

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



**Belfast  
City Council**

18<sup>th</sup> February, 2020

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

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet in the Lavery Room - City Hall on Friday, 21st February, 2020 at 9.30 am, for the transaction of the business noted below.

You are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully,

SUZANNE WYLIE

Chief Executive

### **AGENDA:**

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

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

#### **2. Restricted Items**

- (a) Financial Reporting – Quarter 3 2019/20 (Pages 1 - 62)
- (b) DFC Consultation on Regulation of Gambling (Pages 63 - 118)
- (c) Request for revision of public tours of City Hall (Pages 119 - 148)

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

- (a) Motion: Bowel and Breast Cancer Screening - Response from Permanent Secretary (Pages 149 - 154)

- (b) Motion: Irish Unity Referendum - Response from Governments (Pages 155 - 162)
  - (c) Northern Ireland Water Refillution Campaign and Water Refill Stations (Pages 163 - 170)
  - (d) Motion - Market Gardens and Urban Farming (Pages 171 - 172)
  - (e) Motion – Growth Deal (Pages 173 - 174)
  - (f) Motion - Belfast Zoo (To Follow)
  - (g) Proposed approach to enable the strategic consideration of Notices of Motions and Issues Raised in Advance by Members (Pages 175 - 184)
4. **Belfast Agenda/Strategic Issues**
- (a) City Region Growth Deal – Update (Pages 185 - 230)
  - (b) NI Executive Ministerial Engagement (Pages 231 - 306)
  - (c) Draft Improvement Objectives 2020/21 (To Follow)
  - (d) Belfast Healthy Cities (Pages 307 - 310)
5. **Governance**
- (a) APSE Local Government Commission 2030 (Pages 311 - 314)
  - (b) Revision to Scheme of Allowances 2020/21 (Pages 315 - 318)
6. **Physical Programme and Asset Management**
- (a) Physical Programme Update (Pages 319 - 326)
  - (b) Assets Update (Pages 327 - 332)
  - (c) Leisure Transformation Programme Phase 1b – Operational Update (Pages 333 - 340)
7. **Finance, Resources and Procurement**
- (a) Contracts Update (Pages 341 - 346)
8. **Equality and Good Relations**
- (a) Minutes of Shared City Partnership Meeting on 10th February 2020 (Pages 347 - 364)
9. **Operational Issues**
- (a) Brexit Committee – Proposed Visit to Belfast and Dublin Ports (Pages 365 - 366)

- (b) Requests for use of the City Hall and the provision of Hospitality (Pages 367 - 370)
- (c) Minutes of Area Working Groups (To Follow)
- (d) Minutes of Party Group Leaders Consultative Forum (Pages 371 - 374)
- (e) Minutes of Meeting of Working Group on the Climate Crises (To Follow)

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

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<b>Subject:</b>	Motion : Bowel and Breast Cancer Screening - Response from Permanent Secretary
<b>Date:</b>	21st February, 2020
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Walsh, City Solicitor
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
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/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	To consider a response from the Permanent Secretary, Department of Health, to a motion on Bowel and Breast Cancer Screening which was passed by the Council at its meeting on 2nd December.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	The Committee is requested to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>consider the response and take such action thereon as may be determined.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	At the Council meeting on 2nd December, the following motion, which was proposed by Councillor Canavan and seconded by Councillor S. Baker, was passed: <p>“This Council notes that early diagnosis of bowel cancer and breast cancer offers patients the best chance of successful treatment.</p>

	<p>England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland all currently use the more accurate screening test, the Faecal Immunochemical Test (FIT) for bowel cancer and have a lowered age for screening.</p> <p>NHS England is currently trialling breast cancer screening at the lower age of 47 and the upper age of 72.</p> <p>This Council agrees to write to the Permanent Secretary, Department of Health, highlighting the difference in the screening service provision across Britain and Ireland and calling for the extension of the age range for bowel screening and to trial breast cancer screening at a lower age in the North of Ireland.”</p>
3.2	A response has now been received from the Permanent Secretary, a copy of which is attached.
3.3	<p>The Permanent Secretary explains that the Northern Ireland Bowel Cancer Screening Programme currently covers all men and women between the ages of 60 and 74. In relation to the further development of the Programme, the Northern Ireland Screening Committee has recommended a phased approach involving, firstly, the replacement of the Faecal Occult Blood test with the Faecal Immunochemical Test, which has a better performance in terms of participation rates, and, secondly, giving consideration to offering screening from the age of 50. The move to Faecal Immunochemical Testing is due to take place early this year and, once completed, the extension of the age range for bowel screening will be considered. In view of these developments, there is, therefore, no plans to undertake a review of bowel screening at this time.</p>
3.4	<p>The Permanent Secretary then provides details of the Northern Ireland Breast Screening Programme. He explains that, in line with the recommendations of the UK National Screening Committee, women between the ages of 50 and 70 are invited for screening every three years. Those over the age of 70 are able to self-refer every three years by contacting their local screening centre. Breast screening is not, however, offered to women under the age of 50, as their risk of developing breast cancer is deemed to be lower and their mammograms tend to be more difficult to interpret, thereby leading to false positive results, anxiety and unnecessary biopsies. He adds that, in April, 2013, the Northern Ireland Breast Screening Programme assumed responsibility for the surveillance screening of women with a higher risk of breast cancer and that women from the age of 20 upwards were now included in the Programme.</p>



3.5	He goes on to provide details of a National Health Service Breast Screening Programme 'Age X' trial which is running currently in England. The trial, which will conclude in 2026, offers some women an extra screen between the ages of 47 and 49 and another between the ages of 71 and 73, with a view to determining if extending the age range reduces deaths from breast cancer. More than five million women will be selected over the course of the trial to receive additional or usual screening, with such a large number being required to ensure that the research will produce reliable results for informing future screening policy.
3.6	He points out that a major research trial, such as Age X, will not be given approval unless there are enough participants to produce reliable results. Given the number of women in the relevant age groups, a separate research trial for Northern Ireland would not be considered, as it would be unable to produce sufficiently reliable information to inform future policy.
3.7	The Permanent Secretary concludes by stressing that the screening tests do not provide a guarantee that all cancers will be detected early or prevented and that it is important that people are aware of warning signs or symptoms and act promptly by contacting their GP with any concerns.
3.8	<b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b> None associated with this report.
3.9	<b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b> None
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices - Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1 - Response from Permanent Secretary, Department of Health

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**From the Permanent Secretary  
and HSC Chief Executive**



Suzanne Wylie, Chief Executive  
Belfast City Council  
[wylies@belfastcity.gov.uk](mailto:wylies@belfastcity.gov.uk)

Castle Buildings  
Upper Newtownards Road  
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Tel: 02890520559  
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Email: [richard.pengelly@health-ni.gov.uk](mailto:richard.pengelly@health-ni.gov.uk)

Our ref: RP5142  
SGM-0901-2019

Date: 22 January 2020

Dear Ms Wylie

### **Early diagnosis of Bowel and Breast cancer**

Thank you for your letter dated 17th December 2019 about early diagnosis of bowel and breast cancer in Northern Ireland.

The Northern Ireland Bowel Cancer Screening Programme currently covers all men and women from 60 to 74 years of age. In relation to the further development of the Northern Ireland Bowel Cancer Screening Programme, the NI Screening Committee has recommended a phased approach with the first step to replace the Faecal Occult Blood (FOB) test with Faecal Immunochemical Test (FIT) and then giving consideration to extending the age range to offer screening from the age of 50. FIT has a better performance in terms of participation rates compared to the FOB test, probably due to the fact that it requires the participant to take only one sample from a bowel motion rather than the two samples on three different occasions required by the FOB test.

In April 2019, the Department announced that FIT would be adopted by the Northern Ireland Bowel Cancer Screening Programme as the primary screening test for bowel cancer. Implementation is underway, with the move from FOB to FIT due to take place early this year. Once this work has been completed, extension of the age range for bowel screening will be considered.

Given the National Screening Committee recommendations and the above developments, there are no plans for a review of bowel screening at this time.

Through the NI Breast Screening Programme, women aged between 50 and 70 are invited for screening every three years and this is in line with the recommendations of the UK National Screening Committee. Women over the age of 70 are not invited, but are able to self-refer every 3 years and are encouraged to make their own appointment by contacting

their local screening centre. Breast screening is not offered to women under the age of 50 because the risk of breast cancer is lower and women under 50 generally have denser breast tissue which makes their mammograms much more difficult to interpret, which may lead to false positive results, anxiety and unnecessary biopsies.

On 1<sup>st</sup> April 2013 the Northern Ireland Breast Screening Programme took on responsibility for the surveillance screening of women at higher risk of breast cancer. Women from the age of 20 upwards are included in the higher risk surveillance screening programme.

The current NHS Breast Screening Programme Age X trial in England is due to run until 2026. The trial is designed to examine the effectiveness of offering some women an extra screen between the ages of 47 and 49, and another between the ages of 71 and 73. The aim of this study is to see if extending the age range of breast screening reduces deaths from breast cancer. It will provide robust evidence to inform further consideration on the most clinically appropriate upper and lower ages for breast screening across the UK. The UK National Screening Committee will review the evidence once the trial has reported and will advise the four UK Health Departments on their recommendations.

It is expected that during the course of Age X trial more than 5 million women will be randomised to receive additional or usual screening. This very large number of participants is required to ensure the research will produce reliable results which will inform future screening policy across the UK. A major research trial such as Age X will not be approved unless it includes enough participants to be able to produce reliable results. Given the number of women in the relevant age groups in Northern Ireland, a research trial here would not be able to produce sufficiently reliable information to inform future policy.

It should be noted that the screening tests do not provide a guarantee that all cancers will be detected early or prevented. No test is 100% reliable, so in the interests of early detection it is important that people are aware of the warning signs or symptoms, and that they act promptly to get anything suspicious checked out by their GP and referred for further assessment if necessary.

I trust you find this information helpful.

Yours sincerely



**RICHARD PENGELLY**



<b>Subject:</b>	Motion : Irish Unity Referendum – Response from Governments
<b>Date:</b>	21st February, 2020
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Walsh, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
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/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	To consider responses from the British and Irish Governments to a motion on an Irish Unity Referendum which was passed by the Council at its meeting on 2nd December.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	The Committee is requested to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider the responses and take such action thereon as may be determined.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	At the Council meeting on 2nd December, the following motion was proposed by former Councillor Hargey and seconded by Councillor McLaughlin: <p>“This Council notes with deep concern the hugely damaging, toxic and chaotic politics currently being administered by the Conservative British Government regarding Brexit.</p>

3.2	<p>This City has an ever-growing population of young people who will ultimately have to live with the long term consequences of this British Government's damaging policy of attempting to drag citizens out of the European Union against the wishes of the majority of citizens in Belfast who voted to remain.</p> <p>As a Council, we have a duty to protect all our citizens, young and old, against the policies and hardship that this British government and its allies will bring by dragging them out of the European Union. There is no Brexit that is a good Brexit for the citizens of Belfast or elsewhere in Ireland.</p> <p>This Council must, therefore, investigate alternative solutions to Brexit that seek to protect its citizens from the damaging effects which Brexit will ultimately bring.</p> <p>In seeking alternative solutions to protect Belfast citizens, a referendum on Irish Unity, as enshrined within the terms of the Good Friday Agreement, must be legitimately considered. This is a solution that would protect our citizens from Brexit and is supported by categorical statements from the European Council where, in the event of Irish Unity, the citizens in the north would be returned back into the European Union.</p> <p>The Council calls for the establishment of a New Ireland Forum for the 21st Century, alongside a series of comprehensive Citizens' Assemblies, to examine the practical, social and economic aspects of a New Ireland.</p> <p>The Council believes that winning people to the idea of a unified state will require a vision of a different kind of Ireland, which sees an end to the low tax haven and soaring rents in the South, the complete separation of church and state, an all-island NHS and an end to sectarianism and racism and the communal carve up of resources in the North, where those who live here are welcome here, no matter where they are born, and where the rights of women and the LBGTQ+ communities are respected.</p> <p>The Council agrees to write directly to the Taoiseach and to the British Secretary of State requesting that they clearly specify what would satisfy the requirement, as provided for under the terms of the Good Friday Agreement, to facilitate an Irish Unity referendum."</p> <p>Responses have now been received on behalf of the Secretary of State and the Tánaiste addressing in detail the issues raised within the motion in relation to a unity referendum and Brexit. Copies of the responses are attached.</p>
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3.3	<b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b> None associated with this report.
3.4	<b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b> None
4.0	<b>Appendices - Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1 - Responses from the Secretary of State's and the Tánaiste's office

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## Northern Ireland Office

Ms S Wylie  
Chief Executive  
Belfast City Council  
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[@niopressoffice](https://twitter.com/niopressoffice)

16 January 2020

Dear Ms Wylie,

Thank you for your letter of the 17<sup>th</sup> December to the Secretary of State regarding the issue of a referendum in Northern Ireland on its constitutional future and on the impact to Northern Ireland of the UK's withdrawal from the European Union. I have been asked to reply.

This Government fully recognises and respects the fact that a significant section of society in Northern Ireland legitimately regards itself as Irish and aspires to a united Ireland. The Belfast Agreement itself allows for people living in Northern Ireland to identify as British, Irish or both. This Government's clear preference is for Northern Ireland to remain part of the United Kingdom. We have always made clear that, in accordance with the 1998 Agreement, it is for the people of Northern Ireland to decide and we will always back their democratic wishes.

It remains the Secretary of State's view that a majority of the people of Northern Ireland continue to support Northern Ireland's place in the United Kingdom and that this is unlikely to change for at least the foreseeable future. The circumstances set out in the Belfast Agreement that require the Secretary of State to hold a referendum on Irish unification are therefore not satisfied.

Turning to the concerns you have expressed regarding the UK's exit from the EU and the impact on Northern Ireland, the new deal we have agreed with the EU has a special arrangement for Northern Ireland, reflecting the unique circumstances there.

The Protocol sets out the relationship that Northern Ireland, and the rest of the UK in relation to Northern Ireland, will have with the EU at the end of the transition period in December 2020. It avoids a hard border on the island of Ireland, maintains north-south cooperation, and protects the Belfast Agreement. Northern Ireland will have access to the Single Market, but can also be part of UK trade deals negotiated around the world. Crucially, this arrangement will be underpinned by the principle of democratic consent.

This Government has been clear that the result of the 2016 referendum must be respected and as such we will leave the EU on 31 January 2020 as one United Kingdom, with a deal that protects Northern Ireland's constitutional status as part of the UK.

Yours sincerely,

Matthew Ellesmere  
Political Strategy and Implementation Team

Oifig an Tánaiste  
Aire Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála  
Office of the Tánaiste  
Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade



Ms. Suzanne Wylie  
Chief Executive  
Belfast City Council  
City Hall  
Belfast BT1 5GS

27 January 2020

Our Reference: DFAT-TO-00604-2019  
Your Ref: SW/c

Dear Ms. Wylie,

The Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Mr. Simon Coveney T.D., has asked me to refer to your correspondence of 17 December to the Taoiseach which he conveyed to the Tánaiste for attention.

The Tánaiste has asked me to thank you for this correspondence conveying details of the resolution adopted by Belfast City Council on 2 December 2019 regarding the impacts of Brexit and call for a New Ireland Forum for the 21st century.

The full implementation of the Good Friday Agreement and subsequent agreements is a priority for the Government. The approach of the Government in relation to Irish unity is of course guided by Article 3 of the Constitution, as amended by the people in 1998.

Under the Good Friday Agreement, the Irish and British Governments “recognise the legitimacy of whatever choice is freely exercised by a majority of the people of Northern Ireland with regard to its status, whether they prefer to continue to support the Union with Britain or a sovereign united Ireland” and should such a choice be made in the future, it will be a binding obligation on both Governments to introduce and support in their respective Parliaments legislation to give effect to that wish.

The holding of a referendum in this jurisdiction is connected with the calling of a border poll, under the terms of the Good Friday Agreement, in Northern Ireland. Under the Good Friday Agreement, the Secretary of State shall exercise this power “if at any time it appears likely...that a majority of those voting would express a wish that Northern Ireland should cease to be part of the United Kingdom and form part of a united Ireland”.

In the event of a future referendum within the consent provisions of the Good Friday Agreement, the Government has confirmed that it would make all necessary preparations in accordance with the terms of the Constitution and the principles and procedures of the Agreement.

It is recognised that the course of Brexit in recent years has led to more civic discussion and engagement, North and South, about constitutional change as provided for under the Good Friday Agreement.

The Taoiseach has stated that the Government will continue to listen to and engage with the views of everyone on this island, both on rights issues and on the constitutional future that they wish to see for Northern Ireland – whether nationalist, unionist or neither.

These are extremely important issues which naturally require very careful and serious consideration and the Government will continue to engage and reflect on them.

In the near term, the Government is focused on securing ratification and implementation of the Withdrawal Agreement to allow for an ordered Brexit, including a smooth transition period; preparing for the next phase of Brexit negotiations dealing with the future EU-UK relationship; ensuring the sustained and effective functioning of the devolved institutions and the North South Ministerial Council and ensuring the protection of the Good Friday Agreement and the achievements of the Peace Process, as the UK leaves the EU.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Clare Brosnan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Clare Brosnan  
Private Secretary





<b>Subject:</b>	Northern Ireland Water Refillution Campaign and Water Refill Stations
<b>Date:</b>	21 <sup>st</sup> February 2020
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Nigel Grimshaw, Strategic Director of City & Neighbourhood Services
<b>Contact Officers:</b>	Ryan Black, Director of Neighbourhood Services Stephen Leonard, Neighbourhood Services Manager, City & Neighbourhood 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	Committee is asked to consider a request from Northern Ireland Water for the Council to engage with them in relation to the Northern Ireland Water Refillution Campaign.
1.2	Committee is also asked to note the update re the Notice of Motion, raised by Councillor McMullan and seconded by Councillor McReynolds in regards to examining the feasibility of installing Water refill points across the Council Estate.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	Committee is asked to; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Consider the request from Northern Ireland Water and to approve that officers engage with them in relation to Belfast City Council participating in this scheme.</li> </ul>

	<p>(ii) Note that a recommendation to add 'Installation of Water Refill Points in Council Assets' as a Stage 1 – Emerging Project onto the Capital Programme is contained within the Physical Programme Update report which is also on the agenda for consideration by Members today at Item 6</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<p><b><u>REFILLOUTION CAMPAIGN</u></b></p> <p>Members are advised of a request from Northern Ireland Water in relation to the 'Refilloution' Campaign. This request compliments previous discussions on water refill points and would encourage members of the public to refill a reusable bottle with tap water rather than buy single use plastics.</p>
3.2	<p>Over the last year, Northern Ireland Water has engaged with Northern Ireland Councils, including Belfast City Council, to partner with them on helping reduce plastic pollution. Northern Ireland Water launched its 'Refillution,' Campaign on 19th June to coincide with a National Day of Action.</p>
3.3	<p>The 'Refillution' Campaign is aimed at encouraging people to refill a reusable bottle with tap water and buy less single use plastic bottles.</p>
3.4	<p>Ards and North Down Borough Council became the first Council area to partner with Northern Ireland Water in May 2019. A number of businesses in the Borough, around 70, have signed up to 'Refillution' where the public can refill their reusable water bottles for free, from shops or cafés that are supporting the campaign.</p>
3.5	<p>Northern Ireland Water provides the business with a number of window stickers, posters and bottles as part of a 'Toolkit.' There are also opportunities for joint press and shared articles in the Council Magazine.</p>
3.6	<p>Eight of the other Councils also supported the NI Water launch on 19<sup>th</sup> June. Northern Ireland Water have requested that the Belfast City Council meet with them to look at how this scheme can be introduced into the City.</p>
3.7	<p><b><u>WATER REFILL STATIONS</u></b></p>
3.8	<p>Members will recall the notice of motion brought forward by Cllr McMullan, seconded by Cllr McReynolds at the August meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee:</p>

3.9	<p><i>“This Council recognises the over reliance on single use plastic water bottles. It notes innovative solutions to tackle this issue and support sustainable living, for example, the water refill stations recently installed by Mayo County Council.</i></p> <p><i>The Council agrees to the installation of water bottle refill stations across the Council Estate. This aims to help encourage a growing culture of using personal, reusable bottles to tackle single-use plastic use.”</i></p> <p><i>The motion had, in accordance with Standing Order 13(f), been referred without discussion to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.</i></p> <p><i>Councillor McMullan had referred to the facility within Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park as being an excellent example of a water refill point and requested that other potential Council locations and models be identified and costings provided”.</i></p> <p>In furtherance of the above NOM, given the infrastructure and asset implications the proposal would need to be taken through Council's agreed physical programme development process, and added as a Stage 1 Emerging project on the Capital Programme, in order to be worked up further. Members are asked to note that this is on the Physical Programme report for consideration by Members at today's meeting.</p>
3.10	<p><u>Financial &amp; Human Resource Implications</u></p> <p>If Members wish to see additional drinking fountains / units across the Council estate then this would need to be considered as part of the emerging list within the capital programme (see Physical Programmes update report, Item 6).</p>
3.11	<p><u>Asset and Other Implications</u></p> <p>There are no known implications.</p>
3.12	<p><u>Equality, Good Relations or Rural Needs Implications</u></p> <p>There are no known implications.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	<p>Appendix 1: Letter from Northern Ireland Water</p> <p>Appendix 2: Audit of existing provision</p>

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**Northern Ireland Water**

Westland House  
Old Westland Road  
Belfast  
BT14 6TE  
[www.niwater.com](http://www.niwater.com)



Tel: 0345 3006461

Ms Siobhan Toland  
Assistant Director Neighbourhood Services,  
Belfast City Council

Your Ref:

Date: 25<sup>th</sup> June 2019

Dear Ms Toland,

**NI Water's Refillution Campaign**

Over the last year, Northern Ireland Water has engaged with all of our Councils including Belfast City Council, to partner with us on helping reduce plastic pollution. NI Water launched its 'Refillution,' campaign on the 19<sup>th</sup> June to coincide with a National Day of Action.

The 'Refillution' campaign is aimed at encouraging people to refill a reusable bottle with tap water and buy less single use plastic bottles. The alarming number of single use plastic bottles ending up in our seas is a global problem that everyone needs to address.

Ards and North Down Council became the first Council area to partner with us in May. A number of businesses in the Borough, around 70, have signed up to 'Refillution' where the public can refill their reusable water bottles for free, from shops or cafés that are supporting the campaign. NI Water provides the business with a number of window stickers, posters and bottles as part of a 'Toolkit.' There are also opportunities for joint press, and shared articles in the Council Magazine.

Eight of the other Councils also supported our launch on the 19<sup>th</sup> of June.

We would be very keen for Belfast City council to support 'Refillution' and to partner with NI Water in the months ahead.

If you are interested in hearing more details about the campaign, I would be happy to give you a short presentation outlining more details and the benefits for the Council area and its constituents.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "A. Halpenny".

**ANGELA HALPENNY**

**Head of Environmental Regulation**

<b>Leisure Centres</b>	Total number of Water Dispensers
Ballysillan	3
Belvoir	3
Brook	3
Better Gym Connswater	2
Better Gym Belfast	1
Falls	1
Girdwood	2
Grove	2
Loughside	0
Lisnasharragh	3
Ozone	2
Olympia	3
Shankill	4
Whiterock	1
<b>Community Centres</b>	Water Dispensers
Suffolk	1
Finaghy	1
Morton	1
Sandy Row	1
Donegal Pass	1

The Markets	1
Highfield	1
Hammer	1
Glen Road	1
Horn Drive	1
Cregagh	1
Tullycarnet	1
Concorde	1
Woodvale	1
Inverary	1
Dee St	1
Knocknagoney	1
Ligoneil	1
North Queen Street	1
<b>Parks Sites</b>	Drinking fountains
Ormeau Park	2
Woodvale	1
Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon	1



<b>Subject:</b>	Motion - Market Gardens and Urban Farming
<b>Date:</b>	21 <sup>st</sup> February, 2020
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Walsh, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
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/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	To consider a motion on Market Gardens and Urban Farming, which was referred to the Committee by the Council at its meeting on 3 <sup>rd</sup> February.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider the motion and if the proposal is agreed a report on how this would be facilitated, resourced and managed will be brought back.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p>At the Council meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> February, the following motion was proposed by Councillor de Faoite and seconded by Councillor McKeown:</p> <p><i>"This Council:</i></p>

	<p>i. <i>notes the objectives of the Growing Communities Strategy 2012 – 2022, which include supporting environmental sustainability and the development of the social economy;</i></p> <p>ii. <i>recognises that, as society continues to care more about how food is produced, processed and transported, market gardens and urban farming are increasingly popular alternatives for climate-conscious consumers;</i></p> <p>iii. <i>further recognises that market gardens and urban farming align closely with the three pillars of sustainable development: they contribute to production; they boost social integration; and they improve our environment and general health;</i></p> <p>iv. <i>acknowledges that market gardens and urban farming can play a positive role in supporting the development of environmental and agricultural education at all levels; and</i></p> <p>v. <i>resolves to work with all relevant partners to establish an urban farm for community use and market garden development on an existing site within the Belfast City Council land bank, using revenue raised by the disposal of other sites.”</i></p>
3.2	In accordance with Standing Order 13(f), the motion was referred without debate to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.
3.3	<p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
3.4	<p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p> <p>None</p>
4.0	<b>Appendices - Documents Attached</b>
	None



<b>Subject:</b>	Motion – Growth Deal
<b>Date:</b>	21 <sup>st</sup> February, 2020
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Walsh, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
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/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	To consider a motion on a Growth Deal, which was referred to the Committee by the Council at its meeting on 3 <sup>rd</sup> February.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider the motion and if the proposal is agreed a report on how this would be facilitated, resourced and managed will be brought back.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p>At the Council meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> February, the following motion was proposed by Councillor Beattie and seconded by Councillor Garrett:</p> <p><i>“This Council agrees to task officers to prepare an initial report on developing a new growth deal for the city of Belfast.</i></p>

	<p><i>The Belfast Agenda recognises and builds on our City's achievements. Our success in economic growth is making a vital contribution to the broader economy. We are a significant employer of people living in and outside the city. However, for Belfast to achieve its ambitions, it needs to work in partnership with the Executive.</i></p> <p><i>One potential avenue for this growth deal could be the regional rate. If the Council was to work in conjunction with the Department of Finance and secure an additional 2% from the regional rate, it would derive an additional £30 million in revenue.</i></p> <p><i>Two of the potential sectors to benefit from this additional growth fund could be in the building of much needed public housing or the renewable energy market in the form of an offshore wind farm. Currently, there are no offshore wind farms in the North of Ireland. These two potential options both conform to the Belfast Agenda and the draft Programme for Government. They are sustainable projects which would ensure a steady return to this Council over many years."</i></p> <p>In accordance with Standing Order 13(f), the motion was referred without debate to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.</p>
3.2	<p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
3.3	<p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p> <p>None</p>
4.0	<b>Appendices - Documents Attached</b>
	None





Subject:	Proposed approach to enable the strategic consideration of Notices of Motions and Issues Raised in Advance by Members
Date:	22 November 2019
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor
Contact Officer:	Sarah Williams, Governance & Compliance Manager; Christine Robinson, Strategic Policy & Partnership 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"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	<p>The purpose of this report is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to seek approval for a proposed approach to monitoring and tracking of Notices of Motion and Issues Raised in Advance by Members</li> </ul>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	<p>It is recommended that Members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approve the proposed approach to enable the strategic consideration of Notices of Motion and Issues Raised in Advance by Members within the Council's corporate planning and policy frameworks.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider whether they would like to amend Standing Order 13 so that that Notices of Motion which fall within the remit of a Committee are automatically referred to the relevant committee for consideration without appearing on the Council agenda</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<p><u>Background</u></p> <p>Members will be aware that under Standing Order 13(l) (set out in full in Appendix 1) no Notice of Motion seeking to commit the Council to expenditure not previously agreed through the Committee process will be considered but shall instead stand referred to the appropriate Committee for consideration and report.</p>
3.2	<p>Since 2016, the Council has agreed over 250 Notices of Motion and Issues Raised in Advance by Members, of which around 95 are yet to be considered in terms of their resource implications, with an average of 12 being agreed at Council each month.</p>
3.3	<p>The Council has a four-year Corporate Plan with agreed Committee Plans and budgets set during the Revenue Estimates process in the February before the new financial year. . A process is needed to ensure that issues being raised by Members can be fully considered in order to incorporate them into the Council's corporate planning and policy process and subsequently lead to implementation and realisation of the members / committee ambition.</p>
3.4	<p>This report proposes a process, in line with the Standing Orders, to ensure that the motion / issues raised in advance are considered in full by the appropriate Committee and advice is provided to Members by officers on the timing, options and costs associated with implementation.</p>
3.5	<p>This approach is recommended in respect of meeting our legal and financial responsibilities in ensuring a balanced budget. A corporate planning process is fundamental to achieving a balanced budget and achieving those objectives which the Council has corporately and democratically endorsed as priorities for the district and the organisation.</p>
3.6	<p><b>Incorporating Notice of Motions into the corporate planning process</b></p> <p>At present, any notices of motion that are agreed in year and have resource implications can only be implemented where an identified underspend exists or at a direct opportunity cost to staff-time allocated against an existing corporate workstream. This also impacts on staff who may be diverted from other planned work being undertaken.</p>

	<p>Members will be aware that a six monthly progress update of the corporate plan will be brought to SP&amp;R committee – and once a year this will result in the development of a one-year update of the corporate plan. Alongside this, both the CG&amp;R and P&amp;C Committees complete committee planning workshops. This in turn enables resources to be realigned and highlight the potential areas for growth in the revenue estimating process.</p> <p>Recognising the strategic importance of a range of issues raised through notices of motion, it is proposed that notices of motions will be considered as part of this annual corporate and committee planning process. Officers from the Strategic Hub and across the policy network will work to ensure that key themes or issues are ‘pulled through’ into this discussion; considered fully in terms of resource requirements; and subsequently reflected in the council’s planning and delivery processes.</p>
3.7	<p><b>Process of Managing Motions / Issues</b></p> <p>It is proposed that a three-stage process (see Appendix 2) is introduced for the consideration of notices/issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Stage 1:</b> Report taken to refer Notice of Motion to Committee or the issue is raised by member in advance at Committee as per the usual process (Notices of Motion will have a revised cover report outlining that the motion will follow this new process (and indicating if it will commit Council to additional expenditure (as outlined in paragraph 3.1 above).</li> </ul> <p>If the committee rejects the motion or issue, then no further action will be taken. If the Committee request a further report, the notice of motion or issue will be assigned to a lead department.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Stage 2: Initial Scoping Report</b> will subsequently be brought to relevant committee, ideally within three months, which will detail the range of options for initial consideration of the motion, for example it could reference (depending on the nature of the motion / issue): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Immediate implementation</li> <li>○ Set out initial policy or best practice considerations</li> <li>○ Add into an existing programme of work as already agreed in the Corporate Plan and Committee Plans</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Request approval and funding to carry out a scoping exercise to determine the potential strategic, financial, legal or resource implications of the issue</li> <li>○ Recommendations on the timing of Stage 3 Report to committee</li> </ul> <p>• <b>Stage 3: Options Report</b> depending on the outcome of Stage 2, this stage would involve the development of more detailed policy considerations - where the motion / issue would be considered in terms of its priority, options for implementation, legal and resource implications, strategic fit, monetary and non-monetary benefits, sources of funding, longer term financial planning etc. The recommendation of this stage would be presented to the relevant committee.</p> <p>If the above approach is adopted, guidance will be issued to officers to ensure that the process is consistently applied and that reports are to a high standard. This will also provide members with the assurance that all motions/issues are fully considered.</p>
3.8	<p><b>Existing Notices / Issues</b></p> <p>It is proposed that the current notices/issues database is fully reviewed in light in the above. Officers are currently working on this and a progress update on Notices of Motion will be brought to Committee in March or April.</p>
3.9	<p><b>Reporting to Members</b></p> <p>Following the review of current notices of motion/issues a quarterly progress report on notices/issues will be brought to each Committee. SP&amp;R will receive an update on all Notices of Motion.</p>
3.10	<p><b>Feedback from Party Group Briefings</b></p> <p>Members should be assured that this process will not prevent flexibility in the Council being able to deal with urgent matters. The Standing Orders have provision for dealing with matters of urgency.</p>
3.11	<p><b>Standing Orders</b></p> <p>Members may wish to consider if they would like to amend Standing Order 13: Notices of Motion so that Notices of Motion which fall within the remit of a Committee are automatically referred to the relevant committee for consideration without appearing on the Council agenda. At present around half of the notices of motion are referred to committee.</p>

3.12	<u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u> <p>There are potentially significant resource implications for departments assigned to carry out the scoping of potential strategic, financial or resources implications of individual notices/issues.</p>
3.13	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> <p>The equality, good relations and rural needs implications of each notice/issue would need to be assessed.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
4.1	<p>Appendix 1 - Standing Order 13 (I)</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Overview of proposed process</p>

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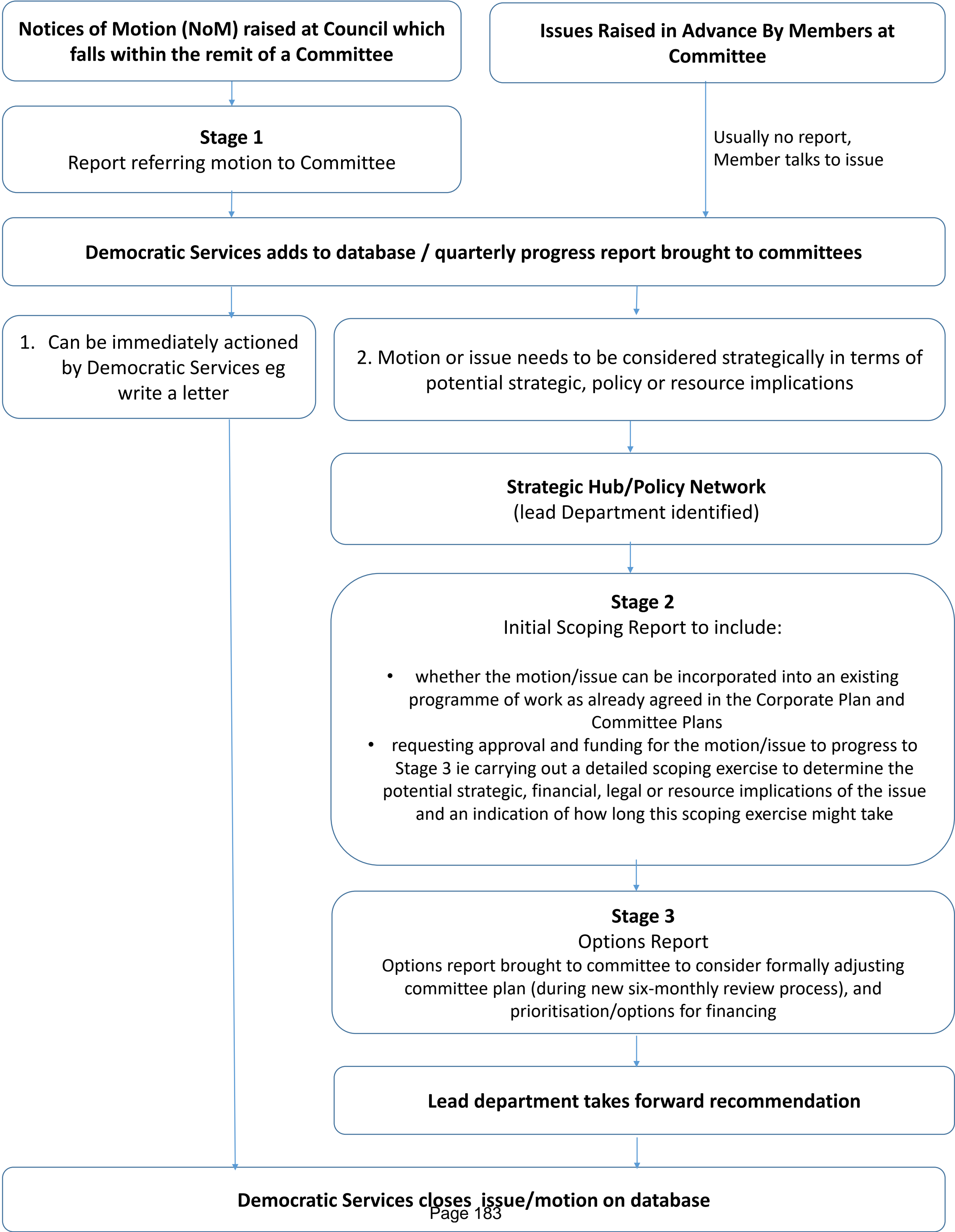
## **Appendix 1 – Standing Order 13(l)**

No notice of motion seeking to commit the Council to expenditure not previously agreed through the Committee process will be considered but shall instead stand referred to the appropriate Committee for consideration and report. This standing order will not apply with the Lord Mayor, in consultation with the Chief Executive, rules that the matter is one of emergency or is otherwise of such urgency that it would be impracticable or prejudicial to the Council's interests to require compliance. In this case, a report outlining specific details of the purpose of such expenditure and the budget from which the expenditure would be drawn from shall be put before Members.

