

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



**Belfast  
City Council**

5th October, 2020

**MEETING OF PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE**

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will be held remotely via Microsoft Teams on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October, 2020 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. **Restricted**

- (a) Finance Update (Pages 1 - 4)
- (b) Fresher's Operations in the Holylands and Wider University Area (Pages 5 - 10)

3. **Matters referred back from the Council/Motions**

- (a) Motion - Management of Bird Population at Victoria Park (Pages 11 - 12)

4. **Committee/Strategic Issues**

- (a) Update on Environmental Health Services during Covid (Pages 13 - 18)

(b) Potential Restructure of Intermediate Football (Pages 19 - 24)

(c) Residents' Parking Scheme Update (Pages 25 - 26)

5. **Finance, Procurement and Performance**

(a) Support to Community Partners 2020 Update (Pages 27 - 38)

6. **Operational Issues**

(a) Partner Agreement - Ulidia Playing Fields (Pages 39 - 44)

(b) Fixed Penalty Charges (Pages 45 - 50)

(c) Request from Waste Industry Safety and Health Forum NI (WISHNI) (Pages 51 - 54)

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6  
of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 6  
of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

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<b>Subject:</b>	Motion – Review of permission to Belfast City Airport to enter Victoria Park for the management of un-hatched eggs under licence from the Northern Ireland Environment Agency
<b>Date:</b>	6th October, 2020
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Sara Steele, Democratic Services Officer
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Sara Steele, Democratic Services Officer

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	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>	
<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/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	To bring to the Committee’s attention the Motion in respect of the management of unhatched eggs which was referred to the Committee by the Council on 1st October.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	The Committee is requested to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider the motion and take such action thereon as may be determined.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<u><b>Key Issues</b></u> The Council, at its meeting on 1st October, considered the following motion which had been moved by Councillor Flynn and seconded by Councillor M. Kelly.

3.2	<p><i>“The Council notes that the decision to grant Belfast City Airport permission to enter Victoria Park and carry out the management of the bird population, such as pricking and oiling of un-hatched eggs, has significantly reduced the greylag goose population in the park.</i></p> <p><i>The Council further notes that as the decision to grant permission for this activity was taken a number of years ago, technology and practices pertaining to managing bird populations in the vicinity of an aerodrome may have moved on.</i></p> <p><i>As such, this Council requests officers to carry out a review of this decision, engage with relevant environmental and wildlife organisations and produce a report for Councillors to consider options before the next confirmation of the permission is granted to the airport to carry out this activity in Victoria Park.”</i></p>
3.3	<p>In accordance with Standing Order 13(f), the Motion was referred without discussion to the People and Communities Committee.</p>
3.4	<p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>None.</p>
3.5	<p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></b></p> <p>None.</p>
4.0	<p><b>Appendices - Documents Attached</b></p>
	<p>None</p>



<b>Subject:</b>	Update on Environmental Health Services during Covid
<b>Date:</b>	6 October 2020
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Siobhan Toland, Director of City Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Valerie Brown, City Services Manager

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	<b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b> <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>Sometime 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>	<b>Yes</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b> <input type="checkbox"/>

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	This report provides an update on the operational recovery of City Protection Services following national lock down as a result of the ongoing pandemic. It provides a snapshot of the current status and information on second wave planning.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• note the current position regarding service recovery within City Protection</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<u>Background:</u>

3.2	<p>During the national lockdown which resulted from the Covid 19 Pandemic, there were a number of City Protection services that were able to make agile changes to their processes to allow some services to continue to function. The work to provide critical services during that time was based on City Protection's Business Continuity Plan and the following services remained operational to some extent to provide emergency response services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Emergency Planning</b> – the Council's Emergency Plan was activated and resources put in place.</li> <li>• <b>Houses in Multiple Occupation</b> – emergency response arrangements put in place and agreed with Department for Communities. Licensing applications continued to be received and processed. From 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 to 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020, approximately 238 HMO licenses were issued.</li> <li>• <b>Planning Consultation</b> – work continued to support the Council's Planning Service</li> <li>• <b>Port Health</b> – certain mandatory checks were still required and the office was staffed on a rota basis under strict controls.</li> <li>• <b>Sewer Baiting</b> – a service using available members of staff was established early on to endeavour to keep the rat population under control and to provide advice and support on pest control where possible.</li> <li>• <b>Scientific Services</b> – an emergency service in relation to the gas extraction systems were maintained.</li> <li>• <b>Animal Welfare and Dog Control</b> - services continued in response to stray dogs, dangerous dogs and animal cruelty.</li> <li>• <b>Air Quality</b> – air quality monitoring services were established in the early stages of lockdown under direction from DAERA</li> <li>• <b>Public Health and Housing, Environmental Protection, Workplace Health and Safety, Food and Consumer Safety</b> services were reconfigured during lockdown to deliver the critical aspects of those services identified in the Business Continuity Plan.</li> </ul>
3.3	<p>Because of the restrictions that were put in place during lockdown a number of less critical services or higher risk were temporarily suspended. These included postal Dog Licensing applications, Radiation Monitoring, Industrial Pollution Control, Off Street Car Parking, Night time Noise Services, Home Safety, Customer Advice, Tobacco Control, Enforcement in relation to dumping/littering and the Pest Control home treatment service.</p>
3.4	<p>While there were many services within City Protection that were able to continue providing certain functions, the restoration of these services and those suspended has presented</p>

significant challenges and required considerable modifications of service processes to allow all functions to be carried out in a new controlled operational model that takes into account the risks associated with Covid-19.

3.5

These controls are likely to be with us for a considerable time and will be continuously monitored to ensure that we operate in a safe way that protects both our staff and the public. Like other services, there are challenging resource management issues associated with the new operating model for City Protection and much work was done during recovery to minimise the impact on the Council's deficit.

