and a better quality of life.

- **Caring for victims and survivors and helping those most in need.**
  We will work towards victims and survivors having improved financial support, and increased access to benefits and support.

- **Giving children and grandchildren of victims and survivors the best start in life.**
  Research has shown that the impact of the Troubles in Northern Ireland affects many generations of families, so we will strive for victims and survivors to have improved family relationships.

- **Improving access to opportunities for learning and development.**
  We will continue to ensure that victims and survivors have opportunities for personal and professional development to enhance their self-esteem and self-worth.

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of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

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Belfast City Council

STRATEGIC POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Subject:	Party Leaders' Forum
Date:	22nd September, 2017
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor
Contact Officer:	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager

Restricted Reports				
Is this report restricted?	**Yes**		**No**	X
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?				
After Committee Decision				
After Council Decision				
Some time in the future				
Never				

Call-in				
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	**Yes**	X	**No**	

1.0	**Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**
1.1	To consider the Notice of Motion referred to the Committee by the Council at its meeting on 4th September and to take such action as may be determined.
2.0	**Recommendations**
2.1	The Committee is requested to: • Give guidance on the future administrative arrangements for meetings of the Party Leaders' Forum (options at 3.5).

3.0	**Main report**
	Key Issues
3.1	The Council, at its meeting on 4th September, considered the following Notice of Motion which was proposed by Councillor Long and seconded by Councillor O'Neill: *"This Council calls upon the Chief Executive to submit a report to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on how to ensure openness and transparency with regard to decisions taken by the Party Leaders' Forum."*
3.2	In accordance with Standing Order 13(f) the motion was referred to the Committee for consideration.
3.3	In order to assist the Committee in considering the matter, it might be helpful to set out the background to the establishment of the Party Leaders' Forum: • In the previous Council, prior to the local elections in 2014, the Council had agreed to establish a Party Leaders' Forum to allow space for Party Leaders to discuss difficult or contentious issues without Council Officers routinely being present. As such, those meetings were facilitated by Jonathan Huish and officers were asked to attend parts of the meetings when specific issues pertinent to their remit were to be discussed. A short note of those meetings was reported to the Committee for information. • The Committee, at its meeting on 22nd August 2014, agreed to re-establish a number of Working Groups for the new Council and these included the Party Leaders' Forum and the Budget and Transformation Panel. The rationale for appointing the two Groups was that the Budget and Transformation Panel was exclusively a business meeting when Chief Officers would bring draft reports to the Panel's attention prior to them being submitted to Committee, whereas the Party Leaders' Forum was to provide a space for Party Leaders to discuss more contentious matters and to seek to come to accommodations where there was disagreement. • It was always understood that, as with all Working Groups, neither the Budget and Transformation Panel nor the Party Leaders' Forum were decision-making bodies and all decisions were required to be taken by a Standing Committee and (except where the Committee had full delegated authority) ratified by full Council.
3.4	Currently, there are officers present at meetings of the Budget and Transformation Panel and a minute is taken of the meeting and presented to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for approval. Since Jonathan Huish no longer provides the administrative

	support to the Party Leaders' Forum, there is not any officer tasked with attending those meetings and taking a minute of the discussions. Therefore, there is not any report of those discussions included on the agenda of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.
3.5	It would appear that there are essentially two options open to the Committee in deciding how best to proceed: 1. Accept that the Party Leaders' Forum is primarily established to allow Party Leaders' to discuss issues in confidence and without any officers present. The meetings would therefore continue without a minute being taken and there would not be any report on the discussions submitted to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee; or 2. Agree that an officer would be present at the meetings of the Party Leaders' Forum for the purpose of producing a short note or minute of the discussions which would then be presented to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in the same way that the meetings of the Budget and Transformation Panel are treated.
	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u>
3.6	There are not any financial or resource implications associated with this report.
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u>
3.7	There are not any equality or good relations considerations associated with this report.
4.0	**Appendices – Documents Attached**
	None

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Belfast City Council

STRATEGIC POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Subject:	Notice of Motion : Donations to Political Parties
Date:	22nd September, 2017
Reporting Officer:	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Restricted Reports				
Is this report restricted?	**Yes**		**No**	X
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?				
After Committee Decision				
After Council Decision				
Some time in the future				
Never				

Call-in				
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	**Yes**	X	**No**	

1.0	**Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues**
1.1	To consider a response which has been received on behalf of the Secretary of State in relation to the Council's Motion on Donations to Political Parties.
2.0	**Recommendation**
2.1	The Committee is asked to • Note the response and take any such action as may be determined.
3.0	**Main Report**
3.1	Key Issues The Council, at its meeting on 3rd July, passed the following motion on Donations to Political Parties, which had been proposed by Councillor Nicholl and seconded by Councillor Milne:

	"This Council notes the motions passed in March, 2016 and January, 2017, recognising the importance which the citizens of Belfast place on being able to trust their elected representatives to work for the common good; further recognises the corrupting influence which money can have on political decision-making; considers it unacceptable that donations to political parties continue to remain secret in Northern Ireland; reiterates its calls on the Secretary of State to immediately lift the exemption to reveal all declared donations from £500 upwards to political parties since January 2014; and calls on all political parties to voluntarily publish donations until this time."
3.2	A response has now been received, on behalf of the Secretary of State, from Minister Chloe Smith MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. A copy of the response is attached.
3.3	Minister Smith explains that the Secretary of State had, in January, 2017, written to the leaders of the Political Parties in Northern Ireland to seek their views on whether to move to full transparency for political donations and loans and, if so, to suggest a date from which such transparency should take effect. All of those parties which had responded had expressed the view that full transparency should be introduced, only one of which had proposed that it be implemented retrospectively.
3.4	She points out that, in light of those responses and the widespread support amongst the people of Northern Ireland around the importance of transparency to the wider political process, the Secretary of State had, on 3rd July, stated his intention to bring secondary legislation before Parliament shortly, with a view to having it passed in the autumn. That would provide for the publication of all donations and loans received by Political Parties in Northern Ireland on or after 1st July, 2017. On the basis of the representations which he had received from the parties, the Secretary of State did not consider it appropriate to impose retrospective regulations on those who had donated in accordance with the rules set out at the time.
3.5	The Minister goes on to point out that the threshold for reporting and publishing donations and loans would be the same as in the rest of the United Kingdom, that is, over £7,500 or £1,500 for local accounting units. She concludes by stating that, whilst there are no plans to change those thresholds, the Secretary of State is aware that the Political Parties in Northern Ireland have been considering the possibility of reducing them and the Northern Ireland Office would be interested in obtaining their views in that regard.

3.6	Financial and Resource Implications None
3.7	Equality or Good Relations Implications None
4.0	**Appendices – Documents Attached**
	Appendix 1 - Response from Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Northern Ireland

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Northern Ireland Office

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Henry Downey
Democratic Services Officer
Belfast City Council
Chief Executive's Department
City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS

23 August 2017

Dear Henry,

Thank you for your letter of 14 July to the Secretary of State about the Council's recent motion on the subject of donations to political parties.

You may be aware that in January 2017, the Secretary of State wrote to party leaders in Northern Ireland to seek views on whether to move to full transparency for political donations and loans to Northern Ireland political parties. This was in line with the Government's consistent emphasis on seeing the confidentiality arrangements around donations and loans removed as soon as circumstances allowed. All parties that responded expressed the view that full transparency should be introduced. The parties were also asked about the date from which transparency should take effect. Only one party proposed that transparency should be implemented retrospectively in response.

There remains widespread support for full transparency among the people of Northern Ireland and a welcome recognition by the parties of the importance of transparency to the broader political process. In line with that aim, and consistent with the commitment made in the Conservative Party Manifesto for Northern Ireland, the Secretary of State set out in a Statement to the Parliament on 3 July his intention to bring secondary legislation before Parliament that will provide for the publication of all donations and loans received by Northern Ireland parties on or after 1 July 2017. Having considered the representations of all parties, the Secretary of State did not believe it right to impose retrospective regulations on those who donated in accordance with the rules set out in law at the time.

The thresholds for reporting and publication of donations and loans will be the same as those that apply in the rest of the UK , which is currently donations or loans over £7,500 (or £1,500 for local accounting units). While there are no plans to change these thresholds, the

Secretary of State knows that the Northern Ireland parties have been considering the possibility of a reduction to the current thresholds and the Northern Ireland Office would be interested in hearing any representations from the parties on this issue.

As the Secretary of State indicated in his 3 July Statement, the Northern Ireland Office intend to bring forward the secondary legislation to provide for full transparency shortly with a view to ensuring that this is passed in the autumn.

Yours ever,

Chloe Smith

CHLOE SMITH
PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE

Belfast City Council

STRATEGIC POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Subject:	Notice of Motion : Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry
Date:	22nd September, 2017
Reporting Officer:	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Restricted Reports				
Is this report restricted?	**Yes**		**No**	X
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?				
After Committee Decision				
After Council Decision				
Some time in the future				
Never				

Call-in				
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	**Yes**	X	**No**	

1.0	**Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues**
1.1	To consider responses which has been received in relation to the Council's Motion on the Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry.
2.0	**Recommendation**
2.1	The Committee is asked to; • Note the responses and take any such action as may be determined.
3.0	**Main Report**
3.1	**<u>Key Issues</u>** The Council, at its meeting on 3rd July, passed the following motion on the Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry, which had been proposed by Councillor Heading and seconded by Councillor McReynolds:

	"This Council notes that the Inquiry into Historical Institutional Child Abuse found that children's homes run by some churches, charities and state institutions in Belfast and elsewhere in Northern Ireland were the scene of widespread abuse and mistreatment of young residents. The Council notes that Sir Anthony Hart, Chair of the Inquiry, recommended compensation, a memorial and a public apology to abuse survivors. The Council expresses deep concern that, due to the failure to form a power-sharing government, there has been no progress into implementing the Hart HIA Redress Findings. The Council agrees to write to political party leaders in Northern Ireland to ensure that, if an Executive is formed, the Inquiry's recommendations are implemented in full as a matter of urgency."
3.2	A response has now been received, on behalf of the Secretary of State, from Minister Chloe Smith MP, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. A copy of the response is attached.
3.3	Minister Smith points out that the Secretary of State met recently with historical institutional child abuse victims from a number of organisations in Northern Ireland, during which he reiterated the Government's condemnation of any form of abuse of children and its abhorrence of any tolerance by people in positions of responsibility of such activity by others.
3.4	She states that the Government has always believed that the Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry, which was announced in 2012 by the then First Minister and Deputy First Minister, was the most effective way of establishing the truth and that both the Government and agencies had provided the fullest possible level of co-operation. She highlights the fact that Sir Anthony Hart, who had led the Inquiry, stated clearly within his closing statement that the report, its findings and recommendations were now a matter for the new Assembly and Executive to consider and urged them to implement his recommendations as a matter of priority. Minister Smith concludes by recognising fully the frustration felt by victims and survivors at the current lack of progress due to the suspension of the devolved administration and adds that the Secretary of State continues to urge the Political Parties to restore the Executive to allow a response to Sir Anthony Hart's report to be provided at the earliest opportunity, including on his recommendations for redress and support for victims and survivors of child abuse. In addition to the response from the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Northern

3.5	Ireland, the Council has, to date, received responses from two leaders of Political Parties, namely, Mr. Steven Agnew MLA and Mr. Robin Swann MLA of the Green Party and the Ulster Unionist Party respectively.
3.6	Mr. Agnew, within his response, recognises the urgency of the issue and maintains that the implementation of the report arising from the Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry should not be delayed as a result of a failure to form an Executive and Assembly. He adds that he has written to the Secretary of State to urge him to implement the report immediately and requests those Political Parties on the Council to urge their leadership to do the same.
3.7	Mr. Swann confirms that he has written also to the Secretary of State on this issue and that he is committed to maintaining his Party's longstanding position of supporting the victims of historical institutional abuse. He too regrets the fact that the absence of an Executive and Assembly has delayed the process and supports the Council's call for the Inquiry's recommendations to be implemented as soon as the political institutions are restored. However, he points out that the Panel of Experts on Redress believes that the recommendations relating to compensation fall short of survivors' needs and has identified flaws and suggested improvements. Mr. Swann confirms that, in the absence of the Executive and Assembly, he has called upon the Government to examine both the recommendations of Sir Anthony Hart and the Panel of Experts on Redress and options for bridging the gap between them. He concludes by stating that he is working currently with other Political Parties to identify common ground and help deliver justice for the victims of Historical institutional abuse.
	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u>
3.8	None
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u>
3.9	None
4.0	**Appendices - Document Attached**
	Responses from: Appendix 1 - Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Northern Ireland Appendix 2 - Mr. Steven Agnew MLA , Green Party Appendix 3 - Mr. Robin Swann MLA, Ulster Unionist Party

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Henry Downey
Democratic Services Officer
Belfast City Council
Chief Executive's Department
City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS

24 August 2017

Dear Henry

Thank you for your letter of 4th July sent to the Secretary of State concerning the motion recently passed by Belfast City Council in relation to the Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry. I am responding on the Secretary of State's behalf.

You may be aware, the Secretary of State recently met with a cross section of historical institutional child abuse victims from SAVIA, Rosetta Trust, and Survivors North West. The Secretary of State was very moved by what the victims described to him, and he was very clear that the UK Government condemns any form of abuse of children, and any tolerance by people in positions of authority of such activity by others is abhorrent.

This Government has always believed that the Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry led by Sir Anthony Hart was the most effective way of establishing the truth, and I can assure you the UK Government and agencies provided the fullest possible degree of co-operation to the Inquiry, which Sir Anthony acknowledges in his final report.

However, you will be aware that the report was commissioned by the First Minister and deputy First Minister, who announced the setting up of the HIAI on 31 May 2012. The First Minister and deputy First Minister are obliged to lay the report in the Assembly, but given the current political situation in Northern Ireland this is not likely to be possible before the Autumn.

Sir Anthony in his closing statement of 20th January quite clearly states that the report, its findings and recommendations are a matter for the new Executive and the Assembly, and urges them to give effect to the recommendations as a matter of priority.

I fully recognise the frustration felt by the victims and survivors at the lack of progress in taking forward Sir Anthony Hart's recommendations due to the suspension of the devolved administration. The Secretary of State continues to urge the parties to seek urgent resolution to restore the Executive so that a response can be provided to Sir Anthony's report at the earliest opportunity - including on his recommendations on redress and support for victims and survivors of child abuse.

Yours ever,

Chloe Smith

CHLOE SMITH MP

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

Northern Ireland Assembly

Steven Agnew MLA
Room 258
Parliament Buildings
Stormont
BT4 3XX

12th June 2017

Democratic Services Officer
Henry Downey
Belfast City Council
Chief Executive's Department
City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS

Dear Mr Downey,

Thank you for your correspondence dated 4th July regarding the Historical Institutional Child Abuse Inquiry.

This is very much an urgent matter, and I, and the Green Party, do not believe that the failure of the traditional parties to form a NI Assembly Executive should hold up this process.

This is why I have written to the Secretary of State urging him to intervene and use his position to ensure this report is implemented immediately, and would ask that all those political parties in the Belfast City Council urge their leadership to do the same.

Yours sincerely,

Steven Agnew

Steven Agnew MLA, Leader, Green Party in Northern Ireland
Stormont: 028 90 521790 Bangor: 028 91 459110 Mobile: 0770 678 4436
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Unionist
Ulster Unionist Party
Doing what's right for Northern Ireland

Henry Downey
Democratic Services Section
Belfast City Council, Chief Executive's Department
City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS

6 June 2017

Dear Henry,

Historical Institutional Child Abuse Inquiry

Thank you for your letters dated 4th July on behalf of Belfast City Council regarding the above matter inviting comments.

I wrote to the Secretary of State on 30th May on this issue and I am committed to maintaining the Ulster Unionist Party's long held position of engaging with and seeking to provide support wherever possible, to the victims of Historical Institutional Abuse.

I want to see justice done and I believe that the victims have suffered enough and waited long enough.

I deeply regret the fact that the absence of a fully functioning Executive and Assembly has caused further delay to the victims receiving redress, and I believe that this is indeed a case of 'justice delayed is justice denied.' It was little short of a scandal that the Institutions should collapse just as Sir Anthony Hart outlined his recommendations on 20 January this year.

I note that the motion passed by Belfast City Council calls for an incoming Executive to Implement the Inquiry's recommendations in full as a matter of urgency. I am happy to do this, but I am also aware that the Panel of Experts on Redress believe that the recommendations for compensation of the Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry (HIAI) fall short of survivors' needs and has both identified flaws and recommended improvements.

Clearly any new Executive must address this issue as a matter of priority, and in the absence of an Executive, I have already called on the Government to examine both the recommendation of Sir Anthony Hart and the Panel of Experts on Redress, and consider what can reasonably be done to bridge the gap between the two.

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T: 028 521766 E: robin.swann@ma.niassembly.gov.uk

ULSTER UNIONIST PARTY HEADQUARTERS
Strandtown Hall, 2-4 Belmont Road, Belfast, Northern Ireland BT4 2AN
Tel: 028 9047 4630 *Fax:* 028 9065 2149 *Email:* uup@uup.org *Web:* www.uup.org

I forward to working with other local political parties to see where we can find common ground and help deliver some long-overdue justice for the victims.

Regards.



Robin Swann MLA
Leader, Ulster Unionist Party
Doing what's right for Northern Ireland

Belfast City Council

STRATEGIC POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Subject:	Belfast Agenda – publication and next steps
Date:	22 September 2017
Reporting Officer:	Suzanne Wylie, Chief Executive
Contact Officer:	Sharon McNicholl, Strategic Planning and Policy manager

Restricted Reports				
Is this report restricted?	**Yes**		**No**	X
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?				
After Committee Decision				
After Council Decision				
Some time in the future				
Never				

Call-in				
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	**Yes**	X	**No**	

1.0	**Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**
1.1	This report provides Members with the proposed final draft of the Belfast Agenda and includes a summary of the changes made following the public consultation held earlier this year. This report also proposes a launch of the final Belfast Agenda and briefly updates Members on the next steps in the implementation the Belfast Agenda.
2.0	**Recommendations**
2.1	The Committee is asked to: • Approve the final Belfast Agenda document (Appendix 1) and note the summary of changes from the draft (Appendix 2)

	• Agree a launch of the Belfast Agenda in October. • Agree next steps in taking forward the implementation of the Belfast Agenda including 4 workshops proposed for the late Autumn.
3.0	**Main report**
	Background
3.1	As Members will be aware the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014, Part 10, placed a statutory duty on councils in relation to community planning. The legislation states that as **lead partner,** the council (once consensus has been reached with community planning partners), must publish a **community plan** that sets out long term objectives for improving economic, social and environment wellbeing of its district, together with the actions and functions to be delivered to achieve these objectives.
3.2	Following significant engagement with Members, partners and the general public (through The Belfast Conversation) Members agreed in November 2016 to a draft Belfast Agenda to go to public consultation in December 2016.
3.3	The public consultation on the draft Belfast Agenda, Belfast's Community Plan, was undertaken over an 18 week period, from 15th December 2016 to 20th April 2017. During the consultation period, a range of engagement activities were undertaken including public briefings, stakeholder workshops and meetings, an online questionnaire and social media activity.
	Consultation feedback
3.4	Nearly 300 responses from a broad range of individuals, organisations and stakeholders were received to the consultation. Some of these responses represented the findings of workshops that stakeholders had undertaken with their own groups.
3.5	Overall the response to the consultation indicated a significant endorsement for the Belfast Agenda – there was general support (over 80% of respondents) for the long term vision, outcomes and ambitions, and for the 4 year (to 2021) priorities of Growing the Economy, Living Here, City Development and Working and Learning.
3.6	Analysis of the feedback has been ongoing over recent months and findings have been discussed with community planning partners (including Party Group Leaders).

3.7	Some respondents suggested improvements to the plan or highlighted concerns, identifying themes that could be strengthened (for example, culture and arts, housing, good relations, environment, health, lifelong learning, among others) and these have been considered in producing the final version. Additionally, since the draft plan was published, more recent data and evidence has become available and this has also been considered, particularly in relation to the 'Belfast Now' section, the population indicators and Stretch goals. Greater alignment to the Local Development Plan was raised and this has been strengthened within the Belfast Agenda to reflect the LDP's role as the spatial representation of the community plan. Key changes to the draft Belfast Agenda and the basis upon which these were made are outlined in Appendix 2.
3.8	Many organisations, groups and individuals, also provided feedback on how 'work streams', programmes or projects should be taken forward in the delivery of the Belfast Agenda. Some highlighted how certain groups or stakeholders might contribute to the implementation. Whilst this feedback did not specifically relate to the content of the document, it is being analysed further and collated to enable it to be considered and inform and shape the on-going development of work programmes and action plans within the Belfast Agenda priorities.
3.9	The Community Planning Partners Forum discussed a revised draft of the Belfast Agenda at their recent meeting on 11th August 2017. Partners were asked to agree the final draft and statutory Community Planning Partners were asked to provide written endorsement from their organisations. The main elements of the Belfast Agenda and structure of the document remain largely constant in the revision (see Appendix 1). The content of the document includes the following: – **Separate forewords** from Party Group Leaders and Statutory Community Planning partners, demonstrating the partnership commitment to the city agenda. – **The Belfast opportunity** – a brief overview of Belfast now and the opportunity afforded by the Belfast Agenda. – **Impact summary** – this new section provides a Belfast Agenda 'plan on a page' highlighting the key features and ambitions of the Belfast Agenda. – **A vision for 2035** – An aspirational description of what we want Belfast to be in 2035. – **A set of outcomes for 2035** – these five statements describe the detail of the vision - specifically what we want for the people who live and work in Belfast.

- **Population indicators** - measures that will give a strong sense of the city's 'wellbeing' over the coming years and provide Members and partners with a powerful tool to measure the positive impact of the Belfast Agenda.
- **Our ambitions** – four goals to be the focus to drive growth and reduce inequalities over the long term in Belfast.
- **Belfast Now** – key statistics giving a current view of the city
- **Inclusive growth and medium term priorities (2017-21)** – outlining the overarching aspiration of inclusive growth and the four priority areas being taken forward immediately: Growing the economy; Living here; City Development; and Working and Learning. Each of these priority areas includes:
    - **Stretch goals:** challenging targets to help quantify what the city needs to achieve for each priority over the next four years.
    - **Work-streams:** These are the 'game-changing' programmes of work to be delivered by city partners over the next four years.

Members are asked to consider and approve the revised Belfast Agenda.

3.10

Belfast Agenda Launch

3.11 The legislation requires the council to formally publish the community plan once consensus has been reached with partners. It is proposed, therefore, that the formal launch of the Belfast Agenda takes place once the revised Belfast Agenda has been endorsed by all partners (statutory partners have been asked to endorse the Belfast agenda by mid-Sept and it is hoped the council will ratify in October).

3.12 It is proposed that a press launch with Party Group Leaders, Chair of SP&R and key community planning partners be arranged in City Hall in October.

3.13 In addition to the revised Belfast Agenda the following supporting documents are also being produced and will be published at the same time:

- A technical document defining all the measures referred to in the Belfast Agenda
- Equality Impact Assessment – revised following the consultation;
- Strategic Environmental Assessment – revised following the consultation
- Habitats Regulations Assessment
- Rural Needs Assessment
- Consultation feedback summary report

3.14	Members are asked to consider and agree a press launch of the final Belfast Agenda in October, involving the Party Group Leaders, Chair of SP&R Committee, the Chief Executive and other statutory partners.
	Next Steps – Towards delivery
3.15	As a final Belfast Agenda document is agreed and published over the coming weeks, it is important that focus now turns to delivery. As Members recognise the Belfast Agenda is a strategic framework; its priorities contain a range of workstreams, programmes and projects, some of which are already underway or in planning phases, and others have yet to begin; some with existing partnership arrangements, others may require new arrangements. As a result arrangements for delivery, monitoring and oversight of each of the Belfast Agenda priorities will need to be tailored to be effective.
3.16	In moving forward, it is proposed that a series of workshops is planned for this autumn, convening initially around each of the 4 Belfast Agenda priorities, to consider how collaboration in action planning and delivery can best be taken forward across a range of city partners. These will provide opportunities for wider engagement as part of this process, including existing partnerships and the community and voluntary sector. It is also anticipated that this initial work will build foundations for further consideration of governance requirements for delivery and oversight of the Belfast Agenda.
3.17	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u> This next programme phase of the Belfast Agenda is included within current Council resources. Given the significant workload associated with supporting delivery of the Belfast Agenda consideration is being given, as part of the ongoing organisational development programme to the necessary alignment and organisation of staff to ensure effective delivery.
3.18	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u> Equality and good relations have been central to the development of the Belfast Agenda to date and equality and good relations implications will continue to be considered throughout the implementation process.
4.0	**Appendices**
	Appendix 1: Final Belfast Agenda document Appendix 2: Summary of changes to the final Belfast Agenda document

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The Belfast Agenda

Your future city

Belfast's Community Plan

Draft for consideration: SP&R Committee 22 September 2017

A new vision for Belfast in 2035

p10

Our focus for the next four years

Growing the economy p22

Living here p28

City development p34

Working and learning p40

How we developed the Belfast Agenda

p44

Making it happen

p46

The community planning partners

p48



This is the Belfast Agenda

This is our joint commitment to work side by side for the good of everyone in Belfast

Foreword from Belfast City Council Party Group Leaders

The Belfast Agenda is our city's first community plan, created by a strong partnership led by Belfast City Council. It identifies the work that we will all focus on to unleash the energy and ability that exists in our people and communities.

We are ambitious and inclusive. We have come together to set stretching goals that will create a better quality of life for all. We want sustainable success for the city and we want to make sure this success reaches everyone who lives here.

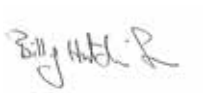
Defining the Belfast Agenda has been a cooperative effort. We are grateful to people across the city for sharing with us their views of the challenges and opportunities we face, and for telling us about the Belfast they want to live and work in. The Belfast we want to create.



Councillor Tim Attwood SDLP



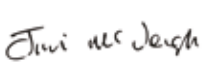
Alderman David Browne, UUP



Councillor Billy Hutchinson, PUP



Councillor Michael Long, APNI



Councillor Jim McVeigh, SF



Councillor Lee Reynolds, DUP

This is a plan for us all. For each of our diverse and talented communities, and for the many people beyond our boundaries who depend on our city's success.

Foreword from Belfast's Statutory Community Planning Partners

Over the past two years we have been asking residents in Belfast to tell us what kind of city they want for the future and what things we should be focusing on now to make this happen.

People told us that they want a city that provides a high quality of life for everyone who lives here and for the city to be a great place to work, study, visit or set up and grow a business.

The Belfast Agenda has been produced by a partnership of organisations involved in delivering services across our city. It is ambitious and dynamic and will drive our emerging action plans for Belfast over the years to come. As partners we have committed to work together, with Belfast communities, to improve our city and ensure its long-term success.

Belfast City Council

tourism northernireland

HSC Belfast Health and Social Care Trust

HSC South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust

libraries ni www.librariesni.org.uk

HSC Public Health Agency

ea Education Authority

CCMS

sport Northern Ireland

Housing Executive

Invest Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service

HSC Health and Social Care Board

The Belfast opportunity

Imagine yourself in 2035.
What are your hopes for you and your family?
What kind of Belfast do you want to live in?

These are the questions we asked you.

You told us Belfast is already a place of optimism and ambition.

You told us Belfast is a place where we take care of each other; a place that celebrates diversity. You told us you want to make sure no-one in Belfast is left behind.

You are proud of Belfast's natural and built environment. You told us Belfast should take care of its beautiful places - now and for future generations.

You told us about Belfast's place in the world's story, its vibrant cultural life and its unrelenting energy. You told us you want Belfast to be outward-looking and confident on the world stage.

You said you wanted a city where everyone has a good start in life, a good education and a good job – where everyone has safe, good quality places to live, work, play and learn, where people get on with each other.

We have listened to what you want Belfast to be like in 2035 and the Belfast Agenda is our ambitious plan to make your hopes and dreams real.

The Belfast Agenda recognises and builds on our city's achievements. Our success in economic growth is making a vital contribution to the wider Northern Ireland economy. We are a major employer of people living in and outside the city. Our higher and further education institutions and industries are important contributors to research and development, skills and trade.

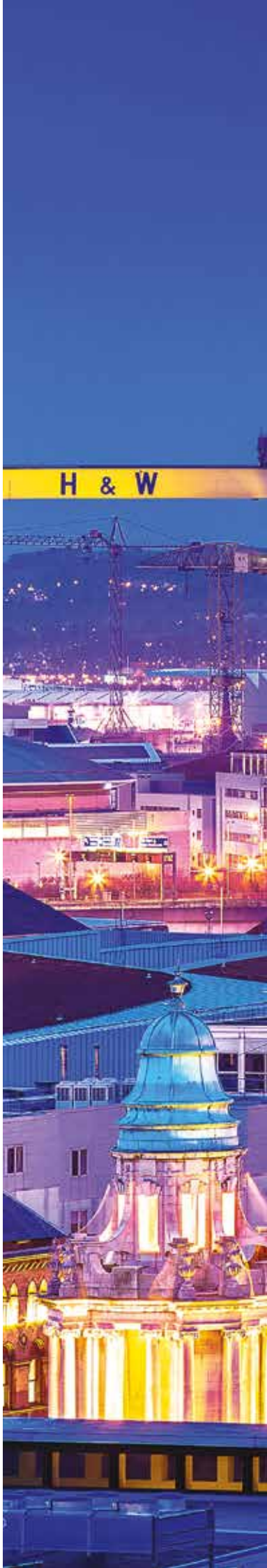
The city has been transformed through physical and cultural regeneration. In recent years over £2 billion has been invested in cultural facilities, retail, leisure and housing. Our revitalised city centre, with its events and facilities, is evidence of the many positive changes that have already taken place.

We want people to come to Belfast, to live, to work, to study and to experience our city. We have real talent and creativity, and we have never been shy of hard work. Now is the time for us to unleash that energy once again to secure our future.

However, we recognise that there are still things that get in the way of all our people benefiting from our city's success – barriers to employment, poor connectivity between our neighbourhoods, improving good relations and inequalities. We want to ensure everyone has the best possible chance in life to access opportunities and fulfil their potential.

Our commitment is that Belfast should be a city re-imagined in which no-one is left behind.

This is our time to be ambitious. This is our Belfast Agenda.




H & W

By 2035, Belfast will be a city...



where everyone benefits from a thriving and prosperous economy

that is a welcoming, safe, fair and inclusive for all

Our ambitions

Between now and 2035, we want to deliver the following bold ambitions:

Our economy supports **46,000** additional jobs.

Our city is home to an additional **66,000** people.

Priorities 2017-2021



15,000 new jobs

Securing **£5billion** investment for the next 10 years

Secure a significant Belfast region city deal

Increase the value of out of state tourism to £500 million

Create innovation, research and skills hubs



that is vibrant, attractive, connected and environmentally sustainable

where everyone experiences good health and wellbeing

where everyone fulfils their potential

There will be a
33 per cent
reduction in the life expectancy gap between the most and least deprived neighbourhoods.

Every young person leaving school has a destination that fulfils their potential.

£1billion
investment in neighbourhood assets

Capital of Culture 2023

£1million to drive social innovation

Increased social and affordable housing

£105 million
new leisure estate

Improving health
Integrated support for early years and families

5% increase in rates base as a result of growth and development

Improved connectivity

Belfast Transport Hub

Belfast Rapid Transit

Leading class digital infrastructure

York Street Interchange

Further world class visitor attraction

1.5 million sq feet Grade A office space

15% increase in use of sustainable transport

Economic inactivity less than 23%

Less than 10%
working age people with no qualifications

More than 82% working age population with level 2 qualifications and above

Large scale skills and employability programme

Reduce attainment gap to less than 28%

98% school leavers in employment, education or training



Our vision for Belfast in 2035

Belfast will be a city re-imagined and resurgent. A great place to live and work for everyone.

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

Our outcomes

The five things people want by 2035

Belfast will be a city...



Our outcomes

1 Everyone in Belfast benefits from a thriving and prosperous economy

By 2035, Belfast will have a diverse and growing economy and a bigger and more competitive business base, capable of attracting increased visitors and investment. It will provide high levels of employment, supported by a skilled workforce and the city will create wealth that can be enjoyed by all.

Population Indicators

1.1 City productivity levels

1.2 Investment into Belfast

1.3 City competitiveness

1.4 The total number of businesses in Belfast

1.5 The number of business start-ups

1.6 The proportion of the population living in absolute and relative poverty (before housing costs)

1.7 The total number of jobs in Belfast

1.8 The proportion of working-age population in Belfast who are employed

1.9 Working age employment rate by deprivation

1.10 Economic inactivity rate (excluding students)

1.11 Average earnings

1.12 Total spend by external visitors

1.13 Supply of housing

2 Belfast is a welcoming, safe, fair and inclusive city for all

By 2035, Belfast will be a place where everyone will continue to feel welcome and safe and will be treated fairly with equality and respect in a shared city that values diversity and encourages civic participation.

Population Indicators

2.1 Number of victims of any crime

2.2 Number of hate-motivated crimes

2.3 Proportion of people who feel safe

2.4 Number of anti-social behaviour incidents

2.5 Number of physical barriers at interface sites

2.6 The number of people who agree that people from different background get on well together

2.7 Proportion of population who believe their cultural identity is respected by society

2.8 Proportion of young people who think that local facilities are shared and open to all



3 Everyone in Belfast fulfils their potential

By 2035, everyone will be supported and enabled to reach their full potential to succeed and make a positive contribution to city life. Everyone will have access to information, education, training and lifelong learning and can access jobs and opportunities to actively participate in all areas of life.

Population Indicators

3.1 Proportion of working age population who have attained Level 2 or above

3.2 Proportion of working age population who have attained Level 4 or above

3.3 Proportion of school-leavers achieving at level 2 or above including English and Maths

3.4 Gap between percentage of school leavers entitled to free school meals and those who aren't achieving at Level 2 or above, including English and maths

3.5 Proportion of school-leavers entering employment, education or training

3.6 School attendance rates

3.7 Participation in arts activities

3.8 Engagement in culture and arts activities

3.9 Participation in sport

3.10 Volunteering

3.11 Self-efficacy

4 Everyone in Belfast experiences good health and wellbeing

By 2035, everyone will live a healthy lifestyle and will experience the best possible physical health and emotional wellbeing. Health inequalities will be reduced and those who suffer from poor health will receive the care and support they need in a compassionate city.

Population Indicators

4.1 Life expectancy at birth

4.2 Gap in life expectancy by deprivation

4.3 Preventable deaths

4.4 Proportion of the population of adults and/or children who are obese

4.5 Proportion of population who smoke

4.6 Proportion of adults drinking above sensible drinking guidelines

4.7 Proportion of people who rank themselves as having high levels of wellbeing

4.8 Proportion of adults who undertake at least 150 minutes of physical exercise per week

4.9 Number of households in housing stress

4.10 Proportion of population living in decent homes

5 Belfast is a vibrant, attractive, connected and environmentally sustainable city

By 2035, everyone will enjoy attractive, well-serviced, clean neighbourhoods and a thriving city centre equipped with a range of facilities, activities and things to do. It will be a city that will encourage walking, cycling and the use of public transport, as well as recycling waste and improving energy efficiency. It will be a city where the natural and built beauty of Belfast, linked to its hills, parks, river, lough, fine buildings and public space is well protected and can be enjoyed by everyone.

Population Indicators

5.1 Air quality

5.2 Percentage of household waste that is reused, recycled or composted

5.3 Percentage of all journeys which are made by walking, cycling or public transport

5.4 Visitor numbers

5.5 Number of miles of cycle lanes, footways and footpaths

5.6 Proportion of homes that are energy efficient

5.7 Satisfaction with Belfast as a place to live

Our community plan takes an outcomes based approach. This means we are focusing on things that will significantly improve the quality of life and wellbeing of all residents and those who want to work, study, visit or set up in business here. We want everyone in the city to experience these outcomes whatever their age, where ever they live, and whatever their circumstances.

These outcomes are deliberately aspirational and we know that delivering them will require a long-term commitment from all partners. Many of the issues we need to address are complex and longstanding; however, these shared outcomes provide a strong motivation to bring partners together and to fire the ambitions of our people. We believe they will provide the energy and enthusiasm to drive the Agenda forward and we intend to make steady progress towards all of them over the next 18 years.

Our ambitions

There are many things that we will need to do to make our vision a reality. Our ambition is to drive growth in order to reduce inequalities. Success will depend on hard work, ingenuity and collaborative commitment by all the organisations and people with a stake in our city's future.

To help us realise our vision and improve outcomes, we have set four bold ambitions to be achieved by 2035. We recognise that these are challenging but we believe that they will create a sense of urgency and encourage innovation, new thinking and greater collaboration.

We know that the best route to an improved quality of life for most people is through having a good job. So we are committed to growing the number of jobs in the city and provide support for residents to take advantage of these.

Our goal is that, by 2035 our urban economy will support 46,000 additional jobs.

We know from the experience of other economically successful cities that increasing the number of jobs results in a growing population. Belfast's population has decreased from 416,679 in 1971 to 339,579 in 2017 with neighbouring towns and cities increasing in population. This has subsequently meant an increase in commuting levels with approximately 78,000 people commuting in to Belfast on a daily basis. We want to encourage more people to both live and work in the city, directly contributing to its success, vibrancy and sustainability.

Therefore we believe that by 2035, our city will be home to an additional 66,000 people. This will include people who would previously have left to find work, graduates we will attract back and people who want to live as well as work here. We hope that this growth will continue in the even longer term, and will explore how the city can grow towards 500,000 people by 2050 to keep pace with competitor cities.

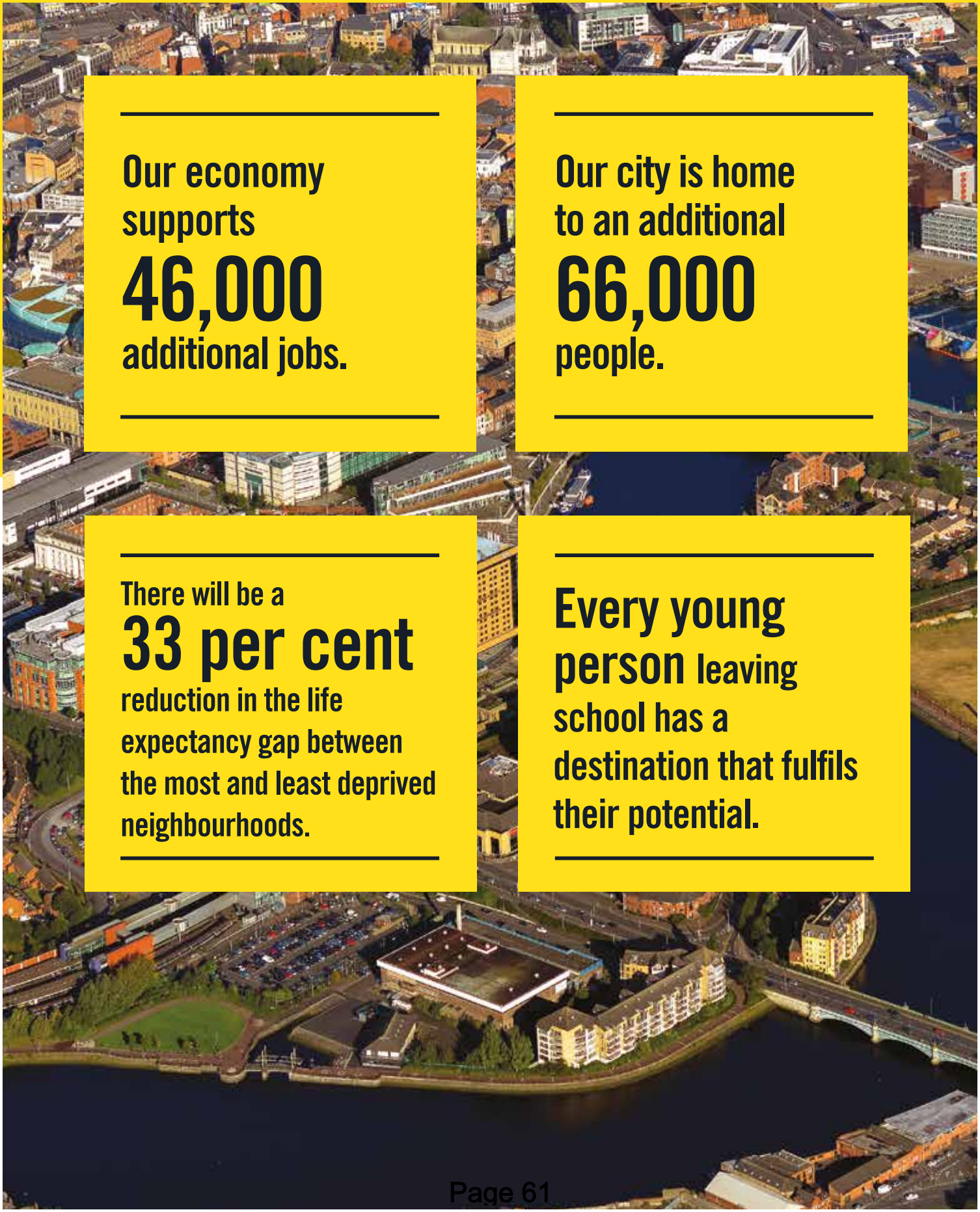
We know that we will need to shape our city to ensure that this can happen in a sustainable way and that is the purpose of Belfast's new Local Development Plan which will be delivered alongside the Belfast Agenda and will shape the physical future of the city – including housing, roads and other infrastructure.

Of course, economic and population growth on its own is not enough. These are a means to an end to help us reduce inequalities and create opportunities for all.

So we have set ourselves two further bold ambitions - that every young person leaving school has a destination that fulfils their potential. And that we reduce the current significant gap in life expectancy between our most and least deprived neighbourhoods.

We know that the world is constantly changing and we will continually keep our ambitions under review as we move through the global and European changes before us.

By 2035...



Our economy supports **46,000** additional jobs.

Our city is home to an additional **66,000** people.

There will be a **33 per cent** reduction in the life expectancy gap between the most and least deprived neighbourhoods.

Every young person leaving school has a destination that fulfils their potential.

Belfast now

Our people



Belfast is the capital of Northern Ireland with a population of 339,579.

We are one of the youngest cities in Europe - young people up to the age of 21, make up nearly a third of our population, while a fifth of the city is under 15 years old.

Our older population is growing – today 15 per cent of the population is 65 and older, by 2035 this will grow to nearly a fifth (20 per cent).

Growing the economy

Working population: Belfast has the largest potential workforce in Northern Ireland (66 per cent of its population or 223,119 people are of working age).

Productivity: the city drives regional productivity with its workforce generating £35,023 Gross Value Added per head. In 2015, Belfast experienced the strongest growth in GVA per head of any UK city which increased by 4.7 per cent.

Growth sectors: Belfast's Knowledge economy is growing fast. Its creative industries sector is the fourth fastest growing in the UK, with 1,646 businesses supporting 11,545 jobs. We are a world leader in cyber security through organisations such as the Centre For Secure Information Technology.

International reputation: over 70 per cent of our universities' research activity is considered world leading or internationally excellent.

Business start-ups: Belfast has the highest business birth rate (11 per cent) in the region but struggles when compared to places like Manchester (19 per cent), Birmingham (20 per cent), Leeds (15 per cent) or Bristol (15 per cent).

Tourism Expenditure: In 2016, expenditure from overnight trips contributed £334 million to the economy and supported 18,607 jobs. Out of state visitors accounted for £279 million.

Further and higher education: QUB is in the top 1% of global universities, ranked 8th in the UK for research intensity and 9th in the world for international research collaboration. UU is one of the top 10 entrepreneurial universities in the UK. Belfast Metropolitan College is one of the largest FHE colleges in the UK, driving enterprise and employability.

Living here

Quality of life: the city has a thriving cultural and social scene, high quality sporting facilities and many excellent examples of natural and built heritage. It has been ranked in the top five cities in the UK for having the best quality of life. Engagement in arts and cultural activity in Belfast stands at 85%, while 32% directly participate in arts activities.

Open Space: Belfast has an abundance of open space - more than any other urban area in the UK - including parks, playing fields, greenways as well as the River Lagan and Belfast Hills.

Voluntary and Community sectors: Belfast has vibrant Community and Voluntary sectors. Over one quarter of all the voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations in N. Ireland are in Belfast.

Life expectancy: average life expectancy in Belfast for both males (75.9 years) and females (81.1 years) is lower than the Northern Ireland averages.

Deprivation: 8 of the 10 most deprived wards in Northern Ireland are in Belfast. 39 per cent of children and 22 per cent of people aged 60 and over are affected by income deprivation.

Health inequalities: people are living longer but there is a difference (5.6 years for females and 9.2 years for men) between the most deprived areas and the least deprived in the city.

Housing stress: in 2015, nearly 7,000 people were in housing stress.

Housing structure: one quarter (25 per cent) of houses in Belfast are socially rented, whist 52 per cent are owner-occupied.

Interfaces: despite good progress in community relations the city still has 63 physical barriers at interface sites.

Belfast now

City development



Tourist visitors: Belfast supports a growing tourism industry with over 1.5 million overnight trips to the city, including 1 million from out of state visitors. In 2016, Titanic Belfast was named as the world's number one tourist attraction.

Business visitors: between 2014 and 2016, there were an estimated average of 215,000 business trip to Belfast per year.

Connectivity: there are two airports within 30 minutes of the city centre, which deal with nearly 8million passengers each year. During 2015, Belfast Harbour handled over 23 million tonnes of goods and 1.4 million passengers, representing 70 per cent of Northern Ireland's and 20 per cent of the entire island's seaborne trade.

Sustainable transport: over half of the working population (58 per cent) travel to work by car or van; 14 per cent by public transport; and only 2 per cent by bike. Belfast has 82 miles of bike routes, including 24 miles of traffic free routes and 12 miles of shared use pathways.

Connectivity (Digital): Almost 100 per cent of households and businesses have access to high speed broadband.

Working and learning



Schools: in 2016/17, Belfast had 67,695 children enrolled in 219 schools.

Universities: the city's three universities have nearly 50,000 students, whilst the Belfast Metropolitan College serves over 25,000 students each year. Every year Northern Ireland exports approximately 35% of its higher education students.

Jobs: Belfast's economy supports over 220,000 jobs, 93 per cent of which are in the services sector. Almost one-third of all jobs (31 per cent) are in the public sector.

Skills: a successful education system for many: 68 per cent (2,511) of school-leavers went on to further or higher education. One-third (34 per cent) of the working age population has a university degree or higher. However, 14 per cent of the working age population have no qualifications.

Qualifications: 62 per cent of school-leavers in 2015-2016 achieved at least 5 GCSEs grades A* to C (or equivalent), including English and Maths – less than the region's average of 68 per cent.

Educational inequalities: 42 per cent of young people entitled to free school meals achieve five GCSEs grade A*-C, including English and Maths as compared to 74 per cent of those who are not.

Long-term unemployed: 5 per cent of the working-age population are claiming an unemployment-related benefit (10,852 people). Nearly two fifths of these (39 per cent) were long-term unemployed.

For statistical sources go to www.belfastcity.gov.uk/belfastagenda

Belfast as a regional driver



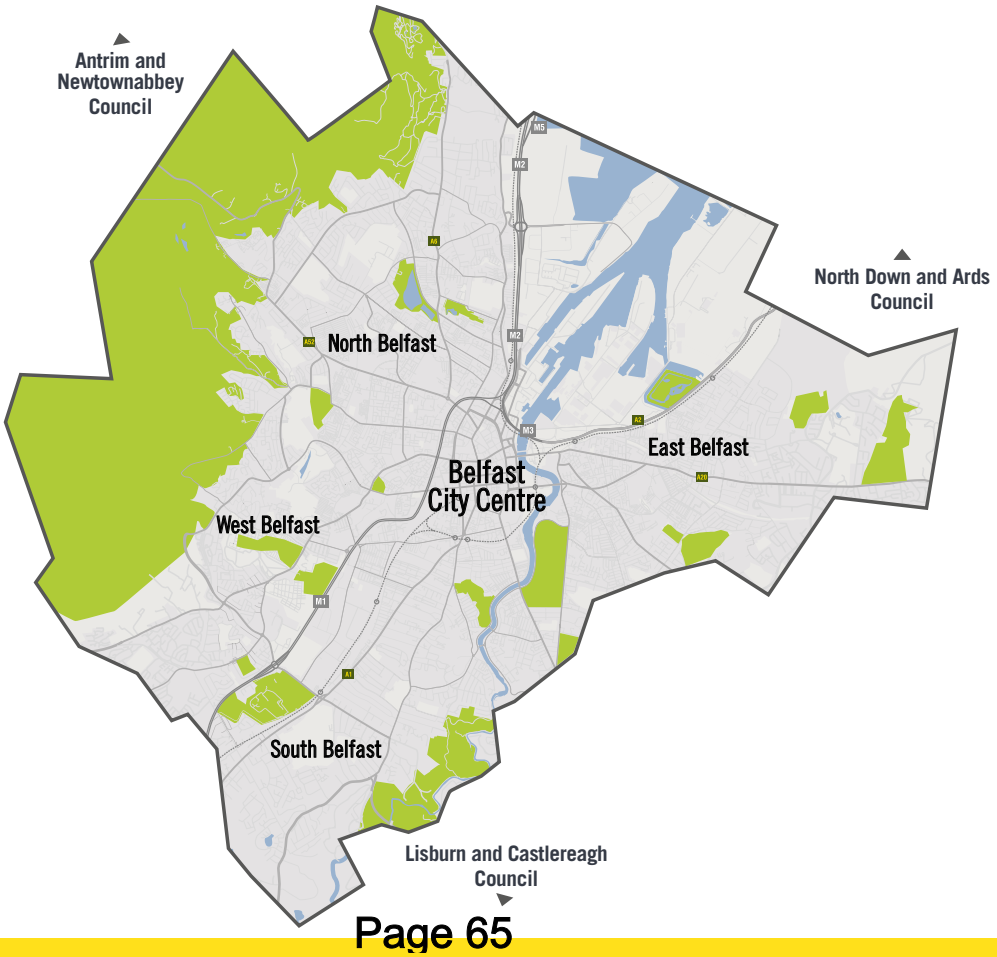
Economic driver: Belfast's economy supports nearly a third (30 per cent) of all jobs in Northern Ireland. The city contributes to over a quarter (28 per cent) to the region's productivity.

The city region: the functional economic area, including Lisburn and Castlereagh, Ards and North Down, Antrim and Newtownabbey, Mid and East Antrim, and Newry, Mourne and Down has over 1 million people, and contributes around two thirds of regional GVA.

Foreign Direct Investment: outside London, Northern Ireland is the leading UK region for attracting inward investment. This success has been across a range of knowledge intensive sectors. In particular Belfast is the world's top destination city for financial services technology investments.

Competitiveness: Both the Belfast region and Northern Ireland lag behind the UK in productivity as measured by GVA per job.

Knowledge economy: Northern Ireland is the second fastest growing knowledge economy in the UK. 60% of Northern Ireland's knowledge economy businesses are in Belfast.



Belfast city boundary and adjacent councils

Inclusive growth

Leaving no one behind
Our focus for the next four years: 2017 – 2021

Our vision and outcomes are long-term and are intended to improve the lives of everyone in Belfast, but to achieve them we have identified a number of priorities for the next four years that we will act on right away.

We believe that, in order to address the long term challenges facing people in Belfast such as health and educational inequalities, the need for good relations, ensuring people feel safe and have good living conditions, we need to focus on improving our economy and ensuring the benefits are felt by everyone.

By addressing the issues of poverty, economic inactivity, unemployment and underemployment we can help improve the wider outcomes for people in Belfast – **we call this inclusive growth.**

Inclusive growth is about more and better jobs; improving living standards and earnings; offering in-work progression and challenging barriers to employment such as child care, transport and training. As it is about improving life chances, it is something that no one organisation or sector can deliver alone; we must do it together.

It is also about making sure that people have the best life chances and best living experience no matter where they are born or live in Belfast. It is about addressing the long term societal inequalities such as health, educational attainment and well-being.

Throughout our conversations and in the feedback to our consultation, some issues consistently emerged as key to making progress on inclusive growth:

- Remove barriers to employment, particularly for those furthest from opportunity;
- Tackle inter-generational inequality through, for example, working towards an effective child-care strategy and early years interventions that give every child the best start in life;
- Boost attainment levels at all stages of life, in particular ensuring that educational inequalities are addressed and people have the skills they need for the jobs of the future;
- Utilise any potential city-region growth deal to invest in skills and maximise the benefit of infrastructure investment to create jobs, improve skills and drive inclusive growth. Ensure that interventions will have a specific focus on most deprived areas;
- Promote and build a labour market that provides sustainable employment and pays a living wage addressing the need for entry level jobs as well as those highly skilled; and
- Address and mitigate poverty and issues such as affordable housing.

The next section of this document highlights some immediate priorities, under the headings of:

Growing the economy;

Living here;

City development; and

Working and learning.

All of these have been considered within the context of inclusive growth. For each priority, we have proposed some stretch goals and workstreams which we hope will create real progress towards achieving our vision for 2035.

Working towards inclusive growth - Immediate priorities

Creating jobs and investment

Together, we will:

- Create employment and opportunity
- Attract investment into Belfast
- Foster business growth in Belfast
- Strengthen business relationships and make it easy to do business
- Maximise the impact of the city region
- Increase tourism spend
- Reduce economic inequalities

Making life better for all our residents

Together, we will:

- Improve neighbourhoods
- Improve the city living experience
- Improve good relations
- Reduce life inequalities
- Enable active, healthy and empowered citizens
- Provide fit-for-purpose city services
- Support and care for people who face multiple challenges
- Support younger and older people





Growing the economy

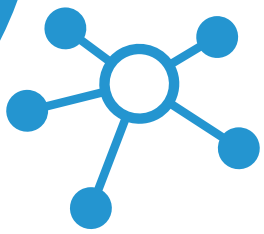
Living here

Inclusive growth
leaving no one behind

City development

Working and learning





Creating a competitive and sustainable city

Together, we will:

- Promote and position the city to compete
- Develop the city's infrastructure and improve connectivity locally, nationally, and internationally
- Drive the physical and cultural regeneration of the city centre
- Deliver key strategic physical projects and policies
- Attract more tourists
- Protect and enhance our environment and built heritage
- Develop an effective Local Development Plan

Connecting people to opportunities

Together, we will:

- Address educational inequalities and increase skills attainment
- Address barriers to employment at a structural and personal level
- Enhance and increase the skill levels of our residents and attract and retain even more skilled people
- Match people and skills to opportunities across Belfast
- Reduce poverty and economic inactivity

Growing the economy

A competitive city region economy that creates opportunities for all

Together, we will:

- **create employment and opportunity;**
- **attract investment into Belfast;**
- **foster business growth in Belfast;**
- **strengthen business relationships and make it easy to do business;**
- **maximise the impact of the city region;**
- **increase tourism spend; and**
- **reduce economic inequalities.**

Why this is a priority for Belfast

A thriving and prosperous economy is the engine of change for our city and the critical contributor to all of the outcomes that we wish to achieve.

As the region's capital city, its major population centre and the hub for business and employment, Belfast is critical to Northern Ireland's economic future.

Growing a diverse and inclusive economy is our main priority. Creating more and better jobs that are sustainable, rewarding, provide a career path and are financially rewarding has consistently been the major concern raised by residents and other stakeholders.

The economic growth and prosperity of Belfast extends well beyond the city. More than half of those employed in Belfast travel from outside the council boundary. While there is uncertainty with the United Kingdom exiting the European Union and wider global economic pressures, Belfast does not face these challenges alone. Business will continue as the city and region adapt to meet the new challenges, locally and internationally. That is why the success of the city region, as well as Belfast, is at the heart of this agenda.

Belfast already has a proven track record in successfully attracting foreign investment. The city continues to offer favourable economic conditions, including competitive labour costs, a pool of skilled



graduates and a growing international reputation as a venue for major events and leading tourist destination.

Global trends tell us of the importance of growth in new sectors, including financial technologies, cyber-security, film and animation, connected health, green-tech and the circular economy. Our long-term agenda includes plans for these shifts as well as for growing the already successful service sectors including finance and IT, tourism, hospitality, culture, arts and sports.

We need to ensure that the Belfast city region continues to give Northern Ireland this competitive edge. Other cities have secured growth deals to give them the skills and infrastructure they need for jobs and investment. We want the same and are working towards a significant Belfast region city deal package that will give us the transport infrastructure, tourism product and skills needed to keep our city relevant in a rapidly changing world.

To build on our strengths and prepare for the future, the city has systemic issues that need to be addressed by all partners. For example, the city continues to suffer from high economic inactivity and relatively low rates of business start-up. And while in some parts of the city we have high skill levels, in other parts many people don't have the skills they need to succeed.

There is still a substantial fiscal deficit, demonstrating that the city needs higher levels of productivity. We have an imbalance between the size of our private and public sectors.

As a result, Belfast has shown only limited improvement in its competitiveness in the past five years when compared to 40 other European cities. To be competitive at an international level, Belfast needs to tackle these underlying and inter-connected issues with innovative and collective action.

Rebalancing the economy by encouraging private sector investment is essential for generating sustainable growth, increasing productivity and creating diverse and well paid jobs.

Central to this is removing barriers to employment including improving skills and employability levels. It is important that as many people as possible benefit from growth and the city's success.

We need to be a connected and cohesive city that extends its influence well beyond its boundaries and delivers for the local population - a balanced and sustainable programme of inclusive economic growth is required.

Our goals and workstreams for growing the economy

A strong economy is at the heart of inclusive growth. It will create the opportunities that people and communities need to fulfil their potential. In a rapidly changing world we need to maintain our city's competitive advantage so that the industries of the future continue to chose Belfast to locate. Central to this are good infrastructure and connections, excellent skills, centres of research excellence such as we find in our universities and further education colleges. We need an entire city region that plays to its combined and unique strengths, supporting export growth and creating the conditions for businesses to grow and flourish. We have created a number of stretch goals and projects which will help us secure £5 billion in investment over the next ten years.

Stretch goals
Together, by 2021, we will:

1. **create 15,000 new jobs;**
2. **attract over £1 billion in private sector investment including Foreign Direct Investment;**
3. **create 4,000 business start-ups;**
4. **increase the value of out-of-state tourism to £500 million;**
5. **welcome 1.9 million overnight tourist stays per year; and**
6. **secure a significant Belfast region city deal at a scale equivalent to other comparable cities.**

Workstreams

Develop and deliver an integrated, sustainable approach to economic growth and investment which supports an inclusive economy

We want solid, partnership-based delivery of economic growth for the city and the city region. We will establish a Belfast Economic Growth Forum with the NI Executive to drive forward the achievement of our economic growth goals and develop joint solutions to shared challenges.

This partnership will create an effective economic framework for Belfast and the city region, which supports and complements the Executive's strategy for economic growth. It will build a coherent and evidence-based approach to improving city competitiveness, job creation, increased exports and support for businesses in a way that creates opportunities for all those who live, work, visit and study in the city.

It will deliver long term strategies for key growth sectors, including retail, hotel, office development, financial tech and creative industries, as well as export-led strategies to support business growth. In addition we will deliver an enterprise framework to co-ordinate entrepreneurial activity at a grass-roots level, contributing to inclusive growth.



Work locally to drive inclusive growth and tackle challenges to economic equality

We will work with communities, the private sector and public agencies to build on the opportunities and challenges presented by our growing urban economy to tackle issues of poverty, inequality and exclusion.

Over the coming years Belfast's economy will continue to undergo radical change driven by rapid technological advances, continued globalisation and the out-workings of national policies, in particular, Welfare Reform. Evidence from the past decade has demonstrated that the impact of such changes is unlikely to be experienced in the same way across communities and can contribute to growing inequalities. Without pro-active, integrated interventions, these inequalities are likely to widen further in our city – with negative social consequences.

City partners will develop an 'inclusive growth' programme to establish an integrated suite of policies, projects and measures to maximise the positive social impact of economic and physical infrastructure investments and to help mitigate the negative consequences of change. The programme will seek to understand in detail the unique barriers that different groups and communities face as they seek to participate in, and benefit from, the economic life of the city.

Building on this evidence the programme's strand will include: working together to maximise the effect of social and physical infrastructure investments; working with existing employers and anchor institutions to maximise their significant contribution to the city economy; identifying and supporting opportunities for residents to enter the workforce by providing accessible routes into employment; offering a coherent progression pathway through the labour market; addressing barriers to services and benefits; growing the city's social economy; and building a measure of inclusive growth that that we can monitor progress.

Drive city region sustainable growth through a Belfast region city deal

We want to see a Growth Deal for the Belfast city region. By this we mean a long-term approach to investment in infrastructure, key business sectors, regeneration schemes, tourism product and skills.

This will ensure that the city and Northern Ireland as a whole can improve productivity and competitiveness, take advantage of the opportunities that reduced corporation tax will create and also deal with many of the deep seated social and economic issues in the city region.

Along with the NI Executive, we will explore new financial mechanisms and models to enable better use of budgets by NI Departments, public bodies and councils to facilitate economic growth and the implementation of agreed priority schemes.

We will exploit the financial tools available to both central and local government to invest in capital schemes which can unlock major investment and development opportunities.

We will ensure that the growth delivered by a Belfast region city deal is as inclusive as possible. We will focus, not just on infrastructure, but ensure this investment creates jobs in our local labour markets. We will prioritise skills and innovation and ensure the competitive advantage offered by our world class universities is maintained and strengthened. We will create innovation, research and skills hubs to drive growth.

Build the city's position as a magnet for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)

Partners including the council and Invest NI will work together to attract and support investment in the city. We will build on Belfast's success in attracting FDI and deliver a market facing strategy to ensure Belfast maintains its position as a business and investor friendly city.



We will provide co-ordinated investment support which will include practical assistance and sign-posting to a network of professional and other services to support new and existing businesses, investors and developers keen to invest here. This will include a new City Investment Advice and Concierge Service which will welcome and help to embed new businesses, investors and developers into Belfast with the aim of creating further expansion and developing long-term relationships between business and the city. We will continue to invest in the infrastructure, connectivity and attractiveness of the city to accommodate and encourage investment, aligned to the city's Local Development Plan.

Maximise the city's connections worldwide to drive growth

We will work with city partners to deliver a new International Relations Framework to maximise the city's new and existing international connections to attract international students and drive trade, investment and tourism and to encourage cultural and other linkages. Belfast's international credentials will be enhanced by positioning itself as a global city through its joint bid for European Capital of Culture 2023 designation.

Given the likely changes in the economic environment post the UK's exit from the European Union we will further develop our working relationships with the cities of London and Dublin for the mutual benefit of our businesses and citizens.

Create a resilient city

As part of the 100 Resilient Cities programme, founded by the Rockefeller Foundation, we will appoint a Belfast Commissioner for Resilience who will work with partners to develop a strategy to take a targeted approach to addressing those issues which pose the greatest risk to the city and its economy.

Make Belfast a great place to do business and supporting entrepreneurs and business starts

We are committed to delivering a comprehensive suite of programmes that supports local entrepreneurs, those who want to start new businesses, existing businesses that wish to grow and export, and those foreign owned businesses that may choose to invest and grow in the city. Designed in partnership with the business sector we will offer tailored and enhanced support as well as developing new models to incentivise and accelerate businesses to start, grow and increase in competitiveness. We will ensure city services, such as planning, work collaboratively to meet the needs of people and businesses.



We will develop the business eco-system in the city to create a supportive business and investment environment. This will enhance a growing city innovation and knowledge economy as well as making it easier for businesses to access the support they need by developing and branding a cohesive continuum of support. This will increase Belfast's reputation as a place to create and grow successful businesses.

Provide sector specific support

As part of our work to support local businesses we will provide sector specific support and nurture businesses in the burgeoning creative and digital sector.

We will work with our established centres of excellence to implement key strategies towards long-term sustainability such as the Regional Cyber Security Strategy. We will form strategic partnership agreements to ensure specific tailored interventions are flexible to meet the specific needs of high growth potential businesses. We will support local businesses to avail of local supply chains and procurement opportunities contributing to local social and economic regeneration.

We've invested in a new Innovation Factory that not only connects new social and economic regeneration with local communities but also joins other innovation hubs to enhance a growing city innovation and knowledge economy.

Harness innovation to drive city growth

Information technologies and data science are powerful engines for the future economic growth of Belfast. Partners will work with our local universities, digital small to medium sized enterprises (SMEs) and the third sector (non-government organisations such as voluntary and community groups) to design and deliver a Smart Belfast framework. This will build the foundations required to generate innovative solutions to address major city challenges while also supporting our local SME sector to develop world-class products. A challenge fund being delivered by Belfast City Council and Invest NI will help support this.

Living here

Great place to live, good houses, excellent local facilities and open spaces, healthy and safe neighbourhoods



Together, we will:

- **improve neighbourhoods;**
- **improve the city living experience;**
- **improve good relations;**
- **reduce life inequalities;**
- **enable active, healthy and empowered citizens;**
- **provide fit-for purpose city services;**
- **support and care for people who face multiple challenges; and**
- **support our young people and older people.**

Why this is a priority for Belfast

Belfast must provide the opportunity for all of its residents to lead healthy, engaged and fulfilling lives as part of vibrant, growing, welcoming and sustainable communities and neighbourhoods.

A thriving and healthy Belfast enables and empowers its residents to reach their full potential at every stage of life. It means providing the opportunity to lead a fulfilling life whether that is through employment, education, volunteering, learning for fun, sports or participating in the arts, culture, and heritage.

For many people, Belfast offers a high quality of life. It is a culturally rich city, playing host to a wide range of festivals and arts, music, sports and cultural events in which many of our citizens are actively engaged throughout the year.

Most of our residents are living longer, healthier lives. People over 60 already make up one fifth of our population and this is forecast to increase dramatically to over one third by 2050. Older people have told us



that “Belfast is already a good place to grow old”. As a member of the World Health Organisation’s Global Network of Age-friendly Cities, we must continue to improve our services and structures to meet the diverse needs of an ageing population. The city relies heavily on the contribution older people make to their families, their communities and the economy.

But the city is also a place of young people, who make up nearly a third of the population of Belfast, making our city one of the youngest in Europe. The city’s Youth Forum, informed by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, works to ensure the voice of young people is heard in how the city is run and how its future is shaped. The city also has a substantial and vibrant third sector infrastructure, working to safeguard and support the interests of children and young people.

However, for many individuals, and across a significant number of neighbourhoods, the city is not performing well. Seven of the ten most deprived wards in Northern Ireland are in Belfast. This has a significant impact on the health and wellbeing of our residents. Suicide rates in the 10 per cent most deprived areas are almost five times higher than those in the 10 per cent least deprived. Similarly, the gap in life expectancy between the 10 per cent most and least deprived areas of Northern Ireland is approximately 10.7 years for males and 7.7 years for females.

Working with our partners through the delivery of the ‘Making Life Better’ strategy is an important opportunity to make progress in addressing many of these inequalities and achieving improved wellbeing outcomes for the people of Belfast.

Housing is an important factor in creating sustainable, safe and cohesive communities. We will therefore be working together to maximise the benefits of housing investment in the city ensuring affordable and safe housing is a priority.

We are committed to making Belfast a place that is compassionate, safe and welcoming to everyone. We need to continue to work hard, maximising the impact of the NI Executive’s Together Building United Communities strategy to continue to transform our city into one shared by all. When we asked people across Belfast how satisfied they were with Belfast as a place to live, 92 per cent answered the question positively. However, many of our citizens continue to live parallel lives with some communities still separated by physical barriers. It is no coincidence that the poorest neighbourhoods in Belfast continue to be those located in and around interfaces and flashpoint areas.

There has been significant partnership work over the years to ensure that people in Belfast feel safe and are safe. Overall crime and most types of crime in Belfast have decreased over the last ten years. We will continue to work through our Policing and Community Safety Partnerships to ensure that local communities are safe and free from the fear of crime.

Building relationships across communities is central to achieving our vision for Belfast. In recent years, the population of Belfast has changed substantially. We’ve welcomed new people from other countries who have made Belfast their home. This diversity has enriched our culture and contributed to our prosperity.

Working through our Shared City Partnership and within our individual organisations, we will build upon and refocus our collective work to deal with the issues of division and segregation that directly impact on individual life opportunities and the ability of organisations to deliver effective public services.

Our goals and workstreams for living here

Our city services are key to ensuring inclusive growth. We must deliver services differently, in a more integrated way that is focused on the needs of people and helps them participate fully in the life of the city. We will draw on the best examples of innovation to establish transformative ways of working that encourage communities, individuals and partners to design and deliver better services. We want to learn from these and then make them part of our day-to-day delivery.

Stretch goals
Together, by 2021, we will:

1. deliver £1 billion of physical investment in our neighbourhoods;
2. deliver 1,800 social housing units and agree a city target for affordable housing;
3. roll out £105 million in new leisure provision;
4. invest £1 million in communities to drive social innovation;
5. increase the proportion of young people from Belfast who think that local facilities are shared and open to all;
6. Invest £25million in health improvement initiatives (in addition to investment in health and social care services in general) to make progress towards our 2035 ambition to reduce the life expectancy gap between the most and least deprived neighbourhoods;
7. Invest £4million in the prevention of suicide and self harm
8. improve how safe people feel within our neighbourhoods;
9. support communities to make progress towards reducing the number of physical barriers at interface sites; and
10. make a successful bid with Derry City and Strabane District Council to be European Capital of Culture 2023.

Workstreams

Design an integrated, inter-agency approach to neighbourhood regeneration and maximise the impact of local assets and investment

Partners will work together to integrate services on the ground in a way that is responsive to what makes a difference to local people in the area.

We will work with communities to design innovative area-based interventions that maximise the potential of existing programmes, assets and investments by partners and look at ways of turning areas of



dereliction into positive assets for neighbourhoods and communities.

Partners across the city are investing in important community assets, while communities themselves are bringing forward and executing investment projects. Creating physical assets is not enough, however, they must in turn deliver outcomes for local people. Agencies need to work together to maximise the benefits of local assets and where possible use them as a means of making services more integrated and accessible. There are a number of programmes seeking to improve community assets as a driver for regeneration, including the council's Local Investment and Belfast Investment Funds, and NI Executive programmes such as the Social Investment Fund, Urban Villages and Building Successful Communities.

It is important that we take a strategic overview to ensure that interventions are planned and managed in a way that maximises their benefit to local people. In the years ahead community planning partners will be building houses, schools, health-care assets, new leisure centres and many other assets. The Belfast Agenda provides an opportunity to plan these better together, providing better services, saving money and achieving better outcomes for local people.

Planning for housing to meet the needs of everyone

Housing is a key issue in creating sustainable communities. People have told us that affordable and safe housing is fundamental to the quality of life of our residents. In 2017, there were over 7,322 people in housing stress in the city. The Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) is a key community planning partner and social housing has an important role to play in creating the type of city we want Belfast to be in the future. We will therefore be working together to maximise the benefits of housing investment in the city, increasing the tenure mix, growing the population of the city centre and helping to create sustainable, safe and cohesive communities. The Local Development Plan Preferred Options Papers includes an aim that a percentage of all new homes in larger developments will be affordable housing. We will work together to ensure the issue of affordable housing that meets the needs of all communities and generations is addressed.

Design and deliver a fully integrated, inter-agency approach to early intervention, including early years support and family programmes

Building on the work already done by the Executive and partners (for example, the Children and Young People's Strategic Partnership, Sure Start and the health trusts) we will work together to ensure we see the whole picture of a child's development so that they have the continual support they need to reach their potential.

We will encourage a focus on support for families in the city through an integrated family early intervention programme. Our aim is for an integrated service provision to support families facing challenges, maximising the impact of facilities such as the city's ten Family Support Hubs.

Deliver a city and neighbourhood Community Safety programme

Ensuring neighbourhoods are safe remains a key priority for everyone in Belfast and strong partnership working has meant that we have good foundations on which to build.

We will continue to work with the Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnerships to deliver an integrated programme of work to improve all aspects of community safety across the city, including hate crime, anti-social behaviour and domestic abuse.

Supporting children and young people to fulfil their potential

Young people make up a third of the population of Belfast, making our city one of the youngest in Europe. It is vital that their vision shapes the future and we deliver our services accordingly.
Partners will work to support an integrated approach to better outcomes for all children and young people. This will include ensuring young people are listened to and valued and can confidently shape their own futures. We are committed to making sure that young people are empowered, safe, happy, achieving at each stage of life and able to play their part in their city and communities.

Ensure an age-friendly Belfast

By the middle of this century it is estimated that more than a third of Belfast's population will be over 60 years old. We need to plan effectively to ensure the needs of people in the city are met. Older people have expressed the need for a particular focus on addressing social isolation, access to suitable housing and poverty.

As a member of the World Health Organisation's Global Network of Age-friendly Cities, we will work with the Healthy Ageing Strategic Partnership to deliver the Age-friendly Belfast Plan that informs future partner service design and planning.

We will work together to ensure that the needs of older people are taken into consideration during service development and we will maximise the benefit of older peoples' experience.

Design and deliver Belfast City Good Relations, Shared Space, Peace IV and Interfaces programmes

We will work with the Shared City Partnership to deliver an integrated plan to improve good relations, develop a sustainable, transferable and scalable approach to management and promotion of shared spaces, while creating leadership and networking opportunities. We will seek to develop an Interfaces Programme as well as securing Peace IV funding to deliver a wide range of programmes. Partners will also work with the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) and others to address segregated housing issues through the NIHE Community Cohesion Strategy and the NI Executive's Together: Building a United Community Strategy, facilitating growth of sustainable shared neighbourhood estates where possible.

There are opportunities to promote development of shared sites and facilities that provide safe access for all of the community and have potential to foster greater levels of social integration.

Deliver an integrated cultural and arts strategy

Culture and arts make a vital contribution to the city helping to improve quality of life, drive the economy and make Belfast a shared, welcoming and proud city. Belfast gets a strong return on funding of arts and heritage, returning approximately £8 for the city for every £1 of our investment. This investment helps engage with over 170,000 participants, reach audiences of four million and provide around 8,000 employment opportunities for artists each year.

We will deliver a four year action plan that will celebrate Belfast's distinctive culture by inspiring communities, attracting audiences and strengthening the sector. This plan will support increased access to arts and heritage, providing opportunities for participation in activities, events and festivals. We will harness the diversity of our city as a strength in our cultural offer.

Bid for European Capital of Culture 2023

To celebrate and build on Belfast's distinct culture, heritage and arts and to maximise its role in regenerating, energising and showcasing our city, we will bid for EU Capital of Culture 2023, along with Derry City and Strabane District Council. This joint city approach is a real opportunity to support people to connect with each other and to cement the role of our cities and the region across Europe and the world. We will build on our city's assets and our action plan by developing a joint cultural programme that delivers on the city's priorities and marks the City's transformation physically, socially, economically and culturally culminating in a year long programme of events in 2023.

Design and deliver an integrated city programme for health, to address health inequalities, including enhancing mental wellbeing and reducing social isolation

We will work, through the Belfast Strategic Partnership, to ensure the design and delivery of programmes that maximise the impact of the regional Making Life Better Strategy within Belfast. This will address aspects of physical health, including healthy eating, physical activity, active travel and mental wellbeing, particularly issues of social cohesion, community vulnerability and isolation. Feedback has shown that mental health and emotional wellbeing are very important issues for our residents especially amongst our younger people.



We will maximise the benefits of our membership of the World Health Organisation's Healthy Cities Network to improve health in the city, to support those in poor health and to consider how we might improve end of life care. We will also look for opportunities to maximise the health impact of Belfast's leisure transformation programme, encourage greater participation in sports, deliver the Growing Communities Strategy and address food poverty, health and nutrition.

Maximise the benefit of our natural and built environment

Residents have told us that the city's landscape setting and natural environment are some of Belfast's key strengths and we need to work strategically to ensure that we maximise the benefit of our open and green spaces, our river and hills to achieve better health and wellbeing outcomes. We will work with our partners to deliver an Open Spaces Strategy, taking forward Heritage Lottery Fund applications and exploring potential for delivery of a Neighbourhood Attractiveness programme for Belfast to tackle dereliction. We will also seek to take a sustainable approach to protecting and improving the city's natural and built environment. We will seek to strike an appropriate balance between protecting the local distinctiveness of our built heritage and allowing for high quality innovative development. Examples of our approach will include delivery of the city's Biodiversity Action Plan, Air Quality Action Plans, new Local Development Plan and considering neighbourhood dimensions to the Belfast Resilience Programme.

Use social innovation to unlock service transformation

City partners will explore how to transform and improve the way we plan and deliver services at both the city and local level. We will test and adopt new socially innovative tools and techniques at neighbourhood level.

We want to find better ways of working at the local level, particularly in exploring how we can work with residents and partners, to co-design and deliver more effective solutions that can be adopted at scale across the city.

City development

Connected, well planned with the right infrastructure to succeed

Together we will:

- **promote and position the city to compete;**
- **develop the city's infrastructure and improve connectivity locally, nationally and internationally;**
- **drive the physical and cultural regeneration of the city centre;**
- **deliver key strategic physical projects and policies;**
- **attract more tourists;**
- **protect and enhance our environment and built heritage; and**
- **develop an effective Local Development Plan**

Why this is a priority for Belfast

Belfast is at the heart of a metropolitan area with strong ambition. The transfer of planning powers means that city partners can shape the city to deliver the outcomes in the Belfast Agenda. We can now shape spaces and places in our city in order to ensure sustainable growth.

Belfast has many natural and historical advantages that it can call upon to support growth. However, there are still gaps in its key infrastructure which must be addressed if the city is to grow.

The city centre is key to creating the economic growth we need. Belfast has done well in recent decades to create an economically dynamic and attractive city centre. It has, however, some way to go in comparison to other European cities of comparable size.

We want to increase the number of people living, working and investing in the city centre. We want to better connect the city centre and the communities that surround it.

A strong city core needs the right mix of offices, retail, hotels, tourist attractions, creative industries, universities and colleges, housing and social infrastructure. Only by getting this mix right and increasing the number of commercial premises and homes can it drive community regeneration by icreasing the rates base that can be used for wider investment.



Connectivity is vital, Belfast is the transport and logistical hub for the entire region. Our port is the second largest on the island of Ireland, handling 23 million tonnes of goods and over 1 million passengers each year. George Best Belfast City Airport and Belfast International Airport carried over 7 million passengers between them in 2015. The Executive's ambitions to improve air connectivity to Northern Ireland will support Belfast's aims to grow the economy, increase FDI and visitor numbers. Infrastructure, particularly transport infrastructure, is vital to connecting our communities to opportunities for jobs and to each other. We must ensure that community infrastructure, such as schools, housing, transport, health and leisure facilities and parks and open spaces are planned in a cohesive way to allow people to get the most from them.

Belfast has a large 'Travel to Work' area with just under half of its workforce travelling from other areas. Over half of the working population of Belfast rely on the car for this journey, with only 14 per cent opting for public transport. Notwithstanding recent investment in public transport there continues to be only a relatively small growth in passenger numbers using public transport.

Digital connectivity is improving; nearly 100 per cent of households and businesses in Belfast have access to optical fibre broadband. The city is rolling out free City WiFi and is part of a project providing the fastest connection from North America to Europe.

Water, sewage and energy infrastructure are in need of significant investment.

Belfast's household recycling levels have made significant progress and over 40 per cent of domestic waste is now recycled. However, much reusable and economically useful material is still being lost to landfill and a figure of 70 per cent should be possible. The circular economy is an under-exploited opportunity that has the potential to support jobs and business growth.



Our goals and workstreams for city development

The right kind of development makes our city competitive and connects people to opportunity, driving inclusive growth. It is essential that local people feel the benefits of regeneration. We need to create the conditions for growth, with resilient infrastructure that can support the city's development and get people where they need to go. We also need to build on Belfast's distinctive sense of place and ensure the world knows what it has to offer in order to attract investment, tourists and talent.

Stretch goals
Together, by 2021, we will:

1. **grow the city's rates base by 5 per cent, through increased number of residential and commercial developments;**
2. **create 1.5 million square feet of Grade A office accommodation;**
3. **create a minimum of 3,000 new hotel bed spaces;**
4. **increase the use of sustainable transport by 15 per cent;**
5. **reduce the level of household waste going to landfill to 35 per cent; and**
6. **increase the percentage of residents satisfied with the city living experience.**

Workstreams

Create the Belfast Local Development Plan

Alongside this community plan, we're also creating a new Local Development Plan, which will set out how the council area should develop and what it will look like in the years to come. This includes consideration of the city centre boundary.

The Local Development Plan will be vital to the delivery of the outcomes in the Belfast Agenda as it will provide a 15 year planning framework to support economic and social outcomes in the city, while providing the delivery of sustainable development.

It will facilitate growth by coordinating public and private investment by encouraging development where it can be of most benefit to the wellbeing of the community and allocate sufficient land to meet the needs of the city.

Importantly, it will provide an opportunity for all stakeholders, including the public, to have a say about where and how development should take place. You can find out more about the Local Development Plan at www.belfastcity.gov.uk/ldp

Create a partnership and plan for sustainable urban infrastructure

Infrastructure planning for the Belfast city region needs to be taken forward in a strategic and integrated way, not on a project by project basis. We will establish a new Strategic Infrastructure Group which will identify key infrastructure investment needs and work with the NI Executive to shape the NI Investment Strategy.



A modern, secure digital infrastructure is particularly important for a thriving city – it is not only a pre-condition for future competitiveness but provides the necessary connectivity for business growth and the innovative delivery of public services. We will work with partners on the deployment of accessible ultrafast broadband connectivity; 5G communications and Internet of Things networks and will put in place a city digital strategy to maximise the opportunities that these investments represent.

Develop an integrated and sustainable city transport plan

We will maximise the opportunities of the £150 million Belfast Transport Hub and Rapid Transport System (Phase II). We will promote the development of sustainable transport and address under-use of public transport, particularly in relation to commuter patterns and work to promote active travel. We will work in partnership to progress key transport infrastructure, including the York Street Interchange. We will develop a comprehensive solution to city centre parking. To support walking and cycling as sustainable modes of transport we will work to improve the city's pedestrian routes and cycling infrastructure and build on the Belfast Bike Scheme.

Deliver city regeneration and investment projects

We are committed to encouraging city centre living and creating a vibrant, well-connected environment for people to enjoy. The City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy already stands as an example of our shared ambition - jointly adopted by the council

and the Department for Communities. We will work to maximise the benefit of key city infrastructure projects such as York street Interchange, Belfast Transport Hub (Phase II), Living With Water sewage and water infrastructure, improved digital connectivity towards an ultra fast city, Grade A Office Space, a major visitor attraction, hotels and frameworks to regenerate our city center and surrounding areas as well as a new Central Library, University and health infrastructure.

Increase the supply of mixed tenure housing

Housing development and management can have a positive effect on the economy, supporting the construction industry, increasing demand for goods and services and supporting jobs. It also plays a vital role in growing the city's population.

Social housing is an important aspect of this. In 2016-17 NIHE spent almost £112 million in Belfast. As a statutory partner, the NIHE is committed to maximising the positive impact of housing investment in the local economy and its regenerative impact on local communities. This will include the use of social investment finance to support opportunities for social enterprise.

The NIHE will continue to invest in local communities by managing the Social Housing Development Programme,to deliver new affordable housing for communities, to promote mixed tenure development, and transfer assets to local communities (Community Asset Transfer).

Build citywide commitment to Belfast place positioning

A strong sense of place and a clear statement of what the city has to offer is critical to attracting investment, tourism and talent. City partners will support and deliver a common shared Belfast narrative and implementation plan, including a city ambassador programme and city marketing strategy, to ensure international reach and to help attract investment, tourism and talent.

Deliver the integrated tourism strategy

We will work with partners to support a range of aligned and mutually supportive workstreams in order to deliver on the ambition of increasing the value of tourism.

The strategy builds on Belfast's unique appeal and story, its character, its culture and its people. We will do this through maximising the offer of our natural and built heritage; by investment to attract leisure and business tourists and attracting, nurturing and retaining creative talent.



Develop a further world-class visitor attraction

The scoping, financing, design and delivery of a world-class city centre visitor attraction will have huge benefits for Belfast. There is clear evidence that the city tourism offer would be transformed by a substantial new attraction in the city centre to complement the existing tourism and cultural offerings such as Titanic Belfast.

Establish a Belfast sustainable development framework

We're committed to sustainable development. This means making the necessary decisions to realise our



vision of economic growth, maximising wellbeing and protecting the environment, without affecting the ability of future generations to do the same.

In support of regional sustainable development objectives, we will work with partners in the city and in government departments to develop a Belfast framework that supports sustainable economic success, particularly in addressing constraints relating to energy, transport and city water infrastructure.

Manage resources and waste

Successful cities manage the impact of growth and ensure that it does not limit the quality of life of future generations. This includes reducing our consumption of non-renewable resources and minimising and managing waste effectively. We will develop a strategy which will ensure waste is managed effectively and develop a circular economy action plan to increase skills, jobs and growth, including maximising the benefits of the Cleantech Hub at Giant's Park.

Develop a city energy programme

We will work with partners to better manage energy usage across the city's public estate. We will build opportunities with all partners, including the private sector and local communities, to encourage investment and deployment of renewable sources in order to make the city more attractive to investors and to tackle fuel poverty.

Working and learning

Making sure people have the right skills for the future

Together, we will:

- **address educational inequalities and increase skills attainment;**
- **address barriers to employment at structural and personal level;**
- **enhance and increase the skill levels of our residents and attract and retain even more skilled people;**
- **match people and skills to opportunities across Belfast; and**
- **reduce poverty and economic inactivity.**

Why this is a priority for Belfast

Having a good job is important to people in Belfast and is key to ensuring we reduce economic inequality. That is why removing barriers to employment for local people is a key focus of the Belfast Agenda and our approach to economic growth.

Belfast is a vibrant 21st century city of enormous talent and a major contributor to our region's growing and important knowledge and creative industries. Belfast now supports over 210,000 jobs with 56 per cent of these taken by people who commute from surrounding areas. The city is home to Queen's University Belfast, Ulster University, the Open University and Belfast Metropolitan College, which between them have over 75,000 full and part-time students.

According to 2011 census figures, 28 per cent of our working age resident population hold a university degree equivalent or higher. Recent work undertaken by the Centre for Cities reported that whilst Belfast was ranked fifteenth in the UK for having a highly skilled population, it ranked second highest in terms of the share of the population having no formal qualifications. This has significant implications for the economic success of the city and the region. Skill levels in Belfast have a significant impact on regional competitiveness and in terms of attainment levels some of the highest levels of educational inequality in the region exist in the city.



Despite the relatively strong growth of the city economy, there is still a very marked polarisation of those who are well qualified and those who have no qualifications or who are low skilled.14 per cent of the total working age population in Belfast had no qualifications in 2016, according to the Labour Force Survey. Only 3.1 per cent of those aged 16 years and over are self-employed. This is significantly lower than the 7.5 per cent figure for Northern Ireland. This is also lower than in other UK cities such as Liverpool (10.8 per cent), Manchester (14.4 per cent), Newcastle (11.7 per cent), Leeds (12.1 per cent), and Sheffield (10.7 per cent)

Economic inactivity is high compared with other cities and to the NI average. The longer a person is out of work, the harder it becomes for them to find a way back into the labour market. Part-time underemployment - working part-time hours but wanting to work more - is a particular problem for women and young people.

There are structural and personal barriers to employment that we need to address if we are to take on the challenges facing people in our most deprived communities. For example, access to affordable childcare is a key issue - with average weekly childcare costs equating to 58 per cent of the median wage at skill level 1. The NI Executive's new Childcare Strategy will have an important role to play in addressing this issue. This is a key issue for lone parents and low income families. Structural issues, such as conditions related to welfare benefits, are known to have an impact. Health is also a major barrier and the main reason for people leaving the labour market, reinforcing the very inter-related nature of the outcomes in the Belfast Agenda. The council and its partners will therefore work together with the NI Executive to find ways to overcome these barriers.

