

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



**Belfast
City Council**

20th October, 2020

MEETING OF STRATEGIC POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will meet via Microsoft Teams on Friday, 23rd October, 2020 at 9.30 a.m., 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) Medium Term Financial Plan and Efficiency Programme (Pages 1 - 8)
- (b) Finance Update (Pages 9 - 14)
- (c) Update on the Operational Recovery of Council Services (Pages 15 - 28)
- (d) Customer Focus Programme – Update on Customer Hub Formation (Pages 29 - 34)
- (e) Update on Marketing and Communications Service (Pages 35 - 42)
- (f) Decade of Centenaries Programme - November 2020 to March 2022 (Pages 43 - 52)
- (g) Update on Appraisal of Inner City Kerbside Sort (Pages 53 - 56)

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

- (a) Motion - Racism Free Zone (Pages 57 - 58)
- (b) Installation of a Statue in Remembrance of Frederick Douglass – Response from the Minister for Communities (Pages 59 - 62)
- (c) Motion: Public Transport/Parking for Health Workers, Patients and Visitors – Responses from the Ministers for Health and Infrastructure (Pages 63 - 70)
- (d) Motion: Review of Housing Fitness Standard – Response from the Minister for Communities (Pages 71 - 74)
- (e) Motion: Climate Change Act – Response from the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (Pages 75 - 78)
- (f) Motion - Support for Mental Health (Pages 79 - 82)

4. **Belfast Agenda/Strategic Issues**

- (a) Update on Smart Belfast and Belfast Digital Innovation Partnership (Pages 83 - 110)

5. **Physical Programme and Asset Management**

- (a) Update on Physical Programme (Pages 111 - 114)
- (b) Leisure Transformation Programme - Assets Update (Pages 115 - 122)
- (c) Assets Management (Pages 123 - 140)
- (d) Update on Area Working (Pages 141 - 192)

6. **Finance, Procurement and Performance**

- (a) Contracts Update (Pages 193 - 200)
- (b) Commercial and Procurement Service - Pricing Policy (Pages 201 - 238)

7. **Equality and Good Relations**

- (a) Minutes of the Meeting of the Shared City Partnership (Pages 239 - 278)
- (b) Signage Scheme Proposal for the Gaeltacht Quarter Area (Pages 279 - 282)

8. **Operational Issues**

- (a) Minutes of the Meeting of the Party Group Leaders' Consultative Forum (Pages 283 - 288)
- (b) Minutes of the Meeting of the Customer Focus Working Group (Pages 289 - 290)
- (c) Minutes of the Meeting of the Climate Crisis Working Group (To follow)
- (d) Requests for Use of the City Hall and the Provision of Hospitality (Pages 291 - 294)

9. **Issues Raised in Advance by Members**

- (a) Unit Fees - St. George's Market (Councillor Gormley to raise)

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Dept	Service	Function	Operational Status	Comments
City & Neighbourhood Services	Belfast Zoo	Belfast Zoo	Partially Operational	Open with restrictions. Animal houses closed.
City & Neighbourhood Services	Belfast Castle/Malone House/ Commercial Buildings	Belfast Castle	Partially Operational	Permissible Bookings only allowed.
City & Neighbourhood Services	Belfast Castle/Malone House/ Commercial Buildings	Malone House	Partially Operational	Permissible Bookings only allowed.
City & Neighbourhood Services	Belfast Castle/Malone House/ Commercial Buildings	The Stables	Partially Operational	Takeaway only service
City & Neighbourhood Services	Belfast Castle/Malone House/ Commercial Buildings	Lock Keepers Cottage	Partially Operational	Takeaway only service
City & Neighbourhood Services	City Protection Service	Air Quality not including Air Monitoring Station	Operational (controlled operating model)	
City & Neighbourhood Services	City Protection Service	Air Quality Monitoring Station	Operational (controlled operating model)	
City & Neighbourhood Services	City Protection Service	Planning Consultations	Operational (controlled operating model)	
City & Neighbourhood Services	City Protection Service	Emergency Planning	Operational (controlled operating model)	
City & Neighbourhood Services	City Protection Service	Scientific Services	Operational (controlled operating model)	
City & Neighbourhood Services	City Protection Service	Animal Welfare	Operational (controlled operating model)	
City & Neighbourhood Services	City Protection Service	Dog Control and Licensing	Operational (controlled operating model)	
City & Neighbourhood Services	City Protection Service	Housing of Multiple Occupant	Operational (controlled operating model)	
City & Neighbourhood Services	City Protection Service	Port Health (include Brexit project if required).	Operational (controlled operating model)	
City & Neighbourhood Services	City Protection Service	Public Health and Housing	Operational (controlled operating model)	Dedicated customer contact arrangement established for call handling and the out-of-hours emergency phone service is operational.
City & Neighbourhood Services	City Protection Service	Cleansing Enforcement	Operational (controlled operating model)	
City & Neighbourhood Services	City Protection Service	Workplace Health and Safety	Operational (controlled operating model)	
City & Neighbourhood Services	City Protection Service	Food Safety	Operational (controlled operating model)	Operational except for routine chemical and microbiological sampling.
City & Neighbourhood Services	City Protection Service	Industrial Pollution Control	Operational (controlled operating model)	
City & Neighbourhood Services	City Protection Service	Sewer Baiting (including pest control advice & support for PH&H)	Operational (controlled operating model)	
City & Neighbourhood Services	City Protection Service	Home Safety	Partially Operational	Virtual inspection will continue.
City & Neighbourhood Services	City Protection Service	Day Time Noise	Operational (controlled operating model)	
City & Neighbourhood Services	City Protection Service	Night Time Noise	Operational (controlled operating model)	
City & Neighbourhood Services	City Protection Service	Private water supplies Risk assessments/sampling	Operational (controlled operating model)	
City & Neighbourhood Services	City Protection Service	Radiation Monitoring	Operational (controlled operating model)	

Dept	Service	Function	Operational Status	Comments
City & Neighbourhood Services	City Protection Service	SLA with NIHE re points allocation	Operational (controlled operating model)	
City & Neighbourhood Services	City Protection Service	Consumer Advice	Suspended/ Closed	
City & Neighbourhood Services	City Protection Service	Tobacco Control	Partially Operational	
City & Neighbourhood Services	City Protection Service	Pest Control	Operational (controlled operating model)	The pest control service, including home treatments, is operational using a controlled model. Home treatments are being assessed on a case by case basis to ensure compliance with the safe system of work.
City & Neighbourhood Services	City Protection Service	Business Advice (H&S Reopening a business)	Operational (controlled operating model)	
City & Neighbourhood Services	City Protection Service	Off street car parking	Operational (controlled operating model)	
City & Neighbourhood Services	Resources & Fleet	Fleet	Operational (controlled operating model)	
City & Neighbourhood Services	Resources & Fleet	Waste Collection	Operational (controlled operating model)	Black/Blue/Brown operational but with Covid revised operating procedure at extra cost. Kerbside sort not being separated at collection point but later at WTS.
City & Neighbourhood Services	Resources & Fleet	Commercial Waste	Operational (controlled operating model)	Demand increasing as businesses open - Not Sat (apart from St Georges Market) or evening service. This is currently under review - to reinstate Saturday and evening service.

Dept	Service	Function	Operational Status	Comments
City & Neighbourhood Services	Resources & Fleet	HRC's	Operational (controlled operating model)	Open with restrictions: Temporary arrangements in place in order to protect staff, and to facilitate social distancing. Recycling centres are open seven days a week. Public may be asked to provide proof of address as the sites will only be open for people living in the Council area. There may be some queues and delays. Cars, including cars with single axle trailers, can visit sites without booking. Vans and light goods vehicles are allowed to bring domestic waste, but must book before visiting a recycling centre. The number of vehicles on site at any one time will be restricted. Pedestrians will not be admitted. Public responsible for unloading own waste to maintain social distancing from staff.
City & Neighbourhood Services	Functions & Exhibitions	Civic Amenity sites	Operational (controlled operating model)	All Civic Amenity Sites reopened at the start of October. Following detailed risk assessments, there are certain restrictions on pedestrian and vehicle access, to control movement on these smaller sites, to maintain and control social distancing and protect the safety of staff and the public alike.
City & Neighbourhood Services	Resources & Fleet	Bulky Waste	Operational (controlled operating model)	Hiab crane service from Aug 17th. Limit of 5 items per collection - No Saturday service.
City & Neighbourhood Services	Resources & Fleet	Abandoned Vehicles	Partially Operational	Emergency cases only - Risk assessment being completed and Form B prepared for resumption
City & Neighbourhood Services	Resources & Fleet	Graffiti removal / Fly poster removal	Partially Operational	Hate incidents only or high community concerns. Partnership with probation board community service scheme paused.
City & Neighbourhood Services	Resources & Fleet	Doorstep asbestos collection	Suspended/ Closed	
City & Neighbourhood Services	Resources & Fleet	Kerbside re-cycling inner city (Bryson)	Operational (controlled operating model)	
City & Neighbourhood Services	Resources & Fleet	Waste Transfer Station	Operational (controlled operating model)	

Dept	Service	Function	Operational Status	Comments
City & Neighbourhood Services	Resources & Fleet	Public Toilets - Automated	Operational (controlled operating model)	
City & Neighbourhood Services	Resources & Fleet	Public Toilets	Partially Operational	Phased approach to re-opening city centre toilets
City & Neighbourhood Services	OSS	Tennis Courts	Operational (controlled operating model)	
City & Neighbourhood Services	OSS	Bowling Greens	Suspended/ Closed	Closed for winter season
City & Neighbourhood Services	OSS	Bowling Pavilions	Suspended/ Closed	
City & Neighbourhood Services	OSS	Pitches	Partially Operational	Non contact sports and training allowed (below 15). 1 'elite' booking.
City & Neighbourhood Services	OSS	Pitches Pavilions (incl Golf Club)	Partially Operational	Will be open to support permissible bookings
City & Neighbourhood Services	OSS	MUGAs	Operational (controlled operating model)	
City & Neighbourhood Services	OSS	Mary Peter's Track	Operational (controlled operating model)	Toilets open. Changing Rooms not open. Individual only or organised activities allowed up to a maximum of 15.
City & Neighbourhood Services	OSS	Cycling Track Orangefield)	Operational (controlled operating model)	Individuals only no organised activities
City & Neighbourhood Services	OSS	Allotments	Partially Operational	Open to key holders
City & Neighbourhood Services	OSS	Community Gardens	Partially Operational	Open for watering, maintenance only
City & Neighbourhood Services	Community Provision	Wedding Photos/Venues, Filming in Parks, Parks events	Partially Operational	Permissible events only
City & Neighbourhood Services	OSS	Outdoor Gyms	Operational (controlled operating model)	
City & Neighbourhood Services	OSS	Belfast Urban Skate Park	Operational (controlled operating model)	
City & Neighbourhood Services	OSS	Parks/ Open Space	Operational (controlled operating model)	All preapproved events of more than 15 will be cancelled during the restricted period. Fishing Waterworks - Individual only or organised activities allowed up to a maximum of 15 Ice cream vans/coffee kiosks - All providers to move to take away only service Mountain Biking - Individual only or organised activities allowed up to a maximum of 15
City & Neighbourhood Services	OSS	Playgrounds	Operational (controlled operating model)	
City & Neighbourhood Services	OSS	OSS Playground Inspectors	Operational (controlled operating model)	
City & Neighbourhood Services	OSS	OSS Park Ground Maintenance	Operational (controlled operating model)	
City & Neighbourhood Services	OSS	OSS Woodland & Recreation Mgt	Operational (controlled operating model)	
City & Neighbourhood Services	OSS	OSS Park Wardens	Partially Operational	Several redeployed to support Bereavement
City & Neighbourhood Services	OSS	OSS Street Cleansing	Operational (controlled operating model)	

Dept	Service	Function	Operational Status	Comments
City & Neighbourhood Services	OSS	Public Toilets in Parks	Partially Operational	All toilets to be reopened in phased approach.
City & Neighbourhood Services	GLL	Leisure Centres	Partially Operational	Individual swimming & gym only - We now have 13 of 15 indoor leisure centres open (some on restricted hours) and 8 of 9 wet centre pools are open (again, some on restricted hours).
City & Neighbourhood Services	GLL/BCC	Girdwood Community Hub	Partially Operational	BCC youth space not operational
City & Neighbourhood Services	Community Provision	Community Centres	Partially Operational	All community centres have reopened to regular user groups, except for Highfield where there is no demand at present. All dance classes, fitness and other indoor sports classes will be cancelled. This is consistent with GLL approach. All other bookings will be reviewed to ensure that they do not exceed 15 participants
City & Neighbourhood Services	Community Provision	Community Services	Partially Operational	Some services returning as part of phased opening of community centres
City & Neighbourhood Services	Community Provision	Community safety	Partially Operational	Operational Service is fully operational using online mechanisms in place of in person meetings with communities. PCSP's - online meetings. Some projects have been able to continue for PCSP's as delivery bodies have been involved in COVID-19 response. PCSP grants embedded in new Summer Community Fund Grant which will be developed further. PCSP supporting thematic communities of interest as they transition out of emergency COVID-19 response
City & Neighbourhood Services	Community Provision	Good Relations	Partially Operational	GR funding embedded in new Summer Community Fund Grant. GR supporting thematic communities of interest as they transition out of emergency COVID-19 response
City & Neighbourhood Services	Community Provision	Education and Awareness	Partially Operational	Community Clean Ups have just been allowed by Gold to recommence as demand was increasing. Education and Awareness embedded in Area Support Teams

Dept	Service	Function	Operational Status	Comments
City & Neighbourhood Services	Community Provision	Active Living and Sports Development	Partially Operational	Sport dev operational; active living - mainly furloughed
City & Neighbourhood Services	Community Provision	Health and Wellbeing Unit	Operational (controlled operating model)	
City & Neighbourhood Services	Community Provision	Community Parks Outreach	Suspended/ Closed	Work underway re systems and processes to enable volunteer groups to use parks/open spaces and community gardens in next few weeks.
City & Neighbourhood Services	Bereavement Services	Crematorium	Operational (controlled operating model)	Crematorium operating with no public access to the building & short outdoor committals only - Committals limited to 25
City & Neighbourhood Services	Bereavement Services	Burials	Operational (controlled operating model)	Operational with short committal and additional controls in place to manage risk of transmission of COVID-19 - Committals limited to 25
City & Neighbourhood Services	Bereavement Services	Cemeteries	Operational (controlled operating model)	Fully operational – but cannot facilitate events and tours
City & Neighbourhood Services	Bereavement Services	Cemeteries Offices / Bereavement Administration	Operational (controlled operating model)	No public access to offices (telephone/email communications) - under review Bereavement Administration electronic format only.
Place & Economy	Planning & Building Control	Planning Service ALL	Partially Operational	Planning & Building Control Reception closed
Place & Economy	Planning & Building Control	Development Management	Operational (controlled operating model)	
Place & Economy	Planning & Building Control	Enforcement	Operational (controlled operating model)	
Place & Economy	Planning & Building Control	Planning & Building Control Reception	Suspended/ Closed	
Place & Economy	Planning & Building Control	LDP Draft Plan Strategy	Operational (controlled operating model)	
Place & Economy	Planning & Building Control	LDP Supplementary Planning Guidance	Operational (controlled operating model)	
Place & Economy	Planning & Building Control	LDP – Other Policy & Local Policies Plan	Operational (controlled operating model)	
Place & Economy	Planning & Building Control	Tree Preservation Orders & Tree works	Operational (controlled operating model)	
Place & Economy	Planning & Building Control	Building Control ALL	Operational (controlled operating model)	Planning & Building Control Reception closed

Dept	Service	Function	Operational Status	Comments
Place & Economy	Planning & Building Control	Dangerous Structures	Operational (controlled operating model)	
Place & Economy	Planning & Building Control	Building Regulations	Operational (controlled operating model)	This is now deemed to be an essential service and linked to city re-opening. All application types being received and processed. All site inspections are being carried out in line with RA and site H&S protocol.
Place & Economy	Planning & Building Control	Licensing	Operational (controlled operating model)	
Place & Economy	Planning & Building Control	Affordable Warmth		In line with current working arrangements agreed with DfC. Only urgent referrals submitted. Urgent site visits are being carried out in line with RA and H&S protocol.
Place & Economy	City Regeneration & Development	City Regeneration & Development	Operational (controlled operating model)	
Place & Economy	Economic Initiatives & International Development	Economic Development	Operational (controlled operating model)	
Place & Economy	Economic Initiatives & International Development	St Georges Market	Operational (controlled operating model)	Market is open but still working at reduced operating hours (based on pre-COVID hours). Reduced stall numbers due to social distancing restrictions
Place & Economy	Economic Initiatives & International Development	Smithfield Market	Operational (controlled operating model)	Smithfield open as pre-COVID. Some social distancing measures in place
Place & Economy	City Events	City Events	Suspended/ Closed	Considering position re Halloween, Xmas etc.
Legal & Civic Services	Civic HQ	Births, Deaths, Marriages & Civil Partnerships	Operational (controlled operating model)	Weddings/Ceremonies : We are not cancelling weddings. All scheduled ceremonies will be informed of the new restriction reduced number to 25 coming in to play on Monday (19 Oct). Web updated. We will stop taking bookings for the next few weeks. We will need to continue to use the function rooms as to ensure social distancing.
Legal & Civic Services	Civic HQ	Reception	Suspended/ Closed	
Legal & Civic Services	Civic HQ	Switchboard	Operational (controlled operating model)	
Legal & Civic Services	Civic HQ	Civic Services Attendant (Handyman)	Partially Operational	
Legal & Civic Services	Functions & Exhibitions	City Hall Functions/ Receptions	Suspended/ Closed	Potential opening to be kept under review. NB: function rooms in use for BDMCP social distancing.

Dept	Service	Function	Operational Status	Comments
Legal & Civic Services	Functions & Exhibitions	City Hall Tours & Artefacts	Suspended/ Closed	Potential opening to be kept under review. Unlikely to open until 2021.
Legal & Civic Services	Functions & Exhibitions	City Hall Visitor Exhibition & Gift Shop	Suspended/ Closed	Potential opening to be kept under review
Legal & Civic Services	Functions & Exhibitions	City Hall Bobbin Café	Suspended/ Closed	Potential opening to be kept under review
Legal & Civic Services	Facilities Management	Cleaning of Public Conveniences	Operational (controlled operating model)	

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Subject:	Motion – Racism Free Zone
Date:	23rd October, 2020
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Henry Downey, Democratic Services Officer

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

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes ☒ No ☐

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To consider a motion on Racism Free Zone which was referred to the Committee by the Council at its meeting on 1st October.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is requested to consider the motion and, if the proposal is agreed, a report on how this would be facilitated, resourced and managed will be brought back.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	At the Council meeting on 1st October, the following motion was proposed by Councillor Canavan and seconded by Councillor Garrett: <i>“That this Council recognises that racism is a scourge across this society. This Council further recognises the positive contribution made: to society by those from Black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds; deplores the discrimination Black, Asian and</i>

	<i>minority ethnic communities face regularly; condemns racism in all its forms; and calls on this Council to work together with the sector; local BAME representative groups; schools and colleges; private businesses; and public enterprises to ensure that this Council area becomes a racism free zone.”</i> In accordance with Standing Order 13(f), the motion was referred without debate to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee. <u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> 3.2 None associated with this report. <u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> 3.3 None
4.0	Documents Attached
	None



Subject:	Installation of a Statue in Remembrance of Frederick Douglass – Response from the Minister for Communities
Date:	23 rd October, 2020
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

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

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes ☒ No ☐

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues
	To consider a response from the Minister for Communities in relation to a request for the installation in Rosemary Street of a statue in remembrance of Frederick Douglass, a slavery abolitionist.
2.0	Recommendation
	The Committee is asked to consider the response and take such action there on as may be determined.
3.0	Main Report
	<u>Key Issues</u>

	The Committee will recall that, at its meeting on 31st July, it had agreed that a letter be forwarded to the Department for Communities requesting it to consider the installation in Rosemary Street of a statue in remembrance of Frederick Douglass, a slavery abolitionist. A response has now been received from the Minister (copy attached). In her response, the Minister has indicated that she would be content for her Department to partner with the Council to deliver the proposal. She has also indicated that, if the Council was willing to lead the project and establish a steering group, to include other key stakeholders, such as the Department for Infrastructure, the Department for Communities and the Arts Council, to progress this piece of public art, her Department could provide part funding for the project and participate on the steering group. <u>Financial & Resource Implications</u> None associated with this report. <u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> None associated with this report.
4.0	Document Attached
	Copy of response from the Minister for Communities.



From: The Minister

**Level 9
Causeway Exchange
1-7 Bedford Street
Belfast
BT2 7EG**

Telephone: (028) 9051 2662
e-mail: private.office@communities-ni.gov.uk
Our ref: CORR-2452-2020
Date: 06 October 2020

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

By email: hannajim@belfastcity.gov.uk

Jim, a chara,

BELFAST CITY COUNCIL REQUEST TO CONSIDER INSTALLATION OF STATUE OF THE SLAVERY ABOLITIONIST FREDERICK DOUGLASS

Thank you for your letter of 04 September 2020 on behalf of Belfast City Council's Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

In the past, Belfast City Council and DfC have undertaken and completed a number of schemes together, such as the Rosemary Street/Lombard Street public realm project and the RISE public art installation on the Westlink. In both of these instances the Department provided funding for the works, which were managed and implemented by Belfast City Council.

I have given consideration to the Council's proposal for the installation of a statue to commemorate Frederick Douglass. In this instance, I would be content for my Department to again partner with Belfast City Council to deliver this proposal.

If Council is willing to lead the project and establish a steering group, including other key stakeholders, e.g. DfI, DfC and Arts Council, to progress this piece of public art, my Department could provide part funding for the project and participate on the steering group.



Department for

Communities

www.communities-ni.gov.uk

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If Council is in agreement, please contact Ciaran Donnelly, Acting Director of Belfast Regeneration Director (028 9082 9274), to discuss how this might be taken forward.

Is mise le meas,

Carál Ní Chuilín

Carál Ní Chuilín MLA
Minister for Communities



Subject:	Motion - Public Transport/Parking for Health Workers, Patients and Visitors – Responses from the Ministers for Health and Infrastructure
Date:	23 rd October, 2020
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

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

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes ☒ No ☐

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
	To consider responses from the Ministers for Infrastructure and Health in relation to a motion on Public Transport/Parking for Health Workers, Patients and Visitors
2.0	Recommendations
	The Committee is asked to consider the responses and take such action there on as may be determined.
3.0	Main report
	<u>Key Issues</u>

The Committee will recall that the Council, at its meeting on 1st September, passed the following motion:

"This Council greatly values and appreciates the role of health workers, especially given their efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic; and believes that proper investment in our health service is necessary to facilitate the incredible effort of health workers.

As such, this Council supports all healthcare workers to be paid a fair and living wage that compensates them appropriately for the critical work they do for all of us in society.

This Council also recognises the negative health inequalities created by air pollution across Belfast, primarily caused by transport emissions, and is supportive of initiatives to ensure that all healthcare workers and patients can avail of active and sustainable travel alternatives.

This Council will write to the Minister for Infrastructure and the Minister for Health:

- to support the extension of the provision of free public transport for all healthcare workers beyond this crisis period due to Covid 19;
- To support the extension of free or reduced cost public transport for those in receipt of PIP and/or Universal Credit;
- To support extensions of the rail and bus networks and active travel infrastructure to improve access to hospitals; and
- To ask for a review of the categories of acute conditions that currently can avail of free car parking to ensure access to those patients most in need.

Responses have now been received from both the Minister for Health and the Minister for Infrastructure (copies attached).

In her response, Minister Mallon has outlined the measures which have already been put in place in relation to free travel for healthcare workers and which will remain in place until further notice. In addition, the Minister also highlights the concessionary fares which are already available.

In his response, the Health Minister refers to the policy on car parking provision and management in the Health and Social Care Sector which was introduced in 2012 and which sets out the direction for car park management, including charging. That also includes the criteria for free and concessionary parking for patients. Minister Swann further refers to the Hospital Travel Costs Scheme which helps people on low incomes or income-based benefits who may be entitled to reclaim car parking charges or other travel expenses for hospital treatment. He concludes by stating that he has no plans to review his Department's policy on car parking provision at this time.

Financial & Resource Implications

None associated with this report.

Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

None associated with this report.

4.0	Documents attached
	Copies of responses from the Minister for Infrastructure and the Minister for Health.

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FROM THE MINISTER OF HEALTH



Mr. Jim Hanna
Senior Democratic Services Officer
Democratic Services Section
Legal and Civic Services Department
Belfast City Council
hannajim@belfastcity.gov.uk

Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
BELFAST, BT4 3SQ
Tel: 028 9052 2556
Email: private.office@health-ni.gov.uk

Your Ref: JH/JT
Our Ref: COR/3120/2020
Date: 6th October 2020

Dear *Jim,*

Thank you for your letter of 24 September 2020 setting out a recent motion passed by Belfast City Council. In the motion the Council has asked for a review of the categories of acute conditions that currently can avail of free car parking to ensure access to those patients most in need.

The Department's policy on car parking provision and management in the Health and Social Care (HSC) sector for Northern Ireland was published in 2012 and sets the direction for car park management including charging.

This includes the criteria for the provision of free and concessionary parking for patients on the following care paths: radiotherapy, chemotherapy, renal dialysis, and critical care/high dependency. Furthermore HSC Trusts can exercise discretion to apply the eligibility criteria in other situations where the duration and/or frequency of visits lead to significant charges incurred by patients or relatives. Full details on the provision of free and concessionary parking are attached in an Appendix to this letter.

Patients can also avail of the *Hospital Travel Costs Scheme* which helps people on a low income or income-based benefits who may be entitled to reclaim car parking charges or other travel expenses for hospital treatment.

Information surrounding parking measures, including charges and concessions can be found on each HSC Trust internet site. Eligible service users are encouraged to channel their request for concessionary car parking through the Ward Sister/Nurse.

As the policy provides HSC Trusts with the scope to exercise discretion in providing free car parking, I have no plans to review my Department's policy on car parking provision at this time.

Yours sincerely

Robin Swann MLA
Minister of Health

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Department for

Infrastructure

An Roinn

Bonneagair

www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

**From the office of the Minister for Infrastructure
Nichola Mallon MLA**

Mr. Jim Hanna
Senior Democratic Services Officer
Belfast City Council

HannaJim@BelfastCity.gov.uk

Room 708
Clarence Court
10-18 Adelaide Street
BELFAST
BT2 8GB
Telephone: (028) 9054 0105
Email: Private.office@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Your reference: JH/JT
Our reference: CORR-2644-2020
Date: 12th October 2020

Dear Mr. Hanna;

Active and Sustainable Travel for Healthcare Workers and Patients

Thank you for your correspondence dated 24 September 2020 outlining Belfast City Council's support for four initiatives to ensure that both healthcare workers and patients can avail of active and sustainable travel alternatives. I am responding on behalf of Nichola Mallon, Minister for Infrastructure to the first three. I understand that you have also written to Minister Swann, and as the fourth is the responsibility of the Department of Health, he will be responding on that particular issue.

Minister Mallon is committed to finding sustainable ways to connect our citizens and communities to jobs and opportunities, particularly as we recover from the impact of COVID-19.

During the pandemic, Minister Mallon announced free travel for healthcare workers which is in place until further notice. Additionally, Translink has put in place wide-ranging safety measures across its fleet and stations to ensure the safety of all of its passengers. These include protective screens on all buses; the roll out of social distancing measures and signage; enhanced cleaning and sanitisation of buses, trains and facilities; and amended bus and rail timetables to ensure that sufficient capacity is provided ahead of demand in order to assist social distancing. Translink continues to offer wider safety and travel advice for passengers, including the need for good hand hygiene, using contactless payments, travelling off-peak and respecting social distancing. You will also be aware that, since 10 July 2020, face coverings have been mandatory on all Translink services.

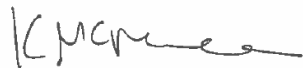
The Minister continues to work with Translink to adjust service provision to meet social distancing requirements alongside customer demand. In addition, the Department for Infrastructure continues to develop its active travel measures to encourage people to walk, cycle or use public transport for journeys where possible.

You will also be aware that the Department for Infrastructure provides for a wide range of concessionary fares such as: free travel for everyone aged over 60; those who are blind or in receipt of a war disablement pension and half fare travel for those registered as partially sighted; along with a number of other groups notably people in receipt of the mobility component of Disability Living Allowance or Personal Independence Payment (PIP). As such, this scheme enables many of our citizens to access social and economic opportunities.

All of these concessions and special measure are in place to support both key healthcare workers and patients during the current pandemic. However, they all come at a cost, and Translink is currently operating with a severe funding deficit. Minister Mallon will continue to bid for additional budget to bridge Translink's funding gap to protect our existing public transport network and to expand it.

I trust that you will find this information helpful

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'K MCFERRAN', with a stylized, flowing script.

KATHRYN MCFERRAN
Private Secretary to the Minister



Subject:	Motion: Review of Housing Fitness Standard – Response from the Minister for Communities
Date:	23 rd October, 2020
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

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

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes ☒ No ☐

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
	To consider the responses from the Ministers for Communities in relation to a motion on the Review of Housing Fitness Standard.
2.0	Recommendations
	The Committee is asked to consider the response and take such action there on as may be determined.
3.0	Main report
	<u>Key Issues</u>

	The Committee will recall that the Council, at its meeting on 1st September, passed the following motion: “This Council welcomes the Communities Minister Carál Ní Chuilín’s ambitious programme aimed at addressing housing stress, providing housing solutions and supporting those in greatest need. This council recognises that housing faces many challenges but agrees that it should be a primary focus of government as it is so vital to building and sustaining communities and improving the health and wellbeing of our citizens. This council notes that the current housing fitness standard that is applied to private rented housing in this district is the statutory minimum physical standard which focuses on the most basic structural standards for human habitation, and applies to all tenures. It was last updated in 1992. This Council calls on the Department for Communities to carry out a review of the fitness standard, to include a review of sanctions on private landlords for failing to maintain properties, with a view to introducing legislation which offers greater protection to tenants. Further to the above, Council calls on the Department of Communities to review and strengthen their own rules and regulations regarding the housing fitness standards of existing properties managed by the Housing Executive and various Housing Associations. This Council notes the poor conditions that some social housing tenants are living in and calls on the Minister to urgently address these conditions as a matter of priority.” A response has now been received on behalf of the Minister for Communities (copy attached) in which the current status and the areas of the review is outlined. In addition, the response indicates that In relation to conditions in the social housing sector, the Northern Ireland Housing Executive had advised that the Housing Executive’s capital and revenue programmes are designed to maintain properties to a decent standard and maintenance programmes are ongoing. <u>Financial & Resource Implications</u> None associated with this report. <u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> None associated with this report.
4.0	Document attached
	Copy of response on behalf of the Minister for Communities.

From: Director of Housing Supply Policy

**Level 3
Causeway Exchange
1-7 Bedford Street
BELFAST BT2 7EG**

**By e-mail
hannajim@belfastcity.gov.uk
Jim Hanna
Senior Democratic Services Officer
Democratic Services Section
Legal and Civic Services Department
Belfast City Council
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City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS**

**Telephone 02890515286
E-mail: David.polley@communities-ni.gov.uk**

Date: 08 October 2020

FITNESS STANDARD

Dear Mr Hanna

Thank you for your correspondence of 24 September to the Minister which has been passed to me for reply. The Minister is aware of and has noted the council motion passed on the 1st September.

The Department is currently carrying out a comprehensive review of the role and regulation of the private rented sector to ensure the regulatory framework and supporting policy improve standards for the benefit of both tenants and landlords. The areas being reviewed include:

- Supply
- Affordability
- Security of tenure
- Tenancy management
- Property standards
- Dispute resolution

The Minister for Communities is currently considering the way forward in terms of implementing the findings of the review and I expect that this process will complete shortly.

Additional proposed recommendations will be further researched, developed and consulted upon during this mandate. These include a Fitness Standard Review across all tenures.

In relation to conditions in the social housing sector, the Northern Ireland Housing Executive has advised that the Housing Executive's capital and revenue programmes are designed to maintain properties to a decent standard and maintenance programmes are ongoing.

I hope this is helpful

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Polley', written in a cursive style.

DAVID POLLEY



Subject:	Motion: Climate Change Act – Response from the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
Date:	23 rd October, 2020
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

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

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes ☒ No ☐

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
	To consider the response from the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in relation to a motion on a Climate Change Act.
2.0	Recommendations
	The Committee is asked to consider the response and take such action there on as may be determined.
3.0	Main report
	<u>Key Issues</u>

	The Committee will recall that the Council, at its meeting on 1st September, passed the following motion: “This Council welcomes the environmental commitments in the New Decade New Approach Deal. This council is deeply concerned that the Minister for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs did not support an Assembly Motion to develop a Climate Change Act for Northern Ireland. This Council notes that Northern Ireland has fallen behind other parts of the UK in progressing reduction of emissions. A Climate Change Act can help us realise the ambition of the Belfast Agenda to create an environmentally sustainable City. This Council calls on the Minister to immediately prioritise the development of a Climate Change Act with legally binding and ambitious sectoral emission-reduction targets and a just transition to protect jobs through upskilling in less carbon intensive sectors.” A response has now been received from the Minister (copy attached). In his response, Minister Poots has indicated that he has written to the independent expert UK Climate Change Committee (CCC) for advice on what would be Northern Ireland’s equitable contribution to the UK’s net zero emissions target, to ensure our greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets are credible and evidence-based. He states further that, unfortunately, the CCC are not in a position to respond to his request until after they have provided advice on the UK’s sixth carbon budget, which will be published in December 2020. In the interim, his officials have provided him with proposals on an options appraisal for a Climate Change Bill in Northern Ireland. The Minister will consider those options along with the advice provided from the CCC and will present his findings to the Northern Ireland Executive to agree a way forward. <u>Financial & Resource Implications</u> None associated with this report. <u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> None associated with this report.
4.0	Document Attached
	Copy of response from the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

Jim Hanna
Senior Democratic Services Officer
Belfast City Council
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Our reference: CORR-1884-2020
Date: 08 October 2020

Dear Mr Hanna

Climate Change Act

Thank you for your letter of 24th September 2020 regarding the Motion passed by Belfast City Council at its meeting on 1st September, around the issue of developing a Climate Change Act for Northern Ireland. I acknowledge your interest and concern.

Climate change is a global challenge which should be addressed through comprehensive and effective global action. If we are to reduce carbon emissions and successfully adapt to a changing climate, it will require action across all of society, including Councils. I am therefore encouraged by Belfast City Council's commitment to addressing climate change.

Climate change is my top priority and I remain fully committed to ensuring that Northern Ireland plays its full part in reducing our greenhouse gas emissions and adapting to our changing climate.

It is imperative that we build the evidence base and ensure government policy making has climate and environment at its core and that future policies and strategies can demonstrably deliver the outcomes people expect. We need to fully understand the unique characteristics on the makeup of Northern Ireland emissions and determine what our equitable contribution to Net Zero is. I have written to the independent expert UK Climate Change Committee (CCC) for advice on what would be our equitable contribution to the UK's net zero emissions target, to ensure our greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets are credible and evidence-based.

Unfortunately the CCC are not in a position to respond to my request until after they have provided advice on the UK's sixth carbon budget, which will be published in December 2020. In the interim, my officials have provided me with proposals on an options appraisal for a Climate Change Bill in Northern Ireland. I will consider those options along with the advice provided from the CCC and will present my findings to the Northern Ireland Executive to agree a way forward.

***Sustainability** at the heart of a living, working, active landscape valued by everyone.*

I trust that you find this helpful.

Yours sincerely



EDWIN POOTS MLA
Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

***Sustainability** at the heart of a living, working, active landscape valued by everyone.*

If you are deaf or have a hearing difficulty you can
contact the Department via the Next Generation Text
Relay Service by dialling 18001 + telephone number.



Subject:	Motion - Support for Mental Health
Date:	23rd October, 2020
Reporting Officer:	Christine Sheridan, Head of Human Resources
Contact Officer:	Catherine Christy, Human Resources Manager

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

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes ☒ No ☐

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update members on existing and future work plans to challenge the taboo around mental health and suicide, in support of the issues highlighted in the Motion proposed by Councillor M. Kelly and seconded by Councillor Long at the Council meeting on 1 July 2020.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The committee is requested to note the content of the report
3.0	Main Report
	Notice of Motion
3.1	In recognition of the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic on the current mental health crisis, Councillor Kelly proposed a Notice of Motion to ensure continuing Council support to challenge the taboos of mental health and suicide and ensure people are aware of the signs

	and understand the questions to ask someone we are worried about and what help they can get. At its meeting in August, the committee agreed that a report be prepared detailing how a programme of suicide awareness training for staff and elected members would be facilitated, resourced and managed. Staff training and mental health champions
3.2	The Council has had in place a positive health and wellbeing training programme (including suicide awareness) in place for staff since 2012. It was developed in response to an initiative launched by the then Lord Mayor, to raise awareness of suicide in the city. Two specific training programmes were rolled out; Positive Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing and Stress Awareness Training for Managers, a programme specifically aimed at managers on how to recognise and manage stress related issues. Since 2012, 645 staff have received training on positive mental health and emotional wellbeing and 434 managers have been trained on stress awareness. The current Covid restrictions have prevented delivery of this programme since March however, Corporate HR, as part of its recovery process, is currently assessing how to deliver both training programmes remotely.
3.3	In addition in 2017, as part of the our employee Health and Wellbeing Strategy, we commissioned Action Mental Health to deliver Mental Health First Aid training for staff. The Mental Health First Aid training mirrors the aims and principles of the certified SafeTALK training and has similar outcomes in that it equips individuals to recognise the early warning signs of mental health problems; provide initial help and advice and guide a person towards appropriate sources of professional help.
3.4	To date a total of 30 staff have been trained and are recognised mental health first aiders and four additional programmes are planned to be delivered remotely between November and March 2021. Further classroom based programmes to facilitate those staff who do not have access to a PC will be organised as soon as current restrictions allow. It is proposed, with their permission, that the names of those staff who have attended the Mental Health First Aider training programme will be displayed on staff noticeboards and on Interlink for staff to contact as required.
3.5	The opportunity to undertake the online training and become recognised Mental Health First Aiders will be offered to elected members.
3.6	The general health and wellbeing programme is further supported by a dedicated employee counselling service, accessible to all employees, through the council's current employee

	counselling contract with Apheido Associates. Line managers can make referrals to this service or employees can also self-refer on a confidential basis. The Mersey Care Trust Foundation video. 3.7 This short, free online course in Suicide Awareness which is currently used widely by NI Health and Social Care Trusts, will be made available to staff and elected members and staff will be encouraged to take time to participate in the training. Managers will be asked to facilitate time for staff to do so. Additional support 3.8 Additional support and guidance is available on the staff intranet site with a section on health and wellbeing which is updated on a continuing basis with helpful information and signposting to further mental health information and resources. 3.9 The Local Government Staff Commission's, Health and Wellbeing Group, has recently launched a Mental Health Strategy for local government to assist councils to plan to address the mental health crisis through the provision of support for their staff. It will be used in conjunction with our own staff Health and Wellbeing Strategy to influence future work planning in this area. <u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> 3.10 The Mental Health First Aid training will be funded by the Local Government Training Group as part of its annual funding provision. Any other costs associated with delivery of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy activity will be covered by the existing corporate Organisational Development budget. <u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> 3.11 The recommendations in the report will assist the council to deliver on its section 75 duties and comply with the requirements set out in the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. In addition it will help further the aims and priorities of the Council's Disability Action Plan and Equality Scheme.
4.0	Documents Attached
	None associated with this report.

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Subject:	Update on Smart Belfast and Belfast Digital Innovation Partnership
Date:	23rd October 2020
Reporting Officer:	Ronan Cregan, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources Jayne Brady, Digital Commissioner
Contact Officer:	Deborah Colville, City Innovation Manager Mark McCann, City Innovation Programme Lead

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

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes ☒ No ☐

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	This paper presents a short impact report on the Smart Belfast work and the development of the Belfast Digital Innovation Partnership.

