

# People and Communities Committee

Tuesday, 3rd December, 2019

## MEETING OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Michael Collins (Chairperson);  
the Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor McReynolds; and  
Councillors D. Baker, Black, Bunting, Cobain,  
Corr, de Faoite, Donnelly, M. Kelly, Kyle, Magee,  
McCusker, McLaughlin, Mulholland, Newton, Smyth  
and Verner.

In attendance: Mr. N Grimshaw, Strategic Director of City and  
Neighbourhood Services;  
Mr. R. Black, Director of Neighbourhood Services;  
Mrs. S. Toland, Director of City Services; and  
Mr. J. Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer.

### **Apologies**

Apologies for inability to attend the meeting were reported from Alderman McCoubrey and Councillor McMullan.

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meetings of 5th and 20th November were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 2nd December.

### **Declarations of Interest**

Councillors Black, Corr and Verner declared an interest in respect of item 2a – Community Development Grants Programme 2020/21, in that they worked for or were associated with organisations, which had applied for funding, and they left the meeting whilst that item was under consideration.

### **Restricted Items**

**The information contained in the reports associated with the following 2 items is restricted in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.**

Resolved – That the Committee agrees to exclude the Members of the Press and public from the Committee meeting during discussion on the following 2 items as, due to their nature, there would be a disclosure of exempt information as described in Section 42(4) and Section 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

### **Community Development Grants Programme 2020/21 – Progress Report and Grant Funding Bands**

The Committee considered a report which provided an update on the Community Development Grants Programme 2020/21 and which sought approval to progress funding allocations based on grant funding bands and budgetary constraints for the Capacity Building and Revenue for Community Building Grants.

After discussion, the Committee:

- agreed that officers would move to final allocations on the basis of the 4 band system and the associated scoring ranges for each band;
- agreed that the shortfall in funding be brought to the attention of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee and request that this be considered as part of the rate setting process; and
- agreed that officers produce a funding allocation report for Members' consideration in January.

### **Christmas Waste Collections Update**

The Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services updated the Committee on discussions which were ongoing in relation to Christmas waste collections.

After discussion, the Committee noted the current position and options for the Christmas waste collection arrangements and agreed that officers continue to discuss and exhaust all possible options with the Trade Unions and, if a workable solution was not found by the end of the current week, then it be brought to the Party Group Leaders at the beginning of next week for final discussion and agreement given the need for an urgent decision.

### **Matters referred back from the Council/Motions**

#### **Action on Avoidable Winter Deaths**

The Committee considered the following report:

##### **“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**

- 1.1 At the meeting of the People and Communities Committee on 5th November 2019, a Motion regarding Action on Avoidable Winter Deaths was passed. The Motion called on Council ‘to ‘convene and facilitate a meeting of Belfast’s community, voluntary and social enterprise agencies who focus on protecting and supporting older vulnerable people to identify, develop and support innovative programmes that can be deployed and co-ordinated to prevent avoidable deaths in our city over the upcoming winter’.**

1.2 This report outlines action being taken by Council and its partners to identify and support older people who may be vulnerable during the upcoming winter period and provides a list of available services for Members information.

## 2.0 Recommendations

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Note the content of this report; and
- Agree to support the communication of winter messages and services.

## 3.0 Main Report

### Background

3.1 The Belfast Agenda sets out the ambition to reduce the gap in life expectancy between the most and least deprived neighbourhoods of the city by 33% and gives a commitment to ensure the needs of older people are met through the Age-friendly Belfast approach and that health inequalities are addressed by the design and delivery of integrated multi-agency city programmes.

3.2 The Healthy Ageing Strategic Partnership (HASP) co-ordinates the interagency Age-friendly Belfast Plan and as part of its work convenes a Winter Planning Group who lead on communications regarding winter planning with older people each year in Belfast. Two city wide meetings take place in August and November each year involving a wide range of organisations from the community, voluntary and statutory services in Belfast (including Belfast City Council emergency planning and affordable warmth leads). The purpose of these meetings and ongoing communications is to:

- Maintain a list of 'services to support people in the winter'
- Update a comprehensive list of contacts for circulation of information in extreme weather-this is tested in November by Elma Greer and used to inform contacts of extreme weather warnings and additional initiatives or contact centres that are enacted
- Update each other on specific plans that each organisations has for the winter period.
- Circulate an up-to date list of organisations that distribute winter warmth packs to older people, families, and vulnerable groups of people at risk of fuel poverty and with specific conditions

- 3.3 As part of the work to reduce avoidable winter deaths, the winter planning group and other local contacts have been involved in the Living Here Board workshop on Avoidable Winter Deaths in October. Additional communications are also being provided on general messages for people to keep warm in the winter.
- 3.4 Working with our Community Planning partners through the Living Here Board, the issue of avoidable winter deaths was identified as a priority requiring a multi-agency approach. This was supported by the publication of Excess Winter Death (2017-18) statistics by NISRA which showed an increase of 220% in deaths since 2015-16 for the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust area. The highest recorded figures since the major flu epidemic in 1989.
- 3.5 There is a substantial body of evidence linking cold temperatures with ill health and higher mortality and morbidity rates in winter, and the World Health Organisation estimates that 30% of winter deaths are caused by cold housing. The focus therefore for Council and its Community Planning partners has been on the mobilisation of statutory, community and voluntary agencies to identify and support people who are living in cold homes, including older people. For Council, this approach has clear links with our Affordable Warmth Scheme and officers have been in discussion to consider opportunities for collective gains across both.
- 3.6 Action to date taken by Council and its partners include:
- Citywide data analysis of risk factors associated with winter deaths including housing quality, income, prevalence of a chronic condition (heart disease, COPD, etc.) and age;
  - The identification of areas with multiple risks for the purpose of staging a targeted prototype intervention, which will identify and support vulnerable people with action across a range of areas including home energy efficiency, finances, health and social connections. The super output areas identified through data analysis are Shankill 1, Crumlin 2, Falls Park 2 and Andersonstown 1;
  - The hosting of a Process Mapping workshop to allow statutory, community and voluntary partners with the opportunity to shape the prototype intervention process and to establish links with community based support services; and
  - The appointment of National Energy Action (NEA) to operate as a single point of contact for referrals of vulnerable people from statutory, community and voluntary partners working within the prototype intervention areas.

- 3.7 Further engagement with agencies serving the prototype intervention areas will continue in shaping aspects of local delivery including identification of vulnerable people and support networks available, and also in defining the evaluation measures and shared learning which will guide future roll out of the intervention across the city.
- 3.8 In addition to the prototype intervention, Council and its partners have been working to develop a series of shared city messages for winter, which all partners will be asked to communicate. Included within the messages will be signposting to services and general information on how to stay well this winter. Central to both the prototype intervention and wider city messages is a call to action for all statutory, community and voluntary partners to help support our citizens to be good neighbourhoods this winter and help us look out for people who may be vulnerable.
- 3.9 **Financial & Resource Implications**
- There are no additional financial or resource implications contained within this report.
- 3.10 **Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment**
- There are no equality, good relations or rural needs implications contained within this report.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations and agreed also:

- the Healthy Ageing Strategic Partnership should consider an evaluation process on the measures/interventions being undertaken; and
- that the Reference Group on Older People be consulted as part of the evaluation.

