

# Public Document Pack

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



**Belfast  
City Council**

2nd November, 2017

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

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in the Lavery Room - City Hall on Wednesday, 8th November, 2017 at 5.15 pm, for the transaction of the business noted below.

You are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully,

SUZANNE WYLIE

Chief Executive

### **AGENDA:**

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

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

#### **2. Presentation**

- (a) Festivals & Events International (FEI)

In accordance with the Committee's decision, of 9<sup>th</sup> August, to receive a presentation from representatives of Festivals and Events International (FEI) to provide an overview of the Events and Festivals Strategy.

#### **3. Growing Businesses and the Economy**

- (a) Events and Festivals Funding (Pages 1 - 6)
- (b) Employability and Skills Forward Planning (Pages 7 - 16)

4. **Requests to Present to Committee/Meetings Schedule**

- (a) Requests to Present to Committee - Special meetings (Pages 17 - 22)
- (b) Schedule of Meetings 2018 (Pages 23 - 24)
- (c) Request to Present: BelTel PLC - Branding (Pages 25 - 28)
- (d) Request to Present: Transport NI (Pages 29 - 30)

5. **Regenerating the City and Improving Infrastructure**

- (a) Transport Update (Pages 31 - 50)

6. **Positioning Belfast to Compete**

- (a) NI Science Festival (Pages 51 - 56)

7. **Strategic and Operational Issues**

- (a) Committee Plan Update (Pages 57 - 88)
- (b) Progress Infographics (Pages 89 - 100)



Subject:	Request for Events and Festivals Funding 2018/19
Date:	8 November 2017
Reporting Officer:	Donal Durkan, Director of Development
Contact Officer:	Lisa Toland, Head of Economic Initiatives and International Development

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	<p>The purpose of this report is to inform members of the request for funding for five events and festivals which are planned for the 2018/19 financial year. The events are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EastSide Arts Festival – August 2018</li> <li>• CS Lewis Festival – November 2018</li> <li>• Belfast Tattoo – September 2018</li> <li>• First World War Commemorative Concert – 11 November 2018</li> <li>• “Every Day Remembered” – Various dates throughout 2018 (mainly in November).</li> </ul>

1.2	Finance for these programmes are not available within core departmental budgets at this stage. Therefore, if Members wish to support them they will have to be considered by SP&R as part of the consideration of the in-year allocations at the half or year-end periods. A number of additional events for 2017/18 were funded this way
1.3	A list of other events for 2018/19 to go to SP&R in November (as part of the half year report) have already been through this committee.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider whether to refer the requests for funding to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee with a recommendation to the Committee that priority is given to the named events and festivals when considering in-year reallocations based on the half year financial position.</li> <li>• Note that if this is agreed the events set out in this report would be added to the previous list.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
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 and a draft report outlining the broad direction of travel is on the agenda for this evening's meeting. 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. In addition, given that the majority of the events will take place outside of the core tourist period, they will offer an opportunity to encourage additional visitors to Belfast out of season, thereby encouraging additional spend in the City.

3.3	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Féile an Phobail – financial request of £180,000 towards the August 2018 event</li> <li>• Oher Voices – financial request of £40,000 towards the October 2018 event</li> <li>• Gradam Ceoil – financial request of £50,000 towards the February 2019 event.</li> </ul>
3.4	<p>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. The Committee acceded to this request.</p>
3.5	<p>Since that time, a number of additional events have been identified, all of which align well with the Council's priorities and which offer the potential to showcase Belfast as a vibrant and diverse cultural city. These events are detailed below.</p>
3.6	<p><u>Overview of Events Seeking Council Support</u></p> <p><b>EastSide Arts Festival</b></p> <p>EastSide Partnership has been developing, supporting and delivering arts events in the east of the city since 2012, more recently under the EastSide Arts brand. Efforts have been made to link this arts activity with the developing tourism activity in this part of this City. This work has been endorsed and supported by the Council through its Community Tourism investment. The Partnership oversees two major events: EastSide Arts Festival in August each year and CS Lewis Festival in November.</p>
3.7	<p>For EastSide Arts Festival, there are plans to grow the festival next year. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertaking additional programming at the new public / event space at CS Lewis Square, with the potential to attract both larger audiences and to create more of a festival atmosphere with the mix of large and smaller events happening together in the same overall space</li> <li>• Given that 2018 is the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of circus, there are plans to build a programme around this theme, in partnership with Tumble Circus, following a successful smaller scale 'pilot' this past year</li> <li>• Co-programming with Féile an Phobail will continue to develop, following some testing of this approach in 2017. Given that EastSide Festival and Féile run at around the same time, there are plans to do so again in 2018, as they celebrate their 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This</li> </ul>

complements shared plans for cross city co-operation on tourism via EastSide Tourism & Fáilte Feirste Thiar where Belfast can be presented as a 'shared city' for incoming tourists. This will also help the communities to feel the economic benefit of the growing tourism industry in the city.

3.8 A funding request of £40,000 has been made to enable EastSide to host a newly commissioned circus programme in a Big Top in CS Lewis Square and to build a strong music programme each night in the same venue.

3.9 **CS Lewis Festival**

The proposal for 2018 is to grow the number of overseas visitors engaging in the festival. In order to do so, the following activities are proposed:

- Appoint (short term contract) an experienced Festival Director to plan, design and deliver the festival programme
- Attract a major event, with both commercial potential and international appeal
- Utilise CS Lewis Square and the adjacent JACK facility at the core of the programme
- Introduce a residential 'winter school' element, based in a local hotel, and targeted primarily at the US market, using existing contacts and channels such as Tourism Ireland.

3.10 The financial request to the Council is for a financial allocation of £40,000 to deliver on the organisers' ambitions – particularly in terms of attracting overseas audiences.

3.11 **Belfast Tattoo**

The Belfast Tattoo takes place annually in the City as a celebration of Ulster-Scots culture. The event has taken place in the SSE Arena over the past number of years and, in 2017, it attracted bands from Germany, Spain and Italy in 2017.

3.12 The event is now recorded and broadcast by BBC Northern Ireland, with viewing figures in its first year of 120,000 viewers.

3.13 The 2018 event, which is currently being planned, will attract bands from across Europe and the UK. The costs associated with hosting the event are in the region of £460,000. In order to develop the event and to maximise engagement, the organisers have requested a contribution of £25,000 from Belfast City Council towards the overall event budget.

3.14 **First World War Centenary Commemoration event**

	<p>The proposal for this event is to hold a commemorative concert to mark the Centenary of the Armistice on 11 November 2018. This concert would be a central element of the Northern Ireland commemoration of the First World War including Remembrance Service at Belfast City Hall in the morning and Commemorative Service in Belfast in the evening.</p>
3.15	<p>The concert will commemorate the end of the war by looking across the whole period from 4 August 1914 to 11 November 1918. It would cover events both at home across Ireland and abroad, including the Somme and the Easter Rising. The principal focus will be on the 36<sup>th</sup> Ulster Division, but will also encompass the 10<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Irish Divisions. The themes will be Remembrance and Reconciliation and these will be expressed through a series of cultural acts and historical presentations. The concert will be delivered in a 2-hour live set from 2pm-4pm on 11 November. The likely venue is Belfast Waterfront with attendance set at 1,500 people.</p>
3.16	<p>The concert will have one headline act accompanied by a number of well-known local acts and community groups. The acts will be a mixture of singers (solo and choirs), music (military, Irish and Ulster Scots traditional folk, marching bands) and recitals (from poetry and plays). The programme will tell the story of the war, with a focus on the local angles.</p>
3.17	<p>It is proposed that the concert will attract 500 delegates from outside Belfast, with 1,000 tickets ring-fenced for city residents. The costs associated with hosting the event are in the region of £35,000 and this is the extent of the financial request from Belfast City Council.</p>
3.18	<p><b>Every Day Remembered</b></p> <p>As above, this proposal aims to mark the fact that 2018 is the centenary of the end of WW1. It involves a series of events and activities which will ensure city-wide participation and be rooted in local communities. A key principle underpinning 'Every Day Remembered' will be that each activity is designed to ensure that there are opportunities for capacity building, ongoing learning and maximum local involvement.</p>
3.19	<p>Details of the programme are still being finalised. At this point, it is proposed that activities will be based around five inter-related key themes, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Impact of the War</u>: this will involve the facilitation of at least 10 groups to research a specific Street and trace how WW1 impacted the residents. Training will be provided by PRONI and access will be given to resources such as the newspaper archive. The costs associated with this element are £21,900</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Highlighting Contributions to WW1</u>: this will be a Belfast-based exhibition looking at Irish men and women that were involved in the war. It is expected that the exhibition will attract up to 4,000 visitors. There will also be a series of talks looking at the involvement of other nationalities and religions in the war, including Sikhs and Muslims. Costs associated with these activities are likely to be in the region of £18,700</li> <li>• <u>Reality of Coming Home</u>: It is proposed that this will be a community drama based on the story of a Belfast soldier returning from war. The drama will be performed at up to three venues across the city and will attract 600 attendees. The costs associated with this element will be around £19,200</li> <li>• <u>11th Hour of the 11th Day of the 11th Month</u>: This will involve a series of locally planned and delivered Remembrance events. There will be a focus on working with young people in particular through involvement with youth groups and community organisations. The costs associated with this element will be around £34,440</li> <li>• <u>Reflection and Legacy of WW1 Commemoration</u>: This will involve a major commemoration concert to be attended by 900 people, as well as promotion and media around the wider programme of events taking place. The total budget for this activity will be £44,600.</li> </ul>
3.20	<p><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>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.</p>
3.21	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>The financial support required from Belfast City Council for each initiative is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EastSide Arts Festival: £40,000</li> <li>• CS Lewis Festival: £40,000</li> <li>• Belfast Tattoo: £25,000</li> <li>• First World War Commemorative Event: £35,000</li> <li>• Every Day Remembered: £138,840.</li> </ul>
3.22	<p>In total £278,840 additional funding is required to support these events. Strategic Policy and Resources Committee would ultimately need to make any funding decision when considering the half year finance report.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	None.



<b>Subject:</b>	Employability and Skills Forward Planning
<b>Date:</b>	8 November 2017
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Donal Durkan, Director of Development
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Lisa Toland, Head of Economic Initiatives & International Development Ruth Rea, Economic Development Manager

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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<b>Some time in the future</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Never</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	<p>The purpose of this report is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Update Members on the proposed approach for Council to advance the Employability and Skills workstream through a phased approach, in line with Belfast Agenda commitments and the emerging priorities of the Belfast Region City Deal;</li> <li>- Identify mechanisms for Elected Member engagement in the process of developing the key elements of this workstream</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Advise Members of the job creation impacts of the work to date (550 new jobs created in the first six months of the year) and the potential to increase the impact of this work, subject to partnership engagement and additional resources.</li> </ul>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Note and approve the principle of the phased development of the Council's Employability and Skills workstream;</li> <li>- Agree to participate in a process of engagement to inform the content of the future work programme, including a detailed workshop in the new year.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>Employability and Skills development is a core priority of the Belfast Agenda, principally within the 'Working and Learning' theme. Equally, the principal ambition of 'inclusive growth' – whilst not exclusively focused upon employability – recognises that, for many individuals, the benefits of economic growth are experienced through accessing a job and moving up the career ladder, and that employment is a key route out of poverty.</p>
3.2	<p>Over the next four years, the Belfast Agenda sets ambitious targets for economic growth focusing upon new job creation and private sector investment alongside targets to improve skills attainment (with a particular focus on lower level skills), and to address social and educational inequalities. One of the biggest targets to be achieved in the next four years is to reduce the economic inactivity rate in Belfast to 23%. In real terms, this will mean moving 7,500 individuals who are not currently working into employment – many of whom have not worked for a long time.</p>
3.3	<p>The Council has been scaling up its level of investment year-on-year over the last few years. Additional staff resources have also been recruited to deliver on this programme of work. The following headline targets are expected to be achieved in the financial year 2017/18;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More than 1,000 residents are expected to enter employment (550 jobs created to date)</li> <li>• 4,000 residents will be engaged through employability interventions and early engagement projects</li> <li>• Over 1,000 students and young people to be engaged through career events and digital skills programmes and over 290 work experience opportunities to be provided through the Council and key employers across the city.</li> </ul>

3.4	<p>While there is widespread support for the Council assuming a more significant strategic and operational role on Employability and Skills issues, it is important to be aware of some of the challenges associated with this. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council does not have statutory responsibility (for education, employability and/or skills development). It will therefore be important to work in partnership with those who do have the authority and budgetary resources in order to achieve the quantum of change required. If the Council is to deliver on its ambitions, there will be significant financial implications going forward;</li> <li>• Policy approaches to education and Employability and Skills development take place in isolation, reflecting the demarcation of responsibilities across government departments such as Department of Education (DoE), Department for the Economy (DfE) and Department for Communities (DfC);</li> <li>• The operational environment is competitive and participant-focused. This results in a variety of mainstream, regionally-funded programmes and numerous smaller-scale initiatives targeting specific geographical areas, client group(s) or sectors. As an example, a recent review of employer engagement programmes across the various government departments identified more than 160 publicly-funded interventions;</li> <li>• Research with employers suggests that they are often unaware of the breadth of support available and are also unable to differentiate between the various interventions. They would prefer a solution that is based on their business needs, as opposed to the participant needs or the narrow range of services offered by individual organisations.</li> </ul>
3.5	<p>It is proposed that the Council approach should be based on the following principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It should be principally employer-led, focusing on identified employment opportunities and gaps in provision. This will present the greatest opportunity for success for those engaging in the interventions;</li> <li>• Once the opportunities are identified by employers, we need to take a needs-based approach to client/participant engagement. This is critical if we are going to deliver against the principles of 'inclusive growth', targeting interventions towards geographical areas and/or client groups;</li> <li>• It will be important to take account of the challenges around low pay in the City. Recognising that some of the sectors that are attractive to those with low skills often have the reputation of low pay, it will be important to consider how we can work with</li> </ul>

	<p>employers to support upskilling of employees. This will enhance pay rates and will also create additional entry-level opportunities;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our approach must be ambitious: we need to increase visibility and awareness of Council's role within this environment and strategically build our position in this area;</li> <li>• The Council's intervention should add value and should not duplicate existing provision. It needs to be flexible to meet the wide-ranging needs of participants.</li> </ul>
3.6	<p>It is proposed that this work will evolve over the short to medium-term. In order to give Members a sense of the proposed direction of travel, a phased approach is set out below. This approach has been based on a number of key milestones for mainstream programmes as well emerging opportunities to lever additional resources from public sector partners and from the private sector, principally through developer contributions (subject to legal advice). An overview of these "phases" is set out in <b>Appendix 1</b>.</p> <p><u>Phase 1: April 2017-March 2019</u></p>
3.7	<p>The current delivery approach of the Council is based on adding value to existing market provision, with a focus on outreach to key target groups as well as employer engagement. For example, Employment Academies currently utilise leveraged funding from ESF projects to undertake the early engagement work and basic skills development support while the Council funding is used to support the employer-led training activity.</p>
3.8	<p>Officers tested out this approach in the 2016/17 financial year with seven pilot programmes involving around 100 unemployed individuals. The results of these interventions demonstrated that more than 60% of those participating in the Academies found a job. This compares with around 25% of those taking part in ESF-only schemes.</p>
3.9	<p>The upshot of this successful pilot is that Council has now been asked to become the <i>de facto</i> training and recruitment partner for a number of the new hotels that are scheduled to open in the coming months. We are in the process of helping the Hastings Group (for Grand Central Hotel) and Dalata (for the new Maldron Hotel) to fill 200 jobs in these new hotels. Other hotel partners are also approaching us and this is quickly becoming a recognised solution for entry-level job creation in this sector.</p>
3.10	<p>We are also imminently launching new Construction Academies on behalf of Heron Bros (Leisure Transformation Capital Contract) and for Translink (Transport Hub project) and are</p>

	currently scoping an extensive “Social Care Academy” given the projected jobs growth in this field.
3.11	<p>There is a significant opportunity to consider how the outreach and engagement work and the employer engagement activity can align to the Local Area Working approach that is currently being developed. In all of the designated areas, issues of low skills, lack of employment opportunities and lack of positive role models have been identified as challenges facing residents. By looking at the development activity in the areas through an employability lens, there is an opportunity not only to support physical improvements in but also to create sustainable employment opportunities and improve skills levels.</p>
3.12	<p><u>Phase 2: April 2019 – March 2021</u></p> <p>There are a number of mainstream government contracts that are scheduled to come to an end during this period or just in advance of 2019. These include the Apprenticeships NI contract and the Training for Success contract (focusing on provision for young people aged 16-18). Discussions are progressing within government departments around the issue of “Traineeships” as well as expanding the “Apprenticeships” provision. This can present opportunities to look at opportunities for local contracting (based on Council boundaries) as well as developing programmes that align to local labour-market intelligence (i.e. quotas and targets for certain sectors, in line with research projections). It is expected this approach would involve the joint development of city targets, alignment of interventions to local needs/opportunities and measurement of localised impacts.</p>
3.13	<p>The Universal Credit transition period is scheduled to end in April 2020 for existing claimants (new claimants will automatically transfer to Universal Credit from May 2018). Given the very localised nature of benefits uptake in some part of the City, it will be important to work closely with the Department for Communities to mitigate against any potential negative impact on the sustainability of local communities.</p>
3.14	<p>Work will also be expanded on higher skills development. Activities are likely to include internship programmes, roll-out of Higher Level Apprenticeships in key growth sectors in partnership with DfE and other targeted initiatives as informed by skills gaps, particularly those at levels 3-5. To fulfil the commitment within the Belfast Agenda, it is also intended to explore the potential of a “City Pledge”, securing partner commitment to help young people to find positive employment or training outcomes.</p>