Evidence emerging from the work of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation and the RSA's Inclusive Growth Commission demonstrates a strong relationship between education and skills inequalities and poverty within society. This is an inter-generational challenge which needs a fresh approach. Through our Employability and Skills Framework we will try to connect people to real and good jobs - ensuring they are job ready; upskilling and providing a pathway to employment and in-work career progression. Our proposed Belfast region city deal will include a bid for significant investment in skills for the whole city region.

We will work with the city's anchor institutions - those larger organisations with a historic investment in the city's long-term success - to better leverage their economic power as employers, suppliers and contractors to build a resilient mutually supportive city economy.

In partnership we will develop new placed-based models which enable the widest range of people to participate fully in, and benefit from, economic growth. We will seek to better match the education and skill attainment levels among our resident population with the future business needs of key growth sectors and thereby better connecting people to employment opportunities.

Our goals and workstreams for working and learning

Our skills base is vital to competitiveness, productivity, inclusiveness and growth. For people in Belfast to achieve their potential we need to take a more integrated approach to learning and skills.

Economic destiny is often shaped by the earliest years of life and we must work together to ensure that children are 'school ready' and that, as they progress, they have the life skills set they need to get a job and progress in life.

Learning continues throughout life both formally and informally and our plans will address the need to ensure access to skills development throughout life.

Stretch goals
Together, by 2021, we will:

1. **reduce the working age population economic inactivity rate to less than 23 per cent.**
2. **reduce the proportion of the working age population with no qualifications to less than 10 per cent;**
3. **increase the proportion of the working age population with Level 2 qualifications and above to more than 82 per cent;**
4. **increase the proportion of the working age population with Level 4 qualifications and above from 34 per cent to 38 per cent or higher.**
5. **increase the percentage of school-leavers entering employment, education or training from 94 per cent to 98 per cent; and**
6. **reduce the gap in educational attainment* between those entitled to free school meals and those who aren't, from 32 percentage points to 28 percentage points or less (*at Level 2 or above, including English and maths).**
7. **widen participation in further and higher education and attract and retain more students locally and internationally.**

Workstreams

Deliver an integrated approach to employment and skills

To create higher levels of business growth, employment and income for our communities, we need to realise the potential of Belfast's people and remove barriers to employment including child care, transport, skills and training. Taking an intelligence and employment-led approach we will further develop the Belfast Employability and Skills Framework, establishing an Employment and Skills Board to take this work forward.

Deliver a 'Belfast Employability Pathway Model'

Partners will work together to design and deliver a Belfast Employability Pathway. This will be a scalable integrated whole life programme that will support those furthest from the labour market through to employment. We will work with employers to identify, plan and prepare for emerging job opportunities and to create effective pathways to employment.

Devolve funding to the city region for the delivery of a large scale skills and employability programme

Partners will work with the NI Executive to co-design the policy framework for improving skills and employability (building on the scalable learning from the Belfast Employability Pathway). We will seek devolved powers and funding for skills and employment support driven by outcomes-led local commissioning.

Deliver an integrated city programme to address educational inequalities

Partners will work to build stronger links between schools, families and local communities. Building on the Education Authority's Strategic Area Plan 'Providing Pathways', they will focus on addressing numeracy and literacy issues, particularly during the transition period between primary and post primary education. We will support the vital links between schools, libraries, families, local communities and employers.

Partners will come together when new schools are being developed in order to deliver a more holistic and integrated package within a new build that would address educational, health, parental and family issues within the community.

Maximise the benefits of our higher and further education offer

We have world class further and higher educational institutions in the city who are investing signifigantly in our city to drive growth and improve quality of life. We will work to support a globally competitive FHE sector and to maximise their positive impact on the city and society, and support them in attracting international and local students and world class staff.

We will maximise the benefits of our further and higher education institutions by linking the courses on offer with employment opportunities in the city and the wider region and work with businesses to ensure skills match demand. Our universities and Belfast Met are committed to widening participation as well as tackling inequality. We will work in partnership to harness their knowledge in areas such as data analytics and other branches of research to solve city problems, drive growth and reduce inequalities.

Establish a city pledge for our young people and a commitment to being a learning city

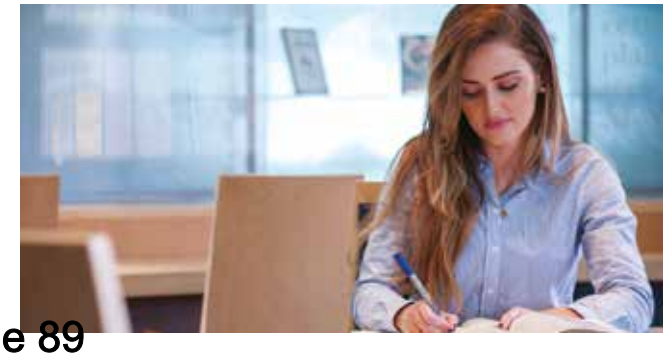
We will establish a pledge that commits the city to developing coherent pathways for education, training and employment for our young people.

We will support joint programmes of work to promote learning for all ages as part of Belfast's commitment to being a learning city. This will include both formal and informal training and will encourage lifelong and community learning through, for example, further and higher education facilities, libraries, community centres and faith groups.

We will develop the city's status as a learning city by becoming a member of the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning Global Network of Learning Cities.

Leverage the power of Belfast's anchor institutions and city partners

We will design and deliver a programme of work with the city's anchor institutions and other city partners to leverage their economic power as employers, suppliers and contractors to build a resilient mutually supportive city economy. There are particular opportunities to harness the collective procurement power of the public sector to deliver on wider social outcomes. Our partners in higher education will also seek to widen participation and create opportunity for first degree entrants from lower socio economic groups.



How we developed the Belfast Agenda

How we've got here - the story so far.

We've been building towards the Belfast Agenda over the past two years and more. In advance of Local Government Reform in 2015, we were preparing for our duty to lead a community planning process in the city, learning and building new approaches to make a difference for the city and its people.

Since then we've been engaging with stakeholders and communities across the city, to begin to create a shared vision and plan for Belfast, the Belfast Agenda. Over this time many of our partners have also been engaging and consulting across our city on many of the themes, issues, priorities and areas of work that have emerged during this process.

The Belfast Conversation

A key element of the development of the Belfast Agenda was a series of citywide facilitated public workshops, online questionnaires and social media interaction. This was known as the **Belfast Conversation** and helped to create the vision, aspirations, and outcomes in the Belfast Agenda.

Data and evidence

We've been drawing on a wealth of information and data about Belfast, its opportunities and the challenges local people face. We've been working with local universities and other experts to make sure that our plan is based on firm foundations. This evidence is used throughout this document to help explain why our priorities have been chosen.

Public consultation

The conversation continued as we formally consulted on the draft Belfast Agenda in late 2016. Over an 18 week period, through consultation briefing events, workshops, social media activity and an online consultation questionnaire, we tested whether we had captured accurately what people across the city had told us they wanted for the future through the Belfast Conversation. We engaged directly with over 700 people and received over 240 written responses. Over 90 responses were received from children and young people, many as a result of the Belfast Youth Forum proactively engaging with their peers in school. An overwhelming number of which were positive about the plan's direction and priorities. Some respondents suggested improvements to the document and we have considered each of these in this final version.

It is not possible to capture in one document everything we need to do and all of the ideas we received as part of the consultation process. We will continue to work with partners and communities to produce further implementation plans to make sure innovative and creative solutions are found to the challenges we face.

Publication of the final Belfast Agenda

The final version of the Belfast Agenda was published with its supporting documents in Autumn 2017. The supporting documents include:

- Belfast Agenda technical document
- an Equality Impact Assessment;
- a Strategic Environmental Assessment;
- a Habitats Regulation Assessment;
- a Rural Needs Impact Assessment

The Belfast Agenda and all publications related to it can be found on our website at: www.belfastcity.gov.uk/belfastagenda

How to stay involved

The Belfast Agenda is a plan for everyone in Belfast and if you want to keep up to date with future developments and find information/opportunities to be involved please visit our website for information and to sign up to receive email updates.

Some of the key milestones in our journey so far:

Summer 2014

City residents' survey.



November 2014 - February 2015

Understanding existing priorities and city issues with partners.



April 2015

Local Government Reform and Community Planning duty takes effect.



Spring - Summer 2015

The Belfast Conversation: wide programme of public engagement across the city, public events and online feedback.



Autumn - Winter 2015

Identifying city outcomes and testing the draft framework with partners.



Spring - Autumn 2016

Drafting the plan with partners.



Winter 2016 - Spring 2017

Public consultation on the draft Belfast Agenda.



Summer 2017

Belfast Agenda revised and partners agree final version.



Autumn 2017

Publication of the final Belfast Agenda and supporting documents. Workstreams begin implementation.





Making it happen

The Belfast Agenda represents a hugely ambitious body of work for the city that will require the active, co-ordinated participation of many organisations and individuals across many sectors.

It will require new thinking in terms of collaborative planning, financing, data collection, performance management and programme delivery at the city and neighbourhood levels. It will necessitate the adoption of the latest innovations in smart technologies and data analytics.

Ensuring deep linkages with the delivery mechanisms for the Programme for Government will be a critical success factor. The council and its partners will look for complementary opportunities for both plans, not only in terms of resourcing and programme delivery, but also in relation to measurement and shared learning.

The council has significant experience in delivering multi-agency programmes and will draw on this expertise in the development of a supporting governance and delivery infrastructure for the Belfast Agenda. But it is recognised that there is substantial enabling work to be done by all partners to make the Agenda a reality.

This includes:

- agreement on governance structures that provide clear representation and accountability;
- lightweight, responsive decision-making mechanisms at both a senior strategic level and at a programme management level;
- collective performance management arrangements - that provide shared understanding of impact and the effectiveness of delivery;
- mechanisms for organisations to share evidence, research, and practice to inform decision-making; and
- a shared means of working together to test new approaches to 'intractable' issues.

In this, its first ever iteration, the Belfast Agenda is setting a city level strategic direction and associated workstreams. As we move to more detailed planning and delivery we need to think locally as well.

Further work will be required to design enhanced mechanisms for area-based planning and delivery which will draw upon existing good practice and the geographically based initiatives of partner organisations.

We want to find better ways of working at the local level - particularly in exploring how we can work with residents and partners to co-design and deliver more effective solutions that can be adopted at scale across the city.



Measuring Success

The Belfast Agenda sets a city level strategic direction for the future of the city including a number of workstreams to deliver shorter term priorities. In order to measure success, a robust monitoring and evaluation framework will be developed as part of the implementation process. This framework will facilitate consistent approaches to data collection, analysis and evaluation and will add to the existing evidence base that has been created to date.

While research, monitoring and evaluation can inform policy and strategy development, its real value lies in ensuring that ongoing delivery is responsive to changing needs and environments.

The frameworks consist of population indicators, which are outcome focussed and therefore have a longer term emphasis. The stretch goals identify medium-term targets that are associated with the successful implementation of the vision and immediate priorities. As an overarching strategy for the city, the Belfast Agenda contains a number of synergies with the Programme for Government and a number of regional strategies. The monitoring processes will also involve a degree of alignment meaning that we will be able to work with partners in the Executive to make progress to achieve better outcomes for local people.

It is essential to note that monitoring is an ongoing process that will be subject to change as new priorities emerge or further data is developed. As partners, we will explore links to inequalities associated with section 75 categories and local area levels. It is therefore anticipated that indicators may be updated during the life cycle of this community plan.

Further and more detailed information on the monitoring and evaluations framework consisting of stretch goals and population indicators can be found in the Belfast Agenda Technical Report.

Belfast's community planning partners

Belfast's statutory community planning partners

- Belfast City Council
- Belfast Health and Social Care Trust
- Education Authority
- Health and Social Care Board
- Invest NI
- Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service
- Northern Ireland Housing Executive
- Police Service of Northern Ireland
- Public Health Agency
- South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust
- Tourism NI
- Council for Catholic Maintained Schools
- Libraries NI
- Sport NI

NI Government departments

- The Executive Office
- Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
- Department for Infrastructure
- Department for the Economy
- Department of Education
- Department of Finance
- Department of Health
- Department of Justice
- Department for Communities

A wide range of organisations and individuals from across Belfast have contributed to the development of this document over the past 18 months through the Belfast Conversation and other forums. This has included representatives from our further and higher education institutions, the business community and the voluntary and community sector.

We recognise that the Agenda is the continuation of a conversation about the priorities that will ensure better outcomes for the people of Belfast and that it builds on the positive work of many partnerships and agencies in Belfast over the last number of decades.



Our shared values

Our agenda has been influenced by a set of shared values that have shaped its design and will inform its delivery.

- A focus on outcomes for people
- Partnerships for collaborative gain
- Equality and Good Relations
- Inclusiveness, care and compassion
- Sustainable development and respect for our environment
- Resilience for the future
- Innovative, people-centred design and delivery
- Decisions driven by evidence

We have identified a number of population indicators, aimed at tracking the progress of our outcomes over the long-term. In this appendix we've linked them to each of our five outcome statements. Together they give us a sense of whether our city is heading in the right direction.

The Programme for Government has set a similar framework of indicators for Northern Ireland. The Belfast Community Planning Partners acknowledge the interdependencies between the Belfast Agenda and the Programme for Government. Our shared outcomes and indicators will help ensure closer working to improve the lives of local people. Responding to feedback, and in line with the Programme for Government measurement annexes, we have produced an accompanying technical report which provide more details on the data that we will use to measure our collective progress. This report will also facilitate ongoing monitoring and ensure that each indicator is now measurable in a very open and transparent way.

In future, when partners are co-designing programmes they will want to consider how their work can help move these indicators in the right direction

1. Everyone in Belfast benefits from a thriving and prosperous economy

People have told us they want to see a city where:

There is a strong and resilient economy characterised by a greater number of local businesses selling a greater value of products or services into external markets, and supported by sustainable, effective and efficient city planning for the future.

Innovation, collaboration, social enterprise, entrepreneurship and new business start-ups are encouraged and supported; Businesses are attracted to locate and remain in Belfast due to its unique selling points, while local SME's grow and become more competitive.

The city is a hub for specialist industries including Digital & Creative Technologies, Financial & Professional Services, International Tourism and Renewables; the city centre thrives with vibrant retail, leisure, and tourism sectors.

There is a wide range of employment opportunities (across professional, high and lower skilled jobs) – a good job is available for everyone who can work, all jobs pay at least a living wage. Social clauses are built in to how business works so that local people benefit.

Everyone has access to opportunities to develop the right skills to gain employment & a fulfilling career; Belfast attracts and retains a highly skilled workforce matched to current and future market needs. Young people are ready for work.

Poverty is addressed so that everyone can access and afford decent housing, heating and food. No child lives in poverty.

1. Population Indicators

1.1 City productivity levels

1.2 Investment into Belfast

1.3 City competitiveness

1.4 The total number of businesses in Belfast

1.5 The number of business start-ups

1.6 The proportion of the population living in absolute and relative poverty (before housing costs)

1.7 The total number of jobs in Belfast

1.8 The proportion of working-age population in Belfast who are employed

1.9 Working age employment rate by deprivation

1.10 Economic inactivity rate (excluding students)

1.11 Average earnings

1.12 Total spend by external visitors

1.13 Supply of housing



2. Belfast is a welcoming, safe, fair and inclusive city for all

People have told us they want to see a city where:

People get on well together and enjoy living in a shared city and neighbourhoods where people respect each other and value diversity regardless of differing backgrounds or beliefs, and are able to confidently express their identity.

Belfast is a peaceful and safe place to live, work and visit with low levels of crime - People feel safe in all areas in the city.

Belfast is known as a welcoming city and enjoys a strong positive image locally and internationally. It is the destination of choice – a place where people want to live, work, study and visit; a key gateway Northern Ireland and the island of Ireland.

People are caring and responsible - there is a strong sense of pride and belonging to the city; all people feel valued and treated fairly with compassion.

People and communities are empowered to shape their lives and the future of the city – all people are able to participate meaningfully in civic life.

People have access to efficient and effective services that meet their needs; Strong leadership across the political, statutory, business, voluntary and community sector arenas ensure the city works together to make Belfast a better place.

2. Population Indicators

2.1 Number of victims of any crime

2.2 Number of hate-motivated crimes

2.3 Proportion of people who feel safe

2.4 Number of anti-social behaviour incidents

2.5 Number of physical barriers at interface sites

2.6 The number of people who agree that people from different background get on well together

2.7 Proportion of population who believe their cultural identity is respected by society

2.8 Proportion of young people who think that local facilities are shared and open to all

3. Everyone in Belfast fulfils their potential

People have told us they want to see a city where:

Belfast is a world class learning city where everyone has access to opportunities to develop and enhance their life skills & participate in learning throughout life; peoples' aspirations are fostered, supported and achieved.

Young people have an equal chance to excel by being supported in learning and achievement at home, in their community, and at school through access to high quality education, teaching and support services.

There is a focus on early years support, enjoyment of play, life-long learning and early intervention.

People's lives are enriched through opportunities to participate in cultural & heritage events, arts & sports.

People are involved in volunteering, developing in a strong sense of community and a passionate & engaged community sector.

3. Population Indicators

3.1 Proportion of working age population who have attained Level 2 or above

3.2 Proportion of working age population who have attained Level 4 or above

3.3 Proportion of school-leavers achieving at level 2 or above including English and Maths

3.4 Gap between percentage of school leavers entitled to free school meals and those who aren't achieving at Level 2 or above, including English and maths

3.5 Proportion of care leavers who aged 19 were in employment, education or training

3.6 Proportion of school-leavers entering employment, education or training

3.7 School attendance rates

3.8 Participation in arts activities

3.9 Participation in sport

3.10 Volunteering

3.11 Self-efficacy



4. Everyone in Belfast experiences good health and wellbeing

People have told us they want to see a city where:

People have healthy and responsible attitudes and behaviours especially towards food, smoking, alcohol and drugs.

People are physically active, benefiting from living in healthy homes and neighbourhoods with access to open and green spaces and a range of leisure and sporting opportunities.

People experience supportive social interaction with friends, family, neighbours and communities. People have access to an inclusive range of culture, leisure and arts based activities.

People experience good mental health and are emotionally strong and resilient with a sense of fulfilment, feeling in control of their lives and with hope for the future.

People have access to a range of early intervention and prevention support services; Child and young people receive the best start in life, while older and vulnerable people are able to live independently for as long as possible.

People have timely access to high quality health, social care, and housing support services when they need them.

4. Population Indicators

4.1 Life expectancy at birth

4.2 Gap in life expectancy by deprivation

4.3 Proportion of babies born at a low birth weight

4.4 Preventable deaths

4.5 Proportion of the population of adults and/or children who are obese

4.6 Proportion of population who smoke

4.7 Proportion of adults drinking above sensible drinking guidelines

4.8 Proportion of people who rank themselves as having high levels of wellbeing

4.9 Proportion of adults who undertake at least 150 minutes of physical exercise per week

4.10 Number of households in housing stress

4.11 Proportion of population living in decent homes



5. Belfast is a vibrant, attractive, connected and environmentally sustainable city

People have told us they want to see a city where:

People enjoy the city's natural beauty through good access to well cared for and bio-diverse rivers, hills, parks and green open spaces. The city has an attractive built environment that is well maintained and free from dereliction. It retains its character and values its strong maritime and industrial heritage, while building a city for the future.

People have access to a good/wide range of social, arts, leisure facilities such as shops, bars, restaurants, events, cultural venues and outdoor activities at times that suit peoples lifestyles. The city centre thrives with a vibrant mix of retail, leisure, tourist and residential opportunities.

People live in attractive and clean neighbourhoods that provide a good range of services and facilities. They have access to good quality housing (across a wide mix of tenures) that's affordable, energy efficient and sustainable in areas where they want to live.

The city looks after its environment for future generations - a low carbon and sustainable city that manages waste and natural resources responsibly and which takes advantage of new technologies. A city that is resilient to environmental and climate change.

Belfast is the destination of choice for tourists from key markets including Republic of Ireland, international and domestic and is easily accessible.

People can cheaply and conveniently get around the city of Belfast via quality cycling and pedestrian networks; good, reliable public transport; and an efficient and easy to navigate road network. Belfast is a city accessible for people with disabilities to get around easily.

5. Population Indicators

5.1 Air quality

5.2 Percentage of household waste that is reused, recycled or composted

5.3 Percentage of all journeys which are made by walking, cycling or public transport

5.4 Visitor numbers

5.5 Engagement in culture and arts activities

5.6 Number of miles of cycle lanes, footways and footpaths

5.7 Proportion of homes that are energy efficient

5.8 Satisfaction with Belfast as a place to live

Data development

The city also needs a number of new ways of measuring progress towards our outcomes. Partners have also agreed to work together to create some new measures including:

- A Belfast Inclusive Growth Monitor Scorecard
- Skills barometer measure – the gap between current and future skill needs
- A measure for social enterprise
- A measure of city innovation
- A respect index
- A liveability index
- Access to and quality of open space
- Trust and confidence in public service
- Children at an appropriate stage of development in their immediate pre-school year
- A better jobs index
- Mental health and emotional wellbeing
- Access to ultrafast broadband
- Biodiversity
- Social mobility
- Average journey time on key transport corridors
- International reputation
- Healthy life expectancy
- Renewable energy consumption
- Visitor satisfaction
- Housing affordability



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Publication of the Belfast Agenda discharges Belfast City Council's duty to publish a community plan for the area under Section 68 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014.

Appendix 2 Finalising the Belfast Agenda

Introduction

In Autumn 2016, Elected Members, along with our Community Planning partners, agreed a draft Belfast Agenda for public consultation.

The public consultation was launched on 15 December 2016, and ran for 18 weeks, until 20th April 2017. Nearly 300 responses to the Belfast Agenda were received in this period, while over 700 people were directly engaged in conversations, briefings and workshops as well as many hundreds more through survey work, social media and other means. Since the consultation, review and analysis of the feedback has been ongoing, and work to revise and update the consultation draft, to produce a final draft Belfast Agenda document has been undertaken.

Partners previously agreed to call Belfast's community plan, the 'Belfast Agenda' – noting the need for a dynamic plan, capable of being shaped and updated in the context of a changing environment. Production of the final document has therefore also factored in availability of more recent data and evidence, emerging strategic opportunities and updated feedback from partners. This will continue to be the case as the process of action planning continues. However, the public consultation indicated strong endorsement for most aspects of the plan, and therefore the overall structure and main elements have not been significantly altered and should be recognisable.

Summary of key revisions to the Belfast Agenda document

This paper provides a summary of the main revisions that have been made to the Belfast Agenda document, along with some commentary outlining why changes have been made. It should be noted that detailed feedback will continue to shape the work streams emerging from the Belfast Agenda and the rich information from a wide range of stakeholders will help ensure make the impact needed at a city and local level.

Minor wording changes to the draft document that are not considered to materially change its content or messaging (including layout, spacing or images) changes have not been highlighted in this summary.

The information below is broken down into the relevant sections of the Belfast Agenda document to assist in reading alongside the final document.

Belfast Agenda Cover and contents Pages

Revision	Comments
Changed graphic design to front cover	Updated to reflect new Belfast positioning branding
Contents page updated with numbering (Page 2)	Moved 'our Shared Values' towards rear of document (in section 'the Community Planning Partners'. Minor changes to page numbering
Updated image to inside cover and removed text box ('2000 people shared their dream for a future Belfast') (page 3)	Updated to change emphasis from consultation draft to final document – engagement process now captured in 'How we developed the Belfast Agenda'

This is the Belfast Agenda (Forewords)

Revision	Comments
Forewords from Council Party Group leaders and Community Planning Partners now combined into one section (pages 4 and 5)	Intro messages have been simplified and aligned within the front section in order to address feedback about clarity. Partner logos included to highlight statutory Community Planning partners endorsement, emphasising the partnership ownership of the Belfast Agenda.

The Belfast Opportunity

Revision	Comments
Amended to focus on what people want for the future in Belfast, simplified narrative on city opportunities and challenges. (page 6)	Much of the narrative in the consultation draft was reiterated in other areas of the document, therefore this introduction to the plan has been shortened to provide a clearer summary of the key opportunities of the Belfast Agenda.

Belfast Agenda impact (Summary diagram)

Revisions	Comments
A new 2 page summary diagram highlighting the Belfast Agenda outcomes, ambitions and priorities with example key goals and projects has been added. (Pages 8 and 9)	Feedback indicated that an 'at a glance summary' of key aspects of the plan would help understanding. This summary infographic has been designed to highlight the key impacts of the plan, and key projects and goals included within the plan's 4 year priorities.

A new vision for Belfast in 2035

Revisions	Comments
Vision statement reworded (Page 10) Belfast will be a city re-imagined *and resurgent.* A great place to live and work for everyone. Beautiful, well connected and culturally vibrant, a sustainable city shared and loved by all its citizens, *free from the legacy of conflict.* A compassionate city offering opportunities for everyone. A *confident* and successful city *energizing a dynamic and prosperous city region.* A magnet for talent and business and admired around the world. *A city people dream to visit.*	Whilst there was general endorsement of the vision, comments received in the consultation related to its length and its ease of understanding. Some feedback indicated people felt it was very economic focused and needed to be a vision for 'people'. The vision has been reworded to pick up on city values and tone of voice guidelines developed via the City positioning branding. Some elements have been re-ordered to balance the outward focus with aspirations of people who live in the city. Of those who indicated they disagreed with the vision statement, many commented on general aspects of the Belfast Agenda or other contents of the plan that they would like to see strengthened, such as culture and arts, housing, segregation, connectivity, inequalities and these comments have been reflected in other sections of the plan.

Our Outcomes

Revisions	Comments
Narrative box (page 13) rewritten to provide clearer explanation of what the outcome statements are for - explaining the outcomes based approach, their aspirational nature and long term collaborative requirements to deliver. This narrative also highlights that all 5 are inclusive for all people in the city.	The consultation feedback was generally supportive of the 5 draft outcome statements, agreeing that they captured what people want for the city. As a result the 5 statements have not been significantly altered. However, some respondents to the consultation suggested that the outcomes were unachievable/unrealistic etc. while others suggested additional outcomes for specific cohorts/s75 grouping (eg children and young people), which is the reason for the additional narrative.
Supporting descriptions for outcome 2 reworded to include 'shared' city. (Page 12)	Feedback from Shared City partnership to more strongly embed shared city emphasis across the Belfast Agenda
Minor changes to outcome 5 – changed 'environmentally friendly' to *'environmentally*	Consultation feedback suggested protection of the environment and sustainability should be clearer in the plan.

sustainable', and supporting description to include *'protected'* in relation to natural and built beauty of Belfast (Page 13)	
Population indicators added to this section (pages 12 and 13)	Other comments received in the public consultation in relation to the outcomes often referred to conditions of economic, social or environmental wellbeing which respondents felt should be added or made clearer. In most cases the topics suggested had been captured within either the population indicators for each outcome, or in more detailed descriptor statements that were used to originally derive the proposed outcome statements. As a result the population indicators have now been highlighted in this section, and also added supporting descriptor statements into the appendix, so that the things people want to see in 2035 are more clearly evident. The detailed descriptors covering these topics/themes, together with the population indicators will also be explored further in inequalities work on each outcome going forward.

Our ambitions

Revisions	Comments
Growth ambitions reordered and narrative amended to greater explanation of growth figures. (Pages 14 and 15)	Whilst there was general agreement with the 4 ambitions, comments from some respondents queried the growth ambitions, particularly in relation to increasing the population – from the comments it was evident that some did not understand why this is necessary, or how it is envisaged this would happen (e.g. where will the people come from). To address this, the narrative has been redrafted and reordered to more clearly communicate that the rationale for seeking growth in jobs and population.
Jobs growth figure revised to *'Our economy supports 46,000 additional jobs'* (instead of 50,000)	During the consultation on the Belfast Agenda, Belfast City Council consulted on the initial stages of the Local Development Plan (Preferred Options Paper). During this period it was evident that a number of people found the disparity in figures for jobs and population growth between the two documents confusing. The 2 consultation close dates were therefore aligned. Both plans, set out aspirations for economic growth, and the initial draft figures in the Belfast Agenda had been based on the work being undertaken for the Local Development Plan. This figure has now been aligned with the jobs growth figure contained in the LDP preferred options paper.
Population growth figure revised to '*Our city is home to 66,000 additional people'* (instead of	This figure has also been aligned to the population growth projections in the Local Development Plan Preferred Options Paper.

70,000).	

Belfast Now

Revisions	Comments
Updated facts and figures about Belfast (pages 16-19)	These facts and figures have been reviewed and updated where relevant to more clearly define and to reflect more recently available data. Furthermore, some consultation feedback suggested this section of the document was reflecting too much on the city's positives, but rather needed to also highlight key city challenges more. A number of the facts and figures in this section have therefore been amended/reworded to provide a more balanced summary.

Inclusive Growth, Leaving no one behind - Our focus for the next four years

Revisions	Comments
Rewritten narrative, including greater explanation of inclusive growth concept and key issues for making progress in Belfast. (Page 20)	Feedback suggested that the inclusive growth explanation in the draft document was not clear enough, particularly why it was important and how the priorities of the Belfast Agenda would help to deliver it. The narrative of this section has therefore been strengthened, along with edits to subsequent sections (under each of the 4 priorities) to make clearer linkages between work streams and their contribution to delivery of inclusive growth. This includes feedback received on the need to address structural and personal barriers including affordable childcare.
Redesigned diagram to show 'inclusive growth, leaving no-one behind' at the centre of the 4 year priorities (Page 21)	To show emphasis on delivering inclusive growth for all, by taking forward the 4 year priorities of 'Growing the economy', 'living here', 'city development' and 'working and learning'.

Growing the Economy

Revision	Comments
Sub heading added under main heading: 'A competitive city region economy that creates opportunities for all' (Page 22)	To provide key summary point
Narrative updated to include reference to Brexit challenges/uncertainty, desire for a Belfast region 'City Deal', and the need to address infrastructure needs. (Pages 22 and 23)	Feedback/concerns that consultation draft did not reference challenges of Brexit and city infrastructure needs clearly enough.
'Our ambition for growing the economy' heading revised to 'Our goals and workstreams for growing the economy' and narrative improved (page 24)	Changed to address potential confusion with 2035 ambitions. Headline narrative has also been updated to include reference to issues of key economic importance that were highlighted in the public consultation, such as the role of good infrastructure and connections, skills, research and links to our universities and further education colleges.
Updated Stretch goals (page 24)	
Attract over £1billion in private sector investment including Foreign Direct Investment	Following further discussions with and input from Invest NI around how this should be defined and calculated and in the light of the most up to date information, this has been amended from 'attract £1billion of private sector Foreign Direct investment'.
Increase the value of out of state tourism to £500million	This has been updated from 'double the value of out of state tourism' following work with Tourism NI to clarify baseline and projected growth.
Welcome 1.9 million overnight tourist stays per year	This has been increased from the previous goal in the draft plan (1.5million) – NISRA published updated tourism statistics in July 2017, indicating that in 2016, 1.5million overnight trips to Belfast were made. The amended stretch goal suggests an increase of 100,000 per year.
Secure a significant Belfast region city deal at a scale that ensures our region's competitiveness.	The Belfast region city deal was referenced in the work streams in the draft plan. As this is considered a potential game changer for the city region economy, a stretch goal to give more prominence to this piece of work has been included.
Updated Workstreams (pages 24-27)	
Develop and deliver an integrated sustainable approach to economic growth and investment which supports an inclusive economy	Additional narrative included in this work stream to highlight its role in inclusive growth, and highlighting role of enterprise/entrepreneurial activity.
Work locally to drive inclusive growth and tackle challenges to economic inequality	Additional narrative has been included to highlight what we mean by inclusive growth. This also includes reference to economic change and challenges facing the city (why it is important) including impacts of welfare reform, about which concerns were highlighted in some consultation responses.

	This section also provides a clearer description of what we mean by an 'inclusive growth' programme.
Drive city region sustainable growth	Additional narrative added to emphasise need for economic growth to be as inclusive as possible, and we will ensure investment creates jobs and opportunity, focussing on skill and innovation, competitive advantage, role of universities etc.
Build the city's position as a magnet for FDI	Narrative now also references new city investment Advice and Concierge service, investment in infrastructure, connectivity and attractiveness, Local Development.
Maximise the city's connections worldwide to drive growth	References changes in economic environment post Brexit and need to further develop working relationships with cities of London and Dublin.
Provide sector specific support	Now also highlights role of established centres of excellence to implement key strategies towards long-term sustainability such as the Regional Cyber Security Strategy; Support for high growth businesses; and supporting local businesses to avail of local supply chains and procurement opportunities.
Harness innovation to drive city growth	Added in reference to challenge fund being delivered by Belfast City Council and Invest NI to support this.

Living Here

Revision	**Comments**
Sub heading added under main heading *'Great place to live, good houses, excellent local facilities and open spaces, healthy and safe neighbourhoods'*. (Page 28)	To provide key summary point
Commitment : 'Improve community relations' changed to become: 'Improve good relations' (Page 28)	Feedback suggested 'good relations' was the more appropriate phrase
'Our ambition for Living Here' heading revised to 'Our goals and workstreams for living here' and narrative improved (page 30)	Changes to address potential confusion with 2035 ambitions
Updated Stretch goals (Page 30)	
Deliver 1,800 social housing units and agree a city target for affordable housing	A number of consultation responses highlighted the need for provision of social and affordable housing in the city. As a result this stretch goal now includes the agreement of a city target for affordable housing. Narrative around the importance of housing, including provision of social and

	affordable housing is also included within a new workstream in the subsequent section of the Living Here priority.
Roll out £105 million in new leisure provision	New stretch goal to reflect delivery of key programme.
Increase the proportion of young people from Belfast who think that local facilities are shared and open to all	Feedback on previous stretch goal (4000 young people participating in shared city programmes) was this was not a good stretch goal.
Invest £25 million in health improvement initiatives (in addition to investment in health and social care generally) to make progress towards our 2035 ambition to reduce the life expectancy gap between the most and least deprived neighbourhoods.	Additional reference to level of investment in health improvement initiatives over 4 years.
Invest £4 million in the prevention of suicide and self harm	Feedback in the consultation highlighted the importance of addressing mental health and emotional resilience issues in the city – An additional stretch goal has now been included to invest £4million in prevention of suicide and self-harm – on the advice of the P.
Improve how safe people feel within our neighbourhoods	New stretch goal to ensure we adequately reflect the importance of community safety in line with feedback.
Support communities to make progress towards reducing the number of physical barriers at interface sites	In line with feedback, wording amended to reflect role of BCC and partners in working with communities in reducing number of physical barriers.
Make a successful bid with Derry City and Strabane District Council to be European Capital of Culture 2023	New stretch goal to reflect deliver of key work programme.
Updated Workstreams (Pages 30-33)	
Design an integrated, inter-agency approach to neighbourhood regeneration and maximize the impact of local assets and investment	Text updated to address feedback about the multiple issues affecting neighbourhood regeneration including addressing issues of dereliction.
Planning the needs of housing to meet the needs of everyone	This additional work stream has been added to reflect feedback in the consultation of the role of housing in the city and the need for social and affordable housing, greater tenure mix, growing population in city centre and creating safe and cohesive communities. Whilst housing was included in a number of areas in the document, feedback indicated that this could be clearer.

Design and deliver a fully integrated interagency approach to early intervention, including early years support and family support hubs.	There was feedback in the consultation on the importance of early years and support for children and young people. The narrative in this work stream now highlights the important roles of the Health Trusts, Children and Young Peoples Strategic Partnership, Sure Start as examples.
Deliver a city and neighbourhood Community Safety Programme	Now references key areas of work of PCSP – hate crime, anti-social behaviour and domestic abuse.
Design and deliver Belfast City Shared Space, Peace IV and Interfaces programmes	Highlights opportunities to promote development of shared sites and facilities that provide safe access for all of the community and potential to foster greater levels of social integration.
Bid for European Capital of Culture 2023	There was feedback in the consultation on the key role culture and arts play in the life of the city, suggesting this should be clearer within the document. At the same time, the opportunity for a joint bid for ECOC 2023 has been presented, and this is now included as a workstream.
Design and deliver an integrated city programme for health, to address health inequalities, including enhancing mental wellbeing and reducing social isolation	Consultation feedback indicated that there needs to be a focus on improving health, as well as reducing inequalities. There was also feedback in the consultation highlighting the importance of addressing mental health and emotional resilience/wellbeing.

City Development

Revision	Comments
Sub heading added under main heading: *'Connected, well planned with the right infrastructure to succeed' (page 34)*	To provide key summary point
Develop an effective Local Development Plan (page 34)	This been added to the list of commitments under the 'city development' priority to reflect the importance of the LDP in delivering the special aspects of the community plan
'Our ambition for City Development' heading revised to 'Our goals and work streams for City Development' and narrative improved. (Page 36)	Changed to address potential confusion with 2035 ambitions. Narrative improved to provide clearer summary of city development issues.
Updated Stretch goals (Page 36)	
1. grow the city's rates base by 5 per cent, through increased number of	Additional narrative to explain the stretch goal following request for clarity from consultation responses (some responses indicated confusion that this meant putting up rates).

residential and commercial developments;	
3. create a minimum of 3,000 new hotel bed spaces	Revised from 2,500 to take account on updated data on the number of hotels currently under development in the city.
('7. move to 14 or higher in the UK Retail Ranking' – removed stretch goal)	*This Stretch goal has been removed as the baseline survey for this ranking was published a one-off measure that is unlikely to be repeated.*
Updated Workstreams (pages 36-39)	
Create a partnership and plan for sustainable urban infrastructure	Added narrative includes emphasis and detail on connectivity and digital infrastructure issues raised in consultation feedback.
Develop an integrated and sustainable city transport plan	Work stream title and narrative amended to highlight the importance of sustainable transport.
Deliver city regeneration and investment projects	Work stream title changed (widen focus from city centre only) and narrative updated – now provides examples of key city regeneration projects highlighted by responses in feedback from the consultation and partners.
Increase the supply of mixed tenure housing	Feedback in the consultation highlighted the importance of provision of social and affordable housing in the city. Narrative for this work stream has been updated to include mention investment in local communities through NIHE's management of the Social Housing Development Programme to deliver new affordable housing, promotion of mixed tenure developments and transfer of assets to local communities.
Build citywide commitment to Belfast place positioning	Duplicate paragraph removed: 'We are committed to encouraging city centre living and creating a vibrant, well-connected environment for people to enjoy'. Paragraph remains in 'Deliver city regeneration and investment projects' workstream

Working and Learning

Revision	Comments
Sub heading added under main heading: *'Making sure people have the right skills for the future' (Page 40)*	To provide key summary point.
'Our ambition for Working and Learning' heading revised to 'Our goals and workstreams for Working and Learning' and narrative improved. (Page 42)	Changed to address potential confusion with 2035 ambitions. Narrative improved to include important role of lifelong learning.

Updated Stretch goals: (Page 42)	**All the stretch goals in this section have been updated based upon latest information.**
Reduce the working age population economic inactivity rate to less than 23 per cent	
Reduce the proportion of the working age population with no qualifications to less than 10 per cent	
Increase the proportion of the working age population with Level 4 qualifications and above from 34 per cent to 38 per cent or higher	
Increase the percentage of school-leavers entering employment, education or training from 94 per cent to 98 percent.	
Reduce the gap in education attainment* between those entitled to FSM and those who aren't from 32% points to 28% points (* at Level 2 or above, including English and Maths)	
Widen participation in Further and Higher Education and attract more students locally and internationally	Included in response to feedback from the city's universities.
Updated Workstreams: (Pages 42-43)	
Overall list of 'workstreams' under the 'Working and Learning' priority remains unchanged, however contains more narrative on lifelong learning, links between F&HE and skills demand, and importance of attracting international students.	The narrative alongside the working and learning workstreams has been updated to reflect consultation feedback on the important role of Further and Higher Education, and the need to link with future skills demand. Some feedback also highlighted role of lifelong learning and that the focus of Belfast Agenda should not only be on educational attainment.

How we developed the Belfast Agenda

Revision	Comments
Minor changes to content to include reference to the public consultation, publication of the Belfast Agenda, and how to stay involved. Timeline updated (Pages 44 and 45)	This section of the document has been updated to reflect current stage in the process.

Making it happen

Revision	Comments
Remains largely unchanged. (Page 46)	Some feedback in the consultation highlighted the need for more detailed plans, with associated financing and performance monitoring to ensure effective delivery. The 'Making it Happen' section highlights that the 1st iteration of the Belfast Agenda sets the strategic direction and high level workstreams for moving forward into more detailed planning and delivery. Feedback received will continue to shape this process.

Measuring success

Revision	Comments
This is a new section added to the document on role of Population Indicators and Stretch goals. (Page 47)	Some feedback queried how the plan will be monitored, and indicated the need for more explanation about how population indicators and stretch goals will be used. This new section of the document explains how these will be used to monitor progress over the medium and long term. It also highlights that there are synergies with Programme for Government that work will be undertaken to explore inequalities associated with section 75 categories and local areas levels, and that monitoring will be an ongoing process and further developed as it progresses.

Belfast's community planning partners

Revision	Comments

Shared Values section moved from front of document to this section (Page 49)	To accommodate changes to introductory sections and position with later sections on making it happen and measuring success.

Appendix 1: Linking Population indicators to outcomes

Revision	Comments
Updated introductory narrative (Page 50)	Highlights that an accompanying technical report will be made available alongside the Belfast Agenda which will include more details on the data that will be used to measure collective progress towards the outcomes of the plan.
Additional descriptor points added to each outcome under 'People have told us they want to see a city where:' (Pages 50-54)	During development of the Belfast Agenda, feedback from the Belfast Conversation (a public engagement programme across the city) was used to derive a series of statements describing the conditions of wellbeing that people wanted to see for Belfast. The many detailed descriptions of what people wanted for Belfast were then summarised to produce the 5 high level 'outcome statements' in the plan. During the public consultation, many of the wellbeing issues previously captured in earlier engagement were repeated, therefore these more detailed descriptor statements have now been included to provider a clearer picture of what we understand each of the 5 high level outcome statements to mean for Belfast.
Updated Population indicators (Pages 50-54)	Some additional population level indicators to provide indication of the city's progress towards the long term outcomes have now been included within the plan, principally to ensure that indicators included in the draft Programme for Government are included (where data is available at the Belfast city level). Where PfG indicators are not available at the Belfast level they have largely been included in the data development workstream.

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Belfast City Council

STRATEGIC POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Subject:	City Region Growth Deal – update
Date:	22 September 2017
Reporting Officer:	Suzanne Wylie, Chief Executive
Contact Officer:	Ronan Cregan, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources

Restricted Reports				
Is this report restricted?	**Yes**		**No**	X
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?				
After Committee Decision				
After Council Decision				
Some time in the future				
Never				

Call-in				
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	**Yes**	X	**No**	

1.0	**Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**
1.1	To update Committee on progress on the development of a Belfast Region City Deal including the proposed geographic area, overall objective and key themes.
2.0	**Recommendations**
2.1	The Committee is asked to approve: • the proposed geography for the Belfast City Region Deal as set out in the report • the overall objective of "more and better jobs; inclusive growth; improved skills and and growth of domestic business and FDI"; and • the key themes of Infrastructure, Innovation and Skills

	• £15,000 to contribute to a joint, co-funded, pre feasibility study with Louth and Newry and Mourne Councils and ARUP on a Belfast Dublin fast rail link.
3.0	**Main report**
	Key Issues
3.1	At its meeting in June, members were updated on the proposals to progress a Belfast Region City Deal which included the timeline for the delivery of a full feasibility study including the development of a detailed evidence base setting out the rationale and benefits of a City Deal.
3.2	Progress on this was discussed with committee at its workshop on 6th September 2017 with specific detail provided on the proposed geographic area and the overall objective for the City Deal and its role in the achievement of the key commitments in the Belfast Agenda.
3.3	**The Belfast Region Geography** A "city deal" is not just for a city but is designed to drive investment and growth across a much wider region and ensure that as large a population as possible feels the benefits of increased investment and employment.
3.4	A principle of UK City Deals is that the proposed geography should be the "largest geography consistent with economic geography and effective governance". The proposed geography for the 'Belfast Region' takes in the Belfast Travel to Work Area, extended out to each of the local authority boundaries.
3.5	Based on this travel to work area the current proposed geography includes; • Belfast City Council; • Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council; • Ards & North Down Borough Council; • Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council; • Mid & East Antrim Borough Council; and • Newry, Mourne & Down District Council. A geographic spread of benefits will be core to the deal. As in other City Region Deals – all areas will see an uplift in increased access to jobs – and mechanisms will be used to

3.6	ensure a spread across the Region.
	Belfast Region City Deal Overall Objective
3.7	Inclusive Growth is at the heart of the Belfast Agenda and is about more and better jobs, improving living standards and earnings, offering in work progression and challenging barriers to employment such as child care, transport and training. Given that the City Deal is a key mechanism for delivering the ambitious agenda set out in the Belfast Agenda it is important that we develop a City Deal which puts 'Inclusive Growth' at its core, increasing prosperity for the city region, driving forward regional growth and providing wider social and environmental benefits.
3.8	The proposed overarching objective for the city deal is ***"more and better jobs; inclusive growth; improved skills and and growth of domestic business and FDI"***
	This re-enforces and supports the Belfast Agenda and will help deliver against the key priorities agreed in the plan.
3.9	
	Belfast Region City Deal – Key themes
3.10	In order to deliver against our objective a 'Cohesive' Programme of investment being considered for a Belfast Region City Deal comprises three main themes: infrastructure, innovation and skills.
	The infrastructure theme comprises 'economic infrastructure' which could include: Transport infrastructure; Regeneration; Tourism projects; and Digital infrastructure.
3.11	
3.12	Innovation builds on our key sectoral growth areas and may include for example Centres of Excellence at FE/HE Colleges which allow local economies and industries to compete in a global market.
3.13	Skills - A central part of the Belfast Region City Deal will be to ensure that alongside the programme of capital investment, parallel action is taken on employability and skills programmes to ensure that people are ready to take up the specific additional jobs created. Collectively addressing skills deficits will deliver stronger, more inclusive and more resilient economic outcomes which will provide sustainable solutions to the social challenges faced

3.14	by the Belfast Region. **Next Steps** Work will continue on the detailed feasibility study including the identification of proposed projects, governance structures, performance metrics and financial modelling to further develop the Deal. This will include intensive engagement with: • Belfast City-Region Councillors and officers • DCLG • NI Assembly representatives • Northern Ireland Office • Taoiseach's Office/Department for Foreign Affairs • Business sector including large businesses and representative bodies • Innovation sector including universities, further education and innovation hubs • City stakeholders such as the Belfast Harbour Commission • NI Civil Service departments notably Department for Infrastructure; Department for the Economy and Department for Finance
3.15	
3.16	It is also proposed that Council contributes to a joint, co-funded, pre feasibility study with Louth and Newry and Mourne Councils and ARUP on a Belfast Dublin fast rail link.
3.17	Committee should note that the first joint workshop for elected members from the Belfast City Region Deal Councils is scheduled for 28th September 2017. Party Group Briefings will also be held on the next steps including possible projects.
3.18	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u> £15,000 to contribute to a joint, co-funded, pre feasibility study with Louth and Newry and Mourne Councils and ARUP on a Belfast Dublin fast rail link from within existing budgets. Further financing may be required to progress the City Region Growth Deal in particular the development of business cases associated with specific projects. This will be considered as part of the half year finance report.
3.19	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u> To be considered in preparation of City Region Growth Deal
4.0	**Appendices – Documents Attached**

	None

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Belfast City Council

STRATEGIC POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Subject:	Launch of the Smart Belfast framework and Innovation programme
Date:	22 September 2017
Reporting Officer:	Ronan Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources
Contact Officer:	Deborah Colville, Smart Cities Portfolio manager Mark McCann, Business Research and Development manager

Restricted Reports				
Is this report restricted?	**Yes**		**No**	X
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?				
After Committee Decision				
After Council Decision				
Some time in the future				
Never				

Call-in				
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	**Yes**	X	**No**	

1.0	**Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**
1.1	To provide further details about the launch of the Smart Belfast framework in City Hall on Tuesday, 26 September 2017 to which all Members have been invited. This paper also provides details of the new Smart Belfast Collaborative Challenge Fund (with the potential value for local SMEs of over £860,000) which will be launched jointly with Invest NI at the same event.
1.2	This report also seeks Members' approval for the next major work strands which the Smart Belfast team are proposing to undertake over the coming months in support of the objectives of the Smart Belfast framework. A common theme across all these work strands is creating

	opportunities for greater collaborative innovation between the public and private sector in order to better address city challenges and to support the transformation of public services.
2.0	**Recommendation**
2.1	The Committee is asked to: • Note the agenda for the launch of the Smart Belfast framework and the invitation to all Members to attend. • Note the launch of the Smart Belfast Collaborative Challenge fund and the five city challenges. • Note Belfast's submission of an expression of interest in a £30 million bid to the national Local Full Fibre Networks (LFFN) Programme. • Agree that in the event of a successful agreed bid to Digital Catapult's LPWAN competition, the Council will commit £30,000 to support activities that exploit Internet of Things technology to address Belfast and regional challenges. • Allocate £127,000 of non-recurring capital finance for the capital works required to support the establishment of the Immersive Technology hub, subject to agreement on the licensing terms between DfE and Bel Tel LLP. • Note that the process to recruit the Belfast Commissioner for Resilience will commence within the next month. • Agree to provide a letter of support to accompany 100 Resilient Cities' application to the 'International Urban Cooperation (IUC) city-to-city cooperation' programme in support of an exchange programme between Belfast and the Columbian Resilient Cities of Cali and Medellín.
3.0	**Main report**
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	<u>Smart Belfast framework</u> The Smart Belfast framework, previously agreed by Committee in May 2017, aims to marry the city's ambition to support its high-growth digital technology SME sector with a desire to bring the innovation of this sector to bear on urban challenges and public service transformation. The framework will be publicly launched in City Hall at 10am on Tuesday, 26 September to which all Members have been invited. (A printed copy of the framework document will be shared with Members at the meeting).

3.2	The agenda for the launch event includes: - A breakfast briefing hosted by the Lord Mayor for representatives of large digital corporations. The briefing is an opportunity to share Belfast's smart city ambitions with those larger companies already investing in similar work across the world. - The main launch event (10am to 12 noon in the Great Hall): Introduced by the Lord Mayor and attended by over 300 representatives from SMEs, public bodies and communities, the will set out the aims of a Smart Belfast, and the necessary foundations that are required for its success. - Special guest Carl Piva, Vice-President of Global Strategic Programmes at TM Forum will then make the economic development case for smart cities – which create attractive propositions for FDI. Mr Piva works closely with cities across the world, including the US and China, on building successful smart city strategies. (Belfast recently become a member of TM Forum – a global non-profit association of over 850 digital partners set up to encourage collaborative problem-solving.)
3.3	<u>Smart Belfast Collaborative Challenge Fund</u> Generously supported by Invest NI, this new fund will be launched at the same City Hall event. The fund is aimed at local digital SMEs working together to scope out innovative solutions to urban challenges. Over 300 individuals and companies have already registered their interest in the fund.
3.4	Five 'urban challenges', linked to the Belfast Agenda, have been identified that will provide real-life opportunities for local companies to engage with the public sector to develop innovative solutions. Initially, £25,000 will be available for up to eight SME-led networks seeking to explore innovation in: 1. Encouraging greater numbers of commuter to adopt public transport and increasing active travel throughout the city centre. 2. Finding better ways to understand and measure visitor activity in the city 3. Getting deeper insights into the flow of 'waste' resources to enable their re-use in the city's economy. 4. Understanding the impact of active living programmes on the city's population. 5. Finding opportunities to make new or more efficient use of the Council's and partners buildings and infrastructure.
3.5	Following this seven-month scoping phase more substantial funding (up to £170,000 each) may then be available for particular proposals that can demonstrate business growth

potential. Copies of the Challenge briefs and details of the Fund will be available on the Council website from 26 September.

Expression of Interest in Full Fibre programme

3.6 The recently launched Local Full Fibre Networks (LFFN) Programme (part of the National Productivity Investment Fund), which currently has £200 million allocated to it, aims to accelerate the market delivery of new full fibre networks. Pilots have been announced aimed at testing four complimentary approaches:

I. Aggregating public sector demand
II. Incentivising new fibre with upgrades to public sector buildings
III. Reusing public sector assets such as ducts
IV. A new Gigabit voucher scheme which businesses can access

3.7 Belfast City Council has submitted an Expression of Interest to the programme seeking a £30 million full fibre investment for four potential project areas:

3.8
- Belfast City Council Anchor Tenancy procurement which would provide Dark Fibre Upgrades for all Belfast City Council's networked sites with the potential to future-proof and provide resilient connectivity to our key sites for the next 50 years. (£6 million)
- Northern Ireland Regional Gigabit Voucher Scheme – A Gigabit Voucher Scheme could resolve those areas across Belfast which currently suffer from poor broadband connectivity (£20 million)
- Reuse of 'Streets Ahead' Public Realm scheme ducting
- Other – Belfast Independent Internet Exchange - A neutral place where network operators and digital providers can meet and exchange data traffic, to improve the customer internet experience cost effectively (£4 million)

3.9 The full application process will follow a number of workshops which are currently being organised by the Department of Culture Media and Sport. Representatives from Digital Services will attend these workshops to discuss the challenge fund and application process. Further updates will be provided for Members when the application process gets underway.

Regional 'Internet of Things' competition

3.10 Digital Catapult UK is running a £540,000 national competition to set up five regional free-to-use LPWAN networks. These are state-of-the-art radio networks that can be used to control

	a vast range of low-cost sensors and smart devices. Such networks are important building blocks for Internet of Things technologies (a recognised future growth area for the digital and manufacturing sector) and as such represent an important component of the Smart Belfast framework.
3.11	Invest NI and Ulster University are developing a Northern Ireland consortium bid and are seeking to agree a joint proposal with a range of partners prior the submission deadline of 29 September. Successful bids need to demonstrate three main things: how the network will be deployed; how the SME innovator community will be supported to utilise the network; and how the network will be used to address challenges in each area.
3.12	Partners, including all NI local councils and Tourism NI, are being asked to contribute, in principle, to a challenge programme which would provide funding to local SMEs to exploit this new technology to order to tackle local and regional challenges and to improve public sector services. It is proposed that, in the event of a successful bid, Belfast City Council would, in principle, commit £30,000 to the challenge programme to support activities that address Belfast and regional challenges.
	<u>Immersive Technology Hub</u>
3.13	The UK Government's Digital Catapult (DCUK) was set up by UK Government to support the acceleration of digital innovations to make the UK economy stronger. The Catapult has identified 'immersive technology' as a significant growth area for the national economy and are providing a range of programmes and investments to support its development. ('Immersive technology' includes Virtual Reality and Augmented Reality technology – and is being developed not only for use in gaming but for exploitation in medicine, tourism, advanced manufacturing, urban planning, etc.)
3.14	DCUK wish to establish three regional immersive technology hubs (in Belfast, Gateshead and Brighton) which will both showcase the potential of the technology and foster opportunities for SMEs and others to collaborate and to grow their capabilities in this technology.
3.15	DCUK have offered £70,000 of Immersive Tech equipment to each hub and will support activities through a series of national competitions and other initiatives (including a major competition launch on 10 October 2017).

	The NI Department for the Economy (DfE) and Digital Catapult NI have explored several options for a suitable city centre location and have identified space within the Bel Tel building as an ideal venue for the hub. Officials from DfE are now engaging with the Bel Tel LLP to agree licensing terms and fees for this space for an initial 18 month period.
3.16	DfE have indicated that they will further support the hub by providing up to five members of staff, including a Hub Manager who would co-ordinate programming from the venue. The Hub space would also be used as a venue for joint projects between Council, other public agencies and the digital SME sector.
3.17	Work is required to bring the identified space up to a suitable standard and Council are being asked to contribute to this capital cost. Subject to agreement on the licensing terms between DfE and Bel Tel LLP, Members are therefore asked to allocate £127,000 of non-recurring capital finance for the capital works required to support the establishment of the Immersive Technology hub.
	<u>Rockefeller Foundation's 100 Resilience Cities programme</u>
3.18	Members will be aware that, as part of the city's membership of the 100 Resilience Cities (100RC) network, the Foundation would provide grant funding to recruit a Belfast Commissioner for Resilience for two years. This person will also be able to access significant additional resources and international consultancy expertise on behalf of the city to develop a Belfast Resilience Strategy.
3.19	100RC have now commissioned an executive search agency to work with Belfast City Council to recruit the Commissioner post. This process is due to commence within the next few weeks and will include national publicity about the vacancy.
3.20	In addition, as part of their 100RC programme, Rockefeller Foundation have a substantial relationship with the Columbian cities of Cali and Medellin where they have been supporting urban and economic development work and post conflict resilience building. Working with the office of the President of Columbia, 100RC are proposing a learning exchange programme between Belfast and these two 100RC cities that would be supported by the Council's new Commissioner for Resilience, Invest NI, and other city partners.
3.21	100RC have identified funding for the programme via the EU's 'International Urban Cooperation (IUC) city-to-city cooperation' programme. 100RC have offered to submit an

	application to the IUC on Belfast's behalf and have requested that both Invest NI and Belfast City Council provide a letter of support.
3.22	Members are asked to agree to the Council providing a letter of support to accompany the 100RC application.
3.23	Financial & Resource Implications The £127,000 of non-recurring capital spend for the necessary capital works required to support the establishment of the Immersive Technology hub in the Bel Tel building have been identified within the non-recurrent capital budget.
3.24	Equality or Good Relations Implications Equality and good relations implications will be taken into consideration and it is proposed that we will take this through equality screening; however it is anticipated that any collaborative efforts should have a positive effect on section 75 groups.
4.0	**Appendices – Documents Attached**
	None. (Copies of the framework will be tabled at Committee.)

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Belfast City Council

STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Subject:	Freedom of the City for Sir Kenneth Branagh
Date:	22nd September, 2017
Reporting Officer:	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager Ext 6314
Contact Officer:	As Above

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted? **Yes** [ ] **No** [X]

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision [ ]
After Council Decision [ ]
Some time in the future [ ]
Never [ ]

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in? **Yes** [X] **No** [ ]

1.0	**Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**
1.1	To consider a proposal that the Council award the Freedom of the City to Sir Kenneth Branagh.
2.0	**Recommendations**
2.1	The Committee is recommended to agree to award the Freedom of the City to Sir Kenneth Branagh and that a Special Meeting of the Council be convened at 6.00 pm on Monday, 2nd October, 2017, immediately prior to the monthly Council meeting for that purpose.

3.0	**Main report**
3.1	Key Issues
3.1.1	The Committee, at its meeting in November 2015 adopted the following process for future proposals for the award of the Freedom of the City: • When a request is received from a Member of Council or a member of the public for the Freedom of the City to be conferred, the Democratic Services Manager will liaise with the Party Leaders on the Council to ascertain the level of support which the proposal would have. • Once the level of support is known, a report will be submitted in the first instance to the Budget and Transformation Panel so that an informal discussion of the proposal can take place and any minor issues resolved. • If there is at least 2/3 of the whole number of Members (40 Member) supportive of the proposal, then the Chief Executive will contact the proposed recipient to ask if they would be amenable to accepting the award should the Council offer it. If there is a positive response, a report will be submitted to the next available meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee recommending that the award be made and requesting it to set a date for a meeting of the Council to formally consider the proposal.
3.1.2	A request was received in April, 2017 from the then Lord Mayor, Alderman Brian Kingston, that the Council consider awarding the Freedom of the City to Sir Kenneth Branagh, given that he was born in the city and recognising his outstanding achievements and international status in drama and cinema, as an actor, director, producer and screenwriter.
3.1.3	In accordance with existing Council policy on the award of the Freedom of the City, the views of the Party Groups on the Council have been sought as to whether or not they would be supportive of such a suggestion. Parties have responded and there is overwhelming support for the award to be made. Sir Kenneth has indicated that he would be honoured to accept the award.
3.1.4	Accordingly, the Committee is recommended to agree to award the Freedom of the City to Sir Kenneth Branagh and that a Special Meeting of the Council be convened at 6.00 pm on Monday, 2nd October, 2017, immediately prior to the monthly Council meeting for that purpose.
3.2	Financial and Resource Implications
3.2.1	A report on the cost will be brought back to the Committee.
3.3	Equality or Good Relations Implications
3.3.1	There are not any equality or good relations considerations associated with this report.

Belfast City Council

STRATEGIC POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Subject:	Process for Considering Requests for the Freedom of the City
Date:	22nd September 2017
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor
Contact Officer:	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager

Restricted Reports				
Is this report restricted?	**Yes**		**No**	X
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?				
After Committee Decision				
After Council Decision				
Some time in the future				
Never				

Call-in				
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	**Yes**	X	**No**	

1.0	**Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**
1.1	To consider the process applied for requests for the conferment of the Freedom of the City.
2.0	**Recommendations**
2.1	The Committee is asked to: • Agree not to make any change to the established process for considering requests for the Freedom of the City but to agree that the award will not be granted more than once in any Council term except when there are exceptional circumstances • Agree to receive a further report at October's Strategic Policy & Resources Committee considering an approach to some form of recognition for individuals or

	organisations at a lower level than the award of the Freedom of the City
3.0	**Main report**
3.1	Background The former Council's policy on consideration of requests for the award of the Freedom of the City was agreed in 1996. In 2013, the Council agreed to bestow the honour of the Freedom of the City to two individuals – Van Morrison and Dame Mary Peters. Prior to this, there was a period of 11 years when no such awards were made. In 2015, the Freedom was awarded to Michael Longley and to the Nursing Service in Belfast. There are now a total of 81 Freemen of the City.
3.2	**Legislation** The Local Government (Modification of Borough Charters) Order (Northern Ireland) 1973 has been revoked by the Local Government (Transitional, Incidental, Consequential and Supplemental Provisions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015. The rules are now much simpler. The award can be agreed by the Council by way of a special resolution by a simple majority vote and there is not any need for 10 days' notice of the special Council meeting to be given. Although the new legislation does not require a 2/3 majority of the Council to support a proposal to award the Freedom of the City, the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, at its meeting on 20th November, 2015 agreed that the Council would continue with its previous policy as set out below: • When a request is received from a Member of Council or a member of the public for the Freedom of the City to be conferred, the Democratic Services Manager will liaise with the Party Leaders on the Council to ascertain the level of support which the proposal would have. • Once the level of support is known, a report will be submitted in the first instance to the Budget and Transformation Panel so that an informal discussion of the proposal can take place and any minor issues resolved. • If there is at least 2/3 of the whole number of Members (40 Member) supportive of the proposal, then the Chief Executive will contact the proposed recipient to ask if they would be amenable to accepting the award should the Council offer it. If there is

	a positive response, a report will be submitted to the next available meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee recommending that the award be made and requesting it to set a date for a meeting of the Council to formally consider the proposal.
3.3	**Current policy** • Council can recognise individuals and organisations whom it considers have rendered eminent service to the city, those who have brought distinction to the city or Northern Ireland or those who have made an outstanding contribution to the wider national or international sphere. • Proposals are received by the Chief Executive who brings, outside the committee system, the proposal to the party group leaders to ascertain party support. If there is not enough support for the honour (in other words over two-thirds), the Chief Executive privately and discreetly informs the proposer; thus avoiding unnecessary embarrassment to the individual or group being proposed. If there is support, the Chief Executive then contacts the individual or group to ascertain if the individual or group would be willing to accept the award if the Council were to offer it. • If the Chief Executive is satisfied that there is likely to be enough support within the Council and the proposed recipient has agreed to accept the award, if offered, the Chief Executive shall submit the proposal to the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee. If the Committee supports the proposal, a special meeting of the full council will be arranged. There are currently no limits on the number of people who can receive the award.
3.4	**Strengths of current policy** The current policy does not tie councillors down to a rigid framework or set criteria that could become inflexible – it leaves the decision to the discretion of the councillors.
3.5	**Issues with current policy** There have been previous concerns raised that this honour could become over used, lessening the prestige of the award. It is not suggested that there should be any major change to the policy for the award of the Freedom of the City but rather that there is a recognition that this award should only be used infrequently so as to maintain the prestige of the office of Freeman.

3.6	**Possible addition to the current policy** Following discussions with the Party Leaders, at their meeting on 27th April and last month, it was agreed that the Council should consider adding to its current policy to provide for some form of recognition for individuals or organisations at a lower level than the award of the Freedom of the City. Subject to Committee agreement and consideration of the issues it is suggested that a further report is brought to Strategic Policy & Resources in October considering such an approach.
3.7	Financial & Resource Implications None associated with this report.
3.8	Equality or Good Relations Implications None associated with this report.
4.0	**Appendices – Documents Attached**
	None

Belfast City Council

STRATEGIC POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Subject:	Amendment to the Scheme of Delegation: Special events on roads
Date:	22nd September 2017
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor
Contact Officer:	Sarah Williams, Programme Manager

Restricted Reports				
Is this report restricted?	**Yes**		**No**	X
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?				
After Committee Decision				
After Council Decision				
Some time in the future				
Never				

Call-in			
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	**Yes**	X	**No**

1.0	**Purpose of report or summary of main issues**
1.1	The purpose of this report is to submit for approval an amendment to the Scheme of Delegation regarding road closures for special events.
2.0	**Recommendations**
2.1	The Committee is asked to: • Agree the proposed amendment to the Scheme of Delegation as recommended by the Licensing Committee in June 2017.

3.0	**Main report**
	Background
3.1	The Roads (Miscellaneous Provision) Act (Northern Ireland) 2010 was enacted on 13 August 2010. An Order, commencing the specific special events provisions, was made on 25 January 2017 with the provisions becoming operational on 4 September 2017.
3.2	Until now roads have been closed by police using general policing powers. This new legislation provides the Council the power to authorise and approve, by order, the holding of a special event such as a street party, sporting event or making of a film on a public road.
3.3	This legislation was due to be commenced in 2013 and at the time Members of the Licensing Committee agreed that the Council be recommended to delegate authority to the Licensing Committee to determine all applications under the Act. This decision was ratified by Council on 3rd April 2013. At that time, the Committee undertook to consider all applications whether or not any representations had been received by the Council.
3.4	The Licensing Committee in June 2017 re-considered this issue based on feedback from Northern Ireland Screen who raised concerns that the estimated turnaround time of three months from application to determination could have an impact on the film industry in Northern Ireland, which operates on relatively short lead-in times prior to filming commencing.
3.5	It is estimated that if delegated authority was granted to issue Orders, *where no objection is received* (as is the case with other licensing applications), an application could be determined within approximately 35 days, taking account of a statutory 21 days within which representations may be made.
3.6	Therefore, it is recommended that the Scheme of Delegation is amended so that the exercise of the following functions, in line with relevant Council policies, is delegated to the Director of Planning and Place: "Exercising all powers in relation to the making of an Order restricting or prohibiting temporarily the use of a public road in connect with special events, excluding provisions relating to: • applications for an order where adverse representations are made

	• the recovery of costs incurred by the Council as a consequence of making an Order and such other matters as the Director deems appropriate“
3.7	At the Licensing Committee it was also agreed that a notification procedure would be put in place to alert Members to all applications received by the Council to close roads. Thereby, even if representations were not made Members would be aware of all applications received and have an opportunity to comment on them if necessary. This will be managed by Building Control.
3.8	Members are advised that the ultimate responsibility for the administration of the making of an Order restricting or prohibiting temporarily the use of a public road in connection with special events will remain with the Licensing Committee. Any decision of the Licensing Committee in relation policy and legislation concerning licensing matters must be ratified by Council.
3.9	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u> There will be direct financial costs attached to the administration of the new legislation and, whilst such costs may be recovered from applications, decisions in relation to the extent of public notification required and the fee charging option chosen will determine the actual financial implication. This will be determined by the Licencing Committee in due course. Building Control has not had the opportunity to factor the role and costs of administrating this legislation into its budget for the financial year 2017-18.
3.10	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u> Building Control had previously assessed the equality and good relations implications with the introduction of the legislation and liaised with the Equality & Diversity Officer to ensure all potential issues are appropriately addressed. Building Control will continue to do this.
4.0	**Appendices – Documents Attached**
	None

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Belfast City Council

STRATEGIC POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Subject:	Physical Programme Update – Capital Programme and LIF
Date:	22nd September 2017
Reporting Officer:	Gerry Millar, Director of Finance and Resources Ronan Cregan, Deputy Chief Executive
Contact Officer:	Sinead Grimes, Programme Office Manager

Restricted Reports				
Is this report restricted?	**Yes**		**No**	X
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?				
After Committee Decision				
After Council Decision				
Some time in the future				
Never				

Call-in				
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	**Yes**	X	**No**	

1.0	**Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**
1.1	The Council's Physical Programme covers a number of funding streams including the Capital Programme and LIF/BIF.
2.0	**Recommendations**
2.1	Members are asked to – **Capital Programme –** ▪ agree that the following project is added as a **Stage 1 – Emerging Project** – **Palm House, Botanic Gardens** (see 3.2) – to allow the options for the redevelopment

and upgrade of the Palm House in Botanic Gardens to be examined and a funding strategy to be worked up. Members are asked to note that this does not constitute an investment decision and that Members will be kept up to date on the options

Local Investment Fund

- note the LIF project (NLIF066 – Wishing Well) which has previously been approved in principle which has been scored. Members are asked to note that this project has met the threshold and Members are therefore asked to agree that this is progressed to due-diligence (Section 3.4 and Appendix 1)

3.0 **Main report**

Key Issues

Capital Programme - Proposed additions to the Capital Programme

3.1 Members have previously agreed that **all** capital projects must go through a **3 Stage process** where decisions on which projects progress are taken by SP&R. Members are asked to agree to the following movements as summarised below

Project	Overview	Stage
Palm House, Botanic Gardens	To examine the options in relation to the refurbishment and upgrade of the Palm House in Botanic Gardens	Add as an Emerging Project

Add as Stage 1 – Emerging Project

3.2 **Palm House, Botanic Gardens –** The Palm House in Botanic Gardens is one of the earliest examples of a glasshouse made from curved iron and glass in the UK. The building was designed by Sir Charles Lanyon and dates back to the 1840s. The building is of significant heritage and cultural importance however over the years the condition of the building has gradually declined. Members will be aware that the adjoining Tropical Ravine in Botanic Gardens has been undergoing a £4.1m restoration over the past few years of which £2.4m was secured from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). Works on the building are completing and it is envisaged that it will be re-opened to the public early next year. The redevelopment of the Palm House, in tandem with the newly refurbished Tropical Ravine together with the Ulster Museum which recently underwent a substantial renovation programme, could potentially provide a key cultural, heritage and tourism destination helping to restore Botanic Gardens to its former glory as one of the leading Victorian parks within the UK.

3.3 **It is therefore recommended that the proposed upgrade of the Palm House at Botanic Gardens is added to the Capital Programme which will allow the options in relation to the site to be worked up and for a funding strategy to be developed including the initiation of discussions with the HLF about potential funding for the project.** Members will be kept informed of progress.

	Local Investment Fund
3.4	Members are asked to note that one LIF project which has previously been agreed for in principle funding (*NLIF066 - Wishing Well)* has now been scored by officers (see Appendix 1). This project has successfully met the minimum threshold and it is recommended that it is now progressed to the Due Diligence stage of the LIF process
3.5	**Financial & Resource Implications** *Financial* – LIF - £9m *Resources* – Resources from Property & Projects and appropriate departments in working up proposals in conjunction with groups.
3.6	**Equality or Good Relations Implications** No implications
4.0	**Appendices – Documents Attached**
	Appendix 1 - LIF RAG status

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Theme RAG Scores / Projects	
	Wishing Well **NLIF066**
Affordability	-
Feasibility	-
Deliverability	-
Sustainabliity	-
Overall RAG / Score	-

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Belfast City Council

STRATEGIC POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Subject:	Disability-accessible WC and creation of a new Family Room facility in City Hall
Date:	22nd September 2017
Reporting Officer:	Gerry Millar, Director of Property & Projects
Contact Officer:	George Wright, Head of Facilities Management

Restricted Reports		
Is this report restricted?	**Yes**	**No** X
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?		
After Committee Decision		
After Council decision		
Sometime in the future		
Never		

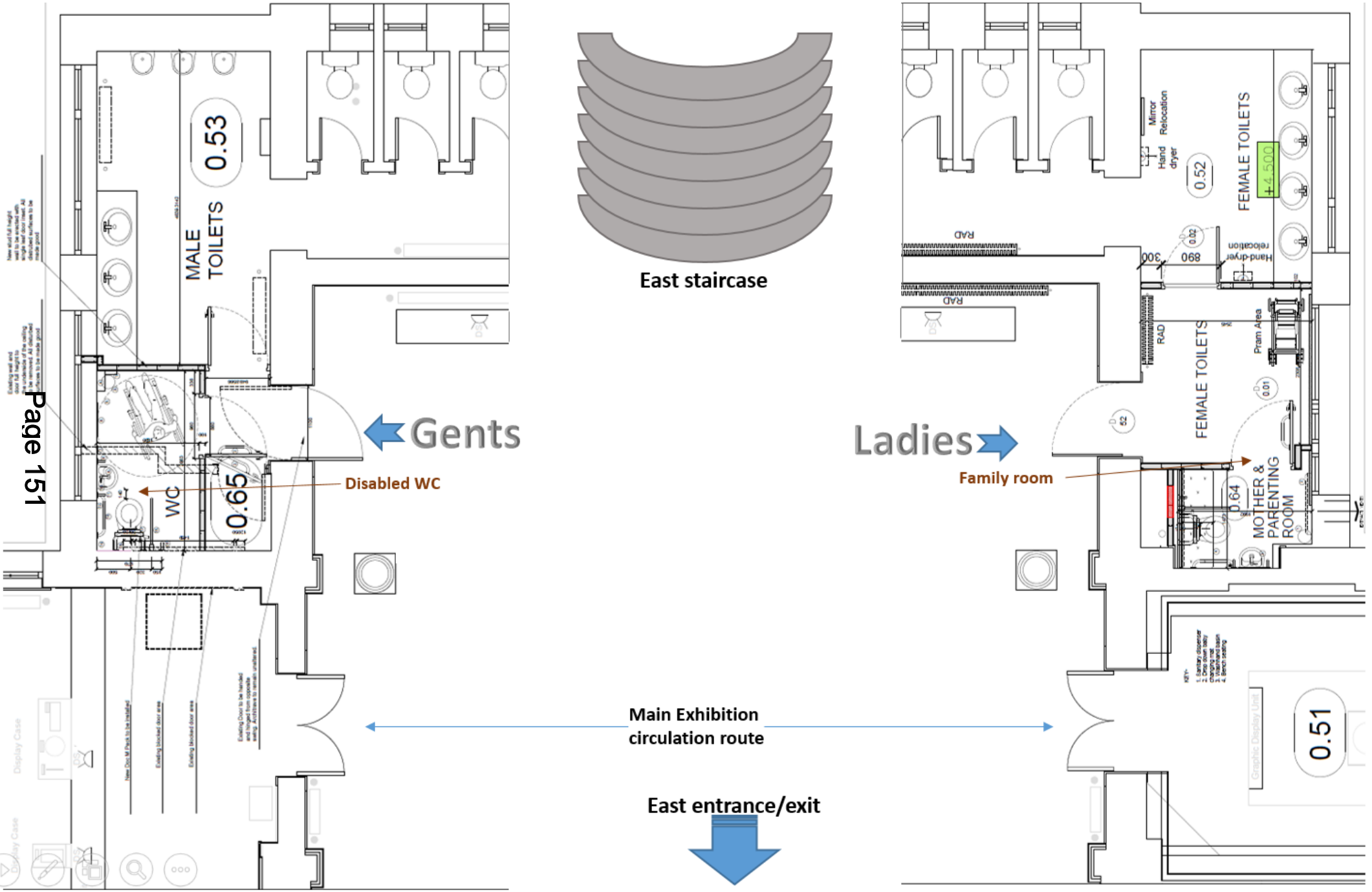
Call-in		
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	**Yes** X	**No**

1.0	**Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues**
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update Members on proposals to re-locate the existing disability-accessible WC and to create of a new Family Room in the East Wing of the City Hall, and also to reverse the positioning of the existing toilet facilities in the East area to facilitate these changes.
2.0	**Decision(s) required and recommendations**
2.1	The Committee is requested to - • approve the proposal to re-locate the existing disability-accessible WC; create a new family room to enable breast-feeding/feeding and changing facilities for young children and reverse the current positioning of the ladies and gents' toilet locations in the East entrance area in order to enhance compliance with statutory duties and

	best practice • note the update in respect of the proposed provision of a Changing Places Facility in the City Hall and that a further update will be brought back in due course on this.
3.0	**Main report**
3.1	Members will be aware that the new Exhibition area in the City Hall opened to the public on 16th May 2017. As part of this overall facility, and in line with the requirements of the Building Control service in terms of compliance with the relevant building regulations and disability access legislation, a disability-accessible WC facility was built adjacent to the existing male toilets in the East entrance area. Under the regulations this must be located within 30m of the main Exhibition facility.
3.2	The available space to construct this facility was quite limited due to the construction of the walls and the existing layout of the area, and consequently a modest relaxation of the strict application of the building regulations was allowed by Building Control. Although this is a perfectly legitimate application of the professional discretion allowed to Building Control it is recognised that, although the facility is now operational and useable, it would be better if it could be enhanced in terms of its size and fit-out and be made fully compliant with the regulations in all respects.
3.3	At the same time, the Committee will also be aware that the issue of the lack of a dedicated and private family room for people with small children and breast-feeding mothers has been a concern for some time. Committee will be aware that this is currently on the council's Capital Programme as a Stage 2 projects as part of the wider scheme involving – City Hall – Family Room and the Additional Toilet Provision (including a Changing Places facility). An update in respect of the proposed Changing Places facility is given at 3.7 below.
3.4	An opportunity now exists however to deal with both matters in the course of a single project, which could be undertaken relatively quickly and would offer a number of benefits. This would involve moving the existing disability-accessible WC facility across to a new location adjacent to the current ladies' toilets in the East entrance area where more space is available to provide a larger overall facility, and then to refurbish the existing disabled toilet and create a new, dedicated Family Room at that location.
3.5	In order to further enhance this provision it would also be the intention to 'swap' the ladies and gents' toilet positions on the East entrance area at the same time, and to re-fit each. This would produce a more intuitive overall result in which the Family facility would be adjacent to the female toilets on the south side and the disability-accessible facility adjacent

	to the gents toilet area on the north side, and this does have significant benefits for the organization, most notably in terms of regularising the disability-accessible WC provision and at the same time dealing with a long-standing omission in terms of a dedicated family facility. Both facilities would of course have separate entrance areas and be clearly sign-posted. The proposed layout is illustrated in Appendix 1 (attached).
3.6	If approved, the project would be delivered by the in-house Property Maintenance unit, and is planned to be complete by mid-December however this is dependent on the outcome of a number of competitive procurement exercises and this date may therefore change. Any significant changes to timescales will be brought to the Committee's attention. Detailed plans setting out the layout and dimensions of both facilities have been lodged with the Building Control service, and the intended scheme has also been submitted to the Heritage Service for approval as required in light of the fact that the City Hall is a Grade B listed building. Both of these statutory approvals will of course be necessary before the project can physically commence, however the Committee's approval in principle is now sought in order to facilitate design and planning activity.
3.7	<u>Update on Changing Places facility</u> As outlined above Members will be aware that there has been demand for some time for the provision of a Changing Places facility within the City Hall. This is part of the wider Stage 2 – Uncommitted scheme. Work is currently underway in respect of the options available for a Changing Place facility on the ground floor within the City Hall and a further update will be brought back to Committee in due course.
3.8	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u> The overall project costs are estimated to be £30,000. If approved, the project is to be funded as a non-recurring scheme. The Director of Finance & Resources has confirmed that this is within the affordability limits of the Council.
3.9	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u> The work comprised in this proposal will enhance the council's offer to people with disabilities and also to people with young children and improve statutory compliance, and is therefore a benefit in terms of equality. Equality staff have been consulted in relation to these proposals and are content to recommend them to the Committee
4.0	**Appendices – Documents Attached**
	Appendix 1 – Illustration of proposed new layout of East entrance area

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MALE TOILETS
0.53
WC
0.65
Gents
Disabled WC
East staircase
Ladies
Family room
FEMALE TOILETS
Mirror
Relocation
Hand dryer
0.52
+4.500
Hand-dryer relocation
890
300
RAD
Pram Area
0.01
0.64
MOTHER & PARENTING ROOM
0.51
Main Exhibition circulation route
East entrance/exit

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Belfast City Council

STRATEGIC POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Subject:	**Asset Management:** i. Licence Agreement: Suffolk FC -Spectator Stand ii. Deed of Dedication - Cregagh Green
Date:	Friday 22 September 2017
Reporting Officer:	Gerry Millar, Director of Property & Projects.
Contact Officer:	Cathy Reynolds, Estates Manager, Property & Projects.

Restricted Reports				
Is this report restricted?	**Yes**		**No**	X
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?				
After Committee Decision				
After Council Decision				
Some time in the future				
Never				

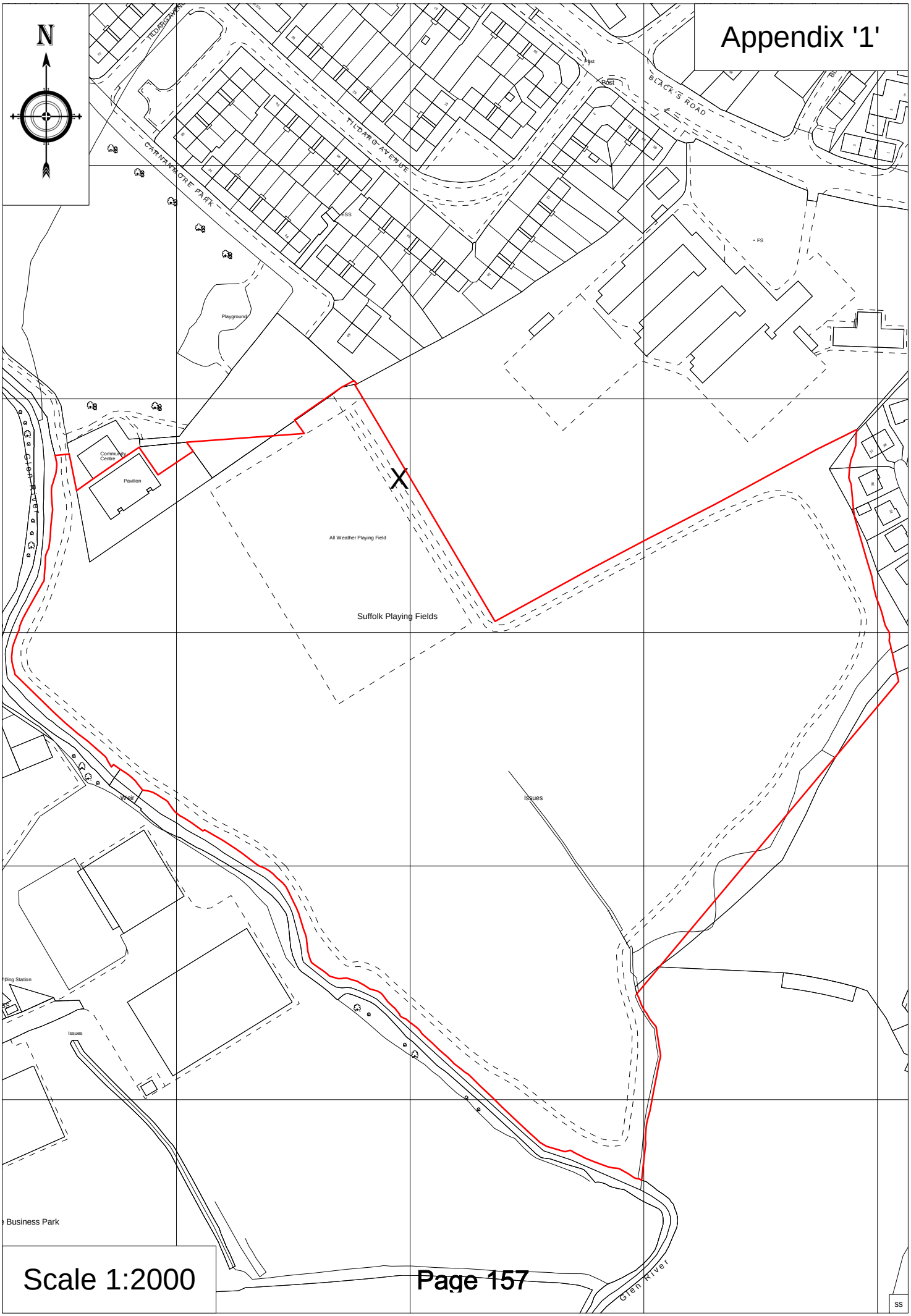
Call-in				
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	**Yes**	X	**No**	

1.0	**Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**
1.1	The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Members to asset related disposal, acquisition and lease matters.
2.0	**Recommendations**
2.1	i. **<u>Suffolk FC - Licence for 100 seat spectator stand -</u>** It is recommended that Members approve the grant of a licence to Suffolk FC to allow the Club to install a proposed stand subject to the club securing the necessary funding, statutory approvals including planning permission and providing adequate insurance cover. The Licence will run co-

	terminously with the existing Facilities Management Agreement (FMA).
2.2	**ii. <u>Deed of Dedication Cregagh Green -</u>** Following on from the decision of the People & Communities Committee of 7 March 2017, Committee is recommended to proceed with completion of a Deed of Dedication with Fields in Trust in respect of the identified land at Cregagh Green, subject to the approval of the Department of Communities (Local Government Policy Division).
3.0	**Main report**
	<u>Key Issues</u> **i. <u>Suffolk FC: Licence for Spectator Stand</u>**
3.1	At its meeting on the 12 Sept 2017 the People and Communities Committee approved the installation of a new spectator stand and the grant of a licence agreement to run co-terminously with the existing Facilities Management Agreement (FMA), subject to the matter being referred to SP&R. Suffolk Football Club currently operate under a 7 year FMA; this agreement is scheduled to terminate in July 2019.
3.2	The Club has aspirations to gain promotion to higher leagues and within this context have sought funding through the Alpha Programme to provide a 100 seater stand which will upgrade the facility and improve the spectator experience. The Club has advised that: 1. The cost of the proposed works is £40,500 (excluding VAT), the cost will be met through funding from the Alpha Programme and the Club; 2. The preferred location is as indicated by an X on the plan attached at Appendix 1 3. The Club will own the structure and will be responsible for its maintenance, upkeep, management and insurance cover; 4. The Club will be responsible for securing planning consent and other statutory approvals as necessary and will undertake the project management of the installation.
3.3	The Club has asked that the Council consider granting a licence to enable the installation and use of the structure on Council land, subject to the Club securing funding and the necessary statutory approvals including planning. The proposed location of the stand has no impact on the operation of the pitch and does not infringe on the enjoyment of the site. This is a piece of land which backs on to the former primary school and is largely unused. The

	proposal has no cost implications for the Council and the Council has in the past looked sympathetically on proposals from Clubs seeking to invest in and enhance sporting facilities.
3.4	Financial & Resource Implications The Council will charge a small annual rent for the licence.
3.5	Equality or Good Relations Implications There are no equality or good relations issues associated with this proposal
	ii. Deed of Dedication - Cregagh Green
3.6	At its meeting on 7 March 2017 the People & Communities Committee agreed that the Council's Cregagh Green site should be submitted through an application process to participate in the Fields in Trust (FIT) Programme to tackle physical inactivity (Appendix 2). The application was successful and as a result Cregagh Green will obtain 'protected status' through a Deed of Dedication between the Council and Fields in Trust. The extent of the land to be included in the Deed is shown outlined red on Appendix 3 and totals approximately 7.638 acres.
3.7	Fields in Trust promotes community events to be held on 'dedicated' spaces around the UK The Deed in respect of Cregagh Green will require retention of the land as a public playing field and ongoing recreational use. It also requires FIT's interest to be registered at Registry of Deeds.
3.8	The proposed Deed of Dedication is between the Council and the National Playing Fields Association, operating as Fields in Trust. The Deed does not contain any provision for payments or funding to the Council at any stage. However, Fields in Trust have made an offer to provide £5,000 to Belfast City Council towards funding the Cregagh Green Activation Programme and this offer has been accepted.
3.9	Whilst it is likely that the land would otherwise have continued to be used for its current recreational purposes it should be noted that the Deed also contains provisions which, if the Council wished to dispose of any of the 'dedicated' land, would require the Council to provide a replacement site of equivalent or larger size and with equivalent or better facilities, in the same catchment and as accessible to the public as the portion of land being disposed of. The Council would also be required to apply whatever proceeds of the disposal price as are necessary to achieve these objectives. In addition, the Council would be required to enter into a similar Deed of Dedication in respect of the replacement site.