2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: 1. note the attached Smart Belfast Outcomes and Impact report; 2. agree that Belfast City Council contribute £50,000 to the Belfast Digital Innovation Partnership's £300,000 co-investment budget; 3. agree a £20,000 contribution to the £650,000 EIT Digital project tracking the impact of public funding across the Belfast Fintech sector; and 4. note the development of the Digital Futures programme.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	Smart Belfast Outcomes and Impact report Attached is an impact report summarising the projects and initiatives supported by the Smart Belfast programme during its first three years of operation. Smart Belfast was set up by the Council in 2017 with the aim of harnessing digital innovation to solve major city challenges while also helping to grow a twenty-first century economy. Its challenge-led approach brings together businesses, our universities, government and citizens to co-create innovative solutions that improve city life.
3.2	Some of the key outputs from Smart Belfast include: • Leveraged £10.2 million into the city • Successfully delivered 47 digital projects • Worked directly with over 200 SMEs and stakeholders • Hosted over 30 events with 4,100 participants • Built Northern Ireland's first free-to-use Internet of things network • Successfully bid for two Horizon 2020 projects with a combined value of €1.2 million • Won \$1 million to establish the Belfast Office for Resilience • Led on the development of the £120 million digital bid to City Deal • Supported four Collaborative Growth networks involving 16 Belfast SMEs • Showcased the best of Belfast at international tech events in Barcelona, USA and China.
3.3	Tracking the Impact of public support for the fintech sector Belfast's fintech sector has been one of the major success stories over the past decade, and a major source of well-paid, high skilled jobs. It is also a sector that has proven surprisingly resilient during the current Covid crisis, with a number of companies expanding their work force. The Fintech sector is likely to be a focus of support as Belfast ramps up its Digital Innovation ambition.

3.4	To support this approach Smart Belfast is seeking to partner in a £650,000 project funded by EIT Digital to track the impact of public funds in the sector. Local SME Xpand are working with local industry, Belgian SME accelerator 'Start-It' KBC ¹ and the city of Antwerp to develop a set of software tools to help connect businesses to finance, to develop KPIs to measure how SMEs are impacted by funding, and to create more efficient, lightweight mechanisms for public officials to track grant spend. The project is also seeking to utilise open banking technologies to reduce the bureaucracy associated with many economic development funds.
3.5	If Belfast commits £20,000 to the project, the Council and its partners get access to the expert learning and software tools being developed by the project. And this would then be used to deliver a three-month project involving the local Fintech sector. It would also represent the first building block for wider engagement across other sectors of the city's digital economy.
3.6	Members are asked to approve a £20,000 contribution to the EIT Digital project in tracking the impact of public funds (and thus receiving the benefits of the larger £650,000 project).
	Belfast Digital Innovation partnership
3.7	Learning from the success of Smart Belfast the Council and its city partners are now developing even more ambitious plans focused on the potential of digital innovation to build an economy capable of competing in the twenty-first century.
3.8	A new Belfast Digital Innovation Partnership (BDIP), which includes the Council, Queen's University, Ulster University, Belfast Harbour, Invest NI, and Catalyst Inc, has developed a shared ambition which aims to accelerate sustainable and inclusive growth through innovation.
3.9	Working with the leadership team from Eindhoven, one of Europe's most successful innovative cities, BDIP partners have drafted an initial project portfolio that aims to attract international investment, support local cluster growth, support a digital skills agenda; contribute to the sustainable development of our city, and work with communities to ensure economic inclusion.

¹ <https://startit.be>

3.10	The initial focus, in this post Covid period, will be to engage with innovation companies and policy-makers, on our plans for the coming ten years, ensuring Belfast is recognised globally as the place to invest in digital innovation during recovery. Promotional concepts for the Belfast Smart District were shared with Members at the June 2020 committee meeting.
3.11	Prior to a planned public launch in November 2020, the BDIP partners agreed to co-invest £50k to support an operational budget that will begin to deliver on its ambitious pipeline of projects which include: Innovation District which covers a 400 acre geographical area of the city from the city centre around the new Ulster University campus up to Catalyst in Queen's Island, will foster a place-based approach to cluster growth in fintech, healthtech and Greentech – while at the same time delivering an inclusive urban regeneration agenda. Smart healthy neighbourhood - to develop an internationally significant digital health demonstrator in the heart of the city. Co-designed and developed with housing providers, residents, and health stakeholders, and based in the Inner North West area of city centre, this neighbourhood will provide a supportive environment for technologists, researchers, and will seek to attract inward investment from the life and health sciences sector. Elements will include pervasive wireless connectivity (funded via the Belfast City Deal Infrastructure Enabling Fund) and a citizen-focused engagement programme. Integrated sustainable mobility - this project will seek to address the inter-connected issues of connectivity to Queen's island (and the associated growth constraints), the connectivity challenges in a post-Covid city centre, the over-dependence on the private car across the smart district travel to work area, and the need to support active travel as part of the city's health agenda. Such a project will also provide opportunities to enhance research programmes across both universities (including CARL and GII) and support innovative business development opportunities. Smart Port -Through significant investments in 5G connectivity and open architecture data, the Smart Port will deploy a number of IoT, mobility and Community Platform solutions to unlock new levels of safety, sustainability, and efficiency within Belfast Harbour and throughout Northern Ireland's sea freight logistics chain. Such digital solutions will assist Belfast Harbour to achieve its aims of becoming the world's smartest and greenest regional port and a key economic hub for growth.
3.12	Members are asked to agree that Belfast City Council, as a key partner, will contribute £50,000 to drive forward this ambitious programme.

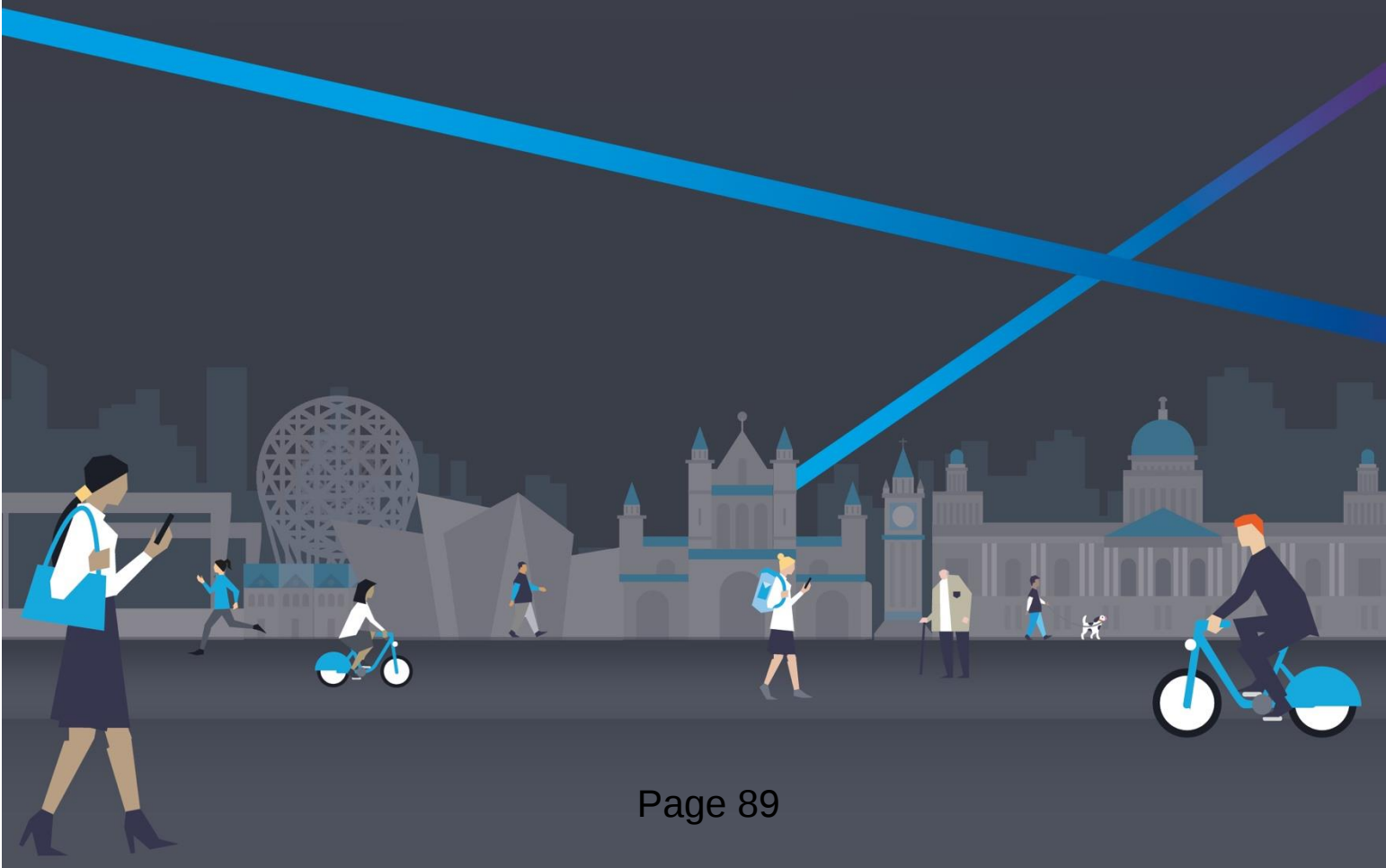
3.13	Digital Futures Programme Digital Futures has been developed by Belfast Region City Deal partners, working closely with government and industry to deliver a rapid response to the economic impact of the pandemic. Funded by the Department for the Economy as part of the Skills Intervention Programme, and delivered by a number of FE Colleges across the region, Digital Futures will support 55 graduates over the next six months, giving them opportunities to explore career pathways in Cloud Computing, Data Analytics and Cyber Security. There is a very tight timeframe for delivery of the programme as the funding has just been awarded this month and all delivery must be completed by the end of March 2021, due to DfE funding timescales. Due to the tight timeframe courses will commence late October/early November and training will be delivered online. Note that the closing date was Monday 19th October. Each participant will get access to a training allowance of £150 per week throughout the entire duration of the programmes. The internship element of the programme will commence in the New Year and BRCD partners are actively recruiting employers to host internships. <u>Digital Futures Programmes</u> - Cyber Security: https://www.swc.ac.uk/digitalfutures - Data Analytics: https://app.mindmill.co.uk/MyMindMill/landing/serc - Cloud Computing: https://www.belfastmet.ac.uk/support-for-business/digital-futures/
	Financial and Resource Implications
3.14	All costs associated with this work and recommendations have been identified within existing budgets.
	Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment
3.15	None.
4.0	Documents Attached
	Impact and Outcomes Impact Report

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SMART Belfast

Impact and Outcomes Report

October 2020



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Building a Smart Belfast

Smart Belfast was set up by Belfast City Council in 2017 with the aim of harnessing digital innovation to solve major city challenges while also helping to grow a twenty-first century economy.

Our challenge-led approach brings together businesses, our universities, government and citizens to co-create innovative solutions that improve city life.

Smart Belfast recognises the immense potential that new technologies have to transform our city and its economy. Building a collaborative approach allows us to understand and harness the opportunities presented by technologies such as AI and the Internet of Things, while making sure our city builds resilience to the associated disruption.

This report sets out the background to Smart Belfast; outlines some of the projects and programmes that the City Innovation team have delivered; and maps out ambitious ideas for the coming post-Covid era.

A world-class framework for urban innovation

The core concepts for Smart Belfast were developed as part of a unique partnership with the UK Government's Future Cities Catapult (now Connected Places Catapult). Supported by generous co-investment from the Catapult and their team of international experts, the Council worked with Belfast's universities and businesses to develop a framework that seeks to support our businesses to innovate in digital technologies such as AI and Internet of Things; whilst encouraging the same businesses to collaborate with researchers and public agencies to address major urban challenges.

The approach directly led to a series of successful projects and Smart Belfast has been showcased in the UK Industrial Strategy as well as highlighted internationally as part of the Department of International Trade's missions to Asia. Elements of the framework have been subsequently adopted by other UK cities.

More recently, Smart Belfast has influenced the development of the Digital Pillar of the Belfast Region City Deal. Planned investments in wireless networks, mission-led funding and the concept of a world-class Smart District will together enable Belfast to drive its smart cities agenda to the next level.

Our approach

Our framework identifies four foundations that Belfast needs to have in place for collaborative digital innovation to flourish. Our work is about strengthening these foundations through a portfolio of standalone projects while learning and adapting as our approach matures.

1. **Shared city challenges:** Building common agreement and understanding amongst partners on what the city needs to address. This is established through a 'mission-led' approach, innovative co-design, better data gathering, and measurement of impact. Many of the best techniques can be adapted from industry embracing user-centred, agile design.
2. **Encouraging our innovators:** Belfast has a lively and growing innovator community. We aim to leverage this fantastic asset through capacity building, networking, prizes, funding, marketing and much more. Smart Belfast supports investment, skills and jobs creation in growth areas of the economy.
3. **Unlocking data:** Digital innovation is hugely dependent on access to data. The city needs to invest in the ethical frameworks, processes, infrastructure and relationships for generating, sharing and analysing data for good.
4. **Robust delivery:** Putting in place the right governance and accountability mechanisms that allow fast-moving, goal-orientated collaboration across sectors.

The learning from this work has laid the foundations for the Digital Pillar of the Belfast Region City Deal.

Key deliverables



Delivery of digital innovation projects

A seven-person City Innovation Team manages the Smart Belfast programme and has delivered a diverse portfolio of 47 projects over the past three years, leveraging funding worth over £10 million from the NI and UK Government, European Union, private sector and other funding bodies.

Engagement with the innovator community

Through projects, networking, workshops and funding competitions, the team has engaged with over 200 companies and stakeholders to maximise digital innovation opportunities in Belfast.

The team regularly hosts events for the digital innovation community, attracting over 4,000 participants.

Representing Belfast on a global stage

The team represents Belfast on a number of national and international networks including the All Ireland Smart Cities Forum, G20 Global Smart Cities Alliance, Harvard TECH Smart Cities Accelerator, TM Forum and Mastercard's City Possible. They also influence UK Government strategy through membership of the BSI and the UKGOV Expert Advisory Group on Smart Cities and Connected Places.

Belfast's digital innovation strengths and opportunities have been showcased at a number of world-renowned conferences including the Smart City Expo World Congress, MIPIM and SXSW, as well as at local events including Digital DNA, AICON and BelTech.

PhD Student Programme

Smart Belfast's relationship with our two local universities is an important part of our model of working. It allows PhD candidates and post-doctoral researchers to explore ideas in a real-world urban setting while giving the Council access to new ideas and insights.

We currently have a PhD candidate from Ulster University's School of Built Environment working on governance models and evaluation frameworks for the Smart District. She is also exploring the relationship between smart cities and wider spatial planning policy.

We are also working with an Ulster University PhD candidate from the School of Computing who is continuing research that was initiated during our 2017 Urban Healthy Living project that modelled traffic related air pollution. The work will explore the relationship between respiratory conditions and exposure to traffic related air pollution, and build models that will support an individual's ability to better manage their exposure to air quality risk. The work has significant commercial potential.

Our new Queen's University PhD candidate from the School of Law will be exploring the legal and ethical implications of the smart cities paradigm – a subject that is of growing importance worldwide. The work will help to shape our city's ethical approach to utilising AI and data science for public good.

Projects

The following is just a sample of the projects delivered since 2017. Smart Belfast projects are selected based on their potential to contribute to our four foundations; to address city challenges; and to support companies on their R&D path towards commercialisation.

Urban mobility

New technologies such as AI, IoT and connected vehicles provide an opportunity to transform city travel with new sustainable modes of transport, improved road safety, better traffic management and mobility flows, and reduced air pollution.

Last Mile Delivery

We worked with Smart Dublin on the first ever cross-border Small Business Research Initiative project to support logistics companies to find new sustainable solutions to city centre van deliveries. Proofs of concepts included micro-distribution centres, managed virtual loading bays, and electric delivery carts. The team also worked with Musgrave Park Hospital to adapt one of the solutions to better manage car parking spaces at EV charging stations in the hospital car park, and the flow of delivery vehicles using their loading bays.

Post-Covid E-scooter pilot

We are working with Belfast Harbour and DCU Alpha (Dublin City University Innovation Campus) to run an e-scooter pilot on Queen's Island with the aim of reducing dependency on the private car for last mile commuting. The project will utilise high precision geo-location and data analytics to monitor and strictly control usage. Learning from the pilot will be useful in considering wider adoption across the city. Similar trials are running elsewhere in the UK but the Belfast trial is unique in its use of geo-location and AI.

iPedal

The team established one of Northern Ireland's first collaborative innovation agreements which brought together the Council with local cycling company See.Sense, BT, the Department for Infrastructure, Queen's University and bike operator, NSL.

The project used innovative new wireless technology, developed by See.Sense, to generate insights into cycling behaviour to inform cycling infrastructure decisions such as where to site new bike lanes and stations.

The experimental devices, deployed on 100 Belfast Bikes, used advanced sensor and geolocation technology to gather anonymous data through a network provided by BT. Data scientists at Bristol University and Queen's University applied AI and GIS techniques to build a picture of the daily habits of the city's growing cycling community. The pilot transformed the humble cyclist into a citizen scientist!

See.Sense has since won multiple awards and gone on to work with other cities, including Manchester and Dublin, on similar data projects. The team used the knowledge acquired through the project to successfully bid to Digital Catapult UK for a £200,000 IoT network for Northern Ireland.



Sustainability and resilience

Resilience, smart cities and sustainable development are inextricably linked in most urban agendas. Digital technologies have a role to play in building physical and economic resilience and supporting adaptations and mitigations.

Upsurge – Nature-based solutions

We are now in Phase Two of a €9 million Horizon 2020 programme to develop nature-based solutions for tackling greenhouse gases across several European cities. Belfast will seek to test cutting-edge techniques in urban farming first developed in Slovenia. We will work with local communities on soil enhancement, food production and testing. An initial site has been identified near the River Lagan, with a number of satellite locations also playing a role.

Belfast Resilience Commissioner

When the Smart Belfast Framework was established, Belfast was approached by the Rockefeller Foundation to consider bidding to join their 100 Resilient Cities network. The team worked with a range of local stakeholders from across industry, academia and civic society to shape a bid that successfully led to the development of the Belfast Resilience Office and the appointment of the city's first resilience commissioner. The team subsequently developed Belfast's bid to Rockefeller's CityXchange brokerage conference in 2018 which attracted digital investment from a number of leading-edge SMEs. Smart Belfast continues to work closely with the Resilience Team on projects such as Upsurge.

Covid Connect NI

In response to offers of help from the innovation community at the beginning of the Covid-19 crisis, we worked with local SME, Xpand to create an online brokerage platform that matches the technical expertise of digital industry with the Covid-related needs of public and community sectors.

The CovidConnectNI.com platform was developed in less than a month and went live in April 2020, with a focus on the provision pro bono support. Since launching, around 2,000 individuals and organisations have engaged with the platform. Nearly 100 organisations either offered or requested support to help tackle the Covid crisis. Around 40 potential projects were initiated as a result of connections that were made.

The screenshot shows the CovidConnectNI.com website interface. At the top is a navigation bar with links: ABOUT US, SUPPORT OFFERED, SUPPORT NEEDED, RESOURCES, DATA, LOGIN, and a menu icon. Below the navigation bar is a prominent "Log into your covidconnectni account" button with a "Log in >" link. The main content area is titled "Support Offered" and includes the text: "Organisations offering support to tackle Covid-19 challenges are listed below." There are two large cards for "Support Offered": one for "Payhere - Online payment facility" and another for "KPMG - Professional services". To the right, there is a section titled "POPULAR OFFERS / REQUESTS" listing three items: 1. "Support Offered" by Farset Labs - Makerspace (3D Printing, Data Analysis, R&D) dated APR 19; 2. "Support Needed" by Farset Labs - Makerspace (Access to hardware to support remote working, Delivery, Self Isolation) dated APR 19; and 3. "Support Offered" by EVP GROUP - Social distancing and contact tracing dated APR 25.

Citizen focus

Technology has already transformed our lives but effective smart cities collaborate with citizens and communities to address city challenges, adopting a people-centred design approach to solutions with the aim of improving quality of life.

Transformation of Historic Urban Areas

Belfast is one of eight European cities to receive a share of €7.9 million Horizon 2020 funding aimed at harnessing the regeneration potential of historic urban areas to support wider community entrepreneurship and innovation. Belfast will receive €680,000 and staffing costs for a four-year project focused on the community impact of the Maritime Mile in the Titanic Quarter. We are working with Titanic Foundation and other partners to support local communities to develop innovative projects in the digital and creative sectors.

Hello Maritime Mile!

This low-cost project encouraged visitors to explore and engage with historic landmarks and attractions along the Maritime Mile including the Big Fish and HMS Caroline. We worked with a start-up SME to develop a text-message AI 'chatbot' that responded to questions and gathered attitudinal information from visitors. The project won a NI Tourism Award for digital innovation, and the SME, Hello Lamp Post, has since developed the prototype into a successful commercial product.

Amazing Spaces, Smart Places

The team bid to the Northern Ireland SBRI programme (with the Department of Justice as co-sponsor) for this £320,000 project. The aim was to enable local SMEs to develop ideas that could support the Council's Parks and Community Safety teams in the innovative management of safe, open spaces. The project also drew the attention of Smart Dublin who sought to gain insight for their own city's open space strategy.

Following close engagement with elected Members and local parks groups, five companies received funding for initial proof of concepts that included the use of IoT sensors; WiFi data; machine vision cameras; and a community currency rewards app.

For phase two, two companies won further funding through to March 2021, to develop their ideas to the prototype stage. CivicDollars is developing their community currency app to reward people to actively use their local parks, while SparroWatch's intelligent machine vision camera is being trialled in various Belfast parks. Usage of our open space has increased dramatically during the Covid crisis – and new tech has an important role to play.



Future of the urban economy

Digital innovation is a key driver of the economy, and sectors such as manufacturing, tourism and financial services are adopting new technology such as augmented and virtual reality, Internet of Things and Artificial Intelligence to become more competitive, improve efficiencies and enhance services.

Smart Belfast Collaborative Growth

Working with Invest NI, we developed a unique variant on their existing collaborative growth programme that provides funding to groups of SMEs seeking to jointly explore new market opportunities. The team developed a programme that had the potential to draw down £1 million for successful companies.

We worked with industry and city partners to develop five city challenges under the themes of urban transport, the visitor experience, circular economy, active living and the management of the public estate. 16 companies received funding to work together to scope potential solutions in these areas.

Measuring the impact of digital on SMEs

We worked with local company, Xpand, to bid to EIT Digital for a €1 million R&D project to develop a software platform that enables economic development managers to engage and gather data from their SME clients while at the same time providing client companies with better insights into potential new markets.

The project onboarded over 100 SMEs who engaged with the platform on the economic potential of a Belfast Smart District. Xpand have since developed the solution into a commercially available product that has attracted funding and interest from across Europe.

NI Things Connected

Working with Ulster University and Invest NI, we bid to Digital Catapult UK to establish a £200,000 Internet of Things (IoT) network across Northern Ireland. The network aims to encourage NI companies to develop or exploit IoT technologies in what is a multi-million pound market that will have an impact on agriculture, tourism, manufacturing and other sectors.

The team established an £80,000 competition across NI councils to encourage companies to learn about the potential of IoT and leveraged a further £100,000 of cloud-based IoT training for businesses from an international cloud computing vendor.

The Digital Catapult recognised the project as their most successful regional Things Connected programme.

Virtual reality

Immersive technologies, such as Virtual Reality and Augmented Reality, have been maturing rapidly over the past few years. While the technology has huge potential in gaming, it also has transformative applications more broadly in tourism, advanced manufacturing, health and education.

Belfast remains well placed in this sector with a large number of digital and creative companies developing immersive content. To support this growth, the Smart Belfast team worked with Invest NI, the Department for the Economy and Digital Catapult UK to establish the city's first Immersive Lab for start-ups and industry to which Digital Catapult provided over £50,000 worth of immersive technologies.

To encourage companies to engage in the sector, Smart Belfast worked with our Economic Development team, Tourism NI and Future Screens to establish a £25,000 competition for local SMEs. One of the participating companies, Enter Yes, developed an immersive VR app based on the experience of the Blitz at Belfast City Hall.

Understanding our Rates

Working with Land and Property Services and the NI Department of Finance, we bid to the Northern Ireland Small Business Research Initiative (SBRI) programme to deliver a £150,000 project that sought to apply digital innovation to enhancing the city's business rates register.

Four companies were awarded proof of concept funding to develop proposals that included utilising behavioural economics, Internet of Things networks, rule-based analytics and machine learning models. Two companies, Analytics Engines and NQuiring Minds, were awarded further funding to develop prototypes that used a range of data sources and AI to enhance the process for identifying rates income from businesses. During pilot trial period, £500,000 of business rates income was identified.

Both companies subsequently developed these prototypes into commercially available products, with the Council procuring a solution from NQuiring Minds. This SBRI project has since been cited nationally as an exemplar of the SBRI approach, with the NQuiring Minds solution used as case study in the UK Industrial strategy. Through the SBRI project, Analytics Engines advanced their product development which led to winning a substantial contract with broadcaster RTE.



AI and Data

Through Big Data and Artificial Intelligence, cities can obtain valuable insights from large amounts of data collected through various sources, and develop efficiencies, improve sustainability, create economic development and enhance quality of life of people living and working in the city.

Open Data Mobility

Following a successful funding bid to the NI Open Data Fund, we are working with local SME, Xpand and Belfast Harbour to explore how we can use open data and other data sets to map mobility across the Titanic Quarter and demonstrate how data connectors can link various data sources to provide insights through a single dashboard.

Belfast City Council as a data organisation

The Council collects, manages and uses huge volumes of data every day. Our Data Specialist is working with colleagues across departments to explore how we can use, manage and apply data more effectively to inform business decisions and improve services. We are also exploring the capabilities the organisation must have in place to play a civic leadership role in a data-enabled city.

Project Lintol

We are working with local collaboration network, Lintol.io on a project funded by the Open Data Institute to test an open data validating tool to improve the quality, speed and cost effectiveness of publishing open data. The project enables the Council to quality check its own data and ensure open data is provided to innovators in a usable format.

Litter Analytics

Using historical waste data, IoT sensors in bins and GPS on waste vehicles, we are working with a local SME to develop a predictive algorithm for the emptying of bins in the public realm and the optimisation of bin lorry routes.

Tourism and public WiFi data

We worked with local SME Velocity Worldwide and local tourism partners including Tourism NI and Visit Belfast to explore how we could use Belfast's public WiFi data to better understand visitor behaviour and map visitor movements in Belfast. The project enabled the team to explore data privacy processes and data sharing, and learnings and insights have been applied to other Smart Belfast projects.

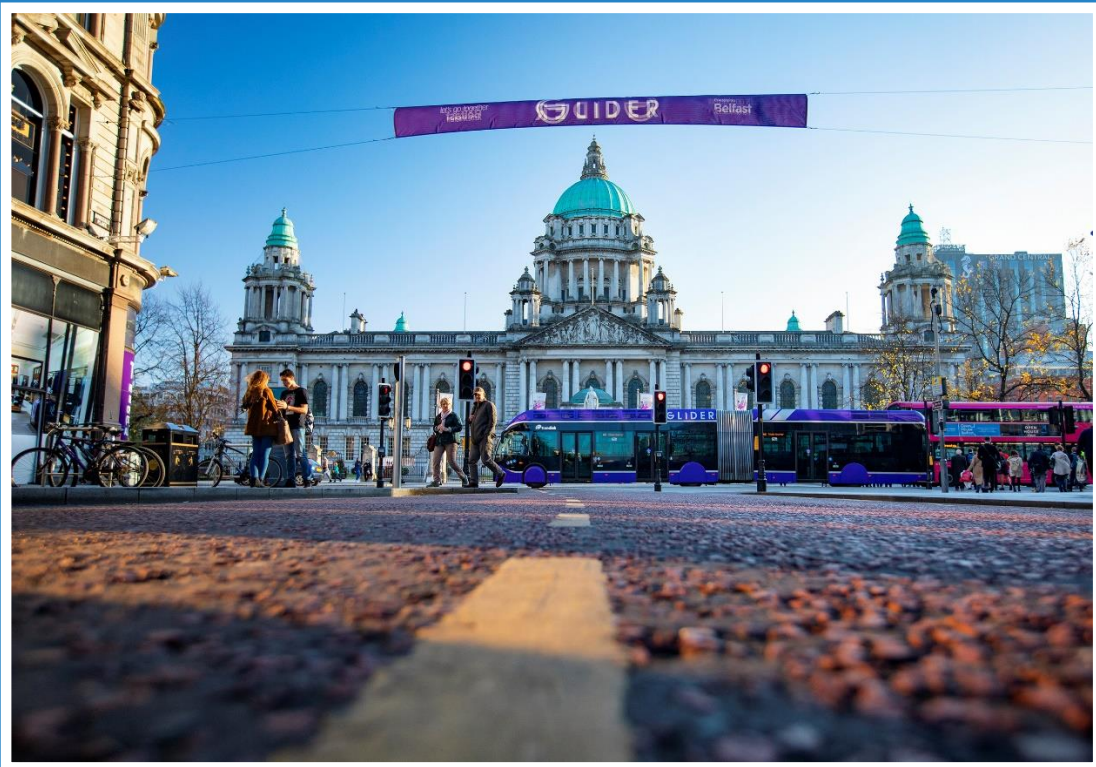
Urban Healthy Living Space SBRI

Urban air quality is a global concern and remains an issue in Belfast, particularly where our continued dependency on the private car can adversely affect air quality at the neighbourhood level. Monitoring local air quality is technically challenging, but new technologies such as IoT, AI, and satellite imagery have provided new methods.

With UK Space Agency funding, and the active involvement of the Council's air quality team, we collaborated with local SME 3DEO, Redshift Associates and Geospatial Insights, along with public health officials and clinicians to explore the relationship between traffic and air quality.

The project used satellite data, IoT sensors and machine vision cameras to model air pollution in granular detail and in near real time. Innovators then created a mobile app for tracking pollutant exposure for different routes, times of day and modes of transport. The results were presented at a Member workshop in 2018 hosted by the Lord Mayor.

Belfast Health and Social Care Trust created a further Small Business Research Initiative competition to better explore the impact of air pollutant exposure in relation to respiratory and circulatory conditions, diabetes, stroke, and cognitive function amongst Belfast citizens. The results have contributed to the ongoing debate on the future of travel in the city.



Who we've worked with

The success of Smart Belfast is built on collaborative innovation between a diverse range of stakeholders. The following organisations represent some of the main partners who have been directly involved in our project portfolio.

Belfast Metropolitan College
Bristol University
Catalyst
Connected Places Catapult
Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport
Digital Catapult UK and NI
Dublin City Council
Dublin City University's Alpha Innovation Unit
Energy Systems Catapult
European Space Agency
Future Screens NI
Health and Social Care Trust
Institute of Electronics, Communications and Information Technology
InterTrade Ireland
Invest NI
Innovate UK
Land and Property Services

Matrix NI
Maynooth University
Musgrave Park Hospital
Nanotechnology and Integrated Bioengineering Centre
Nesta
NICVA
Nordic Irish Partnership
Northern Ireland Government departments
Open Data Institute
Public Health Agency
Queen's University of Belfast
Satellite Applications Catapult
Sustrans NI
Titanic Foundation
Tourism NI
Translink
UK Space Agency
Ulster University
Visit Belfast

Companies

We've engaged and worked with a range of companies over the last three years, from start-ups through to large international corporates.

3DEO
7th Venture
ActionSense Ltd
Aepona
Allsop Consulting Ltd
Allstate
Anaeko
Analytics Engines
Arity
Arris
Artemis Technologies
Arup
Aurora Prime Real Estate
Axial3D
Azimap
B4B Technology
B9 Energy
Bann Technology
Bazaarvoice
BehaviourWise Limited
Belfast Coin
Big Motive
Blue Clarity Design Services Ltd
Bluesona
Bombardier
Bondelivery NI Limited
Bouygues
Briremobility
BT
Cambium LLP
Causeway Coding
CDS Consulting
Ciga

Kraydel
Lagan Construction
Laganside DSD
Lecky
Lindsay advisory
Lintol.io
Litter Analytics
Live It Up Ventures Ltd.
Loyalbe Ltd
Luna
MacBlair
Made to Engage
Mags Byrne Marketing
Mash Direct
Mastodon C
McAdam Design
McAleer Rushe
McFarland Associates Ltd
Microsoft
MJM Group
MnTech Ltd
Montupet
Mott McDonald (Belfast)
Moy Park
Mtech academy
NEC
NQuiring Minds
Odyssey Trust
Ogilvie
OLI
On-Music TV
Options Technology
Oracle

CILT
Cisco
Civia
CivicDollars
Civica
Close Focus Limited
CMASS
Connected Care Solutions
Cornerstone
Crescent Capital
CUBIS Systems
CV6 Therapeutics
Dale Farm
Danskebank
DELL EMC
Deloitte
Denroy
Derry Creatives Collective
DeskHoppa
Digital DNA
Digital Leaders
Digital Solutions:2020
DM Innovations Ltd
DMC Digital
Donard Electronics
Double Jump Studios
Dunbia
Earthsense
E-Breathe Ltd.
Elucidate
Emeritus Communications Ltd
Energy Elephant
Enter Yes
ESRI NI
ESS
Evermore Energy

P2V Systems
ParkUnload
Passel Innovation
Perform Green
Philips
Pinnacle NI
PitchBooking
PricewaterhouseCoopers
Procul-iot
Pulse Smart Hub
Puppet
Radox
Real-iot
Realtime
Real Wireless
Red Branch
Redshift Associates
Resolute Public Affairs
Rex Systems Ltd
RF Proximity
Scannervision Vi-technologies Ltd
Seagate
See.Sense
Sensata Technologies
Sensor Healthcare
Sensoteq
Siemens
Silverink
Sirocco
Sixteen South
Smart-Ventilation Ltd
Solaris Environmental
SparroWatch
Straylight Consulting
Street Monkey
StreetDock

Excelledia N.I. Limited
Expleo
EY
Farrans
Farset Labs
Fernhay with UPS
First Derivatives
Flax and Teal
Friends of the Earth
Fujitsu
GCD Technologies
Greenans Products Ltd
Grid Smarter Cities
The Smart Bunker
Greenlight NI
GSG Projects Ltd
Hello Lamp Post
High Summits Consulting
Huawei
Intel
Intelligent Ventilation
iSensing
Island Sky
JMG Systems Ltd
John Hogg Operational
Kainos
Kinsetsu
KPMG

Synetecs
SysAda Limited
Tascomi Ltd
Taylor Patterson Surveyors
Telefonica
Thales
The Convex Lens
Thrive
Titanic Belfast
Topolytics
Total Mobile
Travel & TourismCo
TriMedika Ltd
Tughans
Unosquare
Velocheese
Velocity WW
Virgin Media
VuCity
WeDispatch
Whale
Wheel works
Whitepot Studios
WrightBus
Xpand Group Ltd.
Yellow Design
Yelo

Future plans

Drawing from the Smart Belfast experience, the Council and its city partners are now developing ambitious plans focused on the potential of digital innovation to build an economy capable of competing in the twenty-first century.

The Covid-19 crisis has amplified these challenges and accelerated the time scales against which they need to be addressed.

The new Belfast Digital Innovation Partnership (BDIP), which includes the Council, the universities, Belfast Harbour, Invest NI and Catalyst, has acknowledged that without a coherent city level approach that directly addresses the impact of digital on our economy, Belfast could be impacted in terms of lost jobs, stagnant business growth and low productivity. Conversely, the city is also at risk of missing the substantial opportunities that digital innovation represents for our economy and future city services.

As the new BDIP partnership develops its approaches, there are a number of Smart Belfast project proposals that will make significant contributions to achieving this ambition. We have set out some of these below.

Belfast Smart District

Centred on an area of the city centre, where there are already plans for major R&D and private sector investments, the Smart District will be a place-based multiplier for wider investment and transformation in the city. During the city's recovery, it will be a statement of global intent - a place where we can quickly come to grips with immediate challenges. In other cities, their smart districts have proven important in quickly developing ideas to address the immediate impact of Covid-19.

The District will foster an environment in which innovators, technologists and investors can work together to encourage the exchange of knowledge, ideas, and investments. The District also brings the complexity of whole-city urban challenges down to a more viable neighbourhood level. At this scale, city stakeholders can plan, pilot and prove approaches that overcome challenges to systemic change – to then be scaled back to citywide implementation.

Advanced wireless network

Advanced wireless connectivity underpins many aspects of the modern economy, whether it's in logistics, manufacturing, connected health care, or public service delivery. It will be the backbone for our economy in the coming decade. Belfast's universities have world-class research capabilities in this field, and we have many companies seeking to build products and services that rely on modern wireless networks.

We are exploring how we can best support the rollout of advanced digital connectivity to maximise benefits for the city, our citizens and the economy. We want Belfast to be the go-to location for investment and research in wireless innovation.

Smart healthy neighbourhood

We aim to grow the residential population of our city centre with major investments in student housing and multigenerational homes. As the city balances sustainable densification with the post-Covid social distancing challenges, we have the opportunity to work with planners, housing developers, investors and our life and healthcare innovators to rethink the design of our urban neighbourhoods.

Overall, the project would seek to maximise the opportunity that technology and data analytics is providing to rethink how neighbourhoods are planned and designed to help people remain active and productive as they age. It would also enable solution providers to experiment at scale and target solutions directly to the self-identified needs of the community.

Reskilling for the AI economy

Working with communities, our universities, colleges, schools and industry to deliver programmes to prepare our citizens for the challenges and opportunities of an AI economy. The recovery, including the leap to remote learning, presents an opportunity to rethink how we design and deliver vehicles for education and training. AI is expected to impact on 70,000 jobs across the region. The Smart District, home to Belfast Met - the regional college for digital skills and W5's new DreamSpace - offers an opportunity to work hand in glove with communities and partners to design, test and deliver courses that ensure recovery is felt across communities.

Citizen-Driven Centre for Data Analytics

Working directly with citizens to use data and innovative technologies to address societal challenges across the city. It will support organisations to collaborate, share, analyse and act upon data from multiple sources. The centre will drive the use of data to address local challenges via improving services, enabling better decisions making, and driving innovation. The Belfast centre will place a specific emphasis on citizen co-creation. Therefore, upskilling and enabling the active participation of citizens in defining the challenges to be addressed is an essential element.

Sustainable energy transition

The local energy system in Belfast needs to undergo a profound transition. The availability of secure, renewable energy is increasingly a prerequisite for digital companies. The digital sector is energy hungry, and a city with pretensions to lead on digital needs to have in place a renewable energy strategy.

To support increasing investments in renewables, grid balancing services and flexible loads need to be provided to reduce renewable electricity generators' exposure to power price volatility risk.

Hydrogen produced from renewable electricity could facilitate the integration of high levels of the variable renewable energy system. This project aims to maximise the installed wind energy capacity, by converting potentially curtailed night-time wind electricity into hydrogen and oxygen. The hydrogen will be used to power the gliders and buses in the Smart District, the oxygen to improve wastewater treatment efficiency and the resultant waste heat to warm homes in the district.

Multi-modal travel

Belfast partners have ambitious plans to transform mobility in the city by encouraging people to switch to public and active transport options. This is particularly important over the coming months and years in response to Covid with challenges around social distancing, public transport and the likely uptick in private car use. To affect such a significant large-scale switch in behaviours will require a variety of infrastructure investments, incentives, and programmes.

This lighthouse project aims to support the mobility transition by providing the city's managers and planners with an Urban Mobility Platform that integrates new and existing datasets into a coherent set of decision-making tools. In the first instance, the project will focus on supporting transport interventions that ease the mobility challenges within the Smart District. As the platform grows in sophistication, its focus would expand to include other parts of the city. The Smart District encapsulates many of the wider mobility challenges in the city, whilst offering a living laboratory to test the effectiveness of different interventions.

Urban Data Platform

The platform will serve as the basic infrastructure for a multitude of data-driven projects. The platform - implemented as one central system or as a system of systems - is crucial for optimal data processing and analytics thereby giving stakeholders the opportunity to generate new knowledge based on existing data.

During the current crisis, the availability of relevant, timely data at a city, regional or national level have proven critical for decision-making and joint planning.