	<u>Phase 3: April 2021 – March 2023</u>
3.15	During this phase of delivery, the current European Social Fund (ESF) funding will conclude (March 2022). Consideration will need to be given to how the outreach and engagement work can be supported in the absence of these resources.
3.16	At this stage, we will need to consider how the support programmes can be offered as an “end-to-end” provision. This will involve bringing together partners so that employers and clients can have access to a “one stop shop” for employment and skills development solutions. In-work progression schemes will also be developed to encourage up-skilling of the existing workforce, aligned to key growth sectors and focusing on areas when known skills gaps exist.
3.17	The phased approach outlined above (3.7-3.15) illustrates the transition from programme-based interventions towards a more coherent programme of work. This is likely to require additional investment if we are to make a meaningful impact. It is the intention that funding will be levered from other government resources (Invest NI, Urban Villages, Peace IV etc.) as well as through developer contributions (subject to legal advice). However, the Council will need to consider allocating additional resources towards this priority activity as part of the upcoming rates setting process.
3.18	Taking account of the complexity of these issues as well as the political ambition for the Council to play a key role in this work, it is proposed that there is an ongoing programme of engagement with Members as part of the process of developing the detail that will sit under these broad priority areas of focus set out above. This is likely to be done through a series of workshops and Special Committee meetings, with any decisions coming to this Committee for endorsement. If this approach is approved by Members, Officers will put together a programme of workshops and engagement sessions with a view to securing endorsement on the detailed programme of work by the start of the new financial year. This will, of course, be an evolutionary process as the external environment and the economy change, but it is the intention that this additional engagement with Members will help build an understanding of the key issues and lead to informed decision-making on how to best allocate our resources to deliver on the City ambitions in this area of work.
	<u>City Deal</u>
3.19	The proposed Belfast Region City Deal provides the opportunity to take a longer-term approach to addressing Employability and Skills challenges across the six Council area. As

	<p>part of the development activity on the City Deal, preparatory work is being undertaken on an Intelligence Model which will inform the Employability and Skills priorities of the six Council area. Officers have also explored the Employability and Skills programmes within other cities that have secured City Deals and we will use this work to inform the investment proposals for the Belfast Region City Deal. It is proposed that this information should also be part of the engagement process with Elected Members on these issues.</p> <p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></p> <p>3.20 Members should be aware that the expansion of the Employability and Skills work stream will require an increase in the current budget allocated to this area. This increase in budget will be managed through the annual estimates process. Additionally, it is recognised that new income streams will need to be developed to support Employability and Skills. This will involve leveraging funding from Central Government, as well as new income streams such as developer contributions, once this policy approach is agreed.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>3.21 Activities above will be agreed and reviewed with the Equality and Good Relations Officers.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1 - Phased Priorities



## Appendix 1

	<b>Phase 1</b>	<b>Phase 2</b>	<b>Phase 3</b>
<b>Timeline</b>	<b>April 17 – March 2019</b>	<b>April 2019 – March 2021</b>	<b>April 2021-March 2023</b>
<b>Priorities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Outreach &amp; Engagement work - extension of engagement activities targeting specific economically inactive client groups</li> <li>*Local Area Working: aligning work programmes on employability and skills to capital developments as well as local outreach activities</li> <li>*Sectoral Employer-led activities: expansion and upscaling of existing Employment Academies</li> <li>*Development work on co-commissioning of mainstream into work programme (to replace Steps to Success)</li> <li>*Development work on new partnership structures for “Belfast Workplace” model</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Co-commissioning of Apprenticeship and Traineeship programmes on a Council area basis, to include higher level apprenticeships.</li> <li>* Creation of a ‘one stop shop’ employment services for key sectors</li> <li>* Internship Programme targeting key client groups and small businesses</li> <li>* Implementation of upskilling academies to develop higher level skills (levels 3-5) aligned to employment opportunities</li> <li>*Exploring “City Pledge” to help young people find positive employment and training destinations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Extension of one stop shop’ employment services for all Belfast employers. Based upon Newham Workplace model.</li> <li>* Development and delivery of In-work progression schemes</li> <li>* Development and delivery of voluntary employability interventions (to replace ESF)</li> <li>* Employer incentive schemes to be implemented targeting employment of key client groups</li> <li>* Implementation of an Employment Charter for Belfast employers.</li> </ul>
<b>Key Milestones</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Universal Credit implementation in Belfast, to commence June 2018</li> <li>*City Deal – potential announcement in Autumn statement</li> <li>*Steps to Success contract ends Sep 18</li> <li>*Apprenticeships NI and Training for Success contracts end September 19 – development of preparatory work</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* End of Peace IV funding (2021)</li> <li>*Universal Credit transition period ends 2020</li> <li>*New Apprenticeships and Youth Traineeships programmes to start – opportunity for locally-driven programmes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*Potential reduction of key funding streams such as European Social Fund (ESF) as a result of the UK’s decision to leave the European Union – current funding ends March 2022</li> </ul>





<b>Subject:</b>	Request to Present to Committee – Special Meetings
<b>Date:</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> November, 2017
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Louise McLornan, Democratic Services Officer

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	To seek the Committee’s views on the holding of special meetings to receive presentations from outside organisations and/or to consider also whether or not it wishes to change the commencement time of the monthly meeting.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to consider the 3 options and advise on a preferred option or combination of options for Jan – Dec 2018 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Option 1: Introduce a time limit for presentations</li> <li>- Option 2: Schedule monthly Special Meetings</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Option 3 – Retain current arrangements</li> </ul> <p>The Committee is also asked to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Whether it wishes to amend the start time for CG&amp;R to 4.30 or 5.00pm</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
<p>3.1</p> <p>3.2</p> <p>3.3</p> <p>3.4</p> <p>3.5</p> <p>3.6</p>	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>Members will be aware that the previous meeting of the Committee lasted almost five hours. This was due to the mixture of business on the agenda, that is, three presentations and the Committee’s normal business.</p> <p>A number of Members complained about the length of the meeting and the fact that some of the important matters which appear later on the agenda are not given proper consideration due to the length of time spent on earlier items, particularly presentations.</p> <p>In this this regard, the Committee, at time of writing this report and not including the 2 requests to follow at this evening’s meeting, has already agreed to receive a further 5 presentations over the next 2 months (see Appendix 1).</p> <p>The Committee has a number of options to try to address this issue and Members’ concerns.</p> <p><b><u>Option 1 – Time limit for Presentations</u></b></p> <p>The Committee will be aware that deputations to the Council are limited to 10 minutes and to the Licensing and Planning Committee to 5 minutes. It may be that the Committee might wish to consider imposing a similar protocol and place a time limit on presentations.</p> <p>However, it is a generally accepted view of Members that this is not always practical and not conducive to good business. There are many occasions when the outside organisation has been invited to the Committee to present and the amount of information to be conveyed to the Members and the extent of interaction between the representatives of the organisation the Committee will always differ depending on the matter/topic being discussed.</p>

**Option 2 – Schedule monthly Special Meetings**

3.7 The Committee had previously agreed to hold special ‘City Infrastructure’ meetings, as and when required, to receive presentations from outside bodies such as Transport NI and NI Water. It was also anticipated that Health and Housing would be discussed in this way. Given the increasing number of presentations from other external organisations which the Committee is receiving, it might be beneficial for the Committee to agree to the holding of special meetings for this purpose also.

3.8 It is suggested that, in any month where the Committee is due to receive only one presentation that this be included, as it is currently, on the agenda for the monthly meeting. In the event where there are 2 or more presentations scheduled in any month however, it is recommended that the Committee agrees that a special meeting be held for this purpose.

3.9 If the Committee is minded to agree to this option, given the number of presentations, it is likely that the Committee would have to meet twice per month. To accommodate this and to allow Members to manage their diaries, the meeting schedule for the Committee for 2018 (also on the agenda for today’s meeting) could be revised to include an additional monthly meeting, or a second meeting every other month.

3.10 There is precedent for this insofar as the People and Communities Committee schedules, in advance, special quarterly meetings to receive presentations from representatives of the Housing Executive. Also, the Planning Committee schedules an additional monthly meeting which is only held if required.

3.11 It should be pointed out the special meeting would be held to receive presentations only and would *not include any other items of business* which is normally considered at the monthly meeting.

3.12 If, of course, there are less than two presentations in any given month, the special meeting will not be required and Members will be given due and timely notice of its cancellation.

**Option 3 - Retain the Current Positon**

3.13 The final option is, of course, to continue with the current position to receive presentations at the monthly meeting.

<p>3.14</p> <p>3.15</p> <p>3.16</p>	<p><u>Commencement Time of Meeting</u></p> <p>In addition, regardless of which option the Committee chooses, it also might wish to consider changing the commencement time of the monthly meeting. As Members are aware, the meetings of the Committee currently start at 5.15pm whilst the other Standing Committees commence at 4.30pm or 5.00pm.</p> <p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>None</p>
<p><b>4.0</b></p>	<p><b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b></p>
	<p>Appendix 1 – Current list of future presentations</p>

## **City Growth and Regeneration Committee Presentations**

The Committee has already agreed to receive presentations from the following groups, at a future meeting:

- 1. NI Water**
- 2. Invest NI**
- 3. FCB Studios re Inner North and West Masterplan**
- 4. Active Communities Network**
- 5. Sport Changes Lives**
- 6. DfI re: transport arrangements in the City Centre (specifically Adelaide St) (to be arranged)**

With two further presentations to be considered at today's meeting:

- 1. Transport NI; and**
- 2. BeITel PLC**





<b>Subject:</b>	Schedule of Meetings 2018
<b>Date:</b>	8th November 2017
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Louise McLornan, Democratic Services Officer
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Louise McLornan, Democratic Services Officer

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	To advise the Committee of the dates and times of the monthly meetings of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee during 2018.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is requested to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>approve the schedule of meetings for the City Growth and Regeneration Committee during 2018.</li> </ul>

<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>												
<p data-bbox="164 255 209 286">3.1</p> <p data-bbox="164 409 209 441">3.2</p> <p data-bbox="164 611 209 642">3.3</p> <p data-bbox="164 1317 209 1348">3.4</p> <p data-bbox="164 1462 209 1494">3.5</p>	<p data-bbox="272 210 421 241"><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p data-bbox="272 255 1473 338">Members will be aware that the monthly meeting of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee is normally held at 5.15 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month.</p> <p data-bbox="272 409 1422 539">However, due to holiday periods and the timing of the monthly Council meetings and, in order to assist with the decision-making process, it has been necessary on occasions to move some of the meetings.</p> <p data-bbox="272 611 1453 792">Accordingly, the following dates have been identified for meetings of the normal City Growth and Regeneration Committee for the period from January to December, 2018. Of course additional dates will be set out at the next meeting for the special meetings of the committee for presentations depending on what is decided by the Committee this evening.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="272 860 1254 1189"> <tr> <td data-bbox="272 860 678 913">Wednesday, 10th January</td> <td data-bbox="796 860 1254 913"><i>No meeting in July</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="272 913 678 967">Wednesday, 7th February</td> <td data-bbox="796 913 1254 967">Wednesday, 8th August</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="272 967 678 1021">Wednesday, 7th March</td> <td data-bbox="796 967 1254 1021">Wednesday, 12th September</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="272 1021 678 1075">Wednesday, 11th April</td> <td data-bbox="796 1021 1254 1075">Wednesday, 10th October</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="272 1075 678 1128">Wednesday, 9th May</td> <td data-bbox="796 1075 1254 1128">Wednesday, 7th November</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="272 1128 678 1182">Wednesday, 13th June</td> <td data-bbox="796 1128 1254 1182">Wednesday, 5th December</td> </tr> </table> <p data-bbox="272 1240 719 1272"><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></p> <p data-bbox="272 1292 703 1323">None associated with this report.</p> <p data-bbox="272 1395 791 1426"><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p data-bbox="272 1447 703 1478">None associated with this report.</p>	Wednesday, 10th January	<i>No meeting in July</i>	Wednesday, 7th February	Wednesday, 8th August	Wednesday, 7th March	Wednesday, 12th September	Wednesday, 11th April	Wednesday, 10th October	Wednesday, 9th May	Wednesday, 7th November	Wednesday, 13th June	Wednesday, 5th December
Wednesday, 10th January	<i>No meeting in July</i>												
Wednesday, 7th February	Wednesday, 8th August												
Wednesday, 7th March	Wednesday, 12th September												
Wednesday, 11th April	Wednesday, 10th October												
Wednesday, 9th May	Wednesday, 7th November												
Wednesday, 13th June	Wednesday, 5th December												
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>												
	None associated with this report.												

Document is Restricted





<b>Subject:</b>	Request to present: Transport NI
<b>Date:</b>	8th November, 2017
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Louise McLornan, Democratic Services Officer
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Louise McLornan, Democratic Services Officer

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	The Committee is asked to consider a request from Transport NI to attend a future meeting to present its Autumn Report.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agree to hold a Special meeting in December, to which all Members would be invited to attend, on a date to be agreed with the Chairperson, to receive presentations from NI Water and Transport NI.</li> </ul>

<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<p>Transport NI last attended a Special meeting of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee on 23rd August, 2017. It had originally been scheduled to present its Spring Report at a meeting on 7th June, but Members will recall that this meeting had been postponed due to a General Election having been called for 8th June. Transport NI now wishes to present its Autumn Report to the Members, before the end of 2017</p>
3.2	<p>The Committee, at its meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> August, agreed to receive a presentation from NI Water at a future date.</p>
3.3	<p>Notwithstanding the decision that may have been reached on the earlier paper on today's agenda about scheduling Special meetings for 2018 onwards, this Committee had previously agreed to hold special 'City Infrastructure' meetings, as and when required, to receive presentations from outside bodies such as Transport NI and NI Water.</p>
3.4	<p>In order to hear both presentations in a timely way the Committee is therefore asked to agree to hold a Special meeting in December, to which all Members would be invited to attend, to receive the Autumn Report from Transport NI and to receive a presentation from NI Water.</p>
3.5	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There are no financial or resource implications associated with this report.</p>
3.6	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>None.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	None



<b>Subject:</b>	Transport update
<b>Date:</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> November 2017
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Nuala Gallagher – Director of City Centre Development
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Anne Doherty, Planning & Transport Officer

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	<p><b>York Street Interchange</b></p> <p>To provide an update on the York Street Interchange (YSI) strategic road improvement scheme, the outcome of the Public Inquiry and the Council's ongoing involvement in the next stages.</p>
1.2	<p><b>Operation times of loading bays – Belfast City Centre</b></p> <p>Dfl has requested views on a proposal to relax operation times of the loading bay restrictions in the city centre with a view to reducing the existing 'at any time' restrictions to allow general parking in the bays in the evening / overnight.</p>

<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Note the YSI update and the ongoing participation of Council officers in the process; and;</li> <li>• Consider the proposed response to the loading bays consultation outlined in Para 3.8-3.10 and, if appropriate, agree this response for submission to Dfl.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<p>The Department for Infrastructure (Dfl) is developing the York Street Interchange strategic road improvement scheme to improve links between the Westlink, M2 and M3 routes and remove a bottleneck on the strategic network. The estimated cost of the scheme is between £125 and £165 million. The development of the scheme has been progressing since 2008 and the Council provided formal responses to public consultation processes held in June 2011 and in March 2015.</p>
3.2	<p>Dfl also established a Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) in January 2015 to consider and advise on aesthetic aspects of the proposed scheme and Council officers have been represented on this group. Council officers also made representations on key issues during a Public inquiry held from the 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> November 2015.</p>
3.3	<p>During the public inquiry Council officers made representations on the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the need for careful design to reduce the visual impact of the interchange and to enhance connectivity for pedestrians and cyclists. It was emphasised that York Street interchange scheme should secure the enhancement of the wider environment to support improved connectivity for adjacent communities and these improvements should be included in the overall project budgets.</li> <li>• Air quality - the York Street Interchange scheme has been identified as one of the principal measures to include in the new Belfast plan to improve air quality in that area. The Council agreed to carry out further monitoring in the adjoining residential areas.</li> <li>• Noise and vibration - the need for the detailed construction programme including proposals for the chosen piling methods and hours of proposed works to be communicated and agreed with the Council well in advance of works commencing.</li> <li>• Contaminated land - the Council is broadly satisfied with the Transport NI's management strategy towards ground contamination and towards the mitigation of risk posed by contaminated land.</li> </ul>

3.4	<p>Following the completion of the public inquiry, the Inspector's report was published and the inspector made the following recommendations relating to Council representations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DfI Roads to liaise with the Council throughout the remainder of the design phase and construction phase;</li> <li>• DfI Roads to consider necessary resources to incorporate design and aesthetic changes identified by the SAG group;</li> <li>• DfI Roads to continue to liaise with the Council regarding procedures for managing noise and vibration; and</li> <li>• DfI Roads to continue to liaise with the Council regarding future analytical results of any ground and hydrogeological groundwater monitoring.</li> </ul>
3.5	<p>The Department acknowledged the inspector's recommendations and agreed to progress the project in line with the recommendations. Further information on the inspector's recommendations and Department responses are outlined in Appendix 1. A summary of Council responses to the York Street Interchange scheme is outlined in Appendix 2.</p>
3.6	<p>As a result, the Strategic Advisory group has been reconvened with further representation invited from the local community and the first meeting took place on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2017. The main aim of the group is to provide a Forum to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider the integration of the scheme with other government agencies and private initiatives to maximise future redevelopment opportunities;</li> <li>• Develop the detail of the aesthetics of the scheme, having regard to the scheme's objectives, the inspectors report, the Departmental statement and feedback from local community engagement.</li> </ul>
3.7	<p>It should be noted that a letter has been received from local community representatives outlining concern about noise and the impact of the construction of the scheme on the adjoining residential areas. Council officers from the Environmental Protection Unit have agreed to meet with the residents to discuss the concerns.</p>
3.8	<p><b>Loading Bays</b></p> <p>The Dfi is considering relaxing operation times of the Loading Bays restrictions in the city centre with a view to reducing the existing '<i>at any time</i>' restrictions to allow general parking in the bays in the evening / overnight. The loading bays affected are located in Wellington St, Chichester St, Fisherwick Place, Queen St, Upper Queen St, Upper Arthur St, Linenhall St and Bedford St.</p>

3.9	<p>It is proposed that the Council generally welcomes the proposal as it will provide extra capacity for residents and visitors to access the city centre in the evening and night time and support the evening economy. Car access in the off peak period would not be seen as detrimental to air quality or the city centre environment. However, it should be noted that the delivery times for the city centre are 6pm to 11am so the relaxation of the restriction could mean that cars may be parked in loading bays which are required by businesses to make evening or late night deliveries. Therefore, it is recommended that the consultation process should liaise closely with the businesses along the frontages to ensure it does not impact on deliveries.</p>
3.10	<p>It should be noted that any parking within the city centre can have negative impacts on cleansing operations in this area. Cleansing vehicles (mainly in the form of mechanical sweepers) need access to footpaths, pavements, roads and road channels and sometimes the only opportunity for them to access particular city centre areas are during night time hours. However, it is considered that the areas proposed are not significant.</p>
3.11	<p><b>Finance &amp; Resource Implications</b> None associated with this report.</p>
3.12	<p><b>Equality or Good Relations Implications</b> None associated with this report.</p>
4.0	<p><b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b></p>
	<p>Appendix 1 – York Street Interchange Project – Inspectors Report and Departmental Statement Appendix 2 - Council representations to YSI Public Inquiry</p>

## **Appendix 1**

### **York Street Interchange Project – Inspectors Report and Departmental Statement**

Following the statutory public consultation, a Public Inquiry was held in November 2015. During the Public Inquiry, the Inspectors examined the benefits and drawbacks of the scheme and considered the representations made by Belfast City Council and by other members of the public.