3.10	In view of the provisions contained in the proposed Deed of Dedication, which places a restriction on use and represents a degradation of the Council's legal interest in the land, it thereby represents disposal of part of the Council's interest in the land.
3.11	The provisions relating to disposal of land are contained in Local Government Act (NI) 1972 and include an obligation upon the Council not to dispose of any interest in land at less than 'best price' without first obtaining approval from the Department of Communities Local Government Policy Division. Land and Property Services (LPS) have valued the land and have advised that the loss of value to the Council arising from entering into the Deed of Dedication is represented by the sum of £90,000. This reflects the difference between the 'before' value of the land based on the Council's unrestricted title to the site versus the 'after' value with the additional restrictions on use imposed by the Deed of Dedication. This sum will now be included as part of a submission to Department for Communities seeking approval to enter into the Deed.
3.12	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u> Funding of £5,000 to be provided to Belfast City Council subject to the terms and conditions as set out in the Grant Offer from FIT dated 18 July 2017. LPS advice on the loss of value arising from the Deed of Dedication is set out above.
3.13	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u> There are no equality or good relations issues associated with this proposal.
4.0	**Appendices – Documents Attached**
	Appendix 1: Suffolk FC spectator stand proposed location map Appendix 2: Cregagh Green – Extract of minute from People & Communities Committee dated 7 March 2017. Appendix 3: Cregagh Green - Extent of land covered by proposed Deed of Dedication (outlined red).


Appendix '1'
N
TILDARGATE AVENUE
CARNAMORE PARK
BLACK'S ROAD
Post
Playground
Community Centre
Pavilion
All Weather Playing Field
Suffolk Playing Fields
Glen River
Issues
Issues
Glen River
Scale 1:2000

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The Committee agreed to accede to the request from the County Grand Lodge for the use of Barnett Demesne on the 12th July 2017, subject to an appropriate legal agreement to be prepared by Legal Services.

Fields in Trust Programme

The Committee considered the following report:

"1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main issues

1.1 Fields in Trust (FIT), in partnership with a national funder, is launching a new programme in spring 2017 to protect and activate outdoor recreation spaces across the UK. The programme will deliver activity programmes on designated spaces in communities where there is a need to tackle physical inactivity and encourage more people to become more physically active.

1.2 The designated sites would be protected in perpetuity through a legal Deed of Dedication between the Council and Fields in Trust.

1.3 Fields in Trust has approached the Council with a view to protecting six or seven sites across the region. Following discussions between officers and FIT, it is proposed that Cregagh Green would be ideal for this Programme. This is based on the view that the site has a unique association with George Best and as such the site should be preserved. It was felt that given this association the site lends itself to promoting physical activity combined with encouraging young people in particular to improve their outlook through sport.

1.4 This report seeks Committee approval for the Council to submit an application to the programme with the understanding that if successful the Council may enter into a legal non-charitable Deed of Dedication affording protection to Cregagh Green subject to Council's title.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to;

- **Agree that Cregagh Green is submitted through an application process to participate in this programme. If successful Cregagh Green would obtain 'protected status' through a deed of dedication between the Council and Fields in Trust and be subject to the**

constraints of a deed of dedication as referred to below.

3.0 Main Report

3.1 In May 2017, Fields in Trust (the operating name of the National Playing Fields Association) is launching a new programme to encourage more people to become more physically active on green spaces in their communities.

3.2 The UK Chief Medical Officers state that adults should aim to take part in at least 150 minutes of moderate intensity physical activity each week, in bouts of 10 minutes or more, according to physical activity guidelines for adults from the UK Chief Medical Officers'. See https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/213740/dh_128145.pdf

'Promoting active lifestyles can help us address some of the important challenges facing the UK today. Increasing physical activity has the potential to improve the physical and mental health of the nation, reduce all-cause mortality and improve life expectancy. It can also save money by significantly easing the burden of chronic disease on the health and social care services'. (Start Active, Stay Active – A report on physical activity for health from the four home countries' Chief Medical Officers 2016 (updated)).

3.3 Access to green spaces is an essential element of active lifestyles, community cohesion and mental wellbeing. Delivery of local and diverse activity programmes on these community spaces will aim to increase entry level activity amongst inactive people of all ages.

3.4 The programme, which is funded by a national charity, will combine protection of spaces with revenue funding to engage physically inactive people on those green spaces. Each space will be offered delivery of a physical activity project(s) to the value of £5,000 to serve local needs and benefit target groups as appropriate. A programme activation resource pack will be provided to promote and support an event to help promote the physical activity project and engage community participation.

3.5 Each space will also be able to apply for a larger capital grant of £25,000 to enable continued sustained physical activity on sites protected through the programme.

The programme sets out a number of objectives:

- To increase participation in physical activity amongst the inactive from groups including (but not limited to):
  - Disabled people
  - Women and girls
  - People from lower socio-economic groups
  - Those at risk from long-term health conditions
  - People from particular ethnic groups
  - Older people
- Provide a catalyst to deliver sustainable physical activity opportunities
- Raise the profile of local green spaces as important to health and well-being
- Secure local green spaces for continued and increased participation in a diverse range of physical and community activities
- Improve community cohesion, mental and physical health through participation in physical activity.

Impact on the Asset

3.7 A few of the Council's properties have already been gifted to the Council with restrictive use clauses contained within the title deeds to those properties which effectively create a trust which the Council is required to adhere to.

3.8 There are a few other Council properties held under deeds of dedication with the Millennium Commission (signed in 2000 for a period of 99 years) and with Fields in Trust and it appears that these could not be nominated for the proposed Fields in Trust Programme.

3.9 If the Council chooses to nominate this site, the title would first need to be examined to ensure that the property is not already subject to a deed of dedication, or to alienation provisions within the title (i.e. restrictions on assignment, or parting with possession) or certain use covenants).

3.10 The deeds of dedication issued by the Fields in Trust and which the Council may be required to sign are stringent and constrain what the Council can do in terms of disposal or any building works/changes of use affecting any nominated property. A burden is required to be registered against the title of the nominated property. Any dealings with the property or works to same in the future would require the consent of

Fields in Trust, and once successfully nominated this remains the case in perpetuity and such a deed of dedication remains in perpetuity.

Timescales

3.11 If approved, the Field in trust require the Deed of Dedication to be signed within four months of submitting the application; this will be subject to title and potentially other factors such as officer resources. Upon completion of the proposed Deed of Dedication the activation project will commence with the opportunity for an activation event to launch the programme on the site and to promote its designated status.

Financial & Resource Implications

3.12 This programme provides an opportunity to avail of up to £30k to deliver programming and capital development of the site to increase participation in healthy activity (£5k to take part in the programme if application is successful and an option to apply for a further £25k, the latter is not guaranteed).

Human Resources

3.13 The costs of participating in the programme will include Officer time and in particular Legal advice to agree the Deed of Dedication.

Equality or Good Relations Implications

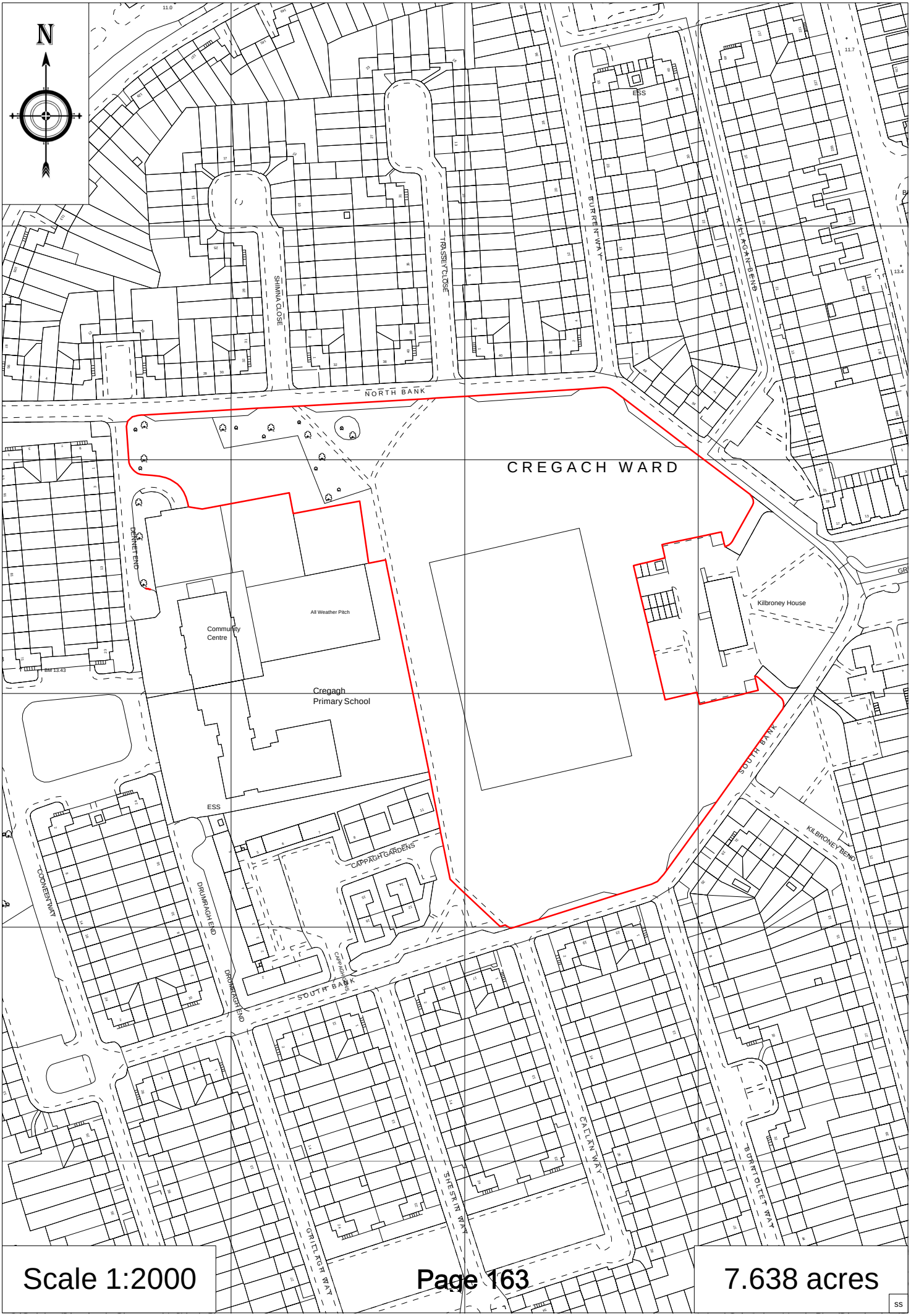
3.14 There are no known Equality or Good Relations implications.

Asset and Other Implications

3.15 Parks and green spaces are highly valued by local residents. The Cregagh Green site has been identified as being an important community facility and as a valuable asset in addressing physical inactivity and building community cohesion. This programme will benefit residents and park users and contribute to improving the quality of life and help address health inequalities.

3.16 By taking part in this programme we will positively raise the profile of Cregagh Green and the Council through a high profile national programme, as well as contributing towards our aims of encouraging healthier and more active lifestyles within the community."

The Committee adopted the recommendation.


N
CREGACH WARD
NORTH BANK
SHIMNA CLOSE
TRASSEY CLOSE
BURREN WAY
KILLAGAN BEND
DENNETT END
Community Centre
All Weather Pitch
Cregagh Primary School
Kilbroney House
SOUTH BANK
ESS
CAPPAGH GARDENS
KILBRONEY BEND
COONEEN WAY
DRUMRAGH END
DROMORE GARDENS
GRILLAGH WAY
SHESKIN WAY
CALLAN WAY
BRATTLEET WAY
Scale 1:2000
Page 163
7.638 acres
SS

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Belfast City Council

STRATEGIC POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Subject:	Belfast City Council Statement of Accounts 2016/17
Date:	22 September 2017
Reporting Officer:	Ronan Cregan, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Performance
Contact Officer:	Mark McBride, Head of Finance and Performance Trevor Wallace, Financial Accounting Manager

Restricted Reports				
Is this report restricted?	**Yes**		**No**	X
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?				
After Committee Decision				
After Council Decision				
Some time in the future				
Never				

Call-in				
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	**Yes**	X	**No**	

1.0	**Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**
1.1	The purpose of this report is to present to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, the Statement of Accounts of the Council, including the Annual Governance Statement, for the period ending 31 March 2017.
1.2	The Statement of Accounts are an important element of the council's overall corporate governance framework as they provide assurance to Members and ratepayers on the stewardship of the council's finances and its financial position.
1.3	The Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2017, as attached, have been prepared in line with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2016/17

	based on International Financial Reporting Standards and the Department for the Communities Accounts Direction, Circular LG 10/17 dated 13 March 2017.
1.4	I can confirm that the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2017 has been prepared in the form directed by the Department for the Communities and in my opinion the Statement of Accounts give a true and fair view of the income and expenditure and cash flows for the financial year and the financial position as at the end of the financial year.
2.0	**Recommendations**
2.1	The Committee is asked to • Approve the Council's Statement of Accounts and incorporated Annual Governance Statement for the year ended 31 March 2017.
3.0	**Main report**
3.1	Key Issues **Audit Opinion** It is the Local government Auditors' opinion that: • the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with relevant legal and statutory requirements and the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2016-17, of the financial position of Belfast City Council as at 31 March 2017 and its income and expenditure for the year then ended; and • the statement of accounts have been properly prepared in accordance with the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and the Department for Communities directions issued thereunder; and • the part of the Remuneration Report to be audited has been properly prepared in accordance with the Department for Communities directions made under the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015; and • the information given in the Narrative Report for the financial year ended 31 March 2017 is consistent with the financial statements.
3.2	**Reserves** **General Fund** The credit balance on the General Fund has increased to £20,989,452 (of which £7,634,933 relates to specified reserves). The movement on the reserves balance is summarised in Table 1 below:

Table 1: Summary of Reserves Position

Opening Balance	£19.2m
In year movement in reserves	£ 1.8m
Closing Balance	**£21.0m**
Specified Reserves at year end	£ 7.6m
Balance Available	**£13.4m**

Capital Fund £24,850,616

3.3 The Capital Fund is made up of the Belfast Investment Fund (£3,810,715). The fund has been created to support key partnership projects to regenerate Belfast and help lever substantial funds from other sources, the Local Investment Fund (£4,056,629) to fund smaller local regeneration projects, the City Centre Investment Fund (£15,699,861) to support the Belfast City Centre Regeneration Investment Plans, the Social Outcomes Fund (£1,000,000) to support City Centre projects which might not generate a direct financial return but would enhance the overall City Centre offer and support attraction of investment and the BWUH Subvention Fund (£283,411) to support planned maintenance and future capital works at the new exhibition centre.

Leisure Mobilisation Fund £1,945,000

3.4 This fund is to support the Leisure Transformation Programme and will cover programme level costs including communications, engagement and procurement costs.

Capital Receipts Reserve £1,632,457

3.5 These are capital receipts which have originated primarily from the sale of assets and which have not yet been used to finance capital expenditure. This amount relates mainly to the sale of land & buildings at Loop River (£860,000).

Other Fund Balances and Reserves £357,818

3.6 This relates to the Election Reserve which has been set up to smooth the cost of running council elections.

Debt

3.7 The overall level of trade debtors had decreased over the previous 9 years, reducing from £10m at 31 March 2008 to £4.2m at 31 March 2017. An analysis of trade debtors, inclusive of VAT, for the last two years is shown below:

	31 March 2017	**31 March 2016**
Less than three months	£3,305,930	£2,434,909
Three to one year	£111,596	£166,672
More than one year	£789,382	£1,021,813
Total	**£4,206,908**	**£3,623,394**

Creditors

3.8 The Department for Communities has set councils a target of paying invoices within 30 days. During the year the council paid 61,092 invoices totalling £185,282,726.

3.9 The average time taken to pay creditor invoices was 23 days for the year ended 31 March 2017. The Council paid 43,898 invoices within 10 days, 53,600 invoices within 30 days, and 7,492 invoices outside of 30 days. The council endeavours to process invoices as quickly as possible and has an improvement plan to support this process.

Annual Governance Statement (AGS)

3.10 The Statement of Accounts include Annual Governance Statement (AGS) for the year 2016/17, which has been prepared in line with the Accounts Directive provided by the Department for Communities, NIAO guidance and is consistent with the principles of the CIPFA/SOLACE Framework 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government'. Specifically the AGS sets out:

- scope of responsibility of the Council in relation to governance
- the purpose of the governance framework
- the governance framework in place
- review of effectiveness of the governance framework
- significant governance issues to be disclosed.

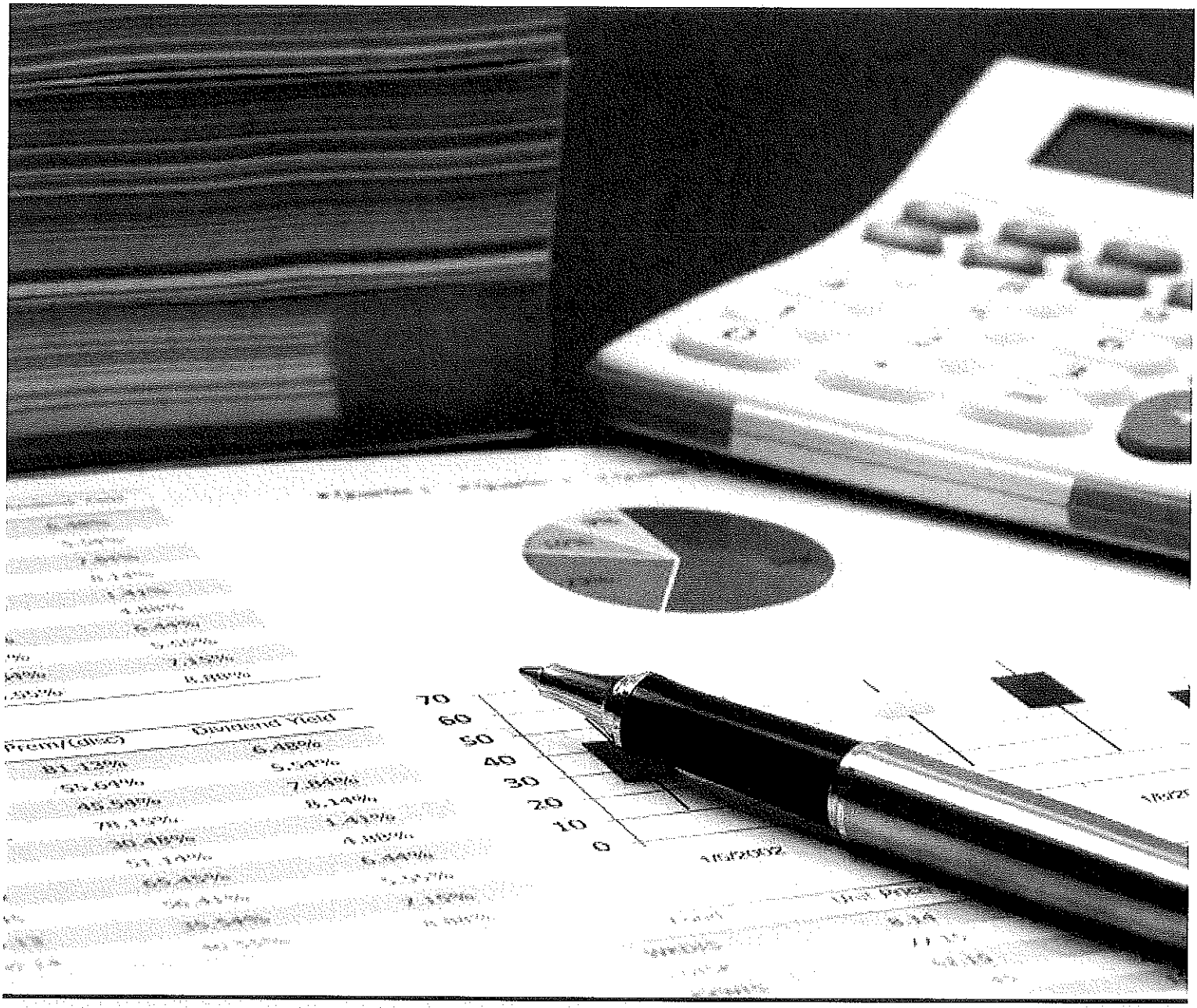
3.11 The AGS is approved by the Chair of the Strategic Policy and Resources, the Chief Executive and the Director of Finance and Resources. It is subject to review by the LGA (NIAO) as part of their annual audit.

3.12	Financial & Resource Implications None
3.13	Equality or Good Relations Implications None
4.0	**Appendices – Documents Attached**
	Appendix 1 - Detailed Statement of Accounts titled “Belfast City Council Statement of Accounts 2017”

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Belfast City Council

Statement of Accounts 2017



www.belfastcity.gov.uk/Publications/Financeplan.aspx

BELFAST CITY COUNCIL
Statement of Accounts
For the year ended 31 March 2017

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Narrative Report

Introduction

The Council's financial performance for the year ended 31st March 2017 is as set out in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and it's financial position is as set out in the Balance Sheet and Cash Flow Statement.

These financial statements have been prepared in line with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom for the year ended 31st March 2017 (the Code) and the Department for Communities Accounts Direction, Circular LG 10/2017. It is the purpose of this foreword to explain, in an easily understandable way the financial facts in relation to the Council.

This Statement of Accounts explains Belfast City Council's finances during the financial year 2016/17 and its financial position at the end of that year. It follows approved accounting standards and is necessarily technical in parts.

Group Accounts

The Code requires Local Authorities to consider all their interests and to prepare a full set of group financial statements where they have material interests in subsidiaries, associates or joint ventures. Belfast City Council have prepared group financial statements for the financial year 2016/17 due to the creation of a Council owned company Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Limited (BWUH). On 1 April 2016, responsibility for the operations of the Waterfront and Ulster Halls was transferred to this wholly owned subsidiary of Belfast City Council. The group financial statements also include Belfast City Council's contribution to Beltel LLP in relation to the redevelopment of the Belfast Telegraph Building. The amounts included in respect of Beltel LLP are unaudited as the first accounting period of Beltel LLP will be the period ended 30 September 2017.

The Movement in Reserves Statement

This Statement, as set out on page 27, shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the Council, analysed into 'usable reserves' (i.e. those that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation) and other reserves. The 'Surplus or (deficit) on the provision of services' line shows the true economic cost of providing the Council's services, more details of which are shown in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. These are different from the statutory amounts required to be charged to the General Fund Balance for Local Tax purposes. The 'Net increase /Decrease before transfers to statutory and other reserves' line shows the statutory General Fund Balance before any discretionary transfers to or from statutory and other reserves undertaken by the Council. The group movement in reserves statement on page 101 includes the reserves of BWUH Limited contributing to a decrease of £3,702 on the group General Fund.

The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

This statement, as set out on page 28, shows the accounting cost in the year of providing services in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices, rather than the amount to be funded from taxation. Councils raise taxation to cover expenditure in accordance with regulations; this may be different from the accounting cost. The taxation position is shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement. The group comprehensive income and expenditure statement on page 102 includes the consolidated income and expenditure of BWUH Ltd.

The Balance Sheet

The Balance Sheet, as set out on page 29, shows the value as at the Balance Sheet date of the Council's assets and liabilities. The net assets of the Council (assets less liabilities) are matched by the reserves held by the Council. Reserves are reported in two categories. The first category of reserves are usable reserves, i.e. those reserves that the Council may use to provide services, subject to the need to maintain a prudent level of reserves and any statutory limitations on their use (for example the Capital Receipts Reserve that may only be used to fund capital expenditure or repay debt). The second category of reserves are those that the authority is not able to use to provide services. This category of reserves includes reserves that hold unrealised gains and losses (for example the Revaluation Reserve), where amounts would only become available to provide services if the assets are sold; and reserves that hold timing differences shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement line 'Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations'. The group balance sheet on page 103 includes the Council's share of assets and liabilities of BWUH Ltd, Gas Pension Fund and Beltel LLP.

The Cash Flow Statement

The Cash Flow Statement, as set out on page 30 shows the changes in cash and cash equivalents of the Council during the reporting period. The statement shows how the Council generates and uses cash and cash equivalents by classifying cash flows as operating, investing and financing activities. The amount of net cash flows arising from operating activities is a key indicator of the extent to which the operations of the Council are funded by way of taxation and grant income or from the recipients of services provided by the Council. Investing activities represent the extent to which cash outflows have been made for resources which are intended to contribute to the Council's future service delivery. Cash flows arising from financing activities are useful in predicting claims on future cash flows by providers of capital (i.e. borrowing) to the Council. The group cashflow statement on page 104 includes the cash and cash equivalents of BWUH Ltd, Gas Pension Fund and Belfel LLP.

Financial Report

For the year ended 31 March 2017, the Council increased its General Fund reserve by £1,808k to £20,989k. The movement in the General Fund is mainly due to the under spend in the year ended 31 March 2017. The Council's budget of £153,513k was reduced by £1,917k for prior year finalisation payment of district rates. The Council reported £1,915k under budget on service expenditure in year. The Cost of Services on Continuing Operations £182,795k, as reported in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, also includes the accounting cost of providing services in addition to the amount to be funded from taxation. The total net expenditure reported in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is £16,988k and includes allocations of £4,297k to fund capital expenditure

For the 2016/17 year the Council had an authorised borrowing limit of £185m. This is based on the Council's forecast capital expenditure plans over the medium to long term. In conjunction with the Council's Capital Financing Requirement of £86m, this ensures that the Council only borrows for capital purposes. During the year the Council repaid external loans of £3.15m. The Council borrowed £5m to fund ongoing capital projects. At 31 March 2017, the total amount outstanding on external loans was £36.6m, of this total £2.4m represents the outstanding debt of the former Belfast Corporation Services which is now the responsibility of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, and on whose behalf the Council is administering the loans.

Expenditure on capital projects during the year amounted to £45m, the most significant spend was on Council Accommodation £15.3m, Connswater Community Greenway £7.5m, Olympia/Windsor Regeneration £7.5m, Pitches Strategy £2.4m, Fleet Replacement Programme £1.6m, Tropical Ravine Refurbishment £1.6m, North Foreshore Green Economy Business £1.3m and Andersonstown Regeneration £1.1m.

There were significant impairments during the year, as detailed on page 71. These impairments have arisen due to both Connswater Community Greenway (£21.4m) and Roselawn Cemetery (£1.16m) being re-measured to £1 each as Community Assets following the annual valuation as at 31 March 2017 by Land and Property Services. The former Olympia Leisure Centre and playground (net book value £3.6m) was demolished to facilitate the construction of the new sports facility.

Pension arrangements

The Council participates in the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Pension Fund administered by the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Superannuation Committee. Transactions relating to retirements benefits are included in Note 19 to these Statement of Accounts. The Gas Pension Fund liability is included in the Council's Balance Sheet and is fully consolidated within the Council's Group Balance Sheet and the relevant disclosures included in the Group Financial Statements. The pension liability of Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Limited is also included in the Council's Balance Sheet and is fully consolidated with the relevant disclosures in the Group Financial statements on pages 101 to 115.

As a result of Local Government Reform on 1st April 2015, staff transferred from Central Government to the Council are members of the Northern Ireland Civil Service Pension Scheme. The Northern Ireland Civil Service Pension arrangements are unfunded multi-employer defined benefit schemes. Transactions relating to this scheme are disclosed in Note 6e .

Events after the Balance Sheet Date

During 2016/17, confirmation was provided that a property leased out by the Council to a local bank will be redeveloped and the lease on this property is expected to terminate by October 2017. This has given rise to a reduction of £625k on the net present value of the long term debtor on this lease in the financial year 2016/17 (Note 5a). Any costs associated with the early termination of this lease will be included in the financial year 2017/18.

Statement of the Council's and Chief Financial Officer's Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts

The Council's Responsibilities
Under Section 1 of the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 a council shall make arrangements for the proper administration of its financial affairs. A council shall designate an officer of the council as its chief financial officer and these arrangements shall be carried out under the supervision of its chief financial officer.

Under Regulation 7 of the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 the Council, or a Committee, is required by resolution, to approve the accounts.

These accounts were approved by The Chief Financial Officer on 29 June 2017.

The Chief Financial Officer's Responsibilities

Under Regulation 8 of the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015, the Chief Financial Officer is responsible for the preparation of the Council's Statement of Accounts in the form directed by the Department for Communities.

The accounts must give a true and fair view of the income and expenditure and cash flows for the financial year and the financial position as at the end of the financial year.

In preparing this Statement of Accounts, the Chief Financial officer is required to:

- observe the Accounts Direction issued by the Department for Communities including compliance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom

- follow relevant accounting and disclosure requirements and apply suitable accounting policies on a consistent basis, and

- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent.

The Chief Financial Officer is also required to:

- keep proper accounting records that are up-to-date, and

- take reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Annual Governance Statement 2016/2017

The Council's Annual Governance Statement (AGS) follows DfC accounts directions and where applicable, the factsheet on governance statements issued by the NIAO in 2013, and comprises the following sections:

- Scope of responsibility
- The purpose of the governance framework
- The governance framework
- Review of effectiveness
- Update on the significant governance issues that were declared at the year-end 2016
- Significant governance issues for the year-end 2017

Scope of responsibility

Belfast City Council is responsible for ensuring that its business is conducted in accordance with the law and proper standards, and that public money is safeguarded and properly accounted for, and used economically, efficiently and effectively. The Council also has a duty under Part 12 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 to make arrangements for continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of strategic effectiveness, service quality, service availability, fairness, sustainability, efficiency and innovation.

In discharging this overall responsibility, the Council is responsible for putting in place proper arrangements for the governance of its affairs and facilitating the effective exercise of its functions, which includes arrangements for the management of risk.

The Council has prepared an Annual Governance Statement which is consistent with the principles of the new CIPFA/SOLACE Framework *Delivering Good Governance in Local Government (2016 edition)*. This statement explains how the Council has complied with the code and also meets the requirements of the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland 2015) in relation to the publication of an annual governance statement.

The purpose of the governance framework

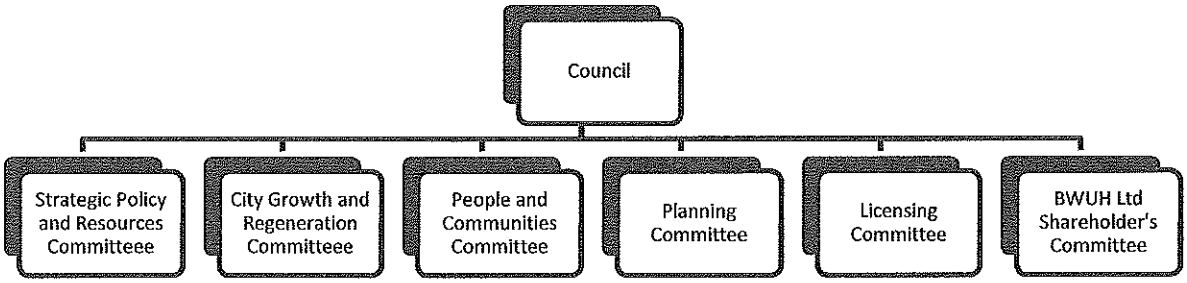
The governance framework comprises the systems and processes, and culture and values, by which the Council is directed and controlled and the activities through which it accounts to, engages with and leads its communities. It enables the Council to monitor the achievement of its strategic objectives and to consider whether those objectives have led to the delivery of appropriate services and value for money.

The system of internal control is a significant part of that framework and is designed to manage risk to a reasonable level. It cannot eliminate all risk of failure to achieve policies, aims and objectives and can therefore only provide reasonable and not absolute assurance of effectiveness. The system of internal control is based on an ongoing process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievement of the Council's policies, aims and objectives, to evaluate the likelihood of those risks being realised and the impact should they be realised, and to manage them efficiently, effectively and economically.

The governance framework continues to be place at Belfast City Council for the year ending 31st March 2017 and up to the date of approval of the Annual Governance Statement and statement of accounts. The following section sets out the key elements of the governance framework.

The governance framework

Our committee structure, which is based on the full council and six standing committees is illustrated and described below.



Through the work of committees, our Members oversee the work of the council. All committee decisions need to be ratified by the full council except where committees have been granted delegated authority to make decisions.

The full council, which consists of all 60 elected representatives, is the overarching decision-making body.

The Strategic Policy and Resources Committee is responsible for setting the strategic direction of the Council through the development of its corporate plan and other key corporate and cross cutting strategies and policies. It will also ensure effective use of resources and value for money for ratepayers, and oversee the Council's relationship with a number of key agencies and partners.

The City Growth and Regeneration Committee is responsible for the development and implementation of strategies, policies, programmes and projects directed to the

regeneration and growth of the city in the context of the outcomes agreed in the community and corporate plans and other corporate strategy.

The People and Communities Committee is responsible for the development and implementation of strategies, policies, programmes and projects aimed at improving life at a local level in the context of the outcomes agreed in the community and corporate plans and other corporate strategy.

The Planning Committee is responsible for all of the Council's planning functions, except those matters which are delegated to officers or reserved to full Council.
The Licensing Committee is responsible for the consideration of all matters pertaining to policy and legislation in relation to licensing issues.

The Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd Shareholders' Committee is responsible for making the decisions required by the Shareholders' Agreement and ensure that the company complies with the contract for the operation of the venues.

In addition to the Committees listed in the diagrams above there are a number of Working Groups established which include the Audit & Risk Panel, the Budget and Transformation Panel and a number of Area Working Groups.

The Audit & Risk Panel provides an independent assurance on the adequacy of the Council's risk management framework and associated control environment. It provides an independent scrutiny of the Council's financial and non-financial performance, which is relied upon by the Council, to the extent that it exposes it to risk and weakens the control environment. The Audit & Risk Panel met four times during 2016/17.

The Council's Code of Governance is based on the seven core principles set out in the CIPFA/SOLACE Framework (2016 edition). How we meet these seven core principles is reviewed and updated annually and a summary of the key elements of our governance framework are set out in the table below:

A: Behaving with integrity

- Shared values communicated via corporate plan, community plan and key strategies
- Codes of conduct for Members & staff
- PDP / appraisal process for Members & staff
- Gifts and hospitality and conflicts of interest policies & registers in place
- Fraud & whistleblowing policies and investigations
- Good Relations Unit / equality action plan
- Council constitution, standing orders & scheme of delegation
- Expert professional advice
- Partners and contractors required to comply with relevant policies

B: Ensuring openness

- Council / committee meetings open to the public and agendas / minutes on website with a process in place for time bound restrictions
- Belfast Agenda developed via extensive consultation and engagement with public "Belfast Conversation" events as well as statutory and other key partners
- Statement of Community Involvement for production of the Local Development Plan
- Ongoing consultation and engagement with staff & trade unions
- Corporate communications
- Annual financial report and annual report to Equality Commission published on BCC website
- Partnership / legal agreements with GLL, Active Belfast, arc21, BWUH Ltd, Visit Belfast
- "Your Say" consultation hub on BCC website

C: Defining outcomes

- Belfast Agenda outlines long term economic, social and environmental benefits
- Preferred Options Paper for the Local Development Plan sets out how strategic aims align to Belfast Agenda
- Corporate plan outlines the annual contribution to the Belfast Agenda
- City centre regeneration & investment strategy
- Organisational development strategy
- Physical Investment Programme
- Leisure transformation programme
- Grant funding processes
- Equality Impact Assessments

D: Optimising the achievement of outcomes

- Corporate plan and departmental plans aligned to delivery of Belfast Agenda, with specific programmes of work assigned to Chief Officers
- Consultation and engagement processes
- Strategic financial management framework in place, including quarterly challenge process.
- Performance management framework
- Regular reports on progress of our performance improvement plan (corporate plan) to CMT and SP&R
- Risk management strategy & framework
- Commercial Panel aims to ensure that commercial activity places an emphasis on outcomes

E: Developing capacity & capability

- Organisational development strategy
- Benchmarking activity
- Efficiency programme
- Regular performance monitoring of the delivery of improvement objectives
- Learning and development policy
- Health and wellbeing strategy
- Appraisal scheme in place for Chief Officers, Heads of Service and Senior Managers
- PDPs for officers and Members
- Member capacity building plan in place for 2017/18
- Continuing Development Programme in place for the Planning Committee
- Party group briefings
- Commercial Panel to lead on the development of commercial skills

F: Finance, performance and risk management

- Strategic financial management framework in place
- Efficiency programme
- Performance management framework
- Corporate performance management (CorVu) system in place
- Risk management strategy
- Corporate risk management system (MKinsight) and processes / procedures in place
- Regular reporting of finance, risk & performance
- Audit and Risk Panel
- Internal audit function / annual internal audit strategy & plan in place
- Recommendations Monitor process
- Data protection policy and procedures

G: Transparency, reporting & effective accountability

- BCC website regularly updated
- Publication of key reports including the annual financial report, annual governance statement, performance improvement report and annual report to Equality Commission
- Committee support framework to approve papers prior to submission to Members
- AGRS (internal audit) annual assurance statement within the annual governance statement
- Internal Audit effectiveness annually reviewed against public sector internal audit standards, with an independent external review every five years
- Internal / external audit recommendations followed up as part of recommendations monitoring process every six months

The Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources is the Council's designated Chief Financial Officer under the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, responsible for the proper administration of the Council's financial affairs.

The Council's financial management arrangements conform to the governance requirements of the CIPFA Statement on the Role of the Chief Financial Officer in Local Government (2016).

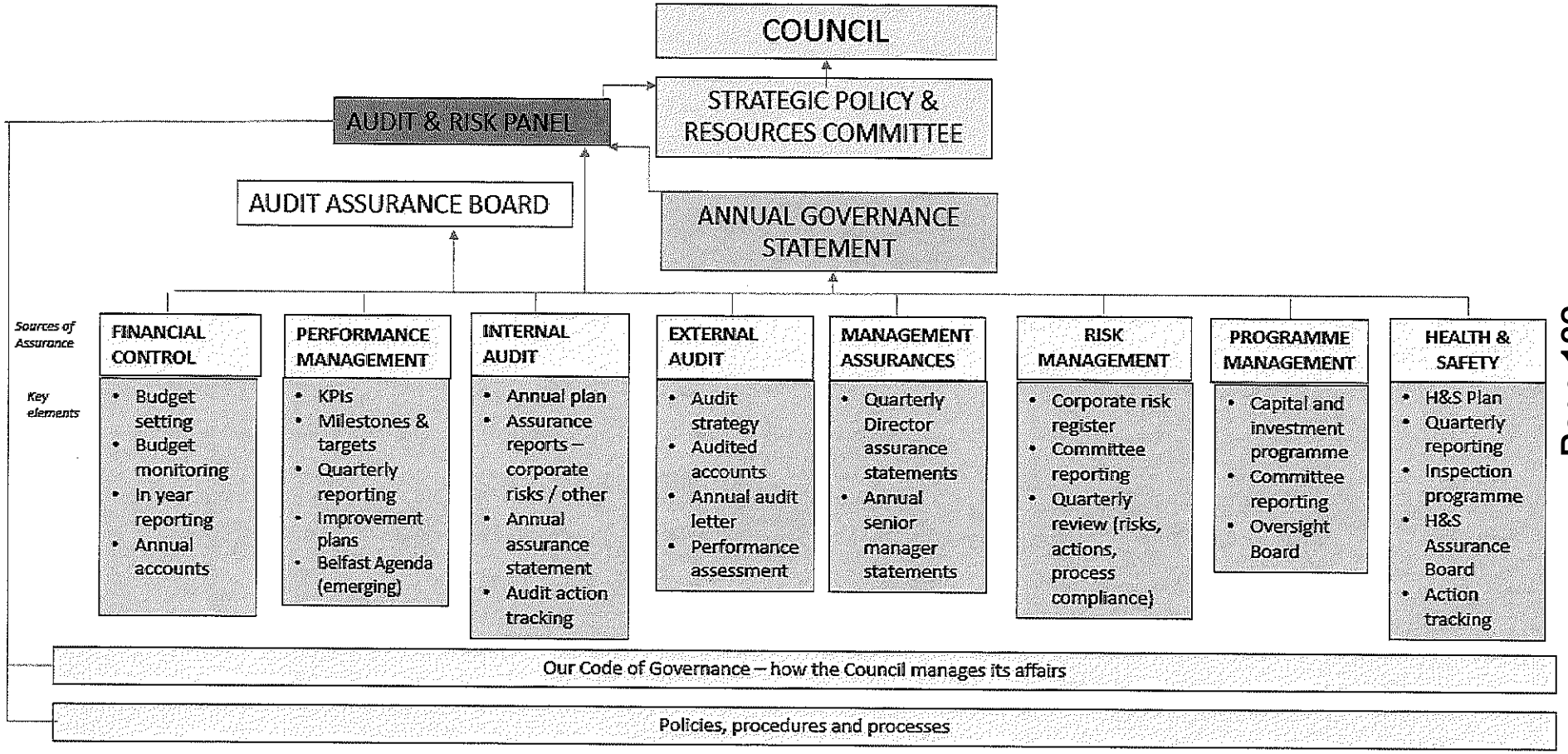
The CIPFA Statement on the Role of the Head of Internal Audit (2010) sets out the five principles that define the core activities and behaviours that belong to the role of the Head of Internal Audit (HIA) in public service organisations and the organisational arrangements needed to support them.

The Head of AGRS, and the supporting operational arrangements in place, conform to the 5 principles set out in the CIPFA Statement. This is demonstrated through a self-assessment exercise undertaken by AGRS. While the principles state that the HIA should not be responsible for preparing the annual governance report, the arrangements within the Council, involve AGRS co-coordinating the preparation of the Annual Governance Statement which is then reviewed and approved by the Corporate Management Team, Assurance Board, Audit and Risk Panel before being signed by the Chair of Strategic Policy & Resources, the Chief Executive and the Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources.

Review of Effectiveness

The following diagram illustrates the Assurance Framework in place that provides information on compliance with the various elements of the Council's Governance Framework, including performance reports, health and safety reports, finance reports, internal audit reports and risk management reports.

Key Components of the Council's Assurance Framework



The various in year and year end reports arising from the Assurance Framework are reviewed and approved by the Audit and Risk Panel and Strategic Policy and Resources Committee annually.

In addition, the review of the effectiveness of the Governance Framework is also informed by:

- the annual review and update of the Code of Governance;
- comments or recommendations made by the external auditors during their annual audit; and
- the Head of Audit Governance and Risk Services (AGRS) annual assurance statement for the period ending 2016/17, which gives an opinion on the Council's risk and control environment.

An extract from the Head of AGRS Annual Assurance Statement for the period ending 2016/17 is given below:

As Head of Audit, Governance and Risk Services (AGRS), on the basis of work carried out, I can provide a reasonable assurance regarding the adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's framework of governance, risk management and control. This opinion is based on the following:

- *evidence from audit assignments that areas subject to detailed internal audit during 2016/17, in that AGRS has been able to provide positive statements of assurance with the majority of audits falling into the 'some improvement needed' category - the 2nd tier of assurance in the 4 tier model*

- *application of risk management and management assurance processes and our review of the management of key corporate risks*

- *the evidence set out in the review of the Council's Code of Governance and Annual Governance Statement regarding the range of key assurance and governance arrangements that the Council has in place to direct / oversee its activities.*

Some weaknesses and areas for improvement have been identified through our audit work. These have been reported in detail to the Council's Assurance Board and Audit Panel during 2016/17 through quarterly progress reports. In addition, I have highlighted, where appropriate, where further action is required to implement agreed audit actions.

With regard to risk management, a fundamental review of corporate risks was undertaken by Chief Officers in 2015/16. This enabled production of a risk map / assessment and related action plans which reflected the Council's new responsibilities, key programmes of work as well as key 'business as usual' risks. During 2016/17 AGRS has undertaken independent reviews of the management of these key corporate risks. While these reviews have confirmed the focus of management on these key risks, our work has identified that further action will be required to implement risk action plans and reduce risk exposure to target levels.

I can confirm that the AGRS Service has conformed to Public Sector Internal Audit Standards during 2016/17. A quality assurance and improvement programme is in place including internal review of work, annual assessment against professional standards, quarterly progress and performance reporting to the Assurance Board and Audit & Risk Panel. An external review of AGRS is due in 2017.

Continued effort has been put into developing and implementing the key elements of an assurance framework within the Council with the key elements being:

- a process whereby senior managers are required to sign annual assurance statements;
- a process whereby Directors are required to sign quarterly assurance statements;
- embedding risk management;
- business planning and related performance reporting arrangements;
- an Audit and Risk Panel;
- a professional internal audit function, which has been reviewed for effectiveness against the CIPFA Code of Practice for Internal Audit in Local Government; and
- a Health & Safety Assurance Board.

Update on the Significant Governance Issues that were declared at the year-end 2016

7 issues were declared last year and 3 of these continue to be declared as issues in this year's statement, and management have provided a brief update on the work that was done last year to manage these issues. An update on the action that was taken regarding the remaining 4 issues that were declared last year, is provided below.

<u>New delivery / operating models</u>

The governance structures and reporting protocols between ABL, GLL and the Council have are now firmly established. A Partnership Manager has been in place since February 2016 and is now fully integrated into the contract and relationships management and performance reporting processes. While commercial challenges remain in relation to growing the business in a very competitive market, income and participation continues to rise steadily.

Regarding the operating model for the BWUH, governance structures and reporting arrangements were in place throughout 16/17 and are due to reviewed in 17/18 to ensure they are operating effectively.

<u>City Centre Regeneration</u>

During 16/17 we undertook the following actions to manage the risk:

- established a permanent team to deliver the strategy
- established a project review board
- developed initial City Centre Investment fund procedures and governance arrangements

<u>Delivery of the Local Development Plan</u>

There was ongoing work to secure additional resources and a local development plan steering group and a project management team were established to ensure appropriate consultation. A business plan linked to the agreed timetable setting out key dates and targets for the 16/17 period was in place, with regular performance management

monitoring. The Plan Timetable and Statement of Community Involvement were approved and adopted and the Preferred Options Paper (POP) was published on 26 January 2017 and was open for consultation until April 2017

Delivery of the Leisure Estates Programme

During 2016/2017 significant progess was made including:

- Agreement on the facilities mixes for Robinson, Andersonstown and Brook and high level facilities mixes for Avoniel and Templemore
- Opening of the Olympia in January 2017 which saw over 350 new members signing up in the first month alone
- Mediation process settled in respect of the Robinson Centre. Demolition works commenced on site which are due to be completed by Summer 2017
- Planning approved for the new centres at Robinson and Brook in April 2017 with planning submitted for Andersonstown
- Appointment of the contractor for the build works for Andersonstown, Brook and Robinson under the biggest capital contract ever awarded by the Council
- A first-round pass and a development grant of up to £380,000 was awarded by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) in October 2016 towards the redevelopment of the Templemore Baths. Following the development phase, a detailed proposal for £4.62 million grant towards the £17million project will be submitted to the HLF by October 2018.
- Stage 2 designs completed for Avoniel
- Robust governance in place for the leisure programme with a Leisure Transformation Board, Client Delivery Group and Capital Delivery Group with robust reporting and programme and project risk registers, issues logs etc.
- Establishment of a dedicated Physical Programme Management Office to co-ordinate all physical projects which will include the Leisure Programme
- Dedicated internal resources have been assigned including a Project Manager, Assistant Project Managers, Project Sponsors

Significant Governance Issues for the year-end 2017

The significant governance issues for 2016/17 were identified through the review of the red risks in the Corporate Risk Register for the year ending 31 March 2017, consideration of significant events / issues and also review of the Directors' Annual Assurance Statements.

The most significant issues for the Council are in relation to:

1. Agreement and delivery of the Community Plan / Belfast Agenda
2. Waste management
3. Organisation's Transformation Programme
4. Digital Information Security
5. External fraud
6. Procurement

A description of the significant governance issues listed above is detailed on the following pages.

1. **Agreement and delivery of the Community Plan / Belfast Agenda**

This issue was raised in last year's AGS and during 16/17 we undertook the following actions to manage the risk:

- secured dedicated resources for the development of the Belfast Agenda
- established a Community Planning Partnership to support for the community planning process,
- undertook extensive consultation with key partners to develop the Belfast Agenda.

Currently staff are working through the comments received with a view to finalising the Belfast Agenda by September 2017. The main issue for 17/18 will be on delivery of the Belfast Agenda and the key actions to manage this are as follows:

- Establish appropriate governance structures
- Develop an action plan for year 1 priorities
- Agree and implement performance management arrangements, with reference to the agreed outcome framework
- Implement a reporting process
- Commission a city dashboard
- Continue to put resources in place in line with creation of strategic hub.

2. **Waste management**

This issue was also raised in last year's AGS and during 16/17 we undertook the following actions to manage the risk:

- development of contingency arrangements in relation to residual waste treatment
- commissioning a value for money review of recycling centres
- extensive work to develop a strategic waste plan as well as ongoing contract monitoring reviews.

Concerns continue to exist corporately around mitigating the risk of managing Belfast's waste performance against targets affordably against market capacity issues (e.g. the fire at Wastebeater), increased rate of waste growth and legacy issues, which have coalesced to suppress the city's recycling rate to 40%. The strategic waste plan (the Waste Framework) proposes approaches to achieve the target and contribute to job creation, but it is dependent upon ongoing Member support.

3. **Design and Delivery of the Organisation's Transformation Programme**

An issue regarding change management was raised in last year's AGS and during 16/17 we completed a number of corporate organisational design and development actions including

- Director of City Centre Regeneration recruited
- Waterfront and Ulster Hall staff transferred to new Council owned company;
- new Managing Director and board recruited
- 2 corporate VR tranches
- Overall organisational model agreed by committee.

The council's organisational development strategy was the first step in establishing a planned and systematic approach to organizational improvement and has delivered significant internal change to date. Eighteen months into this programme for change, it is now time for the council to develop the next phase of its transformation. The corporate risk has been refocused as follows "failure to design and deliver the organisation's transformation programme to ensure that the Council is fit to deliver the corporate plan and Belfast Agenda" and the key action to manage this risk will be the development and implementation of an integrated transformational programme.

4. Digital Information Security

The most significant issue relating to the services provided by Digital Services concern the security of our information assets. Digital Services uses its resources to deliver a securely designed infrastructure, continually improve the maturity of security processes and to ensure security controls are in place to detect threats to the ICT environment. The delivery of a secure ICT Infrastructure aligns security activities with business need in order to optimise security budgets and resources.

Delivering a secure infrastructure is a constantly evolving process and consideration must be given to changing threats and risks which must be aligned the delivery of the council's goals and objectives. A summary of the key actions is provided below:

- Regular penetration testing to determine external vulnerabilities
- Business Continuity Plan in place and regularly reviewed
- Robust change management controls
- Secure ICT Infrastructure in place
- Security contract with external security experts
- Key support & maintenance contracts with key suppliers
- Semi-automated process for managing moves, adds and changes fed from payroll system
- ICT Security Policy, Computer Use Policy, Password Policy, Removable media policy
- Template for response to a major security incident
- Maintain knowledge of advanced threats
- Review of security controls for Exchange Online
- Office 365 Online Protection
- During 2016/17 a specialist, independent audit of the Council's IT Infrastructure was undertaken and this has provided an assurance on our current arrangements. However, given the level of threat, continued action is required to manage related risks and an action plan is being developed to address recommendations arising from this review.

5. Procurement

At the year-end a new corporate risk was added to the corporate risk register regarding the risk of poor commissioning, procurement process, contract management planning and delivery practice in the Council which would affect the Councils ability to deliver its objectives, achieve value for money, opens the Council to legal challenge and results in reputational damage. This risk reflects the importance of managing compliance issues and also the importance of securing efficiencies through the procurement process. The key actions to manage this have been developed and agreed by the Risk Owner.

6. External fraud

The targeting of the Council's payment systems by criminals attempting to divert payments to fraudulent bank accounts, continues to be a major financial risk to the Council.

Following the fraudulent change of bank details to one of the council's main vendors in 2013, revised control procedures were implemented within the Central Transactions Unit (CTU). These procedures included enhanced checks, documentation and additional supervisory controls. The controls in place prevented two fraudulent attempts to change bank account details in April 2017 which, if successful, could have led to significant financial losses to the council. The details of both attempts have been passed to the PSNI, the NIAO and other local authorities.

The Finance Service is conscious that international crime gangs are likely to try different approaches to targeting financial systems and processes in attempts to breach standard controls. Management, and in particular the Central Transactions Unit, are therefore working with AGRS to not only ensure that existing controls are maintained but to try and identify new ways that fraud could be attempted and to ensure that the controls and checks in place are robust enough to prevent and detect such attempts if they occur.

Signed: .....
Chair Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Signed: .....
Chief Executive Officer

Signed: .....
Chief Financial Officer

NORTHERN IRELAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT BODIES'

REMUNERATION REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017

INTRODUCTION

The Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 require larger local government bodies to prepare a remuneration report as part of the statement of accounts.

ALLOWANCE AND REMUNERATION ARRANGEMENTS

COUNCILLORS

Allowances are payable by councils to councillors and committee members under Part 3 of the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 and The Local Government (Payments to Councillors) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012, which came into operation on 1 April 2012.

Following a review of allowances, carried out by an independent Councillors' Allowances Remuneration Panel, which was appointed in May 2013, the then Minister of the Environment advised the Northern Ireland Assembly in a written statement of the new levels of allowances applicable for councillors from 1 April 2015.

A consolidated document on Guidance and determinations on Councillors' Allowances applicable from 1 April 2017 were issued by the Department for Communities on January 2017 . The determinations and rates have been updated in LG 03/2017 . Details of the allowances paid to individual councillors are published on council websites.

Following local elections on 22 May 2014, 462 councillors were elected to the 11 new councils for a four year term. Belfast City Council had 60 councillors in 2016/17.

SENIOR EMPLOYEES

The remuneration of senior employees employed by the Council is determined by the Council in line with that determined by the National Joint Council (NJC) for Local Government Services. Senior staff are those staff who are members of the Executive Management Team/Senior Management Team.

Council appointments of employees are made in accordance with the Local Government Staff Commissions' Code of Procedures on Recruitment and Selection, which requires appointment to be on merit and on the basis of fair and open competition.

Unless otherwise stated below, the officials covered by this report hold appointments which are open-ended.

ALLOWANCES PAID TO COUNCILLORS

The total amount paid to Councillors by way of allowances, under Part 3 of the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 and the Local Government (Payments to Councillors) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012 was:

Table 1: Total Allowances paid to councillors (Audited information)

Allowance	2016/17		2015/16	
	Total Allowances £	Number of Councillors receiving the Allowance	Total Allowances £	Number of Councillors receiving the Allowance
Basic Allowance	848,445	60	849,617	60
Special Responsibility Allowance	107,661	35	103,749	27
Lord Mayor Allowance	34,800	1	34,800	1
Deputy Lord Mayor Allowance	6,250	1	6,250	1
PCSP Allowance	14,940	24	13,560	33
High Sheriff's Allowance	6,249	1	6,249	1
Subsistence	5,273	22	6,962	24
Mileage	15,640	36	11,670	38
Courses/ Conferences Visits	13,699	39	21,949	30
Telephone Rental	3,914	16	4,580	21
Miscellaneous costs	908	2	2,267	7
Other Travel Allowance	14,323	21	15,715	27
Severance Payments*	-	-	16,600	1
TOTAL ALLOWANCES	**1,072,102**		**1,093,968**	

*Severance payments shown above are made under the Local Government (Severance Payments to Councillors) Regulations (NI) 2013 and are fully funded by the Northern Ireland Executive.

Details of the allowances paid to individual councillors in 2016/17 are published on the council website at www.belfastcity.gov.uk/council/freedomofinformation/councillorexpenses.aspx. The above table provides further information and detail on the allowances paid to councillors to that published on the council website.

The following is a summary of resignations and appointments of Councillors during 2016/17:

Paula Bradshaw resigned as Councillor on 7 May 2016 and was replaced by Councillor Kate Nicholl on 6 June 2016.

Christopher Stalford resigned as Councillor on 7 May 2016 and was replaced by Councillor Lee Reynolds on 27 May 2016.

Gerry Carroll resigned as Councillor on 7 May 2016 and was replaced by Councillor Matthew Collins on 24 May 2016.

Ross Browne resigned as Councillor on 30 November 2016 and was replaced by Councillor Georgina Milne on 1 December 2016.

Nial O'Donghaile resigned as Councillor on 7 May 2016 and was replaced by Councillor Mairead O'Donnell on 26 May 2016.

Nichola Mallon resigned as Councillor on 7 May 2016 and was replaced by Councillor Paul McCusker on 23 May 2016.

REMUNERATION OF SENIOR EMPLOYEES (Audited information)

The remuneration of senior employees covers the Executive Management Team/Senior Management Team. The following table provides details of the remuneration paid to senior employees in 2016/17:

Officers	2016/17				2015/16			
	Salary (Full year equivalent in brackets where applicable) £'000	Bonus Payments £'000	Benefits in kind (to nearest £100) £'000	Total £'000	Salary (Full year equivalent in brackets where applicable) £'000	Bonus Payments £'000	Benefits in kind (to nearest £100) £'000	Total £'000
Chief Executive - Suzanne Wylie	130-135			130-135	120-125			120-125
Director of Finance & Resources- Ronan Cregan	105-110			105-110	100-105			100-105
Director of Property & Projects- Gerry Millar	100-105			100-105	100-105			100-105
Director of Organisational Development- Jill Milne	95-100			95-100	95-100			95-100
Director of City & Neighbourhood Services - Nigel Grimshaw	95-100			95-100	90-95			90-95
Director of Planning & Place- Phil Williams	90-95			90-95	90-95			90-95
Director of City Centre Development- Nuala Gallagher	75-80 95-100 (FYE)			95-100	-			-
Town Solicitor - John Walsh	90-95			90-95	85-90			85-90

The Director of Planning & Place and the Director of City Centre Development are employed under a fixed term contract for two years with the option to extend for one year.

Councils are required to disclose the relationship between the remuneration of the highest paid member of the Executive Management Team/Senior Management Team and the median remuneration of the Councils workforce.

The banded remuneration of the highest paid member of the Executive Management Team/Senior Management Team in the financial year 2016/17 was £130k - £135k. This was 5.9 times the median remuneration of the workforce, which was £22,434.

Table 3: Relationship between the remuneration of the highest paid member of the Executive Management Team/Senior Management Team and the median remuneration of the Councils workforce (Audited information)

	2016/17 £'000	2015/16 £'000
Salary Band of Highest Paid member of the Executive	130-135	120-125
Median Total Remuneration	22.4	19.8
Ratio	5.9	6.2

In 2016/17, no employees received remuneration in excess of the highest paid member of the Executive Management Team/Senior Management Team.

Total remuneration includes salary, bonus payments and benefits in kind.

Salary
"Salary" includes gross salary, overtime, and any gratia payments

Benefits in Kind
The monetary value of benefits in kind covers any benefits provided by the employer and treated by HM Revenue and Customs as a taxable emolument.

Exit Packages for staff
The number of exit packages provided to staff by the Council during 2016/17, together with total cost per band and total cost of voluntary redundancies, as agreed under the Council's voluntary redundancy scheme, are set out in the table below:

Table 4: Exit Packages in 2016/17 (Audited information)

Severance Package Cost Band	2016/17				2015/16			
	Number of Compulsory Redundancies	Number of Other departures agreed	Total Number of Exit Packages in each Cost Band	Total Cost of Packages in each Cost Band £'000	Number of Compulsory Redundancies	Number of Other departures agreed	Total Number of Exit Packages in each Cost Band	Total Cost of Packages in each Cost Band £'000
£0 - £20,000		1	1	17		15	15	176
£20,001 - £40,000		9	9	246		13	13	366
£40,001 - £60,000		6	6	315		9	9	417
£60,001 - £80,000		5	5	341		3	3	192
£80,001 - £100,000								
£100,001 - £150,000		2	2	200				
£150,001 - £200,000								
Total	0	23	23	1,119	0	40	40	1,151

Pension Benefits

The Local Government Pension Scheme (Northern Ireland) (the Scheme) which is a funded defined benefit pension scheme, which provides retirement benefits for council employees on a "career average revalued earnings" basis from 1 April 2015. Prior to that date benefits were built up on a "final salary" basis.

From 1 April 2015, a member builds up retirement pension at the rate of 1/49th pensionable pay for each year. Pension benefits in relation to membership between 1 April 2009 and 31 March 2015 were built up at the rate of 1/60th pensionable pay for each year of membership. There is no automatic lump sum provided in respect of membership after 31 March 2009. Pension benefits in relation to any membership before 1 April 2009 were built up at the rate of 1/80th (pension) and 3/80ths (tax-free lump sum) of pensionable pay for each year of membership up to 31 March 2009. At retirement, members may give up some pension for additional lump sum, subject to HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) limits. The conversion rate is £12 additional lump sum for every £1 of pension given up.

Councillors have been able to join the Scheme since May 2011. The Scheme application is modified to reflect the fact that councillors hold an elected office. Councillor members have always accrued pension on a career average basis. Prior to 1 April 2015 pension was accrued at a rate of 1/60th and thereafter at a rate of 1/49th.

The Scheme is funded by contributions made by both employees/councillors and employers. Prior to 1 April 2009, a member's contribution rates were fixed at 6% of their pensionable remuneration (except for those who were entitled to contribute to the Scheme at 5% before 1 February 2003 and have remained in continuous employment). Tiered member contribution rates, determined by the whole-time equivalent rate of pay, were introduced from 1 April 2009. From 1 April 2015, the member contribution rates are determined on the actual rate of pay.

The ranges for the bands for tiered contribution rates are revised by the Department for Communities in April each year in accordance with the increase applied to a pension in payment. The bands, effective from 1 April 2016, were as follows:

Table 5: Employee Contribution Rates

Band	Range	Employee Contribution Rate
1	£0 - £14,000	5.50%
2	£14,001 - £21,300	5.80%
3	£21,301 - £35,600	6.50%
4	£35,601 - £43,000	6.80%
5	£43,001 - £85,000	8.50%
6	More than £85,000	10.50%

Employers' contribution rates are determined by the fund's actuary every three years at the triennial valuation. The 2013 triennial valuation was undertaken as at 31 March 2013 and an employer contribution rate of 20% for those employers whose participation in the Scheme is deemed to be indefinite has been set for the following three years, effective from 1 April 2014:

Table 6: Employer Contribution Rates

Year	Employer Contribution Rate
1 April 2014 - 31 March 2015	20%
1 April 2015 - 31 March 2016	20%
1 April 2016 - 31 March 2017	20%

The Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 were made on 27 June 2014 and The Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment and Transitional Provisions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 were made on 30 June 2014. Both sets of regulations are effective from 1 April 2015.

Councillors have been able to join the Scheme since May 2011 and therefore have not accrued significant benefits thus far. However, the in-year pension contributions made by the Council for all councillors during 2016/17 was £174,458.

The value of pension benefits of the most senior management of the Council accrued during the year was as follows:

Table 7: Pension Benefits of senior staff in 2016/17 (audited information)

Officers	Accrued Pension at pension age as at 31/3/17 £'000	Real increase in pension and related lump sum at pension age £'000	CETV at 31/3/17 £'000	CETV at 31/3/16 £'000	Real increase/ (decrease) in CETV £'000
Suzanne Wylie	50-55	5-7.5	796	723	58
Ronan Cregan	40-45	5-7.5	728	662	49
Gerry Millar	45-50	0	1038	1087	(49)
Jill Milne	30-35	2.5-5	471	428	28
Nigel Grimshaw	0-5	0-2.5	25	4	11
Phil Williams	0-5	0-2.5	60	26	23
Nuala Gallagher	0-5	0-2.5	14	0	6
John Walsh	30-35	(0-2.5)	517	502	0.5

The Cash Equivalent Transfer Value (CETV)
This is the actuarially assessed capitalised value of the pension scheme benefits accrued by a member at a particular point in time. The benefits valued are the member's accrued benefits and any contingent spouse's pension payable from the scheme. It is a payment made by a pension scheme or arrangement to secure pension benefits in another pension scheme or arrangement when the member leaves a scheme and chooses to transfer the pension benefits they have accrued in their former scheme. The pension figures shown relate to the benefits that the individual has accrued as a consequence of their total membership of the pension scheme, not just their service in a senior capacity to which disclosure applies. CETVs are calculated in accordance with The Occupational Pension Schemes (Transfer Values) (Amendment) Regulations and do not take account of any actual or potential reduction to benefits resulting from Lifetime Allowance Tax which may be due when pension benefits are taken.

The real increase in the value of the CETV
This reflects the increase in CETV effectively funded by the employer. It takes account of the increase in accrued pension due to inflation, contributions paid by the employee (including the value of any benefits transferred from another pension scheme or arrangement) and uses common market valuation factors for the start and end of the period.

Chief Executive
September 2017

Certificate of the Chief Financial Officer

I certify that:

(a) the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2017 on pages 27 to 116 has been prepared in the form directed by the Department for Communities and under the accounting policies set out on pages 31 to 54.

(b) in my opinion the Statement of Accounts gives a true and fair view of the income and expenditure and cash flows for the financial year and the financial position as at the end of the financial year ending 31st March 2017.

Chief Financial Officer

Date

Council Approval of Statement of Accounts

These accounts were approved by resolution of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 22 September 2017.

Chairman

Date

Independent Auditor's Report to the Members of the
Auditors to provide

Belfast City Council
Movement in Reserves Statement for the year ended 31 March 2017

This Statement shows the movement in the year on the different reserves held by the Council, analysed into 'usable reserves' (i.e. those that can be applied to fund expenditure or reduce local taxation) and other reserves. The 'Surplus or (deficit) on the provision of services' line shows the true economic cost of providing the Council's services, more details of which are shown in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. These are different from the statutory amounts required to be charged to the General Fund Balance for Local Tax purposes. The 'Net increase /Decrease before transfers to statutory and other reserves' line shows the statutory General Fund Balance before any discretionary transfers to or from statutory and other reserves undertaken by the Council.

	General Fund Summary	Other Fund Balances and Reserves	Capital Receipts Reserve	Total Usable Reserves	Total Unusable Reserves	Total Council Reserves
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Balance as at 1 April 2015	**22,050,670**	**27,591,981**	**1,243,066**	**50,885,717**	**398,038,464**	**448,924,181**
Movement in reserves during the year						
Surplus/ (Deficit) on the provision of services	17,080,585	-	-	17,080,585	-	17,080,585
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	-	-	-	-	46,220,358	46,220,358
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	**17,080,585**	-	-	**17,080,585**	**46,220,358**	**63,300,943**
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding under regulations	(16,550,269)	(3,500,000)	(26,046)	(20,076,315)	20,988,032	911,717
Net increase/(decrease) before transfers to Statutory and Other Reserves	**530,316**	**(3,500,000)**	**(26,046)**	**(2,995,730)**	**67,208,390**	**64,212,660**
Transfers to / (from) Statutory and Other Reserves	(3,665,045)	3,618,695	46,350	-	-	-
Other movements	265,293	(31,354)		233,939	91,000	324,939
Increase/ (Decrease) in year	**(2,869,436)**	**87,341**	**20,304**	**(2,761,791)**	**67,299,390**	**64,537,599**
Balance as at 31 March 2016	**19,181,234**	**27,679,322**	**1,263,369**	**48,123,925**	**465,337,854**	**513,461,779**
Movement in reserves during the year						
Surplus/ (Deficit) on the provision of services	(16,988,256)	-	-	(16,988,256)	-	(16,988,256)
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	-	-	-	-	(11,265,430)	(11,265,430)
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	**(16,988,256)**	-	-	**(16,988,256)**	**(11,265,430)**	**(28,253,686)**
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding under regulations	20,212,285	(3,070,139)	369,088	17,511,234	(17,552,405)	(41,171)
Net increase/(decrease) before transfers to Statutory and Other Reserves	**3,224,029**	**(3,070,139)**	**369,088**	**522,978**	**(28,817,835)**	**(28,294,857)**
Transfers to / (from) Statutory and Other Reserves	(2,260,540)	2,260,540	-	-	-	-
Other movements	844,729	283,411	-	1,128,140	2,603,150	3,731,290
Increase/(Decrease) in year	**1,808,218**	**(526,188)**	**369,088**	**1,651,118**	**(26,214,685)**	**(24,563,567)**
Balance as at 31 March 2017	**20,989,452**	**27,153,134**	**1,632,457**	**49,775,043**	**439,123,169**	**488,898,212**

Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for the year ended 31 March 2017

This statement shows the accounting cost in the year of providing services in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices, rather than the amount to be funded from taxation. Councils raise taxation to cover expenditure in accordance with regulations; this may be different from the accounting cost. The taxation position is shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

		2016/17			2015/16		
		Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure	Gross Expenditure	Gross Income	Net Expenditure
Service Expenditure	Notes	£	£	£	£	£	£
Leisure and Recreational Services	2	93,756,679	(8,195,355)	85,561,324	86,668,706	(9,669,218)	76,999,488
Environmental Services	2	72,660,451	(8,931,271)	63,729,180	69,198,058	(8,950,545)	60,247,513
Planning and Development Services	2	29,514,601	(12,994,056)	16,520,545	26,572,728	(11,303,953)	15,268,775
Highways and Transport Services	2	998,433	(1,881,465)	(883,032)	2,208,650	(2,192,260)	16,390
DRM and Corporate Management	2	15,895,347	(2,535,514)	13,359,833	20,392,280	(1,024,276)	19,368,004
Other Services	2	9,090,629	(4,583,024)	4,507,605	8,122,541	(4,508,933)	3,613,608
Cost of Services on Continuing Operations		**221,916,140**	**(39,120,685)**	**182,795,455**	**213,162,963**	**(37,649,185)**	**175,513,778**
Other Operating Expenditure	7	4,122,115	(411,613)	3,710,502	125,870	-	125,870
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	8	4,996,832	(13,970,237)	(8,973,405)	5,690,842	(9,190,683)	(3,499,841)
(Surplus) or Deficit on Discontinued Operations				-			-
Share of Operating Results of associates and joint ventures	28	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net Operating Expenditure		**231,035,087**	**(53,502,535)**	**177,532,552**	**218,979,675**	**(46,839,868)**	**172,139,807**
Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income	9	1,672,075	(162,216,371)	(160,544,296)	-	(189,220,392)	(189,220,392)
(Surplus)/Deficit on the Provision of Services		**232,707,162**	**(215,718,906)**	**16,988,256**	**218,979,675**	**(236,060,260)**	**(17,080,585)**
(Surplus)/Deficit on revaluation of non-current assets	10			(18,228,570)			(22,566,358)
Surplus/(Deficit) arising on revaluation of available-for-sale financial assets	25			-			-
Remeasurements of the Net Defined Benefit Liability (Asset)	19			29,494,000			(23,654,000)
Share of Other Comprehensive Expenditure & Income of associates and joint ventures	28			-			-
Other Comprehensive (Income) and Expenditure				**11,265,430**			**(46,220,358)**
Total Comprehensive (Income) and Expenditure				**28,253,686**			**(63,300,943)**

Belfast City Council
Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2017

The Balance Sheet shows the value as at the Balance Sheet date of the Council's assets and liabilities. The net assets of the Council (assets less liabilities) are matched by the reserves held by the Council. Reserves are reported in two categories. The first category of reserves are usable reserves, i.e. those reserves that the Council may use to provide services, subject to the need to maintain a prudent level of reserves and any statutory limitations on their use (for example the Capital Receipts Reserve that may only be used to fund capital expenditure or repay debt). The second category of reserves are those that the authority is not able to use to provide services. This category of reserves includes reserves that hold unrealised gains and losses (for example the Revaluation Reserve), where amounts would only become available to provide services if the assets are sold; and reserves that hold timing differences shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement line 'Adjustments between accounting basis and funding basis under regulations'.

	Note	31st March 2017	31st March 2016
		£	£
Fixed Assets	10	646,270,937	618,434,227
Long Term Investments	15	-	-
Investment in Subsidiaries, Associates and Joint Ventures	28	3,070,140	-
Long Term Debtors	14	1,296,062	6,191,192
LONG TERM ASSETS		**650,637,139**	**624,625,419**
Inventories	13	295,715	296,504
Short Term Debtors	14	21,920,844	26,739,301
Cash and Cash Equivalents	23	7,317,266	31,705,507
Assets Held for Sale	10	3,197,000	1,500,000
CURRENT ASSETS		**32,730,825**	**60,241,312**
Short Term Borrowing	15	163,482	-
Short Term Creditors	16	27,011,604	35,418,808
Provisions	17	2,584,680	6,303,800
CURRENT LIABILITIES		**29,759,766**	**41,722,608**
Long Term Creditors	16	82,707	94,146
Provisions	17	1,716,737	2,963,742
Long Term Borrowing	15	36,444,276	34,761,509
Other Long Term Liabilities	19	125,832,942	91,099,942
Donated Assets Account	20	10,001	410,000
Capital Grants Receipts in Advance	21	623,323	353,005
LONG TERM LIABILITIES		**164,709,986**	**129,682,344**
NET ASSETS		**488,898,212**	**513,461,779**
USABLE RESERVES			
Capital Receipts Reserve	24	1,632,457	1,263,369
Capital Fund	24	24,850,616	25,475,756
Leisure Mobilisation Fund	24	1,945,000	2,000,000
Other Balances and Reserves	24	357,518	203,566
General Fund	24	20,989,452	19,181,234
		49,775,043	**48,123,925**
UNUSABLE RESERVES			
Capital Adjustment Account	25	427,822,657	433,923,306
Revaluation Reserve	25	138,508,289	123,817,218
Pensions Reserve	25	(125,832,942)	(91,099,942)
Accumulated Absences Account	25	(1,374,835)	(1,302,728)
		439,123,169	**465,337,854**
NET WORTH		**488,898,212**	**513,461,779**

Belfast City Council
Cash Flow Statement at 31 March 2017

The Cash Flow Statement shows the changes in cash and cash equivalents of the Council during the reporting period. The statement shows how the Council generates and uses cash and cash equivalents by classifying cash flows as operating, investing and financing activities. The amount of net cash flows arising from operating activities is a key indicator of the extent to which the operations of the Council are funded by way of taxation and grant income or from the recipients of services provided by the Council. Investing activities represent the extent to which cash outflows have been made for resources which are intended to contribute to the Council's future service delivery. Cash flows arising from financing activities are useful in predicting claims on future cash flows by providers of capital (i.e. borrowing) to the Council.

	Note	2016/17	2015/16
		£	£
Net Deficit on the provision of services		(16,988,256)	17,080,585
Adjustment for non-cash movements	23a	45,393,067	40,206,407
Adjust for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities	23a	(6,289,437)	(40,361,749)
Net cash flows from operating activities	23	22,115,374	16,925,243
Cash flows from Investing Activities	23d	(48,349,864)	(38,420,257)
Net Cash flows from Financing Activities	23e	1,846,249	7,062,251
Net increase or decrease in cash and cash equivalents		(24,388,241)	(14,432,763)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	23b	31,705,507	46,138,270
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		7,317,266	31,705,507

1 Accounting Policies

a General Principles

The Statement of Accounts summarises the Council's transactions for the 2016/17 financial year and its position at the year-end of 31 March 2017. The Council is required to prepare an annual Statement of Accounts in a form directed by the Department for Communities in accordance with regulations 3 (7) and (8) in the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 in accordance with proper accounting practices.

These practices primarily comprise the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2016/17 and the Service Reporting Code of Practice 2016/17 (SeRCOP), supported by International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). The accounting convention adopted in the Statement of Accounts is principally historical cost, modified by the revaluation of certain categories of non-current assets and financial instruments.

Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

i) Accruals of Income and Expenditure

- Revenue from the sale of goods is recognised when the Council transfers the significant risks and rewards of ownership to the purchaser and it is probable that economic benefits or service potential associated with the transaction will flow to the Council.

- Revenue from the provision of services is recognised when the Council can measure reliably the percentage of completion of the transaction and it is probable that economic benefits or service potential associated with the transaction will flow to the Council.

- Supplies are recorded as expenditure when they are consumed – where there is a gap between the date supplies are received and their consumption, they are carried as inventories on the Balance Sheet.

- Expenses in relation to services received (including services provided by employees) are recorded as expenditure when the services are received rather than when payments are made.

- Interest payable on borrowings and receivable on investments is accounted for on the basis of the effective interest rate for the relevant financial instrument rather than the cash flows fixed or determined by the contract.

- Where revenue and expenditure have been recognised but cash has not been received or paid, a debtor or creditor for the relevant amount is recorded in the Balance Sheet. Where it is doubtful that debts will be settled, the balance of debtors is written down and a charge made to revenue for the income that might not be collected.

ii) **Cash and Cash Equivalents**

Cash is represented by cash in hand and deposits with financial institutions repayable without penalty on notice of not more than 24 hours. Cash equivalents are investments that mature in six months or less from the date of acquisition and that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash with insignificant risk of change in value. In the Cash Flow Statement, cash and cash equivalents are shown net of bank overdrafts that are repayable on demand and form an integral part of the Council's cash management.

iii) **Contingent Assets**

A contingent asset arises where an event has taken place that gives the Council a possible asset whose existence will only be confirmed by the occurrence or otherwise of uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the Council. Contingent assets are not recognised in the Balance Sheet but disclosed in a note to the accounts where it is probable that there will be an inflow of economic benefits or service potential.

iv) **Contingent Liabilities**

A contingent liability arises where an event has taken place that gives the Council a possible obligation whose existence will only be confirmed by the occurrence or otherwise of uncertain future events not wholly within the control of the Council. Contingent liabilities also arise in circumstances where a provision would otherwise be made but either it is not probable that an outflow of resources will be required or the amount of the obligation cannot be measured reliably. Contingent liabilities are not recognised in the Balance Sheet but disclosed in a note to the accounts.

v) **Employee Benefits**

Short-term employee benefits are those due to be settled within 12 months of the year-end. They include such benefits as wages and salaries, paid annual leave and paid sick leave, bonuses and non-monetary benefits (e.g. cars) for current employees, and are recognised as an expense in the year in which employees render service to the Council. An accrual is made for the cost of holiday entitlements earned by employees but not taken before the year-end and which employees can carry forward into the next financial year.

Termination benefits

Termination benefits are amounts payable as a result of a decision by the Council to terminate an officer's employment before the normal retirement date or an officer's decision to accept voluntary redundancy and are charged on an accruals basis to the Non Distributed Costs line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement at the earlier of:
a) when the offer cannot be withdrawn or
b) when the related restructuring costs are incurred.

Where termination benefits involve the enhancement of pensions, statutory provisions require the General Fund balance to be charged with the amount payable by the Council to the pension fund or pensioner in the year, not the amount calculated according to the relevant accounting standards. In the Movement in Reserves Statement, appropriations are required to and from the Pensions Reserve to remove the notional debits and credits for pension enhancement termination benefits and replace them with debits for the cash paid to the pension fund and pensioners and any such amounts payable but unpaid at the year-end.

Post Employment Benefits

The majority of employees of the Council are members of the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Pension Fund administered by the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Superannuation Committee. The scheme provides defined benefits to members (retirement lump sums and pensions), earned as employees worked for the Council.

As a result of Local Government Reform on 1 April 2015, staff that transferred from Central Government to the Council retained membership of the Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS) Pension Scheme. The scheme provides defined benefits to members (retirement lump sums and pensions). However, the arrangements for the NICS Pension Scheme mean that liabilities for these benefits cannot ordinarily be identified specifically to the Council. The Scheme is therefore accounted for as if it were a defined contribution scheme and no liability for future payments of benefits is recognised in the balance sheet.

The Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Pension Fund

The Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Pension Fund is accounted for as a defined benefits scheme.

The liabilities of the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Pension Fund attributable to the Council are included in the Balance Sheet on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method – i.e. an assessment of the future payments that will be made in relation to retirement benefits earned to date by employees, based on assumptions about mortality rates, employee turnover rates , etc, and projections of projected earnings for current employees.

Liabilities are discounted to their value at current prices, using a discount rate of 2.6%. A discount rate is required to be set equal to the current rate of return on an AA Rated (or equivalent) corporate bond "of equivalent currency and term to the scheme liabilities". The discount rate is based on the AON Hewitt GBP Select AA Curve using the duration of the Council's liability.

The assets of the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' pension fund attributable to the Council are included in the Balance Sheet at their fair value:

- quoted securities – current bid price
- unquoted securities – professional estimate
- property – market value
- unitised securities – current bid price

The change in the net pensions liability is analysed into seven components:

Within the Cost of Services

Current Service Cost – the increase in the present value of the defined benefit obligation (liabilities) resulting from employee service in the current period.

Past Service Cost – (where applicable) the change in the present value of the defined benefit obligation for employee service in prior periods, resulting from a plan amendment (the introduction or withdrawl of, or changes to, a defined benefit plan) or a curtailment (a significant reduction in the number of employees covered by the plan).

Any Gains or Losses on Settlement – (where applicable) arising where a council enters into a transaction that eliminates all further legal or constructive obligations for part or all of the benefits provided under a defined benefit plan.

Within Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure

Net Interest on the Net Defined Benefit Liability (Asset) – the change in the net defined benefit liability (asset) that arises from the passage of time,

Within Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure (Remeasurements)

The Return on Plan Assets – excluding amounts recognised in the Net Interest on the Net Defined Benefit Liability (Asset). This includes interest, dividends and other income derived from the plan assets, together with realised and unrealised gains or losses on the plan assets, less any costs of managing plan assets, and any tax payable by the plan itself other than tax included in the actuarial assumptions used to measure the present value of the defined benefit obligation.

Actuarial Gains and Losses – changes in the present value of the defined benefit obligation resulting from: a) experience adjustments (the effects of differences between the previous actuarial assumptions and what has actually occurred) and b) the effects of changes in actuarial assumptions.

Within the Movement in Reserves Statement Appropriations

Contributions by Scheme Participants – the increase in scheme liabilities and assets due to payments into the scheme by employees (where increased contribution increases pension due to the employee in the future).

Contributions by the Employer - the increase in scheme assets due to payments into the scheme by the employer.

In relation to retirement benefits, statutory provisions require the General Fund balance to be charged with the amount payable by the Council to the pension fund or directly to pensioners in the year, not the amount calculated according to the relevant accounting standards. In the Movement in Reserves Statement, appropriations are made to and from the Pensions Reserve to remove the notional debits and credits for retirement benefits and replace them with debits for the cash paid to the pension fund and pensioners and any such amounts payable but unpaid at the year-end. The negative balance that arises on the Pensions Reserve thereby measures the beneficial impact to the General Fund of being required to account for retirement benefits on the basis of cash flows rather than as benefits are earned by employees.

Discretionary Benefits

The Council also has restricted powers to make discretionary awards of retirement benefits in the event of early retirements. Any liabilities estimated to arise as a result of an award to any member of staff are accrued in the year of the decision to make the award and accounted for using the same policies that are applied to the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' pension fund.

vi) **Events After the Balance Sheet Date**

Events after the balance sheet date are those events, both favourable and unfavourable, that occur between the end of the reporting period and the date when the Statement of Accounts is authorised for issue. Two types of events can be identified:

a. those that provide evidence of conditions that existed at the end of the reporting period – the Statement of Accounts is adjusted to reflect such events

b. those that are indicative of conditions that arose after the reporting period – the Statement of Accounts is not adjusted to reflect such events, but where a category of events would have a material effect disclosure is made in the notes of the nature of the events and their estimated financial effect.

The financial statements may subsequently be adjusted up to the date when they are authorised for issue. This date will be recorded on the financial statements and is usually the date the Local Government Auditor issues his certificate and opinion. Where material adjustments are made in this period they will be disclosed.

Events taking place after the date of authorisation for issue are not reflected in the Statement of Accounts.

vii) **Exceptional Items**

When items of income and expense are material, their nature and amount is disclosed separately, either on the face of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement or in the notes to the accounts, depending on how significant the items are to an understanding of the Council's financial performance.

viii) **Prior Period Adjustments, Changes in Accounting Policies and Estimates and Errors**

Prior period adjustments may arise as a result of a change in accounting policies or to correct a material error. Changes in accounting estimates are accounted for prospectively, i.e., in the current and future years affected by the change and do not give rise to a prior period adjustment.

Changes in accounting policies are only made when required by proper accounting practices or the change provides more reliable or relevant information about the effect of transactions, other events and conditions on the Council's financial position or financial performance. Where a change is made, it is applied retrospectively by adjusting opening balances and comparative amounts for the prior period as if the new policy had always been applied.

Material errors discovered in prior period figures are corrected retrospectively by amending opening balances and comparative amounts for the prior period.

ix) **Financial Instruments**

Most financial instruments held by Councils would fall to be classified into just one class of financial liability and two classes of financial assets:

Financial Liabilities
Amortised Cost

Financial Assets
Loans and Receivables
Available for Sale

Financial liabilities are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the Council becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured at fair value and are carried at their amortised cost. Annual charges to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for interest payable are based on the carrying amount of the liability, multiplied by the effective rate of interest for the instrument. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash payments over the life of the instrument to the amount at which it was originally recognised.

For most of the borrowings that the Council has, this means that the amount presented in the Balance Sheet is the outstanding principal repayable (plus accrued interest); and interest charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the amount payable for the year according to the loan agreement.

Gains and losses on the repurchase or early settlement of borrowing are credited and debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the year of repurchase/settlement. However, where repurchase has taken place as part of a restructuring of the loan portfolio that involves the modification or exchange of existing instruments, the premium or discount is respectively deducted from or added to the amortised cost of the new or modified loan and the write-down to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is spread over the life of the loan by an adjustment to the effective interest rate.

Where premiums and discounts have been charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, regulations allow the impact on the General Fund Balance to be spread over future years. The Council has a policy of spreading the gain or loss over the term that was remaining on the loan against which the premium was payable or discount receivable when it was repaid. The reconciliation of amounts charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement to the net charge required against the District Fund Balance is managed by a transfer to or from the Financial Instruments Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Financial Assets

Financial assets are classified into two types:

a. loans and receivables – assets that have fixed or determinable payments but are not quoted in an active market

b. available-for-sale assets – that have a quoted market price and/or do not have fixed or determinable payments.

Loans and Receivables

Loans and receivables are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the Council becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured at fair value. They are then measured at their amortised cost. Annual credits to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for interest receivable are based on the carrying amount of the asset multiplied by the effective rate of interest for the instrument. For most of the loans that the Council has made, this means that the amount presented in the Balance Sheet is the outstanding principal receivable (plus accrued interest) and interest credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is the amount receivable for the year in the loan agreement.

Where assets are identified as impaired because of a likelihood arising from a past event that payments due under the contract will not be made, the asset is written down and a charge made to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The impairment loss is measured as the difference between the carrying amount and the present value of the revised future cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate.