**Recovery Process:**

3.6

The easing of lockdown restrictions through the NI Executive 5 Stage Roadmap has been one of main drivers in enabling the Council to restore services. City Protection has followed the corporate approach to recovery and has sought input from a number of support services across the council such as corporate health and safety, local trade unions, financial services, digital services and property maintenance. Although time consuming, given the number of services in City Protection, this has been essential in ensuring the new arrangements are both safe and efficient.

**City Protection Service Status:**

3.7

Outlined below in column B is the current operational status of City Protection service. Where the service is still partially operating or has been suspended column c provides an estimated date for full recovery within a controlled operating model. As you will see from the table below the majority of City Protection services are now operational.

A. Service/ Function	B. Operational Status	C. Estimated Date for Full Recovery
Air Quality	Operational (controlled operating model)	
Planning Consultations	Operational (controlled operating model)	
Emergency Planning	Operational (controlled operating model)	

Scientific Services	<b>Operational (controlled operating model)</b>	
Animal Welfare	<b>Operational (controlled operating model)</b>	
Dog Control and Licensing	<b>Operational (controlled operating model)</b>	
Housing of Multiple Occupant	<b>Operational (controlled operating model)</b>	
Port Health	<b>Operational (controlled operating model)</b>	
Public Health and Housing	<b>Operational (controlled operating model)</b>	
Cleansing Enforcement	<b>Partially Operational</b>	Phased step up in place from 21st September 2020 pending release of staff from Crematorium
Workplace Health and Safety (including H&S Reopening a business/Covid regulations)	<b>Operational (controlled operating model)</b>	
Food Safety	<b>Operational (controlled operating model)</b>	
Sewer Baiting	<b>Operational (controlled operating model)</b>	
Night (daytime & night time)	<b>Operational (controlled operating model)</b>	
Private water supplies Risk assessments/sampling (Drinking Water Inspectorate)	<b>Operational (controlled operating model)</b>	
Pest Control - Home Treatments	<b>Partially Operational</b>	Service recovery is dependent on recent restrictions related to BCC area.
Off street car parking	<b>Operational (controlled operating model)</b>	
Radiation Monitoring	<b>Partially Operational</b>	31/10/2020
Home Safety	<b>Partially Operational</b>	31/10/2020

	Industrial Pollution Control	<b>Partially Operational</b>	31/10/2020
	Consumer Advice	<b>Temporarily Suspended</b>	Staff redeployed to the Crematorium and Public Office.
	Tobacco Control	<b>Temporarily Suspended</b>	Staff redeployed to Crematorium and Covid Restrictions Enforcement Work
3.8	<p><b><u>Second Wave Planning:</u></b></p> <p>There is a risk of a second wave and the potential for new restrictions to be imposed. City Protection has learned a lot from the first wave and as a result of recovery planning all services have, or will have, a Covid risk assessment. This will mean should a second wave happen we will have the potential to keep the majority of services operational dependent, of course, on the restrictions imposed. We are currently planning for the second wave to ensure that we can be as prepared as possible to keep services operational.</p>		
3.9	<p><b>Financial and resource Implications</b></p> <p>The impact on the Councils financial deficit of recovering City Protection Services has been considered and agreed through the corporate recovery process.</p>		
3.10	<p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p> <p>There is no identified equality impact, this will be continuously reviewed through the service recovery process.</p>		
<b>4.0</b>	<b><u>Appendices – Documents Attached</u></b>		
	<u>None</u>		

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<b>Subject:</b>	Potential Restructure of Intermediate Football
<b>Date:</b>	6 October 2020
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Ryan Black, Director of Neighbourhood Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Kelly Gilliland, Neighbourhood Services Manager, North

<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 committee of correspondence issued by the Irish Football Association (IFA) to the Chief Leisure Officers Association (CLOA) indicating that the planned restructure of Intermediate Football is discontinued at this time.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	Committee is asked to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Note the correspondence.</li> <li>(ii) Agree for Officers to write to the IFA seeking further clarity around the proposed changes to ground criteria and in the context of this being discontinued 'at this time'</li> </ul>

	and to seek further clarity around the Associations plans to take forward the restructure of the football pyramid.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	People and Communities committee of 10 September 2019 considered a report regarding the IFA's planned restructuring of Intermediate Football and ground criteria. The impact of the proposed changes were far reaching with significant impact on 13 Belfast clubs at 12 Belfast City Council sites. At this meeting it was agreed that committee would invite IFA staff to attend a future meeting to discuss the proposals and impacts for clubs and Council.
3.2	<p>IFA staff attended People and Communities committee of 20 November 2019 and detailed the plans and timelines for the proposed restructuring along with the new grounds criteria. The committee agreed that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. a report be submitted to a future meeting outlining the extent of the work which would be required to be undertaken to bring those Council-owned pitches which were used currently for intermediate football up to the required standard under the proposed restructure, together with indicative costings;</li> <li>2. the aforementioned report should set out potential actions which, in the opinion of the City Solicitor, could be taken in relation to the failure by the Irish Football Association to consult with the Council at any stage in the restructuring process; and</li> <li>3. should it be considered necessary for the Irish Football Association to attend a future meeting on this issue, that its Chief Executive and President be invited to attend in person.</li> </ol>
3.3	The Chief Operating Officer of the IFA wrote to CLOA on 8 September 2020 advising a change in their plans to restructure Intermediate Football (see appendix 1).
3.4	The correspondence notes the ongoing financial impacts that the pandemic is having on both local clubs and Councils and confirms that the IFA have taken a decision to act responsibly to safeguard the immediate financial viability and sustainability of current intermediate clubs. As a result the IFA have advised that the planned restructure of the intermediate game is to be discontinued at this time.
3.5	The correspondence goes on to state that the it remains the intention of the IFA Board to bring about a restructure of the football pyramid in due course to provide a clear an equitable pathway for ambitious clubs.