### **Committee/Strategic Issues**

#### **Single Use Items**

The Committee considered the following report:

#### **“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**

- 1.1 To respond to a notice of motion from the 20 September Strategic Policy and Resources Committee calling for the elimination of single use items and an overall review of the

Council's purchasing of materials and internal waste management;

- 1.2 *'This Council recognises the significant detrimental effect that single use items have in Belfast; calls for the creation of an internal strategy to do away with single use item usage; and, agrees to review our internal waste policies alongside supporting any resulting recommendations with appropriate funding and necessary resources'*

2.0 **Recommendations**

- 2.1 The committee is asked to approve the following recommendations

- The implementation of a centralised recycling and waste collection system for the entire Council estate.
- To broaden the remit of the Social Values working group to consider how to eradicate single use items through more effective purchasing procedures, assessed against the waste hierarchy and the wider sustainable agenda.
- To participate with Queen's University Belfast in the application of ESPRC (Engineering and Physical Sciences research Council) funding in the establishment of Interdisciplinary Circular Economy Centre to better inform future Council decision making).

3.0 **Main report**

**Background and Context**

- 3.1 The issue of single use plastics has come to the forefront of public attention as a result of BBC's 'The Blue Planet' programme which highlighted the stark consequences of our failure to manage the plastic we produce to meet our daily needs. However, we must ensure that we focus our attention on the issue of single use as simply substituting plastics with other single use items i.e. paper does not necessarily lead to better environmental outcomes with regard to either littering or CO2 production.
- 3.2 We must not lose sight of how plastic has transformed our lives and plays a significant role in reducing pollution in other areas. The problem stems from society and policy makers having limited regard for the wider ramifications of unfettered plastic consumption combined with poor collection and disposal infrastructure.
- 3.3 Commendably the Council continues to invest heavily in behaviour change through the creation of outreach teams for both littering and recycling plus accompanying advertising

budgets, resulting in recycling rates currently at 44% and litter behaviour decreasing year on year. Further work is required within both the council and our communities to reduce the amount of waste we produce and improving the capture of ever more items for recycling.

**3.4 Both the EU and UK governments have taken the issue of single use plastics and sought to build a policy framework that EU member states and the UK to can work towards to eliminate their use.**

**3.5 As part of the Circular Economy Package adopted in early 2018, the European Commission is working on a directive to influence the demand, usage and disposal of the top 10 most commonly littered SUP items found in seas. The Single Use Plastic Directive which was adopted on the 5 June 2019 includes the following initiatives;**

- **Plastic reduction: Member States should adopt the necessary measures to reduce the consumption of single-use plastic products by 2026 compared to 2022 (through reduction**
- **Targets, measures encouraging re-usable alternatives, economic instruments, marketing restrictions, etc.).**
- **Plastics ban: Member States should prohibit the sale by 03/07/2021 of: cutlery, plates, straws, cotton buds.**
- **Drinking bottles: From 2025, beverage bottles (PET bottles) should contain at least 25% recycled plastic; and from 2030 should contain at least 30% recycled plastic.**
- **Caps and lids: Should remain attached to the containers during the use stage.**
- **Marking: Every single-use plastic product should contain info on 1) appropriate waste management options and 2) acknowledge the presence of plastics in the product and the resulting negative impact of littering by 3 July 2021.**

- **Separate collection:** Member States shall take the necessary measures to ensure the separate collection for recycling: 1) by 2025, 77% of waste single-use plastic products placed on the market in a given year by weight and 2) by 2029, 90% of waste single-use plastic products. In order to achieve that objective, Member States could: (a) establish deposit-refund schemes; (b) establish separate collection targets for relevant extended producer responsibility schemes.

**3.6** The above is expected to be integrated into UK law after withdrawal from the EU.

- The UK government via DEFRA has published its own requirements in the Waste and Resources Strategy (December 2018)
- Invoking the polluter pays principle and Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for packaging, ensuring that producers pay the full costs of disposal for packaging they place on the market.
- Stimulating demand for recycled plastic by introducing a tax on plastic packaging with less than 30% recycled plastic.
- Setting minimum requirements through eco-design to encourage resource-efficient product design.
- Incentivising consumers to purchase sustainably, for example by consulting on extending and increasing the carrier bag charge.
- Providing consumers with better information on the sustainability of their purchases through better product labelling.
- Continuing the ban on the most problematic SUP products (where there is a clear case for it and alternatives exist) in a systematic approach.
- Addressing barriers to reuse, repair and remanufacture.
- Introducing a deposit return scheme (DRS) for single-use drinks containers, subject to consultation.
- Developing measures to reduce the environmental impacts of disposable cups.



- Producing consumer guidance for the recycling, resale, reuse and disposal of consumer internet-connected devices.
- Leading by example by procuring more sustainably and requiring all government bodies to remove consumer SUP products from government estate by 2020.

3.8 The UK Government's new planned actions are ambitious and will potentially result in drastic changes to the way waste management is currently handled by local authorities. The 'polluter pays' principle in particular is expected to take financial burden away from taxpayers, which could benefit local authorities significantly.

3.9 DAERA have also recently conducted a number of consultations on Deposit Return Schemes (DRS) and EPR for Northern Ireland and are currently updating the Waste Management Strategy to reflect the changing legislative framework.

#### Internal Improvements

3.10 From an internal Council perspective, the Recycling Outreach team have worked with the Catering section to implement a series of changes that has resulted in significant change to staff behaviour in the Atrium restaurant in the Cecil Ward Building. During European Week for Waste Reduction (EWWR) 2018 the teams actions dramatically impacted the number of single use disposable paper and plastic cups resulting in the following

- Single use paper coffee cup usage has fallen by 80% (3500 cups per month to just 750)
- 70% of customers are using their own cup from almost none before November 2018
- Complete eradication of the single use plastic cups for water
- Non-recyclable waste has reduced by 1/3 as more food waste is being recycled and less paper cups are being used

3.11 And more recently during EWWR 2019 we have eliminated single use condiment sachets for salt, pepper, sugar and red and brown sauces. We are currently looking at methodologies to implement the same across all aspects of catering both internally and externally.

- 3.12 These changes are to be welcomed but do not cover the full spectrum of single use items used or purchased on a daily basis across all Council services. Therefore it is recommended that the Council broaden the scope of the Social Values Working Group to consider the issue of single use items in all future procurement exercises. The Working Group already has sustainability within its remit. It is advised that a suitably qualified officer be appointed to the group to consider these issues as they arise.
- 3.13 This group would work to ensure compliance with the forthcoming legislation but also to promote the Council's leadership within the city and demonstrate its sustainable credentials on the world stage via participation in such events as The Global Destination Sustainability Index (GDS-Index) and via its licensing of events across the city.
- 3.14 Another aspect of plastic pollution is inadequate or incorrect use of internal council recycling collection infrastructure. The existing recycling collection system is not always being used appropriately with higher than acceptable levels of contamination, despite having helped shift the internal recycling rate to over 30%. Additionally, this system is only in place across city centre locations with limited recycling infrastructure across the wider Council estate.
- 3.15 To address this issue, the Recycling Outreach team has implemented a trial of a new centralised collection system within the Cecil Ward Building. The team worked with the cleaning staff to establish a baseline by measuring the limited performance of the current scheme in terms of participation, contamination of the bins and the lost productivity of the cleaning staff in servicing the existing system.
- 3.16 The trial both in the Atrium restaurant and 3rd floor of the CWB has resulted in a significant increase in the capture of food waste and reduced the levels of contamination. Staff satisfaction with the system has also improved. The scheme has also resulted in reducing the time taken to clean each floor in CWB by 40 minutes. This saving when replicated across CWB, 9 Adelaide and the City Hall would cover the cost of purchasing the new bins within the first year of introduction. Similar schemes have been implemented in Mid & East Antrim, Derry City & Strabane and Mid Ulster in addition to the Stormont estate and numerous other councils across the UK.