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Process for strategic consideration of Notices of Motion within Council’s corporate planning and policy frameworks – DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION



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<b>Subject:</b>	City Region Growth Deal – update
<b>Date:</b>	February 2020
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Suzanne Wylie, Chief Executive
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Ronan Cregan, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources Emer Husbands, Strategic Performance 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"/>
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 update Committee on the progress of the Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD).
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To note the progress in the further development of the BRCD</li> <li>To note the proposed NI Funding and Governance Arrangements and BRCD partner response</li> <li>To note the minutes of the BRCD Council Panel held on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2020.</li> </ul>

3.0	<b>Main report</b>
	<b>Programme Update</b>
3.1	Members will be aware that the BRCD proposition contains 22 projects across Digital, Innovation, Infrastructure and Tourism & Regeneration investment pillars, which will be underpinned by an integrated employability and skills programme.
3.2	Robust Outline Business Cases (OBCs) demonstrating the ability of each project to support the BRCD's stated objectives are required for each project in order to release the BRCD Funding. The main focus of this stage of the process, Phase 2, is therefore the development of the OBCs. Projects are being progressed by individual partners with the guidance and support of Advisory Boards and an update on each investment pillar is provide below.
	Investment Priorities
3.3	<p>Tourism and Regeneration</p> <p>Plans for the development of many of the OBCs within the agreed timeframes have been reviewed by the Advisory Board, which is now receiving monthly updates on the progress of each project. Project teams have confirmed that they are largely on course to produce OBCs between February and May, but there is limited room for slippage if deadlines are to be achieved. To ensure projects align with emerging government strategies and tourism priorities the Advisory Board includes representation from Tourism NI, the Department for the Economy and the Department for Communities. Tourism NI is now examining possible market testing options for projects in order to assess their potential tourism 'appeal' - this will provide important evidence for inclusion in the OBCs. To complement this Tourism Ireland has also offered to produce analysis of the strengths/weaknesses of each project.</p>
3.4	<p>Innovation</p> <p>The Innovation Board is continuing to oversee the development of plans for five global centres of excellence in the digital and creative industries, life and health sciences and advanced manufacturing growth sectors, aligned with the priorities of the UK industrial strategy. Business cases have now been drafted in consultation with government stakeholders. The Board has also been working with the E&amp;S pillar to consider how to ensure the skills will be in place for the jobs emerging as a result of these projects. The challenges of minimising carbon emissions were the subject of a recent workshop and work to consider potential synergies with the digital pillar has also commenced. The Innovation strand continues to be furthest advanced with the completion of the first draft OBCs for the following centres of excellence;</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Advanced Manufacturing Innovation Centre which will provide high quality innovation support to manufacturing and advanced engineering industry by bringing together early stage research and education delivery (AMIC Campus) together with a new Factory 4.0 facility (AMIC Factory 4.0) that brings multiple industries, sectors and technologies to address major industrial challenges within advanced manufacturing.</li> <li>• A Global Innovation Institute will be an analytics innovation centre, incorporating AI and Machine Learning which builds on the success of the NI cyber ecosystem. It will support the development of a new One Health business cluster in which Northern Ireland will lead the world, and working with key partners, help to anchor the creation of a distinctive Innovation District, from central Belfast extending to Titanic Quarter.</li> <li>• I-Reach an ecosystem for clinical trials and evidenced based decision making in healthcare. It will transform the ability to test new drugs, pathways and societal interventions and determine the redundancy of current practice following the introduction of transformative medicines and practice.</li> </ul> <p>These will now be submitted to UK and NI government departments for consideration and review.</p>
3.5	<p>Digital</p> <p>The Fraunhofer/BABEL Institute, a global leader in digital innovation and smart districts/testbeds, is progressing the development of an implementation plan for the highly ambitious digital pillar. A Digital Advisory Board has been established comprising central and local government, universities and colleges and intends to enhance its membership with additional technical and commercial capability. Technical support is also being commissioned with a view to developing a programme level OBC for this pillar by June 2020. At the same time BABLE will support BRCD Partners to identify and develop proposals for specific and viable digital projects. Examples of international good practice will be used to help inform proposals for regional innovation hubs and testbeds.</p>
3.6	<p>Infrastructure</p> <p>As the Department with responsibility for the delivery of the infrastructure projects, the Department for Infrastructure is leading the Infrastructure investment pillar. The first meeting of the newly established Infrastructure Advisory Board took place in December. The Board includes representation from the BRCD partners with an interest in the three infrastructure projects. OBCs will also be required for these projects to enable the financial strategy and implementation plan to be agreed and it is expected that the OBCs will take account of</p>

3.7	<p>linkages with plans for investment in digital and employability and skills. The infrastructure projects will also play an important role in ensuring improved accessibility to the new jobs created within the Deal.</p> <p>Employability and Skills (E&amp;S)</p> <p>Unlike the other BRCD strands this area of work does not itself have ‘capital projects’ but focuses instead on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Providing support to the capital projects to ensure that they design and develop their projects to create pathways to deliver the skills that will be needed;</li> <li>(b) Developing and applying an agreed approach to social value across the City Deal so that the investments maximise the contribution to the delivery of employability and skills requirements;</li> <li>(c) Integrating and aligning the resources and plans of the partners and government departments to help create an employability and skills pipeline in the growth sectors targeted by the BRCD.</li> </ul> <p>Specialist support is now in place to help support the development of the E&amp;S programme with an initial focus on assisting projects to draw out the skills requirements of the direct and indirect jobs that are being created. Partner organisations are continuing to engage with each other and with our government partners to consider opportunities to develop a more integrated approach to the planning and prioritisation of E&amp;S interventions going forward. A recent workshop identified the scale and scope of employability and skills interventions taking place through the 6 local councils, spanning across employability, educational provision, business support and sectorally focused activities. Opportunities for collaboration and alignment of interventions have been identified and will be explored with councils, colleges, universities, government departments and key sectoral partners in the coming months.</p>
3.8	<p><b>NI Funding and Governance Arrangements</b></p> <p>The BRCD Partners received the NI Funding &amp; Governance Arrangements paper (attached at Appendix 1) which sets out the high-level governance structures that will be applied to all NI City &amp; Growth Deals including the Belfast Region City Deal.</p>
3.9	<p>The arrangements and governance structures proposed have been based on other City Deals and lessons learned across the UK, but have also taken account of the model developed for the Belfast Region City Deal which were developed in advance of this</p>

	document. The document has been developed by NI Civil Service (NICS) in regular consultation with UK Government, through the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). The NICS and UK Government agreed the attached paper prior to it being shared with the Executive Board in December.
3.10	The BRCD Partners considered the proposed arrangements in December 2019 and drafted a proposed response (attached at Appendix 2). The comprehensive response set out areas requiring clarification and requests for amendment/reconsideration by NICS.
3.11	In addition to commenting on a range of specific points of detail, the draft response emphasises the importance of constructive ongoing engagement with the NICS in developing a robust programme that is capable of delivering the ambitions of the BRCD Partners. This response was considered and agreed by the BRCD Council Panel at its meeting on 29 <sup>th</sup> January 2020.
3.12	Members should also note that the Governance and Funding Arrangements was drawn up in advance of the restoration of the Northern Ireland Executive and the BRCD Partners will also seek clarification on what impact, if any, this will now have on future governance arrangements for NI City and Growth Deals.
	<b>BRCD Council Panel</b>
3.13	The BRCD Council Panel provides a joint forum for members from all six councils to meet to jointly discuss issues, progress and benefits of the BRCD. Each council has four members on the Forum and as agreed by this committee the four nominees from BCC are the party group leaders (or their nominees) of the four largest parties.
3.14	The second meeting of the Panel was held in Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council on 29 <sup>th</sup> January 2020. At the meeting the members received an update on the programme of work, considered the proposed NI Funding and Governance Arrangements (as outlined at above), and discussed proposals for future stakeholder engagement, in particular with the restored NI Assembly. A large focus of the meeting was on the Employability and Skills element of the BRCD and the Chief Executive of Belfast Metropolitan College provided a detailed update on work to date as well as an outline of proposals to ensure that the employability and skills challenges were being addressed across the programme. The minutes of the Panel meeting are attached at appendix 3.

	<b><u>Next Steps</u></b>
3.15	Partners will continue to progress the OBC development in line with the predicted timeframe and processes are being put in place to review the OBCS as they emerge with a view to draft OBCs being sent for first consideration to both UK and NI government departments. At this stage no funding is being committed to an individual project as more work is required to understand the finances.
3.16	Communication and engagement continues to be a priority both at a project and programme level and specialist support is being commissioned to support strategic engagement, including both business and political engagement. It is envisaged that this specialised support will be in place by February 2020 and that with the Assembly now back in operation an early priority would be engagement with Ministers and political representatives from across the Belfast Region.
3.17	The BRCD Partners will also continue to liaise with colleagues in NICS to clarify outstanding issues raised in the response to the NI Funding and Governance Framework and commence work on the development of the next set of deal documents, including the financial plan.
	<b><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></b>
3.18	All costs associated with the BRCD are within existing budgets.
	<b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b>
3.19	The Approach taken to develop the City Deal has been subject to independent equality screening and rural proofing and states that; <i>BRCD is inherently inclusive, affording an opportunity for the region to grow in a way that will benefit the economy of Northern Ireland as a whole, thereby enhancing the lives and well-being of its citizens. If during further development of the programme it becomes apparent that there may be an adverse impact on certain groups or communities then the partnership commits to carrying out further Section 75 work and including screening and EQIAs as and when appropriate.'</i>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1 – NI funding and Governance Arrangements Appendix 2 – NI funding and Governance Arrangements – BRCD Response Appendix 3 – Minutes of BRCD Council Panel 29 <sup>th</sup> January 2020



# **NORTHERN IRELAND CITY & GROWTH DEALS: GOVERNANCE AND FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS**

## **SECTION 1 - INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1. The UK and NI departments with responsibility for City and Growth Deals in Northern Ireland, have endorsed the following overarching governance, funding and monitoring arrangements. Its structures, processes and guidance should be followed to by all City/Growth Deal partners. The arrangements set out in this document will be kept under review.
- 1.2. More detailed arrangements specific to each City/Growth Deal will be agreed as part of the Deal documentation which will include a Financial Agreement, Implementation Plan and Monitoring and Evaluation Framework.

## **GOVERNANCE**

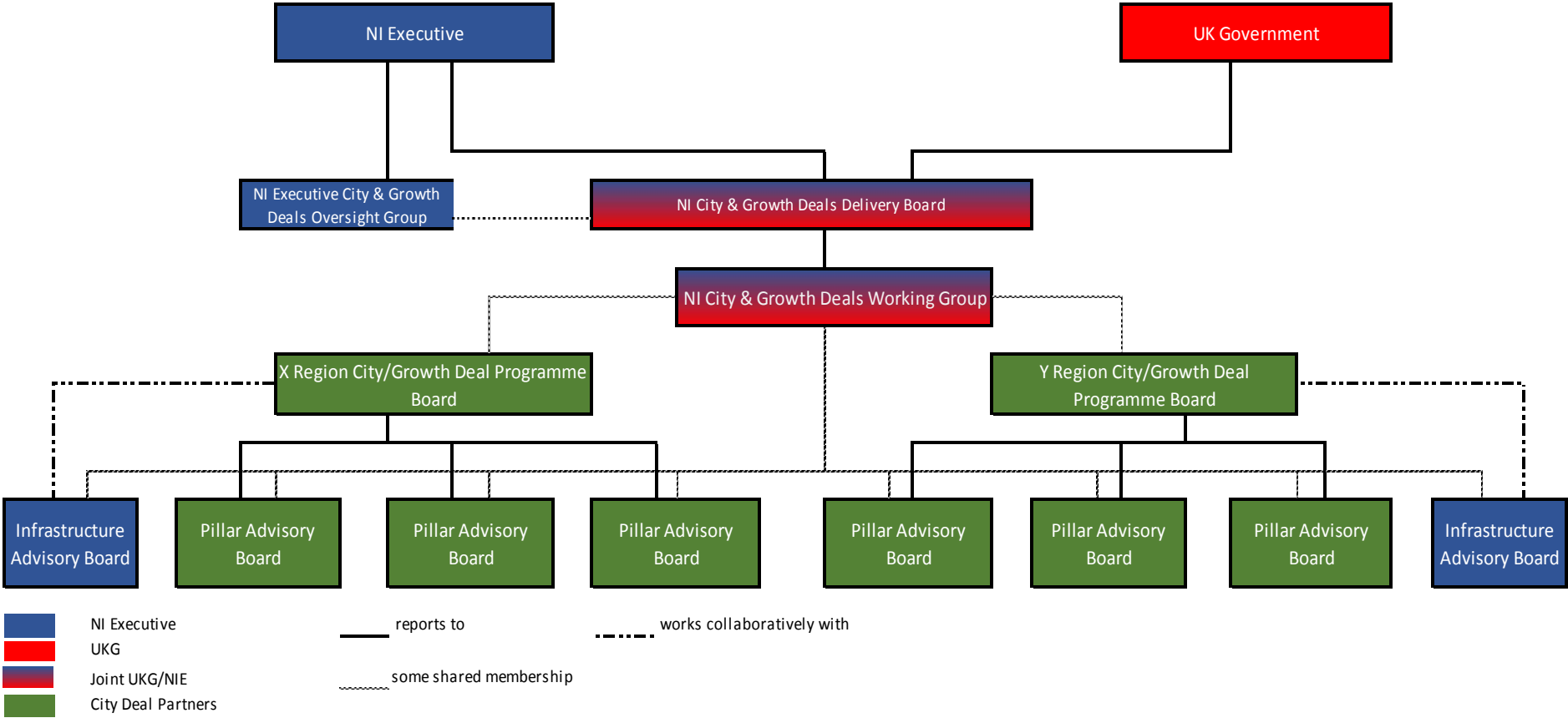
- 1.3. A number of governance structures are required to ensure the successful implementation of individual projects to time, cost and quality - providing the necessary accountability, oversight and management throughout. The governance structures are summarised in Table 2.1, with detail on each group explained at Section 2.
- 1.4. Financial accountability of UK Government, NI Government and local partner funding will be paramount throughout the lifetime of each project's delivery. To ensure that annual profiles are agreed and allocated correctly on the basis of the detail of the business case a number of funding flow procedures are required. These are summarised in Table 3.1 and explained in more detail at Section 3.

## **COMMON ABBREVIATIONS**

Northern Ireland	NI
City and Growth Deal(s)	"Deal(s)"
Heads of Term	HoT
NI Executive City and Growth Deals Oversight Group	"the Oversight Group"
NI City and Growth Region Deals Delivery Board	"the Delivery Board"
NI City and Growth Deals Working Group	"the Working Group"
X Region City and Growth Deal Programme Board	"the X Region Programme Board"
Arm's Length Bodies	ALBs

SECTION 2 - GOVERNANCE

Table 2.1: Governance Structure



## **NI GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE**

### **Northern Ireland City and Growth Deals Delivery Board (“the Delivery Board”)**

2.1 This is part of the overall governance structure for all Northern Ireland City and Growth Deal. It oversees the Deals on behalf of the UK Government and NI Executive.

#### ***Roles***

2.2 The Delivery Board is a joint UK and NI Government Board with responsibility for:

- Considering and providing direction on strategic City/Growth Deal issues as they arise in advance of Heads of Terms being signed.
- Providing assurance and advice to Ministers regarding the progress and delivery of Northern Ireland Deals from the point of signing Heads of Terms.
- The oversight, monitoring and successful implementation of all current Northern Ireland Regional Deals, including the effective monitoring of performance, outcomes, budget, risks and other issues relating to the programme, in accordance with best practice and any recommendations issued by auditors, Northern Ireland Audit Office (NIAO) or the National Audit Office (NAO).
- The appropriate escalation and advice through both Governments should major issues arise.

#### ***Responsibilities***

2.3 Responsibilities will include:

- Considering the strategic alignment of all NI City/Growth Deals to ensure as far as possible that projects are complementary with no undesirable duplication.
- Monitoring and supporting the successful implementation of all NI Deals from the point of signing HoT by assessing delivery against agreed implementation plans.
- Oversee and support the development of programme and project business cases and facilitate Ministerial clearances and approval where relevant. The Delivery Board does not review business cases, rather the Delivery Board is kept informed of progress on project business cases. Where there are challenges in progressing business cases the delivery board should review and where necessary support mitigating actions to unblock the process. UKG Ministerial approval will be limited on the basis that NI Departments (and Ministers if in place) will be ultimately accountable for expenditure and therefore, have final approval on expenditure. More detail on the business case approval process is set out in Section 5.
- Agreeing common Government positions and/or required mitigations to manage developing issues, risks or any slippage to a Deal or specific project.
- Agreeing, subject to expenditure approval, any substitute projects which are submitted by the X Region Programme Board through the accountable department

## ***Functions***

2.4 The Delivery Board will ensure that all Deals in Northern Ireland with HoT agreements in place will develop the appropriate implementation documentation to be agreed by both Northern Ireland Executive and UK Government. This may include but are not limited to:

- an Implementation Plan;
- financial agreement;
- monitoring and evaluation framework;
- Deal governance agreement; and
- communications protocol.

- 2.5 Where either Government has a specific expectation of regional partners as part of the return expected for the Deal investment, respective officials will seek to ensure this is included in the Deal agreement, with Ministers agreeing any relevant proposal. The Delivery Board will take this in to account in future monitoring and evaluation.

### ***Meeting Schedule***

- 2.6 The Delivery Board will meet quarterly to monitor the implementation of current and agreed Deals. Additional ad hoc meetings may be arranged as required. Progress Reports from NI/UKG Deal leads will be tabled and considered at each meeting.
- 2.7 For NI, the working group representative on each Region's Programme Board will act, in a corporate NICS capacity, as the lead co-ordinator for reporting on behalf of NI Departments on each Deal.

### ***Risk Registers***

- 2.8 The Delivery Board will maintain and review at each meeting a risk register. Mitigations will be agreed and their implementation and success monitored by the Delivery Board.
- 2.9 Decisions and actions agreed by the Delivery Board will be recorded in the record of the meeting. Should a decision be required in between meetings, decisions may be made and confirmed in writing by Delivery Board members.
- 2.10 The Delivery Board will escalate issues and risks as required through internal NI/UKG processes and ultimately to Ministers.
- 2.11 The Delivery Board will undertake an Annual Conversation and maintain a profile with the Region Programme Board for each Deal to review the City/ Growth Deal

Annual Reports and discuss implementation progress. Representatives will be invited to meetings as required.

## ***Reporting***

### Quarterly

2.12 The Delivery Board is accountable to both Governments for the successful implementation of each Northern Ireland Deal.

2.13 Following each quarterly meeting the Joint Chairs will agree an update report which will be provided to:

- NICS SRO
- NIO SRO
- MHCLG SRO

2.14 Following approval by the NICS SRO the report will be provided to:

- NICS Board
- NI Executive

### Annually

2.15 A public facing Annual Implementation Progress Report noting the status of implementation of Northern Ireland Deals will be submitted to Ministers on an annual basis, based on the outcome of the Annual Conversations assurance process.

2.16 This will be produced by the Working Group and approved by the Delivery Board and NICS SRO within 3 months of the last annual conversation.

2.17 Ministers may request an annual joint UKG/NI Ministerial forum. The Annual Implementation Progress report must be provided in advance of this forum.

### ***Membership***

#### 2.18 Joint Chair

- NICS - Department of Finance Grade 3
- NIO - Director / Deputy Director of Economic and Domestic Affairs

#### 2.19 Members

- Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
- HM Treasury
- Department for Economy (at least Grade 5 level)
- Department for Communities (at least Grade 5 level )
- Department of Infrastructure (at least Grade 5 level)
- Other UKG/NICS representatives as required

#### 2.20 Secretariat

- NICS (DoF)

2.21 NICS departmental representatives will also be members of NI Executive City and Growth Deals Oversight Group (“the Oversight Group”). This will ensure transfer of knowledge and avoid unnecessary duplication of papers.

2.22 Where a department has responsibility for more than one pillar then more than one representative may be appropriate.

## **NI Executive City and Growth Deals Oversight Group (“the Oversight Group”)**

2.23 This is part of the overall governance structure for all Northern Ireland City and Growth Deal. It oversees the Deals on behalf of the NI Executive only.

### ***Roles***

2.24 The Oversight Group has responsibility for oversight of the NI Executive funding provided to each Deal.

### ***Responsibilities***

2.25 These will include:

- recommending the level of NI Executive funding that will be provided to each Pillar, within the constraints of the limit on the total NI funding to be provided. This will be based on engagement with Accountable Body on forecast expenditure profiles for projects in HoTS. DoF will seek Executive approval for this, through the Finance Minister. ;
- agreeing any changes to the original list of projects identified for Executive funding under each Pillar and seeking Executive approval for any changes. All projects will be subject to expenditure approval, with relevant business case documentation provided, before proceeding;
- agreeing, in conjunction with the X Region City and Growth Deal Programme Board, the quantum and profile of funding to be provided by Deal partners for each project to be joint funded by the Executive; and



- Agreeing the quarterly report provided by the Delivery Board and providing this to NICS Board and NI Executive.

### ***Meeting Schedule***

2.26 The Oversight Group will meet quarterly. Where possible meetings will be arranged immediately before or after Delivery Board meetings. Additional ad hoc meetings may be arranged as required.

### ***Membership***

#### 2.27 Chair

- NICS Joint Chair of the Delivery Board (DoF Grade 3)

#### 2.28 Members

- Department for Economy – (at least Grade 5 level)
- Department for Communities (at least Grade 5 level)
- Department of Infrastructure (at least Grade 5 level)
- Other NICS representatives as required

#### 2.29 Secretariat

- NICS (DoF)

2.30 NICS departmental representatives should also be members of NI Executive City and Growth Deals Delivery Board (“the Delivery Board”). This will ensure transfer of knowledge and avoid unnecessary duplication of papers.

2.31 Where a department has responsibility for more than one pillar then more than one representative may be appropriate.

### **Northern Ireland City and Growth Deals Working Group (“the Working Group”)**

2.32 This is part of the overall governance structure for all Northern Ireland City and Growth Deals. It facilitates the oversight of the Deals on behalf of the UK Government and NI Executive.

#### ***Roles***

2.33 The Working Group is a joint UK and NI Government group established to underpin the implementation process for agreed all Northern Ireland Deals.

2.34 The Working Group will meet monthly and will have the responsibility of agreeing the agenda and relevant papers for the Delivery Board, in consultation with the joint chairs.

#### ***Responsibilities***

2.35 The core responsibilities of the Working Group are:

- Monitor the implementation of the Northern Ireland Deals, escalating issues and risks relating to the implementation of Deals to the Delivery Board as required.
- Maintain the risk register for the Delivery Board, updating at least monthly and reporting quarterly to the Delivery Board.
- Making recommendations to the joint chairs of the Delivery Board regarding meeting agendas.
- Providing robust information to inform the decision making of the Delivery Board, including the preparing of both programme level and individual Deal dashboards.

## ***Meeting Schedule***

2.36 The Working Group will meet on a monthly basis for the purpose of monitoring the implementation of each Deal. The frequency of meetings can be altered subject to the agreement of the Delivery Board.

## ***Membership***

### 2.37 Chair

- NICS - Department of Finance (Grade 6)

### 2.38 Members

- NIO
- Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
- Department for Economy (at least Grade 7 level )
- Department for Communities (at least Grade 7 level)
- Department of Infrastructure (at least Grade 7 level)
- Other UKG/NICS representatives as required

### 2.39 Secretariat

- NICS (DoF)

2.40 The NICS departmental representatives will be the departmental representatives on the Pillar Advisory Boards (see paragraph 2.41). Therefore more than one representative may be required from each department. This will ensure that the Working Group is fully apprised of progress on all projects.

2.41 A NICS member of the Working Group will be nominated as the NICS representative on each Deal Programme Board with observer status this representative will act as lead co-ordinator for reporting on behalf of NI

Departments on each deal. More detail on this role is provided at paragraph 2.48.

### **Region City Deal Programme Board (the “Programme Board”)**

2.42 Each City/Growth Deal will establish its own Programme Board with representatives from all Deal partners. It is for each Programme Board to determine its own terms of reference and reporting structures. However, the roles and responsibilities set out below should be considered the minimum requirement.

#### ***Roles***

2.43 The Programme Board will drive the delivery of the Deal programme in accordance with the requirements of the HoT and agreed governance documents. It will be responsible for issue resolution and oversight of stakeholder negotiations and engagement.

#### ***Responsibilities***

2.44 Responsibilities will include:

- approving profiles of expenditure provided to relevant NI Department and DoF for budget planning purposes;
- signing off each business case prior to it being submitted to the relevant NI Department for final expenditure approval; and
- authorising the grant claims being submitted to the relevant NI Department by the Accountable Body.
- Provision of information to the Working Group as required to facilitate reporting to the Delivery Board.

#### ***Meeting Schedule***

2.45 The Programme Board will meet monthly.

## **Membership**

### 2.46 Chair

- Chief Executive of Accountable Body (usually lead council)

### 2.47 Members

- Representatives, at Chief Executive level, of each council partner
- Representatives of University and College partners
- Region City or Growth Deal SRO
- Region City or Growth Deal Programme Management Office (observers)
- NICS – Working Group Member (observer)

## **Role of NICS Representative**

2.48 The NICS representative will have observer status. This means that they will attend Board meetings and may participate in Board discussions but they do not have the ability to vote on matters. The observer may ask questions and provide advice particularly on the NICS view. The observer should inform the Board if they have any concerns with the approach being taken. If the observer has concerns with an approach agreed by the Programme Board they should raise this at the Working Group which will in turn ensure it is raised at the Delivery Board. Any significant issues arising between Delivery Board meetings should be raised in writing to the Working Group which will in turn write to Delivery Board members.

## **Pillar Advisory Boards**

2.49 City/Growth deal partners will establish a number of Pillar Advisory Boards in support of the City/growth Deal for that Region.

## **Roles**

2.50 To drive the development of a coherent set of projects that are capable of supporting the delivery of the Deal partners' ambitions for inclusive economic growth.

2.51 The oversight of the production of Outline and Final Business Cases for projects within that Pillar. Submission of Business Cases to the Programme Board for approval.

### ***Role of Accountable NI Department***

2.52 Representatives from the accountable NI Department will attend as advisers, they will have no voting rights. The accountable NI Department may also appoint advisers from their ALBs where appropriate. The adviser's role will be to support the development of robust projects which deliver value for money. This includes the provision of advice and guidance on the iterative development of business case in line with the Five Case Model Methodology and to ensure broader strategic alignment with Programme for Government.

2.53 In line with the role outlined for observers on the Programme Board, an adviser may ask questions and provide advice particularly on the NICS view. The adviser should inform the Pillar Board if they have any concerns with the approach being taken. If the adviser has concerns with an approach agreed by the Pillar Board they should raise this at the Working Group which will in turn ensure it is raised at the Delivery Board.

2.54 The accountable Department will ensure there is appropriate segregation of duties between advisers on Pillar Boards and those responsible for approving expenditure.

### ***Meeting Schedule***

2.55 These Pillar Advisory Boards will meet monthly.

## **Membership**

### 2.56 Chair

- To be agreed by the X Region programme Board for each Pillar Board

### 2.57 Members

- Council/University reps TBC
- NI Accountable Department (and ALB if appropriate) (Working Group Member)
  - adviser

## **Infrastructure Pillar Advisory Board**

2.58 An Infrastructure Pillar Advisory Board will be established where infrastructure projects included in the Deal are delivered directly by Department for Infrastructure (DfI) rather than Deal partners. A similar model may be established where projects in other Pillars are delivered directly by a NI department.

## **Roles**

2.59 Accountability for development, delivery and evaluation of major infrastructure projects rest will rest with the Department for Infrastructure. On its behalf, the Infrastructure Pillar Advisory Board will ensure that the approach to advancing individual Deal projects is taken forward in a manner which reflects the collaborative approach taken by the Programme Board. This will, while reflecting the usual NICS governance and accountability arrangements, also ensure that the work to advance the infrastructure projects is fully reflective of the wider objectives of the Deal.

## **Meeting Schedule**

2.60 This Board will meet monthly.

### ***Membership***

2.61 Chair

- DfI (SRO for delivery of infrastructure projects)

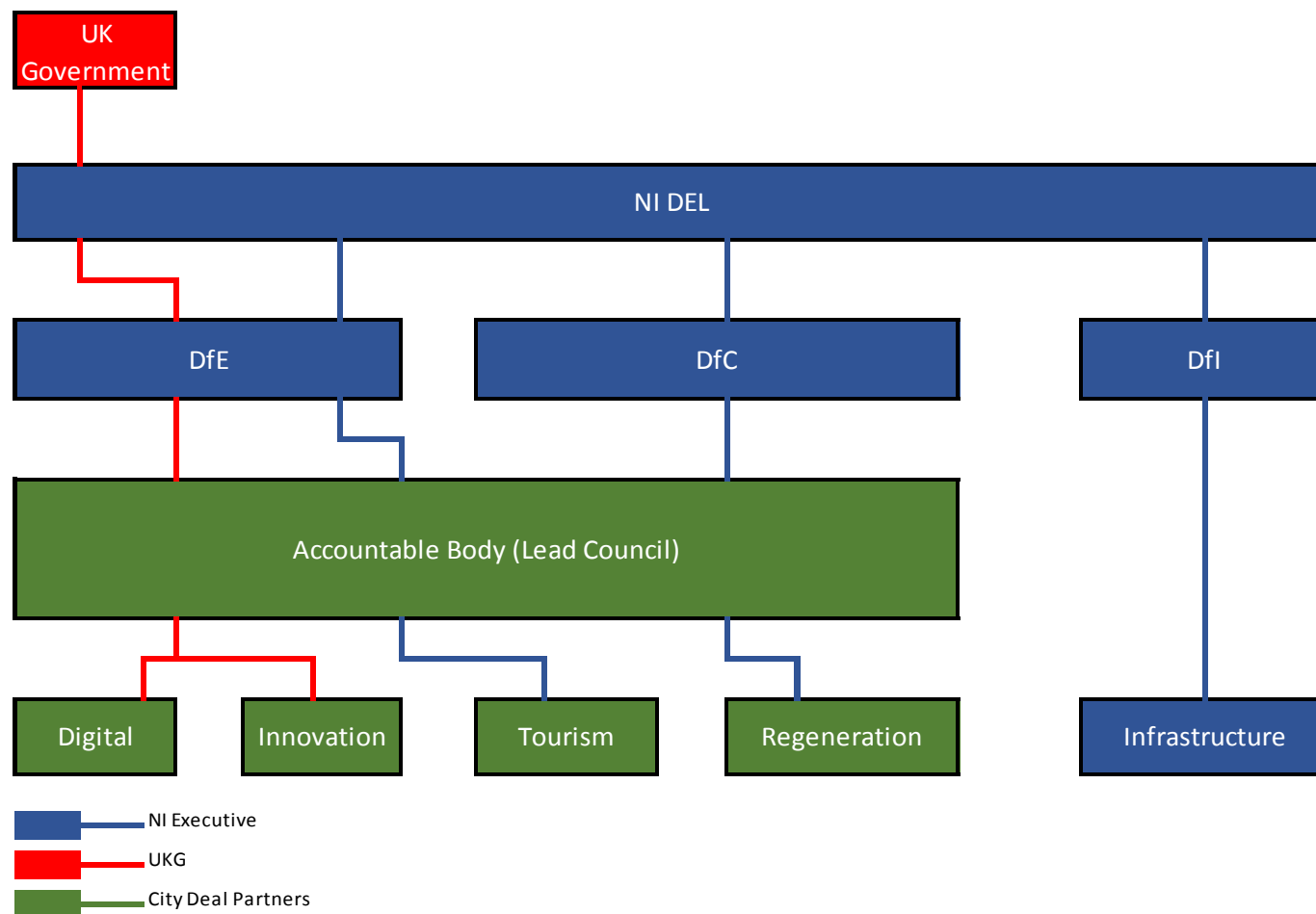
2.62 Members

- Councils connected with proposed infrastructure projects
- Translink
- One of the Main NI Business Representative Bodies
- DfC
- Employability and Skills Advisory Board



### SECTION 3 – FUNDING

**Table 3.1: Central Government Funding Flows** (City/Growth Deal partners will also contribute)



## **UK Government Funding**

- 3.1 *In the absence of an Executive, NICS officials cannot commit to managing a pro-rata UK Government (UKG) contribution in this way. However, for the purposes of agreeing funding and governance arrangements, it is assumed that the Northern Ireland Executive will agree this approach.*
- 3.2 UKG will provide funding to NI through an increase to the NI Capital DEL. This will be on an agreed annual profile, usually pro-rata over the life of the Deal. This profile may differ from the spending profile of the Deal projects.
- 3.3 The NI Executive will be responsible for ensuring the full level of UKG funding will be allocated to approved Deal projects over the life of the Deal. DoF will manage this on behalf of the NI Executive, reporting through the Delivery Board.
- 3.4 On an annual basis any over or under requirement against the annual profile will be managed by DoF, as approved by the NI Executive, within the total NI Capital DEL Budget. Annual underspends will not be surrendered to HMT and may be allocated to other Deals or NI departmental expenditure, providing the total level of funding is allocated to each Deal over its lifetime.
- 3.5 DoF will provide HMT with details of actual and forecast expenditure, upon request.
- 3.6 Accountability for UKG City Deal funding is delegated to the Accounting Officer of the NI Department with policy responsibility for the area being funded (the 'accountable' department').
- 3.7 Where a project on the original list is not considered feasible an alternative project, which meets the same VfM requirements, may be substituted. The X Region Programme Board will agree substitute projects before submitting them to the accountable department which will present them to the Delivery Board for approval. The Delivery Board will inform the NI Executive of any change in projects.

### **NI Executive Funding**

- 3.8 *In the absence of an Executive, NICS officials cannot commit to providing match funding. However, for the purposes of agreeing funding and governance arrangements, it is assumed that match funding will be provided by the Northern Ireland Executive.*
- 3.9 The Northern Ireland Executive will include funding for the Deal within its agreed Budget. Subject to the agreement of the Executive, it is envisaged that City/Growth Deals will be prioritised within the Capital DEL budget in a similar manner to the current Flagship projects.
- 3.10 Accountability for NI Executive Deal funding rests with the Accounting Officer of the NI Department with policy responsibility for the area being funded (the 'accountable department').
- 3.11 The Oversight Group will seek NI Executive approval for all projects to be funded by NI Executive. Where a project on the original list is not considered feasible an alternative project, which meets the same VfM requirements, may be substituted. The X Region Programme Board will agree substitute projects before submitting them to the accountable department which will present them to the Delivery Board for approval. Once agreed by the Delivery Board the proposed substitute will go to the Oversight Group which will seek the NI Executive approval, through the Finance Minister.

### **Funding of Projects**

- 3.12 For both UKG and NI Executive funded projects the accountable department will be responsible for making payments to the Accountable Body for each deal. Where appropriate the accountable department may delegate this role to an ALB. The Accountable Body will usually be the lead council. The Accountable Body will be responsible for making payments to deal partners and project promoters.