Any gains and losses that arise on the de-recognition of an asset are credited or debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Available-for-Sale Assets

Available-for-sale assets are recognised on the Balance Sheet when the Council becomes a party to the contractual provisions of a financial instrument and are initially measured and carried at fair value. Where the asset has fixed or determinable payments, annual credits to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for interest receivable are based on the amortised cost of the asset multiplied by the effective rate of interest for the instrument. Where there are no fixed or determinable payments, income (e.g., dividends) is credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement when it becomes receivable by the Council.

Assets are maintained in the Balance Sheet at fair value. Values are based on the following principles:

a. instruments with quoted market prices – the market price

b. other instruments with fixed and determinable payments – discounted cash flow analysis

c. equity shares with no quoted market prices – independent appraisal of company valuations.

The inputs to the measurement techniques are categorised in accordance with the following three levels:

- Level 1 inputs - quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets that the authority can access at the measurement date.
- Level 2 inputs - inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset, either directly or indirectly.
- Level 3 inputs - unobservable inputs for the asset.

Changes in fair value are balanced by an entry in the Available-for-Sale Reserve and the gain/loss is recognised in the Surplus or Deficit on Revaluation of Available-for -Sale Financial Assets. The exception is where impairment losses have been incurred – these are debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, along with any net gain or loss for the asset accumulated in the Available-for-Sale Reserve.

Where assets are identified as impaired because of a likelihood arising from a past event that payments due under the contract will not be made (fixed or determinable payments) or fair value falls below cost, the asset is written down and a charge made to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. If the asset has fixed or determinable payments, the impairment loss is measured as the difference between the carrying amount and the present value of the revised future cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate. Otherwise, the impairment loss is measured as any shortfall of fair value against the acquisition cost of the instrument (net of any principal repayment and amortisation).

Any gains and losses that arise on the de-recognition of the asset are credited or debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, along with any accumulated gains or losses previously recognised in the Available-for-Sale Reserve.

Where fair value cannot be measured reliably, the instrument is carried at cost (less any impairment losses).

x) **Foreign Currency Translation**

Where the Council has entered into a transaction denominated in a foreign currency, the transaction is converted into sterling at the exchange rate applicable on the date the transaction was effective. Where amounts in foreign currency are outstanding at the year-end, they are reconverted at the spot exchange rate at 31 March. Resulting gains or losses are recognised in the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

xi) **Government Grants and Contributions**

Whether paid on account, by instalments or in arrears, government grants and third party contributions and donations are recognised as due to the Council when there is reasonable assurance that:
a. the Council will comply with the conditions attached to the payments, and
b. the grants or contributions will be received.

Amounts recognised as due are not credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement until conditions attaching to the grant or contribution have been satisfied. Conditions are stipulations that specify that the future economic benefits or service potential embodied in the asset acquired using the grant or contribution are required to be consumed by the recipient as specified or future economic benefits or service potential must be returned to the transferor.

Monies advanced as grants and contributions for which conditions have not been satisfied are carried in the Balance Sheet as creditors. When conditions are satisfied, the grant or contribution is credited to the relevant service line (attributable revenue grants and contributions) or Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income (non-ring-fenced revenue grants and all capital grants) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Where capital grants are credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, they are reversed out of the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement. Where the grant has yet to be used to finance capital expenditure, it is posted to the Capital Grants Unapplied Reserve. Where it has been applied, it is posted to the Capital Adjustment Account. Amounts in the Capital Grants Unapplied Reserve are transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account once they have been applied to fund capital expenditure.

xii) **Intangible Assets**

Expenditure on non-monetary assets that do not have physical substance but are controlled by the Council as a result of past events (e.g. software licences) is capitalised when it is expected that future economic benefits or service potential will flow from the intangible asset to the Council.

Internally generated assets are capitalised where it is demonstrable that the project is technically feasible and is intended to be completed (with adequate resources being available) and the Council will be able to generate future economic benefits or deliver service potential by being able to sell or use the asset. Expenditure is capitalised where it can be measured reliably as attributable to the asset and restricted to that incurred during the development phase (research expenditure is not capitalised).

Expenditure on the development of websites is not capitalised if the website is solely or primarily intended to promote or advertise the Council's goods or services.

Intangible assets are measured initially at cost. Amounts are only revalued where the fair value of the assets held by the Council can be determined by reference to an active market. In practice, no intangible asset held by the Council meets this criterion, and they are therefore carried at amortised cost. The depreciable amount of an intangible asset is amortised over its useful life to the relevant service line(s) in Cost of Services on Continuing Operations in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. An asset is tested for impairment whenever there is an indication that the asset might be impaired – any losses recognised are posted to the relevant service line(s) in Cost of Services on Continuing Operations in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Any gain or loss arising on the disposal or abandonment of an intangible asset is posted to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Where expenditure on intangible assets qualifies as capital expenditure for statutory purposes, amortisation, impairment losses and disposal gains and losses are not permitted to have an impact on the General Fund Balance. The gains and losses are therefore reversed out of the District Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement and posted to the Capital Adjustment Account and (for any sale proceeds greater than £5k) the Capital Receipts Reserve.

xiii) **Inventories & Long Term Contracts**

Inventories are included in the Balance Sheet at the lower of cost and net realisable value. The cost of inventories is assigned using the First In First Out (FIFO) basis as recommended by International Accounting Standard 2 Inventories (IAS2).

Long Term contracts are accounted for on the basis of charging the surplus or deficit on the provision of services with the value of works and services received under the contract during the financial year.

xiv) **Investment Property**

Investment properties are those that are used solely to earn rentals and/or for capital appreciation. The definition is not met if the property is used in any way to facilitate the delivery of services or production of goods or is held for sale.

Investment properties are measured initially at cost and subsequently at fair value, based on the amount at which the asset could be exchanged between knowledgeable parties at arm's length. Investment properties are not depreciated but are revalued annually according to market conditions at the year-end. Gains and losses on revaluation are posted to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The same treatment is applied to gains and losses on disposal.

Rentals received in relation to investment properties are credited to the Financing and Investment Income line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and result in a gain for the General Fund Balance. However, revaluation and disposal gains and losses are not permitted by statutory arrangements to have an impact on the District Fund Balance. The gains and losses are therefore reversed out of the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement and posted to the Capital Adjustment Account and the Capital Receipts Reserve.

xv) **Landfill Allowance Scheme**

The Landfill Allowances Scheme operates under the Landfill Allowances Scheme (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2005. Local Authorities are allocated annual target figures for the maximum amount of biodegradable municipal waste that can be sent to landfill but there are no tradable allowances. It is not a 'cap and trade' scheme since landfill allowances are not tradable. For this reason, landfill allowances are not recognised as assets on the Balance Sheet.

xvi) **Leases**

Leases are classified as finance leases where the terms of the lease transfer substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of the property from the lessor to the lessee. All other leases are classified as operating leases.

Where a lease covers both land and buildings, the land and buildings elements are considered separately for classification.

Arrangements that do not have the legal status of a lease but convey a right to use an asset in return for payment are accounted for under this policy where fulfilment of the arrangement is dependent on the use of specific assets

The Council as Lessee - Finance Lease

Property, plant and equipment held under finance leases is recognised on the Balance Sheet at the commencement of the lease at its fair value measured at the lease's inception (or the present value of the minimum lease payments, if lower). The asset recognised is matched by a liability for the obligation to pay the lessor. Initial direct costs of the Council are added to the carrying amount of the asset. Premiums paid on entry into a lease are applied to writing down the lease liability. Contingent rents are charged as expenses in the periods in which they are incurred.

Lease payments are apportioned between:
a. a charge for the acquisition of the interest in the property – applied to write down the lease liability, and
b. a finance charge (debited to the Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement)

Property, Plant and Equipment recognised under finance leases is accounted for using the policies applied generally to such assets, subject to depreciation being charged over the lease term if this is shorter than the asset's estimated useful life.

The Council is not required to raise district rates to cover depreciation or revaluation and impairment losses arising on leased assets. Instead, a prudent annual provision is made from revenue towards the deemed capital investment in accordance with statutory requirements. Depreciation and impairment losses are therefore replaced by a revenue provision in the General Fund Balance, by way of an adjusting transaction with the Capital Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement for the difference between the two.

Operating Leases:

Rentals paid under operating leases are charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as an expense of the services benefiting from use of the leased property, plant or equipment. Charges are made on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease, even if this does not match the pattern of payments (e.g., there is a rent-free period at the commencement of the lease).

The Council as Lessor - Finance Lease

Where the Council grants a finance lease over a property or an item of plant or equipment, the relevant asset is written out of the Balance Sheet as a disposal. At the commencement of the lease, the carrying amount of the asset in the Balance Sheet (whether Property, Plant and Equipment or Assets Held for Sale) is written off to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of the gain or loss on disposal. A gain, representing the Council's net investment in the lease, is credited to the same line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement also as part of the gain or loss on disposal (i.e. netted off against the carrying value of the asset at the time of disposal), matched by a lease asset (long term debtor) in the Balance Sheet.

Lease rentals receivable are apportioned between:
a. a charge for the acquisition of the interest in the property – applied to write down the lease asset (long term debtor) together with any premiums received, and
b. finance income (credited to the Financing and Investment income and Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement).

The gain credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement on disposal is not permitted by statute to increase the General Fund Balance and will be required to be treated as a capital receipt. Where a premium has been received, this is posted out of the General Fund Balance to the Capital Receipts Reserve in the Movement in Reserves Statement. Where the amount due in relation to the lease asset is to be settled by the payment of rentals in future financial years, this is posted out of the General Fund Balance to the Deferred Capital Receipts Reserve in the Movement in Reserves Statement. When the future rentals are paid, the element for the charge for the acquisition of the interest in the property is used to write down the lease asset (debtor). At this point, the deferred capital receipts are transferred to the Capital Receipts Reserve.

The written-off value of disposals is not a charge against council tax, as the cost of fixed assets is fully provided for under separate arrangements for capital financing. Amounts are therefore appropriated to the Capital Adjustment Account from the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

The Council as Lessor - Operating Lease

Where the Council grants an operating lease over a property or an item of plant or equipment, the asset is retained in the Balance Sheet. Rental income is credited to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Credits are made on a straight-line basis over the life of the lease, even if this does not match the pattern of payments (e.g., there is a premium paid at the commencement of the lease). Initial direct costs incurred in negotiating and arranging the lease are added to the carrying amount of the relevant asset and charged as an expense over the lease term on the same basis as rental income.

xvii) **Disposals and Non-Current Assets Held for Sale**

When it becomes probable that the carrying amount of an asset will be recovered principally through a sale transaction rather than through its continuing use, it is reclassified as an Asset Held for Sale. The asset is revalued immediately before reclassification and then carried at the lower of this amount and fair value less costs to sell. Where there is a subsequent decrease to fair value less costs to sell, the loss is posted to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. Gains in fair value are recognised only up to the amount of any previously recognised losses. Depreciation is not charged on Assets Held for Sale.

If assets no longer meet the criteria to be classified as Held for Sale, they are reclassified back to non-current assets and valued at the lower of its carrying amount before they were classified as Held for Sale: adjusted for depreciation, amortisation or revaluations that would have been recognised had they not been classified as Held for Sale, and their recoverable amount at the date of the decision not to sell.

Assets that are to be decommissioned i.e. abandoned or scrapped are not reclassified as Assets Held for Sale.

When an asset is disposed of, or decommissioned, the carrying amount of the asset in the Balance Sheet (whether Property, Plant and Equipment or Assets Held for Sale) is written off to the Other Operating Expenditure line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of the gain or loss on disposal. Receipts from disposals (if any) are credited to the same line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement also as part of the gain or loss on disposal (i.e. netted off against the carrying value of the asset at the time of disposal). Any revaluation gains accumulated for the asset in the Revaluation Reserve are transferred to the Capital Adjustment Account.

Amounts greater than £5k received for a disposal are categorised as capital receipts and credited to the Capital Receipts Reserve. Receipts are appropriated to the Reserve from the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

The written-off value of disposals is not a charge against district rates, as the cost of fixed assets is fully provided for under separate arrangements for capital financing. Amounts are appropriated to the Capital Adjustment Account from the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

xviii) **Overheads and Support Services**

The costs of overheads and support services are charged to those that benefit from the supply or service in accordance with the costing principles of the CIPFA Service Reporting Code of Practice 2015/16 (SeRCOP). The total absorption costing principle is used – the full cost of overheads and support services are shared between users in proportion to the benefits received, with the exception of:

a. Corporate and Democratic Core – costs relating to the Council's status as a multi-functional, democratic organisation.

b. Non Distributed Costs – the cost of discretionary benefits awarded to employees retiring early and any depreciation and impairment losses chargeable on non-operational properties.

These two cost categories are defined in SeRCOP and accounted for as separate headings in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement , as part of Net Expenditure on Continuing Services.

xix) **Property, Plant and Equipment**

Assets that have physical substance and are held for use in the production or supply of goods or services, for rental to others of for administrative purposes and that are expected to be used during more than one financial year are classified as Property, Plant and Equipment.

Recognition

Expenditure on the acquisition, creation or enhancement of Property, Plant and Equipment is capitalised on an accruals basis, provided that it is probable that the future economic benefits or service potential associated with the item will flow to the Council and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. Expenditure that maintains but does not add to an asset's potential to deliver future economic benefits or service potential (i.e., repairs and maintenance) is charged as an expense when it is incurred. The Council applies a de-minimus level of £25k to Plant & Machinery, Information Technology Equipment, Fixtures and Fittings, and Office Equipment, meaning only assets over £25k are capitalised. Subsequent capital expenditure is only capitalised where it provided an enhancement to the economic benefits of the asset in excess of those previously assessed.

Measurement

Assets are initially measured at cost, comprising:
a. the purchase price
b. any costs attributable to bringing the asset to the location and condition necessary for it to be capable of operating in the manner intended by management
c. the initial estimate of the costs of dismantling and removing the item and restoring the site on which it is located

The Council does not capitalise borrowing costs incurred whilst assets are under construction.

The cost of assets acquired other than by purchase is deemed to be its fair value, unless the acquisition will not increase the cash flows of the Council . In the latter case, where the asset is acquired via an exchange, the cost of the acquisition is the carrying amount of the asset given up by the Council.

Donated assets are measured initially at fair value. The difference between fair value and any consideration paid is credited to the Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income line of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, unless the donation has been made conditionally. Until conditions are satisfied, the gain is held in the Donated Assets Account. Where gains are credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, they are reversed out of the General Fund Balance to the Capital Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

Assets are then carried in the Balance Sheet using the following measurement bases:
- infrastructure and assets under construction – depreciated historical cost
- community assets - at a nominal value as advised by the Independent Chartered Surveyor
- short life assets, including road vehicles, plant and equipment, fixtures and fittings, office equipment, and IT and IS equipment depreciated historic cost as an estimate of fair value
- surplus assets - fair value (at highest and best use)
- investment properties are measured initially at cost and susequently at fair value as outlined in accounting policy note (xiv)
- all other assets – service potental (current value)

Where there is no market-based evidence of fair value because of the specialist nature of an asset, depreciated replacement cost is used as an estimate of fair value.

Valuation

The Council operates a rolling programme for the revaluation of Land and Buildings with approximately 25% of these being revalued by physical inspection each year and the remainder being revalued by a desktop exercise. Increases in valuations are matched by credits to the Revaluation Reserve to recognise unrealised gains. Exceptionally, gains might be credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement where they arise from the reversal of a loss previously charged to a service.

The Revaluation Reserve contains revaluation gains recognised since 1 April 2007 only, the date of its formal implementation. Gains arising before that date have been consolidated into the Capital Adjustment Account.

Impairment

Assets are assessed at each year-end as to whether there is any indication that an asset may be impaired. Where indications exist and any possible differences are estimated to be material, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated and, where this is less than the carrying amount of the asset, an impairment loss is recognised for the shortfall.

Where impairment losses are identified, they are accounted for by:

a. where there is a balance of revaluation gains for the asset in the Revaluation Reserve, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against that balance (up to the amount of the accumulated gains), with any excess charged to the service line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.
b. where there is no balance in the Revaluation Reserve, the carrying amount of the asset is written down against the relevant service line(s) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement.

Where an impairment loss is reversed subsequently, the reversal is credited to the relevant service line(s) in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, up to the amount of the original loss, adjusted for depreciation that would have been charged if the loss had not been recognised.

The same accounting treatment is applied to revaluation losses as a result of a general fall in asset prices across the board as opposed to a consumption of economic benefit specific to an asset as is in the case of impairment losses.

Depreciation

Depreciation is provided for on all Property, Plant and Equipment assets by the systematic allocation of their depreciable amounts over their useful lives. An exception is made for assets without a determinable finite useful life (i.e., freehold land and certain Community Assets) and assets that are not yet available for use (i.e., assets under construction).

Deprecation is calculated on a straight-line basis on the following classes of
- buildings, installation and fittings are depreciated on their fair value over the estimated remaining lives of those assets as advised by the Independent Chartered Surveyors. Depending on the type of building, installation or fitting the maximum useful life will be a range up to 60 years.
- infrastructure assets, short-life assets, including road vehicles, plant and equipment, fixtures and fittings, office equipment, and IT and IS equipment are depreciated over their estimated useful lives.

Intangible assets are amortised on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful lives.
Depreciation is calculated on the following bases:
- straight-line allocation of the estimated useful lives
- depreciation is charged in the month of capitalisation but not in the month of disposal

Componentisation

Where an item of Property, Plant and Equipment asset has major components whose cost is significant in relation to the total cost of the item, the components are depreciated separately.

Componentisation is only applicable to larger value land and buildings or equipment assets. The Council applies the following de-minimis levels in relation to componentisation:
- a component should be valued separately if it is greater than or equal to 3% of the total value of the asset and
- the individual compenent has a valuation of greater than or equal to £300k

Revaluations

Revaluation gains are also depreciated, with an amount equal to the difference between current value depreciation charged on assets and the depreciation that would have been chargeable based on their historical cost being transferred each year from the Revaluation Reserve to the Capital Adjustment Account.

xx) **Heritage Assets**

Heritage Assets are assets with historical, artistic, scientific, technological, geophysical or environmental qualities that are held and maintained principally for their contribution to knowledge and culture.

Heritage Assets are those assets that are intended to be preserved in trust for future generations because of their cultural, environmental or historic associations> they would be held by this authority in pursuit of our overall objectives in relation to the maintenance of heritage.

The Council's collection of Heritage Assets (Works of Art and Civic Items) is reported in the balance sheet at insurance valuation, which is based on market values, or if it is not possible to obtain a valuation, they are maintained at historical cost less any depreciation, amortisation or impairment losses. These insurance valuations based on market values are updated on a periodic basis. Summary information on Heritage Assets has been provided for transactions in 2015/16 and 2016/17 financial years. Detailed information relating to transactions has not been included for prior years as it would not be practical to do so and there is little value added for the users of the accounts.

xxi) **Doubtful debts**

A review of debt recoverability is undertaken at year end to determine the level of doubtful debts and an impairment loss is recognised in respect of specific debts where recoverability is uncertain.

xxii) **Provisions**

Provisions are made where an event has taken place that gives the Council a legal or constructive obligation that probably requires settlement by a transfer of economic benefits or service potential, and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation. For instance, the Council may be involved in a court case that could eventually result in the making of a settlement or the payment of compensation.

Provisions are charged as an expense to the appropriate service line in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the year that the Council becomes aware of the obligation, and measured at the best estimate at the balance sheet date of the expenditure required to settle the obligation, taking into account relevant risks and uncertainties.

When payments are eventually made, they are charged to the provision carried in the Balance Sheet. Estimated settlements are reviewed at the end of each financial year – where it becomes less than probable that a transfer of economic benefits will now be required (or a lower settlement than anticipated is made), the provision is reversed and credited back to the relevant service.

Where some or all of the payment required to settle a provision is expected to be recovered from another party (e.g. from an insurance claim), this is only recognised as income for the relevant service if it is virtually certain that reimbursement will be received if the Council settles the obligation.

xxiii) **Reserves**

The Council sets aside specific amounts as reserves for future policy purposes or to cover contingencies. Reserves are created by appropriating amounts out of the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement. When expenditure to be financed from a reserve is incurred, it is charged to the appropriate service in that year against the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement. The reserve is then appropriated back into the General Fund Balance in the Movement in Reserves Statement so that there is no net charge against District Rates for the expenditure.

Certain reserves are kept to manage the accounting processes for non-current assets, financial instruments and retirement benefits and do not represent usable resources for the Council – these reserves are explained in the relevant note to the accounts.

xxiv) **Charges to Revenue for Non-Current Assets**

Charges to revenue for non-current assets e.g. services, support services and trading accounts are debited with the following amounts to record the cost of holding fixed assets during the year:

a. depreciation attributable to the assets used by the relevant service
b. revaluation and impairment losses on assets used by the service where there are no accumulated gains in the Revaluation Reserve against which the losses can be written off
c. amortisation of intangible fixed assets attributable to the service.

The Council is not required to raise District Rates to cover depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses or amortisations. However, it is required to make an annual provision from revenue to contribute towards the reduction in its overall borrowing requirement [equal to either an amount calculated on a prudent basis determined by the Council in accordance with statutory guidance]. Depreciation, revaluation and impairment losses and amortisations are therefore replaced by minimum revenue provision [MRP] in the General Fund Balance, by way of an adjusting transaction with the Capital Adjustment Account in the Movement in Reserves Statement for the difference between the two.

xxv) **Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under Statute**

Expenditure incurred during the year that may be capitalised under statutory provisions but that does not result in the creation of a non-current asset has been charged as expenditure to the relevant service in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the year. Where the Council has determined to meet the cost of this expenditure from existing capital resources or by borrowing, a transfer in the Movement in Reserves Statement from the General Fund Balance to the Capital Adjustment Account then reverses out the amounts charged, so that there is no impact on the level of District Rates.

xxvi) **Value Added Tax**

All expenditure and income, irrespective of whether it is revenue or capital in nature, is shown net of Value Added Tax, unless it is irrecoverable.

xxvii) **The Carbon Reduction Commitment Scheme (CRC)**

The Council is required to participate in the Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme. The Council is required to purchase and surrender allowances, currently retrospectively, on the basis of emissions, i.e. carbon dioxide produced as energy is used. As carbon dioxide is produced (i.e. as energy is used), a liability and an expense are recognised. The liability will be discharged by surrendering allowances. The liability is measured at the best estimate of the expenditure required to meet the obligation, normally at the current market price of the number of allowances required to meet the liability at the reporting date. The cost to the Council is recognised and reported in the costs of the Councils services and is apportioned to services on the basis of energy consumption.

xxviii) **Landfill Exploration and Evaluation**

The Council considers the facts and circumstances to determine whether an exploration and evaluation asset should be recognised in respect of the landfill site including assessment of the amount, timing and certainty of future cash flows under IFRS 6. The Council's landfill site produces gas to generate electricity and the income from this electricity generation is reducing year on year due to environmental and other uncontrollable variables. The income for 2016/17 is £1,048k which is before deduction of relevant expenses, resulting in net income of £202k. The Council does not recognise any asset in respect of this gas production as any forecasting or estimating of future income is uncertain. The Council cannot reliably measure or value such an asset under IAS 38.

xxix) **Fair Value Measurement**

The Council measures some of its non-financial assets such as surplus assets and investment properties and some of its financial instruments such as equity shareholdings [other financial instruments as applicable] at fair value at each reporting date. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The fair value measurement assumes that the transaction to sell the asset or transfer the liability takes place either:

a) in the principal market for the asset or liability, or
b) in the absence of a principal market, in the most advantageous market for the asset or liability.

The Council measures the fair value of an asset or liability using the assumptions that market participants would use when pricing the asset or liability, assuming that market participants act in their economic best interest. When measuring the fair value of a non-financial asset, the authority takes into account a market participant's ability to generate economic benefits by using the asset in its highest and best use or by selling it to another market participant that would use the asset in its highest and best use. The authority uses valuation techniques that are appropriate in the circumstances and for which sufficient data is available, maximising the use of relevant observable inputs and minimising the use of unobservable inputs.

Inputs to the valuation techniques in respect of assets and liabilities for which fair value is measured or disclosed in the authority's financial statements are categorised within the fair value hierarchy, as follows:
* Level 1 – quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that
the authority can access at the measurement date
* Level 2 – inputs other than quoted prices included within Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly
* Level 3 – unobservable inputs for the asset or liability.

b **Accounting Standards That Have Been Issued but Have Not Yet Been Adopted**

Accounting and Reporting by Pension Funds – Investment Transaction Costs
In the 2016/17 Code CIPFA/LASAAC indicated its intention to mandate the recommended disclosure on pension fund investment transaction costs. After consultation, CIPFA/LASAAC agreed to proceed with the transaction costs disclosure to alleviate concerns regarding the transparency of pension fund management expenses generally. Transaction costs are clearly defined in IFRS (in IAS 39 Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement and IAS 40 Investment Property). The requirement for disclosure on transaction costs has been included in the 2017/18 Code of Practice.

Amendment to the disclosure of investment asset concentration
In a review of application guidance on pension fund reporting, CIPFA/LASSAAC considered that the information required under IAS 26 no longer provided materially relevant disclosures and therefore the disclosure regarding defined benefit pension fund at paragraph 6.5.5.1 of 2017/18 Code of Practice refers to 'Details of any single investment exceeding either 5% of the net assets available for benefits, this is consistent with the approach in the Financial Reports of Pension Schemes – A Statement of Recommended Practice 2015.

c **Critical Judgements in Applying Accounting Policies**

In applying accounting policies set out from 1a above the Council has had to make certain judgements about complex transactions or those involving uncertainty about future events. The critical judgements made in the Statement of Accounts are:

Landfill Provision

The calculation of the necessary financial provision for the capping and aftercare costs for the landfill site depends on a judgement around the appropriate discount rate to be used and the number of years over which these costs need to be provided. The landfill provision figures are sensitive to the assumptions used.

d **Assumptions Made About the Future and Other Major Sources of Estimation**

Estimation of the net liability to pay pensions depends on a number of complex judgements relating to the discount rate used, the rate at which salaries are projected to increase, changes in retirement ages, mortality rates and expected returns on pension fund assets. A firm of consulting actuaries is engaged to provide the Council with expert advice about the assumptions to be applied. The pension figures disclosed in these financial statements are sensitive to the assumptions used.

The approximate impact of changing key assumptions on the present value of the funded defined benefit obligation as at 31 March 2017 and the projected service cost for the year ending 31 March 2018 is set out in Note 19.

2 Segmental Reporting

a Segmental Reporting Analysis

The analysis of income and expenditure by service on the face of the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement is specified by the Service Reporting Code of Practice. The segmental reporting notes within the financial statements are based on the summary first page of the General Fund – Service Income and Expenditure Analysis in the Department for Communities' Accounts Direction.

The General Fund – Service Income and Expenditure Analysis as presented to the Department for Communities is as follows:

	2016/17			2015/16		
Services	Gross Expenditure £	Gross Income £	Net Expenditure £	Gross Expenditure £	Gross Income £	Net Expenditure £
Culture and Heritage	8,261,802	(2,079,442)	6,182,360	9,390,665	(2,256,402)	7,134,263
Recreation and Sport	71,758,830	(4,767,176)	66,991,654	62,670,317	(4,757,714)	57,912,603
Tourism	6,055,809	(967,277)	5,088,532	8,213,779	(2,325,427)	5,888,352
Community Services	7,680,238	(381,460)	7,298,778	6,393,945	(329,675)	6,064,270
Leisure and Recreational Services	**93,756,679**	**(8,195,355)**	**85,561,324**	**86,668,706**	**(9,669,218)**	**76,999,488**
Cemetery, Cremation & Mortuary	4,698,600	(2,725,530)	1,973,070	3,663,313	(2,460,163)	1,203,150
Environmental Health	17,671,104	(1,974,605)	15,696,499	16,982,652	(2,236,523)	14,746,129
Flood Defence and Land Drainage	-	-	-	-	-	-
Public Conveniences	304,994	-	304,994	347,522	(488)	347,034
Licensing	919,533	(247,477)	672,056	1,005,177	(250,978)	754,199
Other Cleaning	17,461,964	(77,023)	17,384,941	16,447,588	(172,260)	16,275,328
Waste Collection	19,593,357	(3,888,082)	15,705,275	20,548,461	(3,825,158)	16,723,303
Waste Disposal	11,991,720	(18,554)	11,973,166	10,203,345	(4,975)	10,198,370
Other Community Assets	19,179	-	19,179	-	-	-
Minor Works	-	-	-	-	-	-
Environmental Services	**72,660,451**	**(8,931,271)**	**63,729,180**	**69,198,058**	**(8,950,545)**	**60,247,513**
Community Planning	634,637	-	634,637	698,581	-	698,581
Economic Development	14,109,460	(4,634,538)	9,474,922	12,326,007	(4,260,955)	8,065,052
EU Rural Development	-	-	-	-	-	-
Urban Regeneration and Community Development	6,417,128	(2,407,960)	4,009,168	5,805,529	(1,787,754)	4,017,775
Planning Policy	-	-	-	-	-	-
Development Control	3,444,091	(2,288,753)	1,155,338	3,249,996	(2,286,611)	963,385
Building Control	4,909,285	(3,662,805)	1,246,480	4,492,615	(2,968,633)	1,523,982
Environmental Initiatives	-	-	-	-	-	-
Planning and Development Service	**29,514,601**	**(12,994,056)**	**16,520,545**	**26,572,728**	**(11,303,953)**	**15,268,775**
Off-street Parking Services	998,433	(1,881,465)	(883,032)	2,208,650	(2,192,260)	16,390
Highways and Transport Services	**998,433**	**(1,881,465)**	**(883,032)**	**2,208,650**	**(2,192,260)**	**16,390**
Democratic Representation and Management	4,689,784	(1,210)	4,688,574	5,499,873	(21,325)	5,478,548
Corporate Management	11,205,563	(2,534,304)	8,671,259	14,892,407	(1,002,951)	13,889,456
DRM and Corporate Management	**15,895,347**	**(2,535,514)**	**13,359,833**	**20,392,280**	**(1,024,276)**	**19,368,004**
Trading Services	5,031,771	(3,346,192)	1,685,579	4,424,244	(3,448,308)	975,936
Non Distributed Costs	2,024,301	119,000	2,143,301	1,596,185	160,000	1,756,185
Central Services to the Public	2,034,557	(1,355,832)	678,725	2,102,112	(1,220,625)	881,487
Other Services	**9,090,629**	**(4,583,024)**	**4,507,605**	**8,122,541**	**(4,508,933)**	**3,613,608**
CONTINUING OPERATIONS	**221,916,140**	**(39,120,685)**	**182,795,455**	**213,162,963**	**(37,649,185)**	**175,513,778**

b **Reconciliation to Net Cost of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement**

This reconciliation shows how the figures in the analysis of portfolio income and expenditure relate to the amounts included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

	2016/17	2016/17	2015/16	2015/16
	£	£	£	£
Net Cost of Services in Service Analysis		182,795,455		175,513,778
Items excluded from Service Analysis:				
Add amounts not reported in Service Analysis but included in Net Cost of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	-		-	
Remove amounts reported in Service Analysis but not included in Net Cost of Services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement	-		-	
		-		-
Cost of Services on Continuing Operations in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		**182,795,455**		**175,513,778**
Items included in Net Operating Expenditure excluded from Service Analysis:				
Other Operating Expenditure	3,710,502		125,870	
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	(8,973,405)		(3,499,841)	
Surplus or Deficit on Discontinued Operations	-		-	
		(5,262,903)		**(3,373,971)**
Net Operating Expenditure per the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		**177,532,552**		**172,139,807**

3 **Adjustment between an Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under Regulations**

a **Amounts included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement but required by statute to be excluded when determining the Movement on the General Fund Balance for the year:**

	Notes	2016/17 £	£	2015/16 £	£
Amounts included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement but required by statute to be excluded when determining the Movement on the General Fund Balance for the year:					
Impairments (losses & reversals) of non-current assets		-		(1,014,809)	
Derecognition (other than disposal) of non-current assets	10	-		20,859	
Revaluation increases/decreases taken to Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services	10	16,047,198		16,369,138	
Depreciation charged in the year on non-current assets	10	14,003,845	30,051,043	11,697,623	27,072,811
Net Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	10		-		-
Carrying amount of non current assets sold	7	4,122,115		198,655	
Proceeds from the sale of PP&E, investment property and intangible assets	24,25	(411,613)	3,710,502	(72,785)	125,870
Difference between finance costs calculated on an accounting basis and finance costs calculated in accordance with statutory requirements	25		-		-
Net charges made for retirement benefits in accordance with IAS 19	19		17,056,000		19,831,000
Direct revenue financing of Capital Expenditure	11,25		(4,296,859)		(7,038,503)
Capital Grants and Donated Assets Receivable and Applied in year	9b		(8,947,963)		(40,288,964)
Capital Grants Receivable and Unapplied in year	9c		-		-
Rates Claw-Back Reserve	25		-		-
Adjustments in relation to Short-term compensated absences	25		72,107		40,580
Adjustments in relation to Lessor Arrangements			599,867		46,350
Landfill Regulations Reserve Adjustment	25		-		-
Provisions Discount Rate Reserve Adjustment	25		-		-
Amounts not included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement but required by statute to be included when determining the Movement on the General Fund Balance for the year					
Statutory Provision for the financing of Capital Investment	25		(4,155,412)		(2,886,413)
Employers contributions payable to the NILGOSC and retirement benefits payable direct to pensioners	19		(13,877,000)		(13,453,000)
			20,212,285		(16,550,269)

b Net transfers (to)/from statutory and other earmarked reserves:

	Notes	2016/17 £	£	2015/16 £	£
Capital Fund					
Interest		-		-	
From Capital		-		-	
Other	25	(2,161,588)	(2,161,588)	(1,418,027)	(1,418,027)
Leisure Mobilisation Fund					
Interest		-		-	
Other	25	55,000	55,000	(2,000,000)	(2,000,000)
Capital Receipts Reserve					
Interest		-		-	
Other	25	-	-	-	-
Other Funds and earmarked reserves					
Interest		(3,952)		(668)	
From Other funds		-		-	
Other	25	(150,000)	(153,952)	(200,000)	(200,668)
			(2,260,540)		(3,618,695)

4 Cost of Services on Continuing Operations

a General power of competence

Under Section 79 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014, the Council has the power to do anything that individuals generally may do. Councils have the power to do this with or without charge. The power of competence is not limited to benefitting the area or its residents nor is it limited by existing powers. Belfast City Council used the powers within this section to create a wholly council owned company BWUH Limited for the operation of the Waterfront and Ulster Hall and also used these powers to make a contribution to Belfel LLP in relation to the redevelopment of the Belfast Telegraph building.

b External Audit Fees

The Council has incurred the following costs relating to the annual audit of the Statement of Accounts, certification of grant claims and other services provided by the Councils external auditors.

	2016/17 £	2015/16 £
External Audit Fees	75,000	80,000
National Fraud Initiative	2,161	-
Performance Audit	20,298	-
	97,459	80,000

There were no other fees payable in respect of any other services provided by the appointed auditor over and above those described above.

5 Operating and Finance Leases
Council as Lessor
a Finance Leases (Council as lessor)

The Council has leased out property to a local bank on a finance lease which had a remaining term of 62 years. During the 2016/17 financial year, confirmation was provided that the property is to be redeveloped and so the finance lease is expected to end by October 2017. The impact on the net present value of the long term debtors is a reduction of £625,485 to reduce this debtor to £NIL. The net present value of the short term debtors increased by £25,618 to a balance of £26,160 in 2016/17.

The present value of lease payments receivable under the finance lease arrangements is recognised as a receivable and included in both short and long term debtors. The difference between the gross amount receivable and the present value of the amounts receivable is recognised as unearned finance income.

Gross receivables from finance leases	2016/17	2015/16
	£	£
Long Term Debtors		
Finance leases- gross receivables	-	2,873,700
Less - Unearned finance income	-	(2,248,215)
Less - Unguaranteed residual value of property	-	-
Net Present Value	-	**625,485**
Short Term Debtors		
Finance leases- gross receivables	27,038	46,350
Less - Unearned finance income	(878)	(45,808)
Less - Unguaranteed residual value of property	-	-
Net Present Value	**26,160**	**542**
Gross receivables from finance leases		
No later than 1 year	27,038	46,350
Later than 1 year and no later than 5 years	-	185,400
Later than 5 years	-	2,688,300
Total gross receivables	**27,038**	**2,920,050**
Less-Unearned future finance income on finance leases	(878)	(2,294,023)
Less-Unguaranteed residual value of property	-	-
Net investment in finance leases	**26,160**	**626,027**

The net investment in finance leases may be analysed as follows:

	2016/17	2015/16
	£	£
No later than 1 year	26,160	542
Later than 1 year and no later than 5 years	-	-
Later than 5 years	-	625,485
Total gross receivables	**26,160**	**626,027**

The unguaranteed residual values of the assets leased under finance leases at the end of the year are estimated at £Nil (Previous year £Nil)

The accumulated allowance for uncollectable minimum lease payments receivable is £Nil (comparative year £Nil)

No contingent rents were recognised as receivable by the Council.

The interest rate inherent in the leases is fixed at the contract date for the entire lease term. The average interest rate contracted is approximately 3.35% (comparative year 7.32%)

b Operating Leases (Council as lessor)

The Council, in accordance with its statutory and discretionary responsibilities, leases out property and equipment under operating leases for the following purposes:
- for the provision of community services, such as sports facilities, tourism services and community centres
- for economic development purposes to provide suitable affordable accommodation for small local businesses
- any other purposes

Rental income recognised in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement in the current year amounts to £6,796,415 (15/16 £6,774,888). No contingent rents were recognised.

The lease contracts are all non-cancellable and do not include an extension option. The lease terms are between 1 and 999 years. Future minimum lease income is set out below:

	2016/17		2015/16	
	Land and Buildings	Vehicles, Plant and Equipment	Land and Buildings	Vehicles, Plant and Equipment
	£	£	£	£
Minimum lease rentals receivable:				
No later than 1 year	6,167,975	-	6,123,740	-
Later than 1 year and no later than 5 years	20,273,463	-	20,136,015	-
Later than 5 years	397,641,536	-	394,168,195	-
	424,082,974	-	420,427,950	-

The assets leased by the Council to third parties are included in the following categories of Property, Plant and Equipment with carrying values of:

	2016/17		2015/16 Restated	
	Land and Buildings	Vehicles, Plant and Equipment	Land and Buildings	Vehicles, Plant and Equipment
	£	£	£	£
Cost	86,430,371	-	82,329,500	-
Accumulated depreciation and impairments at 1 April	-	-	-	-
Depreciation charge for the year	-	-	-	-
Impairments	(50,000)		(500,000)	
Revaluations	6,944,629	-	2,290,500	-
Transfers in and reclassifications	575,000			
	93,900,000	-	84,120,000	-

As noted above, the 2015/16 figures have been restated to include all investment properties generating rental income in this year.

Council as Lessee

c Finance Leases (Council as lessee)

The Council has a number of assets of land held by long term leases from 980 to 10,000 years. Rental income is between 1p to £32 per annum, if demanded. Rent is not normally demanded on these properties and therefore future minimum lease payments are assumed to be nil.

d Operating Leases (Council as lessee)

The Council has acquired some office photocopiers and printers by entering into operating leases with typical lives of 5 years. The Council is also leasing a number of office buildings with lease terms up to 15 years and vehicles with lease terms of up to 4 years. During 2016/17, the Council terminated one office building lease and will terminate two office building leases in 2017/18 with an estimated reduction in rental charges for future years of £3,560,875.

The expenditure charged to services in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement during the year in relation to these leases was:

	2016/17		2015/16	
	Land and Buildings	Vehicles, Plant and Equipment	Land and Buildings	Vehicles, Plant and Equipment
	£	£	£	£
Minimum lease payments	1,354,162	477,530	1,488,405	472,434
Contingent rentals	-	-	-	-
Less: Sublease payments receivable	-	-	-	-
Total	**1,354,162**	**477,530**	**1,488,405**	**472,434**

No sub-lease payments or contingent rent payments were made or received. No sublease income is expected as all assets held under operating lease agreements are used exclusively by the Council.

The future minimum lease payments due under non-cancellable operating leases in future years are set out below:

	2016/17		2015/16	
	Land and Buildings	Vehicles, Plant and Equipment	Land and Buildings	Vehicles, Plant and Equipment
	£	£	£	£
Minimum lease rentals payable:				
No later than 1 year	630,270	281,980	1,349,138	477,530
Later than 1 year and no later than 5 years	862,345	15,695	4,209,581	297,675
Later than 5 years	1,372,255	-	1,992,999	-
Total	**2,864,870**	**297,675**	**7,551,718**	**775,205**

6 Employee Costs and Member Allowances

a Staff Costs

	2016/17	2015/16
	£	£
Salaries and Wages	66,199,168	65,249,895
Employers NIC	4,635,585	4,602,551
Employers Superannuation	12,780,326	12,569,541
Total staff costs	83,615,079	82,421,987

The above staff costs include the costs of the voluntary redundancies in 2016/17. These costs total £1,119,948 and are disclosed separately in Table 4 of the Remuneration Report. In addition, agency costs during the year amounted to £4,470,906 (15/16 £4,217,572).

The Council's current contribution rate to NILGOSC scheme is 20%. At the last actuarial valuation, dated 31 March 2016, the Fund's assets as a whole were sufficient to meet 96% (15/16 91%) of the liabilities accrued up to that date.

Average Number of Employees - where FTE represents fulltime equivalent employees

b Average Number of Employees

	2016/17	2015/16 Restated
	FTE	FTE
Parks	122	396
Environmental Services	1,062	802
Planning and Place	139	134
Highways and Transport Service	-	-
Other	901	947
Total Number	2,224	2,279

	2016/17	2015/16 Restated
	Actual Numbers	Actual Numbers
Full-time numbers employed	2,044	2,090
Part-time numbers employed	329	348
Total Number	2,373	2,438

c Senior Employees' Remuneration

	2016/17	2015/16
	£	£
£50,001 to £60,000	49	47
£60,001 to £70,000	4	12
£70,001 to £80,000	8	9
£80,001 to £90,0000	-	2
£90,001 to £100,000	5	2
£100,001 to £110,000	2	2
£110,001 to £120,000	-	-
£120,001 to £130,000	-	1
£130,001 to £140,000	1	-
Total Number	69	75

d Members' Allowances

	2016/17	2015/16
	£	£
Salaries	-	-
Basic allowance	848,445	849,617
Mayor's & Deputy Mayor's Allowance	41,050	41,050
Special Responsibility Allowances	107,661	103,749
High Sheriff's Allowance	6,249	6,249
Mileage	15,640	11,670
Conferences and Courses	13,699	21,949
Travel & Subsistence Costs	19,596	22,677
Miscellaneous Costs	908	2,267
Severance Payments	-	16,600
Policing & Community Safety Partnership Allowance	14,940	13,560
Telephone rental	3,914	4,580
Total	1,072,102	1,093,968

e Northern Ireland Civil Service Pension Arrangements

As a result of Reform on 1st April 2015, staff transferred from Central Government to the Council are members of the Northern Ireland Civil Service Pension Scheme.

The Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS) Pension Scheme provides defined benefits to members, however the arrangements for the NICS Pension Scheme mean that liabilities for these benefits cannot ordinarily be identified specifically for the Department for Communities. The valuation of these pension arrangements are included in the Department of Finance Superannuation and Other Allowances Pension Schemes Statement for the year ended 31 March 2017.

For 2016-17, employers' contributions of £253,691 (15/16 £271,269) were payable to the NICS pension arrangements at one of four rates in the range 20.8% to 26.3% of pensionable pay, based on salary bands. The scheme's Actuary reviews employer contributions every four years following a full scheme valuation.

7 Other Operating Expenditure

a Surplus/Deficit on Non-Current Assets (excl Investment Properties)

	2016/17	2015/16
	£	£
Proceeds from sale	(411,613)	(72,785)
Carrying amount of non-current assets sold (excl Investment Properties)	4,122,115	198,655
	3,710,502	125,870

b Other Operating Income/Expenditure

	2016/17	2015/16
	£	£
Income	-	-
Expenditure	-	-
	-	-

Other Operating Expenditure	2016/17	2015/16
	£	£
(Surplus) / Deficit on Non Current Assets	3,710,502	125,870
Other Operating (Income) / Expenditure	-	-
	3,710,502	125,870

8 Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure

a Interest Payable and Similar Charges

	2016/17	2015/16
	£	£
Lease/hire purchase interest	-	-
Bank interest	-	-
Government Loan Interest	1,609,816	1,844,895
Commercial Loan Interest	-	-
Other interest (Loans pool interest)	99,531	143,489
	1,709,347	1,988,384

b Interest and Investment Income

	2016/17	2015/16
	£	£
Bank Interest	97,374	207,232
Employee car loan interest	6,317	7,054
NIHE Loan interest receivable	171,550	410,341
Investment income on Fund Balances		
Capital Fund	-	-
Repairs & Renewals Fund	-	-
Other Funds	3,952	668
Other Investment income	-	-
	279,193	625,295

c Pensions interest costs

	2016/17	2015/16
	£	£
Net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset)	2,853,000	3,287,000
	2,853,000	3,287,000

d Surplus/(Deficit) on trading operations

	2016/17	2015/16
	£	£
Income from trading	-	-
Expenditure	-	-
(Surplus)/Deficit for the year	-	-

e Income, Expenditure and changes in Fair Value of Investment Properties

Income/Expenditure from Investment Properties:	2016/17 £	2015/16 £
Income including rental income	(6,796,415)	(6,774,888)
Expenditure	434,485	415,458
De-recognition in relation to amounts written off	-	-
Net income from investment properties	(6,361,930)	(6,359,430)
Surplus/deficit on sale of Investment Properties		
Proceeds from sale	-	-
Carrying amount of investment properties sold	-	-
(Surplus)/deficit on sale of Investment Properties:	-	-
Changes in Fair Value of Investment Properties	(6,894,629)	(1,790,500)
	(13,256,559)	(8,149,930)

Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	2016/17 Gross Expenditure £	Gross Income £	Net Expenditure £	2015/16 Gross Expenditure £	Gross Income £	Net Expenditure £
Interest Payable and Similar Charges	1,709,347	-	1,709,347	1,988,384	-	1,988,384
Interest and Investment Income	-	(279,193)	(279,193)	-	(625,295)	(625,295)
Pensions interest cost	2,853,000	-	2,853,000	3,287,000	-	3,287,000
Surplus/(Deficit) on trading operations	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other investment income	434,485	(6,796,415)	(6,361,930)	415,458	(6,774,888)	(6,359,430)
Changes in Fair Value of Investment Properties	-	(6,894,629)	(6,894,629)	-	(1,790,500)	(1,790,500)
	4,996,832	(13,970,237)	(8,973,405)	5,690,842	(9,190,683)	(3,499,841)

9 Taxation and Non Specific Grant Income

a Revenue Grants

	2016/17	2015/16
	£	£
General	(4,984,327)	(5,091,162)
Other	-	-
	(4,984,327)	(5,091,162)

b Capital Grants and Donated Assets - Applied

	2016/17	2015/16
	£	£
Government & Other Grants - Conditions met and applied in year	(8,353,473)	(40,284,204)
Government & Other Grants - Transfer from receipts in advance	(194,490)	(4,760)
Donated Assets - Conditions met	-	-
Donated Assets - Transfer from donated assets creditor	(400,000)	-
	(8,947,963)	(40,288,964)

The above capital grant amount includes £476k from EU funding bodies.

c Capital Grants - Unapplied

	2016/17	2015/16
	£	£
Government & Other Grants - Conditions met and not applied in year	-	-
Other	-	-
	-	-

d District Rates

	2016/17	2015/16
	£	£
Current year	(148,284,081)	(143,116,491)
Finalisation - current year	1,672,500	(774,146)
Transitional Relief	-	-
Finalisation - other years	(425)	50,371
	(146,612,006)	(143,840,266)

Taxation and Non Specific Grant Income	2016/17	2015/16
	£	£
District Rate Income	(146,612,006)	(143,840,266)
Revenue Grants	(4,984,327)	(5,091,162)
Capital Grants and Contributions	(8,947,963)	(40,288,964)
	(160,544,296)	(189,220,392)

10 Fixed Assets

a

Cost or Valuation	Land	Buildings	Infrastructure Assets	Landfill Sites	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment	Community Assets	PP&E Under Construction	Surplus Assets	Total PP&E	Heritage Assets	Investment Properties	Intangible Assets	Assets Held for Resale	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Balance as at 1 April 2016	99,337,353	352,058,306	-	-	39,317,814	253	59,301,069	2,811,002	552,825,797	4,141,239	84,120,000	18,790,942	1,675,000	661,552,978
Adjustments between cost/value & depreciation/impairment	-	(311)	-	-	34,776	-	-	-	34,465	82,154	-	-	-	116,619
Balance as at 1 April 2016	99,337,353	352,057,995	-	-	39,352,590	253	59,301,069	2,811,002	552,860,262	4,223,393	84,120,000	18,790,942	1,675,000	661,669,597
Additions	3	519,689	-	-	2,802,427	447,450	41,671,524	-	45,441,093	-	-	10,500	-	45,451,593
Donations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluation increases/ (decreases) to Revaluation Reserve	1,461,120	6,504,295	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,965,415	(3,310)	-	-	-	7,962,105
Revaluation increases/ (decreases) to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	542,777	(435,384)	-	-	-	(24,108,798)	399,999	(13,001)	(23,614,407)	-	6,894,629	-	-	(16,719,778)
Impairment to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Derecognition - Disposals	(33,000)	(255,980)	-	-	(1,748,255)	-	-	-	(2,037,235)	-	-	-	-	(2,037,235)
Derecognition - Other	-	(3,913,530)	-	-	-	-	(89,914)	-	(4,003,444)	-	-	-	-	(4,003,444)
Reclassifications & Transfers	2,349,598	48,750,570	5,772,087	-	1,504,572	23,661,352	(86,471,801)	898,000	(3,535,622)	460,939	2,885,371	189,312	-	-
Reclassified to(-) / from(+) Held for Sale	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(22,000)	(22,000)	-	-	-	(1,675,000)	(1,697,000)
Balance as at 31 March 2017	103,657,851	403,227,655	5,772,087	-	41,911,334	257	14,810,877	3,674,001	573,054,062	4,681,022	93,900,000	18,990,754	-	690,625,838

Depreciation and Impairment	Land	Buildings	Infrastructure Assets	Landfill Sites	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment	Community Assets	PP&E Under Construction	Surplus Assets	Total PP&E	Heritage Assets	Investment Properties	Intangible Assets	Held for Resale	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Balance as at 1 April 2016	-	-	-	-	24,670,570	-	-	-	24,670,570	27,261	-	18,420,920	-	43,118,751
Adjustments between cost/value & depreciation/impairment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance as at 1 April 2016	-	-	-	-	24,670,570	-	-	-	24,670,570	27,261	-	18,420,920	-	43,118,751
Depreciation Charge	-	11,229,448	128,269	-	2,536,163	-	-	-	13,893,880	-	-	109,965	-	14,003,845
Depreciation written out on Revaluation Reserve	-	(10,266,465)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(10,266,465)	-	-	-	-	(10,266,465)
Depreciation written out on Revaluation taken to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	(672,580)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(672,580)	-	-	-	-	(672,580)
Impairment losses/reversals to Revaluation Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Impairment losses/reversals to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Derecognition - Disposals	-	(10,202)	-	-	(1,538,247)	-	-	-	(1,548,449)	-	-	-	-	(1,548,449)
Derecognition - Other	-	(280,201)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(280,201)	-	-	-	-	(280,201)
Reclassifications & Transfers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eliminated on reclassification to Held for Sale	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance as at 31 March 2017	-	-	128,269	-	25,668,486	-	-	-	25,796,755	27,261	-	18,530,885	-	44,354,901
Net Book Values														
Balance as at 31 March 2017	103,657,851	403,227,655	5,643,818	-	16,242,848	257	14,810,877	3,674,001	547,257,307	4,653,761	93,900,000	459,869	-	646,270,937

Cost or Valuation	Land	Buildings	Infrastructure Assets	Landfill Sites	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment	Community Assets	PP&E Under Construction	Surplus Assets	Total PP&E	Heritage Assets	Investment Properties	Intangible Assets	Assets Held for Resale	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Balance as at 1 April 2015	99,433,937	300,781,604	3,110	-	39,604,071	50,198	34,612,410	2,347,501	476,832,831	4,002,169	84,829,500	18,585,740	1,695,001	585,945,241
Adjustments between cost/value & depreciation/impairment	-	(947,196)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(947,196)	-	-	-	-	(947,196)
Balance as at 1 April 2015	99,433,937	299,834,408	3,110	-	39,604,071	50,198	34,612,410	2,347,501	475,885,635	4,002,169	84,829,500	18,585,740	1,695,001	584,998,045
Additions (Note 11)	8	982,461	-	-	2,353,410	443,664	79,119,164	1	82,898,708	139,084	-	87,765	-	83,125,557
Donations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluation increases/decreases to Revaluation Reserve	2,392,258	12,461,225	-	-	-	(727,730)	-	(340,632)	13,785,121	(14)	-	-	-	13,785,107
Revaluation increases/ decreases to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	(3,665,056)	(1,903,190)	-	-	-	(8,721,933)	(5,539)	(3,947,715)	(18,243,433)	-	1,790,500	-	(20,000)	(16,472,933)
Impairment to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Derecognition - Disposals	(178,543)	(8,701)	-	-	(3,578,122)	-	-	(1)	(3,765,367)	-	-	-	-	(3,765,367)
Derecognition - Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	(20,859)	-	(20,859)	-	-	-	-	(20,859)
Reclassifications & Transfers	1,354,749	40,692,103	(3,110)	-	938,455	8,956,054	(54,404,107)	4,751,848	2,285,992	-	(2,500,000)	117,437	-	(96,571)
Reclassified to(-) / from(+) Held for Sale	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(1)	(1)
Balance as at 31 March 2016	99,337,353	352,058,306	-	-	39,317,814	253	59,301,069	2,811,002	552,825,797	4,141,239	84,120,000	18,790,942	1,675,000	661,552,978

Depreciation and Impairment	Land	Buildings	Infrastructure Assets	Landfill Sites	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment	Community Assets	PP&E Under Construction	Surplus Assets	Total PP&E	Heritage Assets	Investment Properties	Intangible Assets	Held for Resale	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Balance as at 1 April 2015	-	1,361,747	193	-	26,134,495	-	-	-	27,496,435	27,261	-	18,311,181	-	45,834,877
Adjustments between cost/value & depreciation/impairment	-	(947,196)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(947,196)	-	-	-	-	(947,196)
Balance as at 1 April 2015	-	414,551	193	-	26,134,495	-	-	-	26,549,239	27,261	-	18,311,181	-	44,887,681
Depreciation Charge	-	9,381,968	-	-	2,205,916	-	-	-	11,587,884	-	-	109,739	-	11,697,623
Depreciation written out on Revaluation Reserve	-	(8,773,367)	-	-	-	(7,870)	-	-	(8,781,237)	-	-	-	-	(8,781,237)
Depreciation written out on Revaluation taken to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	-	-	-	-	(103,795)	-	-	(103,795)	-	-	-	-	(103,795)
Impairment losses/reversals to Revaluation Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Impairment losses/reversals to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	(1,014,809)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(1,014,809)	-	-	-	-	(1,014,809)
Derecognition - Disposals	-	(4,350)	-	-	(3,562,362)	-	-	-	(3,566,712)	-	-	-	-	(3,566,712)
Derecognition - Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Reclassifications & Transfers	-	(3,993)	(193)	-	(107,479)	111,665	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eliminated on reclassification to Held for Sale	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance as at 31 March 2016	-	-	-	-	24,670,570	-	-	-	24,670,570	27,261	-	18,420,920	-	43,118,751
Net Book Values														
Balance as at 31 March 2016	99,337,353	352,058,306	-	-	14,647,244	253	59,301,069	2,811,002	528,155,227	4,113,978	84,120,000	370,022	1,675,000	618,434,227
Balance as at 31 March 2017	103,657,851	403,227,455	5,443,818	-	16,242,846	257	14,810,877	3,474,001	547,257,307	4,653,761	93,900,000	459,869	-	646,270,937

Valuations

The Council is not aware of any material changes in freehold and leasehold properties. The land and buildings assets held by the Council were originally valued at 1 April 1997 by the Valuation and Lands Agency, in accordance with the statements of asset valuation practice and guidance notes of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors. The Council is operating a rolling programme for it's revaluation of land and buildings with approximately 25% of these being discretely revalued by physical inspection each year and the remainder being revalued by desktop exercise.
In the 2016/17 year all assets have been valued as at 31 March 2017. The revaluation was carried out by Land and Property Services Agency part of the Department of Finance.

Capital Commitments
A total of three capital contracts were entered into during the period, Whiterock Community Corridor £620,000, City Hall Works £670,570 and Olympia Phase C £5,553,732 with a total commitment value of £6,844,302.

Effects of Changes in Estimates

There were no material changes in accounting estimates for property, plant and equipment during the period.

Surplus Assets
Surplus assets are non-current assets that are not being used to deliver services, but which do not meet the criteria to be classified as either investment properties or non-current assets held for sale. Assets held for sale are assets which are not being used to deliver services and the economic value of which will be realised by disposal, are available for immediate disposal, are being actively marketed and ordinarily are expected to be disposed of within 12 months of the balance sheet date.

Impairments

There were material impairments to property and investment property during the period. Impairments over £500,000 are detailed below:

Asset	£	Asset class	Reason
Land at 9 Adelaide Street	(668,000)	Land	Valuation at 31.03.2017
Innovation Factory Building	(664,922)	Building	Valuation at 31.03.2017
Roselawn Cemetery	(1,159,978)	Community Asset	Valuation at 31.03.2017
Connswater Community Greenway	(21,393,028)	Community Asset	Valuation at 31.03.2017
Sum of material impairments over £500,000	(23,885,928)		

Connswater Community Greenway and Roselawn Cemetery are community assets under the Council's accounting policy, in line with the requirements of the Code of Practice on Local Government Accounting in the UK. Expenditure of £21.39m on Connswater Community Greenway and £1.16 million on Roselawn Cemetery were added to the carrying values of the existing assets during the course of the year, and the valuations of both assets were re-measured to £1 each as community assets following the annual valuation as at 31 Match 2017 by the Land and Property Services valuer. Accordingly, the carrying values of these assets were written down to £1 each and the expenditure on the assets during the course of the year was treated as impairments through the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

The former Olympia Leisure Centre and playground with a net book value of £3.61 million were demolished entirely to facilitate construction of the new sports facility at Olympia on an adjacent site, and are represented within Note 10a "Buildings derecognition other".

10 c **Intangible Assets**

Intangible assets relate to landfill closure costs with net book value £nil (15/16 £nil), gross cost before amortisation £16,700k (15/16 £16,700k) and purchased licensed software and related implementation costs net book value £460k (15/16 £370k), gross cost before amortisation £2,291k (15/16 £2,091k)).

d **Investment Properties**

Reclassifications and Transfers includes £2,310k transferred from PP&E under construction and £575,000 from surplus assets during the year.

Investment Properties	31/03/2017	31/03/2016
	£	£
Rental Income from Investment Activities	6,796,415	6,774,888
Direct Operating expenses arising from investment properties	(434,485)	(415,458)
Net gain/(loss)	6,361,930	6,359,430

e **Heritage Assets**

Works of Art and Civic Items
The Council's collection of Heritage Assets (Works of Art and Civic Items) is reported in the Balance Sheet at insurance valuation which is based on market values, or if it is not possible to obtain a valuation, they are measured at historic cost less depreciation, amortisation or impairment losses. Insurance valuations are updated on a periodic basis. On the occasion that no cost can be accurately measured for an item, it is held on the balance sheet at the value of £1 for stewardship purposes. There are currently 160 of these items recorded by Belfast City Council.

Heritage Assets	31/03/2017	31/03/2016
	£	£
Boxer Statue - Buoys Park Cathedral Gardens	4,099	29,858
Forget Me Not Sculpture- City Cemetery		66,714
Women in the City Stained Glass Window- City Hall		23,520
Spanish Civil War Stained Glass Window - City Hall		18,983
9 Stained Glass Windows - City Hall		9
Hollywood Arches Artwork (CCG)	316,612	
John Caldwell Boxer Statue Dunville Park	68,142	
Boxer Statue - Woodvale Park	72,086	
	460,939	139,084

This total £460,939 has transferred from PP&E Under Construction to operational Heritage Assets in year.

Disposals in the financial year:

There were no disposals of Heritage assets during 2016/17.

f **Assets Held for Sale**

Assets Held for Sale	Current	Non Current	Total
	£	£	£
Cost or Valuation			
Balance as at 1 April 2016	1,500,000	1,675,000	3,175,000
Adjustments between cost/value & depreciation/impairment	-	-	-
Transferred from Non-Current Assets during year	1,697,000	(1,675,000)	22,000
Assets Held for Sale Donations	-	-	-
Assets Held for Sale Revaluation increases/decreases to Revaluation Reserve	-	-	-
Revaluation increases/decreases taken to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	-	-
Assets Held for Sale Impairment @ Cost to Provision of Services	-	-	-
Derecognition - Disposals	-	-	-
Derecognition - Other	-	-	-
Reclassified from Current Assets Held for Sale to non current Assets Held for Sale	-	-	-
Transferred to Property, Plant & Equipment during year	-	-	-
Balance as at 31 March 2017	**3,197,000**	**-**	**3,197,000**
Impairment			
Balance as at 1 April 2016	-	-	-
Adjustments between cost/value & depreciation/impairment	-	-	-
Impairment losses/reversals taken to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	-	-
Derecognition - Disposals	-	-	-
Derecognition - Other	-	-	-
Reclassified from Current Assets Held for Sale to non current Assets	-	-	-
Transferred to Property, Plant & Equipment during year	-	-	-
Balance as at 31 March 2017	**-**	**-**	**-**
Net Book Value			
Balance as at 31 March 2017	**3,197,000**	**-**	**3,197,000**
Balance as at 31 March 2016	**1,500,000**	**1,675,000**	**3,175,000**

Assets Held for Sale	Current	Non Current	Total
	£	£	£
Cost or Valuation			
Balance as at 1 April 2015	1,500,000	1,695,001	**3,195,001**
Adjustments between cost/value & depreciation/impairment	-	-	-
Transferred from Non-Current Assets during year	-	-	-
Assets Held for Sale Donations	-	-	-
Assets Held for Sale Revaluation increases/decreases to Revaluation	-	-	-
Revaluation increases/decreases taken to Surplus or Deficit on the	-	(20,000)	**(20,000)**
Assets Held for Sale Impairment @ Cost to Provision of Services	-	-	-
Derecognition - Disposals	-	-	-
Derecognition - Other	-	-	-
Reclassified from Current Assets Held for Sale to non current Assets	-	-	-
Transferred to Property, Plant & Equipment during year	-	(1)	**(1)**
Balance as at 31 March 2016	**1,500,000**	**1,675,000**	**3,175,000**
Impairment			
Balance as at 1 April 2015	-	-	-
Adjustments between cost/value & depreciation/impairment	-	-	-
Impairment losses/reversals taken to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	-	-
Derecognition - Disposals	-	-	-
Derecognition - Other	-	-	-
Reclassified from Current Assets Held for Sale to non current Assets	-	-	-
Transferred to Property, Plant & Equipment during year	-	-	-
Balance as at 31 March 2016	**1,500,000**	**1,675,000**	**3,175,000**

The reclassification of assets during the year from Non-current assets to Current assets held for sale comprises one asset transferred from surplus assets and the reclassification of the property at Maysfield from Non-current assets to current assets held for sale. The Council considers the disposal of property at Maysfield to take place within the next 12 months.

g Fair Value Hierarchy for Surplus Assets

Details of the Council's surplus assets and information about the fair value hierarchy as at 31 March 2017 and 2016 are as follows:

2016/17 Recurring fair value measurements using:	Quoted Prices in active markets for identical assets (Level 1)	Other significant observable inputs (Level 2)	Significant unobservable inputs (Level 3)	Fair value as at 31st March 2017
	£	£	£	£
Land	2,584,001	-	-	2,584,001
Buildings	380,000	-	-	380,000
Land and Buildings combined	710,000	-	-	710,000
Total	3,674,001	-	-	3,674,001

2015/16 Recurring fair value measurements using:	Quoted Prices in active markets for identical assets (Level 1)	Other significant observable inputs (Level 2)	Significant unobservable inputs (Level 3)	Fair value as at 31st March 2016
	£	£	£	£
Land	1,699,001	-	-	1,699,001
Buildings	380,000	-	-	380,000
Land and Buildings combined	732,001	-	-	732,001
Total	2,811,002	-	-	2,811,002

Surplus assets are valued by reference to market comparable evidence adjusted to location, state and condition and as such are valued using Level 1 inputs.

Transfers between levels of the fair value hierarchy

There were no transfers between Levels 1 and 2 during the year.

Highest and best use of surplus assets

In estimating the fair value of the Council's surplus assets, the highest and best use of the assets is their current use.

Valuation Techniques

There has been no change in the valuation techniques used during the year for surplus assets.

Valuation Process for Surplus Assets

The fair value of the Council's Surplus Assets is measured at market valuation as at 31 March 2017. All valuations are carried out externally by Land and Property Services, in accordance with the methodologies and bases for estimation set out in the professional standards of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. The Council's valuation experts work closely with finance officers reporting directly to the chief financial officer on a regular basis regarding all valuation matters.

h **Fair Value Hierarchy for Investment Properties**

Details of the Council's Investment Properties and information about the fair value hierarchy as at 31 March 2017 and 2016 are as follows

2016/17 Recurring fair value measurements using:	Quoted Prices in active markets for identical assets (Level 1)	Other significant observable inputs (Level 2)	Significant unobservable inputs (Level 3)	Fair value as at 31st March 2017
	£	£	£	£
Commercial Units	93,900,000	-	-	93,900,000
Total	93,900,000	-	-	93,900,000

2015/16 Recurring fair value measurements using:	Quoted Prices in active markets for identical assets (Level 1)	Other significant observable inputs (Level 2)	Significant unobservable inputs	Fair value as at 31st March 2016
	£	£	£	£
Commercial Units	84,120,000	-	-	84,120,000
Total	84,120,000	-	-	84,120,000

Investment Properties are valued by reference to market comparable evidence adjusted to location, state and condition and as such are valued using Level 1 inputs.

Transfers between levels of the fair value hierarchy

There were no transfers between Levels 1 and 2 during the year.

Highest and best use of Investment Properties
In estimating the fair value of the Council's Investment Properties, the highest and best use of the properties is their current use.

Valuation Techniques

There has been no change in the valuation techniques used during the year for Investment Properties.

Gains or losses arising from changes in the fair value of the investment property are recognised in Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services – Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure line.

Valuation Process for Investment Properties

The fair value of the Council's Investment Property is measured at market valuation as at 31 March 2017. All valuations are carried out externally by Land and Property Services, in accordance with the methodologies and bases for estimation set out in the professional standards of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. The Council's valuation experts work closely with finance officers reporting directly to the chief financial officer on a regular basis regarding all valuation matters.

11 Capital Expenditure and Capital Financing

NOTE: The total Capital Expenditure incurred in the year (and comparative year) is shown below - including the value of assets acquired under finance leases and PFI/PPP contracts together with the resources that have been used to finance it. Where Capital Expenditure is to be financed in future years by charges to revenue as assets are used, the expenditure results in an increase in the CFR, a measure of the Capital Expenditure incurred historically by the Council that has yet to be financed. The CFR is analysed in the second part of this note.

Capital Expenditure		2016/17 £	2015/16 £
Opening Capital Financing Requirement		62,193,703	32,930,809
Capital Investment			
Property, Plant and Equipment	10	45,350,872	82,920,362
Investment Properties		-	-
Intangible Assets		10,500	87,765
Revenue Expenditure Funded from Capital under		-	-
Investments		3,070,139	-
Sources of Finance			
Capital Receipts		-	-
Government Grants and Other Contributions	9	(8,947,963)	(40,288,964)
Transfers from Earmarked Reserves		(7,017,860)	(3,531,353)
Sums set aside from Revenue:			
Direct Revenue Contributions		(4,296,859)	(7,038,503)
Minimum Revenue Provision **		(4,155,412)	(2,886,413)
Closing Capital Financing Requirement		**86,207,120**	**62,193,703**

Explanation of Movements in Year	2016/17 £	2015/16 £
Increase in underlying need to borrow	24,013,417	29,262,894
Assets acquired under finance leases	-	-
Assets acquired under PFI/PPP contracts	-	-
Increase/(decrease) in Capital Financing Requirement	**24,013,417**	**29,262,894**

12 Future Capital Commitments

		Gross Cost £	Grant Aid £	Net Cost £
Schemes underway		95,805,967	37,105,372	**58,700,595**
Other Commitments		63,598,910	-	**63,598,910**
Total		**159,404,877**	**37,105,372**	**122,299,505**

Total expenditure of £17,084,235 has been incurred against these projects in the year ended 31 March 2017.

13

Inventories	2016/17 £	2015/16 £
Central Stores	295,715	296,504
Total	**295,715**	**296,504**

The cost of inventories recognised as an expense and included in 'services' amounted to £663,863 (2015/16 £607,481).

14 Debtors

a

Long Term Debtors	2016/17 £	2015/16 £
Government Departments	-	-
Other Councils	-	-
Public corporations and trading funds	-	-
Bodies external to general government	-	-
Employee car loans	88,920	78,534
Revenue Grants	-	-
Capital Grants	-	-
Interest Receivable	-	-
Capital Debtors	-	-
Loans and advances	-	-
Finance lease debtors	-	625,485
Trade debtors	789,382	1,021,813
NIHE Loans	417,760	4,465,360
Other	-	-
Impairment of loans and receivables	-	-
Total Long-Term Debtors	**1,296,062**	**6,191,192**

b

Short Term Debtors	2016/17 £	2015/16 £
Government Departments	1,641,010	994,830
Other Councils	238,856	69,696
Public corporations and trading funds	-	-
Bodies external to general government	-	-
NIHE loans	1,950,250	-
Employee car loans	66,471	56,039
Revenue Grants	3,687,187	4,226,899
Capital Grants	5,104,875	10,562,598
Interest Receivable	-	-
Capital Debtors	-	-
Value Added Tax	2,063,521	2,970,165
Prepayments	2,990,028	3,439,538
Finance lease debtors	26,160	542
Other	3,032,301	3,367,706
Trade receivables	1,537,660	1,537,055
Impairment loss - Trade receivables	(417,475)	(485,767)
Total Short-Term Debtors	**21,920,844**	**26,739,301**
Total Debtors	**23,216,906**	**32,930,493**

15 **Borrowings**

a

Short Term Borrowing		2016/17 £	2015/16 £
Loans re-payable within one year		163,482	-
Finance Lease Principal		-	-
Total Short Term Borrowing		**163,482**	**-**

b

Long Term Borrowing		2016/17 £	2015/16 £
Between 1 and 2 years		4,158,529	168,777
Between 2 and 5 years		22,923,350	22,472,045
Between 5 and 10 years		6,754,732	9,462,910
In more than 10 years		2,607,665	2,657,777
Government Loans Fund		**36,444,276**	**34,761,509**
Total Borrowing		**36,607,758**	**34,761,509**

16 **Creditors**

a

Short Term Creditors		2016/17 £	2015/16 £
Government Departments		1,635,116	1,473,721
Other Councils		14,290	5,633
Public corporations and trading funds		-	-
Bodies external to general government		-	-
Rates clawback		1,917,292	-
VAT		-	-
Remuneration due to employees		524,621	370,703
Accumulated Absences		1,374,835	1,302,728
Receipts in advance		6,413,375	6,088,605
Trade creditors		-	-
Other		15,132,075	26,177,418
Total Short Term Creditors		**27,011,604**	**35,418,808**

b

Long Term Creditors Other creditors falling due after more than one year		2016/17 £	2015/16 £
Government Departments		-	-
Other Councils		-	-
Public corporations and trading funds		-	-
Bodies external to general government		-	-
Rates clawback		-	-
Remuneration due to employees		-	-
Accumulated Absences		-	-
Receipts in advance		-	-
Trade creditors		-	-
Other		82,707	94,146
Total Long Term Creditors		**82,707**	**94,146**
Total Creditors		**27,094,311**	**35,512,954**

c **Payment of Invoices**

The Council has a target of paying supplier invoices, where no other terms are agreed, is 30 days. (It is assumed that 30 days will be 30 calendar days and 10 days will be 10 working days).
During the year the Council received 61,092 invoices totalling £185,282,726 (2015/16 62,112 invoices totalling £206,870,584)

The Council paid:
53,600 invoices within the 30 day target;
43,898 invoices within the 10 day target; and
7,492 invoices outside of the 30 day target.
The average number of days taken to pay suppliers during the year was 23 days.

17

Provisions	Balance as at 1 April 2016 £	Increase in provision during year £	Utilised during year £	Unused amounts reversed £	Interest cost and/or discount rate changes £	Balance as at 31 March 2017 £
Landfill closure	7,669,733	-	(46,039)	(4,546,220)	73,869	3,151,343
Claims management	1,597,809	-	(447,735)	-	-	1,150,074
Reorganisation	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other 4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	9,267,542	-	(493,774)	(4,546,220)	73,869	4,301,417
Current Provisions	6,303,800	-	(447,735)	(3,271,385)	-	2,584,680
Long Term Provisions	2,963,742	-	(46,039)	(1,274,835)	73,869	1,716,737
Total	9,267,542	-	(493,774)	(4,546,220)	73,869	4,301,417

Comparative Year

Provisions	Balance as at 1 April 2015 £	Increase in provision during year £	Utilised during year £	Unused amounts reversed £	Interest cost and/or discount rate changes £	Balance as at 31 March 2016 £
Landfill closure	7,605,248	152,363	(88,907)	-	1,029	7,669,733
Claims management	1,536,521	291,163	(229,875)	-	-	1,597,809
Reorganisation	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other 4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	9,141,769	443,526	(318,782)	-	1,029	9,267,542
Current Provisions	6,242,512	291,163	(229,875)	-	-	6,303,800
Long Term Provisions	2,899,257	152,363	(88,907)	-	1,029	2,963,742
Total	9,141,769	443,526	(318,782)	-	1,029	9,267,542

Landfill closure

The financial provision for the capping and annual monitoring cost required to meet the Council's environmental obligations under the NIEA licence has been agreed on a Local Authority Deed. The area under the NIEA licence has been amended resulting in the amount of £4,546,220 being released from the provision. The discount rates applied on the remaining provision are based on National Loans Fund borrowing rates which has resulted in a valuation of £3,151,343.

Claims management

A provision of £1,150,074 has been made in respect of public liability, employer's liability and other claims/legal cases notified but not processed. Adequate insurance arrangements are in place covering the Council's activities as recommended by the Council's Insurance Brokers. The related insurance premiums paid are accounted for in the financial statements. At 31 March 2017, the total liability for legal cases notified but not processed amounted to an estimated maximum liability of £2,273,614.

18 Financial Instruments

The Council has no material exposure to any of the risk types identified below in its dealings with Financial Instruments.

Credit Risk

Credit risk arises from deposits with banks and financial institutions, as well as credit exposures to the Council's customers. Customers are assessed, taking into account their financial position, past experience and other factors, with individual credit limits being set in accordance with internal ratings in accordance with parameters set by the Council. The provision for bad and doubtful debts reflects the Council's assessment of the risk of non-payment by trade debtors and, as such, there is no further additional estimated exposure to default and inability to collect.

Trade debtors, inclusive of VAT, can be analysed by age as follows:

Trade debtors, inclusive of VAT, can be analysed by age as		£
Less than three months		3,305,930
Three months to one year		111,596
More than one year		789,382
		4,206,908

There is no historical experience of default in relation to deposits with banks and other financial institutions. Therefore there is no estimated exposure to risk of default.

Liquidity Risk

As the Council has ready access to borrowings from the Department of Finance's Consolidated Fund, there is no significant risk that it will be unable to raise finance to meet its commitments under Financial Instruments. The maturity analysis of financial liabilities is included in notes 16 to 18. All trade and other payables are due for payment within one year.

Market Risk

Interest rate risk

The Council is not exposed to significant risk in terms of its exposure to interest rate movements on its borrowings as the majority of its borrowings are at fixed rates for the life of the loans. Rates on investments are subject to market movements.

Foreign Exchange Risk

The Council has no financial assets or liabilities denominated in foreign currencies and thus has no material exposure to loss arising from movements in exchange rates.

Fair Value of Soft Loans and Government Loans

The Council is in receipt of loans from the Department of Finance and Personnel at concessionary interest rates that differ from the prevailing market rates. The fair value of these loans is £42,276,750 broken down as follows:

		£
Government Loans		42,276,750
Total		42,276,750

19 Retirement Benefits

a Participation in the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Pension Fund.

As part of the terms and conditions of employment of its officers and other employees, the Council offers retirement benefits. Although these benefits will not actually be payable until employees retire, the Council has a commitment to make the payments that need to be disclosed at the time that employees earn their future entitlement.

The Council participates in the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Pension Fund administered by the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Superannuation Committee. This is a funded scheme, meaning that the Council and employees pay contributions into a fund, calculated at a level intended to balance the pension's liabilities with investment assets.

b Transactions relating to retirement benefits - Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement

The Council recognises the cost of retirement benefits in the Cost of Services on Continuing Operations when they are earned by employees, rather than when the benefits are eventually paid as pensions.

However, the charge the Council is required to make against district rates is based on the cash payable in the year, and the real cost of retirement benefits is reversed out in the adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations line, in the Movement on Reserves Statement.

The following transactions have been made in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations line, in the Movement on Reserves Statement during the year:

	Note	2016/17 £	2015/16 £
Net cost of services:			
Current service cost		14,903,000	15,472,000
Past service cost/(gain)		119,000	160,000
Gains and losses on settlements or curtailments		(819,000)	912,000
Net operating expenditure:			
Net interest on net defined benefit Liability (asset)		2,853,000	3,287,000
Total Post-employment Benefits charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services		17,056,000	19,831,000
Movement in Reserves Statement:			
Reversal of net charges made for retirement benefits in accordance with IAS 19 and the Code		(17,056,000)	(19,831,000)
Actual amount charged against the general fund balance for pensions in the year:			
Employers' contributions payable to scheme		13,877,000	13,453,000
Net adjustment to the General Fund		(3,179,000)	(6,378,000)

The service cost figures include an allowance for administration expenses of £244,000 (15/16 £188,000).

Remeasurements recognised in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	Note	2016/17 £	2015/16 £
Liability gains/(losses) due to change in assumptions		(114,109,000)	21,369,000
Liability experience gains/(losses) arising in the year		25,042,000	3,976,000
Actuarial gains/(losses) on plan assets		59,573,000	(1,691,000)
Other - (if applicable)		-	-
Total gains/(losses) recognised in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure		(29,494,000)	23,654,000

c **Assets and liabilities in relation to retirement benefits**

Reconciliation of present value of the scheme liabilities:	Note	2016/17 £	2015/16 £
Balance as at 1 April		548,410,000	551,603,000
Current service cost		14,903,000	15,472,000
Interest cost		18,340,000	17,481,000
Contributions by members		4,120,000	4,186,000
Remeasurement (gains) and losses:			
Actuarial gains/losses arising from changes in financial assumption		116,490,000	(21,369,000)
Actuarial gains/losses arising from demographic changes		(2,381,000)	-
Actuarial gains/losses arising on liabilities from experience		(25,042,000)	(3,976,000)
Other (if applicable)		-	-
Past service costs/(gains)		119,000	160,000
Losses/(gains) on curtailments		-	-
Liabilities extinguished on settlements		(3,766,000)	-
Estimated unfunded benefits paid		(795,000)	(835,000)
Estimated benefits paid		(14,318,000)	(14,312,000)
Balance as at 31 March		**656,080,000**	**548,410,000**

Reconciliation of present value of the scheme assets:	Note	2016/17 £	2015/16 £
Balance as at 1 April		457,219,058	442,224,058
Interest income		15,487,000	14,194,000
Contributions by members		4,120,000	4,186,000
Contributions by employer		13,082,000	12,618,000
Contributions in respect of unfunded benefits		795,000	835,000
Remeasurement gain/(loss)		59,573,000	(1,691,000)
Assets distributed on settlements		(2,947,000)	-
Unfunded benefits paid		(795,000)	(835,000)
Benefits paid		(14,318,000)	(14,312,000)
Balance as at 31 March		**532,216,058**	**457,219,058**

Belfast City Council employs a building block approach in determining the rate of return on Fund assets. Historical markets are studied and assets with higher volatility are assumed to generate higher returns consistent with widely accepted capital market principles. The assumed rate of return on each asset class is calculated and the overall expected rate of return on assets so derived by aggregating the expected return for each asset class over the actual asset allocation for the Fund at 31 March 2017.

The actual return on scheme assets in the year was a gain of £75,060,000 (2015/16 gain of £12,503,000).

Fair Value of Plan Assets	31/03/2017 £	31/03/2016 £
Equity investments	396,500,920	328,740,461
Bonds	61,204,840	55,323,499
Property	55,882,680	60,352,908
Cash	13,837,616	10,516,037
Other	4,789,944	2,286,095
	532,216,000	457,219,000

	31/03/2017 £	31/03/2016 £
Fair Value of Employer Assets	532,216,058	457,219,058
Present value of funded defined benefit obligation	(643,399,000)	(536,475,000)
Pension asset/(liability) of Funded Scheme	(111,182,942)	(79,255,942)
Present Value of unfunded defined benefit obligation	(12,681,000)	(11,935,000)
Other movement in the liability (asset) (if applicable)	-	-
Net asset/(liability) arising from the defined benefit obligation	(123,863,942)	(91,190,942)
Amount in the Balance sheet:		
Liabilities	(656,080,000)	(548,410,000)
Assets	532,216,058	457,219,058
Net Asset/(Liability)	**(123,863,942)**	**(91,190,942)**

d Scheme history

Analysis of scheme assets and liabilities	31/03/2017 £	31/03/2016 £
Fair Value of Assets in pension scheme	532,216,058	457,219,058
Present Value of Defined Benefit Obligation	(656,080,000)	(548,410,000)
Surplus/(deficit) in the Scheme	(123,863,942)	(91,190,942)

Amount recognised in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure:	31/03/2017 £	31/03/2016 £
Actuarial gains/(losses)	(29,494,000)	23,654,000
Expected Return on Plan Assets	-	-
Increase/(decrease) in irrecoverable surplus from membership fall and other factors	-	-
Remeasurements recognised in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	(29,494,000)	23,654,000
Cumulative actuarial gains as at 31 March	(51,472,000)	(21,978,000)
History of experience gains and losses:		
Experience gains and (losses) on assets	59,573,000	(1,691,000)
Experience gains and (losses) on liabilities	25,042,000	3,976,000

The liabilities show the underlying commitments that the authority has in the long run to pay retirement benefits. The total liability of £123,863,842 has a substantial impact on the net worth of the Council as recorded in the Balance Sheet, resulting in a reduction of net worth of 25%.

However, statutory arrangements for funding the deficit mean that the financial position of the Council remains healthy. The deficit on the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Pension Fund will be made good by increased contributions over the remaining working life of employees, assessed by the scheme actuary.

Analysis of projected amount to be charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for the year to 31 March 2018

	31/03/2018 £	31/03/2018 £
Projected current cost	20,306,000	86.9%
Net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset)	3,049,000	13.1%
Past service cost	-	0.0%
Gains and losses on settlements or curtailments	-	0.0%
	23,355,000	100.0%

The total contributions expected to be made to the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Pension Fund by the council in the year to 31 March 2018 is £13,271,000.

History of experience gains and losses

The actuarial gains/losses identified as movements on the Pensions Reserve 2016/17 can be analysed into the following categories, measured as a percentage of assets or liabilities at 31 March 2017.

			31/03/2017 %	31/03/2016 %
Experience gains and (losses) on Assets			11.19%	-0.37%
Experience gains and (losses) on Liabilities			-3.82%	-0.73%

e **Basis for estimating assets and liabilities**

Liabilities have been assessed on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method, an estimate of the pensions that will be payable in the future years dependent on assumptions about mortality rates, salary levels, etc. The Council's Fund liabilities have been assessed by Aon Hewitt Limited, an independent firm of actuaries, estimates for the Council Fund being based on data pertaining to the latest full valuation of the scheme as at 31 March 2013.

Key assumptions	2016/17	2015/16
Mortality assumptions:		
Longevity at 65 current pensioners:	Years	Years
Men	23.2	22.3
Women	25.8	24.8
Longevity at 65 for future pensioners:		
Men	25.4	24.5
Women	28.1	27.2
Inflation/Pension Increase Rate	2.00%	1.80%
Salary Increase Rate	3.50%	3.30%
Discount Rate	2.60%	3.40%
Pension accounts revaluation rate	2.00%	1.80%
Take-up of option to convert annual pension into retirement lump sum:		
Service to April 2009	75%	75%
Service post April 2009	75%	75%

Pension Assumptions Sensitivity Analysis

The pension figures disclosed in these financial statements are sensitive to the assumptions used.

The approximate impact of changing key assumptions on the present value of the funded defined benefit obligation as at 31 March 2017 is set out below.