Following an announcement by the Minister for Infrastructure on the 15 November 2016, the Inspectors Report and the Departmental Statement were published along with the Designation Order and the Notice to Proceed.

Outlined below are the Inspectors comments and recommendations and DfI's response to Belfast City Councils representations. This is then followed by a range of mitigation measures put in place by DfI to avoid adverse impacts related to the Proposed Scheme.

### **Inspectors Comments and Recommendations and the Departments Response**

Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) was set up in January 2015 mainly to consider and advise on aesthetic aspects of the proposed YSI involving Council representatives.

#### *Inspectors Comments*

The Inspector states that it clear from initial correspondence between TNI and the Council that the council remain supportive of the YSI Interchange Project. The Council representatives gave clear and concise presentations at the Inquiry. The SAG has been a major positive step forward and due to this, a number of diverse stakeholders have become involved in the project and have made important contributions in terms of enhancements to the overall design of the project.

There is uncertainty as to whether TNI will obligate to implementing the recommendations of the SAG. It is understood that Scheme costs must be precise and all final decisions will be made by TNI; however, it is still anticipated that TNI will take into consideration and integrate any proposed changes or enhancements supported by the majority of the SAG.

#### *Inspectors Recommendations*

The Inspector recommends that TNI should continue to communicate with the Council during the design and construction phase to ensure that issues will be acknowledged and addressed as efficiently as possible. TNI should ensure to find the means and necessary resources to implement any proposed changes and improvements identified and supported by the SAG.

#### *Departments Response*

The Department acknowledges the inspectors comments with regards to this and will progress the project in line with the recommendations. The Department will make every effort to find the means and the necessary resources to incorporate any proposed changes and improvements identified and supported by the majority of the SAG.

### **Aesthetics and Design**

#### *Inspectors Recommendations*

The inspector recommends that TNI should identify and implement appropriate existing infrastructure adjustments to help improve the treatment and aesthetics of underpasses and the steps adjacent to North Queen Street Bridge. TNI should explore the option of upgrading the basic paving material and finishes to high quality public realm features that would link to the planned Phase 3 Streets Ahead initiative. TNI should also integrate high quality landscaping through an inclusive street-scaping programme.

### *Departments Response*

The Department acknowledges the Inspectors comments with regards to this and will progress the project in line with the recommendations.

### **Noise and Vibration**

#### *Inspectors Comments*

During the operational phase, the Environmental Protection Unit (EPU) have requested a verification report be conducted to confirm and inform whether or not any properties meet eligibility criteria under the Noise Insulation Regulations (NI) 1995. It must show co-operation with DfI and identify any required noise actions arising out of the duties under the Environmental Noise Directive. The Council have requested that they are consulted about the procedures managing noise and vibration during construction, including a protocol for compliance monitoring demonstrated in the Contractors CEMP (Construction Environmental Management Plan).

#### *Inspectors Recommendations*

The Inspectors recommend that TNI should prepare an operation phase Verification Report to confirm and inform Noise Insulation Regulations (NI) 1995 eligibility and identify any actions arising out of the duties under the Environmental Noise Directive. TNI should continue to work with the Council regarding procedures for managing noise and vibration during the construction phase. Close liaison with the Council should continue during which the final version of the CEMP would be agreed.

### *Departments Response*

The Department acknowledges the Inspectors comments with regards to this and will progress the project in line with the recommendations.

### **Pedestrians, Cyclists and Community Effects**

#### *Inspectors Recommendations*

The Inspector emphasises that residents must have an active voice during the design and construction phase and a meeting should take place with the key representatives to discuss a communications strategy.

It is important that the memorial of those who were killed in the bombing of McGurks Bar in 1971 will be relocated due to the widening of North Queen Street Bridge. TNI must work closely with the victim's representatives to ensure that the recreation of this significant memorial is carried out in accordance with their wishes and expectations.

TNI should identify and implement appropriate existing infrastructure adjustment solutions to the outstanding issues. TNI should re-examine their proposals for the roads at the boundaries of the Scheme to ensure anticipated cycling and other developments outside the footprint of the scheme are considered within the YSI project.

TNI should reconsider the new university and emerging cycling strategies on the scheme as it is hoped that this will progress the area surrounding York Street beyond recognition. TNI should examine mitigation measures to provide a degree of protection to cyclists and pedestrians from the wind and the rain on the York Street Bridge.

### *Departments Response*

The Department acknowledges the Inspectors comments with regards to this and will progress the project in line with the recommendations.

## **Road Drainage and the Water Environment**

### *Inspectors Recommendations*

The Inspectors recommend that TNI should continue to work with the Council regarding future analytical results of any ground hydrogeological groundwater monitoring. TNI should produce a hydrogeological model in order to determine the impact of deep engineering structures on the surrounding water table.

### *Departments Response*

The Department acknowledges the Inspectors comments with regards to this and will progress the project in line with the recommendations.

## **Geology and Soils**

### *Inspectors Comments*

With regard to contaminated land, the Council contacted URS on 14 October 2015 in order to seek further clarification on the risk of mobilising asbestos to the atmosphere, its control and also details of former land uses within the site. The Council have had response about these matters from TNI but TNI have not had time to incorporate them as part of their contribution to the Inquiry.

The Council are satisfied with TNIs management strategy towards ground contamination and towards mitigating the risk posed by contaminated land. The Council recommend that adjacent residents and site workers safety should be a prime priority.

The Council have noted that TNI/URS intend on generating a hydrogeological model to determine the impact of deep engineering structures on the surrounding water table which may have implications for contaminant mobilisation, ground gas generation and contaminant transport to offside receptors.

### *Inspectors Recommendations*

The Inspector recommends that the Department should continue to liaise with the council regarding future analytical results of any made ground and hydrogeological groundwater monitoring in order to help to refine the conceptual site model for the development but it is recommended that adjacent residents and site workers safety should continue to be a prime consideration.

### *Departments Response*

The Department acknowledges the Inspectors comments with regards to this and will progress the project in line with the recommendations.

## **Measures to Mitigate Adverse Effects**

As part of the Environmental Impact Assessment, Dfl have proposed a range of mitigation and improvement measures to avoid, offset or lessen adverse impacts related to the Proposed Scheme and these measures are outlined below.

### **Air Quality**

A Dust Minimisation Plan will be arranged as part of the CEMP to include dampening of haul roads and stockpiles; keeping roads clean and using covers over construction lorry trailer units and locating stockpiles and dust generating activities away from sensitive areas.

An Air Quality Management Plan will be arranged as part of the CEMP to contain selection of plant and vehicles to lessen exhaust emission levels and to be well maintained. Traffic movements will be condensed throughout the site and the use of public roads will be restricted to essential movements only. Construction plant will be kept away from site boundaries and there will be effective waste management to avoid potential odour nuisance.

DfI state that these mitigation measures will be functional before and during construction and would be monitored to ensure compliance with requirements and standards. DfI will continue to consult with BCC's Environmental Protection Unit regarding the operational and construction plans for the proposed scheme.

### **Cultural Heritage**

A sample-based mechanical or hand-evacuated trench or test pit based investigation will record the character of archaeological remains. Targeted investigations may also be suitable. Detailed evacuation would be carried out where archaeological remains are either known formerly or exposed during the course of the works.

A programme of sample recovery and analysis undertaken to investigate paleo-environmental conditions and soil sediment development that may be applicable to the research of archaeological remains recovered within the vicinity. This would be attained through trial pit evacuations.

A programme of observation, investigation and recording of archaeological remains during construction earthwork activities where the presence of potential remains have been demonstrated but where detailed investigation previous to the main construction programme is unfounded and unfeasible due to safety or logistical considerations. Under Target Watching Brief, the contractor's preferred method of working would be controlled as necessary.

A programme of observation, investigation and recording during construction activities where remains have not been identified by assessment but where there remains a residual risk of archaeological discoveries. The contractor's preferred method of working would not be controlled for archaeological purposes.

### **Ecology and Nature Conservation**

The Contractor would appoint an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW). A Habitat Management Plan would also be prepared as part of the CEMP. The Contractor would be made aware of the Department's duty to further the conservation of biodiversity in accordance with the requirements of Article 1 of The Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011.

A CEMP to be produced by the Contractor, which would address likely sources of pollution and sedimentation which could potentially reach Belfast Harbour and onward into Belfast Lough. A Pollution Incident Response Plan would also need to be put in place.

The overall landscape planting objectives would attempt to mitigate and compensate for the mosaic of semi-natural and artificial habitats to be lost as part of the scheme

The ECoW would undertake further pre-construction surveys to identify locations of any non-native invasive species and to ensure that mitigation measures are carried out where required, and an Invasive Species Management Plan is developed. Great care would be taken when working close to the identified area of invasive species to prevent the spread of live plants or viable seeds, as per the requirements of Article 15 of the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 [as amended].

The ECoW would undertake pre-construction surveys on any semi-mature / mature trees to be felled and assess them for the likelihood of bat presence. Bat boxes would be provided at a suitable location around North Queen Street Bridge and the new Dock Street Overbridge. A variety of bird boxes would be provided around the site. A suitably experienced ecologist would advise on the exact type and positioning of the boxes. Planted areas would be used to replace the large areas of bare ground and brownfield, to provide locations for birds to forage. Insect-friendly features would be considered, and incorporated where feasible, such as log piles and insect boxes.

## **Landscape effects**

The Department have put mitigation measures (where feasible) in place to overcome landscape effects and these are outlined below.

- The embankments behind the side/back gardens of North Queen Street and Little George's Street properties would be potentially replanted.
- The small pocket of open space at Molyneux Road would be replanted.
- Planting would be replaced on the embankments and road edges, creating several new blocks of mixed tree and shrub planting, and acting to partially screen the development; it may also assist wildlife habitat creation and the soft scape would offer an informal drainage sink.
- Corporation Street and Garmoyle Street would be planted with street trees, a grass verge, to the West of the existing pedestrian path.
- Great George's Street would be planted with street trees. The scheme would narrow the road and widen the southern path to facilitate improved public realm.
- Appropriate screening would be provided where possible. Immediate temporary screening will be required where the visual impact is significant.
- Proposed acoustic barriers along the Westlink in the vicinity of North Queen Street Bridge would be designed to allow road corridors and cityscape to flow under the structures to minimise its visual prominence.
- Proposed enhancement lighting to the underbridges.

In addition to the points recommended by the Inspector regarding landscape effects, the Department state that the SAG should also consider the following;

- An entrance area, including pedestrian steps and ramp access to York Street and Henry Street.
- Large-scale land art, sculpture and landform around road network.
- Designed parapets with enhanced aesthetics on York Street overbridges. The proposed bridge may become a positive landmark in the cityscape.
- Boundary treatments and decorative finishes to retain walls and structures.
- Improved public realm treatments to key streetscapes. This would be ideally designed as a coherent masterplan, considering Belfast City strategic design issues, feature lighting and decoration of underpasses, especially pedestrian underpasses.
- Temporary enhancements and feature boundary treatments to the potential future development areas.
- Sensitive location of construction compounds and stockpile locations in order to reduce the extent of adverse visual impacts.
- Construction compounds would be fully reinstated and secured with appropriate boundary treatments following completion of the works.

## **Land Use**

Land take from and inconvenience to affected landowners would be minimised as much as feasibly possible. Suitable accommodation works have been considered for each land plot affected by the Proposed Scheme. A comprehensive schedule of accommodation works and mitigation measures would be developed through consultation as necessary.

Construction compounds to be located in areas that would cause the least disturbance to existing land uses, and to be fully reinstated post construction. Any land used for construction works, and outside the area to be developed for the scheme, would also be fully reinstated at a minimum. Land uses adjacent to the site should be able to continue with minimal disruption and inconvenience. A CEMP shall be prepared in advance of construction to mitigate potential impacts and maintain continued access to and operation of land as necessary.

The Department will carry out a review of land vested for construction. If this exceeds the minimum required for the performance of the Department's present and future responsibilities, any surplus land may be sold back to the original owner or others at the then market value.

### **Noise and Vibration**

Low noise road surfacing would be provided on Interchange links between the Westlink, M2 and M3 and the slip roads from these to the local road network. A noise barrier would be provided adjacent to the northbound carriageway of the Westlink and a noise barrier would be provided adjacent to the southbound carriageway of the Westlink.

The Department have suggested several mitigation measures (where feasible) which are considered appropriate and of good working practice for all construction contracts and this is detailed in BS5228 (1997 & 2009), 'Noise and Vibration Control on Construction and Open Sites.' Typical measures would include positioning of static plant as far away from receptors as possible, using well-maintained plant, temporary screening, enclosures, restricting works to daytime and staggering high vibration activities such as piling and jack hammering. The procedures regarding noise and vibration during construction will also be documented in the Contractors CEMP.

### **Pedestrians, Cyclists and Community Effects**

Cautious consultation with the local community would be essential to negate adverse impacts.

A new bus lane is proposed between a new signalised junction at Galway House and the junction of York Street and Great Patrick Street. All other existing bus lanes within the scheme would be maintained. In consultation with Translink, any lost serviced bus stops would be appropriately relocated to new routes where feasible. Footways are provided on all surface streets, with existing widths maintained and where possible enhanced.

Changes to the proposed scheme layout for Non-Motorised Users were made in response to views raised as part of the statutory public consultation process and subsequent meetings with the Department's Cycling Unit and Sustrans. In June 2015, TNI implemented the London Cycling Design Standards as its design manual going forward for the design of cycling schemes in Belfast. The revised layout for York Street within the Proposed Scheme has been developed in line with these standards, although it is recognised that it has been possible to fully comply with all aspects of the standards owing to the constraints presented by existing build infrastructure engineering constraints. The changes are outlined below.

- Widening of the northbound cycle lane. This has required a reduction in the width of remaining traffic lanes and footway widths.
- Widening of the southbound cycle lane between the junction with Dock Street and Galway House
- Continuation of cycle lanes through junctions as recommended by LCDS.
- Separation of the cycle lanes, where running adjacent to general purpose traffic lanes, using light segregation in the form of cycling bollards. Segregation will be via road marking only in the shared bus/cycle lane as permitted by LCDS.
- The relocation of cycle lanes at junctions to minimise the conflict between cyclists and left-turning traffic.

- The use of a bus stop bypasses adjacent to the existing bus stop at Cityside Retail Park and a potential new bus stop in the southbound direction in a similar location.
- A revised junction arrangement at the start of the southbound bus lane to allow cyclists to cross over into the southbound bus lane without conflict from other road users.

At all junctions' provision should be made for non-motorised users in accordance with Department for Transport Local Transport Notes and Traffic Advisory Leaflets. Dropped kerbs and tactile paving is proposed at all crossing points, with pedestrian guardrail provided. Puffin crossings will be proposed in line with DMRB guidance. There will be provision of a new, modern road lighting system for the safety of motorised and non-motorised road users. The provision or replacement of existing lighting systems has been considered and there will be additional lighting under bridge structures. There will also be careful traffic management to facilitate safe passage for pedestrians and others.

The contractor will ensure delays to local and strategic traffic are kept to a minimum. Mitigation measures include; advanced publicity outlining the traffic management proposals and duration, advanced warning of specific traffic management measures; reducing lane widths, efficient phasing of contraflow operations and adequate advance signing of the works. The contractor will maintain at least two-way traffic around the junction during peak traffic flow.

#### **Vehicle Travellers**

Mitigation would include open parapets on overbridges to allow views from the road and to reduce the mass of the structure and planting design which should be sensitive to the interaction between retaining views from the road and screening. As part of the Traffic Management Plan, temporary warning and variable message signs would be erected as appropriate to draw attention to particular hazards including site accesses and temporary traffic management measures. The local and wider community would be notified of major works in advance through the local press, community facilities, radio or internet.

#### **Road Drainage and the Water Environment**

A centrally-located storm water pumping station is proposed to collect surface water drainage from a catchment and convey water to an appropriate outlet via an existing Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) located at Gamble Street. All other remaining catchment areas within the wider scheme footprint would drain to the existing NIW system as currently is the case. Further drainage measures including surface water drainage solutions would be required in isolated areas adjacent to the site. These include the central scheme areas which may be landscaped and would be included in the pumping station catchment area.

Underpasses would be designed as sealed structures with sufficient load bearing capacity and flexural strength. In consideration of changes in the local hydrogeological regime, which may potentially affect groundwater flow in the fluvial deposits, leading to changes in the hydraulic gradient and increased hydraulic heads that may be transmitted to overlying deposits.

The following additional information is required as part of the detailed design development:

- further routine groundwater level gauging of boreholes
- in-situ hydraulic testing of wells installed in the three hydrogeological
- numerical groundwater modelling to test the effects of deep foundation structures on the groundwater flow regime

Scheme flood retaining walls would be provided and ramp approaches would be sufficiently raised to reduce the risk of coastal flood water ingress to underpasses. A temporary flood barrier would be incorporated to provide protection and remove the potential flood entry point. A Flood Risk Management Plan would be

developed to outline flood warning procedures, provide a safe work plan for erecting the temporary flood barrier, detail ownership and responsibility for the flood barrier, as well as methods for safe storage, and outline procedures for closing Nelson Street. New drainage infrastructure would be designed to prevent back flow routes occurring into underpasses during flood events.

Any works in, near or liable to impact a waterway 'must' gain the approval of NIEA – WMU Pollution Prevention (PP), Marine Team and Rivers Agency, a minimum of two months prior to commencement of such works. Works require Method Statements to be agreed prior to the commencement to demonstrate how they would be completed with minimum disturbance. Measures established through dialogue with the NIEA-WMU Major Client Interface Group and stakeholders engaged through the consultation process would be included within the Method Statements. An Environmental Liaison Group would also be set-up to ensure that potential for significant impact upon the water environment is addressed with appropriate mitigation measures.

The Contractor shall be required to comply with the Pollution Prevention Guidelines (PPGs) regarding pollution of watercourses and CIRIA manuals C532 ('Control of Water Pollution from Construction Sites'), C648 ('Control of Water Pollution from Linear Construction Projects') and SP156 'Control of water pollution from construction sites – guide to good practice'. An Emergency Response Plan shall be prepared to minimise the risk and potential effects of any spillage incidents.