- 3.13 Each accountable department will be provided with Capital DEL allocation through the NI Budget process. Allocations will be based on the latest expenditure profiles for approved projects and will be ring-fenced so that it may only be used for the City/Growth Deal for which it has been provided.
- 3.14 While the Deal allocation will not form part of the departments 'usual' capital DEL envelope it will reduce the overall level of Capital DEL funding available at a NI Block level for other projects. Deal partners should not assume that funding will be available for additional projects through normal departmental expenditure.
- 3.15 In order to ensure affordability within the overall NI Capital DEL it is essential that Deal partners and accountable departments work closely with DoF to agree expenditure profiles. This will include pro-active management of project commencement and slippage if necessary to minimise spikes in expenditure.
- 3.16 Actual and forecast expenditure must be reviewed on a monthly basis in line with Outturn and Forecast Outturn returns to HM Treasury. This information will be provided to the accountable department by the accountable Body. The accountable department will submit to DoF in line with usual processes.
- 3.17 Departmental allocations will be reviewed and adjusted if necessary during each in-year monitoring round and any subsequent Budget exercises. The accountable department is responsible for requesting any changes to budget allocations. Deal partners and accountable departments must identify any underspends as soon as possible as the surrender of funding late in the financial year may lead to that funding being surrendered to HM Treasury.
- 3.18 An Outline Business Case (OBC) must be approved for each project before the City/Growth Deal document can be agreed. Expenditure, supported by OBCs, will be approved by the accountable department, and where necessary any ALB, with the normal DoF delegations applying. Where a project is funded by the UK Government the accountable department must receive assurance from

the relevant Whitehall department(s) that it is content with the business case. The business case must include forecast annual expenditure profiles.

- 3.19 If an accountable department requires a Full Business Case (FBC) for a project, this must be submitted and expenditure approved by the accountable department, and where relevant its ALB, before funding is released to Deal partners for that project. DoF does not normally require sight of FBCs. Similarly the FBC will not be shared with Whitehall departments unless explicitly requested. More information on the Business Case process is set out in Section 5.
- 3.20 In specific circumstances it may be possible to release funding following OBC stage but before the FBC is submitted. For example if expenditure on early preparatory costs such as design costs is required to inform the FBC. This should be agreed with the accountable department
- 3.21 A grant offer letter will be signed between the accountable NI Department, or where relevant it's ALB, and the Accountable Body, usually the lead Council, setting out the required terms and provisions to ensure funding is applied as expected. The Accountable Body will be responsible for ensuring funding is used in line with the conditions set out in the grant offer letter.
- 3.22 The accountable department will make payments to the Accountable Body for all Deal projects. Depending on the nature of the costs payments may either be made in advance, where costs are steady from one period to another, or in arrears based on actual costs. This appropriate approach should be agreed with the accountable department. The Accountable Body will be responsible for vouching expenditure and providing any assurances required by the accountable department.
- 3.23 Further detail on the management of funding flows between the accountable department and the Accountable Body, will be set out in the finance agreement specific to each City/Growth Deal.

- 3.24 At the end of the project any underspends on funding accessed will be repaid to the accountable department who will in turn surrender the funding to DoF.
- 3.25 The funding provided by central government under the City/Growth Deal is limited to the amount agreed in the Heads of Terms. Any project overspends will not be funded by the UK Government or the Northern Ireland Executive.
- 3.26 The Accountable Body will be responsible for ensuring compliance with all legal requirements, including, but not limited to, those relating to procurement and State Aid regulations. The Accountable Body will provide the accountable department with their assessment of any legal, procurement or State Aid issues when submitting the OBC.

## **SECTION 4 - ROLE OF UK/ NICS DEPARTMENTS & ACCOUNTABLE BODY**

- 4.1 The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) will be a signatory to any NI City/Growth Deal and is responsible from a UK Government perspective for ensuring robust governance and accountability arrangements are in place.
- 4.2 The NIO will co-chair the Delivery Board alongside DoF and will be represented on the Working Group. NIO is responsible for reporting to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on progress.
- 4.3 The Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) , as the UK government department with policy responsibility for City/Growth deals, will be responsible for co-ordinating the views of relevant Whitehall departments on any UK Government funded projects. Based on the views of relevant Whitehall departments MHCLG will provide assurance to the accountable department that the UK government is content with the business case for any project receiving UK government funding. This will include technical assurance where appropriate. MHCLG will be represented on the Delivery Board and Working Group.

### **Department of Finance**

- 4.4 DoF is responsible for ensuring robust governance and accountability arrangements are developed and for seeking the agreement of the Delivery Board to these.
- 4.5 DoF is responsible for managing the overall funding flows to the each Deal. Thus DoF is responsible for ensuring funding, both UKG and NI, is provided to the accountable NI Department in line with agreed profiles for each Deal. This will be handled through the NI Budget and in-year monitoring processes, with Executive approval being obtained through these processes.
- 4.6 DoF must also ensure that the full level of UKG funding is allocated to the Deal over the life of the Deal.

- 4.7 Unless otherwise agreed, the usual DoF delegations will apply for Deal projects. DoF will have its usual approval role for projects outside these delegations.
- 4.8 DoF will work with NI Departments to help ensure that NI processes do not result in any undue delays to the business case process. The time taken to process business cases will, of course, depend on the quality of information provided.

#### **Accountable Department**

- 4.9 The department with policy responsibility will be the accountable department for the provision of both UKG and NI Deal funding to the Accountable Body. Both UKG and NI deal funding will be included in the accountable departments Budget allocation. Where relevant the accountable department may choose to work through an Arm's Length Body. However, the departmental Accounting Officer will retain overall accountability
- 4.10 This includes approval of expenditure, underpinned by business cases, and ensuring appropriate governance and accountability mechanism are in place.
- 4.11 Departments will work with DoF to help ensure that NI processes do not result in any undue delays to the business case process. The time taken to process business cases will, of course, depend on the quality of information provided.

#### **Accountable Body**

- 4.12 Unless otherwise agreed, the lead council in each region will act as the Accountable Body for the Region City /Growth Deal. The Accountable Body, which will be identified in the signed City /Growth Deal document, will be responsible for the implementation and management of the financial procedures for the Deal.



The X Region Programme Board will provide assurance to the accountable department when business cases are submitted for expenditure approval. This will include assurance that the business cases are fit for purpose, proposals are technicality and financially viable and meet value for money requirements. The X Region Programme Board may ask the Accountable Body to assess the business cases and provide it with these assurances

- 4.13 All grant funding from central Government will be channelled through the Accountable Body, with the exception of projects delivered directly by NI departments..
- 4.14 The Accountable Body will have the authority to hold others to account should projects present a risk to the overall programme.
- 4.15 A grant offer letter signed between the accountable NI department and the Accountable Body will set out the required terms and provisions to ensure funding is applied as expected.
- 4.16 These terms and provisions will be replicated in separate agreements between the Accountable Body and regional partners with any additional specific requirements necessary for the fulfilment of the Accountable Body role also clearly set out.
- 4.17 The grant offer letter will also specify roles of Accountable Body and accountable NI department in vouching expenditure to ensure no unnecessary duplication of work to minimise the administrative burden.
- 4.18 A Financial Agreement between the UK Government, NI Executive and Accountable Body will set out the specific arrangements for each Deal.

## **SECTION 5 - BUSINESS CASE APPROVAL PROCESS**

5.1 The accountable NI department will be responsible for the approval of expenditure for all projects. The department should consider the strategic alignment of all NI City/Growth Deals to ensure as far as possible that projects are complementary with no undesirable duplication. However, the department should also be cognisant of the policy intent behind City/Growth Deals and recognise that the funding provided is for projects falling within the geographical area for each agreed Deal.

### **Deal Business Casework Model**

5.2 To ensure a consistent approach across departments and to share best practice it is proposed that casework model is adopted for all Deal business cases.

5.3 The department with lead responsibility (lead department) for the policy addressed in the business case, usually the accountable NI Department, is responsible for approval of the expenditure. Normal DoF delegations will apply.

5.4 Where a proposal covers two or more policy areas the policy departments will agree a lead department, based where possible on the proportion of the funding relating to policy area. The lead department will be responsible for co-ordinating the views of other departments and for overall approval of the expenditure. Other departments will provide policy advice and assurances as required. If necessary a Memorandum of Understanding may be agreed between the relevant departments.

5.5 The lead department should convene and chair a casework committee to review the business case. The lead department may ask the Accountable Body to lead the presentation of the proposal to the Casework Committee.

- 5.6 A dedicated group of officials from the lead departments should be identified as potential casework panel members to consider and recommend Deal business cases to the Accountable Officer.
- 5.7 The lead department will call upon these potential panel members as required. Where delegations require DoF approval, DoF Supply officials should have an enhanced scrutiny role over and above DoF's normal observer role as part of the casework panel. DoF will not however contribute to any casework panel recommendation to the lead Department Accounting Officer. DoF's enhanced role on the casework panel does not remove the requirement for lead Department Accounting Officer approval to be secured before formal submission to DoF for final approval.
- 5.8 This process should reduce the time required for DoF scrutiny as it is expected that most issues will have been addressed during the casework process. Supply will also prioritise City/ Growth Deal expenditure approvals. These steps will expedite the process.
- 5.9 In addition Accountable departments are encouraged to keep delegated limits for City Deal projects under close review. Supply will consider any request for increased delegations in this area if sufficient justification for any increase in delegation is provided by the accountable department.
- 5.10 DoF may be invited to sit on other panels as required.
- 5.11 This should result in a streamlined, consistent approach to all Deals.

### **UKG Funded Projects**

- 5.12 Ultimate approval rests with the accountable NI Department due to the release of UKG funding through the NI Block Grant. Normal DoF delegations apply.
- 5.13 The accountable NI department must take account of the views of the relevant Whitehall department(s). This will be co-ordinated through MHCLG which will

provide assurance that the UK Government is content with the business case for each project receiving UKG funding.

5.14 Both the accountable NI Department and MHCLG must be content before approval is granted.. Any disputes will be brought to the Delivery Board for consideration.

5.15 If the Delivery Board determines that approval should be granted but the accountable department is not content then the matter will be brought to the Oversight Group which will consider whether the issue is cross-cutting. If it is considered cross cutting then the Oversight Group will ask the Finance Minister to write to the Executive asking it to consider the matter. The Executive will decide whether or not the project should proceed. If the matter is not considered cross cutting then the final decision rest with the Minister of the accountable department.

5.16 In order to streamline and expedite the process as far as possible, for UKG funded projects, the Accountable Body should submit business cases to accountable NI department and UK Government for review contemporaneously.

5.17 MHCLG will commission views from the relevant Whitehall Departments and share any comments with the accountable NI Department to aid its formal consideration and approval of expenditure.

5.18 It is essential that Deal projects are not unduly delayed because of the NI business case process.

5.19 To expedite consideration the Accountable Body should provide a schedule of business case submissions. This will allow NI Departments to plan appropriately and will be shared with MHCLG for the same purpose.

5.20 NICS Departments and DoF, as necessary, should prioritise the scrutiny and approval of Deal proposals.

## **Draft Business Case Approval Process – UKG and NI Funded Projects**

### **The Delivery Board**

- 5.21 Determines the level of NI Executive Funding to be allocated to each Pillar based on information from relevant NI Departments and Region Programme Board. This will be submitted to the NI Executive for approval.

### **Pillar Advisory Board**

- 5.22 Responsible for direction and development of business case. Submits business case to Region Programme Board for approval.

### **X Region Programme Board**

- 5.23 Approves business case for submission to NI lead department and for UKG funded project to MHCLG.
- 5.24 Business case should be sent to NI Department, MHCLG and copied to DoF.

### **Lead Department**

- 5.25 Accounting Officer Responsible for approving individual expenditure proposals, underpinned by business cases.
- 5.26 Will convene a Deals Casework Committee (“Committee”).
- 5.27 DoF to attend that Committee as approval delegations dictate. DoF to have enhanced status on casework rather than observer status to expedite process. DoF will not however contribute to any casework panel recommendation to the lead Department Accounting Officer. DoF’s enhanced role on the casework

panel does not remove the requirement for lead Department Accounting Officer approval to be secured before formal submission to DoF for final approval.

5.28 For UKG funded projects, views of relevant Whitehall department(s) must be considered. These will be coordinated through MHCLG. MHCLG will inform lead NI Department if they are content to approve.

5.29 Notifies the Delivery Board, Region Programme Board and the Pillar Advisory Board when expenditure is approved.

## **NI City and Growth Deals: Governance and Funding Arrangements – Response from BRCD Partners**

This document sets out a response to the Northern Ireland City & Growth Deals: Governance and Funding Arrangements paper shared with the Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD) Partners in December 2019.

General		<p>City Deals are based on a collaborative approach from across government to the creation and development of robust projects that deliver for the region.</p> <p>In that context the new governance arrangements would mean a change in membership from NI Civil Service (NICS) on the BRCD structures. Colleagues from the NICS on the BRCD Board have made an important contribution to the development of the deal and it is vital in maintaining momentum and collective commitment that the direct contribution of the NICS to the development of the deal is retained. The BRCD Board will wish to continue discussions in relation to how best this can be achieved.</p> <p>The governance and funding document has a very specific focus, but may benefit from an introductory section on the nature and purpose of City Deals.</p>
Section 2	NI Governance	<p>The BRCD Partners wish to clarify whether, in the context of the collaborative model of city deals, there is scope for the Accountable Body to sit as an observer on some of the NI-wide governance structures?</p> <p>The BRCD Partners wish to stress the importance of pre-Deal efforts within NICS to be in supporting/engaging on the development and appraisal of high quality projects that deliver the BRCD objectives. The new governance structures will add greatest value following the development of Outline Business Cases (OBCs) and after agreement of the Deal Document.</p>
2.25	Funding Splits	<p>Section 2.25 states that the Oversight Group would be “recommending the level of NI Executive funding that will be provided to each Pillar”.</p> <p>The BRCD Partners have previously agreed principles around an approach on reducing the ask to £350m relating to the innovation &amp; digital pillars and would wish to have strong involvement in any discussion and recommendation in decisions across all pillars, in line with the agreed vision and objectives of the BRCD. For example, Tourism and Regeneration is a key growth sector for the BRCD. A significant level of investment from local government is being allocated to Tourism and Regeneration projects and this should be an important consideration when deciding on the split between tourism and regeneration and infrastructure.</p> <p>In addition, at Para 5.21, it states that the Delivery Board determines</p>

		the level of funding to be allocated to each Department. Could the Department of Finance (DoF) please clarify the respective roles of the Executive Board, the Delivery Board and the Oversight Group in determining levels of funding?
2.25	Funding Profiles	Section 2.25 states that “the Accountable Body” will provide “forecast expenditure profiles” for approval. As this will be prior to Deal Document agreement, should this be replaced with “the BRCD Programme Office”?
2.3	Delivery Board	<p>Para 2.3 states that the Delivery Board “ensure as far as possible that projects are complementary and with no undesirable duplication”.</p> <p>Para 5.1 (which deals with a similar role for Accountable Departments) provides additional language as follows:</p> <p><i>“However, the department should also be cognisant of the policy intent behind City/Growth Deals and recognise that the funding provided is for projects falling within the geographical area for each agreed Deal.”</i></p> <p>Could this language be added to the Delivery Board role language at Para 2.3? The Executive Board believe it is important to remember the ‘placemaking’ basis of City Deals.</p>
2.4	Deal Documentation	The Partners recommend the establishment of a joint group to start work on the development of Deal implementation documentation.
2.44	Business Case ‘sign-off’ – Executive Board	<p>Para 2.44 states that a responsibility of the Executive Board is to ‘sign-off’ business cases prior to them being submitted to the relevant NI Department.</p> <p>In addition, Section 4.12 of latest paper reads:</p> <p><i>“The X Region Programme Board will provide assurance to the accountable department when business cases are submitted for expenditure approval. This will include assurance that the business cases are fit for purpose, proposals are technicality and financially viable and meet value for money requirements. The X Region Programme Board may ask the Accountable Body to assess the business cases and provide it with these assurances”</i></p> <p>The Programme Office will continue to engage with the Department of Finance in relation to the different stages of decision making on business cases and the role of the Executive Board. This should follow the approach applied in other City Deals, an approach that was confirmed during recent discussions with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and, as discussed at the recent meeting of the Executive Board in relation to the innovation projects, the initial consideration of business cases</p>



		<p>will result in a decision as to whether business cases can go forward for review by the NI and UK Governments.</p> <p>Requiring the Board to authorise grant claims which will already have been approved by the Accountable Body adds an unnecessary layer of bureaucracy.</p>
Section 3	Profiling	<p>In previous discussions with the Department, it has been indicated that they will work flexibly and provide capital funding profiles matching profiles based on the OBC Financial Cases, in so far as is possible, to inform the Financial Plan &amp; Agreement. They have also confirmed that this can and will be an iterative process, constantly being refreshed to reflect timing need.</p> <p>NICS have confirmed that the profile between NI Funding and UK Funding does not necessarily need to be the same. They have further added that whilst UKG funding comes to DoF over 15 years, it does not need to flow from DoF on same basis and is likely to come over a shorter time period.</p> <p>Can the Department please confirm that this is the case?</p>
3.7/3.11	Alternative Projects	<p>The current language used re alternative projects in proposed arrangements '<u>same VfM requirements</u>' needs to be discussed.</p> <p>The BRCD Partners have discussed principles around revising projects and they are wider than 'same VfM requirements'.</p> <p>Could the language be amended from 'same VfM requirements' to 'same City Deal requirements' or "which meets the same objectives and has been considered in accordance with the agreed OBC process".</p>
3.12	ALB Funding	<p>Para states "Where appropriate the accountable department may delegate this (funding) role to an ALB".</p> <p>It has been indicated verbally that post-approval funds flow would be as streamlined as possible.</p> <p>Para 3.12 indicates that an ALB could be used.</p> <p>Could it be confirmed that the preferred approach is to reduce the number of bodies involved in funding flow? For example, can the Department state that Tourism NI and Invest NI would not be involved in the funding flow for tourism and for innovation projects respectively, due to the potential level of complexity and delay that it adds? The Board would welcome the opportunity to discuss further the funding flows with the view of minimising cash flow costs.</p>

3.14	Reduction of funding outside BRCD	The BRCD Partners consider that in relation to the final sentence, the impact of the City Deal on capital DEL depends on other budgetary decisions and that this is really a matter for the Executive and question the need for its inclusion within this document.
3.18	OBCs	Given the delivery period of the Deal is ten years, is it realistic to require, "An OBC must be approved for each project before the City/Growth Deal document can be agreed"?
3.20	Early Release of Funds & Capitalisation	NICS have previously agreed that they would provide a high-level principles paper by way of guidance around the early release of funds and capitalisation policy. Could the Department please provide us with confirmation as to when this paper will be provided?
3.21	Pillar-level Flexibility – Grant offer letters	<p>The BRCD Partners believe it is imperative that the Accountable Body has appropriate flexibility to manage the City deal funding flows which are subject to the Grant offer letters (and particularly given the labour-intensive role assumed by Accountable Body at 3.22)</p> <p>Previous discussions have indicated that this flexibility would be in the way of budgetary flexibility <b>on a pillar level</b> (including potentially combining innovation and digital as these would both be through the same NI Department). We understand that this will be subject of the Financial Plan &amp; Agreement – but can we get confirmation now that this will be the approach?</p>
3.25	Under / Overspends	Further discussion is required on the management of under / overspends at both project and pillar levels.
4.11	Delays in Approval	<p>The BRCD Partners request the following language is added at the end of Para 4.11:</p> <p><i>"including through the early engagement by Departments on individual projects through a workshop approach"</i></p>
4.12	Accountable Body	<p>Could the Department please confirm the timing of the establishment of the 'Accountable Body'. Our understanding is that this will commence at the point of Deal Document signing.</p> <p>"The X Region Programme Board may ask the Accountable Body to assess the business cases and provide it with these assurances." It should be noted that the Accountable Body will not exist at the time OBCs are submitted.</p>
Section 5	Business Case Approval	It would be helpful to have further clarity on the assessment process to be used in relation to innovation projects, for example, in relation to innovation projects, whether Invest NI will be used, and whether Invest NI will employ technical appraisers/ consultants. With MHCLG doing likewise in seeking UK advice there is the potential for duplication.

5.5	Accountable Body presentations	<p>Section 5.5 states that:</p> <p>“The lead department should convene and chair a casework committee to review the business case. The lead department may ask the Accountable Body to lead the presentation of the proposal to the Casework Committee”</p> <p>It is our expectation that the presentation of specific project proposals to a Casework Committee would be done by project sponsors and that these would also be done in advance of the Deal Document being signed and therefore in advance of an Accountable Body being in place. Could the Department please consider amending this paragraph to reflect this understanding?</p>
5.16	Business Case submission	The BRCD Partners believe that this is an error and it should read ‘Executive Board’ instead of Accountable Body.
General	Grant Offer letters	The current paper does not cover the Letters of Offer/ Grant Letter content in any detail and it would be useful to have an indication of how this would sit alongside a monitoring and evaluation framework for the Deal. While it may seem early to consider, this can be a major source of delays. The Programme Management Office, with the support of the Finance Directors group, will commence liaison with DoF on this issue.

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## BRCD Council Panel

<b>Subject:</b>	Minutes of Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD) Council Panel
<b>Date:</b>	1:00 pm, 29 January 2020
<b>Councillors in attendance:</b>	<p>Alderman Mark Cosgrove – Antrim &amp; Newtownabbey Borough Council (Chair)</p> <p>Alderman Phillip Brett – Antrim &amp; Newtownabbey Borough Council</p> <p>Councillor Stephen Ross – Antrim &amp; Newtownabbey Borough Council</p> <p>Councillor Robert Adair – Ards &amp; North Down Borough Council</p> <p>Alderman Alan McDowell – Ards &amp; North Down Borough Council</p> <p>Councillor Richard Smart – Ards &amp; North Down Borough Council</p> <p>Councillor Stephen Dunlop – Ards &amp; North Down Borough Council</p> <p>Alderman Brian Kingston – Belfast City Council</p> <p>Councillor Eric Hanvey -Belfast City Council</p> <p>Councillor Uel Mackin – Lisburn &amp; Castlereagh City Council</p> <p>Councillor Sorche Eastwood – Lisburn &amp; Castlereagh City Council</p> <p>Alderman Billy Ashe MBE – Mid &amp; East Antrim Borough Council</p> <p>Councillor Timothy Gaston – Mid &amp; East Antrim Borough Council</p> <p>Alderman Audrey Wales MBE -Mid &amp; East Antrim Borough Council</p> <p>Councillor Robert Logan – Mid &amp; East Antrim Borough Council</p> <p>Councillor Charlie Casey – Newry, Mourne &amp; Down District Council</p> <p>Councillor Robert Burgess – Newry, Mourne &amp; Down District Council</p> <p>Councillor Pete Byrne – Newry, Mourne &amp; Down District Council</p>
<b>Apologies:</b>	<p>Councillor Glenn Finlay – Antrim &amp; Newtownabbey Borough Council</p> <p>Councillor Ciaran Beattie – Belfast City Council</p> <p>Councillor Carl Whyte – Belfast City Council</p> <p>Alderman Allan Ewart MBE – Lisburn &amp; Castlereagh City Council</p> <p>Alderman Amanda Grehan – Lisburn &amp; Castlereagh City Council</p> <p>Alderman Michael Henderson – Lisburn &amp; Castlereagh City Council</p> <p>Councillor Robin Stewart – Mid &amp; East Antrim Borough Council</p> <p>Councillor Willie Clarke – Newry, Mourne &amp; Down District Council</p>
<b>Officers:</b>	<p>Marie-Thérèse McGivern – Chief Executive Belfast Met</p> <p>Jacqui Dixon – Chief Executive, Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council</p> <p>Majella McAlister – Director of Economic Development and Planning, Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council</p> <p>Stephen Reid – Chief Executive, Ards and North Down Borough Council</p> <p>Suzanne Wylie – Chief Executive, Belfast City Council</p> <p>Ronan Cregan – Deputy Chief Executive, Belfast City Council</p> <p>Damien Martin – BRCD Programme Director, Belfast City Council</p> <p>Padraic Murphy – Programme Co-ordinator, Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council</p> <p>Anne Donaghy – Chief Executive, Mid and East Antrim Borough Council</p> <p>Marie Ward – Chief Executive, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council</p> <p>Amanda Smyth – Head of Regeneration and Business Development, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council</p> <p>Emer Husbands – BRCD Programme Office</p> <p>Ruth Rea – BRCD Programme Office</p> <p>Theresa Slevin – BRCD Programme Office</p> <p>Lorraine Beggs – BRCD Programme Office</p>

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Welcome and Introductions</b>
1.1	Alderman Cosgrove welcomed the members of the BRCD Council Panel to the meeting and outlined the agenda.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Apologies</b>
2.1	Apologies were received from: Councillor Glenn Finlay (Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council), Councillors Ciaran Beattie & Carl Whyte (Belfast City Council), Aldermen Allan Ewart MBE, Amanda Grehan & Michael Henderson (Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council), Councillor Robin Stewart (Mid & East Antrim Borough Council) and Councillor Willie Clarke (Newry, Mourne & Down District Council).
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>
3.1	Alderman Cosgrove asked Councillors to declare if they had any interests to declare in relation to the agenda. No interests were declared.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Minutes of Previous Meeting</b>
4.1	Alderman Cosgrove noted that Cllr Gaston had requested that the minutes were updated to reflect that Cllr Gaston had raised a concern in relation to the representation of councillors on the Executive Board. Proposed – Cllr Burgess Seconded – Ald Brian Kingston  <b>Members agreed to this amendment to the minutes.</b>
<b>5.0</b>	<b>BRCD Programme Update</b>
5.1	Damien Martin (BRCD Programme Director) provided an update on the progress to date across the BRCD programme namely: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advisory Boards for all pillars now in place.</li> <li>• Outline Business Cases (OBCs) being progressed by all projects.</li> <li>• Innovation projects most advanced and first draft of OBCs expected in February or March.</li> <li>• Engagement ongoing with UK Government and DfE regarding the Digital pillar.</li> <li>• Integration across the pillars within the programme remains challenging, however pillar integration workshops are seeking to address this.</li> </ul> <p>No questions were raised.</p>

<b>6.0</b>	<b>NI City &amp; Growth Deals: Governance and Funding Arrangement</b>
6.1	<p>Jacqui Dixon (Chief Executive Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council) outlined the NI City &amp; Growth Deals: Governance and Funding Arrangement document provided by the NI Civil Service. This document will apply to all NI Deals and is based on other City Deals across the UK and associated lessons learned. It is recognised that further engagement is required to determine how the funding will flow and that the document was drafted prior to the re-establishment of the Executive, and clarity on the potential impact of the restored Executive will be required. The establishment of a Working Group to determine the processes required at implementation stage is proposed. The Board have drafted a response which recognises the positive collaboration with NI Civil servants to date and seeks clarification on a number of points, for Members to consider.</p> <p>Members raised concerns regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the requirement for all OBCs to be approved before the Deal document can be signed and the potential impact on the more advanced projects;</li> <li>the need for a clear decision making process and ensuring the BRCD targets around jobs and GVA are met and considered in the decision making process;</li> <li>visibility of the decisions made at the Executive Board;</li> <li>ensuring that a programme approach is adopted despite the different rates of progress on OBC development and</li> <li>potential issues if the departments priorities don't reflect those of City Deal.</li> </ul> <p>Officers noted that clarity is requested in the draft response around the OBC approval requirement given the 10 year nature of the programme. OBCs will be required to develop the Financial Plan and an indicative budget for each project will be required for the Deal Document, but the OBCs do not necessarily need to be approved for these requirements to be fulfilled. It was acknowledged that the decision making process is challenging given the range of factors which need to be considered, but this is being progressed by the Executive Board, and the previously agreed principles for decision making are being followed. Engagement with government departments has been ongoing, however engagement with Ministers following the Executive return, will be a key focus in the current period in order to secure buy in for City Deal.</p> <p><b>Alderman Cosgrove suggested that the minutes of the Executive Board are shared to ensure visibility of decisions. Members agreed to this recommendation.</b></p>
<b>7.0</b>	<b>Employability and Skills</b>
7.1	<p>Marie-Thérèse McGivern (Chief Executive Belfast Met) led a presentation on the Employability and Skills (E&amp;S) pillar and the work that the Employability and Skills Advisory Board have been undertaking to date. City Deal</p>

	<p>provides an opportunity to collaborate with Partners to develop new ways of working and aligning programmes to create a skills ecosystem with clear pathways to the employment opportunities created, particularly for the most deprived communities, with the aim of achieving real inclusive growth.</p> <p>Members discussed in detail the positive work to date on E&amp;S; the importance of inclusive growth and the challenges in reaching the economically inactive; the requirement to understand how the impact and outcomes will be measured; consideration of a publicity campaign around the economically inactive; the requirement to provide a pipeline of skills; to take a targeted approach to careers guidance, promoting vocational pathways such as apprenticeships and the key role of parents in supporting young people in making career choices.</p>
<b>8.0</b>	<b>Stakeholder Engagement</b>
8.1	<p>Stephen Reid (Chief Executive Ards and North Down Borough Council) outlined the Stakeholder Engagement that has taken place to date. It was acknowledged that engagement during the first phase of the programme was focused on securing the deal and required local and national engagement at a political and government department level. For this phase, the focus is now on developing the individual projects and significant engagement with the private sector and other relevant stakeholders is now ongoing through projects and Advisory Boards. At programme level, specialist support is being commissioned to support strategic engagement, including both business and political engagement and with the Assembly now back in operation an early priority would be engagement with political representatives from across the Belfast Region.</p> <p>Members discussed the proposed approach to political engagement and following a vote, <b>agreed that an engagement session to be held at Stormont with MLAs from the Belfast region should be organised.</b></p>
<b>9.0</b>	<b>Workplan and Schedule of Meetings</b>
	The Workplan and schedule of meetings was agreed.
<b>10.0</b>	<b>Press Release</b>
10.1	<p><b>The BRCD Council Panel agreed the press release in relation to the meeting.</b></p> <p>Proposer – Cllr Smart</p> <p>Seconder – Ald Kingston</p>
<b>11.0</b>	<p><b>Date, time and location of next meeting</b></p> <p><b>Wednesday 29 April at 1 pm</b></p> <p><b>Lisburn &amp; Castlereagh City Council</b></p>





<b>Subject:</b>	NI Executive Ministerial Engagement
<b>Date:</b>	21 February 2020
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Suzanne Wylie, Chief Executive
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Kevin Heaney, Portfolio Manager Christine Robinson, Strategic Policy and Partnership Manager

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an overview of the key proposals set out within the recently published 'New Decade, New Approach' document; and highlighting several specific points for discussion with NI Executive Ministers.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	Members are asked to:
2.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Note the summary of the New Decade, New Approach attached at Appendix 2.</li> <li>(b) Review the proposed discussion points for Ministerial enagemnt, as set out in section 3 below, and identify any additional issues which Members may wish to raise.</li> <li>(c) Note that an agenda and supporting briefing papers will be prepared for each Ministerial meeting based on the list of issues agreed by Members.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	Members will be aware that the 'New Decade, New Approach' was published by the British and Irish Governments on 9 <sup>th</sup> January 2020 (copy attached at <b>Appendix 1</b> ). The document is split into two main parts with a series of sub-commitments set out covering the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Priorities of the Restored Executive (pages 6-10)</li> <li>• Northern Ireland Executive Formation Agreement (pages 11-44)</li> <li>• Annex A: specific UK Government commitments to Northern Ireland (pages 45-56)</li> <li>• Annex B: specific Irish Government commitments to Northern Ireland (pages 57-62)</li> </ul>
3.2	A summary of the document is attached at <b>Appendix 2</b> for Members information. Clearly, there are a wide range of positive commitments set out within the deal which will benefit Northern Ireland and it will be important that we gain a full understanding of their potential impact on Belfast. Correspondence has been issued to all NI Executive Ministers seeking meetings with a cross-party delegation to discss specific issues and opportunities for the city.

3.3	<p><b><u>Ministerial discussion points</u></b></p> <p>Given the likely limitation of time secured with Ministers, it will be important that the discussion is focused on key priority areas. To help focus discussion at the meetings, the following areas are proposed for Members consideration and comment.</p>
3.3.1	<p><b>General Comments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joining up the skills issue across Departments</li> <li>• Local government – links to UK policy and funding</li> <li>• Local government – relationships with all island bodies</li> <li>• The importance of place and the role of local government in place-making.</li> <li>• Role of cities as Economic Drivers. Definition of a regionally balanced economy – urban policy</li> <li>• Climate adaptation and mitigation planning at local and regional level including funding strategy</li> <li>• Refresh of Programme for Government - alignment with Belfast Agenda - strengthened relationship between departments and Belfast CC and other Councils. New mechanisms for collaboration, co-design and delivery</li> <li>• City Deal – forerunner to a new local/regional partnership and funding approach</li> <li>• Further devolution agenda</li> <li>• Innovation in public sector</li> <li>• 5G and digital connectivity</li> </ul>
3.3.2	<p><b>The Executive Office</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The importance of local government in supporting achievement of Executive priorities. Refresh of Programme for Government – linkages to Belfast Agenda: NOTE it is recommended that BCC ask for a role in the PfG development process.</li> <li>• The importance of place - strengthened central/ local government relationships – local outcome agreements.</li> <li>• Potential for LGR phase II</li> <li>• BRCD – governance and funding</li> <li>• An understanding of the role of the Office of Identity and Cultural Expression in relation to local government</li> <li>• Dealing with legacy issues such as flags, paramilitaries and bonfires</li> <li>• Emergency Planning – future model for ensuring resilience</li> <li>• Future of Executive funding – SIF, TEBUC etc</li> <li>• The Future of Shared Prosperity Funds</li> </ul>
3.3.3	<p><b>Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Role of the new independent EPA</li> <li>• Environment Strategy – relationship with Energy and Climate adaptation and mitigation plans</li> <li>• Climate Act, strategy and funding plan</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ni Waste Strategy and funding plans – potential for a NI Waste Authority &amp; Infrastructure</li> <li>• Air Quality Strategy, interventions and funding plan</li> </ul>
3.3.4	<p><b>Department for Communities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transfer of regeneration functions- further devolution / transfer of assets</li> <li>• Community capacity building – new approaches</li> <li>• Housing in Belfast – joint approaches with BCC. Review of the Private rented sector</li> <li>• Welfare Reform – advice service and tribunal service</li> <li>• Connectivity Study – implementation – future of streets ahead programmes</li> <li>• Areas of special need, e.g. Holylands</li> <li>• Culture, Arts support and funding / future of Arts Council</li> <li>• Poverty Strategy / Social value procurement</li> <li>• BRCD – governance and funding</li> <li>• City Regeneration and Development (including place shaping, DfC regeneration funding – 5 transformation areas and city centre)</li> <li>• Employability and Skills – collaboration and co-financing for the delivery of Employability NI pilot. Civic growth / affordable and joint approach to site development / public assets and maximising the regeneration potential of significant development schemes</li> <li>• Legislative changes (e.g. liquor licensing reform, review of gambling legislation, Local Government Act and supplementary legislation)</li> <li>• Technical aid for communities re planning</li> <li>• Future design of Shared Prosperity Fund</li> <li>• HED Partnership Approach</li> </ul>
3.3.5	<p><b>Department for Economy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Economic Strategy – co-design with local government</li> <li>• The role of the Belfast Innovation and Inclusive Growth Commission</li> <li>• Brexit – support for business – negotiating the future arrangements for services – building the potential of the London – Belfast – Dublin Triangle</li> <li>• Energy Strategy and need for local government involvement of local government</li> <li>• BRCD – governance and funding - Innovation and Digital Plans</li> <li>• Skills Strategy / talent retention – the importance of place in shaping solutions and delivering to local need and growth</li> <li>• Future of further and higher education – Masen Cap</li> <li>• Shared Prosperity Fund / UK Challenge Funds / UK RI</li> <li>• Support for alternative economic models – co-operatives and social enterprises</li> <li>• Tourism – destination Hub, Game of Thrones, community tourism</li> <li>• Sub regional economies</li> <li>• Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor</li> <li>• Inhibitors to Investment</li> </ul>

3.3.6	<b>Department of Education</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Educational Underachievement</li> <li>• Future of schools – local planning and capital investment</li> <li>• Childcare Strategy to support employment</li> <li>• Plans for future of the careers service</li> <li>• Transition to F&amp;H Education / employment</li> </ul>
3.3.7	<b>Department of Finance</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Belfast Region City Deal – governance, funding and streamlining of the approach to business cases. Building on the model of City deals – new partnerships – new financing methods</li> <li>• Non-domestic rates revaluation 2020 – rates reform</li> <li>• Revenue raising powers and initiatives such as tourist tax and rates retention – rates incentive – APD, corporation tax, rate reliefs</li> <li>• Shared Prosperity Fund / UK Challenge Funds</li> <li>• Green Finance</li> <li>• Government office consolidation - next phase / impact on regeneration</li> <li>• Data sharing / open data – evidence bases</li> <li>• Multi annual budget planning – ability for more co-design of programmes</li> </ul>
3.3.8	<b>Department for Health</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reform agenda – future of PHA – future of joint arrangements such as the Belfast Health Development Unit</li> <li>• Mental health/suicide – outreach / interventions / investment</li> <li>• Drugs &amp; Alcohol use – ownership of the issue</li> <li>• Skills shortages – potential for joint solutions</li> </ul>
3.3.9	<b>Department for Infrastructure</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local Development Plan – RDS and role of Belfast as regional driver of the local economy – growth ambitions</li> <li>• Planning review – role of Dept / LAs / Role of stat consultees</li> <li>• Role in driving greener and bluer infrastructure (BOSS)</li> <li>• Belfast Region City Deal – DFI project progress</li> <li>• Infrastructure investment and facilitation – water, sustainable transport and 5G</li> <li>• Transport infrastructure – York Street interchange, cycle network, Belfast transport study/plan</li> <li>• Future plans for residents parking schemes</li> <li>• Future role of the harbour/port</li> <li>• City Connectivity – implementation of the vision</li> <li>• Environment/climate adaption and mitigation</li> <li>• Dublin-Belfast fast rail – commitment and urgency to progress</li> <li>• Potential to fund free public transport for under 25yr olds</li> </ul>

3.3.10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintenance priorities &amp; budget</li> </ul> <p><b>Department of Justice</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acceleration of plans associated with Peace Walls</li> <li>• Bonfires/bonfire materials – policy and enforcement</li> <li>• Potential for new regional ASB policy, including potential for increased powers - funding - diversionary activities and interventions</li> <li>• Potential for a new approach to Community policing / wardens</li> <li>• Approaches to tackling drugs</li> <li>• Holylands and wider South Belfast Area.</li> <li>• Review functionality and effectiveness of PCSPs</li> <li>• Troubles related funding in Deal</li> <li>• Anti-abortion imagery being displayed in public places</li> </ul> <p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u> None</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessments</u> None</p>
4.0	<p><b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b></p> <p>Appendix 1 – New Decade, New Approach</p> <p>Appendix 2 – Summary of New Decade, New Deal report</p>

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# New Decade, New Approach



# **New Decade, New Approach**

**January 2020**



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## Context and Responsibilities

1. The Rt Hon Julian Smith CBE MP, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, and Simon Coveney TD, Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, have published this text of a deal to restore devolved government in Northern Ireland.
2. The deal will transform public services and restore public confidence in devolved government and has been tabled at talks at Stormont House for the political parties in Northern Ireland to agree.
3. These talks were convened to restore the institutions created by the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement and, particularly, to restore a functioning Northern Ireland Executive delivering for the people of Northern Ireland on a stable and sustainable basis.
4. The participants throughout these talks were the UK and Irish Governments, each participating in accordance with their respective responsibilities, and the five main Northern Ireland parties.
5. Over several months of discussions, all the issues were extensively explored with the opportunity for each participant to put forward proposals.

