

CG&R Committee Plan 2022-23 - Six-Monthly Update

Key Programmes of work progress up to the end of September 2022

INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC RECOVERY

Strategic Priority	In Year Deliverables (In 2022-23 we will:)	Progress through Quarter 2
Cultural Strategy Senior Responsible Officer: John Greer	Progress the 'A City Imagining Plan'	June's CG&R committee noted the principles, concept and work related to the development of a year of culture and Belfast Imagining. Work continues to deliver Festival 2022 (Unboxed), which includes 5 projects. A Senior Producer has been recruited to the new Creative Programme Team. Public consultation on the music strategy closed on 25 th July and the feedback is being analysed.
City Recovery, reopening the city and support for businesses Senior Responsible Officer: Cathy Reynolds	Revitalisation Fund: Physical interventions	A Mid-Term Evaluation Report was presented to the August CG&R committee that showed the current Programme status and update on projects /interventions. Regrading current specific projects, an Extension of Time has been granted for the Castle Place Kiosk, plus the Entries Phase 2 projects, until the 31 March 2023. We are also supporting 'vibrant business destinations' across the city by working with local business associations outside of the city centre. We have secured resources from DfC to support further delivery of this work. The Vacant to Vibrant scheme was successfully launched and went live on 7 July 2022. Over 160 application packs have been issued, with drop-in sessions held in 2 Royal Avenue from July – September to provide advice on the application and the process. Officers are continuing to work through queries with applicants to ensure they proceed through the process successfully.
City Development and Investment Senior Responsible Officer: Cathy Reynolds	Regeneration Programmes	To attract an Institutional Investment partner, detailed work is progressing on the Expression of Interest / Competitive Dialogue exercise in respect of Council lands as part of ongoing concept regeneration plans including PADS. BCC continues to actively engage on major private sector led regeneration schemes through the established Project Reference Groups. 2 Royal Avenue - An application to LUF Round 2 was submitted in Aug 2022 and is now awaiting outcome. Work continues on the proposal of its long-term use including a focused piece on end user models. Work has commenced on a scope of works for a Regeneration Framework to bring forward city regeneration schemes inc prioritisation and aligned business cases. Work on the Sixth is progressing via the BelTel LLP. BCC continues to lead the Community Campus Regeneration Forum, including its transition in line with the opening of the Belfast campus, with a site visit to the Campus by Members of the CG&R Committee in October 2022.

		BCC continues to work with DfI and DfC on finalisation of the Bolder Vision Strategy with the emerging draft Strategy approved by CG&R Committee in August 2022. MOU agreed between BCC, DfI and DfC in October 2022, which will support bringing forward an integrated approach to capital scheme delivery and prioritisation/attraction of funding in line with the Bolder Vision.
Reset for Growth Strategy Senior Responsible Officer: John Greer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Work with partners to create integrated employment pathways to growth sectors ▪ Continue to advocate for specific R&D funding for Belfast in support of the BRCD investments ▪ Work to establish a new entity to support and bring forward priority investments on the Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor and ▪ Work with partners to support the growth of key business clusters, involving both FDI and indigenous businesses. 	<p>The draft Economic Strategy has been completed in line with the work on the refreshed Belfast Agenda. We are preparing to go to public consultation following Party Group briefings on the draft strategy. Recruitment is underway for two posts to work on the Dublin/Belfast Economic Corridor, these posts are jointly funded through the partnership.</p> <p>A number of Place Based Innovation Plans have been created working in partnership with Invest NI and relevant industry to ensure the inclusive growth of priority sectors within the city and using the innovation assets being funded through the BRCD programme.</p>
Increase tourism spend through sustainable tourism products Senior Responsible Officer: John Greer	Start delivery of the 10-year Tourism recovery plan “Make Yourself at Home”	<p>We are examining how digital infrastructure can support increased participation via Centralised Ticketing; a quotation is underway in cultural activity. This is in terms of both Belfast by citizens and visitors.</p> <p>Consultants have been appointed and a programme is currently being developed to progress Accessible tourism in the city.</p> <p>We are continuing to work with Food NI to ensure that the agreed actions, to support the City’s food offering, are being delivered.</p>
	Deliver the Annual Events programme	<p>The St Patrick Event pilot and Maritime Festival were successfully delivered. The analysis, learning and future actions from the pilot, were presented and agreed by June's CG&R committee.</p>
Encourage business start-ups and support indigenous business growth Senior Responsible Officer: John Greer	Provide services to support local businesses start and grow	<p>An update on the Shared Prosperity Fund, and its implications for our programmes, was presented to August’s CG&R committee.</p> <p>August’s Committee also noted & endorsed the interim approach to business start-up support. That will come into effect from April 2023.</p> <p>A proposal to invest in the Way to Scale programme (up to a maximum of £40,000) was also noted. The latest round of recruitment onto the scheme started and ran until the end of September. We may need to extend the programme for a defined period, subject to funding confirmation for the new programme.</p> <p>This year’s ‘Go for it’ programme is now up and running. As of Q2, 223 business plans have been developed with an estimated 134 jobs resulting. We have helped 22 social enterprises and cooperatives to access support. This year’s Go Social Incentive Fund is also now open for applications. In total, as of Q2, we have provide support to 973 participants/businesses.</p>
Promote and market	Positioning the City to Compete	<p>The Renewed Ambition Programme of work commenced in April and delivery is on-going across the 5</p>