The availability and accessibility of data is an enabler of different applications, services and digital business development opportunities.

SMART Belfast

If you want to hear more about
Belfast's digital innovation ambition,
we would like to talk to you.



smartbelfast@belfastcity.gov.uk



www.smartbelfast.city



[#smartbelfast](https://twitter.com/smartbelfast)



Belfast
City Council

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Subject:	Update on Physical Programme
Date:	23rd October, 2020
Reporting Officer:	Sinead Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes
Contact Officer:	Shauna Murtagh, Programme Manager

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

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes ☒ No ☐

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues
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 LTP – Templemore to the next stage of the capital programme.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to – <i>Project Movement</i> - Agree that LTP - Templemore is moved to a <i>Stage 3 – Committed</i> project, with a maximum £12m budget allocated.

	▪ <i>Service Yard, Falls Park/City Cemetery</i> – Note that a satisfactory tender has been returned and the project remains within the maximum £420,000 budget. ▪ <i>Local Full Fibre Networks Programme</i> – Agree to the procurement of additional fibre ducting assets/ infrastructure to enhance the existing ducting network as part of the Public Sector Asset Reuse (PSAR) project under the overall LFFN programme.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<i>LTP – Templemore</i> Members have previously agreed that all capital projects must go through a 3 Stage approval process where decisions on which projects progress are taken by SP&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. Members are reminded that LTP – Templemore is an agreed Stage 2- Uncommitted project on the council's Leisure Transformation Programme. Members will note that a full update report on the Leisure Transformation Programme is also presented to the Committee. Members are asked to agree that LTP - Templemore moves to Stage 3 - Committed with a maximum budget of £12m under the £105m Leisure Transformation Programme. Members will be aware that this project has also received £5m in funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund.
3.2	<i>Capital Programme - Service Yard, Falls Park/City Cemetery</i> Members will be aware that the Service Yard/City Cemetery project involves the relocation of the existing service at the City Cemetery site. Members agreed that the project moved to <i>Stage 3 - Committed</i> on the Capital Programme in February 2019. The project was held at Tier 0 – Schemes at Risk pending planning approval and the tender return price at which stage the final budget was to be brought back to Committee. A satisfactory tender has been received and the budget remains £420,000 which is within the affordability limits of the Council. Members are asked to note that the project has since received planning approval and a satisfactory tender has been returned.
3.3	<i>Local Full Fibre Networks Programme</i> Members will be recall that on 23rd March 2018, the SP&R Committee noted that Council was awarded £11.5m from the Department of Culture Media and Sport's (DCMS) for the delivery of the Belfast Local Fibre Network Programme. The programme consists of two distinct projects: Public Sector Anchor Tenancy (PSAT) and Public Sector Asset Reuse (PSAR). The PSAR funding totals £206k and was approved to allow us to survey the condition of fibre ducts in the city centre, with a view to making them available to the telecoms market. This in turn will greatly benefit the businesses and residents of the city centre. Following the survey results, Digital

	Services engaged industry experts to conduct and analysis of the ducting network, and assess the viability of offering them out to the telecoms market. The output will enable a business case to be developed for DCMS. The results of the analysis suggest that demand will be high, but could be greatly enhanced by additional investment in the ducting network to make it more fit for purpose. This investment will cost no more than £190k, and will be funded from external sources. Members are asked to agree the procurement of additional ducting infrastructure to enhance the viability of the existing ducting network as part of the overall LFFN programme.
3.4	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> LTP Templemore & Service Yard City Cemetery - The Director of Finance and Resources has confirmed that these projects are within the affordability limits of the Council. LFFN – works to be externally funded
3.5	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment</u> All capital projects are screened as part of the stage approval process.
4.0	Documents Attached
	None

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Subject:	Leisure Transformation Programme - Assets Update
Date:	23 rd October 2020
Reporting Officer:	Ronan Cregan, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources Sinead Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes
Contact Officer:	Alistair Charles, Project Sponsor

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

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes ☒ No ☐

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues
1.1	This report updates Members on the development and implementation of the £105m leisure assets capital programme.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to note the contents of this report, including that:

	- the three new leisure facilities at Lisnasharragh, Brook and Andersonstown have now opened following lockdown and continue to see strong membership numbers as outlined at 3.1 - the demolition of Avoniel is now complete and works have commenced on the new facility; and that a contractor has now been appointed for the Templemore Baths redevelopment with works due to commence in October 2020, as outlined at 3.2 - procurement of the ICT and Business Case consultant for the new leisure facility at Girdwood is underway and will be completed by Dec 2020, as outlined at 3.3 - the proposed approach to Leisure Phase 3 for those centres not currently included in the transformation programme, as outlined at 3.4
3.0	Main Report
3.1	The Council is currently embarking on an ambitious 10 year plan to completely transform how it delivers leisure services across the city. The Leisure Transformation Programme (LTP), which includes a £105m capital investment, is designed to ensure everyone across the city has access to modern, fit for purpose, leisure facilities and programmes. The Programme's main objective is to enable active and healthy lifestyles for all citizens whilst also delivering on a number of the key priorities in the Belfast Agenda such as reducing life inequalities across the city, improving neighbourhoods and creating employment and opportunity. A further key objective is to ensure that each centre has its own Unique Selling Point (USP), to avoid duplication and encourage users to move across the city to access different services and programmes
3.2	Update on new centres Lisnasharragh and Brook are now re-opened and continue to enjoy strong membership numbers. Despite all leisure facilities experiencing a significant drop off in membership numbers over lockdown, the two centres have recovered strongly. Lisnasharragh currently has 2,950 live pre-paid members (86% of pre-lockdown figures) and Brook 1,613 (90% of pre-lockdown figures). These figures are well in excess of the UK average which shows gym memberships currently averaging around 60%-70% pre-lockdown figures. Andersonstown- Members will recall that Andersonstown was completed in mid-March and was due to open in late March just as the full lockdown was introduced. Following lockdown, the gym and fitness studios were opened on 10th July, with the main pool following on 6th August. Members are asked to note that the plans for the opening of the slides have been placed on hold given the new restrictions announced by the NI Executive on 13th October. Due to social distancing requirements the splash zone has not been opened and will remain closed until current restrictions are eased to allow safe usage.

3.2 **Project Updates – Next Phase (Avoniel and Templemore)**

Phase 2 of the Programme is proceeding as follows:

Avoniel – the demolition of the existing buildings is now complete and work is commencing on the site clearance (refer to attached photos at Appendix 1). It is currently envisaged that the new facility will be completed by September 2021.

Templemore –as per previous update, Templemore Users Trust formally vacated the building at the end of June. The contractor procurement process has now been completed and Heron Brothers have been awarded the contract. Responsibility for the site has now passed to the contractor and following a period of mobilisation, works are due to commence on site in late October. It is currently envisaged that the new facility will be completed by April 2022. TUT have now formally signed and returned the User Agreement, granting them priority usage of one of the pools in the new facility, and also have an agreement in place with GLL for access to Shankill Leisure Centre from this November to continue their swimming programmes in the interim.

3.3 **Girdwood Phase 2** – Following authorisation from DFC procurement of the Integrated Consultancy Team is now underway and will be in place by the end of December. The procurement of a consultant to develop the business case in relation to the project is also underway with an appointment due by end October. Following appointment of the ICT and business case consultant, a period of consultation with key stakeholders will take place to revisit the current options for the new facility which were developed in 2016-18. Following agreement on a preferred option concept designs will be developed which will then be subject to further public consultation before final designs are produced. It is currently envisaged that work on the new facility will commence in early Spring 2022.

3.4 **Phase 3 - Other leisure facilities - Ozone, Ballysillan, Whiterock, Shankill, Loughside and Belvoir**

The SP&R Committee agreed earlier this year that a feasibility study would be undertaken on the rest of the leisure estate which have not been part of the Leisure Transformation Programme to date (Shankill, Whiterock, Ballysillan, Ozone, Loughside and Belvoir) given the age of these facilities. A draft terms of reference for this was agreed by Committee with the next step the appointment of consultants to undertake this work.

Committee are asked to note that Space and Place Architects have now been appointed to carry out a review of the existing leisure estate and begin to develop options for the future of these six remaining facilities.

	Proposed approach – Leisure Phase 3 It is proposed that this piece of the work is broken down into three phases and follows a similar approach to the methodology undertaken for the current phase of the Leisure Programme. Members are asked to note as highlighted in the Medium Term Financial Plan which was brought to Committee last month that no capital financing has been ring-fenced for Leisure Phase 3 which is different from the current phase where the budget envelope had been agreed at the start of the programme. • Phase A – Baseline Review - This phase will consist of a detailed review of the current leisure estate and include a detailed performance analysis of all the current facilities. This will also include identification of gaps, areas of duplication and strategic advice on likely future requirements. This Phase will also look at innovation and key emerging trends in the leisure industry that could help achieve desired strategic outcomes beyond the existing/traditional sports offer. Timescale – This Phase of the review will be completed by end December and an update will be brought back to Committee early next year. • Phase B – Consultation – Following completion of phase A, Phase B will be initiated which will involve large scale consultation with Members and a wide range of key stakeholders with a view to begin the process of developing options for the remaining six centres. • Phase C – Concept Designs - Phase C would then involve the development of concept designs as required.
3.5	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> Financial – Current Phase - The design costs limits for each centre were agreed by Committee in April 2015 as part of the overall £105m leisure programme. Phase 3 – No capital financing in place Resource- Council to act as delivery partner for Girdwood Phase II ICT engagement. To be managed through current LTP governance arrangements.
3.6	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> There are no direct equality implications
4.0	Documents Attached
	Photographs of Avoniel site

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Photos of Avoniel site



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Subject:	Assets Management I. Sewer relocation easement & licence for works – Knocknagoney Linear Park II. New sewer installation easement & licence for works – Lagan Meadows III. Licence Renewal – Ligoniel Community Centre IV. Sally Gardens – Lease Extension to Poleglass Community Association V. Springfield Dam – Acquisition of Land from Invest Northern Ireland VI. Encroachment at 133 Mount Eagles Avenue VII. Musgrave Park – Northern Ireland Water Sewer Scheme
Date:	23 October 2020
Reporting Officer:	Sinead Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes
Contact Officer:	Pamela Davison, Estates Team Leader

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

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes ☒ No ☐

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Members to asset related disposal, acquisition and estates matters.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	Members are asked to -

	I. Sewer relocation easement & licence for works – Knocknagoney Linear Park – approve the grant of an easement for a proposed sewer relocation and subsequent licence for works at Knocknagoney Linear Park. II. New sewer installation easement & licence for works – Lagan Meadows – approve the grant of an easement for a proposed new sewer and subsequent licence for works at Lagan Meadows. III. Licence Renewal – Ligoniel Community Centre – approve a new licence agreement between the Council and Belfast Health & Social Care Trust for their continued use of Ligoniel Community Centre. IV. Sally Gardens – Lease Extension to Poleglass Community Association – approve a lease extension to Poleglass Community Association for the community centre at Sally Gardens. V. Springfield Dam – Acquisition of Land from Invest Northern Ireland (INI) – approve the acquisition of c.0.400 acres of land from INI as part of the Springfield Dam project. VI. Encroachment at 133 Mount Eagles Avenue – approve the revised terms of an agreed disposal of a small plot of grassland to the owner of 133 Mount Eagles Avenue. VII. Musgrave Park – Northern Ireland Water (NIW) Sewer Scheme – note and approve the proposed works by NIW at Musgrave Park and approve the granting of a licence to NIW to carry out these works
3.0	Main report
3.1	I. Sewer relocation easement and licence for works – Knocknagoney Linear Park <u>Key Issues</u> Kirk Bryson & Co Ltd ('the developer') have approached the Council seeking to relocate a portion of the main NI Water sewer which currently runs through their site known as 'Lesley Parklands' onto Council lands at Knocknagoney Linear Park to facilitate development of the approved housing development on the site. The plan attached at Appendix 1 shows the route of the proposed easement. The easement fee of £55,600 was assessed by Estates and agreed with the developers Estate Agent subject to Member's approval. The easement will be for a term of 99 years subject to a yearly rent of 5p. If the Committee agrees to the proposed easement a licence for works will be put in place which will include provision for payment of a licence fee of £500+VAT for the first four weeks access followed by £100+VAT for each week thereafter. The developer will also cover the costs for replacement trees.

	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> The Council will receive an easement fee of £55,600, a licence fee of £500+VAT for the first four weeks plus £100+VAT for each week thereafter for the works and £2,400 for replacement tree planting. The developer has also agreed to pay Council's legal costs. Staff from Estates and Legal Services will be required to complete the easement. <u>Equality and Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> None
3.2	II. New sewer installation easement and licence for works – Lagan Meadows <u>Key Issues</u> RUC Athletic Association Ltd have sought Council approval for a proposed new sewer installation over Council lands at Lagan Meadows which would link their new sports complex at New Forge Lane to the main NI Water sewer. The route of the proposed new sewer is shown on the plan attached at Appendix 2. A proportion of the path will be required to be closed for the duration of the works. However, RUC Athletic Association Ltd have agreed to install a temporary path to enable the continued use of Lagan Meadows by members of the public. Heras fencing will be installed for public safety and to prevent pedestrian access to and from the working area during the period of the works. The easement fee of £6,000 was assessed by Estates and has also been agreed with RUC Athletic Association Ltd subject to Member's approval. The easement will be for a term of 99 years subject to a yearly rent of 5p. If the Committee agree to the proposed easement a licence for works will be put in place which will include provision for payment of a licence fee of £500+VAT for the first four weeks access followed by £100+VAT every week thereafter. <u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> The Council will receive an easement fee of £6,000,a licence fee of £500+VAT for the first four weeks plus £100+VAT for each week thereafter for the duration of the works and £500 to cover the costs of replacement tree planting. The developer has agreed to pay the Council's legal costs. Staff from Estates and Legal Services will be required to complete the easement. <u>Equality and Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> None
3.3	III. Licence Renewal – Ligoniel Community Centre <u>Key Issues</u> The Belfast Health and Social Care Trust currently occupy, by way of a Licence, part of the Minor Hall and store at Ligoniel Community Centre. The BH&SCT have requested a new 5 year licence with a 3 year break option. BH&SCT are currently charged £37 per week for the use of the minor hall from 9.00 am to 1.00 pm Monday - Friday and there is an additional

charge of £100 per annum for the use of the storage area. It has also been agreed that the Trust may place an outdoor storage unit upon the adjoining Ligoniel Community Centre lands.

Financial and Resource Implications

The Council will receive an annual licence fee of £2,024. Staff from the Estates Management Unit and Legal Services will be required to complete the Licence Agreement renewal.

Equality and Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

None

3.4 **IV. Sally Gardens – Lease Extension to Poleglass Community Association**

Key Issues

The Sally Gardens Community Centre is currently held under a 10 year lease (from 20th December 2016) by the Poleglass Community Association (PCA). The Council recently completed construction of new changing facilities and a 3G pitch on the land to the rear of the site. The Executive Office, under the Urban Villages Initiative, have proposed a project to enhance the existing community centre to include a gym and changing rooms attached to the existing buildings. The extension of the existing facility will replace a disused external soft play area at the building gable. Please refer to Appendix 3. Urban Villages is the only funder for this project, PCA are the project promoters and the Council will be the delivery agent. Following discussions with Urban Villages it was agreed that the Council would seek approval to grant a 25 year Lease by means of extension to the current Lease for this group to include the Community Centre and extension of the existing facility.

Financial and Resources Implications

Rental income will be assessed by Estates and taken back to Committee for approval. Staff resources from the Estates Management Unit and Legal Services will be involved in the completion of the proposed Lease extension.

Equality and Good Relations Implications

None

3.5 **V. Springfield Dam – Acquisition of Land from Invest Northern Ireland**

Key Issues

At its meeting on 16th December 2016 Committee granted approval to accept the transfer of the land shown outlined red at Appendix 4 from DfC at Springfield Dam following completion of capital works to enhance the site. The proposed completion date for the capital works is end of October 2020 at which point the DfC lands will transfer to the Council. Estates Officers from the Council have been in discussions with Invest Northern Ireland (INI) in relation to the transfer of c.0.400 acres of land shown outlined blue at Appendix 4 following completion of the capital works to enhance the site. The INI lands are essential to the project in order to

provide a safe and secure pedestrian access from Millennium Way to the Springfield Dam site. LPS have independently assessed the market value of the land to be transferred at £8,200 Member's approval is sought to agree this sum with INI. If approval is granted it is intended that the Council will pay for this land using the agreed project budget for the capital works which are being funded by DFC.

Financial and Resources Implications

£8,200 for the transfer of the land from INI to the Council to come from the agreed budget for the Springfield Dam project. Staff resources from the Estates Management Unit and Legal Services will be involved in the completion of the land transfer.

Equality and Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

None

3.6

VI. Encroachment at 133 Mount Eagles Avenue

Key Issues

In November 2019 the Committee approved the disposal of a small plot of Council owned grassland to the owner of 133 Mount Eagles Avenue who had encroached on the land. This was inadvertently reported to Committee as a consideration of £1350 for the land and each party paying their own legal fees. Members are asked to note that this should have been £350 and not £1350. Members are asked to note that it the owner has agreed to cover the Council's legal costs plus his own legal fees.

Financial and Resource Implications

Council will receive £350 for the land with the Council's legal costs to be covered.

Equality and Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

None

3.7

VII. Musgrave Park – Northern Ireland Water (NIW) Sewer Scheme

Following several incidences of severe flooding in the vicinity of Marguerite/Sicily Park in the Finaghy area, NIW, after consideration of their options, approached the Council seeking to include Musgrave Park in a redesigned scheme which will involve laying large diameter sewers between Musgrave Park and Lisburn Rd. This route has been designed to address the various complexities and challenges which exist whilst endeavouring to keep disruption to a minimum. The works will be carried out under NIW's statutory powers. The works in the Park are scheduled to commence in January 2021 and are expected to last for 12-15 months. A site compound will remain on site for a further 6-9 months to facilitate completion of the remainder of the scheme on lands owned by the Hospital Trust and Malone College. Given the nature, scale and duration of the works, it will be necessary to implement a temporary partial closure of the main pathway in the park. An existing secondary pathway will provide an alternative route around Grovelands. In order to minimise disruption and to comply with

	good Health & Safety practice this will take place on a phased basis which has been agreed with Estates, the client department and the Parks Manager. Full pedestrian and vehicular access will be maintained with a traffic management system in operation. The bowling club and grounds will also remain fully operational. A working compound area and turning circle for construction traffic will be provided at the entrance to Grovelands and will result in the temporary loss of 5 no car parking spaces and 3 no allotments bays as outlined in yellow in Appendix 6. It will be necessary to remove a number of mature trees to facilitate the works and the location and number of trees have been agreed with the Council's Tree Preservation Officer. Replacement planting of trees and greenery displaced by the works has been agreed and will take place during the appropriate season post scheme completion and in conjunction with Council officers. Members are asked to note and approve the proposed works and the grant of a licence to NIW for access on Council land as detailed in Appendix 5. <u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> The Council will receive a licence fee of £10,100 for the first year plus £200 for each week thereafter. Statutory compensation for the works will be agreed with LPS on completion of the scheme. Staff from the Estates Management Unit and Legal Services will be required to complete the licence. <u>Equality and Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> None
4.0	Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 - Map showing the route of the proposed sewer relocation delineated in red. Appendix 2 – Map showing the proposed route of the new sewer installation delineated in red. Appendix 3 –Plan showing the extent of the land to be leased to PCA outlined in red. Appendix 4 –Map showing the land to be acquired from Invest Northern Ireland at Springfield Dam outlined in blue. Appendix 5 - Map showing the route of the sewer running through Musgrave Park and associated work compounds. Appendix 6 - Map showing the 3. No. allotments and 5. No. car parking spaces at Musgrave Park which will be taken out of operation temporarily.



Parklands

45

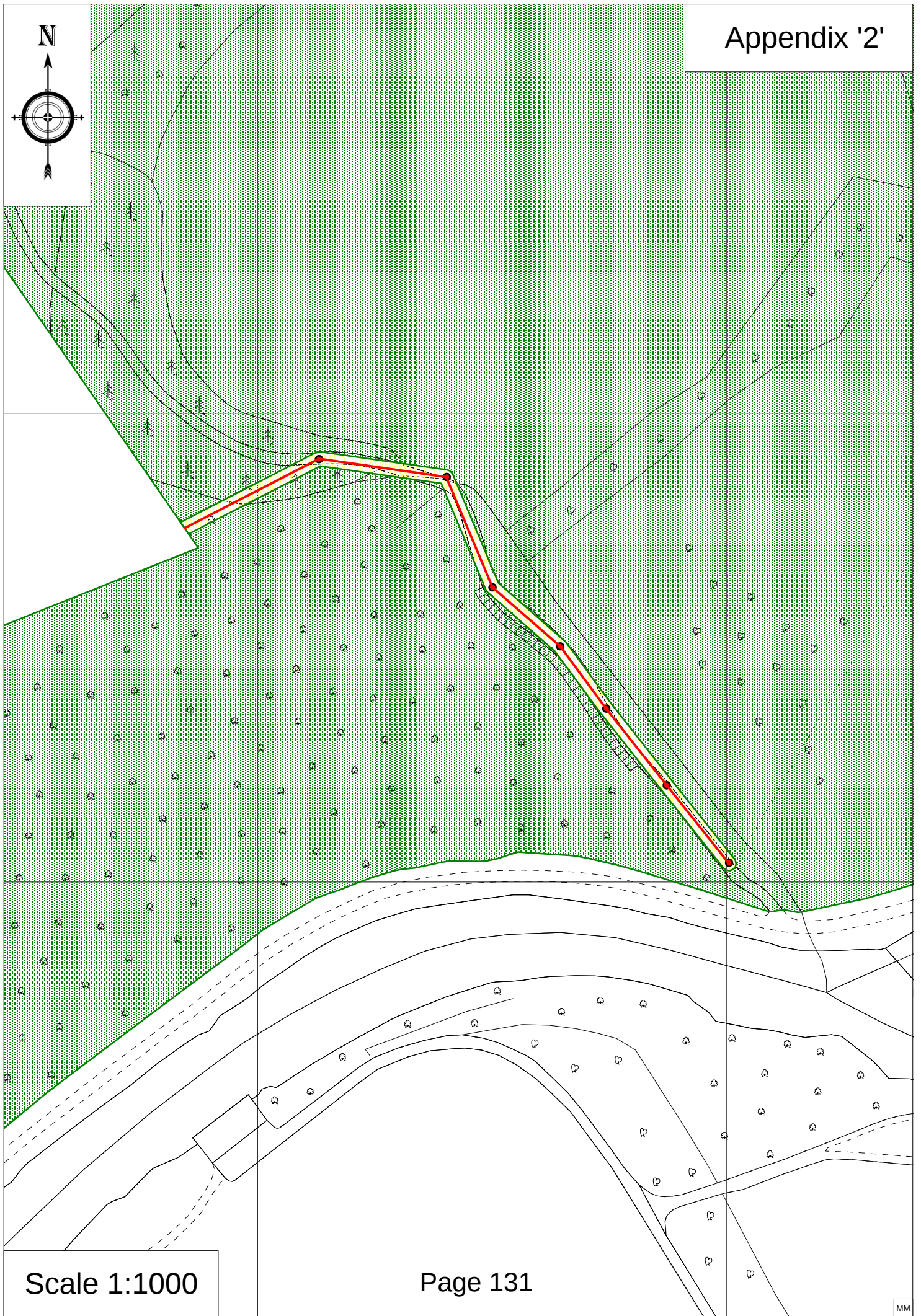
ESS

Stone

Monument

Scale 1:500

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Reservoir
(covered)

ISSUES

Wind Turbine

Church
Of The
Nativity
(RC)

El Sub Sta

Community
Centre

Primary and Nursery
School

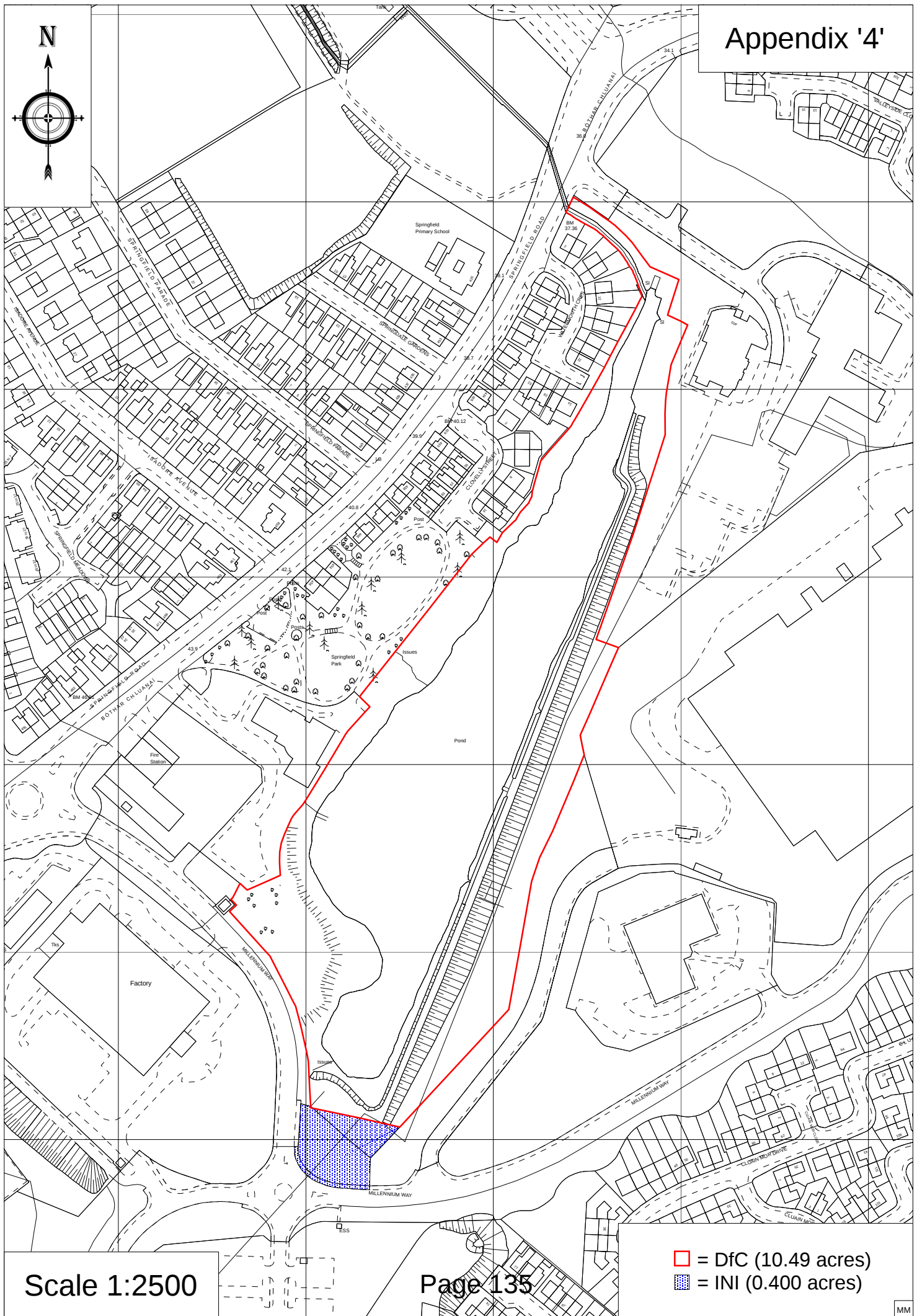
BELL STEEL MANOR

SALLY GARDENS LANE

St Kieran's
Nursery Sch

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Appendix '4'



Scale 1:2500

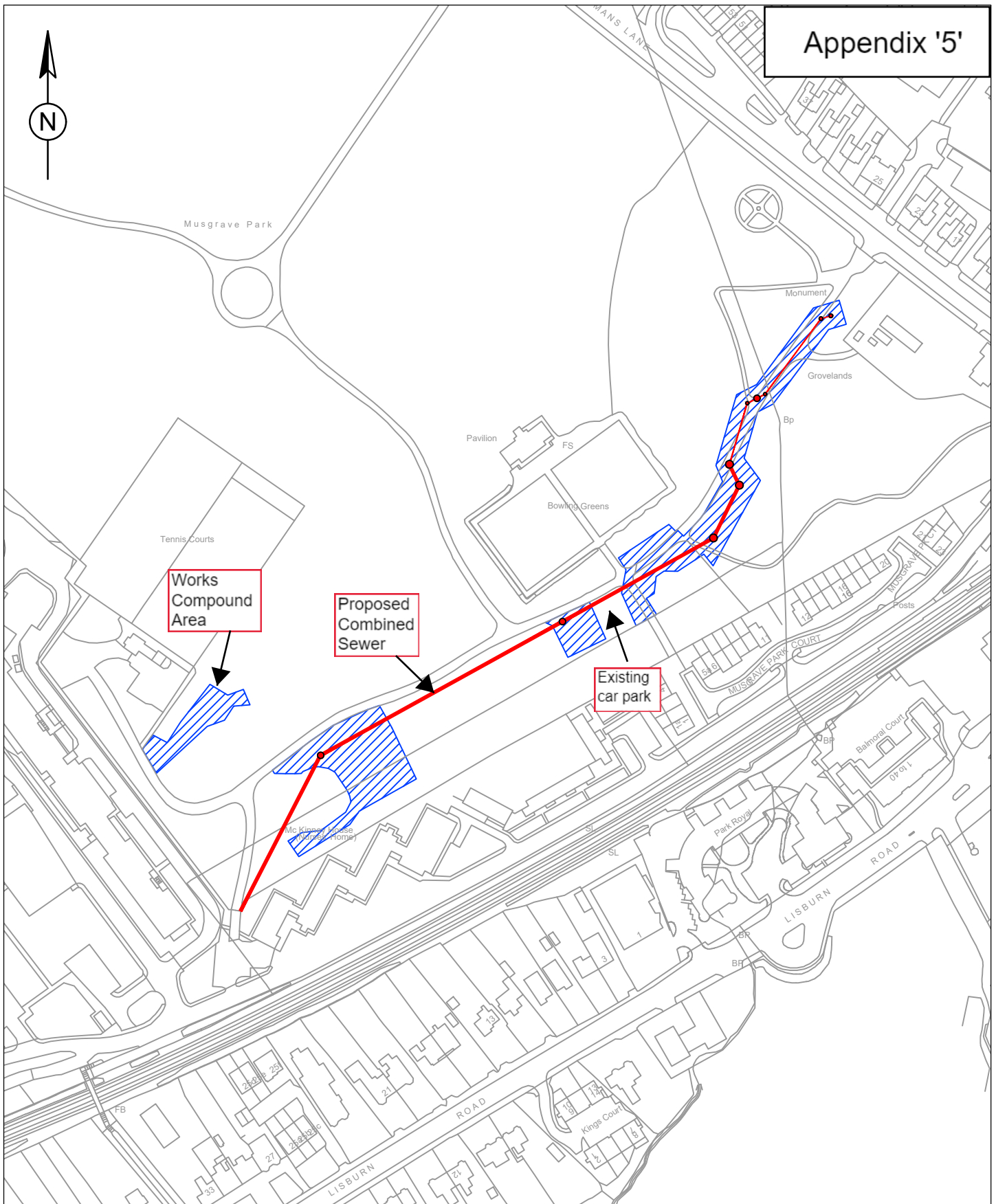
Page 135

 = DfC (10.49 acres)
 = INI (0.400 acres)

MM

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Appendix '5'



KR489
GLENMACHAN STRATEGIC PROJECT
PHASE 1

5169009-ATK-XX-XX-DR-C-0505_P1
06/10/2020
SCALE: 1:2500

LANDOWNER

BELFAST CITY COUNCIL
9-21 ADELAIDE STREET
BELFAST
CO. ANTRIM
BT2 8DJ

OS REFERENCE: J 3055 70773
CROWN COPYRIGHT RESERVED

LENGTH AND DIAMETER OF PIPES

PROPOSED COMBINED SEWER:

Length and diameter: 339.7m of 1500mm
85.5m of 450mm
4.9m of 225mm
No. Chambers: 10 no.

Wayleave width: 12m
Temporary working area shown hatched blue

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Subject:	Update on Area Working
Date:	23 October 2020
Reporting Officer:	Sinead Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes
Contact Officer:	Shauna Murtagh, Programme Manager

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

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes ☒ No ☐

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To seek Members' approval of the minutes of the most recent round of AWGs and any additional recommendations to this Committee arising from the meetings.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to – • AWG Minutes - Approve the most recent round of AWG minutes (<i>West – 24 September, South – 28 September, North – 30 September, East – 8 October</i>) attached at Appendix 1. • Physical Programme - Agree the recommendations on reallocations and residual monies from the AWGs under LIF, BIF and SOF Programmes as laid out below in 3.3-3.6.

3.0	Main Report																		
3.1	<u>KEY ISSUES</u> The SP&R Committee at its meeting on 20 September 2019 agreed revised Terms of Reference for the AWGs. These were presented to all AWGs at the last round of AWGs in January. It was agreed that these would be circulated to all Groups again. The Groups were reminded that under the Terms of Reference it had been agreed that AWGs would meet quarterly. Area Working Group Minutes Members agreed in June 2016 that the Area Working Group minutes would be taken into the SP&R Committee for approval going forward in line with the Council's commitment to openness and transparency and to ensure a consistent approach with other Member-led Working Groups. Members are asked to approve the most recent round of AWG minutes (<i>West – 24 September, South – 28 September, North – 30 September, East – 8 October</i>) as attached at Appendix 1. AWG Updates West AWG - Members are asked to approve the following project movements as recommended by the AWG at its meeting on 24 September 2020. LIF Programme The West AWG were updated that there was a residual allocation of £85,000 to be re-allocated from the decommitted monies of the Royal British Legion BIF project. In addition the AWG was updated that DFC monies had been secured in principle for two existing LIF projects (Berlin Swifts and St. James's Community Forum) and that there was therefore surplus LIF monies from these project that was available for reallocation (up to £65,000 and £17,000 respectively). The AWG considered the monies available for reallocation and agreed to recommend the following: <table><tr><th>Ref No</th><th>Project</th><th>Proposed Recommendation</th></tr><tr><td>WLIF2-25</td><td>Woodvale Cricket Club – upgrades to enable the creation of a large upstairs hall</td><td>£33,000</td></tr><tr><td>WLIF2-26</td><td>St Matthew's Parish Hall – upgrades</td><td>£35,000</td></tr><tr><td>WLIF2-27</td><td>West Belfast Orange Hall – toilet upgrades</td><td>£17,000</td></tr><tr><td>WLIF2-28</td><td>Belfast Orange Hall Clifton Street – building upgrades</td><td>Up to £65,000 (reallocation from Berlin Swifts)</td></tr><tr><td>WLIF2-29 WLIF2-30</td><td>Davitts GAC St. John GAC</td><td>£17,000 (reallocation from St. James's Community Forum)</td></tr></table>	Ref No	Project	Proposed Recommendation	WLIF2-25	Woodvale Cricket Club – upgrades to enable the creation of a large upstairs hall	£33,000	WLIF2-26	St Matthew's Parish Hall – upgrades	£35,000	WLIF2-27	West Belfast Orange Hall – toilet upgrades	£17,000	WLIF2-28	Belfast Orange Hall Clifton Street – building upgrades	Up to £65,000 (reallocation from Berlin Swifts)	WLIF2-29 WLIF2-30	Davitts GAC St. John GAC	£17,000 (reallocation from St. James's Community Forum)
Ref No	Project	Proposed Recommendation																	
WLIF2-25	Woodvale Cricket Club – upgrades to enable the creation of a large upstairs hall	£33,000																	
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WLIF2-27	West Belfast Orange Hall – toilet upgrades	£17,000																	
WLIF2-28	Belfast Orange Hall Clifton Street – building upgrades	Up to £65,000 (reallocation from Berlin Swifts)																	
WLIF2-29 WLIF2-30	Davitts GAC St. John GAC	£17,000 (reallocation from St. James's Community Forum)																	
3.2																			
3.3																			

- 3.4 **South AWG** - Members are asked to approve the following project movement and updates as recommended by the AWG at its meeting on 28 September 2020.

PROJECT	CURRENT STAGE	PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS
Knockbreda Parish Church Hall – BIF35	Stage 2- Uncommitted	Move to Stage 3 – Committed Works due to commence
Bredagh GAC – BIF19	Stage 3- Committed	Council to act as delivery agent
Sandy Row Community Forum – SOF04	Due Diligence stage	Change of project promoter from Sandy Row Community Forum to Belfast South City Resource Centre

The South AWG Group also agreed to hold a special meeting in October to look project proposals for the Sandy Row area and that both BSCR and Urban Villages be invited to this meeting in order to allow the AWG to fully consider emerging proposals.

- 3.5 **North AWG** - Members are asked to approve the following project movements and updates as recommended by the AWG at its meeting on 30 September 2020.

LIF Programme

The North AWG was updated that two LIF projects which had previously received in-principle allocations had confirmed that they no longer wished to remain part of the LIF programme (NLIF2-13 Intercomm £75,000 and NLIF2-18 Holy Family Parish Church £15,000). The AWG considered the £90,000 that was available for reallocation and agreed to recommend the following -

Ref No	Project	Proposed Recommendation
NLIF2-22	Sailortown/St Joseph's project – building upgrades	To be allocated £75,000
NLIF2-19	Women's Tec project	To be allocated an additional £15,000 Existing LIF project which had already been allocated £31,667

BIF Programme

The North AWG was updated that the Ulster Scots-Braeheid project (BIF31) which had previously received in-principle allocation of £500,000 had confirmed that they no longer wished to remain part of the BIF programme. The AWG considered this reallocation and agreed to recommend the following. It was noted that all proposals would be subject to the normal due-diligence processes, that a maximum budget was allocated and subject to the return of satisfactory tenders.

	PROJECT	CURRENT STAGE	PROPOSED RECOMMENDATIONS						
	Midland Boxing Club – BIF45	N/A	Add as a Stage 1 – Emerging project with a maximum allocation of £400,000						
	Cultural Community Club- BIF43	Stage 1 – Emerging	Additional £100,000 to the allocated in principle Project had an existing in-principle allocation of £250,000						
	The AWG further agreed that the Midland Boxing Club attend the next meeting to give a presentation on their proposal.								
3.6	East AWG - Members are asked to approve the following project movement and updates as recommended by the AWG at its meeting on 8 October 2020. LIF Programme The East AWG was updated that one LIF project which had previously received in-principle allocation had confirmed that they no longer wished to remain part of the LIF programme (ELIF2-14 The Dock Café - £15,000). The AWG agreed to recommend the following - <table><tr><th>Ref No</th><th>Project</th><th>Proposed Recommendation</th></tr><tr><td>ELIF2-17</td><td>Lagan Village Youth and Community Association</td><td>To be allocated £15,000</td></tr></table> The East AWG also agreed that the Strand Arts Centre, Bloomfield Community Association, Castlereagh Presbyterian Church and the Education Authority re the Lisnasharragh Community Schools project be invited to their next meeting to present an update on the current status of their proposals.			Ref No	Project	Proposed Recommendation	ELIF2-17	Lagan Village Youth and Community Association	To be allocated £15,000
Ref No	Project	Proposed Recommendation							
ELIF2-17	Lagan Village Youth and Community Association	To be allocated £15,000							
3.7	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u> Financial – LIF/BIF – allocations as outlined above Resources – Officer time in working with Groups								
3.8	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment</u> No implications								
4.0	Documents Attached								
	Appendix 1 – Terms of Reference of the AWGs Appendix 2 - Minutes of the meetings of the Area Working Groups								

Area Working Groups

Terms of Reference

2019

Version 1.4

Contents

1. Purpose of the Area Working Groups	1
2. Roles and responsibilities	1
3. Members.....	2
4. Role of the Chairperson.....	3
5. Accountability and reporting relationships	3
6. Meeting structures and administration.....	4

1. Purpose of the Area Working Groups

1.1. Neighbourhood regeneration is a key priority for the council. We aim to create integrated and sustainable improvements to neighbourhoods where everyone benefits from inclusive growth and their quality of life is improved. Working with members, we will seek to influence the effective use of resources to build community capacity with and across local neighbourhoods to support the delivery of our Corporate Plan, aligned to the implementation of the Belfast Agenda.