In each case, only the assumption noted below is altered; all other assumptions remain the same and are summarised in the **Funded Pension Scheme Benefits**

Discount Rate Assumption		
Adjustment to discount rate	**+0.1%p.a.**	**-0.1%p.a.**
Present value of the total obligation	631,233,000	655,800,000
% change in the present value of the total obligation	-1.90%	1.90%
Projected service cost	19,720,000	20,906,000
Approximate % change in projected service cost	-2.90%	3.00%
Rate of General Increase in Salaries		
Adjustment to salary increase rate	**+0.1%p.a.**	**-0.1%p.a.**
Present value of the total obligation	646,958,000	639,875,000
% change in the present value of the total obligation	0.60%	-0.50%
Projected service cost	20,306,000	20,306,000
Approximate % change in projected service cost	0.00%	0.00%
Rate of increase to Pensions in Payment and Deferred Pension Assumption		
Adjustment to pension increase rate	**+0.1%p.a.**	**-0.1%p.a.**
Present value of the total obligation	652,204,000	634,720,000
% change in the present value of the total obligation	1.40%	-1.30%
Projected service cost	20,906,000	19,720,000
Approximate % change in projected service cost	3.00%	-2.90%
Post Retirement Mortality Assumption		
Adjustment to mortality age rating assumption*	**- 1 Year**	**+1 Year**
Present value of the total obligation	662,218,000	624,685,000
% change in the present value of the total obligation	2.90%	-2.90%
Projected service cost	21,028,000	19,588,000
Approximate % change in projected service cost	3.60%	-3.50%

* A rating of +1 year means that members are assumed to follow the mortality pattern of the base table above for an individual that is 1 year older than that.

f **Major categories of plan assets as percentage of total plan assets**

		2016/17 %	2015/16 %
Equity investments		74.50%	71.90%
Government Bonds		5.40%	5.70%
Corporate Bonds		6.10%	6.40%
Property		10.50%	13.20%
Cash		2.60%	2.30%
Other		0.90%	0.50%
Total		**100.00%**	**100.00%**

g **Northern Ireland Civil Service Pension Arrangements**

The Northern Ireland Civil Service Pension arrangements are unfunded multi-employer defined benefit schemes but the Council is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities. The most up to date actuarial valuation was carried out as at 31 March 2012. This valuation is then reviewed by the Scheme Actuary and updated to reflect current conditions and rolled forward to the reporting date of the DoF Superannuation and Other Allowances Resource Accounts as at 31 March 2017.

h **Assets and liabilities in relation to retirement benefits of the Gas Pension Fund**

Reconciliation of present value of the scheme liabilities:	Note	2016/17 £	2015/16 £
Balance as at 1 April		1,694,000	2,039,000
Current service cost		-	-
Interest cost		51,000	58,000
Contributions by members		-	-
Remeasurement (gains) and losses:			
Actuarial gains/losses arising from changes in financial assumption		84,000	(26,000)
Actuarial gains/losses arising from demographic changes		-	-
Actuarial gains/losses arising on liabilities from experience		(10,000)	(31,000)
Other (if applicable)		-	-
Past service costs/(gains)		-	-
Losses/(gains) on curtailments		-	-
Liabilities extinguished on settlements		-	-
Net benefits paid		(303,000)	(346,000)
Balance as at 31 March		**1,516,000**	**1,694,000**

Reconciliation of present value of the scheme assets:	Note	2016/17 £	2015/16 £
Balance as at 1 April		1,785,000	1,973,000
Interest Income		54,000	58,000
Contributions by members		-	-
Contributions by employer		-	150,000
Remeasurement gain/(loss)		(23,000)	(50,000)
Assets distributed on settlements		-	-
Net Benefits paid		(303,000)	(346,000)
Balance as at 31 March		**1,513,000**	**1,785,000**

Analysis of scheme assets and liabilities	Note	2016/17 £	2015/16 £
Fair Value of Assets in pension scheme		1,513,000	1,785,000
Present Value of Defined Benefit Obligation		1,516,000	1,694,000
Net Asset/(Liability) recognised on the balance sheet		**(3,000)**	**91,000**

Funded Pension Scheme Benefits- Gas Pension Fund Sensitivity Analysis

Discount Rate Assumption		
Adjustment to discount rate	**+0.1% p.a.**	**-0.1% p.a.**
Present value of the total obligation	1,508,000	1,524,000
% change in the present value of the total obligation	-0.50%	0.50%
Rate of Increase to Pensions in Payment accounts assumption		
Adjustment to pension increase rate	**+0.1% p.a.**	**-0.1% p.a.**
Present value of the total obligation	1,524,000	1,508,000
% change in the present value of the total obligation	0.50%	-0.50%
Post Retirement Mortality Assumption		
Adjustment to mortality age rating assumption*	**-1yr**	**+1yr**
Present value of the total obligation	1,619,000	1,416,000
% change in the present value of the total obligation	6.80%	-6.60%

* A rating of +1 year means that members are assumed to follow the mortality pattern of the base table above for an individual that is 1 year older than that.

	Note	2016/17 %	2015/16 %
Government Bonds		29.50%	51.60%
Cash		70.50%	48.40%
Total		**100.00%**	**100.00%**

Mortality assumptions:		
Members aged 85 at accounting date	Years	Years
Men	6.6	6.5
Women	7.8	7.7

Inflation/Pension Increase Rate	2.00%	1.70%
Discount Rate	2.50%	3.30%

Gas Pension Fund

The Gas Pension Fund is maintained to provide for future pension payments to the beneficiaries, the objective being to maintain a fund sufficient to provide all future anticipated payments. No contributions are currently being paid and there are no service members accruing further benefits. Members' benefits are guaranteed by statute. Should the Fund's assets not be sufficient to provide all the benefits, the residual liability for pension payments would fall on Belfast City Council.

The current market value of the Fund at 31 March 2017 is assessed by the Councils actuaries, Aon Hewitt and is disclosed above. The Fund's Financial Statements outlined below do not take account of liabilities to pay pensions and other benefits after 31 March 2017.

At 31 March 2017 there were 32 pensioners left in the Gas Pensions Fund and the balances relating to the Gas Pension Fund are fully consolidated in the Group financial statements.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT	31/03/2017	31/03/2016
	£	£
INCOME:		
Investment Income	15,133	21,064
EXPENDITURE		
Pensions Paid	(290,964)	(339,826)
Administration Expenses	(11,798)	(5,675)
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year	**(287,629)**	**(324,437)**
NET ASSET MOVEMENTS		
Brought forward balance at 01.04.2015	1,404,251	1,728,723
Unrealised gain at 01.04.2015	386,179	400,263
Opening Value of Fund	**1,790,430**	**2,128,986**
Add Contribution from City Council		
Add surplus/(deficit) for the year	(287,629)	(324,437)
CHANGE IN MARKET VALUES OF INVESTMENTS		
Realised gain for year	222,888	
Unrealised gain/(loss) for year	(209,142)	(14,119)
Closing value of fund	**1,516,547**	**1,790,430**
FINANCED BY:		
UK Index Linked Investments	445,585	920,399
Cash deposits and at bank	1,067,292	864,335
Debtors	3,670	5,696
	1,516,547	1,790,430
Bank Balance	-	-
Creditors	-	-
Closing value of fund	1,516,547	1,790,430

Summary Net Asset/Liability recognised on the Balance Sheet		31/03/2017	31/03/2016
		£	
Northern Ireland Local Government Officer's Pension Fund		(123,863,942)	(91,190,942)
Gas Pension Fund		(3,000)	91,000
Belfast Waterfront & Ulster Hall Limited		(1,966,000)	-
Total Net Asset/Liability recognised on the Balance Sheet		(125,832,942)	(91,099,942)

The figures above include a pension liability in respect of Belfast Waterfront & Ulster Hall Limited (BWUH Ltd). BWUH Ltd became a participating employer in the NILGOSC scheme on 1 April 2016 and until this date the liabilities of the scheme remain liabilities of the Council. As such, the net liability under this scheme is disclosed and included in the net liability total for Belfast City Council.

20

Donated Assets Account	Note	2016/17 £	2015/16 £
Opening balance		410,000	410,000
Add: new donated assets received (condition of use not met)		1	-
Less: amounts released to the District Fund - Comprehensive Income and Expenditure		(400,000)	-
		10,001	410,000

Analysis of Donated Assets Account

The balance of the Donated Assets Account represents donations received that have yet to be recognised as income, as they have conditions attached to them, which will require the donated assets to be returned, if conditions are not met. The balances at the year end are as follows:

Donated Assets Account	Note	2016/17 £	2015/16 £
Big Screen TV at City Hall		-	400,000
Animal Welfare Van		10,000	10,000
Councillor Samuel Turpin Mercer Portrait		1	-
		10,001	410,000

21

Capital Grants Received in Advance	Note	2016/17 £	2015/16 £
Opening balance		353,005	21,827
Add: new capital grants received in advance (condition of use not met)		464,808	335,938
Less: amounts released to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement		(194,490)	(4,760)
		623,323	353,005

Analysis of Capital Grants Receipts in Advance Balance

The balance of Capital Grants Receipts in Advance represents grants received that have yet to be recognised as income, as they have conditions attached to them, which will require the grant to be repaid, if conditions are not met. The balances at the year end are as follows:

Capital Grants Receipts in Advance	Note	2016/17 £	2015/16 £
Whiterock Community Garden Allotments		483	483
BSC 7 Alleygates Lenadoon		5,705	20,295
BSC Alleygates Divis		10,147	33,080
BSC Bikes Lower Oldpark		27,527	76,716
BSC Bikes Lower Falls		39,369	76,716
BSC Bikes Lower Shankill		29,675	76,716
BSC 26 Alleygates Lenadoon		10,417	68,999
Robinson Centre		500,000	-
		623,323	353,005

22 **Contingencies**

The arc21 Joint Committee has, with the approval of their Participant Councils, entered into a Contingent Liability Undertaking with the bidding consortium in the procurement for the Residential Waste Treatment Project. Payments made, if any, in accordance with this undertaking will be funded by the Participant Councils.

Guaranteed Minimum Pension (GMP) is a portion of pension that was accrued by individuals who were contracted out of the State Second Pension prior to 6 April 1997. Although the Government intends that GMP should be equalised, at present it is not clear how this equalisation will be implemented. The impact of GMP on the liabilities is uncertain and as such no allowance for GMP equalisation has been made.

The financial provision for the capping and annual monitoring cost of the landfill site, required to meet the Council's environmental obligations under the NIEA licence, has been agreed on a Local Authority Deed and disclosed in Note 17. The remaining area not covered by NIEA licence may require specific capping depending on the future use of this land. The impact of any future capping of this area on the liabilities of Belfast City Council is uncertain and therefore no provision for any such costs has been made.

23 Other cash flow disclosures

a Analysis of Adjustments to Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services

Adjustment to surplus or deficit on the provision of services for noncash movements	Notes	2016/17	2015/16
		£	£
Depreciation	10	14,003,845	11,697,623
Impairment & downward revaluations (& non-sale	10	16,047,198	15,354,329
Amortisation (included with depreciation above)		-	-
(Increase)/Decrease in Stock		789	(7,827)
(Increase)/Decrease in Debtors		9,781,879	(507,351)
Increase/(decrease) in impairment provision for bad debts		(68,292)	110,594
Increase/(Decrease) in Creditors		(8,490,750)	10,915,332
Increase/(Decrease) in Interest Creditors		-	-
Payments to NILGOSC	20	3,179,000	6,378,000
Carrying amount of non-current assets sold	10	4,122,115	198,655
AIC/WIP written off to Net Cost of Services	10	-	20,859
Contributions to Other Reserves/Provisions		7,217,283	(3,953,807)
Movement in value of investment properties-included above in Impairment & downward revaluations (& non-sale derecognitions)		-	-
Amounts posted to CIES from Donated Assets Account	21	(400,000)	-
		45,393,067	40,206,407

Adjust for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities	Notes	2016/17	2015/16
		£	£
Purchase of short-term (not considered to be cash equivalents) and long-term investments (includes investments in associates, joint ventures and subsidiaries)		3,070,139	-
Proceeds from short-term (not considered to be cash equivalents) and long-term investments (includes investments in associates, joint ventures and subsidiaries)		-	-
Proceeds from the sale of PP&E, investment property and intangible assets		(411,613)	(72,785)
Capital grants included in "Taxation & non-specific grant income"		(8,947,963)	(40,288,964)
		(6,289,437)	(40,361,749)

b Cash and Cash Equivalents

For the purposes of the cash flow statement, cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand and in bank and short term deposits and investments (considered to be cash equivalents), net of outstanding bank overdrafts. Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period as shown in the statement of cash flows can be reconciled to the related items in the Balance Sheet as follows:

	2016/17	2015/16
	£	£
Cash and Bank balances	2,317,266	5,705,507
Short Term Deposits (considered to be Cash Equivalents)	5,000,000	26,000,000
Short Term Investments (considered to be Cash Equivalents)	-	-
Bank Overdraft	-	-
	7,317,266	31,705,507

c

Cash Flow Statement: Operating Activities	2016/17	2015/16
The cash flows from operating activities include:	£	£
Interest received	148,000	206,460
Interest paid	-	-

d

Cash flows from Investing Activities	2016/17	2015/16
	£	£
Purchase of PP&E, investment property and intangible	53,029,485	81,478,125
Purchase of Short Term Investments (not considered to be cash equivalents)	-	-
Loans transferred 1 April 2015	-	(4,541,014)
Purchase of Long Term Investments	3,070,139	-
Other Payments for Investing Activities	1,609,816	1,844,895
Proceeds from the sale of PP&E, investment property and intangible assets	(411,613)	(72,785)
Proceeds from Short Term Investments (not considered to be cash equivalents)	-	-
Proceeds from Long Term Investments	-	-
Capital Grants and Contributions Received	(8,947,963)	(40,288,964)
Other Receipts from Investing Activities	-	-
Net Cash flows from Investing Activities	48,349,864	38,420,257

e

Cash flows from Financing Activities	2016/17	2015/16
	£	£
Cash Receipts from Short and Long Term Borrowing	5,000,000	11,000,000
Other Receipts from Financing Activities	-	-
Cash payments for the reduction of the outstanding liability relating to a finance lease and on-Balance Sheet PFI contracts	-	-
Repayment of Short and Long Term Borrowing	(3,153,751)	(3,937,749)
Other payments for Financing Activities	-	-
Net Cash flows from Financing Activities	1,846,249	7,062,251

24 Usable Reserves

a Capital Receipts Reserve

These are capital receipts which have originated primarily from the sale of assets which have not yet been used to finance capital expenditure.

The Capital Receipts Reserve is credited with the proceeds from fixed asset sales and other monies defined by statute as capital receipts. These are originally credited to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement as part of the gain/loss on disposal and posted out via the Movement in Reserves Statement to the Capital Receipts Reserve. The reserve is written down when resources are applied to finance new capital expenditure or set aside to reduce an authority's capital financing requirement (or used for other purposes permitted by statute).

Capital Receipts Reserve	Notes	31/03/2017	31/03/2016
		£	£
At 1 April		1,263,369	1,243,065
Movement			
Transfers between statutory & other reserves & the General Fund		-	-
Disposal of Non Current Assets/ Capital Sales	3,10, 23	369,088	20,304
Capital Receipts used to finance capital expenditure	3, 11	-	-
Difference between finance and other costs and income calculated on an accounting basis and finance costs calculated in accordance with statutory requirements		(27,038)	(46,350)
Other Movements		27,038	46,350
At 31 March		1,632,457	1,263,369

b Capital Grants Unapplied account

Where a capital grant or contribution (or part thereof) has been recognised as income in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, but the expenditure to be financed from that grant or contribution has not been incurred at the Balance Sheet date, the grant or contribution shall be transferred to the Capital Grants Unapplied Account (within the usable reserves section of the balance sheet), reflecting its status as a capital resource available to finance expenditure. This transfer is reported in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

When, at a future date, the expenditure to be financed from the grant or contribution is incurred, the grant or contribution (or part thereof) shall be transferred from the Capital Grants Unapplied Account to the Capital Adjustment Account, reflecting the application of capital resources to finance expenditure. This transfer is also reported in the Movement in Reserves Statement or in the notes to the accounts.

The Council receives capital grants from various funding bodies when the expenditure has been incurred and a capital grant claim is submitted.

Capital Grants Unapplied account	Notes	31/03/2017	31/03/2016
		£	£
At 1 April		-	-
Movement			
Unapplied Capital Grants received in year		-	-
Unapplied Capital Grants transferred to CAA in year		-	-

c **Capital Fund**

This fund was established under section 56 of the Local Government Act (NI) 1972, however this section of the act was repealed under the Local Government Finance Act (Nothern Ireland) 2011.

Capital Fund	Notes	31/03/2017	31/03/2016
		£	£
At 1 April		25,475,756	27,589,083
Transfers between statutory & other reserves & the General Fund	3b	2,161,588	1,418,027
Transfer to BWUH Subvention Fund		283,411	-
Financing from Local Investment Fund		-	(31,354)
Transfers between Capital Fund & CAA to finance Capital Expenditure	11	(3,070,139)	(3,500,000)
At 31 March		**24,850,616**	**25,475,756**

This amount is represented by the following funds:

	£	£
Local Investment Fund	4,056,629	5,700,837
Belfast Investment Fund	3,810,715	4,919
City Centre Investment Fund	15,699,861	18,770,000
Social Outcomes Fund	1,000,000	1,000,000
BWUH Subvention Fund	283,411	-
Total	**24,850,616**	**25,475,756**

The above funds are earmarked for the following purposes:
City Centre Investment Fund (CCIF) is a fund to support the Belfast City Centre Regeneration Investment Plans. The proposed investment principles for the CCIF are as follows:

- the project should make a significant impact on the City Centre economy in terms of "gross value added" and job creation
- the project should make positive and net contribution to the business rates income received by Belfast City Council

During the year Belfast City Council used this fund to support a City Centre regeneration project. Further details of this investment totalling £3,070,139 are outlined in Note 28 Investment in Associates. The balance on the CCIF at year ended 31 March 2017 is £15,699,861.

BWUH Subvention Fund is a fund to support planned maintenance and future capital works of the new exhibition centre at Waterfront Hall.

Social Outcomes Fund is set up to support City Centre projects which might not generate a direct financial return but which would enhance the overall City Centre offer and support the attraction of investment into the City Centre. The balance on this fund as at 31 March 2017 is £1,000,000.

Local Investment Fund (LIF) is a key part of the Investment Programme that provides funding for smaller initiatives focusing on physical work on buildings or facilities within communities. The balance on this fund as at 31 March 2017 is £4,056,629.

There is a balance of £3,810,715 on the Belfast Investment Fund at year end 31 March 2017. This fund was established to support partnership projects across the City.

d Leisure Mobilisation Fund

This fund was established under section 56 of the Local Government Act (NI) 1972, however this section of the act was repealed under the Local Government Finance Act (Nothern Ireland) 2011.

Leisure Mobilisation Fund	Notes	31/03/2017	31/03/2016
		£	£
At 1 April		2,000,000	-
Transfers between statutory & other reserves & the General Fund		(55,000)	2,000,000
Transfers between Renewal & Repair Fund & CAA to finance Capital Expenditure	11	-	-
At 31 March		1,945,000	2,000,000

The Leisure Mobilisation Fund is a fund to support the Leisure Transformation Programme. This fund will cover programme level costs including communications, engagement and procurement costs.

e Other Balances & Reserves

Other Balances & Reserves	Notes	31/03/2017	31/03/2016
		£	£
At 1 April		203,566	2,898
Transfers between statutory & other reserves & the General Fund		153,952	200,668
Transfers between Capital Fund/Renewal & Repair Fund & CAA to finance capital expenditure	11	-	-
At 31 March		357,518	203,566

This reserve is used to equalise (smooth) the cost of elections by building up a fund to cover the costs of future elections by making contributions, as and when required, to the reserve.

f General Fund

This reserve shows the accounting cost in the year of providing services in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices, rather than the amount to be funded from District Rates. Councils raise rates to cover expenditure in accordance with regulations; this may be different from the accounting cost. The taxation position is shown in the Movement in Reserves Statement.

General Fund	Notes	31/03/2017	31/03/2016
		£	£
At 1 April		19,181,234	22,050,670
Applied Capital Grants	3, 21, 23	(8,947,963)	(40,288,964)
Unapplied Capital Grants received in year		-	-
Direct Revenue Financing	3, 11	(4,296,859)	(7,038,503)
Depreciation and Impairment adjustment	3	30,051,043	27,072,811
Statutory Provision for financing Capital Investment	3	(4,155,412)	(2,886,413)
Net Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute	3, 11	-	-
Surplus/(Deficit) on the Provision of Services	CIES	(16,988,256)	17,080,585
Transfers between Statutory and Other Reserves and the General Fund		(2,260,540)	(3,618,695)
Net movements on Pension Reserve	3, 20	3,179,000	6,378,000
Disposal of Fixed Assets/Capital Sales	3, 10, 23	3,710,502	125,870
Difference between finance and other costs and income calculated on an accounting basis and finance costs calculated in accordance with statutory requirements		671,974	40,580
Other Movements		844,729	265,293
At 31 March		20,989,452	19,181,234

This fund represents the surplus of income over expenditure. It can be used to supplement income and unexpected expenditure in future years. Of the £20,989k, £7,635k relates to expenditure committed at the year end (15/16 £19,181k, £6,318 committed).

25 Unusable Reserves

a Capital Adjustment Account

The Capital Adjustment Account absorbs the timing differences arising from the different arrangements for accounting for the consumption of non-current assets and for the acquisition, construction or enhancement of those assets under statutory provisions.

The Account is debited with the cost of acquisition, construction or enhancement as depreciation, impairment losses and amortisations are charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, with reconciling postings from the Revaluation Reserve to convert fair value figures to an historic cost basis.

The Account contains accumulated gains and losses on Investment Properties and gains recognised on donated assets that have yet to be consumed by the Council.

The Account also contains revaluation gains accumulated on Property, Plant and Equipment before 1 April 2007, the date that the Revaluation Reserve was created to hold such gains.

Capital Adjustment Account	Notes	31/03/2017	31/03/2016
		£	£
At 1 April		433,923,306	404,355,918
Applied Capital Grants	3, 21, 23	8,947,963	40,288,964
Unapplied Capital Grants transferred to CAA in year		-	-
Direct Revenue Financing	3, 11	4,296,859	7,038,503
Depreciation & Impairment adjustment	10	(30,051,043)	(27,072,811)
Statutory Provision for financing Capital Investment	3	4,155,412	2,886,413
Net Revenue expenditure funded from Capital under	3, 11	-	-
Disposal of Fixed Assets/ Capital Sales	3, 10	(4,122,115)	(198,655)
Capital Receipts used to finance capital expenditure	3, 11	-	-
Other Movements		7,602,136	3,124,974
Transfers between Capital Fund/Renewal & Repair Fund & CAA to finance capital expenditure	11	3,070,139	3,500,000
At 31 March		427,822,657	433,923,306

b Financial Instruments Adjustment Account

Financial Instruments Adjustment Account	Notes	31/03/2017	31/03/2016
		£	£
At 1 April		-	-
Difference between finance and other costs and income calculated on an accounting basis and finance costs calculated in accordance with statutory requirements	3	-	-
At 31 March		-	-

The Council has no transactions that would require use of this account.

c Revaluation Reserve

The Revaluation Reserve contains the gains made by the Council arising from increases in the value of its Property, Plant and Equipment and Intangible Assets. The reserve is reduced when assets with accumulated gains are:

- revalued downwards or impaired and the gains are lost
- used in the provision of services and the gains are consumed through depreciation, or
- disposed of and the gains are realised.

The reserve contains only revaluation gains accumulated since 1 April 2008, the date the reserve was created. Accumulated gains arising before that date are consolidated into the balance on the Capital Adjustment Account.

The purpose of this account is to build up a balance based on the revaluation (upwards or downwards) of individual assets. All such revaluations (excluding impairment losses that have been debited to Surplus/(Deficit) on the Provision of Services in the) are mirrored in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure. It is a fundamental principle of this account that it never becomes negative. If an asset was held at current value when derecognised, the balance held on the Revaluation Reserve is written off to the Capital Adjustment Account.

Revaluation Reserve	Notes	31/03/2017	31/03/2016
		£	£
At 1 April		123,817,218	104,323,637
Revaluation & Impairment	10, 20	18,228,570	22,566,358
Movements from associates & joint ventures		-	-
Other Movements		(3,537,499)	(3,072,777)
At 31 March		138,508,289	123,817,218

d Available for Sale Financial Instruments Reserve

The Council has no transactions that would require use of this account.

e Pension Reserve

Pension Reserve	Notes	31/03/2017	31/03/2016
		£	£
At 1 April		(91,099,942)	(109,378,942)
Net Movements on Pension Reserve	3, 20	(3,179,000)	(5,466,000)
Revaluation & Impairment	11, 20	(29,494,000)	23,654,000
Gas pension & BWUH movement		(2,060,000)	91,000
At 31 March		(125,832,942)	(91,099,942)

f Deferred Capital Receipts Account

The Deferred Capital Receipts Account records capital advances receivable where an amount equal to the advance is included as a deferred capital receipt. These amounts are written down each year by the amount of capital debt repaid to the Council in that year.

Capital Receipts Deferred Account	Notes	31/03/2017	31/03/2016
		£	£
At 1 April		-	-
Other Movements		-	-
At 31 March		-	-

g Accumulated Absences Account

The Accumulated Absences Account absorbs the differences that would otherwise arise on the General Fund balance from accruing for compensated absences earned but not taken in the year e.g. staff annual leave entitlement carried forward at the end of the financial year. Statutory arrangements are expected to require that the impact on the General Fund is neutralised by transfers to or from this Accumulated Absences Account

Accumulated Absences Account	Notes	31/03/2017	31/03/2016
		£	£
At 1 April		(1,302,728)	(1,262,148)
Difference between finance and other costs and income calculated on an accounting basis and finance costs calculated in accordance with statutory requirements		(72,107)	(40,580)
At 31 March		(1,374,835)	(1,302,728)

26 Significant Trading Operations

The Council considers a trading operation exists where the service it provides is competitive i.e the user always has the choice to use an alternative supplier to the Council and the Council charges the user on a basis other than a straightforward recharge of the Council's costs in supplying the service. The Council uses a variety of charging mechanisms such as quoted lump sums, fixed periodical charges or rates, or a combination of these.

In deciding whether a trading operation is significant the Council takes both financial and non-financial criteria into account.

Financial criteria taken into account in deciding whether trading operations are significant to the Council are:

- the magnitude of each individual trading operation's turnover when compared with the Council's net revenue budget

- the risk of financial loss the Council may be exposed to in providing the service to the user.

Non-financial criteria taken into account in deciding whether trading operations are significant to the Council are:

- the importance of each individual trading operation to demonstrating the achievement of Council targets and improving performance.

- the exposure of the Council to service reputational loss risk by providing the service

- whether the provision of the service is likely to be of interest to the Council's key stakeholders and their needs.

In applying the aforementioned criteria, the Council considers the letting of industrial estates to be a significant trading operation.

These significant trading operations form part of Note 8e to these financial statements.

27 Agency Services

The Council provides administration services to Belfast One BID Ltd and Destination CQ BID Ltd. Belfast One BID Ltd pay an administration to the Council for these services. This fee amounted to £14k for 2016/17.

28 Investment in Subsidiaries, Joint Ventures & Associates

During 2016/17 Belfast City Council made a financial contribution of £3,070,139 to Beltel LLP relating to the redevelopment of the Belfast Telegraph Building.

This contribution to LLP is included in the Long term Assets of Belfast City Council. This represents 46% of the net assets of the LLP which is included in Belfast City Council's consolidated balance sheet.

	£
Long term assets	2,928,108
Current assets	134,725
Current liabilities	7,306
Long term liabilities	-
Net Assets	**3,070,139**

On 1 April 2016, the operations of Waterfront Hall and Ulster Hall were transferred to a company BWUH Limited. Belfast City Council hold the entire share capital of this company, 1 ordinary share at £1 each. Belfast City Council entered into an agreement with BWUH Limited under which the Council pays the company a management fee for the operation of Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall. Payments to and from the company are outlined in Note 29.7.

29 Related Party Transactions

A Related Party Transaction is a transfer of resources or obligations between related parties, regardless of whether a price is charged. Related Party Transaction exclude transactions with any other entity that is a related party solely because of its economic dependence on the Council or the Government of which it forms part. A related party is one that has the ability to control the other party or exercise significant influence over the other party in making financial and operating decisions. This includes cases where the related party entity and another entity are subject to common control but excludes providers of finance in the course of their normal business with the Council and Trade Unions in the course of their normal dealings with the Council. In addition where the relationship with the Council and the entity is solely that of an Agency (see note 28) these are not deemed to be Related Party Transactions.

Transactions with related parties not disclosed elsewhere in these financial statements are set out below.

Councillors have direct control over the Council's financial and operating policies. In the 2016/17 financial year the Council commissioned £2,258,205 (2015/16 £1,932,703) of works and services from Visit Belfast in which Councillors have an interest. The Council entered into these contracts in full compliance with the Council's standing orders and codes of conduct.

The Council also paid grants of £1,104,891 (2015/16 £1,241,436) to a number of organisations in which Councillors and Council officers had an interest. These grants were made with proper consideration of declaration of interests.

During 2016/17 the Council had expenditure of £227,746 (2015/16 £76,909) to other Councils and income received of £614,866 (2015/16 £623,390) from other Councils, of which £238,856 (2015/16 £69,696) was outstanding at 31 March 2017. These amounts mainly related to services provided.

29.1 Payments to Community Groups

Belfast City Council made payments to the following Community Groups that have Councillors as part of their committee structure;

	Councillors	2016/17 £	2015/16 £
East Belfast Partnership Board	8	4,292	153,411
North Belfast Partnership Board	6	11,473	140
South Belfast Partnership Board	6	9,565	4,500
West Belfast Partnership Board	2	nil	460
Total		**25,330**	**158,511**

29.2 Joint Committees

Belfast City Council made payments to the following Joint Committees;

		£	£
Arc21	2	8,475,994	9,181,517

The origins of arc21 can be traced back to June 1999, when a small number of Council representatives agreed that a joint approach was the best way to deliver an effective waste management strategy for the region. By 2000, 11 Councils had joined together from the eastern Region Waste Management Group, which was eventually renamed arc21.

At present arc21 has successfully been awarded and is managing waste management contracts on behalf of Councils with a value in the region of £200m.

29.3 Other Organisations

	Councillors	2016/17	2015/16
		£	£
Association of Port Health Authorities	1	1,200	1,200
Belfast City Centre Management Board	2	274,387	346,339
Belfast City Centre Marathon Company		-	31,440
Belfast Harbour Commissioners	4	47,216	130,663
Belfast Hills P'ship	1	41,388	36,900
Board of Ulster Orchestra Society Ltd	1	373,925	324,942
Cathedral Quarter Trust	2	32,182	29,010
Concorde Community Centre Committee	2	600	500
Dee Street Community Centre Committee	6	1,320	440
Donegall Pass Community Centre Committee	3	600	-
Duncairn Community Centre Committee	4	600	600
Finaghy Community Centre Committee	2	600	-
Grand Opera House Trust	1	52,500	35,000
Greater Shankill Partnership Board	6	29,527	46,429
Groundwork NI		2,000	11,968
Hammer Community Centre Committee	2	600	-
Highfield Community Centre Committee	2	600	1,200
Horn Drive Community Centre Committee	2	600	600
Inverary Community Centre Committee	4	-	707
knocknagoney Community Centre Committee	5	2,868	2,110
Ligoniel Community Centre Committee	1	600	600
Linenhall Library Board	1	35,000	36,218
Local Strategic Partnership on Travellers' Issues	2	-	500
Lyric Theatre Education Advisory Panel	2	101,180	52,360
Markets Community Centre Committee	3	-	546
Morton Community Centre Committee	4	600	-
National Association of Councillors	8	3,560	3,560
NI Amenity Council	1	2,330	2,330
NI Housing Council	1	-	44,892
NI Local Government Association	10	90,216	84,070
North Queen Street Community Centre Committee	2	-	600
Somme Advisory Council	3	8,040	14,712
Visit Belfast	4	2,258,205	1,932,703
Woodvale Community Centre Committee	2	652	1,000
		3,363,096	**3,174,139**

29.4 Active Belfast Limited

Belfast City Council with Active Belfast Limited entered into an agreement with GLL for the provision of leisure services. These financial statements include expenses of £8,699,066 (2015/16 £8,192,326) for the provision of these services in the year ended 31 March 2017.

29.5 Tall Ships

Belfast City Council made payments totalling £439,796 (2015/16 £2,073,610) to Tall Ships Limited in the year ended 31 March 2017. Tall Ships Limited is a company set up to organise and manage the 2016 Tall Ships event.

29.6 Car Loans to Council Officers

The Council makes car loans available to employees who are designated essential car users. The total amount outstanding in respect of car loans to designated employees as at 31 March 2017 was £155,391 (2015/16 £134,573).

29.7 Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Limited

With effect from 1 April 2016 the Council transferred the operations of Belfast Waterfront Hall and Ulster Hall to a new company BWUH Limited with the Council being the sole shareholder in this new company. The Council is represented by one officer out of the total Board of 6 Directors. During 2016/17 the Council invoiced BWUH Ltd for £1,875,108 for expenditure incurred on it's behalf and also received invoices from the Company for £3,189,079 mainly for the management fee. At 31 March 2017, £110,879 was owed to the company by the Council and £422,887 receivable from the company.

29.8 Beltel LLP

During 2016/17, Belfast City Council made a financial contribution of £3,070,139 to Beltel LLP relating to the redevelopment of the Belfast Telegraph Building representing 46% of the net assets of the LLP (as outlined in Note 28). The Council is represented by two officers on the Management Board of the LLP and Timec 1523 Limited is also represented by two members on the Management Board.

Belfast City Council
Group Movement in Reserves Statement for the year ended 31 March 2017

	General Fund Summary £	Other Fund Balances and Reserves £	Capital Receipts Reserve £	Total Usable Reserves £	Total Unusable Reserves £	Total Council Reserves £
Balance as at 1 April 2015	**22,050,670**	**27,591,981**	**1,243,066**	**50,885,717**	**398,038,464**	**448,924,181**
Movement in reserves during the year						
Surplus/ (Deficit) on the provision of services	17,080,585	-	-	17,080,585	-	17,080,585
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	-	-	-	-	46,220,358	46,220,358
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	**17,080,585**	-	-	**17,080,585**	**46,220,358**	**63,300,943**
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding under regulations	(16,550,269)	(3,500,000)	(26,046)	(20,076,315)	20,988,032	911,717
Net increase/(decrease) before transfers to Statutory and Other Reserves	**530,316**	**(3,500,000)**	**(26,046)**	**(2,995,730)**	**67,208,390**	**64,212,660**
Transfers to /(from) Statutory and Other Reserves	(3,665,045)	3,618,695	46,350	-	-	-
Other movements	265,293	(31,354)		233,939	91,000	324,939
Increase/(Decrease) in year	**(2,869,436)**	**87,341**	**20,304**	**(2,761,791)**	**67,299,390**	**64,537,599**
Balance as at 31 March 2016	**19,181,234**	**27,679,322**	**1,263,369**	**48,123,925**	**465,337,854**	**513,461,779**
Movement in reserves during the year						
Surplus/ (Deficit) on the provision of services	(17,067,256)	-	-	(17,067,256)	-	(17,067,256)
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	-	-	-	-	(11,265,430)	(11,265,430)
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	**(17,067,256)**	-	-	**(17,067,256)**	**(11,265,430)**	**(28,332,686)**
Adjustments between accounting basis & funding under regulations	20,287,583	(3,070,139)	369,088	17,586,532	(17,552,405)	34,127
Net increase/(decrease) before transfers to Statutory and Other Reserves	**3,220,327**	**(3,070,139)**	**369,088**	**519,276**	**(28,817,835)**	**(28,298,559)**
Transfers to /(from) Statutory and Other Reserves	(2,260,540)	2,260,540	-	-	-	-
Other movements	844,729	283,411		1,128,140	2,603,150	3,731,290
Increase/(Decrease) in year	**1,804,516**	**(526,188)**	**369,088**	**1,647,416**	**(26,214,685)**	**(24,567,269)**
Balance as at 31 March 2017	**20,985,750**	**27,153,134**	**1,632,457**	**49,771,341**	**439,123,170**	**488,894,511**

Belfast City Council
Group Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for the year ended 31 March 2017

		2016/17			2015/16		
Service Expenditure	Notes	Gross Expenditure £	Gross Income £	Net Expenditure £	Gross Expenditure £	Gross Income £	Net Expenditure £
Leisure and Recreational Services	2	97,935,999	(12,295,675)	85,640,324	86,668,706	(9,669,218)	76,999,488
Environmental Services	2	72,660,451	(8,931,271)	63,729,180	69,198,058	(8,950,545)	60,247,513
Planning and Development Services	2	29,514,601	(12,994,056)	16,520,545	26,572,728	(11,303,953)	15,268,775
Highways and Transport Services	2	998,433	(1,881,465)	(883,032)	2,208,650	(2,192,260)	16,390
DRM and Corporate Management	2	15,895,347	(2,535,514)	13,359,833	20,392,280	(1,024,276)	19,368,004
Other Services	2	9,090,629	(4,583,024)	4,507,605	8,122,541	(4,508,933)	3,613,608
Cost of Services on Continuing Operations		**226,095,460**	**(43,221,005)**	**182,874,455**	**213,162,963**	**(37,649,185)**	**175,513,778**
Other Operating Expenditure	7	4,122,115	(411,613)	3,710,502	125,870	-	125,870
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	8	4,996,832	(13,970,237)	(8,973,405)	5,690,842	(9,190,683)	(3,499,841)
(Surplus) or Deficit on Discontinued Operations				-			-
Share of Operating Results of associates and joint ventures	28	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net Operating Expenditure		**235,214,407**	**(57,602,855)**	**177,611,552**	**218,979,675**	**(46,839,868)**	**172,139,807**
Taxation and Non-Specific Grant Income	9	1,672,075	(162,216,371)	(160,544,296)	-	(189,220,392)	(189,220,392)
(Surplus)/Deficit on the Provision of Services		**236,886,482**	**(219,819,226)**	**17,067,256**	**218,979,675**	**(236,060,260)**	**(17,080,585)**
(Surplus)/Deficit on revaluation of non-current assets	10			(18,228,570)			(22,566,358)
Surplus/(Deficit) arising on revaluation of available-for-sale financial assets	25			-			-
Remeasurements of the Net Defined Benefit Liability (Asset)	19			29,494,000			(23,654,000)
Share of Other Comprehensive Expenditure & Income of associates and joint ventures	28			-			-
Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure				**11,265,430**			**(46,220,358)**
Total Comprehensive Income and Expenditure				**28,332,686**			**(63,300,943)**

Belfast City Council

Group Balance Sheet as at 31 March 2017

	Note	31st March 2017	31st March 2016
		£	£
Fixed Assets		649,232,774	618,434,227
Long Term Investments		445,585	-
Investment in Associates and Joint Ventures		-	-
Long Term Debtors		1,296,062	6,191,192
LONG TERM ASSETS		650,974,421	624,625,419
Short Term Investments		-	-
Inventories		295,715	296,504
Short Term Debtors		22,830,338	26,739,301
Cash and Cash Equivalents		11,052,247	31,705,507
Assets Held for Sale		3,197,000	1,500,000
CURRENT ASSETS		37,375,300	60,241,312
Bank Overdraft		-	-
Short Term Borrowing		163,482	-
Short Term Creditors		31,997,062	35,418,808
Provisions		2,584,680	6,303,800
CURRENT LIABILITIES		34,745,224	41,722,608
Long Term Creditors		82,707	94,146
Provisions		1,716,737	2,963,742
Long Term Borrowing		36,444,276	34,761,509
Other Long Term Liabilities		125,832,942	91,099,942
Donated Assets Account		10,001	410,000
Capital Grants Receipts in Advance		623,323	353,005
LONG TERM LIABILITIES		164,709,986	129,682,344
NET ASSETS		488,894,511	513,461,779
USABLE RESERVES			
Capital Receipts Reserve		1,632,457	1,263,369
Capital Fund		24,850,616	25,475,756
Leisure Mobilisation Fund		1,945,000	2,000,000
Other Balances and Reserves		357,518	203,566
General Fund		20,985,750	19,181,234
		49,771,341	48,123,925
UNUSABLE RESERVES			
Capital Adjustment Account		427,822,658	433,923,306
Revaluation Reserve		138,508,289	123,817,218
Pensions Reserve		(125,832,942)	(91,099,942)
Accumulated Absences Account		(1,374,835)	(1,302,728)
		439,123,170	465,337,854
NET WORTH		488,894,511	513,461,779

Belfast City Council

Group Cash Flow Statement at 31 March 2017

	Note	2016/17	2015/16
		£	£
Net Deficit on the provision of services		(17,067,256)	17,080,585
Adjustment for non-cash movements		49,544,331	40,206,407
Adjust for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities		(6,289,437)	(40,361,749)
Net cash flows from operating activities		**26,187,638**	**16,925,243**
Cash flows from Investing Activities		(48,687,147)	(38,420,257)
Net Cash flows from Financing Activities		1,846,249	7,062,251
Net increase or decrease in cash and cash equivalents		**(20,653,260)**	**(14,432,763)**
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		31,705,507	46,138,270
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		**11,052,247**	**31,705,507**

5 Fixed Assets

a

Cost or Valuation	Land	Buildings	Infrastructure Assets	Landfill Sites	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment	Community Assets	PP&E Under Construction	Surplus Assets	Total PP&E	Heritage Assets	Investment Properties	Intangible Assets	Assets Held for Resale	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Balance as at 1 April 2016	99,337,353	352,058,306	-	-	39,317,814	253	59,301,069	2,811,002	552,825,797	4,141,239	84,120,000	18,790,942	1,675,000	661,552,978
Adjustments between cost/value & depreciation/impairment	-	(311)	-	-	34,776	-	-	-	34,465	82,154	-	-	-	116,619
Balance as at 1 April 2016	99,337,353	352,057,995	-	-	39,352,590	253	59,301,069	2,811,002	552,860,262	4,223,393	84,120,000	18,790,942	1,675,000	661,669,597
Additions	3	519,689	-	-	2,836,156	447,460	41,671,524	-	45,474,822	-	2,928,108	10,500	-	48,413,430
Donations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluation increases/ (decreases) to Revaluation Reserve	1,461,120	6,504,295	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,965,415	(3,310)	-	-	-	7,962,105
Revaluation increases/ (decreases) to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	542,777	(435,384)	-	-	-	(24,108,798)	399,999	(13,001)	(23,614,407)	-	6,894,629	-	-	(16,719,778)
Impairment to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Derecognition - Disposals	(33,000)	(255,980)	-	-	(1,748,255)	-	-	-	(2,037,235)	-	-	-	-	(2,037,235)
Derecognition - Other	-	(3,913,530)	-	-	-	-	(89,914)	-	(4,003,444)	-	-	-	-	(4,003,444)
Reclassifications & Transfers	2,349,598	48,750,570	5,772,087	-	1,504,572	23,661,352	(86,471,801)	898,000	(3,535,622)	460,939	2,885,371	189,312	-	-
Reclassified to(-) / from(+) Held for Sale	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(22,000)	(22,000)	-	-	-	(1,675,000)	(1,697,000)
Balance as at 31 March 2017	103,657,851	403,227,655	5,772,087	-	41,945,063	257	14,810,877	3,674,001	573,087,791	4,681,022	96,828,108	18,990,754	-	693,587,675
Depreciation and Impairment	**Land**	**Buildings**	**Infrastructure Assets**	**Landfill Sites**	**Vehicles, Plant & Equipment**	**Community Assets**	**PP&E Under Construction**	**Surplus Assets**	**Total PP&E**	**Heritage Assets**	**Investment Properties**	**Intangible Assets**	**Assets Held for Resale**	**TOTAL**
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Balance as at 1 April 2016	-	-	-	-	24,670,570	-	-	-	24,670,570	27,261	-	18,420,920	-	43,118,751
Adjustments between cost/value & depreciation/impairment	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance as at 1 April 2016	-	-	-	-	24,670,570	-	-	-	24,670,570	27,261	-	18,420,920	-	43,118,751
Depreciation Charge	-	11,229,448	128,269	-	2,534,163	-	-	-	13,893,880	-	-	109,965	-	14,003,845
Depreciation written out on Revaluation Reserve	-	(10,266,465)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(10,266,465)	-	-	-	-	(10,266,465)
Depreciation written out on Revaluation taken to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	(672,580)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(672,580)	-	-	-	-	(672,580)
Impairment losses/reversals to Revaluation Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Impairment losses/reversals to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Derecognition - Disposals	-	(10,202)	-	-	(1,538,247)	-	-	-	(1,548,449)	-	-	-	-	(1,548,449)
Derecognition - Other	-	(280,201)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(280,201)	-	-	-	-	(280,201)
Reclassifications & Transfers	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eliminated on reclassification to Held for Sale	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance as at 31 March 2017	-	-	128,269	-	25,666,486	-	-	-	25,796,755	27,261	-	18,530,885	-	44,354,901
Net Book Values														
Balance as at 31 March 2017	103,657,851	403,227,655	5,643,818	-	16,276,577	257	14,810,877	3,674,001	547,291,036	4,653,761	96,828,108	459,869	-	649,232,774

b

Cost or Valuation	Land	Buildings	Infrastructure Assets	Landfill Sites	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment	Community Assets	PP&E Under Construction	Surplus Assets	Total PP&E	Heritage Assets	Investment Properties	Intangible Assets	Assets Held for Resale	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Balance as at 1 April 2015	99,433,937	300,781,604	3,110	-	39,604,071	50,198	34,612,410	2,347,501	**476,832,831**	4,002,169	84,829,500	18,585,740	1,695,001	585,945,241
Adjustments between cost/value & depreciation/impairment	-	(947,196)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(947,196)	-	-	-	-	(947,196)
Balance as at 1 April 2015	99,433,937	299,834,408	3,110	-	39,604,071	50,198	34,612,410	2,347,501	475,885,635	4,002,169	84,829,500	18,585,740	1,695,001	584,998,045
Additions (Note 11)	8	982,461	-	-	2,353,410	443,664	79,119,164	1	**82,898,708**	139,084	-	87,765	-	83,125,557
Donations	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Revaluation Increases/decreases to Revaluation Reserve	2,392,258	12,461,225	-	-	-	(727,730)	-	(340,632)	**13,785,121**	(14)	-	-	-	13,785,107
Revaluation Increases/ decreases to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	(3,665,056)	(1,903,190)	-	-	-	(8,721,933)	(5,539)	(3,947,715)	**(18,243,433)**	-	1,790,500	-	(20,000)	(16,472,933)
Impairment to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Derecognition - Disposals	(178,543)	(8,701)	-	-	(3,578,122)	-	-	(1)	**(3,765,367)**	-	-	-	-	(3,765,367)
Derecognition - Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	(20,859)	-	**(20,859)**	-	-	-	-	(20,859)
Reclassifications & Transfers	1,354,749	40,692,103	(3,110)	-	938,455	8,956,054	(54,404,107)	4,751,848	**2,285,992**	-	(2,500,000)	117,437	-	(96,571)
Reclassified to(-) / from(+) Held for Sale	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	(1)	(1)
Balance as at 31 March 2016	99,337,353	352,058,306	-	-	39,317,814	253	59,301,069	2,811,002	**552,825,727**	4,141,239	84,120,000	18,790,942	1,675,000	661,552,908

Depreciation and Impairm	Land	Buildings	Infrastructure Assets	Landfill Sites	Vehicles, Plant & Equipment	Community Assets	PP&E Under Construction	Surplus Assets	Total PP&E	Heritage Assets	Investment Properties	Intangible Assets	Assets Held for Resale	TOTAL
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Balance as at 1 April 2015	-	1,361,747	193	-	26,134,495	-	-	-	27,496,435	27,261	-	18,311,181	-	45,834,877
Adjustments between cost/value & depreciation/impairment	-	(947,196)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(947,196)	-	-	-	-	(947,196)
Balance as at 1 April 2015	-	414,551	193	-	26,134,495	-	-	-	26,549,239	27,261	-	18,311,181	-	44,887,681
Depreciation Charge	-	9,381,968	-	-	2,205,916	-	-	-	11,587,884	-	-	109,739	-	11,697,623
Depreciation written out on Revaluation Reserve	-	(8,773,367)	-	-	-	(7,870)	-	-	(8,781,237)	-	-	-	-	(8,781,237)
Depreciation written out on Revaluation taken to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	-	-	-	-	(103,795)	-	-	(103,795)	-	-	-	-	(103,795)
Impairment losses/reversals to Revaluation Reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Impairment losses/reversals to Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	-	(1,014,809)	-	-	-	-	-	-	(1,014,809)	-	-	-	-	(1,014,809)
Derecognition - Disposals	-	(4,350)	-	-	(3,562,362)	-	-	-	(3,566,712)	-	-	-	-	(3,566,712)
Derecognition - Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Reclassifications & Transfers	-	(3,993)	(193)	-	(107,479)	111,665	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Eliminated on reclassification to Held for Sale	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Balance as at 31 March 2016	-	-	-	-	24,670,570	-	-	-	24,670,570	27,261	-	18,420,920	-	43,118,751

Net Book Values														
Balance as at 31 March 2016	99,337,353	352,058,306	-	-	14,647,244	253	59,301,069	2,811,002	528,155,227	4,113,978	84,120,000	370,022	1,675,000	618,434,227
Balance as at 31 March 2015	103,657,851	408,227,658	5,643,818	-	14,276,577	257	14,810,877	3,674,001	547,291,036	4,653,761	96,828,108	459,869	-	649,232,774

1a Group Accounts

The Group Accounting Policies are the same as the Council policies and have not been repeated again in these Notes. The exception to this is in relation to Retirement Benefits which have been treated in BWUH Limited as a defined contribution scheme as the liabilities of the NILGOSC scheme remain with Belfast City Council and have been disclosed in Belfast City Council's financial statements.

Since there are no significant changes to the Consolidated Group Balance Sheet as compared to the Council's Balance Sheet, the majority of the supporting notes have not been deemed necessary.

2 Combining Entities

Belfast Waterfront Ulster Hall Limited (BWUH Ltd)

Belfast Waterfront Ulster Hall Limited is a company incorporated under the terms of the Companies Acts to operate the Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall. The Authority is the principal shareholder in the company holding 1 ordinary £1 shares and representing 100% of the issued share capital. Under accounting standards, the Authority has a controlling interest in this company. The financial results for the company have been included in the group accounts as a subsidiary.

Net liabilities of the company were £3,071 at 31 March 2017. The loss on ordinary activities before taxation for the period to 31 March 2017 was nil. No dividend payments were due to, or received by, the Authority in respect of its investment.

Belfast City Council continues to provide support to BWUH Ltd to ensure it meets its day to day working and fixed capital requirements and the Council considers its appropriate to prepare the group financial statements on the going concern basis as also outlined in the financial statements of BWUH Limited for the year ended 31 March 2017.

The first set of accounts is for the year to 31 March 2017 and has an unqualified audit certificate.

BELTEL LLP

For the purposes of economic regeneration as part of the City Centre Regeneration objectives the Council made a financial contribution in the form of a loan of £3,070,139 to Beltel LLP relating to the redevelopment of the Belfast Telegraph Building. This contribution represents 46% of the net assets of Beltel LLP which have been included in the Council's group balance sheet and the breakdown of the net assets is included in Note 28 Investments in Associates.

Gas Pension Fund

The liability of £3,000 in respect of the Gas Pension Fund is disclosed and recognised in Belfast City Council's balance sheet and Note 19 Retirement Benefits disclosures. The Group balance sheet has included the assets and liabilities giving rise to this liability:

	£
Long term assets	445,585
Current assets	1,070,962
Long term liabilities	1,519,547
Net Liability	**(3,000)**

The Council has not consolidated its interests in Active Belfast Limited and Arc21 as the Council's share of these balance sheets is not deemed material to the group accounts at this point in time.

Nature of Combination

To advance council objectives, the council has established one limited company in the current financial year and made a financial contribution to a LLP, as outlined above.

Financial Impact of Consolidation

The effect of the inclusion of the subsidiaries and associates in 2016/17 was to reduce the Council's reserves and net assets by £3,702 representing the net liability in the consolidating entities.

3 Surplus/ Deficit on Continuing Operations of Subsidiaries

	2016/17			2015/16		
Services	Gross Expenditure £	Gross Income £	Net Expenditure £	Gross Expenditure £	Gross Income £	Net Expenditure £
Leisure and Recreational Services	97,935,999	12,295,675	85,640,324	86,668,706	9,669,218	76,999,488
Environmental Services	72,660,451	8,931,271	63,729,180	69,198,058	8,950,545	60,247,513
Planning and Development Services	29,514,601	12,994,056	16,520,545	26,572,728	11,303,953	15,268,775
Highways and Transport Services	998,433	1,881,465	(883,032)	2,208,650	2,192,260	16,390
DRM and Corporate Management	15,895,347	2,535,514	13,359,833	20,392,280	1,024,276	19,368,004
Other Services	9,090,629	4,583,024	4,507,605	8,122,541	4,508,933	3,613,608
Total	226,095,460	43,221,005	182,874,455	213,162,963	37,649,185	175,513,778

4 **Adjustment between an Accounting Basis and Funding Basis under Regulations**

Amounts included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement but required by statute to be excluded when determining the Movement on the General Fund Balance for the year:

	Notes	2016/17 £	£	2015/16 £	£
Amounts included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement but required by statute to be excluded when determining the Movement on the General Fund Balance for the year:					
Impairments (losses & reversals) of non-current assets		-		(1,014,809)	
Derecognition (other than disposal) of non-current assets		-		20,859	
Revaluation increases/decreases taken to Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services		16,047,198		16,369,138	
Depreciation charged in the year on non-current assets		14,003,845	30,051,043	11,697,623	27,072,811
Net Revenue expenditure funded from capital under statute			-		-
Carrying amount of non current assets sold		4,122,115		198,655	
Proceeds from the sale of PP&E, investment property and intangible assets		(411,613)	3,710,502	(72,785)	125,870
Difference between finance costs calculated on an accounting basis and finance costs calculated in accordance with statutory requirements			-		-
Net charges made for retirement benefits in accordance with IAS 19			17,542,000		19,831,000
Direct revenue financing of Capital Expenditure			(4,296,859)		(7,038,503)
Capital Grants and Donated Assets Receivable and Applied in year			(8,947,963)		(40,288,964)
Capital Grants Receivable and Unapplied in year			-		-
Rates Claw-Back Reserve			-		-
Adjustments in relation to Short-term compensated absences			72,107		40,580
Adjustments in relation to Lessor Arrangements			599,867		46,350
Landfill Regulations Reserve Adjustment			-		-
Provisions Discount Rate Reserve Adjustment			-		-
Amounts not included in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement but required by statute to be included when determining the Movement on the General Fund Balance for the year					
Statutory Provision for the financing of Capital Investment			(4,155,412)		(2,886,413)
Employers contributions payable to the NILGOSC and retirement benefits payable direct to pensioners			(14,284,000)		(13,453,000)
			20,291,285		(16,550,269)

6 a **Employee Costs and Member Allowances**

Staff Costs	2016/17	2015/16
	£	£
Salaries and Wages	68,673,936	65,249,895
Employers NIC	4,823,592	4,602,551
Employers Superannuation	13,199,919	12,569,541
Total staff costs	**86,697,447**	**82,421,987**

The above staff costs include the costs of the voluntary redundancies in 2016/17. These costs total £1,119,948 and are disclosed separately in Table 4 of the Remuneration Report. In addition, agency costs during the year amounted to £4,470,906 (15/16 £4,217,572).

The Council's current contribution rate to NILGOSC scheme is 20%. At the last actuarial valuation, dated 31 March 2016, the Fund's assets as a whole were sufficient to meet 96% (15/16 91%) of the liabilities accrued up to that date.

Average Number of Employees - where FTE represents fulltime equivalent employees

b

Average Number of Employees	2016/17	2015/16
	FTE	FTE
Parks	122	396
Environmental Services	1,062	802
Planning and Place	139	134
Highways and Transport Service	-	-
Other	1,040	947
Total Number	**2,363**	**2,279**

c

	2016/17	2015/16
	Actual Numbers	Actual Numbers
Full-time numbers employed	2,097	2,090
Part-time numbers employed	340	348
Total Number	**2,437**	**2,438**

d

Senior Employees' Remuneration	2016/17	2015/16
	£	£
£50,001 to £60,000	49	47
£60,001 to £70,000	4	12
£70,001 to £80,000	8	9
£80,001 to £90,0000	-	2
£90,001 to £100,000	5	2
£100,001 to £110,000	2	2
£110,001 to £120,000		-
£120,001 to £130,000		1
£130,001 to £140,000	1	-
Total Number	**69**	**75**

7 Debtors

a Long Term Debtors

	2016/17 £	2015/16 £
Government Departments	-	-
Other Councils	-	-
Public corporations and trading funds	-	-
Bodies external to general government	-	-
Employee car loans	88,920	78,534
Revenue Grants	-	-
Capital Grants	-	-
Interest Receivable	-	-
Capital Debtors	-	-
Loans and advances	-	-
Finance lease debtors	-	625,485
Trade debtors	789,382	1,021,813
NIHE Loans	417,760	4,465,360
Other	-	-
Impairment of loans and receivables	-	-
Total Long-Term Debtors	1,296,062	6,191,192

b Short Term Debtors

	2016/17 £	2015/16 £
Government Departments	1,641,010	994,830
Other Councils	238,856	69,696
Public corporations and trading funds	-	-
Bodies external to general government	-	-
NIHE loans	1,950,250	-
Employee car loans	66,471	56,039
Revenue Grants	3,687,187	4,226,899
Capital Grants	5,104,875	10,562,598
Interest Receivable	-	-
Capital Debtors	-	-
Value Added Tax	2,063,521	2,970,165
Prepayments	2,990,028	3,439,538
Finance lease debtors	26,160	542
Other	2,924,012	3,367,706
Trade receivables	2,555,443	1,537,055
Impairment loss - Trade receivables	(417,475)	(485,767)
Total Short-Term Debtors	22,830,338	26,739,301
Total Debtors	24,126,400	32,930,493

8 Creditors

a Short Term Creditors

	2016/17 £	2015/16 £
Government Departments	1,635,116	1,473,721
Other Councils	14,290	5,633
Public corporations and trading funds	-	-
Bodies external to general government	-	-
Rates clawback	1,917,292	-
VAT	524,621	-
Remuneration due to employees	1,374,835	370,703
Accumulated Absences	-	1,302,728
Receipts in advance	6,413,375	6,088,605
Trade creditors	-	-
Other	20,117,533	26,177,418
Total Short Term Creditors	31,997,062	35,418,808

b Long Term Creditors

	2016/17 £	2015/16 £
Government Departments	-	-
Other Councils	-	-
Public corporations and trading funds	-	-
Bodies external to general government	-	-
Rates clawback	-	-
Remuneration due to employees	-	-
Accumulated Absences	-	-
Receipts in advance	-	-
Trade creditors	-	-
Other	82,707	94,146
Total Long Term Creditors	82,707	94,146
Total Creditors	32,079,769	35,512,954

9 **Retirement Benefits**

a **Participation in the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Pension Fund.**

As part of the terms and conditions of employment of its officers and other employees, the Group offers retirement benefits. Although these benefits will not actually be payable until employees retire, the Council has a commitment to make the payments that need to be disclosed at the time that employees earn their future entitlement.

The Group participates in the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Pension Fund administered by the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Superannuation Committee. This is a funded scheme, meaning that the Group and employees pay contributions into a fund, calculated at a level intended to balance the pension's liabilities with investment assets.

b **Transactions relating to retirement benefits - Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement Charges:**

The Group recognises the cost of retirement benefits in the Cost of Services on Continuing Operations when they are earned by employees, rather than when the benefits are eventually paid as pensions.

However, the charge the Group is required to make against district rates is based on the cash payable in the year, and the real cost of retirement benefits is reversed out in the adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations line, in the Movement on Reserves Statement.

The following transactions have been made in the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement and the adjustments between accounting basis & funding basis under regulations line, in the Movement on Reserves Statement during the year:

	2016/17 £	2015/16 £
Net cost of services:		
Current service cost	15,367,000	15,472,000
Past service cost/(gain)	119,000	160,000
Gains and losses on settlements or curtailments	(819,000)	912,000
Net operating expenditure:		
Net interest on net defined benefit Liability (asset)	2,875,000	3,287,000
Total Post-employment Benefits charged to the Surplus or Deficit on the Provision of Services	17,542,000	19,831,000
Movement in Reserves Statement:		
Reversal of net charges made for retirement benefits in accordance with IAS 19 and the Code	(17,542,000)	(19,831,000)
Actual amount charged against the general fund balance for pensions in the year:		
Employers' contributions payable to scheme	14,284,000	13,453,000
Net adjustment to the General Fund	**(3,258,000)**	**(6,378,000)**

The service cost figures include an allowance for administration expenses of £252,000 (15/16 £188,000).

Remeasurements recognised in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	2016/17 £	2015/16 £
Liability gains/(losses) due to change in assumptions	(114,109,000)	21,369,000
Liability experience gains/(losses) arising in the year	25,042,000	3,976,000
Actuarial gains/(losses) on plan assets	59,573,000	(1,691,000)
Other - (if applicable)	-	-
Total gains/(losses) recognised in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	**(29,494,000)**	**23,654,000**

c **Assets and liabilities in relation to retirement benefits**

Reconciliation of present value of the scheme liabilities:		2016/17 £	2015/16 £
Balance as at 1 April		552,175,000	551,603,000
Current service cost		15,367,000	15,472,000
Interest cost		18,474,000	17,481,000
Contributions by members		4,252,000	4,186,000
Remeasurement (gains) and losses:			
	Actuarial gains/losses arising from changes in financial assumptions	116,490,000	(21,369,000)
	Actuarial gains/losses arising from demographic changes	(2,381,000)	-
	Actuarial gains/losses arising on liabilities from experience	(23,427,000)	(3,976,000)
	Other (if applicable)	-	-
Past service costs/(gains)		119,000	160,000
Losses/(gains) on curtailments		-	-
Liabilities extinguished on settlements		(3,766,000)	-
Estimated unfunded benefits paid		(795,000)	(835,000)
Estimated benefits paid		(14,330,000)	(14,312,000)
Balance as at 31 March		**662,178,000**	**548,410,000**

Reconciliation of present value of the scheme assets:	2016/17 £	2015/16 £
Balance as at 1 April	460,166,058	442,224,058
Interest income	15,599,000	14,194,000
Contributions by members	4,252,000	4,186,000
Contributions by employer	13,489,000	12,618,000
Contributions in respect of unfunded benefits	795,000	835,000
Remeasurement gain/(loss)	60,119,000	(1,691,000)
Assets distributed on settlements	(2,947,000)	-
Unfunded benefits paid	(795,000)	(835,000)
Benefits paid	(14,330,000)	(14,312,000)
Balance as at 31 March	**536,348,058**	**457,219,058**

Belfast City Council employs a building block approach in determining the rate of return on Fund assets. Historical markets are studied and assets with higher volatility are assumed to generate higher returns consistent with widely accepted capital market principles. The assumed rate of return on each asset class is calculated and the overall expected rate of return on assets so derived by aggregating the expected return for each asset class over the actual asset allocation for the Fund at 31 March 2017.

The actual return on scheme assets in the year was a gain of £75,718,000 (2015/16 gain of £12,503,000).

Fair Value of Plan Assets	2016/17 £	2015/16 £
Equity investments	399,579,260	328,740,461
Bonds	61,680,020	55,323,499
Property	56,316,540	60,352,908
Cash	13,945,048	10,516,037
Other	4,827,132	2,286,095
	536,348,000	**457,219,000**

The Council's share of the Net Pension Liability (included in the Balance Sheet):

	2016/17 £	2015/16 £
Fair Value of Employer Assets	536,348,058	457,219,058
Present value of funded defined benefit obligation	(662,178,000)	(548,410,000)
Pension asset/(liability) of Funded Scheme	(125,829,942)	(91,190,942)
Fair Value of Assets in gas pension scheme	1,513,000	1,785,000
Present Value of Defined Benefit Obligation	(1,516,000)	(1,694,000)
Net asset/(liability) arising from the defined benefit obligation	(125,832,942)	(91,099,942)
Amount in the Balance sheet:		
Liabilities	(663,694,000)	(550,104,000)
Assets	537,861,058	459,004,058
Net Asset/(Liability)	**(125,832,942)**	**(91,099,942)**

d **Scheme history**

Analysis of scheme assets and liabilities	2016/17 £	2015/16 £
Fair Value of Assets in pension scheme	537,861,058	459,004,058
Present Value of Defined Benefit Obligation	(663,694,000)	(550,104,000)
Surplus/(deficit) in the Scheme	(125,832,942)	(91,099,942)

Amount recognised in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure:	2016/17 £	2015/16 £
Actuarial gains/(losses)	(29,494,000)	23,654,000
Expected Return on Plan Assets	-	-
Increase/(decrease) in irrecoverable surplus from membership fall and other factors	-	-
Remeasurements recognised in Other Comprehensive Income and Expenditure	(29,494,000)	23,654,000
Cumulative actuarial gains and losses	(51,472,000)	(21,978,000)
History of experience gains and losses:		
Experience gains and (losses) on assets	59,573,000	(1,691,000)
Experience gains and (losses) on liabilities	25,042,000	3,976,000

The liabilities show the underlying commitments that the authority has in the long run to pay retirement benefits. The total liability of £125,832,942 has a substantial impact on the net worth of the Council as recorded in the Balance Sheet, resulting in a reduction of net worth of 25%

However, statutory arrangements for funding the deficit mean that the financial position of the Council remains healthy. The deficit on the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Pension Fund will be made good by increased contributions over the remaining working life of employees, assessed by the scheme actuary.

Analysis of projected amount to be charged to the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement for the year to 31 March 2018

	2017/18 £
Projected current cost	21,015,000
Net interest on the net defined benefit liability (asset)	3,093,000
Past service cost	-
Gains and losses on settlements or curtailments	-
	24,108,000

The total contributions expected to be made to the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Pension Fund by the council in the year to 31 March 2018 is £15,377,000.

History of experience gains and losses

The actuarial gains/losses identified as movements on the Pensions Reserve 2016/17 can be analysed into the following categories, measured as a percentage of assets or liabilities at 31 March 2017.

	2016/17 %	2015/16 %
Experience (gains and (losses) on Assets	11.19%	-0.37%
Experience gains and (losses) on Liabilities	-3.82%	-0.73%

e **Basis for estimating assets and liabilities**

Liabilities have been assessed on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method, an estimate of the pensions that will be payable in the future years dependent on assumptions about mortality rates, salary levels, etc. The Council's Fund liabilities have been assessed by Aon Hewitt Limited, an independent firm of actuaries, estimates for the Council Fund being based on data pertaining to the latest full valuation of the scheme as at 31 March 2013.

Key assumptions	2016/17 %	2015/16 %
Mortality assumptions:		
Longevity at 65 current pensioners:	Years	Years
Men	23.2	22.3
Women	25.8	24.8
Longevity at 65 for future pensioners:		
Men	25.4	24.5
Women	28.1	27.2
Inflation/Pension Increase Rate	2.00%	1.80%
Salary Increase Rate	3.50%	3.30%
Discount Rate	2.60%	3.40%
Pension accounts revaluation rate	2.00%	1.80%
Take-up of option to convert annual pension into retirement lump sum:		
Service to April 2009	75%	75%
Service post April 2009	75%	75%

Pension Assumptions Sensitivity Analysis

The pension figures disclosed in these financial statements are sensitive to the assumptions used.

The approximate impact of changing key assumptions on the present value of the funded defined benefit obligation as at 31 March 2017 is set out below.

In each case, only the assumption noted below is altered; all other assumptions remain the same and are summarised in the

Funded Pension Scheme Benefits

Discount Rate Assumption		
Adjustment to discount rate	**+0.1%p.a.**	**-0.1%p.a.**
Present value of the total obligation	631,233,000	655,800,000
% change in the present value of the total obligation	-1.90%	1.90%
Projected service cost	19,720,000	20,906,000
Approximate % change in projected service cost	-2.90%	3.00%
Rate of General Increase in Salaries		
Adjustment to salary increase rate	**+0.1%p.a.**	**-0.1%p.a.**
Present value of the total obligation	646,958,000	639,875,000
% change in the present value of the total obligation	0.60%	-0.50%
Projected service cost	20,306,000	20,306,000
Approximate % change in projected service cost	-	-
Rate of Increase to Pensions in Payment and Deferred Pension Assumption		
Adjustment to pension increase rate	**+0.1%p.a.**	**-0.1%p.a.**
Present value of the total obligation	652,204,000	634,720,000
% change in the present value of the total obligation	1.40%	-1.30%
Projected service cost	20,906,000	19,720,000
Approximate % change in projected service cost	3.00%	-2.90%
Post Retirement Mortality Assumption		
Adjustment to mortality age rating assumption*	**- 1 Year**	**+1 Year**
Present value of the total obligation	662,218,000	624,685,000
% change in the present value of the total obligation	2.90%	-2.90%
Projected service cost	21,028,000	19,588,000
Approximate % change in projected service cost	3.60%	-3.50%

* A rating of +1 year means that members are assumed to follow the mortality pattern of the base table above for an individual that is 1 year older then that.

f **Major categories of plan assets as percentage of total plan assets**

The Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Pension Fund's assets consist of the following categories, by proportion of the total assets held:

	31/03/2016 %	31/03/2015 %
Equity investments	74.50%	71.90%
Government Bonds	5.40%	5.70%
Corporate Bonds	6.10%	6.40%
Property	10.50%	13.20%
Cash	2.60%	2.30%
Other	0.90%	0.50%
Total	**100.00%**	**100.00%**

g **Northern Ireland Civil Service Pension Arrangements**

The Northern Ireland Civil Service Pension arrangements are unfunded multi-employer defined benefit schemes but the Council is unable to identify its share of the underlying assets and liabilities. The most up to date actuarial valuation was carried out as at 31 March 2012. This valuation is then reviewed by the Scheme Actuary and updated to reflect current conditions and rolled forward to the reporting date of the DoF Superannuation and Other Allowances Resource Accounts as at 31 March 2017.

h **Assets and liabilities in relation to retirement benefits of the Gas Pension Fund**

Analysis of scheme assets and liabilities	2016/17 £	2015/16 £
Fair Value of Assets in pension scheme	1,513,000	1,785,000
Present Value of Defined Benefit Obligation	(1,516,000)	(1,694,000)
Net Asset/(Liability) recognised on the balance sheet	(3,000)	91,000

10 **Other cash flow disclosures**

a **Analysis of Adjustments to Surplus/Deficit on the Provision of Services**

Adjustment to surplus or deficit on the provision of services for non cash movements	Notes	2016/17	2015/16
		£	£
Depreciation		14,003,845	11,697,623
Impairment & downward revaluations (& non-sale derecognitions)		16,047,198	15,354,329
Amortisation (included with depreciation above)		-	-
(Increase)/Decrease in Stock		789	(7,827)
(Increase)/Decrease in Debtors		8,872,116	(507,351)
Increase/(decrease) in impairment provision for bad debts		(68,292)	110,594
Increase/(Decrease) in Creditors		(3,505,292)	10,915,332
Increase/(Decrease) in Interest Creditors		-	-
Payments to NILGOSC		3,258,000	6,378,000
Carrying amount of non-current assets sold		4,122,115	198,655
AIC/WIP written off to Net Cost of Services		-	20,859
Contributions to Other Reserves/Provisions		7,213,852	(3,953,807)
Movement in value of investment properties-included above in		-	-
Amounts posted to CIES from Donated Assets Account		(400,000)	-
		49,544,331	40,206,407

Adjust for items included in the net surplus or deficit on the provision of services that are investing and financing activities	Notes	2016/17	2015/16
		£	£
Purchase of short-term (not considered to be cash equivalents) and long-term investments (includes investments in associates, joint ventures and subsidiaries)		3,070,139	-
Proceeds from short-term (not considered to be cash equivalents) and		-	-
Proceeds from the sale of PP&E, investment property and intangible assets		(411,613)	(72,785)
Capital grants included in "Taxation & non-specific grant income"		(8,947,963)	(40,288,964)
		(6,289,437)	(40,361,749)

b **Cash and Cash Equivalents**

	Notes	2016/17	2015/16
		£	£
Cash and Bank balances		6,052,247	5,705,507
Short Term Deposits (considered to be Cash Equivalents)		5,000,000	26,000,000
Short Term Investments (considered to be Cash Equivalents)		-	-
Bank Overdraft		-	-
		11,052,247	31,705,507

c

Cash Flow Statement: Operating Activities	Notes	2016/17	2015/16
The cash flows from operating activities include:		£	£
Interest received		148,000	206,460
Interest paid		-	-

d

Cash flows from Investing Activities		2016/17	2015/16
		£	£
Purchase of PP&E, investment property and intangible assets		55,991,322	81,478,125
Purchase of Short Term Investments (not considered to be cash equivalents)		-	-
Loans transferred 1 April 2015			(4,541,014)
Purchase of Long Term Investments		445,585	-
Other Payments for Investing Activities		1,609,816	1,844,895
Proceeds from the sale of PP&E, investment property and intangible assets		(411,613)	(72,785)
Proceeds from Short Term Investments (not considered to be cash equivalents)		-	-
Proceeds from Long Term Investments		-	-
Capital Grants and Contributions Received		(8,947,963)	(40,288,964)
Other Receipts from Investing Activities		-	-
Net Cash flows from Investing Activities		48,687,147	38,420,257

e

Cash flows from Financing Activities		2016/17	2015/16
		£	£
Cash Receipts from Short and Long Term Borrowing		5,000,000	11,000,000
Other Receipts from Financing Activities		-	-
Cash payments for the reduction of the outstanding liability relating to		-	-
Repayment of Short and Long Term Borrowing		(3,153,751)	(3,937,749)
Other payments for Financing Activities		-	-
Net Cash flows from Financing Activities		1,846,249	7,062,251

11 Events after the Balance Sheet Date

During 2016/17, confirmation was provided that a property leased out by the Council to a local bank will be redeveloped and the lease on this property is expected to terminate by October 2017. This has given rise to a reduction of £625k on the net present value of the long term debtor on this lease in the financial year 2016/17 (Note 5a). Any costs associated with the early termination of this lease will be included in the financial year 2017/18.

Date of authorisation for issue

The Chief Financial Officer authorised these financial statements for issue on September 2017.

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Belfast City Council

STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Subject:	Contracts for Award
Date:	22 September 2017
Reporting Officer:	Ronan Cregan, Deputy Chief Executive and Director Finance and Resources Gerry Millar, Director of Property and Projects
Contact Officer:	Valerie Cupples, Procurement Manager

Restricted Reports				
Is this report restricted?	**Yes**		**No**	X
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?				
After Committee Decision				
After Council Decision				
Some time in the future				
Never				

Call-in				
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	**Yes**	X	**No**	

1.0	**Purpose of Report**
1.1	The purpose of this report is to: • Seek approval from Members to the advancement and award of the tenders as outlined in **Appendix 1, Table 1 and Table 2** in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation.
2.0	**Recommendations**
2.1	It is recommended that Members: 1. Approve the public advertisement and acceptance of tenders as listed in **Appendix 1 Table 1, and Table 2**, through the Council's electronic procurement system

	2. Grant delegated authority to the appropriate Director using pre-agreed criteria the most economically advantageous tender and allow month by month extensions where contracts are under review. 3. Approve the award of contracts outlined in **Appendix 1, Table 3** that has been carried out by Arc21 on behalf of the Council.
3.0	**Main report**
	Key Issues
3.1	Section 2.5 of the Council's Scheme of Delegation outlines that under Standing Order 60(a) any contract that exceeds the statutory amount (currently £30,000) needs to be made under the Corporate Seal. Under Standing Order 51(b) the Corporate Seal can only be affixed when there is a resolution of the Council.
3.2	The tenders submitted for approval in **Appendix 1 – Table 1**, have been forwarded by Departments for approval. Departments have been required to provide assurance that provision for the expenditure has either been made within their departmental budgets or approval has been sought from the Director of Finance and Resources that this expenditure has been provided for within a corporate budget.
3.3	Members should note that they are being asked to approve tenders in principal, after which the internal governance process demonstrating strategic alignment with the Belfast Agenda, will be applied.
3.4	Peace IV tenders as listed in **Appendix 1 – Table 2** are subject to a Letter of Offer being received from SEUPB. Funding for these tenders has been agreed in principal, however due to the required light timelines associated with the procurement process for SEUPB funding, we request approval to progress at this point in time.
3.5	As part of this process, Departments have also provided assurance that appropriate resources are available within their departments in order to effectively administer and management any contract(s).
3.6	In accordance with Standing Orders these tenders shall comply with the relevant requirements of national legislation and European directives and be overseen by Corporate Procurement Services. This report relates to corporate as well as departmental supplies and services only. The

3.7	procurement of services and works contracts relating to the capital procurement is dealt with under the Capital Programme reports in accordance with the approved stage approval process.
	Financial & Resource Implications
3.8	The financial resources for these contracts will be met within the current departmental budgets and the proposed departmental estimates process which are taken forward through the rate setting process.
	Equality or Good Relations Implications
	No specific equality or good relations implications.
3.9	
4.0	**Appendices - Documents Attached**
	Appendix 1 – Contracts For Award, (**Appendix 1- Table 1 and Table 2**) Schedule of tenders for consideration

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Appendix 1 - Schedule of tenders for consideration

Table 1 - New tenders

Title of tender	Senior Responsible Officer	Proposed contract duration
Development Consultant	Nuala Gallagher	2-3 years

Table 2 - New tenders – Peace IV

Title of tender	Senior Responsible Officer	Proposed contract duration
Tech for Good - Development and delivery of a peace building digital cross-community programme	Nigel Grimshaw	4 years
Tech for Good (Children & Young People 1) - Development and delivery of a Diversity Awareness / Good Relations training programme.	Nigel Grimshaw	4 years
Tech for Good - Supply of IT Equipment to support training programme	Nigel Grimshaw	4 years
Playing our Part - Development and delivery of a cross-community Play Programme for young people	Nigel Grimshaw	4 years
Playing our Part (Children & Young People 2)- Development and delivery of Diversity Awareness/Good Relations training programme	Nigel Grimshaw	4 years
Young Advocates - Development and delivery of training programme for young people in youth advocacy and campaigning for equality, human rights and social change	Nigel Grimshaw	4 years
Young Advocates (Children & Young People 4) - Development and Delivery of Diversity Awareness/Good Relations programme.	Nigel Grimshaw	4 years

Creative Legacies - Appointment of Artists to engage local communities in creative arts	Nigel Grimshaw	4 years
Creative *Legacies* - Development and delivery of programme of creative events and publications.	Nigel Grimshaw	4 years
Commemorating Centenaries - Development and delivery of programme of significant anniversaries over the period 2017-2021	Nigel Grimshaw	4 years
Supporting Communities - Development and delivery of intervention programmes supporting new communities	Nigel Grimshaw	4 years
Supporting Communities - Development and delivery of intervention programmes aimed at Traveller and Roma communities	Nigel Grimshaw	4 years

Table 3 – Tenders awarded by Arc21 on behalf of the Council

Title of tender	Senior Responsible Officer	Proposed contract duration
Provision of Receipt, Processing, Treatment Recyclling and Disposal of Street Sweepings Waste	Nigel Grimshaw	2 years with the option to renew up to a further 12 months

Belfast City Council

STRATEGIC POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Subject:	Request for Events and Festivals Funding 2018/19
Date:	22 September 2017
Reporting Officer:	Donal Durkan, Director of Development
Contact Officer:	Lisa Toland, Head of Economic Initiatives and International Development

Restricted Reports				
Is this report restricted?	**Yes**		**No**	X
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?				
After Committee Decision				
After Council Decision				
Some time in the future				
Never				

Call-in				
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	**Yes**	X	**No**	

1.0	**Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues**
1.1	The purpose of this report is to request approval from Members to financially support a range of music events and festivals during the financial year 2018/19, pending the outcome of the current strategic review of Events and Festivals. The events are as follows: • Féile an Phobail • Other Voices • Gradam Ceoil.

2.0	**Recommendations**
2.1	The Committee is asked to:- • Give priority to the named events and festivals when it is considering in-year allocations at the half or year-end periods.
3.0	**Main Report**
3.1	As Members will be aware, Festivals and Events International (FEI) Consultants have been appointed to develop an Events and Festival Strategy. This will be completed by December 2017. The Strategy will set the direction of travel in relation to the future decisions on Council financial support for events and festivals from 2019/20 onwards. The draft strategy will be presented to the City Growth and Regeneration Committee for endorsement later in this calendar year. Given that any decisions made will take a while before they can be implemented, 2018/19 will effectively be a transition year for events and festivals support within the Council.
3.2	Investment in events and festivals can help strengthen the profile of the City as a culturally vibrant destination, thus supporting the Belfast Agenda and also aligning well with the current bid for European Capital of Culture in 2023. They also reinforce the commitment to build the City's cultural profile and showcase its creative talent. It is considered that support for the events and festivals noted in this report will make an overwhelmingly positive contribution towards the promotion of Belfast and its cultural offer and will generate significant economic return by virtue of additional visitor spend. It will also help to create a positive profile of the City as a culturally vibrant location with a rich musical heritage in line with the new city narrative.
3.3	At the August 2017 meeting of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee, Members agreed to approve an allocation of £200,000 towards a programme of BBC-led music events including the Folk Awards and a Big Music Weekend. Officers advised of a number of additional culture and music-focused events which were in the pipeline for 2018/19 and which would require Council support to proceed. These are:- • Féile an Phobail – financial request of £150,000 towards the August 2018 event • Oher Voices – financial request of £40,000 towards the October 2018 event • Gradam Ceoil – financial request of £50,000 towards the February 2019 event.
3.4	The Committee agreed to refer the funding requirement for these three events to the September meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee with a request to give priority to these events and festivals when it is considering in-year allocations at the half or year-end periods.

3.5	Members are reminded that, in addition to the City Events Programme and events supported through its various funding streams, the Council has also committed £180,000 of support towards the UK Pipe Band Championships in Summer 2018.
	Overview of Events Seeking Council Support
3.6	**Féile an Phobail** 2018 marks the 30th Anniversary of Féile An Phobail. It is marketed as Ireland's biggest community arts festival and summer school. The purpose of the festival has always been to celebrate the positive side of the community – its creativity, energy, passion for arts, culture and sport.
3.7	Féile is recognised for its collaborative community approach and it is intended that its 30th anniversary year festival will bring an inclusive programme of events which will demonstrate good relations in action, attracting more tourism and visitor spend and building increased social and cultural capital.
3.8	The organisers are presently undertaking a stakeholder engagement strategy and have commenced consultation and planning for 2018 events. Since July 2017, workshops have been held with over 30 arts, cultural and tourism organisations from across the City. One of the key themes that has emerged from these workshops is 'ambition'. Taking this theme and the new event space at the Falls Park, they are aiming to attract some of the biggest artists from across the globe in 2018.
3.9	For 2018/19, Féile aims to create a year-round programme of inclusive and accessible arts and cultural events, delivered across the City with four specific festivals during the year. This will include 400+ events with an audience reach of up to 100,000 people. The financial request from the Council is for a contribution of £180,000 towards the cost of hosting the 2018 Féile celebration programme.
3.10	**Other Voices** At the June 2017 meeting of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee, Members approved financial support of £40,000 towards the 'Other Voices' event in Belfast in October 2017. Since this, the organisers have established the Duncairn Centre for Culture and Arts as the hub for the October 2017 event. It is intended that the 2017 event will be a precursor to a larger Belfast event in 2018 and beyond.
3.11	Other Voices has attracted a range of well-known acts since its inception in 2002. These have included Willie Nelson, Ellie Goulding, Gregory Porter, Amy Winehouse and Mumford

	and Sons. In addition, it has attracted many indigenous acts and has provided a platform to highlight up-and-coming talent. The event is currently broadcast on RTE's television and digital platforms with more than 16 million views and more than 7,000 followers on YouTube. It also involves a wide range of outreach and engagement activity with local residents and those involved in the culture and arts sector.
3.12	The Other Voices team is currently exploring potential funding partners as well as building the local networks at community level to create a solid foundation for future activities. Experience from previous events suggests that it can have a significant economic, social and cultural impact on the local area.
3.13	The 2017 Other Voices event will attract a number of high profile and local musicians. It will be broadcast extensively on television and on social media platforms and this will present an opportunity to showcase not only the event but also the city of Belfast. Organisers have identified the potential to tap into the huge creative talent in the city. Plans for the 2018 programme are advanced and it is proposed that it will link with one of the city's premier digital events. It will include an extensive outreach and engagement programme, particularly with young people. Organisers will target young people from disadvantaged areas and schools that do not have experience of getting involved in these events. The financial request from the Council is for a contribution of £40,000 towards a total programme cost in excess of £200,000.
	Gradam Ceoil
3.14	Gradam Ceoil is an annual awards ceremony which celebrates the best of traditional Irish music and song. It comprises a gala event as well as an extensive outreach and engagement programme before the event to maximise impact and economic benefit.
3.15	The City Growth and Regeneration Committee has already agree to support the Gradam Ceoil event in Belfast in February 2018. Organisers generally work with host cities on a multi-annual basis in order to build momentum in the event and develop deep cultural and visitor engagement opportunities.
3.16	Based on the experience of the city of Cork, it is estimated that Gradam Ceoil will have a direct economic impact in the region of £350,000 over the weekend, in terms of visitor spend. Furthermore, the live coverage on TG4 and the potential engagement of BBC (particularly BBC radio and online) and BBC Alba (Scottish channel), as well as PBS in USA (broadcast as recorded coverage), will all provide meaningful opportunities to showcase Belfast as a city of music, arts and culture.

3.17	There will be excellent opportunities to advertise and promote the city over the weekend. Gradam Ceoil will help attract new visitors to Belfast and make more people aware of the city's cultural offer. The fact that it takes place at a traditionally quiet time in the cultural and visitor calendar offers an opportunity to extend the tourism realm and support the local industry at this time.
3.18	Following the Committee agreement to support the 2018 event, planning is underway to programme a series of unique musical pieces and presentations, to reflect the cultural heritage and traditions in the City. This work will provide a foundation for the 2019 event subject to funding availability. In keeping with the other commitments under the 'Year of Music' banner, the 2019 Gradam Ceoil event will present an opportunity to showcase the breadth of unique musical talent in the city. The event will require a match-funding commitment of £50,000 from the Council towards an overall budget of around £230,000.
3.19	<u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u> These events and festivals will all be equality proofed and there will be a significant complementary suite of outreach and engagement programmes open to all communities.
3.20	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> The financial support required from Belfast City Council for each initiative is as follows: • Féile an Phobail 2018/19: £180,000 • Other Voices 2018/19: £40,000 • Gradam Ceoil 2018/19: £50,000
3.21	In total £270,000 additional funding is required to support these events. The Strategic Policy and Resources Committee is requested to give priority to the funding of these events and festivals when it is considering in-year allocations at the half year or year-end.
4.0	**Appendices – Documents Attached**
	None.

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Belfast City Council

STRATEGIC POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Subject:	Shared City Partnership Meeting – 11 September 2017
Date:	22 September 2017
Reporting Officer:	Nigel Grimshaw, Director of City & Neigbourhood Services Department
Contact Officer:	Margaret Higgins, Senior Good Relations Officer

Restricted Reports				
Is this report restricted?	**Yes**		**No**	X
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?				
After Committee Decision				
After Council Decision				
Some time in the future				
Never				

Call-in				
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	**Yes**	X	**No**	

1.0	**Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**
1.1	The purpose of this report is to report to committee on the key issues discussed at the Shared City Partnership meeting held on 11 September 2017.
2.0	**Recommendations**
2.1	That the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee approve the minutes from the Shared City Partnership Meeting held on 11 September 2017 including the following recommendations: • Note the contents of the progress report in respect of the PEACE IV Action Plan. • Note the contents of the Interface working report and the date of the

	scheduled Peacewalls Programme event on Tuesday, 24th October. • Note the update and discussion on the place of good relations in the Belfast Agenda.
3.0	**Main report**
	Key Issues
3.1	The Shared City Partnership is a Working Group of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee which consists of Elected members and representatives from various sectors across the city. The minutes from the Partnership are brought before the Committee for approval on a monthly basis.
3.2	The key issues on the agenda at the September meeting were: 1. Peace IV Progress report 2. Update on Interface working 3. Update on Belfast Agenda
3.3	More details regarding the above issues and recommendations are included in the minutes of the meeting on 11 September attached to this report.
	Financial & Resource Implications
3.4	Resources to deliver all activity approved for delivery at the meeting are available within existing budgets.
	Equality or Good Relations Implications
3.5	The recommendations of the Partnership promote the work of the Council in promoting good relations and will enhance equality and good relations impacts.
4.0	**Appendices – Documents Attached**
	Appendix 1 - Copy of the minutes of the Shared City Partnership of 11 September 2017

SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP

MONDAY, 11th SEPTEMBER, 2017

MEETING OF SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP

Members present: Councillors Attwood, Deputy Chairperson (In the Chair)
Councillor Johnston and Walsh.

External Members: Mrs. O. Barron, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust;
Mrs. A. Chada, Voluntary/Community Sector;
Mrs. G. Duggan, Belfast City Centre Management;
Mrs. J. Hawthorne, Northern Ireland Housing Executive;
Mr. P. Mackel, Belfast and District Trades Union Council;
Mrs. M. Marken, Catholic Church;
Mr. M. O'Donnell, Department for Communities; and
Mr. P. Scott, Catholic Church.

In attendance: Mrs. R. Crozier, Assistant Director;
Miss. N. Lane, Good Relations Manager;
Mrs. D. McKinney, Peace IV Manager; and
Mrs. S. Steele, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of the Chairperson (Councillor Kyle), Alderman Sandford and Mr. K. Gibson.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 7th August were taken as read and signed as correct. Following a query, the Good Relations Manager confirmed that an update report on the Decade of Centenaries would be submitted to the October meeting. The Good Relations Manager also advised the Members that a report on the Bonfire Programme would be brought to a future meeting of the Partnership following the outcome of the Investigation.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Update on Peace IV Programme

The Partnership considered the undernoted report.