<p>the city internationally</p> <p>Senior Responsible Officer: Cathy Reynolds</p>		<p>pillared structured of activity across events, engagement & advocacy, communications and repository. Work is also ongoing around securing external / private sector sponsorship. Programme ambitions have been adjusted in line with the current budget and market conditions.</p> <p>Work is on-going to facilitate follow up visits for investor and developer contacts made at UKREiif</p> <p>The Building Impact research report was presented at June's CGR Committee. A workshop with all RAP sponsors was held in July 2022 to present the report findings and recommendations. The report was also presented to the Social Policy Working Group in August 2022. Work is on-going to develop an internal action plan to address the report recommendations relevant to BCC.</p> <p>Monitoring and analysis of valid planning applications to inform the City Development Tracker continues on an ongoing basis. Work has progressed on integrating the city investment narrative into the Invest in Belfast website to align the messaging with wider Council led initiatives and other stands of work.</p> <p>The new CRM has been completed and is currently being rolled out.</p>
	<p>Provide the Investing in Belfast service</p>	<p>The Investing in Belfast Service continues, though requests are still down since Covid. As travel restrictions around the world are being eased, we are realigning the service with the work of the International and City Regeneration teams.</p>
<p>Belfast Dublin Economic Corridor</p> <p>Senior Responsible Officer: John Greer</p>	<p>Belfast Dublin Economic Corridor</p>	<p>Belfast City Council continues to act as lead partner on contract management alongside a project steering group made up of partnership representatives.</p> <p>The Development plan (up to 2030) for the Belfast Dublin Corridor partnership has been completed. The strategy and action plan will be finalised in September 2022.</p>
<p>Future City Centre Programme and Belfast City Centre Regeneration & Investment Strategy</p> <p>Senior Responsible Officer: Cathy Reynolds</p>	<p>Continue to progress the Future City Centre Programme and priority areas under the Belfast City Centre Regeneration & Investment Strategy</p>	<p>We continue to work and engage with city stakeholders including through the CPP City Development Board and established sub structures. We are continuing to lead the Community Campus Regeneration Forum (CCRF) , including its transition in line with the opening of the Belfast campus, a site visit for CGR Committee of the Ulster University Campus took place in October.</p> <p>A City Centre Governance structure was agreed by CGR and SP&R in August 2022. This included the establishment of a City Centre All Party Working Group. The first meeting of the City Centre All Party Working Group took place in October 2022, with monthly meetings arranged until the end of 2022. The multi-faceted city centre governance also involved establishing a Future City Centre Leadership Group under the auspices of the Community Planning Partnership, City Development Board.</p> <p>The FCC Leadership Group, which has cross sectoral membership, met in Oct 2022 to discuss the emerging draft FCC action plan with agreement on the strategic intent, associated actions which will continue to be developed throughout the ongoing engagement on the Belfast Agenda refresh.</p>
	<p>Belfast City Centre Regeneration & Investment Strategy (BCCRIS)</p>	<p>A number of priorities and projects identified within BCCRIS continue to be progressed via BCC and other private /public sector partners. A review of BCCRIS and associated actions is to be progressed early 22/23.</p>