1.2. The purpose of the Area Working Group is therefore:

To enable and ensure that the socio-economic conditions and needs of local people, areas and communities are given due consideration with respect to the delivery of our plans, services and projects.

2. Roles and responsibilities

2.1. The overarching role of the Area Working Groups is to act as “place shapers” and local area advocates in order to identify and prioritise issues and opportunities to address local needs, with the aim of improving the quality of local people's lives. They will also consider how the City Centre integrates with neighbourhoods and

communities, and vice versa, to ensure growth is optimised and inclusive across the City.

- 2.2. It will be our aim to engage with, influence and support partnership working, both geographically and thematically. Through the identification and engagement of relevant partners, the Area Working Group will seek to gain support to work together to develop and implement collaborative interventions.
- 2.3. The Area Working Groups will consult, engage and advocate on behalf of their respective quadrant to:
 - Collectively identify and prioritise local needs, as well as support and enhance effective area-based regeneration;
 - Take an evidence-based approach to providing advice to inform and enhance the delivery of services, projects and plans;
 - Consider the local dimension of key strategic plans and projects such as the Belfast Agenda, leisure transformation, cultural strategy, tourism etc;
 - Consider area-based issues as referred by relevant Council committees;
 - Participate in and facilitate community engagement and communications activities associated with their catchment area;
 - Act as community advocates to identify and address local needs and support effective 'place-shaping'
 - Promote local area knowledge and understanding;
 - Build trust and strengthen relationships with external agencies, residents, community representatives, partnerships and the wider communities to deliver improved Council services.

3. Members

- 3.1. The Area Working Groups are convened by Belfast City Council to which all Councillors elected to the following district electoral areas are invited.

Area Working Group	District Electoral Areas
North	Castle and Oldpark
South	Balmoral and Botanic
East	Lisnasharragh, Ormiston and Titanic
West	Blackmountain, Collin and Court



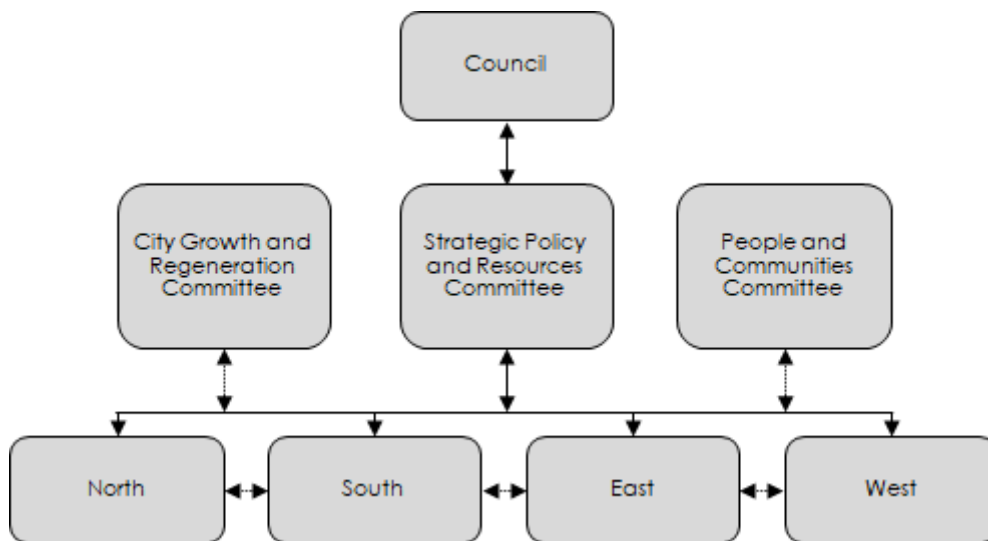
4. Role of the Chairperson

- 4.1. In line with the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee decision on 19th August 2016, the Chairperson will be appointed on an annual basis. This item of business will be placed on the agenda for the first meeting of each Working Group following the Annual Council meeting each year.
- 4.2. The chair of each AWG will undertake a number of roles in addition to those required of Group members. The chair will:
 - Facilitate the meetings, or nominate an appropriate delegate, to ensure the AWG operates efficiently within these Terms of Reference;
 - Collate, share and represent the comments and priorities of their respective AWG;
 - Liaise with a member of the Strategy, Policy and Partnership team to agree the agenda in advance of a meeting.

5. Accountability and reporting relationships

- 5.1. With respect to Council matters, decisions of the Area Working Groups are advisory and as such they are not binding on the Council. The business at Area Working Groups will be guided by existing council Standing Orders and the NI Local Government Code of Conduct for Councillors.
- 5.2. In keeping with its advisory role, the Area Working Groups will provide recommendations to committees on relevant items which have a specific local area remit. Unless specifically sought from a specific committee, recommendations made by Area Working Groups will be subject to ratification by the SP&R Committee.

- 5.3. The relationship between committees and Area Working Groups will be two-way to reflect items which may be referred from committee for the consideration of an Area Working Group; and conversely Area Working Groups in exercising their role may wish to make a recommendation to a standing committee.



6. Meeting structures and administration

- 6.1. Meetings of each of the AWGs will be held (at least) quarterly. However, depending on the individual requirements they can be facilitated more frequently.
- 6.2. A quorum shall consist of one-quarter of the AWG elected members, as set out in the table below. If the meeting is not quorate, the meeting can proceed but recommendations cannot be made to any committee.

Area Working Group	Total Number of Members	Quorum
East	19	5
North	12	3
South	10	3
West	19	5

- 6.3. CNS will act as the lead department in terms of agenda setting and facilitation of the meetings. A member of Democratic Services will provide secretariat support with the Strategy, Policy and Partnership unit providing support as required.
- 6.4. The Senior Responsible Officer will be the Strategic Director of City and Neighbourhood Services.
- 6.5. Formal minutes will be kept of all meetings and will be brought to next the Strategic Policy and Resources committee for approval. In accordance with the council's decision of 01 February 2018 meetings will also be audio recorded and made publically available on the council website once they have been approved and ratified by council.
- 6.6. To ensure coherence across the city and some form of homogeneity is maintained across the four Area Working Groups, there will be standing items within each agenda that will be common across all areas.

South Belfast Area Working Group

Monday, 28th September, 2020

MEETING OF SOUTH BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP

Members present: Councillors Bunting, Gormley, Groogan,
T. Kelly, Lyons, McAteer, McKeown and Spratt.

In attendance: Ms. S. Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes;
Mr. S. Leonard, Neighbourhood Services Manager;
Ms. D. Smith, Neighbourhood Services Integration
Manager; and
Mr. G. Graham, Democratic Services Assistant.

Election of Chairperson

It was proposed by Councillor Kelly and seconded by Councillor Spratt that, Councillor Bunting be nominated to fill the position of Chairperson for the period to end on the date of the Annual meeting of the Council in 2021.

It was proposed further by Councillor Gormley and seconded by Councillor Lyons, that Councillor McAteer be nominated to fill the position of Chairperson for the period to end on the date of the Annual meeting of the Council in 2021.

On a vote by a show of hands, two Councillors voted for Councillor Bunting and four Councillors for Councillor McAteer and it was

Resolved - that Councillor McAteer be appointed to the position of Chairperson for the forthcoming year.

(Councillor McAteer in the Chair)

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Gormley reported that he was member of the Board of LORAG in respect of the John Murray Lock House development proposal. The Director of Physical Programmes stated that the Member was being provided with an update in respect of that development and that the Area Working Group was being asked merely to note the proposal.

Update in respect of the Physical Programme

The Director provided the Working Group with the undernoted report in respect of the Council's Physical Programme:

“1. Introduction

The Council’s Physical Programme covers projects under a range of funding streams including the Capital Programme, the Leisure Transformation Programme, the Local Investment Fund (LIF), the Belfast Investment Fund (BIF), and Social Outcome Fund (SOF); in addition, the programme covers projects that the Council is delivering in behalf of other agencies. This report outlines the status of projects under the Physical Programme.

2. Recommendations

Members are asked to note the physical programme update for South Belfast and

- agree the request from LORAG to present the John Murray Lockhouse wider development proposal (BCC LIF and Urban Villages) at a future AWG
- agree that the Council acts as the delivery agent for the Bredagh GAC BIF project
- agree in principle the installation of a ‘green living wall’ as the permanent barrier for the Lagan Gateway BIF project
- note that the BIF Knockbreda Parish Church Hall project is due to commence and agree to move this to Stage 3 – Committed
- note the request from TEO- Urban Villages regarding the Coffee Culture project and agree in principle to fund the project deficit (£421k) from the BIF funding which has been ringfenced for the Sandy Row area (£1.35m) subject to the UV business case sign-off and UV match funding being in place for the overall project
- note the change in Project Promoter for SOF Sandy Row Community Forum from Sandy Row Community Forum to Belfast South Community Resources
- note the briefing document regarding small scale funding options (Appendix 3) which can be shared and explored by community groups

3. Local Investment Fund (LIF)

Members are reminded LIF is a £9m fixed programme of capital investment in non-council neighbourhood assets, over two tranches: LIF 1 (2012-2015) - £5m total funding pot, allocated across each AWG areas; and LIF 2 (2015 -2019) - £4m allocation. Each LIF project proposal is taken through a Due Diligence process prior to any funding award. The table below outlines funding spend to date for each tranche, at key stages of the delivery process: 24 projects received ‘In Principle’ letters under LIF1 and LIF2, of which 21 have been completed; 2 are at pre-construction stage and 1 project still at initial stage.

LIF breakdown – South	LIF 1		LIF 2	
Stage/ Description:	No. Projects	Amount (£)	No. Projects	Amount/ (£)
Number of Projects Completed	12 (92%)	£1,053,600	9 (82%)	£676,000
Number of Projects in Delivery				
Number of Projects in Pre-construction			2 (18%)	£120,000
Number of Project in Initial Stage (Due Diligence)	1 (8%)	£30,000		
Total Number of Approved Projects	13	£1,083,600	11	£796,000

Appendix 1 provides an overview of progress and actions around the remaining 3 live projects – Holylands Area Improvement (£80,000), Finaghy Bridge (£30,000) and John Murray Lockhouse (£40,000). Members are asked to note the status of the current live LIF projects and the ongoing actions.

LIF Ref	PROJECT	LIF FUNDING	STAGE	STATUS	ACTION/RECOMMENDATION
SLIF2-07	Holylands Area Improvement Initiative	£80,000	Tender preparation	Doran Consulting have been appointed to provide technical input for the specification and tender documents. The tender documents will be released following a review of the pilot area by the consultant (to ensure best suitability).	Continue engagement with the group and partners
SLIF017	Finaghy Bridge	£30,000	Initial stage	Work still ongoing to secure sign-off from the group of an initial Dfl funded options study to confirm scope/cost of proposal (delayed as a result of additional loading and health and safety considerations for Dfl/Translink).	Meeting with Dfl scheduled for end of October to consider and agree final details of preferred option (materials specification). Continued engagement with group to seek feedback on the options within draft report. In absence of feedback - Dfl sign off of existing draft to be progressed. Once project scope and costs are confirmed the LIF process can commence.
SLIF2-13	LORAG - John Murray Lock house	£40,000	Design stage	- Project went through Due Diligence in December 19 and funding agreement is complete. - Link to wider Urban Villages project.	Continued engagement with the group. LORAG have requested an opportunity to present the John Murray Lockhouse wider development proposal at the next SAWG meeting

Members are also asked to

- agree the request from LORAG to present the John Murray Lockhouse wider development proposal to the Area Working Group. This project is being considered for**

funding under the Executive Office's Urban Villages Initiative.

4. Belfast Investment Fund (BIF)

Members are reminded BIF is a £28.2m investment fund for regeneration partnership projects, with a minimum £250k investment from Council BIF – South Belfast was allocated £5.5m; with additional £500k ringfenced for new areas (outer South) that had joined the District area under Local Government Reform. In South Belfast, 6 projects received an In-Principle funding commitment, thereby fully allocating its £5.5m, and £500k pot of funding. Each project is taken through a 3 stage approval process, including a rigorous Due Diligence process before any Funding Agreement is approved and put in place.

Summary of BIF allocated projects

South	Stage 3—Lagan Gateway—£2.1m; Lanyon Tunnels—£1.3m; Bredagh GAC- £700k Stage 2— Sandy Row area projects (formerly Gilpins)— £1.3m Stage 1—Belfast Islamic Centre—no commitment
Balmoral DEA	Stage 2— Linfield FC/ Boys Brigade and Belvoir FC—£250k; Knockbreda Parish Church Hall—£250k

BIF Ref	PROJECT	BIF FUNDING	STAGE	STATUS	ACTION/RECOMMENDATION
BIF04	Lagan Gateway	£2.1m	On ground	<u>Further funding opportunities</u> – proactively sought additional funding in order to fully realise the scope of this project. DfI Minister has offered 50% of the costs sought subject to satisfactory business case appraisal process. Council has committed to installing a permanent barrier along the upper path to address privacy concerns raised by residents. Residents have requested a brick wall which is an expensive solution and not in keeping with the natural environs. Officers are proposing the installation of an innovative 'green living wall' that fits within the context of the overall project and the area and which can act as an exemplar project in terms of the Council's environmental ambitions	Agree the proposal for a 'green living wall'
BIF35	Knockbreda Parish Church Hall	£250k	On ground	Pre-commencement and mobilisation works started	Move to Stage 3 Committed

BIF19	Bredagh GAC	£700k	Design stage	Project through Due Diligence - Council delivery proposed. It is envisaged that contractor procurement will start in October 2020 with a view to being on-site in Spring 2021.	Continue engagement with the group. Agree Council to act as delivery agent
BIF08	Sandy Row projects	£1.3m	Stage 2	Members previously agreed that the monies allocated to Gilpins would be ring-fenced for projects in the Sandy Row area. Work is continuing on the development of a pop up park with space for sensory play. Urban Villages are progressing the development of the Coffee Culture project – this is a social enterprise project with a training café and three rental apartments above. Any rental from the apartment will support the social enterprise business –this will be a requirement of any funding agreement. £100k has already been agreed in principle to this project under SOF (see below). The business case process by UV has shown that there is a funding deficit of £421,316. UV have requested that the Council consider this funding shortfall.	Agree in principle the allocation of BIF funding to address the funding deficit
BIF07	Lanyon Tunnels	£1.3m	Stage 3	Project has been impacted by the JR decision on the adjacent site to the tunnels – the adjacent site is a critical access point for the project, enabling range of connectivity outcomes and benefits.	Officer engagement with TEO as key funder, and key stakeholders.

Appendix 1 provides a progress overview and update on all projects. Members are asked to note the status update of these projects.

Members are asked to –

- **Lagan Gateway - note the proposal to install a ‘green living wall’ as the permanent barrier along the upper path**
- **Knockbreda Church Hall – move to Stage 3 – Committed**
- **Bredagh GAC - agree that the Council acts as the delivery agent this project**
- **Sandy Row projects – agree in principle that BIF funding (in principle amount of £421k) is allocated towards the Coffee Culture social enterprise project to address the funding deficit on the basis that the overall project is jointly funded by Urban Villages. This will be subject to all the normal due diligence processes, sign off of business case and further discussions with UV and a requirement that any**

rental from the apartments will support the social enterprise.

- Lanyon Tunnels – note that discussions are ongoing with TEO and DFC and that a further update will be brought back to a future AWG

5. Social Outcome Fund

SOF is £4m ringfenced capital investment programme with a focus on local community tourism projects. Three projects in South Belfast received an In-Principle funding commitment. Similar to LIF and BIF, all projects are subject to Due Diligence process prior to any funding award. Members are asked to note the progress update of each project in Table below.

SOF – South Belfast projects overview

Project	SOF Award	Status and update	Recommendation/ Proposed Action
SOF02 Coffee Culture <i>NB - UV partnership project (£402k)</i>	£100,000	• See above	See above
SOF04 Sandy Row Community Forum	£80,000	• Development of a Tourism Trail to complement the Transport Hub. Due Diligence is underway. The project concept has been developed and costed. There are revenue implications for the council in terms of maintenance and insurance. Belfast South Community Resources have signed off the project concept.	Agree the change in project promoter from SRCF to BSCR. Continue to engage with the group

Members are also asked to -

- SOF Sandy Row Community Forum – note the change in Project Promoter for the Tourism Trail project from Sandy Row Community Forum to Belfast South Community Resources

6. Capital Programme

The Capital Programme is a rolling programme to either enhance existing Council assets or, build / buy new assets or facilities. Table below provides an update on current live projects South Belfast area. Members are asked to note current status and update.

South Belfast – Capital programme overview

Project	Status and update
Alleygating Phase 4 – City wide	Stage 3 – Committed. Project recently completed
Playground Improvement Programme 2019/2020 (City wide)	Stage 3 – Committed. Projects completed - Ormeau Park Lower playground, Geeragh (Finaghy) Community Centre and McClure Street playground
Palm House, Botanic Gardens	Stage 1- Emerging. Link to Tropical Ravine

7. Externally Funded Programmes

The Council is the Delivery partner / agent for a number of government department on key capital investment programmes, namely TEO Social Investment Fund (SIF), TEO Urban Villages (UV) Programme, and number of schemes with DfC Regeneration Directorate. The following is an overview of projects within each programme relevant to South Belfast.

SIF

Table below provides a status update on SIF projects in South Belfast. Officers continue to liaise with TEO officials in relations to these projects.

SIF – South Belfast projects overview

Project	Status and update
South City Resource and Dev't Centre (St. Simon's)	Project recently completed
Mornington Community Project	Following structural engineer's survey, costed design risk register being prepared in relation to additional internal works that are being considered as part of the refurbishment. Project proceeding to Stage 3 design.
Lanyon Tunnels	Project has been impacted by the JR decision on the adjacent site to the tunnels – the adjacent site is a critical access point for the project, enabling range of connectivity outcomes and benefits (SIF business case dependent on connectivity). Members are asked to note that discussions are ongoing with the TEO

UV capital programme

Table below is the status update on UV projects in South Belfast – note the UV programme has a defined south Belfast geography (Sandy Row; Donegall Pass and Markets). ***NB Coffee Culture project is linked to Council's SOF - see Section 4 BIF and Section 5 SOF update.***

UV – South Belfast projects overview

Project	Status and update
Sandy Row Play Park	Project completed and handed over
Rev Robert Bradford Memorial Park	Project completed and handed over
Coffee Culture <i>NB Linked to BCC SOF</i>	Project business case being finalised. Potential funding mix includes; UV contribution £402k and BCC SOF- £100k. UV issued a further correspondence to BCC to request additional funding (£421k) to fully fund the current shortfall, as per BIF update.
John Murray Lock House—wider development	Business case/ design team procurement stage. Business case progressing. Design options prepared and costed. It is anticipated that preferred option will require co-funding which still needs to be explored. Letter of Offer pending
Wee Ruby's Live, Work Studios	Emerging project. Business case stage. Estimated UV funding contribution £764k. Business case given approval to proceed therefore only at very initial stage.
School of Music Redevelopment	Emerging project

DfC programme

Below is the status update on DfC funded projects in South Belfast –

Project	Status and update
Belfast Islamic Centre - <i>Renovations of Aldersgate House, University Rd</i>	BCC is the delivery agent for this project. Working in conjunction with BIC and DfC the project has progressed to tender. Tender evaluation is planned for September. Contractor anticipated start date on site in Oct/Nov 2020.

8. Small Scale Funding Options

Members will be aware that Physical Programmes delivery has been hampered by Covid-19 pandemic. The situation also provide opportunities for the council and the respective community groups to be imaginative and explore potential funding sources out there. The briefing document (Appendix 3) present some information related to external funding sources which can be shared and explored by our partners to maximise funding on capital projects. Also, Members will note that this is really useful resource which can be disseminated to community groups.”

The Director stated that should Members wish to attend site visits in respect of any of the projects listed, this could be accommodated, provided that social distancing measures were adhered to. She stated further that, under LIF 1 and LIF 2, twenty-four projects in South Belfast had received support in principle of which, twenty-one projects had been completed. The Members were informed that no additional funds were available under LIF 2 for new emerging projects and stated that, in respect of Finaghy Bridge, she hoped to update the Working Group further, following a meeting to be held with DfI at the end of October, 2020.

The Working Group was provided with an update on the LORAG project, in respect of the development of a community garden, which was subject to a due diligence assessment. She stated that because that project was linked to an Urban Villages development, specifically in relation to the John Murray Lock House, she informed the Working Group that LORAG had requested to meet with the Members to provide an update on their development proposals.

Holylands Improvement Project

A Member raised concerns in respect of the Holylands Improvement project and requested clarification on the scope of the Consultants brief, given that he had identified issues specific to that area including, graffiti and the illegal dumping of waste. In response, the Director confirmed that the brief was limited to the planting of trees in the area and agreed that she would bring a more detailed update, to the next meeting of the Working Group, in respect of the issues raised by the Member.

Noted.

Lagan Gateway Project

The Director provided an update of some development proposals under BIF. In relation to the Lagan Gateway project and stated that a number of concerns had been raised, by a small number of residents, in terms of privacy. To address these concerns, the Director noted that the Council had already erected a temporary barrier and had agreed to the installation of a permanent barrier. It was noted that neither of these formed part of the planning requirements and that the Council was under no obligation to provide these, but was doing so to address the concerns raised. The Director stated also that, as these were not part of the planning requirements, it was noted that the costs for these had not formed part of the project budget. The Director noted that the residents had requested the erection of a brick wall as the permanent barrier. She indicated that the costs of such a permanent structure would be very expensive and not in keeping with the surrounding natural environs. She outlined that the Council was looking instead, at the installation of a 'living wall', along the towpath, which would be in keeping with the natural environment and which would address all the concerns raised, including privacy.

Members expressed support for the 'living wall' proposal and agreed that this should be progressed. A Member requested that Lagan Valley Regional Park be updated and that, opportunities were considered to explore options to improve both increasing capacity in regard to pedestrian and cycle access, to the Lagan towpath. The Director stated that the Council was in consultation with both DfI and DfC to secure additional funding in respect of the development proposal.

Agreed.

Knockbreda Parish Church Hall

The Director reminded the Working Group that the Knockbreda Parish Church Hall project was agreed as part of Outer South BIF allocation. She stated that pre-commencement and mobilisation work had commenced and requested that the Working Group agreed to move the project to Stage 3 - Committed. The Working Group agreed with that proposal.

Bredagh GAC Clubhouse

The Director informed the Working Group that £700,000 had been agreed, in principle, in respect of the development of a new clubhouse at Bredagh GAC. She stated that it was anticipated that work on the site would commence by the Spring of 2021. The Members were informed that Bredagh GAC had requested that the Council act as delivery agent for the project and the Working Group confirmed their agreement to that request.

Sandy Row Project

The Director confirmed that £1.35 million had been ring fenced for projects within the Sandy Row Area including, the construction of a new sensory playground. The Members were informed of the collaborative work with Urban Villages on the Coffee Culture project and that, £100,000 had been committed, by the Council, to that project under the Social Outcomes Fund (SOF). The Director confirmed that there was currently a funding deficit in relation to that development and that Urban Villages had requested that the Council make up the funding shortfall under BIF. The Working Group was informed that any additional funding allocation would be subjected to both Urban Villages financial scrutiny, in addition to completion of the Council's own due diligence process.

A Member stated that she had spoken to BSCR, being the leading community group within the Sandy Row area in regard to their request for funding of an on-line exam centre, as part of a social enterprise development within the area.

Following further discussion on the development proposals, the Area Working Group agreed that both BSCR and Urban Villages be invited to participate in a special remote meeting, in October. The Working Group agreed also that, the special meeting would be used to provide an update on their development proposals for the Sandy Row area, incorporating the Coffee Culture and the Exam Centre development options, in order to allow the Area Working Group to fully consider the proposals.

Capital Programme

The Director provided the Area Working Group with an update on the status of projects being undertaken, in South Belfast, under the Council's capital programme. She referred specifically to the completion of the stage 4 Alleygating scheme, the Playground Improvement Programme and the Palm House at Botanic Gardens. In response to a question from a Member, in respect of the Palm House, the Director confirmed that this development had been agreed as a stage 1 emerging project which required additional match funding to secure its delivery. She stated further that, discussions were ongoing, with external funding bodies, in order to explore the possibility of securing additional capital funding for that project.

Noted.

Social Investment Fund Projects

The Area Working Group noted the information provided in respect of which the Council was the delivery partner, under the Social Investment Fund (S.I.F.), in partnership with Urban Villages, including a number of additional projects, by the Council, on behalf of the DfC Regeneration Directorate.

Small Scale Funding Options

The Director provided the Working Group with a range of additional sources of capital funding which could be utilised by community groups and stated that her department would be happy to provide guidance and expertise to those organisations, and/or community groups, which required additional small-scale capital funding resources.

Noted.

Bin Routes/Development and Animation of Green Spaces

A Member of the Working Group requested that information be provided in regard to the issue of missed bin collections and operational problems identified in connection with the effective operation of that service. The Working Group requested also that this information be provided in respect of all areas of the city for comparative purposes. The Members agreed also that information be provided in relation to expanding the remit of the Area Working Group, to include the development and animation of green spaces.

In response, the Director stated that it was her intention to look at the roles and responsibilities of the various Working Groups and that revised Terms of Reference had been agreed for that purpose, which would be circulated for information purposes. She stated that it was anticipated that the work of the Area Working Groups could be expanded to look at more strategic developmental issues, which would feed into the strategic development plans for the city as a whole. She stated that it was intended to bring an update on those proposals, to the November meeting of the Working Group.

Noted.

Update on the Wider University and Lower Ormeau Area

A Member requested an update in terms of feedback arising from actions agreed at the January meeting of the People and Communities Committee, in respect of the designation of the Holylands, as a Special Action Area. In response, the Neighbourhood Services Manager stated that it was intended to bring an update in the matter to the November meeting of the Working Group. He stated that, a representative from the ILAB group would be invited to hear the views and priorities of the Area Working Group, in relation to the Holylands and wider Lower Ormeau areas.

Date of Next Meeting

The Working Group agreed that its next special meeting would be held on Monday, 26th October at 5.00 p.m.

Chairperson

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West Belfast Area Working Group

Thursday, 24th September, 2020

WEST BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP
HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Members present: Councillor Corr (Chairperson);
The High Sheriff (Councillor Verner);
Alderman Kingston; and
Councillors Baker, Beattie, Black, Matthew
Collins, Donnelly, Garrett, Heading, Hutchinson,
Magennis, McLaughlin and Walsh.

In attendance: Ms. S. Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes;
Mr. S. Lavery, Programme Manager; and
Mrs. S. Steele, Democratic Services Officer.

Election of Chairperson

It was proposed by Councillor Beattie, seconded by Councillor Walsh and agreed that Councillor Corr be appointed as the Chairperson for the period to end on the date of the Annual meeting of the Council in 2021.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Councillors Canavan, Michael Collins and Groves.

Declarations of Interest

The following Members declared an interest in relation to item 2 on the agenda, Update in respect of the Physical Programme, in so far as they either worked for or were associated with Groups which had been referred to in the update, as follows:

- Alderman Kingston as a Board member of the Argyle Business Centre;
- Councillor Black as a staff member of the Roden Street Development Group (Grosvenor Community Centre);
- Councillor Corr as an employee of the Falls Community Council (St. Comgall's); and
- Councillor Walsh as member of the management board of the James Connolly Interpretative Centre;

Update in respect of the Physical Programme

The Working Group considered the undernoted report:

“1. Introduction

The Council’s Physical Programme covers projects under a range of funding streams including the Capital Programme, the Leisure Transformation Programme, the Local Investment Fund (LIF), the Belfast Investment Fund (BIF), and Social Outcome Fund (SOF); in addition, the programme covers projects that the Council is delivering in behalf of other agencies.

This report outlines the status of projects under the Physical Programme.

2. Local Investment Fund

Members are reminded LIF is a £9m fixed programme of capital investment in non-council neighbourhood assets, over two tranches: LIF 1 (2012-2015) - £5m total funding pot, allocated across each AWG areas; and LIF 2 (2015 -2019) - £4m allocation. (LIF 1 – West - £1,127,500 + Shankill £490,000 and LIF 2 - £1,200,000).

Each LIF project proposal is taken through a Due Diligence process prior to any funding award. The table below outlines funding to date for each tranche, at key stages of the delivery process: 44 projects have received In Principle support under LIF1 and LIF2, of which 41 have been completed; 1 project at delivery stage, 1 at pre construction stage and 1 remains at due diligence / initial stage. Further details of these are outlined below:

LIF breakdown – West	LIF 1		LIF 2	
Stage/ Description	Projects	Amount/ Value (£)	Projects	Amount/ Value (£)
Number of Projects Completed	25 (100%)	£1,617,500	16 (85%)	£1,019,788
Number of Projects On-going Delivery			1 (5%)	£132,000
Number of Projects in Pre-construction			1 (5%)	£123,212
Number of Projects in Initial Stage (Due Diligence)			1 (5%)	£40,000
Total Number of Approved Projects	25	£1,617,500	19	£1,315,000

Members asked to note that SP&R Committee agreed on 31st July 2020 to realign a proportion of the Royal British Legion (RBL) BIF funding to 2 LIF projects due to LIF project deficit issues i.e. Berlins Swifts FC (additional £65k) and St James Community Forum (additional £50k). Parallel to this, Officers have been proactively engaging with the Department for Communities (DfC) to seeking match funding for each of these LIF projects and we have received a response from DfC and Officers are currently working through the DfC appraisal process. Funding will be confirmed once we have received a Contract for Funding for each project – note a key criteria of the DfC funding is that it must be spent within 2020/21 financial year, which both projects are expected to achieve. Further updates will be brought forward.

The below table is a brief overview of the 3 remaining live projects are shown below.

LIF Ref	PROJECT	LIF FUNDING	STAGE	STATUS	ACTION/ RECOMMENDATION
WLIF2-08	Berlin Swifts Football Club	£130,085	Design stage	- Additional funding of £65,000 approved at SP&R 31 July 2020 due to budget shortfall; - DfC monies also sought to cover shortfall– await confirmation of Contract for Funding - Tender for works issued via e-sourcing with a return date of 25/09/2020 – full budget requirements will be known and confirmed upon Tender assessment.	Work progressing; Additional LIF monies – up to £65,000 available for reallocation (upon confirmation of project budget requirement).
WLIF2-10	St James Community Forum	£132,000	Preparing to go on-site	Additional funding of 50,000 approved at SP&R 31 July 2020 due to budget shortfall;	Work progressing; Additional LIF monies- up to £17,000 available for reallocation to other emerging projects/needs.

				· DfC monies (£50,000) also sought to cover shortfall – await confirmation of Contract for Funding · ALPHA funding confirmed of £50,000 · Budget requirements reviewed and now confirmed £215,000	
WLIF2-04	St John Bosco Boxing Club	£40,000	Due Diligence	· The first stage of procurement has been completed and the project is due to move to the second phase, as well as gaining planning permission in the coming month(s). · BCC delivery to be formalised with Sport NI as the detailed design stage proceeds.	Ongoing liaison with Sport NI and group.

In addition to the potential reallocation of Berlin Swifts and St James Community Forum monies – as per update in the above table - Members will note that there is a £85,000 residual amount for consideration in terms of reallocation from the residual allocation of £200k decommitted from RBL.

Members may wish to consider any emerging proposals in terms of:

- 1. £85k residual amount from the realignment of £200,000 from BIF;**
- 2. Potential reallocation of any surplus monies from Berlin Swifts (subject to confirmation of the final tender price) and;**
- 3. Reallocation of the £17,000 surplus monies from St James Community Forum project;**

Note projects must have a minimum £15,000 requirement.

3. Belfast Investment Fund

Members are reminded BIF is a £28m investment fund for regeneration, partnership projects, with a minimum £250k investment. The West AWG had a total allocation of £9m (£5.5m from the original allocation, an additional £1.2m which was ring-fenced for projects in the Shankill area when this became part of the West AWG following the Council elections in 2015 and £2.5m which was ringfenced for projects in the Colin area following LGR.

Six projects have received an In-Principle funding commitment under BIF accounting for the full allocation. Each of the 'In Principle' projects are taken through a 3 stage approval process, including a rigorous Due Diligence process before any Funding Agreement is approved and put in place. Table below provides a summary of BIF allocated projects i.e. project title; the Stage it is at; and the funding allocated.

Summary of BIF allocated projects

West	Stage 3—Davitts GAC—£1m; Raidió Fáilte—£950k; St Comgall's- £3.5m; Colin Glen Forest Park—£2.5m Stage 2—Glencairn Community Project— £700k; St Mary's CBS - no commitment Stage 1— Royal British Legion—£300k; An Sportslann; Suffolk Community Forum; Belfast Hills- Black Mountain Access - no commitment
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Appendix 1 provides a progress overview and update on all live BIF projects in West. Two projects are completed (Davitts and Raidió Failte) with two currently on ground ie Colin Glen Trust and St Comgall's. Colin Glen Trust project is making good progress – the new Top Station and Ticket Office has been installed; the Alpine Toboggan is now largely complete; and work is soon due to start on the zipline. In terms of works and progress at St Comgall's, all the asbestos has been removed; roughly a third of the roof has been replaced; the pavilion buildings at the back have been re-roofed; and bricklayers have started to rebuild the elevations of the main school – Overall progress is good despite the complications associated with Covid 19.

As reported in the LIF update above, SP&R Committee agreed on 31st July 2020 to realign a proportion of the Royal British Legion (RBL) BIF funding to 2 LIF projects due to LIF project deficit issues: RBL has now reduced BIF allocation from £500k to £300k. In relation to the remaining two BIF projects Members are asked to note the following:

BIF Ref	PROJECT	BIF FUNDING	STAGE	STATUS	ACTION/ RECOMMENDATION
BIF09	Glencairn Community Project	£700,000	Due Diligence; and Design stage	Additional funding contribution of up to £500,000 has been confirmed from Education Authority. Designs have been reworked to include the EA's schedule of accommodation requirement, with robust costings being determined. Following discussion at Due Diligence it has been recommended that additional governance support be provided to the group. Discussions are ongoing with a supplier to undertake a governance review (including Board membership) and skills audit. Work underway. Current estimate cost of £1,079,500 (January 2020) NB exclude fees, site acquisition, planning, costs to take forward to tender package stage.	Continue engagement with the group.
BIF29	Royal British Legion	£300,000	Due Diligence stage - Emerging project status	Following ongoing discussions the group have requested that the project scope be changed. The group would like to purchase the Great Shankill Community Council Offices. Planned works will ensure the building is DDA compliant, with installation of an accessible door and lift to all floors. Refurbishment of building will include a computer suite and provide additional space to expand the provision of advice services to full time as opposed to part time.	Continue engagement with the group. Propose that the Group present to the next AWG

4. Social Outcome Fund

SOF is £4m ringfenced capital investment programme with a focus on local community tourism projects. 5 projects in West Belfast received an In-Principle funding commitment. Similar to LIF and BIF, all projects are subject to Due Diligence process prior to any funding award.

SOF – West Belfast projects overview

West	Stage 3— James Connolly Interpretative centre—£650,000; Rock Centre —£200,000; Belfast Orange Hall Museum - £80,000; Stage 2—Roddy McCorley Museum - £1,350,000 Stage 1— Shankill Mission - £750,000
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Appendix 1 provides a detailed overview on all SOF projects in West. 2 projects are completed (James Connolly Centre and the Rock Centre). An overview of the other projects is outlined in the Table below –

SOF Ref	PROJECT	FUNDING	STAGE	STATUS	ACTION/ RECOMMENDATION
SOF09	Belfast Orange Hall Museum	£80,000	On Ground	- Due to funding shortfall, it was agreed at January AWG that if additional funding was not secured a phased approach to delivery could be considered/ progressed. - Delivery of Phase 1 of project, including new disability access toilets, currently underway. - Working actively to secure additional funding for Phase 2 for improvements to building/ museum to Cultural Corridor. - Awaiting outcome of application to DfC Access and Inclusion programme; further funding required to fully completed Phase 2 works	Continue engagement with group about both phases in regards to delivery and actively seek additional funding required.
SOF05	Roddy McCorley Museum	£1,350,000	In Principle Letter issued (Due Diligence); Design stage	- Development of a modern interpretative museum and existing grounds. - Design team has been procured and detailed designs have been drawn up. Procurement of contractor is underway	Continue engagement with the group

SOF07	Shankill Mission	£750,000	Initial stage	- Development of a social economy training hotel. Initial stage. Overall scheme approx. cost at £7m. - Funding is the major issue– no other funding has yet been secured. Group is still working to secure match funding- exploring bank loans and private investments - likely to be a long term process. - In terms of funding efforts, an application to the Heritage Fund was due to be submitted this summer however all HF's funds have been temporarily closed due to Covid-19. The group intend to re commence their application once HF's process re-opens, hopefully in early 2021.	Note the current position with the project and continued significant funding gap.
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5. Capital Programme

The Capital Programme is the rolling programme of enhancing existing Council assets or building / buying new ones. Members are reminded of the 3 stage approval process in place for every project on council's Capital Programme, as agreed by SP&R Committee. Table below provides an update on current live projects West Belfast area. Members are asked to note current status and update.

West Belfast – Capital programme overview

Project	Status and update
LTP - Andersonstown Regeneration	Stage 3 – Committed. Project recently completed.
Alleygating Phase 4 – City wide	Stage 3 – Committed. Project recently completed.
City Cemetery – National Lottery Heritage Fund (formerly HLF)	Stage 3 – Committed, on the ground. Contractor works are progressing well. The new service yard is underway and should be complete by Oct/Nov 2020. It is hoped work will comment on the visitor centre in November and will be completed in Aug/Sept 2021. In tandem with this the restoration works on several of the site's key assets such as the Centre Steps, Victorian Fountains

	and Mortuary Tower is well underway.
Replacement Service Yard – Falls Park/ City Cemetery	Stage 3 – Committed. On Ground. Link to the City Cemetery (as above) - National Lottery Heritage Fund project.
Playground Improvement Programme 2020/2021 (City wide)	Stage 3 – Committed. On Ground: Blackmountain playground (complete); Grosvenor playground (December 2020) Falls Park playground (Feb 2021), Vere Foster (Moyard) playground (March 2021, subject to planning timelines)

Photos of the recent project activities are attached in Appendix 2. When appropriate, as per Covid-19 public health guidance, the Physical Programmes Department is happy to arrange site visits.

6. Externally Funded Programme

Members will be aware that the Council is the Delivery partner / agent for a number of government department on key capital investment programmes, namely TEO Social Investment Fund (SIF), TEO Urban Villages (UV) Programme, and number of schemes with DfC Regeneration directorate. The following is an overview of projects within each programme relevant to West Belfast.

Urban Villages Initiative

Members are asked to note the status and update of the following projects under Urban Villages.

Project	Status and update
New Park in Colin	Work is progressing well with the vast majority of all the major earthworks complete. We are currently awaiting the relocation of an NI Water main, after which work on the new entrance will commence. It is currently envisaged that works will be complete by end Feb 2021 with the park opening in early Spring.
Sport in the Community (PCA)	Project in the pipeline. Letter of Offer pending

Colin Glen Trust	Emerging project - development of a Visitor Centre (including residential accommodation) and input to a Downhill Mountain Bike Trail and Pump
Colin Valley Football Club	Emerging project - a changing facility and community building to include: multiple changing facilities, toilets (accessible), community hall, kitchen space, meeting room, storage and a viewing gallery.

Social Investment Fund

Members are asked to note the update on SIF funded project in West.

Project	Status and update
St. Comgall's	Project on ground. Linked to BIF project – see above update.