- 3.17 The volume of bins required would necessitate a tender process from the supply of both bin units and bags. It is envisaged that the scheme could be begin to be rolled out from March 2020.

**Knowledge Development**

- 3.18 The Recycling Outreach team is regularly asked by both University of Ulster and Queen's University to participate in projects that help further our understanding of the wider sustainability agenda. To this end we are currently a stakeholder on the ACCEPT project seeking to explore the Circular Economic impacts of plastic cycle for Northern Ireland.
- 3.19 We have now been asked to be a partner in the application for ESPRC –UKRI for a research grant of £4.2 million to establish an Interdisciplinary Circular Economy Centre. The requirement for the Council is to commit officer to assisting in the application and if successful to allow the relevant officers time to help with the research in terms of communication best practice and legislation.
- 3.20 The committee is requested to approve of the Waste Manager (Education and Business Development) assisting QUB in its current application.

3.21 **Finance and Resources Implications**

The full cost of introducing the new internal Council recycling collection system would be approximately £26,000. This can be covered from within existing CNS and Facilities Management Unit budgets with phased introduction and taking into account the operational savings from improved recycling management.

3.22 **Equality and Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment**

None at present, although this will be assessed on an ongoing basis.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

**Public Art Pilot Project – Belfast Canvas – update**

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting in March, the City Growth and Regeneration Committee had agreed to support a pilot public art project that focused on a number of the city centre utility boxes. It had been based on a similar project, which had been undertaken in Dublin, called the “Dublin Canvas”.

The “Belfast Canvas” project had got under way in early Summer 2019. In line with the Committee’s agreement, the project had focused on the city’s retail core and the Cathedral Quarter area. To date, professional street artists had painted 18 utility boxes.

The Committee had agreed also that, following the initial works, the second phase of the pilot would be to engage communities to work with the professional artists in developing designs for a number of additional boxes. Work was set to get under way on that element of the programme in the coming weeks. It would involve up to six local community groups across the city. The engagement work would happen in the communities and the artists would then take the designs based on the community input and replicate these on the utility boxes. When completed, there will be a total of 22 utility boxes painted as part of this pilot phase.

The Committee was reminded further that in March the City Growth and Regeneration Committee had discussed what the next steps in the process might be, subject to satisfactory progress with the pilot scheme. It had been proposed that the phase two of the project might focus on the BRT route, engaging communities from both east and west of the city in the design process, working alongside the professional artists. Council officers would give further consideration to this proposal before it was submitted to the Committee and would set out details of how the engagement might take place and how the project might align with other activities taking place in those areas.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided.

#### **Boxing Strategy Quarterly update**

The Committee was reminded that the Council had agreed previously, through the January 2018 Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, to provide £200,000 to the Irish Athletic Boxing Association Ulster Branch (IABA) in the current financial year for delivery of an agreed action plan supporting the Belfast Boxing Strategy.

In line with the Council's objective, the Belfast Boxing Strategy Steering Group met quarterly. The Steering Group was chaired by the Director of Neighbourhood Services, with Council Officers, IABA Officers and Officials and County Antrim Board Officials also attending.

The Committee was reminded that the Council had previously agreed a total of 34 Indicators with IABA to monitor delivery of the programmes. The Director reported that the IABA had been compliant with all the reporting matters.

The Committee noted the quarterly progress update report.

#### **Response to the DAERA Consultation on the Waste Management Plan for Northern Ireland**

The Committee considered the following report and adopted the recommendations:

##### **“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**

- 1.1 To advise Members on the Department of Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs (DAERA) consultation on the Waste Management Plan for Northern Ireland and to provide a response to the consultation. The response closes on 11 December 2019.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is asked to;**

- agree the draft response to the DAERA consultation exercise regarding the Waste Management Plan for Northern Ireland and agree that the draft is forwarded to DAERA before 11 December 2019, but they will be advised that the response may be subject to change following the full the meeting of Council on 6th January 2020.

**3.0 Main report**

**3.1 On 1 May 2019, the Board of the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) agreed to consult on a Waste Management Plan for Northern Ireland (WMPNI) by 31 December 2019. The consultation opened on 16 October 2019 and will conclude after eight weeks at 4pm on Wednesday 11 December 2019.**

**3.2 The revised Waste Framework Directive 20081 (rWFD) requires Member States to produce one or more waste management plans which cover, alone or in combination, the geographical territory of the Member State concerned. As waste is a devolved matter, the other UK devolved administrations and Gibraltar are preparing their own waste management plans which cover their geographical territories and which, together with this plan, are needed to meet the requirements of the rWFD.**

**3.3 Appendix 1 includes a copy of the letter to consultees dated 16 October 2019, appendix 2 includes a draft copy of the Waste Management Plan for Northern Ireland, while appendix 3 includes a draft response to the consultation.**

**3.4 The core aim of the plan is to bring current waste management policies under the umbrella of one national plan; it is not the intention of the WMPNI to introduce new policies or to change the landscape of how waste is managed in Northern Ireland.**

**3.5 Officer discussions have taken place on the consultation of the WMPNI through the Technical Advisors Group for Northern Ireland. The officer view is that this is essentially a technical consultation as can be seen from the consultation question posed by the Department and one which is necessitated merely by compliance with EU timescales;**

**3.6 *Will the Waste Management Plan for Northern Ireland (WMPNI), including its constituent parts (detailed on page 5 of the WMPNI), when combined with the location specific guidance in the waste planning policy - meet the requirements of Article 28 of the revised Waste Framework Directive and the additional requirements as detailed in***

*Schedule 3 to the Waste and Contaminated Land (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 (see Appendix 1)? If not, what else is, in your view, needed?*

- 3.7 As a consequence, the considered officer view is that while the WMPNI does appear to meet the requirements of Article 28 of the rWFD it is merely delaying the process for the review of the Northern Ireland Waste Management Strategy; 'Delivering Resource Efficiency'. It is also noted that the determination as to whether the WMPNI meets the requirements of the various legislative instruments will ultimately be a decision for the legislature in the event of any challenge.
- 3.8 The consultation response also expresses concern that the Department has yet to publish a timescale for the review of the Waste Management Strategy for Northern Ireland as it is believed that the review and update of 'Delivering Resource Efficiency' is critical to setting the overall strategy which should then underpin the Council's Waste Management Plan.

3.9 **Financial & Resource Implications**

There are no financial or resource implications associated with this report.

3.10 **Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment**

There are no equality, good relations or rural needs issues associated with this report."

**Appendix 3**

**Consultation on the Waste Management Plan for Northern Ireland**

Thank you for providing Belfast City Council with the opportunity to respond to the consultation on the Waste Management Plan for Northern Ireland.