3.6	<p>It is unclear if the proposed changes to the ground criteria, as part of the restructure plans, are to be discontinued indefinitely and it is recommended that Officers make formal contact with the IFA to clarify this position, to understand any impact on current or new pitch developments and to understand how the Association plan to take forward the re-structure of the football pyramid.</p> <p><u>Finance &amp; Resource Implications</u></p>
3.7	<p>No current financial impact from this decision.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p>
3.8	<p>There are no additional impacts related to this report.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1 - Letter from Irish Football Association, Head of Operations to Honorary Secretary, Chief Leisure Officers Association

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8 September 2020

Mrs. Patricia Allen  
Honorary Secretary  
Chief Leisure Officers Association

Dear Patricia

**Re: Restructure of Intermediate Football**

I write in respect of the above and to advise that at its meeting held on 27 August, the IFA Board considered the hugely changed football landscape in Northern Ireland since March 2020 as a result of Covid-19.

The ongoing financial impact on clubs (whilst yet to be fully understood) against the backdrop of an evolving global health pandemic is likely to continue for the foreseeable future. Furthermore, it is a matter of record that local councils across Northern Ireland (who are significant providers of Intermediate football facilities) are facing budget shortfalls due to Covid-19.

Following lengthy discussion on the subject, it was agreed that it was incumbent upon the Irish Football Association to act responsibly in choosing to safeguard the immediate financial viability and sustainability of current Intermediate Clubs. It was therefore, further agreed that the planned restructure of the Intermediate game will be discontinued at this time.

However, it fully remains the intention of the IFA Board to bring about a restructure of the football pyramid in due course as it remains imperative that a clear and equitable pathway is created for ambitious clubs.

This will provide greater opportunity for those ambitious clubs and players with aspirations to progress through the pyramid and continually compete at the highest level of competition possible. In doing so, it will strengthen the overall Performance Game element of the football pyramid, whilst also continuing to cater for those clubs where a more recreational centered football philosophy is more often than not viewed as of greater importance than a desire to continually seek progress and advancement to a higher level.

I trust that you will take note of the above and communicate to members as appropriate.

Yours sincerely,

Sean Murphy  
Chief Operating Officer

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<b>Subject:</b>	Residents' Parking Schemes
<b>Date:</b>	6 October 2020
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Siobhan Toland, Director of City Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Siobhan Toland, Director of City Services

<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 committee of arrangements for the Department of Infrastructure to provide an update on residents' parking schemes.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	Committee is asked to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Note the contents of the report</li> <li>(ii) Advise if they are content for the proposal to invite People and Communities Committee members to attend a special meeting of City Growth and Regeneration Committee in November when Dfl will present their bi-annual update which will include residents' parking schemes</li> </ul>

<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	Members will recall that at the People and Communities Committee meeting held on 8 September 2020, it was agreed that the Council would write to the Department for Infrastructure inviting representatives to attend a future meeting of the People and Communities Committee to discuss the advancement of Residents' parking schemes in urban affected communities.
3.2	The Department for Infrastructure have been contacted regarding this request and have advised that they are due to attend a special meeting of City Growth and Regeneration Committee in November (date to be confirmed) to provide their bi-annual update on Dfl Roads reports and to discuss any associated highways and transportation issues. They have agreed to include an update on residents' parking schemes at this meeting. It is proposed that members of the People and Communities Committee are invited to attend this meeting, rather than Dfl officials attending two separate meetings.
3.3	<u>Financial Implications</u> No current financial impact from this decision.
3.4	<u>Equality Impact/Rural Needs Assessment</u> There are no additional impacts related to this report.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
4.1	None





<b>Subject:</b>	Support to Community Partners 2020 Update
<b>Date:</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> October 2020
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Ryan Black, Director of Neighbourhood Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Alison Allen, Neighbourhood Services Manager (Community Provision) Stevie Lavery, Neighbourhood Services Manager (West)

<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?	
<i>After Committee Decision</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>After Council Decision</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Some time in the future</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Never</i>	<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 update Members on the progress of the funding allocated to support community needs over the summer months and to ask Members for consideration as to how that support can be extended to meet ongoing needs up to end March 2021.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to approve the following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Note the update on financial investment in communities as part of the summer funding 2020 and the lessons learned</li> <li>- Note the additional external funding secured from DfC, Shared City Partnership and Policing and Community Safety Partnerships (in progress) to further support communities</li> <li>- Agree the continuing grant funding approach for financial investment in communities for the remainder of 20/21</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Delegate authority to the Director (Operational) City &amp; Neighbourhood Services to make operational decisions relating to the running of the remainder of the 20/21 grant funding approach to include making awards, assessing demand for each strand of the overall fund, allocating additional funding should it become available and temporarily pausing a strand/s should demand exceed available budget</li> <li>- Delegate authority to the Director (Operational) City &amp; Neighbourhood Services to accept new offers of funding in support of communities from external funders e.g. DfC Access to Food and Financial Inclusion Funds with retrospective reporting to Committee</li> <li>- Agree to extend the existing 20/21 Community Capacity and Revenue Buildings Grant Programmes for a further year until end March 2022 with final funding allocations subject to Committee consideration when final budget allocation is known from DfC</li> <li>- To authorise Officers to develop the 21/22 Community Provision Grant Programme as detailed at point 3.21</li> </ul>
3.0	<b>Main report</b>
	<p><b><u>Community Provision Summer Funding Update</u></b></p> <p>3.1 Members will recall in July 2020 a further financial investment of £636,057 (comprised of funding from BCC, DfC, TEO/SCP and DoJ/NIPB/PCSP's) was agreed to support recovery at a community level, which was in addition to the £939K financial investment in communities as part of the COVID-19 emergency response.</p> <p>3.2 This investment took into account the lessons learned from the COVID-19 emergency response, in particular feedback from community partners and the revised grant process replaced the previous individual grant programmes delivered by the Council.</p> <p>3.3 The new approach was comprised of two strands (detailed below) and an update is provided on the progress to date on each of these elements:</p> <p>3.4 <b>Strand 1 – Strategic Funding of Key Area Based Organisations</b></p> <p><b>Proposed Budget: £486,000</b></p> <p>Of the 9 lead partners across the city for this fund the position is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Proposals received, due diligence completed and delivery commenced – 6 lead partners</li> <li>- Proposals received, due diligence in progress – 2 lead partners</li> <li>- Proposal not received – 1 lead partner</li> </ul>

The development of proposals and due diligence process has been supported throughout the summer by staff from within our Area Support Teams working closely with lead partners.