In principle, it has been agreed that temporary discharges from the works would be possible to the existing NI Water sewerage network, subject to consultations and submission of design proposals to NI Water. The CEMP would include an Erosion Prevention and Sediment Control Plan prior to commencement of any works.

### **Geology and Soils**

The Contractor will produce a CEMP to provide details of environmental control measures to deal with contaminated land during operations. Management of all materials onto and off the site would be suitably authorised through the Water Management Regulations (NI) 2006 and/or the Water Order (NI) 1999. This would be verified through a Site Waste Management Plan.

If material cannot be re-used, its disposal will be at suitable licensed tip where it would be subject to landfill tax. The Contractor is required to reuse as much as possible because it is illegal to dump surplus fill.

ADEPT and MPA guidance on managing reclaimed road materials and the NIEA publication on bitumen road planings will be followed in the identification and management of road planings.

### **Departmental Decision**

The Department considered the Inspectors Report and all other representations made and have agreed with the Inspectors in that the proposed York Street Interchange scheme should proceed and the necessary Orders made. The decisions and Orders set out below will be subject to the requirement to carry out the mitigation measures.

#### *Environmental Statement*

- The Department has decided to publish a Notice to Proceed with the scheme.

#### *Designation Order*

- The Department has decided to make the Designation Order.

#### *Vesting Order*

- The Department has decided to delay the making of the Vesting Order for the scheme to align with the construction.

## **Appendix 2**

### **Council representations to YSI Public Inquiry**

The Council made the following submission for consideration at the public inquiry in relation to the issues outlined below:

- Design, linkages and connections;
- Air quality;
- Contaminated land; and
- Noise.

#### **Design issues, linkages and connections**

The Council emphasised the need for careful design to reduce the visual impact of the interchange and to enhance connectivity for pedestrians and cyclists. The Council considers that some modest investment by the Department for Regional Development in the design of the interchange proposal with the aim of improving development and regeneration potential and non-motorised movement could generate significant future social, economic and environmental benefits for the York Street area and for the wider city.

#### **Pedestrian provision**

The Council considers that it is critical that sympathetic and careful design ensures connected north / south routes for pedestrian and cyclists alongside more creative solutions to reduce the visual impact of the interchange and make more effective use of potentially under-utilised space.

The Council would support inclusion in the scheme of a budget to ensure the upgrade from more basic paving material and finishes to a high quality public realm that would link to the Streets Ahead initiative. There was agreement at the Strategic Advisory Group that this will be considered for the three priority routes.

It is the Council's view that aesthetics must consider wider connectivity and not look at the scheme in isolation. The Council considers that the York Street interchange scheme should secure the enhancement of the wider environment to support improved connectivity for adjacent communities and these improvements should be included in the overall project budgets.

The Council would emphasise the need to minimise any impacts from the scheme on the adjoining residential areas and enhance connectivity through high quality public realm and finishes. For example, the York Street interchange will present an opportunity to enhance the environment around the off-ramps and steps access in the North Queen Street area. The poor pedestrian access and physical environment have been raised by the local community as issues which should be addressed in the proposals for the widening of the North Queen Street Bridge.

The Council would emphasise the need for high quality landscaping through a comprehensive streetscaping programme as part of the overall project. The Council would support the integration of the scheme with adjacent initiatives such as Streets Ahead Phase 3.

In addition, the introduction of the York Street Interchange will result in excess road capacity on some of the city centre routes that already have over provision for large parts of the day, notably the A2 in the vicinity of Dunbar Link, which the Council suggests could be freed up to support more sustainable transport, cyclists and pedestrians.

### **Underpasses**

The Council would support a programme of greening and landscaping as part of the York Street proposal which could make a big difference. The Council would also support a programme of vibrant public art and lighting which could brighten up the dreary environment, making it seem much safer. The Strategy also proposes that the underpass areas could actually be turned into productive community spaces.

The North Queen Street bridge and underpass will be widened as part of the proposal and the Council would support a high quality finish and the use of lighting to enliven the pedestrian environs and the area beneath the structure.

### **York Street Bridge**

The Council would support the enhancement of design and finishes along York Street and the new bridge as this will be an important gateway to the city centre and university area.

### **Cycling Provision**

The Council would strongly support high quality segregated cycle lanes in urban areas particularly on routes where traffic volumes and speeds may be high. It is considered that the York Street proposal presents an opportunity to develop segregated cycle lanes along with other innovative measures for cycling infrastructure such as bus stop bypasses.

There are a number of proposed developments in the vicinity of the YSI proposals such as City Quays and the new Ulster University campus development on York Street. The need to increase the opportunity for active travel access to the new University campus, the city centre and the harbour area is vital.

### **Gamble Street Rail Halt**

The Council would strongly support the integration of the strengthening works as part of the construction of the proposed YSI. The Gamble Street halt could provide an important sustainable transport access to this area of the city.

### **Air Quality**

The M1 / Westlink Corridor including the York Street junction has been declared as an Air Quality Management Area for predicted exceedences of the NO<sub>2</sub> annual mean air quality objective and also the NO<sub>2</sub> 1-hour mean objective.

The council has been working closely with the Department for Regional Development (DRD) on the development of a new Air Quality Action Plan for the city. The TransportNI (a business unit within the DRD) York Street Interchange scheme has been identified as one of the principal measures to include in the new Belfast plan to improve air quality in that area.

The York Street Interchange will provide full grade separation for traffic travelling on the strategic road network between the A12 Westlink and the M1 and M2 Motorways. The proposed improvements to this key junction will provide continuous links between three of the busiest roads in Northern Ireland; the M2, M3 and A12 Westlink. The scheme is considered as a means of reducing localised transport related emissions on connecting roads (i.e. as a result of relieving a significant congestion hotspot) and, to a lesser extent, incremental reductions in background NO<sub>2</sub> emissions, which will have a wider beneficial impact on exposure across the city.

The URS Environmental Statement in support of the scheme has demonstrated that no exceedences of air quality objectives will occur at relevant receptors. Based on the URS results, coupled with indicative tests undertaken by the council and its competent authority partners as part of the development of the Belfast Air Quality Action Plan, the council considers that the proposed scheme has the potential to reduce transport related NO<sub>2</sub> emissions in vicinity of the York Street Interchange and to deliver associated human health benefits.

#### **Contaminated Land.**

The Council welcomed that the road upgrade proposals had been supported by a Contaminated Land Risk Assessment (CLRA), which had generally been undertaken in line with current relevant industry guidance. The proposals for addressing land contamination encountered during the construction process were also welcomed.

The Council notes, however, that the data upon which the above-mentioned conclusions had been drawn were not included in the Environmental Statement report and no details of the specific guideline values used to complete the human health and other risk assessments of the data were presented. At that time, the Council concluded that it could not therefore fully appraise the appropriateness of the work completed and the conclusions presented. The Council requested to review all relevant technical data before it could be satisfied that the conclusions with regard to the protection of human health drawn were valid.

In addition, the Council expressed concerns that all pathways associated with the potential exposure of site users and users of adjacent sites had not been fully considered within the Environmental Statement. The Council highlighted that some elevated levels of Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons (TPH) were detected within shallow groundwater beneath the site, however, no specific quantitative assessment of the potential risks to human health posed by vapour inhalation from these contaminants appeared to have been presented.

The abovementioned comments were acknowledged by TransportNI on 2 October 2015 in their communication COM12. The Council was also referred to the following additional URS Ground Investigation report 47037827/GIR and dated 20 June 2015.

As part of the Council's consideration of the Ground Investigation report 47037827/GIR, the following additional documents were obtained from the DRD TransportNI York Street Interchange website and reviewed.

DRD-YSI-3-10 York Street Interchange Factual Ground Investigation Report, comprising:  
DRD-YSI-3-10 A *Causeway Geotech Ltd Factual Report on Ground Investigation December 2013*  
DRD-YSI-3-10BCPD *SI1305 York Street Interchange Additional Fieldwork Belfast Report September 2013*  
DRD-YSI-3-11 York Street Interchange Stage 2 Public Consultation Report November 2011  
DRD-YSI-4-04-C York Street Interchange Proposed Scheme Report: Part 1 Environmental Statement January 2015.

Following an announcement by the Minister that a Public Inquiry would be held to examine the York Street Interchange, the Council contacted URS on 14 October 2015 in order to seek further clarification on the following technical points.

**1. Made Ground - information to address the risk of mobilising asbestos to the atmosphere and to offsite receptors and site workers:**

- Information regarding former land uses within the site that may indicate a possibility of contamination;
- Additional information regarding targeted shallow made ground characterisation and assessment for asbestos containing material (ACM) and;
- Information regarding a control of asbestos risk assessment.
- It is unclear whether waste acceptance criteria (WAC) testing been completed and a waste (soil) management plan been developed. It is considered that this may be an issue if plots of land are to be developed in the future. For example, any reprofiled areas for use as public space would need to be proven as suitable for that end use by chemical analysis and comparison to the relevant soil guidance values.

**2. Groundwater - To address the risk of mobilising volatile organic chemicals in groundwaters to offsite receptors and site workers the following information would be required:**

- Modelled groundwater flows or identification of perched shallow groundwaters;
- Modelled groundwater flows or level modifications as a result of the construction of the underpasses and;
- Completion of a piling risk assessment or assessments, which characterise any shallow contamination which may be transported to the Sherwood Sandstone Formation

**3. Ground Water Quality - To address the risk of direct contact with contaminants to site workers and off site receptors.**

- The availability of additional water or soil chemistry data which has not been presented in the abovementioned reports.

At the time of compiling the Council's Statement of Case, detailed responses to all of these enquiries have not been received from TransportNI / URS. In order to assist the Inquiry to come a decision regarding the human health risks from land contamination however, the Council has provided the following land contamination interim summation.

The Council accepts that significant works have already been undertaken in order to characterise and understand the human health impacts from land contamination sources associated with the proposed York Street Interchange upgrade. It is noted that the scientific reports have substantially characterised the nature of the made ground and have provided the initial findings of intrusive sampling in report DRD-YSI-3-10A.

The conclusions reached tentatively indicate that there is no risk to local residents or site workers from made ground, based upon the data available to date. The Environmental Protection Unit acknowledges these conclusions and accepts TransportNI / URS's assertion that given the nature of the made ground and the numerous former industrial land uses located on land to be used for the Interchange upgrade, that further ground investigation works will be required as the Interchange upgrade process continues. This work may uncover new sources of contamination which would require assessment. Furthermore, the Council notes that the majority of trial pits and borehole samples were taken at depth and would therefore welcome an assessment of human health risk based upon targeted shallow sampling to determine the risk posed by asbestos, heavy metals and organic contaminants in shallow made ground (less than 1m).

Accordingly, Belfast City Council would encourage TransportNI to continue to liaise with the Council regarding future analytical results of any made ground and hydrogeological groundwater monitoring. The Council notes TransportNI / URS's intention to generate a hydrogeological model in order to determine the likely impact of deep engineering structures on the surrounding water table. Changes to this water table may have implications for contaminant mobilisation, ground gas generation and contaminant transport to offsite receptors. However, the Council is broadly satisfied with the TransportNI's management strategy towards ground contamination and towards the mitigation of risk posed by contaminated land. The Council anticipates that additional analytical data and modelling will help to refine the conceptual site model for the development but is recommended that adjacent residents and site workers' safety should continue to be a primary consideration.

## **Noise**

### **Operational Phase Noise Impacts**

Whilst Belfast City Council is not the competent authority in relation to operational noise from major roads developments and END requirements, as the Council have been consulted on the application we have included comments in relation to the potential noise impacts.

The URS Environmental Statement (ES) advises that DRD's round 2 Noise Action Plan identifies one CNMA within the proposed scheme, the area of Little Georges Street.

The ES demonstrates, with the proposed scheme in operation, that noise levels to properties in Little Georges Street are predicted to decrease by approximately 3 to 7 dB, subject to mitigation by emplacement of additional noise barriers (detailed in sub-section 13.7.1). The ES, therefore, concludes that the scheme addresses the noise issues for this CNMA as required by the Noise Action Plan.

The URS ES also advises that the Proposed Scheme is not predicted to result in any properties qualifying for noise insulation subject to the identified mitigation measures being successfully implemented (noise barriers).

Overall, the URS ES concludes that the operational impact of the proposed scheme in terms of traffic noise is assessed as resulting in a negligible increase at the vast majority of residential premises with a minor increase expected at other premises along North Queen Street when comparing the future year of 2035 with and without the scheme in operation.

The Council welcomes the statement by TransportNI (DRD) that, subject to the scheme proceeding, it will prepare an operational phase Verification Report to confirm / inform Noise Insulation Regulations (NI) 1995 eligibility and identify any actions arising out of duties under the Environmental Noise Directive.

### **Construction Phase Impacts**

Belfast City Council has powers under the above mentioned legislation allowing the service of an enforcement notice specifying hours of work, noise limits etc and plant and machinery but it is noted that these powers shall not apply to any such works carried out by a government department. However, the Council would expect the same degree of liaison and co-operation from the Department as it would form a private developer in demonstrating the adoption of best practices in line with relevant British Standards to minimise construction noise and vibration impacts.

Belfast City Council notes the response from TransportNI (DRD) dated 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2015 in relation to comments made by BCC regarding further information that has been requested regarding construction noise and vibration impacts.

Most comments have been addressed, however, the Council would stress the need for the detailed construction programme including proposals for the chosen piling methods and hours of proposed works to be communicated and agreed with the Council well in advance of works commencing.

While the Council acknowledges the need to carry out certain works at night, it remains concerned that full details of such works will need to be agreed well in advance of such works commencing to determine what methods the Contractor proposes to employ to mitigate noise disturbance during the sensitive night time period.





<b>Subject:</b>	Northern Ireland Science Festival
<b>Date:</b>	8 November 2017
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Donal Durkan, Director of Development
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Clare Mullen, Tourism, Culture, Arts & Heritage Manager

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	The purpose of the report is to update Members on a request for sponsorship for the 2018 Northern Ireland Science Festival based on the success of the 2017 event. The festival will take place from 15 to 25 February 2018 in venues across the city and throughout Northern Ireland.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Note the contents of this report and</li> <li>- Agree to allocate £35,000 from existing budgets for festivals of this nature, to the Northern Ireland Science Festival 2018 as per the agreement in October 2016.</li> </ul>

<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p data-bbox="272 208 432 237"><u>Background</u></p> <p data-bbox="272 255 1473 591">The Northern Ireland Science Festival has been taking place annually since 2015. The 2017 event took place over 11 days in February 2017. It offered over 180 events across a wide range of venues, presenting local and international work that focused on a wide range of themes including science, technology, engineering and mathematics. The daytime programme targeted children and young people with workshops, talks and interactive activities while, in the evening, the Festival presented an eclectic mix of science debates, talks, theatre, comedy and music to engage youth groups as well as adults and families.</p>
3.2	<p data-bbox="272 658 1473 1043">The event was organised by Science Festivals NI, a unique collaboration of major STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) outreach organisations in Northern Ireland. Belfast's exceptional higher level skills talent pool is the primary reason why investors choose the city. Events such as the NI Science Festival help grow collaborations between such organisations and individuals, showcasing Belfast in a positive light. Funding for the event was provided by a number of organisations including the then Department for Employment and Learning, the British Council, Queen's University and the Ulster University and Belfast City Council.</p>
3.3	<p data-bbox="272 1111 1473 1397">Science Festivals are a relatively new type of event that is growing in popularity worldwide, with cities such as New York, Edinburgh, San Francisco and Dubai hosting large scale events as part of their wider cultural frameworks. In 2015, the inaugural NI Science Festival joined this international group by becoming the largest festival of its kind on the island of Ireland and one of the largest in Europe. Since the first Festival in 2015, the event has continued to go from strength to strength.</p>
3.4	<p data-bbox="272 1464 1473 1547">Since it was established in 2015, the festival has continued to exceed agreed targets, and successfully competing with other established science festivals.</p>
3.5	<p data-bbox="272 1615 884 1644">Evaluation of the 2017 achieved the following :</p> <ul data-bbox="272 1715 1473 1951" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="272 1715 1473 1798">- Audience numbers of 63,000 exceeded the 2017 target of 60,000 set out in the funding agreement;</li> <li data-bbox="272 1868 1473 1951">- 182 events took place across a range of venues, with approximately 85% of audiences coming to events taking place in Belfast;</li> </ul>

- 94% of attendees indicated that they would visit the Festival again, with 71% of survey respondents indicating that they were more likely to pursue or encourage others to pursue a career in STEM following the Festival;
- The Festival's wide ranging programme is designed to reach a wide demographic. The Festival's audience is made up of young people (40%), adults, teachers and parents (51%) and schools (9%);
- As a percentage of the audience, the number of extensive engagements rose to 63% of the audience (compared to 39% in 2016) which equates to an additional 9760 tickets sold compared to 2016 figures (30,714 tickets sold in 2016);
- An analysis of postcodes from across the UK indicates a significant section of the Festival audience came from England, with London proving to be a particular hotspot;
- The Festival's growing international reputation meant that it was able to attract some of the top names in science, resulting in headline acts that attracted international attention.
- Several out of state visitors visited Belfast to observe the Festival as a model of best practice. The Norwegian Research Council sent a team of 50 people to the Festival for five days to learn how the Festival operates while the British Council also brought a delegation of 52 Newton Fund scholars from across 8 countries to the Festival;
- The Festival's media coverage increased dramatically from previous years with 114 print, 82 online and 11 broadcast items. The total PR value of coverage received by the Festival was equivalent to £349,229.79, a notable increase from £47.5k in 2016.

3.6

#### Proposed 2018 Programme

The 2018 Festival will take place from 15 - 25 February 2018. The core objective of the Festival continues to be a commitment to reaching a broad and diverse audience to increase the accessibility of science and to promote learning. This is in line with the ambitions set out within the Belfast Agenda to improve skills and employability, make the city an attractive location for investors and improve vibrancy and city animation. This will once again be achieved through a series of events and partnerships that link science into different areas of interest.

3.7

The Programme themes include:

- Tech and Digital – linking with local companies and international experts, this theme consists of talks, debates and workshops on areas such as coding;
- Engineering and robotics – highlighting the advances in engineering and robotics across Belfast, including some of the unique strengths of Belfast businesses in this field;
- Food Science – attracting a new audience through events linking with local restaurants, cafes and venues, including as St George's Market;

- Art and Science - a number of events will focus on the crossover between art and science. This theme is centred around an exhibition and workshops by the Festival's "artist in residence" as well as a celebration of Lillian Bland by the Ulster Orchestra;
- The Festival will also host events on photography, invention, history and wildlife in addition to the core themes such as mathematics, physics and space.