The question posed by the Department is as follows;

Will the Waste Management Plan for Northern Ireland (WMPNI), including its constituent parts (detailed on page 5 of the WMPNI), when combined with the location specific guidance in the waste planning policy - meet the requirements of Article 28 of the revised Waste Framework Directive and the additional requirements as detailed in Schedule 3 to the Waste and Contaminated Land (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 (see Appendix 1)? If not, what else is, in your view, needed?

It is noted that the mandatory requirements of **Article 28 of the rWFD** specify that the WMPNI should be established in accordance with Articles 1 (Subject matter and scope), 4 (Waste hierarchy), 13 (Protection of human health and environment) and 16 (Principles of self-sufficiency and proximity) of the rWFD and should contain the following information:

- An analysis of the current waste management situation in the geographical entity concerned, as well as the measures to be taken to improve environmentally sound preparing for re-use, recycling, recovery and disposal of waste and an evaluation of how the plan will support the implementation of the objectives and provisions of this rWFD.
- As appropriate, take account the geographical level and coverage of the planning area:
  - the type, quantity and source of waste generated within the territory, the waste likely to be shipped from or to the national territory, and an evaluation of the development of waste streams in the future;
  - existing waste collection schemes and major disposal and recovery installations, including any special arrangements for waste oils, hazardous waste or waste streams addressed by specific Community legislation;
  - an assessment of the need for new collection schemes, the closure of existing waste installations, additional waste installation infrastructure in accordance with Article 16 (on the proximity principle), and, if necessary, the investments related thereto;
  - sufficient information on the location criteria for site identification and on the capacity of future disposal or major recovery installations, if necessary;
  - general waste management policies, including planned waste management technologies and methods, or policies for waste posing specific management problems.

In addition, **Schedule 3 to the Waste and Contaminated Land (Northern Ireland) Order 1997**, as amended, sets out other obligations for the WMPNI which have been transposed from the rWFD. These other obligations include:

- a chapter on the management of packaging and packaging waste, including measures taken pursuant to Articles 4 (prevention) and 5 (re-use) of the Packaging Waste Directive<sup>2</sup>;
- measures to promote high quality recycling including the setting up of separate collections of waste where technically, environmentally and economically practicable;
- measures to encourage the separate collection of bio-waste with a view to the composting and digestion of bio-waste;
- measures to be taken to promote the re-use of products and preparation for re-use activities, in particular—
  - measures to encourage the establishment and support of re-use and repair networks; the use of economic instruments;
  - the use of procurement criteria; and
  - the setting of quantitative objectives.
- Policies in relation to preparing for re-use, recovery and recycling targets including—
  - measures to be taken to ensure that by 2020, at least 50% by weight of waste from households is prepared for re-use or recycled;
  - measures to be taken to ensure that by 2020, at least 70% by weight of construction and demolition waste excluding—
    - hazardous waste; and
    - [F2naturally occurring material falling within code 17 05 04 in the Annex to the List of Wastes,] is subjected to material recovery.

The core aim of the Waste Management Plan for Northern Ireland as set out at page 6 of the Plan is;

*“to bring current waste management policies under the umbrella of one national plan”.*

The Plan therefore essentially provides only a review of the current position in relation to waste management arrangements (plans and policies) within Northern Ireland and as it states (again at page 6);

*“It is not, therefore the intention of the WMPNI to introduce new policies or to change the landscape of how waste is managed in Northern Ireland”.*

The consultation question posed by the Department seeks consultees to comment on whether the Plan meets the requirements of Article 28 of the revised Waste Framework Directive.

Technically and on the basis of the core aims of the Plan and the references to other plans and policies within the Plan it is believed that the WMPNI meets the requirements of Article 28. However, this comment is without prejudice and it would ultimately be the responsibility of the governance and judicial framework of the EU, which would determine if the Plan meets EU legislative requirements.

However, in terms of progressing the strategic management of waste within Northern Ireland the WMPNI provides little or no strategic direction. Waste Management within Northern Ireland, in particular municipal waste, has developed significantly since “Delivering Resource Efficiency” (Northern Ireland Waste Management Strategy) was published over six years ago in October 2013. With regards to the two key drivers of Landfill Diversion as set out in the Northern Ireland Landfill Allowance Scheme and the 50% EU composting and recycling target; both of these are now in their final target years of 2019/20 and both are set to be exceeded.

The lead-in times in achieving these significant milestones are probably better measured in decades rather than in months and years; changes in public attitudes to waste, as set out in the wider environmental, circular economy and sustainable development agenda take time to change, as does the establishment of infrastructure to collect, treat and dispose of waste. As recent history has demonstrated, these changes can be achieved but only through strong central government leadership backed up and supported by appropriate legislation and adequate levels of subvention.

Given the level of change that has taken place since “Delivering Resource Efficiency” was published in 2013, what is now required is a new Waste Management Strategy for Northern Ireland rather than a gathering together of pre-existing and to some extent outdated plans and policies under the umbrella of a WMPNI.

It is therefore of concern that the Department has chosen to adopt this approach of an umbrella document and whilst there may be mitigating circumstances relating to the lack of a sitting Assembly, Brexit and EU timelines, it is surely incumbent on the Department to at the very least set out its timetable for the production of a new Waste Management Strategy for Northern Ireland. If councils are to produce meaningful Waste Management Plans then these need to be developed against the background of a revised and updated Waste Management Strategy for Northern Ireland.



**Proposal to have Regular Health Briefings to Committee**

The Committee was advised that Council officers, along with representatives from the Public Health Agency (PHA) and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE), had met with the Lord Mayor on 22nd October to discuss recent notices of motion made in relation to homelessness, mental health and injecting drug use.

The officers from the three organisations had updated the Lord Mayor on existing structures and work already taking place in relation to addressing these issues and discussion had then taken place on how elected Members could become better informed about the work and plans of these agencies and partnerships, as well as become better placed to influence, and support, priorities and planned action within these topic areas and structures.

One potential solution proposed at the meeting was that the “health family”, that is, the PHA and the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust (BHSCT), could be asked to provide twice-yearly written updates to elected Members via the People and Communities Committee, a similar arrangement as to that which already exists with the NIHE, on their plans for addressing homelessness, mental health and substance misuse in the City, with the Committee then having the option of requesting more detailed information, or a verbal presentation, by way of follow up.

The Committee:

- granted approval to have regular health briefings (bi-annually); and
- agreed that Council officers liaise with colleagues in PHA, HSCB and BHSCT to design and agree a reporting template, with the aim of having the first health-focussed report presented early in the New Year.

**Finance, Procurement and Performance**

**Financial Reporting – Quarter 2 201920**

The Committee noted the contents of a report which summarised the Quarter 2 financial position for the People and Communities Committee, including a forecast of the year end outturn. It noted that the Quarter 2 position showed an under spend of £154k, with the forecast year end position being an overspend of £544k (0.7%) which was well within the acceptable variance limit of 3%.

**Dormant Accounts Northern Ireland – Consultation Framework Open**

The Committee was advised that The Department of Finance had directed the National Lottery Community Fund (NLCF) to deliver Dormant Accounts funding in Northern Ireland.

The NLCF had opened a consultation exercise until the end of December, 2019 and were engaging with the voluntary community and social enterprise sector to determine how this non-lottery funding should be delivered.