**The New Decade, New Approach deal represents a fair and balanced basis upon which to restore the institutions. The commitments of each Government are attached here as annexes for the information of the participants and the public. They are the respective responsibility of each Government, and no agreement is asked or required from the parties for those commitments.**

# **The New Decade, New Approach Deal**

**The following represents the deal which the UK Government and Irish Government are inviting the parties to endorse as a basis for restoring the Executive.**

## Part 1: Priorities of the Restored Executive

*This section records the priorities that the parties would agree for an incoming Executive.*

The parties have agreed on a way forward for a restored Executive to begin the urgent task of strengthening public services and to tackle immediate challenges in key areas such as growing the economy, health, education and housing. A restored Executive brings with it **urgently needed local political oversight and decision-making**. The Executive will bring positive changes in areas that impact greatly on people's lives such as the economy, overcrowded hospitals, struggling schools, housing stress, welfare concerns and mental health. There will be a **multi-year Programme for Government**, underpinned by a **multi-year budget and legislative programme**.

The parties have agreed that the immediate priorities for the restored Executive should be:

> **Transforming our health service** with a long-term funding strategy. The Executive will:

- **immediately settle the ongoing pay dispute;**
- **introduce a new action plan on waiting times; and**
- **deliver reforms on health and social care** as set out in the Bengoa, Delivering Together and Power to People reports.

No-one waiting over a year at 30 September 2019 for outpatient or inpatient assessment/treatment will still be on a waiting list by March 2021.

**The Executive will reconfigure hospital provision to deliver better patient outcomes**, more stable services and sustainable staffing. Improvements will be made in stroke, breast assessment, urgent and emergency care and day case elective care by the end of 2020.

The Executive will also **deliver an extra 900 nursing and midwifery undergraduate places** over three years.

The Executive will consider the scope for changing how waiting times are measured, to reflect the entire patient journey, from referral to treatment, with appropriate targets.

The Executive will publish a **Mental Health Action Plan** within 2 months; a Mental Health Strategy by December 2020; a successor strategy and action plan to the **Strategic Direction for Alcohol and Drugs Phase 2** within 3 months; and a **new strategy and implementation plan on cancer** by December 2020.

The Executive will build capacity in general practice through the ongoing **rollout of Multi Disciplinary teams to cover a further 100,000 patients** by March 2021.

The Executive will provide increased investment to **fully implement service improvements for palliative and end of life care** including enhancing the contribution of hospices; and to increase support for palliative perinatal care.

The Executive will provide **3 funded cycles of IVF treatment**.

The Executive will expand university provision at Magee in line with commitments made by the previous Executive, including through the establishment of a **Graduate Entry Medical School**.

> **Transforming other public services** particularly in education and justice.

The Executive will **urgently resolve the current teachers' industrial dispute**. It will also **address resourcing pressures in schools**, ensuring that every school has a sustainable core budget to deliver quality education.

The Executive will **establish an external, independent review of education provision**, with a focus on securing greater efficiency in delivery costs, raising standards, access to the curriculum for all pupils, and the prospects of moving towards a single education system.

To help build a shared and integrated society, the Executive will **support educating children and young people of different backgrounds together** in the classroom.

The Executive will establish an expert group to examine and propose an action plan to **address links between persistent educational underachievement and socio-economic background**, including the long-standing issues facing working-class, Protestant boys.

The Executive will **deliver a new special educational needs framework** to support young people with special needs to achieve their full potential.

The Executive will **increase police numbers to 7,500**. The Executive will deliver committal reform to help **speed up the criminal justice system**, benefiting victims and witnesses.

The Executive will also address:

- **the findings in recently published reports from Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland, and**

- **the report of Sir John Gillen on the handling of serious sexual offences cases,** and will deliver the necessary changes in case conduct and management.

There will be **further reform of the NI Civil Service.**

**There will be a review of Arm's Length Bodies with a view to their rationalisation.**

**> Investing for the future** to ensure Northern Ireland is equipped to harness opportunities and drive sustainable productivity, including opportunities for future trade as we leave the EU. The economic context has changed considerably in the past three years. **A top priority of the Executive will be to develop a regionally-balanced economy with opportunities for all.**

The Executive will invest strategically in ensuring that NI has the right mix of skills for a thriving economy.

To boost the economy, the Executive will **drive the delivery of essential infrastructure projects**, including York Street Interchange, in order to build a Northern Ireland that is equipped for a prosperous shared future.

The Executive will make it a priority to realise the economic potential offered by City Deals for the Belfast Region and Derry/Londonderry, including through **match capital funding for infrastructure, regeneration and tourism projects**. The Executive will work with the UK Government to develop and deliver the Growth Deals for Mid South West Northern Ireland and Causeway Coast and Glens.

The Executive will **invest urgently in wastewater infrastructure** which is at or nearing capacity in many places across Northern Ireland, including in Belfast, limiting growth.

The Executive will **bring more big events like The Open Championship to Northern Ireland** - playing to our strengths and boosting our economy. The Executive will also take forward the **reform of licensing laws**.

The Executive will advance with plans to **complete both the Regional and Sub Regional Stadia Programmes, including Casement Park.**

The Executive will **tackle climate change head on** with a strategy to **address the immediate and longer term impacts of climate change.**

The Executive will **introduce legislation and targets for reducing carbon emissions** in line with the Paris Climate Change Accord.

In support of both economic and educational objectives, the Executive will **develop an enhanced approach to careers advice, curriculum, training and apprenticeships** to enhance employability and support economic growth.

> **Delivering a fair and compassionate society** that supports working families and the most vulnerable. The Executive will develop and implement an **Anti-poverty Strategy**.

The parties reaffirm their commitment to **tackling paramilitarism**. Ending the harm done by paramilitarism will be a priority in the new Programme for Government.

There will be a focus within the Programme for Government on **ending sectarianism** and robust supporting strategies and actions will be put in place.

By introducing legislation to reclassify housing associations, **the Executive will enable housing associations to continue building new social housing and intermediate housing**, including the Co-ownership Housing Scheme after March 2020. Housing will be included as a specific priority in the Programme for Government. The Executive will also **enhance investment and agree a target for new social and affordable home starts** and tackle the maintenance backlog for Northern Ireland Housing Executive properties.

The Executive will examine options to **remove historical debt** from the NI Housing Executive and **exclude it from having to pay Corporation Tax**, and set **a long-term trajectory for the rental charges** for NI Housing Executive homes which is sustainable and is affordable to tenants.

The Executive will **extend existing welfare mitigation measures** beyond March 2020, when they are currently due to expire.

The Executive will press on with implementation of a **redress scheme for victims and survivors of historical abuse**, making payments as early as possible.

The Executive will **publish a Childcare Strategy** and identify resources to deliver extended, affordable and high quality provision of early education and care initiatives for families with children aged 3-4.

The loss of a child causes unimaginable pain for families. The Executive will **establish a child funeral fund**, to ease the burden on families suffering acutely.

The Executive will bring about **parity in financial support to victims** of contaminated blood in Northern Ireland with those in England.

#### > **Developing a new Programme for Government**

People and communities will have an opportunity to shape the future Programme for Government and the budget, through citizen engagement and co-design.

The NICS Outcomes Delivery Plan will provide the basis for an Executive work programme of priority actions to be taken in the coming months. The parties recognise that there are a great many challenges facing the restored Executive that will only be addressed in the medium to long term. To address these, the parties are committed to working together immediately to put in place an ambitious Programme for Government firmly focussed on improving prosperity and wellbeing for all. This will reflect new ways of working that ensure the Executive is transparently and collectively accountable to the Assembly and to citizens.



## Part 2: Northern Ireland Executive Formation Agreement

*This section represents the deal that the Parties would agree to restore the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement Institutions.*

### A new approach to government in Northern Ireland

1. This agreement marks a new approach to government in Northern Ireland. **It enables the restoration to full operation of all the institutions of the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement**, including the Executive, the Assembly, the North South Ministerial Council, the British-Irish Council and the British-Irish Intergovernmental Conference. It contains a range of specific proposals to make government better, from changes to the ministerial code through to a new approach to the Petition of Concern. It also contains a commitment to further reform to take account of the outcome of the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) inquiry.
2. This agreement represents a renewed effort by Northern Ireland's political parties to implement the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement and, in signing it, the parties commit with renewed vigour to governing in the best interests of everyone in Northern Ireland.

### *Transparency, accountability and the functioning of the Executive*

3. Ministers and civil servants, including special advisers, each have a part to play in **rebuilding the trust of citizens** in the operation of a future administration. The parties reaffirm their commitment to greater transparency and improved governance arrangements that are aimed at securing and maintaining public confidence. This is particularly important in light of the public inquiry into the RHI scheme.
4. The parties have therefore agreed to an **ambitious package of measures to strengthen transparency and governance arrangements** in the Assembly and Executive in line with international best practice. The Executive will, as a matter of urgency, produce strengthened drafts of the ministerial, civil service and special adviser codes, to be implemented immediately.
5. The measures agreed here include:

- a. making clear the **accountability of Ministers** to the Assembly;
  - b. strengthening **Ministers' responsibility for their special advisers**;
  - c. publishing details of **Ministers' meetings** with external organisations;
  - d. publishing details of **gifts and hospitality received by special advisers**, meetings with external organisations, and pay;
  - e. strengthening requirements for **record-keeping** and the **protections for whistleblowers**;
  - f. establishment of a **fiscal council** which would assess and report on the sustainability of the Executive's finances and spending proposals.
6. The parties also agree to establish a **robust, independent enforcement mechanism** to deal with breaches of the Ministerial Code and related documents.
7. The Executive will establish a dedicated sub-committee which will consider the findings of the RHI inquiry and propose further reforms, in addition to those in this agreement, to deliver the changes necessary to rebuild public confidence. The parties agree to deliver any such reforms rapidly once the inquiry has reported.
8. The full detail of these transparency and accountability measures is set out in **Annex A**.

#### *Petition of Concern*

9. The parties have agreed that the use of the **Petition of Concern should be reduced, and returned to its intended purpose**. The parties will publicly commit to tabling or supporting Petitions of Concern only in the most **exceptional circumstances and as a last resort**, having used every other available mechanism.
10. The parties agree to a number of specific changes to how the Petition of Concern will work for the remaining mandate of this Assembly and into the future as detailed in **Annex B**. This will include measures so that a Petition of Concern will not be available where the question before the Assembly relates to a member's conduct as a Minister or MLA and that, in respect of both Executive and Private Members' Bills, the Petition of Concern will apply only after Second Stage. These changes will be given effect in Standing Orders or amendments to the Northern Ireland Act 1998, as appropriate, at the earliest opportunity.
11. Most parties supported wider reform of the Petition of Concern. This mechanism is an important part of the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement safeguards to ensure that

all sections of the community can participate and work together successfully in the operation of the institutions established under the Agreement, and that all sections of the community are protected.

12. The threshold for a Petition of Concern shall remain at 30 MLAs, but a Petition can only be triggered by members from two or more parties. For this purpose, an independent Member is to be treated as a party if that Member was elected on an independent platform.
13. A valid Petition of Concern shall trigger a 14-day period of consideration. After this consideration, if 30 MLAs confirm support for the Petition of Concern, the Assembly can determine the matter in accordance with the cross community consent procedure.

### *Sustainability of the Institutions*

14. The parties agree that a three-year absence of devolved government cannot happen again, and have therefore agreed a package of measures to deliver **more sustainable institutions that are more resilient** and able to continue to function throughout periods of political difficulty.
15. The parties have agreed that the institutions should be reformed on the basis of **good faith, trust, and mutual respect**, and have reaffirmed their **commitment to the principles of power-sharing and cross community protection** contained in the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement.
16. This agreement creates new bodies, including a **Party Leaders' Forum** and **Executive Sub-Committee on Brexit** to improve collaboration and partnership and improve the sustainability of the institutions. It makes arrangements to **strengthen the ability of the parties in Opposition to hold the Executive to account**, including proposals to extend the period of time in which parties can form an Opposition.
17. The parties also agree to introduce reformed measures to **put civic engagement and public consultation at the heart of policy-making**, recognising the vital role that wider society plays in supporting effective and accountable Government.
18. If a period of political tension arises in future which risks a breakdown of the institutions the agreement provides for a longer **24-week period before an Assembly election must be called**. During this period **Ministers will remain in office in a care-taker capacity** to allow for greater continuity of decision-making. Ministers will be required to act within well-defined limits, including as set out in the Ministerial Code and in accordance with the requirement for an Executive Committee to consider any decisions that are significant and controversial or

cross-cutting, and, as appropriate, the restrictions that are in place during a pre-election period. **Assembly Committees will also continue to function** and discharge their important duties.

### *Programme for Government*

19. The parties have agreed the need for a **shared and ambitious strategic vision** for the future, with the aim of **improving lives across Northern Ireland**. That approach must be reflected in an outcomes-based Programme for Government, building on the outcomes from the previous Programme for Government. It must also be a **sustainable basis** upon which the parties in the Executive can **work in partnership**.
20. The parties reaffirm their commitment to the **Declaration of Support contained in the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement and successor agreements**. In doing so, they recognise that the Programme for Government must provide a sustainable basis for the Executive to work together in partnership to serve and deliver for all on the basis of demonstrable and objectively measured need. Reconciliation will be central to the Executive's approach, and there will be a focus on building a united community in a way that has equality and mutual respect to the fore.
21. In addition, the parties agree that the principles and practice of citizen and community engagement and co-design will be a key part of the development and delivery of the Programme for Government and its supporting strategies.
22. The parties have agreed a two-stage approach to establishing a strategic level Programme for Government comprising the **framework of 12 outcomes of societal wellbeing** from the Northern Ireland Civil Service Outcomes Delivery Plan and a **Priorities Plan** consisting of actions for delivery during the remainder of 2019/20.
23. By April 2020, informed by a detailed stakeholder engagement process, the Executive will publish a **new strategic level outcomes-based Programme for Government** aligned to a multi-year budget with a sustained approach to public finances and prioritised investment in infrastructure and public services. The new Programme will be aimed at delivering lasting changes and improvements in key priority areas and will include measures aimed at: removing paramilitarism, ending sectarianism, transforming health and social care, reforming education, ensuring households have access to good quality, affordable and sustainable homes, addressing climate change, creating good jobs and protecting workers' rights.
24. In moving to a better, more prosperous and shared future the parties recognise the need to **address the legacy of the past**. To that end, the parties are committed to

working together and to doing everything possible to heal wounds and eliminate the issues that divide us.

*Rights, language and identity*

25. The parties affirm the need to **respect the freedom of all persons in Northern Ireland to choose, affirm, maintain and develop their national and cultural identity** and to celebrate and express that identity in a manner which takes into account the sensitivities of those with different national or cultural identities and respects the rule of law. They also affirm the need to **encourage and promote reconciliation, tolerance and meaningful dialogue** between those of different national and cultural identities in Northern Ireland with a view to promoting **parity of esteem, mutual respect, understanding and cooperation**. These principles will be reflected in legislation.
26. The First Minister and deputy First Minister, supported by Junior Ministers in The Executive Office, will sponsor and oversee a new framework both recognising and celebrating Northern Ireland's diversity of identities and culture, and accommodating cultural difference.
27. The framework will be underpinned by an affirmation of the birthright of all the people of Northern Ireland to identify themselves and be accepted as Irish or British, or both, as they may so choose, while acknowledging and accommodating those within our community who define themselves as 'other' and those who form our ethnic and newcomer communities. It will comprise:
  - a. An Office of Identity and Cultural Expression to promote cultural pluralism and respect for diversity, build social cohesion and reconciliation and to celebrate and support all aspects of Northern Ireland's rich cultural and linguistic heritage.
  - b. Legislation to create a Commissioner to recognise, support, protect and enhance the development of the Irish language in Northern Ireland and to provide official recognition of the status of the Irish Language in Northern Ireland. The legislation will also repeal the Administration of Justice (Language) Act (Ireland) 1737.
  - c. Legislation to create a further such Commissioner to enhance and develop the language, arts and literature associated with the Ulster Scots / Ulster British tradition and to provide official recognition of the status of the Ulster Scots language in Northern Ireland. The legislation will also place a legal

duty on the Department of Education to encourage and facilitate the use of Ulster Scots in the education system.

- d. The main function of the Irish Language Commissioner will be to protect and enhance the development of the use of the Irish language by public authorities including by providing advice and guidance, and introducing, supporting and monitoring the use of best practice language standards.
  - e. The main function of the further such Commissioner will be to enhance and develop the language, arts and literature associated with the Ulster Scots/ Ulster British tradition in Northern Ireland.
  - f. A central Translation Hub will also be established in the Department of Finance within three months of an agreement, in order to provide language translation services for the 9 Executive Departments, Arm's Length Bodies, Local Government and Public Bodies.
  - g. The Assembly's Standing Orders will also be amended to allow any person to conduct their business before the Assembly or an Assembly Committee through Irish or Ulster Scots. A simultaneous translation system will be made available in the Assembly to ensure that a person without Irish or Ulster Scots is not placed at a disadvantage.
  - h. This legislation - including establishing the Office and both Commissioners - will be established as new dedicated parts of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. This is the legislation which implements the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement and subsequent agreements and establishes the Assembly and Executive in law. The enactment of these new Parts of the Northern Ireland Act will reflect the importance of these issues to people and society in Northern Ireland.
  - i. The Office of Identity will provide funding streams and schemes, including publishing and broadcasting, small grants, events and tourism, exhibition and museum curation, built heritage, cultural education and tourism projects.
28. An Ad-Hoc Assembly Committee will be established to consider the creation of a Bill of Rights that is faithful to the stated intention of the 1998 Agreement in that it contains rights supplementary to those contained in the European Convention on Human Rights (which are currently applicable) and "that reflect the particular circumstances of Northern Ireland"; as well as reflecting the principles of mutual respect for the identity and ethos of both communities and parity of esteem.
29. The full details of the agreement in respect of rights, language and identity are set out in **Annex E**.

## 1. **Annex A: Transparency, accountability and the functioning of the Executive**

1.1. The parties have agreed the following measures. The Executive will, as a matter of urgency, produce strengthened drafts of the relevant codes to be implemented immediately.

- 1.1.1. Making clear the accountability of Ministers to the Assembly and the need for statutory committees to be provided with the information they require to allow them to discharge their role.
- 1.1.2. Strengthening the requirements for the declaration and handling of interests by Ministers with full declaration of interests on appointment to be regularly updated and for relevant interests to be published.
- 1.1.3. Ministers to be responsible for the management, conduct and discipline of their special advisers (to also be included in the Special Adviser Code of Conduct).
- 1.1.4. Enforcement of the Ministerial Code (and other codes) is key to making the Executive more accountable and transparent (options for a process to achieve this is the subject of a separate paper).
- 1.1.5. Make clear the need for the recording of ministerial meetings (to also be included in the Civil Service Code), the attendance of officials at ministerial meetings, and the prompt declaration to the Department of any substantive discussions with external organisations relating to departmental business at which no officials were present.
- 1.1.6. Publish details of meetings with external organisations (and also gifts and hospitality received).
- 1.1.7. Special Adviser Code to include an overarching introduction making clear the critical role special advisers have in supporting Ministers and that they are an important part of the team working closely alongside civil servants to deliver Ministers' priorities.
- 1.1.8. Making clear that Ministers are responsible for the management, conduct and discipline of their special advisers (and that this requirement will be incorporated in the Ministerial Code).

- 1.1.9. Incorporating any changes agreed to the Civil Service Code in the Special Adviser Code.
- 1.1.10. Publishing details of gifts and hospitality received by special advisers, meetings with external organisations, and pay.
- 1.1.11. Include the requirement that while individual civil servants are accountable to their department's Minister, the civil service also has a wider obligation to the Executive as a whole.
- 1.1.12. Include an explicit requirement to maintain accurate records, and that information should be handled as openly and transparently as possible within the legal framework.
- 1.1.13. Make clear that within the civil service there is zero tolerance of harassment, bullying or inappropriate or discriminatory behaviour and that action should be taken to ensure there is a culture where people can speak up about unacceptable behaviour.
- 1.1.14. Strengthening the rules and awareness around whistleblowing / speaking up so that proper consideration is given to both internal and external complaints.
- 1.2. In addition, the parties agree that Ministers are obliged to abide by the provisions of Guidance to Ministers on the Exercise of their Functions and Conduct of Executive Business.
- 1.3. Anyone may make a complaint regarding alleged breaches of ministerial standards or the Ministerial Code. Complaints will only be considered if the complainant provides their name, contact details and sufficient details of the alleged breach to be able to give it full consideration.
- 1.4. Complaints that a Minister has breached the Ministerial Code of Conduct, Guidance to Ministers on the Exercise of their Functions or Conduct of Executive Business will be referred to the Commissioners for Ministerial Standards.
- 1.5. The Commissioners will decide whether a complaint has sufficient merit to be considered, and will decline to investigate a complaint that is frivolous, vexatious, or made in bad faith.



- 1.6. The Commissioners will number three in addition to the Assembly Commissioner for Standards, and will be appointed by the First Minister and deputy First Minister.
- 1.7. The Commissioners may ask for the facts from the Secretary to the Executive to inform their decision as to whether to investigate a complaint.
- 1.8. The Commissioners' decision to investigate or not to investigate, and the grounds for their decision, will be published. There will be strict, published, timeframes to adhere to for each stage of the process.
- 1.9. When the Commissioners investigate a complaint, they will publish the findings of their investigation. Their findings will include whether or not the Minister has been found to have breached the terms of the Code or Guidance, and the relative seriousness of the breach. The findings will not include any recommendation regarding sanctions. This will ultimately be a matter for the relevant Party/Assembly process.
- 1.10. The published report of the Commissioners may provide the grounds upon which others may initiate their own sanctions, including those under s.30 of the NI Act 1998 by which the Assembly can suspend a Minister on the passing of a motion of no confidence supported by 30 MLAs or moved by the First Minister and deputy First Minister acting jointly. The published report may also be taken into consideration by the nominating officer of the Minister's party.
- 1.11. All Ministers and civil servants, including special advisers, will cooperate fully with any investigation by the Commissioners for Ministerial Standards.
- 1.12. The Assembly Committee on Standards and Privileges will be enhanced by the appointment of 3 independent lay members with voting rights.
- 1.13. The Executive will as a matter of priority take forward reviews of civil service reform, including procurement and appointment processes, public appointments and arm's length bodies.

## 2. **Annex B: Petition of Concern**

- 2.1. The parties have agreed that the use of the Petition of Concern should be reduced, and returned to its intended purpose. Alongside agreeing the specific changes below, the parties commit to tabling or supporting Petitions of Concern only in the most exceptional circumstances and as a last resort, having used every other available mechanism. In particular, the First Minister and deputy First Minister will commit not to sign a Petition of Concern in this Assembly mandate.
- 2.2. In addition, the parties agree to the following changes, which will be given effect in Standing Orders or legislation, as appropriate, at the earliest opportunity:
  - 2.2.1. A Petition must be accompanied by a statement of the grounds and rationale upon which it is being tabled and be signed in person at the Bills Office.
  - 2.2.2. The Speaker and the three Deputy Speakers shall not sign a Petition.
  - 2.2.3. The threshold for a Petition of Concern will remain at 30 MLAs, but a Petition can only be triggered by members from two or more parties. For this purpose, an independent Member is to be treated as a party if that Member was elected on an independent platform.
  - 2.2.4. The Petition of Concern will not be available for standards motions under Standing Order 69B, or motions and questions which have no express legal or procedural effect.
  - 2.2.5. In respect of both Executive and Private Members' Bills, the Petition of Concern will apply only after Second Stage.
  - 2.2.6. Ministers and Junior Ministers should not be excluded from signing a Petition, but the parties note that for a Minister or Junior Minister to sign a Petition in respect of a matter that is in accordance with a decision of the Executive would be a breach of the Pledge of Office paragraph (f).
  - 2.2.7. A valid Petition of Concern shall trigger a 14-day period of consideration, including on any reports on whether a measure or proposal for legislation is in conformity with equality requirements, including the ECHR/ Bill of Rights and any advice following on from Assembly Standing Order 30(6) and 85(4). After this consideration, if

30 MLAs confirm support for the Petition of Concern, the Assembly can determine the matter in accordance with the cross community consent procedure.

- 2.3. The provisions of section 13(3) of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 and of Order 60 of Assembly Standing Orders relating to the referral of Bills to the Ad Hoc Committee on Conformity with Equality Requirements should continue to apply.

### 3. **Annex C: Sustainability of the Institutions**

- 3.1. The parties have reaffirmed their commitment to the principles of power-sharing and cross community protection contained in the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement.

#### *Executive Business*

- 3.2. The parties have agreed to return to the institutions on the basis of good faith, mutual respect and trust - underpinned by strong working relationships. The Parties have agreed that effective measures are needed to improve the sustainability of the institutions, to increase public confidence and increase the resilience of the institutions so that they can better withstand political difficulties, challenges and disagreements.
- 3.3. The parties have agreed to adopt a new and strengthened Conduct of Executive Business document. Consistent with the principles and procedures included in the transparency section of this Agreement, breaches of the document will be effectively and proportionately enforced.

#### *Party Leaders' Forum*

- 3.4. A Party Leaders' forum will be established. The forum will be attended by the leaders, or their 'permanent' nominated representative, of the political parties in the Executive. To ensure reasonable continuity of membership, parties will also nominate 'a deputy representative' who will attend when the 'permanent' representative is unable to attend. The forum will meet, as a minimum, once a month. It will be an informal forum that has no Executive decision-making authority. The forum will operate as a safe space for party leaders to discuss ongoing issues and provide early warning of any issues which might cause future political tension and disagreements. The value of the forum will be reviewed by forum members after 6 months.

#### *Brexit*

- 3.5. As a minimum, the Executive will establish a Brexit sub-committee. The sub-committee will be chaired by the First Minister and deputy First Minister (or their nominated Ministerial representatives). The sub-committee will have at least one representative from each party on the Executive. As a matter of urgency the sub-committee will consider Brexit-related issues and will initiate, as soon as is practicable, an assessment of the impact of Brexit on the

institutions and North/South and East/West relationships. The work of the sub-committee should be scrutinised by an Assembly Committee.

### *Opposition*

- 3.6. The Parties have agreed to amend the Assembly Executive and Reform (Assembly Opposition) Act (NI) to provide that a party can enter the Official Opposition under the Act up to two years following the formation of the Executive. The parties have agreed that standing orders should be made to give effect to this within 3 months of the Assembly being reformed.
- 3.7. The parties recognise that additional funding should be made available to parties who form the Opposition. In the context of the agreed programme of measures to enhance the sustainability of the institutions, the relevant Assembly authorities should also commission a review of the adequacy and effectiveness of the Statement of Entitlements for an Official Opposition as set out in the Fresh Start Agreement. An appropriate independent person should be appointed to conduct such a review, and the review should have regard to relevant comparators. This review should be submitted to the relevant Assembly authorities within 6 months of the first meeting of the Assembly. If further resources are deemed appropriate the Assembly Commission should seek additional resources. The review should recommend increased allowances for Opposition parties and should explore the creation of additional funding for the Offices of the Leaders of Opposition parties.

### *Structured Civic Engagement*

- 3.8. The parties recognise the value of structured and flexible engagement with civic society to assist the Government to solve complex policy issues. The Parties have agreed that the existing Compact Civic Advisory Panel should be reformed to include a renewed membership appointed within 6 months by way of a Public Appointments process.
- 3.9. The Parties have agreed that about 1-2 issues will be commissioned per year for civic engagement. The Panel will be invited to propose the most appropriate model of engagement for specific issues, including one Citizens' Assembly a year. The issues will be identified by the Executive. Following consideration of the assigned issues recommendations will be made to the Executive by the Panel.

*Appointment of FM/dFM & Providing continuity of decision making*

- 3.10. The UK Government shall legislate to amend the Northern Ireland Act 1998 to extend the time for the appointment of a First Minister and a deputy First Minister after the resignation of a First Minister or deputy First Minister or after the first meeting of the Assembly following an Assembly election from 7 and 14 days respectively to 6 weeks in each case.
- 3.11. If no First Minister / deputy First Minister appointment has been made within 6 weeks of a resignation of First Minister / deputy First Minister or by the first meeting of the Assembly after an election, and the Assembly has not passed a resolution to dissolve itself under section 32 of the Northern Ireland Act, the parties will have a maximum further 18 weeks to appoint a First Minister / deputy First Minister. During this period the parties will continue to make concerted and determined efforts to agree on the appointment of a First Minister and deputy First Minister and form an Executive. To facilitate this, the Assembly shall meet regularly and at least every six weeks to consider progress. At any time, and in accordance with existing procedures, the Assembly could consider a motion to dissolve itself and call on the Secretary of State to propose a date for an election. However, if no appointment is made by the end of this period then the Secretary of State shall be under a duty to propose a date for an Assembly election as soon as is practicable and in any event for a date which is no later than 12 weeks of the duty arising.
- 3.12. Provision will also be made for Northern Ireland Executive Ministers to remain in office beyond the day of the poll to allow for greater continuity of decision making, until such a time as d'Hondt is run for all Ministerial offices or for a maximum period of 24 weeks beyond the day of the poll, or a maximum of 48 weeks since there has been a functioning Executive in place, whichever is the shorter.
- 3.13. Ministers remaining in office will be required to act at all times within well-defined limits. This is to include the requirement to act in accordance with the Ministerial Code and the requirement for an Executive Committee to consider any decisions that are significant and controversial or cross-cutting and, as appropriate, the restrictions that are in place during a pre-election period. In the absence of a functioning Executive Committee, Ministers will consequently not be able to take decisions which are significant or controversial.

- 3.14. In the case of a First Minister/deputy First Minister resignation, the Assembly and its Committees will continue to exercise their responsibilities until the Assembly is dissolved.
- 3.15. These changes will be given legislative effect consistent with the shared commitment to the principles of power-sharing and cross-community protection contained in the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement and ensuring there is sufficient representation to command cross-community confidence in the Assembly.

#### 4. **Annex D: Programme for Government**

*The following text, alongside its two annexes, represents a possible outline of a Programme for Government. The parties agree to publish, within two weeks of the restoration of the institutions, the fuller details of an agreed Programme for Government. The parties recognise that the final Programme for Government will need to be agreed by the parties who form the Executive.*

- 4.1. The parties have agreed an approach to the Programme for Government that will set a **shared and ambitious strategic vision** for the future with the aim of improving wellbeing for all – by **tackling disadvantage** and **driving economic growth** on the basis of objective need.
- 4.2. The parties' agreed approach is to build on the outcomes in the previous Programme for Government, adding a new focus on the priorities of: **housing; education; childcare; infrastructure and services, climate change; ending sectarianism; and tackling paramilitarism.**
- 4.3. The parties reaffirm their commitment to the **Declaration of Support contained in the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement and successor agreements.** In doing so, they recognise that the Programme for Government must provide a sustainable basis for the Executive to work together in partnership to serve and deliver for all on the basis of demonstrable and objectively measured need. Reconciliation will be central to the Executive's approach, and there will be a focus on building a united community in a way that has equality and mutual respect to the fore.
- 4.4. The parties acknowledge the importance of **promoting and protecting the rights and identity of individuals** and are agreed that the Executive should seek to build a society that reflects the best international standards of human rights. The parties acknowledge the importance of the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission, whose remit is to ensure that government and other public bodies protect the human rights of everyone and help people understand what their rights are and what they can do if they are infringed.
- 4.5. In addition, the parties agree that the principles and practice of **citizen and community engagement and co-design** will be a key part of the development and delivery of the Programme for Government and its supporting strategies. This will empower citizens to secure their own rights



and wellbeing. This will complement – not replace – the right of citizens to challenge through the courts any denial of their lawful rights.

4.6. The Programme for Government will reflect the following principles.

4.6.1. The outcomes-based approach remains the best way to secure sustained improvement in wellbeing and economic growth.

4.6.2. The Programme for Government could be underpinned by key supporting strategies, including the following:

4.6.2.1. Anti-poverty strategy;

4.6.2.2. Economic/Industrial Strategy;

4.6.2.3. Investment Strategy;

4.6.2.4. Energy Strategy;

4.6.2.5. Racial Equality Strategy;

4.6.2.6. Disability Strategy;

4.6.2.7. Gender Strategy;

4.6.2.8. Sexual Orientation Strategy;

4.6.2.9. Active Ageing Strategy;

4.6.2.10. Children and Young People's Strategy;

4.6.2.11. Childcare Strategy;

4.6.2.12. Child Poverty Strategy;

4.6.2.13. Irish Language Strategy; and,

4.6.2.14. Ulster Scots Strategy.

4.6.3. This list is not exhaustive. The parties agree that, within 3 months, a new Executive will publish a comprehensive timetable for the development and delivery of these and other strategies necessary to achieve the outcomes in the Programme for Government.