3.8

There are opportunities for a number of the Council's services to engage with the Science Festival to promote their work in innovative ways, particularly to young audiences, and to engage more residents around key issues for the city. These may include the support programmes on education and skills, profiling Council's business start-up and business growth programmes and profiling 'investing in Belfast'. There may also be opportunities for community engagement activity, managing waste and food waste in particular, supporting active communities and promoting mobility and encouraging access to arts and culture for all residents. In addition, the innovative nature of many of the events – alongside the flagship events already lined up – will act as an attraction for people coming from outside of the city into Belfast, for the purpose of attending some of these specific events or associated activities. A postcode analysis for the Festival indicates that a large proportion of the previous Festival's audiences come from outside Belfast.

3.9

The success of the 2017 event has helped to secure international events with a high calibre of speakers for the 2018 programme.

3.10

These include:

- Talks by the 21st century's most famous Astronaut Chris Hadfield;
- A specific focus on women in STEM;
- A partnership with the BBC around employability and skills, with opportunities to link to the Council work in this area;
- The annual Turing Lecture hosted in Belfast City Hall;
- A "artist in residence" programme in partnership with the British Council ;
- Several events focused on key issues in tech such as cyber security, smart cities and the internet of things;
- A partnership with Belfast Zoo, "Zoo Ambassador" day. Behind the scenes partnership work with Queen's University Belfast and the Zoo's Animal Welfare Programmes alongside the "Get 'bee-hind' bee conservation project and the Red Squirrel conservation project;

<p>3.11</p> <p>3.12</p> <p>3.13</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Programmed workshop in partnership with Bounce Culture. The workshops will be aimed at Young People within Belfast and will be focused around digital technology, beat making techniques and visual art;</li> <li>- Second year partnership with the Botanic Gardens Belfast aligned to the re-opening of the Tropical Ravine;</li> <li>- Titanic Belfast STEM Quest Final. Aimed at school children throughout Northern Ireland at Key Stage 3 Level.</li> </ul> <p>The Festival has strong alignment with the city’s investment, education, skills and tourism priorities as outlined in the Belfast Agenda, the Integrated Tourism Strategy 2015-2020 and the City Centre Regeneration and Investment Strategy. In particular, this is achieved through an emphasis on skills and educational attainment, international profiling, city events and programming. The message is consistent with the city positioning work which is has created a new narrative for Belfast that is based on the quality of its talent, reflecting its rich industrial heritage and its emerging specialisms in new technologies.</p> <p><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>There are no specific equality or good relations considerations attached to this report.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>The total budget for the Festival is estimated at £237,000. Funding of £83,000 has been secured from the Department for the Economy (this includes £50,000 of core funding), £5,000 from the British Council, £20,000 respectively from Queen’s University and Ulster University. A further £19,000 has been secured from Tourism NI alongside £10,000 from the Matrix Panel and £10,000 from Corporate sponsors MCS recruitment. The Festival anticipates ticket sales to generate around £35,000. The allocation requested from Belfast City Council is £35,000, in line with the awards made since 2015. This funding is available within existing Departmental budget estimates.</p>
<p><b>4.0</b></p>	<p><b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b></p>
	<p>None</p>





Subject:	Committee Plan 2017/18 – Six Month Progress Report
Date:	8 November 2017
Reporting Officer:	Suzanne Wylie, Chief Executive
Contact Officer:	Donal Durkan, Director of Development Nuala Gallagher, Director of City Centre Development

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	The purpose of this report is to provide a 6-month progress report on the key actions contained in the City Growth & Regeneration Committee Plan, as agreed by Committee in June 2017. In particular, it will highlight the impact of the work undertaken in terms of jobs growth, skills development, cultural investment and physical regeneration. The headline figure is that almost 800 jobs were created as a direct result of the Council's investment over this period.
1.2	The Plan draws together several annual delivery plans; such as city centre development, support for businesses, Employability & Skills, tourism and the cultural framework. It sets

	<p>out the main priorities and programmes of work that the Committee will oversee during 2017-18 to maximise the Council's contribution to delivering the Belfast Agenda that, at its core, has a commitment to inclusive growth.</p> <p>1.3 The Belfast Agenda sets out an ambition for growth and opportunity that includes four headline goals to focus on the economic and social growth of Belfast so that by 2035:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our city is home to an additional 66,000 new residents</li> <li>• Our urban economy supports 46,000 more jobs</li> <li>• There will be a 33% reduction in the life expectancy gap between the most and least deprived neighbourhoods</li> <li>• Every young person leaving school has a destination that fulfils their potential.</li> </ul> <p>1.4 This report sets out the progress against the programmes and projects aligned to the delivery of the 4 key work streams in the Belfast Agenda: Growing the Economy, City Development, Working &amp; Learning and Living Here. <b>Appendix 1</b> provides an overview of the main commitments under each priority workstream.</p> <p>1.5 In addition, there are a number of stretch goals which together with city partners, this Committee will make a significant contribution to deliver on by 2021:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create 15,000 new jobs</li> <li>• Attract over £1bn in private sector investment, including FDI</li> <li>• Create 4,000 business start-ups;</li> <li>• Increase the value of out of state tourism to £500million and welcome 1.9m overnight tourist stays per year</li> <li>• Grow the city's rate base by 5% through increased number of residential and commercial developments</li> <li>• Create 1.5 million sq. feet Grade A office space and 3,000 new hotel bed spaces</li> <li>• Reduce working age economic inactivity to less than 23%</li> <li>• Reduce the proportion of working population with no qualification to less than 10%</li> <li>• Increase the proportion of the working age population with Level 2 qualification and above to more than 82% and those with Level 4 qualifications and above to 38%</li> <li>• 98% of school leavers in employment, education or training.</li> </ul>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
	The Committee is asked to:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Note the progress to date against the agreed actions within the Committee Plan, including the creation of almost 800 jobs and progress towards the commitment of the City Centre Regeneration Fund</li> <li>• Agree that Officers continue to progress with the rest of the actions in the plan over the course of the financial year.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
	<b><u>Key Issues</u></b>
3.1	The 2017-18 Committee Plan was developed in line with the Council’s Corporate Plan and the Belfast Agenda. The Belfast Agenda has at its core a commitment to inclusive growth and the importance of growing the local economy to improve the quality of life. A summary of the four priority work streams is contained in Appendix 1. While the Committee contributes to the delivery of all 4 work streams, Growing the Economy, City Development and Working & Learning are the focus of this Committee, therefore the Committee continues to take the lead in ensuring that there is connectivity between the need for economic growth and the purpose of this growth – to connect people to opportunity and reduce inequality.
3.2	Appendix 2 provides an update against each of the main action areas in the committee plan. Members are also aware that a number of detailed reports on key programmes of work have recently been considered and will continue to feature regularly on the Committee agenda.
3.3	As the Committee is aware, over the last 6 months, there has been a corporate focus on working with Derry City & Strabane District Council to prepare and submit the joint bid for European Capital of Culture 2023. The Committee has received regular updates on progress with this significant corporate programme of work. The theme and development of the cultural programme will shape the ongoing work across the Council to ensure alignment to events and festivals, cultural and arts and community programming where opportunities arise.
3.4	The first two quarters have seen additional recruitment activity to resource the teams to deliver on the Council’s ambitions for attracting investment, engaging with communities in the city centre and creating jobs and enhancing employability for local people.
3.5	<b><u>Overview of Progress (April-September 2017)</u></b> Particular highlights for the first six months of the plan include:

### Growing the Economy

- 149 jobs created through the Start a Business programme
- Supported the creation of an additional 83 jobs within 25 companies based at the Innovation Factory (since Innovation Factory opening in October 2016)
- Supported Visit Belfast to secure business tourism investment to the value of £55million over the last year, with 69 major conferences attracting 25,000 delegates
- 248 people have participated on our business start support programmes and over 600 people have participated on our business growth programmes
- Secured buy-in from the enterprise sector and commenced the development of collaborative Enterprise Framework to boost enterprise and encourage under-represented groups to set up their own businesses
- Delivered two successful Twilight Markets at St George's Market, with over 120 traders at each event, attracting a total footfall of over 40,000 across both events
- Delivered a successful Belfast in China week in May 2017 and confirmed a regionally significant China Summit and visit from our Sister City, Shenyang for December 2017
- In partnership with Invest NI, delivered the successful 'Routes' conference which attracted 1,160 international delegates, including 114 airlines, 270 airports and 36 tourism authorities.
- Completed the development work on a City Proposition and Concierge Service, with the service due to be operational from the new financial year
- Refreshed Belfast's place positioning and branding and agreed roll-out plan with city partners
- Commenced the development of the MIPIM 2018 programme with an expected November launch
- Hosted site visits for potential investors and continued to liaise with indigenous developers
- Development work under way on an Events and Festivals Strategy for the city.

### City Development

- Launched a new phase of the £18m City Centre Investment Fund to support construction of Grade A Offices. There was a good response from the development market and applications are currently being evaluated
- Over 1,000 hotel bedrooms are under construction in Belfast. The majority of these will be open in 2018 and bring the city's hotel room stock to over 5,000.

- Draft masterplans for the East Bank and Inner North & West were completed. Public consultation results for East Bank and a presentation on Inner North & West masterplan will be brought to Committee in the coming months
- Work has commenced on interim use arrangements for the Belfast Telegraph; including use of the former print room as an events space, and the lease of the first floor to Digital Catapult NI to pioneer an Immersive Digital Hub
- Secured approval to procure a new city infrastructure strategy. This will highlight current provision and identify gaps, in particular additional infrastructure investment required to support the ambitions of the Belfast Agenda
- Progressed the planning and design work for Blackstaff Square
- Procurement of the outline business case (OBC) for the Belfast Story Destination Hub is progressing. This will be a central component of our City Deal.

#### Working & Learning

- Over 550 Belfast residents have found work and over 2,000 residents have accessed employability support (CV building, work experience, work-based training etc.)
- Over 550 training accreditations have been supported, of which 200 are Level 2 qualifications or above
- Almost 4,000 young people have participated in enterprise skills development activities in schools across the city
- Work has commenced on delivering a large-scale programme of work experience and skills development opportunities for young people within 25 schools
- Development and delivery of Digital Skills Initiative for 36 schools and 16 youth groups across the city
- Agreed the city centre engagement strategy, which includes community capacity building, social engagement, and economic inclusion. A new Regeneration Engagement Officer was recruited in September to implement the strategy.

#### Living Here

- The joint submission between Belfast City Council and Derry City & Strabane District Council for European Capital of Culture 2023 is on target to have engaged with 14,000 citizens by the submission date of 27 October 2017
- Successfully delivered a range of high profile events during the summer months: - the Women's Rugby World Cup where the live coverage of the final saw a peak television audience of 2.6 million viewers; the U-19 Women's Football which resulted in almost 4,000 beds have been booked in Belfast hotels for the teams and officials; and the

	Ice Hockey World Championships were also successfully delivered during Summer 2017.
3.6	<p><u>Finance and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>Progress to date is in line with the previous agreed Departmental budgets.</p>
3.7	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>Programmes and actions within the Committee Plan are developed and delivered in consultation with the Council's Equality &amp; Diversity Officers.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	<p><b>Appendix 1:</b> Overview of Belfast Agenda workstreams</p> <p><b>Appendix 2:</b> Report on Progress against the CGR Committee Plan Key Actions</p>

**Appendix 1: Belfast Agenda Commitments: Working Towards Inclusive Growth 2017-2021**







City Growth and Regeneration  
Committee Plan 2017/18 – update

April-September 2017

## City Growth and Regeneration Committee Key Actions 2017-18

Ref	Belfast Agenda Workstream and Projects Milestones	Lead Director	Update (April to September 2017)
	<b>Growing the economy</b>		
1.1	<b>Create employment and opportunity</b>		
1.1.1	<b>Develop and deliver an integrated, sustainable approach to inclusive economic growth and investment</b>		
.1	<i>Establish a Belfast Economic Growth Forum to create an effective economic strategy for Belfast and the city region</i>		The core partners have agreed to meet quarterly as an Economic Growth Forum advising on key economic issues for the city (e.g. inclusive growth, inward investment, city positioning etc.) to drive economic growth in a way that benefits all residents.
.a	Lead quarterly meetings of the core partners to form a Belfast Economic Growth Forum, aligned to the Belfast Agenda governance arrangements		
.b	Develop a programme of work with the Forum including the development of an Economic Strategy for the city region	Chief Executive / Development	An initial work programme has been developed. A priority area of work will be supporting the development of a City Growth Deal for Belfast-Region. The Economic Growth Forum participated in the stakeholder workshops in May and August 2017, to consider how a Growth Deal would assist in delivering on economic growth ambitions – the priorities identified included employability & skills, infrastructure (digital and physical) and innovation.
.2	<i>An economic and social policy approach to drive inclusive growth</i>		
.a	Research to consider alternative economic models to enhance inclusive growth	Chief Executive / Development	The revised Belfast Agenda includes a description and narrative about what is meant by inclusive growth as agreed by SP&R Committee September 2017.
.b	Engage and inform the next stage of feasibility work on the city growth deal proposition including the specific deliverables (asks) and funding model.		
.c	Develop and implement a political lobbying strategy to inform the negotiations and forward planning around Brexit.		Research on the developments and potential impacts of UK decision to leave the EU will be kept under review: a Special

Ref	Belfast Agenda Workstream and Projects Milestones	Lead Director	Update (April to September 2017)
.d	Engage with core cities (e.g. the City of London and Dublin) to identify opportunities of mutual benefit e.g. joint marketing, trade and investment.		<p>CGR Committee meeting has been scheduled for 21 November to explore implications for Belfast.</p> <p>Work is ongoing with core cities to identify opportunities for joint working. The Lord Mayor of the City of London visited in October 2017 and plans are under way for a business mission (involving 6 local companies) as well as a business reception in London in November 2017. A member of Council staff has been seconded to the City of London Corporation for a period of six months to further these relationships.</p> <p>The Belfast Agenda defines inclusive city growth. One of the key elements is access to employment. The Employability and Skills activity set out in the “Working and Learning” section identifies some of the initiatives to help key groups into sustainable employment, thereby supporting inclusive growth.</p>
.e	Undertake analysis on the likely impact of Brexit on Belfast to inform future interventions and support sustainable growth		
.f	Ongoing focus on an inclusive growth strategy to enable all Belfast residents to benefit from the developments in the city.		
1.2	<b>Attract investment into Belfast</b>		
1.2.1	<b>Maximise the city’s connections to drive growth</b>		
.1	<i>Deliver the International Relations Framework</i>	Development	<p>The Sister Cities and strategic city relationships work is ongoing and workstreams around education, business-to-business linkages; tourism development and educational linkages are being developed in conjunction with partners.</p> <p>Work continues on the MOU with Dublin. Priorities identified include FDI Marketing, Brexit preparation and lobbying for improved infrastructure.</p> <p>The Nashville Mission is complete and led to an inward mission to Belfast in October 17. Activities include a planned MOU with Nashville and NI Bar Association for legal industry</p>
.a	Strengthen relationships locally and internationally focusing on our Sister Cities and strategic city relationships with London and Dublin		
.b	Work with key partners to promote Belfast as a place to trade, invest, study and visit		
.c	Deliver the Nashville Mission and host inward investors missions		
.d	Deliver Belfast in China Week and host inward investors missions		
.e	Deliver Belfast in Boston Week and host inward investors missions		
.f	Support the successful delivery of the Friendship Four Ice Hockey Festival 2017 and the Basketball Hall of Fame		

Ref	Belfast Agenda Workstream and Projects Milestones	Lead Director	Update (April to September 2017)
			<p>cooperation. Plans are at an advanced stage for a US State Department led inward mission from Nashville in May 18.</p> <p>The Routes conference was held successfully and helped to promote Belfast to 1,160 international delegates, including 114 airlines, 270 airports and 36 tourism authorities.</p> <p>Representatives from Boston also visited Belfast in early October 2017 and this was followed up by an outbound visit from Belfast to Boston in mid-October. The Boston programme included meetings around FDI and education and we hosted a tourism showcase to encourage additional visitor numbers from this part of East Coast USA.</p> <p>The Council coordinated a 'Belfast in China' week in May 17 along with city stakeholders in business and education. A full action plan is under development for trade, finance, smart cities, health and wellbeing, education and tourism. Belfast will host a significant visit from Shenyang Sister City from 1-3 December 2017.</p> <p>Plans and activities are in place for the Friendship Four and Basketball Hall of Fame events. These events promote Belfast internationally and help to develop links with the other cities in terms of universities, business and tourism.</p>
1.2.2	<b>Build the city's position as a magnet for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)</b>		
.1	<i>Establish a City Investment Support scheme and Advice Service (concierge)</i>	Development	Belfast continues to be an attractive investment location for its size. According to Invest NI figures, last year there was over £150m of business investment into the city by local and international businesses. This scheme will help to maintain
.a	Design options for City Investment Support scheme and Advice Service		

Ref	Belfast Agenda Workstream and Projects Milestones	Lead Director	Update (April to September 2017)
.b	Develop and deliver implementation plan (Subject to Committee approval of preferred option)		and increase this level of investment. Foundation work for the development of Concierge Service was presented to Committee. Further mobilisation and development work is underway with a view to securing Committee approval to commence the service by April 2018.
1.3	<b>Foster business growth in Belfast</b>		
1.3.1	<b>Accelerate sector specific support (see also 3.1.2 Small Business Support Plan initiatives).</b>		
.1	<i>Explore options to promote and incentivise office and hotel developments in the city</i>		The CCIF is now in place with work already on the way to encourage investment in Grade A office accommodation. The process will lead to shortlisting of approved projects by Q4.
.a	Incentivise the development of Grade A office development through the new City Centre Investment Fund (CCIF)	City Centre	There are now over 1,000 bedrooms under construction in Belfast. The majority of these will be open in 2018 bring the city's hotel room stock to over 5,000 bedrooms.
.2	<i>Develop a city strategy for the Digital and Financial tech sector</i>		Research and engagement with key industry group is continuing to further develop our work in these sectors.
.a	Support the Centre for Secure Information Technology (CSIT) to develop a Cyber Security strategy for Northern Ireland		The Cyber Security Strategy has been agreed by partners and work is now under way to take forward the key recommendations in terms of additional sector development support and skills investment.
.b	Work with Invest NI and other partners on action plans for other growth sectors including Financial Technology (Fin Tech), Legal Services, Life & Health Sciences and Creative Industries	Development	
.3	<i>Creative &amp; digital industries</i>		The Committee has also agreed to support development work on the Legal Innovation Centre. This will enable the centre to undertake business development work and explore opportunities for engagement by local legal practices.
.a	Work in partnership with InvestNI and stakeholders to position Belfast and its businesses at key events including the Great Escape Festival in Brighton, MIDEM, the International Music Conference in Cannes, and SxSW in Austin. The programme will include Council business bursaries to support businesses participation at events and programmes		
.b	Host the Cartoon Business Conference event		