The Committee noted the report and the consultation framework; agreed to receive a further report on the NLCF findings and associated strategic action plan in February, 2020; and agreed that any response should include a comment that an element of the funding should be targeted at an education programme for disadvantaged younger people to help them with financial management.

### **Your School Your Club Funding**

The Committee considered the following report:

#### **“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**

**1.1 To advise committee of Sport NI ‘Your School Your Club’ funding and applications submitted from schools in Belfast City Council area.**

#### **2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 That Committee agrees to note;**

- the support for two applications to Sport NI, Your School Your Club funding.
- that further information on how Sport NI intend to roll out the 20/21 fund will be provided to Members in the future, including clarification on what role is expected of Council.

#### **3.0 Main report**

##### **Key Issues**

#### **3.1 BACKGROUND**

Your School Your Club is an initiative to promote community use of school sports facilities. The opening of the school sports estate to community and club use will have a major impact on the provision of sports facilities throughout Northern Ireland. Your School Your Club seeks to develop strategic partnerships in order to revitalise existing sports facilities or to develop new/additional provision.

**3.2 The Your School Your Club Joint Working Group is governed by the Department for Communities (DfC); current membership includes DfC, Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA), representatives of District Councils, Department for Education (DE), Education Authority (EA) and Sport Northern Ireland.**

- 3.3 Sport NI have not widely advertised access to the fund and Council was approached directly by the two schools requests requesting support for their submissions as Sport NI required Council sign off of the applications before the deadline 13 November 2019.
- 3.4 Given the fact that Council has no prior notice of this fund being available and that there was insufficient time between Council being approached by the schools and the deadline set by Sport NI for Committee consideration the applications were signed by the Director of Neighbourhood Services under delegated authority.
- 3.5 Council officers intend to meet with Sport NI to clarify how they intend to manage the 20/21 fund, to include how they will advertise and make all potential applicants aware of the availability of funding. Further information will be provided to Members following that meeting.

3.6 **INVESTMENT**

Sport Northern Ireland on behalf of the Your School Your Club Working Group is establishing a list of potential projects that would benefit from support and funding this financial year (i.e. no later than 31 March 2020). Sport Northern Ireland has a capital budget of £300,000 remaining for 2019/20, to assist the implementation of the outcomes envisaged by Your School Your Club. Sport Northern Ireland hopes to bid for additional capital funds in future years. These projects will involve schools that make their sports facilities open to the community/clubs if the appropriate sports facility infrastructure is provided. Successful projects will be predicated on the principle that schools involved are committed to making their sports facilities accessible to sports clubs/local communities subject to the provision of fit for purpose and appropriate (sports) infrastructure.

3.7 **FUNDING THRESHOLDS**

Potential funding will be considered on a project by project basis within the following principles:

- The aim of YSYC is to enhance community access to the school sporting estate;
- While there is no minimum investment threshold, Value For Money and additionality will be taken into account in assessing projects;
- For large scale projects, partnership funding will normally be required. YSYC will not be the majority funder in these projects;
- For projects in, and/or benefitting rural areas, flexibility in funding will normally be provided.

### **3.8 FUNDING IN 2019/20**

At a recent workshop hosted by CLOA (Chief Leisure Officers Association) SportNI outlined the current year funding status noting that approximately £300,000 was available out of the annual £1 million for projects. SportNI noted that they were particularly keen to have completed Expressions of Interest forwarded by Schools via Local Authorities by a deadline of 13th November for small projects of up to £60,000. SportNI noted they also are keen for Expressions of Interest for larger projects as well to support budget formation and that Expressions of Interest are welcome at any time from schools.

### **3.9 BELFAST APPLICATIONS**

The Council received applications for submission from Rathmore GS and St Mary's GS. Sport NI have confirmed that the Rathmore submission is to be progressed this year and the St Mary's submission is on a long list for future consideration.

### **3.10 Financial & Resource Implications**

No financial contribution is required from Belfast City Council. Sport NI have confirmed that further funding may be available in the 2020 – 2021 financial year.

### **3.11 Equality or Good Relations Implications and Rural Needs Assessment**

Equality and Good Relations implications and rural needs assessment are the responsibility of the funder Sport NI.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

## **Physical Programme and Asset Management**

### **Use and Condition of Council Bowling Pavilions**

The Committee noted a report which provided information on the use and condition of the bowling pavilions within the Council's parks across the City, including their current status, and whether they were currently being used by any groups and whether any repairs were required.

### **Partner Agreements Update**

The Committee noted the quarterly progress report in relation to Partner Agreements at seven sites and that all Partners had been compliant on reporting matters and financial checks for Quarter 2.

## Operational Issues

### Proposal for Dual Language Street Signs

The Committee approved the applications to erect a second street nameplate in Irish at North Link, Tardree Park, Norglen Gardens, Avoca Close, Monagh Grove and Norglen Parade.

### Proposed Improvements to Parks and Open Spaces

The Committee considered the following report:

#### **“1.0 Purpose of Report**

**1.1 Over the past year the City & Neighbourhood Services Department has received a number of requests from Elected representatives for a range of improvements to our Parks and Open Spaces. These include a notice of motion relating to the provision of artificial lighting in Parks and Water Refill points on Council property. We have also received request to provide re-cycling bins in Parks and to review the hours are Parks are open to the public.**

**1.2 If introduced all of these improvements have the potential to enhance and improve how we use our Parks and open spaces. However more work is needed to consider all the impacts from each and to estimate their cost. The views of users will also need to be gauged. This report is to update members on the range of requests received and to inform members of the framework within which these requests will be considered moving forward.**

#### **2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is recommended to;**

- Note the contents of this report.**

#### **3.0 Main report**

##### **Key Issues**

**3.1 Our green and blue infrastructure including our Parks affects the quality of life for everyone in our city. It helps to define a sense of place and the character of our communities; provides important spaces for recreation with associated health and wellbeing benefits and strengthens the resilience of our natural environment to change. Protecting these assets and enhancing the benefits that they provide is therefore integral to the future of Belfast.**

3.2 This is a transformational time for our city, with the Belfast Agenda setting out shared commitments across public services to an ambitious vision to create a better quality of life for us all.

3.3 The Green and Blue Infrastructure Plan (GBIP) sets the strategic spatial framework, vision and five strategic principles for the future delivery, management and enhancement of the whole green and blue infrastructure network; helping to meet the outcomes envisaged in the Belfast Agenda's vision. It is supported by a number of other strategies which focus on specific sub-sets of green and blue infrastructure, such as the Belfast Open Spaces Strategy (BOSS). As BOSS evolves this will inform and future site based plans including future infrastructure improvements and how are Parks and Open spaces will be used.

3.4 In order for our Parks and Open Spaces to work effectively they will need to be well designed, regularly maintained and appropriately funded. This needs to be recognized and used to help attract sustainable funding to ensure the benefits from any future improvements are fully realized.

3.5 Provision of Artificial Lighting to our Parks

We currently have approximately 300 km of road and pathways in our Parks and Open Spaces. To inform any potential lighting scheme a piece of work needs to be undertaken that will consider issues such as any impact on crime and ASB, any impact on landscape character and wildlife habitats and ultimately costings in relation to purchasing and installing the equipment and any associated revenue and maintenance trail.