3.5

**Strand 2 - Micro Grants**

Initial Budget: £150,000 (but with delegated authority given to Director (Operational) City and Neighbourhood Services to enhance this subject to demand and should further funding become available.

Maximum allocation per organisation: £1,000 per organisation

3.6

In August 2020, Committee agreed that given the significant demand, should further funding be received central government, it could be used to support the extension of the Micro Grant programme under the delegated authority of the Director (Operational) City and Neighbourhood Services.

3.7

As indicated at point 3.6 demand for the micro grant has far exceeded expectation and under delegated authority granted to the Director (Operational) City and Neighbourhood Services, further funds had to be added to this grant programme (from additional central government grant funding received, see point 3.12 for further detail).

3.8

For Members information, the average turnaround time for the micro grants programme from receipt of application to payment of funds is 17 days. This is enabled by the commitment of our staff in our Area Support Teams, a streamlined process and reductions in unnecessary bureaucracy (in keeping with the Department of Finance Reducing Bureaucracy for the Voluntary and Community Sector Code of Practice 2015).

3.9

As updated at Committee in August 2020, Council was expecting further financial support from the Department for Communities through the Community Support Programme, although detail on the exact amount at that stage was not known. Confirmation of the exact amount has now been received and DfC are providing an additional £486,000 to support communities through the Community Support Programme up to end March 2021.

3.10

£135,000 of this funding was required to meet the significant demand for micro grants resulting in a total financial investment in communities as detailed below up to end September 2020:

**Micro Grant applications received, assessed and grant paid to 15/9/20 – 269**

**Micro Grant financial investment in community to 15/09/20 - £250,079**

**Micro Grant anticipated total demand up to end September 2020 - £ 285,079 (304 applications)**

<p>3.11</p>	<p>This leaves a remaining £351,000 from the additional funding secured from DfC to support further grant funding.</p> <p>Additionally, given the positive feedback about this way of grant funding and the uncertain delivery environment going forward as a result of COVID-19, both the Shared City Partnership and Policing and Community Safety Partnership are in the process of committing more funding to support the wider Council approach. This will add a further £180,000 approximately to compliment the DfC investment up to end March 2021.</p> <p>This gives a total further flexible financial investment available for communities up to end March 2021 of £531,000 at this time.</p>
<p>3.12</p>	<p><b><u>Additional restricted funds from DfC</u></b></p> <p>DfC are in the process of making further restricted monies available in the following areas, with DfC setting the terms of reference for each fund as detailed below. Given the time pressures involved, delegated authority is requested for the Director (Operational) City and Neighbourhood Services to progress the delivery of the Access to Food and Financial Inclusion Fund in a co-design manner with the partners detailed below.</p>
<p>3.13</p>	<p><b><u>Access to Food – £176,365 (up to end March 2021)</u></b></p> <p>This fund is designed to facilitate strategic consideration of how access to food is addressed in a more strategic and considered manner taking in to account all of the learning from the COVID-19 emergency response, with all relevant community/voluntary and statutory partners involved in the discussion and co-designing the solutions on a council by council basis.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Within the economically vulnerable group, is it a poverty issue or food poverty issue?</li> <li>• For the short term, how do we build in more robust assurance mechanisms in terms of impacts of support and who is the most appropriate delivery agent?</li> <li>• What are the characteristics of those seeking help with food (those in receipt of benefits, those in work etc?)</li> <li>• To what extent did the issues precede the emergency; are due to the emergency; or will emerge due to the overall economic impact of the emergency?</li> <li>• How do we move from an emergency response towards a longer term food poverty approach, in the context of the Anti-poverty Strategy?</li> </ul>
<p>3.14</p>	<p>Members will also be aware that as Council and community partners transitioned out of the provision of emergency food parcels as part of the DfC scheme, we retained existing contractual capacity with the Red Cross for the following types of community support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provision of essential supplies including emergency food</li> <li>- Pickup of prescriptions and grocery deliveries</li> </ul>

- Emergency financial hardship

3.15 However, demand for access to the Red Cross food parcels is low and there is significant value left should the need arise again for any of these services in the coming months.

3.16 Officers will be engaging with relevant voluntary and community sector partners in the coming weeks for their input to proposals on how the Access to Food funding is used (within the stated objectives from DfC)

3.17 Financial Inclusion - £175,148

The aim of the Covid-19 Financial Inclusion Partnership Fund will be to target those most likely to be adversely impacted by the economic fallout of the pandemic, help build financial resilience and improve overall financial wellbeing through access to money management, low cost/affordable credit, promoting savings and linking into holistic debt and income maximisation advice.

It is intended that the Fund will be allocated through Councils to enable 'debt preventative measures' through partnership working by community level organisations, best placed to support individuals as they seek to improve their financial wellbeing and build resilience in the Covid-19 recovery phase.

3.18 Through early targeted support, the Fund aims to:

- Identify those people who would benefit from direct, targeted advice and support;
- Provide access to money management/budgeting advice;
- Ensure early referrals to formal, regulated debt advice services;
- Improve awareness of, and increasing access to, affordable credit from responsible lenders;
- Improve awareness and increase access to income and benefits maximisation;
- Promote a savings culture (for those that can save) to help build resilience to future financial shocks.

Officers will be engaging with the Belfast Advice Group and the participating consortia in the coming weeks for their input to proposals on how this funding is used (within the stated objectives from DfC).