"1.0 Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues

1.1 To provide the Shared City Partnership with a progress report in respect of the PEACE IV Action Plan.

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 The Partnership is requested to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it note this report.

3.0 Main Report

Background

3.1 As detailed in the reports to the Shared City Partnership in March and June, the Council submitted a redrafted application form and revised business plan to the SEUPB in February 2017. Over the last few months, there has been ongoing amendments, clarifications and negotiations with the SEUPB.

Programme Update

3.2 Council officers met recently with the SEUPB regarding the Council's submission and were advised that as part of the approval process the application and Business Plan has been assessed by the SEUPB and accountable departments (TEO and DPER). The PEACE IV Programme Steering Committee is to consider the Business Plan on 13th September, 2017.

It is anticipated that the Council will receive formal approval and a preliminary Letter of Offer (LoO) at the end of September, 2017. It is expected that a proportion of the application will be approved and that further clarification on some elements will be requested. It is likely that the LoO will stipulate a number of pre-commencement and programme implementation conditions, which will be required to be met by the end of December, 2017. This process and conditions have been replicated across all Local Authority Action Plans.

The SEUPB agreed to extend the Council's LoO timeframe to June 2022. It is envisaged that projects will be delivered until end of December 2021 and January – June 2022 will be the monitoring, evaluation and project closure period.

Summary projects and requested budget, following SEUPB VFM clarifications are as follows:

Children and Young People	**VFM Amendment**
CYP1: Tech for Good Project	£411,365
CYP2: Playing Our Part in the City Project	£389,965
CYP3: Multi-sport Project	£929,204
CYP4: Young Advocates Project	£281,965
CYP5: CYP Networks	£432,000
Other (within PM)	£137,500
CYP Sub Total	**£2,582,000**
Shared Spaces and Services	**VFM Amendment**
Programming	£1,483,181
Capital	£3,067,000

SS Sub Total	**£4,550,181**
Building Positive Relations	**VFM Amendment**
BPR1: Network Development	£2,212,172
BPR2: Creative Legacies II	£433,333
BPR3: Leadership	£1,626,692
BPR4: Centenaries	£191,000
BPR5: Supporting Communities	£835,665
Other (within PM)	£550,700
BPR Sub Total	**£5,849,562**
Total Programming Budget	**£12,981,743**
Direct Staff	£1,201,313
Overheads	£180,197
Programme Management Sub Total	**£1,381,510**
Total Funding (£)	**£14,363,253**
Total Funding (€)	**€ 16,948,638**

Programme Launch

3.3 Given the above timeframe, it is proposed that a formal launch the new PEACE IV programme will take place in early January 2018 subject to the Letter of Offer being received.

3.4 The launch will outline the content of the programme, opportunities for communities, organisations and individuals to get involved in peace building programmes and will also highlight the opportunities for external organisations / parties to deliver services across a range of projects within the programme.

Tender Approach

3.4 The design of the programme will provide opportunities for community / voluntary groups and external organisations to tender for the delivery of projects. Interested parties will be invited to tender for contracts during a procurement exercise which will commence in December 2017. All procurement must be conducted in line with the SEUPB regulations, as follows:

SEUPB Procurement Thresholds for Contracts:

£200 - £5,000	**Minimum of 2 price checks must be obtained**

£5,001 - £25,000	**Minimum of 3 written quotations from competent suppliers**
£25,000 - EU Threshold (£164k)	**Full Tender Action - Advertise on National Procurement websites (etendersNI ROI) and /or Regional press**
EU Threshold & above	**Official EU Journal**

To assist community and voluntary organisations to prepare for and avail of opportunities through the programme, workshops will be delivered on Getting Ready for Contracts in October / November 2017.

3.5 As previously agreed by Members, a half day planning session to consider the current format and membership of the Partnership is currently being arranged with quotations being sought from competent facilitators. Members will be informed of details in due course.

4.0 Resource Implications

4.1 The Programme Manager for PEACE IV has been appointed and the process of recruitment for other posts, as approved in the PEACE IV Local Action Plan, has commenced.

5.0 Equality and Good Relations Implications

5.1 The draft plan has been equality screened and discussed at the Equality Consultative Forum on 13th May, 2015. The development of the local action plan has been screened out with anticipated positive impacts across section 75 categories regarding equality of opportunity and promotion of good relations. Council officers undertook a robust consultation exercise in formulating the proposed projects and format of the forthcoming Peace IV programming period. In line with feedback from this exercise external recruitment will be fully utilised to maximise community interest in advertised vacancies."

The Partnership noted the update provided.

Update on Interface Working

The Good Relations Manager advised that an initial meeting of the new Internal Interface officer group had taken place on 10th August, with officers from City and Neighbourhood Services, Property and Projects, Planning and Place and the Chief Executive's Department in attendance. She advised that this group would meet on a monthly basis and would bring options to the Shared City Partnership and other relevant committees in relation to the recommended governance for the range of work that would be delivered through the Interfaces Programme.

The Partnership was asked to note that it had been recommended that the group would focus on the following key areas of work:

- to promote holistic, integrated physical and social regeneration around interfaces and seek to maximise the collective Council contribution to support this;
- to maximise the collective Council contribution to promote resilience and wellbeing at an individual, family and community level around interfaces;
- to ensure co-ordination of individual departmental initiatives in and around interfaces and to enhance the positive outcomes in relation to the transformation of these areas;
- to develop a coordinated position for contribution to the Depart of Justice (DoJ) led Interfaces Programme Board and Interface Inter-Agency Group; and
- to develop a Belfast Interfaces Programme in partnership with relevant stakeholders such as The Executive Office (TEO), the DoJ, the International Fund for Ireland (IFI) and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE).

The Good Relations Manager reported that Council officers had also met with the IFI to seek an enhanced alignment of resources. The IFI had advised that, all of the groups who were funded through the IFI Peacewalls Programme (PWP), had completed the surveys and there had been a good response rate. The officer detailed that the aim of the survey had been to gather community attitudes towards the peace walls and to concentrate on the views of those most affected by change to the barriers, the people who lived closest to them and those who would be taking the biggest risk. This data would be used to shape the Group's action plans for 2018.

The officer advised that the findings would be launched at a PWP Seminar and Exhibition on Tuesday, 24th October. She stated that it was hoped that political representatives at all levels would attend, alongside statutory agencies, community and other stakeholders. The officer advised that, once the venue had been confirmed, invitations would be issued to the Members of the Partnership and they were encouraged to attend.

In conclusion, the Good Relations Manager also updated the Partnership that the Unit would be seeking submissions this month for projects that would be delivered in interface communities to promote good relations and shared space. This approach is outlined in the approved Good Relations Action Plan and will provide up to £10,000 for individual projects, with a total of £50,000 available to support initiatives that would be delivered by March 2018.

The Partnership noted the update provided.

Update on the Belfast Agenda

The Partnership was reminded that the public consultation on the Belfast Agenda, Belfast's Community Plan, had recently been undertaken over an eighteen week period, up to 20th April. The Good Relations Manager advised that during the consultation period, a range of engagement activities had been undertaken which included briefings, stakeholder workshops and meetings, online questionnaires and social media activity. A workshop had also been held with the Shared City Partnership on 6th March.

The officer advised that almost 300 responses had been received, from a broad range of individuals, organisations and stakeholders. The Partnership noted that analysis of the feedback had been ongoing over recent months in order to produce an updated version of the Belfast Agenda documents, along with a consultation feedback summary report. She advised that the overall response to the consultation had indicated a broad level of endorsement for the Belfast Agenda, there was support for the long term vision, outcomes and ambitions, and for the four year (to 2021) priorities of the Growing the Economy, Living Here City Development and Working and Learning. The officer advised that main elements of the Belfast Agenda and

structure of the document had not changed significantly and she proceeded to highlight the revisions that had been made to strengthen the good relations emphasis in the plan as follows:

- The Belfast Opportunity (introduction) – now included a reference to the importance of addressing barriers including improving good relations in the City to realise the City's opportunities;
- The vision - now referred to 'a City shared and loved by all its citizens, free from the legacy of conflict';
- Outcomes – included more information explaining what people had said about the second City outcome (Belfast is a welcoming, safe, fair and inclusive City for all), highlighting the importance of the shared city; and
- Living Here – amended stretch goals which included promoting the development of shared sites and facilities.

The Good Relations Manager advised that it was anticipated that a final version of the Belfast Agenda document would be presented to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in September, in advance of an autumn launch. In order to progress and move forward with partners, a series of workshops were being planned for the autumn, convening initially around each of the four Belfast Agenda priorities, to consider how collaboration in action planning and delivery could best be progressed across a range of City partners. The officer advised that details of the proposed workshops were still to be confirmed but these would provide an opportunity for wider engagement and the Shared City Partnership would also be asked to engage in this work.

A Member welcomed the fact that the suggested input from the Shared City Partnership had been included within the revised document.

Following a query, the Good Relations Manager undertook to clarify for the next meeting the context of the statement 'free from the legacy of conflict' within the vision.

Following discussion, it was noted that it might be useful if the Council's Directors were to attend a future meeting to provide an overview as to how the Belfast Agenda might influence their Departmental work stream.

The Partnership noted the update provided.

Community Relations and Cultural Awareness Week

The Deputy Chairperson reminded the Partnership that Community Relations and Cultural Awareness Week was from 18th – 24th September.

Noted.

Chairperson

Belfast City Council

STRATEGIC POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Subject:	Equality & Diversity Update
Date:	22nd September 2017
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor
Contact Officer:	Lorraine Dennis, Equality & Diversity Officer

Restricted Reports				
Is this report restricted?	**Yes**		**No**	X
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?				
After Committee Decision				
After Council Decision				
Some time in the future				
Never				

Call-in				
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	**Yes**	X	**No**	

1.0	**Purpose of report or summary of main issues**
1.1	The purpose of this report is to submit for approval: • the updated draft Equality & Diversity Framework 2017-21 and • the Council's Annual Report to the Equality Commission Northern Ireland (ECNI) for 2016-17
2.0	**Recommendations**
2.1	The Committee is asked to approve: • Approve the draft Equality & Diversity Framework 2017-21 • Approve the Council's Annual Report to the ECNI for 2016-17

3.0	**Main report**
	Background
3.1	As required by Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, the council must develop an Equality Action Plan. The Council is also required to report annually to the ECNI on the progress of the implementation of its Equality Scheme.
	Key Issues
	Equality Action Plan 2017-21
3.2	A draft Action Plan was issued for public consultation from 13 December 2016 to 7 March 2017 and has been updated based on feedback. It should be noted that the consultation was aligned with the Belfast Agenda initial consultation period and should be considered in line with the agreed priorities from the Belfast Agenda. The updated Action Plan for 2017-21 is set out in **Appendix 1**.
3.3	Following feedback during the public consultation, the main updates to the Action Plan include: • renaming the Equality Action Plan 'Equality & Diversity Framework' to reflect the broader actions across the organisation which are in addition to the equality compliance actions; • Community Safety Plan is now included as one of our key actions under 'Leadership, Partnership and Organisational Commitment'; • A review of the Equality Consultative Forum and engagement mechanisms across all section 75 groups will be addressed in 2017/18.
	Annual Equality Report 2016-17
3.4	The Council is required to report annually to the the Equality Commission on the implementation of the Council's Equality Scheme, including progress on delivery of actions identified to promote equality of opportunity and good relations. The annual report on last year's interim one-year action plan (2016-17) is set out in **Appendix 2**.
	Financial & Resource Implications
3.5	Officers from across the organisation will be involved in the delivery of the Equality Action Plan which will be embedded in relevant organisational business plans.

3.6	Equality or Good Relations Implications The actions outlined contribute to our legal compliance regarding the promotion of equality and good relations.
4.0	**Appendices – Documents Attached**
	Appendix 1 – Updated Draft Equality & Diversity Framework 2017-21 Appendix 2 – Annual Progress Report to the Equality Commission for 2016-17

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Equality and Diversity Framework April 2017 – March 2021

Appendix 1

Accessibility

Documents are available, on request, in alternative formats - Braille, audio, large print, easy read. The council will also consider requests to produce it in other languages. If you require the Action Plan or consultation document in these or other formats please contact us:

Equality & Diversity Officer Legal & Democratic Services Belfast City Council City Hall Belfast BT1 5GS

Telephone: 028 90270511 Freephone: 0800 0855 412 Text phone: 028 90270405

Email: equality@belfastcity.gov.uk

Belfast City Council

Purpose – what is the Equality and Diversity Framework for?

This Equality and Diversity Framework runs from April 2017 until March 2021, this is a strategic level document which outlines how we will promote equality and diversity in our ambitions to create a city in which people love to live, learn, invest, work and visit. This Framework also contributes to our compliance with Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

Strategic context: Belfast City Council working in partnership to deliver the Community Plan

Belfast City Council is the city's lead partner for the new duty of Community Planning which was introduced in April 2015. The council is responsible for establishing the process of community planning and for ensuring the development and implementation of the city's first community plan, *The Belfast Agenda*, in 2017.

The *Belfast Agenda* seeks to improve the lives and wellbeing outcomes of all citizens in Belfast and to ensure the city is a place where people want to work, study, visit and invest. The *Belfast Agenda* has identified five long term aspirations for the city:

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

The Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 and the supporting statutory community planning guidance highlight the need to promote equality of opportunity as a key objective for community plans. The *Belfast Agenda* explicitly identifies 'equality and good relations' as one of its underpinning shared values and seeks to address key inequalities across the city.

To this end, this Equality and Diversity Framework outlines actions that the council will deliver with its community planning partners as part of the Belfast Agenda, through the community planning process, and how we mainstream equality and good relations in our actions.

Corporate context: Belfast City Council's new corporate plan

Belfast City Council is committed to promoting equality and diversity in all areas of the work we do. For us, addressing inequalities is about what we can do to create a fairer society and recognises that equality and good relations are issues for us all. We don't all start from the same place and to create a fairer, peaceful society we need to recognise the diversity in our communities. We need to continue to consider how the characteristics protected by Section 75 may have on the life chances of members of all of our communities and better understand the relationship between these characteristics and the role that socio-economic status has in creating, or contributing to, inequalities. Good relations is also an important area of our work, as we seek to increasingly be recognised as a city that values diversity and encourages civic participation.

This Equality and Diversity Framework sets out the actions to be delivered by Belfast City Council and demonstrates how we will utilise the framework to help us to respond to new thinking on equality outcomes and the new challenges.

Framework Priorities

The Equality and Diversity Framework is built around four key priorities in how we will tackle inequalities and promote diversity in our city:

A. Leadership, partnership and organisational commitment

B. Understanding our communities through data and consultation

C. Delivering services accessible to all

D. Developing a skilled and diverse workforce

Each priority includes a series of actions with a timescale, strategic owner and the equality and diversity-related outcome which should be achieved.

Priority A: Leadership, Partnership and Organisational Commitment

We know that strategic leadership – both political and managerial – is key to improving equality and good relations outcomes, and promoting diversity. This organisational commitment goes hand in hand with working in partnership to make the best use of our resources in an ever challenging environment. Fairness in how we comply with legislation, procure goods and services and communicate with our rate payers will highlight Belfast's growth as a diverse city.

Action	Timescale	Responsibility	How does this action help to promote equality and diversity?	Strategic owner
A1 Address inequalities through the Belfast Agenda	2017-21	Community Planning Partners / Responsible Chief Officers	Inequalities and barriers are addressed	BCC/ Community Planning Partnership (CPP)
A2 Embed Equality and Diversity in new Corporate Plan	2017-21	Strategic Planning & Policy Manager / EDO	Demonstration of effective leadership in promoting equality and diversity	BCC
A3 Develop and deliver an integrated plan to tackle health inequalities across the city	2017-18	Director of City & Neighbourhoods	Health inequalities are being addressed	BCC
A4 Deliver Disability Strategy (encompassing DDA and DDO measures)	2017-21	City Solicitor / Head of HR	Address inequalities faced by disabled people in employment, services and policies	BCC
A5 Deliver an integrated plan to improve good relations	2017-21	Director of City and Neighbourhoods / Good Relations Manager	Promotion of good relations	BCC

Action	Timescale	Responsibility	How does this action help to promote equality and diversity?	Strategic owner
A6 Develop an Age-Friendly Action Plan 2018-21 through HASP and deliver programmes of work supporting older people and encouraging Active Ageing	2017-21	Director of City and Neighbourhoods	Promote Belfast as an Age-Friendly city	BCC
A7 Develop and deliver an integrated children and young people framework and work programme	2017-21	Director of City and Neighbourhoods	Promote participation and inclusion of children and young people	BCC
A8 Deliver LGB Action Plan	2017-21	Head of HR	Address inequalities faced by LGBT people in employment, services and policies	BCC
A9 Deliver Gender Action Plan	2017-21	Head of HR	Raised awareness of gender inequalities internally, in service design and our policies	BCC
A10 Deliver Race Action Plan	2017-21	Head of HR	Raised awareness of racial inequalities internally, in service design and our policies	BCC
A11 Deliver a city and neighbourhood community safety programme	2017-21	Director of City and Neighbourhoods / Community Safety Manager	We will work to make communities safer for all people	BCC

Action	Timescale	Responsibility	How does this action help to promote equality and diversity?	Strategic owner
A12 Develop the Equality & Diversity Network	2017/18	City Solicitor/ Head of HR	Co-ordinate and raise awareness of inequality-related issues across the organisation	BCC
A13 Implementation of Equality Scheme	ongoing	City Solicitor / EDO	Compliance with the council's Equality Scheme	BCC
A14 Review and develop new Equality Scheme 2020-25	2019 - 20	City Solicitor / EDO	Compliance with Section 75 of Northern Ireland Act	BCC
A15 Hold bi-annual meetings of Equality Consultative Forum	2017 - 21	City Solicitor / EDO	Policies promoted through consultation and engagement with equality groups	BCC
A16 Review the role of the council's external Equality Consultative Forum	2017/18	City Solicitor / EDO	Align Equality Consultative Forum with relevant consultation and engagement mechanisms	BCC
A17 Scope option to develop an internal and external Equality Forum within the emerging Community Planning Partnership	2018/19	Strategic Planning Manager / City Solicitor	Collaborative approach to key inequalities	CPP
A18 Develop and deliver a communications plan to promote equality and diversity in the organisation internally and externally	2017-21	Corporate Communications Manager / HR/OD / EDO	Raised awareness and increased understanding of equality and diversity issues	BCC

Priority B: Understanding our communities through information and consultation

Our society is becoming more diverse. Today it is impossible to assume we know the composition of our communities – we have to find that out through gathering information known as data. The prosperity and cohesion of all people and communities can be affected by age, gender, marital status; if you have, or have not, a disability or dependents, religious and/ or racial background, political opinion and different sexual orientations. It is also important to understand the different needs within communities, for examples there are many forms of disability, and like the other Section 75 characteristics, every individual straddles all of the groups in some way, with great differences, as well as similarities between socio-economic groups.

Consultation and engagement with our communities will also help us to understand their needs better and we need to use different ways of will involving communities and neighbourhoods.

Action	Timescale	Responsibility	How does this action help to promote equality and diversity?	Strategic owner
B1 Develop an appropriate system to collect information about communities' needs and aspirations.	2017/18	Strategic Planning & Policy Manager / Statistician / EDO	Relevant, proportionate and appropriate information collected to inform decision making	BCC
B2 Services use relevant city data when developing policies and services	2018/21	Corporate and Departmental Policy Officers / EDO	Available data will be analysed and used to shape policies and services	BCC

Action	Timescale	Responsibility	How does this action help to promote equality and diversity?	Strategic owner
B3 Develop a city dashboard to share city data including equality-related information between community planning partners and publish to citizens	2018/19	Strategic Planning Manager / Statistician	Effective and efficient of sharing information between community planning partners	BCC
B4 Establish an appropriate mechanism for Community and Voluntary Sector (CVS) representation and facilitate participation of CVS in the community planning process	2017/18	Director of City & Neighbourhoods / City Solicitor/ Strategic Planning & Policy Manager	Effective and inclusive consultation and engagement	CPP
B5 Roll out corporate consultation and engagement plan	2017/18	Strategic Planning & Policy Manager / Policy Officer	Effective and inclusive consultation and engagement	BCC

Priority C: Services accessible to all

Providing services, whether provided directly or procured / commissioned, remains central to what we do and through the Equality Action Plan this priority will be central to how we do business.

Action	Timescale	Responsibility	How does this action help to promote equality and diversity?	Strategic owner
C1 Demonstrated promotion of equality and diversity embedded in departmental business plans	2017-21	All Chief Officers	Promoting equality and diversity 'designed in' to service delivery and the planning of policies, projects and programmes	BCC
C2 Support departments in carrying out equality screenings of emerging policies	Ongoing	City Solicitor / EDO	Compliance with the council's Equality Scheme	BCC
C3 Annual reporting to the Equality Commission	Annual	City Solicitor / EDO	Compliance with the council's Equality Scheme	BCC
C4 Advice and guidance for services to promote participation and inclusion for underrepresented groups	Ongoing	City Solicitor / EDO / departments	Our services are more accessible	BCC

C5 Facilitated testing of website by people with different abilities, including online forms and transactions	2017-21	Corporate Communications Manager	Increased access to information and services	BCC
C6 Benchmarking of website by an external organisation	2017-21	Corporate Communications Manager	Good practice in providing access to information and services	BCC
C7 Scoping development of a range of inclusive communication channels to meet different needs	2018-19	Corporate Communications Manager	Most appropriate methods of communications identified and supported	BCC

Priority D: Skilled and diverse workforce

The ability to deliver responsive services to increasingly diverse communities will depend in a large part on the composition, skills, understanding and commitment of a workforce in how we build their capacity and understanding of the need to promote equality and diversity. Through the development of a workforce which is broadly representative of the communities it serves the Council will deliver better outcomes for all.

Action	Timescale	Responsibility	How does this action help to promote equality and diversity?	Strategic owner
D1 Learning and development programme developed and delivered	Ongoing	HR/OD, GRU, EDO / Services	Increased staff awareness of equality and diversity issues	BCC
D2 Mechanisms to monitor the diversity of the workforce and applicants are further developed	2017-18	HR/OD	Profile of workforce is broadly representative of the community it serves	BCC
D3 Implementation of Organisational Development Strategy	2017-21	HR/OD	Organisation developed to deliver responsive services to diverse communities	BCC

Glossary

EDO – Equality and Diversity Officer

HR/OD – Human Resources and Organisational Development

GRU – Good Relations Unit

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Appendix 2

Belfast City Council

Public Authority Statutory Equality and Good Relations Duties

Annual Progress Report 2016-17

Contact:

• Section 75 of the NI Act 1998 and Equality Scheme	Name: Telephone: Email:	Lorraine Dennis / Stella Gilmartin 028 90320202 equality@belfastcity.gov.uk
• Section 49A of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and Disability Action Plan	As above Name: Telephone: Email:	x

Documents published relating to our Equality Scheme can be found at:

http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/council/equality/equality-about.aspx

Signature:

This report has been prepared using a template circulated by the Equality Commission.

It presents our progress in fulfilling our statutory equality and good relations duties, and implementing Equality Scheme commitments and Disability Action Plans.

This report reflects progress made between April 2016 and March 2017

PART A – Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 and Equality Scheme

Section 1: Equality and good relations outcomes, impacts and good practice

1 In 2016-17, please provide examples of key policy/service delivery developments made by the public authority in this reporting period to better promote equality of opportunity and good relations; and the outcomes and improvements achieved.

Please relate these to the implementation of your statutory equality and good relations duties and Equality Scheme where appropriate.

Information on the key policy/service delivery developments we have made in 2016/2017 are as follows:

Belfast Agenda – Public Consultation

Building on the feedback received from the public and stakeholders during the Belfast Conversation in 2015, the council and its community planning partners developed the draft Belfast Agenda, the city's first community plan.

The public consultation on the draft Belfast Agenda, was launched on 15th December 2016 and ran for 18 weeks until 20th April 2017. The consultation length was initially to be 12 weeks but was extended to allow additional time, to take account of any impact caused by the calling of the NI Assembly election and to align with the Local Development Plan Preferred Options Paper (which was out for consultation at the same time). Council members wanted to ensure the general public were given sufficient time to participate in the consultation process, given the significant scope of the Community Plan.

During this period, nearly 300 responses were received, including 92 from organisations and around 90 from young people via the Council's Youth Forum.

Consultation methods included:

- A series of public consultation briefing events across the city
- Targeted meetings/workshops with key stakeholders and interest groups,

including with key groups across section 75 categories

- Online consultation questionnaire via Citizen Space portal on Council website
- Social media, via Facebook, Twitter etc.

The consultation design specifically considered stakeholders who might be less likely to make their voices heard. We sought to identify and meet with representative groups and organisations who had the trust, and direct relationship, with these 'seldom heard' stakeholders. We aimed to support and help these organisations to facilitate their own engagement sessions with their groups or service users, to ensure a broader input into consultation responses.

Examples included engagement with older people via the Healthy Ageing Strategic Partnership, women via the Women's Resource Development Agency, ethnic minority groups via the Lower Ormeau Residents Action group (Community Cohesion Project), carers organisations and the Youth Forum etc.

This activity is helping inform the development of an additional workstream in the Belfast Agenda which will consider the extent to which data is available, and can be used to measure the effective addressing of inequalities, within a range of communities across Belfast.

In total over 700 people were directly engaged at meetings, briefings and information sessions during this consultation period. Analysis of the feedback from respondents is ongoing and it is expected that the final Belfast Agenda will be published in the autumn period.

Belfast Planning Service - Local Development Plan

We have completed the documents to support the work on the first stages of the new Belfast Local Development Plan (LDP) including the Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) and formal timetable for developing the plan. Following approval of both documents by the Department of Communities we developed the Preferred Options Paper (POP) which was published for formal consultation in early 2017.

The published POP provided the basis for consulting on a series of options for

dealing with key issues in the plan area. It outlined the vision, objectives and key planning issues affecting the city as well as possible approaches to new development and planned growth. We are therefore reaching the end of the first formal stage in developing the new Belfast LDP.

An Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) was carried out on the draft POP alongside the initial work on the Strategic Environmental Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal (SA). The EQIA report sets out how we intend to promote equality of opportunity throughout the LDP process. The issues identified in the EQIA will act as a guide to develop engagement, consultations and reports, to shape equality screening going forward.

Integrated Tourism Framework

The Belfast Integrated Tourism Strategy 2015-2020 sets out priorities and activities to help us double the value of tourism to £870 million per year by 2020.

The strategy has been developed following extensive consultation with tourism partners and stakeholders. It aims to focus everyone's efforts around priority issues. The improvements that it suggests will be delivered in partnership with all organisations that have an interest in increasing tourism into the city.

The main improvements identified are:

- to enhance the city's reputation through better marketing, access to the city, improved services for all visitors and better events that will be accessible and appeal to many

- to strengthen the tourism sector through quality assurance, training and by developing new products and experiences for visitors.

The Strategy is committed to developing a city that welcomes visitors and is easily accessible to all. We ensure that promotion of the city is delivered through multiple platforms to reach all inclusive of S75 groups. Any activity or product experience developed will go through a full equality screening exercise and examples of this have included events such as the Twilight Market at St George's and city animation

programmes. This was a good example of mainstreaming and designing appropriate services to meet the needs of different people representative of the S75 groups, by working collaboratively.

Neighbourhood Renewal

This cross government strategy is directly targeted at the 10% of wards in NI that experience the highest level of deprivation, 15 of which are in the Belfast area. The strategy operates through locally based community/ statutory partnerships which develop and implement a thematic action plan to target need. Our officers sit on these partnerships supporting the work of sub groups and ensuring alignment with council programmes and services at a local level.

Employability and Skills

A low skills level among the city's working-age residents is one of key challenges facing Belfast and without a focused and coordinated effort with our key partners this issue is set to continue. To ensure skills are matched to market needs, an Employability and Skills Framework for 2015-2025 was developed by the Economic Development Unit. Linked to the Belfast Agenda, the Employability and Skills Framework supports the need for specific, targeted interventions to ensure residents – especially those far from the labour market, have the opportunity to develop the skills necessary to apply for and secure employment. This Framework places a particular emphasis on ways we can help to improve the skills and employability of working age citizens especially in certain groupings; younger people, people with disabilities and ethnic minorities.

The Economic Development Unit has embedded diversity into project development. We developed a number of initiatives to increase residents' ability to access employment and self-employment, improve the local skills provision and increase employers' responsiveness to creating jobs - especially among those groups who experience highest levels of disadvantage.

Modern Slavery Act Transparency Statement

The Modern Slavery Act 2015 aims to address slavery and trafficking in the twenty-first century and as part of this requires some organisations to produce a slavery and human trafficking statement for each financial year.

Section 54 of the Act, called the 'Transparency in Supply Chains' clause, requires these organisations to set out what they have done to ensure there is no modern slavery in its supply chains or any part of its business. If an organisation has taken no steps to do this, their statement should say so.

Shared City Partnership:

In the past year the previously named Good Relations Partnership underwent a review, one of the outcomes being that it changed its name to reflect its current broad remit, to the Shared City Partnership. Under this new title the group continued to meet monthly to direct the work of the Good Relations Unit and also agreed to hold a minimum of 3 meetings a year outside of the City Hall as part of its ongoing review.

The Partnership hosted a Shared City Forum at Girdwood Community Hub on 14th June 2016. The event was opened by the Deputy Lord Mayor Councillor Campbell with a keynote address given by the Partnership Chair, Councillor Kyle. 102 people attended the event which included presentations on the work of the Shared City Partnership and how good relations issues are influencing the development of a Community Plan for Belfast (the Belfast Agenda) as well as a presentation on the work of the NI Life and Times Survey. This event included facilitated sessions to help develop good relations outcomes for the city and examine how city partners can effectively work with local communities to maximise impact through greater engagement and involvement in the design of interventions. This will also assist in the development of the PEACE IV Action Plan for Belfast.

Key findings and feedback from the forum include

- 74% of attendees felt that the Forum had increased their knowledge of the

Shared City Partnership and the context in which it operates by quite a bit or completely, with the remainder saying it had increased their knowledge a little.

- 100% of attendees felt that their experience of the workshop sessions was useful or would have some impact upon their own work.

- 90% of attendees stated that they would definitely attend similar events in the future.

The findings from the workshops were used to inform the ongoing development of the Belfast Agenda and in support of the Council's pending PEACE IV application.

Good Relations Audit:

The Good Relations Unit undertook its 3 yearly independent audit of Good Relations need within Belfast City Council during the last year. The findings and recommendations of the audit identify key areas of work to be included in a Belfast City Council Good Relations Action Plan for 2017 – 2018.

This audit included a review of existing and emerging policy such as Together; Building a United Community (T;BUC) and the Programme for Government. Belfast City Council is leading the development of a community plan for Belfast, 'The Belfast Agenda' and this also informed the content of the audit and action plan.

The audit was conducted between October 2016 and February 2017 and included an online survey as well as focus groups and a large scale event.

One of the recommendations of the audit was that Council should seek to promote the range of work to support good relations that takes place across the city. In line with this the Good Relations Unit has produced an information booklet and short film; these can be viewed at **www.belfastcity.gov.uk/goodrelations**

Social Clauses

We work with all council contracts to ensure social clauses are implemented and are

directly aligned to the priorities of the Council as contained within the Belfast Agenda and the existing social clause policy.

Overall, the implementation of social clauses across council contracts, has resulted in the creation of over 160 jobs ring-fenced for long-term unemployed or apprentices and third level students. One example of this is the Leisure Transformation Programme (LTP) which provides an insight into the delivery of social responsibility. Using social clauses in LTP, we have engaged with the contractor to agree the delivery plan for economic and social regeneration activities. This outlines the KPIs and measurable medium and long term outcomes for social, economic, employment, environmental and community improvements, which will be monitored through a contract management regime.

To support the contractor to maximise the impact for Belfast, council initiatives are utilised to support the delivery of social clause such as Meet the Buyer events, the delivery of Go-2-Tender in partnership with InterTradeIreland, Go Social, Planning for Growth and the delivery of Construction Employment Academies.

Central Grants Unit

Following an independent review of the Council's various grants processes, a Central Grants Unit (CGU) was established. In 2016-17, the CGU has continued to enhance the co-ordination and management of the Council's various grant processes by providing greater consistency across all levels of the process and developing clear and transparent governance and accountability. The two key works strands for CGU have been to centralise grants and the subsequent introduction of a grants management system, both of which have been equality screened.

The benefits of grants centralisation include:

- wider promotion of the grants allowing groups to plan their project activity and apply for multiple grants in one process
- provision of guidance and other document in all formats where requested, including minority languages

- providing road shows in neutral, DDA compliant venues with interpreters (language & sign) where required to offer advice and support.

CGU are able to assist grant awarding units by collating S75 monitoring information on both the delivery groups and the beneficiaries to assist with programme evaluation. CGU is working towards assisting units to analyse this information to ensure equitable access to Council grants.

EU and International Relations Unit

Belfast City Council published its second International Relations Framework in November 2016, which covers the period 2016-2021. The purpose of the framework is to position the city on an international stage as a competitive location to start and grow a business and to live, work, visit, trade and invest in.

It sets out targets for each of the three identified primary market segments: trade and investment, tourism, and education and learning. The framework's primary markets are tourists, international students and international businesses who do not normally or currently reside in Belfast. However, it does have an indirect impact on Belfast's residents in terms of contribution to economic growth and creation of a welcoming, vibrant and diverse city.

In delivering the framework, the Council works with city stakeholders to create favourable conditions in which there will be an increase in foreign direct investment; an increased number of international students; and increased tourism spend and works with these stakeholders in implementing initiatives contained in this strategy. Ultimately the end beneficiaries of this work are Belfast ratepayers and citizens.

In undertaking its international work, Belfast City Council is mindful to increase access to opportunity to those who may not normally avail of the same. Examples include:

- free tickets for local schools and youth groups to the Friendship Four ice hockey tournament, targeting those who have not previously experienced a game

- inclusion of young people from marginalised communities in outreach events

– through partnership working with local agencies and the Belfast Youth Forum

- ensuring inward mission itineraries provide visitors with an accurate and veritable experience of the city – via geographic spread of project visits, promotion of agencies who are addressing social, health and economic need, providing timely and accurate information in presentations and delegate packs

- investigating how barriers to employment, skills development and business start-up can be augmented– mindful of how other cities have addressed preventative measures

City Hall exhibition

The Equality and Diversity Unit engaged with disability groups in relation to accessibility and inclusivity of the City Hall exhibition.

Awards

Belfast City Council was re-accredited with the gold award for our workplace charter on domestic violence in 2016.

In 2017, we were highly commended at Legal Island's Equality and Diversity awards. We were also shortlisted for the Business in the Community Health and Wellbeing award.

Staff Networks

In 2016, the Equality and Diversity Network (EDN) was established. This cross-departmental network will champion and steer the organisation's strategy on all matters relating to diversity and equality in service delivery and employment. It will also monitor departmental actions in their progress in mainstreaming diversity and equality in all activity.

During 2016, the staff networks continued to grow and both the LGB&T and disability staff networks invited carers, allies or supporters of people with disabilities to join the networks. The groups have benefitted from hearing from a number of guest speakers and from attending a variety of training sessions.

A Race Equality Sub- Group of the Equality and Diversity Network was established in early 2017 with an initial aim of refreshing the race equality action plan for 2017-2018. The group will continue to contribute to mainstreaming equality and diversity by addressing the needs of people from different race and ethnic backgrounds following the implementation of the plan.

All staff networks groups feed into the development of the equality and diversity action plans.

2 Please provide examples of outcomes and/or the impact of equality action plans/ measures in 2016-17 (*or append the plan with progress/examples identified*).

Please see below for examples of outcomes and the impact of Belfast City Council's equality action plans during the period of 2016/2017

Our current Equality Action Plan was scheduled to cover the period from October 2015 to September 2016, however a request was submitted to ECNI for permission to extend to end of March 2017 to allow for alignment with the community plan, scheduled to commence 1 April 2017. Permission was granted as the extension should result in an improved Plan.

The Equality Action Plan provides an overarching framework to support the delivery of other diversity action plans which provide a more detailed breakdown of what we will do. To acknowledge the increased linkages with other plans the Equality Action Plan will be incorporated into an Equality and Diversity Framework, which will be in place from 2017.

Listed below are examples of activity and the associated outcomes relevant to the

current Equality Action Plan. Examples are allocated as appropriate to the headings provided under section 2 of this Annual Report.

2.1 STRATEGY, POLICY, IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES: Impacting on the organisation as a whole:

International Women's Day 2017:

Since 2013 Council has supported events to mark International Women's Day on an ongoing basis. In 2017 the main community event was a rally on 4th March 2017 focused upon the theme 'Peace, Solidarity and Sustenance'. The event was delivered in partnership with *Women's Information Northern Ireland* who delivered a series of programme activities, including workshops and lectures, under the title 'Reclaim the Agenda'.

The theme of the council's internal staff event was titled 'Be Bold for Change'. Female staff had the opportunity to hear from a range of inspiring speakers and to put questions to a guest panel.

Staff also had the opportunity to hear from both mentors and mentees who participated in the pilot mentoring programme that was developed for Women's' Network Group member.

International Men's Day

We held our third International Men's Day event in November 2016. The event was attended by council staff and community groups.The event focused on health inequalities and physical activity. Attendees were able to avail of a range of advice and information from Sustrans, Active Belfast, Conservation Volunteers, GLL, Walk in your Community, IFA and BCC Leisure Development.

Employability and Skills projects

We continue to match fund employability and skills projects across the city. During the period 2016/2017 the council funded the following employability and skills projects:

1. LEMIS Partnership - LEMIS+ Belfast Works project
2. Shankill Women's Centre- Education, Employment and Training Project
3. Women's TEC- Supporting People – Empowering Communities Project
4. Women in Business- The Connect Programme
5. Springboard- Jobworks Project
6. Workforce- Path 2 Employment Project
7. Lenadoon Community Forum – Training for Employment Project

The programmes provide a wide range of support including into work support, employability skills, mentoring, work placements, site visits and training up to level two. The programmes aim to help those furthest from the labour market to overcome the barriers they face to fulfilling their potential. The outcomes of the projects are geared towards progression into employment, self-employment and/or further training.

This year over 3,000 residents have accessed the projects of which approximately 630 of those have entered employment/self-employment. In addition, more than 450 qualifications have been supported.

Employability Pathway Model

We are working to develop a Council led employability pathway model providing a full programme of support and intervention which would take key client groups from a place where they are not job ready to gaining employment in jobs which have been identified through close work with employers across a range of sectors. The

model focuses upon an employer led approach with interventions specifically designed to equip participants with the specific skills required by a specific employer/industry.

Construction Employment Academies

Construction Employment Academies are employer led and triggered in advance of recruitment for upcoming vacancies and within this year we have initial capacity for 100 people to complete the academy.

To deliver these we utilise employability provision across the city to prepare a pipeline of long-term unemployed through outreach animation, mentoring to remove barriers to employment, job matching, better-off calculations, employability skills development etc.

Construction Employment Academies will be delivered on a 'modular' basis where participants can access elements that are relevant to the role they wish to apply for and can include site visit and company orientation, training in CSR, banksman, working at heights, first aid, abrasive wheels, health & safety in the workplace, interview techniques etc. Following this council organise interview days and jobs roadshows in conjunction with employers.

Hospitality Employment Academy (HEA)

This pilot project was developed in recognition of the expected employment growth in the hospitality sector arising from the investment in the Waterfront Hall and scale of hotel developments taking place in the city began in Autumn 2016. The final cohort is currently finishing their accredited course.

In partnership with Belfast Met, Lemis+ Belfast works Project and People 1st approximately 100 unemployed residents were supported to develop the accredited entry level skills, took part in site visits and received a guaranteed interview with an employer with open jobs. The programme also facilitated an industry specific job fair in the Europa, with over 10 employers attending and 104 unemployed people attending.

Go Social

Go Social is a programme of support for new and emerging social enterprises and cooperatives in Belfast. The aim of this programme is to increase the number of social enterprises across the city of Belfast, by stimulating early stage social enterprise activity and supporting the creation of new social enterprises/cooperatives. The programme engages new social entrepreneurs and those third sector organisations who have the potential to develop a social enterprise or cooperative.

Through the programme participants are supported to develop new social enterprise/cooperative business ideas through Social Spark events, tailored workshops, specialist one-to-one mentoring, networking and showcasing opportunities.

The programme launched in June 2016 and the first cohort of the 3 year programme is now complete. 30 participants completed the programme with 8 now operating as new social enterprises or cooperatives as a direct outcome. The second cohort is now underway.

Go for It

Go for It is a business start-up programme aimed at helping individuals get their business idea off the ground. This is a regional programme delivered by all of the local councils for anyone in NI aged 16+ and serious about starting their own business.

Through the programme, participants work with a business advisor to develop their business plan and have the opportunity to attend workshops and network with like-minded people. Promotion for this programme is looked after regionally by Derry and Strabane District Council, however we maximize this with our own local promotion. Through this promotion we ensure that we cover all groups in the city to include under-represented groups.

In the last financial year, 501 people started a business as a result of the programme, creating a total of 380 jobs. The current programme will come to an end this summer, however the new, revised programme is out for procurement at the minute and aims to be operational in August 2017.

Start by doing

This is an enterprise outreach initiative designed to create a culture of enterprise and stimulate the levels of entrepreneurial activity across Belfast. It provides participants with the opportunity to develop innovative business ideas, develop the skills required to start a business and engage with real life entrepreneurs. It assists our city residents including underrepresented groups as identified in research (students/graduates, younger people not in employment, education or training, people from ethnic minorities and people with disabilities and females). To date, 72 individuals have participated in the programme

Belfast Enterprise Academy

This is a pre-enterprise support programme designed to assist young full-time degree level students in Belfast to explore business ideas and creativity, gain best practice from existing innovative businesses and develop business skills and ideas. Participants from this programme can move to the business start up stage and access other programmes of support through Belfast City Council's pipeline or other providers. To date the programme has supported 25 participants representing 21 businesses.

2.2 COMMUNICATIONS, INFORMATION AND ENGAGEMENT ISSUES: Impacting on levels of interaction among and between staff and customers of the Council:

Policy on consultation and engagement

We have continued to improve our approach to consultation and engagement. In August 2016 the council procured a new on-line consultation platform and central repository that has enabled us to adopt a more open, transparent and user friendly approach to consultation whilst also improving our central coordination and quality.

Following this we commissioned the Consultation Institute to deliver further training for employees and also for councillors to reinforce best practice principles and

practice. This investment will help ensure that council and officers have the tools, skills and knowledge necessary for involving people and ensuring all people can have their say in ways that are meaningful and fit for purpose. Improving access and equality of opportunity are inherent within these approaches.

In January 2017, we repeated our regular resident survey, a representative sample of 1500 residents across the city, which is used to help inform progress and performance improvement.

Development management with regards planning applications

In the last year, we have determined planning applications which involved neighbour notification and advertisement in the local press in line with our procedures. Major applications and some larger scale local applications are determined by the Planning Committee; this is a public arena and allows local people to express their opinion on planning proposals to the council.

We provide a Duty Planner service to provide planning advice to the general public and customers. The service operates between 9am and 5pm each weekday. The Duty Planner can be contacted by telephone or in person at the council offices in the city centre.

External/ Internal Communications

We have published 4 articles in our City Matters magazine (which is distributed bi-monthly to all our residents homes) which specifically highlighted and promoted equality in relation to those with a disability. In addition a number of these articles promoted and signposted residents to the availability of services to potentially aid those with a disability eg Disabled Go website; JAM Card initiative.

We also included a dedicated Seniors page in City Matters and ensure that all our Age-Friendly Belfast events welcome people with disabilities.

We have produced a minimum of 2 targeted information leaflets, for example including communication around Waste Management and Cleansing Services and about events held in our Parks.

We have continued to promote accessible toilet access through both our leaflets and via our website. Currently 12 out of our 14 public toilets are fully accessible to people with disabilities and we operate the Radar National Key Scheme, managed by our Waste Management Service. We have also input any new changing facilities onto the Changing Places Toilet Map.

We continue to strive towards meeting the W3C standards and this has involved us developing our website pages (both internal and external) to make them interactive and available on any device.

We have introduced BrowseAloud to help those with a sight impairment to utilise our website and we have different sized texts available for users on each web page. In addition BrowseAloud has been installed on our dedicated Zoo website.

We have introduced templates to pages so that these are print friendly

Videos on our web pages/uploaded to our YouTube are increasingly featuring subtitles and is something we are continuing to focus on and develop.

Internally we have continued to develop our internal web for staff and update it on a regular basis and ensure it is used to the best possible effect to reinforce key messages around equality and diversity. For example we developed a video as part of the team brief promoting the council's staff Disability Network.

In addition we developed a dedicated page for Disability and other diversity related issues with accompanying links to relevant council policies and information, including a dedicated page for Health and Wellbeing for staff.

We have also recently carried out an audit of our list of providers of alternative formats for the council and updated accordingly. We used this audit as an opportunity to republicise our Big Word translation service across departments and updated details and codes in line with our new organisational structure and personnel.

Belfast Job Fair

On the 21st February this year in partnership with the Department for Communities, Council held the Belfast Jobs Fair. The event was held in the Europa with almost

1,500 people attending over the full day. There were 76 employers in attendance including the council's Corporate HR department promoting jobs within council. The employers all had open job vacancies with almost 400 open job vacancies advertised on the day. The post programme evaluation found 99% of employers reported as being either 'very satisfied' or 'satisfied' with the event. This showcases the council's dedication to work with employers and the Department for Communities to support employers to access the pool of talent Belfast has to offer, as well as supporting residents of the city to access opportunities.

Syrian Programme

BCC has been involved in the planning and operational aspects of the Vulnerable Person's Relocation Scheme, which is a UK government led scheme that will settle up to 20,000 Syrian Refugees in the UK, since it started in December 2015. With partners across the city we have been involved / funded a number of initiatives to support those that have been settled in Belfast through the scheme.

Through this scheme it was evident that a number of the Syrian refugees who settled in Belfast were interested in or had the potential to start up their own business. Therefore in partnership with Bryson, a tailored programme of support was developed to enable them to overcome the barriers they had to starting a business in Belfast and support them to take positive steps towards starting up in business. This included a number of tailored workshops covering topics such as knowing the local market, sales and marketing, operations, resources and legalities as well as specialist one to one mentoring with the support of an interpreter.

The initiative has supported 17 Syrian Refugees from the Belfast City Council area and as a result of the programme, 5 new businesses will be created. Whilst the number of new businesses created as a result of the programme is excellent the wider benefits for the participants as a result of the programme has been much greater.

Business attitudinal survey and employer survey

The procurement process to commission an organisation to complete a business attitudinal survey covering 600 local businesses commenced during the last year (

April 2016/ March 2017). This survey aims to gather information on the current situation of Belfast businesses in terms of their turnover, staff numbers and growth projections however it will also provide a business health overview of the city, highlighting current and future strengths and weaknesses to economic and social resilience. This survey will help us to identify gaps in the market and inform future support provision for ourselves and our stakeholders within the city.

In June we commissioned BMG Research Ltd to survey 450 employers in the city. The businesses sampled will represent the business make up of large, medium and small employers from across all sectors and areas of the city. The purpose of this research is to better understand the key challenges facing local employers in accessing skilled labour, the current and future skills needs, and the effectiveness of recruitment practices and mechanisms for employer engagement with a focus on recruiting young people and those furthest from the labour market. By focusing on the employer experiences of employability, recruitment and skills in the city we aims to establish clear and robust data to ensure that interventions and actions under the Employability and Skills framework and Belfast Agenda are developed to support employers as well as those seeking jobs.

Removing Barriers: Making Services Inclusive

This event was planned and delivered by the Equality and Diversity Unit and attracted over 90 attendees, with a large representation of disability advocacy groups and a large percentage of disabled guests and speakers.

Through this event, Belfast City Council built on their commitment to promote a positive attitude towards those with a disability through their creation of a video with individuals with varying disabilities taking about what makes an event good and enjoyable for them.

This video is now available for all staff to see/use on the Councils Interlink and will now be used as part of the councils Disability Awareness training for staff**.** Belfast City Council used this event to communicate its commitment to the Equality Commission's Every Customer Counts initiative. In addition Belfast City Council signed the Age-Friendly Belfast Charter

As a result of the success of the above event and the interest generated in making

events as accessible as possible to all, the equality and diversity team have now:

- launched a programme of meetings with departments to complete specific event guides/templates for the upcoming year to ensure that good practice is embedded throughout the council both in terms of internal processes/procedures and in the delivery of services/promotion of positive attitudes towards those with a disability.

- Officers will then complete these completed guides and recommended improvements will be saved and shared on a central database managed by the Equality and Diversity team and will be made available to any member of staff to look at/use to embed best practice and continually develop/improve services for those with a disability

- set up a project team to look at taking forward the JAM card initiative throughout the council, focusing on front-line staff delivering services/ dealing with the public and those staff involved in consultation and engagement

- agreed to ensure that any videos/information communicated in this way is reviewed to see if it should include the use of captions

Outreach projects

BCC are supporting employability outreach projects that use sport as a channel to engage with young people. Both programmes are early interventions and are as follows:

Sports Changes Life through their Honour Roll Programme has engaged with 78 young people to date (14-16 years old) who are at risk of leaving education or in need of additional support, motivation or guidance. Young people's personal development is supported and they are encouraged to realise importance of education.

eHoops is a multi-disciplinary, sport-based engagement programme which has supported 30 young people in disadvantaged areas to develop skills to support employability. Through this programme they receive mentoring and support to overcome barriers, and most participants will receive CPPD from Ulster University.

Delivered over 24 weeks this programme will include multi-disciplinary sports activities and personal and professional development sessions.

Active Communities Network has run a wide range of sport activities to engage with 250 young people across the city who are or at risk of becoming NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training). From these sessions 36 young people have been identified and have been receiving mentoring support – supporting them to overcome specific barriers to employment. Young people will receive training and support to develop employability skills, and will be supported to access work-placement and/or employment opportunities.

Tourism, Culture and Arts - Cultural Framework for Belfast

The Cultural Framework for Belfast sets out the council's objectives in supporting arts and heritage in the city. It was published in October 2012 following a full EQIA and public consultation. Equality and quality are two of the core values of the framework, reflected in our vision that everyone should have access to high-quality arts.

In 2016/17 the Cultural Framework Action Plan 2016 – 2020 was approved and year one action plan implemented. The plan was developed following a significant programme of sector engagement. As part of the consultations, feedback was obtained from a range of cultural organisations representing the interests of S75 groups. This identified a number of new initiatives and programmes focussed on promoting equality and good relations which includes a bid for the Peace IV programme.

Under the Inspiring communities theme – one of four framework themes – we have prioritised work engaging children, young people, older people and seldom heard communities. Seldom heard communities include minority ethnic communities; disabled people; and communities in areas of multiple deprivations and in areas of high levels of religious and political segregation. In 2016-17 we invested £233,127 into supporting projects that would support our inspiring communities theme, some of which were through the Community Festivals Fund part funded by the

Department for Communities.

To promote awareness of our funding, in conjunction will the Central Grants Unit, we hold funding clinics in community venues across the city and advertise our funding widely via local papers and networks such as Community Arts Partnership. Applications for funding are assessed against the four themes of the Cultural Framework. If a group is applying for funding for Inspiring communities, they must demonstrate how they will meaningfully target priority and/or seldom heard groups, which include Section 75 groups, or their application will not be considered for funding.

Our funding supports a wide range of arts organisations and arts activities targeting a range of beneficiaries, including Outburst Queer Arts Festival, Belfast Mela, Samhain and Diwali, Cultúrlann McAdam Ó Fiaich, Arts for All, Belfast Children's Festival, Arts and Disability Forum and Bounce! Disability Arts Festival.

In 2016-17 we delivered the last of 7 big, bold and ambitious Creative and Cultural Belfast projects. Alongside the Arts Council of Northern Ireland, we invested £900,000 with the aim to give everyone in Belfast the opportunity to take part in high-quality culture inspired by our rich heritage. The criteria for this fund prioritised the target groups such as people and communities at risk of social exclusion as identified under the Inspiring Communities theme with a particular focus on good relations. The seven projects included:

- Belfast Carnival Village
- The Belfast Opera
- The Farset Project
- The Belfast Tempest
- BabyDay
- Draw Down the Walls 2015
- Nine Nights

Overall, the 7 projects delivered 1,076 activities across the city which attracted an audience of 102,626 and engaged 9,478 participants. All applicants for funding and

all funding recipients have to complete a S75 monitoring form based on makeup of organisation and target beneficiaries.

The Cultural Framework for Belfast included a commitment to "produce a fit-for-purpose monitoring and evaluation framework". Primary research carried out, Art affects: Evidencing the impact of the arts, was completed in 2014 and during 2016-17 we continued to gather evidence from funded organisations to help begin to map participants' experience of culture and arts in the city. This recognises that many organisations in the city already strive to provide equitable access to the arts and provides a framework to further evidence the extent and impact of access and inclusion.

Belfast Festival of Learning

Following the launch in 2015 of Belfast Strategic Partnership's (BSP) "Belfast a Learning City" strategy, Belfast's first week-long Festival of Learning was launched in March 2016. This event aimed to engage Belfast citizens of all ages and community backgrounds with a variety of learning opportunities. As part of the Festival of Learning, Economic Development hosted the Belfast Skills Fair at St. George's Market. The event attracted over 1,000 attendees to sample a wide range of formal and non-formal learning opportunities available in the city with demonstrations and activities including job search, archery, cookery, circus skills, Hawaiian dancing, boxing and origami! The event also included demonstrations of different world cultures including Syria, Nigeria, India and Romania.

Building Control

Council officers have continued to work closely with officials from the Department of Social Development and the Department for Infrastructure in preparing for the introduction of the Licensing of Pavement Cafes Act 2014, which came into operation on 1st October 2016, for pavement cafes across Belfast.

Work is continuing regarding the preparation of guidance documentation for applicants. We are aware that cafes may have a negative impact on the mobility and

accessibility of people with disabilities across the city. Officers have engaged extensively with representatives of the disabled community and older people, including Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB), The Inclusive Mobility and Transport Advisory Committee (IMTAC), Shop Mobility, Guide Dogs for the Blind to ensure their equality in terms of mobility and accessibility is fully considered in the determination of Pavement Cafes. Officers have also taken part in 'walk arounds' with representatives of the disabled community to learn from them about their concerns first hand regarding the issues they face in using footpaths in Belfast. Officers have also engaged with the Council's Consultative Forum.

We continue to enforce the accessibility standards required by Part R of the Building Regulations (NI) and undertook enforcement action on a developer to make sure that four newly built houses met these standards.

Markets Unit

As part of the Northern Ireland Year of Food and Drink 2016 initiative and Council's Food and Drink Plan 2016, a series of food tourism initiatives were organised to showcase the city, create awareness of Belfast as a food and drink destination, and animate the city while contributing to the economy. One of the showcase initiatives was the Twilight Market series at St George's which primarily focused on food, by championing local produce and supporting street food development. In addition to the food and drink stalls, there were a number of non-food stalls showcasing craft and other local produce.

Council worked with an event management company which was supporting the delivery of the event to ensure it was an accessible and inclusive event, open to all. One of the key tasks was the development and implementation of an accessible events action plan, supported by the Council's Inclusive Events Guide to consider and put in place a full range of actions to accommodate full participation of all attendees in the event.

Examples of this include: consideration of layout to ensure there was sufficient

space, access points, seating areas, quiet space and dedicated drop off point; an early family focused session and associated activity and demonstrations programme; contracted event marshals who were trained on how to provide an inclusive customer facing service for people of all abilities; and guided assistance if required and facilities for assistance dogs. The Twilight Market event series was subject to a full equality screening and the Twilight Market was visited by the Equality and Diversity Officer's Disability Stakeholder group in May with feedback folded into future event planning.

The feedback from both visitors and traders at the events has been extremely positive. The events have had a significant social media profile reaching over 1 million Facebook users and 200,000 Twitter users. The success of the Twilight Market has been recognised with the event winning the 2015 Tourism NI award for Innovation and St George's was named the Best Market 2016 at the annual Observer Food Monthly Awards.

Events Unit

The Council's City Events Unit continues to deliver a diverse and varied events programme across the calendar year for Belfast citizens and visitors. All the cultural content of the programme is representative of the city, with opportunities for groups from across Belfast to be involved regardless of age, gender, race or ability. The annual events schedule is open to all, with the vast majority of the events free to attend, while providing a profile for a cross section of groups to take part and thus encouraging positive good relations.

A good example of this is Belfast's 2017 St Patrick's Day Parade that had representatives from a range of cultural, ethnic and mix-ability organisations; the Parade theme was 'Belfast'- representational of all facets of the Belfast population and was 'colourful, vibrant and creative' accounting for the changing and ever diverse make-up of the city to be reflected through carnival floats and parade participants.

Content of the annual events allows for cross sections of the community to engage

with one another; the activities are planned to allow for intergenerational, religious and gender integration as opposed to specifically targeting one or other group; an example of this is the Lord Mayors Day, where the theme was 'Putting Citizens First'.

Events that promote the two main cultures of Northern Ireland are supported as the city has hosted the UK Pipeband Championships and the All Ireland Irish Dance Championships in the last nine months. Both events welcome all Section 75 groups and are an opportunity to show how the two main cultures contribute to the tourism of the city through bespoke world class events.

All the events are delivered to comply with DDA guidance and reflected in the facilities onsite including the use of sign language interpreters who are engaged for events like the Christmas Light Switch-on. In addition the new terms and conditions recommend that that those attending events are aware of the Councils desire to create shared spaces and to respect this through their behaviours.

Urban Development Unit

Over the last financial year, the Belfast Bike Share (BBS) was finalised and launched on 27 April 2015. As part of the project development and service delivery considerations of the project over the period 2016/2017, a number of actions contributed to promoting equality of opportunity. One such action included holding meetings with inner city communities at the planning design stage in order to secure their input at an early stage. As a result of these meetings, Council took on board community input and altered where the location of the docking stations would be. At that time, Council also spoke to the community about the pricing structure for the bikes and were advised that it was crucial that it was affordable. Again, the BBS took on these suggestions and the pricing structure of £20/year, which reflects community concerns.

The BBS Stakeholder Group was involved in all stages of the project, from the design to the implementation of the project and membership and included Disability Action, Guide Dogs and IMTAC. As part of the overall engagement and planning, BCC conducted on site surveys with the Stakeholder Group to address access issues. Additionally, consultation in relation to the Bradbury Place docking stations

were carried out with the Blind Centre on the Lisburn Road to ensure there would be no concern about the location of the docking stations and potential obstruction of the footpath.

Social clauses were built into the contract and our operator employed local people, which enhanced skills and provided a positive economic impact locally. In order to target an under-represented group the initial branding of the scheme was a figure of a woman on a bicycle. The Council funded Sustrans to offer free on-road cycle training (National Standards Training) for new or returning cyclists in the run up to the launch of the scheme. This accredited training was to build confidence and skills to enable people to cycle in the city and join the Belfast Bikes scheme. Over 2 months 236 people were trained over 70% were women, mostly all novice cyclists.

Promotional events were held at the Easter Fair and in St George's Market as a means to target a wide population. Additionally, events were held at BMC and QUB and in particular there was an event in the Markets Community Centre in an effort to address the needs of the neighbourhood and S75 groups. Outreach work was also carried out with a group of female seniors who enjoyed cycling lessons on a Belfast Bikes at Corpus Christi College. This was part of Cycling Ireland's Bike For Life courserunby NI - https://www.facebook.com/belfastbikescheme/posts/209836426032607 and Members of Downe University of the Third Age (U3A) took part in a series of free demonstration and training events - http://downeu3a.org/belfast-bikes-2/

Significantly, the Belfast Bike Share targets a large population of the city that do not own a car and a positive consequence of the scheme have been requests to expand into a number of areas of high deprivation and segregation, i.e. Lower Shankill, Lower Oldpark and Falls.

3 TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUES: Impacting on levels of understanding among our own staff

Staff training 16/17

Course Title	Nos. trained
Diversity for employees	258
Diversity for managers and supervisors	41
Diversity e-learning- employees and managers	44
Disability Awareness for employees	83
Disability Awareness for managers and supervisors	10
Provide emotional health and well being awareness training for staff and council volunteers	21
Provide training for managers in managing stress and mental	27
Mental Health, dyslexia and learning disability awareness	11

In addition to the above dementia awareness sessions have been run in Community Services and Environmental Health and 4 officers have been trained to deliver these 2 hour sessions going forward.

Also 11 members of staff attended a 6 week lunchtime sign language training session which was expertly delivered by a member of staff who is deaf and these individuals have been added to the database we created containing details of staff who have sign language skills.

GLL (the Strategic Operating Partner of our leisure centres) have developed a disability awareness training programme for all their swim coaches and continue to work closely with organisations such as Jigsaw and Nemo to ensure service users' needs are met when swimming in the centres.

Corporate training on equal opportunities, diversity, disability etc. will continue to be reviewed, updated and rolled out. Also, we will continue to identify and target awareness raising sessions on specific areas of disability

Pilot mentoring programme

Following the successful delivery and evaluation of the pilot mentoring programme

for female employees, we will roll out another programme to other female and male employees.

Two of the mentees have subsequently gained promotion, and they have attributed that success in part to participating in the mentoring programme.

Women Leaders Programme (WLP)

Following Local Government Reform (LGR) we refreshed the previous WLP, being cognisant of the increased roles and responsibilities of elected members, post LGR, and the ever changing political landscape. There is now increased emphasis on being a 'leader of leaders' and 'planning for the future' to be more aligned to the council's newly developed elected member Knowledge and Skills Framework and associated revised PDP process. The 'new' programme, launched in March 2017, with 13 elected member and officer participants is nearing the end of its delivery. The aim of the WLP programme is to facilitate participants in increasing their self-awareness of their personal leadership styles and put plans in place to maximise their respective political and managerial leadership effectiveness focusing on the following common key areas:

- Women in leadership roles;
- Personal leadership-qualities and style;
- Building a network of support;
- Inclusive leadership;
- Developing and supporting others;
- Planning for progression; and
- Gender awareness and its impact on organisational culture and community planning.

Anecdotal feedback from participants suggests the WLP, continues to be successful in facilitating participants to:

- Gain awareness of their distinctive strengths and styles;
- Maximise their leadership effectiveness;
- Increase personal resilience;
- Create a personal vision and goals to achieve it ;
- Assist in further developing an inclusive culture of respect for difference; and
- Build networks across and beyond Council

Data collection and analysis

The council will continue to monitor its workforce and applicant pool in relation to the Section 75 categories, and where trends or potential issues are identified, develop suitable plans in consultation with the Equality Commission to seek to address any such matters in a fair and effective way.

Following information received from ECNI and benchmarking with ACAS's diversity form, we have drafted a staff survey on equality and diversity and a voluntary monitoring exercise, and included a question on identifying as transgender. It is anticipated that the survey will be conducted in late summer/ early autumn. Consideration will also be given to including this question on our applicant monitoring form going forward.

4. REPRESENTATION ISSUES: Impacting on people seeking to use our services

Under Representation Research

We are working with UU Economic Policy Centre to identify under-represented groups within the city to inform those we need to focus on whilst also comparing this with other NI council areas and comparative UK cities.

Previously we have focused on groups such as females, NEETs, people with a disability and students however we recognised that research needed to be undertaken to scope if these groups were still as under-represented as previously identified and if there were any other groups that we had not considered.

We also needed the research to inform where we should ensure support provision is targeted and allow us to compare our progress. Whilst we are still awaiting the written report, the results to date show that we are behind our comparative cities across the board.

There seems to be no particular groups that need attention over another but rather all groups need more support and guidance to start their own business. Therefore we are going to procure work for an Enterprise project for under-represented groups to try to combat this and help us to raise our position in comparison with our comparative cities. We expect this research to be complete before the end of June which means we can commission the work and the project will hopefully be operational by September 2017.

Grant Aid Programme 2016-17

Community Services has strived to ensure equal access of opportunity to all groups in Belfast. Working with the Central Grants Unit grant workshops are advertised openly in papers, sector bulletins, and via our website. Information sessions are also held in various shared, DDA compliant locations ensuring all areas of the city were covered.

Disability Advisory Panel

The Equality and Diversity Unit set up the council's first Disability Advisory Panel. This panel is made up of 7 individuals' with a range of disabilities and their purpose is to:

- advise, guide and support the council to respond better to the needs of people with a disability
- help Belfast City Council identify priorities in offering accessible and inclusive

services and facilities

The first project they are advising on is the Tropical ravine Restoration Project at Botanic Gardens.

DisabledGo

During 2016/2017 the Equality and Diversity Unit met with representatives from DisabledGo and facilitated a focus group to gather feedback about improvements to make and how to promote/use their services to better effect.

As a result of the above the council updated details regarding Belfast buildings/facilities and included an additional 25 and have agreed to run a volunteer/work experience day and included the promotion of this service/website via its Interlink and external City Matters publication. Disabled Go services are also linked into Age Friendly Belfast to ensure the City Centre is accessible for older people.

Travellers

Belfast City Council's service support and work with the Traveller community over the past 12 months falls within four broad work streams;

Direct Service Provision.

BCC's Traveller Liaison Officer continues to work directly with traveller families on issues such as housing, education, health and welfare, dealing directly with council services and other providers to ensure that the issues raised by individuals, families and community are firstly communicated to the appropriate body, articulated and solutions implemented. This tends to be intervention work and broad in scope e.g. dealing with dog licences through to families being intimidated out of their homes. Each intervention contributes to developing relationships and building trust between the officer, the traveller families and community and is very much core to creating the conditions which will underpin future service provision and the active participation of travellers.

Capacity Building

We continue to deliver capacity support to the community through various training, mentoring and coaching programmes. Our goal is to help the community develop their capacity to identify and articulate their needs, develop, co-design and co-deliver services and lobby for resources. There remains a reliance on agencies to support travellers rather than travellers taking control for their own provision, a situation we wish to change over the medium term.

Advocacy and Political Lobbying

We support travellers to find their voice and speak for themselves, through facilitated workshops, action research projects and discussions. Council offers a facilitation/broker role connecting travellers to decision makers and agencies providing them with practical support- e.g. report writing, presentations and venues.

Interagency Working

The issues raised by travellers in relation to health, education, housing and employment are both multifaceted and deep-seeded requiring the active involvement of providers delivering services collaboratively with sufficient resources. Belfast City Council and been working closely with a range of agencies to develop an interagency approach to meeting the needs of travellers. This year, following extensive discussions, a Governance Proposal, partnership and delivery model has been agreed. It is hoped that over the following months the proposal will be formally adopted by all the key agencies.

Girdwood Community Hub

Council lead on the community engagement programme at this iconic peace and reconciliation centre in North Belfast working with local community partners to maximise and ensure the full benefits of the project are realised by the local communities. This involves supporting the relevant sub groups. Community management of the youth space is potentially a pilot for the aspiration for community management of the wider hub and pitch and Council continue to support capacity building of Girdwood Community Trust (GCT) who are due to submit a formal management proposal to Council officers for assessment and full Council for a

decision.

Prior to a community management contract being in place Community Services continue to support the Youth Space Working Group (YSWG) in the development of a youth based activity plan that is largely delivered within the youth space. The programme is collaborative involving local community youth providers and GLL, funded by BCC and the Executive Office. Activities include arts, IT and sports and encourages access to other services within the hub. BCC Good Relations unit lead on the Shared Space and Programming (SS&PG) work through a working group with Community Services and Girdwood Community forum representation. The SS&PG agree and deliver an annual shared space and activity action plan. The plan identifies training needs, programmed activity and a series of themed shared space events".

Children & Young People Unit – Play Service

Belfast City Council Play Service delivers a varied programme of play to children throughout Belfast both within our centres and also on an outreach basis. The programme includes after-schools provision for children from the Roma, Indian and Chinese communities as well as a weekly play club for children from the Traveller community.

Our summer schemes are accessible to all and a number of the children attending our schemes and after-school services would be diagnosed with a learning disability or have behavioural issues. When required additional resources have been put in place to equip staff to support and assist children with such difficulties to ensure they can engage in council programmes.

Specialist play sessions continue to be delivered on a Saturday afternoon once per month to children attending the polish school. The service has also sought to engage with newcomer families and during the past year play service staff delivered play programmes for mothers and toddlers attending the Belfast Islamic Centre and initiated a weekly after-schools service in one of the Women's Aid hostels in the city. The service has also linked with other agencies that deliver early intervention

programmes for families and the play team provided programmes in hostels for homeless families and for groups run by Homestart.

During the past year the staff team received training in digital media and delivered a 6 session pilot digital animation play programme. Around 10 children from all parts of the city came together to design, create and animate their play character. The programme gave the children an opportunity to meet others from different backgrounds and work together on a project which looked at how they liked to spend their free time and where they liked to play in Belfast.

Children attending two of the after-schools services had an opportunity to have their voices heard as part of the consultation on the Belfast Agenda and shared their views as to what they would like to have in the city.

Youth Forum

The 2016-2018 Youth Forum is made up of 40 young people representing the council's ten electoral areas and new extended boundary. The members come from an assortment of religions, abilities, socio-economic backgrounds and cultures across Belfast.

To ensure the forum is representative of all young people in Belfast, 10 places were ring fenced for applicants from minority section 75 groups such as ethnic minorities, young people with disabilities and Traveller background. The recruitment process aimed to access 'seldom heard' young people through work with partners such as Include Youth, VOYPIC and alternative education projects.

As part of the induction programme, the forum members received training from the Participation and Practice of Rights Project around using human rights instruments to create change at a grassroots level.

The Youth Forum is working on the following projects:

Poverty

As part of this campaign, our young people designed & facilitated a youth-led piece of research into young people's views on poverty in Belfast. Forum membersfacilitated 7 focus groups with young people aged 11-18 in each part of

Belfast (NSE&W) throughout April and May 2016 and a total of 68 young people took part. The aim of this research was to find out:

- How young people view poverty in the city;
- What they think it means to be living in poverty;
- How they think poverty impacts children and young people, families and their communities; and
- What actions they think government could take to end poverty.

Our young people then analysed the data and created a research report called 'Poverty: It's not a choice'. The report contains 9 key actions for local government in relation to poverty. Recognising the intergenerational nature of poverty, our young people also partnered up with the Greater Belfast Seniors Forum to create an awareness raising video about poverty in Belfast also called 'Poverty: It's not a choice.'

'What you say matter' young people's conference

In 2015 our Youth Forum helped CLC to gather the views of 900 young people from NI on the changes needed to improve their lives. These views were turned into a report called 'Our Lives in Our Words,' which was presented to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in Geneva. In June 2016, based on the findings in the young people's report, the UN Committee told the Government what it needed to do in order to ensure all young people are happy, healthy and achieve their goals in life. Their recommendations reflected the young people's report which highlighted a need for:

- Better mental health provision for young people;
- An end to discrimination against young people in community life and leisure experiences;
- An improved knowledge and understanding of Rights;
- Greater levels of meaningful participation from young people in decision making both at community and government level.

Our youth forum wanted to bring young people together to discuss what each of the themes above meant to them and to tell each of our youth forums what they would like us to campaign for on their behalf. Therefore, in partnership with NI Youth Forum & Children's Law Centre, they organised and ran a conference in City Hall called 'What you say matters' in October 2016 which was attended by over 100 young people. They carried out youth led workshops on the day around each theme and got young people to form questions on each for the panel discussion taking place that afternoon with key decision makers.

The decision makers who came to City Hall to take part were:

- Barry McElduff MLA- Chair of the Education Committee
- ACC Stephen Martin- Assistant Chief Constable, PSNI
- Andrew Dawson- Head of Mental Health & Capacity Unit, Dept. of Health

Some of the key issues from the day that emerged from young people were:

- Police stop and search powers
- Inadequate mental health provision for young people
- Votes at 16
- Mental health issues caused by exam stress at school
- Need for more 'youth-friendly' spaces for young people in their cities, towns and communities
- Sexual Health education

Some outcomes from the conference are:

- A delegation from all 3 Forums met with Junior Minister Megan Fearon to ask key questions around mental health provision for young people.
- All 3 Forums have committed to continue our partnership working, particularly around a mental health campaign.

Belfast Agenda & Local Development Plan

The Youth Forum worked with the Community Planning and Local Development Plan teams in Belfast City Council to design young people's consultations for both and took these into their schools and youth groups to facilitate with their peers.

Super connected communities

The Super Connected Communities programme has continued to grow in 2016/17. Providing opportunities for individuals and communities to access a range of IT focused solutions which contribute to addressing digital exclusion.

Over the past 12 months we have developed and initiated a range of programmes which traget the seldom heard people in our community. These included:

Community hubs: The development of 14 static IT hubs in Council's community centres along with the development of a digital outreach project (60 tablets) which travels across the city making the most of Belfast wifi. The key areas of focus of the project are digital inclusion; literacy and skills development; generally engaging people in the community, teaching them how to surf, email and learn skills to support their work ambitions.

Compared to traditional IT access venues, such as Libraries NI basic internet community courses, the project has succeeded in attracting harder to reach individuals and greater numbers. In one year the pilot supported 450 new onliners and engaged over 700 people generally in the project and run a highly successful "Techcamp Belfast" in partnership with the US State department.

Partnership Development: Key to the success of the project is networking and raising awareness with a range of internal and external providers to secure courses, classes and ongoing commitment. To date initiatives have been developed with partners from IGNITE, Barclays Digital Eagles, GO ON NI, DEL, US Consulate, Engage with Age, Digital Services, Business in the Community, Digital Services, Economic Development, Good Relations, Culture and Tourism and Age Friendly Belfast , The Nerve Centre, Film On and NI Screen . Partnership development allows us to take on opportunities, build on the taster sessions and meet centre user

group demand by providing free courses from our partners to new 'on liners'.

Buy in has been secured from other public & private organisations such as DFP, other BCC departments, the IT industry and the traditional community sector. These arrangements demonstrate a willingness to work together, build collective data and create digital platforms as a channel to achieve a better way of doing business with our citizens.

The outreach project is proving very popular and has enabled wider scope in the community through wifi enabled folds, sheltered housing, church groups and various clubs. It has also allowed us to facilitate groups that don't normally engage in council led community projects most recently an Indian community group with 20 of its members who speak little English completing a 5 week get online course.

Belfast City Council is moving towards facilitating more creative IT programmes with young people in mind. The project Officer is currently working with Business in the Community on introducing a 'Time to Code' programme in after schools which will be rolled out across community centres with this facility.

Focus is currently on the recently installed multimedia hub at Girdwood with the utilisation of new technology including 3D printer and IMacs which support exciting new creative programmes such as Coding Clubs for afterschool and youth groups along with a Saturday 'Making IT' club. These skills are not taught in classrooms and young people and older people will get the opportunity to experience digital fabrication in a unique environment. An advice facility for parents on how to keep their children safe online will also be available.

Free 3 week bite size courses. We are running these across the 14 Community IT Hubs. Tuition is delivered via IT volunteers who are supplied through Business in the Community, providing £3,000 of in-kind resources.

Intergenerational digital project. Linking Generations funded 4 intergenerational projects which were delivered at 4 of our IT Hubs across the city. This was the first time that local secondary school pupils teamed up with older people to train them on using tablets with the view that the participants will continue to use the IT hubs.

Free Pilot: Coding for Older people. Working in partnership with Go Beserk

(based at Stranmillis College) we arranged for a group of “Silver Surfers” to participate in a two day training course in coding, using primary school aged training material. Go Beserk are delivering the programme on a voluntary basis.

Economic Development. Various organisations are using the IT Hubs for digital employability skills. For example, Barnardos - IT training for mothers, Victim Support NI - Online testing and Victims & Survivors - Online testing.

Waste Management

Waste Management picked up 12 platinum “Loo of the Year” Awards for public conveniences across the city. (This is an increase of 2 from the previous year and 100% of our entries achieved this award!) These awards, run by the British Toilet Association, assess premises on their male, female and accessible toilets. Our premises have baby changing facilities in the male, female and unisex toilets. Our automatic toilets have information provision in various languages.

Age-friendly Belfast 2016/17

Belfast was the first city in Northern Ireland to join into the World Health Organisation's Global Network of Age-friendly Cities and Belfast City Council is working with the Healthy Ageing Strategic Partnership to make Belfast a city where older people can live life to the full.

Through the Belfast Agenda, Council is committed to supporting an Age-friendly Belfast, to ensure the needs of older people in the city are met. Currently 19% of the people in Belfast are aged 60+ and this figure is expected to rise to over 33% by 2050.

Consultation and engagement with older people has identified their needs as:

- addressing social isolation;
- infrastructure (walkability, signage, seating and toilets);
- transport and accessibility;
- access to suitable housing; and
- tackling poverty.

The first Age-friendly Plan 2014-2017 is currently being evaluated and a new three year plan is being developed in consultation with older people and relevant stakeholders to cover the period 2018-2021.

Our vision is that Belfast will be a city where older people live life to the full

There are 3 key themes;

- Age-friendly Image - creating a positive view of ageing
- Age-friendly Lives – reducing life inequalities and isolation
- Age-friendly Neighbourhoods - creating friendly places to live in

For each theme commitment has been secured, from key stakeholders, to deliver specific projects to improve the age-friendliness of Belfast.

It includes a wide range of projects the Council is delivering targeted at older people to reduce isolation and encourage healthy, active ageing, examples include, Prepared Events, Positive Ageing Month, tea dances in the Ulster Hall, Age-friendly Belfast Convention in City Hall and a range of active aging events in Community Centres, Leisure centres and Parks across the City.

Specific age-friendly Belfast work 16/17

We had a Living Life to the Full advertising campaign is on be billboards, buses, bus stops radio and newspapers. This is to show the positive contribution that older people play in the City.

The Age-Friendly Belfast Volunteer Awards in December 2016 were a resounding success with double the number of nominations from last year and the introduction of 5 award categories.

The Age-friendly Belfast charter now has over 30 businesses signed up, including BCC, BHSCT, Translink, Bank of Ireland, QFT and Marks and Spencers.

A third Age-friendly calendar was developed and 5000 copies have been distributedA successful intergenerational project on Poverty with the Greater Belfast

Seniors and BCC Youth Forum was held. Positive Ageing Month 2016 in October saw 200 events enjoyed by 10000 people, with two Be Prepared events taking place in May and October in the City Hal. Over 600 older people attended each event.

Regular tea dances were held, including on St Patricks Day and a 75th Anniversary of the US troop's tea dance in the Ulster Hall and at Christmas Tea Dances in 15 community centre across the city. (The Age-friendly Belfast profile is on the NINIS website **http://www.ninis2.nisra.gov.uk/public/Home.aspx**.)

Good Relations Unit

Good Relations Grant Aid Fund:

The Good Relations Unit provides support to a range of organisations across the city in their work to address issues of sectarianism and racism and promote better relationships within and between communities. In total 160 projects were supported to a total value of £363,631.

The funds administered by the Good Relations Unit include two tranches of a small grants programme, a Saint Patrick's Day Celebration Fund and Summer Intervention Fund.

Summer Intervention Fund 2016:

Council administers the Summer intervention Fund on behalf of the Executive Office (TEO). 31 groups were recommended for funding in 2016 with a total allocation of £75,335.00.

The Council also undertook an evaluation of the Council's current Planned Intervention Funding Programme 2016/17.

The final report and appendices submitted in early 2017 offered a review of the current Summer Intervention Funding methodology, programme management, administration and outcomes. It also reviewed linkages with other parallel summer intervention programmes together with a summary of key findings and

recommendations. These recommendations will inform delivery of the 2018 approach.

Decade of Centenaries Events:

As part of the commemoration of the decade of key historical moments that shaped the history of Northern Ireland and Ireland a century ago, the Good Relations Unit organised a series of events during the 2016-17 period. These included:

The Easter Rising, Context, Events, the Belfast Connection and a Unionist Perspective: This event held on 11th April 2016 featured Dr Éamon Phoenix who delivered an exploration of the Easter Rising, looking at the context of the events in Dublin on Easter week in 1916. With particular focus on Belfast, the evening examined the significant Belfast connection with the Rising, the key personalities involved and the impact that the Rising had on the politics of Belfast in its aftermath. The event was held in City Hall was attended by over 200 people.

Reflections on 1916

Held on Wednesday 25.05.2016 - 28 attendees. This event provided information on key events in 1916 and how they are remembered and of significance to Belfast. Presentations by Dr. Eamon Phoenix and Jason Burke linked with exhibition at east wing, City Hall.

Key Women of the 1916 Rising

This event, held on 22nd September 2016 featured a presentation and facilitated discussion with Dr. Marie Coleman, QUB, who lead an exploration of the lives of four significant women who were heavily involved in the 1916 rising. The event also included music provided by Padhraic Mulholland and an art display on the women of the Easter rising which was presented by artist Micheál Gallagher. Also on display was a quilt created by Tar Anall's 50+ women's group on the women of 1916. The event concluded with the presentation of two short plays produced by Kabosh Theatre celebrating the political contributions of Winifred

Carney and Elizabeth Corr. Held in the Banqueting Hall, City Hall this event was attended by 150 people.

Life in Belfast during 1916 discussion and Screening of the film The Battle of the Somme film event held on October 25th 2016 in the Banqueting Hall, City Hall together with a background discussion provided by historian Philip Orr.

Decade of Centenaries Conference held on 03.11.2016 in the Great Hall, City Hall:

This conference brought together key stakeholders, communities, policy makers, statutory partners, Elected Members, academics and community relations practitioners to look at how we can "bow to the past, but not be bound by it". The conference took place as we draw the 1916 commemorations to a close, reflecting on the 1916 commemorations and how we can use this year to go forward as we navigate our way through the remainder of the Decade. The programme included an opening address by Lord Mayor of Belfast, Alderman Brian Kingston; 'The Prodger' a one-act play by Tina Noonan based on the writers great uncle, an Irish Veteran and amputee, who survived the Somme. It is set in a bar in Lismore, Co. Waterford circa 1964; Roundtable discussions and participant feedback.

36th Ulster Memorial Division Association funding award to facilitate and host Decade of Centenaries events during 2016-17

In September 2016 the Good Relations Unit received a request from the Unionist Centenary Committee for an award of funding towards a memorial event in the Ulster Hall in November 2016 and production of a publication reference the anniversary of the Battle of Passchendaele. The funding award helped facilitate logistical and staging support, the artist fees for drama and musical performers at the *Somme Centenary Concert* as well as promotional and printing costs for publications linked to the concert. Publication: In addition the funding award provided support for a series of research workshops, facilitated historical discussions and research undertaken in preparation of a memorial information publication of the Battle of Passchendaele.

Winifred Carney and George McBride: Event held on 15.03.2017 at the Reception Hall, City Hall including a talk and discussion by Allison Murphy on the unlikely union and marriage of a Belfast Unionist who fought on the Somme and a catholic republican and feminist who stormed Dublin's GPO in 1916 – 60 attendees.

In addition a major exhibition **'Reflections on 1916'** was launched in March 2016 and will run in the City Hall from 8 March 2016 – 31 August 2016.

Community Relations and Cultural Awareness Week: The week ran from 19 – 25 September 2016 and is a high profile initiative supporting the Together: Building a United Community strategy which provides the opportunity to celebrate all aspects of our culture and heritage, promote cultural diversity and tackle sectarianism and racism.

The theme for 2016 was Building the Future Together and the Good Relations Unit Programme delivered five events to mark the week. This included a large scale event to mark International Day of Peace on 21st September which was held in City Hall. Youth4peace ambassadors who represent Northern Ireland at peacebuilding youth events all around the world were heavily involved in the delivery of the event.

Parades and Protests

As part of our work on key Good Relations issues, we commissioned Island Pamphlets to develop a pamphlet on issues relating to parades and protests. The pamphlet sought the views of ordinary residents from the minority ethnic, youth, faith, older people and women's sectors on the topic, which was compiled into a pamphlet and launched at the City Hall.

Holocaust Memorial Day 2016

Holocaust Memorial Day is an internationally recognised event which seeks to honour and remember the victims and survivors of the Holocaust and subsequent genocides in other countries across the world. The event is held annually on 27th January, as that was the date on which the Auschwitz-

Birkenau extermination camp had been liberated. The theme for the 2017 events was 'How can life go on'.

The Unit marked Holocaust Memorial Day through an awareness raising events. As part of the Good Relations Diversity City programme a visit to Belfast Jewish synagogue took place on January 25th – the event included a monologue presentation of 'Farm Girl' by Jane Coyle to help widen the context of the visit and to help participants to consider the impact of the Holocaust on victims and survivors.

Mural removal / replacement scheme

The Council made available up to £20,000 from its Good Relations Action Plan to help communities replace murals in their local area. Successful projects had to demonstrate projects which wider community involvement in the project and link to T:BUC priorities of improving attitudes amongst children and young people, creating safe and shared communities, promoting positive cultural expression and promoting good relations within communities. Four groups received support through this scheme in 2016/17.

Shared Space at Girdwood

The Girdwood Community Hub Forum established a Shared Space and Programming working group in August 2015 to develop and agree a shared space approach that will inform the programming of all areas of the Girdwood Community Hub. The key objectives of the Shared Space and Programming working group are to:

Agree the establishment of a small group of stakeholders, with Belfast City Council, to oversee the development of the shared space approach and GCH programme

Consult with wider stakeholders through an engagement process which is agreed

Report back to the Girdwood Forum on progress

Develop a communication protocol to ensure that the development process and

the plan is appropriately communicated to all stakeholders

Build in a monitoring process to measure and adjust the delivery of the shared space plan

Belfast City Council Good Relations Unit is facilitating the Shared Space and Programming working group. The group is composed of three nominated community representatives and representatives from BMC, GLL and BCC.

The Shared Space and Programming Group delivered a very successful 2016 summer programme in association with the local community organisations: this included the Girdwood Community Cup, which, due to the success of the event, the group has endorsed as an annual event for the Hub. A further highlight was the very well-attended performance of a hard-hitting theatre piece, 'Those that we pass on the street', delivered by Kabosh Theatre Company and with a community-led facilitated conversation following the performance: this play was complemented with an exhibition on 'Everyday Objects' associated with the Troubles and delivered in association with Healing through Remembering.

The Shared Space group also organised a community event "Spring into Girdwood" on Saturday 25 March 2017. The event was an opportunity to celebrate and mark the first 12 months of operation and the programme included a range of activities to cater for all ages ranges such as: Circus skills, inflatables, petting farm, junior football tournament, arts and crafts, performance acts, free BBQ, climbing wall, kiddies amusement rides, photobooth, music entertainment, playbus, a dedicated youth zone and go karts.

Interfaces

Council drew down funding from the Department of Justice (total of £14,962) to support ongoing work focused on the transformation of interfaces in the city. The funding covered the following:

procurement of an independent consultant to provide technical assistance regarding the Black Mountain Shared Space Project and its application for funding to SEUPB (PIV):

Workshop held with Shared City Partnership to inform the design of a Council

Interfaces Programme for the city. Desired outcomes for the workshop were:

The Shared City Partnership will take forward the outcomes of the workshop into its discussions re: the Belfast Agenda and the Local development Plan for the city. The Council has established an Interfaces Internal Officer Group to develop Council priorities based on service delivery demands on interface sites.

Both Good Relations and Summer Intervention funding streams continue to support ongoing delivery of good relations and intervention programmes at local interfaces.

Funding was also awarded to five groups in interface areas to enable them to hold small-scale cross-community Christmas events aimed at promoting Good Relations.