3.6 Amending the Opening and Closing Hours of Parks

Historically, our parks are open to the public from dawn to dusk. The gates in the majority of sites are opened and closed on a daily basis, by our park warden teams. Changing this has the potential to impact on park users and how we manage our parks. Issues such as Health and Safety, ASB and crime in the parks and neighbouring properties also need to be considered.

3.7 Water drinking Fountains/Refill Points

Historically, water drinking fountains were common in parks but over time have been removed or decommissioned with the arrival of the domestic water supply. With changing trends new drinking fountains were installed in a number of parks around 7 years ago and are currently available in :

- Ormeau Park (x 2)
- CS Lewis Square (x 1)
- Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park (x 1)
- Woodvale Park (x 1)

3.8 If we are to increase the numbers of water drinking fountains in the city, a feasibility needs to be undertaken to establish the best location, design and cost implications of new fountains to ensure that they are utilised to their full potential.

3.9 Recycling Bins in Parks

Over the years, we have installed litterbins in all the key locations across the estate to facilitate the depositing of waste in the bins as opposed to on the ground. Currently there are minimal recycling bins in our Parks and Open Spaces. These bins are more costly than our normal street litter bins and past experience has shown that the recycling rates from them has been poor due to factors such as their location, contamination from dog waste and food waste and waste strewn from the bins by Seagulls and other birds.

3.10 Belfast Open Spaces Strategy (BOSS) will provide a road map on how the public want to use our Parks and Open spaces over the next 10 -15 years. A public consultation exercise on the strategy has just been completed. The strategy proposes a number of strategic principles (SPs) and these will lay the foundation for future Action plans that will be developed for all our Public Realm.

3.11 If members wish to proceed with the improvements highlighted in this report more work is needed to establish the feasibility of each including some form of public consultation exercise. This work could then be used to inform BOSS and in particular any potential local plans for Parks and Open Spaces. Update reports can be taken back to committee.

3.12 Financial & Resource Implications

The costs of any of the improvements referred to in this report have not been included within existing budgets.

3.13 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

There are no known Equality, Good Relations or Rural needs implications.”

The Committee noted the information which had been provided.

### **Belfast Youth Forum Update**

The Committee considered a report which provided an update on the ongoing work of Belfast City Council's Youth Forum (BYF). The report outlined the main developments in BYF work in the following areas:

- Relationship and sexual health education project
- Mental health campaign
- Poverty campaign
- Racism and diversity project
- BYF recruitment
- Formalising youth participation structures within BCC
- Queens University "B-RADICAL" research project

The Committee:

- I. agreed the three suggested meeting dates between the People and Communities Committee and the Belfast Youth Forum;
- II. agreed to BCC being a partner stake holder organisation in the Queens University 'B-RADICAL' research project; and
- III. to grant permission for BYF recruitment to begin in April 2020.

It noted also the main developments and updates in the paper, particularly in relation to:

- I. the findings and recommendations contained in the BYF 'Any Use?' research report;
- II. BYF campaigns updates;
- III. BYF recruitment timelines

### **Update for elected Members of Major Events taking place in Belfast in 2020; and requests for use of Botanic Gardens**

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 5th November, it had considered requests for the use of the Botanic Gardens for the following events

1. Tomorrowland, a Music Event in Lower Botanic Gardens on 25th July, 2020; and
2. A Beer and Cider Event, 5th -9th May, 2020 in the Great Lawn area in Botanic Gardens

Those requests had been deferred pending a future report which showed all of the planned events around the spring/summer period of 2020. Accordingly, the Committee considered a report in this regard, following which it approved the use of the Botanic Gardens for the events outlined, subject to the organiser:

- resolving all operational issues to the Council's satisfaction;
- meeting all statutory requirements including Public Liability Insurance cover, Health and Safety, and licensing responsibilities;
- consulting with adjoining public bodies and local communities as necessary and,



- the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services levying the relevant fee for the event company and authorising the level of any necessary bond of intent and reinstatement bond.

**Belfast Mela 2020: Partnerships  
in Parks and Open Spaces.**

The Committee was reminded that, over the past number of years, the Council had established a successful partnership with the organisers of Belfast Mela. The event was well received by audiences and added significantly to the attractiveness of the Council's parks and open spaces. The partnership had delivered a diverse range of events which have had wide appeal for local communities, as well as attracting significant numbers of tourists and visitors to Council assets. This year the Council had received a request from the Director of ArtsEkta to use the Botanic Gardens for the Belfast Mela on 29th and 30th August 2020.

In previous years the Council had provided financial support through a number of different funding streams, including the Core Multi-Annual programme, Community Festival Fund and City and Neighbourhood Services. Each funding strand had been managed via separate funding contracts and monitored independently. In an effort to streamline the management of the Council's funding contribution and impact monitoring, future funding (from 2020) contributions to the Mela would be awarded within the context of the Cultural Strategy and would be facilitated through the Council's Economic Development unit.

The event would require the closure of all or a substantial proportion of the facility, and would result in restricted access to the general public. The proposed timescale from set up to take down of the event was from 23rd August to 1st September, 2020, inclusive.

ArtsEkta had requested permission also to collect an entrance fee in the region of £5 per adult / child and access would be restricted to ticket holders only. In addition, the organisers would undertake consultation with other local stakeholders, such as Queens University, the Lyric Theatre, local residents groups and the Friends of Botanic Gardens.

The Committee:

- Approved the proposal from ArtsEkta to deliver an outdoor event, called Belfast Mela, in Botanic Gardens, subject to the following:
  - that the appropriate legal agreements, including bond arrangements are prepared to the satisfaction of the City Solicitor;
  - the Event Organisers are required to meet all statutory requirements and responsibilities including Public Liability Insurance cover, Health and Safety, Food Safety and entertainment licensing;
  - the timely payment of the bond as required in the legal agreements;
  - Event Organisers shall consult with public bodies and local communities as necessary.
  - The preparation of an event management plan which will be subject to the organisers liaising with Council officers and meeting all statutory, legal and Health and safety requirements; and

- Noted that the organisers would also be required to reinstate all Council property to its original condition after use and would be reminded that the current ground conditions and location of this event might have to change due to adverse weather conditions which shall cover all aspects of management including health and safety, access and will comply with the current events policy.

### **ParkLife Education Programme – Evaluation**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

#### **“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**

1.1 The purpose of the report is to update Members on the ParkLife Education Programme and in particular, present for their consideration and agreement, an evaluation undertaken of the Programme in 2018/19 by Queen’s University Belfast (QUB).

#### **2.0 Recommendations**

2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- note the contents of the report and the continued success of the ParkLife Education Programme;
- consider and endorse the ParkLife Evaluation report including key findings and recommendations; and
- support the related publicity and the sharing of the learning from the Programme.

#### **3.0 Main report**

##### **Key Issues**

3.1 The ParkLife Education Programme uses and promotes the Council’s parks and open spaces as a resource for outdoor learning. The Programme has been in operation since 2007 and is delivered under contract, by Ulster Wildlife, along with Council staff. The Programme has three main elements: schools, Saturday Clubs and community groups. In 2016, QUB was commissioned as external evaluators to examine the effectiveness of the school element of the Programme, establish an evidence base for the benefits of outdoor learning as well as help guide the future delivery of the Programme.