Ref	Belfast Agenda Workstream and Projects Milestones	Lead Director	Update (April to September 2017)
.c	Develop a learning pilot for delivery of co-working space for Creative and Digital Sector Businesses and further explore the role for Council intervention in co-working space with commercial partners		The Cartoon Business event took place in Belfast Waterfront in May 2017. The event attracted 150 attendees from 22 countries.
.d	Collaborate with public sector sponsors such as Invest NI, Tourism Ireland, TourismNI and Generator NI and private promoters such as Digital DNA, BelTech, TechXplore and Audio Visual Arts Conference to collectively deliver a programme of activity throughout 2017/18		<p>The Council has supported local music and digital companies to engage in a number of promotional and investment activities. These include engagement at SxSW in Austin, Texas where participating businesses secured new sales in excess of £150,000 and developed collaborative partnerships which will help them access new markets.</p> <p>The Council supported a number of local tech events and used these as a platform to promote our work on Smart Cities and sector growth activities.</p> <p>Work is currently underway to develop an “Immersive Tech Hub” as part of the Smart Cities engagement. This will include new Artificial Intelligence (AI) equipment for testing of new and innovative approaches and new product development. It will also involve space for collaborative working.</p>
.4	<i>Export for Growth Strategy</i>	Development	
.a	Collaborate with NI Chamber of Commerce to positively engage with the private sector. This will link to the International Chamber of Commerce Network to support Export Activity and engagement in NI Chamber events and missions		Our International Trade and Export programme has been developed and will commence in November. This will provide mentoring and financial support for first-time exporters.
.b	Engage with Invest NI to ensure that companies access their suite of programmes to develop export potential		Committee agreed in April to sponsor the London-based business network Belfast Partners to support business development connections between the two cities. Planning work is at an advanced stage for a business mission to London in November 2017 involving local tech businesses. This visit will also involve a networking reception and showcase event
.c	Consider how this tri-partite arrangement can use the World Trade Centre licence and link to more than 300 similar centres all across the world		
.d	Put in place export mentor support to enable businesses to access business opportunities created through linkages with Belfast’s Sister Cities		

Ref	Belfast Agenda Workstream and Projects Milestones	Lead Director	Update (April to September 2017)
.e	Work with London and Dublin partners to establish these linkages to promote B2B first time export opportunities		<p>in the City of London to profile Belfast as a business and investment location and to encourage business-to-business networking.</p> <p>A Civic reception and dinner for the Lord Mayor of London was hosted in October. The visit included a Business roundtable in the Citi Headquarters to position Belfast as an investment location for financial and professional services. It also included a visit to Centre for Secure Information Technology (CSIT) to showcase their research and technology excellence.</p>
1.4	<b>Strengthen business relationships and make it easy to do business</b>		
1.4.1	<b>Make Belfast a great place to do business, supporting entrepreneurs and business starts</b>		
.1	<i>Develop an Enterprise Framework for Belfast and implementation plan</i>	Development	<p>Ulster University's Economic Policy Centre was commissioned to investigate barriers to under-represented groups in enterprise and start-up. Based on their findings, officers are working with partner organisations to develop targeted interventions to support these groups, in line with Belfast Agenda targets.</p> <p>The Council is working with the Northern Ireland Chamber on a series of joint events to support business growth. We are also working in partnership with Intertradelreland on programmes to promote public sector procurement opportunities.</p>
.a	Commission research to identify under-represented groups in enterprise and business start-up across Belfast and target marketing, programmes and sponsorship towards supporting them		
.b	Create an Enterprise Framework for the city in partnership with local economic development stakeholders		
.c	Scope the potential for new collaborative opportunities, partnerships and investment, building on relationships with strategic partners such as Belfast Chamber of Commerce and Invest NI		
.2	<i>Develop &amp; deliver a comprehensive suite of programmes to support businesses to start</i>	Development	

Ref	Belfast Agenda Workstream and Projects Milestones	Lead Director	Update (April to September 2017)
.a	Deliver an enhanced enterprise outreach and engagement programme, targeting under-represented groups		<p>In the first two quarters of this year, the range of 'start a business' programmes have created 188 jobs.</p> <p>248 people have participated on our business start programmes. 200 business plans have been created.</p> <p>Current programmes include 'Go for it', 'Belfast Enterprise Academy' and 'Go Social'. We are engaging with the sector to develop additional programmes for enterprise outreach, a high-growth start-up programme and a city centre programme.</p> <p>The Innovation Factory now has 25 tenant businesses across a range of sectors including creative and digital industries, professional and financial services and training. These businesses are supporting 83 jobs.</p>
.b	Research an appropriate Incentivisation Scheme to support small business start-up as part of the Enterprise Framework (2.1.1)		
.c	Deliver targeted support programme for high potential start-ups focusing on Creative & Digital industries, Financial & professional services, Advanced Engineering, Clean technology, ICT & Electronics and Life & health Sciences		
.d	Deliver the regional start-up programme (Go for It)		
.e	Pilot a City Business Start-up in addition to Go for It, focusing on key city centre based business start-ups e.g. retail, tourism, markets, and food to inform future ERDF applications		
.f	Deliver specific programmes aimed at supporting start-up business by graduates and the social enterprises and co-operatives		
.g	Continue to work with and enhance the operating model for the Innovation Factory, exploring opportunities to replicate the model across other parts of the city (city centre accelerators)		
.3	<i>Deliver a suite of programmes to support existing businesses to grow</i>		
.a	Deliver programmes to increase access to public procurement opportunities, including 'Meet the Buyer events' in partnership with Inter-Trade Ireland	Development	<p>In the first two quarters of this year, over 600 people have participated on our business growth programmes.</p> <p>Current programmes target creative &amp; digital, retail and tourism sectors. We are also supporting the Innovation Factory. We are developing additional support for exporting, high-growth sectors such as cyber security, and a business accelerator model.</p> <p>The review of BCCM is underway and recommendations will be presented to Committee in December 2017.</p>
.b	Identify collaborative opportunities to deliver key actions in specific growth sectors e.g. Cyber Security, tech, creative and digital, finance, legal, etc.		
.c	Supporting exports and international trade activity in collaboration with NI Chamber of Commerce and engagement with invest NI		
.d	Explore and develop new business 'accelerator models' in partnership with economic stakeholders (aligned to 2.1.2g)		
.e	Provide generic business growth and mentoring support to meet the needs of existing Belfast Businesses		

Ref	Belfast Agenda Workstream and Projects Milestones	Lead Director	Update (April to September 2017)
.f	Review the Belfast City Centre Management services and future functions for consideration by Committee, and deliver dedicated retail support channelled via trade associations.		
1.5	<b>Maximise the impact of the region</b>		
1.5.1	<b>Drive city region sustainable growth</b>		
.1	<i>Shape the development of the Growth Deal for the City-Region</i>	Chief Executive	Stakeholder workshops were held in May and August 2017, to highlight how a Growth Deal would assist in delivering on economic growth ambitions for the Belfast city region. The priorities identified and agreed by SP&R Committee and the surrounding city-region councils include employability & skills, infrastructure (digital and physical) and innovation. Further focused engagement will take place with other key stakeholders to refine the 'ask'.
.a	Ongoing representation of economic information, programmes and progress at regional, city and council planning events to understand the city economy		
.b	Ongoing strategic sessions with key partners on major city issues such as infrastructure, transport, housing, skills, education etc.		
.2	<i>Seek devolution of comprehensive development powers</i>	Chief Executive / City Centre Development	In Jan 2017 a monthly Joint Regeneration Group was set up between BCC and DfC. In April additional partners from DoF, DFI and SIB joined the Group, which now acts as a key forum for partnership projects and co-ordination.  Regeneration schemes being prioritised with DfC include Sailortown Masterplan and Queen's Quay, while work on the Infrastructure Strategy and Reform of Property Management is being progressed with DFI and DoF respectively.  The work on the City Growth Deal highlights the need for, and benefit of, the transfer of regeneration powers to local councils with infrastructure and capital projects identified as a key theme.
.a	Develop a joint programme of prioritised regeneration schemes with DfC and the City Development Forum		
.b	Establish new joint governance and delivery arrangements with DfC and other partners building on the MOU		
.c	Feed 'development' issues into the emerging City Growth Deal proposition		

Ref	Belfast Agenda Workstream and Projects Milestones	Lead Director	Update (April to September 2017)
	<b>Living here</b>		
2.2	<b>Improve the city living experience</b>		
2.2.1	<b>Deliver an integrated cultural and arts strategy/framework</b>		
.1	<i>Deliver the 2017-18 actions in the Cultural Framework</i>		Fourteen expressions of interest have been received for the delivery of a cultural animation programme across the city. These events will result in a collaborative event in March 2018.
.a	Deliver the ‘Distinctly Belfast’ programme theme including cultural animation, “Bringing Heritage to Life”, heritage skills development, and a Public Art policy	Development	<p>A Bringing Heritage to Life Programme was delivered as part of European Heritage Open Days in College Square. The buildings opened included; The Old Museum Buildings, RBAI and Christ Church. Over the 2 days, 300 visitors attended.</p> <p>An SLA has been developed with Audiences NI, to undertake research into audience participation at non ticketed events.</p> <p>A capacity building programme is being delivered through the one-to-one mentoring programme. Twelve organisations are receiving 1-1 mentoring. The programme will be complete by the end of March 2018.</p> <p>The Council and ACNI have jointly designed a Resilience Building Programme which will commence early in 2018. The purpose of the programme is to help arts organisations improve their resilience, commercial capacity and investment readiness.</p> <p>The annual Cultural Forum was hosted in City Hall in September 2017 with over 100 people attending.</p>
.b	Deliver the ‘Attracting Audiences’ programme theme including research undertaken by Audiences NI		
.c	Deliver the ‘Inspiring Communities’ programme theme including ‘Artist in Residence’ (PEACE IV) and supporting participation in voluntary and amateur arts activities		
.d	Deliver the ‘Strengthening the Sector’ programme theme including an MOU with key strategic partners, explore opportunities for joint initiatives with the Arts Council , and tailored skills and career development		
.e	Ongoing delivery of grants programmes and support for the Culture, Festivals and Visual Arts Forums		

Ref	Belfast Agenda Workstream and Projects Milestones	Lead Director	Update (April to September 2017)
2.2.2	<b>Submit a joint bid with Derry &amp; Strabane Council for the EU Capital of Culture 2023</b>	Chief Executive	Work is progressing with our partners, local stakeholders and the public. To date the bid has engaged with over 14,000 people across both cities. This has been achieved through attendance at events throughout the summer alongside a programme of tailored workshops. Extensive engagement has also taken place through Council's existing schemes. An online platform has also been established. The bid was submitted on 27 October 2017.
.a	Members workshop to inform the development of a bid		
.b	Develop partnership and governance arrangements with Derry City and Strabane Council		
.c	Phase 1 Submission of bid to DCMS		
.d	EU Panel announce shortlisted cities		
.e	Formal Creation of SPV Fixed Life Company		
.f	Development of Phase 1 Bid Book into a detailed Phase 2 Book		
<b>City development</b>			
3.1	<b>Promote and position the city to compete</b>		
3.1.1	<b>Build citywide commitment to Belfast place positioning</b>		
.1	<i>Implement the Belfast place positioning approach</i>	Chief Executive / City Centre Development	This work is being progressed by the City Centre marketing manager. Committee have supported the new visual brand for the city which is currently going through a soft launch, and is now being used by BCC and City Partners, including Visit Belfast, Belfast Waterfront, and private sector developers. Building on the brand, work has been progressing on the development of 3 shared city narratives for key sectors - Tourism, Education and Business – which are now being used by City Partners.
.a	Finalise and agree the Belfast narrative		
.b	Develop an Implementation plan		
.c	Establish a City Ambassador programme		
.d	Strategic marketing piece to position Belfast in a post Brexit context as a place to live, visit and invest		
.2	<i>Deliver marketing programme to promote Belfast to Investment and FDI communities</i>	City Centre Development	A new investment brochure has been developed and recent newspaper articles published. BCC presented at Estates Gazette Development Insights in Manchester in May, and
.a	Develop marketing pack that promotes Belfast to the Investment and FDI communities, both domestically and internationally		
.b	Deliver events programme to promote Belfast Investment opportunities		

Ref	Belfast Agenda Workstream and Projects Milestones	Lead Director	Update (April to September 2017)
.c	Develop targeted advertising and PR campaign to promote Belfast investment opportunities		<p>prepared for three key investment events (Expo Real Munich; MIPIM UK; and launch of DIT NI Investment Portfolio.</p> <p>Scoping work is underway to explore options for a stand-alone investment focused website, and supporting marketing collateral that promotes Belfast to the investment and occupier market.</p>
.3	<i>Deliver Belfast at MIPIM 2018</i>		
.a	Work with city partners to develop a MIPIM programme and marketing	City Centre Development	<p>Building on the success of the last 2 years, preparation for MIPIM is progressing as planned with no delays expected.</p> <p>The tender for support for MIPIM 2018 was completed in Qtr2 and consultants were appointed in September. Work with city partners to generate sponsorship and develop the programme will take place in quarters 3 and 4.</p>
.b	Secure sponsorship and supporting collateral for MIPIM		
.c	Attend MIPIM 2018		
3.2	<b>Develop the city's infrastructure and improve connectivity locally</b>		
3.2.1	<b>Create a partnership and plan for sustainable urban infrastructure</b>		
.1	<i>Infrastructure strategy</i>	City Centre Development	<p>Infrastructure is a key theme within the developing City Deal. The Council has secured approval to procure and co-client a new city infrastructure strategy with DfI as the key delivery partner. This will highlight current provision and identify gaps in the capacity required to support the ambitions of the Belfast Agenda. The Plan will also identify the additional infrastructure investment required and contribute to the validation of the City Region Deal.</p>
.a	Work with stakeholders to develop a brief for city infrastructure		
.b	Secure committee approval to consider and progress		
.2	<i>Integrated Transport Strategy including York Street Interchange</i>	City Centre Development	
.a	Work with stakeholders to develop a brief for integrated transport		

Ref	Belfast Agenda Workstream and Projects Milestones	Lead Director	Update (April to September 2017)
.b	Secure committee approval to consider and progress		<p>Work is progressing on target with regular contact with the Department for Infrastructure. Q4 will see the recruitment of a transport planning officer in the Council to help further support this work.</p> <p>Political agreement has been secured on potential funding options for the York St Interchange.</p>
3.2.2	<b>Develop an integrated city transport plan</b>		
.1	<i>Develop a City Centre Car parking strategy</i>		The Car Parking Strategy and associated Action Plan was agreed by Council in July 2017.
.a	Work with DfI, Translink and others to consider key city car parking issues such as Tariffs for on-street parking, variable pricing, ticketing and payment systems, a pilot of on-street bay monitoring, and improved enforcement	City Centre Development	Responsibility for city centre car parking will move to the City Centre team from the City & Neighbourhood Services Department in Q4. At that point the Implementation Group will be put in place and resources agreed to take forward actions.
.b	Secure Committee approval for the City Car Parking Strategy and next steps		
.c	Encourage car park operators to invest in their facilities to achieve the Park Mark standard and improve spaces for disabled and family parking		
.d	Review BCCs off-street parking provision and BCC owned surface car parking provision		
.e	Establish the city's Parking Forum to agree priorities for action		
2	<i>Further refine and expand the Belfast Bike Scheme</i>		
.a	Complete a workshop with Members to review the scheme and future options	Development	A workshop was held with Members in June 2017 to inform the Strategic review of Belfast Bikes. This identified key issues in relation to: cost of scheme, pricing policy, coverage and potential expansion and vandalism and theft. A detailed update was presented to Committee in September 2017 to outline the future direction and update on the promotional efforts to increase usage and sponsorship, consider the relocation of docking stations where there is low usage and engagement with key stakeholders and communities to reduce vandalism and theft. In addition, work is underway with the
.b	Complete a pilot exercise to reduce vandalism and theft in conjunction with the Smart Cities Team and key partners		
.c	Complete a strategic review of the scheme and develop options for its future		

Ref	Belfast Agenda Workstream and Projects Milestones	Lead Director	Update (April to September 2017)
			operator (NSL) and the system provider (Nextbike) to improve the system and to make the bikes and the stations more durable. The Belfast Bikes are being used as a pilot for the Smart Cities IPedal project where devices are installed on a number of bikes to collect data which has the potential to be used for locating bikes that are missing from the system through theft or misuse.
3.2.3	<b>Increase the supply of mixed tenure housing</b>		
.1	<i>Develop a City Centre Liveability strategy</i>	City Centre Development	<p>The Belfast Agenda and the Local Development Plan commit to providing quality, mixed housing developments with homes in a range of sizes and tenures. Consideration is being given to alternative forms of financing and models, such as co-ownership, PRS, etc., as well as exploring how Section 76 may best be used for green space, facilities and services.</p> <p>A number of strands of work are currently being undertaken by different areas within the Council. In particular, the Local Development Plan is producing evidence to support the proposed growth options and is a key piece in creating a viable and sustainable approach to city centre living.</p> <p>A study visit on the 12th and 13th October and follow up workshop on the 23rd October will provide an opportunity to develop a wider understanding of city centre living and foster a shared understanding and approach.</p>
.a	Scoping study to examine the issues to be considered in a city centre liveability strategy e.g. infrastructure		
.b	Engage with key stakeholders		
.c	Working with Planning & Place, develop an agreed approach for sustainable model for mixed tenure housing		
.d	Identify suitable sites and opportunities for vacant space		
.e	Develop and agree an action plan		
3.3	<b>Drive the physical and cultural regeneration of the city centre</b>		
3.3.1	<b>Develop a further world-class visitor attraction</b>		
.1	<i>Develop a further world-class visitor Belfast Story destination hub</i>		