This financial investment at a micro grant level has enabled a significant and extensive programme of activities to take place across the city.

3.19

Examples of programmes/activities for both Strategic Funding and Micro Grants

An extensive programme of activities and service delivery has taken place across the city to include:

- Activity Programmes for young people and youth diversionary/outreach
- Community Arts and video/photography programmes
- Physical activity and community sports programmes
- Literacy/Numeracy workshops and back to school support
- Mental health, wellbeing, mindfulness and resilience programmes
- Capacity Building and Group Support
- Counselling and Talking Therapy
- Environmental Programmes, Community Clean-ups and upcycling from waste
- Digital inclusion programmes
- Family Activities e.g. outdoor cinema
- Good Morning and social contact programmes
- Homeless Outreach
- Men's Sheds
- Silent Discos
- Train the Trainer Health and Well-being
- Volunteer support and development

3.20

Lessons Learned from Summer Community Grant Fund 2020

As has been the case throughout, our approach to supporting communities has been informed by their feedback and the most recent lessons learned about the summer grant fund 2020 are detailed below.

- Communities are trying their best to resume services/activities but the constantly changing operating context makes this very challenging. Having one grant programme with a range of high level outcomes provides a common focus but with sufficient flexibility for unexpected changes.
- Community partners are asking for a more sustained financial investment to take them up to March 2021 to allow them to properly plan and deliver against the needs of their residents.
- Demand has been much higher than expected for the micro grant indicating an appetite for smaller amounts of money and reduced bureaucracy that can be mobilised quickly for one off/short term events/activities.
- However, there remains a gap for a grant of a higher value to allow community partners to deliver larger programmes/activities over a longer period up to March 2021.

- There also remains a gap in providing financial support to community partners for unexpected premises costs (e.g. screens/signage) or for increased consumables due to COVID-19 (e.g. sanitiser, masks, cleaning products).
- Demand for the micro grant with reduced levels of bureaucracy as resulted in a large number of organisations operating at a community level applying for funding but who had no previous relationship with Council. This now provides a strong platform for us to provide further support for them either in their organisational development and/or access to further funding.
- The administration associated with grants needs to be transitioned to the online grants management software to enable easier access for community partners.

3.21

**Continuing Grant Funding Approach 20/21**

Taking all of the above in to account, the following is recommended as the continuing grant funding approach up to end March 2021 (using the flexible funding from DfC, Shared City Partnership and Policing and Community Safety Partnerships).

The total budget available at present would be £531,000 but with the potential for additional funds in the future. The approach would have three strands:

1. **Micro Grants** - continuation with next tranche opening in November 2020 for delivery up to end March 2021, with increase in maximum award available to groups to £1,500 (Estimated Fund Value – £150,000)
2. **Small Grants** – introduction of new category of grant with larger maximum value of £5,000 (Estimated Fund Value - £250,000)
3. **Strategic Funding of Key Area Based Organisations** – ongoing support for 9 key area based organisations based on their spend to date of existing allocations, anticipated future need up to end March 2021 and with a focus on alignment with Belfast: Our Recovery, identification of area strategic priorities and enabling collaboration and partnership working in support of those priorities. As proposals are developed in each area, they will be brought forward to Committee for consideration (Estimated Fund Value - £131,000)

3.22

The above fund values are estimated as demand is difficult to predict in this uncertain operating environment, however, delegated authority is being requested to the Director (Operational) City & Neighbourhood Services to make operational decisions relating to the running of the remainder of the 20/21 grant funding approach to include making awards, assessing demand for each strand of the overall fund, allocating additional funding should it become available, reallocating unspent funding and temporarily pausing a strand/s should demand exceed available budget, with retrospective reporting to Committee on a regular basis.

3.23

On the basis of the learning to date and the ongoing feedback received from communities it is recommended that the existing priorities for funding remain the same as:

- **Children and Young People:** Summer activities and programmes, negative educational and wellbeing impacts of COVID-19 and digital connectivity
- **Civic Pride:** Communities are rightly proud of the huge volunteering effort and sense of neighbourliness and community spirit and want to develop that
- **Preventing Isolation:** the impact of COVID-19 on those shielding has been significant and a huge community effort is needed to support those individuals, with digital connectivity an element
- **Emotional Wellbeing:** There is widespread concern about then emotional wellbeing concerns of vulnerable individuals, families and communities
- **Anti-Social Behaviour:** Levels of anti-social behaviour, particularly in parks/open spaces has increased due to people not being at school/work and periods of good weather

3.24

With the addition of the following priorities given the importance of supporting community partners to recover their services and facilities for the benefit of their communities in what is a very uncertain operating environment:

- **Unexpected Premises and PPE Costs:** In recovering services and opening premises, community partners will have to make small scale physical changes to their premises and purchase PPE to ensure social distancing. These are unplanned for costs placing an additional financial burden on them. Groups in receipt of an existing revenue buildings grant from Council or other central government funder will not be eligible unless they can provide evidence their existing grants will not cover expected costs up to end March 2021.
- **Connectivity and Inclusion:** Programmes and activities that promote connectivity and inclusion within communities, between communities and between communities and statutory partners as we all navigate the uncertainty of the coming months. This will also support programmes and activities which will enhance and develop grass roots community capacity.

3.25

#### Thematic Funding

The organisations funded under thematic funding from the initial COVID-19 emergency response as all either continuing with delivery within their allocated budget or in the process of securing additional resources if needed from the Shared City Partnership and/or Policing and Community Safety Partnership/s. No additional requests have been made to Council to date, but Officers continue to work closely with these groups and will connect them with other funders as needed.



3.26

Maximising Participation

As well as promoting the continuing financial investment in communities on Council website and social media to maximise accessibility, Officers will liaise directly with every organisation that had previously made grant applications under the pre-COVID-19 grant processes to update them on what financial support is available for the 20/21 financial year, this will include those organisations who made an application under our small grants programme Tranche 1.