PEACEIV – Capital Projects

Members are asked to note updates on the capital projects that are related to the PEACEIV Programme;

Project	Status and update
Springfield Dam and Park <i>Link to / first phase of PEACE IV Connecting Open spaces project</i>	Project also being funded by DfC. Construction works well underway. Bridge is installed as well as Modular building and floating islands. Car park is currently being constructed with 70% of pathways completed. Planned completion by end of October 2020.
PEACE IV – Connecting Open Spaces – <i>Forth Meadow Community Greenway</i>	Design team have been appointed re design of some 12km of pathways/cycle ways from Glencairn Park, Ballygomartin to Springfield Road, Falls Park and Bog Meadows. Project launch scheduled in 14 October 2020. Phases include ☐ <i>Section 1 – Glencairn - Detailed design complete; Planning applications submitted for lighting, entrance and signage</i> ☐ <i>Section 2 – Ballygomartin to Springfield Road – Planning application submitted</i>

	☐ <i>Section 3 – Falls Park –</i> Outline design completed; majority works under permitted development. ☐ <i>Section 4 – Bog Meadows</i> - Discussions ongoing with Ulster Wildlife Trust regarding management, maintenance and liability issues. Working towards submission of planning application ☐ <i>Section 5 -</i> Outline design completed; engagement ongoing with DfL. <u>Procurement</u> – Contractor procurement concluded and assessment underway. If successful procurement exercise, it is envisaged that works will commence on Section 1 in October 2020 <u>Further funding opportunities</u> – proactively sought additional funding in order to fully realise the scope of this project. DfL Minister has offered 50% of the costs sought subject to satisfactory business case appraisal process.
Black Mountain Shared Space Project	☐ Pre-Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ) stage concluded for a Design team, Invitation To Tender (ITT) issued; ☐ Project Media Launch initiated 21st September 2020. ☐ Officers actively working to secure additional capital funding required for the social enterprise units. IFI funding of £500k for Phase 2 secured – Letter of Offer signed. ☐ A recent meeting held with funding partners DoJ and DfC was positive; a formal bid to DfC is being followed up for submission; a funding request will be made to DoJ at the same time.
Shankill Women's Centre	☐ Pre-Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ) stage for a Design team concluded, Invitation To Tender (ITT) issued.

7. DfC / BCC Match funding projects 2020/21

Officers have been engaging proactively with Department for Communities to explore opportunities for match funding. The Department sought proposals on projects that matched their criteria eg within a Neighbourhood Renewal Areas; on an arterial route, and that could be delivered within 2020/21 financial year. A number of capital projects were identified on Council's existing committed physical programme list. DfC have included they would be willing to match fund the below project, subject to completion of appraisal/Contract for Funding process:

- Playground Improvement Programme 20/21— Vere Foster (Moyard) (£135k), Fall Park (£60k)
- Grosvenor 3G pitch carpet replacement—£85k
- St James Community Forum—£50k
- Berlin Swifts Football Club- £65k
- Willowbank Changing pavilion—£40k
- Old Golf Course Road—previous DfC/BCC—£20k for remedial works

Once a Contract for Funding is in place for each project, any relevant/appropriate external communications activity will be considered, in line with DfC general conditions.

8. Small Scale Funding Options

Members will be aware of the increasing pressures on Council capital funding resources. The situation provides an opportunity for the council and the respective community groups to be imaginative and explore additional funding sources out there. The briefing document (Appendix 3) presents some information collated in related to external funding sources which can be shared and explored to maximise funding on capital projects. Also, Members will note that this is really useful resource which can be disseminated to community groups.

9. Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- note the Physical Programmes update for West Belfast
- note that there is a £85,000 residual amount [from realigned BIF towards LIF projects] and consider new/additional project proposals in terms of reallocation; potential surplus monies from Berlin Swift and £17,000 surplus monies from St James Community Forum; and consider project proposals. Note projects must have a minimum £15,000 requirement to comply with LIF criteria;

- **note on the briefing document regarding small scale funding options (Appendix 3) which could be shared and explored by community groups.”**

The Director of Physical Programmes stated that should Members wish to attend site visits in respect of any of the projects listed, this could be accommodated, provided that social distancing measures were adhered to.

The Members were reminded that, the Strategic Policy and Committee at its meeting on 1st July, had agreed that the proportion of the Royal British Legion (RBL) BIF funding £115,00 be reallocated to two previously agreed LIF projects that had significant funding deficits (Berlin Swifts – additional £65,000 and St. James’s Farm – additional £50,000). The Director advised that since then officers had been proactively engaging with the Department for Communities (DfC) to try and secure match funding for the two projects and a positive response had been received. The Director advised that officers were currently working through the DfC appraisal process and funding would be confirmed once a Contract for Funding had been received for each project. The Working Group noted that a key criteria of the DfC funding was that it must be spent within 2020/21 financial year, the Director confirmed that it was anticipated that both projects could achieve this timeline.

The Members noted that as a direct result of the match funding there could be up to a maximum of £65,000 available for reallocation from the Berlin Swifts project. She explained that the tender return was not due until the 25th September and until it was returned she could not be sure of the exact sum but it was likely to be in region £65,000.

In terms of the St James Community Forum, £83,000 was required to complete the project and this would leave residual monies of £17,000 for consideration in terms of reallocation.

The other residual sum of money for reallocation was £85,000 from the original £200,000 (Royal British Legion Monies less money already committed previously to Berlin Swifts and St James Community Forum).

The Director advised that any monies reallocated would be subject to the Council’s due diligence procedures.

Following discussion it was agreed to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that the £85,000 funding residual be reallocated as follows:

- £33,000 for the refurbishment of Woodvale Cricket Club to enable the creation of a large upstairs hall;
- £35,000 for the provision of a kitchen facility in St Matthew’s Parish Hall; and
- £17,000 refurbishment of the toilets in West Belfast Orange Hall.

The Working Group also considered the residual (up to) £65,000 from the Berlin Swifts project and it was agreed to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that the money be reallocated to Belfast Orange Hall Clifton Street to help it develop the hall as a tourist attraction with the monies to be used for the remaining phases of work.

In terms of the £17,000 residual monies left from the St James Community Forum it was agreed, subject to the approval of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, it be reallocated to Davitts GAC with the remaining monies to St John's GAC.

Cherry Wildlife Garden

Councillor Baker referred to previous discussion in regard to proposals regarding the potential for a piece of land at Summer Hill Road, Twinbrook to become a 'wildlife garden'. He detailed the need for this project to be progressed due to ongoing antisocial behaviour in the location.

The Director of Physical Programmes advised that, to date, the Council had invested over £80K in the first phase of the project, which had included upgrading of the entrance, pathways and the open green space. This had also included drainage of the site and the planting of semi mature trees to screen the properties to the side of the site. She confirmed that the Council was still in the process of acquiring the lands at Summer Hill Road and advised that she would check the status of this.

The Director also advised that the total estimated cost for the suggested elements for the second phase was in the region of 130K and this project was not on the list of approved and agreed capital projects and was currently on a list of a much longer emerging projects with no capital finance available at present.

It was agreed that an update report would be submitted to a future meeting which would also investigate if other funding streams were available.

Mount Eagles Community Association

At the request of Councillor Baker, it was agreed that officers would explore the status of a previous proposal in regard to the possibility of adopting land identified at Mount Eagles for community development purposes and report back to the West Area Working Group.

Future Agenda Items

The Working Group agreed that representatives from the following organisations would be invited to present to a future meeting:

- Royal British Legion; and
- Shankill Mission Trust.

It was further agreed that a maximum of two presentations would be received at any meeting.

Date of Next Meeting/Terms of Reference

The Chairperson advised that although the Area Working Group was currently scheduled to meet quarterly he was keen for it to meet more regularly, he stated that if the Members had a forum where they could raise local constituency issues it might help negate the need for such issues being raised at the Council's Standing Committees which was becoming a regular occurrence.

The Chair sought clarity in regard to the remit of the Area Working Groups, he stated that he felt it would be useful if they could also consider the development and animation of green spaces and also operational issues within the specific areas. There was unanimous agreement in this respect and several of the Members stated that they would be keen to work together to try and progress more constituency issues at a local area level.

The Director of Physical Programmes advised that it was her understanding that the revised Terms of Reference reflected this approach and she undertook to circulate these in advance of the next meeting. She advised that it was anticipated that the work of the Area Working Groups would be expanded to look at more strategic developmental issues, which would feed into the strategic development plans for the city as a whole.

In the interim, it was agreed that the next meeting would take place on Thursday, 29th October at 4.30 p.m. and that the Royal British Legion would be invited to present to the Working Group.

Chairperson

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North Belfast Area Working Group

Wednesday, 30th September, 2020

NORTH BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP

Members present: Councillor Maskey (Chairperson);
Councillors Bradley, Cobain, Magee,
McAllister, McCullough, Murphy,
O'Hara, Pankhurst and Whyte.

In attendance: Ms. S. Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes;
Ms. E. McCullough, Project Sponsor; and
Ms E. McGoldrick, Democratic Services Officer.

Election of Chairperson

The Area Working Group noted that it was required to elect a Chairperson for the coming year.

Moved by Councillor Magee,
Seconded by Councillor Murphy and

Resolved – that Councillor Maskey be elected to serve as
Chairperson to the North Belfast Area Working Group until June, 2021.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Councillor Ferguson.

Declaration of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were received.

Physical Programme Update

The Director of Physical Programmes provided an update on the progress of those projects under a range of funding streams including the Capital Programme, the Leisure Transformation Programme, the Local Investment Fund (LIF), the Belfast Investment Fund (BIF), and Social Outcome Fund (SOF). She highlighted that the programme also covered projects that the Council was delivering in behalf of other agencies:

Local Investment Fund (LIF)

She explained that LIF was a £9m fixed programme of capital investment in non-council neighbourhood assets, over two tranches, with the North being allocated £1.127m under LIF1 and £800,000 under LIF2.

She outlined funding spend to date for each tranche, at key stages of the delivery process:

LIF breakdown – North	LIF 1		LIF 2	
Stage/ Description	Projects	Amount/ Value (£)	Projects	Amount/ Value (£)
Number of Projects Completed	22 (88%)	£956,500	12 (70%)	£566,400
Number of Projects On-going Delivery			1 (6%)	£58,467
Number of Projects in Pre-construction	2 (8%)	£106,000	1 (6%)	£21,667
Number of Projects in Initial Stage (Due Diligence)	1 (4%)	£65,000	3 (18%)	£61,667
Total Number of Approved Projects	25 *	£1,127,500	17 **	£708,201

*This includes additional funding for a LIF 2 project, Ballysillan Youth for Christ.

** This includes additional funding for two LIF 1 projects, Marrowbone Parochial Hall and Jennymount Church.

She highlighted that Appendix 1 provided a detailed overview of progress and actions around the remaining projects. The Director of Physical Programmes suggested the following actions:

LIF Ref	PROJECT	FUNDING	STAGE	STATUS	ACTION/RECOMMENDATION
NLIF2-15	North Belfast Alternatives and Good Morning North Belfast	£20,000	Recently complete	Project recently completed	Continue engagement with the group regarding project post monitoring
NLIF2-14	Star Neighbourhood Centre	£58,467	On Ground	Project on site. Electrical works complete. Work on going regarding procurement of contractor for outside space.	Continue engagement with the group.
NLIF066	Wishing Well Project	£40,000	Tender preparation	Funding Agreement in place. This project will follow the now completed new SIF funded facility.	Liaise with group regarding procurement.
NLIF2-21	Somme Group – cross community memorial	£21,667	Tender preparation	Progressing through Due Diligence stage. Designs also completed and planning application submitted. Ongoing work with Legal in order to get the funding agreement prepared. Some further information being sought.	To be presented again to Due Diligence for sign off. Funding agreement to be progressed once signed off.
NLIF014	Westland Community Centre - new buildings	£65,000	Due Diligence stage	Project originally agreed January 2013 - following SIF withdrawal last year Westland Community Group have been in the process of re- scoping the project and seeking out alternative funding opportunities.	Continued engagement with Group
NLIF2-19	Women's Tec	£31,667	Due Diligence stage	Agreed February 2017 - Project did not get through the DD process due to short lease term. Group will be renewing their lease at Skegoniell Primary School in September 2020 for 10 years. Group to provide copy of newly signed lease when they have received it.	Continued engagement with Group in terms of the lease. Project will be taken back to Due Diligence for review.
NLIF2-03	Ardoyne Shankill Health Partnership	£15,000	Due Diligence stage	Agreed June 2018 - Letter of Support sent to the group with project progressing to Due Diligence stage.	Continued engagement with Group
NLIF057	Ardoyne Holy Cross Boxing Club	£66,000	Initial stage	Agreed April 2014 - No significant movement for more than 4 years. This project is within the overall UV Phase 2 development of St Gemma's school, which is at Economic Appraisal stage	Continued engagement with Group and with UV
NLIF2-05	Mercy Primary, Crumlin Road	£15,000	Initial stage	Agreed June 2016 - Reported to SP&R Committee on 19 th June 2020 confirming that information was received from the group and project is progressing	Continued engagement with Group

NLIF2-13	Intercomm, Antrim Road	£75,000	Project withdrawn	Agreed May 2016 – Reported to SP&R Committee on 19 th June 2020 confirming project withdrawal to the LIF programme.	AWG to consider projects and agree on re-allocation of funding to be recommended to SP&R
NLIF2-18	Holy Family Parish Church	£15,000	Project withdrawn	Agreed February 2017 - Reported to SP&R Committee on 19 th June 2020 confirming that no response was received from the group and it is assumed that project withdrawn from LIF programme	AWG to consider projects and agree on re-allocation of funding to be recommended to SP&R

During discussion, the Director advised that the Working Group should consider the reallocation of the £75,000 monies from the Intercomm project and £15,000 monies from the Holy Family project. She highlighted that any new proposals would be subject of going through the agreed due diligence process for all LIF projects.

Councillor Maskey suggested that the £75,000 from the Intercomm project be reallocated to Sailortown/St. Joseph's project towards building refurbishments/upgrade.

Councillor McAllister suggested that the £15,000 from the Holy Family project be reallocated to the existing Women's Tec project.

After discussion the Working Group agreed to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee the two aforementioned reallocations.

Belfast Investment Fund (BIF)

The Director of Physical Programmes provided a brief overview in relation to the Belfast Investment Fund (BIF) and reminded the Working Group that North Belfast had been allocated £5.5m. She advised that, in North Belfast, 7 projects had received an 'In-Principle' funding commitment under BIF, thereby fully allocating its £5.5m: and 2 projects were on the longer BIF list:

She highlighted that Appendix 1 provided a progress overview and update on all projects, as follows:

<i>Summary of BIF allocated projects</i>	
North	• Stage 3—Cancer Lifeline—£650k; Grace Family Centre —£1.6m • Stage 2- Malgrove- £500k; Old Grove/ Basement Youth Club/ Elim Church Ireland - £1.5m • Stage 1—Marrowbone Park £500k; Cultural Community Hub - £250k • Cliftonville Community Forum, Sunningdale Community Centre - no commitment

She updated the Working Group on the status of the remaining projects and suggested the following actions be taken forward:

BIF Ref	PROJECT	FUNDING	STAGE	STATUS	ACTION/RECOMMENDATION
BIF05	Cancer Lifeline	£650,000	Complete	Project recently completed Match funding received from DfC	Continue engagement with the group re post monitoring
BIF06	Grace Family Centre	£1,600,000	Underway	Project on the ground and match funding from both DfC and UV. Programme delayed due to land issues, utilities connections backlog and Covid-19. Due for completion early November 2020.	Continue engagement with the group
BIF22/34	Basement Youth Club/ Elim Church (Old Grove)	£1,500,000	Design stage	Design team appointed and developing detailed design. Planning application submitted. Business planning being progressed and crucial to the ongoing viability of this project.	Continue engagement with the group and Department of Education

BIF15	Malgrove	£500,000	Uncommitted	New pavilion for Grove United at BCC's Shore Road Playing Fields. Preferred option is a 4 team changing room facility to meet needs of both Grove United and Malachians FC. This however exceeds £500k project budget. Options being explored include 2 team and 4 team changing.	Continue engagement with the group and architect to agree concept design for both options
BIF41	Marrowbone Millennium Park	£500,000	Emerging	Partnership project with UV. UV Business Case approved June 2020 and planning application submitted August 2020. Following meeting with DfC, additional funding of £500k is anticipated, leaving a funding deficit of £250K for overall project.	Communication and information sharing around the agreed designs to be completed. Stakeholder engagement to confirm DfC funding.
BIF43	Cultural Community Hub	£250,000	Emerging	Project proposal focuses on development of new modular community facility and is at early development stage requiring further scoping and exploration of both feasibility and sustainability. Group currently being constituted.	Continued engagement with group re their constitution process and progression of study to confirm scope, feasibility, modus operandi of facility.
BIF31	Ulster Scots Hub	£500,000	Project withdrawn	Agreed May 2016 – Reported to SP&R Committee on 19 th June 2020 confirming project withdrawal to the BIF programme.	AWG to consider projects and agree on re-allocation of funding to be recommended back to SP&R

The Director of Physical Programmes pointed out that on 19 June 2020, SP&R Committee noted the withdrawal of the Braeheid (Ulster Scots Hub) BIF project with a total allocation of £500k and that the Working Group should consider projects and agree on the re-allocation of BIF monies to be recommended back to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

She also advised that further information would be submitted to the next meeting on any monies that might become available for reallocation from projects that were reaching completion (e.g. Grace Family Centre, Cancer Lifeline).

During discussion, one Member suggested that a retrofit scheme for community assets could be considered across North Belfast. IN response, the Director explained further the Due Diligence process and minimum spend requirements of BIF projects.

Proposal

Moved by Councillor Cobain,
Seconded by Councillor McCullough,

That the Working Group agree to reallocate £400,000 to the Midland Boxing Club to extend its building and £100,000 to the existing Cultural Community Club project from the withdrawn BIF project Braeheid (Ulster Scots Hub).

Amendment

Moved by Councillor McAllister,
Seconded by Councillor O'Hara,

That the Working Group defers consideration of the reallocation of £400,000 to the Midland Boxing Club until the Working Group has received a deputation from the Club at a future meeting.

Following a vote, three Members voted for the amendment and seven against and it was declared lost.

The original proposal standing in the name of Councillor Cobain and seconded by Councillor McCullough was thereupon put to the meeting and accordingly, the Committee agreed to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee the reallocation of £400,000 to the Midland Boxing Club and that this should be added as a Stage 1- Emerging project and £100,000 to the Cultural Community Club (existing Stage 1- Emerging project) from the withdrawn BIF project Braeheid (Ulster Scots Hub). The Working Group also agreed to invite a deputation from the Midland Boxing Club to present its project at a future meeting.

Capital Programme

The Director of Physical Programmes reminded the Working Group of the 3 stage approval process in place for every project on the Council's Capital Programme, as agreed by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee. She summarised the current status of the live projects for North Belfast as follows:

Project	Status and update
North Foreshore - Development Sites Infrastructure Works	Stage 3 – Committed Project. Electricity infrastructure upgrade currently being progressed
Alleygating Phase 4 – City wide	Stage 3 – Committed Project. Recently completed
Playground Improvement Programme 2020/2021 (City wide)	Stage 3 – Committed. On Ground. On programme. Ohio St playground (October 2020)
Belfast Zoo – Programme of Works (Works to the Large Cats Enclosure, Sea Lion, etc)	Stage 3 - Committed Project. Reported to SP&R Committee in 19 th June 2020, moved to Stage 3- Committed with a maximum of £1.6m budget allocation
Boodles Dam	Stage 3 – Committed Project. Tender preparation stage. Full planning application in progress
Reservoir Safety Programme	Reported to SP&R Committee in 18 Sept 2020 to move to Stage 3- Committed, subject to full Council ratification. Works to Alexandra Park, Waterworks Upper and Waterworks Lower
LTP - Girdwood Phase 2	Stage 2 – Uncommitted Project. Procurement of Integrated Consultancy Team underway
Relocation of Dunbar Link Cleansing Depot	Stage 2 – Uncommitted Project. OBC being worked up
Hurling Wall at Cliftonville (Pitches Strategy)	Stage 3 – Committed Project. Initial investigations of existing foundations have been undertaken. Design is advanced and is nearing completion. Next steps include design sign off, works planning and liaison with teams.

The Director highlighted that photos of the recent project activities were included in Appendix 2 of the report and the Physical Programmes Department could arrange site visits in line with Covid-19 public health guidance, at the Working Groups request.

Externally- funded programme

The Director of Physical Programmes explained that the Council was the delivery partner / agent for a number of government departments on key capital investment programmes, namely the Executive Office Social Investment Fund (SIF), the Executive

Office Urban Villages (UV) Programme, and number of schemes with the Department for Communities Regeneration directorate. She provided the following overview of projects within each programme relevant to North Belfast:

SIF – North Belfast projects overview

Project	Status and update
Joanmount Methodist Church	Project completed
PIPS Suicide Prevention Ireland	Project completed in March 2020
North Belfast Women's Initiative & Support Project	Revised Letter of Offer and Letter to Proceed to Contractor Appointment received in August 2020. Contractor appointed and start date to be confirmed.

Urban Villages – North Belfast projects overview

Project	Status and update
John Paul II Youth Club MUGA and Amphitheatre	Project and handover completed. Link to LIF project
Sacred Heart Marrowbone	Project recently completed. Link to LIF project
Marrowbone Millennium Park <i>NB Linked to BCC BIF (as per Section 3 update above)</i>	Partnership project with UV. UV Business Case approved June 2020 and planning application submitted August 2020. Following meeting with DfC, additional funding of £500k is anticipated, leaving a funding deficit of £250K for overall project.
Ballysillan Playing Fields	Community pavilion being considered in designs with options appraisal currently being prepared. Future option development to be agreed by reference group.
Beann Mhadagáin Family Centre	Business case progressing and final draft was anticipated in August 2020. Letter of Offer anticipated pending approval of business case.
Sunningdale Community Centre	Final draft business case required before Council can provide agreement in principle to transfer lands; draft Business Case expected Oct 2020.
Ardoyne youth Enterprises (AYE) Social Enterprise Project:	Business case progressing and expected to complete by February 2021.

Department for Communities (DfC) funded projects

The Director of Physical Programmes provided the following status update on DfC funded projects in North Belfast:

Project	Status and update
Girdwood Indoor Sports Site— ICT	Procurement of Integrated Consultancy Team (ICT) on going.
Voice of Young people In Care (VOYPIC) and Include Youth	Refurbishment of 100 Great Patrick St, Belfast to provide a modern, fit for purpose youth space - BCC as delivery agent. The group have to meet all the conditions within the DfC Letter of Offer. Officer is working with Legal Services in preparing the tripartite/ legal agreement. Procurement of design team has concluded and is being assessed.

In relation to DfC/Council Match funding projects 20/21, she advised that Officers had been engaging proactively with the Department for Communities to explore opportunities for match funding. The Department sought proposals on projects that matched their criteria and that could be delivered within the 2020/21 financial year.

She confirmed that DfC had advised that it would be willing to provide additional funding to existing projects at Grace Family Centre and Sacred Heart Marrowbone Phase II, subject to completion of appraisal/Contract for Funding process.

Small Scale Funding Options

The Director of Physical Programmes explained that the Physical Programmes delivery had been hampered by Covid-19 pandemic. She highlighted that the situation provided opportunities for the Council and the respective community groups to be imaginative and explore potential funding sources available and the briefing document (Appendix 3) presented some information which related to external funding sources which could be disseminated to Community Groups.

The Working Group:

- Noted the physical programme update for North Belfast;
- Note that Cancer Lifeline project is now complete and Grace Family Centre project is due for completion by November 2020;
- Noted that due to the withdrawal of Intercomm and Holy Family Church LIF projects, there was a residual amount of £90,000 LIF funding and agreed to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that £75,000 be reallocated to Sailortown/St. Joseph's project and £15,000 be reallocated to the existing Women's Tec project;
- Noted that due to the withdrawal of the Braeheid Ulster Scots Hub BIF project, there was a residual amount of £500,000 BIF funding for reallocation and agreed to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that £400,000 be allocated to the Midland Boxing Club and £100,000 to the Cultural Community Club. It was noted that these projects would be subject to the 3 stage approval process and due-diligence process as agreed. The Working Group also agreed to invite a deputation from the Midland Boxing Club to present its project at a future meeting;
- Noted that further information would be brought to the next AWG on any monies that might become available for the reallocation from projects that were reaching completion (e.g. Grace Family Centre, Cancer Lifeline); and
- Noted the briefing document regarding small scale funding options (Appendix 3) could be shared and explored by community groups.

Chairperson

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East Belfast Area Working Group

Thursday, 8th October, 2020

MEETING OF EAST BELFAST AREA WORKING GROUP HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Members present: Aldermen Copeland, Dorrian, Haire, Rodgers and Sandford; and Councillors Brooks, de Faoite, Flynn, Howard, Hussey, M. Kelly, Kyle, Long, McMullan, McReynolds, Mulholland Newton and Smyth.

In attendance: Ms. S. Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes; Ms. C. Taggart, Neighbourhood Services Manager; Ms. K. Watters, Neighbourhood Integration Manager; and Mrs. L. McLornan, Democratic Services Officer.

Election of Chairperson

The Area Working Group was advised that it was required to elect a Chairperson for the coming year.

Moved by Alderman Rodgers,
Seconded by Councillor Long and

Resolved – that Alderman Copeland, representing the Ulster Unionist Party, be elected to serve as Chairperson to the East Belfast Area Working Group until June, 2021.

(Alderman Copeland in the Chair)

Apologies

No apologies were reported.

Declarations of Interest

Aldermen Haire, Dorrian and Rodgers, and Councillors Brooks, Flynn, M. Kelly, McMullan and McReynolds declared an interest in Item 2, Physical Programme Update, in that they were Board Members of the Eastside Partnership.

Councillors Newton and Kyle declared an interest in Item 2, Physical Programme Update, in that they were Board Members of the Lagan Village Youth and Community Centre.

Alderman Sandford declared an interest in Item 2, Physical Programme Update, in so far as he was on the Board of Governors of Cregagh Primary School.

Update on the Physical Programme

Local Investment Fund (LIF)

The Director of Physical Programmes explained to the Members that LIF was a £9million fixed programme of capital investment in non-Council neighbourhood assets over two tranches. LIF1, from 2012-2015, comprised a total of £5million, with East having been allocated £1.127million. LIF2 comprised a total of £4million, with East having been allocated £1.2million. The Members were advised that each LIF project was taken through a Due Diligence process prior to any funding award.

She explained that 19 projects had received “in principle” support under East LIF1 and LIF2, of which 18 had been completed.

LIF breakdown – East	LIF 1		LIF 2	
Stage/ Description	Projects	Amount/ Value (£)	Projects	Amount/ Value (£)
Number of Projects Completed	7 (87%)	£877,500	11 (92%)	£1,146,589
Number of Projects in On-going Delivery				
Number of Projects in Pre-construction				
Number of Projects at Initial Stage (Due Diligence)	1 (13%)	£250,000		
Total Number of Approved Projects	8	£1,127,500	11	£1,146,589

The Members were advised that the “Westbourne Presbyterian Church – Titanic People” was still at the initial stage. She explained that the Working Group had committed £250,000, in principle, in September 2012. However, the Director explained that the Executive Office had recently written to the Council to advise that they were withdrawing their Letter of Offer under the SIF programme. She explained that the overall costs for the project had significantly increased since the project had originally been proposed and that it was now estimated at £2.2m from their original estimate of £1.05m. The Director advised the Committee that Westbourne Presbyterian Community Church/Roundtower CIC had requested that the Council would proceed with a smaller scale project which would deliver refurbishments to the Church to allow it to be used for some tourism purposes but that no further details had been provided in relation to this.

The Working Group was advised that further project, The Dock TQ, had been withdrawn. She explained that The Dock TQ had withdrawn its LIF application for £15,000 and that they had been extremely grateful for the financial help offered by the Council. The Members were advised that the £15,000 could therefore be reallocated and that projects had to have a minimum £15,000 requirement to comply with the LIF criteria.

(During discussion, Councillors Newton and Kyle declared an interest in the item and left the room for the duration of the discussion.)

Moved by Alderman Dorrian,
Seconded by Councillor Howard and

Resolved – that the Working Group agrees to allocate, in principle, £15,000 towards the Lagan Village Youth and Community Association garden project.

The Working Group further agreed that officers would formally write to the Westbourne Presbyterian Church – Titanic People project, to seek an update on the plans and to confirm whether they still wished to be part of the LIF programme.

(Councillors Kyle and Newton re-joined the meeting at this point)

Belfast Investment Fund (BIF)

The Director explained that BIF was a £28.2million fund for regeneration, partnership projects with a minimum £250,000 investment from the Council. She advised the Working Group that East Belfast had been allocated £5.5million under BIF, with an additional £2million allocated for use in Outer East, which took account of the areas which had been subsumed into the Belfast area under Local Government Reform.

She outlined that 9 projects had received an In-Principle funding commitment under BIF in the east of the City. She explained that there were 5 projects on the longer BIF list. The Members noted that each of the 'In Principle' projects were taken through a 3 stage approval process, including a rigorous Due Diligence process before any Funding Agreement was approved and put in place.

East	Stage 3 Willowfield—£560k (completed); H&W Welders—£2.37m; Strand—£1.8m; Bloomfield—£440k Stage 2 <i>Lagan Village Youth & Community—no commitment</i> Stage 1 <i>East Belfast Mission; Belmont Bowling Club; Bloomfield Presbyterian Church; St. John's Orangefield, Church of Ireland—no commitment / on long list</i>
Outer East	Stage 3 TAGIT- £434k; Braniel—£390k; Hanwood—£396k; Castlereagh Presbyterian Church—£382k; Lisnasharragh Community Schools—£398k

The Working Group was provided with a detailed update on the status of each of the projects in respect of the Strand Arts Centre and Bloomfield Community Association:

PROJECT	FUNDING	STAGE	STATUS	RECOMMENDED ACTION
Strand Arts Centre	£1,800,000	Stage 3 – design stage	Committed in principle October 2016 (with 2years to secure match funding; with the option to be extended by a further year – October 2019) Revised Stage 1 Design Report complete for £4.6m preferred option. Match funding in secured in principle from DfC subject to business case review which is underway- DfC indicate that funding will only match the funding offer from the Council. Group are actively fundraising to meet shortfall. It is noted that, despite requests, DfC have not provided a timescale for a funding decision.	The Group be invited to a future meeting to present its current proposals and how additional funding for the project would be secured along with a timeline
Bloomfield Community Association	£440,000	Stage 3 committed – In Principle	Committed in principle September 2016 with Group given 6/9 months to secure match funding (would have been June 2017). No significant progress for more than 3 years. The preferred option leaves a shortfall of £178,000 (as of 2016). Discussions have been had with DfC but to date no additional funding has been secured. Discussions with group ongoing.	The group be invited to a future meeting of the AWG to present its current proposals and how additional funding for the project would be secured along with a timeline

The Members were provided with updates on the Outer East BIF projects which were at Stage 3, as follows:

PROJECT	FUNDING	STAGE	STATUS	RECOMMENDED ACTION
Hanwood Project	£396,000	Stage 3 – On Ground	Project on site. Pitch and lighting element has been completed. Project encountered difficulty in procuring the contractor	To continue engagement with the group on timescales once

			for the roller shutters element of the project. Currently out to tender again in order to complete these works. Tender returns are due 16 Oct.	procurement is complete.
TAGIT Boxing Club	£434,000	Stage 3 – On Ground	Following a successful bid to the Department for Communities (Sport Section), BCC Due Diligence has now been completed and the BIF Funding Agreement has been completed. The agreed start date for project works onsite is on the 5 th October. See Appendix 4 for correspondence being issued to residents from the contractor for information.	To continue engagement with the group, DfC and partners
Braniel Church	£390,000	Stage 3 – Tender stage	Application for funding to National Churches Trust unsuccessful. Work ongoing with group to progress the scheme. Planning Permission has now been secured. Tender package preparations are now underway with Design Team (recently returned from furlough). Tender exercise anticipated in early 2021 with start on site to follow.	To continue engagement with the group.
Lisnasharragh Community Schools Project	£398,000	Stage 3 – Design stage	Project moved to Stage 3 in June 2018. Education Authority has agreed it will be responsible for delivery and will procure contractor. Costs in Economic Appraisal exceed BIF funding allocation. Schools are aware of the funding gap and are going to work with the £398k committed rather than seeking any additional funding. EA is leading on developing a feasibility study and business plan but this has been delayed while	That a satisfactory timeline for delivery be sought from the Education Authority, with consideration given to further action to be taken if progress is not secured

			capital work was prioritised to facilitate the restart of schools. It is noted that, despite requests, no further clarity on timescales has been received.	
Castlereagh Presbyterian Church	£382,000	Stage 3 – Due Diligence	Project moved to Stage 3 in March 2018. Project still at final Due Diligence stage. Funding shortfall remains. Group confirmed earlier in 2020 that they wish to remain in the scheme. It is noted that, despite requests, no further information has been received.	That the Group be invited to a future meeting of the AWG to present its current proposals and how additional funding for the project would be secured along with a timeline

The Working Group agreed to invite representatives from the Strand Arts Centre, the Bloomfield Community Association and Castlereagh Presbyterian Church to attend the next meeting, in order to present their current proposals and how additional funding for the project would be secured, along with a timeline.

The Working Group further agreed that the Education Authority be invited into the next meeting, in order to provide an update in relation to the timeline of delivery for the Lisnasharragh Community Schools project.

The Director provided the Working Group with an overview of the Council's Capital Programme, Social Outcomes Fund (SOF) and of externally funded programmes where the Council was the delivery partner/agent for a number of government departments on capital investment programmes such as The Executive Office's (TEO) Social Investment Fund (SIF), TEO Urban Villages (UV) programme and a number of schemes with the DfC Regeneration Directorate.

The Members were advised that officers had proactively engaged with the Department for Communities (DfC) to explore opportunities for match-funding. The Director explained that DfC had sought proposals on projects which matched their criteria, such as projects within a Neighbourhood Renewal Area, on an arterial route, and which could be delivered within 2020/21 financial year. She explained that a number of capital projects had been identified on the Council's existing committed physical programme list and that DfC had indicated that they would be willing to provide additional funding to existing projects at the Eastside Greenway Ballymacarret, the Hanwood Roof and the Lagan Village Youth and Community Centre, subject to the completion of appraisal/Contract for Funding process.

The Chairperson thanked the Director of Physical Programmes for the comprehensive updates which had been provided.

Date of Next Meeting

The Working Group noted that the next meeting of the Working Group would be held on Thursday, 5th November at 5pm.

Chairperson

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Subject:	Contracts Update
Date:	23rd October, 2020
Reporting Officer:	Ronan Cregan, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources
Contact Officer:	Noleen Bohill, Head of Commercial and Procurement Services

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

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes ☒ No ☐

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to seek Committee approval for tenders, contract modifications and STAs over £30,000
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: • approve the public advertisement of tenders as per Standing Order 37a detailed in Appendix 1 (Table 1); • approve the award of STAs in line with Standing Order 55 exceptions as detailed in Appendix 1 (Table 2); • note the award of retrospective STAs in line with Standing Order 55 exceptions as detailed in Appendix 1 (Table 3); and • the modification to contracts in line with the Scheme of Delegation as detailed in Appendix 1 (Table 4).

3.0	Main Report
3.1	<u>Competitive Tenders</u> 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 of £30,000 following a tender exercise where the council has approved the invitation to tender 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. Standing Order 54 states that every contract shall comply with the relevant requirements of national and European legislation. <u>Single Tender Actions (STAs)</u>
3.2	The following STAs are being submitted for approval: • T2084 (b) Provision of 'Shared History, Heritage and Identity Content / Narratives for Interpretative Panels on Shared Space Greenway' PEACE IV Programme Services • Extension of contract for the provision of home security/ hazard assessment and repair service for elderly & vulnerable (fully funded) • Extension of contract for the provision of a Case Management System for City and Neighbourhoods Department
3.3	The following retrospective STAs were awarded: • T2032 (b) Provision of PEACE IV Youth Group Residentials; awarded following a tender exercise (T2032) where there were valid bids received. The contracts were awarded as a direct award to ensure no loss of funding. • Extension to a contract for the hire of temporary accommodation, toilets and associated electrical generators and cabling at Roselawn Cemetery due to COVID pandemic.

3.4	The following contracts were modified: • Delivery of a New Enterprise Pathway (T1980a) • Delivery of Construction Employment Academy (T1912) <u>Financial and Resource Implications</u>
3.5	The financial resources for these contracts are within approved corporate or departmental budgets
3.6	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> None
4.0	Document Attached
	Appendix: - Table 1 Competitive Tenders - Table 2 Direct Award Contracts - Table 3 Retrospective Direct Award Contracts - Table 4 Contract Modifications

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Table 1 – Competitive Tenders

Title of Tender	Proposed Contract Duration	Estimated Total Contract Value	Senior Responsible Officer	Short description of goods/ services
Tender for the supply of bottled and mains fed water with dispensers across BCC offices & sites (T2119)	Up to 3 years	£50,000	R Cregan	Bottled water supply and dispenser maintenance across BCC offices and sites.
Provision of de-icing and snow-clearance services (T1986)	Up to 5 years	£600,000	S Toland / R Black	Service required to support in-house operations and minimise H&S slip and fall risk for the public and staff around various Council sites.
Tender for the provision of security guarding services. (T1974)	Up to 4 years	£3.9m (5 Lots)	J Walsh / S Toland / R Black / A Reid	On site security guarding services to support in house security guarding operations.
Delivery of PCSP's Post Primary Cyber Safety Project in Belfast (fully funded) (T2130)	Up to 3 years	£75 ,000	S Toland / R Black	Project designed to help keep adults safe online
Tender for the delivery of PCSP's Adults at Risk of Harm Project (T2125)	Up to 3 years	£45,000	S Toland / R Black	Project designed to help keep adults at risk safe from harm
Tender for Educational Awareness Programme (Fully Funded) (T2129)	Up to 3 years	£90,000	S Toland / R Black	Commission services to address ongoing issues of sexual abuse through facilitated discussions on 'consent' particularly with vulnerable young people.
Tender for an external mail collection service of out-bound mail (T2123)	Up to 3 years	£600,000	R Cregan	External mail collection across various BCC offices/sites.
Framework for the delivery of Employment Academies (T1983)	Up to 4 years	Up to £6m	A Reid	Framework designed to deliver a more streamlined delivery of current range of employment academies.
Tender for the provision of West Belfast DPSPC's Community Safety Initiative (T2124)	Up to 3 years	£132,000	S Toland / R Black	West Belfast community safety initiative.

Tender for the supply of a range of various vehicles (27 units) as part of fleet replacement programme (T2052)	One off purchase	£2.2m	S Toland / R Black	Replacement of 27 vehicles as part of fleet replacement programme.
Tender for research and guidance to advance IT Strategy Projects (T2128)	Up to 2 years	£45,000	R Cregan	Provides in-depth technical research and guidance to help Digital Services advance the initiatives/projects that support execution of the IT strategy.
Development of ducting infrastructure in Belfast City Centre (Capital Procurement) – Funded by Department of Digital, Culture, Media & Sport.	Up to 6 months	£190,000	R Cregan	Build a duct infrastructure in Belfast city centre that can be made available to the wider telecoms marketplace at a later date.
Peace IV St Comgall's Outreach Programme and Exhibition	Up to 25 months	£170,000	S Toland / R Black	Funded project to engage with local people around the St Comgall's on a cross-community basis
Consultancy to provide assurance in respect of real estate proposals inc progression of the Belfast Destination Hub	Up to 6 months	£50,000	A Reid	Undertake analysis evaluation and provide financial assurance to the councils in respect of real estate proposals
Consultancy for City Centre Residential Development	Up to 6 months	£50,000	A Reid	Analysis of demand and identification of interventions to progress City Centre Residential

Table 2- Direct Award Contracts (Single Tender Action)

Title of Tender	Supplier	Total Value
Provision of 'Shared History, Heritage and Identity Content / Narratives for Interpretative Panels on Shared Space Greenway' PEACE IV Programme Services (T2084b)	The Osborne Partnership	£80,000
Provision of Home Security/ Hazard Assessment and Repair Service for Elderly & Vulnerable (fully funded) – up to 12 month extension of contract whilst re-tender exercise is completed.	Bryson Energy	£120,000
Provision of a Case Management System for City and Neighbourhoods Department – up to 2 year extension	Civica UK Ltd	£113,878

of contract whilst replacement system is procured and implemented.		
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Table 3 Retrospective Direct Award Contracts (Single Tender Actions)

Title of Tender	Supplier	Total Value
Provision of PEACE IV Youth Group Residential (T2032b)	Carlingford Adventure Centre	£16,000
Continued Hire of Temporary Accommodation, Toilets and Associated Electrical Generators and Cabling at Roselawn Cemetery	Norespace	£69,852 with potential up to £109,852 if further 6 month extension exercised.