3.2 The findings from the 2016/17 evaluation indicated that the ParkLife Education Programme was a positive experience for the children who attended it, should be regarded as an example of good practice and the findings should be widely publicised. The report recommended that the evaluation

should be repeated at a later date to increase the sample size, build a larger evidence base and include a qualitative study with focus groups, to enable a deeper analysis of their understanding of the Programme and its impact on them.

3.3 The findings from the report were subsequently publicised and a launch took place in February 2018 and copies of the evaluation report were circulated widely including to all schools involved with the Programme.

3.4 A second evaluation of the Programme was therefore undertaken by QUB in 2018/19 and many of the same measures were used, to enable comparability between both evaluations. The Primary outcomes were that as a result of taking part in the Programme, the children will:

- spend more time engaging with nature in their local parks;
- have learned more about their local park; and
- be more connected to nature.

3.5 The Secondary outcomes were that, as a result of taking part in the Programme, the children will:

- have more positive attitudes towards and awareness of environmental sustainability;
- have more positive attitudes to learning outdoors; and
- rate their health and well-being as higher.

3.6 Key Findings

The evaluation was undertaken between September 2018 and June 2019 in eight schools. 171 children completed an on-line pre-programme and post-programme questionnaire and twelve children from two schools took part in two focus groups.

3.7 The evaluation presents robust evidence that the Programme has a positive impact for all of the outcomes measured and continues to be a positive experience for the children who attended it. In summary, the post programme questionnaire and focus groups indicated that the children, after their involvement in the Programme:

- spend more time in their local parks either on their own, with family or with their teacher and take part in a wider range of activities
- show a substantial improvement in their level of knowledge of their local park and were more positive about their connection and enjoyment of nature and attitudes to environmental sustainability;
- were more positive about learning outdoors and approximately 60% responses included about feeling 'happy', 'good', 'fun' 'amazing/amazed' or that they

- 'love/like' learning outdoors;
- were generally more positive in their responses relating to their perception of their health and well-being;
- enjoyed learning outdoors (93%) which is the same result as the 2016/17 cohort of children and they mentioned how fun the Programme was, how much they learned/enjoyed specific activities and/or learning about/being in nature/outdoors;
- were less worried about learning outdoors by the time they had finished the Programme;
- when asked for ideas on how they would teach outdoors, their responses reflected how the ParkLife Education programme is currently taught. The most popular suggestions were 'learn/explore nature, have time in the play park after the learning, learn how to look after/protect nature, explore beyond the park and visit the park more as well as keeping ParkLife activities the same'.

A copy of the evaluation report is included in Appendix A.

### **3.8 Recommendations**

Based on the positive findings presented, the benefits of the Programme are strengthened further as this is the second evaluation of the Programme which are akin to the 2016/17 evaluation and is also supported by evidence from the focus groups. The report recommends that:

- the Programme continues to be delivered in its current model to as many schools as possible so that more children can benefit;
- there should be a scaling up of the Programme throughout other areas/countries together with a further in-depth evaluation, such as a trial (with a control group) and a process evaluation; and
- the Council should consider sharing this best practice with other organisations throughout Northern Ireland and beyond.

### **3.9 Next Steps**

Given the significant findings from this second evaluation, it is important that the ParkLife Education Programme continues in its current format and for the new contract which is being procured for its delivery, from 1 April 2020, is awarded.

It is paramount that the benefits of outdoor learning as exemplified in the Programme are also communicated widely, as best practice. It is therefore proposed that a seminar will take place in Spring 2020 to promote the Programme, the value of outdoor learning and the wider

benefits of increasing usage of our parks and improving physical and mental health.

**3.10 Financial & Resource Implications**

The annual budget for the ParkLife Education Programme has been allocated in the revenue estimates which is subject to final agreement in the departmental budgetary process.

**3.11 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment**

There are no known implications.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

**Kerbside Glass Collection Options**

The Committee considered the following report:

**“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**

- 1.1 To respond to the motion raised at the Council meeting of 1st November 2018 and re-iterated at the Committee meeting of 6th August 2019, namely;

*‘This Council is committed to increasing household recycling across the city of Belfast; notes the colossal impact waste is having on our oceans, cities and countrysides; welcomes the recent waste consultation; and will commit to introducing glass recycling in households across the city of Belfast as soon as possible.’*

**2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to:

- Note the report.

**3.0 Main report**

**Key Issues**

- 3.1 The provision of a kerbside glass collection scheme is a matter frequently raised by Members on behalf of their constituents. This report examines the various collection options and in particular the desire by Members to explore the possibility of expediting such a scheme, in light of the indicative time frame associated with the implementation of a Wheelie-box scheme throughout the city, as noted in the committee meeting of 6th August 2019.
- 3.2 Currently, around 80,000 households (54%) within Belfast have access to a kerbside collection of glass. The total volume of glass captured through kerbside schemes is

approximately 3,800 tonnes per annum, contributing 2.5% per annum to the city's recycling rate. It is estimated that there is around 6,100 tonnes of glass per annum which remains in the residual bins and which is destined for landfill.

- 3.3 Members will be aware that the Council conducted an options appraisal on recycling collection schemes in 2017. This piece of work examined a number of options for the collection of dry recyclables, including glass, from an environmental, financial and legal compliance perspectives. The results were presented to the November 2018 committee. In summary, after consideration of the factors outlined above, the preferred approach which was agreed and carried forward into the public consultation exercise conducted in Summer 2018, was that based on the Wheelie-box approach with proposed restrictions to residual waste.
- 3.4 Notwithstanding the results of the collections options appraisal, the following sections examine the various kerbside glass collection schemes deployed by Local Authorities with commentary on their pros and cons and indicative timeframes for deployment. The timeframes for deployment include key issues such as; governance processes, procurement exercises, lead times for vehicles and containers, Communications and then the delivery of the scheme on the ground. In all instances the roll-out is on a phased basis which, while slower, allows for assessment, bedding-in and corrective action if required. This is a realistic and reduced risk approach to deployment.
- 3.5 A kerbside sort scheme (Wheelie-box or Bryson Recycling scheme) collects a range of dry recyclables including glass in separate boxes and these are stored in separate stillage compartments on a Resource Recovery vehicle (RRV). The focus of this scheme is on the collection of higher quality materials to deliver higher income yield and support local re-processors rather than relying upon the export of these resources. The RRVs are designed to capture a wide range of materials (dry recyclables including glass and food waste) on a single pass rather than the requirement to have a specific vehicle allocated for the collection of glass only. The Indicative timeline for implementation of this scheme which seeks to deliver, as far as reasonably practicable, a standardised scheme across the city, is around 4-5 years. This is the scheme which is being tested in around 5,000 households in the Castle DEA.
- 3.6 A twin stream collection of glass would involve the provision of an additional wheeled bin to householders in the outer city (88,000 hh). New split bodied vehicles would be required to take the current blue bin materials in one compartment and the glass and tins/cans/plastics in the other compartment. This type of scheme maintains the integrity of the key materials and in particular paper as this remains separate

from the glass during the collection process. This scheme would retain and re-enforce the two distinct dry recyclables collection schemes in the city as inner city households currently on the box scheme will not have the storage space for two bins. The indicative timeline for implementation is around 5-6 years, the additional year over the kerbside sort scheme, being the internal governance and public consultation considerations.

