



Subject:	Belfast Agenda Refresh – Progress Update
Date:	12 October 2022
Reporting Officer:	Cathy Reynolds, Director of City Regeneration and Development John Greer, Director of Economic Development
Contact Officer:	Lisa Toland, Senior Manager, Economy Deirdre Kelly, Programme Manager

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on the progress of the Belfast Agenda review including the plans for Phase 2 engagement during September – November 2022, which commenced with an all Members workshop on 7 th September.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: a) Note the progress of the development of the refreshed Belfast Agenda and supporting four-year Delivery Action Plans as set out in this report;

	<p>b) Note the update around Phase 2 engagement, which has been endorsed by the Community Planning Partnership;</p> <p>c) Note the timeline for progressing the revised Belfast Agenda to public consultation.</p>
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p><u>Background</u></p> <p>In April 2022, Members received an update on the emerging findings and recommendations following the Phase 1 of the 'Belfast Agenda: Continuing the Conversation' engagement process which will inform the refresh and focus of the Belfast Agenda (BA) for the period 2022-2026. As reported at the meeting, there was broad agreement that the existing long-term vision and outcomes of the BA remain relevant, and the proposed priorities for focus were the things that stakeholders and communities believed community planning could help address over the next 4-year period.</p>
3.2	<p>At the CG&R Committee meeting in April, Members noted an early draft of the strategic intents and stretch goals that were being developed in collaboration with our Community Planning partners. Since then, a significant amount of collaborative effort has gone into further developing and refining these priorities. These are now approaching a state of readiness for wider engagement on the strategic intent, stretch goals and actions for each priority.</p>
3.3	<p><u>Refreshed Belfast Agenda – Citywide Strategy Document</u></p> <p>Since it was launched in 2017, the Belfast Agenda has been a city leadership document, coalescing partners beyond the core legislative requirements of community planning with a focus on addressing key city challenges. The approach adopted has enhanced the relationship between the public, voluntary and community private sector to drive forward real change addressing inequalities and improve quality of live within and across the city.</p>
3.4	<p>The refreshed Belfast Agenda will maintain the same level of ambition and collective leadership commitment to deliver the long-term vision and outcomes previously agreed. It will be delivery and outcome focused and will be positioned as a City Strategy which will identify the major transformational programmes and investment opportunities for the city.</p>
3.5	<p><u>Community Planning Priority Actions</u></p> <p>Work continues with community planning partners and wider stakeholders to unpack and understand the scope of the agreed priority areas for focus over the next four years, Underpinning and composite delivery action plans are being co-designed and agreed with partners. A core set of guiding principles have been applied in developing the action plans</p>

	<p>to test and identify the most appropriate interventions to delivery greatest impact. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adding clear value: We can achieve significant gains by collaborating across our partnership and sectors in a way we cannot through our existing single agency or thematic ‘business as usual’. • Impact for Belfast’s people, place, economy: The work we deliver together will be felt in practical ways by individuals, families, communities, residents and businesses in Belfast, delivering tangible outcomes. • With Belfast’s Communities: The work we do will fully engage Belfast’s residents, communities and businesses, building on their strengths and ensuring their voice is central to planning and delivery. We will work ‘with and alongside’ our communities, not ‘To or For’ them. • Intelligence led priorities and action: We will focus our collaboration on the things that data, evidence and community insights tell us matter most to Belfast and we will deliver together in ways that evidence tells us will make a real difference. • Resourcing: Delivery will require joint resourcing and effort, (i.e. staff time, services or investment). Should be a leadership commitment to jointly resource the initiative. <p>The draft emerging action plans remain live documents and will be subject to further discussions and refinement with Members and wider stakeholders as set out below.</p>
3.6	<p><u>Phase 2 Engagement</u></p> <p>Phase 1 engagement, as previously reported, provided an opportunity for citizens and the wider voluntary and community sectors to shape the emerging strategic framework and priorities of the Belfast Agenda for the next four years. It was intended to move to phase 2 engagement throughout September, commencing with an All Members Workshop on 7th September. Whilst the All Members Worskhop took place, due to the period of National Mourning following the death of Queen Elizabeth, it was decided to reschedule the further planned Phase Two Engagement events that had been arranged for September. These have now been rescheduled to take place throughout October and into November, with a greater focus, discussion and input around the strategic intent and scope of the priority areas, how success would be measured in terms of stretch goals and the high-level delivery action plans.</p>
3.7	<p>The following events are proposed and will be publicised online, via the VCSE panel network and via posters in local community-based assets and facilities.</p>

EVENT	DATE & TIME	VENUE
North Belfast Workshop	11 Oct. 10am-1pm	Girdwood
Online Workshop	12 Oct 7pm-9pm	Online
South Belfast Workshop	13 Oct. 10am-1pm	Crescent Arts Centre
East Belfast Workshop	18 Oct. 10am – 1pm	Skainos
Online Workshop	19 Oct. 2pm–4pm	Online
Communities of Interest	7 Nov. 5pm – 7pm	City Hall
City Centre Workshop	8 Nov. 10am – 1pm	City Hall
West Belfast Workshop	10 Nov. 10am – 1pm	St. Comgall's

3.8

In addition, two online and facilitated engagement sessions will be organised for those that are not able to make the above events or would feel more comfortable attending an online session. Dates for these are currently being finalised. A business and development workshop has also been arranged to take place on 27 October at Queen's University. We will also continue to use a range of engagement tools, including Your Say Belfast platform, to extend the reach and enable people to input into the process.

3.9

An independent facilitator is being procured to help host the engagement events and to prepare an independent report with an analysis of the main issues raised during the sessions and how this is reflected in the refreshed Belfast Agenda and action plans.

3.10

Phase 3 engagement - formal consultation

Feedback from the phase 2 engagement will be reflected in the draft strategy document and action plans. These will be brought through the Community Planning Partnership, established CPP Delivery Boards and relevant Council Committees for consideration and approval in advance of being published for a 12-week formal consultation period. Members are asked to note that an easy read version will also be created to help make the document more accessible.

3.11

Financial & Resource Implications

Any financial implications arising from this report will be covered from existing budgets.

3.12

Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment

It is recommended that the consultation and engagement activities to review the Belfast Agenda will take account of the draft Audit of Inequalities and include specific sessions with targeted harder to reach groups to ensure that equality implications are considered as part of the review process. The refreshed Belfast Agenda and action plans will also be subject to an equality screening exercise.

4	Appendices
	None