Table 4 Contract Modification under Delegated Authority

Title of Tender		Senior Responsible Officer
Delivery of a New Enterprise Pathway (T1980a); Increase in contract value from £200,000 to £300,000	North City Business Centre	A Reid
Delivery of Construction Employment Academy (T1912) Increase in contract value from £200,000 to £237,500	Workforce Training Services	A Reid

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Subject:	Commercial and Procurement Service - Pricing Policy
Date:	23 rd October 2020
Reporting Officer:	Ronan Cregan, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance & Resources
Contact Officer:	Noleen Bohill, Head of Commercial & Procurement Service (CPS) Michael Denny, Commercial Manager

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

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes ☒ No ☐

1.0	Purpose of report/summary of main issues
1.1	The Commercial & Procurement Service (CPS) has developed a 3-year Transformational Strategy which will be presented to the Committee in November. This Strategy includes details of our first Commercial Plan , which formalises our future ambitions relating to commercialisation and income generation.
1.2	The purpose of this report is to present to Members a corporate pricing policy which will support the Commercial Plan. The reason that the policy is being presented in advance of the overall strategy is to enable officers to commence work on applying the policy on specific areas of Council activity as part of the rate setting process.

2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: 1. Approve the corporate Pricing Policy as set out at Appendix 1 and the associated framework document, 'Setting Prices - Getting it Right', as set out at Appendix 2. 2. Approve that the City and Neighbourhood Services (CNS) department, with support from the Commercial Manager and other departments/teams (as required), examine, in line with the above policy and framework, if some of the delivery costs associated with the following priority projects can be recovered through pricing: a) Malone House - explore possible alternative commercial uses for the building to maximise asset and reduce annual operating costs; b) Events - develop a Council-wide events policy & procedures to include establishing transparent, fair and consistent pricing options; c) Bulky waste - explore potential pricing options for the bulky waste service to reduce annual operating costs; and d) Pest control - explore potential pricing options for the pest control service to reduce annual operating costs.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	The Commercial & Procurement Service (CPS) has developed a 3-year Transformational Strategy which will be presented to the Committee in November. This Strategy includes details of our first Commercial Plan , which formalises our future ambitions relating to commercialisation and income generation.
3.2	Fundamentally, this is about integrating commercial activities and a commercial mindset into the core of how we operate as an organisation.
3.3	The overarching aim of the Commercial Plan is to generate a greater financial return that contributes to the Council's investment plans and its efficiency programme, and assists to safeguard services that are delivered in our local communities.
3.4	To deliver the Commercial Plan, we have identified the following priorities: 1. Create a commercial culture – that is, understanding the full cost of delivering the non-statutory services that we provide and behaving and acting in a more business-like way, when considering how we manage, operate, deliver and resource our services and products in order to deliver best value for communities and customers.

	2. Ensure that staff are equipped with the right skills to enable us to adopt some of the positive culture and behaviours that are associated with commercial organisations. 3. Develop and embed a corporate and coordinated approach to commercial activity, with an emphasis on effectiveness and adding value, improvement and efficiency and creating a working environment which encourages commerciality, creative thinking, innovative practice and the sensible management of risk. 4. Set the right prices and maximise assets and investment opportunities to generate income and reduce costs. 5. Identify, develop and deliver existing and new (and innovative) income generating opportunities across the Council's commercial operations.
3.5	The charges and fees levied for our services represent an important source of income each year, which is used to support the delivery of our corporate objectives. Whilst charging for services is, therefore, a recognised feature within the Council, some demand-led services are provided at little or no direct charge to the user. The provision of services at low, or no, charge (or fee) means that all ratepayers are subsidising the cost of delivery.
3.6	The recent financial uncertainty created by the COVID-19 pandemic and 'Brexit' have now made it essential that the Council makes best use of pricing and charging opportunities and to recognise the importance of using pricing as a means of recovering the costs of delivering our services.
3.7	To support this, the Commercial team within the CPS has developed: 1. A corporate Pricing Policy; and 2. A framework document, 'Setting Prices - Getting it Right', to guide Council officers when introducing pricing or increasing/decreasing prices.
3.8	The key aims of the policy include: • To promote consistency and fairness in the treatment of service users. • To strike a balance addressing the financial needs of the Council through optimisation of income and the social needs of customers.
3.9	Any decision to vary or introduce charges must be aligned to strategic priorities and financial objectives. Council officers must adhere to the following principles:

	• Efficiency – charges are simple and not cumbersome to administer. • Transparency – the nature and use of the service are understood by users. • Effectiveness – the charges provide value for money. • Clarity – users are clear about when and how charges apply. • Equity – the charges are fairly applied across a range of users. • Ethics – users with special needs are charged appropriate fees.
3.10	If approved, it will not be possible, in the current circumstances, to review all charges in the context of the policy. It is therefore recommended that the following services are reviewed in the first instance: • Malone House - explore possible alternative commercial uses for the building to maximise asset and reduce annual operating costs; • Events - develop a Council-wide events policy & procedures to include establishing transparent, fair and consistent pricing options; • Bulky waste - explore potential pricing options for the bulky waste service to reduce annual operating costs; and • Pest control - explore potential pricing options for the pest control service to reduce annual operating costs.
	Financial & Resource implications
3.11	This programme of work will be managed as part of the CPS's annual revenue budget.
	Equality or Good Relations implications/Rural Needs Assessment
3.12	No implications at this stage.
4.0	Documents Attached
	Appendix 1: Corporate Pricing Policy Appendix 2: 'Setting Prices - Getting it Right' guidance document



Belfast City Council

Commercial & Procurement Services

Pricing Policy

FOR INTERNAL PURPOSES ONLY

CONTENTS

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1. Introduction

Charges (and fees) represent an important source of income each year which is used to support the delivery of Belfast City Council's (the Council's) objectives. Whilst charging for services is, therefore, a recognised feature, many services may have traditionally been provided at little or no direct charge to the user. The provision of services at low, or no, charge (or fee) has led to citizens often receiving heavily subsidised or free services in return for paying their Council rates. Subsidising services¹ is often driven by a desire to maximise take-up and to support the delivery of our wider strategic priorities.

However, the reductions in public funding and the financial uncertainty created by the 2020 coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and the 2016 United Kingdom European Union membership referendum ('Brexit') has brought income generation and charging into sharper focus for us.

Our increasing reliance on income from the rate was recognised in the [Local Government Auditor's Report 2019](#).

"Income levels vary considerably across each Council. Whilst overall the sector experienced a real-term increase in revenue based income in the five years to 2017-18, there was an overall real-term decline in income from service fees, charges and central government revenue funding. This trend indicates that Councils are increasingly reliant on income from the district rate.

Given the increasing funding pressures, it is important that Councils continue to explore options to maximise the income generated from its services, including considering the potential for more efficient service delivery such as online facilities and automated processes."

This policy will ensure we make the best use of charging and pricing opportunities and recognise the importance of using charging as a means of recovering the costs of delivering our services.

¹ A service is subsidised when the income from that service (if any) does not meet all the costs of delivering that service and so there is a net cost which has to be funded from the Council. The net cost represents the amount of that subsidy.

2. Legal Context

The Council cannot introduce or raise charges indiscriminately. We need to carefully consider the legal position in setting charges and be clear that what we are doing is in accordance with our legal powers and duties.

[Part 11 of the Local Government Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2014](#) outlines the General Powers of Councils, which includes:

- Council's general power of competence;
- Boundaries of the general power;
- Limits on charging in exercise of general power;
- Powers to make supplemental provision; and
- Limits on power conferred by section 82(1).

While this provides a starting point, there are also individual pieces of legislation (or acts) that usually take precedence e.g. in relation to leisure services, burials and cremations etc.

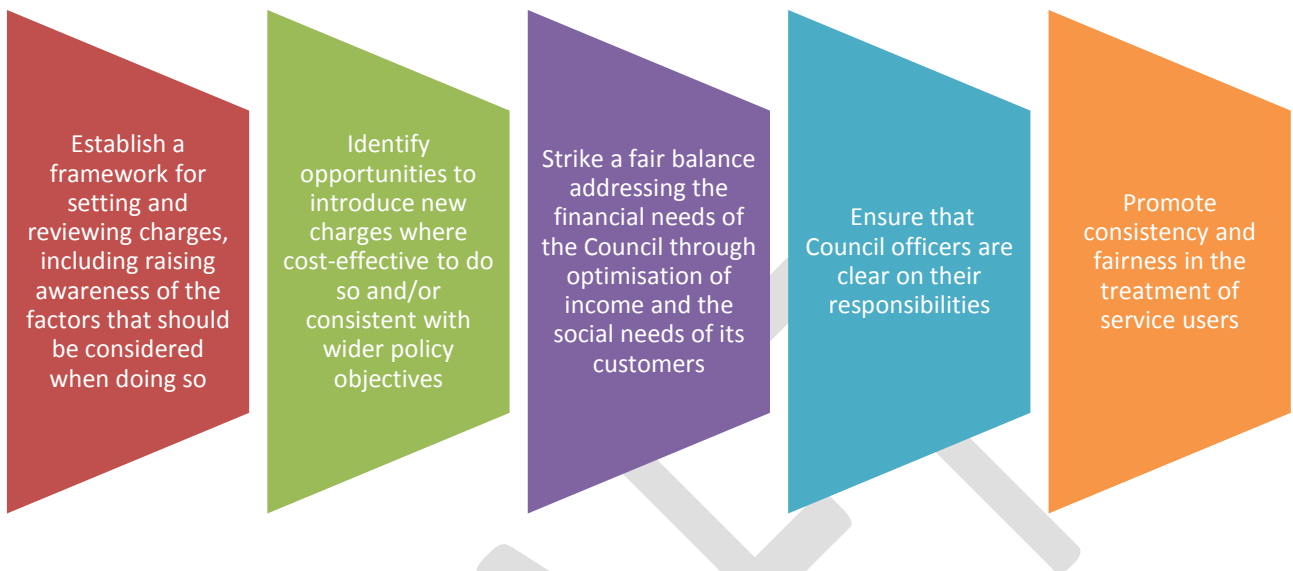
This policy relates to fees and charges currently being levied by the Council and those which are permissible under the General Powers of Councils or the relevant legislation (or acts). It does not cover services for which the Council is prohibited from charging.

The Council's default position is that, other than in cases where charging is prohibited, a charge should at least be considered unless there is a compelling and evidenced-based case not to do so.

3. Policy Aims

The aims of this policy are set out below:

Figure 3.1: Policy Aims



All Council officers should adhere to this policy, along with the Council's Financial Regulations and Scheme of Delegation, when determining charges (or fees) as part of the budget-setting process and for any other ad hoc consideration of service charges. Where the Council is working in partnership with another organisation, this policy should, where possible, still be adhered to.

4. Guiding Principles

Any decision to vary or introduce charges must be aligned with our strategic priorities and financial objectives. Council officers must adhere to the following principles.

Figure 4.1: Guiding Principles



Adopting these principles can help to address concerns and opposition to charging and income generation.

5. Establishing Prices

Council officers should follow the framework set out in the 'Setting Prices - Getting it Right' guidance document <<INSERT LINK HERE>> when introducing or increasing/decreasing charges (or fees).

A summary of the process is depicted below.

Figure 5.1: Establishing Prices – An overview

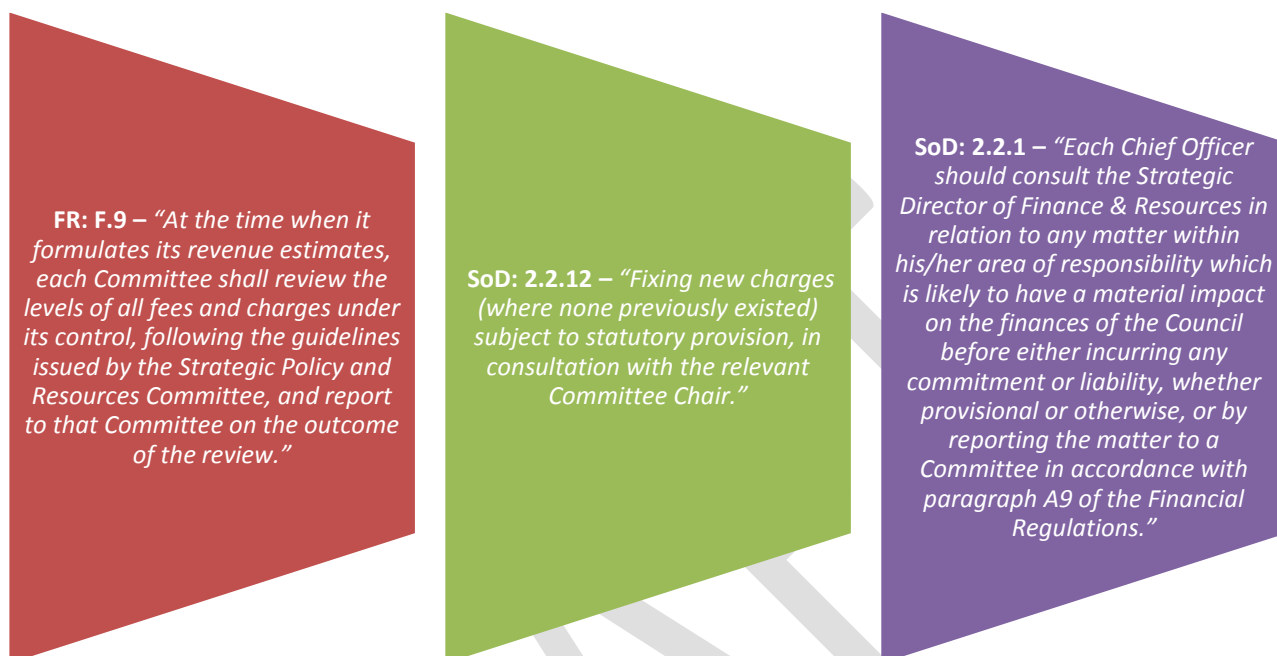


In the event that a decision is taken to introduce or increase/decrease a charge relating to a facility, activity or service, Council officers should adhere to all relevant guidance including Managing Public Money Northern Ireland (MPMNI) and Competition Law.

6. Governance and Risk

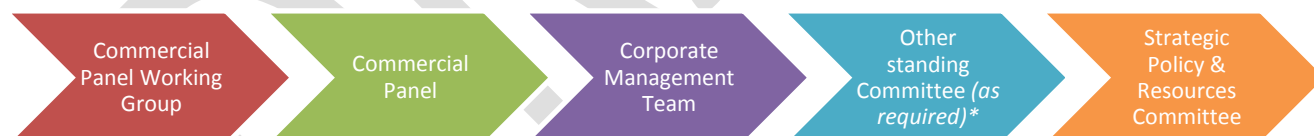
The Council's Financial Regulations (FR) and Scheme of Delegation (SoD) set out some details of the governance arrangements and approvals associated with charges and pricing, as illustrated below:

Figure 6.1: Charges and pricing references



At an organisational level, there is also an existing decision-making structure for commercial activity, as illustrated below.

Figure 6.2: Governance Structure



* NB: each department's own governance arrangements may mean that some matters require approval by other standing committees on occasion. This can be facilitated as required, per the above diagram.

Any Council officer taking forward a proposal that involves the potential introduction or increase/decrease of a charge (or fee) outside of the budget-setting process should, unless otherwise advised by a member of the [Commercial Panel](#) or unless otherwise directed per the Council's Financial Regulations and/or Scheme of Delegation, seek to obtain approval through this structure.

This policy is subject to regular review as part of the Council's overall governance framework. This review will include consideration of ongoing alignment with other related corporate documents (e.g. the Corporate Plan and Commercial Plan) and any changes in legislation and/or corporate strategies. If a department wishes to vary from the principles set out within this policy, approval from the Commercial Panel will be required.

As a public body expending public funds, this policy is aligned with our published Risk Strategy, which states that risk management is an integral part of the Council's assurance framework. Good governance, transparency and robust decision-making are effective mechanisms to ensure the Council is risk aware.

7. Contact Details



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For more information, please feel free to get in touch with Michael.

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8. Policy Control



Policy title: Pricing Policy

Document version: October 2020

Departmental ownership: Finance and Resources (F&R)

Team ownership: Commercial and Procurement Service (CPS)

Document owner: Ronan Cregan, Deputy Chief Executive & Strategic Director of F&R

Officer responsible or document authority: Noleen Bohill, Head of CPS / Michael Denny, Commercial Manager

Date of approval: October 2020

Approved by: Strategic Policy & Resource Committee

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Date of last update: N/A

Updated by: Michael Denny, Commercial Manager

Date of next review: October 2021 (annual review)

Location(s) of where document is held and referenced: CPS / Interlink

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City Council

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Belfast City Council

Commercial & Procurement Services

'Setting Prices - Getting it Right' - guidance document

FOR INTERNAL PURPOSES ONLY

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1. Introduction

Introducing or increasing/decreasing charges (or fees) is a complex exercise and needs to take into account many factors.

This document will take you, as a Council officer, through each of these factors. But first, there are some key questions that you should initially consider when establishing or amending charges or fees.

Figure 1.1: Key Questions



Importantly, charges should not be set in isolation.

2. How does it fit with our Strategic Priorities?

Whether we decide to introduce or increase/decrease a charge is a significant strategic policy decision. At its most basic, introducing or increasing/decreasing charges will influence whether people use our services.

Whether we decide to introduce or increase/decrease a charge is a significant strategic policy decision. At its most basic, introducing or increasing/decreasing charges will influence whether people use our services. The diagram below illustrates some examples.

Figure 2.1: Charges influence whether people use our services

 A strategic priority to enhance residents' health and wellbeing (which is one of the desired outcomes set out in the Belfast Agenda) may be adversely impacted by introducing or increasing charges on leisure or recreation activities/attractions, such as sports fields/pitches or swimming pools.	 City centre car parking charges may be set high to influence our sustainable transport aspirations but in doing so they may generate an income. This could potentially be reinvested in, for example, leisure or recreation activities/attractions.	 An image of quality and 'something to value' can be created by introducing a charge/fee. This can, in turn, have a significant impact on how people use a service and the corresponding benefit they may derive from it.
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As the examples illustrate, charging is not just about generating income.

Questions to ask...



- Have you read the Council's Pricing Policy to ensure that the proposed introduction or increase/decrease of charges complies with it?
- Is there a clear rationale for introducing or increasing/decreasing a fee or charge e.g. increase/decrease demand, influence behaviour, enhance quality etc.?
- Do you understand the actual and potential income streams and the opportunities that exist?
- Will the introduction or increase/decrease of charges adversely impact upon the delivery of the Council's (or a specific department's) strategic priorities?



3. Are we legally allowed to charge?

The Council cannot introduce or raise charges indiscriminately. We need to carefully consider the legal position in setting charges and be clear that what we are doing is in accordance with our legal powers and duties.

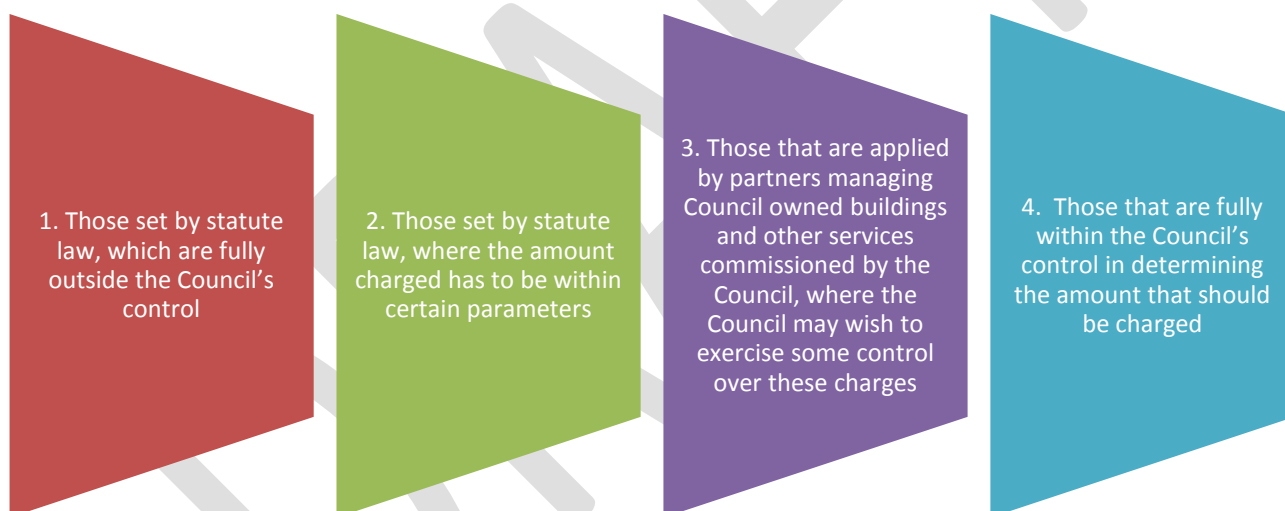
[Part 11 of the Local Government Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2014](#) outlines the General Powers of Councils, which includes:

- Council's general power of competence;
- Boundaries of the general power;
- Limits on charging in exercise of general power;
- Powers to make supplemental provision; and
- Limits on power conferred by section 82(1).

This provides a starting point, but you should be aware that there are also individual pieces of legislation (or acts) that usually take precedence e.g. in relation to leisure services, burials and cremations etc.

The Council's fees and charges fall into 4 main categories, as illustrated below:

Figure 3.1: Fees and charges - 4 main categories



Questions to ask...



- Do you need to seek opinion from Legal Services?
- Is the Council legally allowed to set, increase/decrease or introduce charges?
- Will the decision to introduce or increase/decrease charges adversely: affect individuals from an equality perspective; impact on the provision of services; and/or impact on the Council's ability to meet its statutory responsibilities?
- Do you know whether we can make a surplus?
- Have you considered how surpluses will be dealt with?



4. How do we determine the costs?

Introduction

For many services, charges are based on precedents and do not reflect the actual cost of providing the service. Keeping charges low is often influenced by a conscious decision to support and encourage usage and to, for example, ensure those on low incomes are given the opportunity to access and use services.

However, only by fully understanding how much it costs to deliver a service can Council officers consider:

- What fee or charge could be set?
- What the strategic impact of our decision is likely to be on the service and those that use it?
- What level of subsidy is appropriate to provide for the service?

Some departments may apply a standard percentage increase in charges across all services (e.g. inflationary increases year-on-year), whilst others review and agree on changes on an individual service by service basis.

Treating all services exactly the same and setting flat rate increases in charges has the benefit of being easier to administer. Furthermore, there is evidence to suggest that charges for similar services or activities should be consistent across the Council area.

However, such an approach does not provide adequate assurance that we have considered the potential impact of a decision strategically.

Knowing the full cost of delivering a service is the starting point when building a case to seek approval to introduce or increase/decrease charges.

Direct and Overhead/Indirect Costs

Most crucially, Council officers need to understand the full costs involved in delivering the service under consideration, which typically includes direct and overhead/indirect costs, as depicted below:

Figure 4.1: Direct costs

Direct costs

Costs that can be readily and unequivocally attributed to a service/activity because they are incurred exclusively for that particular product/activity.

- Direct employee costs (including NICs and superannuation).
- Payments to third parties, contractors, service providers etc.
- Materials and supplies e.g. spare parts, inventory, fuel etc.
- Depreciation or lease costs of specific purpose buildings, vehicles, computer and other equipment used directly in delivery the service.

Figure 4.2: Overhead/indirect costs

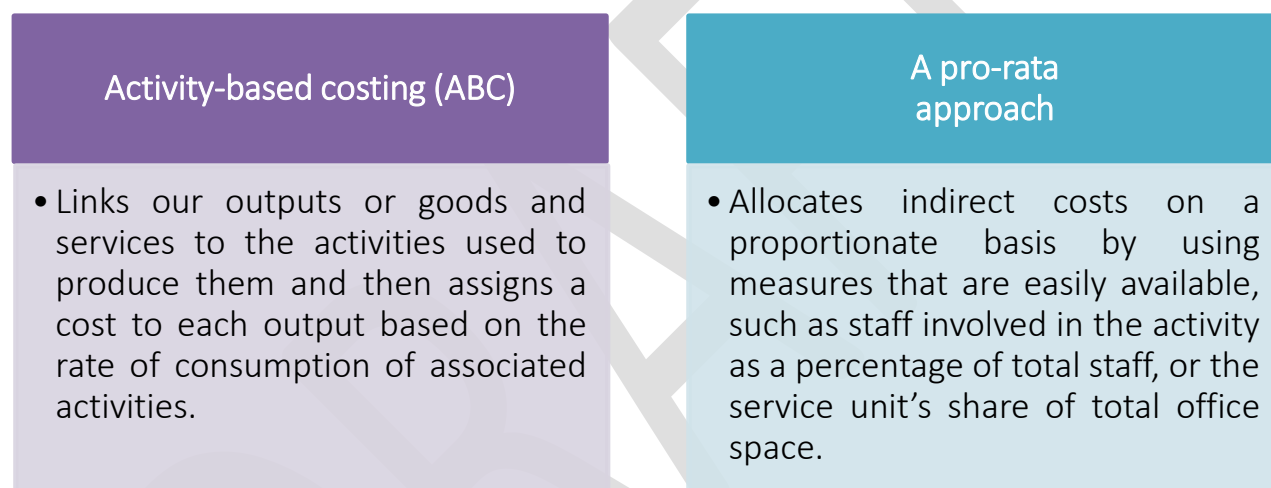
Overhead / Indirect costs

Costs that are not directly attributable to an activity, but which are incurred in the provision of the service.

- HR, legal, ICT, property, finance, ICT and marketing and communications.
- Other employee costs.
- Materials and supplies.
- Office and accommodation costs.

Understanding overhead/indirect costs can be a challenge, but it is important to understand these if costs are to be fully recovered. That said, in the case of small-scale services, it may be appropriate to use estimates for allocating indirect costs rather than developing elaborate cost accounting systems. Internal overhead re-allocations/re-charges may also be applicable. Two widely used methods for allocating indirect costs are:

Figure 4.3: Two methods for allocating indirect costs



Administering charges

Council officers need to also consider how charges will be collected, what an acceptable cost for administering and collecting income is, and how easy it will be to collect the charge.

For example, in practical terms, it may not be worthwhile to charge for services where the cost and complexities of the collection are more and/or take longer (or are waived where large-scale concessions apply) than was previously the case.

There are also a range of direct and indirect costs involved in collecting a charge e.g. administration, ticketing and equipment to collect charges, managing non-payment and arrears and bad debts etc. We may offer a wide range of payment choices and promote options that have the lowest transaction costs for customers and for us.

When introducing new charges/fees, there may be opportunities to both increase the use of digital, online and smartphone applications, as well as increase the use of external providers to improve efficiency further. Technology may also have a role to play in improving payment security and reducing transaction costs. Innovative ways to pay for services may include payment via authority websites, payment using mobile phones (e.g. for ticketless parking) etc.

Questions to ask...



- Do you know how much it currently costs to deliver the service in full?
- Do you know how much the Council currently subsidises the service by?
- Is the Council seeking full or partial cost recovery (cost recovery relates to recouping a portion, or all, of the costs associated with delivering a service)?
- Do you need to seek assistance from your department's Business Support or Management Accounts?
- Do you know what the current demand for the service is?
- Is there sufficient capacity and/or resources to implement the fee/charge?
- Does the Council have the ability (technology, systems, human and financial resources) to implement and manage charges in areas not previously charged for?
- Does the cost of implementing collection systems outweigh the potential income that will be raised?



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5. Are there alternative providers and what do they charge?

Council officers should undertake benchmarking analysis with comparable services offered by other Councils (in Northern Ireland and/or Great Britain) and other service providers to compare their proposed charges and prices. This should serve as a starting point to inform your decision making and allow you to identify any significant variations and to take these into account when setting your charges.

A key principle is that proportionate effort should be applied. This means that the resources to be devoted to this exercise should be in proportion to the scale or importance of the objectives and resource consequences under consideration.

A note of caution, this does not mean simply mirroring charges/fees elsewhere, as local circumstances are likely to vary.

Importantly, Council officers should be aware of any unexplained inconsistencies and should be able to explain any significant variations in charging e.g. due to cost differentials, service quality or policy etc.

The phenomenon of **'me-too' pricing** can be a common reaction of some Council officers that prefer to copy others, rather than to take steps to understand how the users of their service(s) think and behave. Such narrow benchmarking can mean that opportunities are missed.

Questions to ask...



- Are there competitors/alternatives to the Council who could provide the service?
- Is there potential to deliver services jointly with another Council or provider to reduce overheads?
- Have you benchmarked costs to determine the scope for increasing charges?
- Have you benchmarked the likely impact of introducing or increasing/ decreasing charges?
- Could the Council stop providing the service without this decision impacting adversely on its statutory responsibilities?
- Is there a commercial advantage for the Council providing this service?



6. How do we treat concessions?

Concessions are a means for us to offer discounted fees and prices to particular individuals or groups, without having to limit standard charges. Some groups are widely recognised as being eligible for concessions e.g. children, people 60+ years old, adults on low incomes, individuals with a disability, students etc. Others include community groups and service veterans.

This can help us to achieve our policy aims e.g. to promote social inclusion by encouraging minority or hard-to-reach groups to use services.

Charging and concessions should be considered together when designing pricing structures for a service.

Importantly, policies for charging and for concessions should be consistent and integrated.

The images below set out the typical considerations that may apply to you:

Figure 6.1

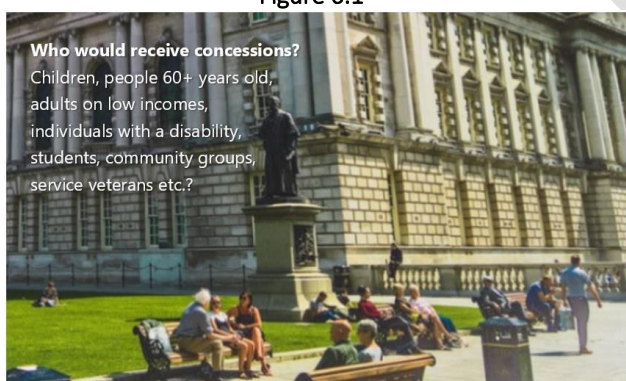


Figure 6.2



Figure 6.3

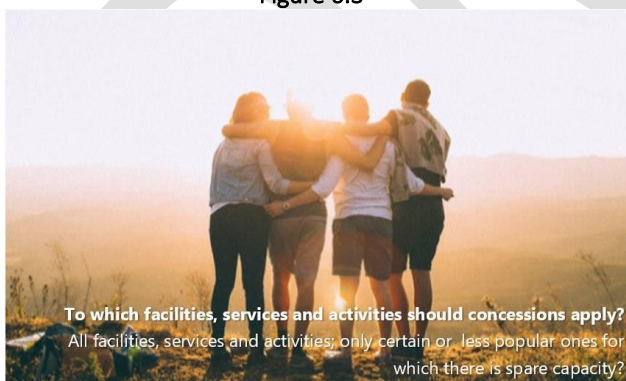


Figure 6.4



Figure 6.5

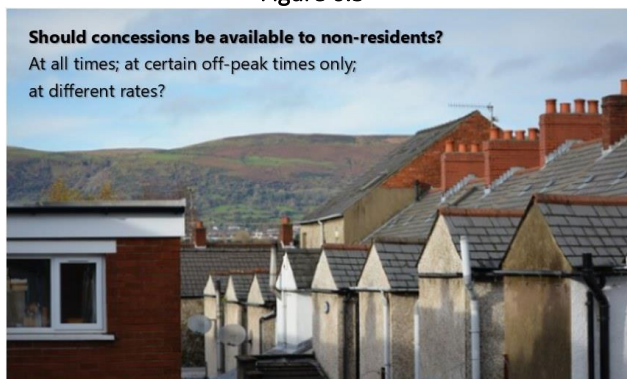


Figure 6.6

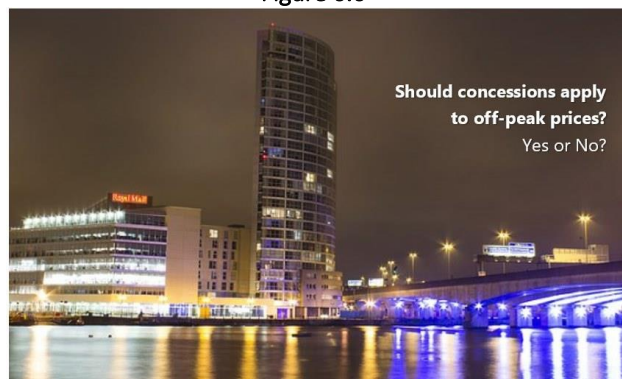


Figure 6.7



Equality of opportunity and the promotion of good relations are central to the Council's Corporate Plan and the implementation of the Belfast Agenda. As part of our continued commitment to these, and to aid compliance with our responsibilities as a public authority under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998, Council officers should ensure that, where appropriate, Equality Screening and/or a Rural Needs Impact Assessment are conducted in line with the Council's policies and procedures.

Questions to ask...



- Have you considered the use of concessions?
- Have you considered how to treat non-residents?
- Do you need to change eligibility?
- Have you communicated eligibility criteria to service users?
- Is there a requirement for Equality Screening and/or a Rural Needs Impact Assessment?



7. What will the impact be on services, users and citizens?

Traditional economic theory suggests that a service is subject to an 'elasticity of demand'. That is:

- Increasing prices will typically lead to a situation where there is a corresponding decrease in demand (alongside potential increases in income, if the charges are being introduced rather than being increased).
- Conversely, reductions in price will typically increase demand, potentially resulting in the service becoming financially unsustainable.

There is, therefore, a careful balancing act.

In determining the level of charge (and subsequently reviewing it), it is important that there is appropriate consultation with actual and potential service users in order that there is an understanding of the relationship between service use and charges.

Service users are more willing to pay charges where they see that they are getting Value for Money. Council officers may also need to take into account local socio-demographic factors, such as the level of social deprivation, average weekly earnings etc., as users' ability to pay is an important consideration in setting charges.

Council officers must ensure they can:

- Provide transparency and accountability of the charge introduced or increased/decreased.
- Explain the context of the charge e.g.
 - How it has been determined;
 - The basis upon which charges have been calculated;
 - Set out the context within which the charges are being considered; and
 - What the income will be used for.
- Demonstrate that the Council has considered the impact of charges on different members of the community.
- Provide thorough market research on what other Councils are doing, what they are charging and what other private and voluntary bodies are doing in the same or similar markets.
- Demonstrate that the end user is obtaining Value for Money.

There is a risk that by increasing charges without proper consultation, the Council may actually lose income by pricing users out of the market.

There may also be a reluctance among some Council officers to engage with service users and local communities on planned changes, especially where there are political sensitivities and perception of difficulties around the introduction of charges. Councils which have experienced a negative public or media reaction to new or increased charges are often reluctant to tackle the issue again, and consequently choose not to introduce or increase charges.

Charging for a service could be controversial and unpopular. Taking the time to adequately consult with the market and stakeholders can often help to mitigate against such issues.

Questions to ask...



- Have you consulted with Elected Members, users, visitors, residents, third-sector partners and businesses within the area in relation to, for example, provision of the service, the introduction or increasing/decreasing of charges, changes to the eligibility criteria etc.?
- Will the decision result in an increase/decrease in usage i.e. levels of demand?
- Will the decision have a positive/negative impact on user's behaviour?
- Will the decision result in the service improving e.g. improvement in quality, quicker response times etc.?
- Do you know what the likely impact of the decision to introduce or increase/decrease charges will be on services, visitors/users, stakeholders, businesses and the authority in the medium to long term e.g. on household incomes, the local economy etc.?
- Do residents of the Council have the economic capacity to absorb an introduction or increase in charges?
- Is the Council decision likely to result in unintended consequences?
- Have you considered the political risks?



8. How do we monitor and review activity?

The absence of monitoring and evaluation, particularly of the impact of charges on users, creates an ‘information vacuum’. Consequently, it comes as no surprise that charging decisions, and the design of charges, can become dominated by ‘myths’ and ‘misconceptions’, as depicted by the examples below:

Figure 8.1: ‘Myths’ and ‘misconceptions’



All charges under the Council's remit should be reviewed annually as part of the rate setting process. As part of the annual review, an appropriate increase or decrease should be included for factors such as inflation, the full cost of providing the service and any supporting services, current market rates, the Council's strategic policies etc.

The annual review should, where it is cost effective to do so, collect and use information on who is and is not using the service, and how service users and potential or non-users respond to changes in service charges. Any changes to Government policies in respect of charging should be adhered to and appropriate transitional arrangements put in place.

The decision regarding the level and basis of calculation of charges should be transparent and open to scrutiny. Any significant increases in charges should be introduced over a period of time to reduce the impact on service users.

Monitoring and evaluation does not have to be complicated or to involve expensive market research or consultants. Many departments may already collect useful information which will help them to see how users react to changes to charges or to the behaviour of competitors, such as information collected:

- As part of contract monitoring;
- Through one-off surveys; or
- Through computerised systems e.g. those at leisure/recreation provision that provides usage of a facility by type, by length of time, by day/frequency etc.

Nonetheless, it may be necessary to supplement the above with specific market research in order to probe aspects of user behaviour, including:

- To determine how important price is in the context of other factors;
- To identify how much users value different aspects of a service; or
- To understand how target groups behave and think.

A Council that fails to review and revise charges is often delaying the inevitable and continuing to fail to address the issue could result in far worse outcomes such as service closure or greater price rises in the future.

Questions to ask...



- Can you collect the information you need to review the activity?
- Have you agreed on an appropriate timescale (at least annually) to review your decision to introduce or increase a fee or charge and is this happening?
- Have you agreed on an appropriate range of measures to be able to understand the impact of introducing or increasing/decreasing charges?
- Can you benchmark performance with other organisations?



9. What is the 'right' price to charge?

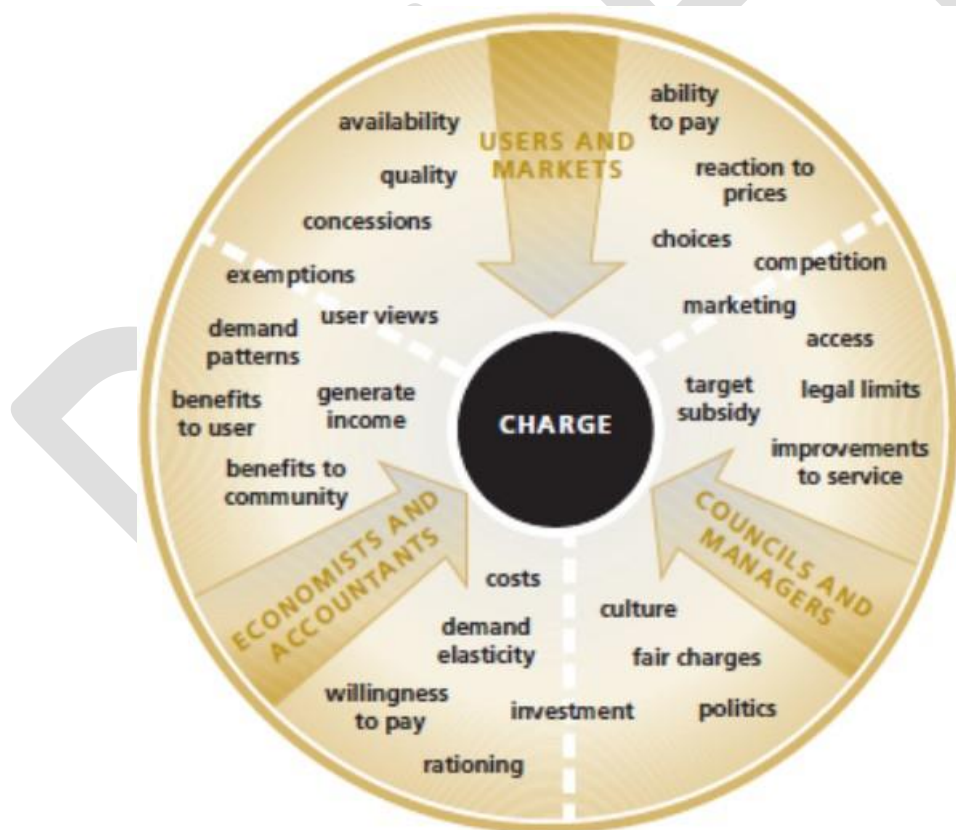
Each time a Council officer reviews its charges, they are faced with the same question - 'what is the right price?' i.e. what charge should be levied to the end user for the service provided.