Ref	Belfast Agenda Workstream and Projects Milestones	Lead Director	Update (April to September 2017)
.a	Complete a concept study with stakeholder consultation	City Centre Development	Following significant engagement with the sector, the Outline Business Case has been specified for the procurement process. The options appraisal to identify a suitable site is currently progressing.
.b	Complete procurement and create a feasibility team		
.c	Identify potential sites		
.d	Produce full business		
3.4	<b>Deliver key strategic physical projects and policies</b>		
3.4.1	<b>Deliver city centre regeneration and investment projects</b>		
.1	<i>Lead regeneration activity in the city centre and deliver City Centre Masterplans and Frameworks</i>	City Centre Development	The City Development Forum has been established and the second meeting held in September. Future meetings are currently on hold pending further Member engagement.  Delivery of the engagement strategy will commence later in the year following the appointment of an officer to take this work forward.  The City Centre Investment Fund (CCIF) was launched on 15th June 2017 seeking applications from developers. An information workshop was held on 30th June and follow-up individual meetings. Applications closed on 18th August. An extensive and robust three staged process has been developed and agreed. This will include an Investment Panel to review applications; a Due Diligence review; final recommendations for investment. SP&R Committee will be required to approve recommended investments before these progress to legal contracts.  Phase III of Streets Ahead, in the Cathedral Quarter, is due for completion in 2019, and has been delayed pending developments at NI Executive. The procurement process has been deferred and will be re-run.  A dedicated officer has been appointed to progress the Inner North & West Masterplan. Several updates have been brought
.a	Establish and lead a City Development Forum		
.b	Initiate and support a regular Developer & Agents Forum		
.c	Develop and deliver the City Centre Regeneration Engagement Strategy		
.d	Launch and deliver the new £18.7m City Centre Investment Fund to stimulate market demand		
.e	Deliver masterplans and improvements for the 5 identified Special Action Areas and investigate options for further Masterplans/Frameworks		
.f	Work with DfC to bring forward the BT1 Gateway and Queens Quay developments		
.g	Support and deliver key City Centre projects- Belfast Telegraph building, Belfast Story Destination hub, Transport Hub		
.h	Complete and release the VUCITY model and monitor effectiveness		
.i	Ongoing support, input and coordination across council teams and external partners via the Joint Regeneration Board		

Ref	Belfast Agenda Workstream and Projects Milestones	Lead Director	Update (April to September 2017)
			<p>to Committee, and the team are currently conducting pre-consultation engagement with key partners. A further update will be brought to Committee with a request for public consultation. An SEA process will be run in parallel.</p> <p>Meetings of the stakeholder group for the Queen's Quay were held in June and September with the development of the programme plan in Q4.</p> <p>Work in relation to the Transport Hub and Rapid Transport plans is progressing in line with milestones.</p> <p>Discussions about the most appropriate funding model for the VUCITY project are ongoing. Options are also being considered to ensure we make best use of VUCITY.</p>
.2	<i>East Bank Masterplan: maximising the riverfront, development sites and connecting people and spaces</i>		
.a	Finalise the draft East Bank action plan		
.b	Public consultation on the draft plan		<p>Arup presented a summary of the draft strategy to the CG&amp;R Committee in April 2017. A consultation and engagement exercise ran for 12 weeks following Council ratification in July 2017. This included on-line consultation via the Council's website, public consultation workshops and drop-in sessions.</p>
.c	Secure Committee approval on the revised East Bank plan and agree implementation plan	City Centre Development	<p>There may be environmental issues given the previous use of the land; it will therefore be subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment.</p> <p>Approval of the final Strategy expected on target by April 2018. The final strategy will be used as a framework for development across the East Bank.</p>

Ref	Belfast Agenda Workstream and Projects Milestones	Lead Director	Update (April to September 2017)
.3	<i>Linen Quarter Masterplan: creating a more vibrant business and leisure area</i>	City Centre Development	
.a	Procure and deliver the planning and design proposals		Procurement for the first stage of planning and design is being taken forward in Q3. The second stage is dependent on funding from Developer's Contributions. It should also be noted that due to the delay in Streets Ahead III, DfC have indicated that capital money will not be available until 2020 at the earliest.
.4	<i>Deliver City Centre Animation projects</i>		
.a	Internal review to identify city animation provision and opportunities to coordinate, improve and align it		An internal review has been undertaken to better align current activity to support animation in city centre key locations. Options are being developed for 6 new projects to progress city centre animation.
.b	Identify a mix of suitable activities and priority locations across the city to align with the longer term special action areas		
.c	Present proposals for committee consideration and approval		
.d	Commence the city animation programme		
.5	<i>Deliver the City Centre Investment Fund (CCIF)</i>	City Centre Development	
.a	Launch Fund and seek application		The City Centre Investment Fund (CCIF) was launched on 15th June 2017. See 3.4.1 above, for further details.
.b	Evaluate applications		
.c	Approve funding for successful applications		
3.5	<b>Attract more tourists</b>		
3.5.1	<b>Deliver the integrated tourism strategy.</b>		
.1	<i>Deliver the actions for 2017-18 in the Tourism Strategy</i>	Development	The latest results from NISRA show tourism into the city has increased. In 2016, 1.5million trips were made, creating £334million of spend. This is an increase from 2015 of 1.4m trips which created £278m.
.a	Enhance the Business Tourism off by developing new guidelines for the conference subvention scheme and, with Tourism NI, put in place a new Conference Subvention fund for 2017-18		
.b	Develop Local Tourism Infrastructure by exploring opportunities with key partners to develop tourism assets across the city such as tourism trails,		

Ref	Belfast Agenda Workstream and Projects Milestones	Lead Director	Update (April to September 2017)
	support for marketing and customer service improvements, online presence, etc.		
.c	Tailor and improve the city's tourism Research and Analysis to generate improved visitor insights and support for initiatives such as hotel development; utilising the emerging Smart City framework		
.d	Improve Visitor Management by working with Visit Belfast to provide suitable secure overnight coach parking		
.e	Maximise the city's Food Tourism offer in partnership with Tourism NI by developing a food and drink plan and delivering a number of food-related events		<p>Business tourism investment continues through oversight of the Belfast Waterfront and investment in the Conference Subvention Scheme in partnership with Visit Belfast (VB) and Tourism NI. In the last financial year, the scheme support 69 major conferences worth a value of more than £35million to the city. The Council's contribution to VB for 2017-18 is just over £1.8M and this is expected to leverage in a further £1.3M.</p> <p>The Community Tourism Initiative in East/West has been approved and a funding agreement is being finalised and discussions with stakeholders in south/north are underway. Work is also underway to explore how to utilise the Council's Social Outcomes Fund to enhance the Local Tourism Infrastructure.</p> <p>A Tourism Challenge has been developed in partnership with key tourism stakeholders and the Smart Cities Team. The focus of the challenge is to enhance understanding of visitor behaviour and encourage visitor spend.</p> <p>The work to increase hotel capacity is on-going in conjunction with the City Centre Team.</p> <p>An interim solution for coach parking was provided at Boucher Road for the peak season. The success of this is being reviewed to inform provision moving forward.</p> <p>In line with our focus on Employability and Skills, Officers are working on the delivery of the Hotel Academy in partnership with Hastings and the Maldron Hotel which will create up to 200 new job opportunities as a result of the new hotel developments in the city.</p>

Ref	Belfast Agenda Workstream and Projects Milestones	Lead Director	Update (April to September 2017)
			Development work is currently underway to explore the potential of a “food showcase” event, profiling quality products from local suppliers.
.2	<i>Deliver three Twilight Markets in St George’s Market</i>	Development	Having received tourism industry recognition in 2016 for Market Innovation, the Twilight Market has welcomed almost 100,000 visitors since it opened its doors in 2015.  The Committee agreed to hold a series of 3 seasonal Twilight Markets in 2017-18. Two have been held to date attracting a total footfall of approx. 43,000 to St George’s Market. Over 120 traders from the local food and drink industry, the restaurant sector and the arts and crafts industry are involved.
.3	<i>Carry out a Mid-term review of Tourism Strategy</i>	Development	This work will commence in October 2017 and will be complete by January 2018.
.a	Commission a review of the strategy to align with impending Regional Tourism Strategy, the growth in hotel developments and to take account of the impact of Brexit and to support delivery of the Belfast Agenda ambitions		
.b	Engage with key stakeholders		
.c	Develop the Tourism Strategy and next steps in line with the review recommendations		
.4	<i>Deliver the annual City Events Programme</i>	Development	The Women's Rugby World Cup, UEFA U-19 Women's football and Ice Hockey World Championships were all successfully delivered. We are now completing the post event evaluation. The UEFA Super Cup bid was awarded to Istanbul.
.a	Deliver the Spring programme of events including: the World Series Ice Hockey Championships, Belfast City Marathon; Lord Mayor’s Day; and the UK National Pipe Band Championships		
.b	Deliver the Summer programme of events including: the World 24 Hour Endurance Race; the 2017 UEFA U19 Women’s Euro’s, the 2017 Women’s Rugby World Cup and the Autumn Fair		

Ref	Belfast Agenda Workstream and Projects Milestones	Lead Director	Update (April to September 2017)
.c	Deliver the Autumn programme of events including: Halloween and the Christmas Lights Switch-On	Development	<p>The Belfast City Marathon; and the UK National Pipe Band Championships were delivered successfully and we are now awaiting the final evaluation. An analysis of the World 24 Hour Endurance race estimates £1m of economic impact with 5,420 attendees.</p> <p>A presentation by IRFU steering group was made to World Rugby on Mon 25 September 2017 to host the Rugby World Cup. An announcement will be made on 15 November 2017.</p> <p>Planning work continues for the remaining events this year.</p> <p>Engagement with internal and city stakeholders is ongoing, with engagement with Council senior management and Committee scheduled for November/December 2017 to test the direction of travel and to consider options and recommendations.</p>
.d	Deliver the St Patrick's Day events		
.5	<i>Develop a new approach to events, festivals and culture</i>		
.a	Agree specification and scope of this project		
.b	Commence Project		
.c	Identify best practice in other cities through relevant case studies		
.d	Engage with key city stakeholders		
.e	Develop options and secure committee approval		
<b>Working &amp; learning</b>			
4.1	<b>Address educational inequalities</b>		
4.1.1	<b>Engage with schools to address educational inequalities</b>		
.1	<i>Address educational underachievement of young people</i>	Development	<p>Almost 4,000 young people have participated in enterprise engagement and skills development activities in schools across the City. Working in partnership with key stakeholders a range of job fairs have been held attracting over 2,800 attendees. 150 individuals have benefited from work placements.</p>
.a	Consult with the education sector & key stakeholders, particularly career services		
.b	Engage with and understand the experience of those who are furthest from the labour market, and specifically young people who are or are at risk of becoming NEET and develop new early intervention programmes		

Ref	Belfast Agenda Workstream and Projects Milestones	Lead Director	Update (April to September 2017)
.c	Develop options to help address the challenges around low skills and poor educational attainment e.g. share learning from schools that are performing well; using community facilities for educational workshops, careers advice etc		A focus group was held in May 2017 to consult with the education sector. The CG&R Committee has approved a series of skills development and work placement activities and these are currently being rolled out. Officers are currently working on the implementation of these activities which will commence in Qtr 3.
.d	Deliver early engagement interventions for those who are furthest removed from the labour market		
4.2	<b>Address barriers to employment</b>		
4.2.1	<b>Establish a city pledge for our young people and a commitment to being a learning city</b>		
.1	<i>Develop and agree a City Pledge</i>	Development	Terms of reference to undertake a feasibility study for a City Pledge have been developed and will be commissioned in Q3. The Committee has approved an application to become a UNESCO City of Lifelong Learning. The application has been submitted and work is commencing to develop the associated action plan.
.a	Undertake feasibility work to explore options for the introduction of a “city pledge” for young people.		
.b	Continue to contribute to the Belfast Strategic Partnership’s Lifelong Learning Group		
.c	Explore the potential of the Belfast Strategic Partnership advancing a UNESCO City of Lifelong Learning		
4.3	<b>Enhance and increase the skill levels of our residents and attract and retain even more skilled people</b>		
4.3.1	<b>Deliver an integrated approach to employment and skills</b>		
.1	<i>Deliver Year 2 of the Employability and Skills Framework</i>	Development	Over 550 Belfast residents have found work and over 2,000 residents have accessed employability support (CV building, work experience, work-based training etc.) Over 550 training accreditations have been supported, of which 200 are Level 2 qualifications or above
.a	Continue support for the five European Social Fund (ESF) and two match-funded employability projects into their third and final year of delivery targeting the unemployed and economically inactive		
.b	Independently review ESF financially supported by the Council to assess their value for money and alignment to Belfast Agenda and Employability and Skills Framework priorities		
			Year two of the E&S Framework was approved by CG&R committee in April 2017 and is being implemented.

Ref	Belfast Agenda Workstream and Projects Milestones	Lead Director	Update (April to September 2017)
.c	Collaboratively, across the Employability & Skills network recommend a Council approach to future ESF		<p>We are continuing to support five ESF projects and two non-ESF projects which are on track and will be ongoing throughout the remainder of this financial year.</p> <p>An independent review of ESF supported activity has been completed. The outcome of this review informed the Council's future approach which was presented and approved by CG&amp;R committee in September 2017. During Q3 &amp; Q4, officers will be implementing the ESF funding process with a view to recommending projects for funding approval by the Council in January/February. Letters of offer will be sent in March 2018 to allow for projects to run from April 2018.</p>
.2	<i>Employability and Skills Board</i>		
.a	Establish a city-wide Employability & Skills Forum, or working groups, aligned to the Belfast Agenda governance arrangements and Economic Growth Forum	Development	Development of the Employment and Skills Forum is ongoing, in line with the completion of the Belfast Agenda and associated governance arrangements. A draft terms of reference for the Forum is being developed which will also form part of the discussions with the Department for Communities as part of their "Local Works" commitment.
4.3.2	<b>Maximise the benefits of our higher and further education offer</b>		
.1	<i>Attract talent to FHE institutions</i>		
.a	Work with Invest NI to engage with new employers to identify specific skills challenges and invest in support services to ensure that there is an adequate skills pipeline		An Employer Skills Survey has been completed to inform employer needs, particularly around higher skill development. Additionally, a joint workshop has been scheduled with Belfast Metropolitan College to explore complementary areas of work and better alignment of support programmes.
.b	Work with the major further and higher education institutions to ensure alignment of course provision to meet industry needs	Development	

Ref	Belfast Agenda Workstream and Projects Milestones	Lead Director	Update (April to September 2017)
4.4	<b>Match people and skills to opportunities across Belfast</b>		
4.4.1	<b>Deliver an Employability Pathway Model (aka 'Belfast Works')</b>		
.1	<i>Employability Pathway</i>	Development	<p>Significant recruitment activity has been completed in Q2 to put in place the resources required to deliver the Council's ambitions for the Belfast Employability Pathway and other employability and skills work.</p> <p>Work is underway to develop the Pathway Model. This is being developed as part of range of activities including the development of a Local Works approach with DfC. It will involve a phased approach to its development focusing initially on creating better alignment between existing initiatives and adding value with new interventions as and when required i.e. Employment Academies.</p> <p>Phase 1 development includes the delivery of Employment Academies. Sectoral models of delivery launched or scheduled this financial year relate to the hospitality, construction, healthcare, retail and transportation sectors.</p> <p>Work is ongoing to develop intelligence to inform the employability and skills priorities of the Belfast Agenda. This includes the creation of an Employability Intelligence Model and the delivery of best practice workshops building upon the experience of other city deals.</p>
.a	Further develop & secure support for the Belfast employability pathway model		
.b	Scope resources and potential alignment to existing programme activity		
.c	Co-design an Employability Pathway Model		
.d	Deliver Phase 1 of the Belfast Employability Pathway model identifying key sectors for intervention and engaging employers		
4.5	<b>Reduce poverty and economic inactivity</b>		
4.5.1	<b>Leverage the power of Belfast's anchor institutions and city partners</b>		

Ref	Belfast Agenda Workstream and Projects Milestones	Lead Director	Update (April to September 2017)
.1	<i>Harness public sector procurement power</i>	Property & Projects / Development	<p>Social clauses are continuing to be included within appropriate Council contracts. As part of a review of the Social Clause Policy officers are investigating the potential of developing a Social Value Procurement Framework as an evolution of this policy. Terms of reference for a Social Value governance structure has been developed, chaired by the Director of Development (SRO). Nominations are currently being secured from across Council.</p> <p>Discussions are ongoing with officers in Planning &amp; Place following the Newham workshop in September 2017 to investigate the possibility of developing an approach to employment-related developer contributions.</p>
.a	Continue to screen and include social clauses in appropriate council contracts in accordance with Council policy		
.b	Review the current Social Clause Policy		
.c	Work with key city partners to develop a “Social Value Procurement Framework”		
.d	Work with Planning & Place to generate opportunities for employment-related developer contributions		



<b>Subject:</b>	Infographic Progress Reports - Growing the Economy
<b>Date:</b>	8 November 2017
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Donal Durkan, Director of Development
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Colin McCabrey, Economic Development Manager

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	The Belfast Agenda sets a challenging ambition for the city to be home to an additional 66,000 new residents and an economy that supports 46,000 more jobs by 2035. Growing the economy and driving inclusive growth to ensure that all people benefit from economic success is at the core of this ambition.
1.2	To deliver on this, the Council has agreed to a significant step change in the provision of Council support to accelerate new businesses to start up and support existing businesses to grow and export as well as driving the delivery of the Employability & Skills Framework. This is central to ensuring that all communities benefit from economic growth as well as

1.3	<p>positioning Belfast to attract international investment from developers, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and institutional investment.</p> <p>Delivering on these ambitions will involve a range of interventions. This can mean that it is difficult to see, at a glance, how these activities are contributing to the overall Belfast Agenda targets. There has been increasing emphasis on producing accessible and user-friendly infographic style materials to assist in communicating information about Council programmes and services. A detailed update on progress delivering the Committee Plan 2017-18 is a separate item on the agenda. However, this paper presents an overview of the key achievements to date relating to the Council's efforts to deliver on the Belfast Agenda ambitions to Grow the Belfast Economy, illustrated by the use of infographics.</p>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Note the overview of the Council's performance and contribution to delivering against Belfast Agenda ambitions to grow the Belfast economy, focusing on the current support for Business Start-up and Growth as well as Employability and Skills.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The Committee receives regular updates on the performance and contribution of the Council to delivering the City targets outlined in the Belfast Agenda. This information is included in various reports presented to Committee; including the six month progress report on the Committee Plan 2017-18 which is included as a separate item on the Committee agenda.</p> <p>3.2 Given the volume of activity and breadth of programmes relating to the key priority to 'Grow the Belfast Economy', Members have previously advised that infographic style materials would provide an easily accessible, consistent and concise visual overview of the Council's progress against key performance targets. These can also provide Members with a source of assurance that Council investment is continuing to make an impact. For this Committee, some of the key targets that Members want to support include the number of jobs created and the number of jobs supported as well as investment levered.</p> <p>3.3 As a starting point, officers have begun the process of creating infographics for the Business Start-up and Growth as well as some of the Employability and Skills metrics. Infographics outlining progress for the first six months of the financial year 2017-18 for Council support</p>