Diverse City Programme 2016-17

In May 2015, the Partnership approved a series of monthly diversity awareness initiatives, which commenced in September 2015. The purpose of these was to build on previous interventions to address hate crime, providing participants with an opportunity to meet and engage with representatives from other faiths, ethnic and political backgrounds. Information on current and ongoing events can be found at: http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/events/Event-55261.aspx

During the year 2016-17 the programme included:

Asylum and Refugee Awareness Training: With 15 attendees, this workshop introduced participants to the factors from around the world that generate refugees. It also included an introduction to the basic elements of the asylum process and asylum support in the local context provided by Edith Shillue.

Small Worlds: With 19 attendees, this event introduced a taste of the diversity that exists in Belfast and provided an opportunity for participants to chat with people from different backgrounds and other parts of the world, hear their stories and ask questions.

Refugee Awareness Training: With 24 attendees, this workshop introduced participants to the factors from around the world that generate refugees. It also

included an introduction to the basic elements of the asylum process and asylum support in the local context.

Visit to Belfast Islamic Centre: As part of this visit the 32 attendees were able to view the Mosque, hear about the history of the Muslim community in Belfast, as well as learning about Islam. In a question and answer session, facilitated by the centre staff, the attendees were provided with the opportunity to ask questions and observe prayer before having a lunch on site.

Diverse City – Living Library Event at City Hall: The Living Library is similar to a normal library, except the books are people and you can talk to them for 20 minutes. All of the living books are from a wide range of backgrounds with different life experiences.

Small Worlds Workshop: With 37 attendees, this event introduced a taste of the diversity that exists in Belfast and provided an opportunity for participants to chat with people from different backgrounds and other parts of the world, hear their stories and ask questions.

Diverse City – Visit to Clifton Street Orange Hall: This visit to Clifton Street Orange Hall gave the 32 participants an insight into the history and traditions of the Orange Order and the artefacts that add to the story of the institution. A tour of the 130 year building was also included.

Diverse City – Asylum and Refugee Workshop: This interactive asylum and refugee awareness workshop introduced the 28 participants to the factors from around the world that generate refugees. It also included an introduction to the basic elements of the asylum process and asylum support in the local context.

Diverse City – Refugee Awareness & Arabic Culture Information Session: Two sessions were held on 29.11.2016 and 19.01.2017 and were attended by 80 attendees. This interactive session offered an introduction to Refugee awareness and Arabic Culture introducing participants to the factors from around the world that generate refugees. This also included an introduction to the basic elements of the asylum process and asylum support in the local context. *The Law Centre N.I.* and *South Belfast Roundtable on Racism* also

provided an overview of the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme.

Diverse City – Traveller Awareness Training: The 28 attendees were provided information about travellers in Northern Ireland and enable participants to understand their culture, language and way of life.

Diverse City – Introduction into Sexual Orientation and Gender: This workshop enabled the 22 participants to understand sexual orientation and gender issues and provided an understanding of the ways prejudice and discrimination can be directed towards people of differing sexual orientations. It also provided tips for improving service delivery and support for lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender people.

Visit to Somerton Road Synagogue This visit was held on 25.01.2017 and the visit and workshop to the Jewish Synagogue allowed the 60 participants to understand the history, heritage and cultural practice of the Jewish community followed by a tour of the Synagogue. This event was held in the week of International Holocaust Memorial Day.

ROMA Awareness Workshop – This workshop was held on 17.02.2017, with a total of 48 attendees. The Roma workshop enabled participants to understand the history, heritage and cultural practice of people from the Roma community in Belfast and raise awareness of how to engage with Roma people and their families.

Seachtain ná Gaeilge Event - This event was held on 15.03.2017 as part of the GRU Diverse City Programme facilitated by An Droichead. It featured music, dance, drama and talks and was attended by 30 attendees.

Visit to Belfast Islamic Centre –This visit was held on 23.03.2017 and had 35 participants. As part of this visit attendees were able to view the Mosque, hear about the history of the Muslim community in Belfast, as well as learning about Islam. In a question and answer session, facilitated by the centre staff, the attendees were provided with the opportunity to ask questions and observe prayer before having a lunch on site.

Presentations to Shared City Partnership:

The following groups and community organisations made presentations to the Shared City Partnership during the 2016/17 year:

Forum for Cities in Transition
East Belfast Mission
Commission on Flags, Identity, Culture and tradition
Belfast Youth Forum
Suffolk Lenadoon Interface Group
Community Relations in Schools
Urban Villages

Bonfire Programme

The Bonfire Programme was delivered under the theme of Cultural Expression as part of the Good Relations Action Plan. 39 groups took part in the programme which aimed to support communities in the positive celebration of their cultural heritage through better bonfire management on 11th July, and support communities to provide alternate activities to bonfires on 8th August.

All activities and events funded through the programme had to meet at least one of the following; increase community involvement in activities that promote the positive celebration of cultural heritage; decrease reports of community safety issues at bonfire sites; use a range of ways to celebrate cultural heritage (this can include using beacons or other forms of celebration using different forms of art and deliver activities to reduce the likelihood of young people getting involved in August bonfires).

There was a 40% increase in the number of bonfire beacons rather than traditional bonfires used in the 2016 programme and 88% of July bonfire sites linked to the programme did not burn tyres.

Schools intervention programme in schools to actively promote diversity and challenge issues of stereotypes, bias and harassment:

During 2016-17 the Good Relations Unit engaged *Community Relations in Schools (CRIS*) to assist in the Council in the development and delivery of an intervention programme in schools to actively promote diversity and challenge issues of stereotypes, bias and harassment.

The CRIS Unity Project was delivered between February 2016 and March 2017 in eight post-primary schools across the City of Belfast. The project was a highly effective programme that supported young people to influence positive shifts in culture through the safe challenging of degrading and derogatory language and behaviour.

The project supported peer leaders to investigate their own roles in challenging bullying language and behaviour with a focus on homophobia, sectarianism, racism, body image and disability. The Unity Project uses 'real language' that young people see and hear in and around school, to enable them to explore their own roles as change makers.

Eight Post-Primary schools from North, South, East and West Belfast took part in the Unity Project.

18 Student Leader Workshops took place – which meant every Young Person in Year 10 at each school took part in the project.

181 young people (aged 13/14) took part in 16 Climate Assessments over a period of eight weeks.
10 young people in each school formed a Unity Team and attended two conferences as well as delivering a school-based legacy project

14 adults took part in accredited personal and professional development, focusing on the Unity Project rationale and activities.

73% of participating Young People said they had learnt something new or interesting through taking part in the Project.

Key Positive Outcomes of CRIS Unity Project include:

- The profile of the Unity Project and the importance of anti-bias and resilience work in schools has been raised.
- School staff have been trained in techniques and approaches that they can use in school.
- Young people in the schools' Unity Teams have been equipped with leadership skills and have explored how they can positively affect school culture.
- Every young person in Year 10 in the participating schools has had a positive experience and the chance to explore their own capacity as a *changemaker*.
- Resources, particularly focusing on Migrant Awareness have been created and disseminated.
- Detailed research has flowed from the Climate Assessment process and the feedback from SLWs, which can be used to inform future interventions.

Cultural Orientation and Cultural Competence Programme

As part of the Good Relations Action Plan, the Good Relations has commissioned the Belfast Unemployed Resource Centre to develop and deliver a Cultural Orientation and Cultural Competence Programme. The program aims to support new communities by providing them with practical and accurate information that will give them confidence and independence in starting their new lives and support host communities by providing them with the opportunity to enhance their intercultural competence and awareness.

Transgender Inclusion

In November 2016, the council hosted its second Transgender Day of Remembrance aimed at raising awareness of the threat of violence faced and the persistence of prejudice felt by the transgender community. This event is part of our annual programme of events.

At this event, we launched our draft Gender Identity Protocol and have since held a focus group with a range of appropriate groups as part of the consultation process. We will continue to work towards finalising and implementing this protocol.

Inclusion of unemployed

The council will continue to work with partner organisations to develop and implement pre-employment training programmes and work experience for the long-term unemployed and other relevant initiatives.

The Human Resources team is continuing to develop the community outreach initiatives. We have a wide network of organisations across the city with which we work. The council has established an accessible 'council job facility which will assist applicants in completing application forms.

The council continues to deliver tailored community outreach sessions to meet the needs of the organisation/ audience. During the period 2016/2017 we have:

- delivered 19 mock interview sessions with schools, colleges, universities and disability organisations (two of which were for Special Educational Needs Schools (SEN) and disability organisations),

- attended 27 careers fairs and employability talks including community events. These included one careers fair for special needs students, two employability talks for disability organisations, one

employability talk to NIACRO clients, one employability talk for Women in Business and sponsorship of and attendance at an IT360 event aimed at young female students

We continue to provide reasonable adjustments, where appropriate for both staff and service users. For example, we provided a sign language interpreter for a participant on one of the pre recruitment training programme.

3 Has the **application of the Equality Scheme** commitments resulted in any **changes** to policy, practice, procedures and/or service delivery areas during the 2016-17 reporting period? *(tick one box only)*

x Yes ☐ No (go to Q.4) ☐ Not applicable (go to Q.4)

Please provide any details and examples

Five relevant screenings undertaken over the period April 2016 to March 2017, were as follows:

The Twilight Markets Event Series – Following a one day pilot in 2015, this is a new event series of Twilight Markets held in the afternoon and evening which will aim to showcase local food and drink at St George's Market intended to raise the profile of quality regional food and drink. The anticipated popularity of the event, which could attract over 15,000 visitors in the course of a single evening, indicates the importance of promoting the inclusivity and accessibility of the event.

The application of the Equality Scheme, specifically through the screening process resulted in changes to processes, with the following equality mitigation actions highlighted during the screening processes:

- To support the planning for this event, an Inclusive Events Action Plan was developed to identify key actions and plans that would be put in place in advance of and throughout the event to support the full and active attendance and participation of disabled people in the event and therefore in public life. This action plan was supported by a communication plan to ensure full dissemination of all information
- This is primarily a food and drink market, in order to consider religious observance such as Ramadan and Jewish dietary law, the programming of the stalls participating will actively consider a broad range of health and religiously observant food provision including vegetarian and gluten free options.
- Additionally, the event is held outside of religious days.
- Food offer and the stalls represented at the market will have something to offer all ethnic groups with a range of international cuisines and dishes represented.

- The Twilight Market event will be open and accessible to all ages. However, due to alcohol licensing restrictions, the event will be limited to over 18's after 9pm. To mitigate the impact of this legislative requirement, the operational hours of the event have been extended on day two of the market to start at lunchtime. This will allow easier access for young people to the event. The activities and programme scheduling reflects this with a number of child friendly activities and entertainments planned for Day 2 afternoon to ensure a family friendly event.
- In addition as indicated in the Inclusive Events Action Plan, to ensure that all age ranges are able to enjoy the event, there are a number of seating areas placed around the market to accommodate older people, young families and anyone with mobility issues that may require additional seating. There is also a quiet seating area set aside where noise levels will be reduced and no crowding

The Soccer Grass Pitch Allocation – This policy was put forward primarily to align dual allocation processes that were in place with the introduction of Local Government Reform which resulted in an increase in the number of teams and pitches in the Council area and address the general under-usage of pitches identified within the previous season and receipt of competing requests for recently upgraded facilities.

The application of the Equality Scheme, specifically through the screening process resulted in changes to processes, with the following equality mitigation actions highlighted during the screening processes:

- led to the inclusion of under- represented people (including those with a disability) in the process of pitch allocation using a new bespoke assessment matrix. We have built in and weighted the need to integrate opportunities for disabled people and underrepresented groups in the player development / sports development plans.

- Assessing the good practice standards of the club / league via Clubmark also acts as a tool to measure positive attitudes and practice. In this case where the governing body expects disability awareness and training to be in place this will be a requisite of Clubmark.

The Linen Quarter Development – The regeneration of this area is a key project within the city centre strategy. The aim is to improve the quality of public realm, streetscape and architecture within the area so that it matches the standards of other leading European cities. The analysis also includes a number of key proposals:

- introduce new public spaces
- redefine streets and promote a different street hierarchy
- retain and build on the area's important building stock

The application of the Equality Scheme, specifically through the screening process resulted in changes to processes, with the following equality mitigation actions highlighted during the screening processes:

- the development of a changed policy which sets a minimum kerb height of 60 mm
- changes to surfacing and design requirements;
- comments related to general parking and accessible parking were forwarded to DRD which led to this development project accepting the minimum requirements as set out in the DRD design standards.

Bereavement Policy - An important part of our responsibility is to make sure that our cemeteries, graveyards and burial grounds are safe places to work in and for the public to visit and this policy sets out our approach to the safe erection and management of memorials in our cemeteries.
Through the application of the Equality Scheme, specifically through the screening process,

it is our belief that several of the proposed actions will provide opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious beliefs, political opinions and racial groups, in that we now have a consistent approach to all our users and the policies will introduce clear terms and conditions

GLL Pricing Structure – Belfast City Council, as part of the Leisure Transformation Programme (LTP), is currently delivering a major renewal of its leisure facilities and services. Therefore GLL have revised the Council's existing leisure scale of charges to develop a competitive membership and pricing architecture that will offer more choice for customers including membership packages that offer value for money.

The aim of this review is to develop and agree a new competitive membership and pricing architecture in order to;

- Increase business growth
- Improve customer retention
- Encourage and target non-users and underrepresented groups
- Increase opportunities and flexibility of access for all customers

The application of the Equality Scheme, specifically through the screening process resulted in changes to processes, with the following equality mitigation actions highlighted during the screening processes:

- Provide concessionary rates for certain groups, i.e. those for whom price is true barrier to participation. Evidence stemming from focus groups with young people and older people during the consultation process indicated that price can be a barrier to participation for them. This was also raised by swimming clubs as part of the discussions around out of hours use of swimming pools. Evidence from the older people focus group also indicated that there should be greater flexibility in pricing structures. In considering the review of the membership architecture BCC and GLL is mindful of the need to include concessionary rates for juniors and over 60's and improve the pricing flexibility. Evidence from the 2010 Sport and Physical Activity Survey (SAPAS) indicates that participation in sport in Belfast is below the Northern Ireland average, identifying disabled people as being significantly under-

represented. Findings stemming from the disability focus group during the consultation process indicated that they felt cost is a barrier to participation by disabled people, particularly those people in receipt of Disability Living Allowance.

- Due to the above, where appropriate a person with a disability in receipt of Means tested benefit will be eligible to avail of the concessionary membership; a new better inclusive membership has been introduced by GLL at a cost of £19.95 allowing disabled people cheaper access to all centre's across Belfast and in all cases, if a person with a disability requires a carer to attend with them, the carer will be admitted free.

Two EQIA's were conducted throughout the 2016/2017 period. These were in relation to the:

- **Belfast Agenda** – The Belfast Agenda, Belfast's 1st Community Plan is Belfast's key strategic plan for the future and has been produced via the Community Planning process led by Belfast City Council. It is a shared plan, owned by the full range of statutory Community Planning Partner organisations (not just Belfast City Council) with input from NI Departments, and other key city organisations in the business, further and higher education, and community & voluntary sectors.

  We conducted a number of consultations over an extended period of time using various methods. A copy of the plan and questionnaire can be accessed by following the link below. www.belfastcity.gov.uk/belfastagenda

We also consulted on an EQIA for the Belfast Agenda and a copy of this can be found by clicking on the following link; **Equality Impact Assessment** (EQIA).

LDP - LDPs guide the future use of land in their respective areas and inform a developers, members of the general public, communities, government, public bodies, representative organisations and other interests of the policy framework unless other material. A council must prepare a local development plan in consultation with consultation bodies and the public. As the development of the LDP is a five year process it was agreed internally to divide the EQIA LDP into three phases namely:

- First phase EQIA LDP -Preferred Options Paper at a strategic level
- Second phase EQIA LDP- Plan Strategy (PS)
- Third phase EQIA LDP -LDP Local Policies Plan (LPP)

The first phase was undertaken during this reporting period.

3a With regard to the change(s) made to policies, practices or procedures and/or service delivery areas, what **difference was made, or will be made, for individuals**, i.e. the impact on those according to Section 75 category?

Please provide any details and examples

For examples and details please see section 3 above

3b What aspect of the Equality Scheme prompted or led to the change(s)? *(tick all that apply)*

x As a result of the organisation's screening of a policy *(please give details):*

☐ As a result of what was identified through the EQIA and consultation exercise *(please give details):*

☐ As a result of analysis from monitoring the impact *(please give details)*

☐ Other *(please specify and give details)*:

Section 2: Progress on Equality Scheme commitments and action plans/measures

Arrangements for assessing compliance (Model Equality Scheme Chapter 2)

4 Were the Section 75 statutory duties integrated within job descriptions during the 2016-17 reporting period? *(tick one box only)*

☐ Yes, organisation wide

x Yes, some departments/jobs

☐ No, this is not an Equality Scheme commitment

☐ No, this is scheduled for later in the Equality Scheme, or has already been done

☐ Not applicable

Please provide any details and examples:

Recruitment has been limited due to the on-going organisational restructuring following Local Government Reform, however Section 75 duties were integrated into job descriptions where appropriate, predominantly in senior positions with responsibility for large resources and in key leadership positions. This has included the roles of Interim Director of City Centre Development and Head of Human Resources. Specifically the following duties reflect this in the Head of Human Resources under the title HR Policy development and implementation

- Ensure the strategic development, coordination and implementation of relevant policies to support the organisation in actively promoting equality and diversity.

5 Were the Section 75 statutory duties integrated within performance plans during the 2016-17 reporting period? *(tick one box only)*

x Yes, organisation wide

☐ Yes, some departments/jobs

☐ No, this is not an Equality Scheme commitment

☐ No, this is scheduled for later in the Equality Scheme, or has already been done

☐ Not applicable

Please provide any details and examples:

The Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 introduced a duty on council to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of its functions. The council therefore has a statutory obligation (at the beginning of every year) to publish an

Improvement Plan setting out the Council's Improvement Objectives. The Northern Ireland Audit Office will be responsible for overseeing the implementation of this duty and will undertake an examination of the planning process the council uses to derive their improvement objectives.

The Improvement Plan is included as part of the council's corporate plan and are directly aligned to, and cascade from the council's priorities as informed by the wide reaching consultation process which informed the Belfast Agenda.

6 In the 2016-17 reporting period were **objectives/ targets/ performance measures** relating to the Section 75 statutory duties **integrated** into corporate plans, strategic planning and/or operational business plans? *(tick all that apply)*

- [x] Yes, through the work to prepare or develop the new corporate plan
- [ ] Yes, through organisation wide annual business planning
- [ ] Yes, in some departments/jobs
- [ ] No, these are already mainstreamed through the organisation's ongoing corporate plan
- [ ] No, the organisation's planning cycle does not coincide with this 2016-17 report
- [ ] Not applicable

Please provide any details and examples:

Belfast City Council has used the engagement from the Belfast Agenda to help inform the development of its corporate plan. Specific workshops were held with Elected Members, which built on the findings from the Belfast Conversation, to develop an interim corporate plan aligned to the emerging issues identified to date. As it is a community plan the delivery of the Belfast Agenda will be done through partnership with our partners, S75 statutory duties will be fully integrated into the Agenda as a whole and the Council's own objectives.

Equality action plans/measures

7 Within the 2016-17 reporting period, please indicate the **number** of (NEED UPDATED INFO)

Actions completed:	5	Actions ongoing:	19	Actions to commence:	

Please provide any details and examples (*in addition to question 2*):

8 Please give details of changes or amendments made to the equality action plan/measures during the 2016-17 reporting period *(points not identified in an appended plan)*:

As the Equality Action Plan for 15-16 was extended the majority of the Actions included have been revised and are now incorporated into the new Equality and Diversity Framework. For example the action to 'Establish staff forums to improve engagement, communication, networking and support for staff' is ongoing with a revised approach to develop networks focusing on race.

9 In reviewing progress on the equality action plan/action measures during the 2016-17 reporting period, the following have been identified: *(tick all that apply)*

- x Continuing action(s), to progress the next stage addressing the known inequality
- ☐ Action(s) to address the known inequality in a different way
- x Action(s) to address newly identified inequalities/recently prioritised inequalities
- ☐ Measures to address a prioritised inequality have been completed

Arrangements for consulting (Model Equality Scheme Chapter 3)

10 Following the initial notification of consultations, a targeted approach was taken – and consultation with those for whom the issue was of particular relevance: *(tick one box only)*

×☐ All the time Sometimes ☐ Never

11 Please provide any **details and examples of good practice** in consultation during the 2016-17 reporting period, on matters relevant (e.g. the development of a policy that has been screened in) to the need to promote equality of opportunity and/or the desirability of promoting good relations:

Our City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy, published in September 2015, identified car parking as a major issue for Belfast city centre and recommended that we work with the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) to develop and implement a strategy for car parking for Belfast.

IN 2016/17 we commissioned consultants to help us develop a car parking strategy and action plan for Belfast. Our draft vision for this strategy is to offer “sufficient, high quality and appropriately located parking which supports economic development and regeneration within the city by balancing the requirements of residents, businesses, commuters and visitors”

In developing this draft strategy we had already engaged with key stakeholders including local communities, disability groups and business and retail groups. Details of this engagement was included in a screening report which was issued along with the other consultation documents and further information to inform a later screening was gathered.

12 In the 2016-17 reporting period, given the consultation methods offered, which consultation methods were **most frequently <u>used</u> by consultees**: *(tick all that apply)*

- x Face to face meetings
- x Focus groups
- x Written documents with the opportunity to comment in writing
- x Questionnaires
- x Information/notification by email with an opportunity to opt in/out of the consultation
- x Internet discussions
- x Telephone consultations
- x Other *(please specify)*:

Please provide any details or examples of the uptake of these methods of consultation in relation to the consultees' membership of particular Section 75 categories

The implementation of the Consultation Hub, which provides information of all of our current consultations and the opportunity to complete an online questionnaire, has proven popular, as it gives a 'one stop shop' for potential consultees. We have used the Hub to enhance communication also, with details of events and focus groups provided. The equality monitoring report which accompanies the online questionnaire has seen an increase in numbers across all Section 75 categories.

13 Were any awareness-raising activities for consultees undertaken, on the commitments in the Equality Scheme, during the 2016-17 reporting period? *(tick one box only)*

x Yes ☐ No ☐ Not applicable

Please provide any details and examples:

Our Equality Consultative Forum presents two key opportunities in the year for consultees to participate in the development of Council policies.

14 Was the consultation list reviewed during the 2016-17 reporting period? *(tick one box only)*

x Yes ☐ No ☐ Not applicable – no commitment to review

Arrangements for assessing and consulting on the likely impact of policies (Model Equality Scheme Chapter 4)

[ ]

15 Please provide the **number** of policies screened during the year (*as recorded in screening reports*)

8

16 Please provide the **number of assessments** that were consulted upon during 2016-17:

5	Policy consultations conducted with **screening** assessment presented.
2	Policy consultations conducted **with an equality impact assessment** (EQIA) presented.

0	Consultations for an **EQIA** alone.

17 Please provide details of the **main consultations** conducted on an assessment (as described above) or other matters relevant to the Section 75 duties:

There was an EQIA conducted on local development plan.

There was an EQIA conducted on Belfast Agenda (Community Planning)

A range of consultation methods were employed for both of the above EQIA's, including: the Consultation Hub; a range of focus groups; staff consultations; information in City Matters; website and circulation to the council's equality list.

In relation to the equality screening assessments each report highlights the consultation methodology.

18 Were any screening decisions (or equivalent initial assessments of relevance) reviewed following concerns raised by consultees? *(tick one box only)*

☐ Yes	x No concerns were raised	☐ No	☐ Not applicable

Please provide any details and examples:

No concerns were raised

Arrangements for publishing the results of assessments (Model Equality Scheme Chapter 4)

19 Following decisions on a policy, were the results of any EQIAs published during the 2016-17 reporting period? *(tick one box only)*

☐ Yes x No ☐ Not applicable

Please provide any details and examples:

Arrangements for monitoring and publishing the results of monitoring (Model Equality Scheme Chapter 4)

20 From the Equality Scheme monitoring arrangements, was there an audit of existing information systems during the 2016-17 reporting period? *(tick one box only)*

x Yes ☐ No, already taken place

☐ No, scheduled to take place at a later date ☐ Not applicable

Please provide any details:

This work is on-going

21 In analysing monitoring information gathered, was any action taken to change/review any policies? *(tick one box only)*

☐ Yes X No ☐ Not applicable

Please provide any details and examples:

22 Please provide any details or examples of where the monitoring of policies, during the 2016-17 reporting period, has shown changes to differential/adverse impacts previously assessed:

Please see Part A section 3 for further details

23 Please provide any details or examples of monitoring that has contributed to the availability of equality and good relations information/data for service delivery planning or policy development:

With an increased focus on economic development the monitoring of data and the design of appropriate intervention to address economic inequalities has been central. For example:

Active Communities Network has run a wide range of sport activities to engage with 250 young people across the city who are or at risk of becoming NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training). From these sessions 36 young people have been identified and have been receiving mentoring support – supporting them to overcome specific barriers to employment. Young people will receive training and support to develop employability skills, and will be supported to access work-placement and/or employment opportunities

The Consultation Hub has developed Belfast City Council's capacity to increase monitoring data.

Staff Training (Model Equality Scheme Chapter 5)

24 Please report on the activities from the training plan/programme (section 5.4 of the Model Equality Scheme) undertaken during 2016-17, and the extent to which they met the training objectives in the Equality Scheme.

Please see section 3 in the main body of report for details and part B section 2b for further details.

25 Please provide any examples of relevant training shown to have worked well, in that participants have achieved the necessary skills and knowledge to achieve the stated objectives

Please see section 3 in the main body of the report and part B section 2b for further details.

Following the training benefits include:

- Better informed staff
- Improved communication
- Improved understanding of process
- A more consistent organisational approach

Public Access to Information and Services (Model Equality Scheme Chapter 6)

26 Please list **any examples** of where monitoring during 2016-17, across all functions, has resulted in action and improvement in relation **to access to information and services**:

Monitoring of our how we communicate with the people of Belfast have resulted in actions and improvements in ensuring public access to information and services, this includes:

Website

- Adhere to the Plain English campaign and have the website assessed annually
- Follow W3C standards accessibility guidelines
- Browse Aloud tool
- Google translate
- Text size tool
- Accessibility policy/statement - http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/about/Accessibility.aspx
- Alt text on images
- Use accessibility tool – Siteimprove
- Follow the guidelines for RNIB

All of our City Matters content adheres to Plain English guidelines, which is accessed annually, with each Seniors' section printed in slightly larger font. We also seek to include a wide range of images which reflect the diversity of Belfast.

City Matters is sent out as an audio CD to all those who are registered blind in Belfast. It is also available in Braille, larger text and Daisy.

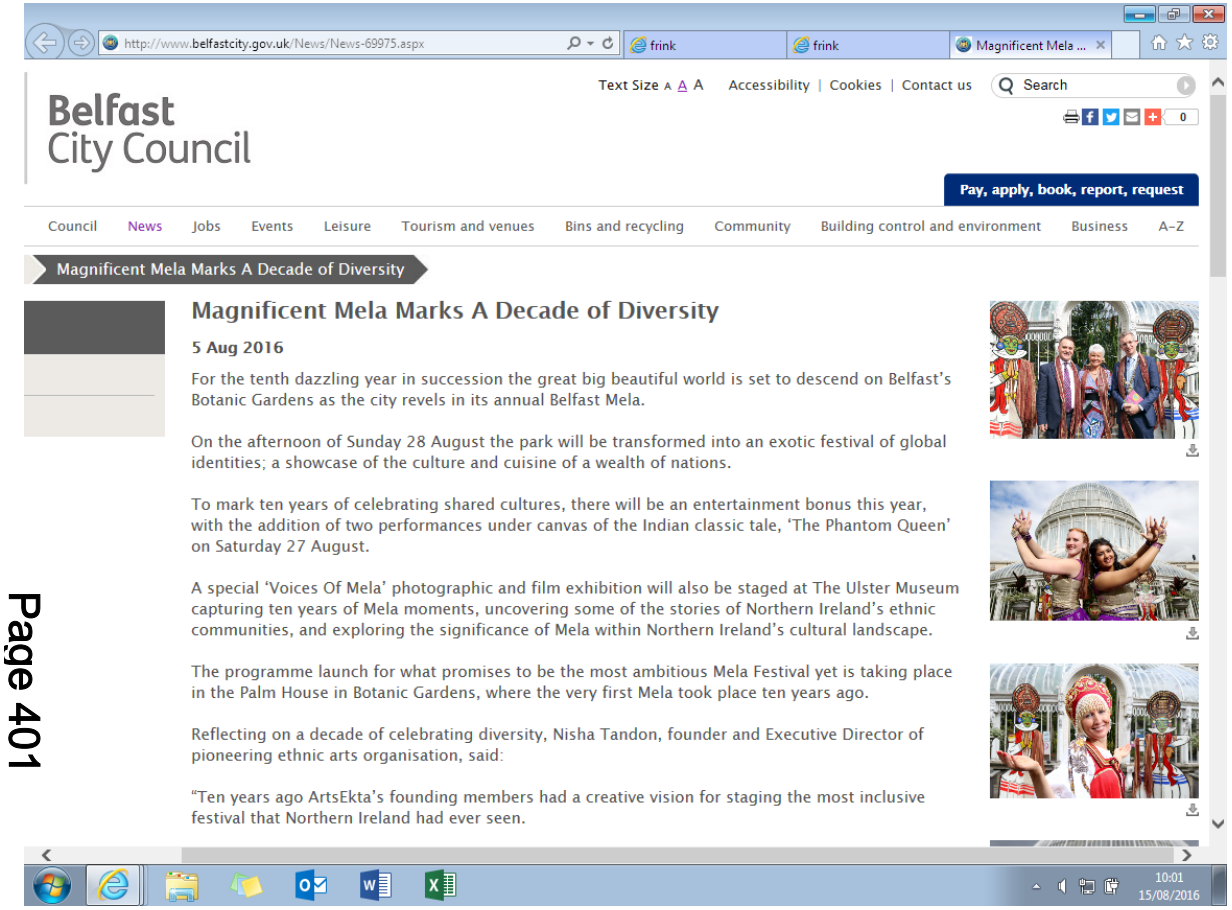
We also promote the use of plain English and accessibility in our publications and signage. We promote in-house training in Plain English for staff through internal communications.

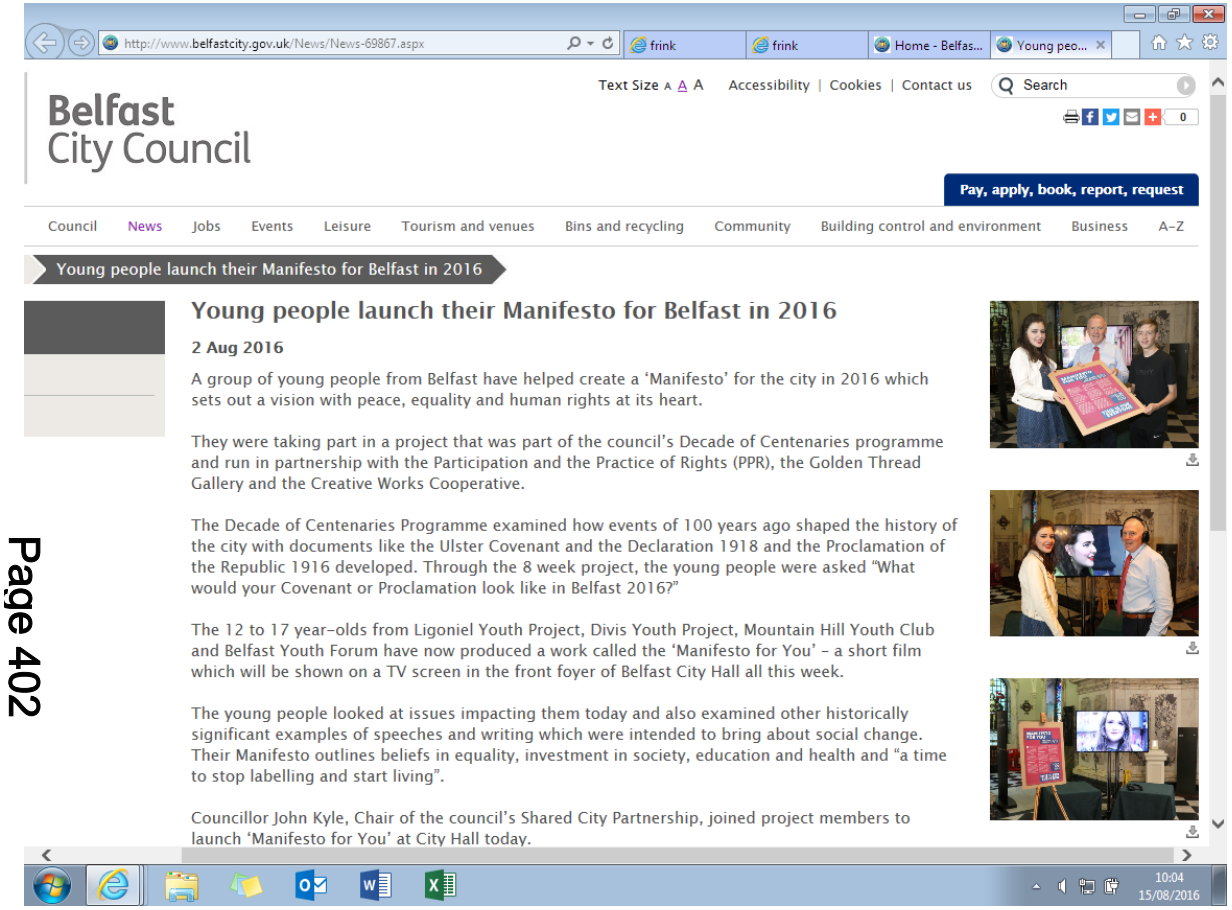
Publications are available in other formats and languages on request. Dedicated web pages are created for key events or information including Peace IV, Decade of

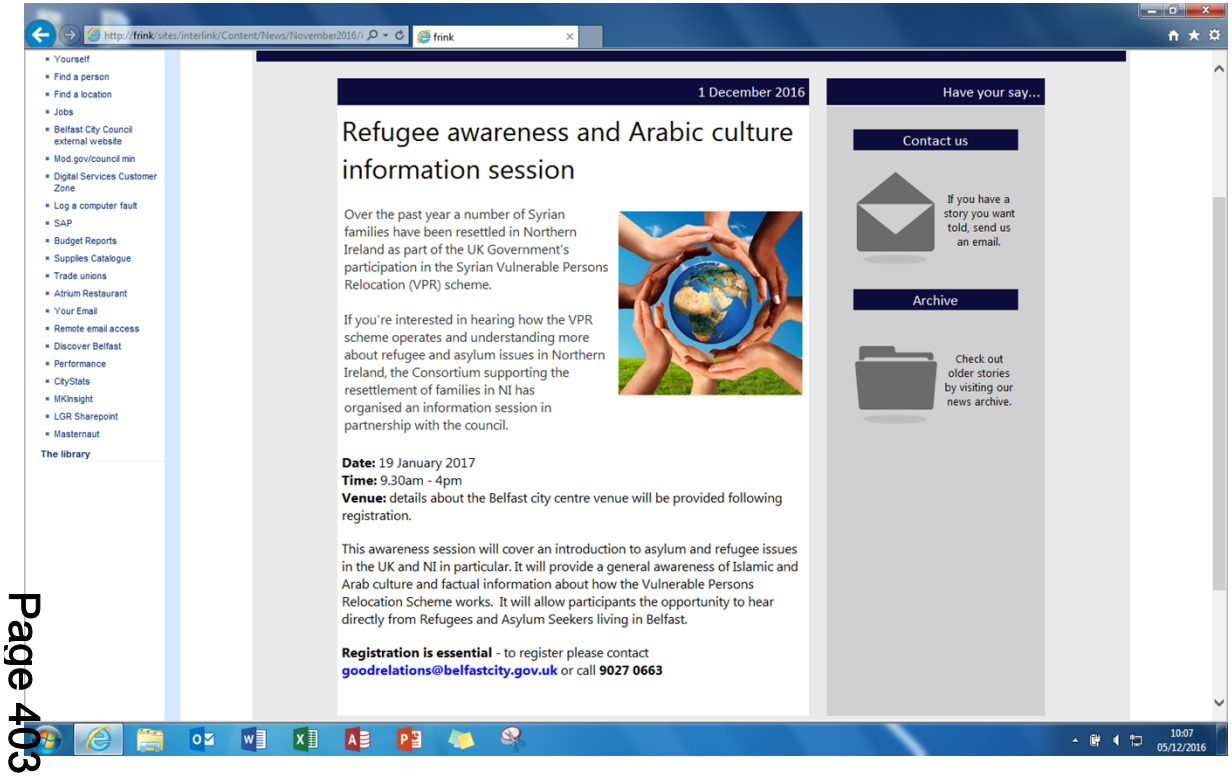
Centenaries, Age friendly older volunteer awards and ladies boxing classes.

We promote the diversity of our city through social media, examples of such as outlined below:

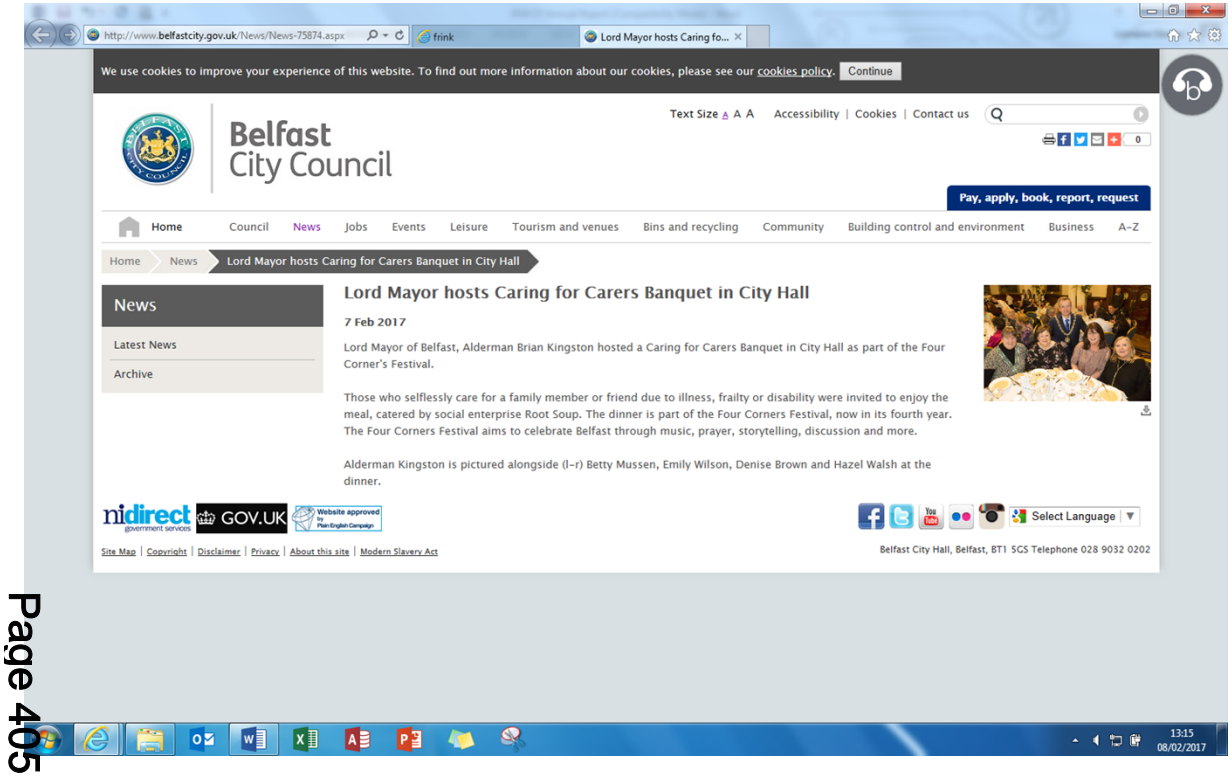



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Magnificent Mela ...
Belfast City Council
Text Size A A A
Accessibility | Cookies | Contact us
Search
Pay, apply, book, report, request
Council
News
Jobs
Events
Leisure
Tourism and venues
Bins and recycling
Community
Building control and environment
Business
A–Z
Magnificent Mela Marks A Decade of Diversity
Magnificent Mela Marks A Decade of Diversity
5 Aug 2016
For the tenth dazzling year in succession the great big beautiful world is set to descend on Belfast's Botanic Gardens as the city revels in its annual Belfast Mela.
On the afternoon of Sunday 28 August the park will be transformed into an exotic festival of global identities; a showcase of the culture and cuisine of a wealth of nations.
To mark ten years of celebrating shared cultures, there will be an entertainment bonus this year, with the addition of two performances under canvas of the Indian classic tale, 'The Phantom Queen' on Saturday 27 August.
A special 'Voices Of Mela' photographic and film exhibition will also be staged at The Ulster Museum capturing ten years of Mela moments, uncovering some of the stories of Northern Ireland's ethnic communities, and exploring the significance of Mela within Northern Ireland's cultural landscape.
The programme launch for what promises to be the most ambitious Mela Festival yet is taking place in the Palm House in Botanic Gardens, where the very first Mela took place ten years ago.
Reflecting on a decade of celebrating diversity, Nisha Tandon, founder and Executive Director of pioneering ethnic arts organisation, said:
"Ten years ago ArtsEkta's founding members had a creative vision for staging the most inclusive festival that Northern Ireland had ever seen.
10:01
15/08/2016


http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/News/News-69867.aspx
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Home - Belfas...
Young peo...
Belfast City Council
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News
Jobs
Events
Leisure
Tourism and venues
Bins and recycling
Community
Building control and environment
Business
A–Z
Young people launch their Manifesto for Belfast in 2016
Young people launch their Manifesto for Belfast in 2016
2 Aug 2016
A group of young people from Belfast have helped create a 'Manifesto' for the city in 2016 which sets out a vision with peace, equality and human rights at its heart.
They were taking part in a project that was part of the council's Decade of Centenaries programme and run in partnership with the Participation and the Practice of Rights (PPR), the Golden Thread Gallery and the Creative Works Cooperative.
The Decade of Centenaries Programme examined how events of 100 years ago shaped the history of the city with documents like the Ulster Covenant and the Declaration 1918 and the Proclamation of the Republic 1916 developed. Through the 8 week project, the young people were asked "What would your Covenant or Proclamation look like in Belfast 2016?"
The 12 to 17 year–olds from Ligoniel Youth Project, Divis Youth Project, Mountain Hill Youth Club and Belfast Youth Forum have now produced a work called the 'Manifesto for You' – a short film which will be shown on a TV screen in the front foyer of Belfast City Hall all this week.
The young people looked at issues impacting them today and also examined other historically significant examples of speeches and writing which were intended to bring about social change. Their Manifesto outlines beliefs in equality, investment in society, education and health and "a time to stop labelling and start living".
Councillor John Kyle, Chair of the council's Shared City Partnership, joined project members to launch 'Manifesto for You' at City Hall today.
10:04
15/08/2016


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Yourself
Find a person
Find a location
Jobs
Belfast City Council external website
Mod.gov/council min
Digital Services Customer Zone
Log a computer fault
SAP
Budget Reports
Supplies Catalogue
Trade unions
Atrium Restaurant
Your Email
Remote email access
Discover Belfast
Performance
CityStats
MKInsight
LGR Sharepoint
Masternaut
The library
1 December 2016
Refugee awareness and Arabic culture information session
Over the past year a number of Syrian families have been resettled in Northern Ireland as part of the UK Government's participation in the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Relocation (VPR) scheme.
If you're interested in hearing how the VPR scheme operates and understanding more about refugee and asylum issues in Northern Ireland, the Consortium supporting the resettlement of families in NI has organised an information session in partnership with the council.
Date: 19 January 2017
Time: 9.30am - 4pm
Venue: details about the Belfast city centre venue will be provided following registration.
This awareness session will cover an introduction to asylum and refugee issues in the UK and NI in particular. It will provide a general awareness of Islamic and Arab culture and factual information about how the Vulnerable Persons Relocation Scheme works. It will allow participants the opportunity to hear directly from Refugees and Asylum Seekers living in Belfast.
Registration is essential - to register please contact goodrelations@belfastcity.gov.uk or call 9027 0663
Have your say...
Contact us
If you have a story you want told, send us an email.
Archive
Check out older stories by visiting our news archive.
10:07
05/12/2016


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Yourself
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Find a location
Book meeting rooms
Jobs
Belfast City Council external website
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Log a computer fault
SAP
Budget Reports
Supplies Catalogue
Trade unions
Atrium Restaurant
Your Email
Remote email access
Discover Belfast
Performance
CityStats
MKInsight
LGR Sharepoint
Masternaut
The library
10 January 2017
Lunch-time sign language class
Colleagues are invited to sign up for a lunch-time sign language class starting on Friday 20 January.
Running for six weeks the 30 mins session will teach the basics in British Sign Language (BSL) and for those already with some skill, the opportunity to practice.
Paul Stewart from Equality and Diversity who is taking the class said, "Since joining the council I've meet a lot of people who have expressed an interest in learning sign language or practicing what they've already been taught. I teach BSL at Belfast Met but appreciate that the home, work schedule of most people is really hectic these days. So we opted for a 30 minutes class over lunch-time - long enough to learn new skills but short enough that it fits neatly into the working day."
Have your say...
Contact us
If you have a story you want told, send us an email.
Archive
Check out older stories by visiting our news archive.
10:30
10/01/2017



Further copies of publications and specific articles relating to the promotion of equality and diversity will gladly be supplied on request.

Employability

Following the success of the council's three year Investment Programme (2012-2015),

monitoring demonstrated the need for this work and we continue to work effectively with government departments, agencies and the private sector to support employability and skills development and provide job opportunities across all council departments. HR/OD and the council's Economic Initiatives Unit work together to help deliver particular aspects of the Belfast Employability and Skills Strategy and the Belfast Agenda. In 2016/2017 we:

- delivered 159 job opportunities through public advertisement and provided 150 work experience placements (target of 150). These include placements for young people through Young Persons Employment Initiative (YPEI), students from a range of educational establishments, people with disabilities, NEETS and other young students, the long term unemployed, and others who face other barriers to work.

- delivered two ring fenced temporary cleansing/ recycling operative posts to the long term unemployed/ economically inactive and a pre- employment programme for 24 long term unemployed / economically inactive participants to help them apply for the two ring fenced posts

- We continued to work closely with the Equality Commission, DEL and their employability contractors, and our Economic Initiatives Unit on our project to ring fence posts to the long term unemployed. The 24 places on the pre-recruitment training programmes were allocated to training providers representing all areas of the city.

- The council's employability agenda was showcased at an ICTU seminar, 'Achieving Decent Work for people with Disabilities' in November 2016.

- Our pre-employment and training programme, along with our other outreach work was showcased to other local councils at a Local Government Staff Commission event in January 2017.

Complaints (Model Equality Scheme Chapter 8)

27 How many complaints **in relation to the Equality Scheme** have been received during 2016-17?

Insert number here: 0

Please provide any details of each complaint raised and outcome:

Section 3: Looking Forward

28 Please indicate when the Equality Scheme is due for review:

Approved by the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland in 2015, due for review 2020.

29 Are there areas of the Equality Scheme arrangements (screening/consultation/training) your organisation anticipates will be focused upon in the next reporting period? *(please provide details)*

The application of our Equality Scheme arrangements will contribute to addressing these inequalities and removing barriers through training, screening and consultation.

Equality Scheme commitments will be further promoted through the main initiatives planned in the coming year to ensure the authority improves outcomes in terms of equality of opportunity and good relations for individuals from the nine categories covered by Section 75

- Finalise and implement the Gender Identity Guidance document and roll out appropriate training

- Evaluate actions from 2016/2017 and evaluate responses from the staff survey to identify and implement how the strategy is to be taken forward

- Women's Steering Group will continue to oversee the development, implementation, monitoring and review of the Gender Action Plan

- Deliver the year three actions on the Gender, LGB&T, Race and Disability Action Plans

- Roll out a mentoring programme to both females and males

- Deliver a further Women Leaders Programme

- Agree and implement the revised Good and Harmonious Working Environment Policy

- Continue training and communication exercise following the launch of the Domestic Violence and Abuse Workplace Policy

- Ongoing training and development around equality, diversity and good relations issues
- Identify and target specific disability awareness training e.g. autism; deaf awareness; interviewing skills for people with social communication difference

- International Women's Day and International Men's Day events

- Host a transgender event

- Ongoing activity to become a more open and diverse workplace environment as part of our commitment to the Rainbow Project's Diversity Champions Programme

- Conduct staff survey on equality and diversity and voluntary monitoring exercise

- LGB&T staff network, with full agreement from Elected Members, to participate for the first time in Belfast Pride Parade in August 2017

- Pilot Interviewing Skills for People with Social Communication Difference training

- Support Syrian Refugees through outreach activity

- Continue to engage with employability partners and increase engagement with under-represented groups in relation to outreach activity

- Continue working on the revision of our competency framework which will encompass equality and diversity as an area

- Work with OCN to explore the possibility of gaining accreditation for pre recruitment training modules

- Completing the Inclusive Communications Guide.

- Updating the Equality Toolkit

- Completion of the Equality and Diversity Framework and associated Action Plan

- Mainstreaming of the Inclusive Events Guide

- Mainstreaming of the Every Customer Counts initiative and JAM Card

- Review of accessibility at the Zoo

- Review of screening procedures and associated processes
- Engagement with the Disability Advisory Panel
- Delivery of specialist equality training

30 In relation to the advice and services that the Commission offers, what **equality and good relations priorities** are anticipated over the next (2016-17) reporting period? *(please tick any that apply)*

x Employment

x Goods, facilities and services

☐ Legislative changes

x Organisational changes/ new functions

☐ Nothing specific, more of the same

☐ Other (please state):

PART B - Section 49A of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (as amended) and Disability Action Plans

1. Number of action measures for this **reporting period** that have been:

17	4	6
Fully achieved	Partially achieved	Not achieved

2. Please outline below details on all **actions that have been fully achieved** in the reporting period.

2 (a) Please highlight what **public life measures** have been achieved to encourage disabled people to participate in public life at National, Regional and Local levels:

Level	Public Life Action Measures	Outputs[i]	Outcomes / Impact[ii]
National[iii]			
Regional[iv]			
Local[v]			

All our work is at a Belfast level.

However we impact at many levels by promoting excellence in equality; sharing good practice and promoting leadership.

Please see attached the Updated status of the Disability Action plan (DDO) indicating fully achieved

2(b)

	Training Action Measures	Outputs	Outcome / Impact
1	Diversity e- learning programme completed Diversity Training Disability Training Bespoke Training	Diversity training for: employees- 258 staff Managers/ supervisors- 41 Diversity e-learning- 44 Disability awareness for: employees- 83 Managers /supervisors -10 Bespoke training- mental health, dyslexia, learning disability- 11 employees and 4 officers trained to deliver 2 hour dementia awareness sessions	Positive attitudes towards disabled people and challenging negative attitudes Managers and staff are aware of their duties and responsibilities in relation to disability issues and have the knowledge and skills to carry these out effectively.
2	Deliver equality/good relations screening training and include section related to DDO duties	2 sessions Equality/Good Relations screening training delivered and include DDO duties included inongoing roll out	Positive attitudes towards disabled people and challenging negative attitudes Managers and staff are aware of their duties and responsibilities in relation to disability issues and have the knowledge and skills to carry these out effectively.

3	Include Disability related information in Staff E-Briefings, Staff Newsletters/Magazines, staff	4 Disability related information circulated in Staff E-Briefings, Staff Newsletters/Magazines Video produced as part of the Council's team brief promoting the staff Disability Network	Positive attitudes towards disabled people and challenging negative attitudes Managers and staff are aware of their duties and responsibilities in relation to disability issues and have the knowledge and skills to carry these out effectively.
4	Provide emotional health and well being awareness training for staff and council volunteers	21 people trained	Positive attitudes towards disabled people and challenging negative attitudeManagers and staff are aware of their duties and responsibilities in relation to disability issues and have the knowledge and skills to carry these out effectively.
5	Provide training for managers in managing stress and mental health issues	11 people trained	Positive attitudes towards disabled people and challenging negative attitudes Managers and staff are aware of their duties and responsibilities in relation to disability issues and have the knowledge and skills to carry these out effectively.
6	Develop a dedicated health and wellbeing page on Interlink (internal)	Dedicated page been developed and is updated regularly	Positive attitudes towards disabled people and challenging negative attitudes Managers and staff are aware of their duties and responsibilities in relation to disability issues and have the knowledge and skills to carry these out effectively.

7	Develop shared bulletin board to post disability related material	A bulletin board has been developed and is updated on a regular basis	Positive attitudes towards disabled people and challenging negative attitudes Managers and staff are aware of their duties and responsibilities in relation to disability issues and have the knowledge and skills to carry these out effectively

2(c) What Positive attitudes action measures in the area of Communications were achieved in this reporting period?

	Communications Action Measures	Outputs	Outcome / Impact
1	Provide information to disabled people on aspects of Council services which specifically affect them through: Minimum of 4 articles per year in City Matters Minimum of 2 targeted information leaflets per year Accessible information on the Council website	Over 4 articles printed in City Matters Over 2 targeted information leaflets around Waste Management and Cleansing Services and events held in our Parks Waste received 3 requests for tactile plaques Continually work towards meeting W3C standards for our council website and have installed Browse Aloud onto Zoo website Include a Seniors page in City Matters	Positive attitudes towards disabled people and challenging negative attitudes Increased awareness of issues related to disabled people and improved service delivery

2	Consult and engage with the sector as part of the " Belfast Conversation" to help shape the emerging Belfast Agenda – a single long-term strategic plan for the city	We have continued to improve our approach to consultation and engagement and improving access and equality of opportunity are inherent within these approaches. During the consultation period for the draft Belfast Agenda we ran targeted meetings/workshops and interest groups, including with key groups across section 75 categories We sought to identify and meet with representative groups and organisations who had the trust, and direct relationships with these " seldom heard" stakeholders. We aimed to support and help these organisations to facilitate their own engagement sessions with their groups or service users, to ensure a broader input into consultation responses	Increased awareness of issues related to disabled people and improved service delivery Addressing needs and issues of disabled employees
3	Develop key issues paper for Council departments on disability related issues and provide an annual update	Completed	Increased awareness of issues related to disabled people and improved service delivery

2 (d) What action measures were achieved to „encourage others' to promote the two duties:

	Encourage others Action Measures	Outputs	Outcome / Impact
1	Review membership of consultative forum and increase representation of disabled people	Completed. We will continue to review membership every two years	New members across all section 75 groups including representation from disabled groups

2	Arrange a minimum of 2 Forum meetings per year and additional meetings as required	Completed. The forum will now meet going forward three times a year.	New members across all section 75 groups including representation from disabled groups

2 (e) Please outline any additional action measures that were fully achieved other than those listed in the tables above:

	Action Measures fully implemented (other than Training and specific public life measures)	Outputs	Outcomes / Impact
1	Submit Annual Progress Report to Disability Access Group, Consultative Forum, Corporate Management Team, Joint Consultative Negotiating Committee, Good Relations Partnership, Strategic Policy & Resources Committee , and the council	Completed. The Good Relations Partnership has been replaced with the Shared City Partnership. Equality and Diversity is now located in legal Services CX. They not report to the Shared City Partnership any longer.	Improved awareness of disability activity and progress within council
2	Disabled people are provided with appropriate support to enhance employability and obtain employment	1careers fair attended and two employability talks provided 2 mock interview sessions delivered	Encourage participation and employability
3	Identify opportunities to ring fence certain posts to long-term unemployed, including those with a disability and ensure any pre-recruitment and training programme caters for any reasonable adjustments	One pre-recruitment training programmes delivered – 3 ring fenced temporary recycling operative posts. Nine disability organisations were involved in the pre-recruitment programmes. 6 people with disabilities participated in the programme and one was recommended for appointment	Encouraging participation in terms of employability

4	Establish a forum/ support network for disabled employees to feed into future action planning	Forum established and developed to include those members of staff who have disabled members of family and those who are carers. In addition a number of guest speakers have been invited eg Rare Disease Partnership; Advice NI; Cedar Foundation; Sustrans	Addressing needs and issues of disabled employees Encouraging participation and developing positive attitudes

5	Facilitate a biennial event on a current theme linked to Council priorities	Completed. Event held called removing Barriers:Making Services Inclusive. The event attracted over 90 attendees with a large representation of disability advocacy groups and a large percentage of disabled guests and speakers. Belfast City Council used this event to communicate its commitment to the Equality Commissions Every Customer Counts initiative As a result of the success of the above event and the interest generated in making events as accessible to all the equality and diversity team have now launched a programme of meetings with departments to complete specific event guides/templates for the upcoming year to ensure that good practice is embedded throughout the council both in terms of internal processes/procedures and in the delivery of services/promotion of positive attitudes towards those with a disability	Increased awareness of issues related to disabled people and improved service delivery Positive attitudes towards disabled people and challenging negative attitudes Managers and staff are aware of their duties and responsibilities in relation to disability issues and have the knowledge and skills to carry these out effectively.

3. Please outline what action measures have been partly achieved as follows:

	Action Measures partly achieved	Milestones / Outputs	Outcomes/Impacts	Reasons not fully achieved
1	Update list of providers of alternative formats annually	Audit carried out and updated list is being finalised. Awaiting final details in relation to Big Word representatives and appropriate cost codes across the new organisational structure	Managers and staff are aware of their duties and responsibilities in relation to disability issues and have the knowledge and skills to carry these out effectively. Encourage participation and employability	Due to organisational re-structuring and movement of personnel it has taken longer to gather and agree the final data
2	Facilitate 3 employees to learn and use sign language each year	Unfortunately due to resource constraints we were not able to find and release staff to attend the full training course. However we did facilitate 11 members of staff I attending a 6 week lunchtime sign language training session which was delivered by a member of the Equality and Diversity Unit who is deaf.	Positive attitudes towards disabled people and challenging negative attitudes	Unfortunately due to resource constraints we were not able to find and release staff to attend the full training course

3	Create a database of staff who have sign language skills and update when required	This database has been created however unfortunately due to reason above in point 2 we have not been able to add to with fully trained members of staff	Positive attitudes towards disabled people and challenging negative attitudes	Unfortunately due to resource constraints we were not able to find and release staff to attend the full training course and were therefore unable to update the database with new members
4	Provide at least 30 work experience placements to disabled people	24 work placements completed successfully	Increased effective and meaningful public involvement of disabled people	Due to on-going organisational re-structuring and movement of key personnel it was difficult to organise the full quota of placements

4. Please outline what action measures have not been achieved and the reasons why?

	Action Measures not met	Reasons
1	Provide support for managers and employees in completing PDP process by reviewing the PDP from to help identify and record specific needs for disabled employees	A consultation is currently underway with staff and Trade Unions about including this is PDP form but has not yet been finalised or subsequently rolled out
2	Deliver at least two outreach opportunities each year for people with disabilities to engage with / participate in public life	Unfortunately during 2016 this has not been possible due to resourcing constraints.
3	Facilitate site visits to promote the council as an attractive employer	Whilst site visits were promoted through employability talks no requests were received in 2016/2017

4	Review the need to provide equality and diversity/ good relations module as part of development activity for managers	This will be considered as part of the new competency framework for managers which is underway
5	Ensure all managers are aware of the provisions of the Attendance Policy which allow for special consideration of disability issues	This is on-going as we need to gather further data as to how this message will be reinforced on a consistent basis across the council
6	Ensure consistent approach to collating and monitoring reasonable adjustments in relation to absence management	This is on-going as we need to gather more specific data as to how many requests are made and how many accepted and what reasonable adjustemnst were made

5. What monitoring tools have been put in place to evaluate the degree to which actions have been effective / develop new opportunities for action?

The council is currently reviewing all monitoring information. A monitoring system for Section 75 categories including disability has improved across a range of council departments. Updates are included in the annual report.

(a) Qualitative

The introduction of the Council's Disability Strategy has improved our mechanisms to record and monitor activity related to improving services to disabled people. The Action Plan associated with the Disability Strategy combines DDA and DDO actions.

(b) Quantitative

6 Milestones – Please outline what part progress has been made towards the particular measures; even if full output or outcomes/ impact have not been achieved

6. As a result of monitoring progress against actions has your organisation either:
   - made any revisions to your plan during the reporting period or
   - taken any additional steps to meet the disability duties which were not outlined in your original disability action plan / any other changes?

Please delete: No

If yes please outline below:

	Revised/Additional Action Measures	Performance Indicator	Timescale
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			

7. Do you intend to make any further revisions to your plan in light of your organisation's annual review of the plan? If so, please outline proposed changes?

[i] **Outputs** – defined as act of producing, amount of something produced over a period, processes undertaken to implement the action measure e.g. Undertook 10 training sessions with 100 people at customer service level.

[ii] **Outcome / Impact** – what specifically and tangibly has changed in making progress towards the duties? What impact can directly be attributed to taking this action? Indicate the results of undertaking this action e.g. Evaluation indicating a tangible shift in attitudes before and after training.

[iii] **National** : Situations where people can influence policy at a high impact level e.g. Public Appointments

[iv] **Regional**: Situations where people can influence policy decision making at a middle impact level

[v] **Local :** Situations where people can influence policy decision making at lower impact level e.g. one off consultations, local fora.

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Belfast City Council

STRATEGIC POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Subject:	Belfast City Council Decade of Centenaries Programme 2017 – 2022
Date:	22 September 2017
Reporting Officer:	Nigel Grimshaw, Director of City & Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	David Robinson, Good Relations Officer

Restricted Reports				
Is this report restricted?	**Yes**		**No**	X
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?				
After Committee Decision				
After Council Decision				
Some time in the future				
Never				

Call-in				
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	**Yes**	X	**No**	

1.0	**Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**
1.1	To update Members on the proposed governance and delivery approaches for the Decade of Centenaries area of work and the proposed programme for the final phase of the Decade of Centenaries. This next phase will cover Decade of Centenaries Commemorations from 2017 up until 2022.
2.0	**Recommendations**
2.1	The Committee is asked to; • Agree the proposed governance and delivery approaches for the Decade of Centenaries area of work and approve the proposed programme outline for delivery over the coming 6 years. The programme includes activity within the current Council term, with agreement in principle on activity to be delivered following Council elections in 2019. Any activity agreed now, for beyond 2019, would be reviewed at that stage.

3.0	**Main report**
	Key Issues
3.1	Members will be aware of the programme of work in relation to the Decade of Centenaries, which has been ongoing since 2011. The Decade of Centenaries has been considered by the Diversity Working Group until March of this year, when that group ceased. Council decided at its April meeting that Decade of Centenaries issues would be discussed at the Shared City Partnership from then on.
3.2	In 2011, Members of the then Historic Centenaries Working Group had agreed a three phased approach to the Decade of Centenaries, divided into 3 phases.
3.3	The first period, 1912-1914, was entitled “Shared History, Differing Allegiances”. The second period, 1914-1918, would cover the period of World War I, including the Somme and the Easter Rising. This activity, under the banner of “Belfast; Reflections on 1916” was hugely successful. The third period, 1918-1922, would cover the end of WWI, the 1918 elections and the establishment of parliaments in Belfast and Dublin.
3.4	Major exhibitions were commissioned for the Covenant, the Somme and the Easter Rising and there was a Civic Dinner to mark each of these three major historical events. All of this activity, and more, has been delivered thus far.
3.5	In 2016, at the August meeting of the Diversity Working Group, Members requested that officers develop a programme for the remainder of the Decade, to run until 2022.
3.6	Central to the programme, Members requested that: - Activity being planned would continue with the objective of having a strong Belfast focus, exploring the human stories of lost lives and be respectful. - The current Principles, agreed in 2011, will inform all activity within the final phase of the Decade of Centenaries
3.7	This programme that has been developed contains a number of themes and a series of events to be delivered within each theme (see appendices 1 and 2)
3.8	At their August meeting, Party Group Leaders agreed to the themes and programme within appendix 1 and 2 to be delivered from 2018 – 2022. The programme for this financial year (appendix 3) was agreed by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in March of this year.

3.9	Members also confirmed that the Shared City Partnership and the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee would form the governance for the programme, with Party Group Leaders also having a regular input into programme development.
3.10	Party Group Leaders also requested that officers explore the possibility of delivering a large exhibition covering the themes within appendix 1 during this final phase of the Decade of Centenaries.
3.11	Members will also be aware of the wider Centenaries programme contained within the draft PEACE IV Plan. This programme will be an engagement programme within communities, whereas the Council's programme will be more of a Civic Programme of events as has been the case thus far.
3.12	Officers are engaging with the NIO and the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to ascertain if they have substantial plans to mark the end of World War 1. Further updates will be provided in due course.
3.13	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> All programme activity for the 2017/2018 financial year will be delivered from existing budgets. There is no resource to support delivery beyond March 2018. If members were content, a proposal to provide a portion of costs, up to £20,000 per annum, could be brought to the Shared City Partnership to approve as part of the annual District Council Good Relations Programme. Note, this funding could not be used to cover the costs associated with civic events.
3.14	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u> The Decade of Centenaries commemorations are part of the Council's Good Relations Action Plan, which was screened out following a screening exercise.
4.0	**Appendices – Documents Attached**
	Appendix 1 – Themes for activity from 1917 – 1922 Appendix 2 – Planned activities from 1917 – 1922 Appendix 3 – Programme delivered this financial year

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Appendix 1: Proposed themes from 1917 – 1922

In preparing the programme of events and activities for 1916, Members had requested that any Council activity should focus on the following elements:

- That any activity would have a strong Belfast focus
- That the human stories of lost lives would be explored, as a common thread
- That commemoration activity would be respectful

Thematic approach:

It was agreed that significant events within the remainder of the Decade be located within a number of themes, as follows:

1. **Politics and Parliaments.**
   The Irish Convention of August 1917 – March 1918. The Convention met in City Hall. General Election of 1918. First meeting of Dáil Eireann in the Mansion House in January 1919.

2. **The end of World War I.**
   Post war Belfast, changing roles, injury, trauma and loss. Treaty of Versailles. European Borders redrawn.

3. **The politicisation of women**
   In 1918, women over 30 had the vote for the first time in a General Election. First woman MP elected. Women in the Trade Union movement.

4. **Labour must wait.**
   Both in Ulster and in the rest of Ireland, advances in the labour movement had to take second place to the constitutional issues of the day.

5. **Violence, conflict, militarisation and displacement.**
   Between July 1920 and September 1922, Belfast experienced a series of outbreaks of rioting, violence and killing, resulting in huge loss of life and displacement of people from neighbourhoods across the City. 450 people died violently during this period. In October 1920, the Ulster Special Constabulary was founded and by 1922, the A, B and C specials numbered 32,000. On the 22nd June 1922, the RUC was founded.

6. **The Kings Speech**
   June 1921, opening of the new Northern Ireland Parliament at City Hall by King George V. In his speech, he called on Irishmen 'to forgive and forget and to seek for the land loved a new era of peace, contentment and good will'.

7. **Anglo Irish Treaty. Partition of Ulster; Partition of Ireland**
   In February 1920, the Partition Bill (4th Home Rule Bill) provided for the setting up of two parliaments on the island. The Kings speech of 1921 was seen as paving the way for the truce on the 11th July 1921 in the Anglo-Irish war, leading directly to the Anglo-Irish Treaty negotiations.

These themes incorporate similar popular themes that have been woven through the Council's Decade of Centenaries Programmes over the first two phases: Women, the Labour movement, Politics, conflict, the social life of the City, as well as key momentous events such as the opening of the new NI Parliament in City Hall. The themes, with a strong Belfast connection, could be reflected through any style of activity similar to the first two phases, such as talks, lectures, exhibitions and drama.

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Appendix 2: Outline activity and broad costs for programme from 2017 – 2022

Based on previous programmes the following indicative costs would be required in the delivery of work around the Decade of Centenaries over the period covered by the proposals in this report.

Politics and Parliaments.

Activity	Date	Potential cost
An exploration of the Irish Convention of August. (Talk/lecture) Possible re-enactment of the Convention, using drama and use of the Council Chamber as a venue, subject to agreement and approval	October 2017	£10,000
An analysis of the General Election of 1918 and the First meeting of Dáil Eireann in the Mansion House in January 1919. (Talk/Lecture)	January 1918	£2,500

The end of World War I.

Activity	Date	Potential cost
End of the First World War (Talk/lecture/candle event)	November 2018	£1,500
Belfast after the First World War (Talk/lecture)	November 2018	£1,500
Europe after the First World War (Talk/lecture)	February 2019	£1,500

The politicisation of women

Activity	Date	Potential cost
Women and politics in post war Belfast, Representation of the People Act Feb 1918 (Talk and drama evening)	February 2018	£2,500

Labour must wait.

Activity	Date	Potential cost
Evening event on “Labour must wait”, to explore the interface between the labour movement and the constitutional priorities of the day for Unionism and Nationalism. (Talk and drama evening)	May 2019	£2,500

Violence, conflict, militarisation and displacement.

Activity	Date	Potential cost
Militarisation. The early years of the RUC. Relocation of personnel. Establishment of the Special constabulary (Talk/lecture)	Oct 2020	£1,500
Violence, conflict and displacement in Belfast from 1920 – 1922 (Talk/lecture)	April 2021	£1,500

The Kings Speech

Activity	Date	Potential cost
Re-enactment of the Official Opening of the Parliament of Northern Ireland, using the Council Chamber	June 2021	£5,000

Anglo Irish Treaty. Partition of Ulster; Partition of Ireland

Activity	Date	Potential cost
War, treaty and the Craig Collins Pact (Talk and drama evening)	November 2021	£2,500
An exploration of the impact of partition on Northern Nationalists and Ulster Unionists within Cavan, Monaghan and Donegal (Talk/lecture)	February 2022	£1,500
The end of the Decade of Centenaries (Conference)	March 2022	£5,000

The costs could be borne by the Council's District Council's Good Relations Programme, which is 75% funded by the Executive Office and core Council costs.

Any exhibition that Members may wish to Commission to capture the above themes into one exhibit would cost in the region of £60,000, based on previous experience. Should Members wish to consider this option, a suitable timeframe for this has been identified as being best delivered within the period 2019 – 2021, but covering the whole of the third phase.

Previous Civic Dinners have cost in the region of £20,000 each.

There is no provision within the Good Relations Action Plan for any exhibition or Civic Dinners and resources would need to be found from other budgets.

Appendix 3 – Programme delivered in this financial year

At Budget Panel and subsequently at the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee meeting on the 24th March 2017, agreement was reached on a series of events and activities to be delivered within the 2017 – 2018 financial year, as follows:

Theme: Politics and Parliaments

Activity	Date	Potential cost
An exploration of the Irish Convention of August. (Talk/lecture)/Possible re-enactment of the Convention, using drama and use of the Council Chamber as a venue, subject to agreement and approval	October 2017	£10,000
An analysis of the General Election of 1918 and the First meeting of Dáil Eireann in the Mansion House in January 1919. (Talk/Lecture)	January 1918	£2,500

Theme: The End of World War I.

Activity	Date	Potential cost
Battle of Messines and Passchendaele	May/June 2017	£4,000
The World and the First World War- Russian Revolutions (Talk/lecture)	November 2017	£1,000

Theme: The Politicisation of Women

Activity	Date	Potential cost
Women and politics in post war Belfast (Talk and drama evening)	February 2018	£3,000

Events around the Battle of Messines and Passchendaele were delivered by external organisations, namely the 36th Ulster Division Memorial Association and the Fellowship of Messines Association in May and June this year. Members will also be aware that at its August meeting, it approved a small sum of money for a series of events to be delivered later on in the year by Clifton House. This was funded through the Good Relations Action Plan.

The remaining events, which are being delivered by the Council are as follows:

1. The Irish Convention of 1917-1918: The Last Hope of Averting Partition? Thursday 26th October 2017, 6.30pm, Council Chamber.

2. The Russian Revolution and World War I; Monday 27th November 2017, 6.30pm, Banqueting Hall.

3. An analysis of the General Election of 1918 and the first meeting of Dáil Eireann in the Mansion House in January 1919; Thursday 18th January 2018, 6.30pm, Banqueting Hall.

4. The Representation of the People Act 1918, and its impact on women in politics; Thursday 8th February 2018, 6.30pm.

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Belfast City Council

STRATEGIC POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Subject:	City Hall Exhibition Refresh Policy
Date:	22nd September 2017
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor
Contact Officer:	Sarah Williams, Programme Manager

Restricted Reports				
Is this report restricted?	**Yes**		**No**	X
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?				
After Committee Decision				
After Council Decision				
Some time in the future				
Never				

Call-in				
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	**Yes**	X	**No**	

1.0	**Purpose of report or summary of main issues**
1.1	The purpose of this report is to submit for approval a policy governing any future refreshing of the City Hall Exhibition.
2.0	**Recommendations**
2.1	The Committee is asked to: • Agree the refresh policy • Seek agreement that a report is presented annually by the City Solicitor which will permit any suggestions for revisions to come forward
3.0	**Main report**

	Background
3.1	At the time agreements were made by Members in respect of the City Hall Exhibition, a paper had been tabled seeking an agreement in terms of a process for future revisions to the exhibition.
	Key Issues
3.2	The draft agreement attached at **Appendix 1** reflects the principles shared between the parties in reaching agreement on establishing the exhibition and those principles are extended with respect of any proposals for any future changes.
3.3	The proposed arrangements for revision includes proposals for mediation in respect of any revision to the exhibition which may be politically contentious. It should be noted that this agreement applies also to the East Lobby, a flexible exhibition space.
	Financial & Resource Implications
3.4	This policy and the annual report to Members will be managed by Legal Services.
	Equality or Good Relations Implications
3.5	This policy will support the promotion of equality and good relations.
4.0	**Appendices – Documents Attached**
	Appendix 1 – Memorabilia Refresh Policy

MEMORABILIA REFRESH POLICY

The parties agree to the following principles on the display of memorabilia in the dedicated exhibition space and further agree that any decision on revising or amending the content of any display or narratives associated with the exhibition for the future will respect the principles so agreed-

1. The display will reflect a fair balance of the traditions and history of the two predominant communities in N Ireland. This is without prejudice to any proposals to include material that might not have such an association or is otherwise uncontroversial.

2. The display of material will have an association with the Citizens, City or district of Belfast.

3. Material removed from any part of the exhibition with an association with a community must be replaced with material having the same community association, unless otherwise agreed between the parties.

4. Narratives will be neutral reflecting a factual position and will not seek to promote or criticise any political party, view or tradition.

5. Material relocated from the Rotunda and placed on display in the exhibition space will not be removed from the exhibition space unless otherwise agreed by the parties.

Without prejudice to the above principles, the parties agree to the following default arrangement with regard to decisions on revision and future content of the exhibition-

A. Any proposals will be referred to the City Solicitor who will commission an assessment of the impact of such proposals in terms of equality and good relations impact.

B. The proposals and report dealing with the impacts will be referred to the Shared City Partnership for comment.

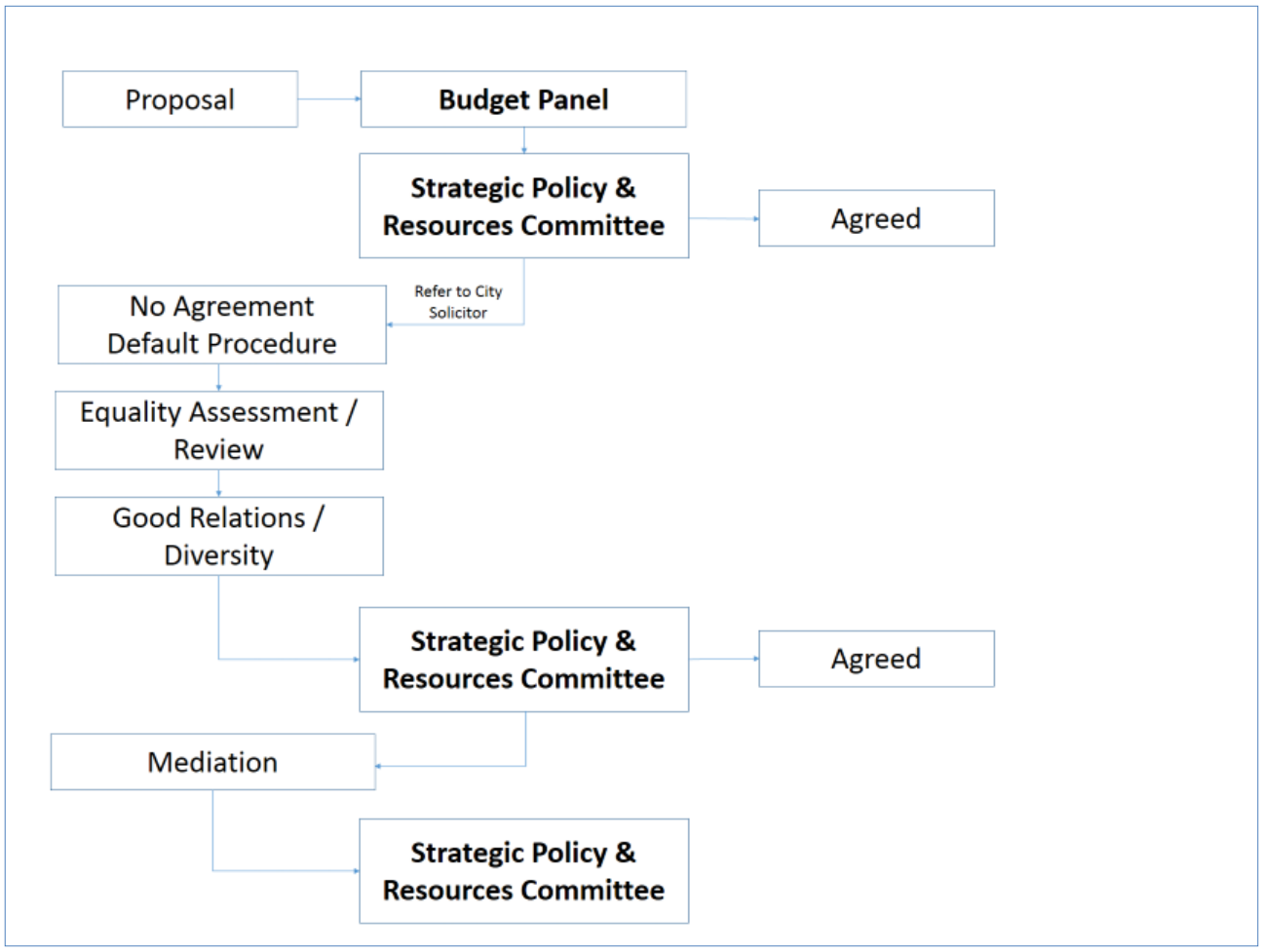
C. The matter will then be reported to SP&R. The parties agree to address issues within the spirit of this agreement and to work toward reformulating such proposals, if required, to take account of any identified impacts and the views expressed by the Shared City Partnership.

D. In default of agreement the parties agree that the proposals will be subject to mediation.

Mediation will take place facilitated by an independent senior legally qualified member of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Service. Mediation will take no longer than 4 weeks. In the event that mediation has not been successful in formulating a proposal with which the parties agree, the proposal will be referred back to SP&R for consideration and decision.

The parties concur that this agreement creates a legitimate expectation that each will respect the principles upon which it is based and that they will work to resolve issues generally and in the manner set out. The parties accept that a failure to work and produce outcomes within the spirit and principles of this agreement may form the basis of a call-in in the context of Section 41 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 and that this agreement will be material to consideration of such issues and/or in relation to any complaint made to the Equality Commission alleging breach of Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act (NI) 1998.

Summary of Memorabilia Refresh Process



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Belfast City Council

STRATEGIC POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Subject:	Audit and Risk Panel
Date:	22 September2017
Reporting Officer:	Ronan Cregan, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources
Contact Officer:	Andrew Harrison, Head of Audit, Governance and Risk Services (AGRS)

Restricted Reports				
Is this report restricted?	**Yes**		**No**	X
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?				
After Committee Decision				
After Council Decision				
Some time in the future				
Never				

Call-in				
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	**Yes**	X	**No**	

1.0	**Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**
1.1	The Audit and Risk Panel is constituted as a working group of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee. The purpose of the Panel is to provide an independent assurance on the adequacy of the Council's risk management framework and associated control environment. The Panel also oversees the Council's financial reporting process.
1.2	The purpose of this report is to provide a summary to Committee of the key issues that have been considered and discussed by the Panel at its September 2017 meeting, the assurances received and the areas requiring attention and to present minutes of the last meeting of the Panel for approval.

2.0	**Recommendations**
2.1	The Committee is asked to: • Note the summary of the issues discussed / assurance received at the Panel meeting of 11 September 2017 as set out at Section 3 below. • Approve the minutes of the Audit & Risk Panel meeting of 11 September 2017.
3.0	**Main report**
3.1	At its meeting on 11 September 2017 the Panel considered a number of management reports, important 'year end' audit reports from the Northern Ireland Audit Office (NIAO) and updates from AGRS on completed audit work and its programme of work.
3.2	Following a recent AGRS review, the Panel received an update on the action being taken by management in relation to grants, including initiation of a review of the Council's grant programme to ensure future alignment with the Belfast Agenda and more specific, shorter-term control measures to improve arrangements for the administration of the current programme.
3.3	A management update was also provided on the engagement of agency workers including numbers engaged, deployment information and cost information. The new Head of HR indicated that he would be meeting with relevant Directors and senior managers in coming weeks to see if improvements to current arrangements could be made. The Head of HR also provided an update on staff absence figures. These were above target at the end of quarter 1 and discussions took place regarding related causes and further action that could be taken. Other management reports were provided on health and safety and performance management.
3.4	The NIAO has substantively completed its audit of the Council's 2016/17 financial statements and reported that they expected to provide a 'clean,' unqualified audit opinion. The NIAO also presented their draft report to those charged with governance which included a small number of recommendations relating to issues arising during their audit. None of these recommendations are priority 1 (that is 'high priority') recommendations. **It is important that Committee notes the satisfactory outcome of the NIAO's audit because it is an important assurance for them regarding the financial governance of the Council.** The Head of AGRS presented the Service's quarterly progress, including the outcomes of

3.5	audits of major projects, facility management and partnership agreements, grounds maintenance, Belfast Waterfront & Ulster Hall (BCC payments). He also advised the Panel of consultancy work completed regarding planning - section 76 'developer contributions.' He provided an update on investigations and the ongoing external review of AGRS against professional standards.
3.6	An update on risk management was also provided, including reference to a reduction in the risk assessment of the Local Development Plan risk and compliance information.
3.7	Finally, training for Panel members has been arranged for end October 2017.
3.8	**<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u>** None.
3.9	**<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u>** None.
4.0	**Appendices – Documents Attached**
	Appendix 1 - Minutes of Audit & Risk Panel 11 September 2017

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Audit and Risk Panel

Monday, 11th September, 2017

MEETING OF AUDIT AND RISK PANEL

Members present: Alderman Rodgers (Chairperson);
Councillors Hargey and Heading;
and Mr. R. Cox.

In attendance: Mr. R. Cregan, Director of Finance and Resources;
Mr. A. Harrison, Head of Audit, Governance and Risk Services (AGRS);
Mr. M. McBride, Head of Finance and Performance;
Mr. T. Wallace, Financial Accounting Manager;
Mr. L. Mulholland, Audit, Governance and Risk Services Manager;
Mrs. C. O'Prey, Audit, Governance and Risk Services Manager;
Mrs. E. Eaton, Corporate Health and Safety Manager;
Mr. P. Murray, Head of Human Resources;
Mrs. C. Kane, Director, Northern Ireland Audit Office; and
Mrs. L. McLornan, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

No apologies for inability to attend were reported.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 13th June were taken as read and signed as correct.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were recorded.

Management Update on Grants

The Head of Audit, Governance and Risk Services advised the Panel that, unfortunately, the Directors of both City and Neighbourhood Services and Development were unable to attend the meeting due to other commitments. However, he explained to the Members that, at the last Panel meeting, Members had sought assurances that appropriate progress was being made in relation to the open audit recommendations relating to grants. The Head of AGRS advised the Members that the report set out the steps that had been taken to address the issues raised in the audit, notably the commissioning of a strategic review of the grants programmes and development of a festivals / events strategy and shorter term measures to improve the administration and proportionality of control over existing grant programmes. He advised that AGRS would be undertaking an exercise in late October / early November to validate that the

recommendations had been implemented and would report back to the Panel on this matter in December.

The Panel considered the undernoted report:

"1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 The Audit and Risk Panel on 13th June 2017 requested updates on progress on the fundamental review of the grants process by the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services and the review of grants for Events and Festivals by the Director of Development as per the audit recommendations.

1.2 Assurance is being sought that the appropriate progress is being made in relation to open audit recommendations and that progress is reviewed regularly.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Audit and Risk Panel is asked to:

- **Note that a strategic review on Events and Festivals has been commissioned and note the timetable for delivery.**
- **Note that relevant officers have developed the TOR for the grants review to allow quotations to be sought and note the timetable for delivery of the project**
- **Note the progress on the open audit recommendations to date and the validation process underway**

3.0 Main report

3.1 The audit undertaken of grants in 2016 made 19 recommendations, ten of which will be addressed by the Strategic review of the Council's approach to grant funding/commissioning and how it aligns with the Belfast Agenda ambitions. A key element of the review is to look at how Council can ensure a more strategic fit of the grants programme with the key outcomes of the Belfast Agenda. Recommendations will be provided on a 'suite' of grant programmes to be offered in the future with a clear statement for each setting out the purpose and intended outcomes to meet these objectives

3.2 The Terms of Reference of the requirements for a Strategic Review of Grants have been developed. The next steps are to commission this piece of work and to set up a small working group to co-ordinate the work of the consultancy team with the aim of delivering a draft report to CMT within 6 months of appointment. The timeframe is due to the level of consultation

that is required regarding each funding stream. However, an interim report will be presented to the Director at the mid-point of the review in order to ensure that the timetable for the work remains on track.

3.3 The Audit made 9 short term recommendations in relation to process and Grant Management System improvements. 2 actions have already been closed and good progress has been made with the remaining 7. They have been updated with evidence attached and are awaiting validation by AGRS in late October/early November (See Appendix 1).

3.4 These short term improvements have involved the identification of key stages within the grants management cycle and the development and implementation of tracking and monitoring systems, reports and automated alerts. Work has also been completed with regard to the constitution and approval / sign off of the Independent Assessment Panels and also the review and documentation of the process to evidence checks in relation to duplicate funding / payments.

<u>Events and Festivals</u>

3.5 In late May 2017, the Development Department appointed Festival and Events International (FEI) to undertake a strategic review of the city's Events and Festivals.

3.6 To date FEI have met with a range of internal and external stakeholders, including:

- **Director of Development;**
- **Head of Economic Initiative & International Development;**
- **the Belfast Festivals Forum;**
- **the Department for Communities (covering Sport NI and Arts Council NI)**
- **BCC Parks Events;**
- **BCC Tourism Culture & Arts;**
- **City Events Unit;**
- **Lord Mayor's Unit;**
- **BCC Corporate Communications;**

3.7 In addition, a number of planned consultation sessions will be arranged with the Chief Executive; Director of Finance and Resources; collectively with CMT and external bodies including: TNI and INI. Subject to FEI contractual obligations some of the larger city festivals such as Feile an Phobail and Orangefest will be directly consulted with. Members will of course also be consulted and have been informed of the

appointment of FEI with the intention to present to the City Growth and Regeneration Committee in November 2017.

3.8 It is envisaged that the Strategy will set the direction of travel in relation to the future decisions on Council's funding of Belfast's Events and Festivals for 2019/20 and beyond, with 2018/19 year acting as a transition period before the Strategy's full implementation. The Audit and Risk Panel should also note that Belfast City Council, in conjunction with Derry City and Strabane Council is submitting an application to host the European Capital of Culture in 2023. The consultants appointed to undertake the strategic review of Events and Festivals (FEI) have been made aware of this, given the impact the designation of European Capital of Culture would have of the design, development and delivery of Events and Festivals across the City. The appointed consultant for the strategic review of grants will be provided with the same level of detailed information."