This seemingly straightforward question masks a deceptively complex challenge. Experts in the private and public sector have been unable to provide simple answers or even a converging view on the problem. They come at the problem from different perspectives, all of which have their merits.

The nature of Councils brings additional complications that do not face a private sector organisation. We pursue a wide range of objectives. We have a unique role as both commissioners and providers of a wide range of services. For some services, we are the only provider and have a geographical monopoly. For others, we compete openly with the private sector for custom.

Council officers are faced with a difficult judgement about which factors (depicted in the diagram below) should be given most weight. They need to balance the pros and cons of different charging options, and to prioritise competing, often incompatible, objectives and priorities. These complications ultimately make it difficult for Council officers to decide what the 'right' price is.

Figure 9.1: What is the right price?



In general, charges are simply rolled forward relatively unchanged each year.

Despite the above, most charges are driven by the annual budget cycle. This typically results in an incremental approach to charging, which means we simply increase charges year-on-year in line with inflation. This is, on occasion, disrupted by crises, as we take action to attempt to meet a specific budget shortfall.

When charges are reviewed, this budget-driven approach means that the focus of the charge-setting tends to be based on the total income figure. The link, therefore, between charging and the objectives of service delivery are not made, with the result that decisions are made in isolation from their effects on users e.g. low-income users may be left facing charges that they simply cannot afford.

The best charging models make it clear that services cannot be developed in isolation from the user.

As outlined in this document, responses from user surveys and wider consultation, alongside other analysis such as benchmarking and understanding the full cost of the service, should help inform the determination of charges for specific services.

In cases where a material increase in the level of charge is proposed, it may be appropriate to give consideration to transitional arrangements. These may involve, for example, phasing in a change over a period of time to avoid undue financial hardship to particular groups. In such cases, the impact on the overall income received by the service should be clearly set out.

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10. Charging - Pros & Cons

The key pros and cons to charging are summarised below:

Figure 10.1: Pros and Cons

 Pros	 Cons
- Charges can be linked to corporate policies such as the environment or the health and wellbeing of individuals. - Charging has the power to affect the way that our services are delivered e.g. it can facilitate or deny access to services, change residents/users' behaviour and/or enable us (via any income generated) to develop and improve our services in response to the needs of users. - There is a clear link between the payment of the charge and the consumption of the service. - Charges are transparent. The customer knows the cost of availing of the service and can, therefore, judge whether it provides value-for-money. - Conservation on the part of both the consumer and the local authority is encouraged. - An image of quality and 'something to value' can be created by introducing a charge.	- The perception of 'double taxation' i.e. Council taxes/rates plus charges. - Charges are not always easily linked to individuals' ability to pay. - On occasion, it is difficult to assess the true cost of the service and/or the actual level of consumption. - On occasion, charges can be difficult to collect. - Many consider it morally wrong to charge for public services. - For some services that are generally used by a large cross-section of the community, it is often impractical or unacceptable to introduce charges.

11. Recap of the process...

A summary of the process is depicted below.

Figure 11.1: Establishing Prices – An overview



12. Contact Details



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For more information or assistance with any queries, please feel free to get in touch with Michael.

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13. Feedback

Please feel free to click on the image below to provide some feedback on the information and guidance provided in this document.



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Belfast
City Council



Subject:	Minutes of Shared City Partnership Meeting of 5th October
Date:	23rd October 2020
Reporting Officer:	Ryan Black, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Nicola Lane, Good Relations Manager

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

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes ☒ No ☐

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to report to the Committee on the key issues discussed at the Shared City Partnership meeting held on 5 th October 2020.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is requested to approve the minutes and the recommendations arising from the Shared City Partnership Meeting held on 5th October 2020 including to: note the endorsement of the Partnership to the Council's approach to Community Provision Recovery and agree the recommendation that the budgets for Tranche 2 Good Relations Small Grants Scheme and St Patrick's Day be allocated to the ongoing community provision recovery funding programme;

	• agree that an amount of up to £1k be allocated to assist with a workshop for the East Belfast Tension Monitoring Group to refocus its priorities and communication; and • agree the Revised Action Plan Summary 21/22 as requested by TEO (attached at Appendix 2) Peace IV • delegate authority to the PEACE IV Programme Manager and the relevant Thematic Project Manager to sign off participant's achievement based on the 80% of contracted contact hours with no financial impact to the delivery partner. • delegate authority to the Chair of the relevant Theme, in conjunction with the PEACE IV Programme Manager and the relevant Thematic Project Manager to consider requests, on an exceptional circumstances only, achievement of 80% of 26 hrs taking into account any financial and contractual impact, subject to SEUPB approval. • note the contents of all PEACE IV update reports and appendices and the agreed changes to projects. Notice of Motion on Hate Crime and Intolerance • write to The Executive to ask what plans are in place to support those groups which fall outside of the current good relations duty and if consideration is being given to extension of the categories in line with the Hate Crime legislation. • agree that officers could look at the Hate Crime Steering Group convened by Safer Cities and other different strands of funding across Council which could assist in funding more proactive work relating to Hate Crime and bring a report back to Committee in due course.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u> The Shared City Partnership is a Working Group of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee which consists of Elected members and representatives from various sectors across the city. The minutes from the Partnership are brought before the Committee for approval on a monthly basis. The Partnership met for the first time since March 2020 on 5th October.

3.2	The key issues on the agenda at the October meeting were: • Election of Chairperson • Presentation on Community Provision Recovery • Revised Good Action Plans 20/21 and 2021/22 • PEACE IV ➤ Update on PEACE IV Secretariat ➤ Update on PEACE IV CYP Theme ➤ Update on PEACE IV SSS Theme ➤ Update on PEACE IV BPR Theme • Notice of Motion on Hate Crime and Intolerance • Partnership Members Update on Good Relations Issues relating to Covid 19.
3.3	More details regarding the above issues and recommendations are included in the minutes of the meeting attached in Appendix 1.
	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u>
3.4	All financial implications are covered through existing budgets
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.5	The recommendations of the Partnership promote the work of the Council in promoting good relations and will enhance equality and good relations impacts.
4.0	Documents attached
	Appendix 1 - minutes of the Shared City Partnership meeting of 5th October Appendix 2 - Copy of the Revised Good Relations Action Plan 21/22

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SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP

MONDAY 5th OCTOBER, 2020

MEETING OF SHARED CITY PARTNERSHIP HELD REMOTELY VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Members present: Councillor Kyle (Chairperson);
Alderman Rodgers; and
Councillors M. Kelly, Lyons, Magennis,
Smyth and Verner.

Also Attended: Councillor O'Hara.

External Members: Mrs. B. Arthurs, Community and Voluntary Sector;
Mrs. O. Barron, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust;
Mr. J. Currie, Community and Voluntary Sector;
Mr. S. Hamilton, Chief Executive, of the Belfast Chamber
of Trade and Commerce;
Mrs. J. Hawthorne, Northern Ireland Housing Executive;
Ms. J. Irwin, Community Relations Council;
Superintendent Sayers, PSNI;
Mr. P. Mackel, Belfast and District Trades Union Council;
Mr. M. McGinley, Good Relations, The Executive Office;
Mr. I. McLaughlin, Community and Voluntary Sector; and
Ms. Ann Marie White, British Red Cross.

In attendance: Ms. N. Lane, Good Relations Manager;
Ms. D. McKinney, Programme Manager;
Ms. A. Allen, Neighbourhood Services Manager;
Mr. S. Lavery, Programme Manager; and
Mrs. S. Steele, Democratic Services Officer.

Election of Chairperson

The Partnership noted that it was required to elect a Chairperson for the coming year.

Moved by Alderman Rodgers,
Seconded by Mr. P. Mackel and

Resolved – that Councillor Kyle be elected to serve as Chairperson to the
Shared City Partnership from October, 2020 to June, 2021.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported on behalf of Miss G. Duggan and
Mr. J. Donnelly.

Declarations of Interest

Mr. Currie and Ms. Arthurs declared an interest in relation to matters under item 4.) Update on PEACE IV, in that they were employed by an organisation which was a partner organisation of the initiative.

Mr. McGinley 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 on Community Provision Recovery

(Mrs. A. Allen, Neighbourhood Services Manager, attended in connection with this item.)

The Neighbourhood Services Manager provided the Partnership with an update presentation in relation to Community Provision Recovery which included an overview of the proposals the Council had in relation to the realignment of staff resources and funding streams to attempt to meet the emerging community needs in relation to recovery. It was agreed that a copy of the PowerPoint presentation would be emailed to all the Members of the Partnership and that it would also be uploaded to mod.gov.

The Committee then considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

To update SCP Members with regards to Council realigning staff resources and funding streams to better meet emerging community need in relation to recovery over the summer months until 30th November 2020.

2.0 Recommendations

That Members note the contents of this report and endorse the Council's approach to Community Provision Recovery.

3.0 Main report

Community Provision Funding to date to support emergency COVID-19 response

3.1 At the commencement of the pandemic and intervening months, the focus of the Council's approach in terms of working with local communities was prioritised in the area of food provision, thematic funding and emergency, which has been funded through Council and the Department for Communities in the amount of £935k. Through the Council's virtual area support teams, officers worked directly with local and citywide organisations to assist in supporting those who were most vulnerable.

3.2 Funding was allocated to support groups that were undertaking actions in response to the coronavirus pandemic, The purpose of the funding was to:

- Provide strategic leadership and support to local groups in the planning and delivery of services to vulnerable residents. Three key overarching service areas of work are, Connectivity (Community Support), Food Supplies, Financial Advice and Support
- Work closely with the Council's Neighbourhood Integration Managers to align and respond to emerging issues identified through the Belfast wide COVID 19 response hub established by Belfast City Council;
- Deliver direct services to vulnerable residents;
- Develop and support local cluster / consortia of groups to pool resources and align delivery of services, enhancing emergency response to vulnerable residents.

Learning from COVID-19 Emergency Response

3.3 There has been significant learning as a result of the COVID-19 Emergency response both internally within Council and based on feedback from community partners which should be factored in to any future decision making. This is:

- Ability to be responsive to need and empowering communities;
- Meaningful and highly effective relationships between Council and community partners are in place to aid agile service delivery
- Creating opportunities for engaging/supporting more volunteering in communities;
- Ability to share information between a number of different statutory and C&V organisations
- Opportunity to embed area working concept both internally/externally with partners.

Previously scheduled summer 2020 Community Provision Grant Programmes and Activity

3.4 Members may be aware a number of annual grant programmes and activities were scheduled for the period 01/04/20 to 30/09/20 to support communities across a wide range of functions including the Good Relations, Bonfire and Cultural Expression and Planned Intervention Schemes as well as programmed activities.

3.5 Due to the emergency COVID-19 response and the current and likely ongoing impact of the NI Executive COVID-19 regulations, these programmes and activities could not take place in their current form, leaving communities in a position with unmet and continuing high levels of need as we emerge gradually from lockdown.

- 3.6 As a result, the Good Relations Plan had £276,000 of initial underspend relating to grants within the total amount of funding across Council, which amounts to a total of £636,097. Given the current situation, it is anticipated that the Good Relations Action Plan will require further revision to ensure they meet emerging community needs as the point at which they were developed was before COVID-19.
- 3.7 Many of the various programmes are match funded by central government Departments and in the case of the need to revise the Good Relations Action Plan, there has been positive engagements with TEO in supporting this approach and this has been included in our draft revised action Plan as outlined in an accompanying paper.

Emerging issues in communities

- 3.8 Close ongoing engagement through the COVID-19 response through the Area Support Teams has resulted in strong and meaningful relationships between Council Officers and community partners. Additionally, NICVA Pulse Surveys with the sector have added to our understanding of community priorities. This has allowed us to establish quickly a high level picture of short term community priorities up to end September 2020 and this is summarised below:
- Children and Young People: Summer activities and programmes, negative educational and wellbeing impacts of COVID-19 and digital connectivity
 - Civic Pride: Communities are rightly proud of the huge volunteering effort and sense of neighbourliness and community spirit and want to develop that
 - Preventing Isolation: the impact of COVID-19 on those shielding has been significant and a huge community effort is needed to support those individuals, with digital connectivity an element
 - Emotional Wellbeing: There is widespread concern about then emotional wellbeing concerns of vulnerable individuals, families and communities
 - Anti-Social Behaviour: Levels of anti-social behaviour, particularly in parks/open spaces has increased due to people not being at school/work and periods of good weather
 - Overall organisational health: Many organisations are expressing concern over their cashflow/finances and their ability to recover services which may affect their overall sustainability
 - Health and Wellbeing of staff/volunteers: The efforts of community partners have been huge in response to COVID-19 and this has taken its toll on the health and wellbeing of their staff/volunteers and they will need support in addressing this

- **Unexpected Premises and PPE Costs:** In recovering services and opening premises, community partners will have to make physical changes to their premises and purchase PPE to ensure social distancing. These are unplanned for costs placing an additional financial burden on them
- **Access to specialist knowledge/advice regarding health and safety and human resources:** Complex issues like the government furlough scheme and the management of health and safety in a situation where the parameters are changing so frequently is causing concern for community partners who are already under pressure and they may need assistance with this.

Community Provision Recovery – Phase 1a Summer Period

- 3.9** Further consideration is being given to supporting the overall recovery of Council's Community Provision and an update will be brought to Council and the Shared City Partnership in due course. However, there is a recognition that there are short term and immediate needs of communities and community partners as identified above.
- 3.10** At its meeting in July, Council agreed to immediately establish a two strand grant programme (strategic funding and micro funding) aimed at supporting both strategic community partners and grassroots organisations. This programme is to be funded using the £636,097 of community provision funding not being distributed up to the end of September 2020 and would focus only on the following priorities at present:
- **Children and Young People:** Summer activities and programmes, negative educational and wellbeing impacts of COVID-19 and digital connectivity
 - **Civic Pride:** Communities are rightly proud of the huge volunteering effort and sense of neighbourliness and community spirit and want to develop that
 - **Preventing Isolation:** the impact of COVID-19 on those shielding has been significant and a huge community effort is needed to support those individuals, with digital connectivity an element
 - **Emotional Wellbeing:** There is widespread concern about then emotional wellbeing concerns of vulnerable individuals, families and communities
 - **Anti-Social Behaviour:** Levels of anti-social behaviour, particularly in parks/open spaces has increased due to people not being at school/work and periods of good weather

3.11 Strand 1 – Strategic Funding of Key Area Based Organisations – Budget £436, 000

- Organisations who receive funding will provide strategic leadership and support to local groups in the planning and delivery of services in the identified areas above.
- Support from Area Support Teams within Council with documentation, delivery and evaluation.

3.12 Strand 2 - Micro Grants (For delivery up to end November 2020 with budget of £150,000)

The maximum allocation per organisation: £1,000 per organisation
Process:

- Rolling open call on Council website/social media and promoted through existing community networks from 6th July 2020 with a closing date of 1 September – later extended to 30th September 2020.
<http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/community/grantsandfunding/grantsandfunding.aspx> ;
- Focus on local delivery over the summer period in the identified priority areas above;
- Application process requires a quick turnaround to facilitate delivery.
- Support from Area Support Teams in Council with documentation/delivery/evaluation

3.13 All of the above is subject to the current COVID-19 regulations which continue to change at pace and it is proposed that to support organisations in receipt of both Strategic Funding and Micro Grants, Council provides detailed updates and guidance on what types of activity are permitted when the NI Executive's position changes. This will enable early access to the funding to allow community partners to start making plans for activities but with ongoing support from Council as to what types of activities will be permitted/not permitted under the funding (as per the regulations).

Community Provision Recovery Phase 1b – Thematic Funding

3.14 Engagement is taking place with those organisations currently delivering services under the thematic funding stream to identify potential future needs and opportunities to connect them with existing funding mechanisms who can support their ongoing efforts e.g. Shared City Partnership or Policing and Community Safety Partnerships. If existing funding mechanisms cannot be identified, a further report will be submitted to Committee for consideration.

Community Provision Recovery Phase 1c – Capacity and Buildings Support

- 3.15 As identified at point 2.9, many community partners have expressed concern regarding their organisational health, capacity and sustainability.

A further report will be submit to Council in the coming weeks as Officers understand the detailed requirements of community partners, what they can reprofile from their existing grant allocations and what (if any) additional support they may need.

- 3.16 Members of the SCP who work in partnership with the community sector to deliver on strategic objectives will be well aware of the challenges facing the sector as a result of Covid 19 and the additional burden which it has placed on organisations which were already facing significant uncertainty in the pre-covid financial climate.
- 3.17 The Director of Neighbourhood Services will be in attendance at the meeting of the Shared City Partnership to give members a current update on the status of the Council’s Community Provision Recovery approach as it adapts to the changing environment and guidelines set by the Executive.”

The Partnership noted the updated provided and endorsed the Council’s approach to Community Provision Recovery.

Revised Good Relations Action Plans 2020/21 and 2021/22

The Partnership considered the following report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

- 1.1 Council received a Letter of Offer from The Executive Office (TEO) towards the 20/21 District Council Good Relations Programme (DCGRP) based on the action plan submitted to TEO in February 2020.
- 1.2 Subsequently, a draft Revised Good Relations Action Plan for 2020/21 and associated programme budget was drawn up and submitted to TEO, as stipulated by the deadline of 24th July 2020 with the caveat that Council approval was required.
- 1.3 This is the first of a series of revisions to the Belfast City Council Good Relations Action Plan in line with the direction of travel agreed by Strategic Policy and Resources Committee on 19th June 2020 and approved at Full Council on 1st July 2020. Specifically, the revision includes the Good Relations contribution to the new Support to Community Partners Fund Summer 2020 and the continuation of support to thematic communities of interest

funded by Council as part of the first tranche of COVID-19 emergency thematic funding.

- 1.4 Further revisions to the plan will take in to account emerging community need as part of overall community recovery across Belfast and will be brought forward in due course in that context.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1

- Members note the award of £571,893.01 from The Executive Office towards the District Council Good Relations Programme 20/21 and the associated Revised Action Plan agreed by Council on 10th August 2020.
- Members note the projects currently being supported outlined in points 3.7 – 3.9 in the report
- Members endorse the Council's approach to Community Provision Recovery and agree that the budgets for Tranche 2 Good Relations Small Grants Scheme and St Patrick's Day be allocated to ongoing community provision recovery funding programme.
- Members consider the Revised Action Plan Summary 21/22 and recommend its approval to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

3.0 Main report

Current Position

- 3.1 Council submits an annual Good Relations Action Plan for consideration by TEO in February of each year; TEO then issues a Letter of Offer based on identified need in each Council area and the level of resource available. A Letter of Offer was received for approximately £570,000 on 15th June 2020. This will provide a total allocation of approximately £740,000 for the action plan which required amendment to reflect the level of resource available. A draft revised Action Plan along with the associated budget allocation was submitted with the letter of offer by 24th June 2020 as stipulated by TEO subject to approval by Council.
- 3.2 In addition, due to the emergency COVID-19 response and the current and likely ongoing impact of the NI Executive COVID-19 regulations, the programmes and activities detailed in the Plan will not be able to take place in their current form.
- 3.3 In the meantime, the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee at their meeting on 19th June agreed to realign staff resources and funding streams to better meet emerging community need over the summer months, including the approach to delivering on Summer Diversionary Activities. This included the funding attributed to Grant Aid under Tranche 1 Good Relations Grant Aid and The Planned Intervention Grant Aid Scheme, (the latter of which is funded 100% by TEO) as well as the monies from the Bonfire

Cultural and Expression Scheme and the Schools Intervention programme. It is anticipated funding will be awarded through micro grants, thematic funding and strategic grants.

- 3.4 The Letter of Offer from TEO acknowledges that some DCGRP funds may need to be redirected towards Covid-19 support and asks that in this case, Council provide details of this to TEO for consideration. Work in response to the Covid-19 outbreak needs to be fully documented with identified links to GR work. It is also worth noting that revision can take place during the year.
- 3.5 It is important to note that the Letter of Offer states that the current funding allocation is indicative and subject to change pending Ministerial decisions. The TEO will formally review progress and associated spend by 31st July and 31st October. The Department reserves the right to reallocate resources in light of the review.
- 3.6 At the June Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, it was agreed that immediate engagement takes place with those organisations delivering services under the thematic funding stream to identify potential future needs and opportunities to connect them with existing funding mechanisms who can support their ongoing efforts.
- 3.7 At the Council meeting on 10th August, a Revised Action Plan was agreed with the following projects included as these clearly meet with TEO objectives:
- Roma Helpline Project - up to £12,000 until 31st December, 2020 to Forward South, with the option to extend to March 2021 pending evaluation and funding being available;
 - Race Relations Coordinator Project – up to an additional £18,000 towards the cost of the Race Relations Coordinator post until 31st March, 2021 to East Belfast Community Development Association; This will be conditional on EBCDA undertaking an evaluation and exploring other sources of funding in advance of 31 March 2021 if the project is to continue subsequently; and
 - Support to Refugee and Asylum Seekers Project – up to £15,000 to Embrace NI towards the provision of a bi-lingual helpline and outreach service to enhance and support the integration of refugee and asylum seeker communities in Belfast.
- 3.8 Other projects supported:
- Duncairn Community Partnership – up to £15,000 towards the costs of procurement of an artist/facilitator to develop an arts-led consultation and design scheme for the transformation of two interface sites in Duncairn Gardens;
 - Belfast Interface Project – up to £20,000 towards the costs of further development of an augmented reality app for use in the development and promotion of shared space and

community planning at Divis/Townsend St and Inner East/Short Strand;

- 22nd Old Boys Football Club – £2,880 towards the design and installation of a mental health awareness mural at the Spectrum Centre;and
- Strategic Research project – up to £12,000 towards consultation and research on the successes of the response to Covid19 and capture how the response contributed to peace building and how this could be built upon.

3.9 Schools Intervention Project

An update on the Schools Intervention Programme which has been impacted by the pandemic, is provided in more detail at Appendix 3 (which was issued with the agenda). The Advisory Group to the Project met on 2nd September 2020 and it was agreed that the budget would remain the same at 30k with Stena Line contributing an agreed 25k. The focus of the project will be on Partnership Teacher Professional Learning and Planning for Pupil to Pupil Engagement.

3.10 Tranche 2 Grants

Within the Revised Action Plan, an amount of £39k has been set aside for Tranche 2 Good Relations Small Grants for activity from 1st October 2020 until 31st March 2021. A sum of £30k was allocated to St Patrick's Day Grants. In previous years, both of these Schemes would have been publicly advertised in May, closed in July and allocated by the end of September.

- 3.11 Given the current position as outlined earlier in the paper and the direction of travel to be outlined by the Director of Neighbourhood services at the meeting, members are asked to consider that the budget for these grants be allocated to the approach to support community provision recovery.

3.12 Governance

The Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in June noted that the use of funding associated with the Shared City Partnership should require consideration from the Shared City Partnership as a matter of good practice. However, given that formal working groups of Council did not recommence until 5th October and the SCP is a subcommittee of Council, direct consideration by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee was able to take place if necessary. The Revised Plan is being brought to the Shared City Partnership for noting at the earliest opportunity.

3.13 Other issues

Members may recall that in 19/20, councils were awarded indicative three year funding. The Council's Programme has also received

funding in principle for the next financial year. This funding is subject to a positive end year project evaluation, budget availability and that the Council match funds the Programme.

- 3.14 TEO have now requested that Council reviews its Year 3 Action Plan Summaries in light of the changes that have been made to the Revised Year 2 Action Plans and submit by 30th September 2020. This applies to the financial year 21/22.
- 3.15 A draft revised action plan summary was submitted by the deadline, subject to Council consideration and approval, this takes into account that current guidelines and restrictions may still be in place and therefore, may be subject to change. Members are asked to consider the revised action plan summary 21/22 and recommend approval to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

Financial and Resource Implications

The Plan will be 75% funded by TEO and the remaining 25% has been included in the Council's 20/21 budget. The TEO has awarded £571,893.01 towards the programme and this award is contingent upon an additional minimum contribution of £168,964.33 from Council resources to the Action Plan.

The Council has made provision to support Good Relations Activity with an amount which is in excess of the required 25% contribution included in the budget for 20/21. This Funding supports a portion of some of the salaries within the Good Relations Unit.

Equality or Good Relations Implications and Rural Needs assessment

Screening and a rural needs assessment has taken place for the Good Relations Strategy. The councils' District Council Good Relations Action Plan is one element of this strategy."

Following consideration of the report, the Partnership agreed the recommendations and further agreed that an amount of up to £1,000 be allocated to assist with a workshop for the East Belfast Tension Monitoring Group to refocus its priorities and communication.

It was also agreed that representative from the following organisations be invited to present to the November meeting of the Shared City Partnership: Forward South, East Belfast Community Development Agency and the Consortium working on the Refugee and Asylum Seekers Projects.

Peace IV Updates

Update on PEACE IV - Secretariat

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 Secretariat activity associated with the implementation of the PEACE IV Local Action Plan.

2.0 Recommendations

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

- delegate authority to the PEACE IV Programme Manager and the relevant Thematic Project Manager to sign off participant's achievement based on the 80% of contracted contact hours with no financial impact to the delivery partner.
- delegate authority to the Chair of the relevant Theme, in conjunction with the PEACE IV Programme Manager and the relevant Thematic Project Manager to consider requests, on an exceptional circumstances only, achievement of 80% of 26 hrs taking into account any financial and contractual impact, subject to SEUPB approval.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Covid 19 Impact

The current COVID 19 crisis has presented a number of challenges for the implementation of the PEACE IV Local Action Plan. In summary the impact has been:

- administrative process on procurement, communications and implementation planning have increased and are proceeding
- engagement is ongoing at a project level however participant numbers are lower
- activity where possible has moved on line, subject to the type of project is limited
- some face to face activity has recommenced with smaller groups
- delays in signing up new cohorts and delivering community activity
- events / launches have been delayed / postponed

The PEACE IV team remain in regular contact with all delivery partners regarding the current level of activity, engagement, the impact and future impact on project delivery.

Project modifications have been progressed and approved as necessary to facilitate delivery during this period further detail is contained in Thematic Reports and Appendices I and II.

3.2 Contractual / Financial Payments

Delivery Partners continue to make claims and be paid in line with the quarterly terms detailed in the relevant contracts / agreements which is generally linked to the achievement of results / project milestones. To date project modifications have not resulted in financial adjustments.

Some delivery partners have raised concern on the payment approach, given the impact of Covid 19 and as such it is proposed that the TPM and Programme Manager review the achievement of results, realign KPI / milestones and payment terms as necessary with a further report submitted to the Shared City Partnership. Subsequent contract addendums will be put in place.

3.3 SEUPB Approach and Mitigations

Advice from SEUPB regarding managing the Covid: 19 impacts has been limited with project modifications on a case by case basis. SEUPB advised that an extension to the timeframe for delivery will be considered within the current programme timeframe, up to December 2022 however there will be no additional funding for this extended period, as such projects must be delivered within the agreed contracted financial allocation, regardless of any increased costs.

- 3.4 A meeting between SEUPB's Chief Executive and Council Senior Officers, including the Chief Executive, took place on 8 June 20. SEUPB reaffirmed the position above although they agreed to work with Council and adopt a flexible approach on modifications, budget reallocations and extension requests, on a case by case basis.

3.5 Governance and Operational Delivery

During the height of the pandemic and to enable prompt decisions on project modifications, the Programme Board agreed temporary amendments to the governance structure and delegated authority to the Good Relations Manager and PEACE IV Programme Manager. Significant changes were referred to the Programme Board via written procedure.

- 3.6 As recovery continues, members should note that delegated authority arrangements have been agreed until October 2020 after which approval will be reverted to the Programme Board.
- 3.7 All projects are expected to meet the contracted contact hours however due to current circumstances and reduced activity / engagement consideration regarding participant completion in line with SEUPB's Output Indicator Guidance (OIG) needs to be agreed.

The OIG states that a 'participant will be considered to have completed the programme if they have either engaged in at least 80% of the sessions or days agreed for that participant ...'.

Given the unique circumstance, agreement is sought to delegate authority to the PEACE IV Programme Manager and the relevant Thematic Project Manager to sign off participants achievement based on the 80% of contracted contact hours with no financial impact to the delivery partner.

- 3.8 A further mitigation in terms of completed participants is achievement of 80% of minimum 26 contact hours as stipulated by SEUPB, however this variation to contact hours should be on an exceptional circumstances only. It is proposed that the SCP agree to delegate authority to the relevant Thematic Chair in conjunction with the PEACE IV Programme Manager and the relevant Thematic Project Manager to consider such requests taking into account financial and contractual impacts. Approval of any reduced contract hours will be subject to approval by SEUPB and will be reported to the Programme Board and SCP.

3.9 Programme Impact Analysis

Significant analysis has taken place of monitoring and evaluation data to determine results and the impact of project activity at both a cohort and project level.

3.10 Underspend proposals

SEUPB has approved the underspend proposal for the SSS theme and the modification process is being finalised. Clarifications on the VFM review by SEUPB of the BPR St Comgalls proposal have been submitted and assessment has progressed to the Accountable Departments. An indicative response is expected by end September 2020.

3.11 Delivery Timeframe

To date several delivery partners have submitted extension requests to June 2022, however as Council's current LoO is to June 2022, requests have only been approved to April 2022, with the new contracts for CYP1 approved to May 2022.

Due to the Covid 19 Impact, consideration on the timeframe for extension is ongoing. Financial modelling to enable the extension of staff / activity has been compiled however in light of changing circumstances these will be reviewed to ensure budget availability for any extension request.

It is proposed that a request is submitted to SEUPB regarding an extension request to the maximum timeframe permitted but a further report will be presented to a future meeting.

3.12 Programme Workplan

Delivery of the programme workplan has changed to digital delivery where appropriate. As part of the Good Relations week programme a virtual tour of the City Cemetery took place on 14 September, International Day of Peace event, Shaping Peace Together took place on 21 September. Future events include Tenx9 event on Peace, a drive in cinema and further virtual City Cemetery tour.

3.13 Verification and Audit

A response to the internal audit progress review of the Peace IV Programme has been submitted to AGRS and we are awaiting a response.

3.14 Staffing

One of the Project Development Officers commenced maternity leave on 8 June 2020 and due to current circumstances recruitment is on hold.

3.15 Financial and Resource Implications

All PEACE IV costs are recoverable from the funding body subject to eligibility.

SEUPB has reimbursed all expenditure totalling £2,379,728.62 up to and including claim 22 (Feb – Apr 20). The breakdown across themes is as follows:

- CYP: £779,950.55
- BPR: £932,857.69
- SSS: £666,920.38

Period 23 Claim (May-Jul 20) totaling £562,452 was submitted on 28 August 20. The forecasted claim was £581,710, resulting in a negative variance of £19,258, equating to 3.32% of forecasted expenditure. During 2020 no expenditure has been deemed ineligible by SEUPB.

3.15 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.”

The Partnership recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee that it adopt the recommendations.

Update on PEACE IV – Children and Young People

The Partnership considered the undernoted report:

“1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues

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

2.0 Recommendations

The Partnership is requested to recommend to the Strategic Policy and Resources committee that they note the contents of the report and appendices and the agreed changes to projects.

3.0 Main report

3.1 Key Issues

The delivery of Children and Young People projects has been ongoing. All partners have been impacted by COVID 19 lockdown and 3 of the 5 projects have been progressing with online delivery. Government restrictions and social distancing measures are impacting bringing groups together.

3.2 Great resilience has been shown by partners and participants to continue project work over the last six months. Communications activity via social media was significantly increased with promotion of CYP3 and CYP4. In addition, project briefs were circulated to elected members and area working teams to encourage participation in the projects.

Details of project progress is outlined below and a summary of the key changes to CYP projects are:

- *Award of CYP1 contracts*
- *Reshaping project content to online delivery for CYP2, CYP3 PC, CYP4*
- *Award of residential contracts for cross border engagement for CYP3 OTRT Sports-*
- *Replace cross border activity / residentials for CYP3 with activity days to Jan 2021*
- *Reduction in contact hours for CYP3 PC (Personal change) from 305 to 265 hours*

3.3 CYP 1 – Tech Connects

Contract with Ashton Community Trust was concluded in June 2020 with achievement of 133 participants and final payment based on achievement of results was reimbursed.

The CYP1 project was rescoped and following a procurement exercise contracts have been awarded for the delivery of this project:

Afterschool's (6-11 years old) - Awarded to GIGA Training.

Tech Camps (10-16 years old) - Awarded to GIGA Training.
Insight Young Adults (17- 24 years old) - Awarded to Belfast Metropolitan College.

Digital Arts Academies, Creative Tech Camps and Technology Insights courses will be delivered as part of this rescoped programme. Tender submissions were based on face to face delivery, however due to ongoing government restrictions, online delivery to December 2020 has been approved by SEUPB.

3.4 CYP 2 – Playing Our Part

During lockdown, ACN moved some play activities online and provided participants with activity packs. Parents engaged in a social action project, Nominate your Neighbour sending in nominations on a weekly basis, enabling participants to be connected to their community at this time and send out positive messages.

Realignment of KPIs and milestones due to impact of COVID 19 and delayed recruitment has been approved with no impact to outputs or budget.

ACN is now actively recruiting for the next cohorts and including uniformed organisations to extend the reach of the project.

3.5 CYP 3 – On the Right Track

Due to the sporting nature of this project, online activity was unsuitable, however, every effort was made to keep participants engaged,. Cross community boxing participants completed an online challenge with local sporting mentors Carl Frampton and Paddy Barnes. To date there has been over 6,000 views of the video, 32,000 impressions of the Tweet and the Facebook post reached an audience in excess of 15,000. The young people's participation featured on BBC Sports Website in August 2020.

Procurement for residential activity on a lots basis has been progressing with 4 lots totaling £64,000 awarded. Further procurement for the remaining lots is underway.

Due to ongoing government restrictions and EA operational constraints, residential activity is on hold. Members should note approval has been granted from SEUPB and the Programme Board to suspend cross border activity and replace residential activity with day activity until January 2021, subject to budget availability. This modification will enable the achievement of contact hours.

A revision of targets, KPIs and an extended end date has been approved to April 2022. However a request to reduce participant numbers was declined by SEUPB. Members should note that alignment of targets and KPIs requires a contract amendment with OCN delivery partner ACN and will be progressed over coming weeks .

The project officer is actively recruiting participants, however differing regulations of Sports Governing Bodies is proving a challenge in pairing sports clubs.

3.6 CYP 3 – Personal Change

Extern have continued delivery throughout lockdown and have recommenced face to face group activity ensuring adherence to government guidelines and facilitating social distancing.

A revised programme plan with measures to increase educational visits, sporting activities and residential over the summer months had been planned to increase contact hours missed during lockdown.

Due to ongoing restrictions, a request to reduce contact hours from 305 hrs to 265 hrs was approved with SEUPB. Participant numbers remain unchanged. The amendments do not alter the original context of the project or affect the outcomes and impacts of the project.

A showcase film on the project delivery during lockdown recently featured on the BCC and Extern social media platforms.

3.7 CYP 4 – Young Advocates

Co-Operation Ireland continued to deliver project activity to June 2020 and to date has achieved 53 completed participants from a target of 80. Cohort 3 met the Lord Mayor at City Hall in February 20 and discussed improving council technology to include a youth and family friendly app to promote positive mental health. Due to lockdown, the campaign had to be adapted to online delivery. The Young Advocates carried out online survey on the mental health of young people during lockdown engaging 169 of their peers and producing recommendations on what the Executive and Council should be doing for young people post-lockdown. The recommendations were sent to Cllr and MLAs. A presentation on the campaign took place on 15 September 2020 attended by Cllrs, SCP members, Council Officers and external organisation. Key recommendations are:

- Communication from Government should be aimed at Young People*
- Need for support from Government / Statutory Agencies regarding Mental Health*
- Explore how Mind Your Mind App should be progressed*
- Young people need opportunities to connect*

Consideration by members on taking forward and assisting with implementing the recommendations would be welcomed.

Recruitment of the 4th Cohort is ongoing and it is anticipated that activity will proceed as planned subject to Government restrictions with an expected completion date of April 2021.

3.8 CYP 5 – NIHE LAN

NIHE has focused on re-establishing connections with groups via telephone and digitally, refining target areas, promotion and recruitment flyers. During lockdown, participants were not interested in online delivery of the programme. Recruitment continues to be impacted by COVID 19 and ongoing restrictions within Education Authority youth premises.

NIHE have progressed with procurement of facilitators for key project elements. Delivery of the project continues to be closely monitored with a revised Implementation Plan for procurement and recruitment submitted to SEUPB, with further monthly updates.

Given the level of recruitment to date, 276 from a target of 900, it is likely that NIHE will seek an extension beyond the current agreement of December 2021. The PEACE IV Manager and TPM will continue to liaise with NIHE to consider a revised implementation plan and extension request initially to April 2022. Without an extension, the risk of not achieving the full outputs is higher. A further report will be presented to the Programme Board and SCP in November 20.

3.9 Financial and Resource Implications

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

3.10 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.”

A Member stated that he had concerns that the SEUPB appeared to be inflexible in its approach and he was concerned that this might result in participants feeling under pressure to engage face to face which could be contrary to current public health and government guidelines.

The Partnership noted the update and recommended to the Strategic Policy and Resources that it adopt the recommendations.

Update on PEACE IV - Shared Spaces and Services

The Programme Manager provided the Partnership with an update in respect of the Shared Spaces and Services (SSS) theme of the Peace IV Local Action Plan.

The officer advised that implementation of both the SSS capital and programming element had continued on a phased basis. Currently the work and activities had concentrated in an around the Springfield Dam, Springfield Park, Paisley Park and the INI site (Section 2

and 3 of the Forth Meadow Community Greenway). She advised that as the project developed the focus would progress to the other sections.

The Partnership was advised that a formal launch of the project had been previously scheduled to be held in May but due to Covid 19 it had been rescheduled to 14th October, due to ongoing restrictions it was likely to be a photo call with a social media launch. The Partnership Members were asked to note that, if appropriate, invitations would be circulated.

The Programme Manager then provided a detailed overview of the specific capital projects. She commenced by reporting that the work at the Springfield Dam site had been demobilised on 20th March and remobilised again on 18th May 2020, compensation for this had been approved by the SEUPB and current costs were estimated at approximately £25,000, this would have to be met from within the existing budget allocation. Works were progressing well, the bridge and modular building installation were both completed and works in respect of the remainder of the causeway and pathways was progressing. Completion of these works was scheduled for November 2020. The process for implementing the £12,000 social clause associated with the Springfield Dam contract had been approved by SEUPB, it focused on addressing antisocial behaviour and providing community outreach work. The Partnership noted that a closed call for invitations had been issued to 10 community groups in the target area.

The Programme Manager reported that in respect of the Peace IV Network Scheme the ITT for a Single Party Framework Contractor for the SSS Network (works package 2) had been issued on 12th June. Three tender responses had been received and the assessment of these was currently underway. The planning application for Section 2 (Glencairn) had been submitted in June and the current status was now valid. The cost estimates for this ambitious project remained high and the news that the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) had recently announced £375,000 of support to the Greenway was very welcome news. Discussions with the Department for Communities (DfC), the Department of Justice (DoJ) and The Executive Office (TEO) regarding wider community benefit and contributions to the project were being progressed and prioritised. Works, landscaping and resurfacing at the gates, in conjunction with INI, had commenced in August and were scheduled for completion in September.

The Partnership noted that the design works in respect of Sections 3-5 (Springfield/Falls Park; Bog Meadows; Broadway/Westlink) were now progressing. The officer highlighted that the major factors key to successful progression of the capital aspects were as follows:

- planning for section 2 Forthriver/DfC needed to be achieved before March 2021;
- planning for section 4 Bog Meadows needed to be achieved before May 2021, subject to agreement with the Ulster Wildlife Trust; and
- the completion date for the overall scheme was now March 2022.