4.6.4. Investment will be delivered at regional and sub-regional level on the basis of objective need in order to drive inclusive growth.

- 4.6.5. The Programme for Government must be underpinned by a multi-year budget, with a sustainable approach to public finances and prioritised investment in infrastructure and public services. There must be greater transparency, giving people clear information on what will be delivered with taxpayers' and ratepayers' money, and, where the Executive is seeking to raise additional revenue, it must be made clear what service improvements and investments will be funded with the additional money.
- 4.6.6. The parties acknowledge that a significant challenge arises in seeking to tackle the financial burden associated with delivering public services in a divided society. They are agreed that, in developing new policies and, over time, in reviewing existing ones, it will be important that the Executive takes steps to eliminate all such costs. The parties also acknowledge that a significant challenge arises in the delivery of public services with the resource element of the Block grant having been reduced in real terms over the last 10 years.
- 4.6.7. Short-term budgeting will end. Investment will be based on objective need, maximising impact, delivery of best value for money (encompassing all costs and benefits) and affordability, with priority given to the transformation of key services in health, education, housing, and justice.
- 4.6.8. An immediate and significant challenge facing the Executive is in relation to dealing with the impact of Brexit. In recognising the potential for widespread and significant implications across all aspects of social and economic life, the parties are agreed that the first priority for the Executive must be to ensure the best possible outcome for citizens and the economy, reflecting the priorities set out in the letter of August 2016 from the First Minister and deputy First Minister to the Prime Minister.
- 4.6.9. Existing programmes and priorities will be continuously evaluated to identify their impact on outcomes. Those which are no longer relevant or which are not delivering the desired results will be amended or stopped.

- 4.6.10. Engagement with civic society and the principles of co-design and co-production must underpin the development of the Programme for Government, budget and strategies<sup>1</sup>.
- 4.6.11. The parties agree that an Assembly Committee should be established to monitor progress against each of the Programme for Government outcomes and to consider potential measures for achieving improvement. A dedicated Programme for Government monitoring and reporting website will be developed which will allow for full and transparent public reporting.
- 4.6.12. Within its first month of operation, the Executive will publish a legislative programme and indicative timescales which will complement the Programme for Government.
- 4.7. The parties acknowledge that it will take time to address economic and societal challenges that have been present for decades, and they recognise the need to focus on long-term interventions that can bring about real change. In the absence of a functioning Executive, there has been a loss of momentum in public policy which will require a determined effort over many years to raise standards of public service to the levels that will be needed to support the parties' vision of societal wellbeing.
- 4.8. Against that background, the parties have agreed a parallel approach to the Programme for Government that will allow a cross-party Executive to quickly put in place actions to tackle immediate priority issues in a Year 1 work programme while at the same time beginning development of a strategic level programme of the type and scale needed to deliver lasting changes and improvements at a societal level.
- 4.9. The parties have agreed that the outcomes framework from the Outcomes Delivery Plan 2018/19 provides the only realistic basis for the initial (Year 1) Programme, but they also agree that work needs to begin immediately to develop a strategic Programme for 2020 and beyond.
- 4.10. The Year 1 Programme for Government will include the actions and programmes contained in Appendix 1 and will be agreed at the first meeting of the Executive and brought forward for Assembly consideration before the summer recess.
- 4.11. The parties have also identified the longer-term priorities contained in Appendix 2 as essential components for the future strategic level

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<sup>1</sup> As set out in paragraphs 3.8 and 3.9.

Programme. The new Programme and its key supporting strategies (Anti-poverty strategy, Industrial/Economic strategy and Investment strategy) will be underpinned by a budget and be ready for Executive sign-off and endorsement by the end of March 2020.

## 5. **Annex E: Rights, language and identity**

- 5.1. The First Minister and deputy First Minister, supported by Junior Ministers in The Executive Office, will sponsor and oversee a new framework both recognising and celebrating Northern Ireland's diversity of identities and culture and accommodating cultural difference. This framework will be underpinned by the birthright of all the people of Northern Ireland to identify themselves and be accepted as Irish or British, or both, as they may so choose, while fully acknowledging and accommodating those within our community who define themselves as 'other', and those from our ethnic communities and newcomer communities.
- 5.2. The guiding principles of this framework will be set out in legislation, and public authorities must in exercising their functions have due regard to the principles, namely:
  - 5.2.1. the need to respect the freedom of all persons in Northern Ireland to choose, affirm, maintain and develop their national and cultural identity and to celebrate and express that identity in a manner which takes into account the sensitivities of those with different national or cultural identities and respects the rule of law;
  - 5.2.2. the need to encourage and promote reconciliation, tolerance and meaningful dialogue between those of different national and cultural identities in Northern Ireland with a view to promoting parity of esteem, mutual respect, understanding and cooperation. **The Office of Identity and Cultural Expression** (the 'Office') provides the central point for giving effect to these principles and promoting this framework.
- 5.3. The strategic aims of the Office will be:
  - 5.3.1. to promote cultural pluralism and respect for diversity, including Northern Ireland's ethnic, national, linguistic and faith communities;
  - 5.3.2. build social cohesion and reconciliation so that everyone has a sense of belonging;
  - 5.3.3. build capacity and resilience on how we address our unresolved cultural identity issues; and

- 5.3.4. celebrate and support all aspects of Northern Ireland's rich cultural and linguistic heritage, recognising the equal validity and importance of all identities and traditions.
- 5.4. The Office will be established as a statutory body, to which the First Minister and deputy First Minister, acting jointly, will appoint a Director.
- 5.5. In giving effect to the guiding principles the Office will undertake the following functions:
  - 5.5.1. provide guidance to public authorities;
  - 5.5.2. monitor compliance with the duty to have due regard to the principles;
  - 5.5.3. report to the Assembly on compliance;
  - 5.5.4. promote examples of best practice;
  - 5.5.5. commission and publish research and reports in respect of cultural traditions and identities;
  - 5.5.6. in response to requests from either Commissioner, on issues of a challenging nature, undertake independent research, reach balanced findings and make recommendations on matters of concern;
  - 5.5.7. promote public awareness and educational programmes, including guidance on how the rights of a child to learn about their identity and heritage, as well as those of other traditions, will be incorporated into the education sector;
  - 5.5.8. periodically audit public authorities on how they have respected and accommodated the cultural expression of minorities within their area of responsibility;
  - 5.5.9. provide grant aid (capital and revenue) to projects and programmes consistent with its aims set out in paragraph 5.3. The Office will have funding streams and schemes including publishing and broadcasting, small grants, events and tourism, exhibition and museum curation, built heritage, cultural education and tourism projects;
  - 5.5.10. develop close working relationships with the Commission on Flags, Identity, Culture and Tradition (FICT); the Community Relations Council; the work on Together: Building a United Community (T:BUC); the community and voluntary sector; the Department for Communities;

and other stakeholders involved in promoting cultural pluralism and respect for diversity; and

- 5.5.11. provide corporate support/shared services (IT, finance, HR, legal etc.) to both Commissioners (see below).
- 5.6. An Irish Language Commissioner will be appointed to protect and enhance the development of the use of the Irish language by public authorities, including by providing advice and guidance, and introducing, supporting and monitoring the use of best practice language standards.
- 5.7. The Commissioner will be appointed by the First Minister and deputy First Minister as a key element of providing, under statute, official recognition of the status of the Irish language in Northern Ireland.
- 5.8. The main function of the Commissioner will be to protect and enhance the development of the Irish language. The Commissioner will:
  - 5.8.1. prepare, in accordance with guidance from Ministers, best practice standards for the use of the Irish language by public authorities - these standards are to be agreed by the First Minister and deputy First Minister;
  - 5.8.2. provide support to public authorities in connection with those standards;
  - 5.8.3. monitor the performance of public authorities in meeting those standards; and
  - 5.8.4. investigate complaints where a public authority has failed to have due regard to those standards.
- 5.9. The legislation will stipulate that the Commissioner will, prior to introduction, consult on the development of a number of categories and standards. Each public body will be assessed and placed in one of the categories on the basis of set criteria such as the level of interaction with the public, number of employees and established need. There will be a 'sliding scale' of standards within categories dependent on the criteria. The Commissioner will engage with each public body to agree how it can fulfil its requirement under the standards; and each public body will develop an implementation plan.

- 5.10. With specific reference to paragraph 5.8.1 above, guidance issued by Ministers should emphasise the importance of the Commissioner producing best practice standards that:
  - 5.10.1. reflect the guiding principles of the framework as set out in legislation, and serve to promote mutual respect, good relations, understanding and reconciliation;
  - 5.10.2. take account of consultation with public authorities; and
  - 5.10.3. place requirements on public authorities that are reasonable, proportionate and practical.
- 5.11. The guidance will ask the Commissioner, as a first priority, to focus on developing best practice standards that facilitate interaction between Irish language users and public bodies, including but not limited to making information or forms available in Irish where required, enabling widely used public websites to have an Irish Language translation available, and ensuring that public bodies reply in Irish where practical to correspondence in Irish. Public bodies will each continue to make their own decisions on other matters to do with the Irish language.
- 5.12. Best practice standards recommended by the Commissioner, and all subsequent changes to those standards, are to be put for approval to the First Minister and deputy First Minister.
- 5.13. The legislation in respect of Irish language will also include the repeal of the Administration of Justice (Language) Act (Ireland) 1737 and make any necessary statutory provision for births, marriages and deaths to be registrable through Irish, and for wills to be validly made in Irish, as an option and matter for individual choice. Irish and other languages will be facilitated when deemed necessary by the courts. Nothing in the legislation will affect the status of the English Language.
- 5.14. A further such commissioner will be appointed by the First Minister and deputy First Minister to enhance and develop the language, arts and literature associated with the Ulster Scots / Ulster British tradition in Northern Ireland.
- 5.15. The Commissioner's remit will include the areas of education, research, media, cultural activities and facilities and tourism initiatives.
- 5.16. The functions of the Commissioner will be to –



- 5.16.1. increase awareness and visibility of relevant services which are provided by public authorities in Northern Ireland;
  - 5.16.2. provide advice and guidance to public authorities, including where relevant on the effect and implementation, so far as affecting Ulster Scots, of commitments under the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages, the European Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities, and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child; and;
  - 5.16.3. investigate complaints where a public authority fails to have due regard to such advice provided by the Commissioner in respect of facilitating the use of Ulster Scots.
- 5.17. With specific reference to 5.16 above, the functions of the Commissioner should be exercised in a way that:
- 5.17.1. reflects the guiding principles of the framework as set out in legislation, and serve to promote mutual respect, good relations, understanding and reconciliation;
  - 5.17.2. takes account of consultation with public authorities;
  - 5.17.3. are reasonable, proportionate and practical.
- 5.18. Both Commissioners will, in discharging their functions, act independently and consistently with the principles set out in paragraph 5.2 above.
- 5.19. The legislation will also include a duty on the Department of Education to encourage and facilitate the use and understanding of Ulster Scots in the education system.
- 5.20. In fulfilling their roles, both Commissioners will work in close cooperation with the Boord o Ulstèr-Scotch, and with Foras na Gaeilge with a view to ensuring complementarity.
- 5.21. Furthermore, provisions for both Irish language and Ulster Scots will be made for the following:
- 5.21.1. a central Translation Hub will be established in the Department of Finance within three months of an agreement, in order to provide language translation services for the 9 Executive Departments, Arm's Length Bodies, Local Government and Public Bodies.

- 5.21.2. the Assembly's Standing Orders will be amended to allow any person to conduct their business before the Assembly or an Assembly Committee through Irish or Ulster Scots. A simultaneous translation system will be made available in the Assembly to ensure that a person without Irish or Ulster Scots is not placed at a disadvantage.
- 5.21.3. under Section 28D of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 the re-established Executive will produce a draft Irish Language Strategy and a draft Ulster Scots Language, Heritage and Culture Strategy for consultations within 6 months. This will include programmes and schemes which will assist in the development of the Irish language and the Ulster Scots language, culture and heritage.
- 5.21.4. however, nothing in legislation or in the functions of the Commissioners shall require any quotas in employment for speakers of any particular language.

#### *Processing Legislation*

- 5.22. The parties have agreed to legislate in respect of the core elements of the framework outlined above.
- 5.23. The Northern Ireland Act 1998 – as the core legislative vehicle which implements the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement and subsequent agreements – will be amended by the introduction and enactment of three Bills. Draft Bills will be officially published on the day of the formation of the Executive and presented to the Assembly for consideration within 3 months of the restoration of the institutions, as part of an integrated package of legislation that will pass through the legislative process simultaneously. The three Bills will make provision as follows:
  - **Northern Ireland Act 1998 (Amendment No 1) Bill**  
To make provisions to establish the Office of Identity and Cultural Expression.
  - **Northern Ireland Act 1998 (Amendment No 2) Bill**  
To make provisions for the Irish Language.
  - **Northern Ireland Act 1998 (Amendment No 3) Bill**  
To make provisions to establish a Commissioner to enhance and develop the language, arts and literature associated with the Ulster Scots / Ulster British tradition in Northern Ireland.

- 5.24. The three Bills will share a common framework through linked references in each Bill to the principles set out in paragraph 5.2 above. It is intended that the Bills will be introduced as part of an integrated package of legislation, and accordingly no Bill should be regarded as independent from the other two.
- 5.25. Once enacted by the Assembly, the three Bills will amend the Northern Ireland Act 1998 by inserting the provisions as new, separate Parts. The Irish language provisions will form a new [Part X] of the Northern Ireland Act 1998. The provisions dealing with the second Commissioner will be inserted as [Part Y]; and provisions dealing with the Office for Identity and Cultural Expression as [Part Z].

### *Bill of Rights*

- 5.26. An Ad-Hoc Assembly Committee will be established to consider the creation of a Bill of Rights that is faithful to the stated intention of the 1998 Agreement in that it contains rights supplementary to those contained in the European Convention on Human Rights, which are currently applicable and “that reflect the particular circumstances of Northern Ireland”; as well as reflecting the principles of mutual respect for the identity and ethos of both communities and parity of esteem.
- 5.27. The Ad-Hoc Committee will be assisted in its work by a Panel of five experts appointed jointly by the First Minister and deputy First Minister.
- 5.28. The Panel should initially seek to advise the Ad-Hoc Committee on what constitutes our “particular circumstances” drawing upon, but not bound by, previous work on a Bill of Rights and should review and make recommendations on how the UK’s withdrawal from the EU may impact on our “particular circumstances”.
- 5.29. The terms of reference and timetable of the Committee will be agreed within 30 working days of the restoration of devolution. The establishment of cross party and cross community support will be critical to advancing a Bill of Rights.

### *Sign Language*

- 5.30. A draft framework and policy proposals for legislation on sign language have been consulted on by the Department for Communities. The Parties agree to the process of drafting clauses commencing with a view to introducing a Bill to the Assembly at the early stage.

## **Annex F: Agreement Review and Monitoring**

- 6.1. The parties are very conscious that the integrity and credibility of this Agreement is dependent on its effective and expeditious implementation. Accordingly, progress in implementing the provisions of this Agreement must be actively reviewed and monitored alongside or in coordination with arrangements to monitor the implementation of previous Agreements
- 6.2. There will be a need for Implementation Review Meetings which will include the Northern Ireland Executive's party leaders. There will be quarterly meetings, with the first meeting held before the end of January 2020 at which an Implementation Programme and Timetable will be agreed. The UK Government and the Irish Government will be involved as appropriate in accordance with the three stranded approach.
- 6.3. Quarterly updates on progress on the implementation of the Agreement will be published.

## Appendix 1 - Programme for Government

*This annex supports the possible outline of a Programme for Government set out above. The parties agree to publish, within two weeks of the restoration of the institutions, the fuller details of an agreed Programme for Government. The parties recognise that the final Programme for Government will need to be agreed by the parties who form the Executive.*

### Programme for Government 2019/20 – Priority Actions

1. The focus of the 2019/20 Programme will be on actions and decisions capable of achieving impact in key priority areas. These will include:

#### **Housing**

- i. The Programme for Government outcomes framework will be augmented with a new outcome and indicators to provide specific focus on ensuring every household has access to a good quality, affordable and sustainable home that is appropriate for its needs.
- ii. There will be enhanced investment in new social home starts and the Executive will bring forward legislation which is urgently needed to reclassify Housing Associations as external to the public sector to ensure the continuation of new social house building and the Co-ownership Housing Scheme.
- iii. The Executive will examine options to remove historical debt from the NIHE and exclude it from having to pay Corporation Tax.
- iv. The Executive will agree a long term trajectory for the rental charges of the NIHE. This must be sufficient to support the long term future of the NIHE's social housing stock for future generations of tenants. This must also always provide demonstrably affordable rents to tenants.
- v. Measures will also be introduced including, where necessary, legislation to provide for controls to ensure affordability.

#### **Education**

- vi. A suite of actions that will begin to address resourcing pressures in the education system and deliver quick results in terms of improved efficiency and effectiveness.

- vii. Deliver an enhanced approach to careers advice, curriculum, training and apprenticeships to enhance employability.
- viii. Enhanced strategic focus and supporting actions on educating our children and young people together in the classroom, in order to build a shared and integrated society.
- ix. Establish an expert group to examine the links between persistent educational underachievement and socio-economic background and draw up an action plan for change that will ensure all children and young people, regardless of background, are given the best start in life.
- x. The issues highlighted in the NIAO review of Special Educational Need will be addressed as a priority.

### ***Childcare***

- xi. The Executive will publish a Childcare Strategy and will give immediate priority to developing arrangements to deliver extended, affordable, responsive, high quality provision of early education and care initiatives for families with children aged 3-4.

### ***Investment***

- xii. The Executive will bring forward proposals for the development and expansion of the UU campus at Magee College, including the necessary increase in maximum student numbers to realise the 10,000 student campus target and a Graduate Entry Medical School.
- xiii. Support for City Deal packages for Derry & Strabane and Belfast and the bid being developed by Mid-Ulster; Armagh City; Banbridge and Craigavon; and, Fermanagh and Omagh Councils.
- xiv. Plan to complete both the Regional and Sub Regional Sports Stadia Programmes.

### ***Tackling paramilitarism***

- xv. A targeted and specific focus across government to tackle paramilitarism.

### ***Fair and sustainable welfare reform***

- xvi. A review of welfare mitigation measures will be taken forward as a priority, with any agreed measures in place before March 2020.

### ***Leaner government***

- xvii. Define terms of reference and initiate an efficiency and effectiveness review of all Arm's Length Bodies with the aim of concluding the review and agreeing timescales for implementation within 6 months of the Executive being restored.

### ***Sustainable public finances***

- xviii. Establishment of the Fiscal Council envisaged in the Stormont House and Fresh Start agreements. This will provide independent scrutiny and expert advice to the Executive and the Assembly on fiscal and budgetary matters, with a particular focus on sustainability. The Fiscal Council will also provide independent monitoring and reporting on the Executive's performance in delivering the Programme for Government.
- xix. Review of funding models, to create a more sustainable budget with the flexibility needed to support delivery of high quality, outcomes-focused public services.
- xx. Structures will be put in place that will help deliver timely and fair public sector pay awards.

### ***Policing***

- xxi. A renewed focus will be put on strengthening approaches and supporting mechanisms for policing in the community. This will be complemented with an increase in resources, both human and financial, for the neighbouring policing teams.

### ***Employment Rights***

- xxii. The parties agree that the Executive should commit to becoming a Living Wage employer. They further agree that the Executive should move to ban zero hours contracts and that powers to set minimum wage levels should be made a devolved matter. An Age, Goods and Facilities and Services Bill should also be brought forward by the Executive as basis for ensuring that no one is discriminated against because of their age.

## Appendix 2 - Programme for Government

*This annex supports the possible outline of a Programme for Government set out above. The parties agree to publish, within two weeks of the restoration of the institutions, the fuller details of an agreed Programme for Government. The parties recognise that the final Programme for Government will need to be agreed by the parties who form the Executive.*

### Programme for Government 2020 and beyond – Strategic Priorities

1. The parties support the existing draft framework of 12 outcomes. However, whilst this will be used for an initial Programme for the remainder of 2019/20, it must evolve to reflect the following agreed strategic priorities in developing a longer term Programme for 2020 and beyond. The new Programme for Government will be supported by an Anti-poverty strategy, an Economic/Industrial strategy and an Investment strategy. These three key strategies will be interwoven with the Programme for Government and their delivery will be closely monitored to ensure they achieve the desired impact in these key areas.

#### **Ending paramilitarism**

- i. The parties reaffirm their commitment to tackling paramilitarism. Ending the harm done by paramilitarism will be made a strategic priority in the revised Programme for Government outcomes.

#### **Ending sectarianism**

- ii. There will be an enhanced strategic focus within the Programme for Government on ending sectarianism and robust supporting strategies and actions will be put in place.
- iii. All Parties reaffirm their support for the right to freedom from sectarianism, sectarian harassment and intimidation. The Executive's 'Together Building a United Community' Strategy defines sectarianism as, threatening, abusive or insulting behaviour or attitudes towards a person by reason of that person's religious belief or political opinion; or to an individual as a member of such a group'.
- iv. The TBUC Strategy outlines a vision of 'a united community, based on equality of opportunity, the desirability of good relations and reconciliation - one which is strengthened by its diversity, where cultural expression is celebrated and embraced and where everyone can live, learn, work and socialise together, free from prejudice, hate and intolerance'.



- v. The parties recognise the need to tackle sectarianism, prejudice and hate in seeking to eliminate discrimination. The parties endorse the objectives outlined above and wish to see sectarianism given legal expression as a hate crime. To this end, the parties believe the Executive should formulate and require all public representatives to commit to an anti-sectarian pledge.

### ***Health and social care***

- vi. The programme of transformation agreed by the previous Executive will continue to be a priority. Within this, there will be a greater focus on mental health and well-being.

### ***Education<sup>2</sup>***

- vii. The education system has a diversity of school types, each with its own distinctive ethos and values. However it is not sustainable. The parties acknowledge the progress made in developing new models of sharing, cooperation and integration. There is a desire to build on this as a basis for delivering long term improvements in the quality, equity and sustainability of the system. The parties agree that the Executive will commission and oversee an independent fundamental review with a focus on quality and sustainability. The educational experience and outcomes for children and young people are the most important factors.

### ***Housing***

- viii. Building on the actions in year 1, the parties agree on the need for continued attention and priority to be given to housing within the Programme for Government 2020 and beyond. The specific housing outcome and indicators, which will focus on ensuring every household has access to a good quality, affordable and sustainable home that is appropriate for its needs, will be supported by robust programmes and actions.

### ***Climate Change***

- ix. The parties recognise the need for a coordinated and strategic approach to the challenge of climate change within the Programme for Government. Actions and interventions will be required across a wide range of areas in order to address

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<sup>2</sup> In this document, ‘education’ means education for children and young people in early years, primary, post-primary or further education settings. “Education” includes all aspects of Education including Sectoral Bodies, ETI curriculum, area planning, 14-19 Strategy, Entitlement Framework, teacher training and the interface between Higher Education and Further Education.

both the immediate and longer term impacts of climate change in a fair and just way. To this end:

- The Executive's strategies to reduce carbon emissions will be reviewed in light of the Paris Climate Change Accord and the climate crisis.
- A new Energy Strategy will set ambitious targets and actions for a fair and just transition to a zero carbon society.
- The Executive should bring forward a Climate Change Act to give environmental targets a strong legal underpinning.
- The Executive will establish an Independent Environmental Protection Agency to oversee this work and ensure targets are met.
- The Economic Strategy will support clean and inclusive growth and create jobs as part of a Green New Deal.
- The Executive will create a plan to eliminate plastic pollution.
- RHI will be closed down and replaced by a scheme that effectively cuts carbon emissions.

### ***Workers' Rights***

- x. There will be an enhanced focus within the Programme for Government on creating good jobs and protecting workers rights. The parties agree that access to good jobs, where workers have a voice that provides a level of autonomy, a decent income, security of tenure, satisfying work in the right quantities and decent working conditions, should be integral to public policy given how this contributes to better health and wellbeing by tackling inequalities, building self-efficacy and combating poverty.

# **Annex A: UK Government Commitments to Northern Ireland**

**The following annex represents the commitments that would be made by the UK Government to the restored Executive to support a diverse, prosperous Northern Ireland in the context of an agreement being reached, in line with the Government's ongoing commitment to the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement. This by no means represents the limit of the UK Government's commitment to Northern Ireland. No agreement is asked or required from the parties for these commitments. This annex is the responsibility of the UK Government alone.**

# Annex A: UK Government Commitments to Northern Ireland

*This note sets out commitments that would be made by the UK Government to the restored Executive and to support a diverse, prosperous Northern Ireland in the context of an agreement being reached.*

The UK Government fully respects and is committed to the full implementation of the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement and its successors. The UK Government will always be steadfast in maintaining Northern Ireland's place within the Union in accordance with the democratically expressed wishes of the people of Northern Ireland.

This note sets out commitments made by the UK Government to support a restored Executive and to support a diverse, prosperous Northern Ireland.

## Supporting the institutions

1. The Government is fully committed to all the institutions of the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement, including the Executive, Assembly, North South Ministerial Council and the British-Irish Council. To support the best possible functioning of the institutions, the Government will establish a bi-annual, Cabinet delegation with the Northern Ireland Executive to improve cooperation and collaboration.
2. The Government will keep under review the ongoing operation of the reformed Petition of Concern mechanism. The Government will report every six months on the ongoing operation of the Petition of Concern and will lay a copy of the review before both Houses of Parliament and, before the end of this Assembly mandate, will publish its conclusions on whether further reform is necessary.
3. Annex A sets out areas of additional financial support from the UK Government, and the conditions that would be attached. The precise figures of financial support would be finalised in conjunction with the parties rapidly in the coming days in the context of agreement to restore the Executive and Assembly.

## Strengthening the economy

4. Enhance the assistance from business-supporting UK Government departments in NI, including DIT, working in partnership with Northern Ireland agencies, including InvestNI. This will include supporting the delivery of the Northern Ireland International

Trade plan, establishing a new Trade Advisory Board, appointment of Northern Ireland Trade Ambassadors, and developing a Trade Accelerator Plan and a “Made in NI” campaign.

5. Host an annual meeting of the Board of Trade in Northern Ireland and organise joint Northern Ireland Executive and UK Government trade missions.
6. Promote Northern Ireland as a global cyber security hub, building on its blend of world-class talent, leading forensic science expertise and tech research excellence to achieve 5,000 cyber security professionals in Northern Ireland by 2030.
7. Scope the establishment of a Northern Ireland hub in London - complementing the Invest Northern Ireland London Hub - to provide an increased opportunity for Northern Ireland stakeholder engagement in London. In tandem, explore the creation of a UK Government hub in Northern Ireland to increase the visibility and accessibility of UK Government departments in Northern Ireland.

*Future relationship with the European Union*

8. The UK Government recognises the importance for Northern Ireland of the negotiations with the European Union on a new trading relationship, and on the implementation of the Protocol to the Withdrawal Agreement on Northern Ireland and Ireland. We have already committed to ensuring that there is a New Deal for Northern Ireland as we leave the European Union, maximising trade opportunities and investment. The Government is determined to get the right deal for Northern Ireland and the whole of the United Kingdom, and would welcome close engagement with a restored Executive on Northern Ireland’s priorities in the next phase.
9. In recognition of this, the Government will ensure that representatives from the Northern Ireland Executive are invited to be part of the UK delegation in any meetings of the UK-EU Specialised or Joint Committees discussing Northern Ireland specific matters which are also being attended by the Irish Government as part of the European Union’s delegation.
10. The Government welcomes the consensus reached by all the parties recently on the protections they wish to see for trade between Northern Ireland and Great Britain under the Protocol. The Government is absolutely committed to ensuring that Northern Ireland remains an integral part of the UK internal market, in line with the clear guarantee in the Protocol that Northern Ireland remains in the customs territory of the United Kingdom. To address the issues raised by the parties, we will legislate to guarantee unfettered access for Northern Ireland’s businesses to the whole of the UK internal market, and ensure that this legislation is in force for 1 January 2021. The government will engage in detail with a restored Executive on measures to protect and strengthen the UK internal market.

11. We will aim to negotiate with the European Union additional flexibilities and sensible practical measures across all aspects of the Protocol that are supported by business groups in Northern Ireland and maximise the free flow of trade. The Government commits to ensuring that Northern Ireland's businesses benefit from the UK's new Free Trade Agreements signed with other countries, and to consulting a restored Executive along with the other devolved administrations on our wider trade policy.
12. As part of wider work examining funding options to support preparedness for entering new trading arrangements with the European Union and support for businesses, the Government will engage specifically with the Executive on the unique circumstances of Northern Ireland and the Protocol.

## **Delivering on our commitments**

### *The Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement*

13. The Government has reviewed the consistency of its family migration arrangements, taking into account the letter and spirit of the Belfast Agreement and recognising that the policy should not create incentives for renunciation of British citizenship by those citizens who may wish to retain it.
14. The Government will change the rules governing how the people of Northern Ireland bring their family members to the UK. This change will mean that eligible family members of the people of Northern Ireland will be able to apply for UK immigration status on broadly the same terms as the family members of Irish citizens in the UK.
15. This immigration status will be available to the family members of all the people of Northern Ireland, no matter whether they hold British or Irish citizenship or both, no matter how they identify.

### *The Stormont House Agreement*

16. As part of the Government's wider legislative agenda, the Government will, within 100 days, publish and introduce legislation in the UK Parliament to implement the Stormont House Agreement, to address Northern Ireland legacy issues. The Government will now start an intensive process with the Northern Ireland parties, and the Irish Government as appropriate, to maintain a broad-based consensus on these issues, recognising that any such UK Parliament legislation should have the consent of the NI Assembly.

### *The Fresh Start Agreement*

17. Continue to ensure that PSNI and others are appropriately resourced to deal with terrorism and paramilitary activity, provide funding to ensure the work of the Programme to Tackle Paramilitary Activity, Criminality and Organised Crime can

continue and redouble efforts to address commitments arising from the Fresh Start Panel Report on the Disbandment of Paramilitary Groups in Northern Ireland.

#### *Our commitments to veterans*

18. Introduce UK-wide legislation to further incorporate the Armed Forces Covenant into law and support full implementation of the Armed Forces Covenant.
19. Appoint a Northern Ireland Veterans' Commissioner to act as an independent point of contact to support and enhance outcomes for veterans in Northern Ireland.
20. Initiate a review of the Aftercare Service in Northern Ireland (ACS) which will consider whether the remit of the ACS should be widened to cover all HM Forces veterans living in Northern Ireland with service-related injuries and conditions.
21. Ensure that the work of the War Memorials Trust who protect and conserve war memorials across the UK is better promoted and understood in Northern Ireland.

### **Promoting Northern Ireland's culture, heritage and society**

22. Work alongside the restored Executive, to mark the centenary of Northern Ireland in 2021 in a spirit of mutual respect, inclusiveness and reconciliation in line with the principles for remembering. This approach to the centenary will provide an opportunity to reflect on the past as well as to build for the future, within NI, across the UK, across the island of Ireland and internationally. We will make available funding to support a number of projects to mark the centenary. This will include facilitating national recognition and international awareness of this significant anniversary, as well as exploring projects such as a Shared History Fund, the restoration of Craigavon House and the Great Ulster Forest.
23. Support discussions with NI Screen to explore how the remit of the Ulster Scots Broadcasting Fund (USBF) and Irish Language Broadcasting Fund (ILBF) can be broadened, and will increase funding for the USBF and ILBF to reflect any broadened remit.
24. Recognise Ulster Scots as a national minority under the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities.
25. Provide funding to establish the Castlereagh Foundation, a fund to support academic research through Universities and other partners to explore identity and the shifting patterns of social identity in Northern Ireland.
26. Provide funding to establish a Culture and Community fund to support expression of identities and progress cultural development in the region and beyond, supporting

various groups in the expression of culture, arts and heritage and community halls and bands.

27. Update the Flags Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2000 to bring the list of designated flag flying days from Northern Ireland government buildings and court-houses into line with the DCMS designated days, meaning the same designated days will be observed in Northern Ireland as in the rest of the UK going forward. This will involve the addition of three designated days.
28. Facilitate the establishment of a connected classroom programme to provide young people in Northern Ireland with the opportunity to connect, engage and collaborate with other young people across the UK as well as a programme of intercultural exchanges for young people between the regions of the UK to support increased cultural connections and understanding of the diversity of identity and culture within the UK.
29. Foster closer ties and better collaborative working across a range of sectors in the UK chiefly tourism, sport and culture. This will mean attracting a portfolio of national and international events, including through developing a proposed UK-Ireland bid for the 2030 FIFA world cup.
30. Facilitate the establishment of a homecoming project, strengthening links and relationships with the Northern Ireland diaspora and alumni across the world to be harnessed to improve the understanding of Northern Ireland and its contribution on the international stage as well as exploring economic opportunities.



## Annex A: UK Government Financial and Economic Commitments to Northern Ireland

In the context of an agreement to restore the Northern Ireland Executive, the UK Government will provide the additional financial support set out in this Annex, subject to the conditions listed.

These commitments apply solely in the event that the Executive is restored through this deal. If the Executive is not restored, the additional support set out here falls away. In that scenario, the UK Government will need to examine what additional revenue raising and other measures are required to balance the Northern Ireland budget.

This Annex sets out the areas that the UK Government's financial commitment will cover, and the conditions that would be attached. The precise figures of financial support would be finalised rapidly in the coming days in the context of a restored Executive and Assembly.

There will be four key elements to the financial package: immediate support to the health service and to address budget pressures; investment to transform public services; turbocharging infrastructure delivery in Northern Ireland; and addressing Northern Ireland's unique circumstances. This investment sits alongside the separate financial package being put forward by the Irish Government.

This financial package will be accompanied by stringent conditions to deliver a greater level of accountability for public spending and ensure the Northern Ireland Executive is building sustainable public services for all the people of Northern Ireland. This includes commitments on reform, independent monitoring and reporting of the Executive's performance, and a role for the UK Government in overseeing implementation of this and previous agreements.

### Providing the Executive with additional support for 2020/21, and addressing the health crisis

*Recognising the unique challenges faced by NI public services in addition to supporting the resolution of the nurses' pay dispute.*

- Providing **additional funding for the Executive in 2020/21** to give the Executive time to place Northern Ireland's finances on a sustainable footing, and address its priorities, such as delivering parity with England and Wales for nurses' pay - bringing an end to the ongoing nurses' pay dispute.

## Transforming Public Services

*Delivering reform in the essential public services of health, education and justice.*

- Investing in **transforming public services**, including:
  - **Health services** - supporting full implementation of the Bengoa review in health, the 'Delivering Together' and 'Power to People' healthcare transformation reports and delivering more care in the community.
  - Improvements and reforms to deliver a **better and more efficient education system** - including through an external, independent review of education provision.
  - **Ensuring faster, fairer justice**, implementing committal reform which will benefit victims and witnesses, and reducing reoffending and delivering safer communities.

## Turbocharging infrastructure

*The Executive will benefit from increased funding for capital infrastructure investment as a result of the UK Government's infrastructure revolution.*

- Infrastructure funding will enable the Executive to invest in a range of potential capital projects such as:
  - Essential sewage investment (Living With Water Programme)
  - 'Better Connecting Dublin and Belfast' strategy
  - A5/A6 roads
  - York Street Interchange
  - Narrow Water bridge
  - Capital and resource funding for the Medical School in Derry/Londonderry, subject to the Northern Ireland Executive's approval of the project.
- The UK Government agrees to financial flexibility to reprofile funding provided as part of the Fresh Start Agreement for shared and integrated education and housing.

## Implementing the Stormont House Agreement

*The Government will provide funding to support the implementation of the Stormont House Agreement proposals on legacy.*

- Funding to support the implementation of the Stormont House Agreement proposals on legacy.