	<p>Regeneration Projects and Developer Contributions</p>	<p>The Joint Regeneration Group continue to meet on a monthly basis. DfI provided Council with an intent to fund a number of interventions through the 22/23 Blue and Green Infrastructure Funding. An update on these were reported to the CGR Committee in October 2022. This report also included the opportunity for further funding from DfC for a revitalisation programme within the South-West Quarter / Great Victoria Street area.</p> <p>BCC Continue to lead the CPP City Development Board with a focus on the refresh of the Belfast Agenda and associated emerging draft action plans aligned to the identified priorities of the city development Board.</p> <p>Remedial works on the Cathedral Gardens pop up park were completed and with the longer term redevelopment progressing as reported via the Physical Programme update at . are nearing completion). SP&R Committee. A Public Consultation on the long-term development of the site masterplan was completed in May 2022.</p> <p>Additional funding of £150k from DfC was secured for Phase 2 of the Belfast Entries project. Continuing to progress through the delivery of this.</p> <p>Developer Contributions (historical contributions) continue to be monitored and scheme proposals utilising the contributions are being progressed.</p> <p>This includes progressing the 5Cs public realm developer contributions catalyst project with DfC (with additional funding of £162k for a 5C's Revitalisation Project underway), progressing placemaking designs for Little York Street, Little Patrick Street for the utilisation of developer contributions, and working with DfC on a proposal for Blackstaff Square.</p>
<p>City Infrastructure</p> <p>Senior Responsible Officer: Cathy Reynolds</p>	<p>City Infrastructure</p>	<p>Ongoing work to finalise the Belfast Infrastructure Study. Continue to champion Council's preferred position for major infrastructure projects and represent Council on citywide boards, enabling, facilitating, and influencing major infrastructure development and investment.</p>
<p>Belfast Hills and North Foreshore</p> <p>Senior Responsible Officer: John Walsh</p>	<p>Belfast Hills (and Zoo)</p>	<p>The zoo was open to the public as normal throughout Q1, with minor Covid-19 safety guidance for visitors and some initiatives unavailable due to Covid-19 health and safety and operational requirements. Despite this, attendance was up by 3k people compared to the average across 2018-2022. Verified Q2 figures will be brought to committee in a future update.</p> <p>The zoo's education service started to return to pre-Covid levels as restrictions eased in 2022. During Q1, the zoo welcomed 7k visitors participating in education programmes including classroom sessions and self-guided sessions in the zoo. Feedback has been very positive. Summer Explorers Club for 7–11-year-olds, which takes place in July and August, sold out all 60 available places during Q1.</p> <p>The zoo has seen several new additions, including five gentoo penguin chicks, a new female sloth, and three alpacas.</p> <p>In June we sent a male Scottish wildcat to Sweden as part of a breeding programme. These are one of the most endangered native mammals within the British Isles. Belfast Zoo is part of an ongoing programme called Saving Wildcats which is based at Highland Wildlife Park.</p> <p>Ongoing consideration of private sector led regeneration proposals for Giants Park (North Foreshore).</p>

<p>Belfast Stories</p> <p>Senior Responsible Officer: Wendy Langham</p>	<p>Belfast Stories</p>	<p>The assembly of the site for Belfast Stories continues with one of the two remaining properties expected to complete by end 2022 as the second property progresses through the due legal process.</p> <p>On 30 September 2022, the procurements for the professional services teams (Integrated Design Team (IDT), Interpretative Planning and Exhibition Design Team (IPEDT) and Project Management and Design Assurance Team PMDAT) were published. Appointments are expected by Apr 2023.</p> <p>The next step in the Story Collection is to commission a stories audit, looking at what stories currently exist across the city and in what format. This is to be commissioned in November 22 to be completed by March 2023. A 14-week public consultation exercise was launched on 11 August 2022. Activity included: 15 sectoral workshops, 10 public sessions across the city, a 10-week tour of exhibition boards and online survey on Your Say Belfast. The EQIA and rural needs impact assessment are also underway and an Equity Steering Group for the project has been established.</p> <p>Belfast Stories Team is working with BCC Communications team and external PR company MCE on communications and PR including social media.</p> <p>One of the key activities that will be undertaken by the PMDAT when appointed will be to revise and update the OBC [in tandem with the IDT / IPEDT completing RIBA 2 designs].</p> <p>A Belfast Stories Benefits Framework is in place and will continue to be refined as the project evolves. Conversations are ongoing with QUB on the measurement of some of the wider programme benefits. Opportunities to maximise social value including employability, skills and education are being considered at each project stage.</p> <p>A number of key actions have been undertaken towards achieving Net Zero Ambitions as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The completion of a Geothermal Feasibility Study for the site –important information for the appointed IDT with possibility of potential capital funding opportunities. • Within the IDT Professional Services procurements, the net zero ambition is a requirement with following sustainability standards included: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. BREEAM Outstanding—sustainability standard for exemplary developments 2. Passive House Plus— energy efficient building design standard for heating and cooling 3. CEEQUAL outstanding— sustainability standard for public realm elements.
<p>Access, Connectivity, Active and Sustainable Travel</p> <p>Senior Responsible Officer: Cathy Reynolds</p>	<p>Active Travel and Connectivity</p>	<p>The ‘Connectivity, Active and Sustainable Travel’ Sub-Group of the CPP City Development Board is now established and progressing refining the emerging draft action plan.</p> <p>We are continuing to engage with DfI on the development of the BMTP.</p> <p>The Sustainable Travel E- Cargo Pilot is now underway, with the operator presenting to CGR Committee in September 2022.</p> <p>Ongoing delivery of the DfC Covid Recovery Revitalisation funded covered city-wide cycle stands, 21/22 DfI B&G funded Active Travel Enablers including the launch of secured cycle parking at Castlecourt in October 2022, and proposals submitted on Active Travel Enablers for DfI B&G 22/23 funding. The Active Travel Hub at QUB has been delivered and is now operating successfully. The Cathedral Quarter Active Travel HUB has been delivered and was launched in October 2022.</p>