3.27

Capacity and Revenue Buildings Grant 21/22

In March 2020, Council authorised the release of the planned 2020 Capacity and Buildings Revenue grants to applicants. This was a planned grant process and all organisations who made an application, received an award as detailed below:

- **Building Revenue grants - 74 grants totalling £985,405**

These grants are aimed at community development organisations which address the needs of their community by delivering a broad based programme from their building. The building may be used by the local neighbourhood, or the community may be from across the whole city for a thematic/special interest group.

- **Capacity Building Grants - 34 grants totalling £1,021,336**

These grants are aimed at lead community development organisations that advocate the interests of their local groups, area and residents; and support local community groups to ensure good practice in governance, committee procedures, appropriate policies and financial management.

3.28

Many grant recipients continue to be engaged in COVID-19 response and community partners remain under significant pressure. Taking this in to account and the increasing concern about further pressure at a community level as we move forward in to the winter months with additional COVID-19 impacts, it is recommended that the existing Capacity and Buildings Revenue grants are extended for a further year (up to end March 2022) without further open call. Additionally, other staffing resource pressures at present and with more expected in the coming months, the significant workload operating an open call of this size requires 6 months advance notice which is not possible to facilitate at present.

3.29

Members should note that DfC have changed their financial allocation model regionally to the Community Support Fund, but we do not have exact detail on how or if this will affect Belfast. Taking this in to account, further engagement will be needed with Committee on specific financial allocations to the Capacity and Building Revenue Grant Programmes as further detail becomes available.

3.30

**Wider Community Provision Grant Approach 21/22**

Ongoing engagement with Committee in recent months has demonstrated significant learning from the COVID-19 experience in how we provide financial support to communities in a way that is agile, flexible, accessible and with proportionate levels of bureaucracy. The feedback from community partners is that this approach is working more effectively for them than our previous grant processes to date and they would welcome improvements to our grant programme.

3.31

Taking that in to account, Officers are requesting authority not to revert to the previously delivered grant programmes for 21/22 detailed below and to engage with funders and partnerships to secure participation in reviewing community provision grant programmes as well as the necessary approvals in due course:

- PCSP Small Grants/Policing Committee (DoJ/NIPB/BCC/PCSP)
- Good Relations Grants/Bonfire and Cultural Expression Programme Grants - (TEO/BCC/SCP)
- Community Development Summer Scheme Grants (DfC/BCC)
- Community Development Small Project Grants (DfC/BCC)
- Ur City 2 Grants (Children/Young People in N'hood Renewal Areas) (BCC)
- Parks Events Small Grants (BCC)

The estimated total value of these grants is approximately £900,000.

3.32

Officers are additionally requesting authority to use this opportunity to embed the learning from COVID-19 in to a new approach for 21/22 and beyond. This is a significant piece of work which will require further political and community engagement in the coming months but would be based on the following:

- Improved strategic alignment (including Belfast: Our Recovery) both within Council and with external partners utilising the Community Planning Partnership and associated Boards;
- Focus on outcomes and impact rather than activities and functional areas;
- Encourage co-design and community participation;
- Effective delivery mechanisms to include a streamlined programme, streamlined and consistent processes, innovative community financial investment methods as well as traditional grant funding;
- Reducing bureaucracy and administration to a proportionate level;
- Consideration of citywide as well as area priorities;
- Maximising accessibility and eligibility, particularly for those groups who would have accessed previous schemes.

3.33	<p><u>Financial Implications</u></p> <p>As detailed in the report</p>
3.34	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications and Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>This will be considered throughout and any appropriate issues highlighted to Members. Any amendments to existing scheme or new scheme will be considered in the context of any equality/Good Relations and rural needs considerations.</p>
4.0	<p><b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b></p>
	<p>None</p>

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<b>Subject:</b>	Partner Agreement – Ulidia Playing Fields
<b>Date:</b>	6 October 2020
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Ryan Black Director of Neighbourhood Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Stephen Leonard, Neighbourhood Services Manager (South)

<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 committee of delays in progressing discussions on an alternative management model in the form of a long term lease at the site and a request from the Agreement holder for additional support until a decision is made on the management model.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	Committee is asked to consider the requested additional support by Rosario YC and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to agree to provide a maximum financial payment of up to £2,000 per month for staff costs subject to vouching of fully evidenced expenditure from November 2020 to March 2021</li> </ul>

<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	Ulidia Playing Fields is subject to a Partner Agreement with Rosario YC. The Agreement is for a term of five years to the last day of August 2020 with an option to extend for a further two years. The Partner Agreement requires the Club to deliver sports development outcomes based on the Club's annual plan and to assume responsibility for day to day operation of the site including key holding, cleaning, security, health and safety duties etc. Council supports the Club in the form of four quarterly payments of £5,000 based on satisfactory delivery of the sports development plan and compliance with operational requirements.
3.2	During the term of the Agreement Council developed the site and installed a floodlit synthetic pitch.
3.3	A meeting was held at the beginning of December 2018, attended by political representatives, club representatives and officers. Rosario YC made a presentation highlighting the scale and scope of the Club's activities, how their activities support the Belfast Agenda and other relevant strategies, their vision for further development of the site in the future and their ambition to assume full responsibility for running the site.
3.4	The club has since presented a sports development plan which details their ambition to extend their programming by developing the site further, this would be based on them holding a long term lease.
3.5	Departmental Officers have been working with the club to further progress discussions around their plans and aspiration for a potential Community Asset Transfer, with the club looking at providing detail information demonstrating clear community benefit from their plans. Due to difficulties arising from the Covid19 outbreak progress has been stalled. Officers intend to make contact Rosario in the near future to ascertain how this is progressing.
3.6	At the December 2018 meeting the Club highlighted their concerns that the development of the site to include the synthetic floodlit pitch will now require them to operate well beyond their original commitment due to the intensified hourly use, extended opening hours and the move from seasonal to yearlong programming. They further identified additional risks to site users in particular control of parking due to higher volumes of traffic with concurrent bookings at evenings, weekends and outside daylight hours. They requested that Council provide an additional monthly amount of £2,000 to support them in creating part-time posts to operate