	<p>for the Start Up and Growth areas are attached at Appendix 1 and 2. This includes key performance information related to Council activity in terms of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of jobs created</li> <li>• Number of new businesses created</li> <li>• Number of programme participants</li> <li>• Number of referrals to other agencies</li> <li>• Summary information on the programmes delivered by the Council.</li> </ul>
3.4	<p>While this information has traditionally been gathered and reported to the Committee and to funders on an annual or six-monthly basis, enhanced focus on the jobs and skills measurements mean that for these targets, in particular, it may be more appropriate to present the information in this format on a more regular basis (subject to data availability).</p>
3.5	<p>In addition to the information set out above, details are also gathered on additional benefits and outcomes achieved by participants engaging in Council-supported activity. These include innovation / new product development and enhanced service standards. All of these support mechanisms are intended to support business competitiveness and productivity, and, in turn, create jobs and increase turnover.</p>
3.6	<p>The Committee will also note that work is under way to update the Belfast Facts &amp; Figures booklet. This has been well received by internal and external audiences as an easily accessible information source. The document will be revised in time for MIPIM 2018.</p>
3.7	<p>These materials will continue to evolve and develop as programmes go live and they will provide a key reference point to support existing material used by our city partners when promoting Belfast as a place to do business, visit, study or invest in. This information will be made available on the Members' Portal and regular updates on progress will be brought back to this Committee.</p>
3.8	<p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></p> <p>The progress reports will be produced internally, therefore requiring officer time, and within existing departmental budgets.</p>
3.9	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>There are no equality or good relations implications. Representation by under-represented groups is one of the key performance indicators of the service.</p>

<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1 – Start a Business – Six month Progress Infographic Appendix 2 – Grow a Business – Six month Progress Infographic



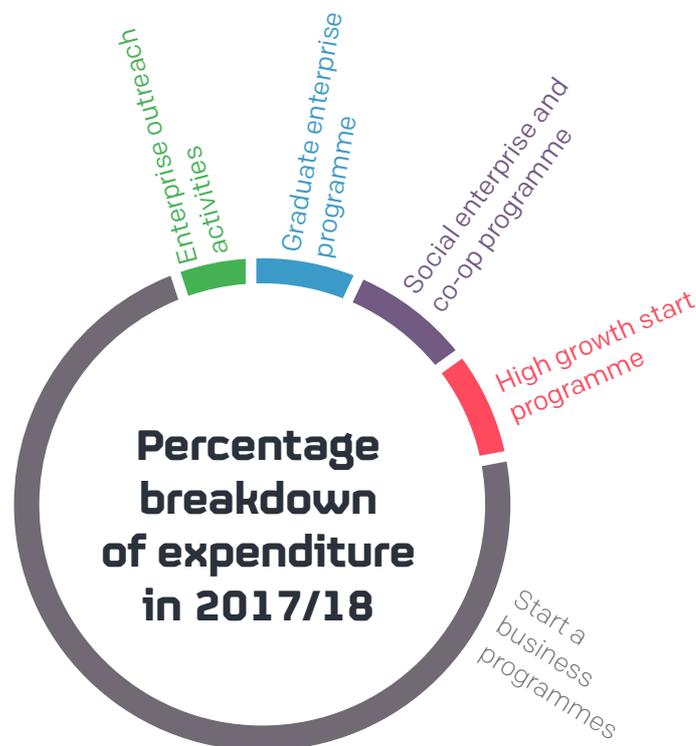
# Start a business:

2021 target: support 4,000 small business start-ups

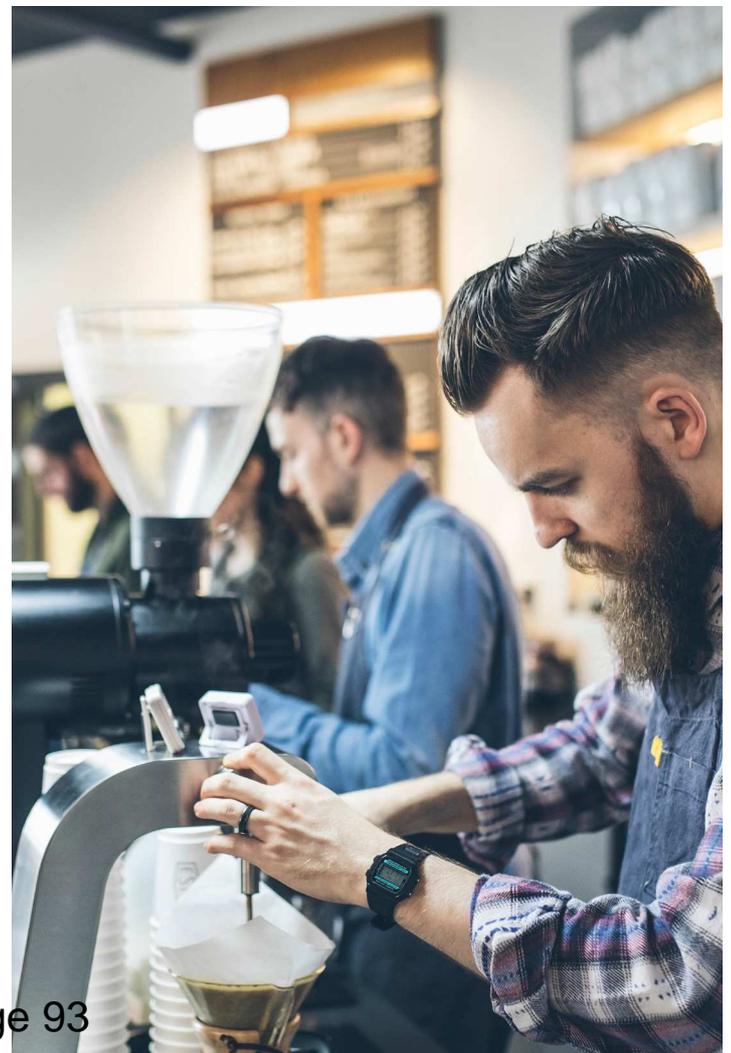
6 month progress



## Proportion of investment to support activity



Enterprise outreach activities	5%
Graduate enterprise programme	7%
Social enterprise and co-op programme	8%
Start a business programmes	73%
High growth start programme	7%



# Progress against 2017/18 targets

(April-September 2017)

## Jobs created



Target: 366  
Current: 188

	Current	Target
Start a business programme (in-year activity)	149	325
Social enterprise and co-op programme* (outputs arising from 16/17 activity)	32	32
Graduate enterprise programme* (outputs arising from 16/17 activity)	7	9

\* activity reported by participants 17/18 but relates to programmes 16/17.

## Business plans created



Target: 420  
Current: 200

	Current	Target
Start a business programme	200	378
Social enterprise and co-op programme		12
Graduate enterprise programme		30

 Business plan support element has just commenced for these projects

## Programme participants



Target: 438  
Current: 248

	Current	Target
Start a business programme	200	378
Social enterprise and co-op programme	15	30
Graduate enterprise programme	33	30

## External funding secured to deliver programmes (Invest NI and ERDF)



2017/18 target: £123,000

	Secured
Start a business programme	£87,000
High growth start-up programme	£36,000

# Programme descriptions

## Current initiatives



### Enterprise

- **Belfast Enterprise Academy programme:** pre-enterprise support programme to assist degree level students in Belfast to explore business ideas and creativity, gain best practice from existing innovative businesses and develop business skills and ideas.
- **Go Social programme:** programme to support the creation of new social enterprises and cooperatives.



### Business start-up

- **Go for it programme:** programme to support individuals to start a business through the development of a business plan.

## In development for 2017/18



### Enterprise

- **Enterprise outreach:** a new programme will target under-represented groups facing barriers in starting a business. Commencing November 2017.
- **Enterprise framework for Belfast:** Development work with our partners to look at how we can work together to increase the number of start ups, including those who will engage in export and international collaborations. Work underway - to complete in March 2018.



### Business start-up

- **City centre start-up programme:** (in partnership with Derry City and Strabane District Council): new programme for specific sectors in city centre such as retail, food, tourism, markets and fashion, involving mentoring and incentivising start-ups. Commencing November 2017.
- **High growth start-up programme:** new programme for start-up businesses operating in key sectors with greatest growth and job creation potential. Commencing November 2017.



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# Grow a business

2021 city target: create 15,000 new jobs

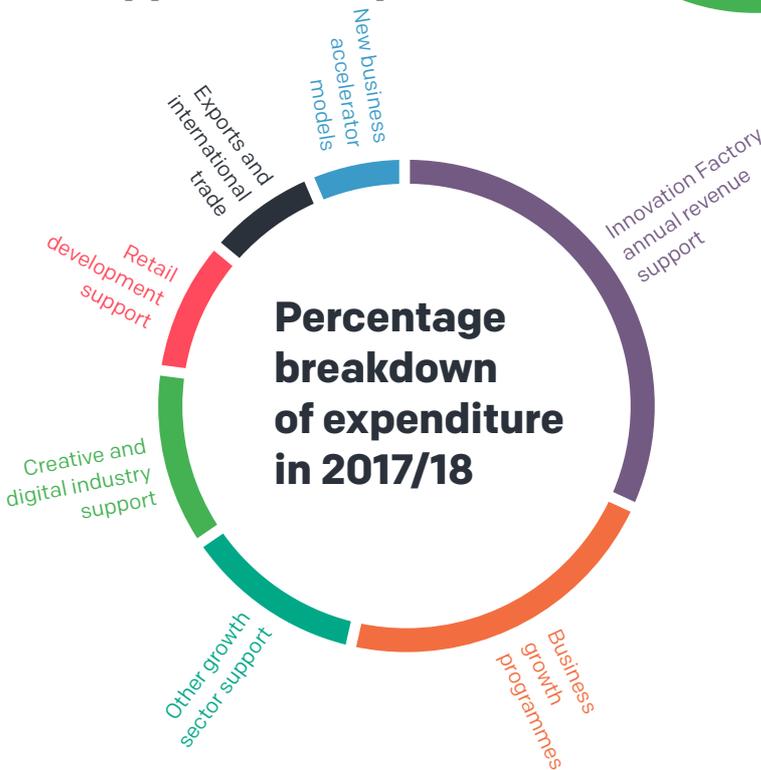
6 month progress



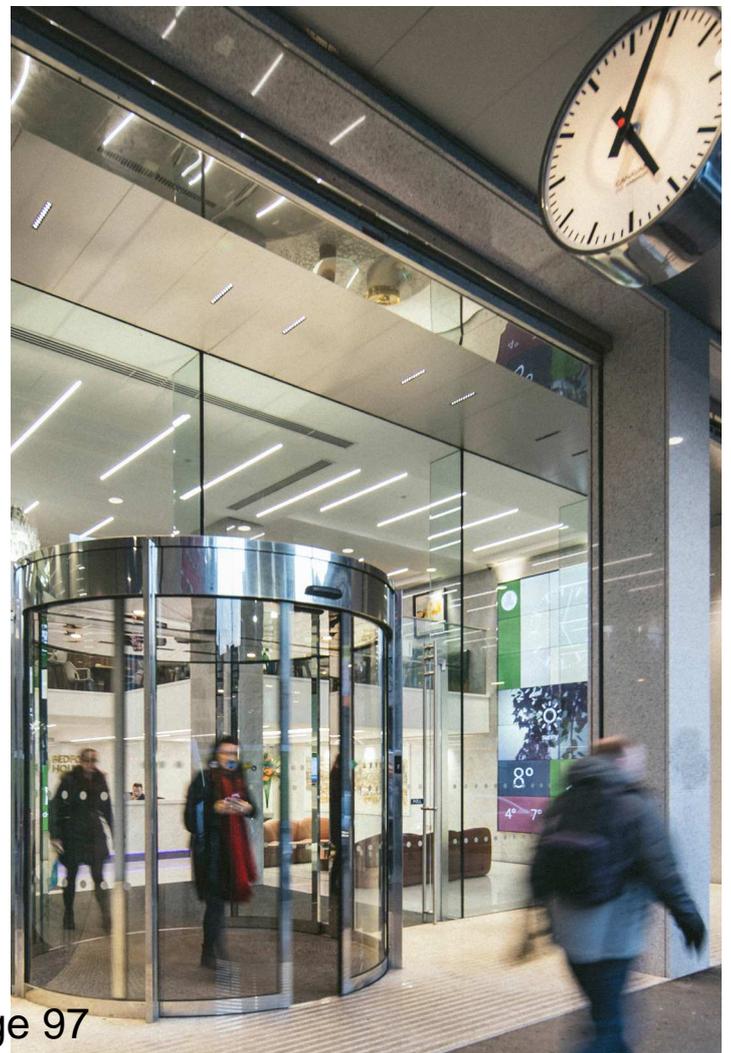
2017/18 investment

## Proportion of investment to support activity

\* £921,000 from Belfast City Council  
£42,000 from external sources (Invest NI and ERDF)



Innovation Factory annual revenue support	40%
Business growth programmes	15%
Other growth sector support	8%
Creative and digital industry support	13%
Retail development support	9%
Exports and international	9%
New business accelerator	6%



# Progress against 2017/18 targets

(April-September 2017)

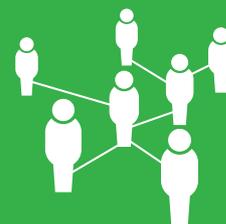
## Jobs forecasts based on 2017/18 support interventions



Total Jobs forecast 2017/18:

	Forecast
Innovation Factory	63
Business growth programmes	43
Retail Development	5

## Programme participants



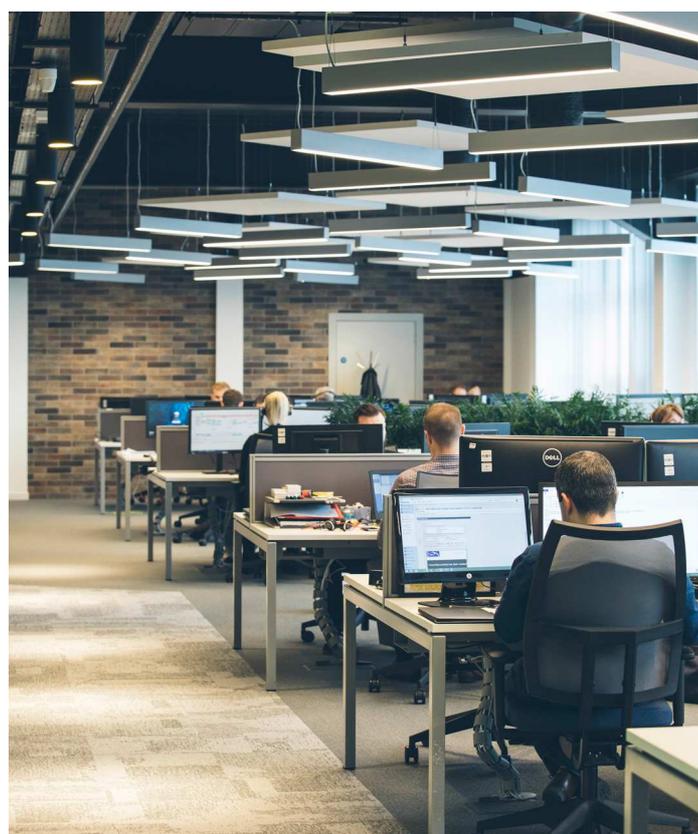
Target: 1,618  
Current: 636

	Current	Target
Creative and digital industry support	285	705
Innovation Factory support programmes	168	550
Business growth programmes	73	172
Retail trade support	110	176
International trade and export development	Starts Nov 2017	15

## Impact of our investment

**Evaluation from previous activity has evidenced economic value of programmes. Please see some examples below:**

- Our procurement support programmes helped businesses achieve £1,543,758 of new contracts and the average increase in turnover per participating company was £21,743
- £232,000 of procured expenditure by Innovation Factory was re-invested in local supply chains
- Companies participating on our business growth programme reported that 28% of them had increased sales, 23% saw profitability improve and an estimated 40 nett new jobs were created
- Attendance at South by South West in Austin, Texas in March 17 generated contracts valued at £150,000
- Retailer support invested £210,000 in the activities of local Trade Associations in 16/17



# Details of programmes and initiatives

## Current initiatives

- **Business Growth Programme:** this mainly helps those businesses that have just started up to ensure that they focus on their growth plans to create jobs and enhance turnover.
- **Innovation Factory Business Growth and Innovation Services:** these services focus on the Innovation Factory tenants (25 businesses employing 83 staff at present). The Innovation Factory also hosts events that are open to all businesses.
- **Creative and Digital Industries:** we are supporting local creative companies to showcase their products and services in international markets and at events such as SXSW in Austin, Texas. We are also working with the Smart Cities Team on the new Immersive Tech Hub at the former Belfast Telegraph building – supporting collaborations to bring forward new products.
- **Hospitality and Retail:** we are helping local companies to improve customer services standards, enhance their capacity to do business online and develop new products to service the growing tourism industry.
- **Access to procurement and supply chain development:** we are helping local businesses to increase their awareness of and gain access to procurement opportunities across the public sector. We are also supporting local supply chain development linked to the major regeneration investment in the city.

## For development 2017/18

- **Export and International Trade:** we are helping companies to explore access to international markets, including opportunities in our Sister Cities.
- **Growth Sector Support:** we are part of a partnership that has developed a growth strategy for the Cyber Security sector, with the ambition of increasing the jobs numbers in this sector to 5,000 by 2022. We are going through a similar process with partners to look at sectors such as Legal Technology, Financial Technology and Life & Health Services. The aim is to get an agreed approach to the investment required to develop these sectors in which Belfast has real niche expertise and to oversee the delivery of a joint programme of work to support job creation, research development and skills investment.
- **New business accelerator models:** building on the success of the Innovation Factory, we are exploring opportunities for accelerator models based on leveraging investment and developing international business models. We are working towards a partnership with global organisations on this project.
- **Innovation Factory:** we will continue to work with the Innovation Factory operator to ensure that we remain on track to meet our occupancy and income targets. We will also continue to focus on the regeneration and inclusion benefits of the centre and will explore the opportunities for these companies who may be moving on from the Innovation Factory following their agreed "incubation" period.



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