The Panel noted the contents of the report.

Management of Agency Workers

The Chairperson welcomed Mr. P. Murray, Head of Human Resources (HR), to the meeting.

The Panel considered the undernoted report:

"1.0 Purpose

1.1

- **To update the Audit and Risk Panel on agency usage at July 2017 including:**
  - **The number of agency assignees in post**
  - **Length of time of service for each agency designation**
  - **Costs for each department and total spend on Agency Costs**
- **To outline outstanding issues of concern regarding the use of agency workers**

2.0 Background

2.1 A summary of agency usage was last reported to CMT on 17 May 2017. At the Audit and Risk Panel, 13th June 2017 the Head of Audit, Governance and Risk Services (AGRS) highlighted areas of improvement that were required following an audit of Agency Engagement and Management. The Panel agreed that

a paper be submitted with an overview of the key issues as identified above.

3.0 Key Issues

3.1 High volume use

Agency analysis continues to show a high level of dependency in basic entry job roles. The table below shows that in July 2017, five job types accounted for around 56% of overall usage. There is a total of 320 fte agency employees spread across all Council Departments.

Job type	Number of agency workers in this job type (FTE) in July	% of total agency usage
Cleansing Operative	80.48	25.10%
Gardener	34.59	10.79%
Summer Scheme Leader	22.39	6.98%
Mobile Facilities Attendant	21.34	6.66%
Business Support Clerk	19.32	6.03%
TOTAL	**178.12**	**56%**

Cleansing Operatives

The number of Cleansing Operatives increased due to seasonal variations and ongoing issues associated with route optimisation, with the expected end date extended to the end of September 2017.

Work continues on the Streetscene work stream as part of the overall City and Neighbourhoods change program with expected outcomes to include proposals to help address the reliance on agency operative staff.

Gardener and Mobile Facilities Attendants

The number of agency staff in these categories again increased due to seasonal variations and ongoing issues associated assignees are covering backfill of secondments within the section.

Summer Scheme Leader

Due to summer scheme commitments during July and August the Council engaged around 22 FTES as well as 5 Summer scheme support workers.

Business Support Clerks (BSCs)

The Business Support Clerk post is a high turnover job role, which historically has had a high dependency on agency usage. With the high volume of vacant posts in this category currently being filled on a temporary basis, pending ongoing organisational reviews, the demand for temporary business support clerk resources has increased. While a valid reserve list exists for BSCs, very few of these external candidates want to take up temporary offers of employment; hence the need to revert to agency workers to cover these temporary requirements.

3.2 <u>Ongoing Issues</u>

During July, Corporate HR met with Departmental Business Managers to review their agency activity and compliance within the parameters of the corporate framework and agreed protocols. Length of duration of some periods of engagement to be discussed and resolved.

The Head of Human Resources (recently appointed) will be scheduling meetings with Departmental Director's and Chief Officers to review agency staff within each function and to establish some timeframes regarding usage and deployment. The ongoing organisational restructure has contributed to the increased deployment of agency staff pending completion of reviews. However, considering the complexity of some, this has resulted in agency staff being retained for long durations. Post this review, it would be expected that some of these roles could become permanent or offered on a range of fixed-term or temporary contracts.

Recommendations from the audit of Agency Engagement report will be taken forward by the Director of Finance and Resources and the Head of Human Resources.

Additionally, work is ongoing on the procurement of a new agency contract. Corporate HR and Procurement are developing an options paper that will be presented to the Commercial Panel in Q3.

3.3 Financial costs of agency staff

Appendix 1 provides an overview by department on employee costs, agency costs and overtime costs. Although this table indicates an increase in agency usage and that overtime costs remains fairly static, the overall budget forecast for staff related costs represents a positive variance of 0.5% or £422k for this financial year.

Appendix 2 details agency expenditure for the period 2013/14 to 2016/17 and which indicates that agency expenditure has increased in overall terms by 5% during this period.

It should be noted that budget variances will be contributed by underspend in salaries across the Council which is used to offset costs associated with agency staff.

4.0 Resource Implications

4.1 Corporate HR will continue to monitor and discuss agency management and deployment with departments on a monthly basis. Given issues identified in the audit report, it would be prudent, in the current climate, to consider allocation of a resource within Corporate HR to provide oversight and management responsibilities for the use of agency workers across the Council and to manage the current agency contract in addition to developing the new tender documents.

5.0 Equality and Good Relations Implications

5.1 Adherence to the compliance framework will help ensure equality of opportunity for all agency workers.

6.0 Recommendations

6.1 The Audit and Risk Panel is asked to note the contents of this report."

In response to a Member's question, the Head of HR advised the Panel that the agency contract, which had expired in June 2017, had been extended for one year.

The Head of Finance and Performance explained to the Panel that the restructuring of Digital Services had accounted for the underspend in 2016/17 of the Finance and Resources Department's employee cost figure.

In response to questions from Members, the Head of HR confirmed that he was aware of a number of agency staff having been retained by the Council for long durations and that he would be meeting with each Director over the coming weeks to discuss the potential for some positions to be made permanent or offered on a range of fixed-term or temporary contracts.

The Panel noted the update which had been provided.

Absence Rates for the Quarter Ending June 2017

The Head of HR advised the Members that, for quarter 1 of 2017/2018, the average sickness absence per full time employee had been 3.04 days. He explained that the Council was therefore above its target to reduce sickness absence to 10 days per year, by the end of March, 2018. He pointed out that there had been a slight decrease in the number of staff with recorded absence this period, with 22.53% compared to 24.2% for the same period last year. The Panel was advised that levels of long term absence, (that is, of twenty days or more) had increased slightly, with 67.5% of long term absence compared to 61.98% in the same period last year.

The Panel was provided with the absence performance for each department, against their target, for 2017/18:

	Target for the year 2017/18 (days)	Where we should be at QE June 2017/18	Absence at QE June 2017	Variance against target	Work Force	Absence
BCC	**10.00**	**2.5**	**3.04**	**0.54**		
Chief Executive's	**7.00**	**1.75**	**1.97**	**0.22**	**14.85%**	**9.63%**
Finance and Resources	**7.00**	**1.75**	**2.20**	**0.45**	**8.53%**	**6.17%**
City and Neighbourhood Services	**11.50**	**2.88**	**3.44**	**0.56**	**59.06%**	**66.7%**
Development Department	**7.00**	**1.75**	**2.35**	**0.60**	**4.09%**	**3.15%**
Property and Projects	**8.00**	**2.00**	**3.25**	**1.25**	**13.46%**	**14.35%**

The Head of HR outlined that sickness absence, as classified under the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA), currently accounted for 20% of overall sickness absence but pointed out that this included maternity related absence. He advised the Members that this figure, and the absences related to it, would be reviewed in the next quarter and that maternity related sickness needed to be reclassified rather than captured under DDA

He highlighted to the Panel that stress related absence continued to be the highest reason for absence within the Council, accounting for 31.92% during the first quarter of 2017/2018, with a 70% to 30% split between personal and work-related stress respectively.

He explained to the Panel that Employee Relations was conducting an in-depth analysis into the specific reasons for stress related absence for 2016/17 and that, in conjunction with the Health and Safety Unit, was currently reviewing the analysis and would present a separate report to the Health and Safety Assurance Board later that month. The Panel noted that the report would outline the main causes of stress

throughout the Council and would also identify strategies which might assist in reducing stress related absence figures.

In response to a Member's question regarding the confidential counselling service and the feedback which was provided to management in relation to those suffering with work-related stress, the Head of HR advised the Panel that a high level summary was provided to the relevant Director, which outlined any trends or concerns which had been raised during counselling.

In response to a further Member's question, the Panel agreed that a comprehensive report be submitted to a future meeting on the rate of absence due to work-related stress over the past few years. The Panel requested that the report should include information on the pay grades of the employees, the Departments, whether it was affecting those working in areas which had undergone recent or significant organisational change and whether levels were higher for front-facing staff, in order to allow the Panel to examine any trends. The Panel also requested that information be included on how many cases had had interventions after being absent with work-related stress.

The Members were reminded that the Council had procured the services of a new Occupational Health Provider, OHRD, from 1st September, 2017. The Head of HR advised the Panel that HR representatives would meet with OHRD and brief them on the Council's attendance policy requirements and seek assurances that issues which had been reported with the previous provider would be avoided, such as increased waiting times and long turnaround times for reports.

The Head of HR outlined to the Members that the Council continued to use the various approaches in managing absence in line with best practice and as outlined in the latest CIPD Annual Survey Report for Absence Management. He explained that the Council was experiencing a breadth of matters similar to many other organisations across all business sectors and that Corporate HR would undertake further benchmarking and analysis to identify trends or amendments to policies and procedures.

The Panel noted the update which had been provided.

Update on Corporate Health and Safety Performance Report

The Corporate Health and Safety Manager provided the Panel with an update in relation to the Council's Health and Safety performance during the period ending 30th June, 2017. She reviewed the progress which had been achieved in relation to the key performance indicators, where 64% of the fire safety inspection actions had been completed, below the target of 80%.

She reported that there had been 25 non-employee accidents, with an increase of 12 from quarter four to 25. The Panel was advised that the number of employee accidents for the quarter had decreased to 36, which was 14 less than in quarter four. She reported further that the highest number of accidents had been caused by employees being injured while lifting or carrying, or through slips, trips or falls.

The Panel was informed that the number of RIDDOR reportable accidents had decreased by two from the previous quarter. She explained that these had been attributable to employees being injured whilst lifting or carrying, slips, trips and falls, with one having been caused by an employee coming into contact with moving machinery and one having been an employee striking against something fixed.

She reported to the Panel that there had been a decrease in the number of reported Work Related Violence incidents from quarter four, down to 22 incidents, the majority of which were of verbal abuse.

The Panel noted the Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL) accident figures from the previous four quarters for 2016-17 and noted that one had been RIDDOR reportable during quarter 1 of 2017/2018.

She highlighted to the Panel that, during quarter one of 2017/2018, there had been no contacts with the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service and one voluntary contact with the Health and Safety Executive NI, where the Council had sought clarification on a memorial safety matter.

The Panel noted the information which had been provided and the ongoing progress which was being made against key corporate health and safety priorities for the quarter.

NIAO Financial Statement of Accounts

The Panel considered the following report which had been prepared by the Financial Accounting Manager and his team:

"1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

The purpose of this report is to present to the Audit and Risk Panel the Statement of Accounts of the Council, including the Annual Governance Statement, for the period ending 31 March 2017.

The Statement of Accounts are an important element of the council's overall corporate governance framework as they provide assurance to Members and ratepayers on the stewardship of the council's finances and its financial position.

The Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2017, as attached, have been prepared in line with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2016/17 based on International Financial Reporting Standards and the Department of the Environment Accounts Direction, Circular LG 10/17 dated 13 March 2017.

I can confirm that the Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2017 has been prepared in the form directed by the Department of the Environment and in my opinion the Statement of Accounts give a true and fair view of the income and expenditure and cash flows for the financial year and the financial position as at the end of the financial year.

2.0 Recommendations

That the Panel approves the Council's Statement of Accounts and incorporated Annual Governance Statement for the year ended 31 March 2017.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

Audit Opinion

It is the Local government Auditors' opinion that:

- **the financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with relevant legal and statutory requirements and the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2016-17, of the financial position of Belfast City Council as at 31 March 2017 and its income and expenditure for the year then ended; and**

- **the statement of accounts have been properly prepared in accordance with the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 and the Department for Communities (formerly Department of the Environment) directions issued thereunder.**

- **the part of the Remuneration Report to be audited has been properly prepared in accordance with the Department for Communities directions made under the Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015; and**
- **the information given in the Narrative Report for the financial year ended 31 March 2017 is consistent with the financial statements.**

Reserves

The credit balance on the General Fund has increased to £20,989,452 (of which £7,634,933 relates to specified

reserves). The movement on the reserves balance is summarised in Table 1 below:

Table 1: Summary of Reserves Position

Opening Balance	£19.2m
In year movement in reserves	£ 1.8m
Closing Balance	**£21.0m**
Specified Reserves at year end	£ 7.6m
Balance Available	**£13.4m**

General Fund £20,989,452

The General Fund Reserves can be used to supplement income and unexpected expenditure in future years. Of the £20,989,452, £7,634,933 relates to expenditure committed at year-end.

Capital Fund £24,850,616

The Capital Fund is made up of the Belfast Investment Fund (£3,810,715). The fund has been created to support key partnership projects to regenerate Belfast and help lever substantial funds from other sources, the Local Investment Fund (£4,056,629) to fund smaller local regeneration projects., the City Centre Investment Fund (£15,699,861) to support the Belfast City Centre Regeneration Investment Plans, the Social Outcomes Fund (£1,000,000) to support City Centre projects which might not generate a direct financial return but would enhance the overall City Centre offer and support attraction of investment and the BWUH Subvention Fund (£283,411) to support planned maintenance and future capital works at the new exhibition centre.

Leisure Mobilisation Fund £1,945,000

This fund is to support the Leisure Transformation Programme and will cover programme level costs including communications, engagement and procurement costs.

Capital Receipts Reserve £1,632,457

These are capital receipts which have originated primarily from the sale of assets and which have not yet been used to finance capital expenditure. This amount relates mainly to the sale of land & buildings at Loop River (£860,000).

Other Fund Balances and Reserves £357,818

This relates to the Election Reserve which has been set up to smooth the cost of running council elections.

Debt

The overall level of trade debtors had decreased over the previous 9 years, reducing from £10m at 31 March 2008 to £4.2m at 31 March 2017. An analysis of trade debtors, inclusive of VAT, for the last two years is shown below:

	31 March 2017	**31 March 2016**
Less than three months	£3,305,930	£2,434,909
Three to one year	£111,596	£166,672
More than one year	£789,382	£1,021,813
Total	**£4,206,908**	**£3,623,394**

Creditors

The Department for Communities has set councils a target of paying invoices within 30 days. During the year the council paid 61,092 invoices totalling £185,282,726.

The average time taken to pay creditor invoices was 23 days for the year ended 31 March 2017.

The Council paid 43,898 invoices within 10 days, 53,600 invoices within 30 days, and 7,492 invoices outside of 30 days.

The council endeavours to process invoices as quickly as possible and has an improvement plan to support this process.

Annual Governance Statement (AGS)

The Statement of Accounts include Annual Governance Statement (AGS) for the year 2016/17, which has been prepared in line with the Accounts Directive provided by Department of the Environment (DOE), NIAO guidance and is consistent with the principles of the CIPFA/SOLACE Framework 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government'. Specifically the AGS sets out:

- **scope of responsibility of the Council in relation to governance**
- **the purpose of the governance framework**
- **the governance framework in place**
- **review of effectiveness of the governance framework**
- **significant governance issues to be disclosed.**

The AGS is approved by the Chair of the Strategic Policy and Resources and the Director of Finance and Resources. It is subject to review by the LGA (NIAO) as part of their annual audit.

Financial & Resource Implications

None

Equality or Good Relations Implications

None."

After discussion, the Panel approved the Council's Financial Statements and associated Annual Governance Statement for 2016/2017, a copy of which was available on the Mod.gov website, and commended those staff of the Council and the Northern Ireland Audit Office who had been involved in the process.

NIAO Draft Report to those Charged with Governance

The Panel was advised that the Local Government Auditor had issued, in draft format, her Report to those Charged with Governance for 2016/2017.

Mrs. Kane provided an overview of the draft report, which summarised the system/control issues arising from the Northern Ireland Audit Office's audit of the Council's Financial Statements for 2016/2017. She indicated that the audit had been largely completed and that it was anticipated that the Local Government Auditor would certify the Council's statements with an "unqualified opinion".

She explained that, in reaching their opinion, they had made key audit judgements on the new operational structure of the Council, landfill provisions write-back of £4.5million and infrastructure assets following the development of the North Foreshore Business Park.

She informed the Panel that the Local Government Auditor had identified four 'Priority 2' recommendations which needed to be reviewed and responded to by management. She outlined the details of the four areas, which related to the alignment of the BELTEL LLP year end with the Councils, Pension Disclosure of Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall (BWUH) Ltd. Liabilities, the Local Investment Fund and the General Power of Competence. She also outlined that two 'Priority 3' areas had been determined, namely, the narrative report and the format of the BWUH Ltd Accounts.

Arising from discussion with the Director of the NIAO, a number of Members pointed out that the decisions relating to allocation of the Local Investment Fund not only went through the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, but were also ratified by the Council. A Member also explained that due diligence of each project was an integral part of the process. The Director of the NIAO indicated that she would be happy to update her report to clarify this matter.

The Panel agreed that there was no need to adjust the accounts for the unadjusted misstatements identified by the NIAO.

After discussion, the Panel noted the contents of the draft report to those charged with governance for 2016/2017, a copy of which was available on the Mod.gov website, and that a detailed response to the document would be submitted to the next meeting.

Performance Improvement – Year-end Report and Arrangements for 2017

The Panel considered the undernoted report:

"1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 The purpose of this paper is to provide the Panel with details of the reporting arrangements undertaken for our 2016-17 Corporate Plan required to comply with the *performance improvement* duty in 2017-2018 as laid out in Part 12 of the Local Government (NI) Act 2014 and associated guidance from the Department for Communities and the Northern Ireland Audit Office (NIAO).

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Panel is asked to:

- **Note that the Council's Annual Improvement Plan and Annual Report were each submitted to SP&R Committee on Friday 23rd June and ratified by July Council (Appendices 1 & 2)**
- **Note our overall Assessment of Performance as contained within our Corporate Performance Report (Appendix 3) which, together with the Annual Report and list of statutory indicators (Appendix 4), will be published online to meet the September 30th deadline**

3.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of Main issues

Background

3.1 As the Panel is aware Part 12 of the 2014 Local Government (NI) Act and the associated guidance requires that we:

- **(a) produce a *forward looking* Annual Improvement Plan (which may be included within the Council's Corporate Plan – as ours is) detailing the Council's Improvement Objectives, to take effect from April each financial year reflecting the Council's contribution to the Community Plan (Belfast Agenda). The final version of this must be published by 30th June each year.**
- **9b) produce a *retrospective* Assessment of Performance detailing progress against the previous year's Annual Improvement Plan and any self-imposed or statutory performance indicators (of which there are currently 7 - Appendix 4). The final version of this must be published by September 30th.**

(a) <u>Annual Improvement Plan</u>

3.2 The Council's Annual Improvement Plan for 2017-18 is included within the 2017-18 Corporate Plan to ensure that it is understood in the wider context of what the Council is hoping to do over the next year. However, for greater clarity our 6 *Improvement Objectives* which together comprise our 'Improvement Plan' for the year, are included as a separate and distinct section (included at Appendix 1 for ease of reference). Our 6 improvement objectives for this year emerged through a process of re-examining and streamlining last year's 11 objectives while at the same time taking account of other information such as feedback from ongoing consultation and engagement processes, areas identified as being most likely to have greatest impact on other work streams and activity that will lay the foundation for expected future priorities. We also ensure there were areas where the Council has both the capacity and authority to take action.

3.3 These objectives are not intended to be an expression of all the improvements that the Council hopes to make over the next twelve months, but they are a statement of intent about specific areas upon which we intend to focus some more attention. As required we took account of the requirements of both the legislation in relation to performance improvement and the corresponding guidance from the DfC when formulating our improvement objectives:

- **Build the city's position as a magnet for foreign direct investment**
- **Make Belfast a great place to do business by supporting entrepreneurs and business starts**
- **Design and deliver programmes to address health inequalities in the city**

- **Deliver city centre regeneration and investment projects**
- **Deliver the integrated tourism strategy to increase numbers of business & leisure tourists**
- **Deliver and integrated approach to employment and skills**

3.4 **To ensure a balanced approach reflecting the broadest possible spectrum of work the improvement objectives also represent activity against each of our four key external priorities for the city – Growing the Economy, Living Here, City Development and Working & Learning.**

3.5 **The activities to drive forward these improvements are included within our Delivery Plan for Corporate Priorities and as such progress against these will be reported alongside other corporate activity within our usual performance and programme management arrangements on a quarterly basis to CMT and to Committee at mid-year and year end.**

(b) Performance Assessment :

Annual Report and Year-end Corporate Performance Report

3.6 **As required by the legislation we also produced an assessment of our performance detailing progress made over the last year against the activities driving forward our 2016-17 Improvement Objectives. There is no prescribed format for how this information should be produced. We therefore used a combination of reports in the form of:**

- **A year-end Corporate Performance Report with milestones 'ragged' (red, amber, green) against all activities. This is the tool we use on an ongoing basis to monitor and track progress;**
- **An assessment of the statutory performance indicators that we are legislatively required to publish in the areas of economic development, waste and planning;**
- **A 2016-17 Annual Report to include all of the above in a more contextual narrative format as a more accessible public record of *all* our in-year achievements as well as details of our finances.**

3.7 **The Corporate Performance Report and Annual Report were each submitted to SP&R in June. Due to time lags in availability of year-end data the indicators were not submitted at this time but will be published as part of our overall Performance Assessment in time with the September 30th deadline.**

3.8 The NIAO fieldwork element of its audit was due to begin in August and run until October. It will examine our performance assessment of the 2016-17 period and seek evidence that our 2017-18 planning and performance processes for all corporate programmes of work (including consultation, governance, risk management, reporting and publication) are compliant with the requirements of the Act. However, we have received correspondence from the NIAO to inform us that due to staffing issues the BCC audit is not likely to commence until September.

3.9 The Performance and Programme teams will also continue to collate quarterly and annual progress reports on implementation of the 2017/18 Plan to date and submit these to CMT and Committee as required under our performance obligations.

3.10 Financial and Resource Implications

Audit fees will be calculated on the basis of the time spent by the NIAO on Belfast's audit and on the levels of skill and responsibility involved. Given the extra work involved this year the NIAO have informed us that they estimate a potential 15-20% increase on their 2016-17 fee of £20,298. As far as possible we will prepare all materials in advance to keep costs as low as possible.

3.11 Equality and Good Relations Implications

None associated with this report."

The Panel noted the recommendations within the report.

AGRS Progress Report (June - August 2017)

The Panel considered a report which provided an overview of the specific internal audits which had been carried out for the period between June and August 2017, by Audit, Governance and Risk Services.

The Head of Audit, Governance and Risk Services highlighted that audits of Major Projects, Partnership arrangements/facilities management agreements, Grounds Maintenance and Contract Payments to/from Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd. had been completed, where the audit opinion for each had been determined as 'Some Improvement Needed'.

The Panel was advised that an AGRS review of Section 76 Planning Agreements had also been carried out as a consultancy assignment. The Head of AGRS advised the

Members that management were in the process of developing an action plan to address the issues which were raised during the review.

The Head of AGRS also reported that the following important assurance audits were ongoing and would be reported to the Panel at a future meeting:

- Accounts Payable;
- Domestic Refuse Collection;
- Outdoor Leisure;
- Belfast Investment Fund (consultancy assignment);
- Corporate Complaints;
- Treasury management;
- Information management;
- City Centre Investment Fund (consultancy assignment); and
- Continued work in relation to the new HR / Payroll system.

The Panel was advised that management had requested the deferral of the following three audits, and that these had been agreed to by AGRS:

- internal audit work on performance management due to the NIAO review of this area and a need by management to consider future Council management arrangements – expected to take place later in the financial year;
- audit work in relation to projects under the Social Investment Fund/Urban Villages be deferred because there have been delays in delivery of these projects due to lack of approval/decision making by the Executive – deferred until 2018/19; and
- a deferral of the review of the markets (income) audit until the new kiosk is installed and operational – deferred until later in the financial year.

The Head of AGRS reminded the Panel that a mandatory, external review of the Audit, Governance and Risk Service was ongoing and was being carried out by On Board Training and Consultancy. He explained that the purpose of the review was to provide assurance over the Service's compliance with Public Sector Internal Audit Standards (PSIAS), with areas of good practice and areas for improvements would be identified. He outlined that the review would also cover the Council's risk management arrangements. The Panel was advised that the results of the review would be reported to the Panel at its meeting in December, 2017. The Head of AGRS also advised Panel Members that, should they wish to speak to On Board to input to the external review, they should advise him or the Director of Finance and Resources and this would be arranged.

The Members were advised that fieldwork on the review of the Council's disciplinary procedure had been substantively completed but that management had requested that the review be extended to include the Council's grievance procedure. The Head of AGRS advised the Panel that they were liaising with the Head of HR on that phase of the review and that the Head of HR would take the review forward

During discussion, a number of Members raised the issue that a comprehensive maintenance programme needed to be adopted by the Council as it invested in more capital projects. The Director of Finance and Resources explained that a review of all Council assets and related maintenance arrangements had been initiated.

After discussion, the Panel noted the Progress Report for the period June – August 2017.

Corporate Risk Management report following Quarter Ending June 17

The Panel considered the undernoted report:

"1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

a) report to the Assurance Board / Audit and Risk Panel on the assurance provided by Directors, in consultation with their departmental risk champions, on the risk management processes within their departments, including any updates on the corporate risks;

b) seek approval for the proposed reduced risk assessment for the Local Development Plan corporate risk

c) update on BCM compliance.

2.0 Recommendation

2.1 The Audit & Risk Panel is asked to note the report.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Compliance with the Quarterly Risk Management Process

3.1.1 The table below summarises compliance with the risk review process for the quarter-end June 2017. While the quarterly review process is an agreed part of Council governance arrangements some issues of non-compliance have been noted, these are detailed in the table below.

Chief Officer	Assurance regarding compliance with the risk management process
Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance	Full compliance with the exception of the corporate risks on the 1) Corporate Frameworks – the

and Resources	risk action plan is not yet developed. A meeting has been scheduled on 7 Sept 17 between the DCX&DOFR, Strategic Performance Manager and Head of AGRS to discuss how management of this risk can be taken forward. 2) The corporate risk on the Council's financial position has been reviewed in practice but the review has not yet been evidenced and recorded on MKI. The Head of Finance will ensure that this is addressed. 3) Complaints management risks – these are being re-reviewed by the Corporate Complaints Manager. There are no open risk actions on MKinsight.
Chief Executive's Department	Review of MKI indicates non-compliance with the quarterly risk review process for: ▪ corporate risk on Organisation's Transformation Programme ▪ Corporate Communications service level risks ▪ Births, Deaths, Marriages and Civil Partnerships service level risks Following the departure of the Director of Organisational Development, it is proposed that the City Solicitor is given temporary responsibility for senior management oversight of the risk management process within this department.
Director of City and Neighbourhood Services	Full compliance for the corporate risks.

	A major review of all departmental risks took place in June 17 to ensure alignment with committee plans and the Belfast Agenda. Management are aiming to have all the new risks allocated to risk owners and action plans developed by QE Sept 17.
City Solicitor	Full compliance.
Director of Property and Projects	Full compliance for the corporate risks. In terms of departmental risks the Director has committed to undertake a comprehensive review of all risks in quarter 2 as many of the risks are now historic and / or have been affected by changes in personnel.
Director of Planning and Place	Full compliance, new departmental risks have been added to MKinsight regarding Planning.
Director of Development	Full compliance
Director of City Centre Development	The corporate risk on City Centre Regeneration has been reviewed in practice but the review has not yet been evidenced and recorded on MKI. The Director will ensure that this is addressed.

3.1.2 A concern of AGRS is that a significant amount of AGRS time is spent on 'chasing up' the completion of risk reviews and review of related actions, rather than there being a proactive management review process. In a number of departments the need to complete fundamental reviews of risk registers has been identified but, while such reviews are taking place, in the interim period, there is reduced assurance that all key risks are identified and being proactively managed in line with the agreed process.

3.2.3 There is an ongoing independent review of the council's risk management process being undertaken by On Board. This should identify areas for improvement in the process. In addition, planned work on corporate frameworks will be considering how the risk management process is integrated / aligned with other management processes in the future.

Proposed changes to the Corporate Risk Register

3.1.4 Following the quarterly meetings between Chief Officers and the Head of AGRS, and review of MKinsight, one change has been proposed to the corporate risk register:

3.1.5 The likelihood of the Local Development corporate risk occurring has been reduced from 4 to 3 to take account of the ongoing implementation of the action plan, with the result that the overall risk assessment has reduced from High to Major.

Risk Management for High Risk Capital Projects

3.1.6 In addition to the management of corporate wide risks, the Council's risk management process provides for formal project risk management in respect of major, high risk, capital projects, as part of overall project management. This process is overseen by the Director of Property and Projects, who has confirmed that risk registers are in place and up to date for the current high risk projects, which are listed below:

Table 1: List of 'high risk' projects

Ref.	High Risk Projects	SRO	Nominated Client (handover of asset)
1	Pitches Strategy	Rose Crozier	Nigel Grimshaw
2	Tropical Ravine	Rose Crozier	Nigel Grimshaw
3	Leisure Estates Programme (Robinson Centre, Brook, Andersonstown, Templemore, Avoniel and Girdwood -phase 2)	Ronan Cregan	Nigel Grimshaw
4	North Foreshore Development Sites	Gerry Millar	Gerry Millar

3.1.7 The new crematorium is an uncommitted project that has been identified as 'high risk' for the Council. This project is currently at Stage 2 – Uncommitted on the Capital Programme with an economic appraisal currently underway. As a Stage 2 project, the final option has not yet been agreed and no investment decision has been taken. Given this, it does not yet have a traditional risk register, however this will be put in place once the project progresses to a Stage 3 – Committed project. Members are being kept up to date on the development of this project via the Strategic Cemeteries and Crematoria Working Group.

3.2 Business Continuity Management update

3.2.1 One of the key ways that Members and Chief Officers can gain assurance over the arrangements we have in place to manage a disruption to our services, is that the Business Continuity (BC) plans are up to date and have been exercised (at least annually) to ensure their effectiveness.

3.2.2 7 of the 15 critical services have planned and scheduled their BC exercise for 2017-18. This includes Finance, Corporate Health & Safety Unit, Human Resources, Democratic Services, Building Control, Bereavement Services and the Zoo. Management responsible for the remaining 8 critical services have been reminded of the need to ensure that BC exercises are planned and scheduled for 2017/18."

The Panel noted the contents of the report.

Audit and Risk Panel Training

The Panel noted that the annual training session for the Audit and Risk Panel would take place on Tuesday, 31st October at 9.30am in the Belfast Castle.

Date of Next Meeting

The Panel noted that the next meeting would take place on Tuesday, 5th December, 2017 at 1.00pm.

Action Points for a future Meeting

- A report be submitted, to a future meeting, on the rate of absence due to work-related stress over the past few years, providing a full-picture of why employees were taking absence due to work-related stress (Head of HR to submit).

Chairperson

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Minutes of Budget and Transformation Panel Meeting
14th September 2017

Attendance

Members:
Councillor Deirdre Hargey (Chair),
Councillor Tim Attwood
Councillor Billy Hutchinson
Councillor Michael Long
Councillor Ciaran Beattie (for Cllr Jim McVeigh)
Councillor Adam Newton (for Cllr Lee Reynolds)
Alderman Jim Rodgers (for Alderman D Browne)

Apologies: Alderman Browne, Cllr Reynolds, Cllr McVeigh

Officers:
Suzanne Wylie, Chief Executive
Ronan Cregan, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources
John Walsh, City Solicitor
Lorraine Dennis, Equality Officer (for item 7)
Emer Husbands, Strategic Performance Manager (secretariat)

1. **Efficiency Programme**

The Deputy Chief Executive provided an updated position on the efficiency proposals that had been discussed at party group briefings. He outlined a number of areas were potential savings could be made as well as areas were the organisation may be able to secure additional income. The panel discussed the proposals which would be presented to SP&R at its September meeting.

2. **SMART Belfast Framework**

The Deputy Chief Executive outlined a number of emerging initiatives and funding packages to support Belfast's digital infrastructure including the launch of the Smart Belfast Framework on 26th September 2017. It was agreed that these programmes will enhance the City's position in Information Technology and Innovation and support the local SME sector.

3. **Belfast City Region Growth Deal**

The Chief Executive circulated a report on the decisions required to progress the ongoing work on a Belfast City Region Growth Deal which will be presented to the September meeting of the SP&R Committee. The proposals has been discussed at an SP&R

workshop earlier in the month and included the geographic area, overall objective and key themes. The Panel discussed the need to ensure any deal had a positive impact on deprived areas and the Chief Executive outlined a number of key features including the focus up front on inclusive growth and the development of programmes focussing on skills and employability.

4. European Capital of Culture 2023

The Chief Executive outlined to the Panel the ongoing work on the development of the European Capital of Culture bid with Derry and Strabane District Council in particular the development of the stage 1 bid document which is due to be submitted on 27th October 2017. A presentation on stage 1 of the bid would be made to the SP&R Committee and includes the proposed high level cultural programme and initial financial considerations.

5. Visit of The Lord Mayor of the City of London,

The Chief Executive provided details of the planned visit to Belfast by the Lord Mayor of the 'City of London and the opportunities presented by this visit to promote Belfast as an investment location. It was agreed details of the visit would be sent out to members of the Panel.

6. Belfast Agenda

A copy of the final draft of the Belfast Agenda was circulated and would be presented to September SP&R for approval. The next steps include the development of delivery plans with the other partners and a launch of the document at the end of October 2017.

7. Language Policy

The City Solicitor provided an overview of the consultation responses to the draft language policy and the need to develop an action plan to implement the policy once it is approved. Members of the Panel discussed the recommendations following the consultation process and agreed to feedback to the City Solicitor if they wanted further briefings before the final report was presented to Committee

8. Council Meetings

The Chief Executive reminded members about some of the protocols surrounding the Council meetings. A query was raised in relation to use of mobile phones by members of the public at council and committee meetings and the City Solicitor agreed to look into this.

9. Position of High Sheriff

Councillor raised the nomination process for the position of High Sheriff and agreed to speak to party group leaders to see if they could reach an agreement on the process.

10. Planning Updates

The City Solicitor informed the panel of the applications that were being presented to the Planning Committee this month. A query was raised in relation to recent changes in the Planning Service and further information on this was requested.

11. AOB

Freedom of the City

The City Solicitor outlined proposals for alternative options on how citizens could be recognised by the council which would be presented to SP&R in September.

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NORTH FORESHORE MEMBERS' STEERING GROUP

Minutes of Meeting of 21st August, 2017

Members Present: Alderman Convery (Chairperson);
Alderman L. Patterson and
Councillors M.E. Campbell. Hutchinson,
McCabe and Mullan.

In Attendance: Mr. G. Millar, Director of Property and Projects;
Mr. K. Anderson, Estates Surveyor and
Mr. G. Graham, Democratic Services Assistant.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of The Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Copeland, and Aldermen Browne and Spence.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 20th March were taken as read and signed as correct.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Mullan declared an expression of interest in respect of the Commercial Leisure Led/Mixed Use Development at the Giant's Park in that a family relative was employed by one of the contractors in connection with the development of the Giant's Park.

Election of Chairperson

After discussion, it was:

Moved by Councillor Hutchinson,
Seconded by Alderman Patterson,

Resolved - That Alderman Convery be appointed to the position of Chairperson of the Steering Group for the period ending in May, 2018

Alderman Convery took the chair and thanked the Members for his appointment.

Update on North Foreshore Giant's Park

The Director of Property and Projects submitted the undernoted report with the exception of appendices contained therein, in respect of a number of development proposals for the North Foreshore Giant's Park.

"1 Commercial Leisure Led / Mixed Use Development Marketing Update

1.1 The Expression of Interest / Marketing prospectus for a proposed leisure led / mixed use development for the northern

and western portions of the site, (extending to 200 acres) was released to the open market over the period February to May 2017 with a closing date of 19 May 2017. Following extensive marketing a total of nine submissions were received by the closing date. These included a wide range of uses including the following:

- **Horse racing track**
- **Theme Park**
- **Hotel / Leisure**
- **Golf Course**
- **Aquarium**
- **Business Park & Logistical Warehousing**
- **Zoo Relocation**
- **Nature Reserve**
- **Data Centre**
- **Park & Ride**
- **Motor Sports**
- **Safari Park**
- **Indoor Water Park**
- **Karting**

1.2 A copy of the high level submission proposals is enclosed at Appendix 1. A presentation will also be provided at the Steering Group meeting on the various proposals.

1.3 Members will be aware that this Expression of Interest process is a two stage process and the recent marketing exercise concludes Stage 1. All submissions were requested to provide the following information:

1. **Indicative illustrative proposals for the development of the site including proposed land uses.**
2. **Details of Developer / Consortium and examples of previous development projects**
3. **Information to enable the assessment of the financial viability of the proposals including details of the entity; broad demonstration of financial standing to undertake the project. Source of finance etc**
4. **Indicative timetable and phasing**
5. **Broad economic, social and wider regeneration benefits**

1.4 The Stage 1 Evaluation Process considered the following broad selection criteria:

- **Development Proposals**
- **CV / track record**
- **Financial and Economic Standing**
- **Timetable for Delivery**
- **Regeneration Impact and Sustainability**

1.5 As set out in the marketing prospectus all submissions were required to score a minimum mark in each of the selection criteria to qualify for Stage 2 of the selection process. Evaluation of all the submissions was undertaken by officers in conjunction with the marketing agents, GVA. As a result of this eight out of the nine submissions were considered to

qualify to progress to the Stage 2 process. The submission that didn't progress had only provided an outline sketch of proposals but with no further details. It is worth highlighting that many of the submissions provided fairly limited detail of the proposed funding and financial sustainability but it is recognised that all proposals are at a very early stage; detailed financial appraisals and sources of funding will only be available upon more definitive proposals being worked up for Stage 2 evaluation.

1.6 As Members are aware, the NFS Steering Group did not meet on 19 June 2017 although a report was brought to the SP&R Committee 23 June 2017 to update Members in relation to development proposals. Members agreed that the eight submissions now progress to the more detailed Stage 2 process.

1.7 Stage 2 of the selection process will require those parties who were successful at Stage 1 to provide a more detailed written submission which will be assessed against evaluation criteria. As a minimum the information being requested for the Stage 2 process is as listed below – although these are broad headings only and more detailed requirements are contained within these.

1. *Developer /Consortium Details*
- **Details of developer and track record**

2. *Information on Financial and Economic Standing*
- **Verification that the financial and economic standing of the developer is sufficiently strong to evidence that the proposed project can be delivered. This will include a range of financial information; vehicle /structure through which development will be undertaken; financing arrangements and financial forecasts for the project.**

3. *Development Proposals*
- **Details of all proposed facilities and uses; concept drawings; design etc**
- **Proposed management and operation proposals**
- **Planning assessment**
- **Development Appraisals**
- **Access, infrastructure and transport proposals**

4. *Development Programme*
- **Project plan and timescale for completion identifying key stages in the development process**

5. *Funding Details*
- **Council will seek to satisfy itself that proposals are sufficiently developed and robust and have attracted sufficient support and commitment from funders and investors**
- **Details of development costs**
- **Source of funding**
- **Revenue projections**
- **Ongoing running/operating costs**

- **Evidence of long term commercial sustainability**

6. ***Financial Bid***
   - **Details of any proposed payments to the Council by way of capital premium or rent or revenue / profit sharing arrangements**
     Note: LPS are to undertake an assessment of the value of the land and this will be used as a benchmark against which to assess the financial bids received and determine that any bids received are in accordance with the Council' statutory obligation to dispose of land on best terms.

7. ***Tenure / Legal Agreement***
   - **Details of proposed lease term and if applicable any JV details**

8. ***Strategic Context and Economic / Social Benefits***
   - **Economic and Social benefits to the local area, to the city and to Northern Ireland as a whole.**
   - **Potential number of jobs and direct and indirect employment opportunities**
   - **Potential community benefit opportunities**

9. ***Analysis of Risks Associated with Proposals to include*;**
   - **Planning**
   - **Capital / Development Costs**
   - **Operational / Management costs**
   - **Funding**
   - **Changes in Business environment**
   - **Site Constraints and site specific contamination issues**
   - **Transportation and infrastructure**
   - **Community Engagement**
   - **Demand**

10. ***Environmental Considerations***
    - **Environmental Impact**
    - **Proposed environmental mitigation measures / improvements**

11. ***Consultation***
    - **Methodology of approach for consultation with public, statutory, community and other relevant organisations.**

1.8 **The Stage 2 information requirements are currently being finalised and it is hoped to forward this to the prospective developer within the coming weeks. The requirement for more detail will allow for a more rigorous evaluation and it is proposed that independent due diligence support is obtained to assist with this. Given the extensive amount of information that will be required it is proposed to allow at least a 12 week period for return of the requested information, with a further period thereafter to complete the due diligence exercise.**

1.9 **It is proposed that the evaluation panel is made up of officers from Property & Projects, Legal Services, Financial Services, Community & Neighbourhood Services and with the support of the appointed agents, as well as the independent due**

diligence. Following the Stage 2 evaluation process, further details will be brought back to this Steering Group and to the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee.

2 Proposals for Temporary Park & Ride

2.1 The Department for Infrastructure (DfI) requires the has recently approached the Council with proposals for a temporary Park & Ride facility at the North Foreshore in order to assist with the delivery of the York Street Interchange scheme. DfI has summarised their proposal as follows:

- **Department for Infrastructure (DfI) provision of a 530 space temporary Park & Ride located in the southern portion of the site (See Appendix 2) as a temporary facility during construction of the York Street Interchange scheme**
- **Initial car park opening hours will be Mon – Sat 7am – 7pm**
- **DfI will construct the car park and provide the necessary capping layer and gas extraction system**
- **DfI will fund and implement minor improvements to the Dargan Road / Duncrue Road signalised junction, bringing the fourth leg of the junction into operation**
- **Annual lease to be agreed between DfI and BCC – running for 4 years from mid-2018 (to facilitate construction in advance). Lease rental to be agreed.**
- **The car park will be removed upon closure – subject to future discussion and agreement with BCC**
- **A dedicated bus service will operate between the site and Belfast city centre**
- **DfI will seek planning permission and deliver all the necessary works**

2.2 DfI say that their experience of Park & Ride suggests that the location of the site is important to its operational success and that sites visible and with direct access from the public road are preferable. Their proposal is for a site of approx. 4 – 5 acres located in the south western portion of Giant Park, close to the primary road entrance as shown on their plan attached at Appendix 2.

2.3 Whilst the proposal is for a temporary site during construction of the York Street Interchange, DfI has indicated that if, in the longer term of the Park & Ride facility proves to be popular and well used, they may wish to consider scope for a permanent site, perhaps further from the road entrance as usage will have been established and the inconvenience factor will not be as significant for regular uses. They say that a site located initially within the heart of Giants Park and further away from the roundabout is unlikely to be as attractive to commuters.

They have however advised that an alternative similar sized site close to the roundabout would also work.

2.4 **In development terms however this front site could be considered as a prime site given its visibility and accessibility and the use of this land in the longer term for surface car parking would not necessarily be considered as the most optimal use.**

2.5 **In terms of timescales, DfI advise that the York Street Interchange will require the closure of public car parks in the York Street / Corporation Street area, from the start of construction which they estimate to be early in 2019. DfI feel that most of this parking could accommodated in the proposed Park & Ride at Giants Park which would need to be operational by this time. Allowing for the construction period, DfI advise they would need the site to be available from about June 2018, with closure planned about Spring 2022 when the interchange is completed. This would mean a total lease period of up to 4 years.**

2.6 **The proposed site of the Park & Ride is however located within the land contained with the Development Brief for Commercial Leisure led site and the Stage 1 proposals from prospective developers all include this area within their proposals. The use of this part of the site could therefore adversely impact on development proposals.**

2.7 **It is recognised however that there are a number of benefits to the Council in considering the Park & Ride facility, including:**

- **Encouraging a modal shift to more sustainable travel for car journeys to Belfast city centre and reduction in the amount of traffic entering the city centre from the M2/M5 corridor**
- **A dedicated bus service operating between the Park & Ride site and the city centre could potentially be adapted to provide access to Giants Park and improve accessibility issue for Giants Park**
- **The cost of commissioning the new signalised junction at Dargan Road will be borne by DfI including improvements to junction layout to increase traffic capacity**
- **Income stream commencing mid-2018 from site rental**

2.8 **DfI have said that as the Park & Ride is a temporary and short term provision the site could be relinquished for permanent development by mid-2022. By then Park & Ride users may have helped to raise awareness of Giants Park and associated development and the dedicated bus service should hopefully have established a public transport link to and from the city centre.**

2.9 **Whilst there are clearly advantages to having a Park and Ride facility the proposal does impact on progressing the commercial leisure /mixed use proposals. It is recognised however that DfI are requesting use of the land on a temporary basis only and development of the wider lands for commercial**

leisure/mixed use purposes is likely to be on a phased basis which will take several years to complete.

2.10 Members may therefore wish to consider the following options:

Option 1: Advise DfI that a site at the North Foreshore is not available given the ongoing marketing exercise for the commercial leisure led/mixed use purposes.

Option 2: Agree to lease DfI the requested site for a 4 year period and advise prospective developers, as part of the Stage 2 process, to permanently exclude this area from their development proposals. This may however adversely impact upon some development proposals which may be contingent upon use of the entirety of the lands.

Option 3. Agree to lease DfI the requested site for a 4 year period but on the basis that the site would become available for development at the end of this period and developers would be asked to consider this within their proposals as part of the Stage 2 process. Prospective developers could then build this into their proposals on the basis of phasing of their development premised on the site becoming available in 2022 or possibly come forward with development proposals that include this Park & Ride facility within their overall proposals. This could either be on a permanent basis, or relocating elsewhere within the site at a later stage or perhaps incorporating a Park and Ride facility at ground floor with development above.

Option 4: Seek to use the land set aside for Arc 21 on a temporary basis for Park & Ride. There are a number of legal issues associated with this option which officers will try to clarify with Legal Services before the meeting.

2.11 Any decision on this would need to be brought into the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee. Members of the Steering Group are however asked for their view on this request by DfI and the options set out above. The timing of this decision will impact upon the timing of the Stage 2 Development Brief process.

3 Environmental Resource Park

3.1 Members will be aware that there has been on going marketing campaign in respect of the Environmental Resource Park and there have been various interested parties from a number of sectors.

3.2 Detailed development submissions have recently been received from two companies proposing a connected pipeline of complimentary renewable energy and waste projects. These project proposals are currently undergoing a due diligence process. On completion of this it is hoped to be in a position to bring back firm proposals to the Steering Group in the near future.

3.3 **In broad terms, the proposals involve an Anaerobic Digestion plant being developed by one company with combined heat and power engines generating renewable electricity with potential to export this to a Material Recovery Facility (MRF) to be developed and operated by a second company. The proposals also involve further projects associated with the MRF as potential future phases of development. Due to the commercial sensitivity of these proposals, information on the two companies and proposed projects will be provided at the Steering Group.**

4 **<u>Film Studio</u>**

4.1 **Belfast's newest film studio has now been completed by Belfast Harbour Commissioners (BHC) on an 8 acre site within Giants Park. Members will recall that the Council leased this site to BHC. This £20m project includes over 120,000 sq ft of studios, workshops and offices.**

4.2 **In June 2017 Belfast Harbour Commissioners announced the Superman prequel, KRYPTON, a series in association with Warner Horizon Scripted Television for the SYFY channel as the first production in the studios.**

4.3 **From 8 June 2017, the Council will receive an annual reviewable base rent of circa £160,000 pa, together with potential of additional income linked to profitability of the film studio as set out in the legal agreements between the parties.**

4.4 **Member were previously advised in relation to the significant growth in the UK's screen sector in recent years and it is felt there is significant potential for economic and regeneration benefits to the City arising from this sector. NI Screen's ambition as set out in its "Opening Doors" strategy for the period 2014-2019 was to ensure that Northern Ireland had the strongest screen industry outside of London within 10 years. It estimated that the economic return from investment over this period is likely to total £250m for the regional economy, premised on a range of challenging targets which were also dependent on having the relevant infrastructure in place. NI Screen considers the recent completion of the film studio at Giant's Park as cementing Northern Ireland's position as the best catered for region in film production after London.**

5 **<u>Economic Development / Employment Opportunities</u>**

5.1 **Work is currently underway by the Council's Economic Development Section, working with Property & Projects, to develop an employment initiatives programme targeted at the various sectors proposed for Giant's Park. In terms of the cleantech sector, further detail as to the nature of the companies likely to locate on site will be required in order to obtain a more detailed understanding of likely job opportunities and skills requirements. However, an initial scoping exercise has commenced and it is felt that an employability initiative for this particular sector could potentially adopt a tiered approach given the potential high tech nature of the likely businesses. Prospective tenants and**

occupiers are now being signposted to the Council's Economic Development Section with a view to determining what assistance might be available and to inform the nature of any potential future employment and skills initiatives.

5.2 In terms of the screen /film sector, initial work has also commenced in scoping the existing education and training provision for the film and television sector in Belfast. NI Screen run a new entrant training screen to attract and retain talent in the NI media industry. The BBC also runs a number of placement /internships to help people kick-start a career in broadcasting and media. Discussions are underway with NI Screen to scope any potential job opportunities and NI Screen has agreed to liaise with the Council on employability and skills opportunities. This work on employability is at an early stage but it is intended to develop this further over the forthcoming months.

6 <u>Summary of Key Issues</u>

6.1 Members are asked to note the following:

i. Stage 1 of the marketing process for the Commercial Leisure Led / Mixed Use Development Brief has now completed and nine submissions were received including a wide range of proposals as outlined above. Following the Stage 1 evaluation, eight of the nine submissions will now progress to the more detailed Stage 2 process. Further details will be brought back to the Steering Group following the Stage 2 process which will include a 12 week period for return of submissions and a further period of undertaking due diligence.

ii. DfI have requested the lease of a site on a temporary basis for a Park and Ride facility during construction of the York Street Interchange scheme. This site is however located within the lands included as part of the proposed commercial leisure led / mixed use development lands which are currently being marketed. Members are requested to advise on their views regarding this request and the options outlined above.

iii. Two detailed proposals have recently been received for a proposed pipeline of complimentary renewable energy and waste projects in the Environmental Resource Park and due diligence is underway. A further report will be brought back to the Steering Group on completion of this.

iv. The film studio development has now completed and the lease agreement between the Council and BHC was executed on 8 June 2017 as outlined above, with the Council receiving £160,000 per annum rental. The first production to be housed in the new studios has been announced as The Superman prequel, KRYPTON, a series in association with Warner Horizon Scripted Television.

Members are asked to note that in conjunction with operational opening of the film studio a request has been

received for NI Screen to provide a site of the Giants Park for the purposes of parking vehicles as a temporary basis associated with the initial production. BCC officers are currently liaising with NI Screen on this. It should be noted that this request is for a very short term only.

v. Work is currently underway by the Council's Economic Development Section, working with Property & Projects, to develop an employment initiatives programme targeted at the various sectors proposed for Giant's Park and further detail will be brought back to the Steering Group as this work progresses."

The Members of the Steering Group expressed concern in regard to the proposal that prime development land could be made available for a Park and Ride facility. While supportive of the interchange scheme in broad terms, the Members were of the view that the proposal by the Department for Infrastructure (D.F.I.) would have an adverse impact on the commercial leisure/mixed use proposals identified currently for that part of the site.

The Members expressed concern also that the development proposal to create a Park and Ride facility at the Giant's Park could lead to further traffic congestion at Sandyknowes junction and beyond, and suggested that such a facility should be located further away from the City. The Steering Group raised also other issues regarding the general detrimental impact of the interchange scheme on inner city communities which have not been fully ameliorated. The Steering Group noted also the potential impact of any undue delay in respect of future development proposals for the site, should a short term lease be granted to D.F. I. in respect of the Park and Ride facility.

Members were nonetheless keen to be as helpful as possible to encourage the future growth of the City, while ensuring that schemes are inclusive in terms of benefit and requested that officers explore other potential options. The Director referred to a separate site, within the Giant's Park, which might prove suitable as an alternative location for a Park and Ride facility. He indicated his intention to explore that option and other potential site options outside the Giant's Park with D.F.I.

The Steering Group reaffirmed its position that any development proposal for the overall site should act as a catalyst for job creation and highlighted the need to ensure that issues around clean-tec and the circular economy were addressed in any future development proposals for the Environmental Resource Park. In response to a further question from a Member, in respect of the timescale associated with the Commercial Leisure Development Brief process, the Director advised that it was anticipated that it would take approximately 3 months for the return of the stage 2 proposals (following finalisation of the stage 2 information requirements) with an assessment and due diligence process thereafter of approximately a further 3 months.

In response to employment opportunities arising from the development of the Giant's Park and the potential for future local employment opportunities, the Director stated that he would invite Mrs. L. Toland and/or Mr. D. Durkan, from the Council's Development Department, to provide the Steering Group at its next meeting with an update in respect of this matter.

Noted.

Date of Next Meeting

The Steering Group agreed that its next meeting would be held on Monday, 16th October, at 12.30 p.m.

Chairperson

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Belfast City Council

STRATEGIC POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Subject:	Area Working Groups – Minutes
Date:	22nd September 2018
Reporting Officer:	Nigel Grimshaw; Director of City & Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Sinead Grimes; Programme Office Manager

Restricted Reports				
Is this report restricted?	**Yes**		**No**	X
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?				
After Committee Decision				
After Council Decision				
Some time in the future				
Never				

Call-in				
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	**Yes**	X	**No**	

1.0	**Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**
1.1	To seek Members' approval of the minutes of the most recent round of AWGs
2.0	**Recommendations**
2.1	The Committee is asked to: • Approve the most recent round of Area Working Group (AWG) Minutes (*West – 24th August; North – 29th August and East – 5th September)* as attached at Appendix 1.

3.0	**Main report**
	Key Issues
3.1	Area Working Group - Update Members agreed in June 2016 that the Area Working Group minutes would be taken into the SP&R Committee for approval going forward in line with the Council's commitment to openness and transparency and to ensure a consistent approach with other Member-led Working Groups. Members are asked to approve the most recent round of AWG Minutes (*West – 24th August; North – 29th August and East – 5th September)* as attached at Appendix 1.
3.2	Finance and Resource Implications No implications
3.3	Equality or Good Relations Implications No implications
4.0	**Appendices – Documents attached**
	Appendix 1 – Minutes of the Area Working Groups

West Belfast Area Working Group

Thursday, 25th August, 2017

MEETING OF WEST BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP

Members present:	Councillor Magennis (Chairperson); Aldermen Kingston and McCoubrey; Councillors, Attwood, Austin, Beattie, Bell, Carson, Collins, Garrett, Hutchinson, McConville, O'Hara and Walsh.
In attendance:	Mr. G. Millar, Director Property and Projects; Mr. N. Grimshaw, Director of City and Neighbourhood Services; Mr. G. Dickson, Policy and Performance Analyst; and Mrs. S. Steele, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Councillors Corr, Heading and McVeigh.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 26th June were agreed as an accurate record of proceedings.

Following a query from a Member, the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services clarified that, as part of the mobilisation plan, officers would continue to monitor the transportation options to assist locals in availing of the alternative leisure offerings whilst the Andersonstown Centre was out of use.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Outstanding Actions – Decision Tracker

The Director of Property and Projects explained that the Decision Tracker document had been emailed to Members before the meeting and provided the Working Group with a brief overview of actions taken since the last meeting held on 26th June.

Noted.

Presentation – Belfast Hills Partnership

The Chairperson welcomed to the meeting, Mr. D. McCallin, Community Director, representing the Belfast Hills Partnership (BHP).

Mr. McCallin advised that the BHP was an independent charity which sought to improve how the hills were managed. He explained that the Partnership worked with its partners which included local councils, government departments, community groups, nature conservation organisations and businesses that were committed to caring for the Belfast Hills and its people.

The representative then provided an update on the Belfast Hills Project regarding accessing and promoting the area further via path networks. With the aid of maps, he provided an overview of the area which included details in respect of possible access routes and paths, signage and viewpoints and the possibility of linking Hatchett Field and Glencairn to the network. It was highlighted that some land included within the proposal was privately owned, therefore, negotiation would be required with the landowner.

He advised that the Belfast Hills Partnership would appreciate the cross-party support of the Council, and urged the Members to contact him if they required any further information on the area.

A Member welcomed the proposal and stated that she felt that Colin Glen should also be considered as part of the overall scheme.

Several Members highlighted the importance of the Belfast Hills as a tourist location. They stated that the area was a 'hidden gem' and that little was being done to promote the hills to the many tourists visiting the City on a daily basis. There was general agreement that the Members were keen to support the project.

After discussion, the Chairperson thanked Mr. McCallin for attending and he left the meeting.

A Member requested that officers investigate the potential of the Council securing two representatives to the Belfast Hills Partnership Board, as it currently only held one position.

Detailed discussion ensued, during which the Director of Property and Projects advised that he, along with the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services, and the Director of Development, were scheduled to meet with the National Trust (who owned much of the land) to discuss the potential revitalisation of the area. He stated that the National Trust had made the approach as many of its tourist attractions on the North Coast were inundated with visitors on a daily basis and they wished to address this by providing a better 'tourist offering' in Belfast.

The Members noted that the Directors were scheduled to meet with the National Trust in the near future and agreed that representatives from the National Trust be invited to a future meeting of the West Area Working Group.

An Cultúrlann

The Area Working Group welcomed Ms. Aisling Ni Labhrai, Director of An Cultúrlann, to the meeting.

Ms Ni Labhrai provided the Members with background information on An Cultúrlann and its work in partnership with all relevant stakeholders from different community backgrounds in delivering quality cultural experiences. She advised that the An Chultúrlann was based in the former Broadway Presbyterian Church which it had leased from the Springfield Charitable Association since 1991.

The representative highlighted the diverse range of opportunities that it made available to the local community, for example, arts programmes, classes and workshops, outreach, facilities hire, the Gaeltacht Experience, a café, bookshop, galleries and a tourist information point.

She reviewed the contribution that An Cultúrlann made to the local economy and proceeded to outline the development plans, as follows:

- Stage 1: to purchase the entire building, including the part not currently rented by the organisation;
- Stage 2: to develop new event space to enhance the existing cultural tourist offering, including the addition of a Folklore, Myths and Legends exhibition; and
- Stage 3: to work with the relevant stakeholders to test the viability of the organisation's aspiration to develop a Cultural/ Educational Tourist Hostel in the heart of West Belfast.

She advised the Working Group that the organisation's business case had been completed and considered by the Department for Communities economists and members of the Strategic Investment Board. It had been agreed that it could be presented to the Minister as a viable option but unfortunately the institutions had collapsed before the case could be signed off.

Ms Ni Labhrai stated that she was aware that currently no funding was available, however, she detailed how the Council could assist should funding become available and also through other measures, as follows:

- financial support for the initial £800k fiscal investment required to purchase the building; and
- support via Council expertise and contacts as the organization explored its plans to refurbish, renovate and extend.

The Chairperson thanked the representative for attending and for the excellent work that An Cultúrlann undertook with both the local community and for tourism in West Belfast and she retired from the room.

The Working Group noted that no funding was available at present.

Physical Programme Process

The Director of Property and Projects provided the Working Group with a detailed overview on the physical programme process, which included details on:

- how it was funded;
- the stage approval process;

- project delivery; and
- the Council's role.

The Chairman thanked the Director for his informative presentation and it was agreed that a copy would be e-mailed to all the Members of the West Area Working Group.

City Cemetery – Update on Memorial Plot Z

The Working Group considered the following report:

"1.0 Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members on the consultation process of a permanent memorial at Plot Z1, commonly known as Baby Public, in the City Cemetery.

2.0 Background

Members are reminded that at its meeting in February 2017 the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee agreed that the City Cemetery – Permanent Memorial to mark Plot Z1 project be moved to Stage 3- Committed on the Capital Programme with a maximum budget of up to £50,000 to be allocated.

A previous consultation took place in December 2015-March 2016 to gather view on a memorial for the site. A summary of the findings from this consultation exercise were used to shape the artist's brief that was used for the procurement process.

Following the procurement exercise the Council appointed Chris Wilson as the artist to design, make and install the memorial. As part of the tender process Chris produced a concept design of what the memorial might look like. The design concept plan and visuals formed the basis for discussion in the recent consultation.

As part of the engagement process an information session was held in City Hall on 30th May, this was a public session and advertised through all the Council's usual communication channels. The purpose of this session was to present the artist's concept design and to get initial views on this. At this meeting there was also a reconfirmation of the key aims of the projects; as part of this discussion it became apparent that there was a view that whilst there is a recognition of the urgency given the age and health of some of the relatives, it is also important that all views are considered and that if necessary the timeline for the project should be extended to allow this to happen.

To ensure we get as widespread as possible range of views we undertook a consultation exercise on the Council's consultation hub Citizen Space. The closing date for this stage of consultation was 30th June 2017. Around 90 responses have been received through this portal.

As part of the process a further information session on 4th July 2017 was held. At this meeting we presented a summary of the initial views on the design and proposed wording and asked for further comments. Around 40 participants attended this event; the artist presented his amended design proposal based on the discussion in the previous event that was also reflected in the comments of a majority of people who submitted their views on the consultation hub i.e. the memorial should include a baby.

A discussion followed around the design and the majority of those present found that the changes (inclusion of a plaque with a baby) didn't go far enough. In general it was articulated that the voices of the involved families haven't been heard and that the process should be reviewed. It was agreed by the Assistant Director that the Council will restart the project realising the desire of those present to have a memorial rather than an artwork using the services of a stonemason.

It was recommended and agreed in the Strategic Cemetery & Crematorium Working Group on 3 August to follow the next steps:

- **Review of the artist's contract**
- **Confirmation and agreement of the changed brief for the memorial (based on the most recent consultation and not as previously based on the CAP report)**
- **Changes to the original business case**
- **Start of new procurement process to appoint a stonemason**
- **Set up of focus group consisting of up to 10 representatives from families to inform the decision making**
- **Design proposal for memorial**
- **Consultation process (Citizen Space and consultation event)**
- **Agreement around the design of a headstone**
- **Installation of memorial**

4 <u>Recommendation</u>

4.1 Members are asked to note the update of the consultation process for the design and installation of a permanent memorial for Plot Z in the City Cemetery."

The Working Group noted the update provided.

Future Agenda Items

The Working Group was reminded that St Joseph's Centre for the Deaf had previously presented to the West Area Working Group meeting in November 2014 seeking BIF Support. A Member suggested that a site visit could be organised to enable the Working Group to acquaint itself with the organisation and the proposal at first hand.

At the request of a Member, it was agreed that the Executive Chairman of Argyle Business Centre would be invited to the September meeting to make a presentation on its plans for the Shankill Mission Hotel.

Date of Next Meeting

The Working Group noted that the next meeting would take place on Thursday, 28th September at 4.30 p.m.

Chairperson

North Belfast Area Working Group

Tuesday, 29th August, 2017

NORTH BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP

Members present: Councillor McCabe (Chairperson);
Aldermen Convery, Patterson and Spence;
Councillors Clarke and Magee.

In attendance: Mr. G. Millar, Director of Property and Projects;
Ms. R. Crozier, Assistant Director;
Mr. G. Dickson, Policy Analyst; and
Ms E. McGoldrick, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of the Lord Mayor, Councillor McAllister, Aldermen Browne and McKee and Councillor Corr-Johnston.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 29th June were agreed as an accurate record of proceedings.

Declaration of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Decision Tracker

The Group noted that the Decision Tracker document had been emailed to Members before the meeting and provided the Working Group with a brief overview of actions since the last meeting held on 29th June.

Presentation – Belfast Hills Partnership

The Chairperson welcomed to the meeting, Mr. D. McCallin, Community Director, representing the Belfast Hills Partnership (BHP).

Mr. McCallin advised that the BHP was an independent charity which sought to improve how the hills were managed. He explained that the Partnership worked with its partners which included local councils, government departments, community groups, nature conservation organisations and businesses that were committed to caring for the Belfast Hills and its people.

The representative then provided an update on the Belfast Hills Project regarding accessing and promoting the area further via path networks and walking routes. With the aid of maps, he provided an overview of the area which included details in respect of possible access routes and paths, signage and viewpoints and the possibility of linking the two critical access points at Hatchett Field and Glencairn. It was highlighted that some land included within the proposal was privately owned, therefore, negotiation would be required with the landowner.

He advised that the Belfast Hills Partnership would appreciate the cross-party support of the Council to progress the walking routes and access, and advised that it would be helpful to receive a letter of intent from the Council for the Belfast Hills Annual Meeting in October.

Several Members highlighted the importance of access points for the project and promoting the Belfast Hills as a tourist location.

After discussion, the Chairperson thanked Mr. McCallin for attending and he left the meeting.

The Director of Property and Projects advised that he, along with the Director of City and Neighbourhood Services and the Director of Development, had scheduled a meeting with the National Trust (who owned much of the land) to discuss the potential revitalisation of the area.

The Members noted that the Directors were scheduled to meet with the National Trust in the near future and that an update would be provided to the Group at its meeting in September.

Local Investment Fund Update

The Director provided an overview of the report which included an update on the progress of those projects which had yet to be completed under the Local Investment Funds (LIF phase 1 and LIF phase 2).

He indicated that there were two projects still under consideration by the Working Group:

- Ardoyne Shankill Health Partnership; and
- North Belfast Alternatives and Good Morning North Belfast.

During discussion, it was noted that there had been a request from Jennymount Church which required an additional £12,000 of funding to complete its project which had already received funding from both LIF 1 and LIF 2.

After discussion, the Working Group noted the progress of the committed projects and agreed that there was no further funding available to accede to the request from Jennymount Church.

Future Agenda Items

The Working Group also noted the following future deputations and agenda items:

- Information sessions on Inner North Belfast Projects;
- Zoo Update;
- Harbour Commissioner Update;
- York Street Interchange Update;
- Update on the work of the support services/youth workers implemented by the DPCSP; and
- Unitorah Charity - information on their Centre for Tolerance development.

Chairperson

East Belfast Area Working Group

Tuesday, 5th September, 2017

MEETING OF EAST BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP

Members present:	The High Sheriff of Belfast, Alderman Haire (Chairperson); The Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Copeland; Aldermen McGimpsey, Rodgers and Sandford; and Councillors Armitage, Dorrian, Graham, Johnston, Milne, Mullan and O'Donnell.
In attendance:	Mr. G. Millar, Director of Property and Projects; Mrs. R. Crozier, Assistant Director; Mrs. A. McGlone, Regeneration Project Officer; and Mrs L. McLornan, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Councillors Howard, Long, McReynolds, Newton and O'Neill.

Minutes

The Working Group agreed that the minutes of the meeting of 3rd August were an accurate record of proceedings.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were recorded.

Presentation – East Belfast Football Club

The Chairperson advised the Members that Mr. R. Crowe and Mr. I. Magill, East Belfast F.C., were in attendance and they were welcomed to the meeting.

Mr. Magill presented to the Members the capital development plans for the sports development facilities at the Tommy Patton Playing Fields at Inverary Avenue. He outlined that the plans included new floodlit training pitches, new changing and function rooms, a main floodlit grass pitch, small-sided floodlit 3G pitches, a floodlit 3G training facility and a full-size floodlit grass pitch with associated changing and an indoor hall. The Working Group was advised that the total cost for the proposals was approximately £2.2million.

Mr. Crowe explained that the Club had developed and increased in size over the past four years. He advised the Working Group that the club had over 450 members, including a significant number of female and youth teams. The Working Group was advised that the club was now struggling to meet the demand for participation both in terms of football and through wider community engagement across the east of the city.

Mr. Magill advised the Members that the Club had undertaken widespread consultation events to help inform their plans and had also carried out a business planning exercise. He confirmed that the architect's plans included what was required if the club was to be promoted to intermediate level.

A number of Members congratulated the Club for the hard work which had been carried out over the past four years to increase the membership and the community use of the facilities.

In relation to a Member's question regarding whether the Club had approached the Department for Communities, Sport NI or the private sector about possible funding for the project, the representatives confirmed that they had been exploring a number of different funding options and they explained that they would take a phased approach towards implementing the changes.

In response to a further Member's question, the representatives advised that they would liaise with the George Best Belfast City Airport in relation to installing the appropriate floodlighting at the pitches, due to the Club's proximity to the airport.

The representatives also confirmed to the Working Group that the improvements to the club would allow other teams in the area to use the gym and pitches.

In relation to the redevelopment of the Avoniel Leisure Centre, the representatives confirmed that there was a shortage of pitches in the east of the city but that capacity would be taken into account.

The Chairperson reminded the representatives that all the Working Group's funding had currently been allocated but that the project looked promising for the east of the City. He thanked them for their presentation and they retired from the meeting.

Noted.

East Bank Development Strategy – Consultation Update

The Regeneration Project Officer provided the Members with an update on the Council's East Bank Development Strategy consultation which was currently ongoing. She explained that the twelve week consultation period commenced in July and would finish at the end of September. The Working Group was advised that the plans were available for public viewing in the Cecil Ward building during office hours and that a number of advertised drop-in sessions had been held to date in EBCDA and the Lagan Lookout, with a number planned over the next few weeks, including two in the Short Strand Community Centre. She advised that she was happy to arrange additional drop-in events in other areas, at the request of Members.

She advised the Members that twelve responses to the Strategy had been completed through the Council's online Consultation Hub and that it was not unusual to receive a number of responses during the last few days of a consultation period.

In relation to the responses which had been received so far, she highlighted that the majority had been very supportive of the proposals. She advised that a small number of respondents had expressed concerns with the possible impact on traffic in the area, particularly with regards to private car users.

The Working Group thanked her for the update and she retired from the meeting.

Belfast Investment Fund

Lagan Village Youth and Community Group

The Director of Property and Projects provided the Working Group with an update on the Lagan Village Youth and Community Group project. He reminded the Group that, at its meeting on 8th December, 2016, it had agreed that the project would move to Stage 2 under the Belfast Investment Fund. He advised the Members that officers had continued to engage with the group and that consultants had been appointed to undertake an economic appraisal, with a pre-meeting taking place next week.

The Committee noted the update provided.

Correspondence from Bloomfield Presbyterian Church

The Working Group was advised that correspondence from Bloomfield Presbyterian Church had been received, which was requesting partnership funding of £450,000 towards the development of a community hub, where the total project costs were approximately £1.65million.

A number of Members outlined that they were aware that the Church was doing a lot of fundraising themselves and that they were impressed with the proposals.

The Working Group noted that the Belfast Investment Fund (BIF) for the east of the city was fully allocated.

After discussion, the Working Group agreed that the officers should engage with Bloomfield Presbyterian Church regarding their proposal and that a report be submitted to the Working Group in due course.

Strand Arts Centre

The Director of Property and Projects reminded the Members that the Working Group had previously agreed to ring-fence £1.8million for the Strand Arts Centre project, for a period of two years, with an option to extend by a further year, on the basis that it would receive funding from other sources.

The Working Group also agreed that representatives from the Strand Arts Centre should be invited to present to the Group at its meeting in January, 2018, to discuss any progress which had been made in securing other funding.

Local Investment Fund

The Director of Property and Projects provided the Working Group with an overview of the money which had been allocated to various projects through the Local Investment Fund.

He reminded the Working Group that it had committed its initial LIF1 allocation of £1,127,500 to 8 projects and its LIF2 allocation of £1,200,000 to a further 12 projects. The Members noted that, in the initial allocation, 7 of the 8 projects were now complete, with

the exception of the Westbourne Presbyterian Community Church (Titanic People) project. He outlined that it had received partnership funding from The Executive Office through the Social Investment Fund (SIF) and was in the second stage of design team procurement.

In the LIF2 allocation, he advised the Members that all projects had now passed through the due diligence stage, with three projects at stage 3 (pre-construction) and the remaining eight projects at stage 4 (delivery).

The Members noted that there was a total of £54,009 of LIF funding to be re-allocated, consisting of £15,498 from LIF1 and £38,411 from LIF2.

The Working Group noted the update.

Date of Next Meeting

The Working Group noted that the next meeting would take place on Thursday, 5th October at 5.00p.m.

Chairperson

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Belfast City Council

STRATEGIC POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Subject:	Requests for use of the City Hall and the provision of Hospitality
Date:	22nd September 2017
Reporting Officer:	Gerry Millar, Director of Property & Projects
Contact Officer:	George Wright, Head of Facilities Management

Restricted Reports				
Is this report restricted?	**Yes**		**No**	X
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?				
After Committee Decision				
After Council Decision				
Some time in the future				
Never				

Call-in				
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	**Yes**	X	**No**	

1.0	**Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**
1.1	Members will be aware that the Committee, at its meeting of 6th January 2017, agreed to modify the criteria governing access to the City Hall function rooms for external organisations. The Committee also agreed to the implementation of hire charges for some categories of function, and also revised the approach to the provision of civic hospitality for functions on foot of the agreed efficiency programme. Some modifications to this approach were then agreed at the Committee's meeting of 24th March 2017 and June 2017.
1.2	The attached schedule contains the recommended approach in respect of each of the requests received up to September 2017 which appear to the Civic HQ Unit to comply with the criteria previously established by the Committee and are recommended for approval. The schedule covers some applications for functions in 2017, however a number of function

1.3	requests due to be held in 2018, 2019 and 2020 have also been included, in order to provide certainty to the organizers of these events and allow them to begin their event planning.
1.4	There are no recommended uses of the once-in-three-years rule in respect of any of the applications referred to in this report and appendix.
2.0	**Recommendations**
2.1	The Committee is asked to: • Approve the recommendations made in respect of applications received up to September 2017 as set out in Appendix 1 attached to this report.
3.0	**Main report**
3.1	Key Issues The existing revised criteria and scale of charges have been applied to the various requests received and the recommendations herein are offered to the Committee on this basis for approval.
3.2	Financial & Resource Implications The implementation of charging for external functions has now commenced, in line with the Committee's decisions in the matter.
3.3	Equality or Good Relations Implications There are no direct good relations or equality implications arising from this report.
4.0	**Appendices – Documents Attached**
	Appendix 1 - Schedule of Function requests received up to September 2017

SEPTEMBER 2017 FUNCTION APPLICATIONS

NAME OF ORGANIZATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
2017 EVENTS						
SEPHA	18 October 2017	Drinks Reception and Dinner for delegates attending the International Agent Conference for Pharmaceutical Industry. Attending 35	Yes A & B	Yes - £300	No – organized as a commercial company	Approve £300 charge No hospitality
Belfast Central Mission	24 October 2017	Event with lunch and play at conclusion of Prayer Walk. Attending 50	Yes D	No (Charity)	Yes – Tea and Coffee Reception	Approve No charge Tea and Coffee Reception
NI Community of Refugees and Asylum Seeker	17 November 2017	Launch of Essential Guide for Refugees and Asylum Seekers including NI History, education, employment, support organizations. Attending 80	Yes D	No (Charity)	Yes – Tea and Coffee Reception	Approve No charge Tea and Coffee Reception
Community Foundation NI	11 December 2017	Christmas Grant Giving ceremony for ambassadors, donors and staff Attending 100	Yes C & D	No (Charity)	Yes - Wine Reception	Approve No charge Wine reception
2018 EVENTS						
SureStart Celebration	25 January 2018	An event to showcase Sure Start projects and celebrate past successes. Attending 200	Yes D	Yes - £300	No precluded as government body	Approve £300 charge No hospitality
National Deaf Children's Society	13 March 2018	Young Authors and Artists Prize day to celebrate the achievements of local deaf children. Attending 160	Yes C & D	No (Charity)	Yes – Tea and Coffee Reception	Approve No charge Tea and Coffee Reception
Belfast Hills Partnership	14 March 2018	Dinner, showcase and celebration of Belfast Hills venue and thank you for volunteers	Yes C & D	No (Charity)	Yes – Wine Reception as volunteer dinner	Approve No charge Wine Reception

SEPTEMBER 2017 FUNCTION APPLICATIONS

		Attending 200				
QUB ISPASS Conference Dinner	3 April 2018	Drinks reception and dinner for delegates attending 3 day Schools of Engineering ISPASS Conference in QUB. Attending 150	Yes A & B	Yes - £825	Yes – Wine Reception as Dinner event with international delegates	Approve £825 charge Wine reception
5 Nations Health Protection Conference	23 April 2018	Drinks reception and dinner for delegates attending a 2 day Health Protection Conference in Assembly Halls. Attending 120	Yes A & B	Yes - £300	No – organized as a commercial company	Approve £300 charge No hospitality
Young Enterprise Awards 2018	14 June 2018	Drinks reception, dinner and Awards Ceremony to celebrate the achievements of people across NI who completed YE programmes. showcase projects Attending 350	Yes A & B	No (Charity)	Yes - Wine Reception	Approve No charge Wine Reception
Host Global Forum	22 June 2018	Drinks Reception and dinner – part of a showcase for North American Visitors attracting future high spend incentive and business meetings to the City. Attending 240	Yes A & B	No (BCC endorsed showcase)	Yes - Wine Reception as Belfast Showcase event	Approve No charge Wine Reception
NIASW Launch / Exhibition	3 July 2018	Drinks reception and speeches with exhibition. Showcase event for NI social work with exhibitions targeted at international social workers attending a 3 day global conference in Dublin. Attending 150	Yes A & B	No (Charity)	Yes – Tea and Coffee Reception	Approve No charge Tea and Coffee Reception
QUB	12	Drinks Reception	Yes A & B	Yes - £300	Yes - Wine	Approve

SEPTEMBER 2017 FUNCTION APPLICATIONS

9th International Symposium on Testate Amoebae (ISTA 9) Conference	September 2018	and Dinner as part of large conference hosted by QUB for climate change impacts to peatlands. Attending 120			Reception as large dinner	Charge £300 Wine Reception
2019 EVENTS						
Institute of Conservation Conference Dinner	13 June 2019	Formal Drinks Reception and Dinner as part of 4-day conference in Waterfront exploring Conservation. Attending 300	Yes A & B	No (Charity)	No – organized as a commercial company	Approve No charge Wine Reception
George Telford Memorial Loyal Orange Lodge Centenary Dinner	12 October 2019	Centenary Dinner to celebrate 100 years of the Club based at Clifton Street Orange Hall. Attending 120	Yes C & D	No (Community)	Yes - Wine Reception as Centenary Event	Approve No charge Wine Reception
2020 EVENTS						
British Transplantation Society (BTS) Gala Dinner	5 March 2020	Drinks Reception, Dinner, Awards and Entertainment – Part of 3 day Waterfront based congress of clinicians, surgeons, scientists, nurses and coordinators who work in the field of organ transplantation. Attending 250	Yes A & B	No (Charity)	Yes - Wine Reception, large dinner plus international delegates	Approve No charge Wine Reception

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Belfast City Council

STRATEGIC POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Subject:	NILGA Annual Conference and Local Government Awards
Date:	22nd September, 2017
Reporting Officer:	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager
Contact Officer:	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager

Restricted Reports				
Is this report restricted?	**Yes**		**No**	X
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?				
After Committee Decision				
After Council Decision				
Some time in the future				
Never				

Call-in				
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	**Yes**	X	**No**	

1.0	**Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**
1.1	To authorise the attendance of Members at the Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA) Annual Conference and the attendance of Members and officers at the Local Government Awards dinner.
2.0	**Recommendations**
2.1	The Committee is asked to; • Approve the attendance of the Council representatives on NILGA at the Annual Conference on 12th October and to authorise the attendance of the Chairpersons and the Deputy Chairpersons of the Strategic Policy and Resources, City Growth and Regeneration and People and Communities Committees (or their nominees), together

	with appropriate officers at the Local Government Awards dinner on 12th October.
3.0	**Main report**
	Key Issues
3.1	The NILGA Annual Conference will take place this year at La Mon Hotel on 12th October (see attached draft agenda – Appendix 1). The Council is represented on NILGA by a number of Members across the political parties. The normal practice is to authorise those representatives to attend the Annual Conference if they so desire.
3.2	In addition, later that evening the Northern Ireland Local Government Awards dinner will be held. The Awards set out to showcase excellence in service delivery across the work of the Councils. This year the Council has been nominated in 5 categories (see attached list of nominees). It would be important for the Council to be represented at the Awards dinner so that, if successful, an elected Member could accept the award. It is recommended that the Committee approve the attendance of the Chairpersons and the Deputy Chairpersons of the Strategic Policy and Resources, City Growth and Regeneration and People and Communities Committees (or their nominees), together with appropriate officers at the awards dinner,
	Financial and Resource Implications
3.3	Any cost for attendance at the Awards dinner can be met from within existing budgets.
	Equality or Good Relations Implications
3.4	There are not any equality or good relations considerations associated with this report.
4.0	**Appendices – Documents Attached**
	Appendix 1 – Draft agenda for the NILGA Annual Conference Appendix 2 – Local Government Awards Finalists

nilga northern ireland local government association

European Entrepreneurial Region

Local Enterprise, Global Reach



A Better Future for Northern Ireland:

Sustaining Communities & Strengthening Democracy through Councils

NILGA Annual Conference,
Exhibition & Gala Awards Dinner

12th October 2017
La Mon Hotel, Castlereagh

DRAFT AGENDA

Local Enterprise, Global Reach

A Better Future for Northern Ireland: Councils Sustaining Communities & Strengthening Democracy

NILGA Annual Conference and Gala Awards Dinner
12th October 2017, La Mon Hotel, Castlereagh

Conference Host – Noel Thompson

SESSION ONE: OPENING POLITICAL PLATFORMS	
830 - 930	**Registration**
930 - 935	**Welcome to Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council** *Mayor & First Citizen, Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council*
935 - 955	**Keynote Addresses: National / Regional Government** *Relevant Ministers - Invited*
955 - 1005	**NILGA Response – Local Government** *Alderman Arnold Hatch, NILGA President*
1005 - 1015	**SOLACE Address** *SOLACE Chair, Dr Theresa Donaldson*
1015 - 1035	**Plenary Session / Q&A**
1035 - 1100	**Refreshment Break / Networking / Engagement with sponsors / exhibitors**
SESSION TWO: SUSTAINING COMMUNITIES - SHAPING PLACES & DRIVING THE ECONOMY	
1100 - 1115	**Keynote Address: Department for Communities – Councils Front & Centre** *Minister / Permanent Secretary - Invited*
1115 - 1140	**Shaping Places: Corporate, Constituent Councillors for the 21st Century?** *Professor Colin Copus, Local Governance Research Unit, De Montfort University* *Alderman Stephen Martin, Chair, NILGA Elected Member Training Group*
1140 - 1200	**Driving the Economy: Growing an Effective Enterprise Landscape with Councils** *Principal Sponsor's Address – (Invest NI) - Invited*
1200 - 1220	**Plenary Session / Q&A**
1220 - 1345	**Lunch / Networking / Engagement with Sponsors / Exhibitors**
SESSION THREE: STRENGTHENING LOCAL DEMOCRACY – People Centred Growth	
1345 - 1405	**Keynote Address: Municipalities – Equality, Enterprise & Infrastructure** *Dr Greg Munro, General Secretary, Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF)*
1405 - 1450	**Embedding the LOCAL into Programmes for Government** A Case Study - EER Partner Region of Southern Denmark - *Invited* Interactive Session – (Stratagem NI) – *To Be confirmed*
1450 - 1505	**Plenary Session / Q&A**
1505 - 1530	**Refreshment Break / Networking / Engagement with Sponsors / Exhibitors**
SESSION FOUR: NI FIT FOR THE FUTURE? THE LOCAL IMPACT of GLOBAL ISSUES	
1530 - 1610	**Brexit Made Local, Brexit Made Real** *Two Contrasting Analyses*
1610 - 1640	**Transformation in (i) Business & (ii) Government – What's It All Mean Locally?** *(i) Ken Nelson, Inter Trade Ireland* *(ii) Steve Thomas CBE, Chief Executive,* Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA)
1640 – 1700	**Motivational Address: A Manifesto for Community Wealth** *Neil McInroy, Centre for Local Economic Studies*
1700	**NILGA Conference Delegates Technology & Tourism Prize Draws**
	Conference Close & Local Government Gala Awards Prelude

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT AWARD FINALISTS
NILGA ANNUAL CONFERENCE, EXHIBITION & GALA AWARDS DINNER
12th OCTOBER 2017
LA MON HOTEL, CASTLEREAGH

BEST LOCAL AUTHORITY SERVICE TEAM

Sponsored by the Association for Public Service Excellence [APSE]

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council (Antrim Castle Gardens Team)
Ards and North Down Borough Council (Food Waste Recycling Project Team)
Belfast City Council (Play Service Team)
Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council (Grounds Maintenance Unit)

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Sponsored by the William Johnston Memorial Trust [WJMT]

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council (Samuel Hyndman)
Ards and North Down Borough Council (Julie Ferguson)
Fermanagh and Omagh District Council (Matthew Nevin)

BEST ENTERPRISE INITIATIVE BY A COUNCIL

Sponsored by Enterprise Northern Ireland

Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough (Food Heartland of Northern Ireland)
Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council (Year of Food and Drink Engagement/Causeway Food Network Initiative)
Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council (Invest Lisburn Castlereagh)

BEST LOCAL AUTHORITY COMMUNITY PLANNING INITIATIVE

Sponsored by the Northern Ireland Branch of the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers [SOLACE NI]

Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council (Food Heartland Inspirational Careers Days)
Belfast City Council (Connswater Community Greenway Project)

BEST LOCAL AUTHORITY DIGITAL INTEGRATION PROJECT

Sponsored by Oracle

Armagh City Banbridge and Craigavon (Developing a Digital Culture: Growing the Digi-Tech Economy)
Belfast City Council (The Connection Vouchers Scheme)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AWARDS NORTHERN IRELAND 2017

BEST LOCAL AUTHORITY ELECTED MEMBER DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

Sponsored by the Northern Ireland Local Government Association [NILGA]

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council (Delivering our Corporate Plan through Member Development)
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council (Use of Elected Member Development Charter to drive successful changes in Member Development)
Belfast City Council (Women Leaders Programme)
Derry City and Strabane District Council (Member Learning Programme)

BEST INITIATIVE BY A COUNCILLOR/ COUNCILLOR GROUP

Sponsored by the National Association of Councillors [NAC]

Ards and North Down Borough Council (Comber Farmers' Market)
Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council (Heart City – Community Defibrillators)
Mid Ulster District Council (Aughnacloy College 3G Community Pitch)

BEST LOCAL AUTHORITY TOURISM INITIATIVE

Sponsored by Tourism Northern Ireland

Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council (Georgian Festival 2016)
Belfast City Council (Belfast City Hall Exhibition – A Journey from Past to Present)
Mid Ulster District Council (Seamus Heaney HomePlace)

STRATEGIC POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Belfast City Council

Subject:	National Association of Councillors (Northern Ireland Region) Annual General Meeting
Date:	22nd September, 2017
Reporting Officer:	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Restricted Reports				
Is this report restricted?	**Yes**		**No**	X
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?				
After Committee Decision				
After Council Decision				
Some time in the future				
Never				

Call-in				
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	**Yes**	X	**No**	

1.0	**Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**
1.1	To seek approval for attendance at the National Association of Councillors (Northern Ireland Region) AGM to be considered an approved duty.
2.0	**Recommendation**
2.1	The Committee is asked to; • Approve the attendance of any Member of the Council at the National Association of Councillors Northern Ireland Region AGM.
3.0	**Main report**
3.1	Key Issues The National Association of Councillors (Northern Ireland Region) AGM is being held on Friday 6th October at 11.00a.m. in the Glenavon House Hotel, Cookstown.

3.2	Following the meeting, there will be two guest speakers: • Kevin Higgins, Head of Policy at Advice NI who will speak on the introduction of Universal Credit; and • Marie Anderson, Local Government Commissioner for Standards who will speak on the Councillors' Code of Conduct.
3.3	All Councillors are entitled to attend the AGM and accordingly authority is being sought to authorise the attendance at the meeting of any Member of the Council who so wishes and to consider it as an approved duty. <u>Financial & Resource Implications</u>
3.4	Motor Mileage costs, which will be covered from existing budgets. <u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u>
3.5	None.
4.0	**Appendices – Documents Attached**
	None.