	<p>the site to Council's standards for the term of the Partner Agreement. This request was approved by People and Communities committee in January 2019 to be effective until the end of March 2020. This end date was in anticipation that a new management model would be in place in January 2020.</p>
3.7	<p>Following the Covid19 outbreak the staff were furloughed, as activities have resumed at the site staff have now returned to full duties. The Club vice-chair wrote to the Director of Neighbourhood Services on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020 (see appendix 1) requesting that the £2,000 additional payment be resumed until discussions on the management model are completed.</p> <p><u>Financial Implications</u></p>
3.8	<p>An amount of £10,000 will be required to support this request from November 2020 to March 2021, there is allowance for this within existing estimates.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p>
3.9	<p>There are no additional impacts related to this report.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1 - Email from vice Chair of Rosario FC to Director of Neighbourhood Services

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**From:** Danny Treacy <[REDACTED]>

**Sent:** 23 September 2020 10:48

**To:** Ryan Black <[BlackRyan@belfastcity.gov.uk](mailto:BlackRyan@belfastcity.gov.uk)>

**Cc:** Cormac McCann <[McCannC@BelfastCity.gov.uk](mailto:McCannC@BelfastCity.gov.uk)>; [REDACTED]

**Subject:** Rosario -Ulidia

Acknowledged. PMcM 23.09.20

Dear Ryan

On 8 January 2019, People & Communities Committee considered a report on the Partner Agreement with Rosario YC in respect of Ulidia Playing Fields.

The Committee agreed to pay Rosario up to £2000 per month for 2019-20 for staff costs for the management of Ulidia, due to extended hours of operation and other factors. The Committee agreed that the required expenditure could be met from in-year departmental budgets.

The Committee were also supportive of Rosario's long-term goal which was and is to secure a long-term lease for Ulidia. Rosario submitted a business case to Council officers in September of 2019. Subsequently there have been discussions about a Community Asset Transfer to achieve this, and both Council and DfC are supportive, but progress has stalled due to COVID.

From the start of August Ulidia has been fully operational. The grounds have been staffed by the 2 part time staff and a team of volunteers. The additional requirements of the various Covid 19 protocols have created the need for a considerable extra resource to ensure the safe use of the site.

Rosario have ensured maximum safe usage of the facility within the community and provided over 120 hours per week for site supervision, maintenance and administration.

Given that there is broad support from all parties and stakeholders involved in the Community Asset Transfer process, we would formally ask Council to continue with the £2000 per month payment pending the successful conclusion of this initiative.

Regards

Danny

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<b>Subject:</b>	Fixed Penalty Charges – correspondence from Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
<b>Date:</b>	6 October 2020
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Siobhan Toland, Director of City Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Vivienne Donnelly, City Protection Manager

<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"/>
Sometime 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</b>
1.1	To inform Members of correspondence received from Newry, Mourne and Down District Council in relation to Dog Fouling Legislation and to seek their views on the proposals contained within.
<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 attached correspondence from NMDDC and advise if they are in agreement to support the proposal to raising the maximum fine payable for Fixed Penalty Notices in regard to littering and dog fouling offences;</li> <li>• advise if they support the devolution of powers for setting Fixed Penalty rates to local councils; and</li> <li>• advise if a letter to the DAERA Minister outlining support for these proposals should be issued</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council have written to the Chief Executive (Appendix 1) to request support for a proposal submitted to the DAERA Minister (Appendix 2) which

3.2	<p>requests that the maximum amount payable under a Fixed Penalty Notice in respect of littering and dog fouling offences be increased from the current limit of £80 to £250.</p> <p>NMDDC are also asking the DAERA Minister to consider the possibility of devolving powers for setting Fixed Penalty rates to councils.</p> <p><u>Financial implications</u></p> <p>The financial implications of any alteration of Fixed Penalty Notices fees will require review if support for this proposal is agreed for further assessment.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>There are no additional impacts related to this report.</p>
4.0	<b>Appendices - Documents Attached</b>
	<p>Appendix 1 - Letter to BCC from Newry, Mourne and Down District Council</p> <p>Appendix 2 - Letter to DAERA Minister from Newry, Mourne and Down District Council</p>

**Marie Ward**  
Chief Executive



Comhairle Ceantair  
**an Iúir, Mhúrn  
agus an Dúin**  
**Newry, Mourne  
and Down**  
District Council

22<sup>nd</sup> September 2020  
Our Ref: NS/182/2020  
By email & post

Ms Suzanne Wylie CEO  
Belfast Council  
Belfast City Hall  
Belfast  
BT1 5GS

Email: [wylies@belfastcity.gov.uk](mailto:wylies@belfastcity.gov.uk)

Dear Ms Wylie,

I have been asked to write to you on behalf of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council.

At the Council's Neighbourhood Services (NS) Committee in August, Elected Members requested for Dog Fouling Legislation to be updated. The main focus is to request the maximum amount payable under a Fixed Penalty Notice in respect of littering and dog fouling offences be increased from the current limit of £80 to £250. The Council also asked that consideration is given to the possibility of devolving powers for setting Fixed Penalty rates to Councils.

As part of this, I was requested to write to the DAERA Minister requesting the above proposals. See Letter attached, for your information.

In addition, I was also asked to write to the other ten Local Councils seeking support on this proposal and request they write to the Minister. I am sure you are experiencing the same problems and complaints caused by dog fouling and littering within your Council area. The proposed increase in fines would help promote the 'polluter pay' principle.

It would be helpful, if you could indicate your Council's support to the above proposals and if your Council intends to write to the DAREA Minister, as requested.

Thank you in anticipation.