		As agreed by CGR Committee in June 2022 the refresh of the Car Parking Strategy is deferred pending the finalisation of the LDP & BMTP.
	A Bolder Vision for Belfast	Continuing to work with DfI and DfC on finalisation of the Strategy and Bolder Vision Delivery Plan with the emerging Draft Strategy approved by CG&R in August 2022 (Subject to Ministerial Approval). MOU agreed between BCC, DfI and DfC October 2022 which will support bringing forward an integrated approach to capital scheme delivery and prioritisation/attraction of funding in line with the Bolder Vision.
Educational underachievement Senior Responsible Officer: John Greer	Development work with partners	<p>The Summer work experience programme was completed for 30 Young People. Education Welfare Teams identified YP who were ‘undecided’ on their pathway. The programme was co-designed with participants where they had the choice of four out of nine vocational areas to explore along with a range of team building activities. 34 young people were engaged and 30 completed the programme. Employers engaged included JP McManus (painting & decorating, joinery and construction), Kensington Medical Centre (customer service and business administration), Andrew Mulvenna (hairdressing and barbering) and Charles Hurst Motors (customer service and motor vehicle). All 30 young people who completed received Level 1 City & Guilds employability and personal development qualifications with 28 young people moving into positive outcomes (14 continued in formal education at year 13 and the remainder moved into vocational training). All those completing reported that their employability skills and mental health/wellbeing had improved as a result of their experience.</p> <p>August CG&R committee noted the development work on the Bridges to Progression initiative, and the proposal to manage the funding distribution in partnership with Skills for Life and Work providers through an agreed application process on behalf of those young people identified.</p>
	Youth Support programme	<p>Across the 2021/22 academic year, the Youth Support Programme has supported 170 young people between the ages of 14 and 24 years. 72 of those young people are still in the school system but were referred by Education Welfare officers as being at highest risk of falling out of the system or had temporarily disengaged. 60 young people were referred through community youth workers across the city and 38 were engaged directly through open recruitment. Outcomes into training, education or employment are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 14-16yr olds: 54 out of the 72 - outcome rate of 75% ▪ 16-18yr olds: 50 out of the 87 - outcome rate of 57% ▪ 18-24yr olds: 9 out of the 11 - outcome rate of 82%.
	GCSE support programme	<p>In total, 517 young people have benefitted from access to support to help with their GCSE English and GCSE Maths over the last year – from Sept 21 through to June 22. This support has taken the form of both schools-based and community-based classes, revision and exam preparation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ North 113 ▪ South 133