In regard to the Programming aspects of the SSS, the Partnership noted that, where possible, these project had progressed.

The Pilot Youth Civic Education Project had been extended until 31st March 2020, both Clonard Monastery Youth Centre and Forthspring Inter Community had continued to try and maintain contact with the young participants. As a result of Covid 19 restrictions project work had finished on 11th March and detached/outreach work had continued until the end of March. The SEUPB had agreed to accept the level of activity achieved and the project had now closed.

The Lanark Way Fitness Project had been successful in recruiting 20 women from the Clonard Mid Shankill areas, this project had been scheduled to complete at the end of March but as a result of the pandemic it had concluded on 12th March, again the SEUPB had accepted the level of achievement and the project had now closed.

In respect of the Dialogue and Engagement Project the Partnership was advised that Dr Mary Dellenbaugh-Losse, an international facilitator who was experienced in the development of shared spaces, had been contracted to engage and involve community groups/organisations in a process that would accompany the capital development of the Community Greenway. Due to current restrictions, delivery of this element had been progressed virtually and the officer provided an overview of the issues that the dialogue events had focused on.

The Partnership noted that uptake of virtual workshops had been limited, particularly with the PUL communities along the Greenway. In an effort to increase engagement an online survey on the use, running and management of the Greenway had been circulated to all SSS contacts and West and North Area Teams. In addition, a feature on the project was scheduled to appear in the City Matters newsletter.

The Partnership further noted that the following procurement exercises had been progressed:

- Shared History, Heritage and Identity Content / Narratives for Shared Space. Whilst nil responses had been received, a direct / negotiated approach was progressing;
- Shared Space Volunteer Training – recruitment and training of 60 volunteers as Shared Space Ambassadors, Cycle Leads, Heritage Tour Guides, Walking Leads and Nature Guides. The assessment process was currently underway.

The Programme Manager concluded by advising that the development of an animation programme for the opening of Springfield Dam was underway, however ,activity was likely to be limited due to ongoing government restrictions.

The Partnership noted the update provided and adopted the report recommendations.

Update on PEACE IV - Building Positive Relations

The Programme Manager provided the Partnership with an overview of the five projects within the Building Positive Relations (BPR) theme. She advised the Members that, despite the current challenges, the Peace IV team had worked with the various delivery agents and all of the projects had now been mobilised. All of the BPR delivery partners had experienced challenges trying to both engage and retain participation levels and had indicated that their ability to achieve their contractual obligations had been significantly impacted as a result of the pandemic.

In relation to BPR1, Cross Community Area Networks, the officer reported that key staff were in post and had commenced engagement with residents/community group prior to lockdown, the recruitment of a Digital/Comms officer was currently underway. Refinement of target CCAN areas had been considered using the delegated authority process. She detailed that the draft Terms of Reference for two external commissioned pieces of work (Good Relations and Place Shaping) were currently awaiting the necessary internal NIHE approvals

prior to SEUPB approval. The Partnership noted that the NIHE internal procurement timeframes were lengthy but following discussions, Peace IV, was now on the priority procurement list.

The Programme Manager advised that in respect of the BPR2, Creative Communities Project, Artist/Heritage in residence had been appointed for three clusters and the re-procurement for artists for two further clusters was underway. Three clusters had yet to be established despite numerous attempts. Two disengaged from the programme prior to lockdown. Subsequently, SEUPB had agreed to thematic clusters - LBGTQ+ and East Belfast Women's Network. The final cluster for South West was to be progressed as the initial thematic proposal of Malone Integrated College was not approved. Modification to target numbers and contact hours had been agreed by SEUPB and reduced from 50 participants per cluster to 33 and contact hours had been reduced from 90 to 60 hours per participant.

In regard to BPR3, Transform for Change Project, the Programme Manager reported that 11 courses had been completed with 128 participants completing formal training. Two remaining courses for Year one were expected to be completed by the end of September. NICVA was currently recruiting participants for Year two online delivery which was due to commence from mid September to December 2020. Areas for Year two would include, Crumlin Rd/Ardoyne/Glenbryn, Duncairn, Lower Old Park/Manor St, Whitewell Rd/Longlands, Suffolk/Lenadoon, Upper Springfield Rd, Falls/Shankill, Short Strand/Inner East and Lower Ormeau/Market.

She asked the Partnership to note that proposals identified for additional cluster areas in South and West Belfast had been approved via written procedure West: Colin – including Dunmurry; Seymour Hill, Lisburn and Milltown and South: - Belvoir; Taughmonagh; Finaghy; Annadale and Ballynafeigh (Belvoir and Taughmonagh requested to be included at South Area Working Group). Following a low uptake during the summer period, it was anticipated that collaborative project workshops (led by BCC) would be resuming again online in September. Clusters had identified key community action plans which would be progressed once the workshops recommenced. The Inner East / Short Strand Cluster was at the advanced stage of progressing the creation of Kid's Zone/Urban Garden (corner of Beechfield Street / Thistle Court – adjacent to interface). The organisation of local community engagement events, City-wide networking events, cross border and UK study visits unfortunately would remain on hold due to current Covid-19 restrictions. She advised that discussions were ongoing with NICVA regarding realigning KPIs, timeframe and payment schedule and advised that a further report would be submitted for consideration in due course.

The Programme Manager advised that, at the time of lockdown, the BPR4, Belfast and the World (BATW) Project, had been running with three groups (Ligional Improvement Association; Shankill Women's Centre Health and Wellbeing group; Ballynafeigh Community Development Association. The Delivery Agent had been able to retain 94% active participation by adopting alternative methods allowing participants to complete the BATW programme via online, the postal service and telephone. Approximately 50% of participants indicated they did not have access to technology, however they had been able to remain engaged on a one-to-one basis with the Delivery Agent. Participants had also engaged with a Virtual Tour of the City Cemetery. Contact hours per participant had been reduced from 33 to 26 hours with no budgetary impact as agreed and approved with SEUPB. The EU study visit trip had been postponed due to Covid-19 and would hopefully be rescheduled. The Partnership noted that the Delivery Agent remained confident that two plays (commemorating International Day of Peace and 1921 Partition) would be able to be held at a later date.

The relation to the final project, BPR5, Supporting Connected Communities - LINC Projects, the officer reported that the LINC project team had continued to engage and support

their core participants on a daily basis through phone calls and online workshops. Of the 90 core participants registered, 67 had remained actively engaged. LINCS staff were now focusing on the organisation and promotion of a wide range of events and day trips to enhance participation and contact hours throughout the Autumn period.

In regard to the, BPR5, Roma Support Programme, the Programme Manager advised that following SEUPB approval of the rescope and further legal advice a procured approach had been adopted with the tender opportunity advertised on 11th September 2020.

In respect of the BPR5, Traveler Support Programme, the SEUPB had approved the re scoped proposal for direct delivery by Council. The officer advised that the recruitment of the Support Officer was currently being progressed.

The Partnership noted the update, report and adopted the recommendations.

Several Members commended the work of the officers in continuing to progress the implementation of the various Peace IV Projects over the pandemic which had been extremely challenging for all involved.

Notice of Motion on Addressing Hate Crime and Intolerance

With the permission of the Chair, Councillor O'Hara addressed the Partnership to outline the context of the motion presented to the Council at its meeting held on 1st October.

The Partnership then considered the undernoted report:

"1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 Notice of Motion from Council on 1st September 2020

Addressing hate and intolerance across all our communities

In accordance with notice on the agenda, Councillor O'Hara proposed:

"The Belfast Agenda has an ambition to be a welcoming, safe, fair and inclusive City for all. While we have made significant progress there are opportunities for enhancing this work. This council recognises the work that has been undertaken particularly by many in the community and voluntary sector to improve relations and realise the Belfast Agenda. However, gaps remain, including through the allocation of funding.

This Council recognises the scourge of Hate Crime and Incidents in the City. In 2019/2020 there were 694 Hate Crimes and 758 Hate Incidents reported to Police in the Belfast District Area on the basis of sexual orientation, race and religion. We appreciate that there is a significant underreporting of hate crimes and incidents. There were 98 hate crimes and incidents on the basis of transgender status and 171 crimes and incidents on the basis of disability status across all of Northern Ireland.

This Council recognises that it has a statutory duty to address Good Relations but also recognises that this is on the limited basis of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion and racial group. This only covers some of the hate crime categories yet we understand that to tackle hate and intolerance we must promote good relations between those groups who experience hate but are not covered by the Good Relations duty.

This Council therefore commits to:

- Supporting the extension of the Good Relations duty to the hate crime categories
- Write to the Executive Office requesting flexibility in its Good Relations funding and request that the Executive Office consider extension of its Good Relations duties to the hate crime categories
- Council officers scope internal mechanisms re good relations and equality and diversity funding to fund more proactive work in addressing hate crime and fulfilling the ambition of the Belfast Agenda.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Groogan.

In accordance with Standing Order 13(f), the motion was referred, without discussion, to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee. At its meeting on 18th September 2020, the Committee asked that the motion be discussed at the Shared City Partnership.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Partnership is asked to consider the Notice Of Motion on addressing hate and intolerance across all our communities proposed by Councillor O’Hara and seconded by Councillor Groogan at the Council meeting on 1st September 2020.

3.0 Main report

Key Issues

Legislative Context

- 3.1 Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 provides that:

- (1) A public authority shall in carrying out its functions relating to Northern Ireland have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity-
- (a) between persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation;
 - (b) between men and women generally;

- (c) between persons with a disability and persons without; and
 - (d) between persons with dependants and persons without
 - (2) Without prejudice to its obligations under subsection (1), a public authority shall in carrying out its functions relating to Northern Ireland have regard to the desirability of promoting good relations between persons of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group.
- 3.2 The good relations duty for Council and all public bodies is governed under Part 2 of the above legislation and only includes the three categories of religious belief, political opinion or racial group.

Good Relations and Equality – Belfast City Council

- 3.3 The Council launched its new Good Relations Strategy in September 2019. The Strategy outlines a vision for the promotion of a shared Belfast. It is not intended to be an action plan rather a framework to support the delivery of Good Relations in Belfast. Throughout this document, we have used the term Good Relations to describe good community and race relations between people of different community, religious, racial or political backgrounds in keeping with the basis of the legislation. In the Strategy, Good Relations is acknowledged as a core ingredient of the Belfast Agenda and essential to supporting its top priority of delivering inclusive growth and leaving no one behind.
- 3.4 The Strategy also outlines that good relations is everyone's business and as such should be incorporated into the work of all Departments within Council to ensure that all actions, policies and funding streams have taken into account their impact on good relations. These would also be subject to equality screening to ensure that they took account of the need to promote equality of opportunity to the nine categories under Section 75 Part 1.
- 3.5 The Good Relations Strategy is being driven forward by the Shared City Partnership, which is a unique body across all local authority areas. The Partnership acts as an example of an integrated approach in mainstreaming good relations into the work of all bodies, including the private sector, across the city. The Partnership is a formal working group of Council and reports directly to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.
- 3.6 One of the mechanisms which Council uses to address good relations is the District Council Good Relations Action Plan which is 75% funded by The Executive Office and to access the funding must be aligned to the Executive's Together: Building a United Community (TBUC) Strategy four outcomes:
- Improving attitudes of children and young people towards those from a different background to them

- Developing shared space
 - Creating safe space; and
 - Promoting positive cultural expression
- 3.7 The Plan is funded on an annual basis and is based on a good relations audit undertaken every 3 years.
- 3.8 In addition, the Council is responsible for delivering the PEACE IV Local Action Plan which is 100% funded by the Special EU Programmes Body (14.5 million) and is centred on supporting peacebuilding initiatives and improving good relations between the three categories under Section 75, Part 2. The Plan centres on three themes: Children and Young People, Shared Spaces and Services and Building Positive Relations. It will conclude by December 2022.
- 3.9 The Council also has an Equality and Diversity Unit, which has been a regional leader on our work on Disability. The Unit hosts an external Equality Consultative Forum , which includes membership from across the Section 75 categories on new policies, programmes and initiatives being brought forward by the Council. The Council has gained recognition in marking specific occasions such as International Women’s Day, Pride, Intercultural Week, Refugee Awareness Week and has a range of internal staff fora, such as the LGBTQ+ group and the Women’s Network.
- 3.10 Work around Equality and Good Relations comprises of two general areas: compliance and developmental. It should be noted that Council is required to implement an Equality Scheme, Action Plan and conduct an audit of inequalities. This is reported to the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland.
- 3.11 The Good Relations Work of the Council, the Equality Consultative Forum and the Council’s various networks and support structures, are largely centred on an approach that is grounded in engagement, relationship building, awareness raising and promotion.
- 3.12 All of this work, while not directly designed to tackle hate crime, nevertheless should have outcomes that would impact in a reduction in hate crime. Tackling Hate Crime is one of the key outcomes in creating safe and shared spaces for all. However, this primarily focusses on the areas of racial background, religious belief and political opinion, and is a process of engagement and relationship building.
- 3.13 The work of Safer Cities and certain aspects of Equality, is centred around enforcement and compliance with the law. Ultimately prosecuting hate crimes is the responsibility of law enforcement.

Review of Hate Crime Legislation in NI

- 3.14 Judge Marrinan is currently conducting a review into the current legislation on Hate Crime in Northern Ireland.
- 3.15 As part of the Terms Of Reference, the Review will consider and make recommendations on a number of areas including a workable and agreed definition of what is a hate crime; and whether new categories of hate crime should be created for characteristics such as gender and any other characteristics (which are not currently covered. The characteristics presently protected under hate crime law in Northern Ireland are race, religion, sexual orientation and disability.
- 3.16 The report on Review of Hate Crime is due in November 2020.
- 3.17 As the Plans and Programmes funded through the Executive and SEUPB for Good Relations work are governed by the current Section 75 Part 2 legislation, Members may acknowledge that it is unlikely these would be extended to cover the current hate crime categories – sexual orientation and disability.
- 3.18 It is also worth mentioning that the current Review of Hate Crime legislation may recommend that other characteristics be covered under hate crime legislation which may necessitate further discussion in future.

Way Forward

- 3.19
- Supporting the extension of the Good Relations duty to the hate crime categories
 - Write to the Executive Office requesting flexibility in its Good Relations funding and request that the Executive Office consider extension of its Good Relations duties to the hate crime categories
- 3.20 Given that the good relations duty is a legislative matter as outlined above and that the current Good Relations Programme and its associated funding are based on this legislation, Council could not use this funding to support groups which fall outside the specified categories.
- 3.21 However, should Members be in agreement, Council could write to The Executive to ask what plans are in place to support those groups which fall outside of the current good relations duty and if consideration is being given to extension of the categories in line with the Hate Crime legislation.
- 3.22
- Council officers scope internal mechanisms re good relations and equality and diversity funding to fund more

proactive work in addressing hate crime and fulfilling the ambition of the Belfast Agenda.”

- 3.23 The Council convenes through Safer Cities, a Belfast Hate Crime Steering Group with the relevant key partners and projects and delivery of hate crime related projects are delivered under the auspices of the Belfast PCSP with an associated budget.**
- 3.24 If Members were in agreement, Officers could look at the above and other different strands of funding across Council which could assist in funding more proactive work relating to Hate Crime and bring a report back to Committee in due course.**

Financial and Resource Implications

- 3.25 There are no direct resource implications in terms of staff time or additional costs associated with this request at present.**

Equality or Good Relations Implications

- 3.26 All Council Strategies and policies are screened to look at the impact of such a policy or Strategy on groups listed under Section 75. The District Council Good Relations Programme and the PEACE IV Programme have been screened previously.”**

Following consideration, the Partnership agreed:

- to write to The Executive Office seeking to ascertain what plans it had in place to support those groups which fell outside of the current good relations duty and to request that it consider an extension of the categories in line with the Hate Crime legislation; and
- that officers look at the Hate Crime Steering Group convened by Safer Cities and other different strands of funding across Council which could assist in funding more proactive work relating to Hate Crime and submit a report back to the Partnership in due course.

Partnership Members Update on Good Relations Issues relating to Covid 19

The Good Relations Manager stated that she would welcome any input from the Members in regard to how the organisations that they represented had responded to the various issues that arose as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic but particularly in regard to Good Relations.

Ms. Ann Marie White, British Red Cross, commended the work of the Council in respect of its response to support refugees and asylum seekers over the pandemic. Whilst she welcomed the immediate intervention, she stated that she would be keen to ensure that this support was maintained going forward and that the Council would continue to identify potential future needs and to provide ongoing support to ensure the integration of refugee and asylum seeker communities in Belfast.

Mrs. O. Barron, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, advised that every year Belfast Trust prepared a Winter Plan to deal with the additional demand for unscheduled care. This year this extra pressure would be further compounded by the likely impact of a second wave of Covid-19. She explained that the Trust had developed a Resilience Plan which brought together what the Trust could do to address winter pressures coupled with those arising from COVID-19. This was currently with the Minister for Health for approval and would be published in due course.

The Partnership noted the update provided.

Update on Membership

The Good Relations Manager provided the Members with an update in respect of the membership of the Shared City Partnership.

She advised the Members that Superintendent Peter Brannigan had been nominated to replace Kellie McMillan as the PSNI representative on the Partnership and would hopefully be available for the next meeting.

The Members were also advised that a replacement was currently being sought for Mr. S. Dallas who had been The Executive Office representation on the Shared City Partnership.

The Good Relations Manager reminded the Partnership that it had 2 representatives from the faith sector, one of which was fulfilled by the Interfaith Forum. In addition, she reminded the Members that the following individuals had been selected to represent the sector on a rotational basis, in line with the Council's four year term, as follows:

- Year 1 – Church of Ireland – Hilary McClay
- Year 2 – Catholic Church – Father Eugene O'Neill
- Year 3 – Presbyterian Church – Karen Jardine
- Year 4 – Methodist Church – Rev. Andrew Irvine

Father Eugene O'Neill was due to replace Mrs. H. McClay and would take up the position at the next meeting.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Partnership, thanked those Members who had, for various different reasons, stepped down. The Good Relations Manager advised that letters would be sent to those members whose term of service had been completed, thanking them for their commitment for good relations within the City.

The Partnership noted the update.

Chairperson

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Appendix 2 - Action Plan Programme Outcome Summary Table 2021/22

(100% Costs)

Total budget available: £771,300

Staff costs: £310,300

Programme Costs: £461,000

Code	Key Priority	T:BUC Outcome	Programme Summary	No. direct participants	Total Cost	Post Code	Is this continuing a programme delivered in 2019/20 or 2020/21? YES / NO
BCC1	All 4 themes – projects will be aligned to relevant theme	Relevant indicator for the TBUC theme as indicated for other programmes	Council Community Provision Support Programme. Criteria will reflect focus on the 4 T;BUC themes and will provide opportunities for organisations across Belfast to support participants to engage in activities which promote the TBUC outcomes.	1200	£170,000 £5,000 – seeding grants £100,000 – small grants £65,000 – Strategic projects	All postcodes	YES – level of funding for small grants reduced on basis of audit recommendation.
BCC2	Cultural expression	% increase in the number of participants who think the culture and traditions of Catholics, Protestants and minority ethnic people add to the richness and diversity of Northern Ireland society	St Patrick's Day Celebration grants. Grants of up to £1,000 are available to support community events which provide the opportunity to learn about and engage with the celebration of Saint Patrick's Day.	1500	£30,000	All postcodes	YES
BCC3	Cultural expression	% increase in the number of participants who think the culture and traditions of Catholics, Protestants and minority ethnic people add to the richness and diversity of Northern Ireland society	Cultural Expression Programme – to engage with the Protestant/ Unionist/Loyalist community to promote positive cultural expression through support for community events, training and awareness raising programmes and the provision of bonfire beacons.	600	£50,000	BT2 8BP BT4 1HG BT12 6FQ BT13 3AA BT14 6SL	YES

BCC4	Shared Community	% increase in the number of participants who feel comfortable socialising in a shared space they would not traditionally visit	Civic Engagement and Learning Programme Develop programme of events and training on good relations/diversity which can be accessed by staff and elected members. The aim of the programme is to provide relevant skills and knowledge to engage in good relations issues. Support for at least 2 initiatives that support strategic priorities, this may include research, pilot projects	160	£20,000	BT1, BT2	YES
BCC5	Shared Community	% increase in the number of participants who feel comfortable socialising in a shared space they would not traditionally visit	Shared City Programme Decade of Centenaries programme – events that will highlight key anniversaries from 100 years ago. Reflections Programme –to sensitively engage on the events of the recent conflict Diversecity Project – series of visits, events and training to support the promotion of diversity. Key Events Programme to mark key dates such as Holocaust Memorial Day, International day of Peace, Refugee Week, Irish Language Week, Community Relations Week. Lunch time Seminars	1055	£25,000	All postcodes	YES

			Series of 'lunch-time' seminar discussions on sensitive issues such as flags, bonfires, murals, legacy and others.				
BCC6	Shared Community	% increase in the number of participants who feel comfortable socialising in a shared space they would not traditionally visit	Inclusion Programme Develop Programme to support the inclusion and participation of new communities including the work of the Migrant Forum. Use participation in the Inclusive Cities programme to identify and develop new approaches.	100	£5,000	All postcodes	YES
BCC7	Safe Community	% increase in the number of participants who feel safe attending events, activities or facilities in areas associated with a different background	Shared City Building Relations Programme This programme will provide a range of tailored interventions to prevent issues of hate crime, sectarianism and racism across Belfast, particularly in areas where there have been tensions. This will include resourcing for issues identified through tension monitoring groups which focus on vulnerable communities.	200	£15,000	N/A	NO – a new project developed on the findings from 20/21 delivery will be developed in 20/21 for implementation in 21/22. Both projects in this programme are 2 year delivery programmes, 20/21 will be the final year.

BCC8	Safe Community	% increase in the number of participants who feel safe attending events, activities or facilities in areas associated with a different background	Interface Programme Work with a range of internal and external stakeholders to identify strategic projects that will support the transformation and/or removal of interface barriers. This programme will include support for relationship building between communities in interface areas; contributions towards physical works and programming that will add value to the work of other stakeholders in transforming interface barriers or creating shared spaces/events in interface communities.	400	£66,000	BT7 2EW BT12 6FD /BT13 3AA BT14 6BP BT4 1AF	YES
BCC9	Children & Young people	% increase in the number of participants (young people) who have a more positive attitude towards those from another community background	Schools intervention programme This initiative is delivered in partnership with EA and also receives funding from Stena Line. It will support engagement of 9 schools in 20/21 in 4 shared education partnerships across Belfast. The project will develop relationships between pupils and staff in schools which are in different sectors and also support cross community engagement between parents. This is the 2 nd year of a 4 year programme.	250	£15,000	BT7, BT10, BT12, BT13	YES
BCC 10	Children & Young people	% increase in the number of participants who have a more positive attitude towards those from another community background.	Planned Intervention Programme Small grants for activity from June – August which supports:	750	£65,000	BT7 BT12 BT13 BT14 BT4	YES – this programme is 100% Funded by TEO, Belfast City Council administers it on their behalf

			Improved attitudes between young people from different community backgrounds. Reduction in the number of crime and ASB incidents carried out by young people in the areas where they come from.				
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Subject:	Signage Scheme Proposal for the Gaeltacht Quarter Area
Date:	23rd October, 2020
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor / Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Sarah Williams, Governance and Compliance Manager

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

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes ☒ No ☐

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to seek approval for officers to participate in a working group being established by Forbairt Feirste to look at the development of a signage scheme for the Gaeltacht Quarter.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	It is recommended that the Committee consider the report.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u> The Council has received a request from Forbairt Feirste for the Council to participate in a working group which would include Forbairt Feirste, the Department for Infrastructure and Tourism NI. The purpose of this working group would be to look at the development of a signage scheme for the Gaeltacht Quarter (see attached proposal in Appendix).

3.2	Forbairt Feirste is a development agency, funded by the Department for Communities, which aims to create socio-economic opportunities for the Irish speaking community of Belfast. It was established in 1994 to promote economic regeneration through promoting the city's Gaelic heritage.
3.3	The types of signage Forbairt Feirste would like the working group to examine include: i) Welcome signage on the main thoroughfares into the Quarter ii) Directional signage for tourists and residents alike that cover the main buildings, the natural places of interest within the Quarter. iii) A street and road signage scheme. iv) Directional signage that cover the proposed network of linear walkways. v) A complete signage scheme within the Quarter and in the City Centre that integrate the Quarter with other existing Quarters in Belfast and that specifically include the Quarter in the directional and tourist signage in Belfast City Centre.
3.4	It is proposed that the relevant Council officers attend the meeting to determine what is being proposed so that further details could be considered by Members. In the first instance this would involve officers from Culture and Tourism, Building Control and the Equality & Diversity Unit however different teams may also need to be involved in any discussions for example Physical Programmes and City & Neighbourhood Services to ensure alignment with planned capital and programme investment in Shared Spaces and Services such as Peace IV Forth Meadow Greenway proposals.
3.5	The specific issue of street signage in the Gaeltacht Quarter was raised at People & Communities Committee in January 2019 when a Member requested that a standalone dual language street naming policy be introduced for the Gaeltacht Quarter and asked officers to investigate further. The issue of dual language street signage is currently being considered by Members.
	<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u>
3.6	Financial implications are as yet unknown and would need to be determined.
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.7	Any proposed change to policy in relation to these issues would be subject to an Equality Screening process.
4.0	Documents Attached
	Appendix - Request from Forbairt Feirste on Signage Scheme Proposal for the Gaeltacht Quarter

Signage Scheme Proposal for the Gaeltacht Quarter

Introduction

The proposal for this signage scheme comes on the back of the recommendations of the West Belfast and Shankill Taskforce 2002 and everything that has come from that, The Dutton Report 2004 and other efforts to develop the Gaeltacht Quarter in this period including Glás le Fás & the big Gaeltacht Quarter plan. The Gaeltacht Quarter is included in the programme for government & we believe that this is the time to increase the viability of the Irish Language in the Gaeltacht Quarter.

The Boundary of the Scheme

We propose that a comprehensive signage scheme for the Quarter be developed, with the boundary as follows, the Western boundary of Kennedy Way and the Monagh Bypass leading on to the northern boundary to the Upper Springfield Rd on both sides of the Road up to the Ballygomartin Rd and continuing on to Lanark Way. From there it should follow the Peace wall meeting the eastern boundary at Divis Street and from there to the southern boundary leading to Durham St/Grosvenor Rd on the side leading to the City Centre where the Grosvenor Rd meets the M1 Motorway and continuing down the Motorway on the City Centre side leading to Kennedy Way again.

The scope of scheme

Different types of signage should be included in this scheme that covers i) Welcome Signage on the main thoroughfares into the Quarter ii) Directional signage for tourists and residents alike that cover the main buildings, the natural places of interest etc... within the Quarter. iii) A street and road signage scheme. iv) Directional signage that cover the proposed network of linear walkways. v) A complete signage scheme within the Quarter and in the City Centre that integrate the Quarter with other existing Quarters in Belfast and that specifically include the Quarter in the directional and tourist signage in Belfast City Centre.

The Design of the Scheme

The design of the signage relating to the Quarter should be unique and consistent with the Gaelic character of the Quarter and should be specifically related to the existing designs in terms of publicity and publications relating to the Gaeltacht Quarter. The Irish language must be prioritised within these signage proposals.

Next Steps

To establish a working group with representatives from statutory and public stakeholders involved that will be linked to the Gaeltacht Quarter Steering Group and to bring to the fore their work in the wider context of the efforts that are being made at

Steering Group level to ensure a holistic, strategic approach for the promotion of the Quarter,

To agree guidelines for the Working Group.

To agree a working timetable for the Working Group as soon as possible.

To make contact with Queen's University Belfast in terms of their scheme to standardize the Street names, road names and the names of areas.

Piarais Mac Alastair
Forbairt Feirste.

Minutes of Party Group Leaders Consultative Forum 15th October 2020

Attendance

Members:

Councillor Christina Black (Chair)
Alderman Sonia Copeland
Councillor Billy Hutchinson
Councillor Ronan McLaughlin (for Councillor Ciaran Beattie)
Councillor Nuala McAllister (for Councillor Michael Long)
Councillor Brian Heading (for Councillor Donal Lyons)
Councillor Mal O'Hara
Alderman George Dorrian
Councillor Tracy Kelly (Joined the meeting for Alderman Dorrian)
Councillor Fiona Ferguson

Apologies: Councillor Ciaran Beattie, Councillor Michael Long, Councillor Donal Lyons

Officers:

Suzanne Wylie, Chief Executive
Ronan Cregan, Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Finance and Resources
John Walsh, City Solicitor
Sinead Grimes, Director of Physical Programmes (for item 6)
Christine Robinson, Strategy, Policy & Partnerships Manager (for items 4 & 10)
Nicola Lane, Good Relations Manager (for Item 5)
Joanne Delaney, Portfolio and Programme Coordinator (secretariat)

1. Finance Update

The Deputy Chief Executive & Director of Finance and Resources presented to members an update on the council's current financial position along with an assessment of the impact of the Covid 19 emergency and current restrictions on council income and expenditure for 2020/21. He highlighted the financial considerations around Furloughed and Casual staff that Members would be presented with at October SP&R Committee. Members of the Forum raised a number of specific queries on the Job Support Scheme and the Director advised that discussions were ongoing on whether the scheme was applicable to Local Government and he would update Members as this progresses.

Members discussed the Medium Term Financial Plan 2021/22 – 2023/24 and the impact of the Estimated Penny Product (EPP) on the District Rate Income for 2021/22 – 2023/24 and

the challenges involved in the setting of the rate this year given the current complexities. The Director advised that it is anticipated that the deadline for setting the district rate will be extended given the degree of uncertainty. A report will be brought to SP&R Committee in October outlining the process and challenges faced.

Members also discussed proposals for exploring income generation opportunities given the significant financial pressures being faced at present, the Director advised a report on a Corporate Pricing Policy along with supporting guidance will be presented to October SP&R for consideration outlining proposals.

2. Operational Recovery Update

The Chief Executive provided an update to Members on organisational recovery following the recent announcement from the NI Executive Office on significant time-bound interventions to curb the spread of Covid-19 in Northern Ireland, which will take effect from Friday 16th October. She advised Officers are assessing the impact on services in light of the new restrictions, clarification and guidance is being sought from the Executive Office on specific areas where required. Members raised some issues in relation to Civic Amenity Sites/Recycling Centres and Pitches. The Chief Executive advised that as clarification is still being sought that an Operational Recovery report will be presented to October SP&R which where possible will address issues raised.

3. Governance

The City Solicitor provided an update on the current governance arrangements. He advised that given the current situation and the recent interventions announced it would not be possible to hold committee meetings with more Members in the Committee rooms, which had been suggested at this time. Members discussed the current risks/issues involved and the contingency arrangements being considered should issues arise as the situation evolves. He asked that Members are mindful of the current pressures faced by Officers and council services at this time. In light of these current pressures he outlined that Working Groups would only be arranged where there is an urgent issue and the Area Working Groups would meet on a quarterly basis unless an urgent issue in relation to funding arises, in order to allow Officers to work on maintaining recovery as a priority.

4. City Recovery – Community Consultation

The Chief Executive outlined to Members the previously agreed City Recovery Plan that sets out the Council's framework for recovery. September SP&R committee agreed that

engagement with communities and key stakeholders would be ongoing to identify local priorities/challenges and implementation plans. The Strategy, Policy & Partnership manager provided an overview of planned future engagement and Members agreed it was appropriate that the Area and Thematic Workshops take place in early 2021. It was also noted that proposals for these workshops be brought into a future meeting of the Area Working Groups for consideration.

5. Decade of Centenaries

Members noted the update on the Council's Decade of Centenaries programme 2017- 2022 which was developed in line with the set of principles previously agreed by Council. The Good Relations Manager provided an overview of the proposed Council event schedule and she highlighted that events will be dependent on Covid 19 considerations and any potential restrictions. The Chief Executive advised that the event programme will be brought to October SP&R for consideration and the report will provide narrative and detail around each event and its audience. Any comments or feedback from Members to be forwarded to the Good Relations Manager.

6. Leisure Update

The Director of Physical Programmes provided an update on the current position of Phase 1 & 2 of the Leisure Transformation Programme and outlined the proposals for Phase 3. She advised that as part of Phase 3 a feasibility study previously agreed by SP&R Committee would be undertaken on the rest of the leisure estate which was not part of the Leisure Transformation Programme given the age of these facilities. An update report on Phase 3 including proposals on how the review will be carried out will be presented to October SP&R for Members consideration. Members noted that no capital financing has been ring-fenced for Phase 3. A number of queries were raised by Members and it was noted these would be longer term issues that would be addressed following completion of the feasibility study.

7. DfI Sustainable Drainage Plan

The Chief Executive updated the forum on The Strategic Drainage Infrastructure Plan which is being led by DfI. This will be presented to SP&R Committee for review and consideration once complete, at which time the Committee will receive a presentation. Members discussed the issues in relation the impact of underinvestment in the waste water infrastructure in Belfast, previously considered by SP&R committee and the Chief Executive advised correspondence was issued to NI Water on the Council position.

8. Dual Language Proposal

The City Solicitor outlined the content of the report in respect of the notice of motion on Dual Language Street Signs Policy which was circulated to members. Members asked that they have time to consider the proposals contained in the report and it was agreed that a special meeting for Party Group Leaders would be arranged in advance of October SP&R for further discussion.

9. Belfast Digital Innovation Partnership

The Deputy Chief Executive & Director of Finance and Resources provided an update on the establishment of the Belfast Digital Innovation Partnership, a collaborative partnership which includes the Council, Queen's University, Ulster University, Belfast Harbour, Invest NI, and Catalyst Inc. The partnership will develop a shared ambition that will directly address the opportunities and ever-growing impact that digital is having on our economy, jobs, city growth, the quality of public services and our commitment to inclusion. A report outlining the programme of work will be considered at October SP&R committee. Members discussed issues around digital exclusion in the current climate of Covid 19 and the Chief Executive advised this was being addressed both through the City Recovery framework and the Inclusive Growth City Charter.

10. Inclusive Growth City Charter – Update on Engagement Process and Materials

The Chief Executive provided an update on progress of the development of the Inclusive Growth City Charter which was considered by SP&R in August. The overall aim of which is to support businesses & organisations to adopt practices that promote inclusive growth. The Strategy, Policy & Partnership manager provided an overview on the engagement process which will form the basis of consultation with an extensive range of businesses and organisations across the city, to further shape and co-design the Charter. Following the engagement outlined a report will then be brought to SP&R committee.

11. 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 in November. She also advised that in accordance with Regulation 22 of the Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015, that the Planning Appeals Commission (PAC) will commence the Independent Examination (IE) hearing sessions in relation to the Belfast Local

Development Plan draft Plan Strategy 2035 on Monday 16 November 2020 this will be for a 2 week period and the first in a series of sessions.

12. AOB

Illuminate request

The City Solicitor updated Members on a recent request to light up City Hall in March 2021 for Victims of Terrorism Day. Members discussed the request, the current number of requests being received and the criteria for Illuminating City Hall and agreed that this request along with a review of the current criteria be considered at a future meeting of Party Group Leaders. Some Members requested that the criteria for Books of Condolences is also added to the agenda for a future meeting.

Remembrance Sunday

The Chief Executive advised Members that a report would be presented to October SP&R Committee for their consideration outlining the proposed plans for Remembrance Sunday commemorations which will be marked on Sunday 8 November 2020. The report will outline plans based in accordance with current social distancing guidelines and the new restrictions announced.

Standards Committee

The City Solicitor outlined proposals agreed by September SP&R Committee on the introduction of a new Standards Committee, and outlined the proposed Terms of Reference for this committee. Party Leaders to submit any comments on the Terms of Reference to the City Solicitor by Tuesday 20th October prior to consideration of these at October SP&R meeting.

Signage Scheme Proposal for the Gaeltacht Quarter area

The City Solicitor advised that a report would be considered by October SP&R committee seeking approval for officers to participate in a working group being established by Forbairt Feirste to look at the development of a signage scheme for the Gaeltacht Quarter.

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Customer Focus Working Group

Wednesday, 30th September, 2020

CUSTOMER FOCUS WORKING GROUP MINUTES

Members present: Alderman Rodgers (Chairperson); and
Councillors Bunting, Flynn and Hutchinson.

In attendance: Mrs. R. Crozier, Customer Focus Programme Director;
Mrs. S. Williams, Governance and Compliance Manager;
Mr. C. Quinn, Customer Services Manager;
Ms. K. Kennedy, Project Manager;
Mr. A. McMullan, Democratic Services Assistant; and
Ms E. McGoldrick, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

An apology was reported on behalf of Councillor Ferguson.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Election of Chairperson

After discussion, it was:

Moved by Councillor Hutchinson
Seconded by Councillor Bunting,

Resolved - That Alderman Rodgers be appointed to the position of
Chairperson of the Working Group for the period ending in May, 2021.

Alderman Rodgers took the chair and thanked the Members for his appointment.

Update on Customer Focus Programme in the context of Covid-19 and Organisational Recovery

The Customer Focus Programme Director provided the Working Group with an update of the Customer Focus Programme to date, together with the planned services for Members. She outlined the Customer Focus Programme Implementation Plan and informed the Working Group that it had been revised in light of the Covid-19 Pandemic and council recovery programme requirements.

She advised the Working Group of the work which had been completed to date which included the launch of the Council's new website, a telephony upgrade and that

work is continuing on updating the content of the website, development of a new Corporate Customer Relationship Management system and implementation of the Customer Hub. She advised that the structure for the Customer Hub would be brought to SP&R committee in October 2020. She further advised that Phase 1 was on schedule to be completed for the launch in April 2021.

She highlighted that, in relation to the ongoing work being undertaken to implement the plan, resources might need to be diverted subject to the ongoing recovery work programme,

The Working Group noted the information which had been provided.

Workshop - High Level Blueprint for Elected Members and deeper dive into Intelligence and Insight needs

After the presentation, the Working Group undertook a Workshop Exercise to discuss the high level blueprint and Customer Hub services for Members.

Noted.

Engagement Plan and Next Steps

The Customer Focus Programme Director advised that in-depth individual sessions with Members would be required to analyse their requirements further and two nominees were required to test the new Website.

The Working Group noted that those Members in attendance would be contacted for further one to one sessions with the Customer Focus Programme Team and Councillors Flynn and Hutchinson would be contacted for Web Testing.

Date of next meeting

The Working Group noted that the next meeting would be held on 4th November.

Chairperson



Belfast
City Council

Subject:	Requests for Use of the City Hall and the Provision of Hospitality
Date:	23rd October, 2020
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor and Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	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	☐
Sometime in the future	☐
Never	☐

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes ☒ No ☐

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	This report, 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 9 October 2020 which appear to the Function Management Unit to comply with the criteria previously established by the Committee and are recommended for approval.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to approve the recommendations made in respect of applications received up to 9th October 2020, as set out in the attached appendix.

3.0	Main Report
	<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	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 th March 2017, 23 rd June 2017, 23 rd June 2019 and 25 th October 2019.
	<u>Key Issues</u>
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 an application for function, scheduled for 2022 and are included in order to permit the organisers to commence their event planning and communications activity as early as possible.
	<u>COVID Implications</u>
3.5	In managing and delivering future functions, liaison with and guidance for organisers will be provided by officers to ensure compliance with any relevant social distancing guidelines at the time of their function. Committee approval for their function to take place in City Hall is recommended on the basis of their compliance to this caveat and what is permissible and feasible in City Hall function rooms.
	<u>Financial and 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.
4.0	Documents Attached
	Schedule of Function requests received up to 9th October 2020.

OCTOBER 2020 CITY HALL FUNCTION APPLICATIONS

NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNCTION DATE	FUNCTION DESCRIPTION	CRITERIA MET	ROOM CHARGE	HOSPITALITY OFFERED	CIVIC HQ RECOMMEND
2021 EVENTS						
Moloney and Kelly on behalf of Transformational Leadership Council	28 July 2022	Celebratory Gala Dinner – welcome dinner event to open a 4 day conference for authors, trainers and business leaders taking place at Culloden Estate. Numbers attending – 100 <i>* Numbers and room layout will be reviewed and revised in line with COVID19 social distancing guidelines at the time of this event.</i>	A & B	£825 (Commercial organisers)	No Hospitality	Approve Charge No hospitality

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