Your sincerely,

Roland Moore

Director of Neighbourhood Services

cc Copy of Letter sent to Minister Poots MLA (DAERA)

**Oifig an Iúir**  
**Newry Office**  
O'Hagan House  
Monaghan Row  
Newry BT35 8DJ

**Oifig Dhún Pádraig**  
**Downpatrick Office**  
Downshire Civic Centre  
Downshire Estate, Ardglass Road  
Downpatrick BT30 6GQ

0330 137 4000 (Council)  
[council@nmandd.org](mailto:council@nmandd.org)  
[www.newrymournedown.org](http://www.newrymournedown.org)

Page 47

**Ag freastal ar an Dún**  
**agus Ard Mhacha Theas**  
**Serving Down**  
**and South Armagh**

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**Marie Ward**  
Chief Executive



Comhairle Ceantair  
**an Iúir, Mhúrn  
agus an Dúin**  
**Newry, Mourne  
and Down**  
District Council

19<sup>th</sup> September 2020  
Our Ref: NS/182/2020  
By email & post

Edwin Poots MLA  
Minister for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs  
Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs  
Parliament Buildings Room 309  
Ballymiscaw  
Stormont  
Belfast  
BT4 3XX

Email: [Edwin.poots@mla.niassembly.gov.uk](mailto:Edwin.poots@mla.niassembly.gov.uk)

Dear Minister Poots MLA,

I have been asked to write to you on behalf of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council.

At the Council's Neighbourhood Services (NS) Committee in August, Elected Members requested for Dog Fouling Legislation to be reviewed. This is in relation to the maximum amount payable under a Fixed Penalty Notice in respect of littering and dog fouling offences, where fines should be increased from the current limit of £80 to £250. As part of this review, consideration could also be given to the possibility of devolving powers for setting Fixed Penalty rates to Councils for these offences.

The Council would appreciate if you could give this matter consideration, due to littering and dog fouling being a major issue within our District and Northern Ireland as a whole. Increasing the Fixed Penalty may also assist in achieving a 'polluter pays' principle.

It would be helpful as part of the reply for the Department (DAERA) to indicate likely/proposed timescales for any changes.

Thank you in anticipation.

Your sincerely,

Roland Moore

Director of Neighbourhood Services

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<b>Subject:</b>	Waste Industry Safety and Health Forum Northern Ireland (WISHNI) Request
<b>Date:</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> October 2020
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Siobhan Toland, Director of City Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Jennifer Stephens, Compliance and Research 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>	
<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>
<b>1.1</b>	To notify Committee that a request has been made by the Chair of WISHNI, Jim King, for Belfast City Council Waste Officer, Jennifer Stephens, to consider and accept the role of Deputy Chair of WISHNI for the foreseeable future.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
<b>2.1</b>	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Note the request that has been made on behalf of WISHNI.</li> <li>Approve the request from WISHNI for Jennifer Stephens, Waste Officer, to accept the role as Deputy Chair for WISHNI</li> </ul>

<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p>A direct request has been made from WISHNI to Belfast City Council's Waste Officer, Jennifer Stephens to consider and accept the role of Deputy Chair for WISHNI.</p> <p><u>Background</u></p> <p>3.2 The Waste Industry Safety and Health Forum Northern Ireland (WISHNI) is made up of representatives from the waste management and recycling industry in Northern Ireland. WISHNI members include representatives from professional associations, recycling organisations, businesses and national and local government bodies.</p> <p>3.3 Belfast City Council (BCC) has been involved, in a voluntary capacity, with WISHNI for a number of years. Representatives from BCC Corporate Health and Safety Unit and Waste Management regularly attend WISHNI meetings and events.</p> <p>3.4 The Waste Management Service has also been in receipt of a WISHNI Ambassador Award for six years.</p> <p>3.5 The Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland (HSENI) is also a WISHNI member, adopting an advisory role to help improve health and safety practices throughout the industry.</p> <p>3.6 The aim of WISHNI is to identify, devise and promote activities to improve industry health and safety standards.</p> <p>3.7 The Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland (HSENI) has developed a programme of work which aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reduce the RIDDOR accident rate by five per cent each year</li> <li>• understand and identify measures to reduce occupational ill health</li> <li>• ensure occupational health and safety is an integral part of the specification, procurement and management of municipal waste/recycling contracts</li> </ul> <p>3.8 To help improve health and safety standards within the waste industry and in support of the above targets, WISHNI have defined the following approach. WISHNI will act as a steering group which will oversee working groups tasked with specific initiatives designed to improve health and safety performance within the waste industry.</p>

3.9	WISHNI will harness the collective knowledge of its membership to help individuals; representative bodies; employers and other organisations secure a safe and healthy workplace.
3.10	WISHNI will provide information, guidance and assistance to the industry where possible in efforts to improve health and safety standards.
3.11	WISHNI will target organisations and encourage them to take part in planned initiatives or undertake other such actions so as to improve health and safety standards.
3.12	WISHNI hold regular meetings and events throughout the year, bringing together shared learning and expertise on waste related matters.
3.13	The role of the Deputy Chair of WISHNI would be to continue to support the work of WISHNI, to help deliver on its strategy and to deputise for the Chair in their absence, for example by chairing WISHNI meetings.
3.14	The time commitment involved in carrying out this role is estimated at approximately a half day per month. Any additional time commitments would be made in the officer's own time.
3.15	Fulfilment of this role has been requested for the foreseeable future, with no set timeframe or end date stated. However, should this request be granted, the officer will seek review of the position after two years from the date of appointment.
	<p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></p>
3.16	There are no financial implications in accepting the role of Deputy Chair of WISHNI. Any additional resource implications, on the officer's time, would be minimal as she is already an active member of WISHNI and participates in the ongoing meeting and events.
	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment</u></p>
3.17	There are no negative Equality or Good Relations implications / Rural Needs Assessment. By supporting the request, BCC would be promoting equality of opportunity for women within the waste industry, which traditionally has been a predominantly male-dominated environment.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	None