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ East 145 ▪ West 126 <p>The outcomes of this programme - ie. actual grades compared with predicted grades - are expected to be confirmed by November 2022.</p>
	Work with the Department for Education and the Education Authority	Officer attend reference group meetings convened by DE on Fair Start implementation and Reducing Education Disadvantage. The Action Plan created by the Education Inequalities TFG within CPP is underpinned by Fair Start.
	Additional	Work is currently underway to evaluate and review activity within this space to ensure that we are doing the right things, in the right way that is effective in ‘turning the curve’ on poor employability and attainment outcomes for young people in the city. When this is complete, members will be asked to consider recommendations going forward, which will focus on a continuum of supports at critical stages for young people and/or where there is no existing provision or barriers to entry and engagement.
Access to employment Senior Responsible Officer: John Greer	Employment Academies	<p>While most Employment Academies are not scheduled to be recruited for from September 2022 onwards, a number of academies began in Q1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ BCC General Operative Employment Academy for 10 people with 7 job outcomes so far ▪ BCC Business Support Employment Academy for 16 people with 10 job outcomes so far ▪ Tech Employment Academy for 16 participants with 12 job outcomes so far <p>Other Employment Academies currently open for recruitment – with over 300 referrals so far - include Fibre, Logistics, Construction, Social Care, Childcare and Tech (pending employer commitment). Upskilling Academies are also being rolled out – Level 3 and Level – for Childcare, Social Care and Teaching/Classroom Assistants.</p>
	Provide match-funding for ESF projects	Out of an annual target of 1737, to date ESF projects have recruited 870 participants with 194 job outcomes and 35 progressions onto education/training, representing an outcome rate of 26%.
	Enterprise Pathway	The most recent cohort of this intervention began in mid-2021 and are now nearing completion. Of the 27 participants, 20 completed business plans and so far 13 are now trading and a further 8 have progressed onto a job, representing an outcome rate of 78%.
	Job brokerage and career events	Delivery of Employment Academy roadshow in mid-September 2022 for over 200 residents across the city in north, south, east and west. Attendance at three Jobs fairs – hosted by Belfast Works, Belfast Media Group etc. to engage people interested in the Employment Academies currently open.
Upskilling opportunities Senior Responsible Officer: John Greer	Strategic Partnerships	<p>The Gateway service has completed pre-market engagement and tender will go live in Q3 with view to awarding and having Q4 to embed and beginning delivery in April 2023 (in line with end of ESF provision and new SPF provision coming online).</p> <p>Scoping of Employer Navigation, place-based and people-based approaches will begin in Q3 following the award of Technical Assistance Framework lots.</p> <p>Delivery of Employment Academies with LMP resources is outlined in the previous section.</p> <p>To progress the labour market observatory, initial engagements and discussions with QUB/UUEPC and an</p>

		<p>internal ad-hoc working group has been established. This work is now progressing following the appointment of an LMP officer in July 22. We appointed Locus Management in Oct 22 to provide technical assistance in the development of the observatory. The Technical Assistance Framework will also provide the delivery mechanism needed to implement the LM Observatory and will go live in Oct 22.</p> <p>BCC produced an updated LM Strategic Assessment to underpin LMP decision making from April 2023 onwards (in lieu of the LM Observatory providing this).</p> <p>While most Employment Academies are not scheduled to be recruited for from September 2022 onwards, several academies began in Q1 which included the pilot Tech Employment Academy for 16 participants with 12 job outcomes so far in jobs with Citi and Allstate – employer co-designed the academy and directly linked to their job demand. Future job demand is currently being scoped out directly with employers and through the Software Alliance.</p> <p>Digital Badges – individual awards as well as ‘pathway awards’ have been created for all Employment Academies. Through RSA Cities of Learning we could also allow access of circa 10 providers to be able to create/award their own badges. This has now exceeded 10 and currently stands at 18 providers/bodies/employers such as Women’s TEC, Tourism NI, CITB, On-track Technicians, HMRC, Business in the Community etc. We are also in discussions with schools, EA and DfC on their respective provision having access to digital badging.</p>
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COMMUNITY RECOVERY

Strategic Priority	In Year Deliverables (In 2022-23 we will:)	Progress through Quarter 2
<p>Maximising housing development and regeneration opportunities</p> <p>Senior Responsible Officer: Cathy Reynolds</p>	<p>BCC Housing Led Regeneration Programme</p> <p>City wide strategic opportunities</p>	<p>Work on the city-wide strategic site assessments is progressing via the agreed mechanism under the Housing Led Regeneration Group (established under the Community Planning Partnership, City Development Board). To date, BCC, NIHE and DfC lands have been mapped via LPS and these have been overlaid with records from the Urban Capacity Study and Housing Monitor in order to identify those with housing potential.. A number of these sites are now being assessed at both organisational level (including Council assets) and via the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Group to consider operational requirements, planning, title, etc and consideration as to how lands can best be assembled (including adjoining private sector ownerships). An update on this is to be brought to Committee end 2022/early 2023. A similar mechanism for mapping of other public sector lands is also progressing via the Housing Led Regeneration Group.</p>
	<p>City Centre Cluster sites</p>	<p>Detailed work on a number of city centre cluster sites (from the Strategic Site Assessment work) is including Concept Regeneration Plans for each of the city centre cluster sites and ongoing engagement with other public and private sector neighbouring landowners, with the adoption of a placemaking approach to development and progress through the planning process through Pre-Application Discussions (PADs), as well as site and title due diligence. Forms part of the overarching Institutional Investor /Development partner approach with next stage of the EoI/Competitive Dialogue approach in Q1 2023.</p>
	<p>City Centre Living Vision</p>	<p>The City Centre Living Vision has continued to be refined and is expected to be complete by the end of Q3. This follows extensive consultation on the previous draft and a report to CG&R Committee in August 2022. To be considered at the pending Members City Centre Living Workshop.</p>