### Addressing Northern Ireland's unique circumstances

*The Government will make funding available for a range of projects aimed at supporting community and reconciliation initiatives to remove barriers, bring the people of Northern Ireland together and build a safer, more secure society in Northern Ireland. This could include areas such as:*

- Additional funding to **support mental health** over three years.
- Additional funding for **tackling paramilitarism**.
- A fund to support a new Executive in **tackling deprivation and improving opportunity**.
- A **Culture and Community fund**
- Funding to support marking **the 2021 centenary and related projects**.
- Support for **languages and broadcasting**.
- Supporting the **armed forces and veterans**, including funding for a new Veteran's Commissioner.
- A **fund to promote the competitiveness of Northern Ireland's economy**, including through trade missions and the GREAT campaign.
- Additional funding to support the **Derry/Londonderry addiction centre**.
- UK Contribution to the **International Fund For Ireland**

## Conditions of the UK Government Financial Commitments in Support of a Restored Northern Ireland Executive

This funding package is accompanied by a number of conditions designed to ensure that UK Government funding contributes to increasing overall fiscal and budgetary sustainability in Northern Ireland's public finances. The funding is dependent on the functioning of the institutions and all funding provided in this financial package will be withdrawn if the institutions collapse.

### *Conditions to promote budgetary, fiscal and political stability:*

- An independent Fiscal Council will be established in Northern Ireland by July 2020. As per the Fresh Start Agreement, the membership and terms of reference of this Council will be agreed with the UK Government. It would:
  - prepare an annual assessment of the Executive's revenue streams and spending proposals and how these allow the Executive to balance their budget; and
  - prepare a further annual report on the sustainability of the Executive's public finances, including the implications of spending policy and the effectiveness of long-term efficiency measures; and
  - have its membership and terms of reference agreed with the UK Government.
- From 2021/22 the Executive will put in place multi-year budgets (minimum 3 years) where the UK Government has provided multi-year funding. The Executive commits to delivering a balanced budget for Northern Ireland and to take steps to put Northern Ireland's finances on a sustainable footing.
- The UK Government will carefully review the findings of the RHI Inquiry Report, and consider its implications for the use of public money in Northern Ireland, accountability, and the wider responsibility of the UK Government to consider the public interest in good governance and public administration.

### *Conditions to promote sustainable public services transformation:*

- There will be regular (quarterly) reviews of UK Government funding provided under this agreement, and implementation of all agreements via a UK Government - NI Executive Joint Board. This will be convened by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland and will include the First Minister and deputy First Minister.
- The Joint Board would have as part of its Terms of Reference in particular the oversight of transformation efforts in health, education and justice where these would draw on funding under this agreement (this does not displace other normally-required

approvals). As part of that oversight the Board would keep under review healthcare delivery structures in Northern Ireland, and be able to establish a separate sub-committee to consider health transformation in particular, drawing on external expertise as appropriate. The Board would also consider the effectiveness of infrastructure delivery, including drawing on expertise from the Infrastructure and Projects Authority as appropriate.



# Annex B: Irish Government Commitments

The following annex sets out commitments by the Irish Government in the context of an agreement being reached in support of greater cooperation, connectivity and opportunity North/ South on the island, working in partnership with the Northern Ireland Executive and the UK Government, in line with the Irish Government's ongoing commitment to the Good Friday Agreement. No agreement is asked or required from the parties for these commitments. This annex is the responsibility of the Irish Government alone.

## Annex B: Irish Government Commitments

*This note sets out commitments by the Irish Government in the context of an agreement being reached in support of greater cooperation, connectivity and opportunity North/ South on the island, working in partnership with the Northern Ireland Executive and the UK Government.*

The restoration of the Northern Ireland Executive, Northern Ireland Assembly and the North / South Ministerial Council to operation is a hugely important opportunity to set an ambitious and positive agenda for all the people of Northern Ireland, on the island of Ireland North and South, as well as East-West on these islands.

Overall, this should address:

- Connectivity and infrastructure
- Investment in the North-West and border communities
- Research and Innovation
- Strategic challenges, including Brexit and Climate Change
- Language and Culture
- Reconciliation

The Irish Government will work with the Northern Ireland Executive, through the North / South Ministerial Council, to help deliver projects that will benefit people across the island.

The Government is also ready to participate constructively in discussion on how the British Irish Council can develop its work in the future, in the context of Brexit, taking account of the ongoing work of the BIC Secretariat to consider options in this context.

The Irish Government also remains committed to holding meetings of the British Irish Intergovernmental Conference at regular intervals.

The Irish Government will establish a working group composed of representatives of the North-South Inter-Parliamentary Association as well as the Clerk of the Dáil to consider and make recommendations within six months focussed on developing North / South parliamentary relationships.



## Connectivity and Infrastructure

Specifically, as set out in the National Development Plan, the Government will update and enhance its commitment to jointly funding cross-border investment, once the power-sharing institutions are operational again.

The Government wants to work with the Northern Ireland Executive and the UK Government to achieve greater connectivity on this island – by road, rail and air.

We believe this is an immediate opportunity to move forward quickly together to deliver on plans to complete key infrastructure projects including the A5 and the Ulster Canal connection from Clones to Upper Lough Erne. The Government will deliver on its funding commitments to those projects, including a total of £75 million up to 2022 for the A5.

The Irish Government is supportive of serious and detailed joint consideration through the NSMC of the feasibility of a high-speed rail connection between Belfast, Dublin and Cork, creating a spine of connectivity on the island, which could be progressed as a priority. The Government is also ready to jointly progress consideration of options for the development of the Narrow Water bridge project at the NSMC.

The Irish Government also intends to take forward a review of the potential for Government support to renewed viable air routes from Cork to Belfast and Dublin to Derry, working with the UK Government and Northern Ireland Executive to deliver improved connections as a priority.

We believe there is enormous immediate potential for other projects, including Greenways in border areas, such as the Sligo-Enniskillen Greenway. We are ready to consider a further development funding application to be submitted in January and are committed to taking this project forward to deliver sustainable tourism and other enterprise benefits for the region.

## Investment in the North West and Border Communities

The Irish Government fully recognises the need for further investment and development in border areas.

The Irish Government has introduced a wide range of support programmes for enterprise and the agri-food sector, including the €300 million Brexit Loan Scheme, the €300 million Future Growth Loan Scheme, Enterprise Ireland's Brexit Scorecard, Bord Bia's Brexit Barometer, and InterTradeIreland's Brexit Vouchers. The Government is also continuing preparatory work for Brexit-mitigation actions under Budget 2020 and targeted funding for the sectors most affected in the event of a no deal Brexit.

The Government has also recognised that the North West region is in particular need of strategic investment, and that there is a clear argument for further enhancing cross-border cooperation and connections, to the benefit of all.

The Irish Government welcomes the UK Government's announcement to invest up to £105m in Derry and the North West through the Derry and Strabane City Deal and the Inclusive Future Fund. The Irish Government is committed to exploring opportunities for investment that will further support opportunities to bring greater economic prosperity and social benefits to the wider region.

In this context, the Irish Government welcomes the development of plans for ambitious new higher education provision in Derry. This investment can support more access to third-level education for young people on a cross-border basis, enable further cooperation between third-level institutions in the North West including in research and innovation, and underpin broader economic development and opportunities in the region. The Government is willing in principle to contribute to capital investment to support expanded provision at Ulster University Magee Campus, alongside the commitment made as part of this agreement by the UK Government. We look forward to early discussion at the North South Ministerial Council on taking forward this coordinated investment in order to deliver this vital project for the North West region.

#### - ***North West Strategic Growth Partnership***

The Irish Government remains committed to continuing to support the work of the North West Strategic Growth Partnership and is committed in principle to providing further funding to the North West Development Fund in collaboration with the Northern Ireland Executive.

The Government is ready to continue discussions through the North West Strategic Growth Partnership on key projects for employment and sustainable development in the region, including the Foyle River Gardens Project initiative.

## **Research and Innovation**

We look forward to developing proposals for an enhanced North/South programme of research and innovation, in cooperation with the NI Executive through the NSMC.

The Government would be interested in jointly exploring the feasibility of an all-island research hub, in cooperation with relevant agencies and stakeholders, North and South.

## Strategic Challenges

The Government also believes that the North South Ministerial Council can take forward important action-oriented dialogue in the context of the implications of Brexit, as well as other strategic challenges for these islands, including all-island cooperation and coordination to tackle climate breakdown.

The North South Bodies are a vital part of delivering all-island cooperation as an integral part of the Good Friday Agreement. The Government is ready to immediately resume discussions with the Executive on the next period of corporate planning guidance for the North South Bodies and on necessary resourcing within wider budgetary parameters.

## Language and Culture

The Irish Government welcomes the agreement on a way forward on language and culture issues by the parties in Northern Ireland, to be implemented by the Executive and Assembly as a matter of priority.

The Government remains committed to the work of the North / South language bodies and to the promotion of the Irish language.

In this context, the Government will make provision for additional funding over 3 years with a contribution to the Irish Language Broadcasting Fund, and funding for a promotional programme by An Ciste Infheistíochta Gaeilge to be delivered in partnership with Irish medium community groups, Glór na nGael and the Gaelbhratach Scheme. Funding will also be provided to develop Irish Language Networks.

## Reconciliation

### - *International Fund for Ireland*

In recognition of the particular challenges which Northern Ireland continues to face and the unique capabilities of the International Fund for Ireland (IFI) to work effectively for all communities in Northern Ireland and border counties, the Government is committed in principle to significant new funding for the IFI, working with other partners, to support the delivery of the IFI Strategy 2021-2024.

### - *Reconciliation Fund*

The Government will also maintain the enhanced level of funding for the Reconciliation Fund at €3.7 million per year in support of projects in Northern Ireland and border areas, with a focus on the most hard-to-reach and marginalised communities in terms of economic and social deprivation.

We will also, in cooperation with the Executive, commission a study to identify challenges facing border communities, paying particular attention to the needs of minorities in border counties, and explore options, including establishment of dedicated funding streams, to address gaps in current support.

- ***PEACE PLUS***

Ireland has consistently prioritised the continuation of EU PEACE funding including through ongoing engagement at EU level. We will continue work with our EU partners and the UK Government and Northern Ireland Executive to ensure that the PEACE PLUS programme, building on and continuing the work of both PEACE and INTERREG, will be delivered through the Special EU Programmes Body in support of reconciliation and harnessing the opportunities of our peace for all.

- ***North South School Exchange Programme***

Building on the success of the recent pilot programme of bringing pupils together - from schools North and South of the Border, from Nationalist and Unionist communities, and from the Integrated Schools sector - to meet, discuss issues of mutual concern and visit sites of significant shared historic relevance, we will expand the scheme over the lifetime of the next Government with a target of achieving 100 such cross border engagements per annum within a 5 year programme.

- ***Stormont House Agreement***

The Government affirms its commitment to working with the UK Government to support the establishment of the Stormont House Agreement legacy institutions as a matter of urgency, including by introducing necessary implementing legislation in the Oireachtas, to deal with the legacy of the Troubles and support reconciliation, meeting the legitimate needs and expectations of victims and survivors.

## Appendix 2: SUMMARY PAPER

### The New Decade, New Approach Deal (UK Government and Irish Government)

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The New Decade, New Approach deal, which was published by the British and Irish governments on 9<sup>th</sup> January, sets out a plan of action for a new Executive, which includes a list of priorities and specific commitments from the two governments.

#### Part 1. Priorities of the Restored Executive

- **Transforming our health service** (with a long-term funding strategy)
- **Transforming other public services** (particularly in education and justice)
- **Investing for the future** (to ensure Northern Ireland is equipped to harness opportunities and drive sustainable productivity, including opportunities for future trade as we leave the EU)
- **Delivering a fair and compassionate society** (that supports working families and the most vulnerable)
- **Developing a new Programme for Government**

#### Part 2. NI Executive Formation Agreement

Aimed at enabling the restoration of all the institutions of the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement and making government better, it contains a range of specific proposals including changes to the ministerial code, a new approach to the Petition of Concern and a commitment to further reform to take account of the outcome of the RHI inquiry.

#### Transparency and accountability measures *including*:

- publishing details of Ministers' meetings with external organisations
- measures related to special advisers (financial and meeting transparency)
- improved record-keeping and the protections for whistleblowers
- establishment of a fiscal council which would assess and report

#### Petition of concern *including*:

- The mechanism, which was designed to ensure that all sections of the community are protected and can participate and work together, will return to its intended purpose
- Parties to publicly commit to using it in most exceptional circumstances and as a last resort
- Petition can still be triggered by the support of 30 MLAs, but it needs members from two or more parties (this can include independent MLAs)
- A valid Petition shall trigger a 14-day period of consideration. After this, if 30 MLAs confirm support, the Assembly will determine the matter in accordance with the cross-community consent procedure.

## Appendix 2: **SUMMARY PAPER**

### **Sustainability of the Institutions** *including:*

- Measures aimed at ensuring a 3-year absence of devolved government cannot happen again and/or providing stability if that should happen (a 24-week period before an Assembly election must be called, legislating what will happen if First or Deputy First Minister resigns and for Ministers remaining in office in a care-taker capacity to allow continuity of decision-making within well-defined limits as set out in the Ministerial Code)
- Creating new bodies, including a Party Leaders' Forum and Executive Sub-Committee on Brexit. Party Leaders' Forum established to meet at least once monthly. This will be reviewed after six months
- Measures to put civic engagement and public consultation at the heart of policy-making including reforming the existing Compact Civic Advisory Panel

### **Rights, language and identity** *including*

- An Office of Identity and Cultural Expression "to celebrate and support all aspects of Northern Ireland's rich cultural and linguistic heritage"
- Legislation to create a new Commissioner "to recognise, support, protect and enhance the development of the Irish language in Northern Ireland" including developing best practice standards and guidance
- Legislation to create a new Commissioner "to enhance and develop the language, arts and literature associated with the Ulster Scots / Ulster British tradition"
- The legislation will repeal the Administration of Justice (Language) Act (Ireland) 1737 and provide official recognition of both Irish and Ulster-Scots languages in Northern Ireland
- A central Translation Hub will be established in the Department of Finance within three months of an agreement, to provide language translation services for the Executive Departments, Arm's Length Bodies, **Local Government** and Public Bodies.
- Any person can conduct their business in Irish or Ulster-Scots before the Assembly or one of its committees
- Introducing a Bill on sign language
- An Ad-Hoc Assembly Committee will be established to consider the creation of a Bill of Rights

### **Programme for Government**

- An agreed a two-stage approach to establishing a strategic level Programme for Government - focus on delivery of priorities and actions during the remainder of 2019/20 and development of a longer term programme from 2020 onwards.
- Within two weeks of the restoration of the institutions, publish fuller details of an agreed Programme for Government.
- Publish a new strategic level outcomes-**based Programme for Government** by April 2020 aligned to a multi-year budget.
- Principles and practice of citizen and community engagement and co-design will be a key part of its development and delivery

## Appendix 2: SUMMARY PAPER

### Programme for Government - key areas of focus

Within two weeks of the restoration of the institutions, the Assembly will publish fuller details of [what is likely to be included in] an agreed Programme for Government for 2020 beyond. However, the document indicates that the parties have agreed to build on the 12 outcomes in the previous Programme for Improvement, adding a new focus on:

- Ending paramilitarism
- Ending sectarianism
- Health and Social Care
- Education
- Housing
- Climate change
- Worker's Rights

In addition to those priorities outlined above, the document also identifies the following priority actions for 2019-20:

- Childcare
- Investment
- Fair and sustainable welfare reform
- Leaner government
- Sustainable public finances
- Policing

The Programme for Government could be underpinned by key supporting strategies, including the following:

- |                                        |                               |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Anti-poverty strategy                | • Racial Equality Strategy    |
| • Economic/Industrial Strategy         | • Disability Strategy         |
| • Investment Strategy                  | • Gender Strategy             |
| • Energy Strategy                      | • Sexual Orientation Strategy |
| • Children and Young People's Strategy | • Active Ageing Strategy      |
| • Childcare Strategy                   | • Irish Language Strategy     |
| • Child Poverty Strategy               | • Ulster Scots Strategy       |

### Key Commitments

The "New Approach" document runs to 62-page and provides more detail on the mechanisms, priorities and proposed actions. A summary of key priority actions, including commitments by the UK and Irish Governments by thematic area is provided below:

#### 1. Health

- Executive will settle the ongoing pay dispute
- A successor strategy and action plan to the Strategic Direction for Alcohol and Drugs Phase 2 within 3 months; and a new strategy and implementation plan on cancer by December 2020. Additional funding to support the Derry/Londonderry addiction centre

## Appendix 2: **SUMMARY PAPER**

- Reform the health and social care system in line with the Bengoa, Delivering Together and Power to People reports. The previously agreed programme of transformation will continue to be a priority. Within this, there will be a greater focus on mental health and well-being.
- A mental health action plan published within two months, a Mental Health Strategy by December 2020 and additional funding to support mental health over three years.
- Reconfigure hospital provision to deliver better patient outcomes , more stable services and sustainable staffing. Improvements will be made in stroke, breast assessment, urgent and emergency care and day case elective care by the end of 2020.
- Build capacity in general practice through the ongoing rollout of Multi-Disciplinary teams to cover a further 100,000 patients by March 2021.
- A new action plan on waiting times; an extra 900 nursing and midwifery undergraduate places over three years and a new graduate entry medical school in Londonderry

### **2. Education**

- Executive will work to resolve the teachers' industrial action
- Address resourcing pressures in the education system and ensure every school has a sustainable core budget
- External independent review of education provision
- New special educational needs framework
- Expert group to examine links between educational underachievement and socio-economic background, including the long-standing issues facing working-class Protestant boys. And draw up an action plan for change that will ensure all children and young people, regardless of background, are given the best start in life.
- Deliver an enhanced approach to careers advice, curriculum, training and apprenticeships to enhance employability.
- Enhanced strategic focus and support actions on educating children and young people of different backgrounds together in the classroom.

### **3. Housing**

- The PfG outcomes framework will be augmented with a new outcome and indicators to provide specific focus on ensuring every household has access to a good quality, affordable and sustainable home appropriate for its needs.
- Enhanced investment in new social home starts with legislation to reclassify Housing Associations as external to the public sector to ensure the continuation of new social house building and the Co-ownership Housing Scheme.
- Examine options to remove historical debt from the NIHE and exclude it from having to pay Corporation Tax and agree a long term trajectory for the rental charges of the NIHE.



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### **4. Supporting People and Workers**

- A review of welfare mitigation measures will be taken forward as a priority, with any agreed measures in place before March 2020. Commitment to extend existing welfare mitigation measures beyond March 2020, when they are due to expire.
- Executive to commit to becoming a Living Wage employer and ban zero hours contracts. Seek to have the power to set minimum wage levels (i.e. should be made a devolved matter).
- Publish a Childcare Strategy and will give immediate priority to developing arrangements to deliver extended, affordable, responsive, high quality provision of early education and care initiatives for families with children aged 3-4.
- Develop and implement an Anti-poverty Strategy.

### **5. Economy**

- A review of welfare mitigation measures will be taken forward as a priority, with any agreed measures in place
- Ensure Northern Ireland is equipped to harness opportunities and drive sustainable productivity, including opportunities for future trade as we leave the EU and developing a regionally-balanced economy with opportunities for all.
- Invest strategically in ensuring that NI has the right mix of skills for a thriving economy.
- UK Government to promote Northern Ireland as a global cyber security hub and to support the delivery of the NI International Trade plan, establishing a new Trade Advisory Board, appointment of Northern Ireland Trade Ambassadors, and developing a Trade Accelerator Plan and a “Made in NI” campaign.

### **6. “Turbocharging “ Infrastructure**

- Support for City Deal packages for Derry & Strabane and Belfast, including through match capital funding for infrastructure, regeneration and tourism projects
- Develop and deliver the Growth Deals for Mid South West NI and Causeway Coast and Glens.
- Invest urgently in wastewater infrastructure which is at or nearing capacity in many places across Northern Ireland, including in Belfast, limiting growth.
- Plan to complete both the Regional and Sub Regional Sports Stadia Programmes, including Casement Park
- Executive to benefit from increased capital infrastructure funding 'as a result of the UK government's infrastructure revolution'. Potential capital projects that could benefit include
  - Essential sewage investment (Living With Water Programme)
  - 'Better Connecting Dublin and Belfast' strategy
  - York Street Interchange

## Appendix 2: **SUMMARY PAPER**

### **7. Climate Change**

Tackle climate change head on with a strategy to address the immediate and longer term impacts of climate change, including:

- Introduce legislation and targets for reducing carbon emissions in line with the Paris Climate Change Accord. Strategies to reduce carbon emissions will be reviewed in light of the Paris Climate Change Accord and the climate crisis.
- A new Energy Strategy will set ambitious targets and actions for a fair and just transition to a zero carbon society.
- A Climate Change Act to give environmental targets a strong legal underpinning.
- Establish an Independent Environmental Protection Agency to oversee this work and ensure targets are met.
- The Economic Strategy will support clean and inclusive growth and create jobs as part of a Green New Deal.
- Create a plan to eliminate plastic pollution and close down RHI and replace by a scheme that effectively cuts carbon emissions.

### **8. Policing and Justice**

- Increase police numbers to 7,500 and deliver committal reform to help speed up the criminal justice system.
- Reaffirm commitment to tackling paramilitarism - focus within the PfG on ending the harm done by paramilitarism, ending sectarianism and put in place supporting strategies and actions.

### **9. Miscellaneous**

- Further reform of the NI Civil Service and review of Arm's Length Bodies with a view to their rationalisation.
- Take forward the reform of licensing laws

### **10. UK government commitments (not already reflected above)**

- Additional funding in 2020/21 to help the executive address its priorities, such as pay parity for nurses compared to England and Wales
- Funding for projects which could include mental health provision, tackling paramilitarism and deprivation

## Appendix 2: **SUMMARY PAPER**

- Appoint a Northern Ireland Veterans' Commissioner and introduce UK-wide legislation to further incorporate the Armed Forces Covenant into law
- Relatives of people from Northern Ireland to be able to apply for UK immigration status "on broadly the same terms as the family members of Irish citizens in the UK"
- Scope the establishment of a Northern Ireland hub in London - complementing the Invest Northern Ireland London Hub - and explore the creation of a UK Government hub in Northern Ireland to increase the visibility and accessibility of UK Government departments.

### **11. Irish government pledges**

- Delivering on its commitment to key infrastructure projects, particularly in relation to connectivity and infrastructure, including £75m for the A5 up to 2022
- Serious and detailed joint consideration through the NSMC of the feasibility of a high-speed rail connection between Belfast, Dublin and Cork, creating a spine of connectivity on the island, which could be progressed as a priority.
- Take forward a review of potential support for "renewed viable air routes from Cork to Belfast and Dublin to Derry"
- Provision for additional funding over 3 years with a contribution to the Irish Language Broadcasting Fund, and funding for a promotional programme by An Ciste Infheistíochta Gaeilge to be delivered in partnership
- Develop proposals for an enhanced North/South programme of research and innovation, in cooperation with the NI Executive through the NSMC. And interested in jointly exploring the feasibility of an all-island research hub, in cooperation with relevant agencies and stakeholders, North and South.
- Commitment in principle to significant new funding for the IFI, working with other partners, to support the delivery of the IFI Strategy 2021-2024.
- Maintain the enhanced level of funding for the Reconciliation Fund at €3.7 million per year in support of projects in Northern Ireland and border areas
- Continue work with our EU partners, UK Government and NI Executive to ensure that the PEACE PLUS programme, building on and continuing the work of both PEACE and INTERREG, will be delivered through the Special EU Programmes Body in support of reconciliation and harnessing the opportunities of our peace for all.

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Subject:	Belfast Healthy Cities
Date:	21 <sup>st</sup> February 2020
Reporting Officer:	Ryan Black, Director Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Kelly Gilliland, Neighbourhood Services Manager Andrew Steenson, Belfast Health Development Unit

## Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

☐

No

☒

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Some time in the future

Never

☐  
☐  
☐  
☐

## Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☒

No

☐

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	At the meeting of the People and Communities Committee on 4 <sup>th</sup> June 2019, it was agreed that a review be undertaken of the Departments ongoing partnership agreements with a focus on alignment with the Belfast Agenda and value for money. Included within this review was the partnership agreement with Belfast Healthy Cities, who facilitate the city's membership of the WHO European Healthy Cities Network.
1.2	Following the decision of Committee, officers have been engaging with Belfast Healthy Cities and its three other core funding partners, to inform and establish a shared review process, taking account of the potential to enhance alignment of the city's membership to the WHO European Healthy Cities Network, with the ambitions of the Belfast Agenda.

1.3	This report outlines action being taken to review Council's partnership agreement with Belfast Healthy Cities, providing a timeframe for the completion of the review and subsequent next steps, and asks that Members approve a six month extension to the current partnership agreement with Belfast Healthy Cities, to allow for the completion of the review.
<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 content of the report;</li> <li>• Agree to receive a follow up report outlining the outcomes of the review of Council's partnership agreement with Belfast Healthy Cities; and</li> <li>• Agree to extend the current partnership agreement with Belfast Healthy Cities to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>Members approved the completion of an Expression of Interest for Belfast to re-designate as a WHO Healthy City and participate in Phase VII of the WHO European Healthy Cities Network at the meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 17<sup>th</sup> August 2018.</p>
3.2	Belfast's membership to the WHO European Healthy Cities Network is facilitated by Belfast Healthy Cities (BHC), an independent partnership organisation, recognised as having charitable status by The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland. Belfast Healthy Cities is governed by a Board of Directors, elected annually and representing the public, university, voluntary and community sectors.
3.3	As part of the partnership agreement with Council in 2019/20, Belfast Healthy Cities have been leading on the development of the city's application for Phase VII of the WHO European Healthy Cities Network, including undertaking action to satisfy each of the 13 requirements for the city's membership. It is envisaged the application for Phase VII will be drafted in the coming months and will be brought before Council in early Summer for approval.
3.4	During Phase VI (2015-19) of the WHO European Healthy Cities Network, the local context in Belfast and the region has shifted, most notably with the introduction of Community Planning and a greater emphasis being placed on outcomes. The city's Community

	<p>Planning Partnership is the key strategic partnership for Council in terms of the ambitions of the Belfast Agenda, including reducing the gap in life expectancy between the most and least deprived communities in Belfast.</p>
3.5	<p>The review of Council's partnership arrangements with Belfast Healthy Cities, is therefore timely in shaping how best the city's membership for Phase VII of the WHO European Healthy Cities Network is aligned with the ambitions of the Belfast Agenda.</p>
3.6	<p>Council are one of four core funders to Belfast Healthy Cities, along with the Public Health Agency (PHA), Belfast Health and Social Care Trust (BHSCT) and Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE). Officers have engaged with the other funding organisations to outline the decision of Council and in the spirit of 'collaborative gain' as set within the Belfast Agenda, it has been agreed to widen the scope of the review of Council's partnership agreement with Belfast Healthy Cities, to also include the agreements of the other core funders.</p>
3.7	<p>A collective specification has been agreed by the four core funding organisations of Belfast Healthy Cities and external, independent support has been secured to undertake a collective 'value for money' review of partnership agreements with Belfast Healthy Cities, taking account of the direct and indirect benefits brought to the city.</p>
3.8	<p>It is envisaged the review will be completed by late May 2020, with a report brought back to the both the People and Communities Committee and Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in June, outlining the outcome of the review, recommended actions and implementation timescales.</p>
3.9	<p>Members are asked to approve an extension of the current partnership agreement with Belfast Healthy Cities, until 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020 to allow for the completion of review, submission of the application for Phase VII of the WHO European Healthy Cities Network and to provide an initial period for transition and implementation of the recommendations.</p>
3.10	<p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></p> <p>Extending the current partnership agreement with Belfast Healthy Cities as recommended, will require the ongoing grant aid of £40,647 for six months. This has been included within the revenue estimates for 2020/21 and does not represent any growth.</p>

3.11	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> There are no Equality or Good Relations Implications and no Rural Needs Assessment required for the recommendations outlined above.
4.0	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	None.





<b>Subject:</b>	APSE Local Government Commission 2030
<b>Date:</b>	21 February 2020
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy
<b>Contact Officers:</b>	Christine Robinson, Strategy, Policy and Partnerships Manage Mark Mulholland, Policy and Performance Analyst

<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	Members are asked to note early engagement between officers and APSE as an initial response to APSE's Local Government Commission 2030 inquiry.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is, therefore, asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) note that officers have had early engagement with APSE on this inquiry to highlight headline issues for local government;</li> <li>b) agree that as the independent inquiry progresses that Council will provide a comprehensive corporate response.</li> </ul>

<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	The APSE Local Government Commission is conducting an independent inquiry into the future role of local government across the United Kingdom. The Commission believes that after years of austerity across public services, local government faces a number of wicked policy issues, be it growing inequalities, housing, climate change or public health. At the same time, the organisational landscape of local government has undergone a patchwork reorganisation through City Deals and combined authorities, partnerships and shared services, asset transfers and local authority companies.
3.2	The Commission will consider the future role of local government across the broad themes of stewardship of place; local finance and funding regimes; local government organisation and structures; workforce capacities and roles; local service provision; local democracy and accountability; community leadership, equality and diversity; and centre-local relations.
3.3	To understand and evaluate what these issues mean for the future of our local councils the APSE Local Government Commission will develop an independent analysis of the state of local government in the United Kingdom and focus on its future challenges and emerging role in delivering a New Municipalism. Importantly, the Commission has taken 2030 as its key date on the horizon, signaling its commitment to meet the challenges of climate change and sustainability.
3.4	The Commission will then produce a report, with recommendations, in early 2021, based on its findings from written and oral evidence from interested parties across the UK. The Commission has stated that its recommendations will recognise the multiple, complex and evolving systems that mark the landscape of local government across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.
3.5	<p>Members are invited to note that in terms of early engagement with APSE, officers have indicated that likely key areas of interest for Belfast would include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• enhanced devolution to local government including regeneration, planning, skills investment and planning, and local transport planning;</li> <li>• enhanced local investment powers, to ensure that councils have the fiscal levers to tackle issues at community and city level; and</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the introduction of legislation/measures that strengthen the relationship between central and local government, including a duty to collaborate to provide for responsive and integrated public services delivery at regional, city and community level.</li> </ul>
3.6	<p>As part of the evidence gathering process APSE are hosting a special evidence session for Northern Ireland Local Government to further inform the work of the Commission. This session is being held today and council officers are in attendance. This session is the first face-to-face engagement between APSE and local government and Members will have the opportunity to feed into this work as the inquiry progresses.</p> <p><b><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></b></p>
3.7	<p>None associated with this report.</p> <p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p>
3.8	<p>None associated with this report.</p>
4.0	<p><b><u>Appendices – Documents Attached</u></b></p> <p>None</p>

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<b>Subject:</b>	Revision of the Council's Scheme of Allowances
<b>Date:</b>	21st February, 2020
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Walsh, City Solicitor and Director of Legal and Civic Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
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/Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	To consider an amendment to the Council's Scheme of Allowances, as requested by the Department for Communities, to provide for the withholding of allowances to a Lord Mayor or Deputy Lord Mayor who is disqualified, suspended or partially suspended following an adjudication by the Local Government Commissioner for Standards in relation to a breach of the Northern Ireland Local Government Code of Conduct for Councillors, and a further amendment to increase the maximum rate of Dependant's Carers' Allowance for 2020-2021 in line with the National Living Wage.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
2.1	It is recommended that the Committee: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approve the amendments to the Scheme of Allowances as set out in the report.</li> </ul>

<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	The Council is required, under the Local Government (Payments to Councillors) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012, to publish a Scheme of Allowances which sets out the allowances and support services that apply to a Councillor.
3.2	The Committee, at its meeting on 21st June, 2019, revised the Council's Scheme of Allowances to make arrangements to cover what should happen to the payments of a Councillor's Basic Allowance and/or Special Responsibility Allowance if that Councillor is disqualified, suspended or partially suspended following an adjudication by the Local Government Commissioner for Standards in relation to a breach of the Northern Ireland Local Government Code of Conduct for Councillors.
3.3	No arrangements are in place in regard to Civic Allowances should a similar disqualification or suspension be imposed on the Lord mayor or Deputy Lord Mayor.
3.4	However, the Council has received an addendum to circular LG 23/2016 from the Department for Communities requiring the Council to update its Scheme of Allowances in relation to the payment of Civic Allowances to provide that:
3.5	<i>"A Scheme should state that where a Councillor, in accordance with section 59(5) of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014, the part of the Chairperson/Vice Chairperson Allowance payable to the Councillor in respect of the period for which the Councillor is suspended should be withheld."</i>
3.6	Also, the Department for Communities determines the maximum hourly rates of Dependant's Carers' Allowance for both standard care and specialised care. The rate for standard care is based on the hourly National Living Wage for age 25+, which will increase on 1st April, 2020 from the current rate of £8.21 per hour to £8.72 per hour. The rate for specialised care is double the rate for standard care. In addition, the Department for Communities sets the maximum monthly amounts for standard care and specialised care, capped at the equivalent of 52 hours per month.
3.7	As the Council receives its lawful authority to make any payments from the Department under the Payments to Councillors Regulations, then it must abide by any instructions from the Department in relation to those Regulations.

3.8	Accordingly, in line with the guidance issued by the Department regarding Civic Allowances, and the increase in the National Living Wage, the Committee is requested to agree to the amendments to the Scheme of Allowances as follows:
3.9	<p><u><i>“Civic Dignitaries Allowance</i></u></p> <p><i>Where a Lord Mayor or Deputy Lord Mayor is suspended from carrying out the duties of a councillor in accordance with section 59(5) of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014, the part of Civic Allowance payable to the Councillor in respect of the period for which the Councillor is suspended will be withheld.”</i></p> <p>and</p>
3.10	<p><u><i>“Dependants’ Carers’ Allowance</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Standard Care                      £8.72 per hour limited to £453.44 per month</i></li> <li>• <i>Specialist Care                      £17.44 per hour limited to £906.88 per month”</i></li> </ul> <p><b><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></b></p>
3.11	In respect of the revision to the arrangements for Civic Allowances, there would not be any adverse impact on the Council’s budgets. Any individual Councillor who is disqualified, suspended or partially suspended may be affected adversely.
3.12	In respect of the increase to the maximum rate of Dependant’s Carers’ Allowance, this has already been considered and can be met through existing budgets.
	<b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b>
3.13	There are not any Good Relations, Equality or Rural Needs issues associate with this report.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices - Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix – Scheme of Allowances 2020-2021

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<b>Subject:</b>	Physical Programme Update
<b>Date:</b>	21 <sup>st</sup> February, 2020
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Sinead Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes Ronan Cregan, Deputy Chief Executive
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Michelle Bagnall, Programme 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"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues</b>
1.1	The Council's Capital programme is a rolling programme of investment which either improves the existing Council facilities or provides new Council facilities. This report seeks approval to move projects to the next stage of project development process, and provides an update on other projects on the capital programme.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is requested to –  <b>Movements under the Capital Programme</b>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Customer Focus Programme – Customer Hub location</i>: agree to move the Customer Hub Location project to a Stage 2 - uncommitted, under the Capital Programme.</li><li>• <i>Water refill points</i> – agree to add as an Emerging Stage 1 project, under the Capital Programme i.e. SOC and scoping to be worked up.</li></ul> <p><b>Project Updates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Fleet Programme - Lord Mayor's Car</i> – note the further detail provided in relation to options for replacement of the Lord Mayor's Car and agree which option is to be progressed – a plug-in hybrid model or a fully electric model</li></ul> <p><b>Issues for consideration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Request for permission</i> –<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) Consider the request from The Executive Office in relation to aerial footage of capital projects on council land (UV Programme).</li><li>b) For Council to conduct aerial footage over council lands re PEACE IV connecting open spaces project.</li></ul></li></ul>									
3.0	<p><b>Main report</b></p> <p><b>Proposed Movements – Capital Programme</b></p> <p>3.1 Members have previously agreed that <b>all</b> capital projects must go through a <b>3 Stage process</b> where decisions on which projects progress are taken by SP&amp;R. This provides assurance as to the level of financial control and will allow Members to properly consider the opportunity costs of approving one capital project over another capital project. <b>Members are asked to agree to the following movement on the Capital Programme:</b></p> <p>3.2</p> <table><tr><th>Project</th><th>Overview</th><th>Stage</th></tr><tr><td><b>Customer Focus Programme – Customer Hub location</b></td><td>Create a new Customer Hub location (Cecil Ward Building) which has emerged as part of the Customer Focus Programme which has already been agreed by Members</td><td>Move to Stage 2 - uncommitted</td></tr><tr><td><b>Water refill points</b></td><td>Installation of water refill stations across the Council estate</td><td>Add as an Emerging Stage 1 project</td></tr></table> <p><b>Customer Focus Programme – Customer Hub location</b> - A Strategic Outline Case (SOC) has been completed and an Outline Business Case (OBC) will now be worked up on the Customer Hub Location proposal – a capital project within the corporate priority Customer Focus Programme - and presented back through internal governance and Committee approval process.</p>	Project	Overview	Stage	<b>Customer Focus Programme – Customer Hub location</b>	Create a new Customer Hub location (Cecil Ward Building) which has emerged as part of the Customer Focus Programme which has already been agreed by Members	Move to Stage 2 - uncommitted	<b>Water refill points</b>	Installation of water refill stations across the Council estate	Add as an Emerging Stage 1 project
Project	Overview	Stage								
<b>Customer Focus Programme – Customer Hub location</b>	Create a new Customer Hub location (Cecil Ward Building) which has emerged as part of the Customer Focus Programme which has already been agreed by Members	Move to Stage 2 - uncommitted								
<b>Water refill points</b>	Installation of water refill stations across the Council estate	Add as an Emerging Stage 1 project								

**Water refill points** – Members are asked to note that a paper on the ‘Northern Ireland Water Refilloution Campaign & Water Refill Stations’ is also on the agenda for consideration by Committee at its meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> Feb. In terms of the Water Refill Stations this relates to a Notice of Motion that was brought to Council in August 2019 requesting that *“the Council agrees to the installation of water bottle refill stations across the Council Estate. This aims to help encourage a growing culture of using personal, reusable bottles to tackle single-use plastic use.”* This proposal will have capital implications for the Council and it is therefore recommended that this is now added as a Stage 1 – Emerging Project onto the Capital Programme to allow the project and costs to be fully worked up with further detail to be brought back to Committee in due course. In line with all capital projects this will be required to go through the three stage process.