- 3.7 A caddy insert scheme involves the provision of a caddy/box which sits inside the existing dry recycling bin. Similar to the twin stream approach this scheme would require new split body vehicles along with the procurement and delivery of the caddy boxes. The insertion of the caddy also impacts upon the capacity of the bin and additional bins would need to be provided in such cases. This type of scheme would also result in the maintenance of two distinct schemes throughout the city; inner city kerbside sort and outer city 3 bin scheme. The indicative time line for implementation is 5-6 years.
- 3.8 There are approximately 22,000 households which have a fortnightly collection of glass only via the purple box scheme. The extension of this scheme to the remaining households which do not have kerbside collections of glass is relatively uncomplicated at an operational level however the environmental benefit of capturing the additional glass tonnage versus the carbon created by the collection service may be questionable. In addition, such schemes tend to be expensive on a cost per tonne basis with limited opportunity to mitigate the cost through the income stream as glass is a low yielding material, typically £10 per tonne compared with £70 per tonne for paper. Based on the existing purple box scheme, the net revenue cost of adopting this approach would be in the region of £650k per annum. The indicative time line for implementation is around 5 years.
- 3.9 A fully co-mingled scheme, involves the inclusion of glass within the dry recyclables bin. Members will be aware that at the committee meeting of 6 August this approach was discussed and it was the recommendation of officers not to progress this type of scheme for various reasons outlined in the report. In addition, the existing Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) contract precludes this system for the Council during the course of the contract (3 years plus option to extend 2 years).
- 3.10 Based on the outcome of the options appraisal of future kerbside collection arrangements, the public consultation feedback, and progress to date in terms of the Capital Programme and taking into consideration that the most

expeditious of schemes may not necessarily deliver the desired environmental, economic or social benefits, the approach adopted by committee at its meeting on 6 August 2019, remains the most judicious option.

**3.11 Financial & Resource Implications**

There are no financial or resource implications associated with this report.

**3.12 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment**

There are no equality, good relations or rural needs issues associated with this report.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

**Stadia Community Benefits Initiative**

The Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services submitted for the Committee’s consideration the following report:

**“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**

**1.1 To advise Committee of progress with the Stadia Community Benefits Initiative and update on the action plan.**

**2.0 Recommendations**

**2.1 The Committee is asked to:**

- Consider the content of the report.

**3.0 Main report**

**3.1 The Council has been undertaking the Leisure Transformation Programme to renew its Leisure facilities across the City. This Programme has been influenced by the Partnership opportunities presented by the NI Executive Stadia Programme.**

**3.2 The Council, Department for Communities (DfC) and the Irish Football Association (IFA) have recognised the opportunities presented by the Stadia Programme, have committed to work together to maximise these benefits, and have agreed to establish a Stadium Community Benefits Initiative as part of the Belfast Community Benefits Initiative (‘the Project’) to implement and deliver agreed objectives including promoting equality, tackling poverty, and tackling social exclusion within the Belfast area.**

**3.3 In March 2016 the Council, DfC and IFA signed an agreement which sets out their respective commitments to the project. As other major stadia are developed in Belfast it is**



anticipated that other sports governing bodies shall become parties to the agreement. At its April 2018 meeting People and Communities committee agreed that Council would work with the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) within the Stadia Community Benefits Initiative and recognised their significant planned investment in gaelic games in the city to support their Gaelfast strategy. GAA activities are now fully incorporated into the action plan in this financial year with Gaelfast staff imbedded into the governance structure at Communications Board, Delivery Board, Policy and Performance Board.

- 3.4 The agreement is for a period of ten years with financial commitment from Council and IFA in place to the end of March 2026. Delivery is managed through monthly meetings of the Delivery Board which reports quarterly to the Policy and Performance Board. Financial and performance reports will be presented to Council and other partners' Boards as necessary. Formal review of the agreement will be carried out in years 5 and 10.
- 3.5 The Policy & Performance Group is responsible for agreeing the Benefits Realisation Plan and associated annual targets. Work was undertaken to ensure the end benefits/outcomes are aligned to partners' strategies. To measure the progress of this the Council and the IFA have developed a range of indicators/intermediate benefits which are monitored through programme delivery:
- a. Number of coaching sessions provided
  - b. Number of coaches engaged in delivering coaching
  - c. Number of sessions improving club governance
  - d. Number of volunteering opportunities
  - e. Participation opportunities for under 16s
  - f. Female participation rates
  - g. Number of people completing skills development programme
  - h. Number of sessions for under-represented groups
  - i. Number of sessions for school and youth groups
  - j. Community group usage of stadia
  - k. Number of clubs attaining club-mark
  - l. Educational opportunities
  - m. Number of programmes targeting ASB
  - n. Improved collaborative working
  - o. Number of disabled participants
  - p. Number of older people participating
- 3.6 Following the completion of a baseline assessment in early 2017, annual work-plans were developed for years 1, 2 and 3.
- 3.7 Programme delivery for year 3(19-20) is currently under-way including similar programmes as last year. IFA and GAA agreed a transition year action plan drawing additional resources for this years activities.

- 3.8 At the end of quarter 2, the performance report for 2019-20 indicates that the majority of intermediate benefits are on target. The board received satisfactory assurance that these benefits would be caught up in quarter 3 and 4. Quarter 1 & 2 (19-20) performance report is attached at appendix 1.
- 3.9 To improve collaborative working and increase the community benefits through the 2020-2021 workplan, a joint planning workshop was held in the National Football Stadium at Windsor Park to identify specific themes.

3.10 **Financial & Resource Implications**

In accordance with the Council's obligations under its DfC Funding Agreement for the Olympia Regeneration Project, the Council has committed a sum of £100,000 per annum for a minimum of ten years, so that a minimum of £1,000,000 is contributed in total to the Project.

3.11 **Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment**

**There are no additional impacts related to this report."**

The Committee noted the contents of the report.

**Update on the Reference Group on Older People**

The Committee approved and adopted the minutes from the Reference Group on Older People meeting held on 5th November 2019.

**Issues Raised in Advance by Members**

**Cross Party Discussion on the need for a Drug Task force**

*In accordance with notice on the agenda, Councillor McCusker requested that – "Belfast City Council convene a cross party discussion on the need for a drug task force in response to the increase in drug related incidents and deaths. Chief medical officer Michael Mc Bride is currently discussing this proposal with all departments including DOH, DOJ, PHA and PSNI. The drug task force needs to be led as an independent body that can review and recommend change and we need total honesty and transparency with a different approach on how we are dealing with the increase in drug related incidents."*

The Committee noted the work and meetings which were currently taking place on these issues between Party group leaders and key responsible organisations, and ongoing between Senior Council officers and Senior officers from other organisations; noted that a further meeting would take place in January; agreed that representatives of Extern, Addiction NI and the DfI be invited to the relevant meetings, and agreed that a report on the outcomes of those meetings be submitted to the Committee in due course.

**Comber Greenway –**  
**The Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor McReynolds**

In accordance with notice on the agenda Councillor McReynolds requested that – *“Following incidents where rat poison has been laid along the greenway by an unknown individual and the subsequent death of a dog, I would like officers to bring a report back to advise what steps can be taken to improve the greenway and what measures could be introduced to deter such actions happening again.”*

The Committee noted that the Council did not have responsibility for the Greenway and noted also that the Director of Neighbourhood Services undertook to discuss the issues with the relevant teams in the Department to see actions could be taken.

Chairperson