*Fleet Replacement Programme - Replacement of the Lord Mayor’s Car*

- 3.3 At SP&R Committee 17<sup>th</sup> December, Members were advised that the current lease for the Lord Mayor’s vehicle was due to expire this month and it had been proposed that this would be replaced on a new 4 year lease arrangement with a plug-in hybrid vehicle similar to the size and model of current vehicle (BMW 7 Series) but with a combined 99mpg, and cleaner lower emission CO2 levels. It was highlighted at this stage that it was felt this would provide continuity in terms of the standard and reliability of vehicle required, balancing the requirements of duties of the Lord Mayor’s Office, while reflecting a change and recognition of a more sustainable approach to travel. Following further discussion at last month’s SP&R Committee, additional information was requested in relation to electric vehicle options.
- 3.4 The key issue remains around acquiring a replacement vehicle that achieves value for money, offers reliability given the commitments of the Lord Mayor’s Office and fulfils the function of a civic vehicle fit for high profile Office (security of both Lord Mayor and Chain; wide ranging travel needs from short to long distance journeys), while supporting sustainable/green priorities for the Council.
- 3.5 As per previous considerations, looking at the options available the Fleet Unit engaged closely with the Lord Mayor’s Unit to ensure that the requirements, duties and obligations of the Office of the Lord Mayor were taken into consideration. In addition, an exercise was also undertaken in relation to analysing the mileage of the Lord Mayor’s car. The current usage shows an average mileage of 6,000 miles per year, with a typical average daily mileage of 30 miles. Whilst the usage profile is mainly around the city, there is reasonably regular requirement for longer trips, therefore a key requirement is for a long wheel based format which would allow for comfort on longer journeys.

3.6	<p>There are two options that are available – a plug-in hybrid model that allows for electric use on city based journeys with a petrol back-up for longer journeys or an electric only model. As requested by Members, Appendix One provides a comparison of the options available – plug-in hybrid vs electric models. In considering these there are a number of areas which it is worth highlighting for Members attention -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Model</i> - It is not possible to do a direct like for like comparison between the different types of vehicles as there are no fully electric executive saloon four door cars (long wheel based options) available on the market at this time and the plug-in hybrid is the only “green” option available in this type of vehicle. The fully electric models that are currently available are all either Estate or Hatchback models and therefore would be a move away from the traditional type of model of the Lord Mayor’s vehicle towards a smaller type of vehicle</li> <li>• <i>Charging</i> – All models are plug-in models and all will require to be charged. As highlighted at Committee last month officers are currently progressing the installation of a dedicated charging point within the Courtyard of the City Hall. The average full charge for the electric vehicles is approx. 260miles while the plug-in hybrid model will do approx. 30miles on a full charge – both of which adequately cover the typical average daily mileage given that the majority of journeys are city based (meaning the vast majority of journeys can be achieved on electric mode). The average full charge for an electric vehicle may not meet some of the requirements of longer journeys and would require additional secure charging on route.</li> <li>• <i>Costs</i> – Members are asked to note that on average the lease costs for the electric vehicles are lower than the plug-in hybrid model however this is to be expected as they are different types of vehicles with differing specifications. The exception to this being the Tesla model where the lease costs are higher than the plug-in hybrid model. However Members are asked to note that the final lease costs will depend on the model and the final specification.</li> <li>• <i>Delivery lead in time</i> – the delivery lead in time for all of the electric models is approx. 4-6 months while the delivery time for the plug-in hybrid model is approx. 2-3 months.</li> </ul>
3.7	<p><b>On the basis of the above information and the detailed information at Appendix One Members are asked to decide which option in terms of a replacement vehicle that they wish to progress.</b> In considering this Members are asked to note the outcome of previous reports and recommendations to replace the Lord Mayor’s current car with a new plug-in hybrid model given the factors above in terms of reliability and standard of vehicle. If Members decide</p>

that the replacement vehicle should be a fully electric model then it is recommended that the final decision on the type of model is delegated to officers to agree in conjunction with the Lord Mayor's Office, the Fleet Unit and Corporate Procurement Services.

- 3.8 In addition Members are asked to note the lead in time for any new replacement vehicle (4/6 months for an electric model and 2/3 months for a hybrid model). The current lease is due to expire this month and Members are therefore asked if they are happy to agree an extension to the current lease for the Lord Mayor's car (up to a maximum of 6 months). The approx. cost of this will be around £5k.

***Request for permission for aerial footage of specific council sites***

- 3.9 Members are asked to consider a request for permission for aerial footage of specific council sites with request to the two following programmes of work:

*1. The Executive Office (TEO) Urban Villages (UV) Programme* - Members will be aware of TEO UV programme through Council physical programme updates as the delivery partner for UV capital projects across 4 UV areas in Belfast. These four UV areas, including UV council asset projects are:

- North Belfast, Ardoyne and Greater Ballysillan area— Glenbryn playpark; Marrowbone Park; Ballysillan playing fields; Sunningdale community centre
- West Belfast, Colin area –New park in Colin (site to transfer to BCC).
- EastSide area – Short Strand community forum and community centre
- South Belfast, Sandy Row, Donegall Pass and the Markets areas – Sandy Row Playpark; Rev. Robert Bradford park







The Council has received a request from TEO UV Programme team for permission to undertake aerial filming of council sites undergoing capital investment as part of the UV capital programme - the plan is to produce an overarching aerial films of projects in these areas showing fly overs to capture where capital projects have been completed, are underway or will be starting. This will include a number of projects being delivered by Belfast City Council and/or on council land. This filming will show the impact on areas by capturing the physical overview and documenting the delivery and community partner and descriptions of the projects. An approximate timeframe for completion of filming is the end of March. As part of this the Council will request that it is able to use the footage of those projects which are either on Council assets and/or which the Council has delivered.

*2. PEACE IV Connecting Open Spaces project* - This Council project is £3.06m PEACE IV funding to create a network of shared spaces through the creation of some 12km of a pathways/cycleway network that will interlink open space sites stretching from Glencairn to Bog

	<p>Meadows. The project is at development stage, with a number of consultations undertaken and underway, however the project has not yet been formally launched. The Council will be organising a formal launch (anticipated timescale, May 2020), however given the geographic extent of the project, aerial footage of the council sites – Glencairn Park, Woodvale Park and Falls Park - would to be an effective means of showing, through a video, the area that is to be developed. This video is seen as an important communication and awareness raising tool with local communities and stakeholders, as part of the launch arrangements.</p> <p><b>In the absence of an agreed Council Drone Policy, special permission for aerial footage to be taken over Council assets under UV programme (3.11 above) and three parks as per PEACE IV open spaces project (3.13 above), is therefore being formally requested. All necessary licences would be sought from procured suppliers.</b></p>
3.10	<p><b><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p><i>Financial –</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fleet Replacement Programme – Lease of the Lord Mayor’s Car – these costs are covered under the Fleet Replacement Programme (costs are dependent on option to be agreed and subsequent formal procurement process).</li> <li>• Aerial footage of council parks re PEACE IV Connecting open spaces project – associated costs will be drawn from existing project budget.</li> </ul> <p><i>Resources –</i> Officer time as required.</p>
3.11	<p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p> <p>All capital projects are screened as part of the stage approval process.</p>
4.0	<p><b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b></p>
	<p>Appendix 1 – Electric Vehicles overview</p>

Overview - Plugin hybrid and all electric vehicle information

NB images are for illustrative purpose and not accurate scale.

MODEL & SPEC	PLUG IN HYBRID	ELECTRIC				
	Saloon	Estate			Hatchback	
Car model	BMW 7 Series	AUDI E-TRON	MERCEDES-BENZ EQC	JAGUAR I-PACE	HYUNDAI IONIQ*	TESLA MODEL S*
						
Trim	745Le xDRive 4dr Auto	230kW 50 Quattro 71kWh Sport 5dr Auto [C+S]	300kW AMG Line 80kWh 5dr Auto	294kW EV400 S 90kWh 5dr Auto	100kW Premium 38kWh 5dr Auto (*Another HYUNDAI IONIQ model is availablty, at higher cost (£25k))	Long Range AWD 5dr Auto (*Another 2 Telsa models are available, at a higher cost (MRP 2019
Release Date	2019	2020	2019	2018	2019	2019
CO2 Emissions Combined	0g/km	0g/km	0g/km	0g/km	0g/km	0g/km
CO2 g/km Emissions	52 g/km					
Insurance Group	50E	49E	50E	49E	16E	
Transmission	Automatic	Automatic	Automatic	Automatic	Automatic	Automatic
Fuel	Petrol/Plugin Elec hybrid	Electric	Electric	Electric	Electric	Electric
Gears	8 speed	1 SPEED	1 SPEED	1 SPEED	1 SPEED	1 SPEED
Drive	Four wheel drive	Four Wheel Drive	Four Wheel Drive	Four Wheel Drive	Front wheel drive	Four Wheel Drive
Body Type	4 Door Saloon	Estate	Estate	Estate	Hatchback	Hatchback
Length (mm)	5260	4901	4761	4682	4470	4979
Width (mm)	1902		1884	1895	1820	1964
Height (mm)	1479		1623	1565	1450	
Luggage Capacity (Seats Up)	420	660	500		350	748
Number of Seats	5	5	5	5	5	5
CHARGE						
Electric maximum range	27miles	204miles	259miles	298miles	124miles	393miles
COSTS						
Annual Least quotations. NB the quotes for the all electric vehicles are unoffical quotes	£9,596.89	£7,920.60	£7,058.52	£7,518.24	£2,697.20	£10,061.88
DELIVERY						
Delivery lead in times	Approx 2/3 months - based on earlier engagement and negotiations.	Minimum 4 months; up to 6 months - note, no engagement or negotiations to date, will be subject to the outcomes of formal quotation and negotiation process.				

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<b>Subject:</b>	<b>i) Beechvale Farm – Conacre Agreements</b> <b>ii) Morton Community Centre – Licence to Streetwise Community Circus CIC</b> <b>iii) Ormeau Golf Club – Lease Renewal</b>
<b>Date:</b>	21 February 2020
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Sinead Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Pamela Davison, Estates Team Leader

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Members to asset related disposal, acquisition and estates matters.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	<b>i) Beechvale Farm – Conacre Agreements</b> Committee is asked to approve the renewal of three conacre licences for the growing of crops, grazing and grass cutting on agricultural lands at Beechvale Farm, Comber for a licence period from and including 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.  <b>ii) Morton Community Centre – Licence to Streetwise Community Circus CIC</b> Committee is asked to approve the grant of a licence agreement to Streetwise Community Circus CIC for use of premises at Morton Community Centre.

	<p><b>iii) Ormeau Golf Club – Lease Renewal</b></p> <p>Committee is asked to approve the renewal of the lease of c. 137 acres of land at Park Road to the Trustees of Ormeau Golf Club for a term of 25 years from 1 July 2020 at a rent of £14,500 per annum with rent reviews every 5 years. The land is shown outlined in red on the Lease Map attached at Appendix 1.</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<p><b>i) Beechvale Farm – Conacre Agreements</b></p> <p><b><u>Key Issues</u></b></p> <p>Following the open marketing of the c110 acres of agricultural land at Beechvale Farm in early 2019, three conacre licences were entered into for the period from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 with the successful bidders.</p> <p>On 21 June 2019, the SP&amp;R Committee approved the appointment of agents to market Beechvale Farm for sale. Selling agents have now been appointed and draft brochures are being prepared subject to the Estates Unit agreeing the plots of land to be included in the sale and the marketing strategy with the agent.</p> <p>It is proposed that the respective conacre licences are renewed with each of the above parties for a further licence period from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021 under the same terms and conditions and licence fee as the existing conacre licences. The licence fees will mitigate the Council's holding costs until such time as Beechvale Farm is sold.</p> <p><b><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>The three conacre licences of agricultural land at Beechvale Farm will generate total licence fees for the Council of £13,208.15 for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.</p> <p><b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Impact Assessment</u></b></p> <p>None</p> <p><b>ii) Morton Community Centre – Licence to Streetwise Community Circus CIC</b></p> <p><b><u>Key Issues</u></b></p> <p>Streetwise Community Circus CIC have been using Morton Community Centre under a block booking arrangement for a number of years. The group exclusively occupy a small</p>

office, store and open mezzanine storage area. The Estates Unit has advised that their occupation should be dealt with by way of a licence agreement. The group are willing to enter into a rolling one year licence agreement from 1 April 2020 for the accommodation they occupy, up to a maximum of five years. The Estates Unit have recommended an annual licence fee of £4,530.00 subject to Members' approval.

The group have successfully secured funding for the installation of trapeze within main hall 1 at the Centre. It is intended that the licence agreement if recommended by Strategic Policy and Resources Committee will also cover the installation and future responsibility and liability for the trapeze. Use of main hall 1 will continue to operate under a block booking arrangement as the group will not have exclusive use of this area.

At its meeting on the 4 February 2020 the People & Communities Committee approved the grant of a licence subject to the approval of the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee.

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

Staff from the Estates Unit and Legal Services will finalise the licence agreement, The Council will receive income of £4,530.00 per annum for the duration of the agreement.

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

None

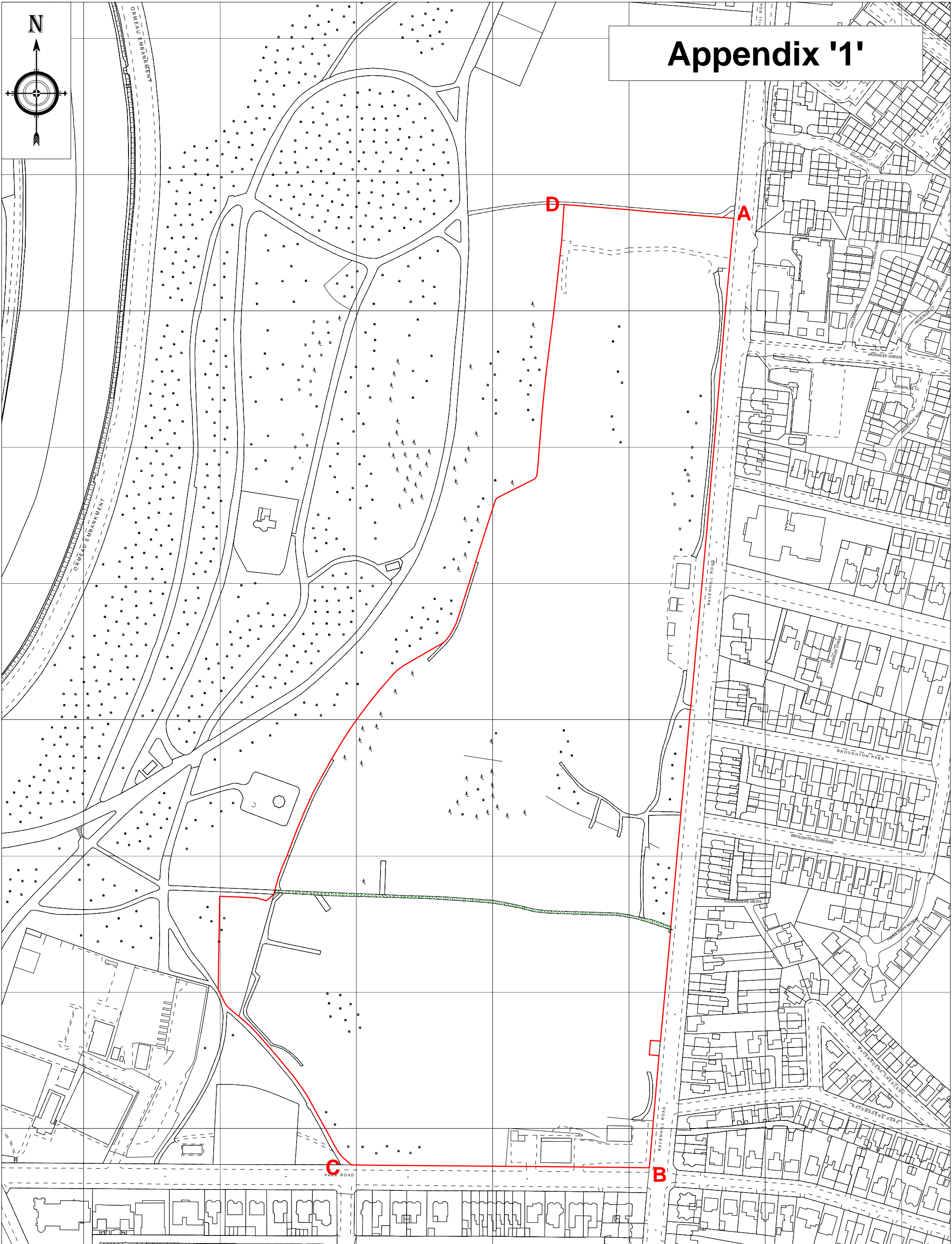
#### **iii) Ormeau Golf Club – Lease Renewal**

#### **Key Issues**

At its meeting on the 3 February 2020 the Council agreed that the portion of the minute in the Assets report of the 24 January 2020 relating to the renewal of the lease for Ormeau Golf Club, Park Road, be taken back to the Committee for further consideration.

Trustees of Ormeau Golf Club currently lease the land shown outlined red on the plan attached at Appendix 1 by way of a Lease dated 8 August 1990 for a term of 30 years from 1 July 1990. The current lease which is due to expire on 1 July 2020 provides the Trustees of Ormeau Golf Club with the option to renew the lease for a further term of 25 years.

	<p>Following a meeting with the Treasurer and the Hon Secretary of Ormeau Golf Club it is proposed to renew the lease on the following terms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Term - 25 years from 1 July 2020</li> <li>• Rent - £14,500 per annum as assessed by Land &amp; Property Services in accordance with the lease terms and reflecting available comparable evidence.</li> <li>• Review - every 5 years</li> <li>• Option to renew – Trustees of Ormeau Golf Club to have the option to renew the lease for a further 25 years from 1 July 2045.</li> <li>• Other terms to be as per the current lease.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>Rent proposed to continue at the current level of £14,500 per annum as agreed by LPS in July 2018.</p> <p><b><u>Equality and Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></b></p> <p>None</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	<p><b>Appendix 1</b> - Map showing land at Park Road to be leased to Ormeau Golf Club outlined in red. Pedestrian Public Right of Way pathway shown coloured green.</p>



# Appendix '1'

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<b>Subject:</b>	Leisure Transformation Programme Phase 1b – Operational Update
<b>Date:</b>	21 <sup>st</sup> February 2020
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Nigel Grimshaw, Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Ryan Black, Director of Neighbourhood Services Noel Munnis, Partnership 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"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update Members' on the mobilisation and opening of Lisnasharragh and Brook leisure centres and to highlight the successes and challenges to date.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Note the information provided below</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u> The capital build programmes were delivered on time leading to the opening of Lisnasharragh LC on 2 <sup>nd</sup> December and Brook LC on 4 <sup>th</sup> December 2019. Both centres

	operated on the basis of a 'soft opening' for the month of December and moved to full opening hours and programmes from the start of January 2020.
3.2	The centres were formally opened by the Lord Mayor on 8 <sup>th</sup> January (Lisnasharragh) and 17 <sup>th</sup> January (Brook).
3.3	Mobilising staff and resources to open two substantial new centres while simultaneously decommissioning two others ahead of closure (Avoniel LC and Brook AC) was a major undertaking. While the challenges were anticipated and included in the planning process, the actual impact was more difficult to manage than expected, largely due to the unprecedented level of enquiries, membership sales and daily customer footfall.
3.4	Dealing with record user numbers at both centres in the first two months has been compounded by (a) largely new centre teams, (b) a number of building/technology issues and (c) the need to build staff familiarity with the characteristics of brand new facilities.
3.5	Notwithstanding the challenges, both centres have been launched with outstanding successes in many operational, programming and business performance areas. However, there have been a number of operational issues that have required review and remedial actions to be put in place.
	<b>Headline successes:</b>
3.6	<p><b><u>LISNASHARRAGH</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Achieving in excess of 40,000 visits per month. Almost double the next highest recorded monthly footfall recorded at Olympia LC.</li> <li>2. Over 3,200 live pre-paid memberships. More than doubling the transferred total from Avoniel since opening.</li> <li>3. Over 700 GLL swim school members, 13 aquatics clubs with weekly bookings and 16 different schools sending circa 1,500 pupils for swimming lessons every week.</li> <li>4. Highest January sales figure (in excess of 900) on record for GLL in Belfast.</li> <li>5. Group exercise programme with double the number of classes previously delivered in Avoniel plus 14 additional classes recently added in response to attendance and demand.</li> <li>6. 40+ new staff recruited to launch the centre.</li> </ol>



3.7	<p><b><u>BROOK</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Over 1,600 live pre-paid memberships. Grown by over 1,000 since opening. Still growing rapidly and approaching the second largest centre membership totals currently at circa 2,000 in Olympia and Better Gym Connswater.</li> <li>2. Circa 250 GLL Swim School members from zero at the start of December.</li> <li>3. 18 clubs with weekly bookings.</li> <li>4. 7 different schools with weekly bookings.</li> <li>5. 3G pitches (6 X 5-a-side and 2 full size) operating at maximum capacity at peak times.</li> <li>6. Exceptional 'community buy in' through Mind-skills workshops, soccer tournaments pool parties (at maximum capacity), Celebrity football challenge, Family days and future bookings secured for Championship boxing and Wellbeing workshops.</li> <li>7. 20+ new staff recruited to launch the centre.</li> </ol>
3.8	<p>It is fully acknowledged that there have been issues to resolve. Some have been fully resolved, others are in process and we are confident that we are aware of all areas where continual reviews and improvements are required.</p> <p><b>Headline challenges:</b></p>
3.9	<p><b><u>LISNASHARRAGH</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Car park capacity is not meeting demand. Some traffic management and safety issues have emerged since opening. Action taken: The car park capacity is limited by the site footprint. There is currently 60 spaces plus 12 accessible spaces. By the end of February the car park will be completely resurfaced and remarked to include improve speed signage, a 'one way system, speed ramps enhanced signage to improve safety at the entrance and exit gates, parking controls (including physical features to stop parking on bends and planted areas). By adding a few additional spaces into the main car park layout and moving staff car parking to the rear compound we will be able to increase public parking capacity by circa 25%.</li> <li>2. No spa facilities. Update: The facility mix was approved by Council within the LTP planning process. There is no spa pool, sauna or steam room facilities at Lisnasharragh. Citywide members can access spa facilities at other sites across the city. Spa facilities for East</li> </ol>

Belfast have been included in the approved facility mix for the new Templemore Baths which is due to open in 2022.

3. Cleanliness. Cleaning standards have not been at an acceptable level.  
Action taken: BCC monitoring highlighted this issue. GLL senior management team took immediate action to rectify the problem. These issues were quickly and effectively addressed. Recent unannounced check visits have confirmed considerable improvements. Additional checks will continue on a weekly basis until the Council can be assured that cleaning standards have settled at the expected high level.
4. Pool programme  
Update: Pool programmes have been balanced to cater for a wide range of user groups and different aquatics activities. These include public swimming, GLL swim school, swimming and water polo club training, swimming and water polo competitions, fitness lane swimming, school swimming, diving, scuba diving, canoeing, etc. The view is that the start up programme is balanced, fair and has as worked well. BCC and GLL will continue to monitor demand and the programme will remain under review and will always be subject to change. Following a few construction issues, the diving pool will open for public/casual board sessions at the end of February. These will be published as part of the pool programme.
5. Ticketing and entry control. During the initial few weeks, lengthy queues developed at the reception desk and at the entry gates. Alongside a few minor technical issues the main cause was exceptionally high throughput and unfamiliarity with the system by both staff and customers.  
Action taken: Entry gates, fast pay kiosks, GLL member APP and reception/online bookings are all now fully operational. Front of house staff now have key fobs to remotely activate the gates if problems arise. Customer flows have settled significantly during February and frequent management observation sessions confirm that customers are using the fast entry options. This has significantly speed up access, reduced queues and substantially reduced the number of related complaints received.
6. Communications. A substantial number of complaints were received, particularly during December, in relation to difficulties contacting the centre by phone, poor query

	<p>response times and the provision of accurate and consistent information not being relayed by centre staff.</p> <p>Action taken: These issues have been partly resolved and it is acknowledged that there is still work to be done in this area. There is no single action that can fully resolved these issues. Solutions lie in how a number of different changes are put in place as each in turn will have a positive impact on the overall customer communications experience. Changes to the phone system have been made to provide a divert option for known customer services. The gate system, fast pay kiosks and GLL APP are now fully functioning and have reduced demand on reception to manageable levels. Staff training has been reviewed and a more robust process for disseminating information should address the accuracy and consistency of customer messaging.</p> <p>7. Public WiFi access. Due to technical difficulties, public access WiFi was not available when the centre opened.</p> <p>Update: This has now been resolved and WiFi is now available. A new high speed fibre broadband service is currently being installed across the Council estate. This will further enhance the download speed and coverage when it goes live later in 2020.</p> <p>8. Group exercise class access. A number of complaints were received in relation to the range and number of group exercise classes available. Including the number of customer spaces available.</p> <p>Update: The 'start up' group exercise programme launched in December was always intended to develop and grow. At the start of January, Lisnasharragh had more than double the number of classes previously offered at Avoniel. A further 14 classes have been added during February. It is anticipated that the programme will continue to grow to utilise and justify the three excellent group exercise studios available.</p>
3.10	<p><b><u>BROOK</u></b></p> <p>1. Noise complaints regarding external alarms and announcements. Early morning alarm testing is required within H&amp;S legislation and industry best practice.</p> <p>Action taken: Necessary alarm testing has been moved from 6.45am to 10.00am to avoid noise nuisance for local residents in the early part of the day. Further reductions have been made to the number and type of announcement relayed to</p>

	<p>external areas at the centre. This will remain under review until an acceptable compromise has been reached.</p> <p>2. Public WiFi access. Due to technical difficulties, public access WiFi was not available when the centre opened. Update: As above for Lisnasharragh</p> <p>3. Lights to original (Old Brook) 3G pitch. During the first few Weeks after opening the flood lights to the original 3G pitch were operated from the old building. In addition to this a number of flood light units were cutting out. This was unrelated to the new build. Update: Relocating the control panel to the new building took a little time to design and plan. The lights are now controlled from the new building and the system allows for the lights to be switched on and off without the need for staff to walk 200m to the old building for each booking. The flood light maintenance issue has been investigated and BCC facility maintenance section will be replacing the faulty units.</p> <p>4. IT connectivity issues. Technical teething problems resulted in problems related to accessing membership details, gate access operations and booking platforms. Update: This has now been resolved and the system is fully operational. This has significantly speeded up customer enquiry and sales processes and reduced the number of related complaints received.</p>
3.11	<p><u>Next steps</u></p> <p>Through contract governance systems and performance monitoring programmes already in place, the Council has the processes and means to continue to monitor performance at all BCC leisure facilities. Council officers work closely on a daily basis with GLL. We will continue to independently monitor service outputs and customer feedback and we are confident that as issues arise they will be quickly and effectively addressed.</p>
3.12	<p><u>Communications &amp; Public Relations</u></p> <p>Some of the challenges and issues highlighted above have been circulating on social media and the Council has received some formal complaints. These are being dealt with jointly by GLL and BCC as they arise.</p>

3.13	<u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u> None
3.14	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> None
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	None

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<b>Subject:</b>	Contracts Update
<b>Date:</b>	21 February 2020
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Ronan Cregan, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Noleen Bohill, Head of Commercial and Procurement 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"/>
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 or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	<p>The purpose of this report is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>seek approval from members for tenders and STAs over £30,000</li> </ul>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approve the public advertisement of tenders as per Standing Order 37a detailed in Appendix 1 (<b>Table 1</b>).</li> <li>Approve the award of STAs in line with Standing Order 55 exceptions as detailed in Appendix 1 (<b>Table 2</b>).</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<p><u>Publically Advertised Tenders</u></p> <p>Section 2.5 of the Scheme of Delegation states Chief Officers have delegated authority to authorise a contract for the procurement of goods, services or works over the statutory limit</p>

	<p>of £30,000 following a tender exercise where the council has approved the invitation to tender</p> <p>Standing Order 60(a) states any contract that exceeds the statutory amount (currently £30,000) shall be made under the Corporate Seal. Under Standing Order 51(b) the Corporate Seal can only be affixed when there is a resolution of the Council.</p> <p>Standing Order 54 states that every contract shall comply with the relevant requirements of national and European legislation.</p>
3.2	<p><u>Single Tender Actions (STAs)</u></p>
(a)	<p><u>Rate Relief System for iWorld (NIHE)</u></p> <p>The Council's Digital Services team is contracted to provide ICT services to the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE). These services include the hosting and support of the 'iWorld' Housing Benefit System.</p> <p>Northgate have proprietary rights for the iWorld' Housing Benefit System.</p> <p>The iWorld system is used to administer council tax across the UK; however, as rate relief legislation is unique to Northern Ireland the system has no integrated rate relief model within the system. A workaround, implemented in 2006/7 as a short term fix at the time, requires manual input and resources to manage and is now unsustainable. Northgate will create bespoke solution for the system enable more automated management of an additional 50,000 owner occupier cases, calculate rate relief, make payments and manage under/ over payments and adjustments.</p>
(b)	<p><u>Belfast City brand advertising at George Best Airport</u></p> <p>An excellent opportunity has become available at the George Best Belfast City Airport for the Council to promote the Belfast City brand. Approximately 2.7 million passengers and 1.3million meters and greeters are present at the Airport each year so this advertising opportunity has the potential to reach a vast audience and will have mass appeal.</p>



(c)	<p><u>Professional Services for the Innovation Factory Operator Contract</u></p> <p>The Council has in place a contract with Oxford Innovation for the delivery of the Innovation Factory at Forthriver. Since 2015 KPMG have been contracted to help the Council procure, implement and contract manage the Innovation Factory contract. The current STA agreement with KPMG ended in January 2020 and so a new STA is required to keep KPMG in place to provide limited contract and performance management support until the expiry of the Innovation Factory contract in 2026 given their in depth knowledge and workings of the contract.</p>
(d)	<p><u>Energy Management Services</u></p> <p>The Council currently has in place a STA agreement with Schneider Electric who portfolio manage the purchase of electricity and gas on behalf of the Council. This service allows the Council to best leverage its buying power and purchase the utilities within budgets and best value for money. A STA is required to ensure continuity of service as the Council is now locked into a further period of 12 months until 31st March 2021 in accordance with the current STA terms and conditions. It is the Council's intention to re-tender this requirement by 31st March 2021.</p>
3.3	<p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></p> <p>The financial resources for these contracts are within approved corporate or departmental budgets</p>
3.4	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	<p>Appendix 1</p> <p>Table 1 Publically Advertised Tenders</p> <p>Table 2 Single Tender Actions (STA)</p>

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**Table 1 – Publically Advertised Tenders**

<b>Title of Tender</b>	<b>Senior Responsible Officer</b>	<b>Proposed contract duration</b>
Provision of Arboricultural Services (T2020)	Nigel Grimshaw	Up to 5 years
Delivery of TechConnects – a cross community peace building programme for children & young people using digital technology (T2056)	Nigel Grimshaw/ Ryan Black (SRO)	Up to 31 <sup>st</sup> December 2022
Fleet strategy review	Nigel Grimshaw	Up to 1 year

**Table 2 - Direct Award Contracts (Single Tender Action)**

<b>Title of tender</b>	<b>Supplier</b>	<b>Total Value</b>
Rate Relief System for iWorld (NIHE)	Northgate	£664,750
Belfast City brand advertising at George Best Airport	Belfast City Airport	£45,000
Professional Services for the Innovation Factory Operator Contract	KPMG	£91,000
Energy Management Services	Schneider Electric	£60,000

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<b>Subject:</b>	Minutes of Shared City Partnership Meeting on 10 <sup>th</sup> February 2020
<b>Date:</b>	21 <sup>st</sup> February 2020
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Nigel Grimshaw, Strategic Director of City & Neighbourhood Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Nicola Lane, Good Relations 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"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	The purpose of this report is to report to committee on the key issues discussed at the Shared City Partnership meeting held on 10th February 2020.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	<p>That the Strategic Policy &amp; Resources Committee approve the minutes and the recommendations from the Shared City Partnership Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2020 including:</p> <p><u>PEACE IV Secretariat</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>That an extension request to September 2022 be explored for the Programme subject to approvals and budget availability.</li> </ul>

	<p><u>Peace IV - Children and Young People</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extend the delivery timeframe for CYP1 Tech Connects to March, 2022; and</li> <li>• Reallocate necessary funding (up to £57,000) from the CYP underspend to the CYP1 Tech Connects project.</li> </ul> <p><u>Peace IV - Shared Spaces and Services</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consideration of the Partnership's suggested brand name for the Reconnecting Open Spaces project of 'Forthmeadow' and the brand description of 'Community Greenway' for approval.</li> </ul> <p><u>Good Relations Audit and District Council Good Relations Action Plan 2020/21</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Note the key findings and recommendations outlined in the draft Good Relations Audit 2020 and agreed that these be recommended for approval subject to the above changes;</li> <li>• Note that the audit had raised a range of complementary issues which fell outside of the parameters of the Action Plan and would be considered further by Council in the context of the Good Relations Strategy and Belfast Agenda;</li> <li>• Recommend to the Strategic and Policy Resources Committee that the draft Action Plans 2020/21 and 2021/22 be submitted to The Executive Office (TEO); and</li> <li>• Note that this Action Plan submission is subject to agreement by Council in relation to any estimates setting exercise and also amendments during the assessing and scoring process that would be undertaken by TEO, and that the Council would be notified of any changes to the final approved Action Plans.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>The Shared City Partnership is a Working Group of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee which consists of Elected members and representatives from various sectors</p>

	across the city. The minutes from the Partnership are brought before the Committee for approval on a monthly basis.
3.2	<p>The key issues on the agenda at the February meeting were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PEACE IV <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Update on PEACE IV Secretariat</li> <li>➤ Update on PEACE IV CYP</li> <li>➤ Update on PEACE IV SSS</li> <li>➤ Update on PEACE IV BPR</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Good Relations Audit and District Council Good Relations Action Plan 2020/21</li> <li>• Request for Presentations</li> <li>• Forthcoming Events</li> </ul>
3.3	More details regarding the above issues and recommendations are included in the minutes of the meeting attached in appendix 1.
3.4	<p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></p> <p>All financial implications are covered through existing budgets</p>
3.5	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>The recommendations of the Partnership promote the work of the Council in promoting good relations and will enhance equality and good relations impacts.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1 Copy of the minutes of the Shared City Partnership of 10 <sup>th</sup> February 2020.

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## **SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP**

**MONDAY 10th FEBRUARY, 2020**

### **MEETING OF SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP**

Members present: Councillor Kyle (Chairperson);  
The High Sheriff Councillor Verner;  
Alderman Rodgers; and  
Councillors M. Kelly and Smyth.

External Members: Mrs. B. Arthurs, Community and Voluntary Sector;  
Mr. A. Cole, Good Relations, The Executive Office;  
Mr. J. Currie, Community and Voluntary Sector;  
Mr. J. Donnelly, Community and Voluntary Sector;  
Mrs. J. Hawthorne, Northern Ireland Housing Executive;  
Dr. Y. Hanore, NI Inter-Faith Forum;  
Ms. J. Irwin, Community Relations Council;  
Mr. M. O'Donnell, Department for Communities; and

In attendance: Ms. N. Lane, Good Relations Manager;  
Ms. D. McKinney, Programme Manager;  
Ms. A. Allen, Neighbourhood Services Manager; and  
Ms. E. McGoldrick, Democratic Services Officer.

### **Apologies**

Apologies for inability to attend were reported on behalf of Councillor Magennis and Mr. S. Dallas, Ms. G. Duggan, Superintendent K. McMillan, Mr. I. McLaughlin and Ms. A. White.

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting of 13th January were taken as read and signed as correct.

### **Declarations of Interest**

Mr. Currie and Ms. Arthurs declared an interest in relation to matters under item 3.) Update on PEACE IV, in that they were employed by an organisation which was a partner organisation of the initiative.

In relation to item 3.b) Update on Peace IV - Children and Young People, Mr. Donnelly declared an interest, as he was a Director of Programmes for the Active Communities Network which was delivering the Playing Our Part Project under Peace IV.

Mr. Cole declared an interest in regards to item 4.) Good Relations Audit and District Council Good Relations Action Plan 20/21, in that he was employed by The Executive Office.

### **Presentation - PEACE IV Shared Spaces and Services Branding**

The Partnership was informed that Mr. G. Stewart and Ms. A. McGrath, representing McCadden Design, were in attendance in order to provide an update on the verbal and visual identity of the Shared Spaces and Services Reconnecting Open Spaces project and they were welcomed to the meeting.

The Members were reminded of the need to create an iconic network of shared open spaces which would facilitate reconciliation and interaction between divided communities and would assist also in the provision of a catalyst for social and economic regeneration for local neighbourhoods. The Partnership was informed that, after the presentation by McCadden Design, they would be required to recommend a name and branding design for the project, under item 3. c) PEACE IV Programme - Shared Spaces and Services.

Mr. Stewart presented options for the naming and visual identity of the project. He explained the research and key underpinning concepts of building a brand which included a stakeholder questionnaire and the development of tangible values and benefits. He pointed out that the research which had been undertaken directed the naming and aided the proposed identity of the project. He reminded the Partnership that it had agreed to the positioning statement of 'on common ground' at its meeting in December, 2019. He suggested that the Brand Description be 'Urban Greenway' and highlighted how this might be represented through signage and graphic language, together with a series of illustrations of iconic sites relevant to the route.

He outlined two concepts for the naming of the project and suggested the following four names for consideration:

- Leeway;
- Midway;
- Forthmeadow (a compound name of Forthriver and Bog Meadows); or
- Springcairn (a compound name of Springfield and Glencairn)

The Chairperson of the Partnership thanked Mr. Stewart for his detailed and informative presentation and he departed from the meeting.

During discussion, the Partnership concluded that its preference would be with the name 'Forthmeadow', but felt that the brand description 'Urban Greenway' was not in keeping with the community linkage of the project. The majority of the Members suggested that the use of the word 'Community' in the brand description would also be more appropriate, so that the Project Name and Description branding would read 'Forthmeadow – Community Greenway'.

The Partnership noted the information provided and that the decision for the most appropriate branding option for the Reconnecting Open Spaces project was required under item 3. c) PEACE IV Programme - Shared Spaces and Services Update.

### **Update on PEACE IV**

#### **Peace IV Secretariat**

The Partnership was provided with an update in relation to PEACE IV Local Action Plan which included an overview of the project implementation (copy available [here](#)).

The Programme Manager advised that a range of culture cafes, seminar, workshops and events had been developed as part of the PEACE IV programme workplan, (copy available [here](#)) and further peace building events were being explored.

She explained that the underspend proposals for SSS and BPR themes had been submitted to SEUPB for consideration. Preliminary points of clarification had been discussed and were to be submitted to SEUPB in advance of the SEUPB Steering Committee in January 2020.

She pointed out that SEUPB had confirmed that forecasting spend targets for 2019 were within an acceptable tolerance, as follows:

- Children and Young People (CYP): 89%
- Building Positive Relations (BPR): 91%
- Shared Spaces and Services (SSS): 75%

She advised that detailed forecasting for expenditure to June 2022 had been submitted to SEUPB for consideration and spend targets for 2020 were to be confirmed by SEUPB. She pointed out that, SEUPB had highlighted that the overall spend (£1.6m) across the programme was low (11.5%) and raised concern regarding the achievement of total spend within the timeframe.

She explained that, given the difficulties in mobilising some BPR projects, withdrawal of CYP delivery agent and planning delays for SSS, it was proposed that an extension request to September 2022 was explored, subject to approvals and budget availability.

The Partnership agreed that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee be recommended to note the information contained within the report and approve that an extension request to September 2022 be explored, subject to approvals and budget availability.

### **Update on Peace IV - Children and Young People**

The Partnership considered the following report which provided information on the Children and Young People's theme of the PEACE IV Local Action Plan:

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

**To provide the Shared City Partnership (SCP) with a progress report in respect of the Children and Young People's (CYP) theme of the PEACE IV Local Action Plan.**

#### **2.0 Recommendations**

**The Partnership is requested to recommend to the Strategic Policy & Resources Committee that they note the contents of the report and agree to**

- 1. Extend delivery timeframe for CYP1 to March 2022**
- 2. Reallocate necessary funding (up to £57,000) from the CYP underspend to the CYP1 project.**

### **3.0 Main report**

#### **Key Issues**

- 3.1 Implementation of projects within the Children and Young People theme is continuing. Projects of concern are CYP1 Tech Connects and mobilisation of CYP5 LAN.**

### **3.2 CYP 1 – Tech Connects**

As previously advised, there have been a number of issues affecting delivery of this project resulting in the contracted delivery partner withdrawing from the contract.

A detailed verification of outputs is underway with the delivery agent and final reporting has been requested. Initial indications suggest that participant levels were lower than reported and an outstanding balance of approximately 1,000 participants will need to be include in the re-scope of the project.

- 3.3 In addition, SEUPB has advised that closure of the project should be in accordance with applicable policies and procedures and that:**

- (i) Final payments should be calculated on actual achievement and work completed.**
- (ii) The Delivery Agent to submit a final report outlining results and impacts.**
- (iii) Council to undertake a full verification of all outputs to ensure eligibility**
- (iv) All evidence and back up documentation needs to be retained for inspection.**
- (v) SEUPB will conduct a verification of these outputs**

- 3.4 Legal advice on the termination of the contract based on withdrawal is also progressing.**

In relation to the re-scoped project, discussions with SEUPB indicate that a reduction in participant numbers will not be permitted, on the basis that the project had been assessed for value for money.

Scoping discussions with potential delivery agents have been positive and will help re shape the project.

- 3.5 The re-scoped activity will take into account learning from delivery to date, such as the duration being too long for schools, and seek to maximise the impact of enabling participants to form positive and effective relationships with others. To minimise risk to Council and maximise achievement of targets, it is likely that procurement will be based on lots.**

Initial cost estimates for the re-scoped project suggests costs of £300,090.00 for delivery of all aspects of the project. The current

available budget for project delivery is £243,182.36. Whilst an equipment budget of £58,927.32 is available. SEUPB has advised that reallocation of the CYP underspend would be preferable. As such it is requested that members approve the reallocation of necessary funding (up to £57,000) from the CYP underspend (£129,902.41) to CYP1, subject to necessary approvals.

Given the remaining high targets, it is proposed that members agree to an extension for the delivery of this project to March 2022, which is within the Council's current Letter of Offer period.

**3.6 CYP 2, 3 and 4**

CYP2 Playing our Part, CYP3 – On the Right Track – Sports and Personal Change elements and CYP4 are proceeding as previously reported, with no current issues.

- Participants from CYP3 Personal Change recently celebrated their achievements at Belfast Castle with the 2nd Cohort being recruited.
- Second Cohorts for CYP3 Sport Element are due to begin programmes for Year 2- on going recruitment continuing in order to maintain the rate of attrition.
- Platforms to highlight the campaigns developed by the Young Advocates is being explored, with Cohort 3 beginning with discussions.

**3.7 CYP 5 – NIHE Local Area Network Partner Delivery**

In order to increase delivery, in line with updated implementation plan submitted to Council, a Good Relations Officer has been appointed to the project and has met with CYP Project Manager to discuss progression of implementation/ procurement

**3.8 Financial and Resource Implications**

PEACE IV costs are recoverable from SEUPB, as the funding body, subject to eligibility of expenditure. Costs totalling £460,723.43 have been reimbursed to Council for the CYP theme with verification of £142,180.30 for Claim 20 (Aug-Oct 19) underway. Claims for Period 21 are to be submitted to SEUPB by end February 2020.

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

The draft plan has been equality screened and discussed at the Equality Consultative Forum on 13 May 2015."

During discussion, the Programme Manager explained further the SEUPB targets and the necessity for the reallocation of funds. She also highlighted the monitoring process of funding recipients.

After discussion, the Partnership agreed to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it notes the contents of the report and agrees to:

- Extend the delivery timeframe for CYP1 to March, 2022; and
- Reallocate necessary funding (up to £57,000) from the CYP underspend to the CYP1 project.

### **Update on Peace IV - Shared Spaces and Services**

The Partnership considered the following report:

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

To provide the Shared City Partnership (SCP) with a progress report in respect of the Shared Spaces and Services (SSS) theme of the PEACE IV Local Action Plan.

#### **2.0 Recommendations**

The Partnership is requested to recommend to the Strategic Policy & Resources committee that they

- (i) note the contents of the report
- (ii) agreed the most appropriate branding option for the Reconnecting Open Spaces project

#### **3.0 Main report**

##### **3.1 Key Issues**

Implementation of both the Shared Space & Services (SSS) capital and programming element is continuing on a phased basis.

The current focus is on Sections 2 and 3 located at Springfield Dam, Springfield Park, Paisley Park and INI sites. Then progression on to Section 4 at Bog Meadows.

##### **3.2 Branding**

McCadden has further the SSS branding options based on feedback from Shared City Partnership in December 2019.

Shared City Partnership is to consider the options presented earlier today by McCadden and recommend the preferred branding option.

##### **3.3 Capital Works**

###### **Springfield Dam**

The contractor has been appointed, all planning conditions have now been fully discharged and the necessary licences are in place.

As such the Contractor is now mobilised and will commence work on 10 February 2020. The duration of works is approximately six to eight months for completion.

Approval for the implementation and management of the social clauses contained within the works contract is being sought from SEUPB

### 3.4 Key Indicative Dates for Peace IV Capital Elements

Item	Date
Commence procurement of Main Contractor	July 2019
Contractor Appointment	June 2020
Section 1 (Glencairn) - Commence works on site. Detailed design complete and planning applications to be submitted for lighting, entrance and signage	July 2020
Section 2 (DfC/INI Site) – Submit Major Planning Application  Detailed design work in final stages and an Invasive Species Management Plan underway.  Planning application submitted for gates at Woodvale Avenue. Both sets of gates will be locked with an alley type gate security key with keys issued in line with the current Council procedure. Hours of opening and closing to be agreed	Feb 2020
Section 2 (DfC/INI Site) - Commence works on site	Sept 2020 – Jan 2021  Subject to planning approval
Section 3 (Springfield/ Falls Park) – Commence works on site As capital delivery is on a phased basis there is no further progress required at present	Sept 2020 – Jan 2021  (may start earlier whilst planning approval for other sections is progressed)
Section 4 (Bog Meadows) – Major Planning Application  Discussions with land owners being progressed regarding management, maintenance and liability issues to be confirmed in advance of a planning application being submitted	April 2020

Section 4 (Bog Meadows) - Commence works on site	Nov 2020 – Mar 2021  Subject to planning approval
Section 5 (Broadway/ Westlink) – Commence works on site	November- April 2020

Wider scheme tender documentation being finalised with a view to issuing documents for Section 1 and Section 2 March 2020.

### **3.5 Programming**

Engagement with the community on suitable programmes to animate and use the connected spaces is ongoing.

The Youth Civic Engagement project is continuing, with an extended delivery timeframe to 31 March 2020 as approved by the PEACE IV Programme Board in January 2020.

Procurement for Dialogue & Engagement and Inter-generational projects is being progressed.

A cross community Fitness Project with Clonard Neighbourhood Development Partnership has commenced with participants utilising various locations across the shared space network.

Discussions to establish an active travel project and hub, comprising of cycle/walking aspects close to Whiterock Leisure Centre are progressing. Linkages with PHA programmes are being developed.

Community based project ideas and opportunities along the Reconnecting Open Spaces Network are being explored with Ulster Wildlife. These include nature/environmental themed community events and a volunteer training project commencing in summer 2020.

With the assistance of EA, a schools based initiative to promote the project through pupils and their parents is due to commence in March 2020.

### **3.6 Financial and Resource Implications**

PEACE IV costs are recoverable from SEUPB, as the funding body, subject to eligibility of expenditure.

Costs totalling £409,202.87 have been reimbursed to Council for the SSS theme with verification of £69,756.12 for Claim 20 (Aug-Oct 19) underway. Claims for Period 21 are to be submitted to SEUPB by end February 2020.



Discussions with DfC, DoJ, DfI and TEO regarding wider community benefit and contributions to the project are to be being progressed and prioritised.

### **3.7 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment**

The draft plan has been equality screened and discussed at the Equality Consultative Forum on 13 May 2015.

Equality screening for the SSS capital build is being progressed through Council's Equality Screening process."

After discussion, the Partnership agreed to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources committee that it notes the contents of the report, and:

- Considers the Partnership's suggested brand name for the Reconnecting Open Spaces project of 'Forthmeadow' and the brand description of 'Community Greenway' for approval.

## **Update on Peace IV - Building Positive Relations**

The Shared City Partnership considered the following report:

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

To provide the Shared City Partnership (SCP) with a progress report in respect of the Building Positive Relations (BPR) theme of the PEACE IV Local Action Plan.

### **2.0 Recommendations**

The Partnership is requested to recommend to the Strategic Policy & Resources committee to note the contents of the report

### **3.0 Main report**

#### **3.1 Key Issues**

Implementation of projects within the Building Positive Relations theme is continuing with 4 key projects now mobilised.

#### **3.2 BPR1 – Cross Community Area Networks**

Project Manager and two Good Relations Officers have now been appointed with the remaining posts taking up post at the end of February. An implementation meeting has been arranged to confirm deliverables, timeframes and progress reporting on the project. Early indications suggest that NIHE may be seeking a further extension for project delivery to 30 June 2022. A formal proposal, implementation plan and revised budget has been requested from NIHE.

#### **3.3 BPR2 – Creative Communities Project**

Following an external commissioning exercise for the Artist/Heritage in residence, three clusters will be ready to commence their project with an anticipated 112 participants registering. Three clusters require further project idea facilitated sessions and the remaining two clusters will be established on a thematic basis.

#### **3.4 BPR3 – Transform for Change Project**

It is anticipated that 9 courses will be delivered between Jan- May 2020. 74 participants are currently registered and 57 have submitted expressions of interest awaiting cluster assignment. Securing participation from Council staff, statutory and political sectors remains a key focus. The organisation of local community engagement events, City –wide networking events and a cross border study visit is currently underway.

#### **3.5 BPR4 – Belfast and the World (BATW)**

Year 2 (2019) participant group (20 ppl) will commence in Ligionel at the beginning of February 2020. The two year 3 participant groups have commenced in the Shankill and Ballynafeigh. The Ballynafeigh group will comprise of CNR, PUL and BME participants.

40 participants have been successfully selected to participate on the EU trip to Belgium in late March.

#### **3.6 BPR5 – Supporting Connected Communities - LINCS Projects**

*Alternatives undertook an internal trawl and has been successful in filling the Project Co-Ordinator post. Further discussions are ongoing with the BPR Thematic Manager, the lead delivery agent and project team in relation to the proposed amendment of engagement that was submitted.*

#### **3.7 BPR5 – Traveller and Roma elements of Supporting Connected Communities**

*Public Information Sessions were held on 30 January 2020 which confirmed the content and delivery approach of the proposals. Proposals are being finalised for submission and approval by SEUPB.*

#### **3.8 Financial and Resource Implications**

PEACE IV costs are recoverable from SEUPB, as the funding body, subject to eligibility of expenditure. Costs totalling £409,136.67 have been reimbursed to Council for the BPR theme with verification of £174,352.15 for Claim 20 (Aug-Oct 19) underway. Claims for Period 21 are to be submitted to SEUPB by end February 2020.

### **3.9 Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment**

**The draft plan has been equality screened and discussed at the Equality Consultative Forum on 13 May 2015.”**

After discussion, during which the need for increased participation amongst community and statutory organisations in some of the projects was emphasised, the Partnership agreed to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it note the information contained within the report.

#### **Good Relations Audit and District Council Good Relations Action Plan 2020/21**

The Partnership was reminded that the Council submitted an annual action plan to the Executive Office (TEO) every year in order to draw down funding for the good relations work of the Council. TEO had requested submission of this year’s action plan by 14th February, 2020 and the plan for 2021/22 by 13th March, 2020.

The Good Relations Manager summarised the findings from the Partnership’s Workshop which took place on 6th February to consider the key audit recommendations and the draft action plan to ensure that it delivered on key identified needs.

She outlined the contents of the draft Action Plans for 2020/21 and 2021/22 (copies available [here](#)). The audit contained a range of 30 recommendations and suggestions on how the Council could shape its Action Plan, considering the issues raised within the audit and aligned with its newly agreed Good Relations Strategy. In addition, the audit had raised a range of complementary issues. The Good Relations Manager explained that these would fall outside the parameters of the Action Plan but were nevertheless crucial issues for the Council and other city-based stakeholders to progress.

She informed the Partnership that all future agreed actions would be developed within the overall context of the Belfast Agenda and its identified priorities and the issues identified in the audit would require further consideration by the Council and other agency partners.

She advised that the recommendations fell into 4 distinct areas:

1. Areas for the Council to consider corporately;
2. Good Relations in Council;
3. City-wide issues that the Council should lead on progressing; and
4. How Belfast City Council should position itself as a regional leader in promoting Good Relations.

She presented the following 30 audit recommendations for consideration:

#### **“Corporate**

- 1. Further shift the language toward a shared city;**
- 2. Focus the language also to ending segregation;**
- 3. The chair of the Shared City Partnership should be invited to the party group leaders’ meetings when discussing issues of relevance to good relations;**
- 4. The Shared City Partnership should be better utilised specially to explore long-term and emerging critical issues and how Council may respond;**

5. ***Council should clarify the value of the Shared City Partnership and chief officers should attend meetings more often;***
6. ***Council should clarify how good relations is manifest within its decision-making structures;***
7. ***Good relations considerations should be integral to emerging policy discussions;***
8. ***Good relations considerations should be enhanced in policy consideration at a corporate and city-wide level, and not confined to an area-based contribution;***
9. ***Develop a good relations programme to engage all elected members; and***
10. ***Develop space for discussion for the group leaders including the chair of the Shared City Partnership.***

#### **Good Relations in Council**

11. ***Rename the grant programme the Shared City Grant programme;***
12. ***By 2021/2022 move to an annual grant aid process;***
13. ***By 2021/2022 move to the possibility of longer-term funding;***
14. ***Establish a seed fund especially for those that feel unable to properly access larger funding;***
15. ***Establish strategic intervention funding in one or two areas of work e.g. removal of interface barriers/"peace walls" helping reduce the proportion of spend on grant aid;***
16. ***By 2021/2022 further review the criteria and process for funding;***
17. ***Develop a new programme of work to engage staff in good relations with particular effort to involve new communities and PUL employees;***
18. ***Further engage with the physical regeneration unit in Council on major capital and other works; and***
19. ***Develop an interface programme through the Shared City Partnership that engages the IFI and other agencies to explore sustainable support in communities to remove interface barriers/"peace walls".***

#### **City Wide Impact**

20. ***Continue to develop existing programmes including working with the relevant partners on bonfire engagement and on the decade of centenaries/50-year anniversaries;***
21. ***The youth forum should be invited to attend the Shared City Partnership;***
22. ***Invite the International Fund for Ireland on to the Shared City Partnership or an interface sub-group;***
23. ***The Shared City Partnership should receive a small budget to facilitate its thinking and research into emerging issues; and***
24. ***The emerging issues the Shared City Partnership should consider include demographic change, interface barrier/"peace wall" removal or why reconciliation and good relations funding has not led to greater attitudinal change.***

#### **Positioning and Promoting**

25. ***Re-brand the good relations programme and resource further promotion of the good relations work the Council undertakes;***
26. ***Continue to expand the meaning of a shared city to include all minority and majority groupings in the section 75 definition;***

- 27. The good relations unit should also be involved in dialogue and process around what a shared city means for all groups beyond the section 75(2) groups even though not a formal part of TEO good relations priorities;**
- 28. Develop a project or intervention to raise the profile of BME civic leaders;**
- 29. All political parties on the Council should be offered opportunity to engage with members of the BME community to explain how the political structures work in Council and within their parties; and**
- 30. Council should not just rebrand and prioritise the promotion of its good relations work within the Council, it should acknowledge and promote the importance of the work it does on these islands and internationally."**

The Good Relations Manager pointed out that the conclusions and recommendations chapter, along with a summary of all the recommendations, had been appended to the report (copy available [here](#)) and that the full document would be submitted to a future meeting for further discussion in due course. She advised that the audit findings would also form part of the overall Implementation Plan for the Good Relations Strategy of which the DCGRP action plan was only one element.

During discussion, Members highlighted that the audit recommendations should align with existing Good Relations work being undertaken outside of the Council and that the language used needed to be clear to avoid duplication of such work.

The following changes to the recommendations were suggested by the Panel:

- 11. Develop a new programme of work to engage staff in good relations with particular effort to involve new communities and PUL employees in good relations work.**
- 19. Bearing in mind existing structures and partnerships, further develop the Interface programme through the Shared City Partnership continuing to engage the relevant agencies to explore sustainable support in communities to remove interface barriers/"peace walls" in Belfast.**
- 22. Invite appropriate funders on to relevant sub-groups of the Partnership.**

After discussion, the Partnership:

- Noted the key findings and recommendations outlined in the draft Good Relations Audit 2020 and agreed that these be recommended for approval, subject to the aforementioned changes;
- Noted that the audit had raised a range of complementary issues which fell outside of the parameters of the Action Plan and would be considered further by Council in the context of the Good Relations Strategy and Belfast Agenda;
- Recommended to the Strategic and Policy Resources Committee that the draft Action Plans 2020/21 and 2021/22 be submitted to The Executive Office (TEO); and
- Noted that this Action Plan submission was subject to agreement by the Council in relation to any estimates setting exercise and also amendments during the assessing and scoring process that would be undertaken by TEO, and that the Council would be notified of any changes to the final approved Action Plans.

### **Request for Presentations**

The Partnership noted the following requests had been received to present at future meetings of the Partnership and agreed that these be acceded to:

- Future City Centre Programme - City Centre Connectivity Study;
- Strategic Director of City and Neighborhoods Department; and
- Belfast Mobility Study.

### **Forthcoming Events**

The Good Relations Manager highlighted the following events in which the Good Relation Unit was involved and to which the Partnership was invited:

- EU Settlement Scheme Drop in information session, City Hall, 12th February, 6.00 p.m. - 8.30 p.m.;
- Visit to Ballynafeigh Orange Hall, 13th February, 10.00 a.m. – 12 noon;
- Visit to Belfast Islamic Centre, 27 February, 11.00 a.m. – 2 p.m.;
- Visit to Clonard Monastery, 11 March, 10 -12 p.m.;
- Islamic Awareness Training 2, 9 and 19th March, 9 – 4 p.m.; and
- An introduction to sexual orientation and gender, 2 April, 10.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.

During discussion, Mr. Currie advised of a Myths and Realities, Race Relations event at the East Belfast Network Centre on 10th March and would send further details of the event to the Good Relations Manager for circulation.

Noted.

Chairperson



<b>Subject:</b>	Brexit Committee – Proposed Visit to Belfast and Dublin Ports
<b>Date:</b>	21 <sup>st</sup> February 2020
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Nigel Grimshaw, Strategic Director City & Neighbourhood Services John Walsh, City Solicitor / Director of Legal and Civic Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Damian Connolly, City Protection Manager, City & Neighbourhood Services Claire Sullivan, Policy and Business Development Officer, City & Neighbourhood 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 approve the expenditure associated with a study visit to the Port Health Unit Facilities in Belfast and Dublin.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider the request from the Brexit Committee to approve expenditure of up to £1,500 to undertake the visit, this will be covered from existing departmental budgets.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u>

3.2	<p>The Brexit Committee, at its meeting on January, agreed to a proposal that the Committee agrees to undertake a study visit to the Port Health Unit Facilities in Belfast and Dublin. The Committee noted that, if possible, both visits should be undertaken on the same day. At that meeting the Committee noted that it did not have a budget and any expenditure agreed by that Committee would have to be approved by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.</p>
3.3	<p>If Committee is minded to approve the budget, a formal request will be made to the relevant authorities to facilitate a visit of the Brexit Committee and accompanying staff to Dublin Port.</p>
3.4	<p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></p> <p>A budget of up to £1,500 to cover transport and subsistence, is required to be approved by the Committee to enable the visit to take place, which will be covered from existing departmental budgets.</p>
3.5	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None.</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	<p>None.</p>





**Belfast**  
City Council

<b>Subject:</b>	Requests for use of the City Hall and the provision of Hospitality
<b>Date:</b>	21 February 2020
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	John Walsh, City Solicitor and Director of Legal and Civic Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Aisling Milliken, Functions and Exhibition Manager

### Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes

☐

No

☒

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision

After Council Decision

Some time in the future

Never

☐  
☐  
☐  
☐

### Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes

☒

No

☐

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	This paper, together with the attached appendix, contains the recommended approach in respect of each of the requests by external organisations for access to the City Hall function rooms received up to 10 February 2020 which appear to the Function Management Unit to comply with the criteria previously established by the Committee and are recommended for approval.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>approve the recommendations made in respect of applications received up to 10 February 2020 as set out in the attached appendix.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
	<u>Background Information</u>
3.1	Members will be aware that the Committee, at its meeting of 6th January 2017, agreed to

	modify the criteria governing access to the City Hall function rooms for external organisations.
3.2	<p>The Committee also agreed to the implementation of room-hire charges for some categories of function, and also revised the approach to the provision of civic hospitality for functions on foot of the agreed efficiency programme. Some further modifications to this approach were agreed at the Committee's meetings of 24<sup>th</sup> March 2017, 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2017, 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2019 and 25<sup>th</sup> October 2019.</p> <p><u>Key Issues</u></p>
3.3	The existing revised criteria and scale of charges have been applied to the various requests received and the recommendations herein are offered to the Committee on this basis for approval.
3.4	The schedule attached at Appendix 1 covers a number of applications for functions, which are scheduled for 2020 and 2021 and are included in order to permit the organisers to commence their event planning and communications activity as early as possible.
3.5	It should be noted that 1 of the applications received has been dealt with by means of the authority delegated by the Committee to the City Solicitor because of the very short timescale involved, and is included in the schedule for information only.
	<u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u>
3.6	The implementation of charging for external functions has commenced, in line with the Committee's decisions in the matter.
	<u>Equality and Good Relations / Rural Needs Implications</u>
3.7	There are no direct good relations, equality or rural needs implications arising from this report.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	Appendix 1 - Schedule of Function requests received up to 10 February 2020.

## FEBRUARY 2020 CITY HALL FUNCTION APPLICATIONS

NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
<b>2020 EVENTS</b>						
European Connected Health Alliance	26 March 2020	<b>NI Connected Health Ecosystem Gathering – Launching the Implementations of XX Report</b> (confidential) – Launch of implementation plan to address health inequalities & support Belfast Agenda to promote a healthy lifestyle for everyone in Belfast.  Numbers attending – 120	C & D	No (Not For Profit)	Yes, Tea Coffee and Biscuits	<i>Approved by Delegated Authority</i>  Approve No Charge Tea and Coffee Reception
Marine Society and Sea Cadets	23 June 2020	<b>My LegaSea Multi-Generational Impact Study Report Launch</b> – launch of impact study highlighting importance of youth work through Sea Cadets.  Numbers attending – 80	C & D	No (Charity)	Yes, Wine Reception	Approve No charge Wine Reception
Belfast Health and Social Care Trust – Family Nurse Partnership	17 September 2020	<b>Family Nurse Partnership Graduation Event</b> – celebratory event to recognise achievements of local service users with the Family Nurse Partnership.  Numbers attending - 100	C & D	Yes - £115  (Public Body)	No hospitality  (Public Body)	Approve, Room charge No hospitality
The Executive Office	17 September 2020	<b>Good Relations Awards Ceremony</b> – celebration event to recognise achievements of local groups working in their community through various funding programmes.  Numbers attending –200	B & C	Yes - £300  (Public Body)	No hospitality  (Public Body)	Approve, Room charge No hospitality
Belfast Health and Social Care Trust – Community Health Nursing	10 October 2020	<b>Celebrating 2020 Year of The Nurse/Midwife Gala Dinner</b> – celebration dinner to mark 2020 Year of the Nurse within Community Health Nursing.  Numbers attending – 300	C	Yes - £300  (Public Body)	No hospitality  (Public Body)	Approve, Room charge No hospitality

## **FEBRUARY 2020 CITY HALL FUNCTION APPLICATIONS**

Irish FA Foundation	19 November 2020	<b>Irish FA/McDonalds Community Football Awards</b> – awards ceremony to recognise achievements of volunteers involved in the Irish FA Foundation.  Numbers attending – 200	C & D	No (Charity)	No hospitality	Approve No charge, No hospitality
Flax Trust	3 December 2020	<b>Flax Trust Inter-Community Schools Choir Award</b> – award ceremony for cross community choirs with aim of eliminating community tensions and religious prejudices.  Numbers attending – 400 - 500	C & D	No (Charity)	No hospitality	Approve No charge, No hospitality
<b>2021 EVENTS</b>						
NSPCC Northern Ireland	13 February 2021	<b>Celebration Ball</b> – celebration event to recognise contributions of local partnerships and individuals who have fundraised for charity.  Numbers attending –300 - 400	C & D	No (Charity)	Yes, Wine Reception	Approve No charge Wine Reception

## **Minutes of Party Group Leaders Consultative Forum 13<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

### **Attendance**

#### **Members:**

Alderman Brian Kingston (Chair)  
Councillor George Dorrian  
Councillor Billy Hutchinson  
Councillor Donal Lyons  
Councillor Mal O'Hara  
Councillor Michael Long  
Councillor Ronan McLaughlin (for Cllr Beattie)

#### **Officers:**

Suzanne Wylie, Chief Executive  
Ronan Cregan, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources  
John Walsh, City Solicitor  
Nigel Grimshaw, Director of City and Neighbourhood Services  
Alistair Reid, Director of Planning and Place  
Sean Dolan, Acting Director City Regeneration and Development (for item 3)  
Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer (for item 7)  
Joanne Delaney, Strategic Performance Manager (secretariat)

Apologies: Councillors Beattie and Ferguson, Alderman Copeland

### **1. Waste Management for 2020 and Engagement with TU's**

The Director of City & Neighbourhood Services provided an update on Waste Management issues and ongoing engagement with Trade Unions. He advised that following these discussions a joint statement from Management and Trade Unions on work patterns and conditions would be issued in due course.

### **2. Finance**

#### **Quarter 3 2019/20**

The Director of Finance and Resources circulated a briefing outlining the 2019-20 Quarter 3 financial position which would be presented to members at the February SP&R Committee. He also advised that an additional 3 requests for funding had been received, these would be included in the report for consideration of the Committee. Members indicated that they would be minded to support some funding for the Tribunal Service but requested that Officers liaise with DfC officials to determine if funding from the Department would become available. It was agreed that a verbal update would be provided to the Committee.

### **3. Strategic Sites Assessment**

The Acting Director of City Regeneration and Development provided the Forum with an update on the ongoing work on the Strategic Site Assessment piece for the INW Northern Cluster and the proposed approach for progressing the engagement strategy and the development agreement process. Meetings with local communities and political representatives are currently ongoing and will be completed prior to a report being brought to CG&R and SP&R Committees in April.

### **4. Substitute Members Policy**

The City Solicitor circulated a discussion paper on a proposed Councillor Substitution Scheme, which would allow for a member from the same party to act as a substitute for the duration of a committee meeting. He advised that such a scheme would need to be further developed and he welcomed feedback from members of the Forum. It was agreed that the City Solicitor would arrange to discuss with the Local Government Policy Division and a more detailed report brought back to a future meeting.

### **5. Process of Managing Notice of Motions**

The City Solicitor circulated an updated proposal on a process for dealing with Notices of Motion. It was noted that Party Group Briefings had been held to discuss the proposals in more detail. A report will now be brought to February SP&R Committee.

### **6. E- Petition**

The City Solicitor circulated a discussion paper relating to a Notice of Motion on an E-Petition Mechanism. The Forum discussed a number of alternative options and it was agreed that the City Solicitor would further explore and bring a report back to a future meeting.

### **7. Webcasting of Committee Meetings**

Members had asked for further details in relation to the costs involved in webcasting Committee meetings, the City Solicitor circulated the report at the meeting and the Senior Democratic Services Officer attended to answer any queries on the indicative costings. Other options were discussed including the option of an upgraded audio system that could potentially bookmark committee items. Members agreed that this is further researched and a report is brought back to a future meeting.

## **8. Update on Party Group Leaders' and Corporate Management Team Planning Day**

The PGL/CMT planning session took place on the 5<sup>th</sup> February and a draft action list for extended meetings of the Forum was circulated for consideration. These extended meetings will be scheduled on a quarterly basis. Issues to be raised at forthcoming Ministerial meetings discussed on the planning day will be circulated to the Forum and a report brought to February SP&R Committee.

## **9. Planning Update**

The Chief Executive updated the Forum on the live planning applications and informed the Forum of the applications that were being presented to the Planning Committee this month and next month.

## **10. AOB**

### **Bonfire Related Issue**

Councillor Dorrian raised an issue in relation to Bonfires. It was agreed that the Director of City & Neighbourhoods services would arrange a meeting with East Belfast Councillors and the bonfire representatives to discuss.

### **Queen's Award for Voluntary Service**

Councillor O' Hara raised a request he had received from Philip McGarry to present to the Forum on the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. The Forum agreed to the request to invite him to a future meeting.

### **Special Meeting – Bi Lingual Leisure Signage**

The Forum noted that a Special meeting was being arranged for Party Group Leaders on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February to discuss Bi Lingual Leisure Signage. It was agreed that a recent Notice of Motion in relation to Irish Language Street Signage Policy would also be added to the agenda.

### **Lord Mayor's event**

Members noted that the Lord Mayor was hosting an event in City Hall on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March, to mark the positive contribution made by community groups in our City. An information leaflet for the event has been circulated to all Members.

### **Meeting – Flags and Banners**

The Chief Executive advised that following a Notice of Motion raised on Flags and Banners a meeting has been arranged for the Party Group Leaders to meet with PSNI and the Department for Infrastructure. The meeting will take place on 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 8.30am and a meeting request will be circulated.